

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

„Cathedral of the Plains“
ST. FIDELIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

„Pearl of the Prairie“
ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Office: 601 10th Street, Victoria, KS 67671 • 785-735-2777 • Fax: 785-735-2779
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 • Friday 8:30-12:00

Catholic Faith Education Office:
785-735-9244

Gift Shop Hours:
Monday-Thursday:
8:30-noon and 1:00-4:30
Friday: 8:30-noon

Weddings:
Couples planning to marry must contact the Parish Office at least 6 months before the wedding date for marriage preparations.

Baptisms:
All new parents are asked to complete a Baptismal Preparation class before their child is baptized. For information, call Shirley Brungardt at 735-9244.

Hospital Visits:
To arrange for our pastor to visit someone in the hospital, please call the Parish Office.

In-Home Mass:
Any homebound or hospice family interested in having Mass in their home should contact Bertha Brungardt at the Parish Office.

Holy Communion Brought to Homebound:
Holy Communion can be brought to homebound parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is unable to come to a Sunday Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
THURSDAYS
7:45 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.
in St. Fidelis Church Chapel behind the main altar

www.stfidelischurch.com

April 20, 2014 – Easter Sunday

Masses:

St. Fidelis, Victoria
Saturday — 5:00 pm
Sunday — 10:00 am
Monday, Wednesday — 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday — 6:45 am

St. Ann, Walker
Saturday — 6:30 pm — November - April
Sunday — 7:30 am — May - October

St. Boniface, Vincent
Sunday — 8:45 am

Confessions:
at St. Fidelis — Mondays — 7:30-8:00 pm
or by appointment (contact Parish Office)

Tri-Parish Prayer Line

Anyone wishing to request prayers for family or friends may call Helen Windholz (735-2508) or Teresa Shepherd (735-9576) to add their requests to the Prayer Line

Dates To Remember

Apr. 23 — Administrative Assistants/
Professionals Day
Apr. 24 — Feast of St. Fidelis of
Sigmaringen
April 26 — First Communion @ St.
Ann
Apr. 27 — Divine Mercy Sunday
First Communion @ St. Boniface
May 1 — National Day of Prayer
May 4 — First Communion @ St.
Fidelis
May 6-7 — Seniors on the Go to St.
Louis
May 11 — **Mother's Day**
May 17 — Armed Forces Day
May 25 — Fidelisfest



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,

“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.”

(from the Holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9)

The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21.



The Resurrection, the raising of Jesus from the dead, was essentially different from all the other restorations to life mentioned in the Bible. Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, and the son of the widow of Nain are described in the gospels as miraculously resuscitated or revived, returning to ordinary human existence. There is no suggestion that they were glorified or that they would not have to die again. Jesus, on the contrary, is portrayed as conquering death, rising to a different form of life, to eternal life. He returned from the dead as immortal in glory and power.

The resurrection of Jesus was therefore the supreme intervention of God in human existence, the ultimate miracle. It is no wonder then that the resurrection of Christ has become the principal argument for the truth of Christianity and on the other hand the source of a continuing debate about the reality of such a resurrection.

The gospels do not claim that anyone saw the event of the resurrection and it makes no attempt to describe it. The reality of the bodily resurrection hinges on the empty tomb, the missing body, and above all on the validity of the witnesses who claimed that they saw the risen Lord.

The objections to the resurrection by modern rationalists are no different in substance from those raised in the first century: that the apostles stole the body and fabricated the story; that it was a wish fulfillment of the depressed disciples; or simply that it cannot be since miracles are impossible, which is the fallacy of circular logic. Already in the first century these objections were met adequately with the evidence of the scriptures. No contemporary objectors claimed that the tomb was not empty. The disciples originally did not understand the empty tomb. They were as incredulous as modern rationalists and initially did not believe that He was raised.

But the post-resurrection appearances of the Lord changed their skepticism into faith so dramatically that they and many early Christians were willing to die for that belief. **Something happened to the apostles' faith because something happened to the body of Jesus of Nazareth which they experienced as a new form of human existence, an unending life with God.**

The gospels record this as a *bodily* resurrection in a transformation essentially different from revivification. **St. Paul described that transformation as: "what died was perishable, weak, and mortal; what rose was imperishable, glorious, and immortal. It was sown a physical body; it was raised a spiritual body."**

The significance of the resurrection of Christ is not simply an amazing historical event which happened to the body of Jesus of Nazareth, as astonishing as that fact is. The enduring significance of the resurrection is that such a transformation is promised to those who are united with Christ in faith.

"I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me though he shall die will come to life: and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die."

Christ is Risen.
Christ is truly Risen!
Happy Easter.

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. John Schmeidler, OFM, Cap.
email: frjohncap@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jan Brungardt
email: fidelis@ruraltel.net

Catholic Faith Education Office:

Shirley Brungardt, Coordinator
email: sfreled@ruraltel.net

Family Life Office:

Bertha Brungardt, Coordinator
email: sffamily@ruraltel.net

Sacristan: Katie Scheck

Housekeeping: Darlene Dreiling

Groundskeeper: Julius Dreiling

Maintenance: Joe Brungardt

Organists: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Lou Ann Hammersmith

Choir Director: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Technology Coordinator:

Connie Windholz
email: sfttech@ruraltel.net

Council Members

St. Fidelis Pastoral Council

Randy Leiker 623-6965 (Chair)
Gail Robben 735-2546 (Vice-Chair)
LeeAnn Schmidtberger 735-9486 (Sec)
Bertha Brungardt 735-9490 (SOH)
Andy Kuhn 639-2156 (B & G)
Peggy Fitzpatrick 735-8186 (RelEd)
Wilmer Dinkel 735-2747 (Liturgy)
Daren Lang 735-2855 (Finance)
Janea Dinkel 735-9529 (FamLife)

St. Fidelis Finance Council

Curtis Sander 735-2559
Gina Oberle 735-9331
Deb Dreiling 735-2662
John R. Braun 735-2622

St. Boniface Pastoral Council

Carol Freitag 735-9282
Randy Huser 735-4836
Mike Eckroat 623-9566

St. Ann Pastoral Council

Kevin Schmeidler 735-2205
Helen Windholz 735-2293
Allen Hammerschmidt 735-2447

Contributions April 12-13, 2014

ST. FIDELIS:

Adult 3236.00 Loose 1568.00

ST. ANN:

Adult 132.00 Loose 168.00

ST. BONIFACE:

Adult 283.00 Loose 165.21

Candles 8.00

Money Counters

Apr. 22 (Tuesday) — Connie Dreiling, Janie Dinges

Apr. 28 — Dianne Crawford, Marilyn Braun

Food Pantry Donations

For those of you who travel, if you have the toiletry items that are in the hotel rooms that you do not use, such as shampoo, soap and lotion, we will take them for our food pantry.

The food pantry is always taking donations. We can always use any kind of food, but we also take shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

Thrift Shop News:

We will be participating in the Victoria City Garage Sale on April 26. Come by and find some great bargains.

We are looking for a small trailer to park in back of the thrift shop. If anyone has one available, please contact Jan at the Parish Office.

WANTED stuff

We are in need of items for St. Fidelis Thrift Shop. We will take just about anything you may have which you no longer use such as dishes, decorating items, appliances (small and large), furniture, clothing, toys, games, puzzles, silverware, utensils, tools, sporting good items, towels, bedding, blankets, computers, craft items, etc. We cannot sell mattresses and prefer not to have televisions. You may bring your items to the parish office or to the Thrift Shop.

THANK YOU!!!

ST. FIDELIS GIFT & THRIFT

407 Main Street, Victoria (F & M Insurance Building)

OPEN MORE HOURS:

Monday.....10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Tuesday.....10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Wednesday.....10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday.....10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Friday.....10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday.....10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Clothes · Toys · Household Items
 Jewelry · Furniture · Kitchen Items

ST. FIDELIS PARISH Envelope and Loose Offertory Collections

Budgeted Loose / Envelopes per week	\$ 5,415.19
Actual received Loose / Envelopes 4-13-2014	\$ 4,804.00
Budgeted Loose/ Envelopes year-to-date	\$ 222,022.79
Actual received Loose/Envelopes year-to-date 4-13-2014	\$ 202,734.89
UNDER BUDGET	\$ 19,287.90

As of May 4, the weekend Mass at St. Ann will be at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Because of the Capuchin Assembly, NO MASSES are scheduled for Monday-Friday, April 21-25.

 THERE WILL BE NO
 Kaffee und der Priester (KUP)
 AND NO
 Eucharistic Adoration
 ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY.....	APRIL 21
7:00 pm NO MASS	
TUESDAY.....	APRIL 22
6:45 am NO MASS	
WEDNESDAY.....	APRIL 23
7:00 pm NO MASS	
THURSDAY.....	APRIL 24
6:45 am NO MASS	
FRIDAY.....	APRIL 25
6:45 am NO MASS	
SATURDAY.....	APRIL 26
3:00 pm St. Fidelis Ashley Jacobs and Justin Campbell wedding	
5:00 pm St. Fidelis Frank and Mary Ann Hoffman	
6:30 pm St. Ann Lloyd Schulte and Anselm Braun	
SUNDAY.....	APRIL 27
8:45 am St. Boniface For rain	
10:00 am St. Fidelis Alois, Mary Mae, and Suellen Pfeifer	

* Sunday Rosary Schedule *

1st - Christian Mothers
 2nd - Knights of Columbus
 3rd - Daughters of Isabella
 4th - Family Life

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 26, 5:00 pm

Cantor	Ministers	Servers	Greeters
Marilyn Braun	Ivan Werner Gib / Carol	Tyler Engel Quenton	Rosie Kreutzer Bill / Diana
Lector	Billinger	Engel	Schmidtberger
Verda Werner	Amorette Windholz	Madisyn Gerhardt	
Comm.	Becky Scheck		
Kathy Kuhn	Dianne Crawford Deb Geschwentner		

Sunday, April 27, 10:00 am

Cantor	Ministers	Servers	Greeters
John Braun	Shirley Weigel Leroy	MaKayla Crawford	Norman / Pam Scheck
Lector	Schmidtberger	Ashlyn	Cora Schulte
Marilyn Braun	Wanda Kuhn Joan Wellbrock	Windholz Katelyn	
Comm.	Jan Brungardt	Windholz	
Cora Schulte	Kathy Kuhn Fran Robben		

The Feast of
St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
is Thursday, April 24.

Save the date of
Saturday, June 7, 2014,
for a celebration of the
Dedication of the
Basilica of St. Fidelis
10:30 a.m. Mass
Dinner follows at noon
in Victoria Grade School

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

Dues Deadline

The deadline to pay your Daughters of Isabella dues of \$15.00 is Wednesday, April 30. Please mail to Wilma VonLintel, P.O. Box 33, Victoria, Kansas 67671.

Celebrating St. Isabella Day

Queen Isabella Day will be celebrated Tuesday, April 22, at the 10:15 a.m. Mass at Via Christi chapel, Hays. All Daughters of Isabella members are encouraged to attend.

Mother/Daughter Breakfast

The Daughters of Isabella Mother/Daughter breakfast will be held at the V.F.W. Hall on Sunday, April 27, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Fidelis Church.

Please call in your reservations to Wilma VonLintel 785-735-2361 or JoAnn Berens 785-639-1948 by Wednesday, April 23.

All D. of I. members are asked to meet in the back of church before Mass so you can process in together.

CATHOLIC FAITH EDUCATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 23 — 7-11 Class @ 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30 — 7-12 Closing Service in Church @ 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2 — K-6 Mass @ 7:40 a.m.

Sunday, May 4 — First Communion @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 4 — Jubilee Choir @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 11 — Jubilee Choir @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14 — Blessing of Religious Articles-2nd grade @ 7:45 a.m.

Wednesday, May 18 — Baccalaureate Mass @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 21 — K-6 Closing Service in Church @ 7:40 a.m.

Kindergarten - 6th Grade Religious Ed Class Times Changing

St. Fidelis Parish and the Victoria School district have been visiting about our religious education program for next year in regards to the kindergarten through 6th grade. After our conversations and after consultation with different people and councils, it has been determined that we will have our Religious Education Program on Wednesdays.

The 7th through Senior high will remain at the same time on Wednesdays 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kindergarten through 6th grade will have religious education classes from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the grade school.

Other options were suggested and discussed, but the above schedule seems to be the best for all. If you would like to give us input for consideration, please call Fr. John or Shirley at the PAC.

Wednesday Night Religious Education Classes Will Close with Guest Speaker

All students in grades K-12 are invited to the closing service of the Wednesday night Religious Ed classes on Wednesday, April 30th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. The closing services will include guest speaker, Chase Kear, from Colwich, KS. Kear, a member of the 2008 Hutchinson Community College track team, suffered a severe head injury during pole vaulting practice in October 2008. Chase will share his personal story of his recovery which many believe to be the miraculous result of the intercession of Fr. Emil Kapaun.



He is risen!

Catholic Charities' Baby Bottle Campaign

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas will be conducting their 3rd Annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Bottles can be picked up at church the weekend of May 3-4 and returned the weekend of June 21-22.

This is a celebration of family life and love – between mothers, fathers, and children. Involve the entire family in placing loose change, cash or checks in the bottles as a way to support Catholic Charities' work of assisting persons in crisis pregnancies and adoption education. HELP US CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF FAMILY LIFE!

All money stays local and helps people who need our services the most.

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
– serving those of ALL faiths.

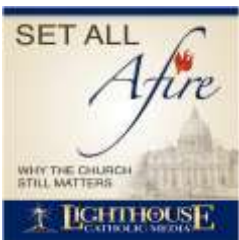
FOR THEY DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE THAT HE HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD.

(John 20:1-9)



Set All Afire: Why the Church Still Matters

Seven Powerful Presentations on the Catholic Faith: Featured in the 2013 Buck-A-Book Promotion.



This one-of-a-kind CD includes seven segments, approximately 10 minutes each, covering some of the most important topics and questions in the Church today. Taken from seven of our most powerful and popular talks, these segments are sure to stir the soul and inspire you to SET ALL AFIRE for love of Christ and His Church.

A number of Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs are available in the vestibule at the west entrance of St. Fidelis Church. A \$3.00 donation is requested for each CD and can be placed in the slot near the CDs.

THANK YOU!



Victoria Elementary School students and staff would like to thank everyone for supporting our school with your participation in our fundraising breakfast. We enjoyed an excellent turnout! We continue to be impressed with the outpouring of support offered on a regular basis by our patrons. Thank you!

Ellis St. Mary's CYO Community Fried Chicken Dinner Sunday, April 27

Knights of Columbus Hall, Ellis, KS
10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. or until sold out

Pan Fried Chicken dinner includes Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, and Dessert

Ages 5-9: \$5.00; Ages 10 & over: \$10.00

The Easter Egg

In Christianity, the celebration of Eastertide includes Easter eggs symbolizing the empty tomb of Jesus: though an egg appears to be like the stone of a tomb, a bird hatches from it with life; similarly, the Easter egg, for Christians, is a reminder that Jesus rose from the grave, and that those who believe will also experience eternal life.



(Source: www.Wikipedia.org)



Prayer Hour for Our Nation

A "Prayer for Our Nation" prayer hour will be held every third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Fidelis Church.

Community-wide Garage Sale

The Annual Community-wide Garage Sale is Saturday, April 26. For more information, call Victoria City Hall at 735-2259.

Community Assistance Center — 12th and Oak, Hays



GARAGE SALE

Tuesday, April 22 • 8-11 a.m.



Scholarship Available

A scholarship is available for incoming Kansas University students through the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center. The \$3,000 scholarship includes travel to Colorado every August and a trip after two years to Rome, Florence, and Assisi.

To apply, go to www.kucatholic.org/humanitas. You can email them at humanitas@kucatholic.org or call 785-843-0357.

The application deadline is April 30, 2014.

Victoria Schools Calendar

Monday — April 21 — *No School*

No School

No BCCC classes

Tuesday — April 22

AIM period—Students will have directed study. 7th

grade girls will meet in Mrs. Kori Braun's office

3:00 pm HS track meet @ Plainville. Students will dismiss at 1:10

3:30 pm JH track practice

4:00 pm HS baseball w Russell @ Minneapolis.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30

Wednesday — April 23

Happy Secretaries Day! Thank you Michelle and

Melissa for all you do for everyone at Victoria Jr./Sr. High School

FCCLA officer's training

7:00 am—5th Grade field trip to Abilene. Departure from the VES parking lot. Return time is 3:00

AIM period—Students will have directed study

3:30 pm JH / HS track practice

4:00 pm HS baseball practice at Russell

Thursday — April 24

AIM period—Students will have directed study. 8th

grade girls will meet in Mrs. Kori's Braun's office

10:00 am JH track at Osborne. Students will depart at 7:20

7:00 pm Speech class

Friday — April 25

AIM period—Students will have directed study

3:00 pm HS track at Osborne. Students will be dismissed at 12:00

3:30 pm JH track practice

4:00 pm HS baseball w Russell @ Ellis. Students will be dismissed at 1:30

Saturday — April 26

State Power lifting. Coach Oberle and select students will attend

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT!

Host families are needed for high school exchange students for the 2014-2015 school year. The students will arrive from Europe, Asia, and South America in mid-August 2014 and will stay with the host family for one semester or until the end of the school year.

They are in need of caring American families (with or without children) to provide a home and share with them this unique experience. The host family provides a bed, meals, friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a student from overseas. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, and have spending money for their personal expenses. Approved families can view online student applications and select the student that best matches their own family.

For more information, please call Kori Braun at 785-735-4161.

A young man from Germany,
15 years old:

My name is Nils and I am from Germany. First of all, I'd like to thank you that you agreed to host me for a school year. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you this summer. But now I would like to tell you a little about me, my life with my family, my friends as well as the place I live in. I'm now 16 years old and attend the 10th grade. I live in a small village with 1,300 inhabitants situated between Karlsruhe and Stuttgart which are the next big cities around here. I live with my family in a house with a big garden in the countryside. I have two brothers. Each of us has his own room, into which we can retreat. My older brother is 19 and my younger one is 13 years old. I **shouldn't forget our family member** number six our cat, of course. She is now 10 years old but is still very fit. You should know that in a big family you are always forced to do something. Everybody is used to help in our household and garden. It never gets boring. Sure my brothers sometimes get on my nerves. But most of the time, however, we really get along well with each other and I'm glad to have them as siblings. Since we are older my mother started to work half a day in the administration in Karlsruhe. Because of his career my father is most of the time away on business in Germany and sometimes in neighboring countries like France, Switzerland and Austria. He works in technical sales for a company

which produces profiles for glass facades. But we try to spend time together as often as possible and go for nature trips e.g. in the Black Forest, Odenwald or in our neighborhood. Now that you know lots of details about my family and my place I will tell you something about myself. School keeps me busy on a daily basis. Twice a week I get home at 1 pm and three times a week school lasts until 3:30 pm. After that I do my homework and study for tests. I have many outdoor activities in which I'm active. I play tennis with my younger brother and a school friend. I used to play both soccer for a long time and basketball in a club. Today I'm in a basketball school team. I have already tried rugby, archery and have learned skiing. I have already been interested in sports since I'm young and I am always open to new sports. But sport isn't my only activity. Furthermore I belong to a youth group of my Catholic Church. We are a mixed group of about 15 young people aged 14 to 18 years. We meet once a week in our parish hall where we have set up our own room. I also go to the cinema or go swimming with my friends, stroll into the nearest town or I meet them for a soccer match on the soccer field in my village. Reading is also an interesting free time activity for me. During my vacation I have stayed at various summer camps for children and young people. An example would be camping in the nature where we were canoeing during the day or relaxing with each other. Once I took part in a trip on a sailing ship for one week with ten

other kids. During the weekends my family often meet other families to make a barbecue, go to a climbing park or have trips with our bicycles. After speaking about my activities I think you would be interested in hearing something about my school and its system because there's a real difference to the school system in the USA. In contrast to an American high school the pupils here have a fixed timetable for each class so we can't choose our subjects. Furthermore there are also social clubs like becoming a paramedic for the pupils and helping them if they hurt themselves. Or you can join a team which helps kids do their homework. My motivation for my interest in going abroad to the United States has evolved over time. In my school, in my family and circle of friends we talked about it from time to time. At first I couldn't imagine to stay away from the family and my friends for such a long time. But gradually my curiosity about another country and its culture and way of life was greater than my fear of the unknown. Now I can imagine getting along well in a different country. In addition, I can adapt well to new situations and work around tolerantly in my environment with others. The U.S. is a much bigger country than Germany and I think there is much to explore and discover. I want to make new friends and I'm looking forward to the challenge of speaking English on daily bases and hope that you'll support and encourage me. But I'm also excited about school life and the community in a high school

because this is supposed to be organized quite differently than in Germany. This year abroad will be an experience for me which I will profit from my entire life. I want to thank you in advance for giving me the opportunity to spend a school year in the U.S. with you and to be a part of your family.

See you soon,
Niils

A young lady from Brazil, 15 years old:

Dear Family, I know I should start this letter saying "Hi I'm Gabriela and I'm 14 years old" but I, in first place, want to thank you for being so kind and offering me to be part of your family. Since I applied for the cultural interchange program I've been thinking and asking myself what should I write? Should I include that? Should I not? But I realized it's much more simple than I thought. I'm just going to be honest about who I am, because honesty is the first step to the good relationship I'm willing to have with you. I really love writing and talking about myself so I hope the length of this **letter doesn't bother or get you** annoyed. I wish from all my heart you enjoy it. So, finally.... Hey I'm Gabriela and I'm fourteen years old (but I think you already know it). I can be pretty shy **sometimes but mostly I'm talkative, I like to talk... a lot. I can say that I'm friendly and some people say I'm adorable, I mean, I'm not trying to look confident or anything, but, seriously, I'm adorable. Plus I'm not actually** confident, I just am not afraid of being myself. I am polite and respectful and **I'm always trying to get out of my 'comfort zone', I am a quick-learner.** So, yeah, these are some adjectives that in my opinion describe me. I was born on April 22nd of 1999, in the state of Minas Gerais which is known by its colonial art and historical cities. I lived in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais capitol) which in English would be 'beautiful horizon' and I couldn't agree more, as for the whole state of Minas Gerais as for its capitol both have wonderful landscapes. When I was 2 I moved to the state of São Paulo and since then I live in Indaiatuba, according to IFDM social

index data it is the number one of the "Top 100 best cities to live in Brazil". Indaiatuba has almost 210 hundreds of inhabitants. It's 90 kilometers from Sao Paulo city, approximately 56 miles. I live with my parents James and Ilma and my little brother Gustavo (he is 7), in an apartment in the downtown, I also have a half-brother named Tunai (he is 31) **but he doesn't live with us. My mother's** part of the family live in the state of Rio De Janeiro, and, since it's far from where we live, we visit them only a few times in the year, but we always spend **Christmas and New Year's together.** Here in Brazil we don't have Thanksgiving so I'm excited to be part of it and to be celebrating with you. My favorite seasons are Carnival, Halloween and the 4th of July (even though it's only celebrated in United States). I simply love seeing people dressed up as Uncle Sam, everything decorated with red white and blue, the parades, and the fact that Americans are so proud of their country makes everything more beautiful. Here we don't have big celebrations for the Independence Day, we mostly stay with family and relax. I enjoy reading, but mostly I enjoy talking about books, whenever I read a good book I feel the need of sharing it with people. My favorite genre is suspense, but, of course, I not only read suspense but also romance, sci-fi, novels, and whatever shows up at my door (not literally, unfortunately). As for the music I don't have any favorites, I listen to great part of the genres. I think that the most important part of the song is the lyrics, and the harmony that beautiful words create, so I like memorizing some lyrics and humming it. I wish I could sing well but I'm not quite good, although **that doesn't actually keep me from singing along with some songs. I'm so** passionate about drama and movies and **this stuff...**

I like traveling, taking pictures and recording videos, I like sports (but I like the most watching them), I like to take a walk in the park with my friends and family, I like going out with my friends, I like writing, reading, watching movies and playing keyboard, and much more **facts that will not fit in here. I don't** have any pets; I like almost all kinds of food, I eat vegetables, fruits and salad, I

don't have problems with eating, I like trying new things (in general); I don't have a boyfriend; I don't have lots of friends but the ones I have are awesome; I like spending quality time **with family and I'm learning to cook, I love preparing desserts. So... I think** these facts are the basics however they are essential. Now I think you want to know a little bit about my daily routine. So there it goes. Every day (except weekends) I wake up around 6 a.m. to go to school, my classes start at 7:20 a.m. and finish sometimes at 12 p.m. sometimes at 12:50 p.m. I have lunch at home with my brother and my mother (my father is working at this time and only arrives home at 7:30 p.m.) My family and I always have dinner together, we discuss about how was our **day, and it's good to have this moment,** it is one of the things that unite us. On weekends we go out together, we do the things we have to and mostly have lunch in a restaurant or in the mall. On Saturdays we usually go grocery shopping. On Mondays and Wednesdays **I don't attend to any extra classes in the** afternoon, however Tuesdays and Thursdays I attend to English classes. On Thursdays, in the evening, I have handball classes at my school. And on Fridays and Saturdays I have drama classes. On Sundays I attend to Interact **Club's meeting. Interact is a group that is part of Rotary International, it's for** people between 12-18 years old, and its objective is to help society doing simple actions like raising food or milk, doing campaigns, visiting charity organizations **and also helping the environment. It's a** volunteer work. I also participated in RotaKids that is the same as the Interact **but it's directed to people between 7-12** years old. My Rotary district is 4310. I **love being part of it, as Gandhi said "Be** the change you want to see in the **world". It's a dream come true to be** able of doing an cultural exchange in your country, I can.

If you are interested in hosting a student this next school year, please contact Kori Braun at 785-735-4161 for more information.

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