

Sooner Catholic

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Go Make Disciples

The best legacy children receive from parents is faith, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – The best thing parents can pass on to their children is their religious faith, Pope Francis said as he baptized 26 babies.

Ensure this faith “not be lost, help make it grow and pass it on as a legacy,” he told the infants’ parents and godparents.

The pope presided over the annual morning liturgy in the Sistine Chapel Jan. 10, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

He told the parents that when he asked them, “What do you ask of God’s church” for their child and they responded, “Faith,” the ritual was part of “a chain” of handing on the faith throughout history.

“These children, as the years go by, will be taking your place with another child – your grandchildren – and they will ask the same thing: faith,” he said in his brief, unscripted homily.

“Don’t forget that the greatest legacy that you can leave your children is faith,” he said, adding he hoped they would always be capable of helping their children grow in the faith.

The infants, wearing their Sunday best – chiffon or lacy dresses, cotton cardigans or plush overalls – were baptized over a font supported by an ornately detailed bronze olive tree. One by one, the pope poured water from a gilded shell and gently caressed the head of each of the 13 girls and 13 boys.

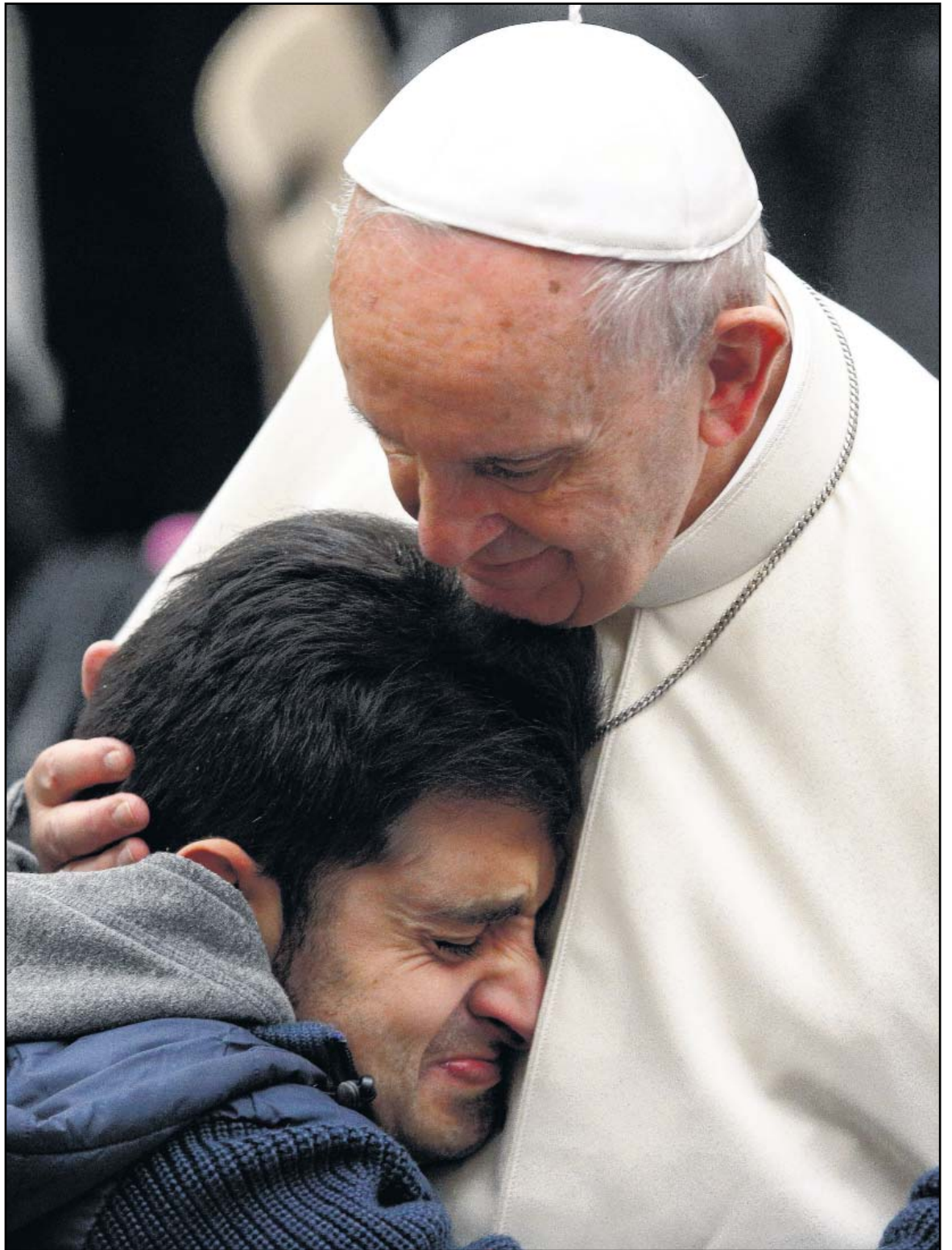
As he has done in the past, he told the mothers not to hesitate in breast-feeding their babies during the ceremony.

Later in the day, before praying the Angelus with visitors gathered in Saint Peter’s Square, Pope Francis said being baptized carries with it “the responsibility of following Jesus – the obedient servant – and reproducing in us his same likeness, that is, gentleness, humility, tenderness.”

Even though “this is not easy, especially if we are surrounded by so much intolerance, pride, rigidity,” he said, “it is possible with the power that comes from the Holy Spirit.”

“The Holy Spirit, received for the first time on the day of our baptism, opens our heart to the truth, to the whole truth. The Spirit drives our lives along the challenging, but joyous path of charity and solidarity toward our brothers and sisters,” he said.

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Pope Francis accepts a hug from a man while meeting the disabled during his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Jan. 13. *CNS photo/Paul Haring.*

Long-time Catholic camp manager retires

By Ted King
For the Sooner Catholic



Larry Wells at the site where Camp OLOG would be built. *Photo Sooner Catholic archives.*

After 16 and a half years, Larry Wells has retired as manager of Our Lady of Guadalupe camp.

The 480-acre camp located between Luther and Wellston began operation in June 1999 with Wells in charge of getting it up and running. By summer 2000, Our Lady of Guadalupe camp hosted youth for the first time.

The idea for the camp started, when Archbishop Beltran wanted a summer camp for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma that was similar to the summer camp he had while serving as bishop of Tulsa. Wells said the archbishop asked him to organize the new camp, and once it was open, Archbishop

Beltran asked him to stay on and manage the camp.

“He was my bishop, so I couldn’t say no,” Wells joked. “I didn’t think it would be 16 and a half years!”

Before managing camp OLOG, Wells worked for Southwestern Bell, spending 40 years with the phone company. His duties involved spending a great deal of time in Saint Louis. As a result of being away, he was unable to be involved much in his parish. He said when he retired from that job, “It was payback time for me. The Church has been so good to me and my family.”

Wells and his wife, Dodie, have five children and live in Guthrie. His son Bill Wells is succeeding him as

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Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Roe v. Wade: A national tragedy

There are certain dates in our nation's history that will "live in infamy," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt once remarked. These dates are seared into our consciousness because they are forever tied to the memory of some unprecedented attack on innocent life and on the very fabric of our nation's principles and values. On Dec. 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor triggered the United States' entry into World War II, the costliest war in human history. Sept. 11, 2001, brought our nation face to face with a new kind of enemy, international terrorism in the form of Al Qaeda.

Jan. 22, 1973, marks one of these watershed moments in our history as well. On that date, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in the case of Roe v. Wade, legalizing abortion on demand throughout the United States.

The consequences of this legal decision have resulted in tens of millions of victims. The victims of abortion are not only the innocent children whose lives

have been ended even before they came to see the light of day. The victims also are the mothers and fathers of these children, and their families, who live with the emotional and spiritual wounds that are the consequences of the decision to abort.

Our whole nation has suffered the incalculable loss of unrealized human talent and giftedness. Among the 55 million direct victims of abortion in the United States might have been the next Martin Luther King Jr., the next Mother Teresa of Calcutta, or the woman or man who might have found a cure for cancer. The cost of abortion is incalculable.

A further consequence of this legal decision is the continued unraveling of respect for life and the dignity of the human person. When the most innocent and the most vulnerable are stripped of legal protection we have taken a decisive step on a slippery slope leading inevitably to further violations of human dignity and even more widespread disregard for the sacredness of human life.

Abortion is certainly not the only life issue demanding our attention and concern. But, it is the most symptomatic of something terribly wrong in our culture. It is the most egregious affront to life because it is an attack against innocence itself.

Advocacy and legislative efforts have led to some notable successes in limiting the threat to unborn children that Roe v. Wade represents. But these are not enough. What is required is a change of heart among those who are indifferent to the evil of abortion. What is required is hope and conversion. I have been encouraged by the various efforts to engage people in prayer seeking an end to abortion.

Forty Days for Life has been a valuable initiative educating and mobilizing people in prayer and witness to end abortion and affirming the dignity of each and every life from conception to natural death. The im-

portance of prayer has been highlighted with the establishment of the Holy Innocents Chapel whose primary goal has been to end abortion in Oklahoma City and offer an alternative to the choice by connecting abortion-minded women with organizations like Birth Choice. The Lord has heard our prayers and the abortion clinic adjacent to the Holy Innocents Foundation chapel recently closed and the abortionist who ran the clinic was stripped of his medical license.

Even as we pray to bring about an end to abortion in our nation we cannot neglect the "other victims" of abortion, the mothers and fathers of aborted children. There are people in our parishes, in our

communities, perhaps in our families who carry the burden of their own participation in abortion. They need our compassion and understanding. Fortunately, an effective post abortion ministry is available in our archdiocese. It is called Rachel's Vineyard. Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat experience offered in a confidential setting whose entire focus is healing and reconciliation. I encourage those who are bearing the wounds of abortion, or know somebody who is carrying these deep hurts to consider this healing path.

In addition to the various local observances that occur each year on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has established Jan. 22 as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

In the spirit of prayer and penance each year we renew our commitment to turning back the destructive tide that has been unleashed through the Roe v. Wade decision. Our goal is to build a culture of life in which the dignity of every human person is valued and every human life is afforded due protection from conception to natural death.



Young people walk past the U.S. Capitol in 2012 during the annual March for Life. *CNS photo/Bob Roller.*



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

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By Sooner Catholic Staff

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✓ Show your support for the right to life for the unborn by participating in Rose Day, Feb. 3 at the State Capitol. More information at www.archokc.org/briefs.

✓ The annual Oklahoma Catholic Men's Conference is scheduled for Feb. 27. Register online at www.catholicmen.net.

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



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God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may you give to all Christians, and especially to those entrusted with leadership in your Church, the spirit of wisdom and revelation. With the eyes of our hearts may we see the hope to which you have called us: one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above and through all and in all. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Inmates confirmed during Mass at county jail



By Sooner Catholic Staff

More than 20 inmates at the Oklahoma County Jail joined Archbishop Coakley, Father Rick Stansberry, Father Tim Ruckel, Deacon Roy Forsythe and Sheriff John Whetsel in December for a Mass where three inmates were confirmed.

Archbishop Coakley began celebrating Mass at the jail in 2013.

The celebration is part of the prison ministry in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, led in Oklahoma County by Deacon Forsythe from Saint John the Baptist in Edmond.

"One of the inmates who was confirmed told me that at the Mass at the jail it was the first time that he felt he was a part of the Mass. His words were spoken with great joy," Deacon Forsythe said.

For the ninth year, the group also delivered more than 2,400 Christmas cookies to inmates.

For more information on the prison ministry in Oklahoma County, contact Deacon Forsythe at deacon.dr.roy@gmail.com, or for the Ada prison ministry, Deacon Dennis Fine at define@cablene.net.

Photos Sheriff John Whetsel.

Honoring the legacy of peace, mercy

Archdiocese celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Sally Linhart
For the Sooner Catholic

Youth from Corpus Christi parish, along with members of the archdiocesan youth advisory board, participated in a service project at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma on Jan. 16 to honor the spirit of service and love proposed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Students spent the afternoon sorting and packing food to be distributed to Oklahomans in need.

The group packed more than 350 cases of food that will feed more than 5,000 people. The food is put into backpacks and distributed on Fridays to students who otherwise may not have food during the weekend.

Corpus Christi parishioners Mason Newcomb and Madison Clayton volunteered their time for the project, both citing a desire to help the less fortunate.

"It's really important for me to give back to my community and help out those in need," Newcomb said.

Clayton enjoys being involved in her community and called the

service project a fun opportunity to help.

"I like giving back to my community, and this is the right thing to do," she said.

Sandra Moore, youth director at Corpus Christi, coordinated the project.

"We work at the food bank in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr. day to keep these kids involved and teach them that the more you give, the more you receive," Moore said.

"I love the participation, bringing kids in from different. We work together, and encourage fellowship."

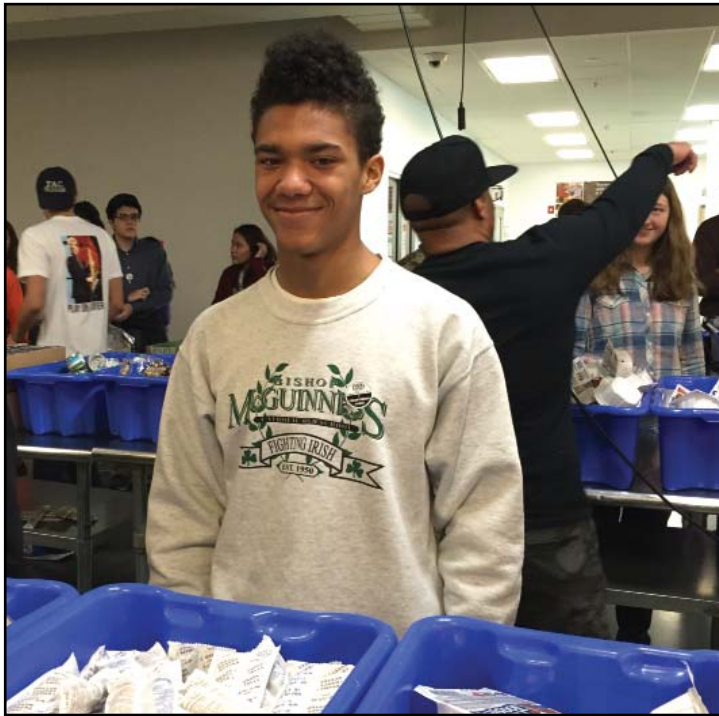
Following the project, Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Coakley at Corpus Christi. The evening included a multicultural tribute and a reception.

"This is what God and Martin Luther King Jr. both want – unity in our church," Moore said. "I like to see young people coming in and working together. To see them participate and really understand what we are teaching is the reason I keep doing this."

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



The multicultural tribute after the Martin Luther King Jr. Mass included students of the Young Achievers Christian Academy. *Photo Cara Koenig.*



Mason Newcomb helps pack food at the Regional Food Bank. *Photo Sally Linhart.*

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

Jan. 30 – Mass for Day of Mercy for Consecrated Persons, 9 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Feb. 1-2 – Spring Clergy Days, CPC

Feb. 2 – Vocations Committee meeting, 3:30 p.m., CPC

Feb. 2 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. John Nepomuk, Yukon

Feb. 3 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. Mary, Guthrie

Feb. 4 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Bishop John Carroll, OKC

Feb. 4 – Continuing Education Committee meeting, 3 p.m., CPC

Feb. 4 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., Christ the King, OKC

Feb. 6 – Mass for College conference, 4 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp

Feb. 6 – Bishop McGuinness dinner and auction, 6:30 p.m., National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, OKC

Feb. 7 – TET Mass and celebration, 11:45 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC

Oklahoma's American Indian Catholic Outreach selected for scholarship

Deacon Roy Callison, coordinator of American Indian Catholic Outreach for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and his wife Susan, have been selected to receive the 2016 Diversity Outreach Initiative Scholarship.

The scholarship allows the Callisons to attend the 2016 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C., from Jan. 23 to Jan. 26.

Father Henry Sands, executive director of the Black and Indian Mission Office, nominated Roy and Susan Callison for the award.



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

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The Catholic Difference

Looking toward November 8

To redeploy a phrase from President Ford, our “long national nightmare” – in this case, the semi-permanent presidential campaign – will be over in 11 months, or at least suspended for a year or so. It’s not been an altogether edifying show to date; one may hope that, as the fields get winnowed down, a measure of the serious debate that befits a great republic might emerge. With a view to encouraging that, here are two suggestions for what Catholics in America might ponder before Nov. 8.

(1) The most important numbers to keep in mind between now and Election Day are “78,” “80,” and “83.” Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer will be 78 by Nov. 8; Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy will be 80 by then, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be 83. If the actuarial tables mean anything, those numbers suggest that the next President of the United States is likely to get two, perhaps three, and just possibly four nominations to the court.

This demographic reality creates an opportunity, unprecedented since the disaster of Roe v. Wade, to make significant advances in rebuilding the structure of legal protection for human life from

conception until natural death in the United States. It also creates the possibility of reversing more than a half-century’s jurisprudential malpractice in the matter of Church-and-state and reaffirming the truth about the First Amendment, which is that “no establishment” serves the goal of “free exercise.” And it just might mean getting the question of what “marriage” is, and who may “marry” whom, reconsidered as a matter of constitutional law, not public policy preference.

It will thus make a vast difference who makes these nominations, and how the Senate that will advise and consent on them is configured. For if real progress on reaffirming the right to life, securing religious freedom, and defending marriage rightly understood is possible under one scenario, it’s just as possible that the alternative scenario will produce a court that deals potentially fatal hammer-blows to these causes for the foreseeable future.

(2) When the new president gets his or her first intelligence briefing in the Oval Office on Jan. 21, 2017, he or she may wonder what demon possessed him or her to want the job. For the world is almost certainly going to be more



George Weigel
*Ethics and Public
Policy Center*

dangerous that day than at any point since the height of the Cold War, and perhaps as long ago as 1947. The dismantling of the international security architecture that has guided the North Atlantic democracies since 1949 has proceeded apace for the past seven years; those responsible for that dismantling stubbornly refuse to consider the evidence before their eyes and hold steady to a lemming-like march toward disaster; the new president will thus face a challenge unlike any since Harry Truman confronted the consequences of the collapse of British power after World War II.

There are lots of reasons to think America should be ashamed of itself if it considers what taking a holiday from history has done to the world since 2009.

The government has failed to take the measure of a newly aggressive Russia that operates by stealth aggression and lies before it gets down to the real aggression; meanwhile, the United States sends military junk to a Ukraine that is begging for help in building democracy and prosperity. The Middle East is a boiling cauldron of violence, murder and ideological madness, in no small part because the United States decided that it had had enough of maintaining order there.

Meanwhile, the State Department has gutted the notion of “religious freedom” in U.S. international human rights policy, preferring to emphasize the export of American lifestyle libertinism while threatening to withhold foreign aid if poor countries decide that they’d just as soon not imitate western decadence – which seems to them (and not without reason) to have caused an awful lot of unhappiness.

The campaign consultants will tell candidates that, when it comes to what we might call the Presidentiad, it is, was and always will be about the economy. Serious Catholics will know better. It’s about our national character. It’s about building on, not wasting, the victory of freedom in the Cold War. It’s about responsibility.

Making Sense of Bioethics

At the heart of the tragedy of addiction

Addiction can be extremely harmful, and in some cases, fatal for those individuals ensnared by it. It can be seriously disruptive and damaging to those around them. Who is to blame when it comes to addiction? Family and friends may think to themselves, “Why can’t Jane just stop drinking?” Or, “Doesn’t Joe understand that his gambling addiction is bankrupting the family?” Or, “Can’t Bob see how his pornography habit is destroying his marriage and his relationships?”

For those facing addiction, it seems they ought to be able to recognize their behavior as harmful, and turn away from it by a resolute decision. Family and friends, however, can face years of frustration when they see their loved ones fall into a slow motion “crash and burn,” spiraling downwards as they remain unwilling or unable to step away from their addiction.

The individual caught in the web of addiction objectively falls prey to a loss of personal freedom. His will becomes weakened, and he becomes enslaved in a way that limits his ability to recognize the right order of goods in his life.

By repetitively choosing the addictive behavior, it becomes ingrained, and the ability to choose better, alternative behaviors becomes enfeebled, if not seemingly impossible.

For these reasons, there is almost always diminished person-

al responsibility in situations of addiction. To be accountable for our acts, we must freely choose those acts, but the internal pressure and downward spiral of the addiction may have already co-opted the individual’s ability to freely choose otherwise. Eventually, this bondage can appear to be permanent, and addicted individuals can imagine themselves pathetic and hopeless to such a degree that they almost give up. In the words of a formerly-addicted individual:

“I believed that I did not have a choice to stop. ... It never became clear to me that I could live another way until a medical intervention from my physician and friends took place. Willpower plays a small role here, but it too cannot work if one has a malfunctioning brain. I speak for myself here. ... I could not stop. Period. Now, I have stopped. Not just because of the intervention, but because I have turned my life and my will over to the God of my understanding. That is something 12-step programs have taught me.”

This radical loss of freedom lies at the heart of the tragedy of addiction. Because we are creatures of habit, the choices we make, either for good or for evil, form us in one direction or the other, so we become individuals who are either capable or incapable of choosing the good freely. Virtue is a habit of good, while vice is a habit of evil. Early choices leading down

the road towards addiction, freely made, can quickly snowball into vice, addiction and a loss of freedom.

As one recovered addict graphically described it:

“My beef is with those who claim that they never chose to become an addict or never chose to hurt their families. ... While we likely didn’t intend to end up helpless, dysfunctional people who [hurt] our loved ones, the choices we made put us at risk of ending up in a sorry state where we were capable of doing things we would have never dreamed of. Unless you were raised on Mars, we all deep down knew the risk of our choices, especially if you’re talking about coke, crack, meth or heroin, but we chose to roll the dice anyways. At a certain point, when I was starting to do coke almost every weekend, I knew that it would be wise to stop, but I chose not to because I was having fun and I told myself it will never happen to me. By the end, I was going on solo three-day benders with alcohol and cocaine, and I landed in treatment. ... My point is that I made the choice to try the substance, the choice to begin to use the substance more regularly, and the choice not to quit when I could have.”

While there may have been significant moral culpability at the beginning of an individual’s descent into addiction, it is still



**Father Tad
Pacholczyk**
*National Catholic
Bioethics Center*

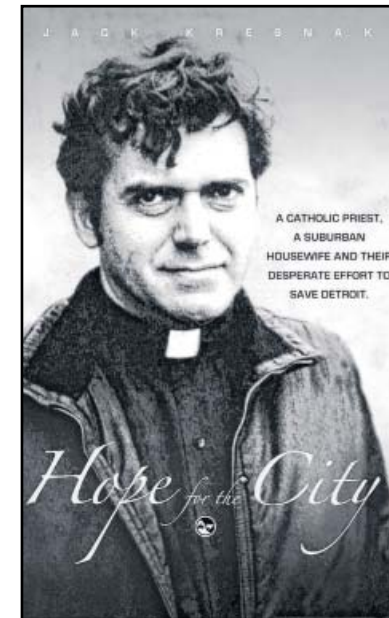
critical for us to never stigmatize, patronize or abandon those who are in the throes of addiction.

They may feel they are defined entirely by their addiction, unlovable and wretched, rather than seeing that they are, in fact, human beings who are precious to God and those around them, and even now endowed with some tiny space of remaining freedom. That tiny space will become key to determining whether they ultimately choose the behavioral changes needed to improve their situation and recover the human freedom that is rightfully theirs. We should support, encourage and love them in ways that will help lead them toward those good choices and successful outcomes.

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.

Motorcycle-riding priest’s efforts to ‘save Detroit’ chronicled in new book

By Dan Meloy
Catholic News Service



moment, just sitting in the dark, not taking notes, but really concentrating on words from a recording of Richard Burton reciting the words to ‘Hamlet.’”

Father Cunningham helped Kresnak kick-start his journalism career, and when the priest died on May 26, 1997, Kresnak’s old teacher gave him one last assignment, write a book about Focus: HOPE, the organization Father Cunningham started to improve the day-to-day lives of Detroiters caught up in the midst of race riots, crime and economic depression.

“I was a little overwhelmed at the start. I was thinking, ‘Where do I start?’” Kresnak told The Michigan Catholic. “My first idea was to find one slice of Father Cunningham that I could get my arms around. I didn’t start from the beginning of his life or in 1968 with the founding of Focus: HOPE. I started with the arson that nearly destroyed Focus: HOPE in 1978.”

Kresnak, an award-winning veteran Detroit Free Press reporter, found the police reports about the 1978 fire and discovered that Father Cunningham was subjected to a lie-detector test to make sure he did not burn down the charity to claim insurance money.

“That fire would be the first chapter I wrote – it ended up being Ch. 14 in the book,” Kresnak said. “Who would have a motive to burn the business down? Well, an owner would if they were facing financial trouble. Insurance ended up paying \$1,000 for the damage. What I found so amazing was Father Cunningham, a man who could exaggerate the truth when he felt it was needed, taking a lie-detector test. But, when he embellished, there was a truth in

what he saw.”

Father Cunningham’s “embellishment” was the focus of his sermons to congregations across the Archdiocese of Detroit, highlighting the social and economic problems that plagued the city of Detroit and caused unrest – a message Kresnak said was not always popular with mostly white parishes in Detroit’s suburbs.

Kresnak hopes the book will be enlightening for people who want to understand the causes of the Detroit riot of 1968 and the riot of a year earlier in neighboring Warren, Mich. – and how Father Cunningham, through Focus: HOPE, was pushing for the cultural, spiritual revolution necessary to save the city.

“They were the first project of Focus: HOPE, supporting the family and other people moving into the city.”

“Hope for the City” focuses on the life of one man, but entails the history of a city that was rocked by cultural and economic change that most people could not and did not want to understand at the time. Kresnak hopes readers will see Detroit’s past in a new light and realize what Father Cunningham was trying to do with Focus: HOPE.

The book is published by Cass Community Publishing House, with half of the proceeds going to Focus: HOPE.

“I still think back to my high school days; he embodied the Holy Spirit for us in the classrooms and the halls of the seminary. He made the spirit move through us, to accomplish more things than we ever thought possible.”

Meloy writes for The Michigan Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

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Archdiocese celebrates consecrated life, Year of Mercy

By Rebekah Scaperlanda
For the Sooner Catholic

For one Benedictine monk, the Year of Consecrated Life provided the opportunity to reflect frequently on Pope Francis’ exhortation to all religious “to look to the past with gratitude ... to live the present with passion ... [and] embrace the future with hope.”

Brother Damian Whalen, O.S.B., assistant to the president for strategy at Saint Gregory’s University, said the pope’s words seemed “to be a call to renew our witness to the world, witness to the challenge of the Gospel, to an authentic Christian joy and to the need to remain hopeful in a world that too easily gives into despair.”

On Nov. 30, 2014, Pope Francis began the Catholic Church’s celebration for the Year of Consecrated Life.

“I am counting on you ‘to wake up the world,’ since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy,” said Pope Francis in an Apostolic Letter to all consecrated people.

“Radical evangelical living is not only for religious: it is demanded of everyone. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. This is the priority that is needed right now: to be prophets who witness to how Jesus lived on this earth ... a religious must never abandon prophecy.”

As the Year of Consecrated Life comes to a close on Feb. 2, Br. Damian noted that he was inspired by the example of religious men and women who have lived the consecrated life fully for many years and thankful for their influence both in his own vocation and in the world.

Throughout this year he learned “that consecrated life, despite current challenges, still has relevance



Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., celebrates Mass for deceased monks at St. Gregory’s Abbey. *Photo Theresa Bragg.*

for the life of the Church and that relevance depends on embracing the authentic and even counter-cultural dimensions of living poor, obedient and chaste in a culture that places a high value on wealth, independence and sexual freedom.”

Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., Abbot at Saint Gregory’s Abbey, said the year also provided a unifying focus for discussions and reflections as a community.

“Pope Francis provided an inspiring framework for us when he called men and women in consecrated life to reflect on the past with gratitude, to live in the present with passion, and to look to the future with hope. This message gave us a wonderful guide as we reviewed and renewed statements of mission, values and vision for our community as we developed our strategic plan for the next five years and beyond,” he said.

“The Year of Consecrated Life also provided great opportunities for our

community to interact with other men and women in consecrated life in the archdiocese. Archbishop Coakley hosted special events at the Catholic Pastoral Center where we were able to be with each other for prayer and friendship, and to support one another as we seek to continue our presence and ministries in the future.”

Sister Diane Koorie, R.S.M., director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry, said this year was a renewal of understanding of what a charism and grace religious life is for the Church.

“Religious life is a wonderful life!” she exclaimed. “It is an authentic way to live our baptismal call to holiness. As women and men religious we feel deeply the call to address the misery in the world and its causes. Living in community, we can support and sustain each other in our call to holiness, and the work that we do for, and with, God’s people.”

Sister Diane said that this year was both encouraging and affirm-

ing, adding that she was “touched by the many ways that persons affirmed religious women and men, by the emphasis on praying together, and by the joy evident in Pope Francis’ proclamation.”

For Sister Maria Faulkner who is part of a new emerging community in Oklahoma City, the Gospel of Life Disciples, this year was especially powerful on a personal level.

“This past year dedicated to consecrated life has been an ongoing renewal of my spousal commitment to Jesus Christ, for it marked for me 25 years of vowed consecrated life,” she explained. “It has been a time to thank the Lord for His fidelity and love, and to humbly share with others how trustworthy He is!”

Sister Maria hopes that this year has helped others discover the beauty and diversity of numerous communities and charisms within the Church, noting that each one is a unique reflection of the face of Christ.

“This year has been an opportunity for each consecrated person, and all the lay faithful, to recognize the gift of God through this specific and beautiful vocation in the Church.”

Her hope is that this call to holiness extends beyond consecrated men and women and that the universal Church whole heartily responds by giving their lives to God. She said consecrated men and women responded to the universal call for holiness in a specific way, but we’re all called to give our whole lives.

As the Year of Consecrated Life ends and the Year of Mercy begins, they said they hope that these years coupled together will renew everyone in both prayer and service for the Church.

Rebekah Scaperlanda is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Archbishop Coakley places a cross on Fr. Vaught’s casket. *Photo Theresa Bragg.*

Deacon James Doherty

Deacon James Joseph Doherty died on Dec. 24 from cancer. He was age 84. Deacon James’ wife of 60 years, Patricia Doherty, died the week before.

Doherty was born July 6, 1931, in Quincy, Mass. He graduated from Boston College with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. James married Patricia Bernadette Campbell on Jan. 2, 1955, in Wollaston, Mass. He served honorably in the U.S. Army for 20 years, then worked for a bank, taught accounting at Cameron University in Lawton and owned an accounting business.

Jim was originally ordained in the Oklahoma Diocese on Nov. 14, 1986, before transferring to Texas. He returned to Oklahoma to allow his family to assist in the care of his wife. He served at Saint John the Baptist until July.

A wake service and rosary were held on Dec. 29 at Matthews Funeral Home in Edmond. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Dec. 30 at Saint John the Baptist in Edmond, followed by interment at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Lawton.

Legacy

continued from page 1
He reminded people to find out the date of their baptism if they didn’t know because it was an important day that merits celebrating every year.

“It is the date of our rebirth as children of God,” he said, and “celebrating that day signifies and reaffirms our belonging to Jesus

with the commitment to live like Christians, members of the church and a new humanity in which all are brothers and sisters.”

Right: Pope Francis pours water over the head of a baby as he celebrates the baptism of 26 babies in the Sistine Chapel. The baptisms were held on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. *CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano.*

Camp manager

continued from page 1
manager.

“He’s already captain of the ship,” Larry Wells said of Bill, who became the camp manager on Jan. 4.

Another one of his sons, Monsignor Peter B. Wells, a priest of the Diocese of Tulsa, is an official in the Secretariat of State in the Vatican.

During summers, Larry Wells worked at the camp property from about 5:30 in the morning until 3 or 4 in the afternoon, looking after maintenance needs of the facilities.

He said it was “a seven-day-a-week job.”

The camp is open from June through July for students from the 4th to 12th grades. Each week, a different grade comes, arriving on Sunday afternoon, and leaving Friday afternoon.

Each morning, the students attend Mass and spend the day with various activities.

“There is not a minute they aren’t doing something unless they’re sleeping,” Wells said.

The camp has two counselors for every 10 kids. A priest is on duty to offer Mass and provide spiritual direction. Some of the counselors are missionaries with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

Nancy Housh, director of the archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults and director of the summer camp, said, “We have prayers in the morning and evening. We have groups called ‘God Squads’ where people share their

faith with the kids. We have daily Mass and reconciliation. There is a scriptural theme to the camp. Some of the activities are Catholic-oriented such as trivia games. Not only does our camp have kids from the archdiocese, but some of the kids in the Tulsa diocese come here as well.”

The students hear members of the clergy talk about the faith. Wells credits a lot of the camp’s success to Housh.

“Nancy Housh is very organized; she’s got her act together and is a real blessing to the archdiocese. It was a real pleasure working with her.”

Upon hearing of Larry Wells’ retirement, Housh said one staff member said, “He always knew when I was having a bad day, and he would ask what was wrong [and wanted to help]. He was more than a facility manager.”

During the rest of the year, Wells organized parish retreats for adults as well as for high school and college groups.

Bill Wells said of his father’s service, “It has been running fine for 16 years. I’ve got big shoes to fill, but I think I can do it.”

Bill Wells, who is a carpenter by trade, has had seven years’ experience as a director of facilities for an Oklahoma Christian camp.

Now that he is retired, Larry Wells says he will spend a lot of time with his grandkids, adding, “My wife will have plenty for me to do.”

Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Larry Wells holds a photo of Camp OLOG with his wife, Dodie, Archbishop Emeritus Beltran and Archbishop Coakley. *Photo Diane Clay.*



Registration open for OLOG Summer Camp!

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Summer Camp is open to any youth who are going into the 4th grade through the 12th grade. Activities include crafts, hiking, swimming (in-ground pool), fishing, water sports, volleyball, canoeing, archery, scripture adventures, talent show, soccer, campfires and drama. Sign up now to secure your spot. Total cost per camper is \$300, with deposit due at time of registration. Scholarship assistance available. Download forms or register online at www.archokc.org/youth-and-young-adult-office/summer-camp. Call (405) 721-9220 for more information.



Keeping elders connected: A work of mercy

By Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

During a recent family reunion, my elderly mother and I were the only ones at the table without smart phones. We felt left out. A few days later, I read that Pope Francis advised parents to ban mobile devices from the dinner table to help restore the quality of family relationships.

These two occurrences reminded me of the life of our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan. In her time, the poor were essentially swept aside in the wake of the French Revolution and rapid industrialization. Today, we are experiencing a different type of revolution as digital technologies evolve nearly every day.

New modes of social communication, it is claimed, foster unimagined levels of human connectedness. But, just as the poor and elderly were marginalized in Saint Jeanne Jugan's day, they are often left behind in the communications revolution of today when they lack the means or the know-how to keep up with the latest technology. Consider these statistics from the Pew Internet and American Life Project:

① While 95 percent of millennials own cell phones, less than half of those over 75 own one. Only 18 percent of seniors own a smart phone;

① Only 10 percent of those be-



Sr. Constance

longing to the G.I. Generation own a laptop, compared with 70 percent of Millennials and 65 percent of Baby Boomers;

① Only 27 percent of older adults engage in online social networking;

① Younger, higher-income and more highly educated seniors use the internet more than those who are older or of more modest means. For both groups, usage drops off dramatically after age 75.

Regardless of age, users of social networking say they interact more with other digitally connected people than with those who do not use digital communication. These new forms of technology, with their rapid changes, have created a new generation gap.

Recently, I was shocked to read that more than one million older people in the United Kingdom go a month without talking to another human being. This figure would surely be comparable in our own country. Such loneliness is deadly! Studies show that inadequate social interaction is linked to premature death. The increased mortality risk associated with loneliness is comparable to smoking, and twice as great as the risk associated with obesity!

I hope you find this data as startling as I do. Through Pope Francis' repeated calls for a culture of encounter, I believe God is asking us to do something to relieve the social isolation of the elderly and poor. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy he is inviting us to practice the corporal and spiritual works



People take photos and video on cameras, phones and tablets as Pope Francis arrives to lead his general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican. *CNS photo/Paul Haring.*

of mercy; among these are visiting the sick and imprisoned, and comforting the afflicted.

So what can we do? If you know an older person, who has the means but not the know-how to access digital media, then practice mercy by teaching them how to use the technology they already own.

For those unable to afford computers and smart phones as well as those whose physical or cognitive limitations prevent them from being able to use them, visit them with your laptop on a regular basis and facilitate their connection to long-distance loved ones via Skype or a similar platform.

Finally, enrich the lives of the elderly through real, in-person face time. What better way could there be to celebrate the Jubilee of Mercy than to commit to spending time with our elderly loved ones or homebound neighbors and sharing a meal or a memory with them?

Pope Francis inspires us to practice this form of mercy: "Sharing and knowing how to share is a precious virtue!" he said. "Its symbol, its 'icon,' is the family gathered around the dinner table. The sharing of meals – and in addition to food also of affection, of stories, of events – is a common

experience."

The pope added, "A family that hardly ever eats together, or that does not talk at the table but watches television, or looks at a smartphone is a 'barely familial' family. ... It is like a boarding house!"

Let's apply the pope's thinking to our relationships with elders. Let's do all we can to make sure that family togetherness and inter-generational bonds grow stronger during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States.



A large family is pictured eating dinner together at their St. Louis home. A family that chooses to watch TV or play with their smartphones rather than talk at the dinner table is "hardly a family," Pope Francis said. *CNS photo/Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review.*

"I was hungry and you gave me food"

The first Corporal Work of Mercy

By Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director of Hispanic Ministry

Mercy, both in Latin and Spanish, is translated as "Misericordia." The etymology is beautiful. The first part of the word "misere" means misery or need. The second part of the word "cor" or "cordis" means heart. When placed together it represents the idea of how the needs of others touch our hearts.

To be merciful means to have tenderness, love, compassion, solidarity with those in need or misery.

To be merciful is to be aware of the needs of the other and, as an expression of one's love for the other, to assume responsibility in filling the need of the other because the other is my brother; the other is my sister; who I love.

Feed the hungry

Human beings have many needs, but the first one, the most basic one is food, so the first Corporal Work of Mercy is to feed the hungry.

In the Holy Land, back in biblical times, the most common and essential food item was and is bread.

"Remember how for these 40 years the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the wilderness, so as to test you by affliction, to know what was in your heart: to keep his commandments, or not. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your ancestors, so you might know that it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD" (Dt 8, 2-3).

Manna was the bread from heaven given to the people of God as they traversed the desert. The number of Old Testament references to hunger, bread and being fed are many, and in the New Testament there are many more such as the statement in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew Ch. 6.



"Give us today our daily bread."

The poor, our brothers and sisters who lack the basic necessities, are those who have no bread, no food.

One way in which we show our solidarity with the poor and hungry are the many food banks and food pantries throughout Oklahoma.

Another custom, especially during Lent, which is not far away, is the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl. This is a great way in which we join our efforts in collecting funds to feed our hungry brothers and sisters throughout the world. You still have time to order the materials and promote the CRS Rice Bowl 2016 campaign. I encourage you to visit www.crsricebowl.org for more information.

Hunger is the need for food and there is a deep message for all of us when Jesus proclaims himself as the key food item that will satisfy the deepest hunger when he says that He is the "Bread of life."

From there to the Last Supper and the



institution of the Eucharist we learn that we grow as a community of faith and as disciples of Christ when we break bread together at the altar.

Sharing the bread of life, the source and summit of our Christian life, energizes us and strengthens our commitment to reach out to all who hunger.

We know very well that when we fill their need for bread we manifest our love for them and our love for Jesus because the Lord Himself told us ...

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

DR. EDWARD SRI

VIBRANT FAITH IN A SECULAR CULTURE: TODAY'S CHALLENGE FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND LAITY

&

LIVING POPE FRANCIS' JOY OF THE GOSPEL AND THE YEAR OF MERCY

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

7 P.M. – 9 P.M.

CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER – ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHAPEL

7501 NORTHWEST EXPRESSWAY, OKC

Dr. Edward Sri is one of the visionary leaders of the New Evangelization in the United States. Don't miss it!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CAROLE BROWN @ 405-709-2721

Java@Joe's

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda
Author

Thursday, January 28th
6:30 in English
7:30 in Spanish
St. Joseph's Great Hall

Copies of
The Shepherd Who Didn't Run
will be available for purchase

Coffee and Pastries catered by La Bague Bakery and Cafe
for more information, contact Itzel Ortiz at youth@stjosephsok.org or at 405-321-8080



More information on the Year of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City online:

www.archokc.org/year-of-mercy/jubilee-year-of-mercy-home

Creating a Catholic family

Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak coming to Oklahoma

By J.E. Helm

For the Sooner Catholic

Book Review

Everyone has seen the statistics. Young people find formal, organized religion to be a lot less important than their parents do. The Pew Research Center reported in 2010 that “nearly one-in-five adults under age 30 (18 percent) say they were raised in a religion, but now are unaffiliated with any particular faith.” What are parents to do?

Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak provide some excellent ideas for creating positive impact in their book “Discovering God Together: The Catholic Guide to Raising Faithful Kids.”

The Popcaks have co-hosted call-in radio programs on nationally syndicated Catholic radio, have been on EWTN television and they were featured at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. They have authored a number of books aimed at helping Catholics live more faithful and satisfying personal lives, and their focus is marriage and the family. They founded The Pastoral Solutions Institute in 1999.

Their 2015 book, “Discovering God Together,” proves itself to be a valuable resource for two reasons. Firstly, the Popcaks have done their homework. In addition to citing Scripture and various Catholic writings in their book, they reference well-defined research studies to support the ideas they propose.

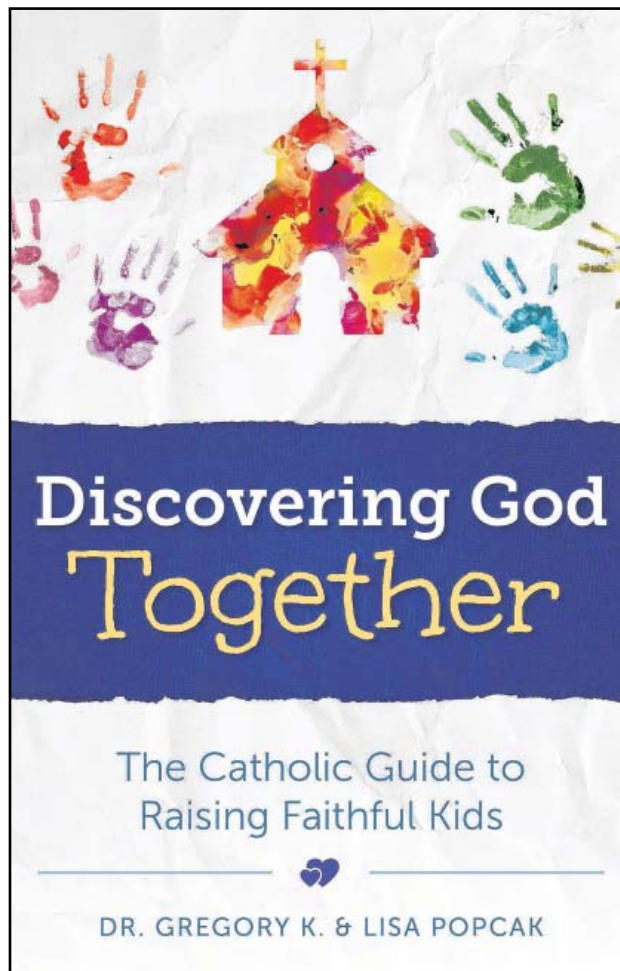
The Popcaks endorse ritual and routines, explaining that “God strengthens the relationship of his family through rituals and routines,” how and how often the family works, plays, talks and prays together. These things include “family meals, game nights, prayer time, family days, holidays and celebrations, chores, bedtime routines and so forth.”

The Popcaks cite a 2000 study of “more than 60 years of research” that establishes that “the presence of rituals and routines ... dictates both how stable and how happy that family will be together over time.” These families “have been shown to be physically and emotionally healthier, have better academic outcomes, and are more resistant to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, promiscuity, obesity and a host of other personal, emotional, and relationship problems.”

The Popcaks also cite the importance of attachment in “creating discipleship hearts.” Attachment, they explain, “is understood as the strength of the child’s impulse to turn to his caregiver to get his needs met.” Children who are securely attached – whose parents respond to them with warmth and openness – are attentive to what their parents say and strive to follow in their footsteps.

“Researchers note that securely attached children are capable of deep and satisfying relationships with God.”

The Popcaks cite a study of “nearly 3,500 individuals in 350 families over the course of 40



years.” The study found that “the No. 1 factor that contributed to children’s ‘catching’ the faith of their parents was parental warmth.” “Discovering God Together” is not, however, a strictly scholarly work. The second reason the book is a valuable resource is because the Popcaks offer a great deal of very specific and easy to follow ideas for parents to use in the home. There is an “Attachment Inventory” of 28 questions that readers can use to understand

the degree to which their “relationship with God is healthy and secure.”

Chapter 5 discusses “Shepherding Children through the Stages of Life.” There are specific ideas for becoming a family that prays together: morning offering, blessing of children and praying over them, grace at meals and family prayer time.

Parents are actually helped to develop their children’s prayer lives, and there are ideas for families with particular struggles, those who are affected by divorce or who are single-parent families.

Finally, the book focuses on the family’s celebration of Mass and the sacraments, again with specific ideas for celebrating patron saints’ feast days, using holy water in the home as a reminder of baptism, teaching young children about the Eucharist, and going to confession as a family.

The Popcaks state firmly that “God designed the family so that parents would be his face to their children.”

The point of “Discovering God Together” is that “passing on the faith to your kids is not just handing them a box filled with the stuff you inherited from your parents in the hope that they will give the same box filled with the same stuff to their kids.”

Creating a truly faith-filled Catholic culture in the home, instilling a living faith in the children, is a “lifelong project of learning and growing together in what it means to be children of God.”

“Discovering God Together: The Catholic Guide to Raising Faithful Kids” is an excellent guide in how to do just that, and as such it is highly recommended.

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

Marriage and Family Conference

St. Mary in Ardmore is hosting a Marriage and Family Conference on Saturday, March 5. Titled “As the Family Goes,” the conference will feature nationally-known speakers and radio hosts Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak. The conference will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 125 E. St. S.W. Reconciliation, adoration available. Lunch and child care (infants through age 12) are included in registration. Mass offered at 4 p.m. Cost is \$20 if paid by Jan. 31; \$25 after Feb. 1. Registration must be received by Feb. 12. To register, go to www.stmaryardmoreok.org/registration.php or contact (580) 223-0231, conference@stmaryardmoreok.org.

Summit on the New Evangelization and the Family

Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak will visit Oklahoma City for a Summit on June 11. Details to come.



Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. *Photo Diane Clay.*

Catholic Schools Week – Open House

Rosary

Jan. 31 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 1919 N.W. 18, OKC. www.RosarySchool.com

St. Eugene

Jan. 31 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2400 W. Hefner Rd., OKC. www.steugeneschool.org.

St. James the Greater

Jan. 31 - 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1224 S.W. 41, OKC. <http://stjames-catholic.org>.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jan. 31 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 925 S. Boulevard, Edmond. Offering full-day & half-day Pre-K. www.stelizabethedmond.org/school.

St. Philip Neri

Jan. 31 - 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1121 Felix Place, Midwest City. www.stphilipnerischool.com.

Saint John Nepomuk

Jan. 31 - 11:45 a.m., 600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. (405) 354-2509.

Carnival season precedes Lenten fast

By Brianna Osborne

The Sooner Catholic

Lent begins in just a few weeks, but it’s not quite time to start fasting. Catholics around the world will spend the days leading up to Ash Wednesday in celebration, known in the United States as Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras, or Carnival, as it is known throughout the world, is usually celebrated with special foods, parades and costumes. Carnival comes from a Latin phrase meaning “farewell to flesh,” referring to the abstinence from meat during the season of Lent.

Although historians are not sure when Carnival originated, it is possible that it adapted ancient Greek and Roman spring celebrations, and records indicate that Christians celebrated it throughout Europe by the 12th century.

Throughout Lent, Christians were expected to abstain from meat as well as from butter, eggs, milk and cheese. This resulted in the rich dishes,

such as pancakes, baked by families from Russia to England for the purpose of using all of these ingredients before the Lenten fast. In France, this became known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras.

The first Mardi Gras in America was probably celebrated March 3, 1699, when French explorers landed in Louisiana. The tradition of parades in New Orleans began in the 1800s.

Some of the most famous Carnival celebrations today take place in Venice, Rio de Janeiro and throughout the Caribbean, complete with masked parties, parades, music and dancing.

Sts. Peter and Paul, Kingfisher, is hosting a Mardi Gras Ball on Saturday, Feb. 6, to benefit the school. Mingling begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Purchased tickets at the school office weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (405) 375-4616.

St. Mary, Ponca City, will hold its annual Fat Tuesday pancake dinner and pancake races, Feb. 9, in the Parish Hall, beginning at 6 p.m.



Catholic Charities earns Charity Navigator four-star rating

OKLAHOMA CITY – For the second consecutive year, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has been recognized with a coveted four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

In the annual ranking, Catholic Charities was lauded for its governance and consistent execution of its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Catholic Charities devotes 87 percent of every dollar received to direct programming and improving the lives of families throughout the Western two-thirds of Oklahoma, and is one of just 20 Oklahoma nonprofits to earn Charity Navigator’s four-star rating.

“It’s rewarding to know that the hard work we do to earn and keep the public’s trust has been recognized by such a prestigious organization,” said Patrick Raglow, executive director of Catholic Charities.

“We are grateful to our many generous donors who make it possible for Catholic Charities to meet the needs of Oklahomans and to



Charity Navigator for recognizing our efforts for fiscal responsibility with this outstanding designation.” America’s largest charity evaluator, Charity Navigator measures

and ranks thousands of charities each year to help donors make informed philanthropic decisions. Charity Navigator’s zero-star to four-star rating system examines

two broad areas of a charity’s performance; their financial health and their accountability and transparency. Last year alone, more than six million donors consulted Charity Navigator’s charity ratings for guidance in distributing more than \$10 billion in donations.

Founded in 1912, Catholic Charities serves all people, regardless of race, religion or national origin through its mission to provide help and hope through the Catholic tradition of service. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, with regional service locations in Ardmore, Clinton, Enid, Guymon and Lawton, and program locations in Norman and Midwest City. Catholic Charities served 13,000 Oklahomans last year through its 16 social service programs.

To learn more about Catholic Charities and the services provided, go online to www.ccaokc.org or call (800) 375-8514.

Deadline approaching for Family Rosary’s “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest

National competition encourages children to express faith through art, poetry, prose

EASTON, Mass. – It’s time to submit entries for the 2016 “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest. The deadline for this national competition encouraging children to express their faith through art, poetry and prose is Feb., 1.

The “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Children and teenagers from Catholic schools, parishes, home schooling and other Catholic organizations use their talent to convey their beliefs.

This year’s theme – “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters?” – is about doing God’s will.

In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are waiting to speak to Him. Jesus asks, “Who is my mother and who are my brothers?” He then holds

out His hand toward His disciples and says, “Behold my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father who is in Heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

The “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest asks entrants to use creativity to depict their faith. For details or to download an application, go to www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2016. Questions? Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

This artwork by Remy Lambert of St. Peter Chanel School in Paulina, La., tied for first place in the First Grade Category of the 2015 “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest. Deadline for the 2016 competition is Feb. 1.



Trivia • Tacos • Wine & Beer • Raffle Prizes

SAVE THE DATE!

For
Red Hot Trivia Night

When: Feb 5, 2016
Where: St. John's Great Hall
Time: Starts at 5:30pm

Tickets \$25 per Ticket

Benefiting St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Red Envelope Fund

Roe vs Wade: Una tragedia nacional

Hay ciertas fechas en la historia de nuestra nación que “viven en la infamia”, como comentó una vez el presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt. Estas fechas se han grabado en nuestra conciencia porque están siempre ligados a la memoria de algún ataque sin precedentes contra la vida inocente y en la estructura misma de los principios y valores de nuestra nación. El 7 de diciembre de 1941, el ataque a Pearl Harbor provocó la entrada de Estados Unidos en la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la guerra más costosa en la historia de la humanidad. El 11 de septiembre de 2001 trajo nuestra cara nación a cara con una nueva clase de enemigo, el terrorismo internacional en forma de Al Qaeda.

El 22 de enero de 1973 marca uno de esos momentos claves en nuestra historia también. En esa fecha la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos dio a conocer su decisión histórica en el caso de Roe vs. Wade que legalizó el aborto en demanda en los Estados Unidos.

Las consecuencias de esta decisión judicial se han traducido en decenas de millones de víctimas. Las víctimas del aborto no sólo son los niños inocentes cuyas vidas han sido terminados incluso antes de llegar a ver la luz del día. Las víctimas son las madres y los padres de estos niños que viven con las heridas emocionales y espirituales que son las consecuencias de su decisión de abortar.

Toda nuestra nación ha sufrido la pérdida incalculable de dones y talentos humanos no realizados. Entre las 55 millones de víctimas directas del aborto en los Estados Unidos podría haber sido el próximo Martin Luther King Jr., la siguiente Madre Teresa de Calcuta, o la mujer o el hombre que podría haber encontrado una cura para el cáncer. El costo del aborto es incalculable.

Otra consecuencia de esta decisión legal es

el desmoronamiento continuo del respeto por la vida y la dignidad de la persona humana. Cuando los más inocentes y los más vulnerables son despojados de la protección legal hemos dado un paso decisivo hacia una pendiente resbaladiza que conduce inevitablemente a promover violaciones de la dignidad humana y el desprecio aún más extendido de lo sagrado de la vida humana.

Aborto sin duda no es el único problema exigiendo nuestra atención y preocupación. Pero es el más sintomático de algo terriblemente mal en nuestra cultura. Es la más atroz afrenta a la vida porque es un ataque contra la inocencia misma.

El abogar por la vida y el promover esfuerzos legislativos han llevado a algunos éxitos notables en limitar la amenaza a los niños no nacidos que Roe vs. Wade representa. Pero estos no son suficientes. Lo que se requiere es un cambio de actitud entre los que son indiferentes al mal del aborto. Lo que se requiere es la esperanza y la conversión. He sido alentado por los diversos esfuerzos para involucrar a la gente en orar por el fin del aborto.

Cuarenta Días por la Vida ha sido una iniciativa valiosa para educar y movilizar a la gente en la oración y testimonio para acabar con el aborto y afirmando la dignidad de cada vida desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. La importancia de la oración se ha puesto de relieve con el establecimiento de la Capilla de los Santos Inocentes, cuyo principal objetivo ha sido el de acabar con el aborto en Oklahoma City y ofrecer una alternativa a la elección mediante la conexión de las mujeres que tienen en mente el abortar con organizaciones como Birth Choice que promueven como válida opción el nacimiento. El Señor ha escuchado nuestras oraciones y la clínica de aborto adya-

cente a la Capilla de los Santos Inocentes recientemente cerro y el abortista que dirigía la clínica fue despojado de su licencia médica.

Incluso mientras oramos para lograr el fin del aborto en nuestro país no podemos descuidar las “otras víctimas” del aborto, las madres y los padres de los niños abortados. Hay gente en nuestras parroquias, en nuestras comunidades, tal vez en nuestras familias que llevan el peso de su propia participación en el aborto. Ellos necesitan nuestra compasión y comprensión. Afortunadamente, un efectivo ministerio post aborto está disponible en nuestra Arquidiócesis. Se llama Rachel’s Vineyard (Viñedo de Raquel). Rachel’s Vineyard es una experiencia de retiro de fin de semana que se ofrece en un entorno confidencial cuyo enfoque total es la sanación y reconciliación. Animo a los que llevan heridas por el aborto, o conocen a alguien que los está llevando, a considerar este camino de sanación.

Además de las diversas celebraciones locales que se producen cada año en el aniversario del caso Roe vs. Wade la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos ha establecido 22 de enero como un día de penitencia por violaciones a la dignidad de la persona humana cometidas a través del aborto y de oración por la plena restauración de la garantía legal del derecho a la vida.

En el espíritu de oración y de penitencia cada año renovamos nuestro compromiso de convertir la oleada destructiva que se ha desatado a través de la decisión Roe vs. Wade. Nuestro objetivo es construir una cultura de la vida en la que se valora la dignidad de todo ser humano y que a toda vida humana se le otorgue la debida protección desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Rachel’s Vineyard Retiro

¿Has tenido un aborto o afectado por el aborto de otra persona? La tristeza, ansiedad, culpa y dolor son común, no solo para la mujer, pero para el hombre involucrado o para otros parientes y amigos.

Hay ayuda. Experimente el amor curativo de Jesucristo en un retiro de fin de semana de Rachel’s Vineyard. La participación es estrictamente confidencial.

Próximo retiro: el 8-10 de abril
Llama: (405) 623-3844
Correo electrónico: rachel’svineyardokc@gmail.com.
En línea: www.rachel’svineyard.org



Jóvenes pasan por delante del Capitolio E.E.U.U. en 2012 durante la Marcha por la Vida. Foto CNS/Bob Roller.

“Tuve hambre y ustedes me dieron de comer”

La primera de las Obras de Misericordia Corporales

Por Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director del Ministerio Hispano

Misericordia es una palabra rica en su contenido. La etimología es hermosa. La primera parte de la palabra “misere” significa la miseria o necesidad. La segunda parte de la palabra “cor” o “cordis” significa corazón. Cuando se unen las dos partes la idea es cómo las necesidades de los demás tocan nuestros corazones.

Ser misericordioso envuelve el tener ternura, amor, compasión, solidaridad con los que están necesitados o en la miseria.

Ser misericordioso es estar consciente de las necesidades de los demás y, como expresión del amor del uno por el otro, asumir la responsabilidad de llenar las necesidades del otro porque el otro es mi hermano, mi hermana, aquel a quien amo.

Alimenta al hambriento

Los seres humanos tienen muchas necesidades, pero la primera de ellas, la más básica es la comida, por lo que la primera de las Obras de Misericordia Corporales es dar de comer al hambriento.

En la Tierra Santa, allá en los tiempos bíblicos, el alimento más común y esencial era y es el pan.

“Acuérdate del largo camino que el Señor, tu Dios, te hizo recorrer por el desierto durante esos cuarenta años. Allí él te afligió y te puso a prueba, para conocer el fondo de tu corazón y ver si eres capaz y no de guardar sus mandamientos. Te afligió y te hizo sentir hambre, pero te dio a comer el maná, ese alimento que ni tú ni tus padres conocían, para enseñarte que el



hombre no vive solamente de pan, sino de todo lo que sale de la boca del Señor” (Dt 8,2-3).

El maná era el pan del cielo dado a los hijos de Dios mientras atravesaban el desierto. Son muchas las referencias del Antiguo Testamento al hambre, el pan y el alimentarse y en el Nuevo Testamento hay muchos más como la declaración en la oración del Señor en Mateo capítulo 6.

“Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día”. Los pobres, nuestros hermanos y hermanas que carecen de las necesidades básicas, son los que no tienen pan, ni alimentos.

Una forma en la que mostramos nuestra solidaridad con los pobres y hambrientos son los muchos bancos de alimentos y despensas de al-



Una mujer iraquí desplazada hornea pan en un horno tradicional. Foto CNS/Ahmed Jalil, EPA.

imentos a lo largo de Oklahoma.

Otra costumbre, especialmente durante la Cuaresma, que no está muy lejos, es el Catholic Relief Services, CRS, Plato de Arroz. Esta es una gran manera en la que unimos nuestros esfuerzos en la recaudación de fondos para alimentar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que padecen hambre en el mundo. Están aún a tiempo para ordenar los materiales y promover la campaña CRS Rice Bowl 2016. Os animo a visitar www.crsricebowl.org para más información.

El hambre es la necesidad de alimentos y hay un profundo mensaje para todos nosotros cuando Jesús se proclama a sí mismo como el alimento clave para saciar el hambre más profundo cuando nos dice que Él es el “Pan de Vida”.

De ahí a la Última Cena y la institución de la Eucaristía aprendemos que crecemos como comunidad de fe y como discípulos de Cristo cuando juntos partimos el pan en el altar.

El compartir el Pan de Vida, la fuente y cumbre de nuestra vida cristiana, nos da energía y fortalece nuestro compromiso de llegar a todos los que padecen hambre.

Sabemos muy bien que cuando llenamos su necesidad de pan manifestamos nuestro amor por ellos y nuestro amor por Jesús, porque el Señor mismo nos dijo...

“Les aseguro que cada vez que lo hicieron con el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo hicieron conmigo”.

Campamento Católico de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe 2016

¡Ya comenzaron las inscripciones para el Campamento de Verano de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe! Puede bajar el formulario de inscripción de nuestra pagina de internet www.archokc.org haga clic en la oficina de Pastoral Juvenil (Youth & Young Adult Office) o [regístrese por internet](#) (ON-LINE) para pagar en su totalidad. ¡Inscríbase los mas pronto posible ya que esperamos que las sesiones se llenen rápidamente!

Sesión 1	12-17 Junio	Grados 6 & 7
Sesión 2	19-24 Junio	Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 3	26 Junio-1 Julio	Grados 5 & 6
Sesión 4	3-8 Julio	Grados 7, 8, 9
Sesión 5	10-15 Julio	Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 6	17-22 Julio	Grados 6, 7, 8
Sesión 7	24-29 Julio	Grados 9, 10, 11, 12

¡Las inscripciones para el campamento de verano ya comenzaron!

Inscríbese en línea para pagar en su totalidad.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, favor de llamarnos a la Oficina de Pastoral Juvenil al (405)721-9220 o por correo electrónico OLOG2016@archokc.org

Apoya a este Ministerio

Lleva las oraciones, ayuno y sacrificios de Cuaresma a dondequiera que vayas.

¡DESCARGA LA APLICACIÓN DE PLATO DE ARROZ DE CRS!

Catholic Foundation college scholarship applications available

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year.

All forms and required information must be submitted to the Catholic Foundation office no later than Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

Applications are available from pastors or directors of religious education or online at www.cfook.org. This year, the pastor recommendation is due Friday, March 18.

Each year, the Catholic Foundation awards college scholarships to an around 90 students from throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The scholarship recipients are determined based on financial need, academic achievement and service to church and community. The recipient must be a full-time student and a permanent resident of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Scholarships are renewed for four years of undergraduate study as long as the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

"Catholic Foundation scholarships totaled \$137,000 last year. A scholarship is a \$6,000 value for any Catholic student within the archdiocese," said Mary Beadles, a parishioner at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and chairwoman of the foundation scholarship committee.



"If a student attends a Catholic college or university, the scholarship amount doubles to \$12,000. The foundation is proud of its record of providing scholarships for more than 40 years to college undergraduate students of the archdiocese. It is one of the ways the foundation gives back to the parishes throughout the archdiocese."

In addition to scholarships awarded from the Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund, special scholarships are awarded to students through several named funds at the foundation. These include the Bob Little Pastoral Music Scholarship (for pastoral music majors), the C.W. & Frances Aneshansley Scholarship (for students from St. Mary, Clinton), the Amelia Davis & Elizabeth Davis Lawrence Scholarship (for students from Enid, Okarche and El Reno), the Evelyn & Katherine Hau Scholarship (for students from Enid and Okarche), the Dr. & Mrs. Francis Duffy Scholarships (for students attending St. Gregory's University), the P.B. Connelly Medical Scholarship (for a student attending the OU School of Medicine); and the Helen Hall Nursing Scholarship (for a student enrolled in a nursing school or program).

For more information, contact the Catholic Foundation office at (405) 721-4115.

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is providing a chartered bus to transport participants to this year's **Rose Day**.

Rose Day is Wednesday, Feb. 3. The group will celebrate Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the Meerschaert House at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 1901 N.W. 18. Following Mass, a free light breakfast will be

served in the Kelley Room before heading to the Capitol. The round trip cost will be \$15 per person.

The Rose Day program begins at 11:30 a.m.

For reservations, call Mary Ann Schmitt at (405) 943-5758. Mail the \$15 check (made out to ACCW) Sandy Estep, 9777 N. Council Rd., No. 421, OKC, OK 73162.



Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

"Are You Listening" usually concerns itself with program schedules and details of events and policies of Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting. That is important, but so is understanding the relevance of Catholic radio to our lives.

New Evangelization

Let's start with something we have heard a lot about: the New Evangelization. Maybe we haven't yet wrapped our arms around the idea of what it is and what we are supposed to do about it. There is not enough space to address the whole issue here, but we can glean a few pertinent concepts. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops tell us that, first, we have to be evangelized ourselves, and then we need to be engaged in bringing Jesus Christ to others, including "reproposing" the Gospel to fallen-away Catholics.

Where do we start?

Most of us are thinking, where do we start? When you consider statistics such as those in a 2013 "National Catholic Register" article that stated that there are 22 million U.S. Catholics alone, that have fallen away from the Church, we can be intimidated by the challenge of New Evangelization. Add to that the discouragement of lukewarm Catholics with the "been there; done that," attitude.

So, where do we turn first to focus ourselves on keeping our faith the priority in our lives, and then to be energized so people we encounter, every day, get to know Jesus in us?

Don't do it alone

We don't do it alone. Practice your fundamentals: Mass, the sacraments, a holy hour. Then, take advantage of the benefits of the 21st century. In our homes, in our car, even on our iPads, we can connect to reinforcements that make a real difference in the development of our faith in the use of media such as Catholic radio.

Catholic radio provides you with prayers from daily Mass to the Divine Mercy Chaplet to prayers given by our local parish priests. As you tune in to "Catholic Answers Live," you gain confidence in your newfound knowledge about your faith.

Guidance from programs such as "Call to Communion" help you answer challenges from non-Catholics. Oklahoma's local programming builds us up for New Evangelization too. "Make Straight the Way" features Deacon Larry Sousa of Norman interviewing Oklahoma Catholics who inspire and affirm us by their lives of faith in action. If you ever listen to Father Don Wolf on his program, "Living Catholic" you will aspire to live your faith more deeply.

The joy of Catholic Radio

There is a lot to gain by becoming a Catholic radio listener. Catholic radio is available 24 hours a day with a lot of programming options. Getting in the habit of tuning into Catholic radio can help us embrace the New Evangelization, refreshing our relationship with Jesus Christ and introducing Him to those we encounter.

Briefs

SEAS students win national memorial essay contest

More than 1,400 students from 27 states participated in this year's Oklahoma City National Memorial Essay contest. Claire Lyons, from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Edmond, received a first place certificate and \$100. Abby Maupin, also from SEAS, received a third place certificate and \$50. This year's theme was "Oklahoma Standard: Service, Kindness, and Honor." The students' essays can be viewed at www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Everyone is invited to a prayer service for Christian unity on Sunday, Jan. 24, at 4 p.m. at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 14700 N. May Ave., OKC. Speakers include Rev. Jon

Middendorf (Nazarene) and Rev. Paul Gallatin (Catholic). The theme will be "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord." This service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25) is sponsored by the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts.

Want to learn more about the Catholic faith?

This five-week inquiry series is for anyone seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith and the process of becoming Catholic. The classes will be at St. John Nepomuk, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, starting Jan. 26. Sessions begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Attendance at all five sessions is encouraged, but not mandatory. Sessions are free and imply no commitment to join the Church. Gatherings open to adults ages 15 and above. Practicing

Catholics who are bringing inquirers also are welcome. Contact John and Patsy Ryan, jryan22@cox.net, (405) 834-3528.

College student conference

The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa, is scheduled for Feb. 5-7 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic camp, located between Luther and Wellston 3 ½ miles north from Highway 66 on Pottawatomie Road. For GPS insert Pottawatomie Road and Hwy 66. The conference includes a presentation by Jimmy Mitchell from Nashville, Tenn., breakout sessions with FOCUS missionaries and Mass with Archbishop Coakley on Saturday afternoon. The conference is from Friday at 7 p.m. to Sunday at 11 a.m. This event is for young adults out of

high school, ages 18-25. Cost is \$40. Contact (405) 721-9220, jcogburn@archokc.org. Deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 29.

Ladies of Grace conference

The women of Christ the King Catholic Church and All Souls' Episcopal Church are hosting the Ladies of Grace Women's Conference, "Celebrating Girlfriends and Gratitude," on Jan. 30 from 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Christ the King, 8005 Dorset Dr., OKC. The day includes talks by newswoman Robin Marsh and national Christian speaker, author and entertainer Vonda Skelton. There will be 12 breakout sessions, and the day will close with the "Wine and Chocolate" workshop. Cost is \$25, includes lunch. Contact Cindy, (405) 242-4521, Cindy@ckokc.org. Register online at www.ckokc.org/ladies-of-grace-conference.

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.

January		30	Live performance of "Therese: The Story of a Soul" and discussion with Sr. Ann Shields, host of national radio program "Food for the Journey." Free with good will offering; 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. For information, contact Sr. Maria at (405) 778-1107.	support for life by bringing roses to your state representative, senator, Lt. governor and governor from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A pro-life rally begins at 11:45 a.m. in the fourth floor House Chamber.	For young adults out of high school, ages 18-25. Cost is \$40. Contact (405) 721-9220, jcogburn@archokc.org .
24	Prayer service to commemorate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 4 p.m., St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 14700 N. May Ave., OKC.	25	Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.	4	Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the CPC. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org .
26	Feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus.	31	Catholic Schools Week begins.	5	First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m. Contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 721-8944.
28	Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas.	February			
28	Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unfailing means of tapping the inexhaustible mercy of God from the source of our salvation. No one who is devoted to the Wounds and Blood of Jesus can be lost. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave.	2	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.	4	Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave. (405) 420-2527.
		2	Catholic author Dr. Edward Sri will give a public talk at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center.	5	Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference, Feb. 5-7 at Our Lady of Guadalupe camp. Friday at 7 p.m. through Sunday at 11 a.m.
		3	Rose Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Show your		

Jobs Box

Resident director - women's residence halls

Duties include minor student conduct, facility maintenance, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, administrative and operational functions, programming and community building. Bachelor's degree required with 1-3 years' experience in residential life. Compensation includes two-room suite with private bath and university meal plan

(while classes are in session). To apply: www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

Executive assistant to provost

Responsible for managing the provost's office at St. Gregory's University. Duties include maintaining the university catalog and faculty handbook online. Bachelor's degree and familiarity with Paycom a plus. To apply: www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

Volunteer coordinator

Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Network is looking for a volunteer to serve as a volunteer coordinator. This organized, motivated individual will help recruit volunteers, provide training and work with project managers to coordinate volunteer activities. Contact

Jeff.Finnell@OKCatholicBroadcasting.com.

Activity coordinator

Saint Ann Retirement Center, 7501 W. Britton Rd., OKC, is looking for a high energy, creative person to fill an immediate opening for activity coordinator. Medical insurance paid in full. Contact (405) 721-0747, fax: (405) 721-0492.

Career Opportunity

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