



HOLY INFANT SENIOR NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR – By: Maria Dorn

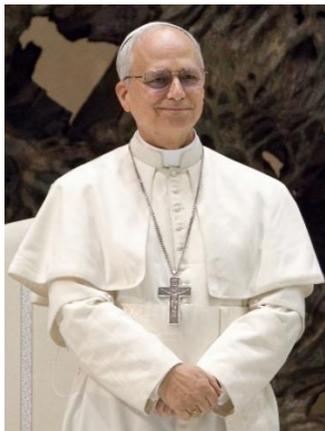
Here we go again!! This is beginning of another NEWYEAR!!! **Welcome to 2026!**

Is this the year to **STOP PROCASTINATING?** Is this the year to take care of all the things we didn't get to do last year? Is it the year to finish those things that we keep putting off? Well, maybe it's time to reassess all those things that aren't getting done and determine if they really need to get done. Is it possible that what thought was once important no longer is? If that's the case, you should be grateful you didn't waste your time doing it in the first place. You can walk away from those things now without any guilt or shame. In 2026, listen to the Holy Spirit and if it something important to GOD, then you will have the guidance and support of the Spirit to act on the request. Be sure to move quickly on any request the Spirit is moving you to. Your days will be brighter and satisfying knowing that you are doing the will of God.

I've added a special treat this month from Fr. Mike. He and I both agree that the most beautiful place we've been to is **ALASKA.** He has shared notes of his experiences and pictures as well. Enjoy it and be sure to thank him for sharing. If you are looking for a good mystery, I recommend Murder on the Iditarod Trail by Sue Henry.

Remember, if you ever have suggestions or an article that you think other members would enjoy, you can call or send an email to mariadorn@hotmail.com. Be sure to put HIS in the subject line.

Thanks, and I look forward to keeping you 'in the know'.



Spotlight on Pope Leo XIV From Wikipedia

Prior provincial and prior general (1998–2013)
St. Thomas School in Hyde Park, Chicago
In 1998, Prevost was elected Prior Provincial of the Order of St. Augustine's Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel based in Chicago, assuming the role on March 8, 1999.^[12] In 2000, he permitted James Ray, an Augustinian priest, to reside at St. John Stone Friary in Chicago under supervision. Ray had been suspended from public ministry since 1991 due to credible accusations that he had sexually abused minors. Prevost's allowing of the placement of Ray in a friary at the request of the Archdiocese of Chicago and close to St. Thomas School was the subject of reporting in 2021, prior to his appointment to the Vatican.^[74] According to the Augustinians, "the location was selected because of the supervision the priest would receive."^[61] After American bishops implemented stricter rules in the Dallas Charter, Ray was moved to other housing in 2002.^{[74][75][6]}



Elected [prior general](#) of the Order of Saint Augustine in 2001, Prevost served two consecutive, six-year terms until 2013.^[76] During his tenure as the global head of the Augustinian order, Prevost lived and worked in Rome, but frequently traveled around the world. It was in that capacity that in 2004, he visited Buenos Aires and met Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, the future [Pope Francis](#), for the first time. Their early encounters are reported to have not gone well. Prevost later explained that at the time, he thought he would never become a [bishop](#) after Bergoglio was elected Pope in 2013, but has declined to reveal what they initially disagreed upon. However, they were able to reconcile their differences before Prevost left Rome for Chicago in 2013.^[9] Soon after his election as prior general, Prevost personally oversaw the creation of a web site for the Augustinians.^[77]

From 2013 to 2014, Prevost served as director of formation at the Convent of St. Augustine in Chicago, and as first councilor and provincial vicar of the province of Our Mother of Good Counsel.^[12]

Bishop of Chiclayo (2015–2023)

[St. Mary's Cathedral](#) in [Chiclayo](#), Peru, where Prevost was diocesan bishop from 2015 to 2023. On November 3, 2014, Pope Francis appointed Prevost as the [apostolic administrator](#) of the [Diocese of Chiclayo](#) in northern Peru and the [titular bishop](#) of [Sufar](#).^[78] He was consecrated on December 12, 2014, at [St. Mary Cathedral](#) by Archbishop [James Green](#), [Apostolic Nuncio to Peru](#).^{[79][80]} On September 26, 2015, he was named Bishop of Chiclayo.^{[81][82]} As required by a 1980 agreement between the Holy See and [Peru](#),^[83] Prevost became a [naturalized Peruvian citizen](#) before becoming bishop.^[60] At the time of his appointment, Chiclayo was described as a conservative diocese, having been staffed by [Opus Dei](#) priests for many decades.^[65]

Prevost developed a close bond with the diocese of Chiclayo, directing a special message to them in his first message as Pope, calling them "my beloved diocese", "faithful people" and "faithful church".^{[84][85]} He was seen as being "very faithful to the [Church's social doctrine](#)" and organized relief efforts during calamities. He also supported projects in favor of Venezuelan refugees and encouraged vocations in youth groups, giving strong support to the seminary.^[86] He helped victims of trafficking and sex workers learn new skills and trades, and invited them to spiritual retreats, while ensuring that volunteer workers have adequate training.

He is remembered for his capacity to listen and have discussions with different groups before taking action, and working with institutions when facing controversial issues.^[87] He established a diocesan Commission on Integral Ecology and appointed a woman to lead it.^[84] According to interviews done by [The Pillar](#), people in the diocese described their bishop as having a "balanced" personality, a "calming presence", showing "great charity and great clarity" in doctrinal matters, and a competent administrator and bridge-builder open to dialogue and never hurtful, with "[apostolic zeal](#)"^[86]



Prevost as Bishop of Chiclayo in 2018, commenting on extreme poverty in the region (in Spanish)

On July 13, 2019, Prevost was appointed a member of the [Congregation for the Clergy](#),^[88] and on April 15, 2020, he became apostolic administrator of [Callao](#).^{[89][91]} On November 21, 2020, he joined the [Congregation for Bishops](#).^[90] Within the [Episcopal Conference of Peru](#), he served on the permanent council (2018–2020) and was elected president of its Commission for Education and Culture in 2019, also contributing to [Caritas Peru](#).^{[91][92]} His presence in the permanent council of the episcopal conference was seen by Cardinal [Joseph Tobin](#) as "extraordinary for someone who was not born in Peru. Clearly, he has a broad degree of acceptance in the divided

group.^[93] Prevost had a private audience with Pope Francis on March 1, 2021,^[94] sparking speculation about a new role in Chicago or Rome.^[95]

Prevost has been accused of covering up [sexual abuse](#) during his time in Chiclayo.^{[96][97]} In 2022, alleged victims of abuse in 2007 by priests Ricardo Yesquén Paiva and Eleuterio Vásquez González said the Diocese of Chiclayo failed to investigate their cases.^[98] The [Diocese of Chiclayo](#) stated that Prevost followed proper procedures, met with Ana María Quispe and her sisters in April 2022 to personally attend the victims, encouraged them to initiate a civil action, and initiated a canonical investigation, the results of which he sent to the [Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith](#).^{[99][100]} The sisters stated in 2024 that no full penal canonical investigation occurred, and an investigation by [América Televisión](#) concluded that the church's investigation was not thorough.^{[101][102]}

In response the diocese of Chiclayo stated the allegations of the TV program were false, calling on it to correct its inaccuracies. The diocese said that the accused priest "never admitted" to the accusations, that Prevost prohibited him from exercising the priestly ministry and the priest transferred residence to his family's home. Prevost submitted the dossier to the Vatican, which gave a "pro nunc" decision or temporary dismissal. The diocese later reopened the case and sent



it to the Vatican anew, and thus it remains "open up to now."^[103]

Speaking to the Peruvian newspaper [La República](#) while Bishop of Chiclayo, Prevost said: "If you are a victim of sexual abuse by a priest, report it. We reject cover-ups and secrecy; that causes a lot of harm. We have to help people who have suffered due to

wrongdoing."^{[104][105][9]} Journalist [Pedro Salinas \(es\)](#), who investigated and exposed crimes committed by members of the now-defunct [Sodalitium Christianae Vitae](#)—including sexual, physical, and psychological abuse—has argued that Prevost always expressed his support for the victims and was one of the most reliable clerical authorities in Peru, leading Pope Francis to select him as prefect of bishops. Salinas has written that some of the Peruvian clerics linked to the Sodalitium sought to attack and defame Prevost in retaliation for his role in the Sodalitium's dissolution by Pope Francis due to its sexual abuse scandals, as well as Prevost being near to [Francis's political theology](#).^{[106][107]}

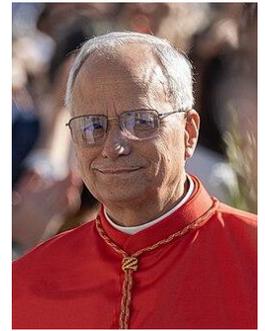
Dicastery for Bishops and cardinalate (2023–2025)

Cardinal Prevost (first from right) during the procession with the body of Pope Francis, April 23, 2025

Prevost during the Consistory in 2023

By the 2020s, Pope Francis had become close to Prevost and advanced his career.^{[9][108]} On January 30, 2023, Francis appointed Prevost prefect of the [Dicastery for Bishops](#) with the title Archbishop-Bishop emeritus of Chiclayo.^{[109][110]} Prevost expressed a preference to stay in Peru, but accepted the appointment.^[108] He continued to be active in the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council and participated in the council's meetings in [Aguadilla, Puerto Rico](#), in May 2023.^[111]

On September 30, 2023, Francis created Prevost a cardinal with the rank of Cardinal-Deacon and assigned the deaconry of [Santa Monica degli Agostiniani](#).^[112] As prefect, he played a critical role in [evaluating and recommending episcopal candidates](#) worldwide, increasing his visibility within the church.^[113] These roles elevated his prominence as a papal candidate leading into the



conclave.^{[114][115][116]} In October 2023, Francis appointed him as a member of seven additional [dicasteries](#),^{[117][h]} and also named him to the [Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State](#).^[12]

On February 6, 2025, Francis promoted Prevost to cardinal-bishop, assigning him as [titular bishop](#) of the [Suburbicarian Diocese of Albano](#).^{[117][118][i]} On February 11, he was appointed to the dignity and rank of [Bailiff](#) Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion of the [Order of Malta](#) by [Grand Master](#) Fra' [John Dunlap](#).^[120]

STEPHEN MINISTRY

By Alberta Gilbertson

Life can be challenging, and at times we all face situations where we could use a little extra support. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, illness, job loss, or another life difficulty, you don't have to face it alone. At Holy Infant, our Stephen Ministers are here to walk alongside you. These caring members of our parish are specially trained to provide one-to-one, confidential, Christ-centered care and support. If you or someone you know, a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, we invite you to reach out. To learn more, please contact Alberta McGilligan at 636-399-6567 or albertamcgilligan@yahoo.com, or Michele McCartney at 636-675-1159 or furniturelady@charter.net.

Adult Bingo

January 17, 2025
Holy Infant School –
Upper Cafeteria
248 New Ballwin Road
Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.
Bingo Starts at 7:00 P.M.
\$25.00 per Person



Admission includes 15 Games of Bingo
Beer, Soda, Wine, and Water.
Food available for purchase
Sponsored by the Holy Infant Knights of
Columbus

New Year Resolutions

A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year.

Did you make one this year? How 's that going for you?



North to Alaska

By: Monsignor Mike



In October of 2025 I had the privilege to accompany my classmate, Fr. Bob Suit, on a "mission trip" to St. Michael Parish in Palmer, Alaska, some 35 miles north of Anchorage. His purpose was to speak on behalf

of Unbound, an organization that pairs you with a teen or senior citizen in a foreign country. (Aside: I sponsor an 87-year-old widow in Bolivia.)



On Oct. 17 Bob and I boarded a flight to Dallas and from there to Anchorage, about a 6.5-hour flight. We rented a car and drove up to Palmer and somehow GPSed our way to St. Michael. A long and tiring day.

The next morning, after a breakfast of scrambled eggs and reindeer sausage

we drove around Palmer to get our bearings and check out some of the scenery, which was AMAZING. After a few hours we bought some provisions, ate dinner, went home and slept very well.



The next few days we devoted to prayer and sightseeing. We visited the world's only Musk Ox farm and discovered that a skein of Musk Ox wool cost \$180. Luckily neither Bob nor I had any use for Musk Ox wool. From there we drove up a mountain highway to Hatcher Pass. We went as far as we could because the upper trail was closed due to an early snow, but the sights were still worthwhile.

Oct. 20 saw us visit the Reindeer Farm just outside Palmer. They not only had reindeer but moose, llama, elk, caribou, and Highland cows. While I toured the gift shop, I learned that the lady behind the counter was from St. Louis and had attended Holy Infant in years past. Talk about a small world.



The next stop was the Matanuska glacier for a delightful tour and lots of pictures. After sunrise and breakfast on the 21st we drove to Reflection Lake and then to the headquarters of the Iditarod dog sled race for a very informative visit.



On our final day in Palmer, we drove down the Seward Hiway and stopped at Alaska Wildlife Sanctuary, where injured animals are cared for by the staff.

On the 23rd it was time to fly home but not after spending some time plane-spotting at the Anchorage airport and then boarding the flight to Dallas and then St. Louis. This was my first trip to the interior of Alaska, and it was memorable, enjoyable, and breathtaking. I've included some pictures but black and white doesn't do them justice. God bless.

History of the New Year's Resolution – Sarah Pruitt, The History Channel

The [ancient Babylonians](#) are said to have been the first people to make [New Year's](#) resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year, though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted.

During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor [Julius Caesar](#) tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent [research](#), while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.



HIS Christmas Party -
December 8th, Upper Cafeteria







Birthdays -December and January

By Theresa Bichsel

Wishing each of you, and any others I may have missed, a very Happy Birthday!

Mary	Hyland	1-Dec	Mary Ann	East	7-Jan
Judy	Claunch	2-Dec	Sharon	Morgenthaler	10-Jan
Sue	Gittemeier	11-Dec	Kathy	Doak	12-Jan
Kathy	Buritsch	13-Dec	Rose	Birkner	18-Jan
David	Denzer	13-Dec	Lois	Casserly	19-Jan
Audrey	Westmoreland	15-Dec	Lynn	Kays	23-Jan
George	Rosswick	16-Dec	Katherine	Kelley	23-Jan
Carolyn	Grobl	20-Dec	Maria	Dorn	25-Jan
Mike	Waller	31-Dec	Joyce	Betz	26-Jan
Dorothy	Denzer	2-Jan	Gary	DeLancey	26-Jan
Ed	Bruer	6-Jan	Mary Ellen	Schraeder	31-Jan



Carol's Corner - by Carol Komor

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

From A to Z, let these be the New Year's resolutions we all want to make, but more importantly, also want to keep.

Accept differences	Jettison anger	Reciprocate
Be kind	Keep confidence	Seek Wisdom
Count your blessings	Love truly	Touch hearts
Dream	Master something	Understand
Express thanks	Nurture hope	Value truth
Forgive	Open your mind	Win graciously
Give freely	Pack lightly	Xeriscape
Harm no one	Quell rumors	Yearn for Peace
		Zealously support a worthy cause

By now, I'm sure you're all looking at the X word XERISCAPEthinking what in the world does that mean.

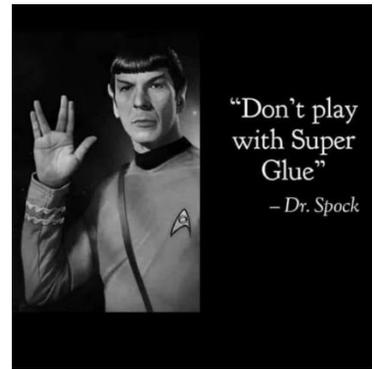
Our dictionaries are old, and it wasn't listed, but going on line I discovered that it is a landscaping method that employs drought resistant plants in an effort to conserve resources, especially water.....therefore, we must be resolving to "Go Green".

I'm not sure, but I think we have just kept resolution M - Master something !!! and learned the meaning of a new word....we're off to a good start. Happy New Year to one and all!!!!



Gene's Funnies -

By Gene Bestgen



Six great confusions Still unresolved

1. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is yours?
2. In the word scent, is "S" silent or "C"?
3. If people evolve from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
4. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
5. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made.

**What if they're not stars,
but holes poked into the
top of the container so we
can breathe.**



**WHY DO EGGS COME
IN FLIMSY STYROFOAM
CARTONS AND
BATTERIES COME IN A
PACKAGE ONLY A
CHAINSAW CAN OPEN?**



Odds and Ends

By HIS members

The FREE Table

All are welcome to drop off books, puzzles, no longer needed glasses, pull tabs from soda and beer cans, plus those tabs from pet food cans onto the FREE table. All are welcome to pick up a book or puzzle to read or work on. The glasses will go to Lions Club and deposit boxes in an eye doctor's office. The pull tabs are turned in at the David Pratt Cancer Center to be given to Ronald McDonald House to generate money.

Worn Flags Disposal - Olivia Pieknik

Bring your worn American flags to the next luncheon. I will accept the worn flags for dignified disposal. All flags collected will be deposited at VFW/American Legions Posts for proper disposal. God Bless America!

Newsletter Articles or Items of Interest needed - Maria Dorn

Please share any types of interesting articles, tips, notes of thanks or recipes with fellow HIS members. This is YOUR Newsletter; I am just a collaborator.

Meal Train - Maria Dorn & Becky O'Brien

Please keep this program in mind when you or one of the HIS members needs some support. If you want to be added to the list of volunteers, let Maria know by calling 314-610-8784 or email mariadorn@hotmail.com. You can also reach out to Beck O'Brien by calling 314-973-4515 or email at beckyo8@att.net



Parish News

By Sandy Hughes

January

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Masses 8am and 10am
- 8 Seniors' Meeting: 10am, Lower Cafeteria
- 3 K of C Blood Drive: 2pm-7pm, Upper Cafeteria
- 10 Date Night Event: 5pm-10pm, Upper Cafeteria
- 15 HI Seniors' Board Meeting: 10am-11am, Holy Infant Room
- 17 K of C Bingo: Doors open at 5pm, Upper Cafeteria
- 19 Dr. Martin Luther Holiday, Parish Office closed.
- 31 Men's Club Trivia Night: 7pm-11pm, Parish center/gym

February

- 2 GrOuNdHoG DaY
- 5 Seniors' Meeting: 10am, Lower Cafeteria



DID YOU KNOW

By our board and members

- That you could find our HIS Newsletter through the online bulletin? Go to the website and scroll down till you see HIS Newsletters. We have them all since September of 2015.
<https://holynfantballwin.org/news/newsletter/>
- That any of our HI Seniors can submit words of wisdom they want to share to this column? We can all benefit from these little gems. Just send to mariadorn@hotmail.com or call Maria at 314-610-8784.



OUR THANKS GO OUT TO....

submitted by HIS members

- To Monsignor for sharing his Alaska trip with us.
- To all those members who donate to the FREE table. It's great to get new puzzles and drop off perfectly good ones that you've already done that others can enjoy.
- Becky O'Brian for offering to assist Maria Dorn with the meal train when she is out of town or unavailable.
- Thanks to all our members who are bringing such delicious desserts to our luncheons. Homemade is the BEST!!

2024-2025 H.I.S. Board Members

Bob Maloney	President	636-230-7988	Gene Hanneke	Recycle Coor.	314-913-4230
Becky O'Brien	VP	314-973-4515	Nancy & Don	Refreshment	314-800-7420
Mary Daus	Secretary	314-307-1366	Turpin &		
Linda Gatton	Treasurer	314-853-8185	Bernie Flacke		636-227-3825
Mary Mallery	Attendance	314-616-4809	Eileen Buehrle	Service & PAC	636-230-5435
Carol Laupp	Sentiments	636-256-0924	Rev. Edward Stanger	Spiritual Dir.	636-227-7440
Kathie &	Graphics	314-704-2350	Mary Jane Bahr	Trips	636-227-8927
Gene Hanneke		314-913-4230	Becky O'Brien		314-973-4515
Mary Mallery	Historian	314-616-4809	Marcia Faquin		314-498-0668
Mary Schlemeier &	Hospitality	636-391-9556	Joan & Tom Wojciechowski		636-346-3190
Brenda George		636-394-2286	Monica Vocarro &	50/50	314-518-6793
Theresa Bichsel	Directory & Membership	314-564-7591	Carol Komor &		636-230-9697
Maria Dorn	Newsletter & Meal Train	314-610-87894	Rose Birkner		636-485-6415

