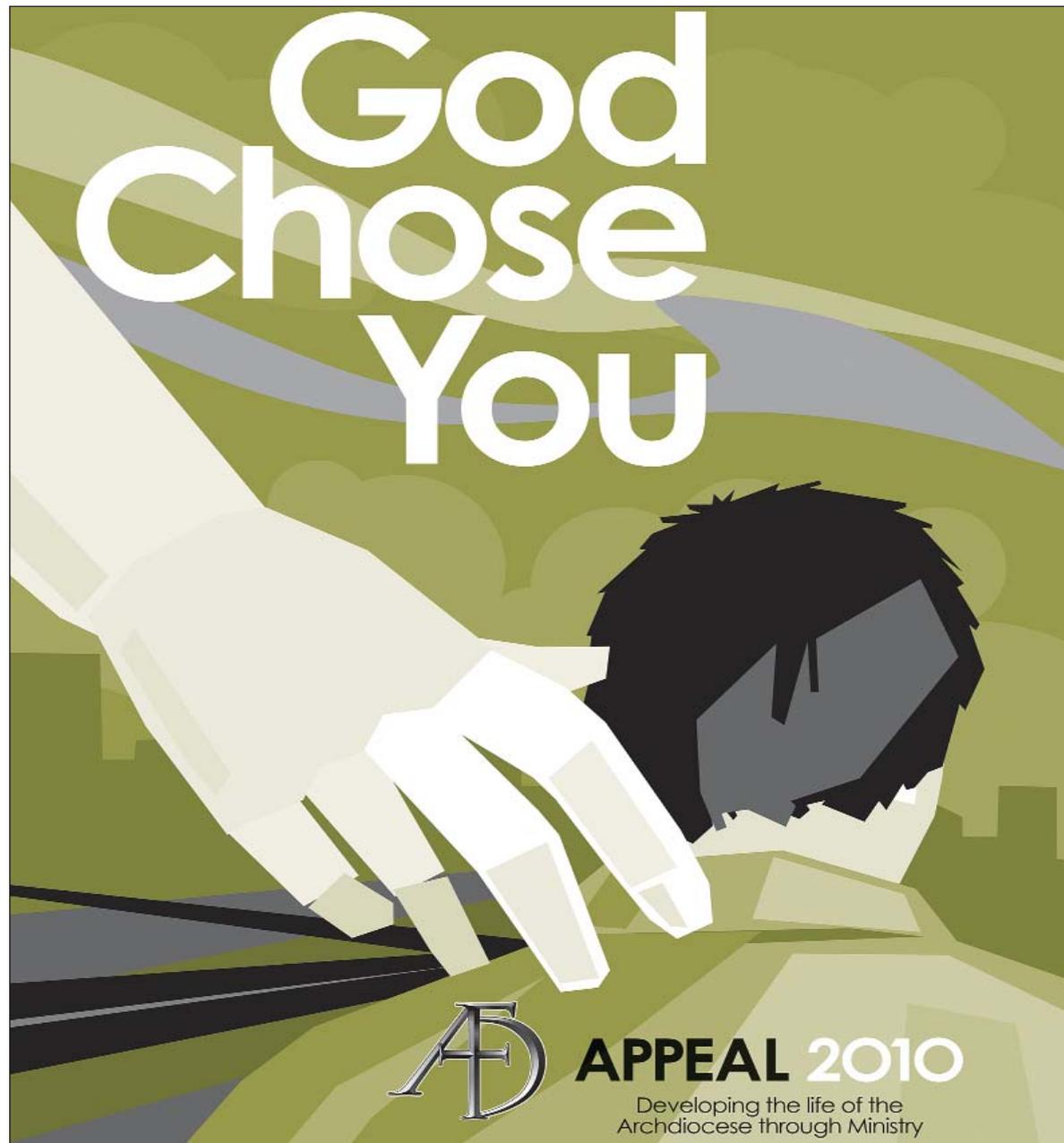


Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 36, Number 2 * January 24, 2010



ADF Kicks Off Across Archdiocese

Annual Appeal Sets Goal at \$3 Million

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will kick off its annual ADF Appeal with a goal of raising \$3 million.

Tom Maxwell, director of the ADF Appeal, said the goal, less \$500,000, would provide just under half of the operating budget necessary to fund the services and ministries offered by the Archdiocese throughout the coming year.

Several years ago Archbishop Beltran established the ADF Plus campaign as a way to address the needs of Catholic education in the Archdiocese. ADF Plus requires that \$500,000 from every annual appeal be invested in an endowment for Catholic education. The plan is to eventually build the endowment large enough so tuition at our Catholic schools can be capped. An even more ambitious goal is to one day provide Catholic education free of charge to young Catholics and their families throughout the Archdiocese. That is expected to require many years and much generosity, but in the meantime, critical ministries and services provided by the Archdiocese need the support of the Catholic faithful.

Maxwell and his small staff in the ADF office work year around to help ensure the appeal is a success. Last year, even though the Oklahoma economy was beginning to show signs of slowing, in line with the national picture, faithful Catholics throughout the Archdiocese helped the ADF appeal reach its goal. Maxwell called this a true testament to the faith that exists within our Catholic community across the Archdiocese.

In today's issue of the Sooner Catholic, readers will learn how their support of ADF reaches out to help provide a variety of services and ministries to the Catholic community in the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Seeks Support for Haiti Relief

OKLAHOMA CITY — On Jan. 13, 2010, the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran authorized special collections by Archdiocesan parishes to provide relief and assistance for the many victims of the devastating earthquake centered in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This disaster has created a situation of human suffering that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance. Archbishop Beltran wishes to express the need for prayers and financial assistance for the people affected by this tragedy.

All donations received by the Archdiocese will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. CRS provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries without regard to race, religion or nationality.

Donations to assist CRS in short-term and long-term relief and recovery efforts should be made payable to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City - Haiti Disaster Relief, delivered to your parish or mailed to: Haiti Disaster Relief, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123-0380.

*The Good News***...Celebrating the Sanctity of Life**

Homily, Sanctity of Life Mass
Cathedral of Our Lady
January 20, 2010

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We gather together tonight in faith and with love. We believe in Jesus Who is the Eternal Son of God. We love God Who created all life on this earth and Who is Life itself. God alone is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. All else is created by Him. God alone is the eternal Supreme Being.

It is truly inspiring and hopeful to see so many young people here tonight for this celebration of the Sanctity of Life Mass. I appreciate your presence and I assure you that whatever you do to promote respect for the dignity and beauty of human life will rebound to your well-being and happiness.

We know that all human life is sacred because God creates us in His own Image and Likeness and for a sacred purpose — life in Him. Tonight, therefore, as we are all aware of the tragedy and human suffering in Haiti, I ask your special prayers for our injured, sick and suffering brothers and sisters there. May God grant them healing, health, recovery and peace.

One of the richest men in the history of our country, John D. Rockefeller, admitted before his death that his great wealth brought him no happiness. Another fabulously wealthy industrialist, Andrew Carnegie, observed that millionaires seldom smile. Powerful and wealthy men and women throughout history testified that neither money nor power can buy happiness. In our own day, we observe that celebrities are often very unhappy people. Their possessions, popularity, physical beauty, athletic skill or intellectual achievements do not guarantee happiness.

A verse from the Psalms gives us a hint as to the source of true happiness: "Happy the people so blessed; happy the people whose

God is the Lord." The message in that verse is that only God can make us truly happy since it is He Who created us with longing souls that He alone can satisfy. Or, as Saint Augustine put it, "O Lord, our hearts are restless until they find rest in you!"

We all want to be happy. In other words, we want to be joyful, content and satisfied. Yet, why do so many people seem to be angry or sour and downright miserable? Why are so many people unsatisfied, restless, looking for something else? Perhaps they are pursuing happiness down the wrong path. Perhaps they have been led astray. Perhaps they have lost sight of the inherent dignity and beauty of the human life which God has given to all human beings.

The Gospel which we heard proclaimed tonight is often called the Beatitudes. Beatitude means happiness or blessings. These are the teachings Jesus gave us regarding the intrinsic beauty and life of human persons. They give us direction and purpose and incentive for a life of fulfillment and joy. The Beatitudes express the hope every Christian person should have that Jesus will bring us to eternal life. In the meantime, we are challenged to fulfill correctly the obligations we have to each other.

The inherent dignity of life is integral to each human being from the moment of conception to death. It cannot be removed by law or edict. Even the reality of sin which occurs in every human person does not diminish human dignity and worth. Sin certainly affects our relationship with God, which is why Jesus is constantly calling us to repent, to change and to follow Him more closely.

Among the many blessings that we here in the United States have received was a constitution that recognized the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Thus our society began to build up a culture of life which redounded to the benefit of every

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Archbishop
Beltran

person. However, as time went on and people drifted from sound principles to selfish opinions, the culture shifted. Pope John Paul II had warned us that the loss of respect for human life was turning society into a culture of death.

Today there are many threats to our inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The most alarming and devastating of those threats are abortion, which is the deliberate killing of a human being before birth, euthanasia, which is putting to death those who are sick, disabled or dying, and assisted suicide, which aids a person to terminate their own life. As Pope John Paul II had warned, we are indeed surrounded by a culture of death.

Tonight we have gathered here to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Therefore, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus — that He has come so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. We have come to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus whereby we are healed and restored, nourished and inspired. We have come to be instructed in the program after this Mass. But most important of all, we have come to give thanks and praise to Almighty God. It is He Who created each of us in His own Image and Likeness. It is He Who gave us our human dignity. It is He Who sanctifies us and redeems us because He is our life and our salvation.

Sooner Catholic

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Support of ADF One Way for Us to Give Back to God

John 15:9-17 — “I have called you friend ... It is not you who have chosen me ... but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father ... He may give you.”

Genesis 1:27 — “God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him, male and female he created them.”

God gave us His Son, as a human to live among us, to be a model, an example for us of how to live our life and give glory to Him. Imagine, God being human but still God entirely separate but still in human form. It wasn't pretending or play acting or going through the motions — but actually eating, drinking, hurting, crying, becoming angry, experiencing sadness and struggling to grow into adulthood just like each of us, except that He was free from sin. Yet through all of this, remaining God. How is this possible? Jesus completely and totally God; completely and totally human. A mystery of our faith called “The Incarnation,” an incredible and incomprehensible gift. God's love for us is so great that He sent Jesus to be human, one of us, to show us how to live the life each of us has been given. Not only are we given this life, but each of us receives special gifts, talents and tools to be used for specific purposes. How do we know what these purposes are? Amazingly then God also gave us Himself as God the Holy Spirit to inspire, to motivate, to teach us how to share this immense love from Him with those around us. By this sharing, it becomes a means of fulfilling the promises of His new covenant established through Jesus — the Incarnate One (God and Human). This covenant is itself another expression of God's immense love for us. A covenant for which He had His Son suffer and die on the cross to atone for the sins of mankind — a “New Beginning” in the human relationship with the Creator.

Isaiah 43:1-5 — “Thus says the

Lord ... Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name. You are mine ... you are precious in my eyes and glorious ... because I love you.”

Each of us has received a “special invitation” to accept at no cost, except that we accept and use the gifts He has bestowed upon us. Since we have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us, we are chosen to a specific role or ministry during our

Each of us has received a “special invitation” to accept at no cost, except that we accept and use the gifts He has bestowed upon us. Since we have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us, we are chosen to a specific role or ministry during our life. This role, we could never accomplish without God's gifts.

life. This role, we could never accomplish without God's gifts. Gifts to be used only as God wills — always for the building up of His Body, the Church and an extension of His mission among men. We have unity even in the diversity of our gifts.

This role, using our gifts, is accomplished through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit within us and is the source of our hope and joy and our power and strength. We are never alone. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is produced through His presence in us. Matthew 7:16, “You will know them by their deeds.”

To produce this fruit we must be receptive to what the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish in us; we must permit Him to melt us, to mold us and to use us as He wishes. St. Paul advises us to be receptive, to be docile to His inspiration and guidance and also to be generous in permitting Him to give direction to our lives. We may never know when our good deeds will bear fruit when we respond to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In Isaiah 65:24 we read, “Before they call, I will answer.” Here is a shortened version of an assumed-to-be true story. This story was

written by a doctor who worked in Central Africa.

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward, but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying 2-year-old daughter. It would be difficult to keep the baby alive with no electricity or special feeding facilities.

Even on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. The only water bottle burst

upon filling. With no hot water bottle, I said to the student midwife, put the baby as near to fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Keep the baby warm.

The following noon during prayer time with the orphanage children, one 10-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. “Please, God,” she prayed, “send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon. And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?”

I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never ever received a parcel from home. Halfway through the afternoon, a car came to the front door; the driver delivered a 22-pound parcel. I sent for the orphanage children. After opening from the top, I lifted out brightly-colored knitted jerseys, which I distributed, then some knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, then a box of mixed raisins and sultanas. Putting my hand in again I felt ... could it really be? Yes, a brand new, rubber

hot water bottle! Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, “If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!” From the bottom of the box she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. She asked, “Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?”

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday school class whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting through the Holy Spirit to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator! And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child — five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a 10-year-old to bring it “that afternoon.”

The fruit of the response to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit — five months in the making!

“Before they call, I will answer.”
Isaiah 65:24

The closer we come to God, the more completely we give ourselves to Him, the more radically will our value system change. If we tend to a materialistic attitude, we have created an obstacle to our ability to grow in our faith and to pray to God.

All that God asks of us is to respond to His great love!

Msgr. David E. Rosage wrote, *“Speak, Lord your Servant is Listening — a daily guide to Scriptural prayer,”* which was used as a resource with many of his words and ideas paraphrased or shared above.

2010
ADF Appeal
Goal
\$3,000,000

Catholics Schools Rely on ADF Support for Critical Needs

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has 20 Catholic grade schools and two Catholic high schools. For the 2009-2010 school year, the grade schools range in size from 68 students to 479 students. Mount St. Mary High School has 335 students and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has 698 students.

In these difficult economic times, it is well to note that in 1996, our Catholic high schools combined enrollment was 901 students. This school year the combined enrollment is 1,033. Over a 13-year period, therefore, our high school enrollment has increased by 132 students which represents a 14.6 percent increase! In the same time period, the grade schools have gone from a total of 3,872 students in 1996 to 4,175 students in 2009. This represents an increase of 7.8 percent. At a time when Catholic schools throughout the country have closed or have experienced a serious decline in enrollment, our trend is just the opposite. Since 1996, we have opened two grade schools and eight of our schools have added additions to their buildings! This is the "good news" of Catholic school education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City!

The operation of our Catholic schools system relies heavily on funding from the Archdiocesan Development Fund. The Catholic Schools Office staff is responsible for assisting our schools in policy making, providing in-service training for teachers and principals and in serving as an advisory body to the local governance of all of our Catholic schools. This includes pastors, principals, teachers, staff



Sr. Catherine Powers, CND, addresses new teachers to our Catholic system.

members, parents, School Advisory Councils, Home-School Associations and all other groups associated with Catholic education. One of the greatest charges of this office is to insure that our schools have a strong Catholic identity and that religion permeates every aspect of the school day. In working toward this goal, the office staff provides a great deal of in-service training to teachers and principals. In addition, the Catholic Schools Office personnel work with teachers and principals to develop quality curriculum standards that will challenge our students to the best of their ability. Because salaries of the school office personnel are paid through the ADF funds, any in-service provided to our schools and/or parishes is free of charge.

As a schools office we firmly believe that our students must be 21st century learners who are comfortable using technology. These tools engage and enhance

learning. Consequently, when we provide training to pastors, principals, teachers, staff, students and families, we believe we must model the use of technology. Any equipment used by the department is purchased through the generosity of our donors to the ADF campaign.

Contrary to what is often found in the central offices of the public school, our Catholic Schools Office is staffed by three people. Sister Catherine Powers, CND, is in her 14th year as Superintendent of Schools.

Sister also oversees the Department of Education which has 10 people — schools (3), religious education (3), pastoral ministry (2), library (1), and accreditation office (1).

In the schools office, Sister Catherine is assisted by Cris Carter, Associate Superintendent of Schools, who is in her eighth year of service to the Archdiocese, and Marcia Dubey, administrative

assistant, who has been with the schools office for 13 years. Together, these three staff members provide services for all of our schools and parishes that have Catholic schools.

Although listed separately, the Accreditation Office is also a part of the Catholic schools. Sally Howard, Coordinator of Accreditation, works for both the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Tulsa. As such, she oversees the accreditation process of the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic Schools Accreditation Association (OCCSAA). This process involves an extensive self-study engaged in by all of our grade schools which culminates in an on-site visit by a team from another diocese. The process ensures that our schools are meeting designated standards and are providing quality Catholic education to our students. The success of this process also relies heavily on funding from ADF.

As Superintendent of Schools, one of Sister Catherine's dreams is that Catholic education could be more affordable for every Catholic student in the Archdiocese. It would be wonderful to have a scholarship program that would provide funding for the many who cannot afford to pay the ever increasing tuition.

If the donations to ADF increased dramatically, through the efforts of ADF+, our schools could possibly receive more financial assistance. We rely on your generosity for a continued strong Catholic school system.

Archdiocesan Library Keeps Catholics Up to Date With Books, Videos

The Catholic Pastoral Center Library is a lending library for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The library has more than 10,000 books, more than 3,000 videos (VHS and DVD), and a large collection of audio tapes/CDs to lend. It has magazines and reference books to read in the library. This library, which is located on the second floor, east wing, of the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7501

Northwest Expressway, may be used by any Catholic in western Oklahoma or by anyone who participates in the various programs the Catholic Church sponsors. The library catalog is online at www.catharchdiocese-okc.org/Education/library/libraryindex.htm. For anyone living more than 20 miles away from the Pastoral Center, materials can be mailed to them.

People who have used the library are generally very grateful for the assistance they have received in finding the information they want. Whether it is personal information about such things as Marian apparition, contemplative prayer, or any other church materials, to complete term papers, the librarian, herself, can always be a tremendous resource.

ADF Support the Driving Force for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The mission of the Youth and Young Adult Office is to respond to the needs of Catholic young people and to involve youth and young adults in sharing their unique gifts with the larger community with these three goals in mind:

To empower the youth and young adults of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today through retreats, advocating for work camps, service, leadership training, advisory boards.

To draw the youth and young adults to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City conferences camp, Sanctity of Life, leadership training.

To assist parishes in fostering the total personal and spiritual growth of each youth and young adult in their community. Training certification, safe environment, networking.



ADF helps support the many activities that take place throughout the year at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp.

ADF subsidizes the Youth and Young Adult Office programming and affords us to have the staff to support and train youth and adults for youth ministry and to implement safe envi-

ronment programming for all youth events including summer camp.

Many young people receive scholarship for summer camp and national regional conferences so that

youth from every parish, culture and background have the opportunity to participate. One of our teens, Diego Estrada, who attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City with more than 20,000 Catholic youth, thanked us for the opportunity to attend and described his experience as “eye opening and jaw dropping.” He wrote that “12 teens from my Church were able to go because they had financial help. It bodes well for the future of the Church in Oklahoma.”

The National Evangelization Team comes to our Archdiocese to facilitate retreats in parishes and schools for three weeks. Young adult ministers gather to network and to advise the office on young adult concerns. The Sanctity of Life Mass at the Cathedral brings in youth from all over to celebrate life. The Center for Ministry Development comes to train adults for youth ministry with an option for a national certification.

Office of Ministries Covers Wide Range of Needs for the Faithful

The Office of Ministries is the repository for the Archdiocesan Archives and houses the offices of the Vicar General, Msgr. Edward J. Weisenburger, the Vicar for Ministries, Rev. Joseph Ross, and the Chancellor, Tish Eason. The Office of the Safe Environment Coordinator, Jennifer Goodrich, is an adjunct to the Office of Ministries.

The Office of Ministries provides direct service to the people of the Archdiocese in several important areas. For example, the office is responsible for processing pre-nuptial investigations for the people of the Archdiocese at no charge to the couple or any parish. During 2009, approximately 600 pre-nuptial investigations were reviewed, approved and recorded. The office assists in obtaining Papal Blessings and facilitating Papal audiences. Sacramental records are researched for persons seeking assistance with marriage or to qualify for government benefits. The Office of Ministries also provides general information regarding the Archdiocese and Archdiocesan activities to the public and provides historical/archival information and materials to authorized

researchers such as the historic commission for the cause of canonization of Stanley Francis Rother, Servant of God.

The Office of Ministries is the central statistics/data repository for the Archdiocese and collects and

The Office of Ministries provides legal assistance and research for Archbishop Beltran and other departments and consults with priests of the Archdiocese and parishes on canonical administrative issues and civil legal matters. The office serves as the

The office is responsible for processing pre-nuptial investigations for the people of the Archdiocese at no charge to the couple or any parish. During 2009, approximately 600 pre-nuptial investigations were reviewed, approved and recorded.

maintains statistical data for the Official Catholic Directory (Kenedy Directory), inclusion in which is required for preserving the Archdiocese’s status as a tax-exempt organization. Statistical data is also used by the Office of Ministries to respond to various surveys sponsored by the USCCB and to prepare, or assist, other Archdiocesan departments in preparing grant applications.

general spokesperson for the Archdiocese and is responsible for coordinating media contacts and press releases.

The Office of Safe Environment coordinates the Archdiocese’s safe environment education and training efforts, including educational programs for youth and training and continuing educational programs for parish facilitators and those ministering to youth. The Office of Safe Environment and the Office of

Ministries coordinate the Archdiocesan response to the annual USCCB audit of Archdiocesan efforts to implement the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. In addition, the Office of Safe Environment is responsible for maintaining and responding to calls to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline (open 24 hours a day), providing an effective response to allegations of abuse, coordinating assistance to victims of abuse and counseling with Archdiocesan employees and volunteers. The Office of Safe Environment also participates in a variety of community activities and organizations whose mission is the safe-guarding of children.

Future plans include continued efforts to preserve the records and artifacts of the Archdiocese (which cover a period of more than 100 years of the history of the Catholic Church in Oklahoma and Oklahoma Territory), until an appropriate archival space can be funded; digitizing sacramental records for ease of access; and the development of new educational programs addressing a myriad of the increasingly complex issues facing parish staff and leaders.

ADF Goal of \$3 Million Helps Support Archdiocesan Ministries

*APPEAL GOAL - \$3,000,000
ACHIEVED FOR 2009
APPLICATION OF FUNDS
\$500,000 to Catholic Schools
\$2,500,000 to Operating Budget*

This provides 47.7 percent of the yearly expenses for the regular and normal daily operations.

Below is a list of the ministries and departments headquartered at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Also, provided are the 63 staff members working in the building along with their years of service and experience. The total years of service to the people of this Archdiocese approaches 600 years. A true indication of dedication and love in the service of God's family!

Office of the Archbishop:

Carol Davito – 16 years

Archdiocesan Development Fund Appeal:

Executive Director: Thomas Maxwell – 4 1/2 years. Staff: Sheila Morgan – 10 years, Donna Dolf – 3 years

Business Office:

Manager: David Johnson – 12 years
Staff: Marlene Rosbach – 20 years, Shannon Schrempp – 20 years, Dorinda Kelly – 9 years, Carol Ruzicka – 4 years, Diane Schutte – 2 years

Catholic Foundation:

Executive Director: Bernard Semtner – New
Staff: Toby Boothe – 3 years

Education:

Superintendent: Sr. Catherine Powers – 14 years
School Office Staff: Cris Carter – 8 years, Marcia Dubey – 13 years, Sally Howard – 3 years

Library:

Charlotte Janz – 10 years

Pastoral Ministry:

Director: Sister Diane Koorie – 9 years

Staff: Cecilia Grimes – 3 years

Religious Education:

Director: Patricia Koenig – 11 years

Staff: Angela Schmidt – 3 1/2 years, Becky Gomez – 10 years

Family Life:

Director: George Rigazzi – 10 years

Staff: Lisa Carrasco – 14 years, Cristy Welch – 4 years

Hispanic Ministry:

Director: S. Rosario Martinez – 5 years

Staff: Ana Romero – 19 years

Ministries:

Vicar General: Msgr. Edward J. Weisenburger – 20 years

Chancellor: Loutitia Eason – 12 years

Staff: Suzan Lombardi – 2 years

Safe Environment:

Jennifer Goodrich – 3 years

Permanent Diaconate:

Director: Max Schwarz – 6 1/2 years

Staff: Norman Mejstrik – 4 years, Jean Milligan – 10 1/2 years

Sooner Catholic:

Editor: Ray Dyer – 8 years

Staff: Cara Koenig – 12 years, Mauro Yanez – 8 years, Amanda McCabe – 2 years

Tribunal of First Instance:

Judicial Vicar: Reverend Richard Stansberry, JCL – 10 years

Anne Kirby, JCL – 5 years,

Staff: Marilyn Newman – 7 1/2 years

Tribunal Interdiocesan of Second Instance:

Judicial Vicar: Reverend Roberto Quant, JCL – 13 years

Reverend Elmer Schwarz, JCL – 15 years

Sister Kathryn Olsen, IHM, JCL – 9 years

Staff: Toni Nichols – 17 years

Vocations:

Director: Reverend William Novak – 1/2 year

Staff: Jean Mulligan – 10 years

Worship and Spiritual Life:

Director: Reverend Stephen Bird – 31 years

Staff: Mary Fahy – 19 years

Youth and Young Adults:

Director: Nancy Housh – 20 years

Staff: Rebecca Jaime – 12 1/2 years,

Annette Guillotte – 28 years

CPC – Building Support:

Manager: Thomas Maxwell – 4 1/2 years

Event Coordinator: Jeanine McFall – 19 years

Properties and Heritage Room: Jim Weinmann – 20 years

Cooks: Supervisor – Gerald Duke – 12 years

Staff: Richard Mora – 5 years, Jim Deneen – 2 1/2 years

Housekeeping: Priest – Susan Ockert – 6 years,

Guest Rooms – Kay Bokker – 2 1/2 years

Mail Room: Dale Dirkschneider – 3 years

Maintenance: Supervisor – Kenneth Clevenger – 16 years

Staff: Mario Mateo – 12 years, Alfonso Lopez – 10 years, William Deneen – 1/2 year

Receptionist: Jane Pulley – New

In addition to the ministries listed above, expenses from the operating budget also cover such areas as — Priests, Hospital Ministry, Correction Ministry, Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp, Seminarians, National Council of Bishops and the Holy See.

The importance of donations to the ADF Appeal cannot be overstated when one considers the range and scope of the activities and support provided to the people of this Archdiocese.

ADF 2010 Gift Form

Please Print Clearly

Mr. and/or Mrs., Ms., Rev., Dr. _____

Address _____

Credit this donation to Parish _____

Credit Card: Please Charge my Master Card Visa **a one time charge**

Account # _____ Exp. Date (Mo./Yr.) _____

Card Holders Name _____ (Please Print)

EFT Transaction A check must be enclosed. All transactions will be processed on the 15th of the month.

Signature _____

Total Amount of Gift _____

1st Payment (enclosed) _____

Balance _____

Please indicate method of payment

___ 10 Pmts. March-December

___ 4 pmts. April-July-Oct-Dec

___ 2 Pmts. April and October

___ 1 Pmt. Show Month

___ Electronic Funds Transfer

___ Credit Card

Make checks payable to the ADF

Mail to ADF, P.O. box 32180

OKC, OK 73123

Youngster Turns Birthday Into a Fundraiser for Poor of Peru

My name is Brendan Murphree. I am a fourth-grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. When I was asked to write this article, I was flattered and a little nervous. Then I thought about it and realized if I shared my story with everyone, maybe others may do like I did and what a difference it would make on the world!

It all started two years ago when I was about to turn 9 years old. My mom said I could have a birthday party. I saw that I had a lot of toys, so I figured why don't I have a fundraiser for my birthday party. I knew the people in Peru don't have a lot of things like we have. There are many times we help them through St. John's and through the school. I thought about how if I ask my friends to just make a small donation for the people in Peru instead of giving me a birthday present, we could help some people and have a fun time for my birthday. My mom had a great idea to turn my fundraiser birthday into a charity carnival. We have fun games and prizes and since my birthday is close to Halloween, we wear our costumes and have mummy races. It's a lot of fun!

In 2008 for my 9th birthday I decided to use the money I collected from my party to buy some charcoal stoves for the people in Peru. I was hoping we would get to buy a few and was amazed when my mom told me we collected \$500! We were able to purchase the stoves and some food packages to go along with it!

This year I was so excited to get to be able to help the people in Peru



A family in Peru helped by the generosity of Brendan Murphree says "Happy Birthday" to the Oklahoma youngster.

again. For my 10th birthday I chose to use the money collected this year to purchase car batteries. I found out they use car batteries to help provide electricity to homes. I can't imagine living without electricity. I couldn't believe when my mom told me how much we collected this year. We raised \$660! I am really thankful for my friends and family's generosity and kindness.

It feels really good knowing I made a difference in this world by helping those less fortunate. This is a tradition I look forward to every year now. I am hoping this article will inspire someone else to maybe do the same or come up with another way to make a difference, like my sister, Alyssa's Girl Scout troop did. They made hair clips for the girls in Peru. It makes me feel good to be helping oth-

ers, which is the best birthday present!

**Brendan
Murphree**
Fourth-grade
student
St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton



Story Intended to Show 'Logic' Bishops Face in Health Care Debate

A story about a member of Congress who wants our U.S. Catholic Bishops to "join the compromise" over the so-called health-care reform legislation was published in the Jan. 10 *Sooner Catholic*.

The story generated a few calls and e-mails to the *Sooner Catholic*. Most of those contacting us wanted to know if we'd lost our minds running such a story.

Connecticut Democrat Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Catholic, was quoted in the Catholic News Agency story as saying

Editorial
Ray Dyer

the U.S. Bishops should not hold health-care reform "hostage" in the U.S. Senate as they did in the House. The story first appeared in the Huffington Post and was then picked up by the Catholic News Agency.

For the record, I don't agree with Rep. DeLauro, in fact, quite the opposite is true. The reason I ran the story

was I wanted Oklahoma Catholics to see what our bishops are up against. We're somewhat insulated from this kind of thinking in Oklahoma.

DeLauro wants the Catholic Church in the United States to compromise the sanctity of life. She indicated in the story that she would support language in the health-care proposal offered by the Senate that would allow taxpayer money to be used to fund abortions. This is of course totally unacceptable to our Catholic faith and thankfully our bishops have

fought tooth and nail against this evil.

It's just my opinion, but I think the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops should send DeLauro a message. They should tell her they are willing to consider her proposal just as soon as God tells them there's room for negotiation concerning His Ten Commandments.

DeLauro's logic is not only goofy, it's dangerous. And more scary is the fact DeLauro's got some power and influence.

Heaven help us and especially the unborn.

Homily Recalls Civil Rights Struggle for MLK, Nation

Homily, MLK Remembrance
Corpus Christi Church
January 18, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Jesus said: "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

These words of Jesus speak to us about the present and the future.

They go directly to the real meaning and purpose of human life. To do so, Jesus first reveals that He is Lord. He is Savior. It is He and He alone Who redeems the human race.

The ultimate fulfillment of human life is granted (by God) in the kingdom of heaven. There, in the presence of God, we obtain all that we could ever desire, God Himself, and we are totally fulfilled and complete.

The proximate fulfillment of human life is also granted to us by God when Jesus says, "This is My Body. This is My Blood. Take and eat. Take and drink." The Holy Eucharist enables us to communicate with God



Ariel Clark performs a liturgical dance at the MLK Mass.

in a most dramatic way. The Lord is present everywhere — but in the Eucharist, He is present sacramentally. This means that although we can see this reality only with the eyes of faith, there are now visible and tangible acts to bring us into a knowing, loving COMMUNIO, a new and dynamic way of relating to God.

While seeking final fulfillment in heaven and experiencing the COMMUNIO on earth, there is the constant reminder from God that there must be a conversion of heart. Repent of your sins and be baptized was the call Saint John the Baptist gave to the people of his time. It was the same call Jesus gave to His Apostles and to all of us.

Human beings were created by God in His own Image and Likeness.

Therefore, every human person is a sacred being. Every human life is a reflection of God. Every human being has been given life by God Himself and for a purpose — to receive God's love and to love Him in return.

The beauty of creation and the inherent dignity of the human being is the work of God. No one can destroy this work of God which is His work of love. However, since He gifted us with freedom, we

can reject His love and this is precisely what sin is. Sin is disobedience to God. Sin is turning away from God. Sin is a failure to acknowledge and



Saint Gregory University liturgical dancers perform at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass held Jan. 18 at Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City.

respect the true dignity of human beings.

Throughout history, God has raised up stalwart men and women to

call sinful people to conversion. As a young seminarian, I remember reading Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Prison." I was deeply moved by the content of that "letter." It was exactly what Saint Augustine had preached and what the Church had proclaimed for centuries.

It truly was a call to conversion for the contemporary society. It was a profound teaching on the inherent dignity and beauty of every human being.

From then on, I became involved in the civil rights movement and the quest for peace, justice and equality. This is what our Catholic faith has always taught. Moreover, the popes throughout the 20th century have urged us to put into practice what the Church teaches.

My ministry as a young priest was enlivened by the march in Selma and the activities engendered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

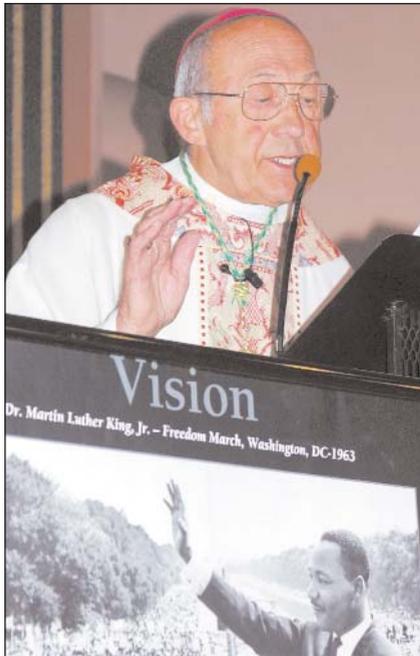
The life and dignity of all people was the underlying motivation and theme. The governmental enactment of the civil rights laws of the '60s was a success for life and equality.

Right so today do we gather to celebrate the determination and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. From that era of time and from the example he gave us, we today should continue the drive to restore respect for all human life. Today the dignity and freedom of human beings is no longer a struggle to be won solely for African-Americans but indeed for all people. Today the great threat to human life is abortion. This issue demeans and kills unborn babies of every race and every background.

Today we need to revive the enthusiasm and prophetic vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We need to be reminded and inspired by the Gospel of Life as he was.

We need to open ourselves to repentance and change. We need to hear and receive the ongoing announcement of Jesus: "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Hear It Now



Listen to Archbishop Beltran describe his experiences in the civil rights movement as a young priest. Go to the Archdiocese Web page at catharchdioceseokc.org, click on Sooner Catholic Online, then click on podcasts.

Annual Men's Conference Set for Feb. 20 in Norman

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men is pleased to announce that the 14th annual In The Father's Footsteps Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 at the new Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman. Four outstanding Catholic speakers — Steve Bollman, Father Geoff Rose, OSFS, Father Thomas Boyer and Eric Porteous — give witness to the unwavering focus we must have on the path to becoming authentic Christian men: "Therefore holy brothers who share a heavenly calling, fix your eyes on Jesus." (Hebrews 3:1).

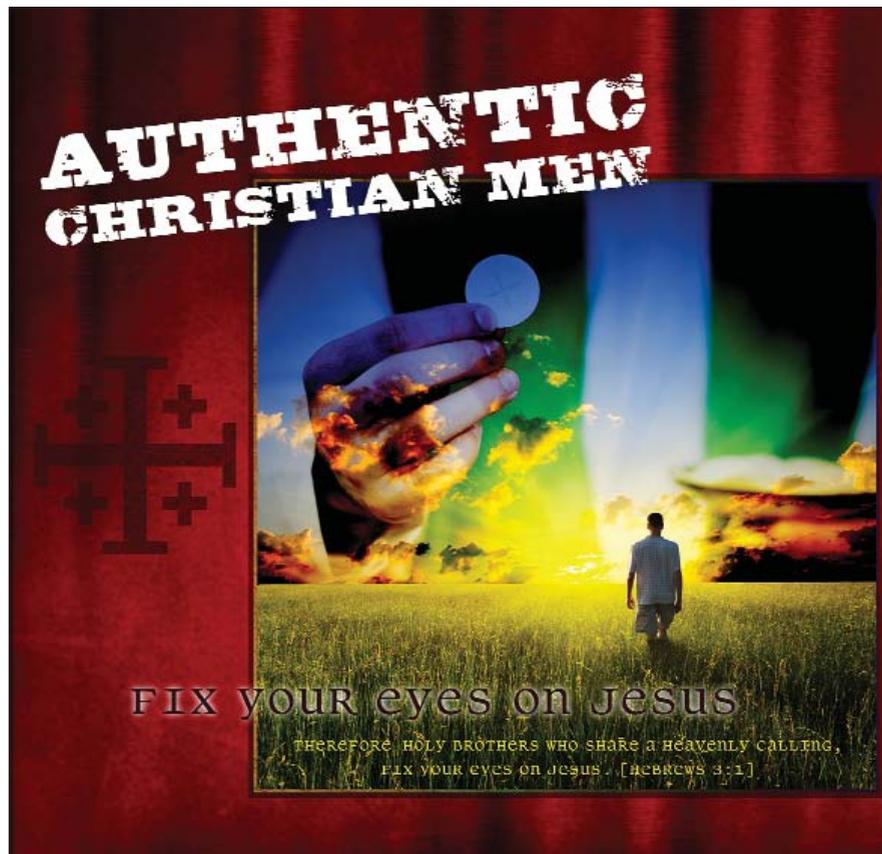
We are blessed to have the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, lead

us in the Celebration of the Eucharist at Mass to conclude the conference, an exhilarating day of learning, reflection, reconciliation and fellowship.

"In 2009, our conference was a standing room only sellout and we knew we needed to begin looking for a new home," said Joe Elbow, marketing director for the Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men. "While our emphasis is on providing a Christ-centered day that is a catalyst for spiritual renewal, we also want to provide men with a relaxing, professional atmosphere that increases the opportunity for fellowship. Building a support network of Christian brothers means surrounding yourself with people who will be with you long after the conference is over ... men who not only share your values but will hold you accountable for living up to them."

Moving to the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman provides In The Father's Footsteps

with the room necessary to accommodate all of the conference day activities comfortably. This means only one lunch hour with seating for everyone, more breakout sessions — all sized



appropriately — and with earlier sign-up, a facility designed for large events with generous parking and a site location that is easy to find, right off Interstate 35 just north of Norman. It also means the conference has room to grow well into the future.

Young men (high school and college age) will get more time and attention for their needs at the 2010 conference than ever before. Eric Porteous, director of Direct Contact for Life Teen International, will host a teen lunch and lead a special program geared to the interests and needs of young men and the issues they face. Time for reconciliation is built into the young men's program.

We encourage fathers to attend one of the four breakouts designed for them while letting their sons attend the young men's breakout session independently. Fathers and sons will be able to spend the rest of the conference day together, including the opportunity to hear each of the

featured speakers.

Early registration, \$39 for adults and \$15 for students, continues online (www.catholicmen.net) until Wednesday, Feb. 3. Registration after the early bird deadline and at the door is \$49 for adults and \$15 for students. All conference activities and a box lunch are included in the fee. Doors open at 8 a.m. and the conference begins at 9 a.m. This year's activities include a fellowship breakout session — sign up online or use the form in our brochure. Mass is open to all who wish to attend and begins at 4:30 p.m. Please encourage family members and friends to join you. Look for our brochures in the vestibule of Catholic churches throughout Oklahoma to learn more about the conference or to obtain a

mail-in registration form. Early bird registrations must be completed online or postmarked by Feb. 3 to receive the discount. Register online today at www.catholicmen.net and save \$10. For more information, call Deacon Bill Bawden at (405) 245-8042.

Steve Bollman, during a successful career in the energy industry, experienced firsthand the profound pressures placed on men and families in a modern society. He has also witnessed the lasting impact a man of faith can have in the greater society. Steve is the founder and president of Paradisus Dei and developer of the Men's Leadership program, That Man is You!

Paradisus Dei is an organization of lay Catholics dedicated to helping families discover the super

abundance of God within the context of marriage and family life. Steve is also a nationally recognized writer whose articles have appeared in the National Catholic Register, Inside the Vatican and Catholic Answers, among others.

Father Geoff Rose, OSFS, believes that his life's mission boils down to one word: service. Father Rose is a member of the religious congregation, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and Chaplain of Lumen Christi Catholic High School, Jackson, Mich.



Prior to joining the Oblates in 1996, Father Rose explored just about every angle of political service. He was elected to the City Council of Ypsilanti, Mich., at the age of 21 in 1992. He has served as one of the youngest Mayor Pro Temps in the history of the state of Michigan. Father Rose has also served as executive director of a Political Action Committee and as a senior staffer for a member of Congress.

Father Rose is the co-founder of Mark 5:11 Ministries, serves on the board of directors of IsleGo Ministries and is director and chaplain of the Catholic HEART Work Camp. Known affectionately as "Frose" by his students, his energy, humor and passion for sharing God's love is refreshing.

Father Thomas Boyer, in his words, is a priest who has served the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for 41 years. He has taught at Bishop McGuinness and Mount St. Mary Catholic high schools in Oklahoma City and has also given numerous Diocesan retreats for priests and parish congregations.



For 15 years, he served as director of vocations for the Archdiocese. He is a member of the Priests Personnel Board, National Pastoral Musicians and served on the National Organi-

continued on page 10

Cardinal Expresses Support

**Most Rev. Louis Kébreau, SDB
President Conference Episcopal
d'Haiti**

Dear Bishop Kébreau:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I write to express our solidarity with you, our brother bishops and all Haitians at this difficult time as you attempt to cope with the devastating impact of this earthquake. Our hearts are with yours as we gradually learn the extent of the tremendous loss of life and structures. We are particularly saddened at the news of the death of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince.

I assure you that, in concert with government and other agencies that have already begun to bring emergency assistance, Catholic Relief Services, under the leadership of Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will respond

with humanitarian relief for your people.

Our national collection for the Church in Latin America, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, Archbishop of San Antonio, will also be anxious to help the Church in Haiti in the weeks and months ahead.

The bishops of the United States will appeal to our people to be generous in coming to the assistance of our neighbors to the south.

Uniting our prayers with yours, we commend the souls of the dead and the dying to the loving mercy of God and we invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Notre Dame d'Haiti, in bringing God's special graces and blessings to those engaged in rescuing the injured and the suffering.

**Sincerely yours in Christ,
Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago President**

Men's Conference

continued from page 9
zation for the Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy for 10 years.

Father Boyer has a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's of divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. Father Boyer has served as priest at several parishes within the Archdiocese and is currently pastor at St. Mark the Evangelist in Norman.

Eric Porteous graduated from Arizona State University in 2002 with a B.A. in communication. For eight years he was the coordinator of High School Youth Ministry at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Scottsdale, Ariz. During his time at St. Patrick's, Eric led numerous mission trips to Mexico with the Friends of the Orphans Organization. He has spoken to hundreds of men and thousands of teens. His authentic and direct message is not only spoken but lived out in his daily life.

Currently, Eric is the director of



Direct Contact for Life Teen International, an international Catholic youth ministry organization. His daily task is to reach out to parishes on a worldwide basis and to help them implement strong youth ministry programs. He travels around the world training youth ministers and core members and leading retreats for both teens and adults. Eric is a sports fanatic, and in his free time you can see him on the field or the court.

Breakout Sessions

Sacred Sex, Sacred Marriage and the Holy Eucharist

We live in a sexualized society. In the media, sexual relationships have few boundaries and it is rare that sex within marriage is depicted as exciting or satisfying. So ... what is God's plan for sex and marriage? How well are we living up to that plan? What are the consequences of creating our own answers and where is the Eucharist in all of this? Co-presented by Deacon Roy Forsythe and Father Joe Jacobi.

Resisting Temptation and Overcoming Sin in the Face of Evil

Turn on the TV for an hour and

the "real" world is quickly presented in commercials catering both to our vanity and our lust for food, women, gambling, alcohol and the acquisition of things — lots and lots of things! Turn off the TV and this distorted view is still present to varied degrees in all facets of our lives. How do you maneuver the sea of temptation and maintain "custody" of your personal holiness, your calling as a worthy son of God? Co-presented by Father Thomas Boyer and Ray Haefele,

The Fast, The Furious and Your Family — Fighting for Time In A Frenzied World

Have you stopped to ask yourself, "Why are we so busy?" Carting children between practices, games, recitals, school events, birthday parties and get-togethers with family and friends — all the while multitasking: checking e-mail from work, directing homework lessons, sending text messages, trying to keep up with the deafening din of communication, entertainment and activity. Are you with your family but not truly present to them? Has all of this activity squeezed out the time to truly talk, share, listen, pray and relax? Co-

presented by Father Geoff Rose, OSFS and Joe Elbow.

Developing A Successful Men's Program In Your Parish

Do you wish that you had a regular men's program in your parish — a reason to gather with other Christian men for fellowship and the sharing of God's Word? Hoping to improve an existing program? Whether you want to be a leader or a participant, this session is designed to give you an overview of the keys to a successful men's program. A primary focus will be on the That Man is You! (TMIY) Men's Leadership Program developed by the presenter. Co-presented by Steve Bollman and Don Greiner.

Authentic Holiness: A Heroic Calling For Young Men

This talk teaches young men what it means to live lives of heroic virtue by striving for holiness. Through powerful testimony and witness to the faith, they will be challenged to practice chastity, uphold the dignity of the body and women, and pursue an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and the Sacraments. Presented by Eric Porteous.

Catholic Radio
Now on AM and FM radio
Monday-Friday
on
KTLR 890 AM
1 p.m. till sundown
and
KTLR 94.1 FM
1 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Taking Life to Save Life

Many well-intentioned pro-lifers have inadvertently adopted flawed or incomplete arguments while trying to defend the noblest of causes: the plight of the vulnerable and the unborn. In the debate over stem cells, for example, a common argument runs like this:

Human embryonic stem cell research is wrong because we are witnessing new medical treatments for sick patients exclusively with adult, not embryonic stem cells. Every disease that has been successfully treated thus far with stem cells has relied on adult stem cells, while embryonic stem cells haven't produced any cures yet. Adult stem cells work, while embryonic don't, and it's basically a waste of resources to pursue something that is not working. Therefore, scientists should stop beating their drums about human embryonic stem cells since all the real-life treatments for patients are occurring exclusively with adult stem cells.

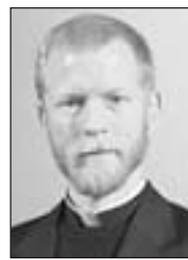
This argument, often employed by those of a pro-life persuasion, is flawed on a number of counts.

First, it seems to presume that the only yardstick for determining embryonic stem cell "success" will be in terms of benefits to patients who are struggling with various ailments and diseases. Yet researchers themselves would argue that there are many other reasons to pursue embryonic stem cell research. For example, such research is sure to be valuable for gaining further insight into the cellular mechanisms underlying the development of an organ-

ism and is already providing important clues about how an animal builds itself up from a single starting cell called the zygote. Scientific research using non-human (e.g. mouse, rat or monkey) embryonic stem cells can address these kinds of questions in a responsible way and clearly deserves to be funded and promoted. Such non-human embryonic stem cell research is, in fact, a praiseworthy and ethically uncontentious kind of scientific investigation.

Second, the argument that adult stem cells are helping sick patients while embryonic are not — and thus the adult stem cells are "more ethical" — seems to reduce the stem cell ethics debate to a discussion about what works best, or what is most effective. In fact, however, the ethical concerns have very little to do with scientific efficiency and everything to do with the fact that researchers violate and destroy young humans (who are still embryos) in order to acquire their stem cells.

Furthermore, it may be strictly a matter of time before the embryonic stem cells begin providing cures for human patients. At any point in the future, we could be greeted by a front page news story announcing a dramatic "success," perhaps an embryonic stem cell transplant allowing childhood diabetics to give up their insulin injections or paralyzed patients to walk.



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

That "success," however, would not change the ethical objections to embryo destruction or make an evil act a morally acceptable one — though it might increase the temptation for some to cross the objective ethical line.

To put it more simply: Even if it were possible to cure all diseases known to mankind by harvesting (and therefore killing) a single human embryo, it would never become ethical to do so. We cannot choose evil that good might come, nor can we ever afford to pay the steep ethical price of ignoring the

Adult stem cells work, while embryonic don't, and it's basically a waste of resources to pursue something that is not working.

sacrosanct humanity of the embryo, that tiny creature that each of us once was ourselves. Treating a fellow human being, albeit a very small one, as a means rather than an end, violates his or her most basic human rights.

In fact, the direct killing of other humans, whether young and embryonic or old and in their dotage, is properly referred to as an intrinsic evil, meaning it is in every instance wrong, and ought never be chosen as a human act. Intrinsic evils do not admit of any legitimate excep-

tions. Once we concretely recognize the immoral character of an action prohibited by an exceptionless norm, the only ethically acceptable act is to follow the requirements of the moral law and turn away from the action which it forbids.

Bioethicist Paul Ramsey put it well in suggesting that any man of serious conscience, when discussing ethics, will have to conclude that "there may be some things that men should never do. The good things that men do can be made complete only by the things they refuse to do."

Refusing to destroy human embryos as a scientist does not imply any opposition to science itself, but only to unethical science, which, like unethical investment practices or unethical medicine, is invariably harmful to society. Good science is necessarily ethical science; it cannot ever be reduced merely to "efficient" science, that which might work or "solve my problems" at the expense of others. In arguing for ethical science, those of us working to safeguard human life would do well to examine our premises carefully, so as to avoid weak or questionable assumptions that could undermine the thrust of our arguments.

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. See www.ncbcenter.org.

St. Gregory's University Announces Budget Restructuring Plan

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University officials announced Jan. 13 a budget restructuring plan that will help ensure the school's fiscal stability — a response to declining endowment and enrollment figures. As part of the plan, the school said it will implement a hiring freeze, cut expenditures and lay off a small portion of its 119 faculty and staff.

"Although implementing a plan

like this is never easy, it is necessary and will hopefully allow us to go forward not only surviving, but thriving," said interim president Dr. David Marker. "The decisions made in this plan were carefully considered, as to have the least impact on the things that allow us to carry out our mission with integrity."

Marker, in an address to the SGU community, said about 5 per-

cent of the school's faculty and staff will be affected by layoffs at this time, and those layoffs were to take place by the end of the week. He said 12 positions are currently open within the university but will not be filled at this time.

"We are by no means alone. Many institutions of higher education are facing financial challenges," Marker said. "It is important that

we clearly identify the nature of those challenges so we can address them successfully."

St. Gregory's University is Oklahoma's oldest institution for higher learning and the state's only Catholic university. SGU serves approximately 700 students in two colleges — the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults.

Buenas Noticias...

Homilía correspondiente a la Misa por la Santidad de la Vida, la cual fue celebrada el miércoles 20 de mayo del presente año en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro.

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Nos reunimos aquí en esta noche con fe y amor. Creyendo en Jesús, quien es el Hijo Eterno de Dios. Amamos a Dios. Fue Dios quien creó toda vida en esta tierra y es Dios mismo la vida. Sólo Dios es eterno. Él no tiene principio ni fin. Todo lo demás está creado por Él. Sólo Dios es el eterno Ser Supremo.

Es verdaderamente inspirador ver a tanta gente joven aquí en esta noche para la celebración de la Misa por la Santidad de la Vida. Yo aprecio su presencia y les aseguro que cualquier cosa que hagan para promover el respeto por la dignidad y belleza de la vida humana se retornará en su bienestar y felicidad.

Sabemos que toda vida humana es sagrada porque Dios nos creó a su propia Imagen y Semejanza con un sagrado propósito, tener vida en Él. En esta noche, es obvio que todos sabemos de la tragedia y el sufrimiento humano que se vive en Haití, por tal motivo les pido que oren mucho por el alivio de los heridos, de los enfermos y los que sufren por este terremoto, ellos son nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Le pido a Dios que le otorgue alivio, salud, recuperación y paz al pueblo de Haití.

Uno de los hombres más ricos en la historia de nuestro país, John D. Rockefeller, quien admitió antes de morir que su gran fortuna nunca le trajo felicidad. Otro industrial o empresario adinerado, fue Andrew Carnegie, quien observó que los millonarios rara vez sonríen. Mujeres y hombres poderosos y adinerados a través de la historia testi-



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

fican que el dinero y el poder no compran la felicidad. También en nuestros días, podemos observar que las celebridades usualmente son personas muy infelices. Sus posesiones, popularidad, belleza física, habilidades atléticas o logros intelectuales, no les garantizan la felicidad.

Un verso de los Salmos nos da una idea acerca de la verdadera felicidad: "Dichoso el pueblo que esta suerte tiene, dichoso el pueblo cuyo Dios es el Señor". El mensaje en este versículo es que sólo Dios puede verdaderamente hacernos felices porque nos creó con almas que solamente Él puede satisfacer. Del mismo modo, San Agustín lo puso así: "Oh Dios, nos has creado para Ti, y nuestro corazón no descansará hasta que descanse en Ti".

Todos deseamos ser felices.

...La Santidad de la Vida Humana

En otras palabras, deseamos poder disfrutar, estar contentos y satisfechos. Ahora, ¿Por qué tantas personas parecen estar molestas o amargadas y totalmente miserables? ¿Por qué tantas personas están insatisfechas, inquietas, buscando algo más? Quizás están buscando la felicidad en el camino equivocado. Quizás ellos han sido orientados por el mal camino. Quizás perdieron de vista la inherente belleza y dignidad de la vida humana, la cual Dios ha dado a todos los seres humanos.

El Evangelio que escucharemos proclamar esta noche es usualmente llamado: Beatitudes. Beatitud quiere decir felicidad o bendiciones. Estas son las enseñanzas que Jesús nos dio en la que se refiere a la belleza intrínseca de la vida humana. Ellas nos dan dirección, propósito e incentivo para una vida de enriquecimiento y disfrute.

Las Beatitudes expresan la esperanza que cada cristiano debe tener sobre el hecho que Jesús nos llevará a la vida eterna. Mientras tanto, estamos desafiados a cumplir correctamente las obligaciones que tenemos con nuestro prójimo.

La inherente e intrínseca dignidad de la vida de cada ser humano está y aparece desde el momento de la concepción hasta la muerte. Esa dignidad no puede ser removida por una ley o por un decreto. Todos los seres humanos pecan y no obstante a esto, el ser humano no pierde su valor de ser humano.

El pecado ciertamente afecta nuestra relación con Dios, es por eso que Jesús constantemente nos llama a que nos arrepintamos del pecado, a cambiar y seguirlo más de cerca.

Entre las muchas bendiciones que nosotros contamos en los Estados Unidos, hemos recibido una Constitución que reconoce el inalienable derecho a la vida, a la libertad y a la búsqueda de la felicidad. De

este modo, nuestra sociedad comenzó a construir la cultura de la vida que beneficiaría a cada persona en esta nación. Sin embargo, con el paso del tiempo y se desvió de las personas los principios básicos y se incorporaron opiniones egoístas que conllevó a que la cultura de la vida se haya socavada y por ende cambiada. El Papa Juan Pablo II nos advirtió que la pérdida del respeto a la vida convertiría a la sociedad en la cultura de la muerte.

Hoy existen muchas amenazas a nuestro inalienable derecho a la vida, libertad y búsqueda de la felicidad. La más alarmante y devastadora de esas amenazas es el aborto, que es un deliberado asesinato de un ser humano antes de nacer. Otra amenaza a la cultura de la vida es la eutanasia, que es un proceso que ayuda a morir aquellos que están enfermos, deshabilitados o muriendo. También una gran amenaza es el suicidio asistido, en donde se ayuda a las personas a terminar con su propia vida. Como el Papa Juan Pablo II nos advirtió, estamos de hecho rodeados por la cultura de la muerte.

Esta noche nos hemos reunido aquí para celebrar la Santidad de la Vida. Por lo tanto, proclamamos la Buena Nueva de Jesús. Él vino para que nosotros podamos tener vida y podamos tenerla en abundancia. Nosotros hemos venido para recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, con la cual somos sanados, restaurados, nutridos e inspirados. Hemos venido para ser instruidos sobre el valor de la vida. Pero lo más importante de todo, hemos venido para darle gracias y alabar a Dios Todopoderoso.

Es Dios quien nos creó a cada uno de nosotros a Su propia Imagen y Semejanza. Es Él quien nos dio nuestra dignidad humana. Es Dios quien nos santifica y nos redime del pecado porque Él es nuestra vida y nuestra salvación.

Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City anuncia Retiro Espiritual

El próximo 30 y 31 de enero se efectuará en el Centro Pastoral Católico un retiro espiritual auspiciado por la Oficina del Ministerio

Hispano. Así lo dio a conocer Sor Rosario Martínez, quien es la directora de esta oficina y quien comentó que el Padre Manuel Magallanes,

miembro de la Abadía de San Gregorio, presidirá el retiro totalmente en español. ¡Esta es una oportunidad para convivir y crecer en la

fe!. Para más información pueden contactar al Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis por el siguiente número telefónico: (405) 728-3561.

El pasado 18 de enero en la Iglesia Católica Corpus Cristi

Celebrado tributo multicultural en ocasión al día del Dr. Martin Luther King



Arzobispo Beltrán recordó que todos somos creados a Imagen y Semejanza de Dios.



Miembros del coro de la parroquia Corpus Cristi.



La señora Freddie Cudjoe, líder laica de Corpus Cristi cantó y recitó.

Por Mauro Yanez Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Con una dedicación multicultural y la celebración de la Eucaristía presidida por el Arzobispo Beltrán, decenas de católicos de diferentes partes de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se conglomeraron en la parroquia de Corpus Cristi para homenajear al Dr. Martin Luther King, quien fue un hombre que tenía una fuerte creencia y norma para obrar el bien y luchar contra el mal. Martin Luther King era un activista de los derechos civiles que organizó y llevó a cabo diversas actividades pacíficas reclamando el derecho al voto, la no discriminación y otros derechos civiles básicos

para la gente de color. Sin embargo, fue asesinado en 1968 por defender a los pobres y a los discriminados. Aunque no profesaba la fe católica, nuestra Iglesia coincidía en su lucha pacífica para favorecer a los más desamparados. Martin Luther King es recordado como uno de los grandes líderes de la historia de los Estados Unidos en el siglo XX que luchó por el respeto a la dignidad humana.

En esta celebración en homenaje al Dr. Martin Luther King se rezó por los afectados y víctimas del terrible terremoto de Haití, país más pobre del hemisferio occidental. El Dr. Martin Luther King usó el camino del bien para encontrar pacíficamente la reivindicación del respeto a la vida humana.



Se sigue esperando los cambios prometidos por el legado de Martin Luther King.



Danzantes de la Universidad Católica Saint Gregory se hicieron presentes.



The 2009 St. Ann Retirement Center's Clothing Collection was a huge success. Residents of St. Ann's donated 22 large bags of clothing to be donated to Sister BJ's Pantry, a downtown Oklahoma City ministry run by Sister Barbara Joseph Foley that distributes food and clothing to the homeless. This year's collection, the center's third, began in late November and was delivered on Dec. 11. St. Ann Retirement and Assisted Living Center is a community of 180 residents at 7501 W. Britton Road.

Scout Earns Rank of Eagle

OKLAHOMA CITY — James Reeves received his Eagle Scout Award at the Court of Honor on Jan. 10, 2010, at All Souls Episcopal Church. James is a member of Troop 193 in Last Frontier Council's Baden Powell district.

As a Boy Scout, James has earned 43 merit badges. He has held leadership positions of scribe, historian, instructor and patrol leader for Cobra Patrol. He floated the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, paddling over 200 miles through white water as his first high adventure trip. James went to Philmont Scout Ranch this last summer and backpacked over 60 miles. James plans to go to another high adventure camp at Sea Base this June. James was elected to Order of the Arrow and has earned his Brotherhood Membership.

James' Eagle project consisted of building a flagstone walkway on tee box number 6 at Kickingbird Golf Club. This is a city of Edmond golf course where James learned to play golf. Kickingbird Golf Club plans to

use his design and extra stone on other fairways. He washed cars to earn money to pay for the stone.

James is a freshman at Casady School. He plans to play on the golf team this spring. He is a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, where he has been an Acolyte since 2006. While a Cub Scout he earned two Catholic Religious awards, Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei. James is a member of South Central Junior PGA, Oklahoma County 4-H Shotgun Club, and the National Eagle Scout Association. As a middle school student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, James was awarded the 2008 Duke TIP Certificate of Merit for mathematically and verbally talented students. He also won Duke TIP state recognition in science.



James Reeves

Bishops Call for Help to Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care

WASHINGTON — In a nationwide call to Catholics to prevent health-care reform from being derailed by the abortion lobby, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has sent bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements to almost 19,000 parishes across the country.

"As longtime advocates of health-care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable," the insert says. "Health care-reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country."

As Congress negotiates a final health-care bill, the insert encourages Catholics to contact their senators and representatives, urging them to keep longstanding restrictions against federal funding of abortion and full conscience protection in the legislation. If these criteria are not met, Catholics are asked to urge Congress to oppose the final bill.

The bulletin insert and pulpit announcement can be found in English and Spanish at www.usccb.org/healthcare. Catholics can contact their legislators online by going to www.usccb.org/action.

Faith Nursing Spots Still Available

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing Resource Center still has a few spots available in the Faith Community Nurse (FCN) Basic Preparation Course. The course is open to registered nurses of all faiths and will be held over the weekends of Jan. 28-30 and Feb. 11-13 at Our Lady of the Lodge in Guthrie. Participants must attend both weekends to earn FCN certification.

"This is the 12th year the course has been available for registered nurses," said Marilyn Seiler, faculty coordinator and manager of the Faith Community Nursing Resource Center. "By combining faith, knowledge, compassion and professionalism, Faith Community Nurses become a bridge between the challenges of medicine and the solidarity of their faith."

Registration is limited to 20 participants and tuition is \$650,

which includes meals, lodging and materials. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

Faith Community Nurses help members of church congregations cope with various health conditions as well as answer any questions they may have about their health. They also provide assistance with health promotion, offer referrals and advocacy, make home, hospital and nursing home visits, coordinate volunteers, and assist with parishioners' spirituality.

For more information or to register, contact Diane Steltenkamp at (405) 523-3000, or visit catholiccharitiesok.org.

Catholic Charities has been dedicated to helping the people of central and western Oklahoma since 1912. All of Catholic Charities programs are available to women, children, families and the elderly regardless of race, creed, religion, ability to pay or other qualifications.

Knights to Host Festive Mardi Gras Event

OKLAHOMA CITY — Knights of Columbus Council No.10822 at St. Eugene's Parish is hosting its 18th annual Mardi Gras Ball. The event will be held Feb. 13 at St. Eugene's, 2400 W. Hefner Road. Council 10822 is an official Mardi Gras Krewe. There will be a live band, skits, presentation of the ladies, queen and king coronations and other Mardi Gras traditions. Tables for eight are \$160, couples \$40 and \$20 for an individual. For reservations, call Steve Chastain at (405) 755-1052.

Calendar

JANUARY

24 The Catholic Daughters of Holy Trinity Parish in Okarche will hold their annual chicken noodle dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost is adults, \$6, children 6-12, \$4, and 3 and under eat free. Three hand-made quilts will also be given away.

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 SH 99/377. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

24 Michael Reardon, THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, at Holy Spirit Parish in Mustang at 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

26 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.

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

27 Learn the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning with Jeanne Blasi, certified instructor, on Wednesday nights, Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 31 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 9th and Boulevard, Edmond, in the basement council room. You must register for the class online at www.ccli.org.

27 Michael Reardon, THE BOOK OF REVELATION, at Epiphany Parish in Oklahoma City at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

28 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.

28 Michael Reardon, THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, at St. Eugene Parish in Oklahoma City at 7 p.m. This event

is free and open to all.

29 Marriage Encounter Weekend. Contact Dan or Jean Fogue at (405) 760-0390 for more information.

29 Meditation Retreat for MIND/-BODY/SPIRIT, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. with Debra Luther. LPC. Place: Retreat House at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: \$60, plus \$15 non-refundable deposit. Bring a blanket or mat and a jacket for outdoors.

29 Film and Discussion Series at St. Francis of Assisi Parish at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This month's movie will be "Millions" directed by Danny Boyle, 2005. Films will be shown in their entirety with an introduction and a discussion following. Concessions and child care will be provided by the parish. For more information, please call the Religious Education Office at St. Francis, (405) 528-0485.

30 STS Make-up Placement Test for current eighth-graders. Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will be administering a make-up placement test from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

30 Mount St. Mary home basketball game vs. OCS. Varsity girls, 1:30

p.m., varsity boys, 3 p.m.

31 The Catholic School of St. Eugene will hold an open house Sunday, Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Learn more about the school's award-winning teachers, academic excellence and strong moral code.

The school is located at 2400 W. Hefner Road. For more information, call 751-0067 or visit www.steugeneschool.org

FEBRUARY

2 Mount St. Mary home basketball game vs. Jones. Varsity girls, 6:30 p.m., varsity boys, 8 p.m.

5 1st Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

5 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMMH at 741-7419.

Jobs Box

Youth Director

St. Joseph Parish, Norman, is currently accepting applications for the position of youth director. Must be a practicing Catholic with a heart for young people. Bilingual not a must, but those with an understanding of the Spanish culture and language are encouraged to apply. Resumes can be mailed to St. Joseph Parish, P.O. Box 1227, Norman, Okla. 73070, Attn: Deacon Jeff. You may fax us at (405) 321-4360 or call 321-8080.

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 responsible 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.

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

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

Elementary School Principal

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Rogers, Ark., is seeking applications for the position of principal for its elementary school. St. Vincent de Paul is a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade elementary school with 330 students. It is located in beautiful northwest Arkansas in one of the fastest growing communities in Arkansas and in the nation. The candidate must have demonstrated leadership ability in past or present educational assignments and must be a practicing Catholic actively committed to developing a faith community. Preferred qualifications include three or more years of teaching administration experience within a Catholic school setting and a master's degree or its equivalent in educational administration. Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume with the names of references to Dr. George V. Schaefer, St. Vincent de Paul School, 1315 West Cypress, Rogers, AR 72758.



Brother Gabriel Powell, O.S.B., (left), and Brother Simeon Spitz, O.S.B., made their first profession of vows Wednesday at St. Gregory's Abbey, publicly making a commitment to live as monks at the Benedictine monastery. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

St. Gregory's Abbey Novices Profess First Vows

SHAWNEE — Two St. Gregory's Abbey novices made their first profession of vows Jan. 7 during a special Epiphany Mass inside the abbey's chapel. Brother Gabriel Powell, O.S.B., and Brother Simeon Spitz, O.S.B., made a public commitment to live as monks at the Benedictine monastery for the next three years.

"St. Gregory's Abbey is greatly blessed by the profession of Brother Gabriel and Brother Simeon," said the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., who celebrated the Mass. "Both are very talented and are very sincere in their desire to grow closer to God and to serve others through our way of life. We are grateful also for the support that they enjoy from their families and from the abbey's many friends and associates.

"With the prayerful support and encouragement of broader faith community, the abbey will continue to be blessed with new vocations and a

bright future."

As they have now professed their first, or temporary, monastic vows, Brother Gabriel and Brother Simeon become junior monks of the St. Gregory's community. After three years of vowed life, junior monks can apply to make their final vows. They will assume work assignments in the ministries of St. Gregory's Abbey and will continue their formal academic studies to prepare them for their future roles of service as monks.

When he entered the novitiate a year ago, Shannon Powell received the name of Gabriel, after Archangel Gabriel, who was sent by God to deliver the news to Mary that she would bear a child — Jesus. Brother Gabriel was born in Waynesboro, Miss., but grew up in McAlester and attended Pittsburg High School. He made his first visit to St. Gregory's Abbey at age 15, and after a period of discerning his call, decided to enter the candidacy and

apply for the novitiate.

Zakary Spitz also entered the novitiate last January. He received the name of Simeon, after Saint Simeon, who is described as a righteous man filled with the Holy Spirit. Before his death, Saint Simeon received the Christ child into his arms in fulfillment of God's promise.

Brother Simeon was born in Elk City, and attended Canute High School. After graduation in 2002, he entered college at St. Gregory's University where he first encountered the monastic community. Upon graduation in 2006, Brother Simeon attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, in Overbrook, Pa., for two years before returning to Shawnee to enter the novitiate.

St. Gregory's Abbey is a community of Benedictine monks founded in 1875. The community consists of 27 members ranging in age from 26 to 87.