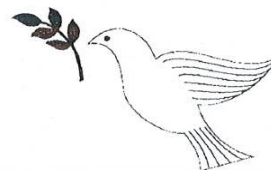


*The***S***pirit of St. Joseph Parish*214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526**Immaculate Conception Parish**310 North Main
Claflin KS 67525*Father Terrance Klein, Pastor*
Sister Andre Kravec***"It Was a Good Day for a Picnic"****By Sharla Thill*

On Sunday, August 16th, members of St. Joseph parish gathered at the parish hall following Mass for the Church Picnic.

Father Terry Klein was formally welcomed to St. Joseph's parish. Fr. Terry and his dog, Coco Chenille, were unable to entertain due to a small accident while they were rehearsing.

A fried chicken lunch and the trimmings were served to a very large crowd. Curtis Wolf said, "The Pastoral Council was very pleased with the turn out for the picnic. We figured that we had about 200 parishioners attend, which is a bigger crowd than most recent years."

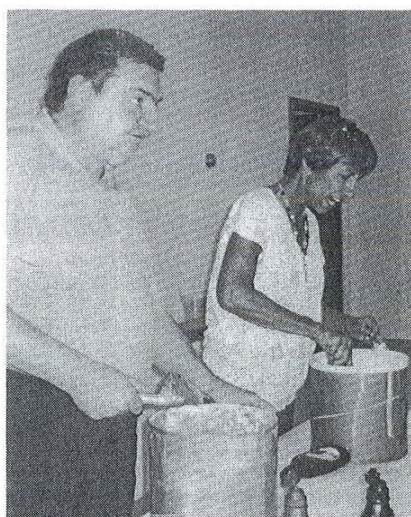
Wolf went on to say, "This year, we tried to use the picnic as an opportunity to invite parishioners back that may have recently become inactive in the parish. That is what the parish picnic is designed to be, a relaxing time for the parish to gather for fellowship."

After lunch we held our annual "egg toss" and other games. Many couples joined in, taking their turn to be the last ones standing with their unbroken egg.

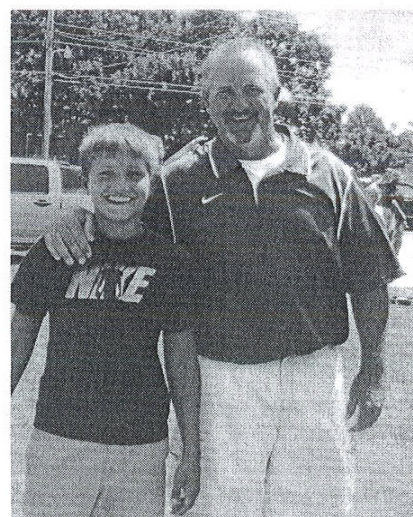
"The winners of the annual egg toss were Monte Doll and son, Kyler, in First Place, and Chad Heinz and son, Drew, in Second," Curtis announced.

A surprise guest at the picnic was former pastor, Fr. Chuck Mazouch, who came back to visit. We are quite sure he didn't want to miss the "egg toss", which he started for the first time when he was here.

An ice cream social ended the special gathering. "Finally we would like to thank Pop N Shop for donating the ice cream that was served again this year," Curtis said. "We also thank some of the High School PSR students who helped with many of the kids games."



Dr. Joslin and Mary Waite, members of Pastoral Council serve up the Ice Cream at the social.

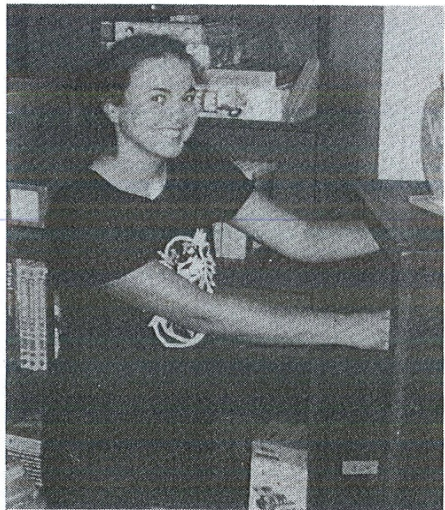


Monte Doll and son, Kyler, are all smiles, after winning the annual Egg Toss.



Jr. Lenhart on left, and Marguerite and Mike Feist, enjoy the picnic lunch. Behind them in line, are Larry and Jean Klepper and Diane and Ed Nemich.

“Michelle Miller Teaching at St. Joseph School”



Michelle Miller, of our parish, and new teacher at St. Joseph School, readies her classroom during July.

by Sharla Thill

“I’ve wanted to be a teacher my whole life,” says Michelle Miller, new 4th and 5th grade teacher this fall at St. Joseph School.

“As a youngster, I spent a lot of time down in the basement at home, playing school and grading papers,” she laughed.

The daughter of Kim and Steve Miller of our parish, Michelle graduated this spring from Ft. Hays State College with a degree in Elementary Education. She chose elementary because she loves kids. She did her student teaching in a Kindergarten class at Hays.

“I am a bit nervous, but very excited for the challenge of teaching at St. Joseph School, where I also graduated,” Michelle remarks.

The new teacher has lots of support from her brother, Troy Reade, who is a fifth grade teacher in Kansas City at Piper Elementary. Michelle also graduated with a minor in ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) and commented, “I will be able to help students with their English, if that is needed.”

“I am eager to share some new ideas with the students,” she continued. “I hope to use interactive notebooks for Math. And maybe have the students work on I-Pads.”

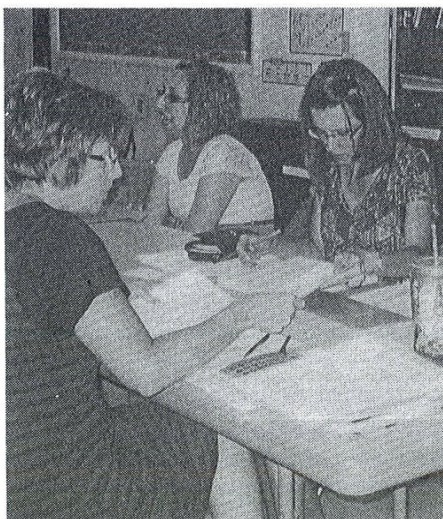
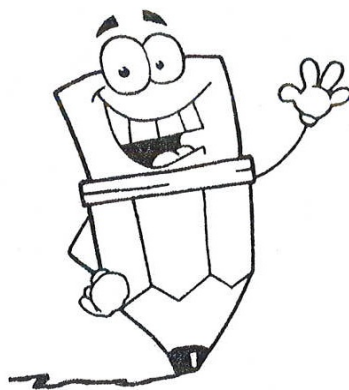
“I have some units planned that will be different,” Michelle says. “For example, I hope to bring a traveling planetarium to Ellinwood when we start the Space Unit.”

The energetic young teacher says she has spent a lot of her summer at school getting ready for her first year.

“Grandpa Miller has built me some special shelving for the room and helped me with some projects,” Michelle smiled. “My own personal handy man!”

She grew up in Ellinwood and graduated from Ellinwood High School, where she also had a career playing tennis, first in high school and then on to Barton Community College, and finally playing two years at Fort Hays State.

In her spare time, Michelle enjoys gardening a lot, and doing crafty stuff. She is glad to be home in Ellinwood and very excited for her first year of teaching. Welcome!



School secretary, Jamie Komarek, helps Julie Stuhlsatz enroll her children for the fall term at St. Joseph School. At center, waiting her turn is Judy Haynes.

Enrollment Reaches 72 For New School Year

By Marlene Clayton



Have you noticed? The days are getting shorter, signaling the coming end of the summer season. With the summer season winding down comes enrollment and the beginning of a new school year at St. Joseph Catholic School.

This year’s enrollment shows our numbers holding steady with seventy-two students from forty-three families. Twelve students and their families are new to SJCS. Those new students are: Kindergarten – Ashlynn Gray, Josie Heter, Eleanor Joiner, Jocelynn Joiner, Ayla Ritchie, Lexi Steele, Lexi Thomas; Second – Alvin Bowyer, Isaiah Steele, Trent Stuhlsatz; Fourth – Alexander Bowyer; Fifth – Tyler Stuhlsatz.

Returning to SJCS this year is Miss Michelle Miller; however, she is no longer student but teacher! Michelle will be teaching grades four and five. She is a welcome addition to the faculty, and we are very pleased she selected SJCS to begin her teaching career.

In order for Miss Miller to teach 4th/5th grades, Mrs. Thomas agreed to a change. Mrs. Thomas is now part of the 6th/7th/8th grade teaching team along with Mr. Lyles Lashley and Mrs. Marlene Clayton. Mrs. Robin Doll continues with K/1st, and Mrs. Jamie Harrington with 2nd/3rd, while Mrs. Kyla Pearce conducts music class. Rounding out the staff is teacher aide Marcie Liebl, secretary Jamie Komarek, cooks Rhea Schartz and Kathy Birzer, and janitor Kent Robl.

Also returning to SJCS this year is Father Terry Klein! He will no longer trek through the hallways as student, but as school pastor. God has truly blessed us with returning alumni and a bountiful number of students. May God continue to bless us as we strive to live the school’s mission – “Growing in faith and knowledge to serve God and community.”

Choose a Job You Love, and it Won't Feel Like Work!



by Sharla Thill

George Burns once said, "If you ask me to name one thing above all others that make for happiness, I would say it's enjoying your work. And, if you're going to accomplish anything worthwhile, you have to be willing to take a chance now and then."

Back in 1984, in a magazine article that I kept, George remarked, "I still love my work and I can still do it, so why should I retire, especially now that I have it both ways? Not only am I making movies at 88, but as a senior citizen I only pay half price to see myself on the screen."

God wants us to work hard at our jobs, be involved in our family and neighborhood, and take care of ourselves. But, he doesn't want the demands of any of these responsibilities to overshadow our joy and confidence in Him.

I doubt if anyone ever said on their deathbed, "I wish I would have spent more time at work!"

However, work is the stuff of which our days are made. No matter what we do to earn our daily bread, we do it everyday to the best of our abilities, with love in our hearts.



Lori Hammeke

The favorite part of Lori Hammeke's job is talking with the patients and helping them to understand their diagnosis. Lori is a Respiratory Therapist. She has spent the past 17 years working at Central Kansas Medical Center and St. Rose Health Care Outpatient Center in Great Bend.

After graduating from Great Bend High School, Lori attended Barton Community College where she got her associates degree in Respiratory Therapy. She says, "Three of my siblings had asthma, so I knew all about that. I decided that I wanted to go into Health Care."

Lori got her Respiratory Therapist degree at Wichita State, along with a degree in Health Science. She worked at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita for the next ten years.

Seventeen years ago she married Mark Hammeke of our parish, and moved to Ellinwood. They live on a farm north of Ellinwood, where Mark farms. The couple met at a wedding dance at St. Joseph Parish Center in Ellinwood.

In 1998 she went to work at the Medical Center in Great Bend. After the building of the new health center, Lori now works for St. Rose Health Care.

Some of Lori's tasks include doing treadmills, heart monitors, EKG's and EEG's (brainwaves). She also does Pulmonary Function testing, which consists of three tests for lung function, helping to diagnosis emphysema, asthma or lung diseases.

"There have been lots of changes in the past 17 years," Lori shared. "I no longer take care of ventilators or critical care patients, and everything is now on the computer, no paper. The hardest part of my job is probably the paperwork, getting everything charted."

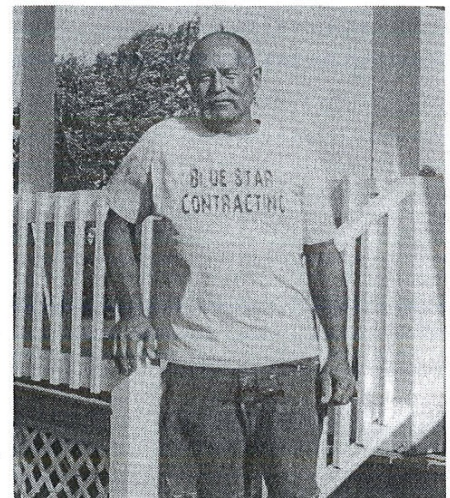
She also says, "I really like the people I work with in the X-Ray department. I have known them for a long time. They have been there as long as I have."

The daughter of Darwin and Fran Siefkes of Great Bend, Lori is the oldest in her family of two sisters and one brother. Mark and Lori have two daughters, Sarah, who will be a freshman at Ellinwood High, and Erin, a 7th grader at St. Joseph School.

Lori has served on the St. Joseph School board for three years as treasurer, and another three years as head of the German Buffet. She is also a Eucharistic Minister at St. Joseph Church.

You might say that Lori's hobby is gardening. "I like to grow things," she laughed. "And sometimes if I get enough tomatoes, I will make salsa." Many flowers also adorn the Hammeke yard.

She also likes to read and has belonged to a 'book club' for the past seven years. The Hammeke family recently enjoyed a family trip to Branson and Silver Dollar City.



Mark Menges

A Master Electrician, Mark Menges has had a long and varied career in Electrical Contracting. He now works for Blue Star Contracting, owned by Bob Baker, here in Ellinwood.

How did it all start? Well, Mark says, "It all started when I was in 6th grade. My Dad, Jerry Menges and two buddies decided to make a two car garage into an apartment."

"A jack of all trades, my Dad worked at the college then," he continued. "He would let me off to work on that garage, give me on the spot training, and then go to work. It was my first job ever." Mark was still working for his Dad all during his high school years.

After graduating from Ellinwood High School, Mark went to work for Klein Electric in Great Bend. Seven years later and some electrical night classes at the college, Menges did his apprenticeship became a journeyman Electrician.

He then spent two years with Current Electric in Dodge City where he got his

Continue Next Page

Choose a Job You Love

Masters license in 1987. He returned to Ellinwood to work at G.B. Electric, where he broadened his experience doing power lines and oilfield work.

"After Davis Electric bought out GB Electric, I drove every day to Garden City where we worked in the packing houses," Mark said. "That got old real fast. In 1993 it led to going into business as 'Menges Electric' here in Ellinwood with my brother Mike."

Six years later, in 1999, Mark sold out to Mike and spent three years in Colorado Springs as Project Foreman for Riviera Electric while building the five million Oracle Computer Building there.

Moving back to Ellinwood, he spent the next eleven years driving to work at Building Controls and Services in Wichita. It was here Mark became a Fire Alarm Technician and was certified by the National Institute for Engineering Technologies.

Mark stated, "We traveled a lot, all over the state, setting up Fire Alarm Systems. Some of the places closer to home were the Garvey Building in Wichita, the High Rise Apartment in Great Bend and the Ellinwood Hospital."

In all of his travels Mark adamantly remarked, "I hated staying in hotels, so if I was even two hours away, I would mostly drive home. I wanted to be in my own bed."

The long drive time every day brought Mark back to Ellinwood, in June of 2015, for Blue Star Contracting, owned by Bob Baker.

"I still work with Building Controls and Service on some projects. The Alarm Systems put in over the years are still inspected annually."

Mark has seen lots of changes in the electrical business over his working years, but shared this, "I have enjoyed trouble shooting, trying to solve the problems and fix them. There was always the satisfaction of finishing a job and seeing it work right. And, of course, I met a lot of people over the years."

A little on the down side, he commented, "It could be a little stressful at times. There is 'life safety' involved in this kind of work. Things have to be up and running all the time." His wife of 28 years, Tracy said, "The phone was always ringing."

The couple has four daughters and six grandkids. Tracy is a bookkeeper for an oilfield company, and also for Blue Star Contracting. Mark and Tracy like to camp

out when they have time, and do home improvements on their homestead north of town. You might say Mark's hobby is riding his motorcycle.

Mark grew up in Ellinwood, the fifth of nine siblings of Jerry and Geraldine Menges. He is a lifelong member of St. Joseph Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus for 30 years, and a 4th degree Knight.

Even though his career has been in Electrical Contracting, Mark is still very much a part of Menges Rentals, helping set up tents, tables and chairs. He is also involved with the Fireworks business, as a pyro technician, and remarked, "We just did our 18th year setting of the big fireworks display in Dodge City. With my brother-in-law and son-in-law we camp out there for four days putting it together."



Grandfriends Mass

The annual Grandfriends Mass will be held on Sept. 25th, with a Reception following at the parish center. Mark your calendars.

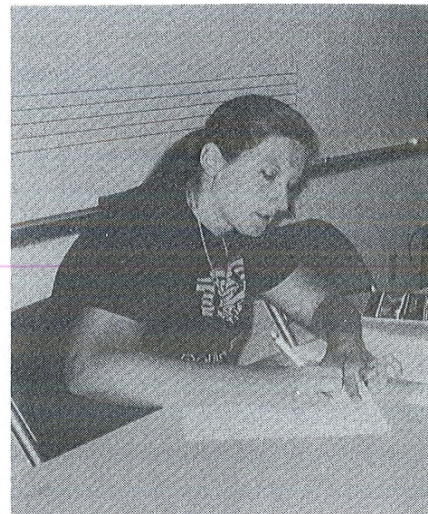
Labor Day

Did you know? Labor Day is an American holiday observed the first Monday in Sept. Oregon was the first state to make Labor Day a holiday in 1887. 30 states celebrated Labor Day before it became a federal holiday in 1894.

When you go to your work place next week, think seriously about how to be really happy doing what God has planned for you that day. The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

Invitation to Invite

Do you know someone who is without a church home? Do you have a friend, relative, or neighbor who is interested in finding out more about the Catholic way of life, prayer and service? Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your own spiritual life? If so, please call the parish office at 564-2534.



Jamie Rowan, head of the upcoming German Buffet talks to parents at enrollment about what part they might play in helping with the annual fundraiser for St. Joseph School, which will be held on November 1st.



Little Known Facts About History

After digging depth of 10 feet last year outside Buffalo, NY, scientists found traces of copper cable dating back 100 years. They came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, a Los Angeles, Calif. archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet outside Oceanside.

Shortly afterward, a story in the LA Times read, "Calif. archaeologist, reporting a finding of 200 year old copper cable, concluded that their ancestors already had advanced high-tech communications network 100 years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, a local newspaper in Wichita, KS reported. "After digging 30 feet deep in his pasture near the city of Minneola, Ks, Smokey Smith, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing.

Smith concluded that 300 years ago, Kansas had already gone wireless." Just makes a person proud to be from Kansas!!!

Mountain Top Moments on Mission Trip

By Raechel Manley

St. Joseph Youth received a fabulous send off on Thursday, July 23, thanks to the K of C and Altar Society, who hosted a farewell lunch at the Gather. The students were given prayer cards and journals to use on their trip.

Fathers Terry Klein and Pascal Klein (not related) provided the sacrament of Reconciliation and blessed the group before they left to catch their plane.

We want to thank St. Joseph parishioners and Ellinwood community members that supported us, both financially and through their prayers. The trip was more than successful, it was unforgettable! It will be something our group will cherish for the rest of the lives.

Even the number of travelers seemed to be a sign, twelve. Marc Waite, Rachel Doll, Mary Beth Thill, Betsy Snell, Joanna Strecker, Lauren Manley, Victoria Manley, Catherine Strecker, Sean O'Neill and myself from St. Joseph Parish, and Jill Horung-Heeke and daughter, Erica Heeke, from St. John's Parish in Spearville, all traveled to the west coast for the conference and mission work.

When the group arrived in San Diego, they were driven to the dorms at the University of San Diego, which would be their home for the week. They made their beds with new sheet sets they brought on the trip and later donated to the woman's overnight shelter.

Friday morning the group started the day with breakfast and daily meditations, and then headed to Rachel's Women Center, run by Catholic Charities of the local diocese. The staff at the center quickly put them to work sorting donations and preparing items for the center's fund raising boutique, women's overnight shelters, and the homeless at Fr. Joe's Villages. They also organized and cleaned several apartments at the center.

The day continued with the group serving lunch to the women, wrapping silverware, singing and playing the piano. "As the Hallelujah was being sung out from our group and Rachel Doll was playing the piano, I know God was changing lives in that center," said Catherine Strecker.

The Steubenville Conference began the next day. The theme this year was "Limitless". Steve Angrisono, who had been to the High School Youth Rally, hosted by the Dodge City diocese this year,



PSR Mission youth gather for a group shot during their trip to San Diego. From Left: Raechel Manley, Sean O'Neil, Jill and daughter Erica Heeke of Spearville, Marc Waite, Victoria Manley and Catherine Strecker. Front row, Lauren Manley, Rachel Doll, Joanna Strecker, Betsy Snell and Mary Beth Thill.

challenged the 5,500 plus youth to get out of their comfort zones, and prepare for God's Limitless love.

The group returned to their dorms, excited for the next day, which included break-out sessions and personal meditation. As the girls entered the stadium, you could hear giggles from the over head balcony. Sisters from the Perpetual Adoration order were throwing candy Mardi Gras style, welcoming the ladies.

The session focused on the differences of men and women, how to love ourselves and how to wait for that loving relationship. The group found each other again in the stadium for Mass. "5,500 people and we get floor seats for Mass. Talk about a blessing," said Jill Horung-Heeke.

The day continued with breakout sessions and awesome speakers, to be brought back to the stadium in the evening for praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration.

"When we sat down in our assigned seats I thought, 'Man, we got the nose bleed section,'" said Lauren Manley, "only after did I realize that the Blessed Sacrament would be not only walking right by us, but stopping right in front of us."

"It was as if the whole conference, talking about the Gifts of the Spirit, discerning the difference between God's Voice and the other voices in our head, and all the other talks, prayers, and music were preparing our hearts for this encounter with

Christ," said Victoria Manley.

"You know that story in the bible about the lady who just wanted to reach out and touch Jesus' robe so she could be healed? She didn't need much, just His hem. That's how I felt . . . just let me reach out to You God," said Erica Heeke.

"You just have to be there. You just have to come to a conference. People need to make a choice, make it a priority, then they will see," said Mary Beth Thill.

As time for Sunday Mass arrived, hopes were high that they would experience Christ in the same way again. "I didn't want Jesus to leave our area last night, I wanted to follow the Eucharist around the stadium, so much so that I and some of the others went to the adoration chapel afterwards. . . just to be in His presence," said Rachel Doll.

We were instructed to take the fire of the Holy Spirit back with us to our parishes and the communities we live in and serve, to not let our light die out and the busyness of the world set in.

The group didn't have much time for the fire to die out. After checking out of the college dorms and checking into their hotel, they were off to serve in the soup kitchen of one of Father Joe's Villages. The downtown San Diego village is named after St. Vincent de Paul, and their goal is to end homelessness one life at a time through their concern for others and their desire to help others help themselves.

Continued on Page 6

Mission Trip Moments

Continued from Page 5

On any given night, almost 850 adults and children who are homeless sleep and eat safely at the Village.

After chopping 20 lbs of onions, and through a blanket of tears, Marc Waite asked the staff jokingly, "Do you give this job just to volunteers? My sinuses are clear for the next year!" The group was able to whistle, sing, laugh, and engage others all the while working diligently.

One of the local shelter residents said, after the group shared his meal with him, "Many people don't even make eye contact with us. It's as if they were to look at us in the eye they might catch homelessness or something. But not you guys, you guys sat and ate with me. Asked me about my day. Prayed with me. And that means a lot. Just looking at me and really seeing me, that's one of the best gifts you guys could have given me."

Monday morning saw the group headed for Nativity Prep Academy. The middle school provides an education to hard working young men and women from low-income families, who will maybe be the first to graduate from college.

Our group set the new 6th grade students up with their own gmail accounts. Later they cleaned and cleared classrooms and the science lab.

"It was really interesting to see how their school structure was setup. How they choose their students and require so much of them, it helps you to see how they

are getting such good results," said Sean O'Neill.

After several days of service and praise, the group took time to go to the beach and enjoy the sand on their feet and the ocean spray in their hair. "We worked so hard and had realized so much in this short trip, it was good to have a break," said Betsy Snell. "I know I will never again take for granted how truly blessed I am. We need these kinds of trips to keep us in touch with reality, to remind us that we've been given so much when others have so little. The fact that people are going to bed tonight thankful that they got to eat today, and I complain about what chips or cereal my Mom gets . . . just makes you think."

Tuesday morning the group stuffed toiletry bags for the homeless and donated them to the Food Resource Center, another agency run by Catholic Charities.

It was now time to enjoy a bit of the San Diego area before flying back home. We went to Old Town and prayed our daily devotiona! in the historic spot of one of the first missions in San Diego and got a history lesson from Sean O'Neill. Then it was on to the airport.

Surprised to learn that our flight was delayed, the group was put up for the night, given meal vouchers, and given \$1000 in seating upgrades for their flight the next morning. The group relaxed and reflected on their trip, some still in awe of the Adoration service and some drained by seeing the need in the world. Joanna

Strecker shared an inspirational quote from Anne Frank that put it all into perspective, "In spite of everything. I still believe that people are really good at heart."

The whole trip was truly a mountain top experience. God arranged things, so only He could take credit and the glory for all the blessings we received. May we all get a chance to experience the Holy Spirit in such a tangible way and see how Limitless our God is through serving others.



Knights of Columbus Have Upcoming Events

By Jerome Huslig

On September 27th, the K of C will hold their annual Awards Breakfast. Coming up on October 4th, they will have the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Mark your calendars.

In the past year from July 1st, 2014, through June 20th of 2015, St. Joseph's Council 1187 made the following donations.

To St. Joseph School (new doors) \$2,000; Makinna Ann Hope foundation (playground equipment for children with disabilities) \$500.

Also Catholic Radio 88.1, \$300; St. Joseph School (tuition assistance), \$1,000; and Fr. John (going away gift), \$300.

Donation for EHS Scholarships (for high school seniors), \$2,000; Kansas State Council (ultrasound machine for pro-life clinic), \$500; and St. Isidore Council Manhattan (support Catholic youth conference), \$500.

Also Ellinwood Ministerial Alliance (donation), \$250; Birthright of Great Bend and Catholic Social Service (pro-life donations \$953 each), \$1,926; and Sunflower Diversified Services (persons with intellectual disabilities), \$502.

Great Bend Special Olympics (persons with intellectual disabilities), \$1,004; Kansas State Council (Special Olympics support), \$377; Seminarian support, \$500; and St. Joseph Church (church repairs), \$2,000; for total donations, \$13,834.

These donations could not be made without the generous support of all of you. Without your support, by attending our fund raising projects and our gun raffle sales this would not have been possible for our council to do. Thank you.



In their gold shirts, Marc Waite, Erica Heeke, Betsy Snell and Mary Beth Thill listen to music at one of the Conference meeting gatherings.



Kent Robl vacations in Oregon on Cannon Beach, near Haystack Rock, in June.



Millie Menges swims with her granddaughter and her nephew.

Scenes Of Summer



Cayman Rowan gets another worm out, while he fishes in the After Harvest Festival Fishing Derby.

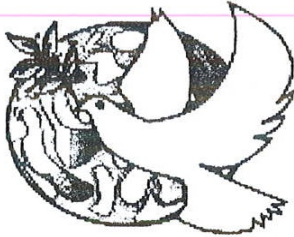


Dennis Habiger stands near the backyard fountain he designed and built.

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September
2015



An Atheist in the Woods

An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees!" "What powerful rivers!" "What beautiful animals!" He said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustle in the bushes. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charging towards him.

He ran as fast as he could. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He tripped and fell on the ground.

He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear was right on top of him, raising his right paw to strike him.

At that moment, the atheist cried, "Oh my God!" Time stopped, the bear froze. The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a

voice came out of the sky. "You deny my existence for all these years and teach others I don't exist. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, and said: "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw and brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke, "Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."

