



Ash Wednesday is March 6. It is not a holy day of obligation but it is a day of prayer, abstinence, fasting, and repentance. (Advance file photo)

Ash Wednesday is near; prepare for Easter

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ash Wednesday is March 6 this year. Here are some things to know about Ash Wednesday and the kickoff to Lent:

In the Table of Liturgical Days, which ranks the different liturgical celebrations and seasons, Ash Wednesday ties for second in ranking — along with Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost, Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, and a few others. But Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, though it is a day of prayer, abstinence, fasting and repentance.

Top ranked in the table are the Paschal Triduum — the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil — along with Easter Sunday. Good Fri-

day isn't a holy day of obligation either, but Catholics are encouraged to attend church for a liturgy commemorating Christ's crucifixion and death.

Ash Wednesday begins the liturgical season of Lent. There are hymns that speak to the length of the season — one of them is "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" — but the span between March 6 and Easter Sunday, which is April 21, is 46 days. So what gives?

"It might be more accurate to say that there is the '40-day fast within Lent,'" said Father Randy Stice, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship.

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"VIRTUES ARE FORMED BY PRAYER. PRAYER PRESERVES TEMPERANCE. PRAYER SUPPRESSES ANGER. PRAYER PREVENTS EMOTIONS OF PRIDE AND ENVY. PRAYER DRAWS INTO THE SOUL THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND RAISES MAN TO HEAVEN."

— ST. EPHREM OF SYRIA

Safe Haven Sunday will help families protect children

Parishes throughout the diocese will join in an effort to address issues resulting from porn

Most adults are uncomfortable talking about pornography among themselves. Addressing the topic with children is even more difficult.

But it's necessary because of the digital age we live in, according to Jake Samour, director of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life.

"Too many parents, grandparents, and guardians think internet-based pornography is beyond the interest of their children. Statistics tell us another story."

To help parents help their children avoid pornography and help adults struggling with porn, the Diocese of Wichita is hosting and promoting Safe Haven Sunday the weekend of March 30-31. Parishes will provide resources at the weekend Masses explaining how to protect individuals, marriages, and families with the goal of making all homes a safe haven.

Bishop Carl A. Kemme said he is passionate about the family, the

domestic church.

"I want all homes to be safe. I want to help individuals and families overcome pornography," he said. "It is my sacred duty to protect the children in our great Diocese of Wichita from pornography, and it is my holy responsibility to guide and equip individuals and parents with forming children to live virtuous and holy lives online and offline."

The bishop said pornography creates an impediment to obtaining deep and lasting relationships with Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is to be the center of our very lives, homes, and vocations.

"Pornography is bondage and fake. It is a mockery of true and holy intimacy that is celebrated through the sacramental life of the church," Bishop Kemme said. "The use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family's life and across



Image courtesy of ThePornEffect.com.

generations."

Pornography doesn't need to be fought alone, he said. "It is my hope that the resources provided on Safe Haven Sunday will both encourage and teach all individuals and families dealing with the effects of pornography that loving support is available. It's worth battling pornography for wholeness and purity for you, your spouse, your children, and the future of everyone in our diocese."

Samour said a child's first exposure to pornography is often during their elementary school years, usually by accident. It's easily done by clicking on the wrong YouTube video, typing in the wrong word in a search — or a classmate may share a sexually explicit image.

"When parents and guardians haven't created an

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Greg Gideon assists one of his judo students during a class last week at All Saints Catholic School in Wichita. Greg and his brother, Mark, say the Japanese martial art helps with their physical, mental, and moral development. (Advance photos)

Students learn discipline through judo

92 All Saints students take part in weekly martial arts classes

The judo instructors at All Saints Catholic School in Wichita hope the mental discipline acquired by students in learning the “gentle way” transfers to their behavior – and spiritual lives.

Greg Gideon, one of the instructors, said they start classes by reviewing one of the five pillars of the class, the first of which is faith in God.

“Today, for example, we went through ‘Always Giving Your Best’ and related that to their schoolwork, to what they’re doing in class, how they interact with their parents, and how that’s an important life skill for them to learn,” he said.

Each class is broken into two parts: teaching the youth what they need to know in a “life sense;” and, then, judo.

Greg and his brother, Mark, began working last summer with All Saints Principal Joyce Frederiksen and teachers to develop a Catholic School Judo Program. Ninety-two fourth-through eighth-grade students are taking part in one of two 43-minute weekly classes this school year.

The Gideons and Carlos Beltran, who assists, are judo black belt holders whose stewardship and enthusiasm for the program has resulted in about \$13,000 in donations to purchase a large number of mats, a two-piece



Mark Gideon assists a student as another practices a tumble.

white garment called a gi for each of the students, and racks for the judogis.

Because of the popularity of the class at All Saints, St. Patrick and Holy Savior schools have expressed interest in taking part in the Catholic School Judo Program, Greg said.

Frederiksen said the program helps students learn about their bodies, about balance, and how to develop a strong discipline, a behavior that ties to their faith.

The martial arts program began last year with an invitation for Catholic school students to attend Judo Jamborees at Newman University, but because

of transportation challenges, the instruction this year was brought to the students.

“It’s been an amazing program,” Frederiksen said, adding that some of the students have already been promoted from white (beginner) belts to the next level, yellow.

Greg and Mark both taught judo for five years at Wichita State University and are now in their fourth year at Newman.

“As we began trying to see where our best fit was in the community and as we became more deeply involved in the Catholic community both with our own faith and service, we saw that there was an opportunity to work with the schools,” Greg said.

“It’s been a wonderful opportunity for us. We love what we’re doing and giving back to our community and the kids.”

Scout religious emblem applications requested

The diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is accepting applications for youth working on religious emblems. The deadline is April 1.

The cost is \$10 per application and includes the emblem and a photo taken at the annual Mass, which is scheduled for Sunday,

June 9. Applications should be mailed to Kathy Petr, 3128 Applewood, Wichita, KS 67220. In other scout news:

- Nominations are being sought for scout leaders who have worked to promote spirituality in scouting youth. The deadline is April 1.

- A retreat for those youth working on the Pope Pius XII program is scheduled for Satur-

day, March 9. Pre-registration by March 7 is requested.

For more information contact Kathy Petr at 316/686-7893 at kpetr@cox.net.

Looking for a Mass?

Remember to keep the Lord’s Day holy and ‘reclaim Sunday’! Check out www.MassTimes.org. You’ll need an area or a Zip Code.

Ash Wednesday is near

(Continued from page 1)

“Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days,” Father Stice said in an email to Catholic News Service. “The 40-day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.” There are six Sundays in Lent, including Passion Sunday.

Where do the ashes come from?

The ashes used for Ash Wednesday are made from the burned and blessed palms of the previous year’s Palm Sunday.

“The palms are burned in a metal vessel and then broken down into a powder. I believe ashes can also be purchased from Catholic supply companies,” Father Stice said.

“As far as I know, palms from the previous year are always dry enough,” he added. “Parishes normally ask parishioners to bring their palms shortly before Ash Wednesday, so there is no need to store them. People usually like to keep the blessed palm as long as possible.”

Almost half of adult Catholics, 45 percent, typically receive ashes at Ash Wednesday services, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

You might not have noticed,

Safe Haven Sunday to protect youth

(Continued from page 1)

environment where it’s safe to talk about uncomfortable topics, children will often hide these experiences out of shame and embarrassment,” he said.

The weekend’s name was inspired by the U.S. bishops’ 2015 pastoral letter about pornography, “Create in Me a Clean Heart,” which says the “domestic church” must safeguard “its role as a safe haven.”

Samour said the theme for the weekend, “Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children,” means we as a community are saying we want holy, healthy, and safe homes, free of pornography and other online threats that deprive the home of its role as a safe haven.

Most families will be given the

Fr. Gallagher to lead mission March 23

Father Tim Gallagher will lead a mission in Blessed Sacrament Parish’s new gym from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

His topic will be: Discernment of Spirits and How to Apply Ignatius Teaching to your Everyday Life.

The cost is \$20 and includes a light breakfast, lunch, and materials. To register, contact the parish office at 316-682-4557, email parish@blessedsacramentwichita.com, or register at BlessedSacramentWichita.com.

Father Gallagher was ordained in 1979 as a member of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, a religious community dedicated to retreats and spiritual formation according to the Spiritual Exercises of St.

but the use of the word “Alleluia” is verboten during Lent. What is known as the “Alleluia verse” preceding the Gospel becomes known during Lent as “the verse before the Gospel,” with a variety of possible phrases to be used — none of which include an alleluia.

“The alleluia was known for its melodic richness and in the early church was considered to ornament the liturgy in a special way,” Father Stice said, adding it was banned from Lenten Masses in the fifth or sixth century.

Abstinence and fasting

Ash Wednesday also is a day of abstinence and fasting; Good Friday is another. Abstinence means refraining from eating meat; fish is OK. Fasting means reducing one’s intake of food, like eating two small meals that together would not equal one full meal.

“Fasting during Lent followed the example of Jesus’ 40-day fast in the wilderness. It also recalled the 40 days that Moses fasted on Sinai and the 40 days that Elijah fasted on his journey to Mount Horeb,” Father Stice said.

“In the second century, Christians prepared for the feast of Easter with a two-day fast. This was extended to all of Holy Week in the third century. In 325 the Council of Nicea spoke of a 40-day period of preparation for Easter as something already obvious and familiar to all.”

book “Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture,” that includes a unique seven-day text-to-opt-in program: The Equipped 7-Day E-mail Challenge.

The challenge provides practical tips any caring adult can take to create safer digital environments for themselves and children.

“We encourage you to take advantage of these resources and ask that you be intentional about taking the steps suggested to ensure safety and joy for you, your loved ones, and the greater community,” Samour said.

The diocese has partnered with Covenant Eyes, a company that designs internet monitoring and accountability software that filters unwanted content on mobile or laptop devices.

Ignatius. Having obtained his doctorate in 1983 from the Gregorian University, he has taught, assisted in formation work, and served two terms as provincial in his own community.

He has dedicated many years to an extensive international ministry of retreats, spiritual direction, and teaching about the spiritual life. He is a frequent speaker on EWTN, and has written eight books on Ignatian discernment and prayer, a biography of Venerable Bruno Lanteri, and a book on the Liturgy of the Hours.

He currently holds the St. Ignatius Chair for Spiritual Formation at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver.

All Saints Family Night March 2

All Saints Parish’s Family Night we’ll be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 2, in the gymnasium.

The faithful are invited for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Raffles will be held and carnival-style games will be available.

The parish is located at 3205 E. Grand in Wichita.

Jesus reveals what we are called to be

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 3: Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45

When you make your nightly examination of conscience, and prepare monthly for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, there's a simple way to recollect yourself. After all, if it's been a long day or an even longer month, you might feel unsure how best to assess your efforts – or failures – to live your life in Christ.

This simple means of self-recollection is to remember that all the commandments of the spiritual life converge in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? Back up a minute and look at the bigger picture of the Ten Commandments.

Remember that God inscribed the Ten Commandments upon two tablets. One tablet bears the first three commandments, which teach us how to love God. The other tablet bears the latter seven commandments, which teach us how to love our neighbor. All the commandments converge in Jesus because Jesus alone is both God and man.

In other words, to love Jesus as God is to fulfill the first three commandments. If we do this authentically, then we love God the Father and the Holy Spirit with Jesus. Likewise, to love Jesus as a fellow human is to fulfill the latter seven commandments: if we do this authentically, then we love all our neighbors in Him. This isn't to say that we don't at times need to focus our love specifically upon the Father and the Holy Spirit, or upon individual human neighbors around us who are in need. But all of our loves in life,

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and all the ways in which we love, converge in Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel passage offers a concrete example. The imagery with which Jesus preaches today seems only to be about the challenge of loving our neighbor: specifically, a sinful ("blind") neighbor. But since the two great commands of Jesus – to love God fully, and to love our neighbor as our self – converge in Him, we are not to look down on our sinful brother, but rather to look up at him.

Looking up to our sinful brother is possible by means of the Christian virtue of humility. Christian humility is in one sense nothing more than honesty. Both my brother and I are sinners. We are equal in this. But Jesus calls me to serve my brother as if I were serving Jesus Himself. For this reason, from my state of sinfulness, I look up at my sinful brother. From this stance, I may help him remove the splinter from his eye.

But how can I see Jesus in a sinner? Jesus, of course, never sinned, yet God the Father "made [Jesus] to be sin" – in the phrase of St. Paul [see 2 Corinthians 5:21] – so that in my sinful brother I can see Jesus as the one whom I am to serve.

We often think of Jesus carrying the cross so that each of us can love God more easily. Not as often, likely, do we think of how Jesus carrying the cross can help

each of us love our neighbor more easily.

Consider humility from a different perspective. After all, it's easy to be humble before God. God is the Almighty Lord, eternal and all-knowing. I, on the other hand, am a sinner whose failures show me every day how weak and ignorant I am. The infinite contrast – indeed, the infinite chasm – between God and me makes it easy to be humble before God. In that sense, the first three commandments are easier to obey than the latter seven.

The latter seven commandments can be more demanding, for we often convince ourselves that we don't "owe" anything to our neighbors, least of all our love. If love is only a feeling, then naturally I will only love the lovable: that is, those who evoke good feelings within me. But Christian love goes deeper than mere feelings. The love who is God reaches down into the human will and conforms it to his divine will, so that the human person loves as God loves, in the deepest manner.

Christian love is deepest when it loves the unlovable. On Calvary, Jesus sacrificed his Body and Blood, soul and divinity not only for his Blessed Mother, the Beloved Disciple, and St. Mary Magdalen. He just as willingly sacrificed his whole self for those who nailed Him to the Cross, beat the crown of thorns into his Sacred Head, and scourged Him at the pillar.

All of the commandments of the spiritual life converge in Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals to us the love who is the Most Blessed Trinity, and through Jesus we share in that love. Jesus reveals to us who man is called to be, but Jesus also reveals to us the depths of human sinfulness, and through the love of God we embrace the sinner in Christ crucified.

ing Lent, we look inside ourselves, and look at how we have enslaved ourselves to sin, destroying the greatest type of human freedom: the power to choose what is best in life.

There is, of course, no human being who does not experience the temptation to sin. Even Jesus experienced temptation, as we hear in today's Gospel passage. There are many situations in life that present us with temptations. Some of these we don't have a choice but to endure and persevere through. Some of them, in fact, God uses in order to "school us" in self-discipline.

Other situations, though, we can and should stay away from

if they are occasions of sin. But how does a person know whether something – for that individual personally – is a near occasion of sin? Some situations are occasions of sin for practically everyone. But other situations are occasions of sin for some individuals but not others. Regarding this latter group, each person has to know himself pretty well. Each person has to be honest with himself concerning past sins, and current weaknesses.

Everyone who wants to take God's call to holiness seriously is invited to follow Christ. But since each of us leads a different life – through a particular vocation with unique circumstances – each walks

(Continued on next column)

Bishop Kemme's calendar

Here is Bishop Carl A. Kemme's calendar for the next several weeks.

March

March 5: Diocesan Board Appreciation Dinner

March 6: Ash Wednesday Mass at Noon at the Cathedral

March 9: Rite of Election at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral; Diocesan Pastoral Council at Noon; Rite of Election at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral; Rite of Election at 4:30 p.m. at the Cathedral

March 12-13: Diocesan priest meeting

March 14-16: Conception Seminary visit: Conception Board of Regents meeting

March 17: Confirmation Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick in Wichita

March 18: Anticipatory Mass, blessing and rededication at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph in Andale

March 19: Charter Review Board: Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis in Wichita

March 20: Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes in Pittsburg

March 21: Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael in Girard



March 24: Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference Mass at 11 a.m.

March 27: Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary in Derby

March 28: Diocesan Confirmation Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral for St. Joseph, Ost; St. Rose, Mt. Vernon; St. Louis, Waterloo; St. Peter, Schulte; All Saints, Wichita, Holy Savior, Wichita

March 31: Diocesan Confirmation Mass at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral for Our Lady of Guadalupe, Newton; St. Mary, Newton; Sacred Heart, Halstead; St. Michael, Mulvane

Don't let sin sink roots in your life

(Continued from previous column)

upon a different path through the desert. Nonetheless, each path leads through the same desert, and it is Christ who leads each of us.

There are three stages to the path by which Jesus leads his disciple through the desert. The first stage is the simplest and perhaps easiest: the sacrifice of material things, which we practice in our fasting. Each of us must learn how to resist the temptation to live our lives by "bread alone". This doesn't necessarily mean owning nothing – like monks – but it does mean not being attached to them. That is, we must not care if we lose them or have to leave them behind at some point. By detaching ourselves from things, fasting increases our self-control and freedom.

The second stage through the desert is the sacrifice of power and control over others, which is what we practice through almsgiving or other acts of charity. Like Christ, there are many ways in which we are called to exercise power authentically (for example, with money and positions of authority), and we face temptations to abuse that power. At this level of sacrifice, it can take us longer to be honest with ourselves and face up to our sins. But by detaching ourselves from control over others, almsgiving increases our self-control and freedom.

The third stage through the desert is the final stage: the end stage. This stage, which we sometimes simply call "prayer", is underestimated. Authentic prayer means sacrificing our life to a God who doesn't always give us the answers we feel we need.

We human beings want to understand the path we are on, and we want to understand the meaning of the crosses that appear in our lives. Like the other two stages through the desert, this is a matter of control. Unfortunately, when we don't get answers, it's easy instead to choose sin, because sin seems at least to offer an answer as well as some sort of control. Such an answer will of course be false, and the sort of control that sin offers ends up making life more difficult. But as human beings, we become comfortable with sin and the falsehoods it offers.

Sin sinks roots into our lives. We begin to accept sin as so ordinary a part of our lives that we don't see it as sin anymore. Not many plants can live in the desert, but those that do have great staying power, and sin is like one of those plants. Once sins take deep root in our lives, it's easy to believe that those sins are part of us, and that we can't live without them: that there's no use in trying to root them out of our lives.

It's much harder to face the truth that Jesus is calling each of us into this driest and hottest part of the desert. He is calling each of us to radical holiness. He is calling each of us to conform our lives to his Cross.

Don't let sin sink roots in your life

First Sunday of Lent

March 10: Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

There are many different types of freedom. For example, sometimes we want to be free from the influence that another person holds over us. Sometimes we want to be free from a job, or from an agreement we've made with someone, or from an assignment that we've been handed. But that's not the type of freedom that Jesus gave up his life to offer us.

Jesus died on the cross to free us from our own sinfulness. Dur-

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Chancery dedicated '66 by Bishop Byrne

By Fr. Michael Peltzer
Diocesan Historian

The Catholic Diocese of Wichita can be proud of its beautiful Chancery Office directly behind the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Wichita. It was completed and dedicated by Bishop Leo C. Byrne in 1966.

A chancery is a special business building which houses the various offices arranged to assist the bishop, clergy, religious, and others in the diocesan family in their role of stewardship – building up the Body of Christ – as indicated in the inscription on the side in front of the building, as a reminder that we are called to “use our gifts in service to God and one another.”

Located in the building are the bishop's office, and the offices of the chancellor, vice chancellor, assistant chancellor, vocation director, the building commission, foreign missions, youth ministries, financial officer, along with a conference room, meeting areas, a chapel, and a library.

Included are the diocesan archives, tribunal offices,

Communications and the Catholic Advance, the offices of Divine Worship and Stewardship, and a dining room with a small kitchen. The diocesan school offices and the religious education department were located in this building, but were moved some years ago to a building next door called the St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Building.

The Wichita Chancery was formerly located temporarily in an apartment building located near Central and Emporia, just a block east of the Cathedral. It was purchased in 1947 by Bishop Mark K. Carroll shortly after his arrival that same year. Early chancery offices were



The Chancery is located at 424 N. Broadway in Wichita, just south of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. (Advance file photo)

located in a house that stood at the northwest corner of Third and Washington streets east of downtown not too far from both St. Boniface Church at Second and Ohio (now St. Anthony) and St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral at Second and St. Francis Avenue. This large house was rented by Bishop John J. Hennessy in 1888 and was used for a short period

of time.

Since there are no records of where the Chancery was located from 1889 until 1912, the year the new Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was completed at Central and Broadway, it is assumed that the offices

were located in the old Pro-Cathedral rectory. For the next 12 years, from 1912 until 1924, the Chancery may have been located in the original cathedral rectory across from the new cathedral, in a former apartment building that now serves as the Inter-Faith Inn Homeless Shelter, located just east of the Lord's Diner parking

lot. (After 1924, this same building was used for many years as a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph teaching at the Cathedral School.)

In 1924, under Bishop Augustus Schwertner's direction, a new cathedral rectory was completed east of the church at 307 N. Central, now the current gathering space for St. Mary's Cathedral. The front offices on the first floor located at the north end of this rectory were devoted to Chancery use until the move to the apartment building on Emporia Street in 1947.

Today, the Chancery office, with its beautiful stained glass windows and home-like atmosphere, graces the cathedral campus in the downtown area. Appropriately located near the mother church of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, this attractive building is the heart of our diocesan family, where important and prayer-filled decisions are made, all for the honor and glory of God.

Addition to previous article

Sr. Joan Marie Burger, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, was also involved with the Cursillo Apostolate in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.” (Her name was inadvertently omitted in Fr. Beat's article in the Feb. 1 issue of the Advance.



Etched into stone in front of the Chancery is 1 Peter 4:10: Put your gifts at the service of one another.



Users of the internet need to be cautious about sites they visit and files they open. (Photo by freestocks.org.)

Beware of email requesting money from priests, diocese

The internet is becoming more dangerous and criminals who use the internet are becoming more sophisticated, according to Dennis Robbins, the IT consultant who assists the Diocese of Wichita.

Robbins made the comment in response to inquiries to the Chancery regarding questionable emails with subject lines such as “Invoice due” or “Please review this receipt.”

“All have included either an infected attachment or a link in the message body to a malware site,” he said. “They are designed to look as if they are coming from diocesan personnel and sometimes are very convincing – but they are not coming from the diocese.”

Bryan Coulter, diocesan director of Finance & Administrative Services, recommended caution in any kind of monetary request via the internet.

“If you aren't sure if a request is legitimate, contact the parish of-

vice to verify,” Coulter said, adding, “As a general rule, you should never give out personal or financially sensitive information over the internet.”

He said another way to check the veracity of a website is to hover over the link. A message box generated by the computer should match the link wording. If not, don't click on it.

Some recent fake emails were requests by persons impersonating priests asking the email recipient to buy gift cards. Priests will never request money via email, Coulter said.

Robbins added that the diocese is not the only organization that has been subject to internet thieves.

“Our hope is that, like many other previous types of attacks, the ones responsible will cease after a time, moving on to another nefarious technique that will not impact us,” he said.

Study the Count of Monte Cristo at SLC Thursday, March 7

The Spiritual Life Center will hold its first Good Books meeting of the spring with a study of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* on Thursday, March 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The course meets monthly through the end of summer to read and discuss the novel.

The SLC's adult education director Dusty Gates facilitates the

course. There is no charge for the book club, but donations are accepted for refreshments. The book will be available for sale at the Center's bookstore.

Visit www.SLCWichita.org or call (316) 744-0167 to register. Pre-registration is requested but walk-ins are welcome.

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Mr. and Mrs. Geier

Geiers celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

Bill and Helen (Perrin) Geier, members of Christ the King Parish in Wichita, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with Mass and a family gathering on Feb. 9.

They were married on Feb. 7, 1959, at St. Aloysius Church in Greenbush, Kansas.

Bill worked as an elevator service mechanic and business representative for Union Local 94 for 34 years. Helen retired in 2000 as a school clerk from Wichita's USD 259 after 15 years of service.

They have four children, 14 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Their children are Steve of Wichita; Carla Goad of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Dana Augustine of Overland Park; and Lisa Karr of Paola.



Best speller

Shae Ricke, holding a plaque, won the 8th annual Diocesan Spelling Bee Tuesday, Feb. 5, at All Saints Catholic School in Wichita. She is a student at School of the Magdalen in Wichita. Lydia Scheck, a student at Resurrection Catholic School in Wichita, was the runner-up. Shae won by spelling the word: heliocentric. Students from 28 diocesan schools participated. (Courtesy photo)

STA hosting St.

Patrick's Day party

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Wichita is hosting a St. Paddy's Day Bash from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 9, in the school cafeteria.

The band Annie Up will provide music for the evening. The cost is a \$10 suggested donation.

Guests must be 21 years or older. For reservations, visit www.StThomasWichita.com.

EA meeting at SLC

Emotions Anonymous open meetings will be offered each Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita.

Those experiencing overwhelming emotions such as anxiety, anger, resentment, shame or fear, are welcome. EA is a 12-step group designed to offer support and serenity while living with unsolved problems.

For more information, call the center at 316-744-0167.

SLC launches new Lenten lunchtime series on March 7

The Spiritual Life Center will welcome Fr. Tom Hoisington on Thursdays this Lent to lead a lunchtime series about the upcoming Sunday's scriptures.

"Abiding in the Word" will take place from noon to 12:45 p.m. each Thursday beginning March 7.

Each session will include lunch at the Center and will end in time for guests to return to their jobs. Participants will hear a presentation on the upcoming Sunday's scriptures from Fr. Hoisington, and then there will be time for discussion to close the session. Those wishing to stay past 12:45 p.m. for more discussion will be welcome.

Each Thursday session costs

\$10, but the Center will offer a discount for anyone who registers for all six sessions at once. The cost for the entire series \$50 after the \$10 discount. All sessions include lunch at the Center.

To register, visit www.SLC-Wichita.org or call (316) 744-0167.

Nourish meeting Thursday, March 14

Nourish, a faith-based support group for family caregivers will meet from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the St. Joseph Pastoral Center, 437 N. Topeka, in Wichita.

The topic will be "Staying Engaged and Keeping Them Engaged." For more information, call Rayna at 620-921-0082 or Mary at 316-312-6116.

Kansas AG files appeal on telemedicine abortion law

A recent district court decision that appears to have blocked enforcement of a telemedicine abortion statute enacted by the Kansas legislature in 2015, is being appealed by Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

He made the announcement Feb. 1 at his official state website at ag.ks.gov.

In a Dec. 31 ruling dismissing a challenge to the state's 2018 telemedicine abortion statute, Schmidt states in the news release, a Shawnee County judge concluded that an injunction entered in 2011 in a different lawsuit now also prohibits enforcement of the 2015 law. The complicated legal

situation involves at least three different statutes enacted years apart and two separate lawsuits filed by different plaintiffs, he writes.

"In our view, the 2015 statute that passed the legislature with overwhelming bipartisan majorities has never had its proper day in court, yet the court has now concluded that statute is enjoined from operation," Schmidt said.

"We are perplexed how the court reached this conclusion in a case challenging the 2018 law. That's why we are using multiple avenues to ask the district court or the Court of Appeals, or both, to sort out and clarify the current state of the law."

Lenten dining directory

Meatless Mexican Lenten Dinners

Every Friday of Lent at 5 p.m.

March 8 - April 12

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Center

2409 N. Market in Wichita



Meatless Suppers

Fridays during Lent

3:30-6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

421 S. Ash in Newton

Presented by Our Lady of Guadalupe Altar Society

St. Cecilia's Altar Society 34th Annual

FISH FRY

Friday, March 8

from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

1912 West Grand in Haysville

3-piece meal \$7.00

(Tickets are \$1.00 more at the door)

For tickets, call 524-6709 or 522-0461

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Wonderful Food. Great Lenten Event.

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or
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East Wichita's Biggest FISH FRY

Friday, March 8th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

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Featuring fresh caught, never frozen Atlantic Haddock

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Fish Fry

Friday, March 15

Friday, March 29

Friday, April 12

Benefits the IHM sisters,
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Serving from 4-7 p.m.

Sacred Heart Hall, Colwich

Freewill donation • Card payment accepted

Fried catfish, baked cod, hush puppies, french fries, potato soup, coleslaw, mac & cheese, fruit, coffee, tea and water

Futher support council activities with our raffle
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All Saints Annual

Fish Fry

Fri., March 8, 2019

Fri., March 22, 2019

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3205 E. Grand in Wichita

In McGivney Hall West

Dine-in or carry-out

West Wichita's Better FISH FRY

Friday, March 15th & 29th, 5:00 to 7:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi & St. Joseph

Knights Council #4118

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Fried and Baked Fish, Mac N Cheese, Hush Puppies, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw, New Potatoes & Green Beans, Veggie Lo Mein,

Drinks: Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffees

Desserts: Pies, Cakes, Cookies

Donations accepted

Carry-Out Available



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St. Catherine of Siena begins final building phase

Two matching spires will dominate the exterior of the proposed St. Catherine of Siena Church in Wichita. Construction on the parish's third, and final, building phase began at the end of February. The neo-Romanesque 1,200-seat church is scheduled to be complete by the fall of 2020. The \$17 million project, which includes a gymnasium, was approved by the parish and the bishop after a successful appeal. The architect is SPT Architecture with Simpson Construction Services as the construction manager. (Rendering courtesy SPT Architecture, Wichita)

Study the Stations of the Cross during annual Ash Wednesday Retreat

Fr. Ken Van Haverbeke will lead the faithful in a day of reflection on Ash Wednesday at the Spiritual Life Center. The retreat this year will focus on the Stations of the Cross.

The Ash Wednesday retreat is a perfect way to enter into the holy season of Lent. The day begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. Participants will enjoy pri-

ate prayer, group discussion, and reflection on the Stations of the Cross, as well as opportunity for confession and the celebration of the Mass.

For reservations call 316-744-0167 or register online at www.slewichita.org. The cost is \$20, but no one is ever turned away at the Spiritual Life Center due to finances. A simple lunch will also be provided.

Lenten Day Of Reflection March 14

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is sponsoring a Lent-

en Day of Reflection for adults from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Spiritual Life Center.

Fathers David Marstall and Jim Mainzer will give the reflections. Following their presentations, Mass will be celebrated, a luncheon will be served, and a rosary will be prayed. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

Registration is \$10 per person and includes lunch. For reservations call 316-744-0167 or email slc@slewichita.org by March 7.

Bishop Gilmore part of Lenten retreat at SEAS on April 2-4

The Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Dodge City, and Jacqueline Loh of Vancouver, Canada, will lead a retreat Tuesday through Thursday, April 2-4, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Wichita.



Bishop Gilmore

Jacqueline Loh, founder of Grace that Reigns Society, an international retreat ministry, said the retreat will be entitled: When Monday Comes: Renew Yourselves.

Loh said the retreat will address the culture's loss of a sense of wonder. As a result, she said, "we miss the drama of our own personal, and mysterious, journey into Christ."

"The gift of wonder gets lost when we are too busy, or when we are caught up with the things of this world. When it happens, we are blinded to the presence of Christ's love, to prayer, to the

beauty of our world, to one another, and to our celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments."

A book available for purchase at the retreat, *When Monday Comes*, was inspired by the book about Helen Keller, *The Miracle Worker*; Monday after the Miracle. The retreat and the book help retreat participants look at the long haul of life after the miracle of conversion, Loh said. "When life has gotten in the way, and God seems not so close to us anymore. We want to heal and to give hope."

Loh was a trained and practicing architect in Germany, Malaysia, Canada, and the United States, when the Lord intervened in her life, she says, and turned it upside down. She brings her charismatic gifts to each retreat.

Bishop Gilmore was ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Wichita in 1969. He was ordained the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City in 1998 and retired in 2010. He began working with Grace that Reigns in 2012.

No registration is needed to attend. The times for the presentations have not yet been set.

Holthusers to assist at Palm Sunday retreat

The Spiritual Life Center's annual Palm Sunday Retreat will have a different feel this year. The Center welcomes Fr. Josh Evans, Fr. Chad Arnold, and local musicians Josh and Sarah Holthusen to help participants enter into Holy Week.

The retreat's theme takes par-

ticipants on a meditative walk through the Stations of the Cross. The annual Outdoor Stations of the Cross by torchlight will kick off Friday evening along with a presentation by one of the retreat leaders. On Saturday, after a day of conferences, prayer time, and Mass, the Holthusers will perform an evening concert filled with Lenten Meditations.

The faithful are encouraged to sign up soon to secure early bird rates which end after April 1. If someone is unable to attend the entire retreat, the Saturday evening concert will be available as space allows for \$15 per person. To register, call the Spiritual Life Center at (316) 744-0167 or visit SLCwichita.org.

Retreat registration includes five meals, all conferences, refreshments and Saturday evening concert. Early bird rates: commuter \$100, single occupancy \$145, double occupancy \$120 per person.

Monthly bingo at Sacred Heart Parish in Colwich, March 17

Monthly cash bingo will be held beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17, in the Religious Education Building at Sacred Heart Parish in Colwich.

Doors open at 1 p.m. The suggested donation is \$3 for one card for all 21 games, or \$8 for three cards for all games. Snacks and desserts will be available.

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March 16, 2019 | 2007 Arkansas Ave, Wichita

Mass at 5:00 with festivities following. BBQ Brisket/Chicken Dinner and all the fixings, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Raffle including 2 - 55" smart TV's, 2 - cash prizes \$250 each, Kendra Scott jewelry, theme baskets, get-aways, gift cards, & more!

Tickets: \$25 per person - must be purchased by March 12, by mail or calling Laura or Beatrice at the rectory 316- 262-4683
Reserved tables of eight available.

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7th Annual SVDP

Quilter's Bingo

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Lunch starts at 12 noon
White and red chili, cinnamon rolls, assorted desserts (included in bingo price)

Bingo starts at 1:30 p.m.
20 games
Suggested donation \$25.00

Join the fun and win a quilt!
All proceeds will benefit St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Please join us!

Lunch and Bingo will be in the Ville at
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123 N. Andover Road, Andover, KS
316-733-1423

KINGMAN'S ANNUAL
St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Sunday, March 10th
(Daylight Savings Time)
3:00-6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick School Gymnasium

Serving Fried Chicken, Country Sausage, Potatoes/Gravy, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Homemade Bread & Pies

Adults \$9; 5-12 \$4, Children 4 & under FREE
Senior Citizens \$8

Drawing for valuable prizes. Tickets Available at the door.

Carmelite Sisters for the Aged to lead training for care for sick, aged, dying

One-day training set for Saturday, April 6, at the Spiritual Life Center

Three Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm will be in Wichita Saturday, April 6, to lead a one-day training for priests, religious, Eucharistic ministers, and lay persons who wish to provide spiritual care for those who are confined, sick, or dying in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes.

The training will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch and a participant manual. To register call 316-744-0167 or email slc@slcwichita.org.

Sharon Witzell, program coordinator for diocesan Senior Adult Ministries, said she hopes a team from every parish in the diocese will participate in the event.

The order's mother superior,

Mother M. Mark Louis, along with Sisters M. Michelle, and M. Peter Lillian will travel to Wichita from Germantown, New York, for the training.

Mother Mary Angeline Teresa, the foundress of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, came to the United States in the early 1900s as a Little Sister of the Poor and endeavored to care for the elderly. When this endeavor was not approved by the leadership of her community, she sought the advice of Cardinal Patrick Cardinal Hayes who assisted her and six companions to form a new congregation which promoted dignified and respectful care of the elderly in a home-like environment.

Mother Angeline guided the

Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm for many years and through trying times, always encouraging the sisters to meet the needs of the times in caring for the elderly.

In that spirit, Mother Angeline Ministries of Care was founded in 2009 to assist parishes in reaching out to the ill and homebound and to bring the hope and consolation of Christ to their daily lives.

On June 28, 2012, Mary Angeline Teresa McCrory was declared venerable. Her cause for sainthood continues in Rome.

Today the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm run or oversee 20 Catholic Nursing homes in the United States and Ireland.

3on3 basketball tournament March 23

The St. Catherine of Siena Third Annual 3on3 Basketball Tournament will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

The tournament will begin with Mass at 7:30 a.m. Team introductions and tournament play will follow at about 8 a.m.

The event is a 16-team coed tournament. Participants must be 18 years or older. The tournament is "semi-competitive." Baskets by a man count for one point, two points by a woman. Teams play to 15 points and must win by two.

There is a 20-minute time limit.

The fee to play is \$50 per team and includes three team T-shirts. Additional shirts may be ordered for \$10 each. The minimum roster is three, the maximum is five. Prizes are to be determined.

To sign up, contact scosmensclub@gmail.com; or call or text Caleb Edelman at 316-570-2299. Payment may be made at the parish office or pay online at SaintCatherineWichita.com.

The event is free for spectators. Concessions will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Serra Clubs hosting prayer for priests on Thursday, March 7

The faithful of the Diocese of Wichita are invited to join members of the Serra Clubs of Wichita in prayer for the priests of the diocese.

The Serra Club's Prayer for Our Priests began in 2010 and traditionally takes place on the first Thursday after Ash Wednesday. It continues this year on March 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Church of the Magdalen, located at 12626 E. 21st St. N. in Wichita.

Catholic school educators to attend Latino Enrollment Institute at N.D.

Representatives from six Catholic schools and the Catholic School Office will attend the Latino Enrollment Institute June 16-19 at the University of Notre Dame.

The institute helps schools become "culturally responsive" to Latino families and helps educators market the school to recruit Latino children. Among the topics to be addressed at the summer event are "English as a New Language," understanding Latino cultures, and how to involve Latino families in schools.

Educators from Saint Patrick, St. Joseph, and St. Jude Catholic schools in Wichita; Sacred Heart, Arkansas City; Saint Patrick, Cha-

nutte; and Trinity High School in Hutchinson will attend. Superintendent Janet Eaton, and Jamie Finkeldei, Ed.D., associate superintendent, will also attend.

Eaton said she is excited for the opportunity to have the six parish schools represented at the Institute. "This training is highly respected, yearly filling to capacity with a waiting list," she said.

"It is very important for our parish schools to not only welcome the Latino population, but to minister to them in all ways," Eaton said. "We know that the Institute has helped numerous parishes throughout the country and we are thrilled to be attending."

Texas Treasures trip April 29-May 4

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is sponsoring a bus trip to Texas April 29-May 4 that includes stops at tourist attractions and sites of religious interest.

The religious sites include the Mission San Jose, San Fernando Cathedral, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, and the Painted Churches of Texas.

Father James Mainzer, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Wichita, will be the spiritual leader for the trip. He will celebrate Mass daily for the pilgrims.

In addition to shopping excursions, other highlights of the trip include a visit to the Dr. Pepper Museum, the River Walk, the Tower of the Americas, where participants will dine for dinner one night, a tour of the AT&T Stadium

home of the Dallas Cowboys, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and more.

Cities to be visited include Frisco, San Antonio, Austin, and Fort Worth.

The cost per person for a double room is \$1,099 per person; single, \$1,449; \$999, triple; or \$949 per person for a quad. Included are Village Tours gratuity, 10 meals, admissions, luggage handling, quality accommodations, deluxe motor coach, and the services of a Village Tours director.

Singles interested in sharing a room may call Sharon Witzell at 316-685-5240. A \$50 deposit per person is required to make a reservation. For reservations or for a flyer with a full itinerary call Village Tours at 316-721-4455.

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Member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

St. Joseph Parish invites you to our

59th Annual Parish Dinner

Sunday, March 10
132 S. Millwood, Wichita
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

German Sausage, Roast Beef and Homemade Desserts

Dine-in, carry-out, or drive-thru

Dinner Tickets: \$10 adults

(Children 5 and under eat for free)

Game Room, Cake Walk, Fun Prizes!

50/50 Raffle

50% goes to winner, 50% to the parish

2nd prize: 55" 4K Ultra Roku Smart TV

3rd prize: Dinner and one Night stay at The Ambassador

4th Prize: Handmade Quilt • 5th Prize: Apple iPad and many, many more!

Donation: \$1 a ticket, or \$5 for a book of 6 tickets
Donations accepted, but no donation or purchase necessary.

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or contact Ann Maley at 316-269-3917 or maley@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org

Dems block measure to protect babies who survive abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate in an evening vote Feb. 25 failed to pass a measure sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, to require that babies born alive after an abortion be given medical attention and “the same protection of law as any newborn.”

The Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act failed in a 53-44 vote. Sixty votes were needed for passage of the measure, which Sasse’s press office said was co-sponsored by half the Senate.

“I want to ask each and every one of my colleagues whether we’re OK with infanticide,” Sasse said ahead of the vote. “This language is blunt. I recognize that and it’s too blunt for many people in this body. But frankly, that is what we’re talking about here today. Infanticide is what the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act is actually about.”

Protecting babies who “are alive, born outside the womb after having survived a botched abortion ... is what this is about,”

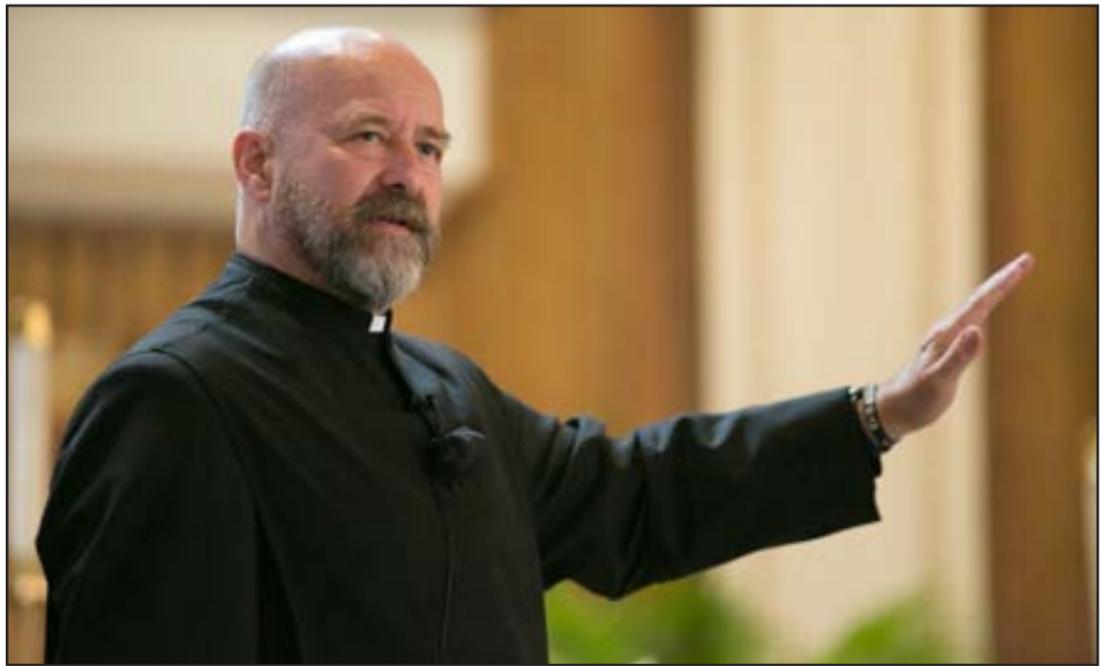
he said.

Kristan Hawkins, president for Students for Life of America, called Sasse’s bill “the bare minimum standard for valuing infant life, as everyone should be able to look at a baby born during an abortion and understand that a humane response is required.”

“Too many important votes are forgotten, but this one won’t be,” she said in a statement issued after the vote. “These kinds of tactics in which a win is a loss can disillusion voters, but allowing infants to die after being born alive will rally pro-life Americans when it counts.”

On Feb. 4, Sasse had called for unanimous consent on his Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. “Everyone in the Senate ought to be able to say unequivocally that killing that little baby is wrong. This doesn’t take any political courage,” he said from the floor.

In response, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington, blocked unanimous consent by objecting to the bill.



Father Dwight Longenecker is one of the speakers for the Man Fully Alive conference Saturday, March 30, at Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita. (Courtesy photos)

Men’s conference March 30 at KMC

Men wanted for conference

The Man Fully Alive conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School in Wichita. To register or for more information, visit CatholicMensConference.com.

About the speakers

Hector Molina, a professional lay Catholic speaker, will make two presentations: “Man Fully Alive: Lessons from Lazarus,” and “Fishers of Men or Keepers of the Aquarium: Evangelization Beyond the Parish Walls.” More about him at HectorMolina.com.

Author and speaker Father Dwight Longenecker will give two presentations: “Jesus Christ: Victim and Victor” and “The Way of the Warrior Priest.” More about him at Dwight-Longenecker.com.

In an era where masculinity is sometimes denigrated, the Catholic Men’s Conference is pushing against that criticism in an attempt to motivate men to embrace their God-given gift of masculinity.

“Man Fully Alive,” is the theme for this year’s conference Saturday, March 30. Bishop Kemme will open the event with Mass.

Scott Carter, coordinator of the Father Kapaun Guild for the Diocese of Wichita, said he is excited about the two speakers: Hector Molina and Father Dwight Longenecker.

“They fit well with bishop’s vision for the diocese,” he said. “Becoming Fully Alive and how we can do that as men.”

Carter added that Bishop Kemme’s vision is to have 1,000 men and 100 priests attending the event. “This is a great vision of how we, the laity, and the priests work together to build up our families in our parishes.”

The goal of the men’s conference is to inspire men to go back home and take what they’ve learned back to their families, into the parishes, to transform the community, he said.

Representatives have been asked in about every parish in the diocese to recruit men to participate in the conference. “We have a good group of guys coming from the southeast corner



Hector Molina

of the state, from Pittsburg and Cherokee County,” Carter said. “We’re excited that it’s not just a Wichita thing.”

The event is sponsored by the Diocese of Wichita, Kapaun’s Men, and Knights of Columbus Council 4118.

Samour said the Office of Marriage and Family Life sponsors the event “because when men are committed and engaged in their marriage and family lives, then everything seems to thrive and be better. In many respects, men hold the key to the future of the family, the future of society.”

He added that the three groups were proud to welcome the two nationally-known speakers “who will ignite a fire in the men who participate and help them become Fully Alive!”

Molina’s first presentation will focus on the same Bible verse Bishop Carl A. Kemme chose for his pastoral plan: “I have come that they might have life and have

it more abundantly.” (John 10:10). Samour said Molina will reflect on the need for men for ongoing conversion and renewal through the lens of the raising of Lazarus in the gospel of John.

In his second talk he will focus on the need for men to move from a maintenance centered vision of their role as leaders but to a missionary, evangelizing zeal, “we can change the world” type attitude and conviction.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker’s presentations will bring to light the role Christ should play in each man’s life, Samour said.

If Jesus Christ fully reveals to man who he is, or maybe more accurately, who he is meant to be, then imitating Christ is our task as men, Father Longenecker says, adding that that entails laying down our lives for others: our wives, children, friends, our community, in the end every single person we come into contact with.

CATHOLIC
MEN’S CONFERENCE 2019
OF WICHITA

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 8AM-4PM
AT KAPAUN MT. CARMEL CHS
WITH HECTOR MOLINA AND FR. DWIGHT LONGENECKER

Man Fully Alive



Event information and registration at
CatholicMensConference.com

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- It’s easy, safe and secure. Services provided by United Way.





Making room at the clinic

An excavator made short work of a house north of the Guadalupe Clinic at St. Francis and Gilbert streets in Wichita Tuesday, Feb. 12. The house was razed and the debris was hauled away in preparation for a new parking lot, which will include spaces for much-needed handicapped parking. Asphalt will be laid when the weather is warm enough. (Advance photo)



Acting out history

Jordan Bailey, left, researched and portrayed President George W. Bush, and Norah Naccarato, President Zachary Taylor, during a President's Day activity at St. Mary's Elementary School in Pittsburg. Fifth graders dressed up for a presidential parade Thursday, Feb. 21, and presented facts about their "time in office" in front of peers and family. The parade of presidents is held annually near President's Day. (Courtesy photo)

Guadalupe Clinic hockey event March 29

Guadalupe Hockey Night will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, March 29, at the Intrust Bank Arena in Wichita.

The fundraiser takes the place of the annual Wingnuts baseball game that was held for many years at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. The stadium has been razed in preparation for a replacement. Ticket vouchers are \$10. They

are available at the clinic and will be sold at many parishes after weekend Masses. All those attending will receive a free LED cheer stick at the game.

Knights of Columbus and their families have been invited to celebrate their Founder's Day event at the game.

Are you moving?

Help us keep track of you by sending your new address to: addresschange@cdowk.org.

Seminar March 15 to explain why our understanding of gender, sex matters

By Andrew Comiskey

As Desert Stream Ministries prepares for a day-long Gender Matters Conference Friday, March 15, in Wichita, I asked myself: "Why are we doing this?"

Gender matters because God cares about the fruitfulness of people. I first became aware of Jesus' love for me as I explored homosexual options, wondering if that was who I was and how I was destined to relate to others. In spite of our best intentions, my friends and I hit a dead end.

Our freedom to be "gay" resulted in no new life. Sex has to give an answer for itself. In light of deep feelings and wounds to the contrary, we are oriented by God to reserve sexual love for a committed union between a man and woman who care for the fruit of their love.

Gender matters because God cares about fruitfulness. Gender matters because God cares about children. The ministry was founded 40 years ago to gather with persons seeking freedom from the domination of same-sex attraction.

After four decades, yesterday's shame has become today's boast. Gay liberties, including the right for same-gender couples to "marry," have morphed into transgen-

der rights in which one is encouraged to embrace a self, contrary to his or her biological gender.

Everyone used to know a person with same-sex attraction. Today some families are torn apart by a member who claims to be trapped in the wrong body. God cares about these children because he made them and he has a destiny for their lives based upon his design. He also cares about families who surround these ones, suffer for them, and have a vision for their fruitfulness in spite of ill-informed opinions.

Gender matters because our common enemy wants to exploit vulnerable people with false solutions as to how to resolve their identity conflicts. With humility and intelligence, we seek God and reason to explore why persons devalue their gender selves. And we offer a path toward chastity, toward true integration of personhood in the face of lies.

One cannot change one's gender. But we can be reconciled to who we are.

Gender matters because God is merciful and he loves to reconcile his children to their true selves. He made us and he redeems us according to that image. Our 'becoming' glorifies him. Today many persons

Want to attend the gender issues seminar?

"Gender Matters - Fighting for a New Generation" will be presented from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 15, in the Pius X Room at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 424 N. Broadway, in Wichita. To register visit GenderMattersWichita.eventbrite.com.

are heeding the still small voice: 'In spite of all my liberties, something is wrong.' And they like me, 40 years later, are wondering if this Jesus might hold the keys to their happiness.

I can say with assurance that he does and he entrusts these keys to his church. My wife and four grown children attest to these keys, as does my staff who will share their stories.

Join us on Friday, March 15, to explore how Jesus unlocks personal prisons and sets captives free through the merciful body of Christ.

Comiskey is the founder and director of the Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministries.

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Guadalupe Clinic Winefest April 25-27

The corks will fly and the wine will flow once again for this year's Midwest Winefest April 25-27 in Wichita's Old Town.

The event is a major fundraiser for the Guadalupe Health Foundation and, as usual, will involve about 20 venues for the 2019 Midwest Winefest Walk-about. The event features a variety of food and wine, live music and ambiance for all. Nearly 4,000 participated in last year's Winefest.

David Gear, executive director of the Guadalupe Clinic, said the Winefest helps the clinic serve the uninsured who are in dire need of quality healthcare. "Patients at Guadalupe Clinic are asked for a \$5 donation, however no one is ever turned away due to inability to donate," he said.

The cost of treating a patient is over \$160, he said, adding that the



clinic had over 8,200 patient-visits during 2018 – about 63 percent of whom were women.

"The Guadalupe Health Foundation's mission to fund health-

Want to sample the wine, food?

Those who wish to wander around Old Town Wichita for the Winefest, may visit MidwestWinefest.org for more information.

care for people in need throughout Wichita and the surrounding areas will always be our focus," Gear said.

Although there are other clinics in Wichita that serve the poor, the Guadalupe Clinic is the only free "safety net" clinic in the city.

The clinic depends on donations and the doctors, nurse, and other healthcare providers who donated over 6,400 hours last year serving the most needy of the sick in Wichita.



Helping the sick

Joni Carson presents a check for \$1,500 to David Gear, executive director of the Guadalupe Clinic, a diocesan health ministry. Carson, senior branch manager of Sunflower Bank, visited the clinic to make the donation Tuesday, Feb. 19. The money was part of the bank's Health Care Professionals Program that benefits the clinic each time a patron uses the bank's debit cards. (Courtesy photo)



Heavenly sight

Icicles glisten in the sun over the steeple of St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in Neenah, Wis., Feb. 13. The day before brought 8 to 15 inches of snow to the majority of the Diocese of Green Bay, resulting in church and school closings. (CNS photo/Brad Birkholz)



A quilt of many hands

Christ the King Parish Quilters hold one of their hand-quilted quilts that will be part of their Annual Quilt Party Sunday, March 3, in the school gym, located at 4501 W. Maple in Wichita. From left are Christine Allsman, Nellie Miller, Karen Gomez, Connie Pappan, Betty Peters, Vicki More, and Teresa Puetz. The event will include 22 quilts, crocheted items, a quilt rack, a Yoder meat bundle, door prizes, and more. Doors open and food will be served at 11:30 a.m. The auction and games begin at 1 o'clock. On the menu will be German sausage, homemade bierocks, sloppy joes, desserts, and snacks. (Photo courtesy Debbie Schulte Sigman)

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Drexel fund helps struggling schools retain students; strengthen church

The foundation of the Catholic Church is strong in the Diocese of Wichita in part because of the Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund.

Thousands of children, many of whom are now adults, were, and are able to attend a Catholic school because of the stewardship way of life demonstrated by their parents – and the additional assistance provided by the stewards who donate to the Drexel fund.

Mike Wescott, director of the diocesan Office of Development and Planned Giving, said many parishes – even when they fully embrace stewardship – still struggle to meet their school budget needs.

“This goes back to 2005 when it had long been anticipated by the Catholic School Office a need to help some of our struggling schools,” he said.

The name was chosen because of St. Katharine Drexel’s devotion to the education of Native Americans and African Americans. “And so, we model that fund after her.”

Parishes benefit because the assistance helps finance the parish’s schools, helps send children without a parish school to a Catholic school, or helps send a child to a Catholic high school.

“We have around 26 parishes now who meet the Drexel fund criteria,” Wescott said. “This is not just a handout – they have to contribute to help fund Catholic education and they have to have a certain number of families qualify for a free or reduced lunch.”

There are parishes in the diocese who have 78 percent of their students on the free or reduced lunch list, he said.

“That’s really a testimony to stewardship,” Wescott said, “because I’m willing to bet in most dioceses in the country there aren’t Catholic schools that have that many students on the free or reduced list.”

Low-income students in oth-



Students at St. Patrick School in Wichita are among those who benefit from the St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund. (Advance photo)

er dioceses enrolled in Catholic schools are likely there because of a scholarship, he said, adding that most parents would not be able to afford the \$6,000 to \$8,000 tuition schools charge in other dioceses in the country.

“The Drexel fund supplements stewardship in parishes in the diocese where it struggles,” Wescott said.

“The greatest benefit, I think is, the impact we’re making on our society with the infusion of faith and the integration of faith and education with these kids.”

The Drexel fund has been a great gift to the diocese, he said.

“We have about 1,500 people who every year make a gift to support this,” he said. “And this is above and beyond what they give to their parish. It’s a tremendous testament to their desire to see Catholic

education thrive in the Diocese of Wichita.”

Janet Eaton, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wichita, said the Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School Fund is a difference maker.

“A tour of any one of our Drexel parish schools provides convincing evidence that the students in those schools are fortunate in ways beyond what the economics of landscape may provide,” she said.

“It is by the generosity of others in the diocese who so willingly give to the St. Katharine Drexel fund that these Catholic parish schools are able to stay open and to stay vibrant. We have Catholic school teachers and administrators who know that the rewards of working in parish schools supported by that Drexel funds are ten-fold. For that, all of us are grateful to the many donors.”

St. Joseph dinner and raffle set for March 10

St. Joseph Parish in Wichita will host 59th annual parish dinner Sunday, March 10. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 132 S. Millwood in Wichita.

The menu includes German sausage, roast beef, and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$10. Children age five and younger eat free. Drive-through and carry-out will be available.

A raffle will be held, with half the proceeds going to the winner and half to the parish. Other prizes include a 55” television, hotel accommodations, a quilt and more. A \$1 donation per ticket, or \$5 for six tickets, is requested. There will also be a game room and a cake walk, plus other prizes.

Emotions Anonymous meetings Wednesdays

Emotions Anonymous meets from noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. They are open to anyone.

Those who are experiencing overwhelming emotions, such as anxiety, anger, resentment, shame, or fear are welcome. The 12-step group program is designed to offer support and serenity while living with unsolved problems. No registration is necessary.

Food-high blood pressure presentation Thursday, March 28

A registered dietitian will give a presentation about high blood pressure and how it relates to food from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at the St. Joseph Pastoral Center, 437 N. Topeka, in Wichita.

Lou Ann Soliah, Ph.D., will talk about hypertension at the food demonstration and tasting.

Participants will sample the food, learn how hypertension can lead to severe medical complications, learn why it is important to control blood pressure, and the dietary measures one can take to manage the condition. There will be time for questions and answers.

The cost is \$5 per person for food samples, recipes, and a hand-out. Seating is limited. Reservations are requested by March 21, to have enough food. To register call 316-685-5240.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

Lenten family retreat March 9-10 at SCS

A Lenten family retreat will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10, at Saint Catherine of Siena’s Parish Education Center in Wichita.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Fr. Thomas Haake, an Oblate of the Virgin Mary from Rome, will be presenting as well as leading sessions for children of different ages. The retreat will include several talks on the Holy Spirit, Mass and adoration.

Registration until Feb. 15 is \$25/single, \$40/couple, \$75/family; and \$35/single, \$50/couple, \$90/family afterward.

To register visit SaintCatherineWichita.com/lenen-family-retreat. Lunch both days is included in the registration fee. Let the parish know about food allergies.

Can’t make Mass Sunday morning?

Go Sunday evening

One of Bishop Carl A. Kemme’s Pastoral Priorities is “reclaiming Sunday as the Lord’s Day.”

If you can’t make it to Mass Sunday morning, here is a list of late Sunday Masses in Wichita, including three in Spanish:

4 p.m.: Holy Savior, at St. Peter Claver Church

5:15 p.m.: Blessed Sacrament

5:30 p.m.: Church of the Magdalen

6 p.m.: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; St. Anne, en español

6:30 p.m.: St. Thomas Aquinas; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, en español

7 p.m.: Newman University; St. Paul, WSU; St. Patrick, en español

9 p.m.: St. Paul, WSU

Kids Mass back on calendar after SLC remodel completed

The monthly Mass for children at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita has been on hiatus during the building’s recent remodel. But the popular program returns in February.

“KidsPrayToo! Mass with Children” welcomes caregivers and their children to the Spiritual Life Center for a special daily Mass. The remaining dates are April 23 and May 16. Mass begins at 11:15 a.m. This program gives parents and caregivers an opportunity to teach their children without worrying about disturbing other Mass-goers around them.

All families are invited to pack a lunch to enjoy in the dining room or courtyard afterwards.

Audio Advance

The Advance is now available through the Air Capital Telephone Reader Service, allowing access to an audio edition of the diocesan newspaper via telephone.

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OBITUARIES

CARR
Kathryn Jean, 97, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pittsburg, Feb. 4.

FELD
Donald E., 64, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 6.

HAUGNESS
Milton Charles, 83, St. Teresa, Hutchinson, Feb. 6.

KASTOR
Frank S., 85, Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, Feb. 6.

WELLS
Bernardine Philomena (Martin), 88, Holy Spirit, Goddard, Feb. 6.

WOODWARD
Parick C., 79, Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, Feb. 6.

KANNARR
Payton Nicole, 17, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pittsburg, Feb. 7.

RICKE
Lucille Kathryn (Ternes), 98, St. Vincent de Paul, Andover, Feb. 8.

RUSSELL
Thelma DuVal "Mary," 97, St. Thomas Aquinas, Wichita, Feb. 8.

FLAX
Barbara Jean Garvey, 63, St. John, Clonmel, Feb. 9.

FLORES
Ernesto, 26, St. Margaret Mary, Wichita, Feb. 9.

ROSENHAMER
Jeanne Marie, 55, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 9.

ALEMAN
Luis Rey, 88, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hutchinson, Feb. 10.

BECKER
Matthew James, 36, Sacred Heart, Cunningham, Feb. 10.

KUCHAREK-BAUER
Michaelene (Micki), 67, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wichita, Feb. 10.

MORFORD
Beverly Jane, 78, Holy Cross, Hutchinson, Feb. 11.

PECKHAM
Chetty Ann (Brown), 75, Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, Feb. 11.

GOEBEL
Janet O., 86, Christ the King, Wichita, Feb. 12.

HIGHLAND
Clara, 101, St. Joseph, Wichita, Feb. 12.

HULL
Mary Pat, 72, Church of the Magdalen, Wichita, Feb. 12.

PAROLO
John U., 94, St. Joseph, Arma, Feb. 12.

RIORDAN
Alice M., 95, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 12.

TIMOTHY
Emima Catherine, 23, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pittsburg, Feb. 12.

ROTHENBERGER
David Michael, 76, Christ the King, Wichita, Feb. 13.

BOLIN
Dolores A., 81, St. Mark, St. Mark, Feb. 14.

CRAWFORD
Bobby Ray, Sr., "Bob," 85, St. Margaret Mary, Wichita, Feb. 15.

GLASS
James, Jr., "Jim," 74, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hutchinson, Feb. 15.

HUNTER
Ludwic James "Jim," 76, St. Mary, Derby, Feb. 15.

WISS
Robert D., 68, St. Mark, St. Mark, Feb. 15.

GLEESON
William M., "Bill," 86, St. Cecilia, Haysville, Feb. 16.

HEIMANN
William, 71, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 16.

ROSNER
Barbara J., 86, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 16.

BRAMAN
Mason Francis, 76, Sacred Heart, Eureka, Feb. 17.

McCABE
Edward A. "Pap," 84, St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita, Feb. 17.

OPLOTNIK
Frank E., 77, St. Francis, St. Paul, Feb. 17.

REMPE
James Edward "Jim," 79, St. Joseph, McPherson, Feb. 18.

SKOLAUT
Paul Leroy, 89, St. Thomas Aquinas, Wichita, Feb. 18.

BLICK
Walburga "Wally," 106, Sacred Heart, Colwich, Feb. 19.

SCHMEIDLER
Norbert Joseph, Jr., 80, St. Anne, Wichita, Feb. 19.

LIMONES
Linda M., 90, St. Paul, Lyons, Feb. 20.

WAPLE
Teresa K., 88, St. Mary, Derby, Feb. 20.

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Joan Eunice, 88, Our Lady of Lourdes, Pittsburg, Feb. 20.

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Update: Tensions grow along Venezuelan borders

SAO PAULO (CNS) -- Tensions were high along Venezuela's borders after clashes protesting Venezuelan President Nicolas

Maduro's decision not to allow humanitarian aid into the country for millions of vulnerable citizens.

The situation was complicated

by politics: Opposition leader Juan Guaido, who has declared himself interim president and has the backing of 50 governments around the world, has been supporting the influx of aid, including aid staged at the Colombia-Venezuela border by the United States.

Presidents and vice presidents of 14 countries, including U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, were meeting in Bogota, Colombia, Feb. 25, to discuss the Venezuelan crisis.

At the border crossing in Pacaraima, Brazil, two trucks carrying humanitarian aid crossed into Venezuela Feb. 23, but were stopped by the Venezuelan military. On Feb. 24, the Brazilian government issued a statement saying the two trucks had returned to Pacaraima, unable to deliver the aid. The Brazilian government, however, pledged to try the crossing once again as soon as Venezuela's "diplomatic situation" is resolved.

At least two indigenous Venezuelans were killed by Venezuelan security forces along the border with Brazil. But the situation was worse along the border with Colombia.

Two people were killed, and Colombia's foreign minister said 285 people were injured and 37 hospitalized on the Colombian side of the border after clashes between Guaido supporters and Venezuelan military blocking aid Feb. 23.

For the past few years, church groups -- including Venezuela's bishops -- have urged Maduro to let humanitarian aid into the country to relieve the suffering of Venezuelans facing food and medicine shortages, hyperinflation and crime. Maduro argues the aid would be used to meddle in the country's affairs.

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Marist Poll: Big majorities of Democrats, young reject late-term abortion

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Americans have shifted toward a pro-life stance in recent weeks during a period when some states are considering legislation that would legalize abortion up until birth, according to a new poll.

The Marist Poll at Marist College conducted in mid-February found that equal numbers of Americans — 47 percent — identified themselves as pro-life and as those who support abortion.

The findings reflect a dramatic shift from a similar poll in early January that found respondents supporting abortion by 55 percent to 38 percent.

“Current proposals that promote late-term abortion have reset the landscape and language on abortion in a pronounced, and very measurable, way,” Barbara Carvalho, poll director, said in media release from the Knights of Columbus, the poll sponsor.

The largest swing in responses came from self-identified Democrats and people younger than 45, poll officials said.

The poll reported that among Democrats, the gap between people who identify as pro-life and those who support abortion was cut in half from 55 percent to 27 percent. The number of Democrats who identify as pro-life stood at 34 percent, up from 20 percent in January.

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Update: Pope: No more excuses; time for 'all-out battle' against crime of abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The time has come for an “all-out battle” against the abuse of minors, erasing this abominable crime from the face of the earth, Pope Francis said, closing a global four-day summit on child protection in the Catholic Church.

For quite some time, the world has been aware of the “serious scandal” the abuse of minors by clergy has brought to the church and public opinion, both because of the dramatic suffering it has caused victims and because of the “unjustifiable negligence” and “cover-up” by leaders in the church, he told people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Since the problem is present on every continent, the pope said he called leaders of the world’s bishops and religious superiors to Rome because “I wanted us to face it together in a co-responsible and collegial way,” he said after praying the Angelus Feb. 24.

“We listened to the voice of victims, we prayed and asked for forgiveness from God and the people hurt, we took stock of our responsibility, and our duty to bring justice through truth and to radically reject every form” of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience, he said.

“We want every activity and every place in the church to be completely safe for minors,” he said, which means taking every possible measure so that such crimes never happen again.

It will also entail working with great dedication together with people of good will everywhere in order to fight this “very grave scourge of violence” that affects hundreds of millions of minors around the world.

The pope’s noonday summary of what he called a “very important” meeting came after he delivered his closing remarks at the end of Mass Feb. 24.

Surrounded by the ornate frescoed walls and ceiling of the Sala Regia, the pope told some 190



Pope Francis celebrates Mass on the final day of a meeting on the protection of minors in the church at the Vatican Feb. 24, 2019. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

cardinals, bishops and religious superiors from around the world, “the time has come, then, to work together to eradicate this evil from the body of our humanity by adopting every necessary measure already in force on the international level and ecclesial levels.”

However, despite the importance of knowing the sociological and psychological explanations behind this criminal act of abuse, he said, the church must recognize this is a spiritual battle against the “brazen, aggressive,

destructive” power of Satan.

“I see the hand of evil that does not spare even the innocence of the little ones. And this leads me to think of the example of Herod who, driven by fear of losing his power, ordered the slaughter of all the children of Bethlehem,” the pope said.

Just as the pagans once sacrificed children on their altars, such cruelty continues today with an “idolatrous sacrifice of children to the god of power, money, pride and arrogance,” he said.

‘Physician-assisted suicide is not medical care,’ doctor tells lawmakers

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CNS) — Saying that “medicine is a noble profession,” a Catholic physician told Maryland lawmakers that “physician-assisted suicide fundamentally alters the physician’s role in society.”

Dr. Marie-Alberte Boursiquot made the comments in testimony for a hearing on the End-of-Life Option Act under consideration again by the House Health and Government Operations and Judiciary committees. The measure has been repeatedly introduced in recent years and blocked in committee.

The measure would allow terminally ill adults who have six months or less left to live and who are mentally capable to receive doctor-prescribed medication to end their lives.

Boursiquot, a board-certified internist and fellow of the American College of Physicians, was one of several testifying against the measure Feb. 15. She shared her testimony with the Catholic Review, the media outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

She discussed the duties physi-

cians have to their patients: acting in the patient’s best interest; avoiding or minimizing harm; respecting a patient’s autonomy; and promoting fairness and social justice.

Medical professionals have to safeguard the relationship between a physician and a patient and protect the most vulnerable in society, including children, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the poor and others, said Boursiquot, who has been a practicing physician in Maryland for more than 20 years and was president of the Catholic Medical Association from 2016 to 2017.

“Medicalizing death does not address the needs of dying patients and their families,” she said. “Physician-assisted suicide is not medical care. Physicians are committed to preserving life, not in taking lives.”

Boursiquot, a parishioner at Baltimore’s Basilica of the Assumption, noted a few of the fundamental flaws of the End-of-Life Option Act, including the lack of consideration for depression; failed attempts at suicide; and determining whether a pa-

tient is being coerced.

“There are those in the medical community who have already decided or are contemplating taking a neutral stance on this issue,” Boursiquot said. “I ascribe to the thought of the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, who once said, ‘Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.’ I invite you to choose the side which respects the dignity of human beings in allowing them to die naturally.”

The Maryland Catholic Conference opposes the bill, which was introduced Jan. 30 and is sponsored by Democratic Del. Shane Pendergrass. The bill has nearly 50 co-sponsors.

“Our state has repeatedly rejected this group’s agenda and with good reason: assisted suicide threatens Maryland’s most vulnerable, putting those with disabilities, the elderly, our veterans and those battling opioid addiction at grave risk,” Jennifer Briemann, director of the Maryland Catholic Conference.

Events MARCH 3

St. Anthony Secular Franciscan Order, 1 p.m. Sunday, March 3. St. Clare Room, St. Anthony Church, Wichita.

4

Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, 9:30 a.m., Monday, March 4, Directed Retreat Commons Area, Spiritual Life Center.

10

St. Theresa Lay Carmelite community meeting, March 10, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Wichita. Contact Kimberly at 316-641-0018 or catholicgolfer@gmail.com.

11

Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina, 9:30 a.m., Monday, March 11, Directed Retreat Commons Area, Spiritual Life Center.

14

ICT Catholic 50+ Singles planning meeting, 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, Assembly Room, St. Thomas Aquinas. Contact Kathy, 316-253-1383 or kaf53@yahoo.com.

DIOCESAN NOTICES Marriage and Family Life

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Encourage

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For more information or to register, visit www.ceewichita.com or call the Spiritual Life Center at (316) 744-0167.

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Loss of a Child

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Marriage Encounter

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Marriage Preparation Seminars

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Knights assist ministry

Joe Hays, from the Knights of Columbus Council 691, made up of Knights from Cathedral, St. Anthony, and Holy Savior parishes, hands a check for \$647.09 to Myra Jacobs, director of the Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, at the Chancery in Wichita. The donation, from the Council’s Tootsie Roll sales, will help the Ministry with projects such as Holy Family Camp, Wichita Saints Special Olympics, Lenten Retreats, and Totus Tuus for Children with Special Needs.



Questions and opportunity in state government – a plea to Kansas Catholics

By Chuck Weber

Unanswered questions are dominating the 2019 Kansas legislative session. Conflicting approaches between the governor and the legislature for solutions to the state's challenges are creating a sobering political reality. Can you say gridlock?



Chuck Weber

Many core beliefs of Kansas Catholics are trapped in the middle. What will happen in this real-life mystery drama now

playing out until early summer? Let's begin with what we do know. Any pro-life legislation faces a certain veto. The Kansas Supreme Court is taking nearly two years to decide if there is a right to abortion in the 158-year-old state constitution. Meanwhile, a dozen unborn babies die each week in Kansas clinics by live dismemberment abortion. Are we a Midwest version of New York? The welfare of orphaned and abandoned Kansas children, along with the fundamental First Amendment right to religious liberty, are in jeopardy. At issue is the new Adoption Protection Act. Governor Kelly stated: "If there is a way to direct the agency to not implement [the Adoption Protection Act] then

I will do that." Can a public official not enforce the law? Quality healthcare access for the poor, a critically important Catholic issue, faces fresh questions about unintended consequences. Doctors prescribe painkillers to Medicaid patients at twice the rate of others, who then suffer three to six times the risk for overdose. With low reimbursement levels, will there be enough doctors willing to treat thousands of new Medicaid patients? Will new Medicaid patients "crowd out" existing ones? Do Kansas support increased public funding for contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs? Will tax dollars be dedicated to "gender re-

assignment" surgery or therapy? It's happening elsewhere, why not here? Catholics sacrificing to support two educational systems – their parish school and a neighborhood public school – wonder about poor families and their opportunity for educational excellence? Will more public money change the negative outcomes of so many students? Is there the political will to reform the predatory payday loan industry? Rural Kansas is diminishing before our very eyes. Can we elevate the family and revitalize the Kansas beyond our cities and suburbs? We yearn for prosperity, yet we must ask, what does authentic prosperity look like through the Catho-

lic lens? Is our idea of prosperity now reduced to the strength of our wifi connection, the comfort of our home or the quality of our car? Or is there something more, something deeper? Life, marriage, children and families matter. So does our neighbor. The freedom to not just worship, but boldly and audaciously live out our faith in the world matters. Elected officials have difficult jobs. Talk to them. Pray for them. They need wisdom, courage, and integrity. And divinely-inspired answers. *Chuck Weber is executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference.*

Spiritual Life Center

REST...RENEW...RESTORE...RESPOND

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection
Wednesday, Mar. 6; 9a-3p Begin the Lenten season on a prayerful journey through the Stations of the Cross. This day includes presentations, prayer, Mass, and a simple lunch. \$20

Abiding in the Word: Lenten Lunchtime Series
Thursdays of Lent; noon-12:45p Fr. Tom Hoisington leads this lunch program during Lent to study the upcoming Sunday's readings. Lunch is provided. \$10 per week or \$50 for series

Good Books: The Count of Monte Cristo
First Thursdays starting Mar. 7; 7-8:30p. This reading group meets monthly to discuss books from the great Christian tradition. March begins a study of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. No charge.

Palm Sunday Retreat: At the Cross, Her Station Keeping
April 12-14, 2019

Enter into Holy Week on an unforgettable weekend retreat. The 2019 Palm Sunday Retreat takes you on a journey with our Lord.

7100 E. 45th St. N. † Wichita, KS 67226 † (316) 744-0167 † www.SLCWichita.org

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CFFCU's Love Your Parish Program

On behalf of the Catholic Family Federal Credit Union (CFFCU) staff, Board of Directors and Volunteers, we would like to welcome you to join our more than 4,000 members who enjoy credit union services.

As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, the Credit Union's philosophy of "People Helping People" is a commitment that endures. In order to better serve our Catholic Community and fulfill our mission, we would like to make a special offer.

For loans (new or used auto purchase, auto refinance from another financial institution, real estate purchase or refinance from another financial institution, new home equity loan, personal loan) that you or someone you refer to the Credit Union, the Credit Union will donate 1.5% of the total loan amount up to \$1,000 per loan directly to your Parish/Church or Charity of choice.

For new accounts, savings with checking and debit card, that you or someone you refer are opened at the Credit Union, the Credit Union will donate \$50 per account to your Parish/Church or Charity of choice.

VISA® Credit Cards are also available starting with a \$500 limit.

It's our way to say "Thank You" and give back to our Catholic Community. We're here to serve you and make the process easy! Stop in, give us a call at 316-264-9163 or visit online at www.cffcu.com.

Just Mention "Love your Parish" program to take advantage of the donation.

Catholic Family Federal Credit Union, where Family means Everything!

Are your finances holding you down? Let CFFCU help. Come join our Catholic family today! We are located at 717 N Socora St, Wichita, KS 67212, or call (316) 264-9163.

Also make sure to check out our Catholic Family Federal Credit Union Facebook page for news and updates!