

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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The Baptism of Jesus

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

Stained glass from St. Peter Church, Woodward.

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The Good News

Will we ever forget the historic Christmas blizzard experienced two and a half weeks ago? Starting on the morning of Christmas Eve, the weather conditions deteriorated within hours. Later that day, within minutes, people's plans for Christmas were radically changed by skids and slips, by accidents and unanticipated situations. By the afternoon, it was evident that plans were not going to be fulfilled as anticipated. We had to adapt, to change and simply do the best we could under circumstances not of our own making.

Like the weather, life itself brings us changes and surprises. Almost every one of us has seen our bright ideas and great dreams shattered by a shortage of funds, unemployment, rejection, loneliness, insecurity, personal illness or the death of a loved one. These circumstances, even if not of our making, can impel us to listen more closely to the Spirit of God who is always with us. These circumstances can move us to think more deeply about the very meaning and purpose of the life we have. To realize "who I am" is to discover a beautiful reality of this mystery of life. To discover the truth of our existence is to be ushered into the mystery of God.

LIFE! Life is the first and most fundamental gift of God. Human life is a total, absolute gift from God. Prior to the moment of our creation, we are nothing. We are nobody. We do not exist at all. Therefore, we did not and could not have purchased or gained or demanded our life. We were totally incapable for we did not exist. Our "Right to Life" began only when God freely and lovingly breathed life into us. God created us through the cooperation of our mother and father. He made us through the Divine Plan He established in nature.

The first gift of God to every human being is life. He brings us into life so that we can come to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him here on this earth so that

someday we can live with Him forever in heaven.

Since God created us freely and out of love for the very important purpose of eternal life with Him, He endowed us with freedom. This freedom enables us to accept God's love and to love Him in return. Love can never be coerced or forced or demanded. For a human being, love is always a response to the love that God first shows us. This is what human life is all about.

History shows us that human beings failed to respond to God's love, thereby aborting the beautiful plan of God for us. This tragedy rendered us incapable of entering life everlasting. Revelation revealed to us, however, that God in His goodness and mercy would redeem us. Thus God said, "I will send My Son and He will save you." In the fullness of time, Jesus, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, came to us. This is the great feast of Christmas we have just joyfully observed: "God is with us."

Since history is ongoing and since each of us lives on this earth for only a short time of that history, each of us is given the opportunity of freely responding to God in love. Are we truly grateful to God for the gift of life He has given us? Do we realize that the purpose of human life is to share life with God forever in heaven? Since every human being is created in the Image and Likeness of God, do we recognize the inherent dignity of every human being from conception itself when God breathes life into the individual? Do we respect ourselves and all other human beings regardless of accidental features? Therefore, we are most seriously obliged to work to respect life and establish a culture of life.

January is the first month of a new year. It is looked upon as a new beginning, thus new year's promises, pledges and resolutions. But it was in January of 1973 that a terrible tragedy against human life occurred. It was then that our Supreme Court legalized abortion,

... LIFE, the First Gift!

January is here again.

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Archbishop
Beltran

thus allowing the killing of defenseless babies in their mother's wombs. Since then, 50 million babies have been legally killed. What a tragedy. What a rejection of God's love. What a culture of death has now covered us and our society.

January is here again. A new year has dawned and I wish to urge all Catholic people of this Archdiocese to join with me in re-establishing a culture of life. What can we do to accomplish this? There are countless ways. We can support Catholic Charities, Birth Choice, Rachel's Vineyard and other programs and activities that uphold the dignity of every human being. But most important of all, we can and we must pray. We must recognize that life comes from God. Life is a gift from God. Life and life everlasting are dependent on God.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, I will celebrate the annual Sanctity of Life Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady. The Mass will begin at 6 p.m. and be followed by a dual program for youth and young adults and for adults. High school students, college students and young and old — men and women — come with enthusiasm and faith to participate in this Mass and program at Our Lady's Cathedral on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.

Sooner Catholic

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Obituary

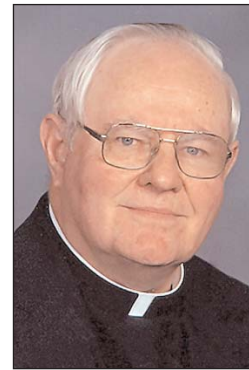
Father Schettler Dies Dec. 17 at St. Francis Rectory

Rev. Charles H. Schettler, 80, died Dec. 17, 2009, at the rectory of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Oklahoma City, after a short illness. Father Schettler was born to William C. and Cecilia Doebel Schettler on the family farm near Sterling on July 10, 1929. Father Schettler attended Sterling Public School and Our Lady's Catholic School in Sterling. Following his sophomore year, he entered St. Louis Preparatory Seminary where he completed high school and two years of college. In 1949, he entered St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colo., where he completed his college education. Father Schettler attended the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, from 1951 to 1955 where all his studies were conducted in Latin, receiving a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 8, 1954, in the chapel of the North American College, Rome.

Following ordination and graduation, Father Schettler was assigned as associate pastor, Corpus Christi Church, Oklahoma City, where he served until 1961. In 1956, he was appointed Defender of the Bond for the Tribunal of the Diocese of

Oklahoma City and Tulsa and taught religion classes at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Oklahoma City. From 1961 to 1964, Father Schettler served as assistant chancellor for the Diocese. Father Schettler studied at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (1964 to 1967) where he earned a Doctorate in Canon Law.

In 1967, Father Schettler was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese by the Most Rev. Victor Reed. Father Schettler became the Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 1973 where he served until his retirement in 2007. Following his retirement, Father Schettler continued to serve as collegiate judge of the Archdiocesan Tribunal. Father Schettler also served the parishes of Saint Patrick Church and Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City,



Fr. Charles H. Schettler

where he was in residence at the time of his death.

Father Schettler was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his sister, Myrtle Wooldridge and husband, Sylvester; a brother, Marvin Conway and wife, Jean; and many nieces and nephews.

All who knew Father Schettler were blessed with his ready wit, vast intellect and most importantly, his kind and generous heart.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rosary School Endowment Fund, c/o Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, P.O. Box 60569, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73146-0569.

A Vigil for the Deceased was held on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2009, at 7 p.m. at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18th Street, Oklahoma City. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, Dec. 21, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 North Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City, with interment at Rose Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City. Services were under the direction of Smith & Kernke, 1401 N.W. 23rd, Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Quinn Reflects on Life and Gifts of Father Schettler

By Archbishop John R. Quinn
Retired

We cannot hear very much of this 11th chapter of John before we recognize that the Lord Jesus is among friends. Mary and Martha are his friends. Their friends are with them. Their brother, Lazarus is the friend of Jesus. Lazarus is dead, and the friends gather. And so today, we, the friends and family of Father Schettler, come together in sadness but in hope.

Martha and Mary show our very human feeling in the face of death, our questioning, our wondering why. And because they are friends of the Lord Jesus, the sisters forthrightly confront Him with the statement, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." And that, perhaps, is something like what we ourselves are thinking today.

But the Lord, who called Himself the Good Shepherd, leads these sisters, and leads us this morning, by little steps to a deepening faith. He brings to their mind the resurrection.

"Your brother will rise again," he says. But they imagine the resurrection as something distant and remote, the end of time. But with gentle

power, the Lord shatters their confusion with the announcement, "I am the Resurrection." By this He means, "I am the end, the fulfillment. The fulfillment has already come, here, now, in me. I am the Resurrection and I am here."

Death as the unbeliever sees it is the end. And the Resurrection as imperfect faith sees it, is something in the distant future. But the Lord Jesus here announces with majestic simplicity that for those who believe, there is no real death and the future has already come in Christ Jesus. There is no real death, though the body may lie in the grave, because the believer has entered into a new life in baptism, a life which is not a force but a Person. It is the One who says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." This is the faith which Father Schettler embraced in his baptism, proclaimed in his preaching and witnessed by his life.

In the power of that faith, Father Schettler made the gift of himself not to a cause or to an idea, but to the Person of Christ crucified and risen. He had considerable and exceptional gifts, was widely read, expert in Canon Law, had excellent and balanced judgment, but was never arro-

gant or self-seeking. My close and daily association with him showed him to be a man of consistent prayer, patient in adversity, kind, magnanimous and generous. Let these manifestly inadequate words sum up in some small way our memory of him.

Like the friends and family of Lazarus, at Bethany we gather around our friend Charles in death. And now, as then, there still stands among us One who is unseen and who imparts to us the gift of His Spirit. And like those friends have come to believe that the life given to us in our baptism is not taken away in our earthly death. And we recall the word of Jesus, "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

In the fourth century, St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, preached a sermon at the funeral of his brother. I would like to make the words of Ambrose my own and address them to Father Schettler today:

How could I ever forget you, who in this life, always shared my burdens?

We worked in different capacities but were always joined by a single bond of friendship, due not to my gifts but to your patience.

You were always tireless in your concern and faithful in your service. You were always a brother in affection, a father in your care, mature in your attention to every detail, and like a younger brother in your courteous respect.

Even with the consoling word of Scripture and of Ambrose, there is a measure of sadness in us as there was for the friends at Bethany. But we know that our brother, Charles, is in that infinite and eternal beauty of God where there is no night and God is all in all.

And so, as we think of his long life and the simplicity of heart with which he accepted the plan of God in his death, it will be good for us to call to mind the words of the Letter to the Hebrews, "Remember ... those who spoke the word of God to you, consider how they lived their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, yes, and forever."

May he rest in peace.

Archbishop Quinn delivered this eulogy at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Charles Schettler celebrated Dec. 21 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger a First For the Archdiocese of OKC

It was announced on Nov. 25, 2009, that Pope Benedict XVI had bestowed the title Prelate of Honor to His Holiness upon the current Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Father Edward J. Weisenburger. It was in 1949 that the last monsignors were announced in what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Since the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was erected in 1972, Monsignor Weisenburger is actually the first monsignor for this Archdiocese.

The newly named Monsignor Weisenburger was born in Alton, Ill., on Dec. 23, 1960, to Edward John Weisenburger and Asella (Walters) Weisenburger, the third of their four surviving children. His father, now retired, was a military officer and his mother a homemaker.

His younger years were spent primarily in Lawton, where he graduated from high school in May of 1979. In the following August, he began his studies for the priesthood at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo., from which he graduated with honors in May of 1983, earning a bachelor of arts in Religious Studies. He was then sent to study in Belgium at the American College Seminary at the Catholic University of Louvain. In 1986, he graduated with honors, earning the Pontifical Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus (S.T.B. or bachelor of Sacred Theology) along with a master's of arts in Religious Studies. The following year while still studying in Louvain, he was awarded a master's of arts in Moral and Religious Sciences.

In the summer of 1987, Monsignor returned to Oklahoma and began three years of ministry at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City. That previous December, he had been ordained to the transitional diaconate in the University Church of Saint John the Baptist in Louvain by The Most

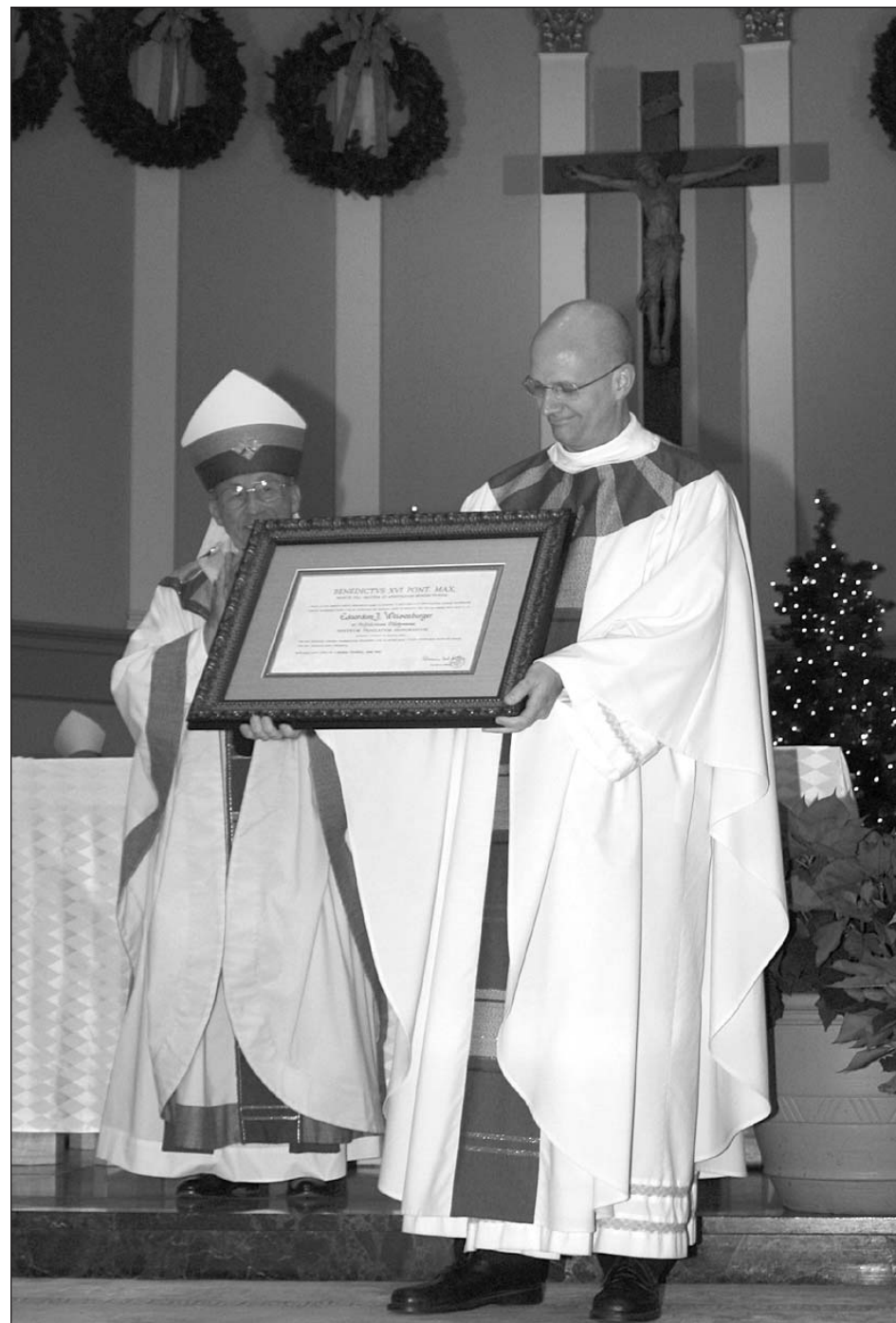
Rev. Eusebius J. Beltran, then Bishop of Tulsa. On Dec. 19, 1987, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City by The Most Rev. Charles A. Salatka, Archbishop of Oklahoma City. Whereupon being ordained, Monsignor Weisenburger was assigned as Saint Mary's associate pastor.

Monsignor Weisenburger returned to the academic world in September 1990 by entering the canon law program at the University of St. Paul in Ottawa, Canada, where in 1992 he earned the Pontifical Licentiate of Canon Law (J.C.L.).

Upon his return home in the summer of 1992, he was appointed vice chancellor of the Archdiocese and Adjutant Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of Oklahoma City.

Appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche in June of 1995, his tenure included oversight of several construction and restoration projects for the parish and school facilities. In June of 2002, Monsignor Weisenburger was installed as Rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Major projects there have included debt reduction, the design and installation of bronze doors for the Cathedral, and the construction of an outdoor shrine to Our Lady of La Vang, patroness of the Catholic Church in Vietnam.

Monsignor Weisenburger's mother died on March 22, 1998. His father resides in Oklahoma City. His siblings include a sister, Mary Jung of Yukon, husband, Don Jung, and children, Adam, Ashley and Kaitlin; a sister, Adina Heller of Corinth, Texas, husband, Karl Heller, and children, David and Jillian; a brother, Timothy J. Weisenburger of Pittsburgh, Pa., his former wife, Mary Weisenburger of Houston, Texas, and son, Stephen.



Monsignor Weisenburger holds the plaque presented to him by The Vatican announcing his new title. Archbishop Beltran, at left, celebrated Mass Dec. 30 at the Cathedral in celebration of the honor.

SGU to Host Pro-Life Advocate

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University will host a talk by one of the state's longtime lobbyists for pro-life issues. Tony Lauinger, who is chairman of Oklahomans for Life, will speak Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Shawnee Community Room on SGU's campus. The event, part of the school's "Speakers' Series," is free and open to the public.

Lauinger, who is also the vice president of the National Right to

Life Committee, has spent the last three decades lobbying the Oklahoma Legislature on pro-life issues. As part of his talk at SGU, he plans to share the latest news on the pro-life movement, including how it is influencing the health-care reform bill and the upcoming March for Life rally in Washington, D.C.

For more information contact Willis at 878-5168.

CPC to Host Choir Workshop

OKLAHOMA CITY — A workshop for choir directors and choir members, “Chant for Choirs and Congregations,” will be held Jan. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway.

This workshop will offer practical advice for incorporating Latin chant into worship, both easier Mass parts for congregation and easier antiphons and other pieces for choirs. It will also include note reading, introduction to resources, how to select pieces for the liturgy, singing technique for expressiveness and beautiful interpretation, how to mix Latin and English, and how to enhance chant with ancient easy harmonies.

Rev. Anthony Ruff, O.S.B., is a monk and priest of St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minn. He holds degrees from St. John’s University (BA, MDiv), Yale University (STM), and the University of Graz, Austria (DTheo), and did extensive studies in Gregorian chant at the Musikuniversität in Graz. He studied organ with Kim Kasling, Thomas Murray (Yale), and Peter Planyavsky (Vienna). He is an associate professor

of Theology and Liturgical Music at St. John’s University and founder of the National Catholic Youth Choir.

He was a member of the Music Subcommittee of the USCCB Bishops Committee on the Liturgy, which drafted the bishops document *Sing to the Lord*, and has served on boards of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Society for Catholic Liturgy and the Hymn Society. In the area of liturgical music, he is a frequent presenter and has published *Sacred Music and Liturgical Reform: Treasures and Transformations* with Liturgy Training Publications, *Responsorial Psalms for Weekday Mass* with the Liturgical Press, and his collection of Latin chant for choirs, *Canticum Novum*, is forthcoming from GIA publications. He serves as chaplain to the neighboring Benedictine women’s monastery and at the county jail.

Cost is \$10 per person (includes lunch), payable in advance. Please mail names and payment to: Office of Worship, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73132 For more information, call Mary Fahy at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 158. Registration deadline: Jan. 15, 2010.



Michael Reardon

Parishes Will Offer Reardon Performances

You are invited to a spectacular and dramatic presentation of Scripture, light and movement when Michael Reardon prayerfully and powerfully proclaims *THE BOOK OF REVELATION* and *THE GOSPELS OF LUKE AND JOHN* directed by Patrick Lane. This is a contemporary translation of Scripture, proclaimed in the oral tradition of the early church, designed with music, lighting and costuming.

Michael Reardon has memorized the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as the Book of Revelation, and performs them

dramatically worldwide. He is a native of Anaconda, Mont.

Patrick Lane, director, musician and lighting artist, has designed the special effects and written the original music, all of which is done live for each performance. He is a native of Morrill, Neb.

This blend of voice and light, music and costuming, honors the Word of God as a unique ministry of proclamation.

Jan. 12 - St. Francis of Assisi, OKC, 7 p.m., LUKE

Jan. 17 - St. Andrew the Apostle, Moore, 7 p.m., LUKE

Jan. 19 - Sacred Heart, OKC, 7 p.m., LUKE

Jan. 24 - Holy Spirit, Mustang, 7 p.m., JOHN

Jan. 27 - Epiphany of the Lord, OKC, 7 p.m., REVELATION

Jan. 28 - St. Eugene, OKC, 7 p.m., LUKE

Registration Still Open for Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — There is still time to register for the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference in February. The fourth annual conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Clarion Conference Center at I-40 and Meridian.

More than 900 women attended the conference last year.

Through Jan. 22, registration fee is \$50, \$30 for students, and includes a box lunch and drink. After Jan. 22, the registration fee is \$60, and will be accepted as space permits.

The conference will include a morning Mass with Archbishop Eusebius Beltran, Adoration, Reconciliation, and a vendor area.

Four sessions featuring nationally known speakers have been scheduled, and vendors have contracted to set up booths selling books, clothing and religious items.

Registrations can be submitted

on the conference Web site using PayPal, or by mailing in a registration form available on the Web site or in parish offices. Special room rates of \$79 are available at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn by calling (405) 942-1400. Reservations should be made by Jan. 22. Speakers and topics are:

Teresa Tomeo — “Handmaids of the Lord: Rediscovering the Dignity of Women” and “Mary vs the Media”

Teresa Tomeo is a veteran broadcast-journalist with more than 20 years of experience as a radio and TV news reporter and anchor woman mainly in the Detroit area. She is now an author and host of the syndicated Catholic talk show “Catholic Connection.” Most recently, she was invited to Rome to be one of only 260 international delegates to participate in the 20th anniversary of *Mulieris Dignitatum*, a “Congress on Women.”

Elizabeth Ficocelli — “The Age of Mary”

Elizabeth Ficocelli was born in New York where she was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. When her future husband, Mark, invited her to Mass on their college campus, she experienced for the first time a spiritual connection with her fellow worshippers and a deepening love for God.

After a 20-year career in advertising, Elizabeth launched a new ministry in spiritual writing. She has published a series of children’s sacramental books and has written books on Lourdes, Medjugorje and St. Therese of Lisieux. Elizabeth has also published 11 articles in national Catholic magazines including *St. Anthony Messenger*, *Liguorian*, *America*, *Columbia*, *Catholic Parent*, *Take Out* (Our Sunday Visitor) and *Lay Witness Online*.

Kurt and Julie Carrick — “Celebrating the Truth: Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Life”

Kurt and Julie Carrick have been active in the Catholic Church, from music ministry to Engaged Encounter workshops for 10 years (from presenting weekends all the way to being part of the National Executive Team). They are also Benedictine Oblates and helped to establish a beautiful retreat center in the Flagstaff Catholic community. Julie has written and recorded seven music CDs and a Rosary CD, in which she and Kurt pray together. Kurt was nominated for UCMVA 2004 “Songwriter of the Year” and received the 2006 Unity Award for “Spoken Word Album of the Year” for “A Couples Rosary.”

For registration and more information, call (405) 396-6292, e-mail ocwc@OCWConference.com or visit www.OCWConference.com.

Christ the King Parish to Host Women's Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Grab a girlfriend and join the ladies of Christ the King Parish for a half day or full day of faith, fun and fabulous “hot topics” at the 2010 women’s conference, Ladies of Grace. The conference will take place on Jan. 23, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Nichols Hills. Christ the King is located at 8005 Dorset Drive, one block north of Wilshire and halfway between Penn and May.

The 2010 Ladies of Grace conference is designed for today’s on-the-go, overwhelmed and over-extended woman. Two national speakers and 12 gifted presenters will offer ways to bring balance to your life, explore today’s trends and connect with God and girlfriends. Treat yourself — make time to drop in for this “perfectly pink day.”

Ladies of Grace will begin with registration and check-in at 8:30 a.m. and opening remarks at 9 a.m. Two general sessions and three breakout

sessions are scheduled throughout the day. Featured speaker Cheri Fuller will discuss “Connecting with God and Girlfriends in a Dis-connected World” at the morning general session. The lunch hour general session will feature Vonda Skelton speaking on “Celebrating Women’s Seasons of Life.” Breakout sessions are scheduled at 10:25 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and the conference will adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Registration for the Ladies of Grace conference is \$20 and includes lunch and a conference T-shirt. Checks should be made payable to CTK, Ladies of Grace. Register by visiting www.ckokc.org or by contacting Cindy Rice at (405) 843-4766 or cindy@ckokc.org. Ladies of Grace is open to women of all faiths and ages. **Featured speakers**

Cheri Fuller is an international speaker and award-winning author of 40 books. A former Oklahoma Mother of the Year, Cheri led a Moms In

Touch group for 12 years. Her passion is encouraging women, building families and inspiring and equipping people to connect with God in their busy lives through prayer. She and her husband have three grown children and six lively grandchildren.

Vonda Skelton is an award-winning playwright and lyricist, and nationally recognized as an entertaining teacher who delivers important messages with humor and light-heartedness. Her years as a wife, mother, grandmother, writer, women’s ministry leader and registered nurse have given her a unique and varied background from which to inspire women to laugh, learn and love.

Workshops to be offered include: “Your Baptism: The Key to the Fullness of Lent” by Judi Wilkinson “About Face” by Jennifer Bentley of Balliet’s “Passion for Fashion: Making Your Wardrobe Work for You” by Laney Rose Patterson of CK & Co.

“Go Green with God” by Laura Nelson

“Unlocking Children’s Learning Potential” by Cheri Fuller

“Return of the Zumba Queen” by Lisa O’Neal

“Balancing Your Busy Life” by Lisa Marrotta, Ph.D.

“Toxic Foods: Everything You Need to Know About the Food You Eat” by Laura Sarfatis Miles, MD

“How to Raise Your Kids Without Raising the Roof” by Vonda Skelton

“Meal Time with the Right Wine” by Mary Stack of Beau’s Wine Bin and Sue Neuberger

“Home Sweet Home: Simple Ideas to Decorate and Accessorize Your Home” by interior designer Sheri Konarik

“Competitive Spirit with a Christian Heart” by Marcia Hogsett and Susan Ross

Ladies of Grace is sponsored by Christ the King Catholic Church.

Across Oklahoma

Mass Times Announced

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City has updated its schedule of weekday and weekend celebrations of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Beginning Jan. 3, the new schedule will be Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. and Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Sunday Religious Education Program, for children from kindergarten through eighth grade, will take place from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The evening classes for students of high school age will be unaffected.

Daily Masses will take place in the Chapel at Meerschaert House at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The Mass for the Rosary School community will continue to be celebrated on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. No regular daily Mass will take place on days when funerals are scheduled.

Tap Into Faith Set

EDMOND — Interesting topics. Great company. Lively conversation about our Catholic Faith. Come out for drinks or dinner, hear an interesting talk on important Catholic issues, and meet other Catholic adults. Bring your friends, single or married, ages 21 to 121.

We meet the third Thursday of every month. Happy hour starts at 8 p.m. with the lecture starting at 8:30. Question and answer begins at 9 p.m.

Tap into Faith will be held Jan. 21 at Pepe’s Mexican Restaurant located at 1701 S. Broadway in Edmond. The topic will be Contraception: The Major Cause of Sexual Boredom. Our speaker will be Deacon Dr. Roy Forsythe from St. John the Baptist Parish. For more information, contact Mary Lacher at 401-4105 or Alison Giordano at 639-9787.

Icons Focus of Workshop

OKLAHOMA CITY — Beverly Layton of Lawton will teach the techniques used in the ancient art of iconography in a step-by-step process. Icons are images of the Lord, His Mother or one of the saints or angels. They are painted according to the mind and direction of the Church. Icons are not “representational” art (as in portraits) but liturgical art which depicts the spiritual reality of the subject. Steps include transferring the image to a prepared board, painting techniques, and applying the gold leaf on the halo. This ancient art is a very prayerful and rewarding experience. At the end of the class you will have a finished icon, which will be

blessed in a special ceremony. The class will be held Jan. 18-22 from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. each day. All supplies are included in the tuition. The cost is \$350 per student, 12 student limit. No previous art experience necessary. Register at the St. Charles Parish Office (789-2595) by Jan. 12. For more information, call Father Philip Seeton at 789-2595.

School, Parish Auction Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis of Assisi and Rosary School is having its annual auction, Feb. 6, in the T. Phil Kerl Gym, 1905 NW 19th St. The event will run from 6 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$35 by Jan. 15 or \$40 after. Barbecue dinner with all the fixings and beverages included. Call 210-3235 for reservations or register online at the auction link at www.rosaryschool.com.

Priest to Lead Pilgrimage

OKLAHOMA CITY — Join Father Joseph Jacobi for an amazing pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Oct. 8-17, 2010. Visit and pray in such holy sites as Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Call Judi Wilkinson at (405) 751-7115 Ext. 115 for more information.

Oklahoma Catholic Radio Expands to FM Side of the Dial

Exciting things are hitting the airwaves of the greater Oklahoma City area with Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting. Recently, Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Inc., in cooperation with Tyler Media and KTLR Radio, launched expanded radio coverage to cover the metropolitan area.

"Tyler Media had expanded their radio media coverage to the FM frequencies and presented OCB with an opportunity to expand our coverage from the AM dial into the FM frequency as well," said Jeff Finnell, president of the board of directors for OCB. "We could not pass up the opportunity to expand the coverage, even though it meant virtually doubling our budget. With the great assistance of donors, we stepped out in faith."

OCB's coverage had been expanding over the last five years from the original two hours per day, on AM 890,

to extend from 1 p.m. to close of the day, at sundown everyday. Now, with the expansion of the FM frequency on FM 94.1, the coverage allows OCB to have coverage from 1 p.m. until 7 a.m. daily. We are now on virtually all day long, five days a week, we don't cover from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily. Our hope is to continue our coverage until we are able to expand even to those hours.

Most of the shows on OCB's programming come from satellite programming provided by EWTN radio, by Catholic Answers Live or other programs from other satellite affiliates. The goal of OCB is to continue to strive to work toward having more local programming available, like the locally produced program, "Good News Sunday," with Deacon Larry Sousa and Fred Pope, heard every Thursday and Friday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.

OCB was also recently awarded licenses to establish radio stations in the Lawton and Prague areas and has two years to get stations on the air. These licenses were given to "not-for-profit" organizations by the FCC, and OCB competed against many other entities in these local markets to win these licenses. The new stations, both on the FM dial at 88.3, were awarded the call letters: KOEG in Lawton, for "King of Endless Glory," and KIOP for "King Infant of Prague" for the Prague station.

"It is our hope and dream to have these stations in operation as soon as we can," said Finnell. "We want to blanket Oklahoma with quality Catholic radio, 24/7, as soon as we can."

Getting the Lawton and Prague stations operational will, of course, cost money. OCB is a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization, and has been running off charitable donations

from its inception. "We do not receive any monies from the Archdiocese directly," said Finnell. "Though the Archbishop is a big supporter of our effort, he has given us his blessing and has helped us on our radiothons."

The last radiothon the OCB held was in November and netted about \$5,000, which is about the amount needed for one month's expenses to operate the air time for KTLR AM 890. "Now that we have gone to the AM and FM side of things, our expenses have doubled, and we will need much more money to make ends meet."

The next radiothon is scheduled for Feb. 23-25 and will run in the afternoon drive-time hours on both the AM and FM stations. All donations for the radiothon and all donations in general can be made to OCB at P.O. Box 721041, Norman, Okla. 73070.

Scholarships Offered by Foundation

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc. has announced it will award a number of higher education scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year to qualifying Catholic students who are residents of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Seminarians and students enrolled in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry program are eligible to apply provided they meet eligibility guidelines.

The foundation will also award P.B. Connelly Medical Scholarships to Catholic students of low to moderate means. Applicants must be enrolled in the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

The Helen R. Hall Nursing Scholarship is offered by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc. Full-time Catholic students enrolled in two-year or four-year accredited nursing programs are eligible to apply.

The Duffy Family Scholarship is offered by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma to students who are enrolled full time at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

The foundation's guidelines of eligibility for scholarships state:

- Applicant must show scholastic ability.
- Applicant must show financial need.
- Applicant must be a full-time student (12 hours minimum).
- Applicant must be a permanent resident of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and be a registered and active member of a Catholic parish.

For applications or information, contact the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc., P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123. Phone (405) 721-4115, fax (405) 721-4114, e-mail tboothe@catharchdiocese-okc.org or www.cfook.org under Scholarship Recipients.

Applications must be completed and returned to the foundation office no later than Monday, April 16, 2010.

DeLauro: Bishops Should 'Join' Compromise

Washington, D.C. (CNA) — Catholic Congresswoman, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), hinted last week that she will support the abortion language of the health care Senate bill once it goes back to the House. The representative has been asked by the Democratic leadership in both the House and Senate to help find a compromise on abortion between the two chambers.

In an interview last week with the Huffington Post, the Catholic pro-abortion Democrat said she would support the Senate's version of the bill and its abortion-related language. She also asked the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to join the "compromise" about which "no one is happy."

Referring to the Hyde amendment, put in place in 1976 to bar federal funds from paying for abortion, DeLauro "acknowledged a certain misery in being forced to favorably champion existing law," reported the Huffington Post. "Who on the pro-choice side is excited about saying the Hyde language ought to prevail?" she asked.

But according to DeLauro, "legislation, especially health-care reform, is defined by finding middle ground."

"It's maybe a compromise where no one is that happy. It would appear that you've got the Catholic bishops who aren't happy. But [Sen. Ben] Nelson (D-Neb.) found his way there as did Senator Bob Casey (D-Penn.) and the pro-choice side said, 'We don't like this as much as we would like to not deal with this language.' But, you know, we're not going to defeat health care."

With "regard to the Catholic bishops, they now have an opportunity to not hold health care hostage in the way that they did and tried to do in the Senate," DeLauro added.



Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Shawnee-Area Foster Kids Part of SGU Christmas Wish List

SHAWNEE — Christmas was brighter for several area foster children thanks to the combined efforts of St. Gregory's University and the Department of Human Services. This is the second year the two organizations have teamed up for "Project Snowflake," which is a program that provides clothing and toys for children who will not be with their biological families for Christmas.

More than 60 toys and outfits were donated to foster children by the faculty, staff and students of St. Gregory's University. Diane Willis, who organized the project for SGU, was very pleased with the response.

"The generosity shown by our students and staff was amazing," said Willis, who is the university's campus minister. "Each ornament contained one item to be purchased, but many

times, two or three items were donated. I am so thankful for everyone's kindness."

Jennifer McKee, a foster care specialist for the Pottawatomie County DHS, said she was overwhelmed by the amount of items collected. She said toys were also donated for children who became foster children before Christmas.

For more information about Project Snowflake, contact Willis at 878-5168.

At right, St. Gregory's University students (left to right) Gennifer McHargue, Jessica Churchwell and Lincoln Fowler help load toys and clothing for Project Snowflake, a program that provides for area foster children during the Christmas holiday.



Scaperlanda Tells Saint Gregory Graduates to 'Seek the Good'

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University celebrated its fall commencement inside W.P. Wood Field House with bachelor's degrees conferred on 47 graduates. An additional 18 received associate's degrees and 17 received master's degrees.

Dr. Michael Scaperlanda, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma, delivered the commencement address, encouraging SGU graduates to "seek the good." Scaperlanda said that God has offered everyone a way to be truly happy.

"Each of you has the ability to contribute to the good of your communities in your own unique ways. You can make a difference," said Scaperlanda, who teaches Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Immigration Law, Jurisprudence, and Professional Responsibility at OU.

"I pray that each and every one of you has the wisdom to discern your talents and desires, the courage to commit them to use in service to the human community, and the faith and hope to pursue your unique vocation with great love toward everyone you meet on this pilgrim walk through life."

Valedictorians Brittnie Sassaman and Kim Behrnes also addressed the audience. Sassaman, who is from Reading, Pa., was the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Behrnes, from Prague, was the valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

Both valedictorians acknowledged those who helped them during their journeys to a college degree.

"The accomplishments that we have conquered ultimately mean something on this day," Sassaman said. "It is also the end of a very significant phase in all our lives and the beginning of the next one. Good luck to all of you and congratulations! We did it!"

Said Behrnes: "I commend each of you for your tenacity, your courage, your ambition and your perseverance. We've said goodbye to status quo. We've overcome our fears and our doubts. We have achieved."

St. Gregory's University is Oklahoma's oldest institution for higher learning and the state's only Catholic university. SGU has locations in Shawnee, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, serving nearly 700 students in two colleges — the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults.

The following students received their degrees:

Associate's Degrees

Bristow: Shannon Hudson
Broken Arrow: Brady Black
Glenpool: Jennifer Hemphill
Inola: Brian Westfall
Midwest City: Amber Hoffman
Owasso: Dana Bennett
Shawnee: Cha'son Holmes, Dorris Arrasmith, Michelle Sims
Tulsa: Tonya Taylor-LeFlore, Joshua Roe, Joyce Jones, Theresa Willis, Yvonne Scott, Abby Kirkland

Bachelor's Degrees

Springdale, Ark.: Hannah Engledowl
Bixby: BettyJo Camp
Broken Arrow: Jeanette Copeland, Jared Myers
Catoosa: Jacqueline Evins
Coweta: Dorenda Squire
Drumright: Kevin Webster
Edmond: Amber Harris
McLoud: Ramon Garcia, Heather Humphrey
Moore: Rebecca Cantu
Oklahoma City: Evangelina Dunn, Kevin Chavez, Jessica Pugh, Destinee Narak
Owasso: Penny Johnson
Prague: Kimberly Behrnes

Reading, Pa.: Brittnie Sassaman
Sand Springs: George Johnson, H. Lancaster
Seminole: Deanne Haney
Shawnee: David Oswald, Sue Cartwright, Joshua Clark, Trina Gribble, Christopher Birney, Carolyn Lawrence
Tecumseh: Jacob Birney, Amber Teafatiller
Tulsa: Kendra Knox, Trevor Rainwater, Andrew Jenkins, Susan Schooling, Renda Crabtree, Jesalyn Pettigrew, Brian Spavins
Wetumka: Elizabeth Petersen
Fort Worth, Texas: Evan Beal, Emily Vaughn

International: Ivan Lopez

Master's Degrees

Broken Arrow: Melinda Crisp, Thomas Keeter
Choctaw: Esther Mitchell
Glenpool: Luis Maez
Jenks: William Hopkins
Maud: Randy Kerr
Oklahoma City: Kyle Brotherton, Rendell Shawnee, Jeremiah Pursell
Shawnee: Trilbya Anderson, Angela Mohr
Sparks: Mark Saunders
Tecumseh: Darren Shields
Tulsa: Kevin Bertalot, Susan Schwebke
Wewoka: Corky Snodgrass

Annual Camp Attracts More Than 160 to OLOG

OLOG — More than 160 youth and adults from throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City worked, played and prayed at the annual Encampment Oct. 9-11. The event is sponsored by the Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Committee on Scouting and Campfire.

The theme of this year's Encampment was "WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD." The opening campfire began with the ceremonial retirement of U.S. flags, led by Fred Spellman. This is becoming an annual tradition. Spellman also led an adult religious emblem training class the next day.

Saturday began with a prayer service in the chapel. Following a hearty breakfast, work began on several service projects. Judy Reilly and Becky Van Pool gave a presentation on the history of labyrinths. Following the presentation, work began on creating the Bernie Goyette Memorial Labyrinth. Once the labyrinth was initially completed, participants, youth and adult, walked the labyrinth, stopping at prayer stations to give themselves up to God. Afterward, participants wrote what they had gotten from walking the labyrinth and posted their thoughts for the benefit of everyone.

Another service project involved cleaning up the Rosary Garden that was built at the 2007 Encampment. Following cleanup, a dozen knock-out rose bushes were planted and the garden was remulched. It was then renamed the Deacon



Logan Slane points to his cabin flag while Andrew Hoang, Dillon Warnecke and other cabin mates look on.

Jim Barton Memorial Rosary Garden. Both Deacon Barton and Mr. Goyette were longstanding members of the Archdiocesan Committee

and had contributed for many years to many successful and memorable encampments.

Another major safety project was begun by youth and adults. That was the removal of red cedar trees south of the chapel to the boys cabins. The red cedar is highly flammable, easily ignited, and poses a potential danger to nearby structures. It also consumes a great deal of water, robbing from other trees and vegetation. Approximately six trailer loads were removed this year. According to Jim Coughlan, project coordinator, "This will be an ongoing project for several years."

Following a special dinner of Salisbury steak, potatoes, homemade rolls, green beans and strawberry shortcake, everyone cleaned up and headed to chapel for Mass celebrated by Father Dan Latourneau. Youth provided the readings, choir and servers. Jeff Goyette and Slater Rhea provided inspirational music. Speaking of music, following Mass, everyone listened and danced to the sounds of DJ "Big G Entertainment" until it was time to end the evening with night prayer.

The weekend ended too quickly with pack-up on Sunday morning, followed by Rose Ann's famous cinnamon rolls. After hugs galore and high fives, everyone headed home, promising to return next year.



Encampment participants walk and pray their way through the labyrinth.

Letters

You Made The Difference

During 2009, YOU were an important part of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond team. Community members who do not have health insurance made nearly 700 visits to the clinic. Their medical needs were served with great dignity.

St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians, said, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord." All are needed to build up the body of Christ.

The clinic board of directors thanks you for your gift/service that allows our community to be a better place to live.

The following is a review of 2009 accomplishments, which occurred because of YOU.

The clinic had nearly 700 visits from patients having no health insurance during its first partial year of operation. The clinic continues the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by treating all patients with human dignity and at no charge.

The year began with no home, no patients, no IRS approval, but with \$10,000 in the bank because St. Monica Catholic Church liked where the clinic was headed.

In January, the clinic was encouraged by a \$500 Samaritan Award from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church to help the clinic serve the uninsured in the Edmond community.

Soon thereafter, Birth Choice of Edmond allowed the clinic to share

their Edmond building. An opening on Feb. 14 was announced in local newspapers, on TV, and through presentations at other churches and service organizations. The clinic served 11 patients on the first day.

By the time of the grand opening in March, the clinic was already at its maximum of serving 22 patients during Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

Soon thereafter, the clinic received its long-awaited letter from the IRS saying that the clinic was a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. The state of Oklahoma then approved the clinic as a solicitor of charitable contributions.

During the summer and fall, the clinic received two grants and another large donation from St. Monica. One grant has the purpose to provide education to some patients so that they can improve their own health. By doing so, they will be able to work more and have a higher chance to break out of the cycle of poverty.

Beyond examining patients on Saturdays, the clinic networks with Empowering Church Health Care Outreach, Health Alliance for the Uninsured, and specialists who provide pro-bono, offsite treatments for medical and dental care. In some of these cases, major surgeries have been performed, mostly for free. Mercy Health Center continues to be most helpful by providing free lab, X-ray and information technology services.

Clinic goals are to provide more

hours for medical care, more free medicines, and to add dental care.

The 700 visits to the clinic had an average expense of \$25 per visit. Even more patients can be served when the clinic can be open every Saturday. More primary care providers with family medicine or internal medicine backgrounds are needed to do this.

During the year the clinic's income was \$34,400, which came from individuals (14 percent), organizations (70 percent), and foundations (16 percent).

More information and a clinic contact exist on the clinic Web site, www.GoodSamaritanofedmond.com

**Deacon Lee Hunt, Director
Good Samaritan Health
Clinic of Edmond**

Birth Choice Says Thanks

The true meaning of Christmas is always evidenced by the generosity of so many different groups and individuals' donations to Birth Choice during the holiday season.

Birth Choice is most grateful to everyone for providing so many new and beautiful items for our moms and babies for Christmas! Many of them would not have any presents were it not for your charity and kindness. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**Jan O'Neill
Director of Development
Birth Choice of
Oklahoma Inc.**



A Birth Choice volunteer sorts through donated items.



Austin Bustamante, Michael Matthyssens, Miki Cheng and McKenzie Hoegger, Sacred Heart Catholic School, OKC, students have been recognized by the Duke University Fifth Grade Talent Search for achieving at the 95th or higher percentile rank on various parts of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills.

Fr. Goin Offers Spanish Lessons

The Pastoral Ministry Office is continuing to offer Pastoral Spanish, taught by Father Jim Goin, at Holy Name in Chickasha. This non-credit course is designed to help students learn the basics of conversation, reading and pronunciation needed in situations commonly encountered by those in pastoral ministry, especially in the parish setting. Course content will assist persons in such ways as answering the telephone, answering questions about parish programs, participating in and leading prayer, greeting and welcom-

ing persons to the parish, taking Communion to the homebound, etc.

Beginners: Thursdays, Jan. 7 through March 25, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Continuing: Thursdays, Jan. 7 through March 25, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Cost: \$75. For information or to register, call the Office of Pastoral Ministry, 405-721-4208 or 800-721-5651 Ext. 131, or cgrimes@catharchdioceseokc.org

Interested in carpooling? Let us know your location and we'll try to connect you with others interested in your area.

Moral Questions Abound in Proposed Health Reform

The Catholic Church in the United States has done a public service during the recent health-care debate by keeping a crucial proposition in play: No reform should reverse the 32-year-old national consensus that keeps the federal government out of the business of funding abortions. Defending that proposition will not get any easier in the weeks ahead, but it must be done.

The defense of the inalienable right-to-life is not the only moral principle involved in the health-care debate, however. There are several other such principles and social justice concerns at stake. Here are some of the most important:

— The principle of solidarity teaches us to cherish a sense of responsibility across generations. How is that principle honored in a reform of health care that dramatically reduces the funding of Medicare for senior citizens, as bills in Congress now do?

— The principle of cross-generational solidarity also raises grave questions about the real costs of the plans that have emerged from the House and the Senate — real costs, as distinguished from the numbers being pulled out of hats on Capitol Hill. One experi-

enced Catholic public-policy analyst estimates that the bill brought before the Senate will increase total federal spending by about \$4.9 trillion (that's \$4.9 million million) over the next 20

years. There is no way to pay for this, even with spending reductions and tax increases. Does saddling our grandchildren with an Everest of debt satisfy the demands of cross-generational solidarity?

— The principle of subsidiarity teaches us to be wary of concentrating too much power in the national government. Yet the House bill that (barely) passed in November puts the federal government squarely on the hook for controlling health-care costs because it requires Americans to buy government-approved insurance. Voters will rightly turn to their representatives and insist that the government make that insurance affordable. Thus the sea change: The U.S. government will become responsible for containing all health-care costs, which will inevitably involve both rationing and a decline in the quality of care.

Moreover, does anyone seriously



By George Weigel

propose that a federal government incapable of producing and distributing flu vaccine efficiently is capable of managing a national health-care system well? Subsidiarity teaches us to be deeply skeptical about affirmative answers to that question. Common sense suggests that any government, given such power, will never give it up. If we make a mess of this now, we're stuck — ask the British and the Canadians.

— The principle of the common good teaches us to avoid public policy that destroys jobs; that moral imperative becomes even more urgent under current circumstances. The taxes that proposed health-care reforms will impose on all but the smallest employers who don't offer health insurance, and the tax surcharge that will be laid on higher-income persons who own small businesses, are both likely to discourage hiring and force layoffs. That's bad public policy at any level of unemployment. It's unconscionable when the unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent.

— The politicization of medical decisions — which will inevitably follow the kind of health-care reform now being proposed — will put new pressures on the right-to-life principle, as well as on the

principles of the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. Decisions that should be made by patients and doctors will be made by regulators as governmental intrusion trumps moral and medical judgment. How this builds a free and virtuous society, as Catholic social doctrine bids us do, is not clear.

For all its virtues, today's American medical system does not afford access to needed care for some, so it fails the tests set by Catholic social doctrine. We can meet those tests and fix the system's gravest problems by working incrementally, testing results as we go: changing the liability laws that distort insurance costs, reforming the insurance industry to mandate portability and coverage of pre-existing conditions, lifting the ban on interstate competition in health insurance, and covering the uninsured by tax credits and small business reforms. That would be health-care reform that satisfies Catholic principles across the board.

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Author Sets the Record Straight on Truth About The Templars

The Templars, Knights of Christ. Regine Pernoud, translated from the French by Henry Taylor. San Francisco: Ignatius Press. 157 pages. Paperback. ISBN 978-1-58617-302-9. \$14.95. October 2009.



This is the English translation of French historian Regine Pernoud's book *Les Templiers* that was published in Paris, France, on the Templars. This book was written to debunk the various fictional and unhistorical books and movies

about the Templars. Some of these include Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* and Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* and others. Pernoud has written a short history of the Templars and how later, King Philip the Fair of France and others of temporal and spiritual realms wanted the Templars' wealth and property for themselves. They concocted lies to gain this. King Philip and others died within a year after the Templars were suppressed and some executed. The Templars were founded to do good and over time they became rich from the gifts given to them for their good deeds

and others envied their wealth. Many religious orders at first were poor, but then people of wealth would give them gifts of property and other things which over time grew. Some of the Templars were tortured to make bizarre confessions to please their torturers. These Templars, when they could, recanted these confessions. These confessions gained under duress



By Brother Benet Exton

were illegal and should not have been accepted as proof against the Templars. Those who wanted them destroyed did not care. In the end one could say that God took his vengeance on the king and others who perpetrated this crime. This book is highly recommended to those who are interested in the Templars and the truth about them.

Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian there and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including the Sooner Catholic.

Buenas Noticias...

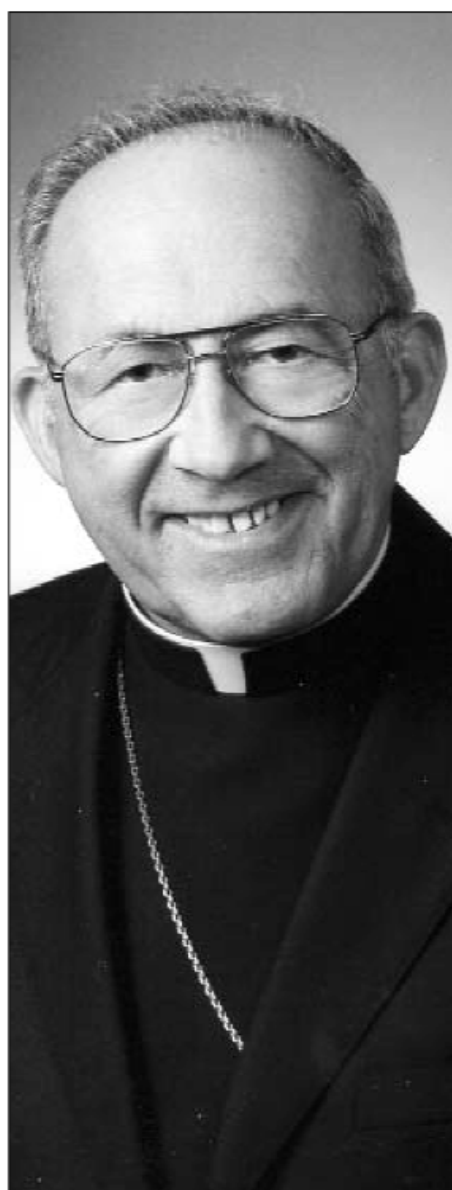
Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Nunca olvidaremos la histórica tormenta de Navidad que experimentamos dos semanas y media atrás. Comenzando en la mañana de Noche Buena, las condiciones climáticas se deterioraron en cuestión de pocas horas. Más tarde, ese mismo día, en minutos los planes de Navidad de muchas personas cambiaron radicalmente debido a las vías resbaladizas y a los innumerables accidentes e inesperadas situaciones de emergencia. Para la tarde, era evidente que los planes no se llevarían a cabo como lo habíamos anticipado. Tuvimos que adaptarnos y simplemente hacer lo mejor que pudimos con las circunstancias que estaban fuera de nuestro alcance.

Como el clima, la vida en sí misma nos trae cambios y sorpresas. De igual manera casi todos hemos visto nuestras brillantes ideas y grandes sueños destrozarse por los recortes de fondos, el desempleo, el rechazo, la soledad, la inseguridad, las enfermedades o la muerte de un ser querido. Estas circunstancias, aún sin ser provocadas, pueden impulsarnos a escuchar más de cerca al Espíritu de Dios, quien está siempre con nosotros. Estas circunstancias nos pueden hacer pensar con profundidad cuál es el propósito de la vida que tenemos. Para valorar "quiénes somos" tenemos que descubrir la maravillosa realidad del misterio de la vida. Para descubrir la verdad de nuestra existencia, tenemos que estar envueltos en el misterio de Dios.

La vida es el primer y fundamental regalo de Dios. La vida humana es un regalo total y absoluto de Dios. Antes del momento de nuestra creación, nosotros no éramos nada. Nosotros somos nada. No existíamos en lo absoluto. Por esto, nosotros no debemos comprar o ganar y menos demandar nuestra vida porque sencillamente estábamos totalmente incapacitados para hacerlo porque no existíamos.

Nuestro "derecho a la vida" comienza sólo cuando Dios libremente y con Su amor coloca su aliento de



*Reverendísimo Eusebius Beltrán
Arzobispo Metropolitano de la
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City*

vida en cada uno de nosotros. Dios nos crea a través de la cooperación de nuestra madre y padre. Él nos hace parte de la creación humana a través del Plan Divino que Él estableció en la naturaleza.

El primer regalo de Dios a cada ser humano es la vida. Dios nos trae a la vida para que podamos venir a conocerlo, amarlo y servirle aquí en esta tierra, para que algún día podamos vivir con Él para siempre en el cielo.

Desde que Dios nos creó libres y con Su amor. Lo hizo con el importante propósito de tener vida

...¡La vida, el primer regalo!

eterna con junto a Él, por eso nos dotó con libertad. Esta libertad nos capacita para aceptar el amor de Dios y para amarlo en reciprocidad. El amor hacia Dios no puede ser obligado y forzado. Para un ser humano, el amor es siempre una respuesta al amor que Dios nos mostró primero. Este es el significado de la vida.

La historia nos demuestra que los seres humanos fallan en responder al amor de Dios, por lo que detienen el hermoso plan de Dios para nosotros. Esta tragedia nos incapacita para lograr la vida eterna. El Apocalipsis nos revela sin embargo, que Dios en Su infinita bondad y misericordia nos redimirá.

El Evangelio nos dice: "La vida es Cristo; la realidad encuentra su sentido pleno en Cristo".

Llegado el momento, Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, nacido de la Virgen María, vendrá a nosotros. Este es el gran festejo de la Navidad, simplemente disfrutar que: "Dios está con nosotros".

Desde que la historia se inicia, nuestras vidas en esta tierra existen sólo por un corto tiempo de esa historia, cada uno de nosotros tiene la oportunidad bajo el libre albedrío de responderle a Dios con amor.

Debemos preguntarnos y reflexionar: ¿Estamos realmente agradecidos a Dios por el regalo de la vida que Él nos ha dado? ¿Hemos acaso comprendido que el propósito de la vida humana es compartir la vida con Dios para siempre en el cielo?

Partiendo de que la vida humana es creada a Imagen y Semejanza de Dios, nosotros reconocemos la dignidad inherente de cada ser humano desde el mismo momento de su concepción, porque Dios desde ese momento pone su aliento de vida en cada ser humano.

¿Nosotros nos respetamos a nosotros mismos y a todos los seres humanos sin importar las particularidades accidentales? Es por esto que estamos muy obligados a trabajar para respetar la vida humana y establecer y fortalecer la cultura de la vida.

El mes de enero es el primer mes de un año nuevo. Es visto como un nuevo comienzo con nuestras promesas y resoluciones de año nuevo. Pero lamentablemente en el mes de enero del año de mil novecientos setenta y tres ocurrió una terrible tragedia en contra de la vida humana en los Estados Unidos y se expandió por el resto del mundo, cuando nuestra Corte Suprema legalizó el aborto, permitiendo el asesinato de millones de bebés indefensos en el vientre de su madre. Desde entonces, más de cincuenta millones de bebés han sido "legalmente" asesinados. ¡Qué tragedia! ¡Qué desprecio al amor de Dios! La cultura de la muerte está cubriéndonos a todos y a nuestra sociedad y esto tiene que parar.

El mes de enero está de nuevo aquí. Un año nuevo está amaneciendo y deseo urgir e invitar a todos los católicos de esta Arquidiócesis para que me acompañen a restablecer la cultura de la vida. ¿Qué podemos hacer para lograr esto? Hay incontables caminos. Podemos apoyar a las siguientes organizaciones como Caridades Católicas, Birth Choice, Rachel's Vineyard y otros programas, así como también las actividades que eleven la dignidad del ser humano. Pero lo más importante de todo, podemos y debemos rezar mucho.

Nosotros reconocemos que la vida viene de Dios. La vida es un regalo de Dios. La vida en sí y nuestra vida después de la vida dependen de Dios. El miércoles 20 de enero, celebraré la Misa anual por la santidad de la vida en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro.

La Misa comenzará a las seis de la tarde y continuará con un programa donde le ruego a la gente joven y adulta en general como también a los estudiantes de preparatoria y de la universidad, invito a jóvenes o ancianos, hombres y mujeres, para que vengan con entusiasmo y fe a participar en esta Misa por la vida que se celebrará en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, el miércoles 20 de enero a las seis de la tarde.

El Papa nombró al sacerdote Edward Weisenburger Prelado de Honor de su Santidad Monseñor Edward Weisenburger ha trabajado por los inmigrantes



Con gran humildad el sacerdote Weisenburger recibe su nombramiento de honor.

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — El Papa Benedicto XVI ha nombrado al sacerdote Edward Weisenburger, "Prelado de Honor de Su Santidad". Desde ahora recibirá el tratamiento de "Monseñor", con lo que se convierte en el primer Monseñor de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, la cual fue erigida en 1972. Antes de 1972, el territorio de la Iglesia Católica en Oklahoma era llamada la Diócesis de Oklahoma City y Tulsa y tuvo un Monseñor en 1948.

Monseñor Weisenburger ha sido gran aliado de los inmigrantes en la protección de sus derechos y su dignidad humana. Participó activamente en las marchas en contra de las leyes anti-inmigrantes en Oklahoma y abogó por la clemencia dada al mexicano Torres, cuando fue condenado a muerte en Oklahoma en el 2005. Torres está vivo por la gracia de Dios y su sentencia a muerte la convirtieron en cadena perpetua.

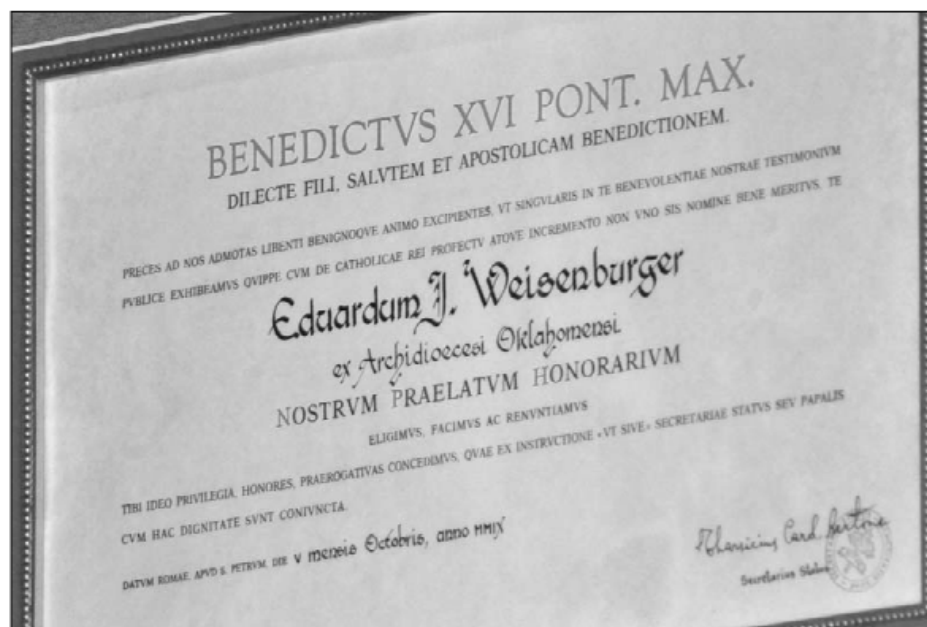
Monseñor Weisenburger manifestó públicamente su desacuerdo con las leyes que han promulgado recientemente en Oklahoma en contra de los inmigrantes y se ha comprometido a seguir luchando por una legalización justa de los inmigrantes indocumentados. Monseñor Weisenburger, actualmente es el Vicario General de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y

Rector de la Catedral de nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. En 1997 fue ordenado sacerdote por el Arzobispo Charles Salatka y asignando a sus actividades pastorales. Posteriormente siguió sus estudios en Bélgica y obtuvo un máster en estudios religiosos en la Universidad Católica de Lovaina y una licenciatura en derecho canónico en Canadá en la Universidad de San Pablo de Ottawa.

Monseñor Weisenburger nació en Alton, Illinois el 23 de diciembre de 1960, su padre sobrevive y vive en Oklahoma City y su señora madre murió en 1998. Monseñor también tiene 2 hermanas y un hermano que viven en Oklahoma, Texas y Pensilvania. En la actualidad es promotor de la causa de canonización del Padre Rother. Sin duda alguna, Monseñor Weisenburger tendrá una participación muy activa en la lucha por la legalización que se avecina en este año 2010. Monseñor Weisenburger agradeció en la Misa del sexto día de Octava de Navidad al Arzobispo Beltrán por su apoyo y sumministrazione de su nombre al Papa Benedicto XVI. También el Arzobispo Beltrán durante esa Misa agradeció a Monseñor Weisenburger su lealtad al sacerdocio y su buen trabajo pastoral dándole su bendición, señalando que el respeto y la fidelidad al sacerdocio son ejemplo para nuestros seminaristas y futuras vocaciones.



Arzobispo Beltrán aplaude la distinción Pontificia a Monseñor Weisenburger.



Este es el título de honor recibido. (Fotos por Mauro Yanez / Sooner Catholic)



Caballeros de Colón en la Misa de Bendición presidida por el Arzobispo Beltrán.

Pontiff: Authentic Humility the Road Map to Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNA) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated the Mass of the Epiphany at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, accompanied by hundreds of clergy and thousands of the faithful. In his homily, the Holy Father called for authentic humility to "start walking the road" indicated by "the star" of the Lord.

On the feast of the Epiphany, the church celebrates the arrival of the Magi to the nativity.

These Eastern Kings, said the Pope, came from a distant land to give homage while those who were in near-

by Bethlehem and Jerusalem neglected the signs and remained ignorant of the savior's birth.

We run the same risk today "even though the few in Bethlehem have become many, the believers in Jesus Christ always seem to be few," the Holy Father cautioned.

"Many have seen the star, but only a few have understood the message."

Despite possessing the knowledge to see and find the Lord, many are impeded by "too much confidence in themselves, the pretext of perfectly knowing the reality..."he added.

The presumption of forming a definitive judgment on the workings of the world, continued the Pontiff, closes a person's heart and makes it "insensitive to the novelty of God." This trust in self rather than in God makes many think it impossible that He could be great enough to reduce himself to our size and to be approachable, he explained.

"What is lacking is authentic humility to know how to submit to that which is great with authentic courage, which leads us to believe in that which is truly great, even if it is manifested in

a defenseless Child," the Pope stated.

The answer, he said, is that we must have the "evangelical capacity to be children at heart ... and to allow ourselves to start walking on the road indicated by the star, the way of God."

The Pontiff added that "The Lord ... has the power to render us capable of seeing and of saving us. So, we want to ask Him to give us a wise and innocent heart, one that permits us to see the star and his mercy, to start walking on his road (and) to find him and be inundated by the great light and the true joy that he brings to this world."

Medicine and the True Cost of Being in Denial

Back in the early 1800s, most practicing physicians refused to believe that the simple gesture of washing their hands between patients could help prevent the spread of childbed fever among the pregnant women they examined. Even in the face of compelling scientific evidence, they remained stubbornly opposed to the practice. As a result of this intransigence on the part of the medical establishment over a period of many years, childbed fever (also known as puerperal infection) ended up claiming the lives of thousands of young women.

Today, a similar intransigence exists among many physicians who refuse to "wash their hands" of abortion; they also fail to acknowledge a key and dangerous effect of abortion on women's health, namely, an increased risk of breast cancer. Abortion of a woman's first pregnancy has been shown to correlate with an elevated incidence of breast cancer. Yet the medical community, by fostering the practice of abortion, has stubbornly ignored this link, refusing to inform women about this serious health risk, even in the face of compelling scientific evidence. This long-running intransigence means that women today, not unlike the 1800s, continue to die unnecessarily.

In the 1840s, when Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis began requiring that physicians and medical students wash their hands before examining women or delivering their babies, the

mortality rate dropped from 18 percent to 1.3 percent in the maternity ward in the hospital in Vienna. Yet most of Dr. Semmelweis' co-workers thought handwashing was a waste of time, and refused to comply or acknowledge its importance until several more decades had passed. Meanwhile, year after year, he continued to provide statistical evidence that handwashing saved lives, and, year after year, he was criticized in scientific journals, and ridiculed by leading physicians throughout Europe. Semmelweis was eventually fired because of his insistence on handwashing.

Those who were supposed to be dedicated to saving lives in the medical establishment of the early 1800s were instead more concerned about political correctness and committed to preserving their own entrenched academic interests. Best medical practice became subordinated to other pressures and misguided beliefs.

Today's medical establishment faces a similar temptation of placing various irrational ideologies ahead of a patient's best interests. As modern medicine subtly morphs into a schizophrenic discipline that at times works to save young human patients in the



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

womb, but at other times works to harm that same patient population through abortion, it becomes but a short next step to downplay or ignore the harmful effects that abortion has on women, as in the case of the abortion-breast cancer link.

More than 28 different studies over a period of 45 years have shown abortion to be a significant risk factor for breast cancer. Not only has the epidemiological evidence been abundant to implicate abortion in this way, but it has also been shown that childbearing to full term for a woman's first pregnancy, especially at an early age, affords a significant protective effect against breast cancer.

A number of scientists and physicians (especially those with connections to the abortion industry) have been quick to suggest that these research results were "inconsistent" and that they could not really arrive at "definitive conclusions." As a result, young women today rarely receive sound medical information about these risks from their health-care providers. Abortion is aggressively marketed as a "woman's right" and has become one of the most common and lucrative surgical procedures today. So many within the medical establishment, including various professional associations like the American Medical Association, seem to shy away from serious discussions of abortion's health risks. A few years ago, George Lundberg, M.D., former editor of the Journal of the American

Medical Association, noted during an interview with Health Affairs magazine how certain topics like abortion and tobacco were "sensitive issues" that had been on the American Medical Association's "don't touch" list for many years.

The danger of breast cancer from induced abortion constitutes a serious health risk that women deserve to be fully informed about, and the ethical failure on the part of the medical establishment and by various cancer watchdog groups in this regard is noteworthy and troubling. Until the practice of modern medicine once again includes a repudiation of direct abortion as part of its professional creed in the way it once did when physicians took the Hippocratic Oath, little progress will be made in addressing a number of serious women's health issues linked to abortion, including breast cancer.

Modern medicine still desperately needs to break free from its steadfast denial and to wash its hands of the unsavory and immoral practice of abortion if it ever hopes to minister in a fully responsible way to the health needs of pregnant women and their children.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

Calendar

JANUARY

12 **Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

12 **Bishop McGuinness home basketball game** vs. Stillwater, varsity girls, 6 p.m., and varsity boys, 7:30 p.m.

12 **Mount St. Mary home basketball game** vs. Lexington, varsity girls, 6:30 p.m., and varsity boys, 8 p.m.

12 **Michael Reardon** to perform at St. Francis Parish in the church at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

12 **Catholic War Veterans** (of any war/conflict) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

13 **Catholic War Veterans USA.** The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunnyside Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second

Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

14 **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

15 **Bishop McGuinness home basketball game** vs. Northwest Classen, varsity girls, 6 p.m., and varsity boys, 7:30 p.m.

15 **Mount St. Mary home basketball game** vs. Bridge Creek, varsity girls, 6:30 p.m., and varsity boys, 8 p.m.

16 **IGNATIAN SILENT RETREAT** from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with Melissa Anna Letts, OSB. A silent Ignatian retreat will help you discover how God is revealed in your daily life. Place: Retreat House at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: \$25, (\$10 deposit). Bring a sack lunch.

17-25 **Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus.** Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-

Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. At Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH99/377. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

17 **The community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

17 **The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8688.

17 **Taize Prayer**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

17 **Michael Reardon** to perform at St. Andrew Parish in Moore at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

20 **Sanctity of Life Mass** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, at 6 p.m.

24 **Pilgrimage Sunday**, Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH99/377. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

24 **Michael Reardon** to perform at Holy Spirit Parish in Mustang at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

26 **Bishop McGuinness home basketball game** vs. Union, varsity girls, 6 p.m., and varsity boys, 7:30 p.m.

27 **Michael Reardon** to perform at Epiphany Parish in OKC at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

28 **Michael Reardon** to perform at St. Eugene's in OKC at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

Jobs Box

Computer Teacher

St. Eugene Catholic School has immediate opening for a computer teacher for first through eighth grade. The teacher needs to be a certified teacher with knowledge in educational software, Microsoft office and basic computer hardware. If interested, please send a resume to SWilliams@steugeneschool.org.

Adjunct Faculty Openings

The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory's University has adjunct faculty openings on all campus locations in Tulsa, Shawnee and OKC at the undergraduate level for courses in environmental studies and accounting control systems. Candidates for undergraduate courses are required to hold a minimum of a master's degree in the preferred subject, doctoral degrees preferred, and related business and industry experience. Adjunct faculty openings at the graduate

level requires a doctorate in health care management/health care administration or a doctorate in management/business with an area of specialization in health care management. Candidates for graduate courses are required to hold a Ph.D. in the preferred subject and related business and industry experience. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send cover letter, vita and transcripts to hr@stgregorys.edu.

Director of Religious Education

Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced Director of Religious Education. The director is responsible for overseeing the K-12 religious education for students not attending Catholic school, coordinating the RCIA program, Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession. The director also will be re-

sponsible for developing and coordinating a strong adult education program for the parish. The applicant should be well-versed in Catholic doctrine, work well with a variety of people and have strong initiative. Candidates should possess a degree in religion or theology, preferably a master's degree. Resumes should be sent to Father Rick Stansberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156, or e-mailed to kelly@ckokc.org.

LPN/RN Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: LPN/RN - Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrator's license a plus! Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills! To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Mount Teacher Honored For Promoting ‘Big Dreams’

OKLAHOMA CITY — John Keilty, teacher and coach at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, has been selected as the Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran Catholic School Educator of the Year by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc.

Keilty was honored in an all-school ceremony at Mount St. Mary on Dec. 14 and will be honored at the Diocesan teacher in-service meeting in February. A grant will be given to Mount St. Mary in his honor.

Teachers are nominated for this award by principals from 22 Catholic schools in Oklahoma City. The honor is given to an individual who truly embodies the mission of a Catholic education — the development of the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, personally, socially and physically.

Keilty teaches AP physics, pre-AP physics, physical science, astronomy, is a football coach, and is the head coach of the baseball team at Mount St. Mary.

As stated in Keilty's nomination by Principal Talita DeNegri, "Our Catholic school is strengthened in our purpose because of our dignity and respect toward our calling as teachers, and Mr. Keilty selflessly displays the qualities which our school is founded upon. When working with teens, it is

important to emphasize to them the need for goal-setting and then making the attempts to reach their dreams. We have proudly borrowed one of his sayings, 'Dream BIG Dreams,' and we have it on one of our walls in the main hallway for all to see. But Keilty makes it even more realistic for our students. In his science classroom is an extra large whiteboard. If you were to go into his room, you will see that the whiteboard is a web of many colors because he has every one of his students take a marker and actually write their dream and then sign it! He often brings a student or two into his room to face the whiteboard and discuss how they are going about achieving their dream (or not). Even in times of disciplining, he uses this same strategy to help guide a student 'back to his senses!' The whiteboard has become a tradition with his students. He takes this tradition one step further ... once these students graduate, he tries to get in touch with them and remind them of their 'graffiti' on his board. He not only wants to see how the students are doing, but more importantly, he wants to continue nudging them to push forward and not give up on their dreams — to not give up on themselves. Keilty truly understands his responsibility of



John Keilty standing under his quote painted in the halls of the Mount.

teaching teens — to help them to be self-accountable; to be leaders; to have the courage to do all they can because God has a purpose for them. God has blessed us with John Keilty, and we

are grateful he chose to be a high school science teacher instead of an astronaut, which is what his Navy colleagues chose to do. Thank you, Mr. Keilty, for being an MSM ROCKET!"

Shrine Adorns Christmas Tree With Names of Loved Ones

PRAGUE — The National Shrine of the Infant Jesus invited parishioners and Shrine members to remember their loved ones during the Christmas season, by having bells placed upon a Christmas tree. Bells were placed upon the tree, and were numbered; corresponding numbers were listed with the loved one's names listed on a board beside the tree. More than 1,850 names were sent in to decorate the tree.

