By RUTH BAALMANN

ACROSSE — St. Michael Parish’s PSR students and teachers in LaCrosse presented a “Living Outdoor Nativity” — complete with animals (including a camel) — instead of their usual PSR Christmas program, on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019.

Shepherds await the coming of the newborn King. These LaCrosse PSR (Parish School of Religion) students were three of many who took part in the impressive Living Outdoor Nativity Dec. 22. Photo by Ruth Baalmann

They created a lighted pathway on the grounds surrounding the parish school building for visitors to follow while listening to a five-minute narrative telling the story of the Birth of Our Lord, along with Christmas music playing in between the narratives.

Continued on Page 3

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Continued on Page 3

By CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

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“This is not going to be about banning abortions. It’s going to be about putting it back where it’s supposed to be, and that is with the legislature,” he told the Associated Press.

The Kansas Catholic Conference in October 2019 launched a petition to support a state constitutional amendment.

“The immediate priority for all Kansans concerned with protecting the lives of [pregnancy] children, as well as pregnant women from an unscrupulous abortion industry, is to pass a state constitutional amendment,” Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas said. The amendment effort responds to the April 2019 decision of the Kansas Supreme Court. In a 6-1 ruling, the court blocked a 2015 law banning the use of the dilatation-and-extraction abortion procedure. Known by its critics as “dismemberment abortion,” the procedure uses surgical equipment, suction devices and other equipment to take apart the living unborn child and remove it from the mother’s womb.

For the first time, the Kansas

Continued on Page 6

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Continued on Page 6
E ver see an inexperienced traveler in an airport? He is hard to miss. She is the one weighed down with suitcases. They are the ones exhausted by carrying, pulling, pushing, guarding, and generally bumping into things with their too much of everything. They look with envy on the experienced man or woman who travel light. They promise themselves to do better next time, to take only what they need. Knowing, fearing, that they will never try it a second time, to take only what they need. Knowing, fearing, that they never will.

The same is true of our journey toward God. We always try to pack too much. The obsessive among us try to prepare for every eventuality. “Do I need this? Maybe. Stuff it in.” And the bags grow and grow. No wonder the airport scales groan under the weight of what we pack, even as our wallets, raided by polite nimble fingers, rise, lighter, into the friendly skies.

Take your memory, for example: it is a kind of suitcase. It is a deposit of all you have ever heard, learned, or feared, or felt about God. We go to it whenever we are in need of refreshment, or comfort, or reassurance. We keep and we treasure what has touched and pleased us. We never know when we might need it. We have to take all of it everywhere. We would be lost without it, we think.

What happens is that we end up too attached to worn words, and wrinkled thoughts, and fading images. We cling to them, rather than reaching for the Living God. We push Him (whom we know very little) out of the way, in favor of what we do know and what comforts us. We open the suitcase in the evening, and we find there, not the always surprising God, but our worn, stale, and tired selves only.

The experienced ‘Prayer-er,’ like the experienced airport-warrior, travels light. He takes only what is essential. She takes only what is necessary. Deus solus, the friends of God used to say, take only God with you on this trip of a life-time. Let Him make you nimble and alert. Let Him help you catch His slightest stirring, each whispered hint that falls from His barely-moving lips.

Let Him empty that large suitcase of your memory.

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 programs of the diocese can learn how to be a listening ear and to promote healing. The Review Board is a consulta- tive body of lay Catholics and one priest representative who advise the Bishop in his assessment of allega- tions of sexual abuse, reviews dioc- eesan policies for dealing with sexual abuse of minors and offers advice on all aspects of sexual abuse cases retrospectively and prospectively.

Befort will offer the help of the As- sistance Minister, whose goal is to be a listening ear and to promote healing. The Review Board is a consulta- tive body of lay Catholics and one priest representative who advise the Bishop in his assessment of allega- tions of sexual abuse, reviews dioc- eesan policies for dealing with sexual abuse of minors and offers advice on all aspects of sexual abuse cases retrospectively and prospectively.

A Q and A with Father Reggie Urban

Editor’s Note: This is part of a continuing series with Father Reggie Urban, a retired priest of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

What is the difference between the Bible and the Lectionary?

A Q and A with Father Reggie Urban

The Catholic Diocese of Dodge City is seeking an exceptional individual to serve as the Executive Secretary to the Bishop. Interested party must be highly motivated, a self-starter, service oriented and able to deal with multiple tasks and adhere to detail and deadlines and must maintain confidentiality.

This position will assist in the overall secretarial duties of the office. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic, have at least an Associate’s degree in Office Technology or General Business.

Next Estate Planning and Charitable Giving seminar, Feb. 4 Scott City

L ooking for ways to protect yourself or your heirs from unnecessary taxes on the sale of property at your death? Hoping to leave a legacy for your children or favorite charity but don’t know how to get started? Don’t miss one of these FREE educational seminars on Estate Planning and Charitable Giving. Featured speakers will be Tamara L. Davis of Davis & McCann, P. A., a boutique estate planning firm serving all of Western Kansas and Mark Roth, Director of Development for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City. Topics covered will include Wills, Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, Revocable Trusts, Irrevocable Trusts, and Charitable Giving Trusts. Ample time will be allowed for Question and Answers. Seminars will be hosted at Scott City (St. Joseph’s Parish) Feb. 4, 7–9 p.m. and Spearville (St. John the Baptist) March 26, 7–9 p.m. These FREE educational seminars are brought to you courtesy of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.
With the help of the students and a variety of animals, they staged five different scenes depicting the story. The first scene was of the Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary asking her to be the Mother of the Son of God.

The pathway then led to scene number-two, which was Caesar Augustus announcing that a census was to be taken of the people.

“No Room In the Inn” was the third scene, in which the donkey accompanied Mary and Joseph on their long trip.

The trail led the visitors to the fourth scene where the angels were telling the shepherds and goats in the fields (since there were no sheep at the time of the presentation) about the newborn King.

Making up the fifth and final scene were two horses, a camel, a mule, stable boy, three kings, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus in the manger, three cows, a rabbit, two chickens and more goats, complete with the star in the East and the angel.

After visitors completed the pathway of lights, they were invited to walk across the parking lot to St. Michael’s Parish Center where the Social Commission provided cookies and the Knights of Columbus served hot chocolate.

The event was well attended, with people being taken by surprise to see a live camel. Because some of the animals and students became restless after an hour-and-a-half, with the students getting very cold, the decision was made to cut the presentation short with concern for safety.

So, we apologize to those visitors who came after the sets were being taken down and the animals loaded up to be taken back to their homes.

A big thank you to everyone who had anything to do with building, setting up and taking down of the scenery, providing and serving refreshments, and especially all the families who so graciously provided their animals for the evening, which helped in making the presentation such a big success.

Youth from St. Michael Parish in LaCrosse present a Living Nativity, complete with a camel and other live animals, Dec. 22. The impressive Nativity was presented instead of their regular PSR Christmas program.

Photos courtesy of Ruth Baalmann

Continued from Page 1

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The other night I was glancing up at the stars, and like on so many nights here in Kansas, I saw the Milky Way spilling across the sky like a foggy stretch of road disappearing into the horizon. I remember thinking how insignificant I am; how small am I in the universe. And I remember asking God, “Why me? Of all the endless beings you could have created, of all the infinite combinations of genetic material, why did you see fit to create me? And after all that trouble to create this totally unique human creature, why couldn’t you have made me able to digest peanut butter? I love the stuff, Lord, and yet for me it’s like trying to digest sheet metal. Why, Lord? Why?”

We all have questions we’d like to pose to the Lord one day. That is, if you think it’s right to question God. It is blasphemous to ask God why on earth He created the mosquito? Or calories? This is how I see it: When I look up at the night sky, I see God’s creation and creativity; I see the depth of His compassion, having given us that wondrous canvas to look at and dream by.

And I see a really cool friend. My little pea brain has had no trouble understanding what God is. He’s neither he nor she, although I call him “He” because, you know, being so smart and all, I just assume he’s a… OUCH!! (I’d like to report my wife for husband-swatting.)

Whatever the big definition of God is, there’s a smaller definition, too: “Friend.” When I talk to God, I don’t often talk to Him as if He’s… well, the creator of the universe. I guess I prefer the smaller definition; I talk to Him like I would a friend. I adhere to the Teresa of Avila definition of prayer, which the future saint said was simply a “conversation.”

Instead of, “Oh, dear heavenly Lord upon high, I thank thee for the glories of this day and for the wondrous gifts thou hast bestowed upon me, thy humble servant,” it’s more along the lines of, “Man, Lord, this was a great day. Thanks so much! I got a lot of writing done, my column actually makes sense this week, and my thumb stopped hurting. And that guy who always bugs me? Yeah, I feel a little bad. I shouldn’t have said that, but… I’ve changed now. I’m more understanding.”

Valuing God as a best friend comes in handy when I can’t believe I’m admitting this) I’m praying in the silence of my heart when I forget I’m in prayer. A typical example: “Lord, I’m really stressed out. That guy just cut me off, and then he had the gall to give me the… well, you know what he did. Anyway, please let him know that there’s a better way to respond.”

I mean, he just whipped around in front of me, barely missing my truck! Can You imagine? Then he... then he slows down just enough to give me the one-finger salute.

“What I wouldn’t have given to have been about 7 foot 4. I can see it now. He’d come to a stop light. I’d lurch out of my truck. Slowly. Methodically.

“Here’d spot me coming in his mirror. He’d panic and begin shouting, ‘Move, traffic! MOVE!’ But I’d keep coming as if I were Godzilla and he were Tokyo. Then I’d peer down into his window — open because his knob is broke — and utter in a deep growl, ‘GOT A PROBLEM?’ And he’d be so frightened that he’d have to seek medical attention.


But it’s okay. This is God the friend, the God who’s happy to forgive all our sins, the God who anwers our questions. The God who knows not only how precious and unique we are, but how weird. Wonderfully weird.

He may not tell you in so many words why good tasting food is often bad for you, but he isn’t offended at being asked. And besides, with a little thought, we can hear God’s answer. Within the silence of our heart, we will come to realize that God invented cows, but we invented the Big Mac. He invented flour, but it was we who invented the Twinkie.

We realize that as annoying as mosquitoes are, they are a part of an intricate life cycle designed by God so that all life can survive. What exactly that part is, I don’t know. Granted, He could have invented a bug that didn’t have a hypodermic needle for a nose, yet still kept the life cycle pedaling along. But He didn’t ask me. I can only assume that God created a time for everything under heaven, even being annoyed.

Now, this is the really cool thing: God your best friend, and God the creator of the universe, are one! I mean, can you wrap your mind around it? You’re sitting there — kneeling there, laying there — talking to your best friend, when you suddenly realize that your very own best friend is, by the way, all mighty!

You love your spouse, your children? How about your dog and/or cat? God created them all! I mean, not at the same time or in the same lab. He didn’t want to get the parts mixed up. But invent them He did!

You ever look up at the stars at night, wondering what’s up there? Your best friend knows! God knows every inch of landscape beyond the realm of the earth! Wild, huh?

He knows how far the universe stretches; He knows intimately each and every form of life living in the recesses of our universe, should there be any, which I think there are, because... you know, the universe is a really big place, bigger even than Super Walmart, which itself houses many different forms of life.

So, when God says that when you love Him you need not fear any army on earth, you can take it to heart! You may feel small at times, insignificant, but in God’s eyes, you are billions and billions times larger than the entire universe!

The next time you feel fear — whether it’s about war, health, finances — take a look at the stars and know that your very own best friend, the one who (as Bishop John tells us) loves you more than you could ask or imagine, created them!

--- Dave Myers

**Real Letters to God**

**Dear God,**

I wish on a Star

then times had nothing happened

Now what?

**Anna**

--- Bishop John
Finding and creating COMMUNITY

By DUANE SHORT

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from CatholicRuralLife.org.

My mother passed away in March of this year. She was almost 92 and had lived a full life. I was able to share some words at her funeral regarding community. Community applies to not only humans; but also to animals, plants, planets, and galaxies. All of creation is part of multiple communities.

To set some background, my Father passed away two weeks after I had turned four years old. Mom instantly became a single parent to three sons, aged 4, 11, and 15 and a daughter 13. As you will see below, communities saved us and made us who we are today.

Mom was saying more and more the past few years how much each other after Dad passed away. The other three were off on their own adventures in a few short years, so it really was just Mom and I for several years, so there is a bit of truth to Mom’s statement.

However, this did not occur in a vacuum. As I looked around at the visitation, and again at the funeral, I saw the faces of the communities that took us in; that wrapped us in their arms, that loved us and supported us through rough times.

I think of my family communities, of my uncle’s helping Mom to manage the livestock and the outstanding obligations. I see Uncle Bud, who gave up his teaching livestock and the outstanding obligations.

I see Uncle Bud, who gave up his teaching and that Mom and Harry got married, none of us quite knew what to expect. We were way too old to be the Brady Bunch, and I didn’t really want to see Dennis (brother) and G. (step-brother) fight for the role of Greg, but we knew as the song says that we needed to come together for the sake of Mom and Harry, who were so good for each other.

So, it took some time, we had to feel each other out, play some cat and mouse, but we did come together as a family. Not the Brady Bunch, but our version of it, and we even came to like each other in the end.

Finaly, as Mom’s health deteriorated, we found the Life and Health family community. They were there for Mom when we couldn’t be. They allowed Mom to finish life on her terms, and we are ever so grateful.

So, what is the next step? For my daughters, nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephew, and others in that generation, this is my hope for you. The world is changing at light speeds. You have just heard how communities have supported us and made us who we are today, and frankly saved us. Go find your communities, go create your communities.

Technology may change how communities are created and built, but the community is the backbone of civilization. The early church was groups of small communities caring for each other and looking out for each other. Can we duplicate that? Let’s take what we have learned from our Mom, let’s take that great example she showed us, take that love and compassion and go into the world. That is the legacy I wish for my Mom.

— Duane Short is a lifelong agriculturist and Master degree student. He and his family live in Hamilton County, Iowa.

“The Church said when MLK died”

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (CNA) — On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr., was fatally shot outside his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

King is remembered as the most visible leader of the civil rights movement, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and as the founding president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But he was first a pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and remained active in pastoral leadership throughout his life.

On the day after King was killed, Pope Paul VI expressed remorse during his Angelus address, saying that the civil rights leader was “a Christian prophet for racial integration.”

Shortly after King’s death, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Council of Churches, the Synagogue Council of America, and the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas released an interfaith statement, mourning their colleagues in ministry.

“We bow together in grief before the shameful murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a unique apostle of the non-violent drive for justice, [and] affirm that no service of remembrance or local memorial is equal to the greatness of his labor or the vastness of our national need.”

The faith leaders also applauded the efforts of Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1968, encouraged Americans to support measures favoring integration, and pled with government officials to fund legislation aimed at fighting poverty.

“We affirm that only through massive contributions by the American people can this nation duly honor the life-offering of Martin Luther King Jr., and responsibly lift up the burden of the poor and oppressed in our land.”

The statement also promised to implement coordinated efforts among religious communities to fight poverty.

“We declare our intention to take immediate steps to develop a coordinated sacrificial effort on the part of the American religious community to help the disadvantaged,” the statement read.

Faith leaders were not only the only ones to pay tribute to King after his assassination.

On the night King was killed, Senator Robert Kennedy, a Catholic, spoke to the people of Indianapolis, urging them to greater compassion and a fight against poverty. Kennedy spoke during a stop on his 1968 campaign for President, delivering the news to a multiracial crowd that King had been assassinated.

“What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or they be black,” he said on April 4, 1968.

Kennedy referenced the assassination of his own brother, President John F. Kennedy, which had taken place in 1963.

“For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and to distrust any white man, I say to you in the name of Christ, the King, whose bloodmerged the blood of the South, the Negro is not less a man than the white man; he is a man!”

But we have to make an effort to understand, to go beyond these rather difficult times,” Kennedy said.

“The senator urged Americans to take King’s efforts, pray for King’s family and the nation, and join in solidarity those longing for peace.”

“The vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings who abide in our land,” he added.

“I shall ask you tonight to return home, to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King, that’s true, but more importantly to say a prayer for our own country, which all of us love—a prayer for understanding and that compassion of which I spoke.”
Catholics urged to contact legislators regarding Kansas abortion laws

By KANSANS FOR LIFE

The Kansas State Legislature is back in session and it is time to urge them to support the “Value Them Both Constitutional Amendment!”

Legislative hearings began on Jan. 21. Please encourage your state legislators to support a state constitutional amendment that protects women and babies from a limitless abortion industry.

You can send a pre-written message to both your state senator and representative through Kansans for Life’s website, which you can access by going to the Southwest Kansas Catholic website, dcdiocese.org/swkscatholic.

You can also call the Kansas Legislative Line at 800-432-3924 and have them relay a message to your legislators. When you call, advise the operator that you would like to send a message to your state legislators. The operator will ask for your name, contact information and what statement you would like to be given to your legislators.

The following is a sample script for your message:

Kansas City
7808 Foster St.
Overland Park, KS 66204
913-642-5433
kansansforlife@aol.com
Wichita
3301 W. 13th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67203
316-687-5433
kfl@kfl.org

“...I am your constituent and ask you to please support the Kansas State Constitutional Amendment, Value Them Both, that protects women and babies from a limitless abortion industry.

“Due to the April 2019 Kansas Supreme Court ruling, Kansas abortion laws could become similar to New York’s abortion laws. Late-term and taxpayer funded abortions would soon be legal in Kansas. The Value Them Both Amendment will reverse the court’s barbaric ruling and keep life-saving limits on the abortion industry in place. Kansans for Life will advise me of your support and voting record. Thank you for your time.”

We are thankful for your time and efforts. It’s grassroots work like yours that save the lives of mothers and babies right here in Kansas! Feel free to contact us at 800.928.5433 or kfl@kfl.org with any thoughts or questions you have!

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

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what’s best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review.

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210 E Frontview Suite B
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-0651

Kansas pro-lifers continue push for ballot measure

In 2016, a little girl born weighing less than a small block of butter was hailed as the smallest surviving premature baby. Emilia Grabarczyk was born via caesarean section at 25 weeks in the western German city of Witten. It was a challenging journey, but today little Emilia is thriving. Emilia’s mother Sabine was advised to deliver early because the placenta that was nourishing her unborn baby was starting to fail. Without a caesarean, Emilia would have died before birth.

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Kansas allows abortion until the 22nd week of pregnancy, just three weeks younger than the baby pictured above. The brutal “live dismemberment abortion” kills on average 12 children per week in Kansas.

Continued from Page 1

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Continued from Page 1

court ruled that provisions of the state constitution dating back to 1859 extends to a “natural right of personal autonomy” regarding abortion. The Kansas Catholic Conference has decired the ruling as a “grotesque caricature of emancipation.”

“...In Kansas, abortion is not legal after the 22nd week of a pregnancy. Parents must be informed if their minor child is seeking an abortion, and they must give consent to the procedure.

Gov. Laura Kelly of Kansas, a pro-abortion rights Democrat, won the 2018 election. She has the power to appoint justices to the seven-member Kansas Supreme Court. Her first nominee, Justice Evelyn Wilson, assumed office in December 2019.

In Kansas, abortion is not legal after the 22nd week of a pregnancy. Parents must be informed if their minor child is seeking an abortion, and they must give consent to the procedure.

A two-thirds majority in both of Kansas’ legislative chambers is needed in order to add a referendum to the ballot. Voters would then have to pass the proposal by a majority vote.

Kansans for Life is drafting language for such an amendment.

Jeanne Gawdun, a lobbyist for Kansans for Life, sees the amendment as an important step for the pro-life movement, rather than simply passing an abortion ban through the state legislature.

“...Bans on abortion in other states have not been successful. Even in some of the most pro-life states, they’ve not been successful, and in states where one has passed, they’re being tied up in court,” she told the Associated Press. “You’re effectively not achieving anything.”

Gawdun defends an incremental strategy to limit abortion, citing a 40% drop from 1999, when a peak of 12,400 abortions were performed. In 2018, that number had fallen to about 7,000.

Pat Goodson, founder of Right to Life of Kansas, disagrees with this incrementalist approach. He is among the school of pro-life advocates who say that a constitutional amendment regulating but not banning abortion is a step in the wrong direction, because it would effectively mean that the constitution allows abortion.

Goodson told a committee considering the amendment that it “denies the humanity of unborn humans and jeopardizes the rights of all humans.”

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Gov. Laura Kelly of Kansas, a pro-abortion rights Democrat, won the 2018 election. She has the power to appoint justices to the seven-member Kansas Supreme Court. Her first nominee, Justice Evelyn Wilson, assumed office in December 2019.

Wilson’s nomination was opposed by pro-life groups.

State courts can declare legal abortion to be a right under the state constitution. Even if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and similar precedents that mandate legal abortion across the country, these decisions will likely create binding precedent at the state level.

Elise Higgins, vice president of the pro-abortion rights Kansas Abortion Fund, told the Associated Press that if voters pass a constitutional amendment rejecting a right to abortion, “then the minute Roe v. Wade is undermined or overturned, people in Kansas will lose their right to abortion, period.”

Pro-life lawmakers in the Iowa legislature are also pushing for a constitutional amendment saying there is no right to abortion in the state constitution.

Alabama and West Virginia have already amended their constitutions to prevent state supreme courts from interpreting them to find a right to abortion. In 2020, Louisiana residents will vote whether to amend their constitution to clarify that it does not recognize abortion as a right.
When is a SKYAC youth conference, not a SKYAC youth conference?

When it's a SKYAC retreat!

This year's annual SKYAC (Southwest Kansas Young Adult Conference), typically a one-day conference, will be presented this year as a three-day retreat, March 20-22 at the Heartland Center in Great Bend.

The retreat is for 18- to 39-year-olds, married and single, who desire to grow in their Catholic faith and meet new people. The "Southwest Kansas" title only describes where the event is held; all are welcome.

The retreat will begin Friday at 8 p.m., and conclude with a 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Participants may choose to arrive at 8 a.m. Saturday. The day will include prayer, small and large group sessions, meals, and leisure.

After hosting a conference for the past four years, the Office of Young Adult Ministry will be holding the retreat to offer a deeper dive into prayer and communion. While the details are not yet finalized, one can expect to learn more about the beautiful heritage of our church. Check the Catholic for more information, or go to dcyoungadult.com.

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OR CALL 316-942-4242

Have an Encounter With God’s Call, March 28-30 in Conception, Missouri

If you are a high school junior through age 25, consider spending some time at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri. Each year, the Diocese of Dodge City leads a group of boys and young men in an “Encounter With God’s Call” to Conception Seminary.

The group explores seminary life through prayer, talks with and by seminarians, and more than a little fun and games. “Encounter With God’s Call” allows you a chance to get away with your peers and see what seminary life is all about. And it’s free.

On Saturday afternoon, you’ll meet seminarians who act as ambassadors, welcoming and guiding you through the weekend. As you attend the talks and activities, you’ll get to know them and the other participants who are discerning their vocation. You also have the option to stay until Monday to attend seminary classes and meet faculty and staff. Other features of Encounter include:
- Campus and residence hall tours
- Talks and small group discussions
- Social activities and sports
- Q&A panel with seminarians
- Adoration and Reconciliation available
- Sunday evening Holy Hour
- Time for personal prayer
Participants should bring:
- A Bible for spiritual reading
- A notebook for journaling
- “Business Casual” clothes for Mass
- Athletic wear for sports
- An alarm clock
- Overnight toiletries
- Money if you would like to visit the Gift Shop
- “An open heart to hear Have questions? Contact (660) 944-2987 or ewgc@conception.edu.


For more information, or for registration material, go to https://www.conception.edu/seminary/encounter-gods-call/.

“Every mother, when she picks up the young life that has been born to her, looks up to the Heavens to thank God for the gift which made the world young again. But here was a mother, a Madonna, who did not look up. She looked down to Heaven, for this was Heaven in her arms.”

-- Bishop Fulton J. Sheen
Crying babies in Church; another reason to thank God

By DEACON CURTIS TURNER

Recently, I was serving Mass with a good priest friend of mine at a parish in Baltimore. During the Mass, a small toddler got restless, starting crying and every few moments, the baby would let out a piercing scream.

The poor parents of this child were in vain to quiet the child. They pulled out toys, passed the boy back and forth, hugged him and rocked him, all to no avail.

Now, the parents did not take the child out of the Church because the father was being received into the faith and needed to be present during the Rite of Acceptance. Nonetheless, I must admit, one part of me was annoyed because I found it hard to concentrate. Should I really be annoyed or thankful? Sitting on the altar, I noticed others in the congregation getting annoyed as well.

Well, right when we could not stand it any more, right when the mother and father were about to surrender and leave the Church, my friend the celebrant, said to the parents, “Don’t worry about the crying child. All of that crying just means that the Catholic Church has a future.”

He went on to say to the rest of us, “If you go into a church that does not have a crying baby, that church is in trouble. It has no future. So, let us thank God for crying babies.” That simple statement changed my mentality as well as that of most of the congregation. I still think the parents of an older child who should be disciplined may still rightfully garner a few scorns. But an infant whose parents are trying to raise the child in the faith deserve a bit more sympathy.

So, next time you find yourself annoyed and distracted by a crying baby, thank God; the future of the church is being secured.

Mark calendar now for April training

Pastoral Ministry Formation Program offers Diocesan Ananias Certificate

Editor’s Note: The following article was submitted by the Office of Pastoral Ministry Formation for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City.

The goal of Ananias Training is to form a people equipped to be Ananias to one another within the Church as well as in the world.

Ananias Training is designed to form parishioners with no previous training in “the art of spiritual companionship.” In Acts 9:10, we read of the Lord appearing to Ananias asking him to accompany Saul, a known persecutor of Christians.

Ananias says yes, despite his fears. One might say — Ananias welcomes one from the peripheries. What does it mean to know you are called to journey alongside your brothers and sisters as another Ananias?

What does it mean that you are not alone in that call?

What gifts has God given you to be an Ananias for others?

What tools do you still need?

Obtain a Diocesan Certificate in Ananias Training by completing three live-and-in-person Pastoral Ministry Formation offerings dedicated to Ananias Training at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend:

- Get Equipped - Ananias Training 1 of 3 [THEO 4881]
  - April 24-25, 2020
- RCIA Kansas - Ananias Training 2 of 3 [THEO 4881]
  - September 11-12, 2020
- Get Equipped - Ananias Training 3 of 3 [THEO 4881]
  - April 16-17, 2021

Certification includes completing required assignments. Each offering builds on the one before it. If not interested in certification, one will find each offering valuable as a stand-alone offering.

THEO 4881 Get Equipped Ananias Training 1 of 3 (1 hour course)

Instructor: Father Robert Schremmer Ananias Training offers practical ways to help ordinary Catholics live out the call to spiritually journey alongside others.

This live-and-in-person gathering, held at the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, will enter Ananias’ story to discover our own call to accompany.

The gathering will explore what it means for us that no two journeys of life are the same, and what it means to have a threshold conversation.

This will lead participants to listen to real questions and opinions about God so as to be able to guide a person to discover how God is present and active in their life.

By accompanying another, we will share our relationship with God and how we may share Jesus Christ’s own story in response to the spiritual hunger of another.

*This course is one of the 1 hour courses that may be used to obtain the

Diocesan Certification in Youth Ministry or the Diocesan Ananias Certificate.

Class Dates: April 24-25; Friday evening - 4 p.m. through Saturday to 1 p.m.

Location: Heartland Center for Spirituality

Cost: 1 hr. course for college credit - $50.00 Personal enrichment included in fee to Heartland. *Does not include books.

Make reservations and pay for your room and meals at the Heartland Center by going to: https://heartlandsprituality.org/pastoralministry-formation/422.00 Commuter

$57.00 Single

$47.00 Double

1 hr. course for college credit - $50.00 (Pay by contacting Coleen at cstein@dcdioocese.org or 620-227-1538)

Personal enrichment fee is covered with registration fee to Heartland Center for Spirituality.

Catholic News Agency

By COURTNEY MARES

Pope Francis: It is beautiful when babies cry at Mass

Each of the 32 baptized infants are children of Vatican employees born in 2019. St. John Paul II began the papal tradition of baptizing children in the Sistine Chapel on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Following the Mass, Pope Francis prayed the Angelus prayer from the window of the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, while a voice rang out from above saying: ‘This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,’” he said.

The pope said that it is important for each Catholic to know and remember the date of their own baptism. This is a date to be celebrated, he said, because it is when we received the Holy Spirit that remains with us.

“The feast of the Baptism of Jesus we rediscover our baptism. As Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father, we too, born of water and the Holy Spirit, know that we are beloved children ... invested in a great mission to testify and announce to all men the boundless love of the Father,” Pope Francis said.
The people of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City are awesome! Back a few years ago when Father Mark Brantley was in seminary, he had several letters from well-wishers pinned to his bulletin board. Other seminarians from much larger dioceses and archdioceses noted how lucky he was to have the prayers and support of the people back home. Please take a moment to send a letter of support to our seminarians who, if it be God’s plan, will one day serve as priests for the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City! The seminarians have said on many occasions how much these letters mean to them!
Fighting 2020 Census rumors

Beginning in March, households in the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City will begin receiving invitations to take part in the 2020 Census. The Census is used for the dispersal of federal funding, as well as a source of information regarding the population of a particular region. This can help businesses determine whether to set up shop in a particular area. It also creates, based on population, electoral districts. The following is provided by 2020census.gov. If you have a question about something not addressed here or see false information about the 2020 Census or the U.S. Census Bureau, please contact rumors@census.gov.

Are non-citizens counted in the census?
YES. Everyone counts. The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the country, including non-citizens. Learn more about who should be counted when you complete the 2020 Census.

Can my answers be shared with law enforcement or used against me?
NO. The law prevents the Census Bureau from sharing your information with law enforcement. Your answers cannot be used to impact your eligibility for government benefits. Your answers are only used to create statistics about our country. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to protect your personal information and keep it strictly confidential. That’s every answer, to every question.

Can I only take the census online?
NO. The 2020 Census will be available online, by phone, and by mail. Online and phone responses can be completed in 13 languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese). A paper form will be mailed to every house that hasn’t responded already when we send our fourth mail piece out.

Does the 2020 Census impact me?
YES. The 2020 Census is vital for communities across the United States. Your response shapes decisions about how public funds are spent for things like schools, fire and emergency services, and health care clinics for your community—as well as your congressional representation.

Will the Census Bureau hire non-citizens?
NO. The 2020 Census will be available online, by phone, and by mail. Online and phone responses can be completed in 13 languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese). A paper form will be mailed to every house that hasn’t responded already when we send our fourth mail piece out.

Are your answers only used to create statistics about our country. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to protect your personal information and keep it strictly confidential. That’s every answer, to every question.

Census will not ask about citizenship.

The U.S. Census will not ask whether you are or are not a U.S. citizen. The US bishops applauded the Supreme Court’s decision back in June, blocking the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 census under the reasons proffered by the Commerce Department.

“We affirm [the] decision by the Supreme Court that the inclusion of a citizenship question must ensure genuine reasons for such inclusion,” said Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice and Bishop Joe Vásquez of Austin, chairs of the USCCB’s domestic justice and migration committees.

“We reaffirm that all persons in the United States should be counted in the Census, regardless of their immigration status, and reemphasize our judgment that questions regarding citizenship should not be included in the Census. We hope that this view will prevail, whether by administrative action or judicial determination.”

In its June 27 decision in Department of Commerce v. New York, the court found that the administration’s reason for seeking to include a citizenship question on the census seemed “contrived”. The ruling was 5-4.

The administration agreed July 2 to start printing the questionnaire without the question. The decennial census is used in districting for elections, and helps determine the allocation of federal funding to the states. A question about whether the respondent is a citizen has not appeared on the census questionnaire since 1950.

The administration had argued for its inclusion under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, saying it could strengthen protections for minorities.

But some researchers at the Census Bureau had found that including the citizenship question could lower the response rate of minority and immigrant households, lowering the quality of the census data.

Says survivor: ‘Jesus is light that shows us the way’ to stop sexual exploitation

Editor’s Note: The following is part of the Children at Risk series. Bishop John Brungardt has asked the SKC to present stories such as these to keep the issue before the public eye, in hopes that victim survivors find hope and healing, and that perpetrators receive justice.

By ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jewell Baraka’s voice tightened when asked about her youth.

“Prosstituted by my father from age 11 to 14, then exploited in pornography from 14 to 17 — child abuse is my childhood,” she said, directing her cerulean blue eyes toward the ceiling of a Missouri coffee shop, where she sat as she told her story to Catholic News Service over Skype.

“It wasn’t an easy road. I didn’t have faith continually. Some big walls were put up between me and Jesus, for sure,” she said, when asked about her spirituality. “I had a vision of Jesus when I was about 4 years old. I was in the back seat of a car. He seemed to be pure light with kind eyes. I knew immediately that I loved him and I wanted to be like him,” Baraka recounted. “Sometimes I think that strong encounter was etched on my heart to get me through all that was come. I was always trying to get back to that connection.”

Even in the darkest days, she said, Jesus would let her know he was with her.

“It became harder to connect with Jesus” as her mind was dissociating to cope with these brutal realities, she said, but “I would sit outside and watch tree branches swaying and it would feel for a second that he was holding and rocking me.”

As a young teen, she was sold to criminals making pornography.

Baraka’s father — “a serious sociopath” — put her, at night, in the back trunk of a car to be transported to a studio where she was filmed “being tortured,” until it ended — suddenly.

“One night, I saw Jesus again, this time when I was in the studio. They didn’t see anything, but I think they felt his presence. And it scared them. The only thing that scares deep darkness is real light,” she said. The exploitation stopped not long after that, when she was 17.

Christ freed her, but she was left with all the psychological fallout you would expect from six years of exploitation and 13 years of abuse by her father. PTSD lets your past continue long after it has physically ended,” she said.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is a common experience for survivors of child sexual abuse.

“The good thing is, I had gotten into counseling just as this was all ending due to a suicide attempt,” Baraka told CNS. “It was the first time I was told that it was OK for me to have feelings. No one had really seen me as a human being before that.”

Within a few years, the young woman moved to a new state and began reconstructing her life piece by piece.

Being a committed Christian is a big part of her life. She blogs regularly and assists with social media at Exodus Cty, a nonprofit in Missouri dedicated to ending sexual exploitation.

“God freed the Israelites from Egypt. Freeing people from slavery is what we do,” said Baraka.

“It is important to not get stuck in your own story. There is a whole story of sexual exploitation happening across the world. Jesus is the light that shows us the way to change that. We will,” said the thoughtful writer, who is working on a memoir of her journey.

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La Luz para la Revelación

Símeón exclama que el niño que tiene en sus manos es “éluz para iluminar a los paganos y... gloria de tu pueblo Israel” (Lucas 2,32). Al celebrar la Navidad, recordamos que este niño es el Niño Jesús. Jesús nos trae la luz, porque Él es la Luz. A veces estamos en la oscuridad. Piense en cómo fue para ser padre de nuestro niño el día que lo vio por primera vez. Eso nos enseña a mí qué hacer mejor la próxima vez, de tomar solo lo necesario. Sabiendo y temiendo que nunca lo harán. Lo mismo ocurre con nuestro viaje hacia Dios. Siempre estamos en un aeropuerto, ensayando viajar ligeramente. Los obstáculos entre nosotros tratan de prepararse para cualquier eventualidad. ¿Necesito esto? Tal vez. M ételo en el bolsillo. Y los bolsos crecen y crecen. No es de extrañar que las básculas del aeropuerto gimen bajo el peso de lo que empaquemos, incluso cuando nuestras billeteras, asaltadas por robos educados pero ágiles, se llenan, más ligeras, hacia los cielos amigables. Por ejemplo, tu memoria: es una especie de depósito. De lo que has oído, experimentado, o sentido acerca de Dios. Acudimos a él siempre que necesitemos descanso, o consuelo o tranquilidad. Guardamos y atesoramos lo que nos ha tocado y complacido. Nunca sabemos cuándo podríamos necesitarlo. Tenemos que llevarlo todo a todas partes. Estamos perdidos sin eso, creemos. Lo que sucede es que terminamos demasiado apegados a las palabras gastadas, y a los pensamientos arrugados, y a las imágenes que desvanece. Nos afirmamos a ellos, en lugar de alcanzar al Dios vivo. Lo empaquemos a El (a quien conocemos muy poco) fuera del camino, a favor de lo que conozcamos y lo que nos conserva. Abrimos la maleta por la noche y encontramos allí, no al Dios siempre sorprendente, sino sólo a nuestro ser desgastado, rancio y cansado. El orante experimentado, como el viajero experimentado del aeropuerto, viaja ligero. Tomar sólo lo esencial. Toma sólo lo que es necesario.

Deus Solus

La Diócesis requiere a todos los empleados y voluntarios que trabajen 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 personal de la Diócesis especialmente entrenados 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.

Combatiendo los rumores del Censo del 2020

En el censo se cuenta a quienes no son ciudadanos de los EE.UU.? SÍ. Todos cuentan. El Censo del 2020 cuenta a todos los que viven en el país, incluyendo a los que no son ciudadanos. Aprenda más sobre a quién debe contar cuando llene el Censo del 2020.

¿Mis respuestas pueden ser compartidas con la Policía o agencias federales o ser usadas en any other way? No. La ley impide que la Oficina del Censo del 2020 use su información para fines de seguridad. Sus respuestas no son compartidas con agencias que manejan beneficios gubernamentales y no afectarán su elegibilidad para esos beneficios. Sus respuestas solo se usan para generar estadísticas sobre nuestro país. La Oficina del Censo se rige por el Título 13 del Código de los EE. UU. para proteger su información personal y mantenerla en estricta confidencialidad. Eso significa que protegen todas las respuestas a todas las preguntas.

¿Sólo puedo llenar el censo por internet? NO. El Censo del 2020 estará disponible por internet, por teléfono y por correo. Las respuestas por internet y por teléfono se pueden proveer en 13 idiomas (Inglés, español, chino, vietnamita, coreano, ruso, árabe, tagalo, polaco, francés, criollo haitiano, portugués y japonés). Se enviará por correo un formulario impreso a cada casa que no haya respondido cuando enviemos nuestra cuarta correspondencia.

¿El Censo del 2020 tiene un impacto en mí? SÍ. El Censo del 2020 es fundamental para las comunidades de los Estados Unidos. Sus respuestas dan forma a las políticas y programas de gobierno, como la representación en el Congreso, fondos federales para servicios públicos como escuelas, estaciones de bomberos, servicios de emergencias y clínicas de salud para su comunidad, así como su representación en el Congreso.

Haciendo pasar por trabajadores está circulando un rumor falso de que algunas personas se están haciendo pasar por trabajadores del Departamento de Asuntos Interiores. Reportar un rumor: ¿Ha visto o escuchado algo confuso sobre el Censo del 2020? Comuníquese a la Oficina del Censo contactando a rumors@census.gov. Después, asegúrese de correr la voz para que todos tengan la información correcta sobre el Censo del 2020.

Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios

Si usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor está en un pe riodo inmediato háble al 911 o al departa mento de policía local. Si usted tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor está siendo abusado o descuidado haga un reporte confidencial al Departamento de protección de Niños y Familias, 800-922-5330 o al KBI Hotline, 800-KSCRIME (800-572-4743), o mandando un correo electrónico a clergynbuse@kbi.ks.gov.

La Luz para la Revelación

Rev. RONALD M. GILMORE, Obispo Emérito de la Diócesis Católica de Dodge City

Sí usted sospecha abuso o descuido de un menor en Kansas y el menor está en un pe riodo inmediato háble al 911 o al departa mento de policía local. Si usted tiene alguna sospecha de que un menor está siendo abusado o descuidado haga un reporte confidencial al Departamento de protección de Niños y Familias, 800-922-5330 o al KBI Hotline, 800-KSCRIME (800-572-4743), o mandando un correo electrónico a clergynbuse@kbi.ks.gov.

Las acusaciones son consideradas hechas de buena fe. Una acusación 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/admitida por el acusado; es corroborada por otra evidencia o por otra fuente y/o; involucra múltiples acusaciones. Los hechos y las circunstancias que hacen que una acusación sea verosímil pueden variar de caso a caso. La determinación de que una acusación es verosímil no es equivalente a la determinación de culpabilidad en un procedimiento criminal o de responsabilidad en un procedimiento civil.
WILMA ANN RIEBEL, 86, of Sacred Heart Parish, Ness City, died Jan. 6, 2020. She was a member of the Altar Society. She answered phones and dispatched for Car Mac, Hembre Well Service, Cheyenne Oil, Pickens Oil, Ziegler and Leiker Trucking. She was also a homemaker. She married Victor Riebel on April 14, 1952, in Ness City. He died on Oct. 27, 2018. Survivors include a son, Perry; five daughters, June Stoecklein, Jane Stoecklein, Randae Rufenacht, and Karen Stoecklein; a brother, Robert Kreutzer; a sister, Clara Dechant; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

VICTORIA A. VILLEGAS, 68, of Dodge City, died Dec. 22, 2019. She attended Cosmetology School at Dillons, on the cleaning crew and graduated at the top of her class with honors. After graduation, Victoria went to work at Beauty Villa, where she built a large clientele. She was also a mentor and teacher to other hairdressers for many years. In later years, she was a secretary for Community Corrections and the WIC Department. Victoria is survived by her children, Jerri “Chach” Martinez, Christopher “ Marty” Martinez, Viviana Victoria Villegas, Nicolas Villegas, Jesus “ Chito” Flores, and Valentín “Tin” Chacon; sisters, Diana L. Fernandez, Lollie Chacon-Beltran, and Florentina N. Chacon; and 16 grandchildren. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

LORRAINE M. NAJERA, 63, of Dodge City, died Dec. 15, 2019. Lorraine grew up in Gallup, New Mexico. On Sept. 29, 1982, she married Isabel Najera. Lorraine is survived by her husband, Isabel; son, Lenny Garcia; daughter, Daniella Najera; five grandchildren; mother and step-father, Patsy and Ray Fierro; and four siblings, Tyna Garcia, Joe “ Thronts” Garcia, Elisa Garcia, and Fred Diaz. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

BRIAN DAVID HEATH, 59, of St. Therese Parish, Dodge, died on Jan. 3, 2020. Brian attended the Beagamd Learning Center in Atwood until he was 21 years old. He moved to Garden City in 1981 to become part of SDSC, which later became Mosiac. He participated in the Mosiac employment opportunities by being a barger at Dillons, a barge captain at KDOT and Sunflower Electric, Dishwasher at the Hilton on a yard crew and the belt manufacturing team. In 2018 he moved back to Dighton. He is survived by his brother, Steve; four sisters, Susan Smeltzer, Betty Haas, Carolyn Dutoit and Marilyn James; sister-in-law, Trudy Heath; and many nieces and nephews. Father Warren Stecklein presided.

DAVID W. ZELLER, 62, of Sacred Heart Parish, Newbury, KS, died Jan. 8, 2020. As a young boy, he attended school in St. Mary’s, Kansas. He then married Susan Gibs, and they had two sons, Tyler and Corey. David worked 10 years at a brick plant in Hoxie, where he also had a lawn care business on the side. Thereafter he began his retiring career, working for the Union Pacific Railroad. In July, 1999, he married Judith (Judy) Reed. She preceded him in death on April 5, 2018. He is survived by two sons, Tyler and Corey; a daughter, Kristin Prusk; four brothers, Daryl, Jack, Ray, and Kenny Zeller; two sisters, Trudy and Karen; and five grandchildren.

MACLOVIO L. “M. ROJAS, JR., 61, of St. Mary Parish, Garden City, died Jan. 10, 2020. Max has been a lifetime resident of Garden City. He attended St. Mary Catholic School. Max worked for the Kansas Department of Transportation for 37 years as an equipment operator. He retired in 2016. On March 24, 2018, he married Donna Montoya. Survivors include his wife Donna; three children, Maureen Enriquez, Guizel Urbina, and Alma Urbina; four siblings, Derk Rosas, Carol Nevins, Tom Rosas, and Norma Rosas; and 10 grandchildren. Father Jacob Schneider presided.

ROSARIO MORENO, 55, a resident who attended St. Anthony Parish, Liberal, died Jan. 10, 2020. Rosario grew up in Mexico and married Francisco Moreno, Sr., on April 9, 1988. They moved to San Juan, where they had two children. They later settled in Johnson County in 1995 and had one more son. Rosario worked at County Fare. He is survived by his husband, Francisco Moreno Sr. of the home; sons, Francisco Moreno, Jr., Alexis Moreno, and Aron Moreno; brothers, Javier Gutierrez and Cayento Gutierrez, Jr.; sisters, Gloria Gutierrez, Aide Flores, and Norma Miramontes; and four grandchildren. Father Prakash Kedia presided.

LINDA SMALL, 85, of St. Mary Parish and St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, died Jan. 6, 2020. Linda grew up and attended school in Park, Kansas. She married Edward Small in 1959; he preceded her in death in 1962. She married Leonard Jones in 1995 and had one more son. Rosario worked at County Fare. She is survived by her husband, Francisco Moreno Sr. of the home; sons, Francisco Moreno, Jr., Alexis Moreno, and Aron Moreno; brothers, Javier Gutierrez and Cayento Gutierrez, Jr.; sisters, Gloria Gutierrez, Aide Flores, and Norma Miramontes; and four grandchildren. Father Prakash Kedia presided.

Lawrence Vierthaler known for humor, newspaper legacy

WICHITA - Lawrence Vierthaler, age 74, passed away on Sunday January 5, 2020, at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Al was born Sept. 13, 1945, in Great Bend to Albert and Mildred (Hlauaty) Schremmer. Al has two siblings, Father Robert Schremmer of Wichita and Donald (Bill) Sowers of Topeka.

He was a 1963 graduate from St. Mary’s of the Plains High School in Dodge City. In April 1966 he was married to Deanna Roesner-Schremmer.

Al graduated with an Engineering Degree from Wichita State University 1976, and then worked in Aviation for 45 years in Wichita.

Al is survived by his current wife of 18 years, Barbara Hppi-Schremmer; his children, Douglas (Sandra) Schremmer, Victoria (Greg) Gegan; stepchildren, Dianna Hawkins and Karrie (Jason) Buren; grandchildren, Tyler, Alyse, Rachael, Kylee, Alexis and Eva. His mother was Jane Vierthaler of Spearville.

Al died Friday, Jan. 10, 2020.

Lawrence was a good friend to the SW Kansas Catholic, and in particular to former SK Register editor Tim Wenal. He and his family kept the Spearville News newspaper and printshop alive and thriving since he purchased it in 1952. He will be missed for, among many other things, his terrific sense of humor. He was, along with Jim Ziegler, the model for Mr. Brown, the main character in the Mr. Brown book series, and was a featured interview in a PBS program about Ford County, which aired in 2004. Lawrence will be missed.

PENNSYLVANIA - Albert Lee Schremmer, 91, died Friday, Jan. 10, 2020 at Reflections Living of Dodge City.

He was born October 27, 1928 at Halstead, Kansas, the son of Anton and Cecelia A. (Schaplowsky) Vierthaler. He was a graduate of Haskell High School and attended Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University.

He purchased the Spearville News in 1952, which he operated for 60 years.

He was a member of St. John the Baptist Church, Knights of Columbus Council 1539 and Lions Club in Spearville, as well as a board member of Hospice of the Prairie and United Telephone.

On Nov. 9, 1949 he married Erma Heskmak at St. John Church in Spearville. She preceded him in death on Nov. 12, 2019.

Survivors include: five children, Dr. Stephen Vierthaler and wife Peggy, Lee Summit, Missouri, Dr. Lyle Viethaler and wife Donna, Wichita, Bruce Viethaler and wife Cindy, Spearville, Greg Viethaler and wife Jill, Spearville and Dr. Lois Viethaler and husband Greg, Dodge City; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Viethaler, Dodge City; a brother, Anton Schremmer, Kansas City, Kansas; 16 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Erma Heskmak; father, Dr. Carl Vierthaler; a granddaughter, Beth Vierthaler; a sister, Albert Viethaler.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice of the Prairie in care of Ziegler Funeral Chapel, 1901 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, Kansas 67801. Condolences may be sent to www.zieglerfuneralchapel.com.

Albert Lee Schremmer

Editor Note: Lawrence was a good friend to the SW Kansas Catholic, and in particular to former SK Register editor Tim Wenal. He and his family kept the Spearville News newspaper and printshop alive and thriving since he purchased it in 1952. He will be missed for, among many other things, his terrific sense of humor. He was, along with Jim Ziegler, the model for Mr. Brown, the main character in the Mr. Brown book series, and was a featured interview in a PBS program about Ford County, which aired in 2004. Lawrence will be missed.
Pilsen (Marion County)  
Catholic Bohemian families first settled in Marion County in 1874. By 1881, approximately twenty families made up the community. They named their town Pilsen after Pilzen, a city in the Austrian state of Bohemia. Between 1914 and 1915, the residents constructed a beautiful red brick church dedicated to Saint John Nepomucene, the patron of Bohemia.

Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun, a native of Pilsen, served as a military chaplain during the Korean Conflict and died as a prisoner of war. His cause for sainthood was initiated by the Diocese of Wichita in 2008. The Father Kapaun Guild sponsors an annual pilgrimage from Wichita to Pilsen, a 60-mile trek over four days and three nights, spanning the first weekend in June. This weekend was chosen because it is the closest weekend following Father Kapaun’s date of death, May 23. The pilgrimage concludes with the Father Kapaun Day Mass at Saint John Nepomucene Church. The Mass is followed by the presentation of wreaths at the statue on the church grounds depicting Father Kapaun helping a wounded soldier on the battlefield.

The sculpture above was created by Daniel Hunt, Associate Professor of Art at Kansas State University, from a Korean battlefield photograph from the Sept. 13, 1951 issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Father Emil Kapaun  
Kansas Native, Servant of God

Father Kapaun was born April 20, 1916 in Pilsen. He was ordained June 9, 1940, by Bishop Christian H. Winkelmann in the chapel at Sacred Heart College, now Newman University, in Wichita. His first assignment was at his home parish, Saint John Nepomucene, Pilsen. During World War II, from 1944 to 1946, Father Kapaun served as a military chaplain for the United States Army in India and Burma. He was appointed assistant pastor of Saint Teresa, Hutchinson, in 1946. He served as temporary administrator at St. John the Baptist, Spearville, in August of that year. He was appointed pastor at Holy Trinity, Timken, in 1948, but served there only five months. At the suggestion of Bishop Mark K. Carroll, he reenlisted as a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

On July 10, 1950, Father Kapaun was with an invasion force that landed in Korea. He was constantly serving on the front lines, and twice had his pipe shot out of his mouth.

On Nov. 1, 1950, he was captured after saving a trapped unit of 50 wounded soldiers. Surrounded by Chinese, he gathered a dozen men capable of walking and took them out and surrendered. He told the Chinese that there were only wounded in the command post and asked them to cease attacking.

He continued to minister to the soldiers as a prisoner. He was stricken with a blood clot in the leg, dysentery and pneumonia. Father Kapaun died in a camp hospital on May 23, 1951. He was buried in Prison Camp #5, North Korea.
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ST. MARTIN’S MIND TEASERS

TEASER THE FIRST:
(Below) 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.

ACROSS
1. Number for the last Leo
2. Eden fruit?
3. California diocese named for Saint Joseph (with “San”)
4. Commander of the army who was made king over Israel (1 Kings 16:16)
5. Animal of sacrifice in the Old Testament (abbr.)
6. Purloined fruit in Genesis 3:23)
7. Son of Seth
8. Symbol of Confirmation
9. Wife of King David
10. Large crucifix
11. Religion of Jesus
12. OT historical book
13. Father of Joseph (Lk 3:23)
14. One of Paul’s epistles
15. Nephew of Abraham
16. Commandment car- ri er, and others
17. A monk’s hood
18. Nazareth, to Jesus
20. Animalocystic book
21. Laying on of hands
22. Edem fruit?
23. Doctrines
24. Angelicus
25. Methuselah (with “San”)
26. A commandment
27. The feast of St. Polycarp is in this month (abbr.)
28. Symbol of the vine...
29. eden fruit?
30. ___ of David
31. Father of Joseph (Lk 3:23)
32. Samson killed a thousand men with this animal’s jawbone (Judg 15:16)
33. The feast of St. Polycarp is in this month (abbr.)
34. Directon from Beth- lehem to the Jordan
35. Symbol of Confirmation
36. Abbreviation for the month of July
37. Patron saint of farmers
38. Laying on of hands
39. The feast of St. Polycarp is in this month (abbr.)
40. Car is in this month
41. “___ Dolorosa”
42. “___ Dolorosa”

DOWN
1. Nephew of Abraham
2. “___ the vine...” (Jn 15:5)
3. Patron saint of farmers
4. Edem fruit?
5. Patron saint of farmers
6. Take and ___; this is my body.” (Mt 26:26)
7. Religion of Jesus
8. Symbol of Confirmation
9. Symbol of Confirmation
10. Large crucifix
11. Liturgy
12. Symbol of Confirmation
13. Symbol of Confirmation
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“Catholic Place Names in Kansas” by Tim Wenzl, is a 145-page book chronicking more than 300 communities and geographic sites bearing a name associated with the Catholic faith, in particular names of saints, popes, cardinals, bishops, priests, monks, and friars; religious sisters, nuns, explorers, frontiersmen, and ordinary Catholics. This amazing gazetteer documents the establishment of Catholic settlements in Kansas, and how many Catholics contributed to the history of the state.

Contact the author at twenzl@dcdiocese.org for an autographed copy for $24 (includes postage). Can also be purchased on amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.
Obituaries

JANICE L. GUERRA, 70, of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Ulysses, died Jan. 14, 2020. Janice married Fidel Guerra in 1980 in Ulysses; he survives. Other survivors include a son, Fidel Guerra, Jr.; daughter, Dilia Giron; brother, Chris Cordova; half-brother, Bobby Cordova; and three grandchildren, Anna Molina, Italia Guadalupe Giron, and Yaretzi Milagros Giron. Father Ted Stocklein presided.

MARVIN BENNETT “BEN” PHILLIPS, 90, of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Dodge City, died Jan. 8, 2020. He was a graduate of Dodge City High School, St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, and KU School of Medicine. He was a Physical Therapist for 37 years, where he was known as “Gentle Ben”, working for St. Anthony Hospital, Trinity Hospital, and Humana Hospital/Western Plains Regional Hospital all in Dodge City, retiring in 1994. He served in the Army National Guard from 1948-1960 as a vehicle mechanic and medical aidman, rising to the rank of Sergeant First Class. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 2955. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Joan; their four children, Lisa Bolmer, Bradley Phillips, Brenton Phillips and Brian Phillips; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Father Wesley Schawe presided.

MARK A. VERHOFF, 66, of Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick Parish, Great Bend, died Jan. 11, 2020. He was born May 25, 1953, at Lima, Ohio. He attended the Ohio State University, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science in 1975. Shortly after his graduation, he moved to Dekalb, Illinois, and began his career in swine production, working for DEKALB from 1975-1980 in Dekalb, Illinois, 1980-1997, Plains, Kansas, Land O’Lakes from 1997-2006, Plains, 2006-2012 Texas Farms, Perryon, Texas, and April, 2012 to present Kansas Smith Farms, Plains. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2979 for 17 years, and was a Fourth Degree member of Assembly 1302 for 22 years. He served two terms as mayor for the city of Plains from 1997-2004 and from 2013 to present. He is survived by two sisters, Margery Sigley and Lois Huffman; and three brothers, Don, Guy and Glen.

ROBERT E. “BOB” BILES, 74, of Prince of Peace Parish, Great Bend, died Jan. 12, 2020. A lifetime Great Bend resident, Robert was a mechanic and welder for Gibson Titus & Stafford, Straub International, and more recently owned and operated Triple 7 Repair. Survivors include his wife, Paula of the home; a son, Kevin; two daughters, Colleen Miller and Loretta McIntosh; six sisters, Lavonna Lick, Susan Marie Hartsell, Karla Biles, Sherry Smolik, Rhonda Suppes and Brenda Johnson; four grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. Father Louis Trung Dinh Hoang presided.

JERRY L. MORGENSTERN, 74, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Hoisington, died Jan. 15, 2020. On Jan. 28, 1967, he married Lou Ann Lamatsch. Jerry graduated from Kansas State University; he taught vocational agriculture in Ellis and Great Bend before moving to Hoisington to farm full time as a fourth generation farmer. He continued teaching as a part-time welding instructor at Barton Community College for more than 30 years. He was a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus member for more than 50 years and served in positions at the Local, District and State level. He is survived by his wife, Lou Ann; two sons, John and Jim; two daughters, Brenda Kaiser and Ann Buesing; 12 grandchildren; two brothers, Robert and Donald; and three sisters, Joan Rziha, Pam Willis and Roxanne Bell. Father Don Bedore presided.

Obituary Policy

All obituary listings are included free of charge. Due to space constraints, listings must be edited for space and for SKC editorial style. If you see that a listing for a friend or loved one has not been included, call (620) 227-1519 or email skregister@dcdiocese.org. Please pray for all those included in the listings above.