

Go Make Disciples

Blessed Stanley Rother

First recognized U.S. martyr; first U.S.-born priest beatified

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – Nearly 20,000 faithful gathered in downtown Oklahoma City Sept. 23 to honor Oklahoma priest, missionary and martyr, Blessed Stanley Francis Rother.

A native of Okarche, Father Rother was beatified during a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints; Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City; and Most Rev. Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City.

“This is a day of rejoicing for the Catholic Church in Oklahoma, the United States and indeed for the Church in Guatemala and beyond. I am grateful for everyone who joined us to witness this historic and grace-filled event and to share our joy as we give thanks to God for the witness of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother, priest and martyr,” Archbishop Coakley said.

Beatification is a declaration by Pope Francis that Father Rother lived a holy life and is a good example to follow. The ceremony declared Father Rother lives in heaven and intercedes for the faithful. Beatification is the final step before sainthood.

During the Beatification Mass, the official painting and tapestry for Blessed Stanley Rother was unveiled, featuring Blessed Stanley Rother standing in front of his parish mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, while clutching a copy of the New Testament he helped translate into the villagers’ native Mayan language.



Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and Archbishop Coakley present a copy of the Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis to Sr. Marita Rother and Tom Rother, siblings of Blessed Stanley Rother. *Photos Steve Sisney, Jan Foisy and Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

In each corner of the tapestry, is a parish or seminary that was significant in Father Rother’s life – Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City where he was ordained, Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and

Saint James the Apostle in Guatemala. The tapestry also includes native plants and flowers from Oklahoma and Guatemala.

“The beatification of Father Stanley Francis Rother is an historic event not only for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, that witnesses one of its heroic

priests raised to the honors of the altars, but also for the Catholic Church in the United States of America that celebrates, for the first time, the beatification of a priest, missionary and martyr,” Cardinal Amato said during his homily.

continued on page 8



Prayer for Intercession of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother

The next step in the Cause of Blessed Stanley Rother is his canonization. In order for Blessed Stanley to be made a saint, a miracle must be verified and attributed to his intercession.

Please report favors received through his intercession to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at blessedstanleyrother.org.

O faithful shepherd,
Blessed Stanley Rother,
as priest and missionary,
you tilled the soil with your
hands and invited
Christ Jesus
to till the soil of your soul.
You became a sign of the love of
Christ the Good Shepherd
for your People, and blessed their
lives by your ministry.
You stood firm and did not run
from danger,
bringing glory to God and His

Church in your martyrdom.
Blessed Stanley,
obtain from the heart of Jesus
(here make your request...), and
pray for me, that I too may be a
sign of Christ’s love among
His people.
Teach me to faithfully till the soil
of this life in the reality given to me
by our Father, unafraid to stay with
those God has given me,
no matter the cost.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Final remarks: Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother

September 23, 2017
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Praised be Jesus Christ! This is a day of rejoicing for the Church in Oklahoma, the United States, and indeed for the Church in Guatemala and beyond. I want to express my appreciation to all of you for being with us to witness this historic and grace-filled event and to share our joy as we give thanks to God for the witness of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother, priest and martyr.

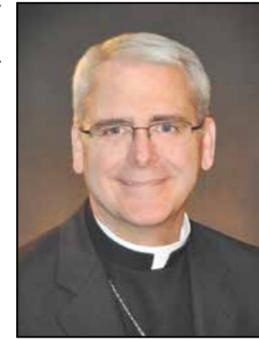
I am especially grateful for the presence of Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Thank you for your beautiful homily and your support throughout the process that has led us to this glorious beatification.

I am grateful for the presence of Msgr. Walter Erbi,

following the example of this good shepherd and missionary disciple.

Many have come great distances and I want to acknowledge especially those who have traveled from Guatemala to honor Padre Aplá's, including my brother bishops and priests and the faithful associated with the parish of Santiago Atitlan. You honor us by your presence.

An extraordinary day like this does not happen without the dedication and generous efforts of many people. I want to begin by acknowledging Archbishop Beltran, who had the vision and confidence to initiate the process for the Cause of Father Rother 10 years ago. You assembled an extraordinary tribunal of dedicated men and women who worked very hard to gather testimony and to lay the foundation for what we celebrate today. Many of these tribunal members are present as well. Thank you!



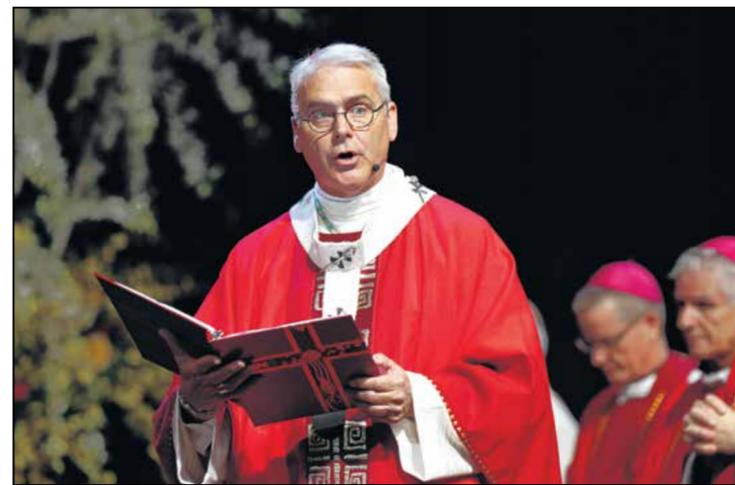
Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

I need to acknowledge my staff, the best in the world, who did the heavy lifting in preparing for this beautiful beatification. Thank you for going the extra mile so often in attending to the countless details of preparation, planning and execution. I am grateful for the army of volunteers who have assisted with all the details of hospitality, including the musicians, choirs and liturgical ministers. What a beautiful celebration this has been!

Finally, I am grateful to the donors and benefactors who have helped underwrite the cost of this day, especially the Knights of Columbus, Our Sunday Visitor, the dioceses of Tulsa, Little Rock and Boise, Idaho, the Catholic Extension Society and EWTN. Thank you for your generous support!

There are many more who could be named, but know that I am profoundly and personally grateful for your involvement.

Our work is not yet complete. God's mercies are not exhausted! We turn our attention now to the process of canonization! Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!



Archbishop Coakley at the Beatification Mass of Blessed Stanley Rother on Sept. 23 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Photo Steve Sisney.

who represents our nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who though unable to be here today has taken a keen interest in everything pertaining to the Cause of Blessed Stanley. Please express to him our appreciation for all his support.

I appreciate the presence of so many of my brother bishops, priests and deacons and so many consecrated women and men. It's wonderful to see our seminarians and I am confident that through the witness and intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother many more young men and women will respond to God's call to the priesthood and consecrated life by

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- Oct. 1 – Archbishop's picnic for clergy, religious, CPC staff and board members, 5 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center grounds.
- Oct. 3 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Oct. 4 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8 a.m., St. Mary, Guthrie
- Oct. 4 – Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Christ the King, OKC
- Oct. 4 – Deacon candidate interviews, 2 p.m., CPC
- Oct. 5 – Deacon candidate interviews, 8:30 a.m., CPC
- Oct. 6 – Deacon candidate interviews, 8:30 a.m., CPC
- Oct. 7 – Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph, Blackwell
- Oct. 8 – Mass, 10:30 a.m., St. Peter and Paul, Kingfisher
- Oct. 10 – Department directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
- Oct. 10 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Oct. 11 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:20 a.m., St. Mary, Ponca City
- Oct. 12 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., Christ the King, OKC
- Oct. 13 – Mass to receive International Fatima Statute, Noon, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Bison
- Oct. 15 – Mass and presentation of Blessed Stanley Rother relic, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity, Okarche
- Oct. 15 – Anniversary Mass, 3 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.org.

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail tips@archokc.org.

✓ **Catholic bookstore reopens** On Oct. 13, Saint Thomas More Books and Gifts, 7904 N. May Ave., will reopen. For more information, go online to www.catholicunlimited.com or call (405) 842-9911.



@archokc



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



Prayer for the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother

O God, fount of all holiness, make us each walk worthily in our vocation, through the intercession of your Saints, on whom you bestowed a great variety of graces on earth.

Having graced your Church with the life of your priest and martyr Stanley Rother, grant that by his intercession this humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone.

Grant that your Church may proclaim him a saint living in your presence and interceding for us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence is an issue that affects many families in our parishes and communities. With a focus on reinforcing and upholding the sanctity of marriage and family – domestic violence must be addressed through our faith communities.

October is designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and for good reason. In the United States, one in four women, (one in seven men) will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, and every day three women lose their lives.

“Through the Office of Marriage and Family Life, Catholic Charities and Safe Environment Office, we have partnered to build awareness, access to resources and support prevention of this sickness that has infected our families and communities,” states Becky VanPool, director of parish engagement at Catholic Charities.

“Our goal is to develop domestic violence ministries in our parishes throughout the archdiocese, so that families can escape the shame and destruction of this violence in order to promote healing and support for those caught in this cycle of suffering.”

Lisa Carrasco, interim director for the Office of Family Life, serves on the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and has been addressing



this issue through conferences and marriage enrichment for more than 15 years.

“Domestic violence is a learned pattern of behavior that can be destructive to everyone involved – men, women and children.”

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified. Violence in any form – physical, sexual, psychological or verbal is sinful; often, it is a crime as well.

In July 2016, when the USCCB called for a Symposium on Domestic Violence in Washington, D.C., three representatives of Oklahoma were invited to attend, Lisa Carrasco, Becky VanPool and Deacon Roy Callison.

After participating in the symposium, in a collaborating effort, a

Domestic Violence Task Force was created and has been meeting over the past year with 10 local agencies to identify local resources and learn how to serve those affected in our families.

Special events to be sponsored in October include Mass for those affected by domestic violence at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 2 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran, who stated in his 2006 pastoral letter, “We cannot, and must not, remain silent any longer. Accordingly, I call on all Catholics and people of faith to raise their voices, renouncing all forms of violence against women and, further, to commit to teach their children to reject this violence in all its forms.

To ignore the call mandated by our

Church tradition and the Sacred Scriptures, or to assert otherwise, diminishes God's love, care and compassion for some of the most vulnerable of our times.”

Saint James the Greater Catholic Church will sponsor a presentation on “Domestic Violence: Our Church and Our Community – How We Help” at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9. Deacon Chuck Allen and Jan Peery, director of the YWCA, will share information on Church teaching and local resources to help those in need.

The 2017 Wreath of Hope Ceremony, an event to support domestic violence survivors and honor the victims who cannot speak for themselves, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 12 at the state Capitol south lawn at N.E. 21 and Lincoln Boulevard.

“Oklahoma is ranked 4th in the nation in the number of women who are killed by their intimate partner. We have the strength and faith to change that pattern and help families find peace. Our families deserve to be safe and loved in our homes. Change is possible, please join us and be the change!” VanPool said.

For more information, contact Becky VanPool bvanpool@ccaokc.org, (405) 523-3000, Ext. 245, or Lisa Carrasco at lcarrasco@archokc.org, (405) 709-2709.

International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

Join Father Edward Menasco and Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Bison on Oct. 13 to

welcome the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady in Fatima.

of the apparition of Our Lady in Fatima.

Schedule of events:

- 9:30 a.m. – Coffee and kolaches
- 10 a.m. – Recitation of the rosary – Our Lady of Fatima shrine
- 11 a.m. – International pilgrim virgin statue arrives
- Noon – Mass with Archbishop Coakley
- 1:30 p.m. – Complimentary lunch served, parish hall
- 2:30 p.m. – Church and shrine open for visitation and prayer
- 5 p.m. – Custodian's presentation on the pilgrimage statue and the message of Fatima
- 8 p.m. – Visitation in church and shrine ends

U.S. Catholic agencies prepare for “Share the Journey”

Global campaign on migration launched by Pope Francis Sept. 27

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – On Sept. 27, Pope Francis launched the worldwide, two-year “Share the Journey” campaign, calling on Catholics and the faithful to “encounter” migrants and refugees to break down barriers of fear and suspicion and build bridges of understanding and hospitality.

Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are part of a global network of Caritas organizations participating in the campaign.

Together, they launched a new website ahead of and in support of the global “Share the Journey”

campaign. The new campaign website www.sharejourney.org offers ways in which people, parishes, schools and other groups can participate. “Share the Journey” is a call to prayer, to reflection and to action.

CCUSA, CRS and the USCCB are calling on Catholics, parishes, schools, other organizations and all people of good will to participate in the worldwide “Share the Journey” campaign. Through prayers and acts of compassion and support, you can help shape conversations and actions to answer the Gospel call to love our neighbors.

In the weeks following the official launch by Pope Francis, CCUSA, CRS and USCCB will use this site to provide resources, engagement opportunities and proposed events.

For additional information and updates on ways to get involved, visit the campaign website: www.sharejourney.org.





Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher

Diane Clay
Editor

Dana Attocknie
Managing Editor

Volume 39, Number 19

Sooner Catholic Newspaper
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
(405) 721-1810

Fax: (405) 721-5210

E-mail: tips@archokc.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 32180

Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Visit us online at

www.soonercatholic.org

Visit the archdiocesan website

at www.archokc.org

The Sooner Catholic

(USPS 066-910) is published
biweekly except for once in July
by the Archdiocese of
Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible
for unsolicited material.

Copyright © 2017 Sooner Catholic

Subscription rate: \$25 per year
for all who are not members of the
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Periodical postage paid at
Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to the Sooner Catholic,
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City,
OK 73123.



The Sooner Catholic
is supported through the
Annual Catholic Appeal.

Alesian priest recounts harrowing tale of his capture, liberation

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

ROME – Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil was sitting in a room in an unknown location – one of several he had been relocated to during his 18-month imprisonment – when he received some unexpected news.

“Those who kept me came to where I slept (and said), ‘I bring you good news. We are sending you home. If you need to go to the bathroom, go. Take a shower, but quickly!’” Father Uzhunnalil told reporters Sept. 16 at the Salesian headquarters in Rome.

The Salesian priest from India was kidnapped March 4, 2016, from a home for the aged and disabled run by the Missionaries of Charity in Aden, Yemen. On that day, four Missionaries of Charity and 12 others were murdered in the attack by uniformed gunmen.

Seeing a group of Missionaries of Charity sisters seated at the news conference in Rome, Father Uzhunnalil expressed his condolences. However, the memory of the four sisters’ martyrdom still proved too difficult to bear.

Silence filled the room as the Salesian priest covered his eyes, tears streaming down his face while doing his utmost to hold back emotions that he thought he could contain.

“I thank God Almighty for this day, for keeping me safe, healthy, clear minded; my emotions were in control until now,” he said after regaining his composure.

“I don’t want to speak too much about the sisters because I get too emotional,” he said.

Although reports following his kidnapping suggested the attack was carried out by the so-called Islamic State, Father Uzhunnalil said his captors never identified themselves.

Knowing very little Arabic, Father Uzhunnalil said he spoke to the militants with the few words he knew: “Ana hindiin” (“I am Indian”). To this day, the Indian priest still wonders why he was the only one spared in the slaughter.

“Why they did not kill me, why they didn’t tie my hands, I don’t know,” he said. “Perhaps they wanted some ransom or whatever it is. I only believe that maybe God had put that into their heads when I said, ‘I am Indian,’ and they made me sit there while they killed the others, the sisters.”

After leaving him in the trunk of the car, the militants ransacked the chapel taking the tabernacle, wrapping it with the altar linen and placing it near the kidnapped priest. With his hands unbound, Father Uzhunnalil carefully moved the linen and found “four or five small hosts,” which he kept to celebrate the Eucharist the first few days of his capture.

After his short supply ran out, he said, he continued reciting the Mass prayers when alone despite not having bread and wine.

“I peacefully was able to say my

Eucharist all from memory, although bread and wine wasn’t available. But I prayed to God to give me those items spiritually,” Father Uzhunnalil said.

He spent most of his days praying for the pope, his bishop, his Salesian brothers, and “certainly those sisters, all those persons whom God had called” on the day of his abduction.

Father Uzhunnalil said he found consolation in the words of a hymn, “One day at a time, sweet Jesus.”

“Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do. Yesterday’s gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine. Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time,” he would sing to himself in the solitude of his room.

On Sept. 11, Father Uzhunnalil was given the news of his liberation. After traveling for hours blindfolded, the priest along with two of his captors waited in the car.

Several hours later, his captors told him “some arrangements weren’t done” and they headed back.

Not understanding the church’s teaching on the Holy Trinity and the “unity of God in three persons,” Father Uzhunnalil recalled, one of his captors said, “You might have prayed to the third God, now you must pray to the second God so tomorrow can go well.”

Returning to his cell, he slept briefly when he was rustled out of bed in the middle of the night Sept. 12 and taken on the same long ride, his head once again covered. He was then moved to another vehicle where a person pulled up his picture on a cell phone and asked the priest, “Is this you?”

After confirming his identity, the driver drove for more than a day through the desert and told him: “Now you are free, now you are safe.”

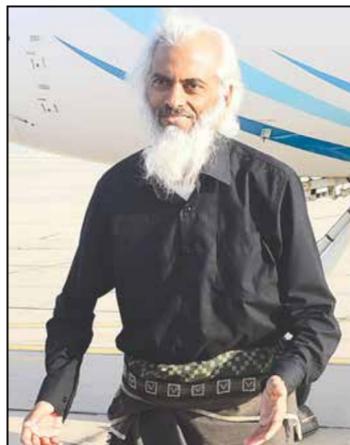
Father Uzhunnalil was then taken to the Omani capital of Muscat where he received medical treatment, fresh clothes and a shaving kit.

While he knows few details about arrangements for his release, Father

Uzhunnalil expressed his gratitude to those who helped secure his liberation, including Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said of Oman, the government authorities of India and the Vatican, including Pope Francis whom he met the day after his release.

As Pope Francis entered the room Sept. 13, the Salesian knelt before him and kissed his feet. Visibly moved by the gesture, the pope helped him up and kissed his hands.

Before blessing Father Uzhunnalil, the pope embraced him and said he would continue to pray for him as he had done during his imprisonment.



Salesian Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, who was released from captivity Sept. 12, greets journalists as he arrives for a news conference in Rome Sept. 16. *CNS photo/Junno Arocho Esteves.*

“In that meeting, the pope kissed my hand. I never deserved it,” he said. “I’m only grateful to God for his blessings, I’m sure he prayed much for me.”

Even his captors, Father Uzhunnalil said, knew of the pope’s efforts and inadvertently gave him a reason to hope.

“One of the captors told me, ‘The pope has said you will be freed soon but nothing is happening still.’ From that, I knew that the whole world was there, the whole church was there, the world was worried for me. So, I am grateful,” he said.

You’re invited!

CATHOLIC RADIO BENEFIT LUNCHEON



host when where reply

MOST REVEREND PAUL S. COAKLEY AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017 AT 11:30AM

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH ATRIUM
8005 DORSET DRIVE, NICHOLS HILLS

ONLINE AT WWW.OKCR.ORG OR BY ENCLOSED CARD

Four years later, army of disciples sent to share Jesus

San Juan Diego School graduates first class

On Oct. 7, 2013, the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, is the publication date of Archbishop Coakley’s first pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples.” It has been four years since the publication of this letter, and the archdiocese recently celebrated the fruits of one of the three priorities.

The priority of Hispanic Ministry stated: “As we focus on this priority we will: A. Begin implementation of a plan to alleviate the overcrowding of churches with significant Hispanic populations in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area by May 1, 2014.

B. Enroll the first class of a Spanish language basic adult faith formation program among Spanish-speaking Catholics in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City by June 1, 2014.

These priorities were met on time. The plan for alleviating overcrowding has merged with the planned future shrine for Blessed Stanley Francis Rother while the first Spanish language adult faith formation program became the San Juan Diego School.

Enrollment occurred three years ago, and after an arduous Christ-centered plan of study, which included the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, a year-long introduction to the Bible and various mini courses in Christology, Ecclesiology and other subjects, the first class celebrated their graduation on Sept. 6

with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Coakley.

A heartfelt congratulation for all the graduates of the San Juan Diego School and as the archbishop reminded them, they should go back to their parishes, assist their pastors and follow the Lord’s call to “Go make disciples.”



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry



A Millennial Journey in Faith

Rules as an expression of love

As a mother of young children, my husband and I are constantly developing rules and habits that help our children understand how to act in different situations. The most basic involve hygiene, safety and health such as washing hands before dinner, not running into the street and never going off with a stranger. As our children get older, the habits and rules become more involved, aiming at spiritual, social and educational nourishment.

Like all parents, we strive to come up with instructions that are clear, keep them safe, sow seeds of peace, and help them flourish. We aim to give them boundaries to guide them, and habits to develop virtue, while respecting their unique personhood. We endeavor to give them boundaries that make them free. Finally, we don’t want to make arbitrary rules, just to exercise our power.

Neither does God. God, whose love for us is greater than my love for my children, instituted his rules rooted in love to help us flourish. As Archbishop Charles Chaput points out in his article “The Splendor of Truth in 2017,” moral rules, laws and commandments “have value because they point to something far more profound: how to live in order to grow in virtue and attain fullness of life.” God’s rules for us are far from arbitrary. The rules were created in accordance with our own inherent nature as persons.

Sometimes, these rules may seem arbitrary. Why is 10 percent the standard amount to tithe? Isn’t the commitment of engagement enough to start living as married persons – why must one wait until the wedding day itself? Why must our obligation to attend Mass be fulfilled on Sunday?

For a child, too, a parent’s rules often seem arbitrary. Why is this place over here okay to stand, while a little further on is not? A 1-year-old does not understand why she can go to a certain place in the yard and no more. She does not have the understanding of even a 3-year-old, who knows that danger awaits in the street. An 8-year-old can’t grasp how certain images can warp his brain or the virtue he will develop by faithfully performing his chores. A 14-year-old can’t see the importance of being able to run a few miles for lifelong fitness. A child does not and cannot have the scope of life that a parent has.

Like a child, we too have a limited view of life’s longevity and purpose. We cannot see ahead in the way that God can – nor do we always have an accurate view of the present situation. The consequences of a decision to follow or to violate God’s laws are often not evident for many years. The abundance we will receive by faithfully tithing, living the married life within the sacrament, and keeping Sundays as a day of rest can only fully be known by living it.

Though the fruit of a life lived in virtue can only be known completely by living it, its richness can be known partially two other ways: its absence and moral theology.

Like a good parent, God uses the Church to explain the reasons behind his rules, even when we aren’t equipped to completely grasp them. As Archbishop Chaput explains, a key theme in the pontificate of Saint John Paul II was to proclaim the truth that morality is a path to happiness.

The “Catechism of the Catholic Church” published during John Paul II’s pontificate, pieces by numerous theologians inspired by his work, and his own writing, especially his famous Wednesday audiences collected as “The Theology of the Body,” beautifully construct a vision of life lived in accordance with our nature.

“He wanted the Church to recover her zeal in affirming that no richer life exists than one lived in the fullness of truth.”



Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

2017 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Educator of the Year awards presented

Over the past 14 years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education.

Each year, the foundation has awarded the Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year award and the Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year award to very deserving individuals. The Foundation presented the winners and finalists of both the awards at the teacher in-service meeting on Sept. 22.

Religious Educator of the Year

The winner of the 2017 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year award is Justin Karpilo, the confirmation and 10th grade catechist at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mustang.



Karpilo has served Holy Spirit for the past five years. He graduated from Benedictine College with a bachelor's degree in music and previously served the parish as its music director. He earned a

master's degree in information systems, and is working diligently to digitize files and make Holy Spirit's web presence more accessible. Karpilo's nomination said he was always the first to help and loves sharing his faith.

Two other finalists recognized were Susan Milam, volunteer director of religious education and high school catechist at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sterling; and Sandy Smith, the catechist certification coordinator and 7th/8th grade catechist at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon.

Educator of the Year

The 2017 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year award winner is David Roberts, English teacher and dean of curriculum and instruction at Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School.

Roberts has taught in the English department at Mount Saint Mary for the past 13 years and is in his first year as dean of curriculum and

instruction. Roberts, who came to The Mount from Texas, is revered by his students. He helped develop the Mercy Student of the Month award that recognizes the Spirit of Mercy among the students, and helped develop the ROCKET Experience course, a class that all freshmen take to learn MSM history, the partnership between the Sisters of Mercy and the archdiocese, etiquette skills, organizational skills and study skills.

The other finalists were Sharon Lieurance, second grade teacher at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, and Katie Tooley, fifth grade teacher at Rosary Catholic School.

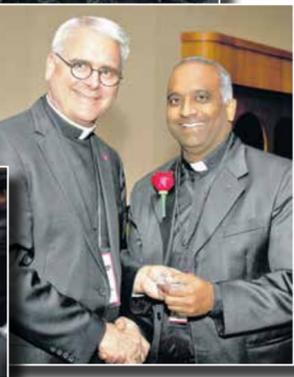
In presenting the awards, the Catholic Foundation Educator of the Year Committee chairman, Sharon Robinson said, "The foundation and all Catholics throughout the archdiocese extend the deepest respect and gratitude to both of our winners, each finalist, to all those nominated this year, and to all of the teachers and catechists within the archdiocese for your faithful work with students, fulfilling the mission of the Church to Go Make Disciples."

Robinson presented the award winners and finalists a plaque and a \$500 personal award each. She also presented a \$5,000 grant to Holy Spirit Catholic Church in honor of Karpilo and a \$5,000 grant to Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School in honor of Roberts. The foundation also provides funds for a reception to be held at the school and parish in honor of the award winners.

Education has long been the emphasis of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. The foundation supports Catholic schools by sponsoring the Annual Golf Classic. In addition, the foundation provides more than 50 educational grants to Catholic schools and parishes within the archdiocese and also administers the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund that awarded 350 Catholic school scholarships this year. The foundation also provides more than 90 college scholarships to Catholic students in the archdiocese each year.



Jubilarian Dinner 2017



Priests of the archdiocese gathered on Sept. 5 to celebrate their brother priests who attained milestone anniversaries of ordination in 2017. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Guatemalan bishop reflection on mission work of Blessed Stanley Rother

Bishop of Sololá-Chimaltenango celebrates Mass; gives talk at St. Gregory's University

By Judy Hilovsky
The Sooner Catholic

Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, bishop of the Diocese of Sololá-Chimaltenango where Blessed Stanley Rother served,

Arts Center followed by a reception in the Mabee Gerrer Museum of Art.

Bishop Villa spoke of Blessed Rother's dedication to the people in Santiago Atitlán, located in an extremely poor rural area

He became emotional several times as he talked about Blessed Stanley's ability to connect with the local people.

"When he arrived in Guatemala in 1968, he decided something important was to learn the local language. He learned the Tz'utujil language, which is one of 20 indigenous languages spoken in Guatemala. And, he learned it. It was funny that he wasn't able to learn that much Latin, but he had love and moti-

Eventually, Father Rother translated the New Testament and taught parishioners to read and write. Together, he helped them farm, founded a hospital, a school and a radio station. According to Bishop Villa, the villagers honored Father Rother by calling him Padre Aplá's, the Tz'utujil name for Francis, his middle name.

Although it is an inspiring story to both Oklahoma and Guatemala, he credited Oklahomans with keeping the memories of Father Rother alive.

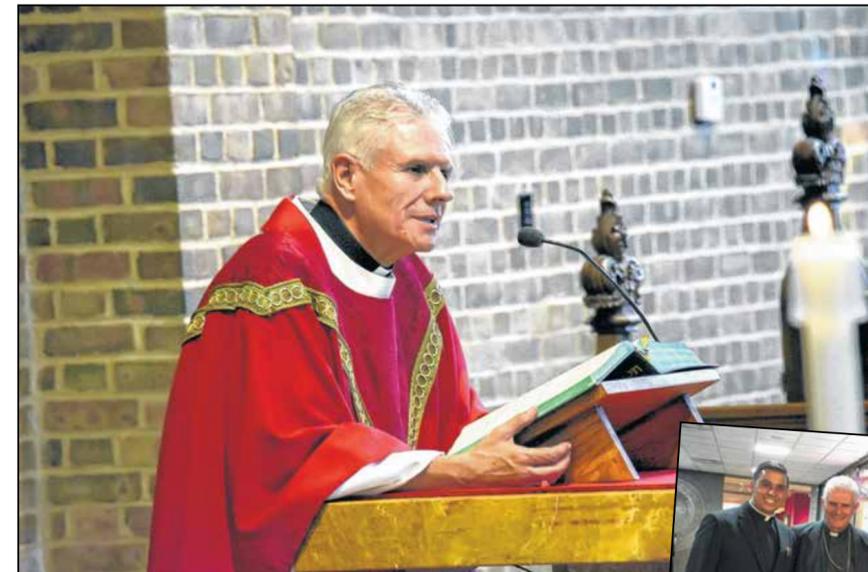
"I am very grateful to God for this day. It is very important to the Catholic Church," he said.

He answered questions, including whether Father Rother had inspired more men to the priesthood and how it affected Guatemala.

He said, "I have ordained at least 75 to the priesthood in my 10 years as bishop and there have been more than 100 churches built."

"My last reflection," Bishop Villa said, "is in memory of Stan, in memory of Father Aplá's, in memory of somebody who was a wonderful priest who gave his life. He is a real treasure. And, a real treasure we have to keep as our own treasure. Not as a relic, but as something that helps us continue to be as Christian as he was, and to have a commitment to the Gospel as he did."

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez at Mass on Sept. 21 at St. Gregory's Abbey Church in Shawnee. Photo Br. George Hubl, O.S.B.



Fr. Cristobal De Loera, Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, Fr. Don Wolf and Michael Scaperlanda. Photo Theresa Bragg.

celebrated Mass on Sept. 21 in the Saint Gregory's Abbey Church in Shawnee.

He also presented a lecture "The Fruits of Martyrdom: The Impact of Fr. Stanley Rother and the Other Martyrs on the Church in Guatemala" in the Sarkey's Performing

in southwestern Guatemala. He told the group that in 1968 there were only six priests there, all Americans. But, with the changes brought about by Vatican II, some left the priesthood, others just left Guatemala. "Only Stanley stayed," he told the crowd of nearly 100.

to learn Tz'utujil," Bishop Villa said.

Arkansas church dedicated to Blessed Stanley Rother

By Aprille Hanson
Arkansas Catholic

DECATUR – The naming of Blessed Stanley Rother Mission in Decatur, Ark., the first Catholic church in the world to be named for the beatified martyr, was not just historic, but personal for the roughly 80 parishioners made up of immigrants from Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico.

"This is something very special ... that is the will of God," said Guatemalan Aroldo Batres, a married father of five. "To me, the kind of love he feels for our people is the love of God. It makes me feel special."

Bishop Anthony Taylor officially dedicated the community the Blessed Stanley F. Rother Church on Sept. 24, the day after Blessed Stanley Rother was beatified in Oklahoma City.

The Mass was held at the Decatur Elementary School to allow for more seating. T-shirts with Blessed Rother's image emblazoned on the back were worn by many parishioners as Bishop Taylor commended

the community on their "commitment to Jesus Christ and the initiative you have taken to live your Catholic faith in a place where pre-



Most Rev. Anthony Taylor, bishop of Little Rock, stands with parishioners at the new Blessed Stanley Rother mission in Arkansas. Photo Travis McAfee/Arkansas Catholic.

Father Salvador Marquez-Munoz as "hard-working people," captured the spirit of Blessed Stanley, a farm boy who courageously served his flock in Guatemala until his martyrdom. He was murdered in his Santiago Atitlán parish rectory on July 28, 1981, at age 46.

Before the Mass, Bishop Taylor gave a presentation in Spanish on the life, ministry and death of Blessed Rother. Prayer cards were handed out of Blessed Rother that included a third-class relic. A dinner was served after Mass.

Jose Zamora, who immigrated to the United States from El Salvador in 1986, said he was crying during the beatification. He remembers vividly when the government was "killing everybody," in El Salvador, similar to the unrest in Guatemala.

"When I was hearing about his story, in El Salvador we saw catechists disappear, our priests were crying. It was familiar. We know what he went through," Zamora said.

viously there had been very few Catholics."

The humble gathering in the small town of Decatur with parishioners described by pastor

continued on page 10

“This is a true blessing”

Thoughts from the Beatification Mass of Blessed Stanley Rother

Sister Mary Patricia Driscoll
Sisters of Charity - Houston

“In 1981, I was studying Spanish in Guatemala. I attended his funeral Mass at the parish. I remember the two indigenous women taking his heart and blood in a glass jar. It was very moving. Fr. Rother was a great witness for our Church and a peacemaker. We, like Fr. Rother, also have a call to give of ourselves. We are all an instrument to give especially to the poor.”

Sister Lois and Sister Fiat
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawka, Ind.

“This is an exciting time for the Church to have an American martyr, the first time. This allows us to share our faith and be with everyone here.”

Marilyn Baker
Archdiocese of Kansas City

“It’s great to be a Catholic!” (Baker slept in her car in the parking garage of the convention center to get a good seat. She took her place in line at 5 a.m.)

Brett Jones
9, Oklahoma City

“It’s awesome to be here!”

Bearden Jones
14, Oklahoma City

“He was a regular Okie farmer!” (Bearden and his three brothers were up before dark to make their way to the convention center.)

Sister Teresa Marie
Lincoln, Neb.

“He helps me understand the difficult student. It was amazing to be present at a once in a lifetime event.”

Cheryl Standburg
Blessed Stanley’s cousin - Minnesota

“It gives us hope. People need to defend their faith, be proud of their faith and live their faith.”

Misty Humpert
Wichita Falls, Texas

“I thought it was a once in a lifetime experience. It was something my children could see and learn that when people who live their life in the faith and do everything that God had in His will for them, sainthood is possible. It’s awesome for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and what a blessing for them to have a priest from its diocese that may one day be a saint.”

John Miskin
St. Meinrad Seminary, Indiana

“It means so much as a country. For someone like Father Stanley Rother who was born here in the U.S. to become Blessed. We can obtain that holiness. I think it becomes more real to us.”

Tom Goldsworthy
Deacon, St. Eugene Catholic Church, Oklahoma City

“I’ve never experienced anything like this before. This is a true blessing.”

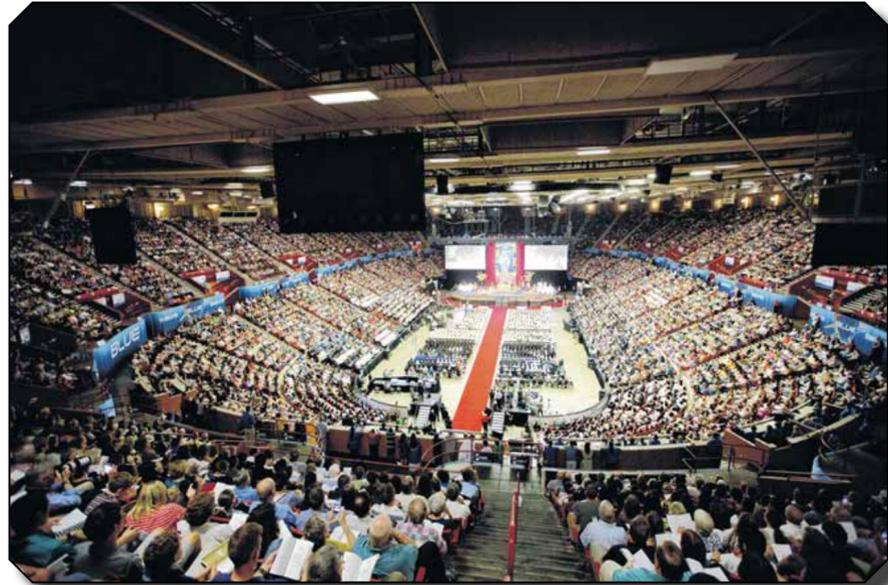
Robert Burkitt
Thomas, Okla.

“It’s an extremely special day. My 93-year-old mother-in-law is here and loving it.”

During the beatification, an offering was collected for two parishes served by Blessed Stanley in Guatemala. It raised:

\$111,925

blessedstanleyrother.org



Photos provided by St. Gregory’s University.

St. Gregory’s hosts traveling students for beatification

By **Judy Hilovsky**
The Sooner Catholic

The Saint Gregory’s Abbey Church was near capacity as people gathered there on the eve of the beatification of Father Stanley Rother. Saint Gregory’s hosted an event, “Behold,” organized by Meg Hunter-Kilmer, an SGU campus missionary.

Hunter-Kilmer learned less than two weeks before that more than 100 students from the Diocese of Little Rock, who would attend Father Rother’s beatification, were seeking lodging at the university. So, she took the opportunity to evangelize with the youth by organizing praise, worship, speakers, adoration and confession.

Hunter-Kilmer introduced Cassidy Stinson, seminarian for the Diocese of Richmond, Va., who told the gathering he has a deep devotion to Father Rother. Stinson attends Theological College National Seminary at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

“I think when we are telling people about the Eucharist, one of the most important things we can do is to tell them why we care, why we love it so much; why I love the Eucharist and why I love the Lord so much,” Stinson said.

Stinson told the story of his true transformation after attending a youth rally in Atlanta and taking part in adoration.

“I felt cold and dead inside. And, that scared me a little bit. One way or the other this is a big deal. It is either true that this is Jesus Christ, that it is God incarnate in front of me or its not and this is all a lie. It can’t be anything in between. I had to make a choice. I was sitting there, and I said, ‘God, if you are really there, I need to know.’ I have to feel something to know. There was silence in the room and all of a sudden there was a feeling inside me, like an electric shock or something. But, that

wasn’t what surprised me. It was the love I felt.

“There were three facts that seared into my mind at that point: That I really hurt him with the wall I built around my heart, and God loved me anyway. The next day I went to confession and laid everything out. And, it felt like a hot shower. It kinda hurts, but feels awesome. That’s what that confession felt like. That’s when I started to fall in love with Jesus. God speaks to us in different ways, love, longing or peace. He will speak to you. He loves you.”

Hunter-Kilmer encouraged everyone to take part in adoration and to go to confession. She travels around the country as a self-described “hobo missionary,” after receiving her bachelor’s degree in theology and a master’s degree in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame.

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



continued from page 1

“His martyrdom, if it fills us with sadness, also gives us the joy of admiring the kindness, generosity and courage of a great man of faith. The 13 years spent as a missionary in Guatemala will always be remembered as the glorious epic of a martyr of Christ, an authentic lighted torch of hope for the Church and for the world.”

Blessed Stanley’s story inspired so many people to come to the ceremony, three overflow spaces were opened to accommodate more than 4,000 faithful who couldn’t fit into the arena. Some of those who arrived had to be turned away; many watching the beatification in nearby hotel lobbies and on the large jumbotron outside of The Oklahoman building.

“The beatification in Oklahoma City was one of the largest ever held outside of Rome,” Archbishop Coakley said. “The unexpectedly large number of people was more than we could accommodate here, and while it’s deeply regrettable that we couldn’t bring all 20,000 people into the arena, I hope

all of the faithful who came to celebrate our first martyr remain inspired by Blessed Stanley’s witness of service, love and grace.”

Blessed Stanley Rother was born in his family’s farmhouse in Okarche in 1935. After discerning a call to the priesthood, he attended seminaries in Texas and eventually in Maryland. He was ordained in 1963. After serving for five years in what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, he volunteered to serve at the diocese’s mission in Guatemala, Micatokla, in 1968.

While he served in Guatemala, a civil war raged between the militarist government forces and the guerrillas with the Catholic Church caught in the middle. During this conflict, thousands of Catholics were killed.

The violence soon came to the highlands and Santiago Atitlan. Catechists began to disappear, people slept in the church for protection and death lists began to circulate in the towns.

Eventually, Father Rother’s name appeared on a death list. For his safety

and that of his associate, Father Rother returned to Oklahoma, but he didn’t stay long. He was determined to give his life completely to his people, stating that “the shepherd cannot run.”

He returned to Santiago Atitlan. Early on the morning of July 28, three men entered the rectory, fought with Father Rother and then executed him. His death shocked the Catholic world. No one was ever held responsible.

On Dec. 2, Pope Francis officially recognized Father Rother as a martyr for the faith.

Blessed Stanley is the first recognized martyr for the United States and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified. His remains eventually will be moved to a new shrine in Oklahoma City.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.



Oklahoma seminarians “pumped” about beatification

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

The day before the beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, seminarians were busy preparing for their role in the ceremony. Standing on the floor of the Cox Convention Center before the adorned altar,

they were asked how they felt about the ceremony to be held hours later.

“What are some synonyms for stoked?” the seminarians asked each other.

One after another rattled off: “Excited!” “Enthused!” “Bursting!” “Pumped-up!” “Psyched!”

Seminarian Will Banowsky said he and his classmate, fellow seminarian Jerome Krug, believe the international impact of the story of America’s first martyr has unified people within the United States and brought together people within the Catholic faith.

“At the seminary I’m at in Rome, we have seminarians from 100 different dioceses in the U.S. spread throughout,” Banowsky said. “This is something that myself and Jerome got before coming back, a lot of well wishes from faculty and other students

because they realize the importance of this and what it means to the Catholic Church and this country to have our first American martyr.”

Oklahoma seminarians recognized the international buzz of excitement from the influence

Father Rother’s beatification made on unifying Catholics from around the world.

“We’re sort of a teenager as a



Seminarians from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City lead the procession during the Beatification Mass. Photos Steve Sisney, Jan Foisy and Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.



martyr is something we’re celebrating and rejoicing,” Krug said. “I got stopped at least three times

country when it comes to the rest of the world, so to finally have our

Arkansas church dedicated to Blessed Stanley Rother

continued from page 7

Cousins Raul and Sebastian Mejia, natives of Guatemala, said the courage of Blessed Rother inspires them.

“What inspired me is how he stood up for the people. He was not afraid to give a testimony for Christ and his Church,” said Raul, 21.

Sebastian added, “It makes us feel very proud because he was a man who stood for our people, died for our people.”

Decatur’s Catholic community held their first official Mass in 2014. The community has grown to about 60 to 80 parishioners, attending a Spanish Mass every Saturday.

Martha Smith Gomez, 13, served on the altar during Sunday’s Mass of dedication. She said her family has been attending the church “since the beginning.”

“I really liked how he came from America and came to help a community less fortunate and also his death was inspiring to me,” Smith Gomez said of Blessed Rother.

Throughout the past three years, parishioners have moved from a community center to a high school and are now renting a former Baptist church at 758 Hill Ave. They have been raising money to purchase land to build a permanent home.

For now, a picture of Blessed Rother hangs in the sanctuary. A photo of a smiling Pope Francis adorns the right wall upon entering the church.

A large white sign with black lettering was erected on Sept. 23 that reads “Beato Padre Stanley

before being able to leave for the airport just because so many people were excited for this and ready for this.”

Banowsky said seminarians, clergy and lay people recognize how relatable this small-town farmer turned martyr is to the everyday person.

“We have a martyr now! And, who would have thought it would be from Oklahoma of all places.”

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

F. Rother Iglesia Católica; Blessed Father Stanley F. Rother Catholic Church.”

“It’s a perfect fit. The bishop mentioned this too is a mission, the kind of community that Blessed Stanley Rother served,” said Tim Muldoon, director of mission education for Catholic Extension Society, which works to help serve mission dioceses. Muldoon told parishioners that Catholic Extension through the Francis Grant would award the community \$2,500.

Mary speaks to us: The Fatima Mysteries

By J.E. Helm
The Sooner Catholic

Grzegorz Gorny and Janusz Rosikon have once again produced a strikingly beautiful book in “Fatima Mysteries: Mary’s Message to the Modern Age.”

Book Review

The authors’ previous publications have included “Guadalupe Mysteries: Deciphering the Code and Three Kings: Ten Mysteries,” both excellent books.

The work of these two authors is informative. A feature of their work is that they usually provide a great deal of factual detail not generally found elsewhere. Additionally, the artwork and photography in their books is not to be missed. A large book at 10 ½ by 8 ½ inches (397 pages), “Fatima Mysteries” almost could be called a coffee table book.

Readers would find Fatima Mysteries especially timely with this year marking the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Portugal, which began on May 13, 1917, and culminated Oct. 13 in that same year with the Miracle of the Sun.

An interesting detail of the book is that, of the three seers, only Lucia saw, heard and spoke with Our Lady. Jacinta both saw and heard while Francisco only saw the vision.

When the apparitions occurred, the three children were in the fields tending sheep. Of simple

peasant families, they were illiterate. Our Lady, in fact, told the children to learn to read, as Gorny and Rosikon explain.

This background makes the Second Secret of Fatima truly remarkable. The children were told that World War I “is going to end; but a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI.” At the time of the apparitions, Benedict XV was pope. No one could have known that he would die in 1922 and be succeeded by Pius XI who would be pope until 1939 as the events that led to world war began to unfold.

Mary asked that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart and that the First Saturday’s devotions be offered in reparation for the world’s sins. Gorny and Rosikon narrate that she said further that if her requests were not heeded, Russia would “spread her errors throughout the world” and “various nations (would) be annihilated.”

“What she said was incomprehensible to the illiterate Lucia,” the authors point out. Lucia “thought Russia was the name of a sinful woman who needed to be converted,” and “Francisco was convinced that it concerned his uncle’s stubborn mule, which was called Rosa,” they write.

The messages of Fatima are called secrets because Our Lady told the children not to talk about them other than her request for consecration to her Immaculate Heart. The First Secret, or vision, was one in which the children were shown hell.

The famous Third Secret, not revealed by the Church until 2000, “concerned the war waged against Christianity by atheistic systems, the immense suffering endured by the faithful, and the pope killed along with the martyrs,” the authors explain.

“Fatima Mysteries” opens with the attempt-assassination of Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981, the same date as Mary’s first apparition in Fatima. The pope believed he was miraculously saved from death by Mary’s intercession. He eventually went to Fatima to place the bullet that had almost killed him in the crown of Our Lady’s statue there.

A photo of the bullet in Mary’s crown is included in the book. It is one of many remarkable photos in “Fatima Mysteries.” Readers can peruse the pages of the book and see the blood-stained cassock that John Paul II was wearing when he was shot (now at the John Paul II Shrine in Krakow, Poland), the visionaries as children, crowds viewing the Miracle of the Sun (when the sun seemed to spin, dance, and plunge toward earth), and a number of historic Russian photos.

Another interesting feature of the book has to do with its many inserts.

These add-ons provide extra information related to what is described in the main text. For example, the three seers were shown a vision of hell, and Saint Faustina Kowalska (originator of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy) had what the authors of “Fatima Mysteries” describe as “a vision similar to the Fatima vision of hell.” And, so, there is a one page insert titled “Chaplet of Divine Mercy.”

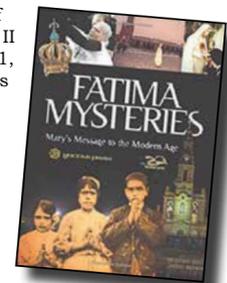
There is a half-page box on “Spiritual Visions,” explaining the Church’s teachings on “private visions,” and another on “Public and Private Revelations,” and still another on “False and Authentic Revelations.”

Throughout the text, Gorny and Rosikon demonstrate how Russia did indeed spread her errors throughout the world.

The book concludes on a somewhat somber note with Saint John Paul II’s warning that “Marxism could shortly be replaced by a new version of atheism. On the one hand, it would advocate freedom; on the other, strive to destroy the very roots of human and Christian morality,” the authors write, “continuing to say that the Holy Father was concerned that our “world is building a godless society, even one that (is) anti-God.”

The readers of “Fatima Mysteries” can draw their own conclusions as to how close we have come to a realization of Saint John Paul II’s prophetic words.

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



Bishop McGuinness placement test Oct. 28

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will be administering the STS High School Placement Test on Oct. 28 to any 8th grade student interested in attending the school as a freshman for the 2018-2019 school year.

All prospective 9th grade students must take this test to help with course selection. Two other test dates will be Nov. 11 and Dec. 2 for anyone who cannot make the first test date.

Students should arrive before 8 a.m. on the day of testing. Bring two No. 2 pencils. No calculators or cell phones allowed. The test lasts about three and a half hours.

Students not attending a feeder school and interested in taking the placement test must contact Andrew Worthington, director of curriculum and testing at aworthington@bmchs.org or (405) 842-6638, Ext. 234, to register for the test.



Mercy leader named to national health policy board

OKLAHOMA CITY – Jim Gebhart, president and regional strategy officer of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, was recently appointed to represent Oklahoma on the American Hospital Association’s Region 7 Policy Board.

AHA has nine regional policy boards that meet three times a year to assess and evaluate issues of concern within the health care industry and recommend ways that AHA can address those issues through advocacy efforts. Region 7 includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

“The health care industry is constantly changing and becoming more complex,” Gebhart said.

“Serving on the regional policy board is a huge honor because I will help shape how AHA responds to and promotes federal legislation on health issues that affect patients throughout Oklahoma and across the country.”

The policy boards help AHA develop policy positions, shape advocacy strategies, identify emerging problems and guide operations of the national association, which represents and serves hospitals, health care networks, patients and communities throughout

the United States.

Gebhart has served as president of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City since July 2009. He also serves as the regional strategy officer for Mercy in Oklahoma. Gebhart, a native of western Oklahoma, received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from

Oklahoma Baptist University and his master’s degree in health care administration from the University of Dallas Graduate School of Management. He also is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City and Leadership Oklahoma.

In addition to his work with Mercy, Gebhart is a board member for the United Way

of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

Gebhart will serve a three-year term on the AHA Region 7 Policy Board, beginning Jan. 1.



Jim Gebhart, president and regional strategy officer of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, recently was appointed to represent Oklahoma on the American Hospital Association’s Region 7 Policy Board. Photo provided.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Comentarios finales: beatificación del Beato Stanley Rother

23 de septiembre de 2017
Ciudad de Oklahoma, Oklahoma

¡Alabado sea Jesucristo! Este es un día de regocijo para la Iglesia en Oklahoma, los Estados Unidos, y ciertamente por la Iglesia en Guatemala y más allá. Quiero expresar mi agradecimiento a todos ustedes por estar con nosotros para presenciar este acontecimiento histórico y lleno de gracia y compartir nuestra

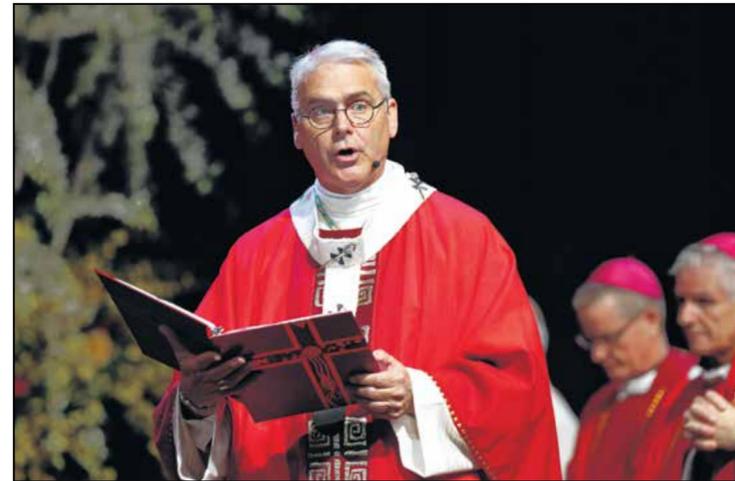


Foto Steve Sisney/Sooner Catholic.

rante todo el proceso que nos ha llevado a esta gloriosa beatificación.

Estoy agradecido por la presencia de Mons. Walter Erbi, que representa a nuestro Nuncio, el Arzobispo Christophe Pierre, que aunque no puede estar aquí hoy ha tenido un gran interés en todo lo relacionado con la Causa del Beato Stanley. Por favor, exprese nuestro agradecimiento por todo su apoyo.

Aprecio la presencia de tantos de mis hermanos obispos, sacerdotes y diáconos y tantas mujeres y hombres consagrados. Es maravilloso ver a nuestros seminaristas y estoy seguro de que a través del testimonio y la intercesión del Beato Stanley Rother muchos más jóvenes responderán al llamado de Dios al sacerdocio ya la vida consagrada siguiendo el ejemplo de este buen pastor y discípulo misionero.

alegría mientras damos gracias a Dios por el testimonio del Beato Stanley Francis Rother, sacerdote y mártir.

Estoy especialmente agradecido por la presencia del Cardenal Amato, Prefecto de la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos. Gracias por su hermosa homilía y su apoyo du-

Muchos han venido de grandes distancias y quiero reconocer especialmente a aquellos que han viajado desde Guatemala para honrar al Padre Aplá's, incluyendo mis hermanos obispos y sacerdotes y los fieles asociados con la parroquia de Santiago Atitlán. Nos honran con

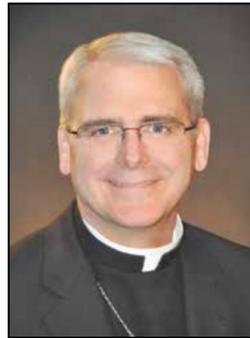
su presencia.

Un día extraordinario como este no sucede sin la dedicación y los generosos esfuerzos de muchas personas. Quiero comenzar reconociendo al Arzobispo Beltrán, que tuvo la visión y la confianza necesaria para iniciar el proceso de la Causa del Padre Rother hace diez años. Usted reunió un tribunal extraordinario de hombres y mujeres dedicados que trabajaron arduamente para reunir testimonios y sentar las bases de lo que celebramos hoy. Muchos de estos miembros del tribunal están presentes también. ¡Gracias!

Tengo que reconocer a mi personal, el mejor del mundo, que hizo el trabajo pesado en la preparación para esta hermosa beatificación. Gracias por ir más allá tan a menudo en atender a los innumerables detalles de preparación, planificación y ejecución. Estoy agradecido por el ejército de voluntarios que han asistido con todos los detalles de la hospitalidad, incluyendo a los músicos, coros y ministros litúrgicos. ¡Qué hermosa celebración ha sido ésta!

Por último, estoy agradecido a los donantes y benefactores que han ayudado a financiar el costo de este día, especialmente los Caballeros de Colón, OSV, las diócesis de Tulsa, Little Rock y Boise, Idaho, Catholic Extension Society y EWTN. ¡Gracias por su generoso apoyo! Hay muchos más que podrían ser nombrados, sepan que estoy profundamente y personalmente agradecido por su participación.

Nuestro trabajo aún no está completo. ¡Las misericordias de Dios no se agotan! ¡Ahora volvemos nuestra atención al proceso de canonización! ¡Beato Stanley Rother, ruega por nosotros!



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Escuela Cristo Rey tendrá "Casa Abierta" para Estudiantes y Padres

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School tendrá una "Casa Abierta" el sábado, 7 de octubre de 12pm a 3pm para estudiantes y padres interesados en aprender acerca de la escuela y conocer las instalaciones. También se proveerán sesiones en español. El edificio de Cristo Rey está ubicado en el 900 N. Portland en el campus de OSU-OKC. Se estarán aceptando aplicaciones de estudiantes que estarán en el noveno grado en el otoño del 2018, cuando la escuela oficialmente abra sus puertas.

Cristo Rey OKC recientemente nombró como director a Cody Yocom. Oriundo de Texas, Yocom cuenta con amplia experiencia liderando escuelas charter de alta calidad en áreas urbanas. Yocom dijo que la casa abierta es una oportunidad para que estudiantes

y familias investiguen si la cultura de Cristo Rey OKC es para ellos. "Nuestra meta es que Cristo Rey sea todo excepto una escuela regular," dijo Yocom. "Damos énfasis en el rigor académico, las altas expectativas y

que los estudiantes den lo mejor de sí. También creemos en la importancia de la fe y el servir a la comunidad a la que pertenecemos. Esta va a ser una escuela para estudiantes a quienes les gusten los retos, quieran prepararse para la universidad y alcanzar su mayor potencial tanto como estudiantes y seres humanos. Si eso lo describe a usted o a su estudiante, le invitamos a visitar nuestras instalaciones."

Cristo Rey OKC es una preparatoria privada, con énfasis en preparación para la universidad que abrirá sus puertas a estudiantes del noveno grado en el otoño del 2018. La escuela es parte de la red nacional Cristo Rey conocida por su modelo educativo único que sirve exclusivamente a familias de recursos limitados. Toda escuela combina un programa académico riguroso con experiencia laboral profesional. Cien por ciento de los estudiantes en Cristo Rey reciben ayuda financiera por medio del programa de estudio trabajo, apoyado por empresas locales en donde los estudiantes trabajan un día por semana en una empresa durante todo el año escolar. Aquellos padres interesados en inscribir a sus hijos en Cristo Rey pueden visitar CristoReyOKC.org.



Misa de Aniversario

El Arzobispo Pablo Coakley invita a las parejas casadas que estén celebrando su aniversario especial de (25, 40, 50+) del presente año 2017 para que participen en la Misa Especial de Aniversario el domingo 15 de Octubre de 2017, iniciando a las 3 p.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, 3214 North Lake Avenue, (N.W. 32 Y Western) en Oklahoma City. Después de la Misa habrá una recepción. Es muy importante que si usted desea asistir por favor contacte a la Oficina de Vida Familiar al (405) 721-8944.

El Arzobispo le impartirá su bendición y la comunidad local se alegrará en su ejemplo y compromiso al Sacramento de Matrimonio.

Cuatro años después, un ejército de discípulos es enviado para compartir a Jesús

Escuela San Juan Diego gradúa su primera clase

El 7 de octubre de 2013, Memorial de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, es la fecha de publicación de la primera carta pastoral del Arzobispo Coakley, Vayan y Hagan Discipulos. Han transcurrido cuatro años desde la publicación de esta carta y la arquidiócesis celebró los frutos de una de las tres prioridades que se iniciaron hace tres años. Al enfocarnos en esta prioridad del Ministerio Hispano la arquidiócesis se comprometió a:

A. Comenzar la implementación de un plan para aliviar el hacinamiento en las iglesias con significativa población hispana en el área metropolitana de Oklahoma City para el 1 de mayo de 2014.

B. Inscribir participantes en el primer curso

de un programa de formación básica en la fe para adultos en español en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City para el 1 de junio de 2014.

Estas prioridades se cumplieron a tiempo. El plan para aliviar el hacinamiento se ha combinado con el futuro santuario para el Beato Stanley Francis Rother, mientras que el primer programa de formación en fe de adultos en español se convirtió en la Escuela San Juan Diego. La inscripción ocurrió hace tres años y después de un arduo plan de estudio Cristocéntrico que incluyó el Catecismo Católico de los Estados Unidos para Adultos, una introducción de un año a la Biblia y varios mini cursos de Cristología, Eclesiología y otros temas, la primera clase celebró su Misa de Gradu-

ación el 6 de septiembre con el Arzobispo Coakley.

Una sincera felicitación a todos los graduados de la Escuela San Juan Diego y como les recordó el arzobispo, deben regresar a sus parroquias, ayudar a sus pastores y seguir el llamado del Señor que nos dijo Vayan y Hagan Discipulos.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Director, Oficina de Ministerio Hispano



Únete al Papa Francisco y a Caritas junto a los migrantes y refugiados de todo el mundo, el 27 de septiembre de 2017.

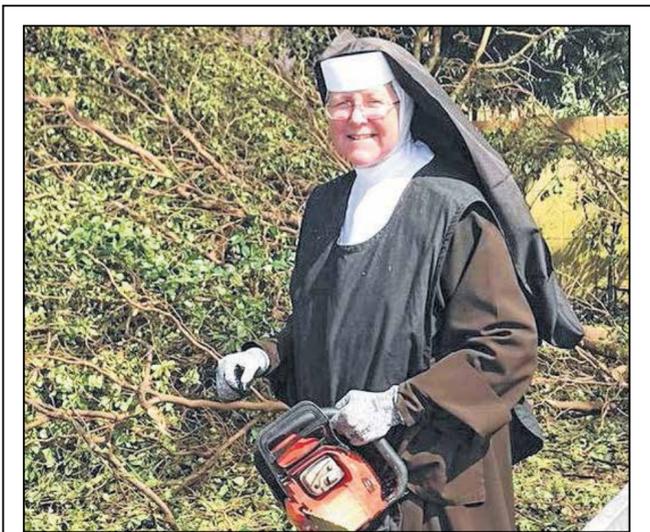
"El futuro lo haces tú y está hecho de encuentros"

PAPA FRANCISCO



Compartiendo el viaje #sharejourney

journey.caritas.org



La hermana carmelita Margaret Ann Laechelin, directora de la Arzobispo Coleman F. Carroll High School en Miami, usa una sierra para cortar un árbol después del huracán Irma. Foto CNS-Cortesía de la hermana Margaret Ann.

Briefs

Rother Heritage Gallery

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

40 Days for Life

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, everyone is invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil for an end to abortion. People are invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility at 6112 N.W. 63. For information or to volunteer, contact Dale Dirkschneider, (405) 209-0309, dsdirkschneider@gmail.com; or Dick Smith, (405) 650-1603, dicksmith77@cox.net.

40 Days for Life - Norman

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, everyone is invited to join 40 days of prayer vigil 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Norman abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr. Sign up for one or more hours at 40daysforlife.com/norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com. Opening ceremony 5:30 p.m. Mass, Sept. 26, at St. Mark, Norman.

Celebration of Life Walk

Birth Choice will be celebrating their 25th Celebration of Life Walk Oct. 1 at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. Registration and activities begin at 12:30 p.m. Walk begins at 2 p.m. For information and to register, visit www.birthchoice.org.

Oktoberfest

St. Francis/Rosary School will host 29th annual Oktoberfest, honoring patron saints, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Francis of Assisi. The family friendly event is Noon - 5 p.m. Oct. 1 at 1919 N.W. 18, OKC. Events begin after 11 a.m. Mass, with a two-mile Fun Run followed by a carnival. Live entertainment, games, prize booth, face painting, caricature artist, inflatables and food.

Catholic Radio Benefit luncheon

Catholic Radio is an important ministry that brings the Gospel of Christ far beyond the walls of our churches. Because Catholic radio is a tremendous tool of evangelization, Archbishop Coakley is committed to this apostolate. The archbishop and the board of directors of Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting will host a Catholic Radio Benefit luncheon on Oct. 4. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in the atrium of Christ the King Catholic Church. Join Archbishop Coakley for the luncheon to support this important ministry. Go online to www.okcr.

org to purchase a table, buy a ticket or make a gift.

Tim Kenney Art Show and Sale

The Tim Kenney Art Show and Sale is 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Oct. 6 at St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center, Norman. Free and open to the public. Half the proceeds from sales go to St. Thomas More's Capital Campaign to build a new chapel. Free parking in all STM parking lots. Wheelchair access is at the east entrance of the church. Contact the parish office, (405) 321-0990 or visit stm-ou.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue will be in Oklahoma as part of the world Apostolate of Fatima U.S. Tour for Peace. The historic tour marks the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal. The tour will be at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima/St. Joseph, Bison, Oct. 13; St. Mary, Guthrie, Oct. 14; St. Monica, Edmond, Oct. 15; St. Damien of Molaki, Edmond, Oct. 16; Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Del City, Oct. 17; and Prince of Peace, Altus, Oct. 18.

Forming a Blended Family

A new program, "Forming a Blended Family," will be at 9 a.m. Oct 7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The program includes topics such as Sacrament of Marriage, The Pitfalls of Family of Origin, and Issues and Solutions for Mi-

nor Children/Parallels with Adult Children. The class may be used as a marriage preparation class. All couples with blended families invited. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Download registration at archokc.org or call the Office of Family Life, (405) 709-2709.

THE FINANCIAL DECISIONS YOU MAKE TODAY WILL DEFINE YOUR LEGACY

You are invited to attend Wills and Trusts Week 2017

Oct. 9 - Oct 17
Informative and spirit-filled information sessions for Catholics in Oklahoma

Presented by local Catholic Estate Planning Attorneys

Decisions about your estate plans are some of the most important you will make. Are you prepared? Catholics from all parishes are invited to attend one of the seminars during Wills and Trusts Week 2017, October 9 - Oct 17. As we age, we face many decisions and responsibilities that can seem quite overwhelming. This process can be made clear and simple, as well as complete. People find great peace in knowing they have placed their personal affairs in the best order possible and have made known their final wishes.

The local Parishes listed here, the **Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**, the **Catholic Foundation** and **Catholic Charities** combined to present this special program of information and prayer at this important time in your life.

WILLS AND TRUSTS WEEK 2017

Monday Evening, October 9, 2017 - 7-9 pm
Blessed Sacrament - Parish Hall
12 SW 7th St., Lawton, OK

Tuesday Evening, October 10, 2017 - 7-9 pm
Holy Trinity Church - Parish Hall
211 W. Missouri, Okarche, OK

Thursday Evening, October 12, 2017 - 7-9 pm
St. Mark the Evangelist Church - Founders Hall
3939 W. Tecumseh Rd., Norman, OK

Monday Evening, October 16, 2017 - 7-9 pm
St. Monica Church-Parish Hall
2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond, OK

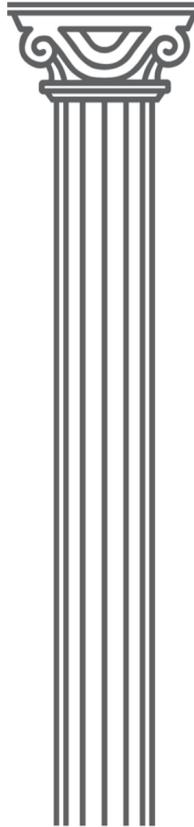
Tuesday Evening, October 17, 2017 - 7-9 pm
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Conner Center
3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City

Admission is free to all Catholics. Reservations are encouraged but not required. Refreshments will be served. You don't have to be a parishioner to attend.

Please confirm your attendance and location. Call, email or go online to make reservation: (405) 721-4115 — email: jbohan@archokc.org
online registration: www.cfook.org

Please do not call the individual parishes for information.

In a call to all Catholics, Archbishop Paul Coakley said, "A Christian steward is someone who receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them generously and returns them with increase to the Lord. Planning is an essential part of stewardship and I encourage all Catholics to attend."



The Catholic Foundation

CORNERSTONE

Donating crops or livestock

There is a strong desire of rural donors to make gifts of crops or livestock to the Catholic Foundation. The reason beyond the desire to support the Catholic Church in Oklahoma is that individuals who donate grain or livestock can deduct the cost of production as a business expense. This can result in a substantial tax savings to the donor.

For example, if a parishioner is thinking about contributing 1,000 bushels of soybeans to the foundation for the benefit of their parish endowment fund. This represents 15 acres of production. The parishioner's cost of production was \$4,000, and the fair market value at the time of the donation was \$5,000.

If he or she were to sell the beans and use the proceeds to donate \$5,000 to the parish, the donors could receive a charitable tax deduction of \$1,400 (assuming a 28 percent tax bracket and assuming that they have enough deductions to exceed the standard deduction).

Instead, the parishioner donates the beans directly to the foundation for the benefit of the parish endowment and is able to deduct the entire \$4,000 of production expense on the donor's Schedule F. This has an additional benefit of lowering their taxable and self-employment income. Because the parishioner does not have a basis in the grain, he or she is not entitled to a charitable deduction. However, by donating the grain directly to the foundation, the parishioner secured a greater financial benefit than if they had simply sold the grain and donated the proceeds.

For more information, contact the foundation office at:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc.

P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

(405) 721-4115 ■ www.cfook.org ■ bsmetner@archokc.org

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

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.

| October | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | Celebration of Life Walk at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. Registration 12:30 p.m. Walk 2 p.m. Visit www.birthchoice.org . |
| 1 | St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Greater OKC meeting, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Andrew, 800 N.W. 5, Moore, McConnell Room. Contact Bill Full, (316) 558-0422, billfull@cox.net . |
| 1 | The Third Order (Lay) Dominicans meeting at the Stanley Rother House (behind St. James) in OKC, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Call John or Mary McClernon, (405) 330-6334, (405) 414-9407. |
| 1 | Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. at 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. In inclement weather, meet at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com . |
| 2 | Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. |
| 4 | Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. |
| 5 | Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey, (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org . |
| 6 | First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. Call the Office of Family Life, (405) 721-8944, or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252. |
| 6 | St. John Nepomuk Altar Society kolache sale, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Oct. 6 in Marian Hall (East side of school). \$12 a dozen. |
| 7 | Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meetings following. Contact Karen Banks, (405) 396-9086 or Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199. |
| 8 | Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 3901 S.W. 29, OKC. Call (405) 685-4806. |
| 10 | Catholic War Veterans (of any war/conflict) meeting, 7 p.m. at St. Ann Retirement Center community room. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt, (405) 567-3404. |
| 11 | Catholic War Veterans USA the Oklahoma Memorial Post No. 168 meeting, 7 p.m., Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact Ken at (405) 739-0036, OklaPost168@cox.net . |
| 12 | St. Ann's Ministry for pregnancy and infant loss, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., St. John Raphael House, Edmond. Contact Marilyn Seiler, (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org . |
| 13 | Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace will be at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima/St. Joseph, Bison. |
| 13 | Novena for the 100th year anniversary for Our Lady of Fatima 6 p.m. with a pot luck dinner afterwards; public rosary at Noon, Oct. 14, for Our Lady of Fatima at Good Shepherd, 200 N. 8, Marietta. 14 Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace will be at the St. Mary, Guthrie. |
| 14 | The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica meeting, Noon - 2:30 p.m., Rm. A/B, at St. Charles Borromeo, 5024 N. Grove Ave. Contact Judith Martin, (405) 635-5665, jmmartinosb@yahoo.com . |

Jobs Box

Parish campaign director

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for a parish campaign director to be part of the Stewardship and Development team. The position is responsible for managing the implementation of parish capital campaigns within "One Church, Many Disciples," the first comprehensive archdiocesan campaign undertaken by the Archdiocese of

Oklahoma City. This fast-paced role will allow the successful candidate to work in a major capital campaign environment with guidance from top-level fundraising consultants. Bilingual English/Spanish; highly organized; excellent written, verbal and social media communication skills. Familiarity with Raisers Edge or other CRM databases preferred. Send inquiries and resumes to

nlargent@archokc.org.

Field agent

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a full-time field agent for insurance program in Oklahoma. The position works in an assigned and exclusive marketing area to sell and service insurance and retirement products; performs needs analysis for assigned members and recommends appropriate products

to meet those needs; and develops positive relationships with the local councils to help recruit new members. Applicant must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. Contact Kevin Pierce, FICF, general agent, Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org, (405) 514-7660.

To see more job openings, go online to www.soonercatholic.org.

In Solidarity with our Priests

Our Founder: Father Michael J. McGivney

We are proud to stand with our priests.
Thank you for all that you do!

Ranked the #1 Agency in the order in 2015 and in the U.S. in 2016

The Pierce Agency
Kevin Pierce
General Agent
(877) 707-0752
Kevin.Pierce@KofC.org

Knights of Columbus INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother

September 23 - Oklahoma City

