

# Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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## Life: Love It, Respect It

**By Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo**  
*Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities*  
*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

During the Respect Life Month of October, Catholics across the United States will gather in prayer and thanksgiving, at charitable and educational events, and in public witness to the unique and priceless value of every human life, guided by the theme for this year's Respect Life Program: "The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure." With each passing year, the need for personal and public witness grounded in God's boundless love for each and every human being grows more urgent.

With over 1 million innocent children dying from abortion each year, the plague of abortion remains embedded in our culture. It is encouraging to see the continuing decline nationwide in the number and rate of abortions — due in large part to fewer teens becoming sexually active, and to growing recognition of the humanity of the unborn child. Yet the loss of even one child, and the pain experienced by the child's mother and father in the aftermath of abortion, should impel us to redouble our efforts to end legal abortion, and to ensure that every pregnant woman has whatever help she needs to turn away from this heartbreaking choice.

For those the pro-life community could not reach and assist before they underwent an abortion, the Catholic Church throughout the United States offers compassionate, confidential counseling through its Project Rachel ministry. In contacting Project Rachel, no one need fear that they will encounter anything less than a reflection of God's love and mercy and His constant offer of forgiveness and healing.

In many areas of public policy, the rift continues to widen between the moral principles expressed by a majority of Americans and the actions of government. For example, Americans oppose public funding of abortion by wide margins, with 67 percent opposing federal funding of abortion in health care in one recent poll. In early 2009, Catholics and others sent

**Continued on Page 6**



*The Good News***... A Saint For All Times**

October 4 is the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Francis is one of the most popular of all saints. He is revered not only by Catholics but also by many people of other religious beliefs. In fact, he is respected even by people who have no formal religious affiliation.

A detailed study of the life of Saint Francis reveals a man of great character. He was indeed a person of integrity. Saint Francis seems to attract people because of three attributes. These are his humility, his love of poverty and his respect for nature.

Humility is a virtue in which a person seeks truth. A humble person therefore acknowledges that God is the author of all good. A humble person realizes that everything we have comes from God. There is no inordinate pride or false claim in such a person. Saint Francis was that kind of person. Therefore, his preaching, his writing and above all, his example brought people to God. This is his great gift to us. By living always in the Presence of God, not trying to seem important, Saint Francis has led and continues to lead people to God.

His love of poverty and his decision to live a life of radical poverty is truly in opposition to our materialistic society. He desired nothing since he depended upon God for everything.

Thus today he continues to attract people who have much in the line of possessions but find no internal peace or joy. Again, his example

teaches us that we can have true happiness and fulfillment in the Lord alone.

Finally, Saint Francis had a great respect for nature. He recognized that God is the Creator of everything. He loved all living things — plants, animals and people. He loved especially human life created in God's image and likeness. Because of Saint Francis' love of life and respect for God's creation, he is very popular today. With a renewed consciousness about the environment, people see Saint Francis as a prophet and an example.

In each of these three instances, his humility, his love of poverty and his respect for nature, Saint Francis exerted his influence upon people who otherwise might never have turned to God.

Today, we should also be inspired by the life of Saint Francis. Through him we are brought into God's presence. Through him we can live a simpler but more profound life. Saint Francis show us where true happiness and peace can be found and that is in God alone.

Just like all other people in the world, we are always in the Presence of God. God sees us. He loves us. He blesses us. Like Saint Francis, who was always aware that he was in God's presence, we too must have that same awareness. Nature, family and friends and all creation can and should help us be aware of God's presence.

But the most direct help we can ever have to become good and holy

*Humility is a virtue in which a person seeks truth...a humble person therefore acknowledges that God is the author of all good.*



Archbishop  
Beltran

and faithful people of God is the Holy Eucharist, the celebration of Mass.

The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus. In Holy Communion, Jesus gives Himself to us. "Take My Flesh and eat it," He says. "Take My Blood and drink it."

There is no substitute for the Eucharist because the Eucharist is God Himself. Although we are not worthy to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, like Saint Francis, we come with humility and love. We come to receive Holy Communion, not because we are good and deserve this sacrament, but because God is good. It is His special gift to us. It is the gift of Himself coming to live in us and with us. This is Jesus Who gives us life and leads us to life everlasting. In faith and with confidence, let us respond humbly — Come Lord Jesus! Come!

**Pro-lifers Decry Michigan's New Embryonic Stem Cell Line**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CNA) — After the University of Michigan announced the creation of a new embryonic stem cell line, pro-life critics decried the move as "dishonorable," arguing that human lives were destroyed for "unproven research."

On Oct. 3, the University of Michigan wrote in a press release that "after several attempts," the school successfully created a new embryonic stem cell line known as UM4-6. The act was made possible by Michigan voters in November 2008, who approved a state amendment allowing scientists to use surplus embryos from fertility clinics. The university stated that work on UM4-6 began in May, was

completed in late September and was conducted without federal funds.

"This historic achievement opens the door on a new era for U-M researchers, one that holds enormous promise for the treatment of many seriously debilitating and life-threatening diseases," said University of Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman. "This accomplishment will enable the University of Michigan to take its place among the world's leaders in every aspect of stem cell research."

In a statement on Oct. 4, however, Michigan Right to Life condemned the creation of the embryonic stem cell line,

**Continued to Page 3**

**Sooner Catholic**

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# The Promise of Pro-Life Youth

By Megan Breen and  
Samuel Vasquez

With few resources and little guidance, Alejandra, a high school junior in California, began an unlikely project: starting a pro-life club at her public high school. She had recently finished reading *The Snakebite Letters* by Peter Kreeft, which presents the correspondence between a senior demon, Uncle Snakebite, and his nephew, Braintwister. Snakebite instructs his protégé to convince young people to buy into a way of life rooted in self-centeredness, self-reliance and instant gratification. Snakebite's mandate is simple: "Always obscure and darken ... Dim the lights! Anything is preferable to truth and light." This quote resonated with Alejandra. She recognized that this was the situation at her high school: young people living in darkness because they had no truth, no guidance, and no real hope.

Pope John Paul II once described this situation of modern culture, "with its lights and shadows," as one that "ought to make us all fully aware that we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life.'" This clash is especially apparent among American youth. It begins at home with one in three teens living in a broken home. In these homes, one in six boys and one in four girls will be molested, usually by people in their family, before the age of 18. Over half of teenage boys view Internet pornography on a regular basis, and the number of girls who do so is also rising. Not surprisingly, nearly two-thirds of high school students will be sexually active by the time they graduate. Seventy-five percent of all first-time sexual encounters involve alcohol. About half of sexually active teens will acquire a sexually transmitted disease, while one in three sexually active high school girls will become pregnant, nearly 1 million every year. Nearly 60 percent of these pregnancies will result in abortion.

Not only that, today's youth live in a world dominated by technology. With multiple televisions at home, personal computers, digital music devices, video games and smart phones, they spend more time using media (on average, more than six hours a day) than on any other activity besides sleeping. The average 12-year-old boy, for example, will have

already spent as much time watching television as he will spend talking to his dad throughout his entire life.

Media both reflect and shape culture, and the messages delivered are often contradictory and harmful. Media of all types vie to create an identity for teens (often to convince them to buy a consumer product). Teens are encouraged to pursue their goals and overcome obstacles, through mottos in such commercials as Nike's "Just Do It" or the United States Army's "Be All That You Can Be." Young people are told that if they persevere through self-discipline and dedication, they can accomplish whatever they set their minds to in academics, sports, the fine arts, and so on. But overwhelmingly, teens are also tempted to buy into the mass culture of sexual promiscuity, greed and violence. Television shows like "Gossip Girl" or MTV's "Real World" flaunt characters trading sexual partners on a weekly basis, as if they were commodities instead of human beings.

The tension between these two extremes — between challenging teens to live disciplined and remarkable lives, and assuming they can't control their impulses and live chastely — can result in an identity crisis. Many become preoccupied with trying to live up to the inconsistent standards portrayed in the media. Not surprisingly, teens are increasingly cynical or suspicious of the role of God in their lives. As Pope Benedict observes, many have the "lurking suspicion that a person who does not sin must really be basically boring and that something is missing from his life, that [they] should put this freedom to the test, even in opposition to God, in order to become" fully who they are. Believing that "God's love creates a dependence," they feel that "they must rid themselves of this dependency" to be totally free. Trusting in "deceit rather than truth, [they] thereby sink with their lives into emptiness and death." Braintwister seems to be doing his job quite well!

Many teens, however, would like to do something positive. The energy, charisma, joy and love for life that teenagers possess are too valuable to be written off or distorted by a culture of death. Centered on the message of the Gospel, young people can create a foundation of vibrant faith for



those who have become discouraged by the mixed messages of a despondent society. In Pope Benedict's first message to young people, he taught with great conviction that if "we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed."

By "entrusting ourselves to Christ," Pope Benedict said on another occasion, "we lose nothing, we gain everything." Nowhere is this vital energy and potential more apparent or necessary than within the pro-life movement; there is an undeniable growing commitment to the right to life among young people. A sizeable number of teens are not fazed by society's attempts to claim their hearts and souls for the "culture of death." Their identity is grounded in truth, rather than in ad campaigns or the latest trends. These individuals are greatly needed to voice their unified commitment to a culture that doubts their resolve. For young people whose lives are disordered, these teens can convey a message of hope and give a testimony of love.

By taking a stand, one person can inspire a group of young people to change the attitudes of an entire high school. Alejandra decided to "turn on the lights" and reveal the truth to her fellow students. After acquiring a small donation, she bought several hundred copies of various pro-life pamphlets and passed them out at school. Fellow students reacted with curiosity and surprise as they saw, many for the first time, how a baby grows in the womb.

## Pro-Lifers

**Continued from Page 2** arguing that the university's press release states "several attempts" at success were made in the process, which means that "several human beings were killed in order to obtain this stem cell line."

"Based on previous attempts to create embryonic stem cell lines by

other institutions such as the University of Wisconsin and the Jones Institute," read the pro-life group's statement, "researchers likely killed between 4-10 human embryos."

Right to Life of Michigan president Barbara Listing added to the commentary, saying that while "we knew University of Michigan researchers

were planning on killing human embryos for their cells, we are saddened to know that human beings were sacrificed without their consent for this unproven research."

"It is wrong to kill some human beings in the vague hope of treating others," she underscored.

Listing noted that there "are many

life-affirming alternatives to embryonic stem cell research" and that "it is dishonorable that some researchers in Michigan feel they have to destroy human lives."

"Embryos who do not have a voice are human enough for experimentation, but not human enough to be given a chance at life."

# Caring for Each Other, Even Unto Death

By Marie T. Hilliard  
RN, JCL, Ph.D.

Recently the daughter of a man dying of cancer called the National Catholic Bioethics Center's consultation line. Her father, while still able to swallow, was ingesting less and less as death approached. He had received the Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum (i.e., the Eucharist given to the dying). The daughter asked if there was a moral obligation to provide assisted nutrition and hydration as death drew near. After determining that her father's vital organs no longer could assimilate food and water, causing the decreased appetite, the moral decision was made not to initiate assisted nutrition and hydration.

The next day the daughter called, stating that her father had died, and expressing gratitude for the advice. It was obvious that the underlying pathology, not euthanasia through starvation and dehydration, had caused his death.

Families also get advice from other sources. Tragically, some have been wrongly advised by the medical community that preserving their loved one's "dignity" and ending their suffering require ending their life — by active intervention, or more frequently, by omitting basic care. Many families are unsure about moral options for the care of their loved ones. Fortunately, the popes and bishops of the Catholic Church have provided invaluable guidance concerning end-of-life decisions, including issues of pain control and consciousness, the provision of food and water to dying or unconscious patients, the right to refuse certain treatments, and the duty to care, even when a cure is no longer possible. In a pamphlet, one can only highlight these teachings, so readers are encouraged to read the entire statements and directives mentioned below, which are available online.

## **What does the Church teach about pain control and consciousness?**

The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services<sup>2</sup> (ERDs) state, "Patients should be kept as free of pain as possible so that they may die comfortably and with dignity, and in the place where they wish to die. Since a person has the right to prepare for his or her death while fully conscious, he or she should not be deprived of consciousness without a compelling reason..." In some cases, pain control may require brief or prolonged periods of unconsciousness. Pain control can be provided even if, in rare cases, the needed doses may have an anticipated, but unintended effect of hastening death. The intention is to control extreme pain, not to hasten death. With euthanasia, however, there is an explicit intent to terminate the patient's life, representing a grave evil with eternal consequences.

Currently, three states allow physician-assisted suicide. Some states practice a more covert form of euthanasia, providing patients who suffer from physical or even psychological pain with high doses

of sedation, when other effective relief is available. Then assisted nutrition and hydration are withheld, causing death by dehydration or starvation, not the underlying pathology. This is sometimes called "terminal sedation," distinguishable from the legitimate use of sedation as a last resort to treat patient suffering in their last days. The difference is in the physician's intent, whether it is to end life or control pain.

## **What does the Church teach about providing food and water to unconscious or dying patients?**

Pope John Paul II taught: "I should like particularly to underline how the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory, insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his suffering." This principle has been affirmed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and incorporated into the Ethical and Religious Directives in 2009. (No. 58).

## **What does the Church teach about the patient's right to refuse or forego certain medical treatments?**

The papal encyclical *The Gospel of Life* condemns euthanasia, drawing a key distinction between euthanasia and the decision to forego "medical procedures which no longer correspond to the real situation of the patient, either because they are by now disproportionate to any expected results or because they impose an excessive burden on the patient and his family. In such situations, when death is clearly imminent and inevitable, one can in conscience 'refuse forms of treatment that would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care due to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted.'" (No. 65).

It is clear that there is no moral requirement to utilize burdensome treatments that merely prolong the dying process. Unless the patient is very near death, however, the provision of nutrition and hydration, even by artificial means, should be administered as long as they can sustain life and alleviate suffering without imposing serious risks or side effects to the patient.

Today active interventions or omissions of basic care are proposed for ending the lives of not only the dying, but also patients suffering from a long-term cognitive disability, such as advanced dementia or a so-called persistent "vegetative" state. Some argue that patients who cannot consciously respond have lost their "human dignity." This view is dangerously wrong: Human beings never lose their dignity, that is, their inherent and inestimable worth as unique persons loved by God and created in His image.



People can be denied respect affirming that dignity, but they never lose their God-given dignity.

## **What does the Church teach about our duty to care for dying or vulnerable family members?**

When a family or health-care providers refuse to provide basic care (nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, and prevention of complications from confinement to bed), finding it "inconvenient" to accompany the loved one on the final journey, the assault on human dignity is grave.

When such abandoning of the disabled or unconscious patient is codified in state laws, the implications for society are frightening. Pope Benedict XVI states in his encyclical *In Hope We Are Saved* (*Spe Salvi*), Nov. 20, 2007: "The true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer ... A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through 'compassion' is a cruel and inhuman society." (No. 38).

Christ calls us to love one another: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." (John 15:12). He loved us unto death, even death on the cross.

Few are called to such a sacrifice, but we are called to be companions to each other, especially to those suffering on life's journey. "Companion" is taken from the word "cum-panis," meaning "with bread." Thus, we are called to share the bread of Eucharist with each other, responding with Christ's sacrificial love. We are asked not only to care for each other, but to nourish each other, even unto death.

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# Make Room for People

By Stephen W. Mosher

For over half a century, the population control movement has waged war on human fertility. Originally a fringe movement driven by fear of a “population explosion,” especially among peoples of color, the movement has over the years gained clout, if not respectability. Its ranks now include major international organizations like the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Population Fund, as well as the foreign aid bureaucracies of most of the wealthy countries of the world. Billions of dollars are at its disposal.

Many governmental recipients of foreign aid object to population reduction targets and coercive contraception and sterilization policies, but often they can do little against the “powerful of the earth,” as Pope John Paul II called them, who “prefer to promote and impose by whatever means a massive program of birth control. Even the economic help which they would be ready to give is unjustly made conditional on the acceptance of an anti-birth policy.” (The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae], No. 16).

For those who believe in this agenda, population growth is the root of mankind’s problems. They wrongly calculate: More people equals less ... of everything: Prosperity, food supply, economic growth, social order — all are jeopardized by any increase in human numbers.

Over the decades, the movement has increasingly used the environment as a pretext for its actions. To hear them tell it, all the earth’s real and imagined woes — from too little food and fresh water to too much pollution of air and water — are a result of the same cause: The planet we call home is simply too crowded. The solution to all our collective ills, they say, is to reduce the birth rate.

Global warming is the most recent justification for reducing the number of people. Some population control advocates now claim that

the most cost-effective way to cool things down again is to flood the developing world with contraceptives. A report sponsored by the United Kingdom’s Optimum Population Trust, for example, claims that reducing the number of babies born will mean “fewer emitters” of carbon dioxide, which in turn will “lower emissions.” The Optimum Population Trust went on to call contraception “the latest in green technology” and to insist that the effort to combat global warming must have a large population control component.

Pope Benedict XVI made the case for people in his recent encyclical, *Charity in Truth* (*Caritas in Veritate*), writing that “to consider population increase as the primary cause of underdevelopment is mistaken, even from an economic point of view.” (No. 44). The Pope criticized “non-governmental organizations [that] work actively to spread abortion, at times promoting the practice of sterilization in poor countries, in some cases not even informing the women concerned. Moreover, there is reason to suspect that development aid is sometimes linked to specific health-care policies which de facto involve the imposition of strong birth control measures.” (No. 28).

For consistently defending human life, the Church in general and Pope Benedict XVI in particular are blamed for causing governments to shy away from taking the “over-population problem” more seriously. Sir Crispin Tickwell of the Optimum Population Trust did just this in a recent televised debate.

What population control activists fail to understand is that the Church’s stance is supported by hard science and not “just” traditional morality. Science has shown that reducing the number of babies born does not in itself solve political, economic or environmental problems. Rather, reducing births often creates grave problems. Take Social Security and Medicare, for example. In the United States and other industrialized countries, these programs are difficult to sus-



tain unless each generation of tax-paying workers is larger than the one that went before it.

This is exactly the problem that we face now. Birth rates have been in free fall in most of the developed world for some time. Europe as a whole is averaging only about 1.3 children per couple. Russia and some Asian countries, such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, are in even worse shape demographically. This means the work force and revenues are shrinking at the same time that elderly citizens are growing in number — and demanding the retirement and health benefits they have long been promised. Those who would reduce our numbers also forget that people are ingenious producers and problem-solvers, not just inert consumers.

In fact, population growth has been the primary driver of progress throughout human history. A growing population can naturally create temporary shortages of certain raw materials, goods and services. Innovators and entrepreneurs can be drawn to extract resources and to produce and distribute more goods in ways that sustain the natural environment and contribute to human development. At the end of this creative process you will have more goods available at lower prices, precisely because of population growth.

People need to be understood as

the answer to problems, and not the cause of all problems. Through efforts supporting sustainable development and economic growth, environmental indicators will also improve. As the late Julian Simon often remarked, children born today will lead longer, healthier lives than ever before. They will eat better, receive more education, and enjoy a higher standard of living. They will have more time for leisure activities and travel. And they will live in a world where vast tracts of land have been set aside to preserve their natural beauty, and where the ugly scars of early industrialization have largely been healed. The world is not an overcrowded human ark, but it is — as it was designed to be — a beautiful horn of plenty. And people, the pinnacle of creation, are the ultimate resource.

*Steven W. Mosher is president of the Population Research Institute and author of Population Control: Real Costs and Illusory Benefits (Transaction Press, 2008). He is the host of the EWTN series, “Promoting the Culture of Life Around the World,” and frequently testifies before Congress on population and human rights issues.*

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## A PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Virgin of Guadalupe,  
 Patroness of unborn children,  
 we implore your intercession  
 for every child at risk of abortion.  
 Help expectant parents to welcome from God  
 the priceless gift of their child's life.  
 Console parents who have lost that gift  
 through abortion,  
 and lead them to forgiveness and healing  
 through the Divine Mercy of your Son.  
 Teach us to cherish  
 and to care for family and friends  
 until God calls them home.  
 Help us never to see others as burdens.  
 Guide our public officials  
 to defend each and every human life  
 through just laws.  
 Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life,  
 to speak for those who have no voice.  
 We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus  
 Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself.  
 Amen.



## Respect

**Continued from Page 1**  
 over 33 million postcards, and countless e-mails and letters to members of Congress, urging them to “retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion.”

Yet in March of this year, Congress passed a health care reform law that allows for federal funding of abortion in some programs and could pressure millions of Americans to help subsidize other people's abortions through their health care premiums. Ensuring that health care reform will meet the urgent needs for which it has been proposed, and is not misused to promote abortion or to trample on rights of conscience, will be an urgent task in the coming year.

Defenseless human life is also placed at risk today in the name of science, when researchers seek to destroy human life at its embryonic stage for stem cell research — and demand the use of all Americans' tax dollars to support this agenda. In a recent poll commissioned by the Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, 57 percent of respondents favored funding only stem cell research avenues that do not harm the donor, using stem cells from cord blood, placentas and other “adult” tissues; only 21 percent favor funding

all stem cell research, including research that requires killing embryonic human beings. Yet the current administration issued guidelines last year to fund human embryonic stem cell research, and some in Congress are preparing legislation to ensure continued funding despite a federal court's finding that these guidelines may violate the law.

At the other end of life, seriously ill patients are again under threat from a renewed campaign for legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Instead of addressing these patients' real problems by providing love, support and relief of suffering, this agenda urges us to eliminate the patient as though he or she is the problem. Marching under the false banner of “compassion” and “choice,” it raises the fearsome prospect of a future in which the only “choice” cheerfully granted to our most vulnerable patients is a lethal overdose of drugs.

Becoming a voice for the child in the womb, and for the embryonic human being at risk of becoming a mere object of research, and for the neglected sick and elderly is one of many ways we can teach our fellow citizens that “The Measure of Love is to Love Without Measure.”

While critics want to portray the

Church's witness as a narrow and negative ideology, it is just the opposite: A positive vision of the dignity of each and every human being without exception, each loved equally by God and so equally deserving of our love and our nation's respect.

Because we are created in the image of God, who is Love, our identity and vocation is to love sacrificially for the sake of others. Pope Benedict XVI has called this “the key to [our] entire existence.” In a homily during his recent visit to the United Kingdom, Pope Benedict reminded us that “our hearts can easily be hardened by selfishness, envy and pride,” and that “pure and generous love is the fruit of a daily decision.” Every day, he reminded us, “we have to choose to love.” In our homes, schools, workplaces and in public, if we constantly witness to the inestimable worth and dignity of each human life through a loving concern for the good of others, if we allow the dignity of every human life to guide the decisions we make as voters and public policy advocates, we can surely succeed in creating a more just and humane society.

Our efforts, of course, must always be undergirded with prayer — the silent space for personal daily prayer

that allows us to hear God's voice deep in our hearts, and communal prayer that asks God to transform our culture into one that welcomes every human person.

Recently Pope Benedict made an unprecedented request for such prayer, by asking that

Catholic bishops throughout the world, and all parishes and religious communities, observe a “Vigil for All Nascent Human Life” on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010. The U.S. Bishops offices for pro-life activities and for divine worship will be working together to provide worship aids to assist pastors in planning these vigil services.

Speaking for the Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, I heartily encourage all Catholics, whether at home or traveling over the Thanksgiving holidays, to take part in this special prayer, whose purpose according to the Holy See is to “thank the Lord for his total self-giving to the world and for his incarnation which gave every human life its real worth and dignity,” and to “invoke the Lord's protection over every human being called into existence.” May God bless all who work tirelessly to build a culture of respect for every human life, from conception to natural death.

# Seminar To Focus on Aging

OKLAHOMA CITY — A five-night seminar titled “Aging Gracefully” will be hosted at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The seminar is being sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life, Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing and Mercy Community Outreach of Mercy Health Center.

The seminars will be offered from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the evenings of Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2, 9 and 16.

Aging Gracefully is a five-night series for those who are or will be dealing with the issues of aging. You are invited to attend all sessions or choose to only attend the topics that will best meet your needs.

The Oct. 19 session will deal with physical and emotional changes in the aging process. Dr. Karen Ross, from the Department of Geriatric Medicine, Senior Health Clinic with OU Physicians, will lead the seminar. Medicare, Medicaid and supplemental insurance issues will be included in the discussion.

The Oct. 26 session will focus on caregivers, including support, resources, self-care, care receiving, home health, hospice, assisted living and daily living centers. Wendy Mobley, M.Ed., Mercy Health Center, Community Outreach, and David Loftis, BA, Home Instead, will lead the session.

The Nov. 2 session will focus on

legal and financial issues, including powers of attorney, estate planning, living wills, DNR, guardianship, pensions and investments.

Richard Klinge, associate director of Parish Outreach, Education, Advocacy and Legal Services of Catholic Charities, and Shirley Cox, Legal Services Director with Aging Services Division of the state Department of Human Services will lead this session.

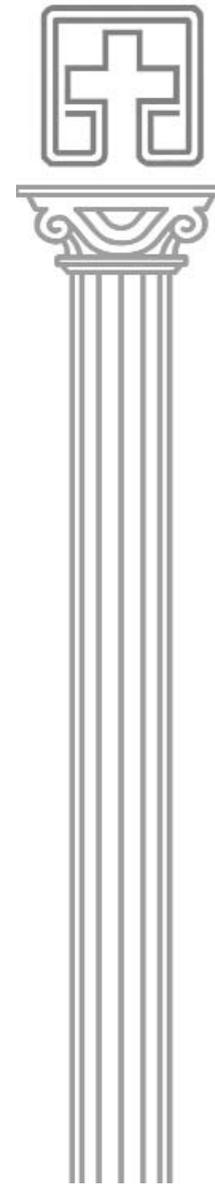
The Nov. 9 session will feature a panel that will focus on medical and end of life discussion including palliative care, church teaching and pastoral care.

The panel will consist of Dianne Gasbarra, MD, Director of Palliative Care, Mercy Health Center; Father Bill Pruett, pastor of St. James Catholic Church; and Mary Diane Steltenkamp, RN, MAPM, Director of Faith Community Nursing for Catholic Charities.

The Nov. 16 session will focus on funeral liturgy and the grief process.

Father Stephen Bird, Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, pastor of Epiphany Catholic Church, and Peggy Brown, RN, MAPM, Coordinator for Hospice Quality Care Inpatient Center will lead this session.

For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.



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Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans



Sister Catherine Powers, School Superintendent, recently visited Christ the King Catholic School. Christ the King PE teacher Maribeth Ward was recently certified as a beginning archery instructor through the National Archery Schools program through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, and was awarded a grant to acquire necessary equipment for the school. Sister Kay tried out the new bows and came very close to the bull's eye! Seventh-grade students were quite impressed that she was willing to try it out and that she was so accurate.



Walk of

Story & Photos  
by Rex Hogan &  
Traci Chapman



Left, LeRoy Giddens, District Marshal, Fourth-Degree, Knights of Columbus, leads the 2010 Life Walk in Oklahoma City. Above, Birth Choice officials Jan O'Neill and Barbara Chishko.

## Hundreds Support Birth Choice at Annual Celebration of Life Event

OKLAHOMA CITY — An estimated 900 people walked, ate hot dogs and hamburgers, and played games during the 13th Annual Celebration of Life Walk 2010. The event is a fundraiser for Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. The event was held Oct. 3 at Wiley Post Park.

“It’s a great day to celebrate life,” said Barbara Chishko, Birth Choice executive director.

The walk is to make people aware of the service Birth Choice provides to expectant mothers throughout its eight Birth Choice centers in the Oklahoma City area.

Chishko said organizers were energized by the turnout.

“When this many people come out, it gives our volunteers the momentum to work another year,” she said.

“What they do in the office is extremely difficult work. It’s a matter of life and death.”

Birth Choice has offices in Oklahoma City, Bethany, Edmond, El Reno, Lawton, Norman, Nowata and Stillwater.

It has been operating in Oklahoma since 1973 when the U.S. Supreme



The Ameba Run was one of the youth games held during the annual Life Walk event.

Court made abortion on demand the law of the land.

Among the services it offers to pregnant women are pregnancy and ultrasound testing, counseling, community referrals for food, housing and medical care, and providing clothing for newborns.



Deacon Lloyd Menz leads those gathered for the Birth Choice Walk in prayer during Sunday's event, held in El Reno.



Julie Cornell finds a new friend at the Birth Choice Walk, held in El Reno Oct. 3.



Vernon Garner was one of the Walk for Life participants during El Reno's Sunday event.



A group of participants finishes the Sunday Walk for Life in El Reno.

Meanwhile in El Reno, about 70 people took to the streets to show their support for those they said need it most — babies and mothers.

Supporters began their walk at Petree Plaza, working their way through several neighborhoods on their way to their destination — the Birth Choice office located at 400 W. London. Young and old, they were walking to help those who couldn't always help themselves, Deacon Lloyd Menz said.

"This is an opportunity to be together and to show our support and solidarity for the people Birth Choice serves," he said.

El Reno is one of eight Birth Choice locations across the state. The organization has been operating in Oklahoma since 1973, after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion through its *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Birth Choice is non-profit and non-denominational, offering all of its services at no charge.

Geared toward helping women both before and after their child is born, the organization offers clothing, shelter, counseling and other services, as well as pregnancy tests and limited ultrasounds for expectant mothers. However, Barbara Chishko said, sometimes the "service" most needed is just to be there and to listen.

"Many of these women are alone or at least feel that they are all alone," she said. "We try to step in and change that."

# Rachel's Vineyard Offers Healing From Abortion

I was pregnant ... I told the father of the baby ... he didn't seem like getting married was an option. I was in my late 20s and was trying to be the liberated woman who always knew what to do. I didn't realize that the unsettled feelings I was having were really God's spirit in me trying to guide me to the truth and protect me from the horrible act of abortion. But being involved in sexual activity while not married and pursuing an abortion to "fix" the consequence of being pregnant was what I was learning

that grown-up, liberated women did. So I found a Jewish hospital that did abortions — figured that these people of faith had determined that this was a proper solution to my difficult problem.

I was ashamed to tell family and friends, so off I went ... the whole process was so clinical and I was one of many women that day. The cost included an overnight stay in the hospital to be sure all was well. Physically I was OK, knowing that I would bleed for many days after. It was my heart that was bleeding, too,

but I didn't acknowledge that for years. When I did marry and was blessed with children, those relationships were affected by that grief ... it is a forbidden grief in our culture.

By the grace of God I was painfully forced to grieve this tragic loss of my child, to come to include her in my life and in the life of my family, and to experience God's merciful forgiveness and assurance of His love.

That spiritual healing from the tragedy of abortion is the gift of the

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat that is available in our Archdiocese. The next weekend retreat is Dec. 3-5, 2010. Confidential inquiries can be made by calling (405) 623-3844 or e-mailing [rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com). The national website with information and locations for the retreat throughout the United States and other countries is [www-rachelsvineyard.org](http://www-rachelsvineyard.org). The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life sponsors this retreat for women and men suffering after an abortion and missing their child.

## Briefs

### TV Drawing Oct. 28

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and South McKinley Avenue, will be held Oct. 28 in the gym. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two black-outs are \$10. Door prizes and special recognition for all players born in October/November/December. An HDTV flat screen television will be given away this night. Play and you get an entry ticket into the TV drawing. Come on down and make it a party.

### Carnival Set For Oct. 23

OKLAHOMA CITY — VILLA TERESA MOORE invites you to our Halloween Carnival, Saturday, Oct. 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. The school is located at 13501 S. Western. We will have food, games, prizes, a cakewalk, inflatables, a haunted house and a silent auction. Please let your children dress in costume and come and enjoy the fun. The carnival is geared mainly for children from 3 to 8 years old. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Please call the school at 691-7737 for more information.

### Parish Celebrates Hall

HARRAH — Come and help us celebrate the opening of Saint Teresa's Catholic Church's new Parish Hall on Nov. 21 with a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. You can also begin your Christmas shopping at our bazaar.

The bazaar will be held in our new youth center and will be bigger and better than ever. Plan to enjoy a wonderful dinner and then do some holiday shopping. There will be a raffle in conjunction with the bazaar. The hours for the dinner will

be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the early bird bazaar will be Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The public is invited to participate in the dinner and bazaar. Cost for the dinner is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Carryout orders will also be available. For more information, contact Bernadette Klimkowski at 454-2871 or 590-6315, or Debby Birdsong at 454-2167 or 650-4662.

### Annual Holy Trinity School Auction Nov. 20

OKARCHE — The annual school auction to benefit Holy Trinity Catholic School will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, in the Parish Hall. Attendees will get an evening out that includes food, drinks and entertainment for only \$20 per person. Tickets are available at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the bidding will start at 6:45 p.m. Please come to support our school and have a fun night out!

### Irish to Host Test

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will be administering a placement test on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., to any eighth-grader interested in attending the school as a freshman for the 2011-2012 school year. A second test date will be offered on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the same time for all those who cannot make it on the first test date. All prospective ninth-graders must take this test in order to help with course selection.

On test day, students should bring \$10 for the testing fee and two No. 2 pencils. No calculators or cell phones are allowed. Students not attending a feeder school and interested in taking the placement test must call Amy Hanson, freshman counselor, at 842-6638 Ext. 225 to register for the test.

### Rosary, Mass Oct. 13

BISON — Rosary will be prayed on Oct. 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at 5:30 p.m. Mass will follow at 6 p.m. A reception will follow. On Sunday, Oct. 17, there will be a 3 p.m. Rosary with procession, 3:30 p.m. adoration and testimonials with a reception in the hall at 4 p.m. The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is at the mission church St. Joseph in Bison located at 101 First St. For more information, call the main parish in Hennessey at (405) 853-4425.

### Carnival On Oct. 29

OKLAHOMA CITY — Friday, Oct. 29 is the date for St. Charles' 24th annual Halloween carnival in the gymnasium, school hallways and classrooms. This popular family-friendly event is recognized for providing a huge assortment of games, inflatable slides, good food and prizes galore! In addition to fun for the kids, who are encouraged to come in costume, adults can enjoy bingo and a safe Halloween alternative in a family-friendly environment for kids from 2 to 92! St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School is located at 5000 N. Grove, between Meridian and MacArthur on N.W. 50th Street. The carnival is open from 5 until 9 p.m. Feel free to contact SCB at 789-0224 for questions or if you or your business would be interested in sponsoring a game booth.

### Parish To Host Dinner

KONAWA — Sacred Heart's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall (4 miles west of Konawa and 1 mile north, or 7 miles east of Asher and 1 mile north) on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. The dinner will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children (ages 4-12) \$3.50, children 3 and under eat free.

# Oliver Named To Catholic Charities Post

OKLAHOMA CITY — Following a detailed search, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has named Stanford (Stan) Oliver director of development and mission integration. A Shawnee native, Oliver brings a wealth of nonprofit development and public relations expertise to his new position.

“Catholic Charities has a wonderful record providing critical and necessary services to those in need throughout western Oklahoma. As a dedicated community volunteer, it’s wonderful to be part of an organization that changes so many lives,” Oliver said.

A passionate community advocate, Oliver has held several professional and volunteer positions in nonprofit marketing and development. Among his previous positions are client manager for Dallas-based RSI/Viscarn, where he worked with churches and faith-based nonprofit national organizations, Director of Lay Ministry Development for the Church of the Incarnation as well as Marketing and Development chairman for the Texas Stampede Professional Rodeo.

“Stan has a long history of helping nonprofit organizations reach their goals. We are thrilled to have

someone of his passion and expertise working with Catholic Charities,” said Tim O’Conner, executive director of Catholic Charities.

Previous to embarking on his nonprofit career, Oliver worked for Pan American World Airways Inc., in marketing, sales, public relations and corporate recruiting. He traveled extensively during his career with Pan American.

Oliver holds a degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma, with an emphasis on professional writing, public relations and radio and television. Despite living in Texas for 25 years, the former

president of the Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association is glad to be back in the Sooner State.

“Oklahoma City has changed significantly in the past 25 years and is quickly blossoming into a world-class city. Despite its incredible growth, OKC has continued to be one of the friendliest, most community-oriented cities in the country,” said Oliver. “I am looking forward to watching both the city and Catholic Charities grow over the coming years.”

Oliver has two children, Evan and Julianne, both who are in college. He speaks Spanish, Portuguese and a slight amount of German.

## Priests To Lead Pilgrimages Letter

**Father Luca Pinapati** of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Harrah invites you to join him for an 11-day pilgrimage to Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Santiago de Compostela, and Avila (Spain). June 11-June 21, 2011. Daily Mass, breakfast and dinner daily. A deposit of \$300 per person reserves your place. Round-trip fare from Oklahoma City is \$3,619 per person, double occupancy plus taxes, fuel surcharges and tips. Balance is due April 1, 2011. For more information or to schedule an informational night in your parish, contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, or visit <http://www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com>.

**Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen** of St. Gregory’s Abbey and University, Shawnee, is leading a “Steps of Paul” Cruise to the Holy Lands March 8-25, 2011. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he preaches in the places he traveled, and walk where Jesus walked. Includes Giza, Paphos, Istanbul, Corinth, Rhodes, Ephesus, Kavala, Phillipi, Athens, Kusadasi, Pergamon, Thessaloniki, Patmos, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Galilee. Round-trip from JFK is \$2,999 per person,

double occupancy (inside cabin) plus taxes, fuel surcharges and tips. All cabin categories available. Air from OKC is \$398. Daily Mass. All meals and land excursions included. \$800 deposit. Final payment Dec. 10. For more information or to schedule a parish info night on the trip, contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, or visit [www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com](http://www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com).

**Father James Goins**, St. Thomas More University and Parish Center in Norman, is leading a pilgrimage to the Catholic Shrines and Sites of Southern Italy, Oct. 3-15, 2011. The 12-day tour visits Rome, Montecassino, Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Lancia, Loreto, Perugia, and Padre Pio’s home of San Giovanni Rotondo. Daily Mass, breakfasts and dinners.

Round-trip fare from OKC is \$3,899 per person, double occupancy plus taxes, fuel surcharges and tips. Deposit of \$300 per person with balance due Aug. 1, 2011. For more information or to schedule an info night, contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, or visit [www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com](http://www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com).

## Oklahoma Should Be Pro-Life

Oklahoma has a powerful alternative to the death penalty, it is life without parole. If we demand that our Legislature do away with the death penalty, we could use the millions of death penalty tax dollars in areas of education, fire and police protection so desperately needed. Without the death penalty we would not run the terrible risk of putting innocent people on death row.

Take Oklahoma out of the culture of death. Show respect for all human life. If we let God do the punishing in His own way, we would be a better community. Let Oklahoma be known as the culture of life, not death.

**Jim and Ann Fowler**  
St. Charles, Oklahoma City

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## Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

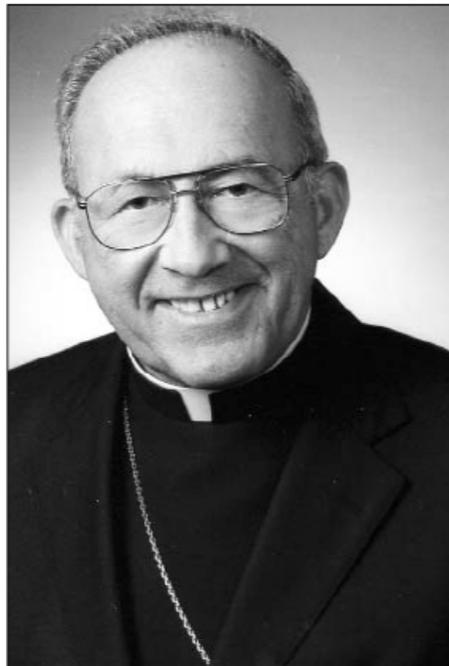
Todos los cuatro de octubre celebramos el día festivo de San Francisco de Asís. San Francisco de Asís es uno de los santos más populares. Él es reverenciado, no solamente por los Católicos, sino por muchas personas de otras creencias religiosas.

Incluso, San Francisco de Asís es respetado por gente que no tiene ninguna afiliación religiosa.

Un detallado estudio de la vida de San Francisco revela que fue un hombre de un gran carácter e integridad. San Francisco atrae a mucha gente por tres atributos. Esos atributos son su humildad, amor hacia los pobres y respeto por la naturaleza.

La humildad es una virtud en la cual una persona busca la verdad. Una persona humilde reconoce que todas las cosas buenas son creadas por Dios. Una persona humilde se da cuenta que todas las cosas vienen de Dios. En una persona humilde no hay un orgullo insolente o reclamo falso.

San Francisco fue el tipo de persona que se identificó por sus sermones, sus escritos y por encima de todo eso, por el ejemplo que dio al pueblo de Dios. Todo esto ha sido un regalo dado a todos nosotros. Por haber vivido siempre en la Presencia de Dios, sin tratar de ser o



Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltran.

parecer alguien importante, es que San Francisco de Asís pudo liderar y llevar al pueblo hacia Dios.

En oposición a nuestra sociedad materialista. San Francisco dio su amor a los pobres y decidió vivir su vida en la completa pobreza desprendiéndose de lo material porque siempre creyó que todas las cosas dependían de Dios.

Así entonces, San Francisco sigue atrayendo a la gente, incluso aquellas personas que tienen bienes materiales pero no encuentran alegría o paz interna. Nuevamente, él

nos enseña que la única forma de tener felicidad plena está solamente con nuestro Señor.

Finalmente, San Francisco de Asís, tenía un gran respeto por la naturaleza. Él reconoció que Dios es el Creador de todas las cosas. San Francisco amó a los animales, las plantas y al ser humano. Él amó toda forma de vida, pero especialmente a la vida humana creada a Imagen y Semejanza de Dios. Es por eso que San Francisco demostró amor y respeto a la creación de Dios y se ha hecho muy popular hoy en día. Con una renovada conciencia sobre el medio ambiente, la gente lo debe ver como un profeta y un ejemplo.

En estas tres instancias como lo son la humildad, el amor a los pobres y el respeto a la naturaleza, San Francisco ejerció su influencia sobre personas que de otro modo quizás no se hubiesen dirigido a Dios.

Celebramos la Fiesta de San Francisco, por lo tanto debemos estar inspirados. A través de San Francisco somos llevados ante la Presencia de Dios. Mediante él podemos vivir con más sencillez una vida más profunda. San Francisco nos enseñó donde está la verdadera felicidad y donde podemos encontrar la paz que está solamente en Dios.

Como cualquier persona en el mundo, estamos siempre en la Presencia de Dios. Dios nos observa,

nos ama y nos bendice. Como San Francisco, quien siempre supo que estaba bajo la Presencia de Dios, debemos tener esa misma actitud. La naturaleza, la familia, las amistades y toda creación pueden y deben ayudarnos a reconocer la Presencia de Dios. Sin embargo, la ayuda más directa que siempre podemos recibir para convertirnos en personas buenas, fieles y santas, es la Santa Eucaristía, la celebración de la Misa. La Santa Eucaristía es el sacramento del Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo. En la Santa Comunión, Jesús nos dice: "Tomad y comed todos de él, porque esto es mi Cuerpo, que será entregado por vosotros". "Tomad y bebed todos de él, porque éste es el cáliz de mi Sangre".

No existe nada que pueda sustituir a la Eucaristía porque la Eucaristía es Dios mismo. Aunque no seamos merecedores de recibir el Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo, como San Francisco, venimos con humildad y amor. Venimos a recibir la Santa Comunión, no porque somos y merecemos este sacramento sino porque Dios es bondadoso.

La Eucaristía es un regalo especial para nosotros que viene de Dios para que Él mismo pueda vivir entre y con nosotros. Es Cristo quien nos da vida y nos lleva a la vida eterna. Con fe y con mucha confianza, respondamos humildemente: ¡Ven Señor Jesús!

## Obispo Murphy urge a que se mantenga y mejores créditos impositivos a familias

WASHINGTON — El presidente del Comité sobre Justicia Nacional y Desarrollo Humano de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, el obispo William Murphy de Rockville Centre, New York, urgió al congreso a dar atención prioritaria a las familias trabajadoras pobres y a sus hijos en el actual debate sobre política de impuestos.

"Demasiado a menudo no se escucha a los más débiles y vulnerables en el debate sobre los impuestos", escribió el obispo Murphy el 20 de septiembre en una carta al Congreso. De manera específica, pidió a los congresistas que man-

tengan e incluso mejoren el crédito por cada hijo, conocido como "Child Tax Credit" (CTC), y el crédito por nivel de ingresos o "Earned Income Tax Credit" (EITC).

"La pobreza está aumentando en nuestra nación. La forma en la que se estructuran los impuestos puede hacer mejorar o empeorar este desafío moral", dijo el obispo Murphy. "Recientemente, la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos reportó que, en 2009, 46,3 millones de personas en EE.UU. vivían en la pobreza. Esta oficina señaló además que si créditos reembolsables como el Earned Income Tax Credit se añadieran

a sus ingresos, entonces, aproximadamente tres millones de niños superarían el umbral de la pobreza".

El obispo Murphy añadió que "nosotros pensamos que estos programas esenciales ayudan a los trabajadores y a las familias con niños a cubrir sus necesidades de vida más básicas. A menos que el Congreso actúe, estos trabajadores vulnerables y sus hijos quedarán peor de lo que están ahora. Los principios éticos que todos los estadounidenses compartimos nos llevan a reconocer que tenemos una responsabilidad social y cívica de apoyar a estas familias y a sus hijos".



## Se reunirá del 28 al 31 de octubre en Alburquerque, Nuevo México

### Congreso misionero pintará amplia imagen de Católicos estadounidenses en misión

WASHINGTON — "La misión de Dios, Multitud de Rostros: Una Imagen de los Misioneros Católicos en los EE.UU.", es el tema del Congreso Misionero 2010, que se reunirá en Alburquerque, Nuevo México del 28 al 31 de octubre.

Usando la imagen de la creación de un retrato, el padre Michael Montoya, director ejecutivo de la United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA), dijo que el Congreso Misionero 2010 "reunirá a hombres y mujeres dedicados de todo el país y otras partes del mundo, en un ambiente lleno de fe, para discernir el movimiento del espíritu dentro de la Iglesia estadounidense misionera; para descubrir la variedad de colores y pinceladas que conforman los católicos estadounidenses en misión; para fortalecer la identidad y el liderazgo misionero en la Iglesia estadounidense; y para celebrar los rostros y la creatividad de los católicos estadounidenses en misión".

El congreso incluirá paneles de discusión diálogo en grupos y talleres sobre temas que van desde el trabajo misionero en los Estados Unidos a las tendencias globales, el concepto de misión en otras tradiciones, perspectivas ecuménicas, misioneros internacionales que trabajan

en Estados Unidos y otros temas.

En esta ocasión el congreso ofrece tres ponencias centrales que incluyen al padre Gary Riebel-Estralla, SVD, profesor asociado de teología práctica y ministerio hispano en Catholic Theological Union y presidente de la Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians in the United States (Academia de Teólogos Católicos Hispanos en Estados Unidos o "ACHTUS", por sus siglas en inglés); la hermana Janice McLaughlin, MM, presidenta de las Hermanas de Maryknoll; y al cardenal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Arzobispo de Tegucigalpa, Honduras, presidente de Caritas Internacional, y antiguo presidente de CELAM (Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano).

En línea con las prioridades pastorales de los obispos estadounidenses, el Congreso Misionero pondrá énfasis en la diversidad cultural de la Iglesia actualmente y en la manera en que los misioneros pueden desarrollar mejor su misión de evangelización.

"El Congreso 2010 llega en un momento en que la actividad misionera, a nivel mundial es el foco de atención de numerosas iniciativas en años recientes", afirmó el padre Montoya. "El Sínodo de Obispos

sobre la Palabra en la vida y la misión de la Iglesia hizo hincapié en la necesidad de la misión ad gentes; el papa Benedicto, durante su visita a EE.UU. en 2008 enfatizó la necesidad de la solidaridad global; y los obispos de América Latina y el Caribe, proclamaron en su reunión en Aparecida, Brasil, la gran "misión continental" que se lanzó durante el Congreso Misionero Americano en Quito, Ecuador.

Esta gran misión continental nos reta a todos nosotros a poner a la Iglesia en un estado constante de misión."

El Cardenal Rodríguez Maradiaga hablará sobre la misión continental a la luz del documento de Aparecida. Un manual bilingüe se repartirá a los participantes "como encargo para que vayan y continúen promoviendo la misión y la solidaridad global", dijo el padre Montoya.

El Manual fue preparado por la hermana Madge Karecki, SSJ-TOSF, directora de la oficina de misiones de la Arquidiócesis de Chicago, y traducido al español por UDECA (Unión Dominicana de Emisoras Católicas).

Al menos 16 obispos estadounidenses participarán en el evento. El obispo Gerald Kicanas de Tucson,

vicepresidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), abrirá el Congreso 2010 con una liturgia. Junto con el obispo Michael J. Warfel, de Great Falls-Billings, Montana, ambos presentarán un taller sobre "Catholic Home Missions" (misiones domésticas, diócesis consideradas tierra de misión dentro de los Estados Unidos).

El Congreso Misionero se reúne cada cinco años y ésta es su tercera edición. Está patrocinado por Catholic Mission Forum, una organización que reúne a las principales organizaciones y asociaciones misioneras católicas de Estados Unidos. Éstas incluyen: Bureau of Black and Indian Missions; Catholic Church Extension Society; Catholic Volunteer Network; Oficinas de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, Home Missions, Evangelización y Catequesis, y Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina de USCCB; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Pontifical Mission Society; y United States Catholic Mission Association.

Para información e inscripciones pueden ir a [www.missioncongress.org](http://www.missioncongress.org) o contactar a USCMA llamando al 202-832-3112.

## Las crisis en la Iglesia muestran la necesidad de la prensa Católica

VATICANO, (ZENIT.org).- ¿Qué futuro tiene la prensa católica en plena revolución digital que ha puesto en crisis a muchos periódicos? Para el arzobispo Claudio Maria Celli, presidente del Consejo Pontificio para las Comunicaciones Sociales, el futuro dependerá de la capacidad de los periódicos y revistas católicas para ser fieles a su misión.

Las crisis comunicativas o escándalos que ha vivido en los últimos años la Iglesia demuestran aún más la necesidad de contar con estos medios de comunicación con vocación católica, ha aclarado el prelado al inaugurar un congreso inédito mundial de la prensa católica que se celebra en Roma.

En el encuentro, que clausurará Benedicto XVI el 7 de octubre, participan

230 directores o representantes de periódicos católicos y publicaciones digitales, obispos y sacerdotes expertos de comisiones e instituciones eclesiales encargadas de la comunicación, así como profesores universitarios, en representación de 85 países. En la intervención inaugural el arzobispo presentó la prensa católica "como realidad cercana, capaz de acompañar la vida, capaz de percibir las preocupaciones, los deseos, los proyectos de las personas que son sus lectores. No sólo de quienes pertenecen a la comunidad católica, parecería obvio decirlo, aunque a veces no es tan evidente".

En el campo de la comunicación, dijo monseñor Celli, la Iglesia también es "experta de humanidad", aunque "en estos momentos, alguno podría sonreír ante esta afirmación, sobre todo si se hace

referencia a las conocidas y dolorosas vicisitudes de los escándalos sexuales a los que la prensa ha dado tanto eco".

Ahora bien, el prelado reconoció "que si bien 'estas revelaciones han sido un shock' para el Papa y para la Iglesia, como dijo el mismo Benedicto XVI a los periodistas que le acompañaban en el avión hacia Escocia, este grave y vergonzoso pecado no ponga mínimamente en tela de juicio la vocación y la misión de la Iglesia a ponerse al servicio del hombre con amor". "De estos hechos y episodios difíciles y dolorosos debe emerger en toda la comunidad creyente una mayor decisión para seguir al Señor y ponerse al servicio del hombre con un testimonio aún más intenso de vida, que sepa hacer emerger lo que llevamos en el corazón", subrayó el presidente del Consejo vaticano.

En este sentido, reconoció, la misión de la prensa católica es más necesaria que nunca "para dar una información religiosa rigurosa y correcta, sobre todo cuando la ofrecida por buena parte de la prensa laica es hoy poco objetiva y a veces crea confusión". El nuevo contexto en el que se mueve la prensa católica, afirma monseñor Celli, es el de "una dictadura del relativismo", donde se asiste al intento de reducir la acción de la Iglesia y la 'religión a un hecho privado, sin importancia pública', delegitimándola como si fuera enemiga del hombre, de su libertad y de la dignidad, en esta época de las 'pasiones tristes". En esta realidad, concluyó monseñor Celli, la prensa católica debe "mantener viva la búsqueda de sentido y asegurar el espacio a la búsqueda del Infinito".

## Jobs Box

### Director of the Business Department

**St. Gregory's University** has an opening for the position of Director of the Business Department at our Tulsa location. This position will teach undergraduate and graduate business courses; director and curriculum coordinator for undergraduate business programs. Earned doctorate in a business-related field with strong quantitative background preferred; MBA with strong quantitative background required with three to five years academic program development experience desired; 12-month faculty reporting to Dean of College for Working Adults. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation to the attention of Jean Thorn-brugh, Ph.D. Materials may be sent electronically to [hr@stgregorys.edu](mailto:hr@stgregorys.edu) or via mail service to Human Resources Department, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804.

### Adjuncts

**The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory's University** has Adjunct Faculty openings on campus locations in Tulsa and Shawnee at the undergraduate and graduate level for courses in finance, marketing, project management, research methods, clinical social work, art, nutrition, speech, statistics, math, English literature, economics, history, critical thinking, accounting and accounting control systems. Candidates for adjunct faculty openings for undergraduate courses are required to hold a minimum of a master's degree in the preferred subject, doctoral degrees preferred and related business and industry experience. Adjunct faculty openings at the graduate level require a doctorate in a business-related field or in health care management/health care administration or a doctorate in management/business with an area of specialization in health care management. Candidates for graduate courses should have related business and industry experience. All Adjunct Faculty candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to the attention of Jean Thornbrugh, Ph.D. Materials may be sent electronically to [hr@stgregorys.edu](mailto:hr@stgregorys.edu).

### CWA Financial Aid Counselor (Tulsa)

**St. Gregory's University, College for Working Adults**, Tulsa campus, a private institution of higher education in the Catholic and Benedictine tradition, has an opening for a Financial Aid Counselor. Candidates must be able to advise students about financial aid eligibility, applications procedures, aid programs and indebtedness and work closely with accounting and student services staff. Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree preferred and financial aid experience, knowledge of data processing and computer tracking systems required. Applicants must be supportive of the university's Catholic and Benedictine identity and mission. Send cover letter, resume and three references to [hr@stgregorys.edu](mailto:hr@stgregorys.edu) or mail to Att: HR, 5801 E. 41st St., Tulsa, Okla. 74135. EOE

### Part-Time Organist Needed

**St. Philip Neri Catholic Church** in Midwest City is in need of a principal organist/accompanist to play for Sunday Masses (8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.), solemnities and feast days and accompany Wednesday (7 p.m.) choir rehearsals. The candidate must be proficient in sightreading and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 350 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music, and accompanying the choir in special numbers. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. An interview and audition is required. Present a resume at the time of interview/audition. To arrange for an audition/interview, contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 or [bernard\\_jones@me.com](mailto:bernard_jones@me.com). SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ with MIDI capability, and a Kurzweil PC2x synthesizer.

### Director of Music

**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church** in Oklahoma City seeks full-time Director of Music. Duties include planning and staffing weekend liturgies, holy days, weddings and funerals. The director is responsible for directing, scheduling and rehearsing with the choirs as well as providing keyboard accompaniment for the English liturgies. The director would also provide supervision and assistance for the Spanish Choir. Degree in music is required as well as thorough knowledge of the Roman Catholic Liturgy along with excellent keyboard and vocal skills. Send cover letter and resume to Rev. Tim Luschen, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 5024 N. Grove Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73122. E-mail [Tluschen@prodigy.net](mailto:Tluschen@prodigy.net).

### DRE Opening

**St. James the Greater Parish**, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for a part-time, leading to full-time position, as Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith who has a vision and experience in setting objectives, priorities and deadlines, and in serving our 1,000 parish families. The director will develop, maintain and administer catechetical programs for the children and adults of the parish. The director will also be responsible for recruiting and training catechists, attending scheduled diocesan DRE meetings, and fostering

cooperation with other parish organizations. Interested candidates should contact Deacon Marti Gulikers at (405) 636-6805 to initiate the application process.

### Archdiocese Seeking Safe Environment Coordinator

**The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City** is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator. The Safe Environment Coordinator is a member of a team of Archdiocesan professionals who are charged with developing and implementing Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs consistent with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter) adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, as revised in 2005 (the "Charter"). The position is part time, requiring approximately 18 hours per week. Applicants should have a background in child-protection services, education and/or behavioral sciences, a firm understanding of Catholic religious education and youth ministries and excellent communication skills. Job duties include planning and implementing training sessions and workshops for Archdiocesan personnel and parish facilitators and assisting parishes with their Safe Environment Programs, including on-site visits to parishes and schools to gauge compliance with the requirements of Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs and the Charter. The Safe Environment Coordinator also assists with the USCCB annual audit for compliance with the Charter. Those interested should send a complete Archdiocesan Application (available on the Archdiocesan website) and your resume to Tish Eason, Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.



*Sacred Heart in El Reno celebrated its first Spanish Mass. Father Mark Mason said more than 300 Catholics attended the inaugural Mass on Sept. 12. The Spanish Mass is celebrated at 1 p.m. every Sunday.*

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

**10 Charismatic Healing Mass,** 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4806.

**10 COMPANY Adult Singles** ages 35-plus. Book Study, "The Five Love Languages for Singles," Sunday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 10 through Nov. 28. Cost \$15. Register by going by the church office to pick up the book and paying the fee. We will meet at an Edmond restaurant for this Book Study. Must be registered and have book by Oct. 15, read the first chapter before the first meeting. To RSVP or questions, contact Mary at (405) 401-4105.

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

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

**13 Catholic War Veterans USA.** Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyslane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

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

**15 Beginning Experience.** This is a ministry to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce or death. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.



*On the 19th of September, Catechetical Sunday, St. Philip Neri Parish was proud to celebrate the accomplishments of six distinguished catechists. These four women and two men completed the Archdiocesan training program in Youth Faith Formation Certification for Catechists and Youth Ministers. Working together as a team, they finished their intermediate as well as their advanced levels in one year. They are shown here from left with our pastor — Tama Parker, George Bohn, Lorna Bohn, Father Timothy Fuller, Laurann Donahue, Javier Solis and Aurora Burdette.*

**15-17 Women's Silent Retreat,** "Silence is God's Music." Come away for a weekend women's silent retreat where you can develop your creativity, work on a project or just rest. There will be three times the silence is broken to discuss the book *The War of Art*. Starting at 9 a.m. and ending at noon on Sunday. The retreat is at Mount St. Mary's convent. Meals, lodging and the book are provided as part of the cost. To register or for questions, call Katie Gordy at 627-6954.

**15 Mount St. Mary home football game** vs. Cordell at 7:30 p.m.

**16 "Ride for Refuge."** Participants may register for a 5-, 10-, 30- or 60-mile bike ride around downtown Oklahoma City to raise funds and awareness for the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Department in their work with displaced, vulnerable and exploited persons. For more information, contact Katy Brooks or Wyatt Schmitz at (405) 523-3002, or e-mail wschmitz@catholiccharitiesok.org.

**16 The Lay Missionaries of Charity of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** meet at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each

month. Mass is in the parish chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will be in the council room. For more information, contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199.

**17 Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus.** Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. At Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineof-infantjesus.com.

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

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

**19 Aging Gracefully** is a five Tuesday night series for those who are, or will be dealing with the issues of aging. You are invited to attend all sessions or choose to only attend those topics that will best meet your needs. The series begins Oct. 19 and runs through Nov. 16. Oct. 19 — Physical and Emotional Changes of the Aging in the Aging Process. Medicare, Medicaid and Supplemental Insurance. Aging Gracefully will be at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway, (park on the north side), 7 to 8:30 p.m. For questions or to RSVP, call (405) 721-8944.

**20-21 Living The Mass,** concert and instruction at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 3901 S. Sunnyslane Road, Del City. Each evening a different presentation by Julie and Kurt Carrick at 7 p.m.

**21 TAP into FAITH!** Oct. 21 topic: Faith and Politics: What's a Catholic To Do? Single or married, ages 21 to 121. 8:30 p.m. talk, 9 p.m. Q & A. Stay afterwards for fellowship. Tap into Faith is held at Pepe's Mexican Restaurant, located at 1701 S. Broadway in Edmond. For more information, call Mary Lacher at 401-4105.

**23 Retreat - How to Pray the Serenity Prayer** with Melissa Anna Letts, OSB, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fee: \$40 (\$15 deposit) Place: Red Plains Spirituality Center-Library. Bring a sack lunch.

**23 Villa Teresa Catholic School** will hold its annual Fall Carnival from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 1216 Classen Drive. Activities will be in all three buildings, including inflatable toys, bingo, face painting and other carnival favorites. Food and a raffle for theme baskets are also available. Tickets can be pre-purchased by calling the school office (232-4286) or at the door the day of the event.

**23 St. Charles Catholic Singles** Halloween dance, Oct. 23 from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call Al at 631-0763. The church is located at NW 50th Street, just east of MacArthur and west of Ann Arbor.

# Knights For Christ

## *Council Makes Annual Trek To Fair With Special Students*

By Rex Hogan  
For *The Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Robert Chambers is a former Catholic schoolteacher. He now teaches at Northwest Classen High School, working with disabled students.

Chambers accompanied a group of students to the state fair during the Knights of Columbus Council 1038 “Kids Day at the Fair.”

This was his first trip to the fair with the Oklahoma City Knights. It didn't take him long to figure out how much the day meant to his students.

“I have one student who only lives for the moment,” Chambers said. “He doesn't talk about the past or the future. He's been talking about the fair for some time. That's really something,” Chambers said.

Jacqueline Odgers is an occupational therapist and social worker at St. Anthony's. She was one of 15 adults who went to the Kids Day at the Fair with 15 students from St. Anthony's.

“This means the world to them,” Odgers said. “They get so excited and become so happy to get to come out here,” she said.

This year is the 64th consecutive year that the Knights of Columbus Council 1038 has taken



*Ernie Chastain and Donna Berryhill discussing the day's activities at the fair with students.*

students with disabilities to the state fair.

Students this year came from Northwest Classen, Norman, Putnam City and St. Anthony's.

Council 1038 purchased tickets and lunches, and walked with the

almost 80 students who came to the fair as guests of the Knights.

Ernie Chastain, who has been involved in Kids Day at the Fair for about 20 years, said it's a toss-up on who gets more satisfaction from the event — the kids or the

Knights.

“It's always a special feeling to see the kids out here. They really enjoy the petting zoo and then the pig races. I don't know who enjoys this more, them or us,” Chastain said.

## *Norman Council, Auxiliary Cheer Up Vets With Bingo, Quilts*



NORMAN — The Knights of Columbus Council 12108 at St. Mark the Evangelist, along with Assembly 2233 which encompasses the three Norman parishes, were recently awarded the International Patriot Award. This award is presented annually for the assembly which has the best patriotic project in the world. The project was a bingo party at the Norman Veterans Center. The Ladies Auxiliary of St. Mark's made and donated 45 handmade patriotic quilts and 25 handmade pillows along with cash from the Knights of Columbus, which

became prizes for the bingo. The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary called the bingo, brought snacks and drinks for the veterans and helped with the bingo as some residents cannot play on their own. The project was written up and submitted to the District Master of Oklahoma/Texas and he chose it to send to Supreme in New Haven, Conn. The top awards from around the United States are judged and the top winner competes internationally. The international winner was the Project at the Veterans Center in Norman.