



## Pro-Life and homeless: A mother's journey of courage

**By Eliana Tedrow**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

For many women, saying “yes” to life is easy. With a support network of friends and family, perhaps a supportive husband, and certainly a consistent roof over their head, the decision of whether or not to keep their unborn child may seem like a no-brainer.

But, for a multitude of women facing pregnancy, the decision to keep their unborn baby is not so clear.

For one Oklahoma woman, the decision to choose life was made possible through Rose Home, a program that offers shelter to homeless women and their children.

A few years ago, Heather Ellis found herself homeless, living out of her car, and facing an unplanned pregnancy. Her sister searched the Internet and found Rose Home.

“It is hard for me to speak about what got me to Rose Home. In life, some may experience mental health issues, addiction, substance abuse, mental and physical abuse, job loss, child custody battles, financial miss management, divorce, loss of a child or children. In some way or another I have experienced some of these things or it hit close to home at some point in my life.”

Ellis said it was a combination of factors, including an alcoholic father and a mother who had been chronically ill since she was a child as well as Ellis not making the “best choices” that led to her needing assistance.

But, when Ellis walked through the doors of Rose Home, she found more than shelter. She found fellow women, willing to listen to her, support her, and walk life's valleys alongside her. She found hope, and ultimately the empowerment needed to get her life back on course.

“It's a piece of the pro-life movement that sometimes gets overlooked,” laments Ellen Roberts, director of Rose Home in Oklahoma City.

“I can assure you it is not something Birth Choice overlooks or pushes to the side, it's actually quite the opposite.”

Roberts admits that sometimes in our fervor to protect the unborn, someone very important can get overlooked – the mother. This was not the case with Heather Ellis.

“The only requirement of me was to continue to work toward my goals. And, if one goal didn't go as planned, they supported me in another.”

Ellis, like all residents at Rose Home, was provided basic material needs. When homeless women come in and want to keep their unborn baby,

they are provided support for the baby and the tools needed to improve their life as well.



Heather Ellis and her son. *Photo provided.*

Ellis took advantage of every opportunity offered to her, and made a new life for herself and her unborn child.

“They required I create a goals list every week,” Ellis said.

Ellis was assigned a counselor, she opened a savings account, paid various debts and fines and even purchased a vehicle.

One of Ellis's goals was to attend nursing school. Rose Home paid for the background check the nursing program required and arranged for a tutor for her math test.

Once Ellis's son arrived, Rose Home continued to provide her and her newborn with shelter, food and other basic physical needs. They also found funds to help Ellis's transportation to and from school every day and with day-care. Ellis eventually earned back her driver's license.

**continued on page 3**

## Archdiocese attracts national evangelization leader

*Beckman leads new Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis*

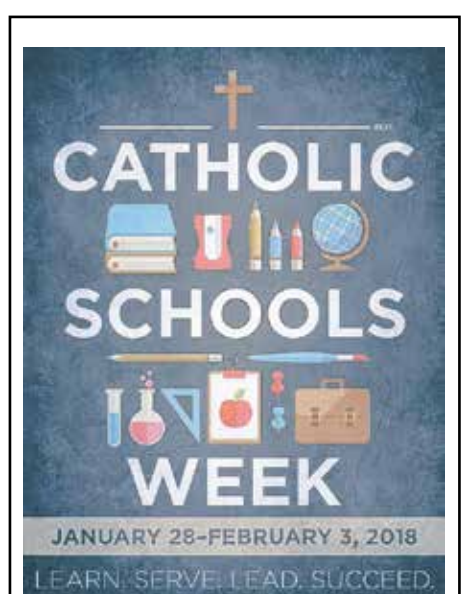
**By Diane Clay**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

10-year-old Jimmy Beckman cleared his throat, pushed the shaky record button on his Panasonic tape recorder and recited a quick Scripture verse. He finished the recording with a cheerful message about God's love before pulling the cassette from the recorder, sliding it into an envelope and asking his mom to mail it to his aunt. The next one went to his cousin, then his grandparents.

The recorded messages were the result of a profound experience of prayer that led to the miraculous healing of his paralyzed father. The experience drew a young Jim Beckman to an early understanding of his faith and ignited the burning desire to share it with others.

“I encountered God in a real way. I felt God telling me that my dad was going to be healed, and the tapes were

**continued on page 16**



See the Sooner Catholic **Catholic Schools Week** section on pages 7-10.



Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

## Catholic schools are a gift to share

Each year, we set aside time to celebrate the unique value of Catholic schools during Catholic Schools Week. This year's observance runs from Jan. 28 through Feb. 3 and will include local Masses, open houses and other activities for families, students, parishioners and community members.

During the year, I travel to every one of our Catholic schools for Mass and classroom visits, and try to schedule at least one visit during Catholic Schools Week. This year, the theme is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

It is hard, if not impossible, to quantify the real value of Catholic schools. Suffice it to say that based on the average cost per pupil of public school education, Catholic schools save U.S. taxpayers more than \$20 billion annually.

More importantly, however, Catholic schools are irreplaceable centers of evangelization. As communities of faith and learning they form disciples of Jesus Christ by proposing the Gospel and inviting a response.

The Catholic faith is woven integrally throughout the entire curriculum, both in the classroom, through worship and through service opportunities. Prayer not only is permitted, but promoted in our Catholic schools. As a result, studies show that Catholic school students are more likely to pray daily and retain a Catholic identity in adulthood.

Catholic school graduates are more likely to be civically engaged, volunteer, vote and be committed to service. Historically, Catholic schools have provided a tremendously effective environment for nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In short, there is really no substitute for the many contributions our Catholic schools make to Church and society. They are a treasure.

For years, the Catholic Church has affirmed the right and responsibility of parents to serve as the primary educators of their children. To assist parents in this sacred duty, the Church has taught that children have a right to an education in faith, and that the state has a fundamental obligation to enable such a right.

In its document on religious liberty, the Second Vatican Council affirmed that "The rights of parents are violated if their children are forced to attend lessons or instructions that are not in agreement with their religious beliefs, or if a single system of education, from which all religious formation is excluded, is imposed upon all."

Many parents exercise their duty to educate their

children in accord with their fundamental religious beliefs by choosing to send their children to Catholic schools, to parish religious education programs or through homeschooling. Sometimes the higher cost of parochial schools makes it difficult or even impossible for parents to choose Catholic schools for their children.

It is the responsibility of the whole Catholic community to strive to make Catholic education accessible and affordable to Catholic parents and children who desire it. Tuition assistance programs and other kinds of need-based scholarship assistance are important for the sustainability of our Catholic schools and their mission.

There also is a growing recognition beyond the Catholic Church of the importance of supporting parents' educational choices for their children. The importance of parents' rights to choose the kind of education that is best for their children has lead to a growing movement toward "parental choice" in education, that is, policies and programs that empower parents to make such choices.

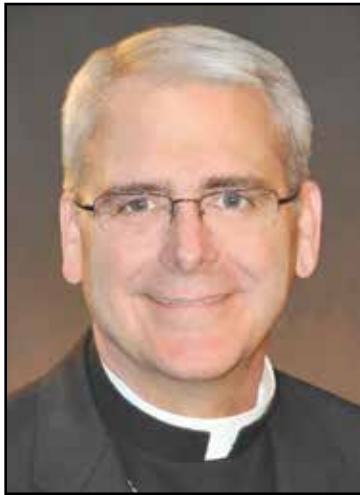
Effective parental choice policies give parents the flexibility to choose the kind of school that meets the needs of their children either based on their religious convictions, the quality of education available in their public schools or the special needs of their children.

Parental choice programs are growing nationwide. They take the form of scholarship tax credit programs, voucher programs, special needs programs, individu-

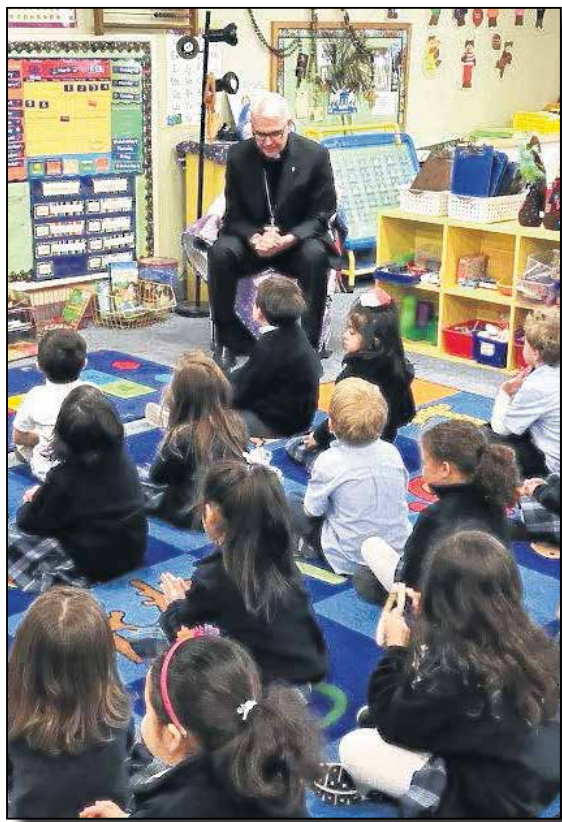
al income tax credits and education savings account programs.

For example, in Oklahoma, families are finding assistance in sending their children to Catholic schools either through the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Program that allows children with special needs to enroll at Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, or through the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund, which allows tax deductible contributions to be eligible for a state income tax credit so that need-based scholarships may be awarded for Catholic students to attend Catholic schools.

We have a treasure in our Catholic schools. It is a gift to share. But, it is our shared responsibility to explore innovative public/private initiatives and find effective ways to make the gift of Catholic education available to still more students and families.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



## Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail [tips@archokc.org](mailto:tips@archokc.org).

✓ **Saint Lucia Dinner**  
The Santa Lucia Dinner will be at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School on Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Speaker is Ed Abel, a nationally prominent attorney from Oklahoma City who has been blind for more than 20 years. Abel's testimony of faith and resilience is a compelling story. Tickets \$50 per person. Contact St. Eugene at (405) 751-7115 or Steven Johns at (405) 334-9475, or go online to [Livingcatholicproductions.com](http://Livingcatholicproductions.com).



@archokc



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



God of mercy,  
We thank you for the gift of Catholic education.  
We walk in faith and thanks, guided by those who have gone before us, who nurtured and sustained Catholic education.

We acknowledge that the promise of Catholic education is within us, that it is a promise that we live out in our families and communities and that it is a promise that we proclaim in acts of justice and compassion in word and deed.

We make this prayer that we may live out the promise of Catholic education for many more years to come.  
Amen.

## Project Gabriel: Loving help for moms in crisis

By Sally Linhart  
*The Sooner Catholic*

For many women, the news of a pregnancy is cause for celebration. For others, it can be devastating and terrifying – but thanks to several caring options moms don't have to face the situation alone. One group ready to help and let women know they have options is Project Gabriel.

Project Gabriel, a national movement, is a parish-based ministry that has been part of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for more than 20 years. Offered through the support of Catholic Charities,

Project Gabriel is available for women who are pregnant and looking for help.

Becky VanPool, director of parish engagement at Catholic Charities, described the ministry as an extension of the spirit of the Catholic Church.

"We are in a perfect position to express our faith and love

for all human life, to provide support and move these women to a better place."

The ministry offers varying levels of support, depending on each woman's needs, from sharing information and resources to providing friendship and emotional support through each step of the pregnancy – and beyond.

"So many women who choose abortion do so be-

cause they don't know how much help is available, and they don't know how to access it," VanPool said. "The Church saw that if we can provide a support system, women would have other options."

Project Gabriel volunteers start by connecting with women to understand and meet their individual needs, listening to their fears and concerns. From there, Project Gabriel "Angels" can equip moms with everything they need to say "yes" to their pregnancy, including diapers, formula, clothing, furniture and food. Women who do not have health insurance still receive prenatal care through partner non-profits.

Assistance with clothing and food for older children is available as well.

Since lack of support and resources are the main reasons women opt to seek abortions, Project Gabriel provides an emphasis on facilitating that connection. Through nurturing and friendship, the volunteers equip women with knowledge, resources and the courage they desperately need to face an unexpected or crisis pregnancy.

"The awareness of God's love and care enhances their ability to emotionally heal – and lessens the desperation, isolation and loneliness that pushes them toward abortion," VanPool said.

The archdiocese has created guidelines for Project Gabriel that give the participating parishes parameters of the responsibilities of this ministry. Volunteers receive the training and education they need to serve effectively as mentors, enabling them to better advocate for women and walk with them throughout the pregnancy. They have honed the skills necessary to offer the type of support women in crisis pregnancies need. Project Gabriel ministries are located at Church of the Epiphany of the Lord in Oklahoma City, Saint John in Edmond, Saint Benedict in Shawnee and Saint Mark in Norman.

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

## From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist



On Sept. 8, 1889, Saint Mary in Guthrie was dedicated under the guidance of Father Felix DeGrasse, O.S.B. A few weeks later, three Benedictine sisters from Creston, Iowa, arrived to start a school. These fearless women were the beginning of an important Benedictine presence that continues to this day. Bishop Meerschaert would make Guthrie his home when he came to the territory in 1891 to serve as vicar apostolic (the vicariate being the final step before becoming a diocese). The parish also would be the site of the first priestly ordination solely for the vicariate in the person of William Henry Ketchem. The photograph reveals the first church and convent on Thanksgiving Day, 1889. The convent would be appropriated by Bishop Meerschaert to serve as his residence until he moved to Oklahoma City in 1905 when the Diocese of Oklahoma was erected.



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

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"One of my needs when I moved into Rose Home was to learn to manage my money," Ellis said. "I was offered a financial money management class. I made a list of all my debt, and since I've been at Rose Home, I've paid off more than \$16,000."

Ellis's son is now 5 years old and has a structured, consistent life.

"The miraculous thing is with the help of Rose Home I was able to give my son life! I was able to choose life!" she said.

"If I were to meet a girl today and she was in the situation I was in, I would not hesitate for one second to encourage her to call or go to Birth Choice and Rose Home. To give someone help at choosing life is incredible. To share the experience I have had, makes me happy to know there is help for those in need."

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

### Rose Home

The mission of Rose Home is provide a safe haven to homeless pregnant women and their children while helping them become self-sufficient.

Contact (405) 631-4477  
or go online to  
[www.birthchoice.org](http://www.birthchoice.org).

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley's official calendar.

Jan. 28 – Confirmation, 4 p.m., St. John Nepomuk, Yukon  
Jan. 29-30 – Spring Clergy Days, Catholic Pastoral Center  
Jan. 31 – Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Annual Meeting, 10 a.m., CPC  
Feb. 1 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Bishop John Carroll, OKC  
Feb. 1 – Spitzer Center Episcopal Advisors teleconference, 11 a.m.  
Feb. 1 – Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board teleconference, 3 p.m.  
Feb. 2 – Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, 7 a.m., Skirvin Hilton Hotel, OKC  
Feb. 2 – Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School annual auction – "McGuinness Rocks On," 6 p.m., The Criterion, OKC  
Feb. 3 – Lunch with participants at Sisters in Spirit Conference, 11:30 a.m., St. Mark, Norman  
Feb. 4 – Archbishop's Circle reception, 3 p.m., CPC





**Most Reverend  
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# Alveda King to speak at Rose Day

*Faith community unites for pro-life event*

OKLAHOMA CITY – The 2018 Rose Day Pro-Life Rally, which takes place inside the Oklahoma State Capitol each February, will feature Alveda C. King, author, pro-life activist and niece of civil rights leader, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

A sought-after speaker, King “serves as a pastoral associate and director of Civil Rights for the Unborn, the African-American Outreach for Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries. She also is a voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, sharing her testimony of two abortions, God’s forgiveness, and healing.”

“The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights,” Archbishop Coakley said. “Rose Day is an important opportunity for the pro-life community in Oklahoma to show our legislators and our governor that Oklahomans respect that fundamental right and stand for life! It is a powerful witness when people from our various faith traditions stand shoulder to shoulder to affirm the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person.”

Baptist General Convention

of Oklahoma Executive Director-Treasurer Anthony L. Jordan is asking pro-life Oklahomans to make participation in Rose Day a priority.

“Throughout my years of serving as a pastor and in the pro-life movement, I truly cannot think of a more critical time in the struggle to protect the unborn,” Jordan said.

During the Rose Day event, attendees bring red roses as a symbol of their pro-life stance



and deliver them to the governor, lieutenant governor, their state senator and state representative. Following rose distribution, a rally will take place in the 4th floor House Chamber.

Rose distribution begins at 9:30 a.m. The rally will be at 11:30 a.m. In addition to the keynote address from King, there will be a presentation by Tulsa Bishop David Konderla, music and other program elements.

Rose Day was started in Oklahoma by two Catholic moms who

could not make it to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. because they had small children at home. They decided to walk the halls of the state Capitol on the same day as the march and hand out roses in support of pro-life efforts in the state.

Dozens of years later, the halls of the state Capitol on Rose Day are filled with mothers, fathers, grandparents, schoolchildren and infants.

Today, a committee representing many faiths works together to plan the event.

Becky VanPool, director of parish outreach

at Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, is a member of the Rose Day board.

“Catholics should attend Rose Day to join with people of faith to profess the humanity of the unborn child and call upon the community to protect and care for the unborn and their mothers. We are the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves,” VanPool said.

For more information on Rose Day, call (405) 523-3000 or visit [www.bgco.org/roseday](http://www.bgco.org/roseday).

## ACCW Rose Day Mass, brunch, transportation

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) will host its annual Rose Day Mass and brunch at Saint Francis of Assisi, 1901 N.W. 18.

A Mass will be offered at 7:30

a.m. in the Saint Francis chapel on the second floor of the Meer-schaert House. Following Mass, a brunch will be served in the Kelley Room. All are invited.

Transportation to the Capitol

provided by an ACCW charter bus. The bus will leave Saint Francis at 9:30 a.m. Reservations required for the bus. Call or text Mary Ann Schmitt at (405) 650-9674. Roundtrip ticket \$15.

## Loutitia Denison Eason

Loutitia “Tish” Eason, the former chancellor for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, passed away on Jan. 9 in Oklahoma City.

Eason was born in Broken Arrow on Dec. 12, 1945, and graduated at the top of her class from Broken Arrow High School. She attended the University of Oklahoma, earning a bachelor’s degree in microbiology, a master’s degree in microbiology and, in 1979, she earned a Juris Doctorate degree.

After graduation from law school, Eason worked for the Oklahoma Department of Securities, attaining the office of general counsel. She entered private practice in 1983 where she practiced securities and public trust law. Eason and Jack Lawrence served many years as general counsel for the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency.

In 2002, Eason became chancellor of

the archdiocese where she served until her retirement in July of 2017. She was the first female and first layperson to serve as chancellor for the archdiocese. She was a member of many charitable organizations, including the OKC Orchestra League where in the 1980s she loved working on the Stewart Awards. She also was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Eason is survived by her husband of 38 years, Douglas Eason, her two sons, Chris of Tulsa and Bryan of Tacoma, Wash., daughter-in-law, Michelle of Tulsa, two granddaughters, Isabelle and Olivia, and her sister, Brenda Wilson of Dallas.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma - Eason Family Endowment Fund, for the benefit of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and Bishop John Carroll Catholic School.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.



*Tish Eason*

## Pilgrimage to France

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a pilgrimage to France June 18-29.

Visit the incorruptible saints Bernadette Soubiros, John Vianney, Catherine Laboure and Vincent de Paul. Visit holy sites in Nevers, Paray Le Monial, Villefranche sur Saone, La Salette, Grenoble, Le Puy, Chartres, with two days in Lourdes and four days in Paris. All-inclusive with roundtrip flights from OKC, breakfasts and dinners, daily Mass, deluxe lodging, all site admissions. \$4,549.00 pp. \$300 pp deposit required by Feb. 13. Balance due April 4. Contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, [Mroewe@unitours.com](mailto:Mroewe@unitours.com).

## Real Life Disciples

# What’s the point of all this?

The holidays gave an opportunity to see the new Star Wars movie with my family. I found myself musing over Rey’s line: “I need someone to show me my place in all this.”

That line took on a life of its own when it was included in the movie trailer shown during Monday Night Football. The subsequent memes and parodies online have been quite amusing. It’s interesting though how the line captures one of the driving questions of every human being. Isn’t that a question we’re all asking at some point?

Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? What’s the point of all this? These are the deeper questions every person is wrestling with, even if they aren’t fully aware of it. Like Rey, we just want to understand “our place in all this.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church hits these questions head-on in its very first paragraph: “God, infinitely perfect and blessed

in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him,

That first paragraph captures it all.

Archbishop Coakley echoes this in his Pastoral letter “Go Make Disciples:”

“Go make disciples. This is God’s word addressed to us ... It is our mandate. For all of us and for each of us, it is both an invitation and a challenge; a call and a mission. The vision is rooted in who we are and why we are here. Our sacred purpose, as the people the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, is to joyfully witness to our Catholic faith in central and western Oklahoma through the teaching, sanctifying and governing ministry of Christ and his Church so that the Body of Christ is made present, the universal call to holiness proclaimed, and all people are welcomed into the promise of eternal life.”

As Catholics, we don’t need to find ourselves lost pondering these deep questions. We have the answers! We can know who we are, and more importantly can know

*“It’s actually the simple, little, everyday things that get us real traction in the growth of being a disciple.”*

to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life” (CCC, 1).

I like to rename this reference: origin, destination, purpose, path!

why we’re here. We are invited by Jesus to be his followers, and as



**Jim Beckman**  
*Director of the  
Secretariat for  
Evangelization and  
Catechesis*

his disciples to take up his mission of bringing the love of the Father to this very broken world. What a calling!

This is not some high and lofty goal that is unattainable. We have countless examples like Blessed Stanley Rother, who have paved the way and shown us the path. Saints have gone before us!

This is actually the answer to Rey’s question; your place in all this, my place in all this is to be disciples. And not just disciples, but “disciples who make other disciples.”

That’s what this new column is going to be all about – the real, human stuff of discipleship. It’s called “Real Life Disciples” because discipleship happens in the everyday.

And, it’s actually the simple, little, everyday things that get us real traction in the growth of being a disciple. If you just focus on the big things, you may miss what real discipleship is all about.

I look forward to the journey with you, and to sharing in our mutual calling to “Go Make Disciples!”

## A Millenial Journey in Faith

# Celebrating marriage and the gift of life

A few months ago, my husband and I were watching a comedic mystery with themes that included the nature of freedom, the relationship between government and religion, and a child’s duty to their parents. It was a show that had a who-dun-it base, entertained with comedy, and explored, however clumsily, big questions.

And, then there was a pornographic scene.

My husband did not merely

fast-forward. He turned off the show. He believed that as a key aspect of life, sex was not by any means off limits to art or storytelling. But, he cannot tolerate depictions of love and human sexuality where these acts are dishonorably construed as mere entertainment.

I remembered this episode the day before our country observed the 45th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade – the court case that thwarted democracy and struck down all existing laws outlawing abortion. The U.S. Supreme Court effectively legalized abortion on demand.

Since then, the pro-life movement has done a lot to help mothers and children in dire situations, from providing medical care and material help to adoption services and reliable data about the harms of abortion on all involved, making it practicable for many women to choose life.

Despite these victories of the pro-life movement, the demand for abortion

is still high. Overall, the abortion rate has increased greatly since its widespread legalization in 1973, even though it has decreased in recent years. My calendar calls that day “A day for the protection of the unborn.” We must ask ourselves: what most protects the unborn?

The simple answer: being conceived to a married mother and father who are prepared to take responsibility for the life that naturally results from their marital love. A mother and a father, whose love for one another – pledged before family, friends and God – protects the vulnerable child.

In other words, marriage and fidelity protect the unborn. Chastity, purity and self-control protect the unborn. Proclaiming the truth that babies are a natural result of sexual intimacy – not an “accidental” biproduct – protects the unborn.

All of us can contribute to a culture that honors and respects love, sexuality, marriage and children, beginning with our own lives. Those of us who are married can begin by re-dedicating ourselves to our own marriages. We can support the marriages of friends, both



**Anamaria  
Scaperlanda  
Biddick**  
*For the Sooner  
Catholic*

through practical support and by encouraging unity between the spouses. We can all recommit ourselves to the virtue of chastity.

We can refuse to accept the degradation of human sexuality, in images and stories, no matter how innocuous the depiction may seem. We don’t know always how much it taints our picture of love and human sexuality until we do without these narratives for a long time. Have we adopted the view, implicit in these stories, that romantic love is about self-fulfillment and not self-gift? Do we see having – or not having – babies as an aspect of self-fulfillment rather than a fruit of marital love?

To build a culture that respects the truth about human love, we need to read, watch and tell stories that display this truth.



# Our healthy hunger!

*What are we craving?*



We were born hungry. Cravings and desires are part of who we are.

There are days when just the right snack or drink fills your heart

with, love, peace, joy and happiness.

Today, I had a perfect juicy hamburger. Cooked just right. It also had a perfect combination of lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and grilled onions. Just the right amount of mayo, mustard and ketchup all on a nice warm toasted bun. To join this masterpiece, excellent fries. I enjoyed every bit of it, closed my eyes, smiled and thanked God for this banquet.

This is one of my go-to items that compose my comfort food list. What are you hungry for? What does your heart crave and desire? What brings a smile to your face?

Just as our bodies develop cravings, so do our souls; our hearts. We all were created with a special inner longing, a unique inner desire, that we can't immediately name or define. At first, we are not sure what this missing part of our lives is, but, in spite of not knowing, we try very hard to find it and satiate that inner desire.

Some people, for reasons that I can't explain, are lucky enough to learn very early in life how to fulfill that inner most desire. Others lead lives filled with one swing and a miss

after another. They keep searching and trying, searching and trying, searching and trying, to no avail. Many times, they think they finally found it, but, some months down the road and with profound sadness, they realize that, once again, this isn't even close to what they longed for.

Exasperated, some give up searching. Frustrated, some go down the wrong path and conclude that what they desired doesn't even exist and they settle for cheap imitations or close seconds, and live out their lives as best they can.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of this desire. The Great Desire, common to all women and men is our desire for the loving, life-giving and eternally merciful God. Yes, we were born desiring and craving love. Not just any love. We have been created to desire the greatest and the best love of all, God! Only God can bring us a never-ending joy combined with the most joyful smile.

Here is what the Catechism says about our desire for God:

**27** "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for."

**29** "...this 'intimate and vital bond of man to God' can be forgotten, overlooked or even explicitly rejected by man. Such attitudes can have different causes: revolt against evil in the world; religious ignorance or indifference; the cares and riches of this world; the scandal of

bad example on the part of believers; currents of thought hostile to religion; finally, that attitude of sinful man which makes him hide from God out of fear and flee his call."

**30** "Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.' Although man can forget God or reject him, He never ceases to call every man to seek him, to find life and happiness. But, this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, 'an upright heart,' as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God. ... Despite everything, man, though but a small part of your creation, wants to praise you. You yourself encourage him to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

So, the next time your stomach begins to grumble and you're feeling hungry; when your cravings and desires begin to awaken your longing for some comfort food, just ask yourself: "How am I doing in feeding my heart's desire for God?"

Then, invite me to join you for a nice juicy burger. Amen?



**Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.**  
Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

## Making Sense of Bioethics

### To be or not to be: Parsing the implications of suicide

In recent years, we have witnessed a growing tendency to promote suicide as a way of resolving end-stage suffering. Physician-assisted suicide is now legal in a handful of states and many other jurisdictions are considering laws to legalize the practice.

A few years ago on Nightline, Barbara Walters interviewed an assisted suicide advocate who summed it up this way: "We're talking about what people want. There are people who, even suffering horribly, want to live out every second of their lives, and that's their right, of course, and they should do it. Others don't want that. Others want out!"

Those favoring physician-assisted suicide argue that getting out of our final agony means essentially redeeming a "get out of jail free" card through committing suicide. At first glance, taking this step would indeed appear to end our troubles definitively.

But, what if this view of things is dead wrong, and we don't actually end up escaping our sufferings? What if we, instead, end up in a new situation where our trials are still present, and maybe even more intense, on account of the willful decision we made to end our own life?

I was recently reminded of this serious flaw in the "suicide solution" after watching a remarkable video adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet, with Campbell Scott co-directing and starring in the title role. Listening once again to Hamlet's timeless soliloquy "to be or not to be," I was struck by how carefully Shakespeare addresses the vexing question of intense human suffering and the perennial

temptation to commit suicide.

Hamlet muses about whether it is better to put up with the bad things we know about in this life than to step into the strange new land of death's "undiscovered country," a country about which we know very little, and from which no one returns. This leaves us, in Hamlet's words, "puzzled" and in "dread of something after death."

He wonders aloud about the hidden purposes of suffering when he asks himself, "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" than to "take arms

against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them." He concludes by asking whether we shouldn't rather "bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of?"

Among those who end up committing suicide, whether physician-assisted or otherwise, many will face extenuating circumstances, including severe depression or other forms of extreme mental pain. In such cases, it is clear that their moral responsibility will be greatly diminished, as fear and anguish constrict their ability to think and reason clearly.

But, this is not always the case, and some people, with clear mind and directed intention, do choose to end their lives, as appears to have been the case for Britney Maynard. She was the young woman in California who in the early stages of her brain cancer carefully arranged and orchestrated her own physician-assisted suicide, establishing months in advance the date and setting, who would be present in the room, what music would be playing as she did it, etc.

Such a decision is always a tragedy, and even life, even when compromised by disease or

suffering, remains a great gift to be cared for. When freely chosen, suicide is a form of serious wrongdoing and is, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations." It leaves behind loved ones to contend with unresolved guilt, shame and pain.

While ending our life may seem to offer an "escape valve" for the serious pressures and sufferings we face, we do well to consider the real effects of this choice both in this life, and in the life to come.

In the next life, a preceding act of suicide may deny us the very relief we were seeking, and may, in fact, lead to harsher purification in a new situation of our own making, or, heaven forbid, lead to a fate far worse than purgatory.

Our Lord and his Church care profoundly for those who commit suicide, and even though this act clearly involves grave matter, the Catechism reminds us that, "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives."

Suicide affects us not only in the here and now, but has significant, even eternal, implications for the journey to that "undiscovered country" that awaits us.

*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 the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.*

## Catholic Schools Week

Dear friends of Catholic education,

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of what makes Catholic education outstanding. Nationally, schools typically observe the celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will set aside this week, as they do each year, to build community awareness of and involvement in our own local Catholic schools as we share with everyone the important role of Catholic schools in providing value-added education and making the world a better place for all.

The theme of our celebration is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." The theme encompasses the core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country.

Not only are we teaching students to become future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples and enriched citizens in our communities, educators are growing with them. In Catholic schools, we are all learners, servants and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work. They are what make Catholic schools succeed.

This year's theme also focuses on key elements of Catholic education: faith development, making disciples, academic excellence and dedication to service. These elements set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. They are why families make sacrifices to provide their children with a Catholic education.

I am grateful every day for the pastors, principals, teachers, staff, board members, parents and volunteers who make our schools a success. National Catholic Schools Week is a good time for all of us to thank them for their dedication and service.

Please join our Catholic Schools Week celebration as we invite you to be a part of these faith-filled communities!

In Christ,

*Diane Floyd*

Diane Floyd  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



*Go Make Disciples*

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY





**St. Joseph Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 5th Grade  
110 N. Madison St. Enid 73701  
(580) 242-4449  
www.stjosephschoolenid.com  
Tours: By appointment



**Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 6th Grade  
309 S. Main St. Kingfisher 73750  
(405) 375-4616  
www.stspeterandpaul.org  
Tours: By appointment



**Holy Trinity Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
211 W. Missouri Okarche 73762  
(405) 263-4422  
www.holytrinityok.org  
Tours: By appointment



**Sacred Heart Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
210 S. Evans Ave. El Reno 73036  
(405) 262-2284  
www.elrenosacredheart.com  
Open house: April 5,  
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**St. John Nepomuk Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd. Yukon  
73099 (405) 354-2509  
www.sjnok.org/school  
Open house: Jan. 28, 11:45 a.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
925 S. Boulevard Edmond 73083  
(405) 348-5364  
www.stelizabethedmond.org  
Open house: Jan. 28, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



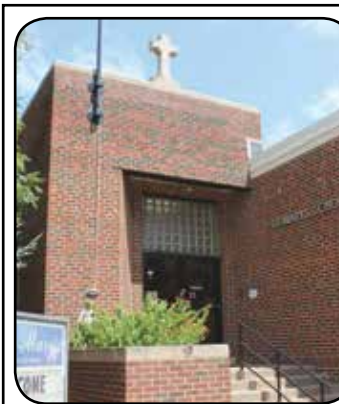
**All Saints Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
4001 36 Ave. NW Norman 73072  
(405) 447-4600  
www.allsaintsnorman.org  
Open house: Jan. 28, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



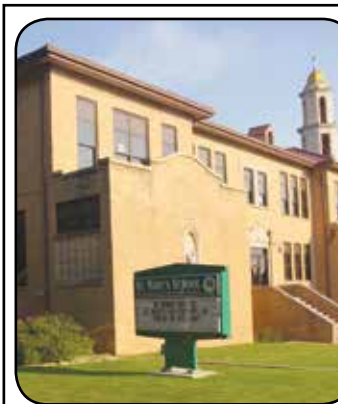
**St. Philip Neri Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
1121 Felix Place Midwest City 73110  
(405) 737-4496  
www.stphilipnerischool.com  
Open house: Jan. 28,  
12:15 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Mary Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
611 S.W. "A" Ave.  
Lawton 73501  
(580) 355-5288  
www.stmarys-ok.org  
Open House: March  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Mary Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
502 E. Warner Ave.  
Guthrie 73044  
(405) 282-2071  
www.stmaryguthrie.org  
Open house: Jan. 28,  
11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Mary Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
415 S. 7  
Ponca City 74601  
(580) 765-4387  
www.smsponcity.org  
Open house: Jan. 31  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
5000 N. Grove Ave.  
OKC 73122  
(405) 789-0224  
www.stcharlesokc.org  
Open house: March 5  
Tours: By appointment



**Rosary Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
1919 N.W. 18  
OKC 73106  
(405) 525-9272  
www.rosaryschool.com  
Open house: Jan. 28,  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Mount St. Mary Catholic High School**  
2801 S. Shartel Ave.  
OKC 73109  
(405) 631-8865  
www.mountstmary.org  
Open House takes place  
in the fall of each school  
year. Currently accepting  
applications for  
Fall 2018.  
Tours: By appointment

## Catholic School Facts 2017-2018 Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



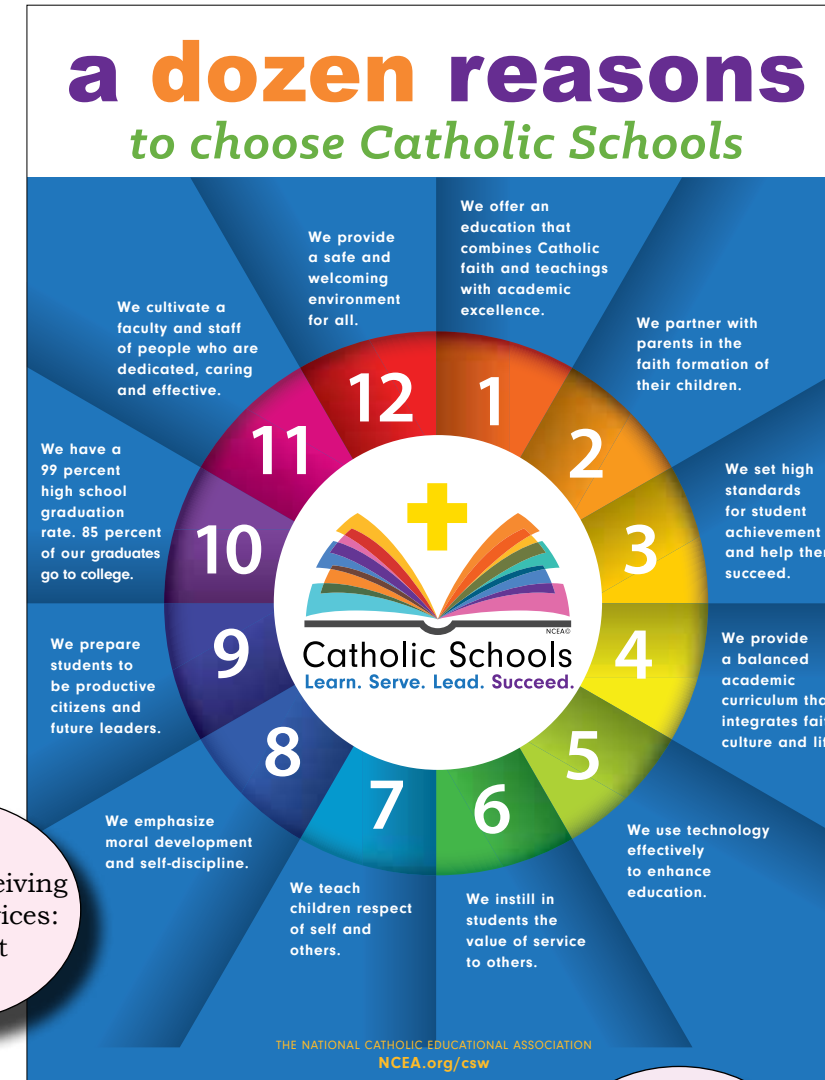
Student to  
teacher ratio:  
9:1



Students  
participating in  
federal Free and  
Reduced Lunch  
Program:  
10 percent

Students receiving  
tutoring services:  
4 percent

Average tuition  
intake:  
\$5,544



Average per pupil  
expense:  
\$6,255



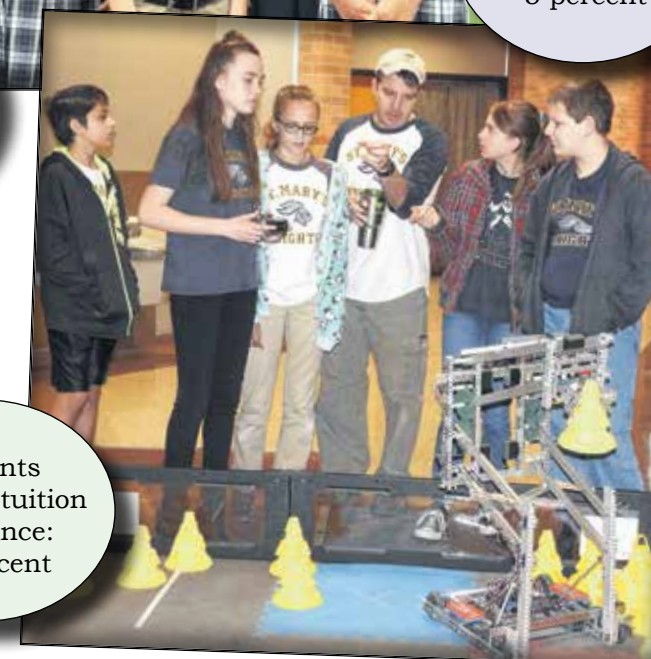
Students with a  
diagnosed learning  
disability:  
5 percent

Total number of  
students served:  
4,942

Graduation rate:  
100 percent



Student diversity:  
Catholic:  
82 percent  
Non-Catholic:  
18 percent  
Hispanic/Latino:  
20 percent



Students  
receiving tuition  
assistance:  
26 percent

**SAVE the DATE**  
→  
**DATE**

Friday, February 2 • 7:15 am  
Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City

2018 *Celebrating*  
**CATHOLIC**  
EDUCATION *breakfast*

Benefiting the  
St. Katharine Drexel and St. John the Baptist de La Salle Funds.  
For more information or to register please visit [archokc.org/breakfast](http://archokc.org/breakfast)

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

**Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School**  
900 N. Portland OKC 73107  
(405) 896-2300  
www.CristoReyOKC.org  
Come and go Info Night and Pizza  
Jan. 25, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Priority admissions deadline: Jan. 31



**Bishop John Carroll Cathedral School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
1100 N.W. 32 OKC 73118  
(405) 525-0956  
www.bjcs.org  
Pre-K and Kindergarten open house:  
Feb. 27, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School**  
801 N.W. 50 OKC 73118  
(405) 842-6638 www.bmchs.org  
Freshman registration: Feb. 26, 27,  
and March 5, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
8th grade parent curriculum night:  
Feb. 15, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Sacred Heart Catholic School**  
Pre-K4 – 8th Grade  
2700 S. Shartel Ave.  
OKC 73109  
(405) 634-5673  
www.sacredheartokc.org  
Tours: By appointment



**Saint James the Greater Catholic School**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
1224 S.W. 41 St. OKC 73109  
(405) 636-6810  
http://stjamesokc.com  
Open house: Jan. 28, Noon – 2 p.m.  
Tours and shadowing: By appointment



**Good Shepherd Catholic School**  
For children with autism spectrum  
disorders, neurological disorders  
13404 N. Meridian Ave.  
OKC 73120  
(405) 752-2264  
Tours: By appointment



**Christ the King Catholic School**  
Pre-K – 8th Grade  
1905 Elmhurst Ave.  
OKC 73120  
(405) 843-3909  
www.ckschool.com  
Tours: By appointment



**Catholic School of St. Eugene**  
Pre-K3 – 8th Grade  
2400 W. Hefner Rd. OKC 73120  
(405) 751-0067  
www.steugeneschool.org  
Open house: Grades 1-8 Jan. 25, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Parishioners Jan. 28, 10:30 a.m. – Noon; Pk3-Kindergarten Feb. 10, 10 a.m. – Noon. Tours: By appointment



# Capital campaign adds St. Thomas Aquinas Fund for Catholic Schools

The “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign is the culmination of many years of prayerful planning and focuses the whole of the Catholic Church in central and western Oklahoma on three priorities - new evangelization, faith formation and Hispanic ministry.

Funds raised in “One Church, Many Disciples” will be used to honor Blessed Stanley Rother, strengthen parishes and the Church.

A portion of the funds raised will be added to four permanent endowments at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma to ensure long-term funding for ministries in four areas of faith formation – seminarian education, Catholic schools, youth, young adults and

campus ministry, and catechesis and adult discipleship.

Endowment funds will grow over time through investment gains and additional gifts from donors.



One key ministry of the Church is Catholic schools. The hallmark of Catholic education includes the shared values of truth, faith and reason. Catholic schools aim to educate the

whole person; forming the mind, body and spirit.

“One Church, Many Disciples” will help build the Saint Thomas Aquinas Fund for Catholic Schools. Saint Thomas Aquinas declared, “The greatest kindness one can render to anyone consists in leading them to truth.” The future of the Church rests with today’s children and youth.

Throughout the archdiocese, Catholic schools provide faith-based, formal education to those who will become leaders in the Church and society.

To learn more about One Church Many Disciples, go online to [onechurchmanydisciples.org](http://onechurchmanydisciples.org).

## Opportunity Scholarship makes Catholic education a reality for Guthrie family

By Steve Gust  
The Sooner Catholic

Joe and Angela Staudt wanted to keep all six children in Catholic school, but they weren’t sure how they could afford it, especially when their older students advanced to high school.

They applied and received a Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma that made a Catholic high school education a reality. This past year, 353 scholarships were awarded to students to attend Catholic schools.

They were given a push by their former pastor at Saint Mary Catholic Church, Father Robert Wood.

“He was pretty persuasive,” said Angela Staudt, a graduate of Saint Mary as is her husband.

Father Wood apparently made the appeal with other parents in Guthrie as well.

“Noah’s eighth grade graduation class had 17 in it,” she said. “Of those, 11 decided to attend Mount Saint Mary.”

Today, Noah is a freshman at Oklahoma State University.

“For the fall semester he had a 4.0 grade point average,” she said. “I just know it was the education he received at Mount Saint Mary that helped.”

More members of the Staudt Family are at the Mount now, including Abbey, a junior, and Meralyn, a ninth-grader. Caroline is in sixth grade at Saint Mary and William is in third.

The youngest member of the family, Juliana is in preschool.

“Mount Saint Mary is a great school because they teach academics but also stress service to others,” she said.



“The teachers believe the Catholic faith is a force for good, which also values the family.”

In the past, the family received work grants to help supplement the tuition for Catholic school, but this year they were helped by the



Opportunity Scholarship.

The executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Barney Semtner, said the foundation played a key role in establishing the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund.

“The board of directors continues to provide leadership and financial support to make sure the program continues to grow,” Semtner said. “In 2017, \$1,015,000 was donated from people all over the state to benefit scholarships for students to attend our 22 Catholic elementary and high schools in the archdiocese.”

Kevin Karpe, CFO president, said he too has seen the positive effects of the foundation’s work.

“We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Catholics and others in the archdiocese who support this program and encourage its growth, so that all students who desire a Catholic education can afford to attend a Catholic school,” Karpe said.

Angela Staudt, who teaches second grade at Saint Mary, urged parents who may be pondering sending their children to Catholic school to give the issue serious thought.

“I encourage parents to pray and to take this to God,” she said. “He can work miracles.”

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

## Pier Giorgio Frassati: A model saint for young people

By J.E. Helm  
The Sooner Catholic



He was a young man of privilege, born to a wealthy Italian family, yet he scorned wealth and lived a life of Gospel simplicity.

He was a favorite of Saint John Paul II, and like the famous Polish pope, he was keenly athletic and an avid mountaineer.

He was Pier Giorgio Frassati. The story of his brief life (he was just 24 when he died) is told by his sister Luciana in “A Man of the Beatitudes: Pier Giorgio Frassati.”

Like many of those the Church holds up as models for living, he was devoted to the Eucharist. While a student at a Jesuit school at 13 years old, Pier Giorgio received permission to receive Communion daily, a practice that was uncommon at the time. His sister writes that “The Eucharistic Christ was his sovereign Lord, whom he never ceased to adore.” Eventually, he made a practice of daily adoration, sometimes spending a whole night in prayer.

What is remarkable is that Pier Giorgio grew in this devotion in spite of, and not because of, his family in Turin. His father was an agnostic, and his mother was a minimally practicing Catholic. Pier Giorgio was devoted to the rosary, but his mother wanted him “to stop saying so many rosaries, especially at night,” Luciana writes. “Certainly at home,” she continues, “there was no one to help him and no comfort or encouragement in his faith.”

His parents had hopes that Pier Giorgio would join his father as owner of La Stampa, Turin’s important daily newspaper, or at least pursue some other important secular career. Luciana writes that “Our mother was worried that Pier Giorgio might become a priest.” She complained that “Every evening he went to Benediction while we went for a stroll with our friends, and he slipped out before breakfast, to go to Mass.”

The young boy’s father “often humiliated Pier Giorgio.” Yet, Pier Giorgio grew in holi-

ness, never displaying a rebellious or defiant character toward his parents. He eventually pursued a degree in mining engineering, and he increasingly saw his vocation as that of a Catholic layman. He entertained hopes of being a missionary.

While his father became a senator and eventually Italy’s ambassador to Berlin, young Frassati in 1922 became a Third Order Dominican, an unusual step for someone so young. When he was 17, he had joined the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and this was an outgrowth of his love for the poor which became a hallmark of his holiness.

“His option for the poor and for militant Catholicism,” as Luciana describes it, grew. If he rode a train, he went third class, saving the money to give to the unfortunate.

Asked why he travelled third class, he answered, “Because there is no fourth class.” He took flowers from his family’s drawing rooms “to put them on the coffins of the poor.” In winter in Berlin, “He gave his overcoat to someone who did not have one.”

He joined a Catholic Action group and promoted the Popular Party’s newspaper, Il Momento, which was based on pope Leo XIII’s encyclical “Rerum Novarum.” He opposed Italy’s growing fascist movement and was arrested at a demonstration in Rome.

Tragically, he contracted polio, a deadly and incurable disease in 1925. His grandmother was dying at the same time, and “no one took any notice of him,” his sister writes.

He suffered briefly, but greatly. Because polio was known to be contagious, attendance at his

bedside was restricted. His last thoughts were for his beloved poor. He asked for his jacket and took from its pocket “a small box of injections” and a pawn ticket. He asked that both be sent to a friend and fellow charity worker, explaining that “The injections are for Converso and the pawn ticket belongs to Sappa: I had forgotten it. Please renew it on my account.”

Pier Giorgio died on July 4, 1925. Crowds of Turin’s poor, whom he had loved so much, came to view his body.

“The throng of silent people, their faces blank or wet with tears, went in to him, touched him like a relic in front of us who had ignored him for years. It was from these unknown people,” Luciana writes, “that we received our greatest lesson.”

A journalist for La Stampa wrote, “that this was the most moving and edifying funeral I have ever been to. The church was packed, and there were swarms of people outside ... lots of mothers with babies.”

The cause for his canonization was opened, and he was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II on May 20, 1990. It was Saint John Paul II who more than once called Pier Giorgio “a man of the Beatitudes” and named him one of the patrons of World Youth Day.

When Pier Giorgio’s body was exhumed in 1981 as part of the process of canonization, his body was found to be completely intact and incorrupt. A second major miracle has recently been attributed to him, and he may someday soon be declared a saint of the Catholic Church.

The chapel at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City is named in his honor.

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

## Jobs Box

### Business development manager

The Center of Family Love seeks a business savvy entrepreneur with a passion for developing and motivating a team. Responsibilities include managing a diversified portfolio of businesses, launching new businesses with proven record of financial success and growth, managing workforce in multiple locations, creating business plans with detailed cost analysis, and understanding industrial manufacturing. Contact Nellie Sanders, (405) 263-7100, or [nsanders@cflinc.org](mailto:nsanders@cflinc.org).

### CMA or med tech aide

St. Ann Retirement Center is seeking a CMA or medical tech aide for the evening shift. Applicant must pass background check and drug testing. Full-time benefits. A 403B is available. Opportunity for growth and advancement. Apply in person at St. Ann Retirement Center, 7501 W. Britton Rd., OKC; (405) 721-0747.

### Communications coordinator

The archdiocese has an immediate opening for a communica-

tions coordinator to be part of the Stewardship and Development team. The position is responsible for managing digital media and communications programs related to the implementation of the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign. The team is being expanded to support the implementation of a \$55 million comprehensive capital fundraising campaign that will be implemented in 108 churches. The successful candidate will be highly organized, have excellent written, verbal and social media communication skills. Familiarity with social media platforms required. Send resume to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

### Elementary substitute teacher

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Edmond, is seeking an elementary substitute during April and May to cover a maternity leave. Certified substitute preferred. Send resume to Laura Gallagher, principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 925 S. Boulevard, Edmond 73034, or [gallagher@stjohn-catholic.org](mailto:gallagher@stjohn-catholic.org).

### Catapult teachers needed

Provides contracted instructional services with the necessary educational expertise in reading, mathematics, writing and related areas; diagnoses learning skill deficits and delivers prescribed instructional delivery methods as determined by the company; consults with school personnel to coordinate efforts in providing services to students; communicates and conferences with parents providing information on student progress. Bachelor’s degree and Oklahoma teaching certificate required. Teaching experience preferred. All classroom, instructional materials, prepared lessons and paid training provided. Apply online at <https://careers-catapult.icims.com/jobs/5314/teacher/job>.

### Fifth grade teacher – Ponca City

St. Mary Catholic School has an immediate opening for a fifth-grade teacher. Applicant should be certified in Oklahoma. Contact Principal Marilyn Nash, (580) 765-4387.

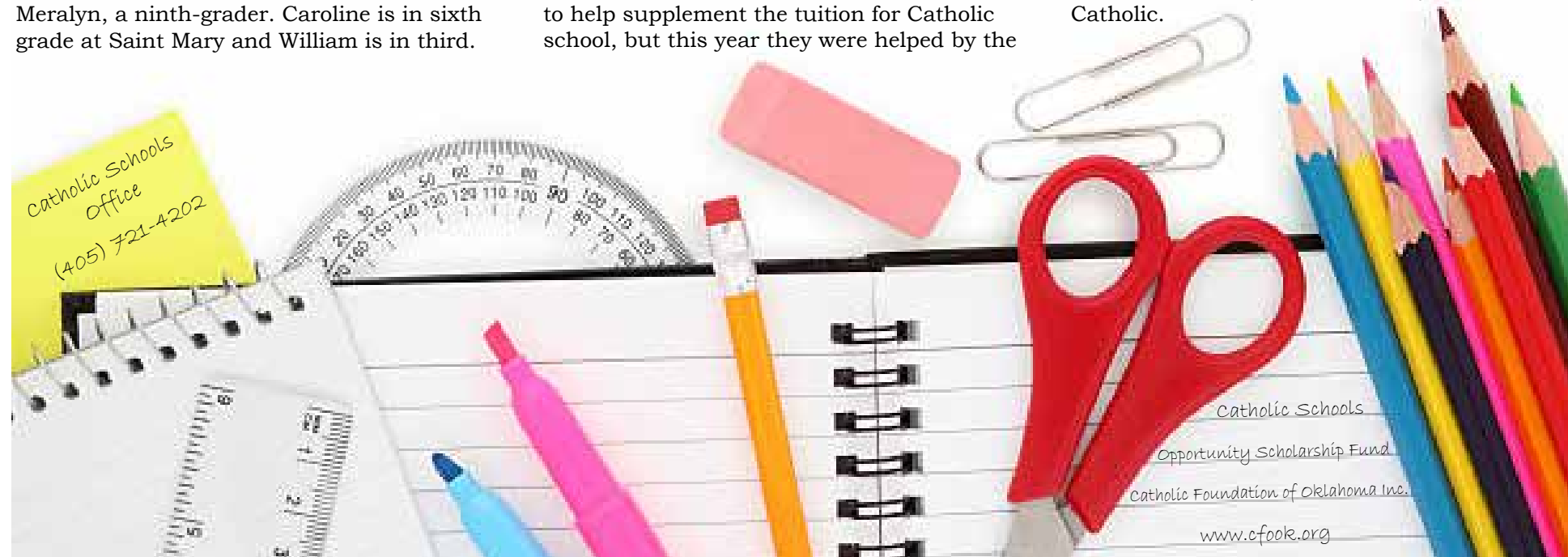
### Director of youth and campus ministry

The archdiocese is seeking a full-time director of youth, young adult and campus ministry. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan youth evangelization and discipleship efforts, oversight of young adult and campus ministry efforts, and the summer youth camp program. Bachelor’s degree in theology, religious education or related field required; master’s degree preferred. Previous experience in leading youth ministry on the diocesan and/or parish level a must. Significant background with leadership training and ministry formation highly desired. Bilingual in Spanish preferred. Send resume to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

### Birth Choice volunteers needed

Birth Choice is in need of volunteers to mentor clients and help with clerical work. Contact Barbara, (405) 606-8428.

To see more job openings, go online to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).





Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

## Las escuelas católicas son un don para compartir

Cada año, dedicamos un tiempo para celebrar el valor único de las escuelas católicas durante la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas. La celebración de este año abarca desde el 28 de enero hasta el 3 de febrero e incluirá misas locales, jornadas de puertas abiertas y otras actividades para familias, estudiantes, feligreses y miembros de la comunidad.

Durante el año, viajo a cada una de nuestras escuelas católicas para misas y visitas al aula, y trato de programar al menos una visita durante la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas. Este año, el tema es “Escuelas Católicas: Aprende. Sirve. Dirige. Éxito.”

Es difícil, si no imposible, cuantificar el valor real de las escuelas católicas. Basta decir que, utilizando como base el costo promedio por alumno de la educación escolar pública, las escuelas católicas ahorran a los contribuyentes de los Estados Unidos más de \$20 billones anuales.

Más importante aún, sin embargo, las escuelas católicas son centros irremplazables de evangelización. Como comunidades de fe y aprendizaje, forman discípulos de Jesucristo proponiendo el Evangelio e invitando a una respuesta.

La fe católica está tejida integralmente a lo largo de todo el plan de estudios, tanto en el aula, a través del culto y a través de las oportunidades de servicio. La oración no solo está permitida, sino que también se promueve en nuestras escuelas católicas. Como resultado, los estudios muestran que los estudiantes de escuelas católicas son más propensos a orar diariamente y conservar una identidad católica en la adultez.

Los graduados de las escuelas católicas tienen más probabilidades de participar cívicamente, ser voluntarios, votar y estar comprometidos con el servicio. Históricamente, las escuelas católicas han proporcionado un entorno tremendamente eficaz para nutrir las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa. En resumen, realmente no hay sustituto para las muchas contribuciones que nuestras escuelas católicas hacen a la Iglesia y la sociedad. Son un tesoro.

Durante años, la Iglesia Católica ha afirmado el derecho y la responsabilidad de los padres de servir como los principales educadores de sus hijos. Para ayudar a los padres en este deber sagrado, la Iglesia ha enseñado que los niños tienen derecho a una educación en la fe, y que el estado tiene la obligación fundamental de permitir ese derecho.

En su documento sobre libertad religiosa,

el Concilio Vaticano II afirmó que “Se violan, además, los derechos de los padres, si se obliga a los hijos a asistir a lecciones escolares que no corresponden a la persuasión religiosa de los padres, o si se impone un único sistema de educación del que se excluye totalmente la formación religiosa.”.

Muchos padres ejercen su deber de educar a sus hijos de acuerdo con sus creencias religiosas fundamentales al elegir enviar a sus hijos a las escuelas católicas, a los programas de educación religiosa de la parroquia o a través de la educación en el hogar. A veces, el mayor costo de las escuelas parroquiales hace que sea difícil o incluso imposible para los padres elegir escuelas católicas para sus hijos.

Es responsabilidad de toda la comunidad católica esforzarse para que la educación católica sea accesible y asequible para los padres católicos y los niños que lo deseen. Los programas de asistencia para la matrícula y otros tipos de asistencia de becas basadas en la necesidad son importantes para la sostenibilidad de nuestras escuelas católicas y su misión.

También hay un creciente reconocimiento más allá de la Iglesia Católica sobre la importancia de apoyar las opciones educa-

tivas de los padres para sus hijos. La importancia de los derechos de los padres para elegir el tipo de educación que es mejor para sus hijos ha llevado a un movimiento creciente hacia la “elección de los padres” en materia de educación, es decir, políticas y programas que facultan a los padres a tomar esas decisiones.

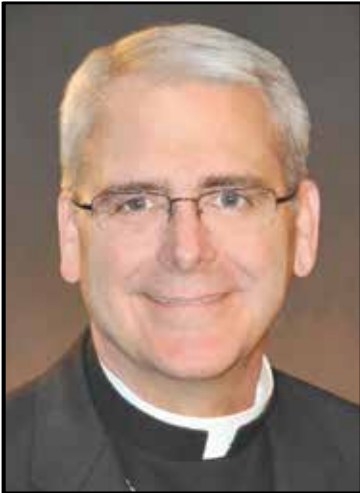
Las políticas eficaces de selección de los padres dan a los padres la flexibilidad de elegir el tipo de escuela que satisfaga las necesidades de sus hijos, ya sea por sus convicciones religiosas, la calidad de la educación disponible en sus escuelas públicas o

las necesidades especiales de sus hijos.

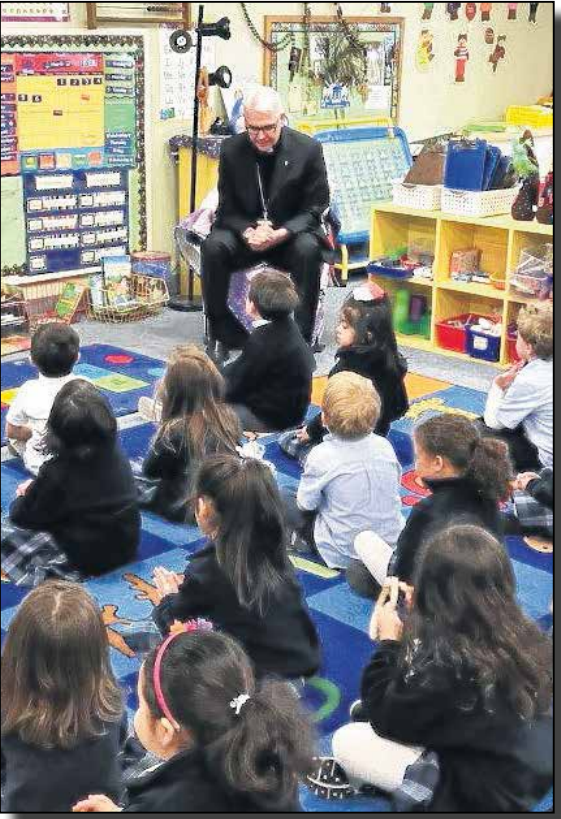
Los programas de elección de los padres están creciendo en todo el país. Toman la forma de programas de crédito fiscal para becas, programas de vouchers educativos, programas de necesidades especiales, créditos impositivos individuales y programas de cuentas de ahorro para la educación.

Por ejemplo, en Oklahoma, las familias encuentran ayuda para enviar a sus hijos a escuelas católicas, ya sea a través del programa de becas Lindsey Nicole Henry que permite que los niños con necesidades especiales se inscriban en Good Shepherd Catholic School en Mercy, o a través del Fondo de Becas de Oportunidades Escolares Católicas que permite que las contribuciones deducibles de impuestos sean elegibles para un crédito de impuesto a los impuestos estatales para que se otorguen becas basadas en la necesidad para que los estudiantes católicos puedan asistir a las escuelas católicas.

Tenemos un tesoro en nuestras escuelas católicas. Es un don para compartir. Pero, es nuestra responsabilidad compartida explorar innovadoras iniciativas públicas y privadas y encontrar formas efectivas para hacer que el don de la educación católica esté disponible para un mayor número de estudiantes y familias.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



## una docena de razones para elegir escuelas católicas



## ¡Nuestra hambre saludable!

¿Qué apetecemos?



Nacimos con hambre. Los antojitos y los deseos de platos especiales son parte de lo que somos.

Hay días en que las meriendas o apeti-

tosas botanas llenan el corazón de amor, paz, alegría y felicidad.

Hoy, comí una perfecta, y bien jugosa, hamburguesa. Cocinada exactamente como la pedí. También tenía una magnífica combinación de lechuga, tomates, encurtidos y cebollas asadas. La cantidad justa de mayonesa, mostaza y ketchup, todo en un buen pan tostadito por fuera y rico por dentro. Para unirse a esta obra maestra, excelentes papas fritas. Disfruté cada detalle, cerré los ojos, sonreí y le agradecí a Dios por este sabroso banquete.

Este es uno de los platos que componen mi lista de comidas reconfortantes, las que traen un efecto emocional. Comidas que traen alegría al corazón. Y pregunto: ¿De que tienes hambre? ¿Qué anhela y desea tu corazón? ¿Qué te trae una sonrisa?

Así como nuestros cuerpos desarrollan sus apetitos y antojos, también lo hacen nuestras almas; nuestros corazones. Todos fuimos creados con un anhelo y apetito interno especial, un deseo interno único, que no podemos nombrar ni definir de inmediato. Al principio, no estamos seguros de qué es eso que nos falta en nuestras vidas, pero, a pesar de no saberlo, nos esforzamos por encontrarlo y saciar ese deseo interior.

Algunas personas, por razones que no puedo

explicar, tienen la suerte de aprender desde muy temprano en la vida cómo satisfacer ese deseo interno. Otros llevan vidas llenas de aciertos y desaciertos, una tras otra. Siguen buscando e intentando, buscando e intentando, buscando e intentando, sin éxito. Muchas veces, creen que finalmente lo encontraron, pero, algunos meses después y con profunda tristeza, se dan cuenta de que, una vez más, esto ni siquiera está cerca de lo que anhelaban.

Exasperado, algunos abandonan la búsqueda. Frustrados, algunos toman el camino equivocado y concluyen que lo que desean ni siquiera existe y se conforman con imitaciones baratas o con las sobras desechadas de otras búsquedas, y viven sus vidas lo mejor que pueden.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica habla de este deseo. El Gran Deseo, común a todas las mujeres y hombres, es nuestro deseo por el Dios que es amoroso, da vida y es eternamente misericordioso. Sí, nacimos deseando, anhelando y apeteciendo el amor. No solo cualquier amor. Hemos sido creados para desear el mejor y más grande amor de todos, ¡Dios! Solo Dios puede traernos una alegría sin fin combinada con la sonrisa más alegre.

Esto es lo que dice el Catecismo sobre nuestro deseo por Dios:

**27** “El deseo de Dios está inscrito en el corazón del hombre, porque el hombre ha sido creado por Dios y para Dios; y Dios no cesa de atraer al hombre hacia sí, y sólo en Dios encontrará el hombre la verdad y la dicha que no cesa de buscar.”

**29** “... esta “unión íntima y vital con Dios” puede ser olvidada, desconocida e incluso rechazada explícitamente por el hombre. Tales actitudes pueden tener orígenes muy diver-

sos: la rebelión contra el mal en el mundo, la ignorancia o la indiferencia religio-

sas, los afanes del mundo y de las riquezas, el mal ejemplo de los creyentes, las corrientes del pensamiento hostiles a la religión, y finalmente esa actitud del hombre pecador que, por miedo, se oculta de Dios y huye ante su llamada.”.

**30** “Alégrese el corazón de los que buscan a Dios.’ Si el hombre puede olvidar o rechazar a Dios, Dios no cesa de llamar a todo hombre a buscarle para que viva y encuentre la dicha. Pero esta búsqueda exige del hombre todo el esfuerzo de su inteligencia, la rectitud de su voluntad, “un corazón recto”, y también el testimonio de otros que le enseñen a buscar a Dios. ...A pesar de todo, el hombre, pequeña parte de tu creación, quiere alabarte. Tú mismo le incitas a ello, haciendo que encuentre sus delicias en tu alabanza, porque nos has hecho para ti y nuestro corazón está inquieto mientras no descansa en ti.”

Entonces, la próxima vez que tu estómago empiece a gruñir y tengas hambre; Cuando tus antojos y deseos comiencen a despertar tu anhelo de comida reconfortante, pregúntese: “¿Cómo estoy alimentando el deseo de Dios en mi corazón?”

Entonces, invítame a compartir una rica y jugosa hamburguesa. ¿Amén?



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.  
Secretariado de Evangelización y Catequesis



El papa Francisco llegó a Santiago el 15 de enero, la primera parada en una visita de siete días a seis ciudades de Perú y Chile, a donde llevará su mensaje de esperanza a la gente en los márgenes de la sociedad. Foto CNS-Paul Haring.

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Briefs

Suicide grief support group

A support group for those who have lost someone to suicide meets at St. Francis in OKC on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. During January, February and March the meeting will be in the Meerschaert House located just north of the church building. The gathering is in a caring atmosphere to remember loved ones. Call (405) 528-0485.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next Oklahoma City Marriage Encounter Weekend is Jan. 26-28 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Rick and Bev Feller, (405) 323-9119, rbfeller@gmail.com. Visit <http://meoklahoma.org>.

Rother Heritage Gallery

The Heritage Gallery at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, continues to present “The Shepherd Cannot Run: A Retrospective on the Life of Father Stanley Rother.” The free exhibit is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Special tours arranged by calling (405) 721-5651, Ext. 141.

Friends of Bolivia dinner

The Knights of Columbus of St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd., OKC, will host its annual pasta and homemade Italian meatball dinner at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 27. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Bolivia’s 25th medical mission in May. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 6-11. Kids age 5 and under free. Takeout available. Contact Steve Chastain at (405) 470-2045.

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat

A retreat for sacramentally married couples with an opportunity to begin their spiritual journey together (or to deepen it). Feb. 1-4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Contact Alexander Schimpf at (858) 431-9480; alexanderschimpf@gmail.com. Register at <https://nolacatholicfla.regfox.com/domestic-church-evangelization-retreat-february-1-4-2018-oklahoma-city>.

Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast

The second annual Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast is scheduled for 7:15 a.m. Feb. 2 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City. Join Archbishop Coakley, Superintendent Diane Floyd, educators from around the archdiocese and Barbara Edmondson, chief leadership and programs officer for the National Catholic Education Association to celebrate and support the 23 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Bishop McGuinness annual dinner, auction

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School’s 2018 annual dinner and auction “McGuinness Rocks

On” will be 6 p.m. Feb. 2 at The Criterion, 500 E. Sheridan Ave., OKC. Proceeds benefit school’s work grant program (tuition assistance) and additional school projects. Will honor long-time McGuinness supporters Jay and Susan Johnston. Auction chairmen are Shannon Hill and Julie Naifeh. Visit [www.bmchs.org](http://www.bmchs.org)

Rose Day

The annual Rose Day Pro-Life Rally, which takes place inside the Oklahoma State Capitol each year, is set for Feb. 7. The day will feature several speakers, including the Most Rev. David Konderla, Bishop of Tulsa. Contact Catholic Charities, (800) 375-8514, [www.bgco.org/roseyday](http://www.bgco.org/roseyday).

The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference

The conference is Feb. 9-11 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp northeast of OKC. The conference is for people ages 18-25. Participants do not have to be students. Cost is \$50. Price includes two nights lodging, four meals and snacks. Speakers include Andrew Laubacher, Jim Beckman, Fr. Joseph Irwin and Mass with Archbishop Coakley. Register by contacting the Youth, Young Adult and Campus Evangelization and Discipleship Office or register online with a credit card. Contact (405) 721-9220 or [OC-CSC2018@archokc.org](mailto:OC-CSC2018@archokc.org).

Grace that Reigns - Wichita

The Spiritual Life Center in Wichita welcomes Bishop Emeritus Ronald Gilmore of the Dodge City Diocese and Jacqueline Loh of Grace that Reigns USA for a retreat, “Light and Darkness Together.” The retreat is Feb. 9-11. Participants will learn practical ways to respond to prayer with illustrations from scripture, stories and testimonies, regarding how much God responds to each of us through the ministry of healing. Cost for weekend \$190 for single occ.; \$150 pp for dbl occ. Early registration by Jan. 29 \$145 for single occ.; \$120 pp for dbl occ. Commuter cost \$100. Include a \$50 non-refundable deposit. Call (316) 744-0167 or visit [www.SL-CWichita.org](http://www.SL-CWichita.org).

Lenten Mission - Edmond

The Lenten mission with Fr. Joe Creedon, “Living Out Our Baptismal Commitment,” is at 7 p.m. Feb. 19-21 at St. John, 900 S. Boulevard Ave., Edmond. Feb. 19: Examine your vision for the Church and what you are willing to do to develop that vision into reality. Feb. 20: Baptism and taking ownership of our faith and Church. Feb. 21: The Eucharist as the stewardship sacrament par excellence. Contact (405) 340-0691.

School of Lectio

The next session of St. Joseph Monastery’s School of Lectio is Feb. 21-24. Contact [\[sephmonastery.org\]\(http://sephmonastery.org\). Overnight accommodations available for a limited number of participants. Visit \[www.stjosephmonastery.org/retreats\]\(http://www.stjosephmonastery.org/retreats\).](mailto:lectio@stjo-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Silent retreat on creativity

The Lenten retreat is a weekend where people can develop creativity, work on a project, discern their path or just rest and get closer to God. Begins 9 a.m. March 2; ends Noon March 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Katie Gordy will facilitate, provide home-cooked meals and give three talks on the role of creativity in one’s spiritual life. Men and women welcome. Contact Katie at (405) 627-6954, [ktgktg1213@gmail.com](mailto:ktgktg1213@gmail.com).

Green Tie Gala

The Green Tie Gala will be Feb. 24 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.E. 63, OKC. Visit [GreenTieGala.org](http://GreenTieGala.org). Celebrate and support the works of Catholic Charities’ homeless service programs: Holy Family Home and the Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers.

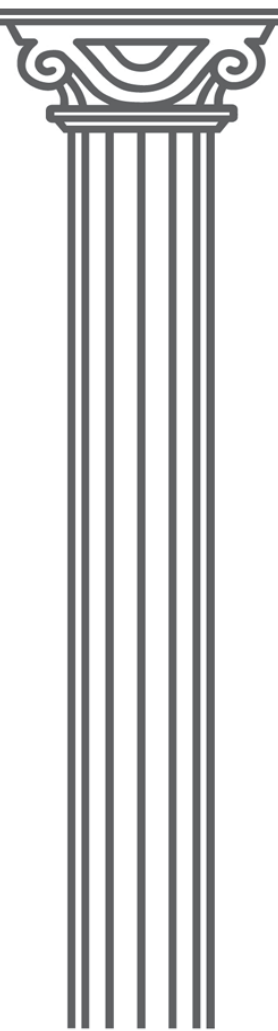

Prayer in the Four Directions

The second annual Prayer in the Four Directions retreat by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s American Indian Catholic Outreach and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Spiritual Center of Oklahoma will be March 3 at Our Lady of the Lake Lodge, Guthrie. The theme is “Being a Missionary Where You Are.” Registration fee \$10. Make check or money order payable to Deacon Roy Callison. Mail to: Deacon Roy Callison, 632 North Kickapoo Avenue, Shawnee, OK 74801. Seating limited. Contact Deacon Roy Callison, AICO coordinator, at (918) 822-3255.

Catholic Men’s Conference

The 22nd annual Catholic Men’s Conference, “In The Father’s Footsteps XXII,” will be March 3 at Embassy Suites Conference Center, Norman. Speakers include Bishop Anthony Taylor, Trent Horn, Patrick Coffin and Deacon Ralph Poyo. Visit [www.catholicmen.net](http://www.catholicmen.net).

To see more briefs, go online to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).



### The Catholic Foundation

## CORNERSTONE

#### Consider establishing a Donor Advised Fund

If you are considering making a charitable gift to your church, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma offers a Donor Advised Fund as a great alternative. You can make annual grants from the fund to your parish, Catholic school, other Catholic ministry or to any 501(c)(3) charity that adheres to our common Catholic beliefs. Your gift can create either a permanent endowment fund or a completely spendable fund. If you are looking for a convenient and cost-effective way to support a wider variety of Catholic and other charitable interests, a Donor Advised Fund should be considered. Remember, CFO is a 501(c)(3) public charity that offers the maximum tax benefits available. We offer low, competitive endowment maintenance fees. You can avoid the compliance and administrative burdens of a private foundation. CFO accepts a wide variety of gifts, including cash, appreciated stocks, mutual funds, marketable securities, real estate, life insurance policies, retirement plan assets, closely-held stocks, and oil and gas royalties. But, best of all, we are Catholic. We have been assisting Catholic donors for 50 years. Consider establishing a Donor Advised Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

For more information, contact the foundation office at:  
**The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc.**  
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123  
(405) 721-4115 ■ [www.cfook.org](http://www.cfook.org) ■ [bsemtner@archokc.org](mailto:bsemtner@archokc.org)

Please remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in your estate plans.

Sooner Catholic

January 21, 2018 15

# Calendar

*This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).*

| January  | 26  | 27  | 28   | 31   |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Christian Unity Service, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4400 N. Shartel Ave., OKC.  | Feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus.  | Feast if St. Angela Merici.   | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  | Feast of St. John Bosco.   |
| Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, <a href="mailto:potato.lang@gmail.com">potato.lang@gmail.com</a> . | Feast of St. Marianne Cope.   | Feast of St. Vincent.   | Feast of St. Francis de Sales.   | Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.   |
| Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.   | Feast of St. Marianne Cope.   | Feast of St. Vincent.   | Feast of St. Francis de Sales.   | Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.   |
| Day of Prayer for the legal protection of unborn children.   | Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.  | Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, 7 a.m. – 9 a.m., Skirvin Hilton, OKC. | First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m.; Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass  | Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey, (405) 630-0539, <a href="mailto:tonicalvey1900@gmail.com">tonicalvey1900@gmail.com</a> or visit <a href="http://www.SpiritOKC.org">www.SpiritOKC.org</a> . |
| Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Rick and Bev Feller, (405) 323-9119, <a href="mailto:rbfeller@gmail.com">rbfeller@gmail.com</a> .                          | Feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus. at 7 p.m. Call (405) 721-8944, (405) 528-6252. | Feast if St. Angela Merici.   | Bishop McGuinness annual dinner, auction 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at The Criterion, 500 E. Sheridan Ave., OKC.  | Feast of St. Ansgar.   |
|  |   |   | Feast of St. Blase.  |  |
|  |   |   | The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meetings following. Contact (405) 396-9086 or (405) 341-2199. |  |



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**THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018**  
CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER  
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73132  
[ARCHOKC.ORG/DIGITALCHURCH](http://ARCHOKC.ORG/DIGITALCHURCH)

Evangelization and Stewardship Ministries present

2018 Lenten Mission with Fr. Joe Creedon

February 19-21, 7:00 pm St. John's Sanctuary

Living Out Our Baptismal Commitment

Monday, February 19  
Examine your vision for the church and what you are willing to do to develop that vision into reality.

Tuesday, February 20  
Baptism and taking ownership of our faith and Church.

Wednesday, February 21  
The Eucharist as the Stewardship Sacrament Par Excellence. (Stewardship Available)

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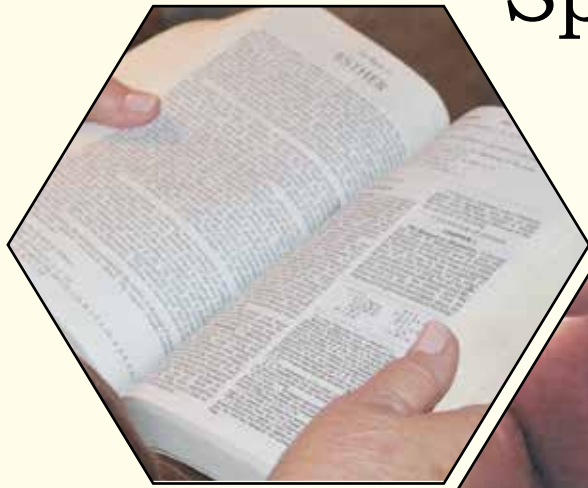


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# Spiritual New Year's resolutions

By Cara Koenig  
For the Sooner Catholic



This New Year, add spiritual goals to your regular resolutions. Here are a few ideas for finding time to feed the soul.

## Read/Study

- Review readings before Sunday Mass;
- Read a Psalm one verse at a time and meditate on the meaning;
- Read a book by a modern theologian;
- Learn more about your patron Saint;
- Join a Bible study group.

## Devotion

- Find a devotion that is new;
- Mary Undoer of Knots, Blessed Stanley Rother, The Divine Mercy, Saint Benedict;
- Review current devotions – contemplate each word of the prayer and its meaning;
- Learn something new about the current devotion;
- Share the current devotion with others.

## Works of Mercy

A guiding principle of the Catholic faith is performing the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- To feed the hungry;
- To give water to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To shelter the homeless;
- To visit the sick;
- To visit the imprisoned;
- To bury the dead.

Some of these are easier than others. Look to find ways to act on these works in everyday life.

## Spend an hour

"Keep watch with Me for one hour?" That is the request of Christ to his disciples. Consider giving Him an hour of time beyond Sunday Mass.

- Go to adoration once a month;
- Go to daily Mass once a week;

■ Teach the faith in your parish through religious education, Catholics Returning Home, RCIA, youth leader or other ways to help pass on the faith;

- Go on the mission trip.

## Making time for prayer

Prayer can be as simple as saying, "Thank you, Lord" or "Christ be with me." Archbishop Charles Salatkka, the second archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, always prayed his motto "Come Holy Spirit" before he answered the phone.

Pray before:

- Checking e-mails;
- Starting the car;
- Playing the latest cell phone game;
- Drinking a cup of coffee;
- Turning on the TV.

To get a start on prayers, go online to [www.archokc.org/new-evangelization/materials](http://www.archokc.org/new-evangelization/materials) or visit a local Catholic bookstore.

## continued from page 1

to tell people that. And, six months later he was. Jesus came to him in a dream and washed his feet and three days later he stood up and walked out of the nursing home – after nine years. As a 9-year-old kid that was incredible."

Beckman sought to understand the events through attending prayer groups in his hometown in Iowa, youth groups, and eventually by attending college at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

"I went there and fell in love. I came alive to my Catholic faith," Beckman said.

He volunteered with campus ministry and summer conferences, and eventually earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Franciscan University with minors in theology and mental health and human services, and a master's degree in theology from the Augustine Institute with an emphasis in evangelization and catechesis.

After teaching at the Augustine Institute and at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary for the Archdiocese of Denver, Beckman recently joined the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as the director of the new

Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis where he will work with Catholic schools, religious education, Hispanic and cultural ministries, adult discipleship and evangelization to spread the Good News.

"The emphasis can't be on the inside; we



have to go outside. Evangelization is like going to a great restaurant and within the next week you tell people about it," Beckman said. "Faith is most alive when you're giving it away."

Beckman said the Catholic Church is shifting its focus to the faith being a constant invitation, especially to those Catholics who have lapsed or disengaged.

"Some have been hurt, some just got busy. I personally invite them back. As Mother Teresa said, I have Jesus in my heart and I give Him to you so you can have Him in your heart too."

During this faith journey, Beckman met and married his wife, Meg. Together they have five children ages 11-21.

He is the founder and original architect of "YDisciple," the teen discipleship video curriculum produced by the Augustine Institute and now available on FORMED. He has been a frequent presenter on other FORMED programs, including "Symbolon," "Beloved," "Forgiven," and "Opening the Word," and is the author of numerous books on discipleship, youth ministry and formation.

"I think what we're experiencing in the Church today is

an awakening of the call to be evangelists," he said. "You lose force and power when you're keeping it to yourself. Faith is meant to be shared!"

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.