

The Saint Teresa Times

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From Sr. Mary Cecilia, C.K.

"Beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration." *Desiderio desideravi*, 25.

I am in awe of the goodness of God towards us. We have been so very blessed, that we often don't recall the many ways He manifests His care. I knew going into the summer that the Lord had His hand upon the school, but to see His providence in action has just blown me away.

Take the gym, for instance. The gym is beautiful. It is a truly beautiful place in the school, set apart for a specific use – sports, recess, assemblies. It would make a terrible office and it shouldn't be used as such. I am profoundly humbled by the generosity of so many people that helped to finance our beautiful gym. Your goodness, generosity, and support of our school inspires me.

Our Walk the Little Way and the Give to Lincoln Day are also a source of profound humility. The support that our school has for our playground, our curriculum, the beauty of the front of the school, the care for the classrooms – every part of the school is touched by this generosity. When I come to prayer I am overwhelmed by the goodness of others.

One group of people that inspires my prayer deeply and most consistently – the faculty and staff that make the school run

every day. I cannot keep the school running on my own; we would be in a terrible place if that's what we relied upon! Take a moment and think through all the people that your child meets in the school on any given day: classroom teacher, office staff, resource teachers, specialty teachers, lunchroom personnel, and so many others who help in the school in a variety of ways.

The parents and volunteers that so generously give of their time and talent to make the extras happen are also a group that leads me to wonder. I marvel at how Steve Kuzma runs his chess club, or how the parents coach the sports teams. Thank you for your generous service to the students of our school.

The final group that leads me to wonder is the students. Their joy is evident; their desire to know God is beautiful. Their honesty is a beautiful gift. Each student

brings a unique perspective to their class discussions. The

"lightbulb moments" are beautiful opportunities for wonder: seeing the brightness in the students' eyes, the joy on the face that lights up with

the "aha" is a tremendous gift. I am so thankful for the opportunity to share in those priceless moments.

It is one thing to notice all this goodness, all that leads to wonder. It is another thing to allow it to lead us to prayer and contemplation of the goodness of God. I think that's what Pope Francis means when he says they lead to adoration. All that we have around us should lead us to contemplate God. We have ample means to do that daily. God bless you!



JAYHAWK INTRODUCTIONS

Meet **Fr. Nicholas Kipper**, pastor at St. Teresa Church: I am the oldest of four children, and I grew up in Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish in Lincoln and went to Cathedral School, Kindergarten through 8th Grade. I graduated from Pius X High School in 1998. I was ordained a priest in 2006. I have worked in Catholic media for the Diocese of Lincoln for 14 years. I was assistant editor of the *Southern Nebraska Register* for 3 years, editor for 6 years, and the director of communications and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Lincoln for five years. I am very blessed and honored that God has called me to the priesthood. It's humbling to be called to act in the person of Christ in the administration of the sacraments, and to be a vessel of God's grace.



Meet **Fr. Christian Schwenka**, assistant pastor at St. Teresa: I was ordained this last year in May 2022 and I love sports, books, philosophy and theology. I grew up in small town Minden, Nebraska, and am the youngest of 5 children to Dean and Mary Jo Schwenka. My older brother, Fr. Andrew Schwenka, is the assistant of St. Wenceslaus in Wahoo. Of the many blessings I have had while at St. Teresa's, none can compare to being an instrument of God's love and mercy in the sacraments.



Meet **Jenn Heffernan**, Administrative Assistant: Greetings in Christ! One of my favorite aspects of my job is getting to know the families here and I delight in chatting with them. I am an avid biker/walker/runner (despite not having much of an aptitude for any of these things) and I often chance upon members of our community as I mosey about the neighborhood. I love getting a wave from our folks in their cars, but many of them have probably gotten a funny look from me in response. I'm not giving you a dirty look, I promise! It is just me trying to see past the sun glare on the windshield. I am eager to see what blessing the future holds for me here at St T's and I praise God for bringing me here.



Meet **Maria Dvoracek**, part-time Para: I grew up in St. Cloud, Minnesota, in a lovely family of ten. As a recent graduate, I decided to take a year to live with the School Sisters, discern the Lord's will for my life, and serve the diocese of Lincoln as a missionary. This past summer I spent ten weeks as a missionary which included one-on-one discipleship meetings, teaching in a classroom, and relational ministry. I have a passion for music, I love the outdoors, and I see the Lord clearly in intentional conversations and relationships. I am thankful for the welcoming environment of St. Teresa's and I look forward to entering into the school life more fully as the year progresses.



Meet **Sr. Mary Michael, C.K.**, St. Teresa Assistant Principal: After 35 years in education, I finally got the "St. Teresa card". What a blessing it has been. I lived at the convent here before St. Peter's existed, but was one of the few CKs in my generation that had not been stationed here. My past education experiences involve teaching at St. Joseph School and St. Mary's School before 20+ years in administration at St. Peter's School. I grew up in Ravenna, NE on a farm and loved working together as a family on the farm. My three brothers helped me gain resiliency during childhood (read between the lines on that one!). I have always loved family life; before God called, I pursued a BS in Home Ec and an MS in Textile Chemistry. I wanted to help people live well through engaging in family life in its fullness. God brought that to the next level with His call, and all the blessings that come through a life of consecration to Him. The apostolate of Catholic Education is such a blessing to help build His Kingdom and truly live to its fullness on a much higher level. I am so pleased and graced to serve Him here with you all.



Students presented Sr. Mary Michael a spiritual bouquet on the Feast of the Archangels.

Congratulations!

4th grade teacher
Mrs. Shelly Sullivan
was honored at the Bishop's Saints and Scholars Dinner on October 9. She received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for Elementary Educator of the Year!



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

5th Grade Field Trip

The fifth grade took a field trip to St. Gregory the Great Seminary and Villa Regina Motherhouse on October 13th. They received a tour at the seminary by seminarian Derrek Sumner, and they had lunch and a tour at the Motherhouse. They ended the day with some nature journaling activities in the beautiful outdoors.



4th Grade Nature Studies

Fourth graders had guest speaker Mrs. Jane Holt, a Master Naturalist, come speak to the class about always using all of their senses while out in nature. She shared with the class many of her own childhood experiences of her love of nature, as well as experiences of her walking in this neighborhood. She joined them on a walk over to a nearby property where the children used their nature journals to sketch.



"On one afternoon in the week, the children go for a "nature walk" with their teachers." ~Charlotte Mason

3rd Grade History

Students in 3A learned that in the year 313 A.D., the Emperor Constantine had a dream the night before a great battle. He saw the sky light up with a very bright light and begin to take form into the Christian symbol, the Chi-Rho, with these words written across it "In hoc signo vinces" which in Latin means, "In this sign, conquer." Constantine awoke and immediately ordered all of his soldiers to paint the Chi-Rho on their shields before going into battle. When the battle was won, he put aside his pagan beliefs and became a Christian. To show his gratitude to God, he issued the Edict of Milan which legalized Christianity and put an end to the persecution of Christians. It was finally safe to be a Christian!



2nd grade Poetry Tea Parties

Monthly classroom teas are a new addition to this year's second grade schedule. Students were invited to bring in a tea cup for the year or to use a donated one from different donors, including our very own St. Teresa's Thrift Shop. The purpose of the monthly teas is to celebrate poetry recitation, practice manners, and build culture.



7th Grade Medieval History

7th graders studied the age of Emperor Justinian during the early Byzantine Empire as part of their Medieval History studies. One of the most fascinating achievements of this time period was the creation of magnificent mosaics in many churches and basilicas throughout Europe. Students studied the aspects of these mosaics in early Byzantine churches, such as Hagia Sophia in Constantinople and the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy. As a culminating project, students had an opportunity to make a mosaic of their own! All of their masterpieces were beautiful!



Junior High PE and Music

In October, the 6th – 8th grade classes learned how to country swing dance as part of a joint PE + Music course. They learned ten moves, dancing etiquette, and in culmination choreographed and performed original routines. We caught them practicing at recess and in the halls, which seems proof of the unit's success!



THANK YOU!

Walk the Little Way Fundraiser



New Jayhawks Logo!

In anticipation of the newly renovated gym, an updated Jayhawks logo was developed last year and unveiled this past fall on the new gym wall mats. It was also printed on t-shirts for staff and students to wear during Walk the Little Way.



School families surpassed their goal and raised \$47,975 for needed updates in the school and school



grounds through the generosity of family, friends, and community members. Students walked to Calvary Cemetery and prayed a rosary for the intentions of their many benefactors before enjoying an ice cream treat in celebration.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Right: 8th Grade Volleyball Team

Below: 7th Grade Volleyball Team



The volleyball teams each played 8 games and especially enjoyed the newly renovated gym floor and walls along with a new set of poles for the volleyball net.

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Submissions for the
newsletter to:
ametten3@yahoo.com

6th—8th Grade Cross Country

The 7th and 8th graders on the cross country team practiced at Holmes Lake this fall and ran in 3 meets at Lincoln East High School and Pioneers Park. 6th graders were welcome to practice with the team and ran in a 1-mile exhibition race during the last meet of the season.

