

Go Make Disciples

Following Holy Spirit to Catholicism

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

About five years ago, Brian Cornish, a Baptist minister with a master's degree in divinity, started to explore questions about the origins of the Christian faith. His journey would include much research and would culminate with him resigning his job and joining the Catholic Church at Easter 2017.

Cornish, with his wife Kristen and five children, are now members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. He is employed as the maintenance technician at Saint Mary Catholic School in Lawton and also serves as the youth director at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Father Phil Seeton, pastor at Holy Family, said he believes the parish is blessed to have Cornish as the youth director.

"Brian brings new and fresh ideas to youth ministry. Often we Catholics lag behind non-Catholics in methods and expressions of youth ministry."

Prior to moving back to Lawton to be near family, Cornish was living in Beaumont, Texas, had begun doctoral studies and was enjoying his 13th year in Baptist ministry.

Cornish was brought up in a very active Baptist family in Lawton. His dad is a lifelong Baptist minister. His only contact with Catholics as a youth was on the softball fields in Lawton. He recalls the Catholic teams "crossed themselves when batting."

Cornish thought, "That isn't going to help them in softball." Reaction to Cornish's conversion from family and friends ranged from shock to anger to sadness. His father is supportive, though remaining firm in his own Baptist commitments.

What motivated Cornish's conversion to Catholicism was extensive research into early

deviated from the faith handed down from the days of the earliest Apostles. He goes so far to say, "If you believe the Holy Spirit blessed the Apostles and the early Church, it doesn't make sense that the Holy Spirit would withdraw his guidance until Protestantism came along 1,500 years later."

Cornish is aware of the faith crisis facing the youth of most Catholic families in society.

"It is not just a Catholic issue but a Christianity problem, across every denomination. Children will follow the example of their parents; Christ must be the most important part of a parent's life in order to serve as an example for each child in this society."

Cornish and his wife acknowledge God's faithful provision and are grateful for the love and support shown by their RCIA class during their transition.

Father Brian Buettner, pastor at Blessed Sacrament, said, "Brian Cornish is a man of deep faith and conviction in the Lord. It has been great to welcome Brian, Kristen and their children to our parish. Their family came to us just after entering the Catholic Church and it

has been great to see their enthusiasm continue to grow and slowly spread throughout the parish."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Brian and Kristen Cornish and family. *Photo provided.*

Church history and the writings of Catholic converts such as Christian Smith, Francis Beckwith and Scott Hahn.

Cornish concluded that Protestantism, although having many positive points, had

Bishop Weisenburger appointed seventh bishop of Tucson



Bishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger greets people at a news conference in Tucson. *Photo provided.*

Pope Francis has transferred Bishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger from the Diocese of Salina to the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz. The Holy See made the announcement earlier this month in Rome.

"I congratulate Bishop Weisenburger on his appointment as the next bishop of the Diocese of Tucson. I will be praying for him as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities, and for the Diocese of Salina, who will have to say farewell to their beloved bishop and prepare to welcome a new shepherd," Archbishop Coakley said.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, sixth bishop of Tucson, submitted his resignation in accord with Church law upon reaching his 75th birthday. Weisenburger's appointment

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Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

“Go Make Disciples:” Sustaining the vision

This has been an exhilarating time for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We're still basking in the joyful radiance of the recent beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother.

During this busy time, it probably went unnoticed that we also marked the fourth anniversary of the release of my pastoral letter called “Go Make Disciples,” which articulated a strategic vision for the archdiocese.

In that document, I laid out a five-year program. I am pleased to report that we have made significant strides toward meeting the goals outlined.

The overall vision that “Go Make Disciples” articulates aims to move us from maintenance to mission by forming missionary disciples who are on fire with the love of Christ. We identified three pastoral priorities around which our diocesan resources and energies would be harnessed.

The first priority is “the new evangelization.” This term was used frequently by Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict to describe the need to rekindle the missionary impulse of the Church of Pentecost in our own time. We identified two key goals to move us along in pursuit of this priority – create an office of new evangelization and initiate a parish evangelization plan.

We met the first goal by establishing the Office of New Evangelization and hiring Carole Brown as its director.

The second goal has been a bit more challenging. As we worked toward that goal, we became increasingly convinced that there was a need for structural and organizational changes to facilitate our renewed focus on mission within the chancery.

Over time, we have grown in clarity and understanding about what needs to be done. The past year has seen a tremendous re-organization effort within the chancery. This has resulted in re-aligning various departments to facilitate closer collaboration for mission. This included physically re-arranging work spaces to encourage collaboration among kindred departments. Consequently, we now have a new Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis with Executive Director Jim Beckman, who coordinates the work of several departments around key priorities.

Jim started this position in early August.

The second priority area articulated in “Go Make Disciples” is “faith formation.” The goals outlined for this priority have been somewhat stalled due to leadership transitions and the restructuring process. The new Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis will pick up these tasks and carry them forward to completion.

In the meantime, we have launched a new Transforming Adolescent Catechesis process in a number of our parishes and schools. I look forward to seeing that process completed in the places where it was started, and hopefully

expanded to many other parishes and schools. We have seen an increase in adult faith formation opportunities, but again with the restructuring process have not seen the measured results of that increase.

The enormous turnout for the Beatification Mass, which was attended by an estimated 20,000 people, and the large crowd of more than 4,000 that gathered just a week later for Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic event are certainly signs of a vibrant faith among Catholics in Oklahoma.

Finally, the third priority we articulated is “Hispanic ministry.” Latinos are the growing edge of our Catholic population in Oklahoma. The first goal in this priority area is being addressed. Providentially, it is being aided by the beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother.

As we develop our plans for a beautiful shrine to honor Blessed Stanley Rother, we also will be able to alleviate some overcrowding that many of our parishes serving Spanish-speaking Catholics in the metropolitan area have been experiencing. The shrine will serve not only as a place of pilgrimage and veneration to honor Blessed Stanley Rother, but also a large Catholic church for major diocesan events and a place of worship and formation to minister, especially, though not exclusively, to a growing Hispanic population.

We have now completed the second goal in the Hispanic Ministry priority area. At the end of September, the first class of nearly 200 Hispanic adult students graduated from the new San Juan Diego School of faith formation. Many of those adults will go on to

serve in their parishes and communities, helping many others come to a deeper experience of their faith.

As I reflect on these past four years, I would like to thank so many who have welcomed, embraced and even celebrated the vision of “Go Make Disciples.” Their passion for Christ and discipleship, and their openness to the Spirit, have been a driving force behind the implementation and realization of the goals outlined in my letter.

As we mark this four-year anniversary, I look forward to the next year and to providing direction for the future. The new Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis will be re-engaging a process very similar to what we did before – listening sessions, surveys, committee work, etc. We will assess our progress on all of these goals, recalibrating and determining what needs to be done to finish what we started, and provide vision and direction for the archdiocese moving forward.

I look forward to sharing more with you about this in the coming year. It is indeed an exciting time to be a Catholic in Oklahoma! Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

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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.

✓ The “Catholic Faith Conference: Catholicism Beyond the Pew,” is Jan. 19-20, 2018, at the Wichita retreat center. The event features nationally recognized Catholic speaker Jon Leonetti. Keynote speaker is Theodore Papadopoulos. Space is limited to the first 150 registrants. Contact the Spiritual Life Center at (316) 744-0167 or go online to slcwichita.org.

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

Ardmore St. Mary welcomes four new deacons in November

By Charles Albert

The Sooner Catholic

For more than 30 years, Gustavo “Gus” Orellana was hearing a call to be a deacon, but always found reasons or excuses not to answer. On Nov. 3, he will be answering God’s call.

Four parishioners of Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore are part of a new deacon class of 22 who will be ordained Nov. 3. The four men have spent their careers in very different occupations, but all served people in their “lay occupations” and now want to assist the Church, assist people in their spiritual needs, continue their own faith journey, and draw people closer to Christ.

The four new deacons will be Ray Butler, 64, Robert Highsmith, 67, Juan Jimenez, 51, and Gustavo Orellana, 66. All agree that none of them could have accomplished this calling without the support and prayers of their wives and their family. All of them said they have found the education, friendship and training to be a wonderful experience.

Butler and his wife Sandra grew up Southern Baptist and went through the RCIA program about 12 years ago. Ray works as an accountant and has found great peace in the Catholic faith.

“My world view used to be negative; it is now positive.”

With his ordination, Butler hopes to help transport the disadvantaged to Church on Sundays.

Highsmith and his wife Patricia also were converts to Catholicism. Robert was attracted to the Holy Eucharist, the kindness of the late Father O’Toole, and the RCIA program on his faith journey. He has found tremendous support from his

family of three children.

“The highlight of formation for me has been sharing this experience with so many wonderful people in the program.”

Robert is a retired lawyer and hopes to help the Church in any way possible. He would like to continue his work in education and work with shut-ins.

Juan Jimenez and his wife Maria are lifelong Catholics. Jimenez works as director of Hispanic Ministry for Saint Mary. His faith was greatly influenced by his grandmother, both by her faith and her work in helping people.

In his early life, his faith would be tested through many tough times and there were times when his faith was lacking. However, as he got older, Jimenez said, “The Eucharistic seed that his grandmother and parents planted finally grew.”

Jimenez is open to any task at the parish and really wants urge people to come “home” to the Church and the Eucharist as he did.

Gus Orellana also is a lifelong Catholic. His wife Krystal was raised Southern Baptist and converted when they married 39 years ago. For many years he felt the calling to do something more. Working as a business analyst, there were things “that got in the way.”

“Finally, this was the time,” and with the support of his family, he said he is overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge he’s attained.

“I wish I would have done it earlier.”

Orellana hopes to work with the RCIA program.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Ray Butler, Juan Jimenez, Father Tom Dowdell, Gus Orellana and Robert Highsmith. Photo provided.

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Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

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

Oct. 17 – Presbyteral Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Oct. 17 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., Saint Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

Oct. 17 – Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

Oct. 18 – School Mass and classroom visits, 9:15 a.m., Rosary School, OKC

Oct. 18 – Blessing of new parish hall, 6 p.m., Sacred Heart, Alva

Oct. 19 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., Saint Eugene, OKC

Oct. 19 – Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Downtown Petroleum Club, OKC

Oct. 20-23 – Annual Meeting of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, OKC

Oct. 23-26 – Annual Priests Retreat, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita

Oct. 27 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., Sacred Heart School, OKC

Oct. 27 – Opening prayer and welcome for Encuentro, 6 p.m., CPC

Oct. 29 – Ordination, Clear Creek Monastery, Hulbert

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comes more than a year after Kicanas offered his retirement.

“I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of a shepherd who has served graciously and generously for many years,” Bishop Weisenburger said. “Bishop Kicanas has served in many national capacities for the Catholic Church and is highly esteemed. Knowing that he will continue to reside in our diocese is a great comfort for me and a blessing for our people.”

Weisenburger served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for nearly 25 years. On Feb. 6, 2012, he was appointed Bishop of Salina by Pope Benedict XVI. His installation as Bishop of Tucson will take place on Nov. 29.

Under Bishop Weisenburger’s leadership, the people of Salina have witnessed significant improvements. Weisenburger’s tenure in Salina was marked by the opening of a new diocesan Catholic Charities headquarters with considerably upgraded ministries and services. He also has led the efforts to shine a spotlight on the

cruel abuse of the poor at the hands of the predatory (“payday”) loan industry.

In addition to Catholic social ministries, he focused on personal visits to the 86 parishes of the diocese, vocation recruitment, higher education for clergy and cooperation with “Via Christi-Ascension” in their acquisition of Manhattan’s hospital — now Catholic in identity.

He also restructured the diocese’s chancery with an emphasis on professional lay ministers, collaborating with clergy in all areas of administration, which included dedication in promoting women to greater responsibilities and service within the diocesan structure.

The Diocese of Salina serves approximately 44,000 Catholics. The Diocese of Tucson, which borders with Mexico, serves approximately 450,000 Catholics, many of whom are Spanish-speaking. Weisenburger said he looks forward to joining the bishops of Arizona and New Mexico in being an articulate and indispensable voice of compassion for all immigrants.



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

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Archdiocese announces new archdiocesan school advisory council

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City recently announced the creation of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Council.

After an 18-month planning study was completed by John Convey and Len DeFiore from the Center of Advancement of Catholic Education at Catholic University of America, their findings were published in the "Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Planning Study for Catholic Schools."

A summary of these findings will be distributed to parishes.

The council was formed in response to recommendations from the planning study to gain a deeper understanding of the status of schools within the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and to provide advice to Archbishop Coakley and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diane Floyd, on standardizing procedures and policies.

In addition, the council will provide advice and counsel to Archbishop Coakley and Superintendent Floyd on strategic planning, marketing

and governance to help sustain, grow and strengthen the schools in the archdiocese.

The members of the council were appointed in March 2017. The council, which meets quarterly, is comprised of pastors, parents and representatives from various parishes and schools in the archdiocese. Carrie Leonard serves as chairman.

Other members of the council are:

Whit Bass – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Anita Cornelius – Saint John Nepomuk

Nicole Dell'Osso – Christ the King

Tony Gianino – All Saints

Debbie Jones – Christ the King, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Carrie Leonard – Christ the King, BMCHS

Anna Maloy – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jay Mauldin – Sacred Heart – El Reno

Todd Regier – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

John Rieger – Saint Charles Borromeo, BMCHS

Paul Streets – Saint Philip Neri – Midwest City

Kathy Wilson – Christ the King

Fr. Mark Mason – Sacred Heart – El Reno

Fr. Tim Luschen – Saint Charles Borromeo.



Members of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Council. Back row (from left to right): Jay Mauldin (vice-chairman), Tony Gianino, Fr. Tim Luschen, Anna Maloy, Superintendent Diane Floyd, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, John Rieger, Fr. Mark Mason. Front row (from left to right): Whit Bass, Carrie Leonard (c=hairman), Debbie Jones, Kathy Wilson (secretary), Anita Cornelius. Members not pictured are: Nicole Dell'Osso, Todd Regier and Paul Streets. *Photo Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic*

October Feast Days: Honoring saints

By Ted King
The Sooner Catholic

Saint Ignatius of Antioch

Oct. 17 is the feast day of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, surnamed Theophoros, meaning God bearer. Born about the year 35, Ignatius became a disciple of the Apostle John. He was Bishop of Antioch in modern day Turkey. Saint Ignatius wrote about the sacraments, ecclesiology (the study of Christianity), and the role of bishops. He was martyred in Rome about the year 108. He was the first person to use and write the words "the Catholic Church." "Where there is Christ Jesus, there is the Catholic Church."

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Oct. 18 is the feast day of Saint

Luke the Evangelist. He was the author of one of the Gospels and of the Acts of the Apostles. He was a Greek physician and bachelor, and the missionary companion of Saint Paul. He was martyred. Luke is the patron of artists, physicians, and bachelors.

Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and companions

Oct. 19 is the feast day of Saints John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, and companions, all of whom were martyred. John de Brebeuf (1593-1649) was a Jesuit priest from Normandy, France, who was a missionary to the Indian people of New France, modern day Canada. He worked to convert the Huron Indians. In 1649, he was taken captive by the Iroquois

The Catholic Church assigns one date out of the year for each blessed and canonized saint – known as their feast day. The saints are remembered on their individual feast days with special mention, prayers and possibly a scripture reading. Blessed Stanley Rother's feast day is July 28.

and martyred. Saint Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) was another Jesuit missionary from France. He, like John de Brebeuf, was born in Normandy and came to Canada as a missionary. He was martyred by the Mohawks. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues and their companions were canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI.

Saints Simon and Jude

Oct. 28 is the feast day of Saints Simon and Jude, two of the apostles. Simon is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Jude is mentioned in Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In Matthew and Mark, Jude is called Thaddeus.

Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Saint Ignatius
of Antioch

Saint Luke
the Evangelist

Saint
Simon

Saint
Jude

Matthew Kelly preaches "Passion and Purpose"

By Judy Hilovsky
The Sooner Catholic

Matthew Kelly's "Passion and Purpose" event drew about 4,000 people to downtown Oklahoma City to deliver a message of discovering purpose, learning new habits and gaining personal clarity. Singer, songwriter Elliot Morris provided inspirational Christian music between sessions.

"I heard Matthew about 12 years ago and I've really been impressed with his message. I think this is going to be a wonderful event and a wonderful follow-up to last week's beatification ceremony. He provides a great summons to discipleship, an active engagement in the Church and a sense of mission, which is what we have been

For more information

To learn more about Matthew Kelly or Dynamic Catholic, go online to DynamicCatholic.com.

emphasizing and talking about in the archdiocese for the past few years," Archbishop Coakley said

before introducing the best-selling author.

Each attendee received a bag of Dynamic Catholic resources that included a copy of one of Kelly's books, "The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality" CD, an inspirational journal, the "Decision Point" workbook, a Mass journal and a pen.

Kelly encourages every Catholic to bring the Mass journal to church and ask the question written on its cover, "God, show me the one way in the Mass I can become a better version of myself this week."

"I want people to walk out of here tonight and say this was really helpful, practical and hopeful. The front cover of the journal that attendees receive says "People don't do anything until they are inspired, but once they are inspired, there is almost nothing they can't do."

Kelly used the third session of the event as a call to action.

"Go out into your parishes, into your work place, into families, with strangers crossing your path and bring back God into the conversation because our culture

is trying to exclude God from the conversation. No one is representing the God perspective, the God

moment. That's a holy moment. Christianity is not a spectator

sport. We need to go out and get out story back. It's a great story, not without blemishes, but an incredible story nonetheless," Kelly told the crowd.

"God uses the people who make themselves available to

him. So, as you drive home tonight, I want you to think about one question, 'How available are you to God at this time in your life?'

Before you go to bed, kneel down and pray, 'God, I'm 100 percent available, I will do anything, show me what you want' and then get ready."

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Sister Veronica Higgins, Sister Stephanie Sanchez and friends enjoy attending Energy soccer games in Oklahoma City. *Photo provided.*

Pious on the pitch

*Carmelites, friends join fans
for Energy soccer*

By Steve Gust
The Sooner Catholic

If you happen to take in an OKC Energy soccer game, don't be surprised to find at least a few Carmelite sisters cheering their loudest.

"The soccer community loves them and has kind of adopted them," said Gary Savely, athletic director of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

Among two of the biggest fans of the professional soccer club

are Sister Stephanie Sanchez and Sister Veronica Higgins.

Sister Stephanie, a longtime McGuinness theology teacher, also has been a regular sports fan for decades at McGuinness athletic events. She is heartily welcomed by Energy management at the fast-paced soccer games played at Taft Stadium in Oklahoma City.

At first, Energy staff made sure she had a good parking place across the street, according to Savely. But, even that put a bit of a strain on Sister Stephanie. The Energy responded by giving her the best parking place at Taft Stadium, with her name on it.

"That was something to see," she said.

Not only that, but they accommodated her in other ways too.

"They will help me with a golf cart," she said. "People with the Energy have been very, very kind."

The Energy's ties with the Carmelite Order started in 2014 when the new team began playing their first games at McGuinness High School. They made improvements at the stadium.

"It was a win-win for everyone," Savely said. The first two

home games at McGuinness were sold out.

Savely was comped with four free tickets. He went to a game, but his schedule soon found him giving away the tickets. Sister Stephanie, and others in the order, found themselves at the game cheering for the home team.

After season No. 1, the Energy moved to Taft Stadium. Working with the Energy, Savely was able to continue the tickets for the nuns.

"They just loved going," he said.

Although the details of the sport were a bit new for Sister Stephanie.

"At first, I wasn't quite sure what to say when I was cheering," she said about the new sport.

Anyone who has been to an Irish basketball or football game knows she isn't shy about expressing her opinion.

Sister Veronica, besides enjoying the action on the field, likes the atmosphere, including the times when Catholic grade school students show up to sing the national anthem.

"It's nice to see the various families," she said. "It's a great sport."

And, they said the Funk family, team owners, will usually always come by and say hi.

"We've had a lot of fun going to games," Sister Veronica said. "Sometimes we have conflicts and can't go, but when we can, we really like it."

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Would you be ready?

The weekend after the euphoria-producing beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother at the Cox Convention Center, several parishes hosted more than 3,000 guests for an evening with evangelist Matthew Kelly. His presentation was entitled “Passion and Purpose.”

A few days before Matthew Kelly spoke, it occurred to me that one possible outcome of such an event might be that some people would be interested in getting to know Jesus better. Since that is what we as a Church exist to do, I thought it might be a good idea to make a list of parishes in the archdiocese that have been working on that, to include in the gift bags that were given to those who attended.

I asked myself – suppose a dozen or so people were to come through the door of a given parish and say simply, “I’ve been Catholic my whole life, but I don’t know Jesus very well at all. Is there a way for me to get to know Jesus in this parish?”

Let yourself imagine your way into that question in your own parish. Does your parish have

any kind of strategy that anyone knows about for helping people to come to know Jesus? Is there a process that a person can jump into within a few weeks? Or do they have to wait until the next school year begins?

Likely, we are somewhat prepared for new inquirers to find a seat in RCIA. But, what about adults who already have been fully sacramentally initiated – perhaps even attend Mass regularly – who want to know Jesus?

This is an important question to answer – I daresay, perhaps the most important question for parish leadership teams, pastoral councils and parish councils.

First, it’s what we exist for. Saint John Paul II said, “The Church wishes to serve this single end: that each person may be able to find Christ, in order that Christ may walk with each person the path of life” (Redeemer of Man, 13).

Secondly, the failure to provide processes like this is the most common reason people walk away from Catholicism to join an evangelical church. (Did you know that upwards of 60

percent of people who attend evangelical churches are former Catholics?)

As I prepared my list, I found that there are certainly more parishes than there would have been four years ago that could handle a dozen or more people showing up and asking about how to know Jesus. But, I cannot help but wish there were more.

This month marks four years since Archbishop Coakley called us to develop a culture of intentional discipleship in our parishes in his pastoral letter “Go Make Disciples.” It also marks the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Catholic bishop’s document “Go and Make Disciples.”

If you are ready to make the Church’s main mission a priority in your parish, we are ready to help you.



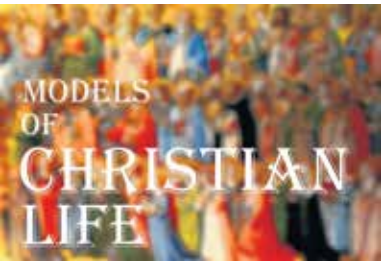
Carole Brown
Director of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship

Move over St. Christopher! This lady is the patron saint of those in the driver’s seat

She also is the patron saint of Benedictine oblates, widows

Many Saint Christopher medals have been handed out to new car owners and young drivers throughout the years. One of my daughters even has one hanging from her rearview mirror.

But, the enigmatic Saint Christopher, whoever he actually might be (originally Christopher



was more like a title and not an actual name), is not and never has been the patron saint of drivers. He is the patron saint of travelers.

The actual patron saint of car drivers is a lovely Italian woman who was born in 1384. This is nearly 100 years before Leonardo da Vinci’s self-propelled vehicle was sketched out on paper, 400 years before Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot of France built a steam tractor for the military, 450 years before Robert Anderson of Scotland built an electric carriage and 500 years before Karl Friedrich Benz of Germany built the first actual gasoline-powered automobile.

Even more impressive, while headlamps for automobiles didn’t arrive until the 20th century, this model of Christian living had already been traveling at night with her own unique headlamp leading her way in the darkness of Rome back in the 14th century.

Her life was a bit uncommon. She was born

in a wealthy family and surrounded by many advantages and comforts. As a very young girl, she was impressed with the many religious sisters who walked about the Holy City. Their holiness, their religious habits, from various communities, and their happiness and joy impressed the young girl so much that she expressed an early desire to become one of them. But, her parents had other plans.

Shortly after entering her teenage years, she was married to Lorenzo Ponziani, commander of the papal troops of Rome. This marriage, a very loving one, lasted for more than 40 years.

While Lorenzo dealt with his military issues, our saint would invite her sister, Vannozza, to join her to pray, visit the poor, care for the sick and be involved in various other acts of charity with those most in need. Her example was contagious, and she motivated others to do the same. One source on her life mentions that she became known by the nickname “the queen.”

Her marriage was a fruitful one. Six children were born in the Ponziani family. Sadly, two died during the plague. Wars and many other hardships did away with her family’s wealth and many possessions, but

her suffering did not end there. After being wounded in battle, her loving husband would succumb to his wounds when she was in her mid-50s. But, this widow continued her pious and charitable works.

She founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women. She also founded a convent for common life. She received approval of Pope Eugene IV to establish a religious congregation of nuns. A community that became known as the Oblates of Saint Frances of Rome.

She loved Jesus and served Him present in the poor and suffering. She motivated many others to do the same. She died before her 60th birthday.

She was canonized in 1608, and in 1925 Pope Pius XI declared her the patron saint of automobile drivers because of a legend that her guardian angel used to light the road in front of her with a lantern when she would go out at night to help those in need.

Saint Frances of Rome, patroness of drivers, pray for us.



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

Catholic Foundation offers estate planning continuing education course

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is presenting a continuing education program this fall entitled Estate Planning 2017. The program will be held Friday, Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The course is geared toward attorneys, accountants, financial planners and trust officers. The cost for the course is \$50 in advance and \$75 the day of the course.

The presenting sponsor for the course is The Private Bank at Bank of Oklahoma. The 2017 presenters are Cynda Ottaway and Lauren Ottaway Johnson. Ottaway is a director of the Oklahoma City law firm Crowe and Dunlevy. She heads the firm’s Private Wealth

and Closely-Held Business Practice Group in the Oklahoma City office. Her practice focuses on estate planning, trust and estate administration and litigation and planning for closely-held family businesses. She has experience in wealth transfer techniques and assists individuals and businesses with succession planning. Ottaway serves as immediate past president of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and is a frequent speaker and writer.

Johnson is an associate in the Oklahoma City office of Crowe and Dunlevy. Her areas of practice include wealth planning, tax-exempt organizations, trusts and estates and taxation. She is a member of the firm’s Private Wealth and Closely Held Business and Taxation Practice Groups. Johnson

earned her doctorate degree from Boston University’s School of Law, graduating cum laude. While attending law school, she served as a member of the American Journal of Law and Medicine. Additionally, Lauren earned her Master of Laws degree in taxation and an estate planning certificate from Georgetown Law Center in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Washington and Lee University with a bachelor’s degree in history. She was selected for inclusion in the 2013-14 Leadership Oklahoma City LOYAL Class IX, and was a recipient of the 2014 NextGen Under 30 award and 2016 Achievers Under 40 award.

Course Topic 1
Potpourri of Ideas with Concentration on Recent Oklahoma Developments includes a discussion on transfer-on-death conveyances and accounts, recent

legislation to provide default of health care representatives in the absence of advance directives or durable powers of attorney, review last year’s legislation to adopt a procedure in Oklahoma for doctors and physicians to sign a “POLST,” which is a more detailed version of a do-not-resuscitate order, consider pending legislation for decanting trusts.

Course Topic 2
Estate Planning Current Developments on a National Level includes a Top 10 list of major developments in the estate planning world in the past year. Discussion of the effect of the new Trump administration and the Republican’s proposals regarding tax reform,

including the transfer tax. Estate planning considerations in the face of legislative uncertainties.

Course Topic 3
Charitable Planning with Retirement Assets includes examining various techniques for including charities in the disposition of qualified retirement plan assets. With an increasing amount of retirement account assets (principally in the form of IRAs and other retirement plan assets) being transferred in the estates of decedents, there can be sizable taxable income to the beneficiaries when they receive a payment. This topic explores ways to minimize or eliminate the transfer creating an income tax liability and the ways that testamentary transfers to charities are best structured.

Course Topic 4
Ethics: Recommendations and Guidelines for Engaging your Clients includes scenarios to illustrate the proper use and improper use of engagement letters. Because of the critical importance of engagement letters, the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel organization has developed a series of forms of engagement letter. The sample engagement letters address the ethical issues that may arise as a trust and estate lawyer and a client collaborate in establishing the nature and scope of a representation.

The course is approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Oklahoma for a maximum of four credit hours, of which one hour is credit covering ethics. Certificates of attendance are available for CFP, CPA and other forms of continuing education.

Reporting abuse, pastoral response hotline

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City through its programs, organizations and events, has numerous daily contacts with many children and young people. It is, therefore important that all archdiocesan personnel, clergy, seminarians, religious, employees and volunteers, protect the rights of children and be alert to the possibility for child abuse.

Under Oklahoma law, all individuals MUST report an incident or suspicion of sexual abuse of a minor (person under age 18) to civil authorities. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has established a statewide abuse reporting hotline for reporting: (800) 522-3511. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you feel a child is in immediate danger of harm call 9-1-1.

For the safety of children and the healing of victims, the archdiocese provides an Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline for reporting the abuse of a minor (in the past or present) by a member of the clergy or other church personnel: (405) 720-9878. The archdiocesan victims assistance coordinator, a licensed professional counselor, will respond to calls to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline.

A report to the archdiocese does not relieve the individual of the duty to report child abuse to civil authorities as required by Oklahoma law. In Oklahoma, failure to report child abuse is a misdemeanor punishable by law.

For more information, go online to www.archokc.org/safeenvironment.

Mercy announces executive director of philanthropy

Lori Cummins was recently named executive director of philanthropy with oversight of foundation co-workers in El Reno, Kingfisher, Logan County, Oklahoma City and Watonga as well as



Lori Cummins

“I am honored to be a part of the Mercy family and to continue the mission set forth by the Sisters of Mercy 190 years ago,” Cummins said. “The generosity and compassion of the Oklahoma City community allows us to utilize the gifts and resources they entrust to us, to enable our physicians and staff to provide innovative and compassionate care to all.”

Cummins has more than 30 years of professional experience in health care development and marketing.

Most recently, she served as director of development at Oklahoma City University. Prior to her

role there, she served for 12 years as director of community relations at Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton before taking on responsibilities as executive director of the foundation.

From the Archives ...

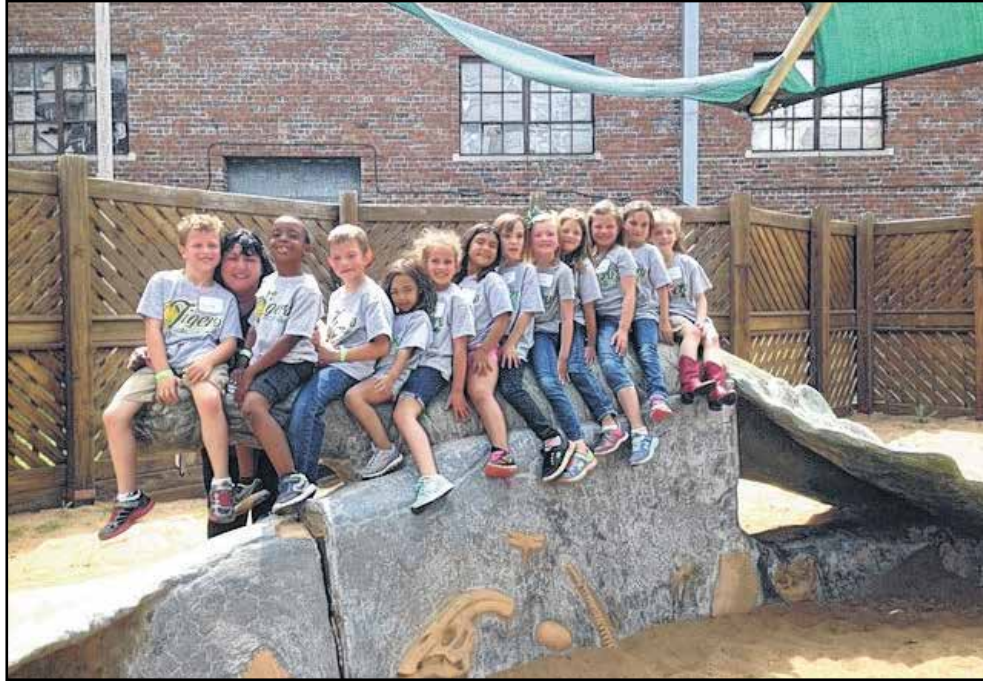
A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist



Eugene J. McGuinness came to Oklahoma as the Coadjutor Bishop in January 1945, due to the failing health of his friend Bishop Francis Kelley. The two had worked together at the Catholic Church Extension Society (which Bishop Kelley founded) in Chicago. McGuinness had been Bishop of Raleigh, N.C., since 1937. His coming to Oklahoma was a lateral move that he accepted out of deference and respect for Kelley. McGuinness was energetic, beloved by his clergy, and bursting with enthusiasm. He would be known as the “builder bishop.” In this photo, he is seen breaking ground for the new seminary (now the Catholic Pastoral Center). The priest to his left is Msgr. Victor Reed who would succeed McGuinness in 1958.



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES



Kimberly Frisby and students. Photo provided.

Okarche teacher wins honor

By Ted King
The Sooner Catholic

Okarche native Kimberly Frisby is the 2017 Kingfisher County Teacher of the Year. She was given that honor by listeners of KNID radio station in Enid and was presented with flowers and a gift card, which she gave to Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche.

Frisby, who has a dual certification/degree in elementary and early childhood education from Oklahoma State University, was a first and second grade teacher at Holy Trinity for 27 years. She is a cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother and of Seattle Auxil-

iary Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg.

This isn't Frisby's first honor. She was honored by Walmart/Sam's Club for her work in the classroom as 2007 Teacher of the Year. She credits that honor to one of the parents of her students who wrote an essay nominating her.

"God puts things in front of us for a reason," she said. She said her former students come up to her in town and say, "We miss you! We love you! I wish you were our teacher for every grade!" Frisby said, "They make it all worthwhile."

Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass on Sept. 21 for the residents at The Center of Family Love in Okarche.

"It is always a joy and blessing to have the archbishop visit and celebrate Mass, and our residents loved seeing him!" said Chasity Ladd, development coordinator for the Center of Family Love. Photos provided.



Go Make Disciples

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Five Year Service Awards



Ten Year Service Awards



Fifteen Year Service Awards



Each year, teachers and staff members are honored for service to Catholic schools. Pictured are those teachers and staff members with five years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and 25 years of service in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Also receiving service awards, but not pictured, are Teresa Stotler from St. Philp Neri Catholic School for 30 years of service and Jeanne Mennes from St. John Nepomuk Catholic School for 35 years of service.

Catholic Schools Office
Superintendent Diane Floyd
dfloyd@archokc.org
(405) 721-4202

Twenty Year Service Awards



Twenty Five Year Service Awards



Google donates laptops to Cristo Rey OKC

Students participating in Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School's Corporate Work Study Program will each be outfitted with a MacBook laptop, courtesy of a generous donation from Google.

The company donated 150 refurbished laptops, enough for every student in Cristo Rey OKC's freshman class, as part of its Google Goodware program that supports nonprofits.

"Cristo Rey's Corporate Work Study Program is providing students with valuable work skills and putting them on a path to success," said Andrew Silvestri, Google's regional head of community affairs. "We are grateful to be able to support their education with technology that will enable them to hone the skills they need to succeed both in school and in their future careers."

Cristo Rey OKC is a new school that exclusively serves children from families with limited economic means. It is part of the national Cristo Rey Network known for its unique work study program in which students work one day a week at local partnering

companies. The income earned by each student offsets the majority of their tuition costs. Cristo Rey OKC will open its doors to its first class of students in Fall 2018.

Cristo Rey OKC President Renee Porter said the school is thrilled to have Google's support.

"Our mission is to provide a world-class education to students who otherwise would not be able to receive one," Porter said. "That would not be possible without corporate partners like Google who share



that vision and commitment to educating a new generation of motivated, highly-skilled Oklahomans. We are extremely grateful for their support and for the investment they are making in our students."

To apply to Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School, go online to CristoReyOKC.org.



Fr. Chris Brashears (top) speaks during the Catholic Radio Benefit Luncheon on Oct. 4 at Christ the King in Oklahoma City. Cami Rowe (left) also spoke about Oklahoma Catholic Radio and its impact. To learn more about Catholic Radio, visit okcatholicbroadcasting.com. Photos Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

Inspiration in a dark place

By J.E. Helm
The Sooner Catholic

Most people are aware of the mass murders, atrocities and attempts at genocide committed by the Nazis at places whose names are linked to the worst in human nature, places like Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka and Dachau.

Book Review

What people may not know is that Hitler eventually revealed his true hatred of religion in general and Christianity, in particular.

At the concentration camp at Dachau, three of the 30 barracks were reserved for members of the clergy. The majority of these inmates were Polish Catholic priests, and this is the story detailed by Guillaume Zeller in "The Priest Barracks: Dachau, 1938-1945."

Beyond detailed description of Dachau's horrors, he presents well-researched facts and figures. Zeller writes that "2,579 priests, monks and Catholic seminarians ... were imprisoned in the Dachau camp by the Nazis from 1938 to 1945" and "1,034 gave up their lives." Sixty-five percent were Polish, and Poles made up 84 percent of those who died.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike were arrested, Zeller explains, for "ownership of a forbidden book, clippings from tendentious newspapers, personal letters critical of the regime, signs of religious proselytism."

"The Priest Barracks" includes an actual diagram of the camp. Zeller explains that each of the barracks, or blocks, was some 109 yards by 11 yards. There were triple bunks with straw mattresses and straw pillows. In autumn of 1941, new arrivals were crammed into this same space, forcing the inmates to sleep several on a mattress and on the floor between the bunks.

Food was supposed to be sufficient to maintain strength, but when these rations were cut in 1942, starvation ensued. The average prisoner weighed 110 pounds; some weighed as

little as 84 pounds. Detainees started foraging through compost piles, so the guards began urinating there. The starving men pilfered scraps from SS trash cans, and when it rained, they ate the worms and slugs that surfaced from the soil.

A wall of electrified barbed wire surrounded the camp, and guards with machine guns manned the towers.

The priests were used as slave labor and subjected to the Nazi's notorious medical experiments to study malaria, infection and hypothermia.

Zeller describes how "Father Anthony Rieser ... was forced by an SS guard to make a crown of barbed wire and to wear it." Other inmates were forced "to dance around him, strike him, and spit on him... in a horrifying parody of the Passion."

Eighteen priests volunteered to serve in the barracks quarantined by typhus. All of the volunteers "were contaminated by typhus, and several of them departed from this life as a result," Zeller writes.

Amazingly, the Vatican was able to negotiate on behalf of the priests and obtain for them "the right to say or assist at Mass in a chapel." Access to the chapel was forbidden to laymen, and eventually the Nazis restricted use of the chapel to only German and Austrian priests.

The light of Christ glowed as a "clandestine networks were set up to distribute communion throughout the camp." Priests heard confessions while seemingly engaged in casual conversation. One was ordained a priest in Dachau by a French bishop.

Finally, American forces liberated the camp on April 29, 1944. Many priests stayed on to attend to the last of the inmates. The chapel remained open, and all nationalities went there to say Mass. Zeller describes the victorious erection "of a very tall cross, about (39 feet) high and an altar set up on the "Appelplatz," where the flogging sessions and the executions ... used to take place."

An antidote to the tragedy of "The Priest Barracks" is Elaine Murray Stone's "Maximilian Kolbe: Saint of Auschwitz." Saint Maximilian is well known and highly revered for his willingness to take the place of another inmate sentenced to death in the camp's dreaded starvation cell.

Stone's book is a complete biography of this remarkable saint. He came from devout parents who, after all three of their sons were placed in the seminary, entered religious life on their own.

The future saint was born in 1894. As a young boy (whose name was Raymond), this saint had a vision of Our Lady as he prayed before a family altar that carried a statue of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the patroness of Poland. Mary showed the young boy two crowns. One was red, symbolizing martyrdom, and one was white, signifying celibacy and chastity. Mary asked the young Kolbe which crown he desired, and he replied that he wanted them both. Our Lady smiled, then disappeared.

In 1910, Raymond entered the

Franciscans as a novice, taking the name of Maximilian Maria. He was ordained in 1918.

While still in Italy, he was struck with tuberculosis, a disease which afflicted him until his death in Auschwitz. Despite his ill health, Maximilian began the publication of a newspaper, "The Knight of the Immaculate," which would go on to become a great success.

The small friary at Grodno from which he published the paper became too crowded. Almost miraculously, Maximilian obtained the land and financial backing to found Niepokalanow, "Marytown, the City of the Immaculate." "By 1937," Stone relates, "Niepokalanow had become the largest friary in the world."

In 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and Father Kolbe sent all but 38 friars home from Niepokalanow.

Maximilian was arrested in September 1939, but then the prisoners were released, and Maximilian returned to Niepokalanow.

Father Kolbe was arrested again in February 1941. The Gestapo took him to Warsaw where he was sent to the dreaded Pawiak prison; there, a guard beat him so cruelly that in his already weakened state (with TB), he developed pneumonia.

Father Kolbe by sent to Auschwitz by train in one of the Reich's notorious cattle cars. Despite his weakened condition, Maximilian was forced to perform heavy labor. Henry Sienkiewicz, a survivor of Auschwitz, later told of how, seeing the priest unable to move a wheelbarrow full of gravel, Sienkiewicz offered to help. Seeing this,

a guard became enraged, beat

both with a whip, then forced Sienkiewicz to sit in the wheelbarrow as Maximilian struggled to move the heavy load. Maximilian told Sienkiewicz not to lose faith. "Everything we suffer is for the Immaculate Virgin. Even here, we must pray for those who harm us."

The book has a forward written by Ted Wojtkowski.

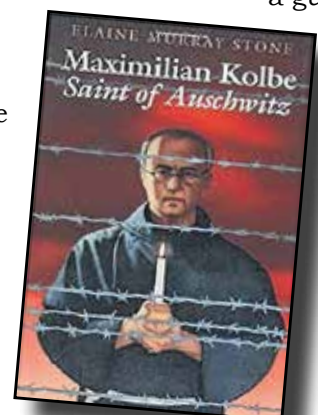
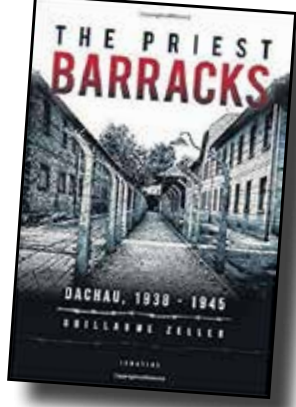
He was there the day the Nazis selected 10 men to die for one man who had escaped. One man, Francis Gajowniczek, imprisoned for helping the Polish Underground, was selected, and he pleaded to be spared, saying "Please, I have a wife and two children. I'll never see them again!" To everyone's astonishment, Father Kolbe stepped forward and said, "I wish to take this man's place."

His request was granted, and he joined the nine other men in the starvation bunker of Building 13. They were put into the dark cell completely naked and left to die. Another witness, Bruno Borgowiec, relates that it was his job to enter this cell each day and remove the dead. "Each time, I was greeted by fervent prayers and hymns to the Holy Virgin. "Eventually, they were too weak to sing or pray.

After two weeks, only four of the prisoners were still alive. The camp doctor was called to go in and inject the four with carbolic acid; they died immediately.

Father Maximilian Kolbe was canonized in Rome on October 10, 1982.

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



Jobs Box

Director of parish life

St. John Nepomuk, Yukon, is seeking a director of parish life. The position provides organizational direction and administrative leadership to St. John Nepomuk church and school under general oversight of the pastor. An ideal candidate would be a faithful, committed Catholic who has a bachelor degree or equivalent in theology, communications, business administration, public relations or related field; at least five years demonstrated competence managing multiple responsibilities; mastery of office computer software; and at least five years successful work experience in a parish environment. Go online to www.sjnok.org. Submit resumes to pastor@sjnok.org.

Fifth grade teacher - Ponca City

St. Mary Catholic School has an immediate opening for a fifth-grade teacher. Applicant should be certified in Oklahoma. Contact Principal Marilyn Nash for application.

Constituent services coordinator

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for a constituent services coordinator to be a part of the Stewardship and Development team. The position is responsible for gift processing, donor acknowledgment, constituent research, data organization and reporting on gifts. Excellent technical computer skills with an advanced competency in Excel and multiple types of databases. Experience with Raiser's Edge preferred. Strong communication, customer service and organizational skills required. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Communications coordinator

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for a communications coordinator to be part of the Stewardship and Development team. The position is responsible for managing digital media and communications programs related to the implementation of the "One Church, Many Disciples" campaign undertaken by the archdiocese. The team is being expanded to support the implementation of a \$55 million comprehensive capital fundraising campaign that will be implemented in 108 churches. The successful candidate will be highly organized, have excellent written, verbal and social media communication skills. Familiarity with social media platforms is required. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Director of marriage and family life

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of marriage and family life ministry. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan marriage and family life efforts, with oversight of marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and various support services to families, including single parents and the divorced. Bachelor's degree in theology or marriage and family life required; master's degree preferred. Previous experience in leading family life ministry on the diocesan and/or parish level a must. Significant background with leadership training and ministry formation highly desired. Bilingual in Spanish a plus. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Director of youth and campus ministry

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

Director of adult formation and leadership development

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of adult formation and leadership development. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan formation efforts for adults, with an emphasis on forming missionary disciples at all levels. A master's degree in theology or related field required. Previous experience leading adult formation as well as teaching background and curriculum development a must. Bilingual in Spanish a plus. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

IT help desk assistant

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time IT help desk assistant to provide IT support to staff and visitors of the Catholic Pastoral Center. High school diploma required; college degree or certificate from a vocational/technical school is preferred. Excellent computer skills necessary as well as the ability to solve problems and troubleshoot. Customer service experience is usually required. The computer support technician should have strong communication skills and be able to converse with and support those employees who are not technologically proficient. The position also requires knowledge of basic hardware and software functions and networking. Organizational skills essential. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Administrative assistant

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time administrative assistant to provide clerical and organization support for the Office of Vocations, Seminarians and Permanent Diaconate. The position requires someone highly organized with excellent computer skills for recordkeeping, database reports, correspondence, promotional materials, mailings, etc. Must have knowledge and ability to use social media platforms, strong and positive interpersonal

relationship skills with the ability to approach people in a manner that creates harmony and promotes cooperation and collaboration, ability to effectively interact in a professional and pastoral manner with unique and divergent personalities, ability to work in a multicultural environment, ability to maintain confidentiality, ability and willingness to support the vision and values of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City; bilingual in Spanish desired. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

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. The fast-paced role allows directors 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 Raiser's 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@kocf.org, (405) 514-7660.

Music director/organist - Enid

St. Francis Xavier, Enid, is seeking a full-time music director and organist. Degree in music desired. Experience and knowledge of the music tradition of the Catholic Church needed. Includes weddings, funerals, quincineras and Holy Days. Contact Fr. Irwin at (580) 237-0812 or frjosephirwin@yahoo.com.

Birth Choice volunteers needed

Birth Choice is in serious need of volunteers who will mentor clients and help with clerical work. Contact Barbara at (405) 606-8428.

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

Archdiocese receives stewardship recognition

The 55th annual International Catholic Stewardship Conference was held in Atlanta Sept. 27-20. Each year, dioceses across the country are asked to submit materials from annual appeals and stewardship programs.

Out of 57 entries, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City won first place in two separate categories - Annual Appeal and Total Stewardship Effort. The 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal is on track to reach its expanded goal of \$3.5 million to help fund diocese-wide ministries that impact all parish communities.

The Total Stewardship Effort recognizes the archdiocesan effort to help parishes to more fully utilize electronic giving in Mass offertory, the Living Faith monthly prayer and giving program that supports seminarians, and other initiatives.

"Recognition from our peers in the field is a testament to the leadership of Archbishop Coakley and the dedication of our team,"



Very Rev. Andrew Kemberling, chairman of the ICSC board of directors, and Peter de Keratry. Photo provided.

said Peter de Keratry, executive director of Stewardship and Development for the archdiocese.

Archbishop Coakley created the Office of Stewardship and Development in 2016 to elevate the overall stewardship effort and to systemically increase support available for parish and diocesan ministries.

To learn more, go online to www.archokc.org/stewardship.

IN CONCERT
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JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT

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Sunday, October 22, 2017 - 5:00 PM
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7336 W. Britton Rd.
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\$25 General Seating (\$35 at the door.)
\$50 VIP* Package
*VIP Package includes preferred seating, present at soundcheck and autographed CD!

For more information call the parish office:
405-722-2110
To order tickets online:
www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

“Vayan y Hagan Discípulos:” Manteniendo la visión

Estos días ha sido estimulantes para los católicos en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Todavía estamos disfrutando del alegre resplandor de la reciente beatificación del Beato Stanley Rother.

Durante estos días tan ocupados, probablemente pasó desapercibido que también marcamos el cuarto aniversario de la publicación de mi carta pastoral “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos”, que articulaba una visión estratégica para la arquidiócesis.

En ese documento, establecí un programa de cinco años. Me complace informar que hemos avanzado considerablemente hacia el logro de las metas delineadas.

La visión general de “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos” es llevarnos del mantenimiento de la fe a la misión de ir formando discípulos misioneros que estén ardiendo con el amor de Cristo. Identificamos tres prioridades pastorales alrededor de las cuales se utilizarían nuestros recursos y energías diocesanas.

La primera prioridad es “La Nueva Evangelización”. Este término fue usado con frecuencia por san Juan Pablo II y el papa Benedicto para describir la necesidad de reavivar el impulso misionero de la Iglesia de Pentecostés en nuestro tiempo actual. Hemos identificado dos objetivos claves para avanzar en la búsqueda de esta prioridad: crear una oficina de Nueva Evangelización e iniciar un plan de Evangelización Parroquial.

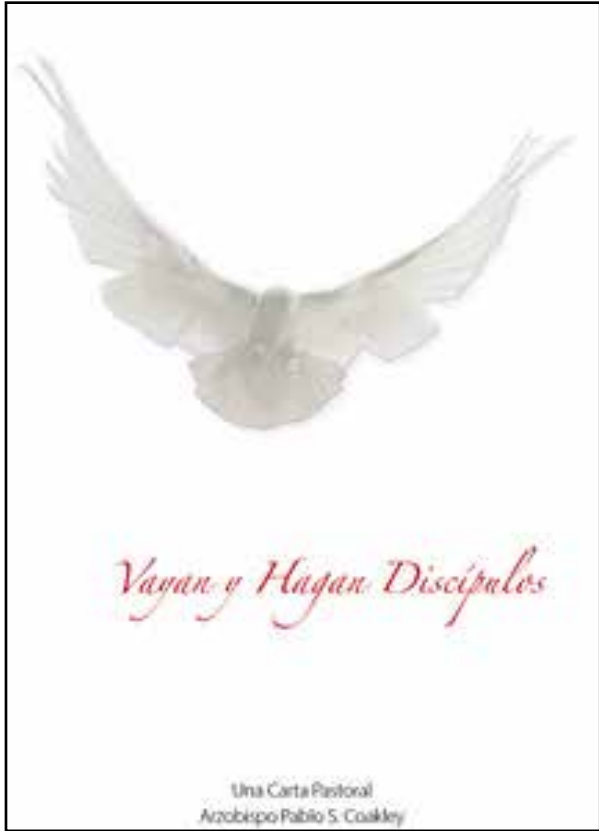
Cumplimos con el primer objetivo estableciendo la Oficina de la Nueva Evangelización y contratando a Carole Brown como su directora. El segundo objetivo ha sido un poco más desafiante. A medida que trabajábamos hacia ese objetivo, nos convencimos cada vez más de que había necesidad de cambios estructurales y organizacionales para facilitar nuestro renovado enfoque en la misión dentro de la cancellaría arquidiocesana.

Con el tiempo, hemos crecido en claridad y comprensión sobre lo que hay que hacer. El año pasado ha sido testigo de un tremendo esfuerzo de reorganización dentro de la cancellaría. Esto ha redundado en la reorientación de varios departamentos para facilitar una colaboración más estrecha para la misión. Esto incluyó la reorganización física de los espacios de trabajo para fomentar la colaboración entre los departamentos afines. En consecuencia, tenemos ahora una nueva Secretaría de Evangelización y Catequesis con el Director Ejecutivo Jim Beckman, quien coordina el trabajo de varios departamentos en torno a las prioridades clave. Jim comenzó esta posición a principios de agosto.

La segunda área prioritaria articulada en “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos” es “Formación en la Fe”. Las metas esbozadas para esta prioridad han estado algo estancadas debido a las transiciones de liderazgo y al proceso de reestructuración. La nueva Secretaría de Evangelización y Catequesis recogerá estas tareas y las llevará a término.

Mientras tanto, hemos lanzado un nuevo

proceso de Transformación de la Catequesis de Adolescentes en varias de nuestras parroquias y escuelas. Espero con interés que ese proceso se complete en los lugares donde se inició, y espero que se amplíe a muchas otras



Para descargar la carta pastoral del Arzobispo Coakley en inglés o español, visite www.archokc.org.

parroquias y escuelas. Hemos visto un aumento en las oportunidades de formación de la fe de adultos, pero nuevamente con el proceso de reestructuración no hemos visto resultados medidos de ese aumento.

La enorme concurrencia a la Misa de Be-

los católicos de Oklahoma.

Finalmente, la tercera prioridad que hemos articulado es “Ministerio Hispano”. Los latinos son quienes están al frente de la creciente de nuestra población católica en Oklahoma. Se está trabajando mucho en el primer objetivo en este ámbito prioritario. Providencialmente, está siendo ayudado por la beatificación del Beato Stanley Rother.

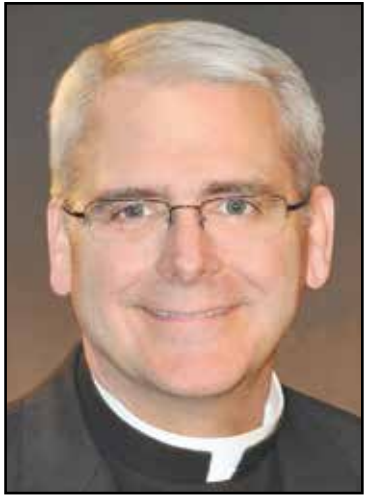
A medida que desarrollamos nuestros planes para un hermoso santuario para honrar al Beato Stanley Rother, también podremos aliviar el hacinamiento que han estado experimentando muchas de nuestras parroquias que sirven a los católicos de habla hispana en el área metropolitana. El santuario servirá no sólo como un lugar de peregrinación y veneración para honrar al Beato Stanley Rother, sino también será una gran iglesia católica para los principales eventos diocesanos y un lugar de adoración y de formar discípulos misioneros, especialmente, aunque no exclusivamente, a una creciente población hispana.

Hemos completado el segundo objetivo en el área prioritaria del Ministerio Hispano. A fines de septiembre, la primera clase de casi 200 estudiantes adultos hispanos se graduaron de la nueva Escuela de Formación de San Juan Diego. Muchos de esos adultos continuarán sirviendo en sus parroquias y comunidades, ayudando a muchos otros a llegar a una experiencia más profunda de su fe.

Al reflexionar sobre estos últimos cuatro años, quisiera agradecer a tantos que han acogido, abrazado e incluso celebrado la visión de “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos”. Su pasión por Cristo y su discipulado, su apertura al Espíritu, han sido una fuerza motriz detrás de la implementación y realización de los objetivos esbozados en mi carta.

Al conmemorar este cuatro aniversario, espero con ansia el próximo año y dar orientaciones para el futuro. La nueva Secretaría de Evangelización y Catequesis volverá a involucrarse en un proceso muy similar al que hicimos antes: sesiones de escucha, encuestas, trabajo en comités, etc. Evaluaremos nuestro progreso en todas estas metas, recalibrando y determinando qué debe hacerse para terminar lo que empezamos, y proporcionaremos una visión y dirección para que la arquidiócesis avance.

Espero poder compartir más con ustedes sobre esto en el próximo año. ¡Es realmente un momento emocionante para ser católico en Oklahoma! ¡Beato Stanley Rother, ruega por nosotros!



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

¡Muévete San Cristóbal! Esta señora es la patrona de los que están en el asiento del conductor

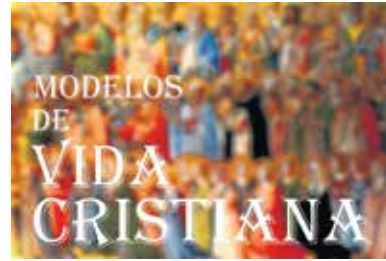
También es la patrona de los Oblatos Benedictinos y las viudas

Muchas medallas de San Cristóbal han sido entregadas a nuevos dueños de autos y conductores jóvenes a lo largo de los años. Una de mis hijas incluso tiene una medalla colgando de su espejo retrovisor.

Pero, el enigmático San Cristóbal, quienquiera que sea (Cristóbal era más bien un título y no un nombre real), no es y nunca ha sido el santo patrón de los conductores. Es el santo patrón de los viajeros.

La auténtica patrona de los conductores de automóviles es una mujer italiana encantadora que nació en 1384. Esto es casi 100 años antes de que el vehículo autopropulsado de Leonardo da Vinci fuera esbozado en papel, 400 años antes de que Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot de Francia construyó un tractor de vapor para los militares, 450 años antes de que Robert Anderson de Escocia construyera un carro eléctrico y 500 años antes de que Karl Friedrich Benz de Alemania construyera el primer automóvil propulsado por gasolina.

Aún más impresionante, mientras que los faros para automóviles no llegaron hasta el Siglo XX, este modelo de vida cristiana ya había estado viajando de noche con su propio faro único que iluminaba su camino en la oscuridad de Roma en el siglo XIV.



Su vida era un poco fuera de lo común. Nació en una familia rica y rodeada de muchas ventajas y comodidades. Cuando era muy joven, se impresionó con las muchas religiosas que caminaban por la Ciudad Santa. Su santidad, sus hábitos religiosos, de varias comunidades, y su felicidad y alegría, impresionaron tanto a la joven que expresó un deseo temprano de convertirse en una de ellas. Pero sus padres tenían otros planes.

Poco después de entrar en su adolescencia, se casó con Lorenzo Ponziani, comandante de las tropas papales de Roma. Este matrimonio, muy amoroso, duró más de 40 años.

Mientras Lorenzo trataba de sus asuntos militares, nuestra santa invitaria a su hermana, Vannoza, a reunirse con ella para orar, visitar a los pobres, cuidar a los enfermos y participar en otros actos de caridad con los más necesitados. Su ejemplo

fue contagioso, y motivó a otros a hacer lo mismo. Una fuente sobre su vida menciona que la conocían por el apodo de “la reina”.

Su matrimonio fue fructífero. Seis niños nacieron en la familia Ponziani. Lamentablemente, dos murieron durante la peste negra. Las guerras y muchas otras dificultades aca-

baron con la riqueza y muchas posesiones de su familia, pero su sufrimiento no terminó allí. Después de ser herido en batalla, su esposo sucumbiría a sus heridas cuando ella llegó a sus 50 años. Pero esta viuda continuó con sus obras piadosas y caritativas.

Fundó los Oblatos Olivetana de María, una cofradía de mujeres piadosas. También fundó un convento para la vida común. Recibió la aprobación del Papa Eugenio IV para establecer una congregación religiosa de monjas. Una comunidad que se conoció como los Oblatos de Santa Francisca Romana.

Amaba a Jesús y le servía a Él que estaba presente entre los pobres y los que sufren. Ella motivó a muchos otros a hacer lo mismo y murió antes de cumplir sus 60 años.

Fue canonizada en 1608 y en 1925 el Papa Pio XI la declaró Patrona de los Conductores de Automóviles debido a una leyenda en que su ángel de la guarda solía iluminar el camino delante de ella con una linterna cuando salía de noche para ayudar a aquellos en necesidad.

Santa Francisca Romana, patrona de los conductores, ruega por nosotros.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.

Director, Oficina de Ministerio Hispano

Reportando Abuso/Línea Directa de Respuesta Pastoral


La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City a través de sus programas, organizaciones y eventos, cuenta con numerosos contactos diarios con muchos niños y jóvenes. Es, por lo tanto importante que todo el personal de la Arquidiócesis, el clero, seminaristas, religiosos, empleados y voluntarios, protejan los derechos de los niños y estar atentos a la posibilidad de algún maltrato infantil.

En virtud de la Ley del Estado de Oklahoma, todos los individuos DEBEN informar de un incidente o sospecha de abuso sexual de un menor (persona menor de 18 años de edad) a las autoridades civiles. El Departamento de Servicios Humanos ha establecido una Línea directa para reportar abusos a nivel estatal para reportar: (800) 522-3511. Este número está disponible las 24 horas del día, 7 días a la semana. Si usted se siente un niño está en peligro inmediato de daño llame al 9-1-1.

Para la seguridad de los niños y recuperación de las víctimas, la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ofrece una línea directa para denunciar el abuso de un menor (pasado o presente) por un miembro del clero u otro personal de la Iglesia: (405) 720-9878. El Coordinador de la Arquidiócesis de Asistencia a las Víctimas, un consejero profesional con cedula, responderá a las llamadas a la Línea de Ayuda Pastoral de la Arquidiócesis.

Un reporte a la Arquidiócesis no excusa al individuo de la obligación de denunciar el abuso infantil a las autoridades civiles como lo requiere la Ley del Estado de Oklahoma. En Oklahoma, el no reportar el abuso infantil es un delito penado por la ley.


Para más información, visite www.archokc.org/safeenvironment.



Oración a
San Miguel Arcángel

San Miguel Arcángel,
defiéndenos en la batalla.
Sé nuestro amparo contra
la perversidad y asechanzas del demonio.
Reprímale Dios, pedimos suplicantes,
y tu príncipe de la milicia celestial
arroja al infierno con el divino poder
a Satanás
y a los otros espíritus malignos
que andan dispersos por el mundo
para la perdición de las almas.

Amén.



Peregrinación a las Tierras Sagradas de Israel y Jordania

El Padre Don Wolf conducirá una peregrinación a las Tierras Sagradas de Israel y Jordania del 9 al 18 de abril de 2018.

Este tour será en español. Caminar en los pasos de Jesús a través de Cesarea Marítima, Monte Carmelo, Nazaret, Cana, Capernaum, paseo en barco por el Mar de Galilea, Monte de las Bienaventuranzas, Monte Tabor, Jordania Sitio del bautismo del río, Jerusalén, Jerash, Tel Safut, Anjara, Petra, y Amman.

Todo incluido con vuelos de ida y vuelta desde OKC, desayunos y cenas, Misa diaria, alojamiento de lujo, admisión en el sitio y cuotas de frontera. \$4,549.00 por persona Se requiere un depósito de \$300 por persona para el 4 de diciembre, con saldo pendiente el 24 de enero.

Llame a Melani Roewe al (405) 293-2003 o (877) 669-9387 o envíe un correo electrónico a Mroewe@unitours.com para obtener más información. <http://bit.ly/RevWolfHolyLand>



Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

“Sally, I’m too old for this,” a friend of mine remarked after filling out a document to volunteer. Then, at another meeting, a volunteer said, “Maybe I was too hasty in volunteering - Maybe God is telling me I do not belong in this organization.”

Let’s get the age excuse out of the way. Your relationship with God usually plays a role in whether you volunteer. Since God is eternal, He casts a different light on the notion of being too old for something. God has projects for which He knows you are the perfect person. Responding slowly, or being easily distracted by competing responsibilities, may be challenges for you in getting the work done, but when you do finish, God is the beaming proud Father because you tackled it and gave it your all.

We all empathized with these volunteers, because we recognized ourselves at one time or another. My friend was honest and admitted what she had neglected to do. She expected a response of no tolerance. Instead, her colleagues offered comforting words and acceptance. They moved forward to considering a new timetable for her obligation. Her lapse was a minor detour for the endeavor. That was empowering for everyone because it created an atmosphere of compassion and forgiveness, which opened the door for creativity and collaboration.

A volunteer must evaluate and prioritize. Consider what the organization attempts to accomplish and whether you can give time and effort to support

the cause effectively. That does not mean you should not accept a challenge and contribute more of yourself at the next level. It does mean being realistic. Abandon the notion that God is asking you to save the world. He already tapped someone for that job.

Your volunteer experience will be much more satisfying if you are ready to do whatever is asked of you. You may envision yourself as the master of ceremonies at the organization’s annual benefit dinner, but what the organization may really need is someone to write and

mail 50 thank you notes to top donors. Your contribution will be valuable and useful if you accept whatever task you are

assigned.

Occasionally, Catholic radio volunteers want to contribute in narrow, specific ways. People offer to “read” ads or to utilize their on-air skills. What these people come to learn is that the duties they perceive as exciting or glamorous also have a painstaking, tedious component. The worker - bee in the background who cleans up the supply room, or calls sponsors and donors to make appointments is doing mundane work that ends up being just as meaningful as any on-air obligation.

Volunteering can start in simple ways. The challenges manifest in all sorts of ways. That is how you know God is leading you to a deeper commitment. Once you have been called, be disposed to answer, “Behold, I have come to do your will” (Hebrews 10:9).

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.

Western Barn and Dinner Dance

Sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, the event will be 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Oct. 21, at Corpus Christi, 1005 NE 15th Street in OKC. Dinner is 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Live band, dancing, dance contest, best costume king and queen crowned. Tickets \$20 (not sold at door).

John Michael Talbot concert

“A Lifetime of Music & Ministry,” at 5 p.m. Oct. 22 at Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd., OKC. \$25 general seating (\$35 at door), \$50 VIP package. Call (405) 722-2110 or visit www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com.

Fall craft fair and open house

St. Ann Retirement Center is hosting a fall craft fair and open house 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Oct. 25 at 7501 W. Britton Rd., OKC.

Arts and crafts show

The annual arts and craft show at St. John Nepomuk, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, is 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 28 in the parish activity center gym. More than 40 booths, raffle for a handmade quilt and concession stand. Grab bags for first 25 people Vendors contact Patsy Ryan, (405) 834-3528.

Open house

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is hosting its annual come-and-go open house 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 29. Contact Richard, Maria or Jim, (405) 721-0747.

Pilgrimage to France

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a Pilgrimage to France June 18-29, 2018. Visit the incorruptible saints Bernadette Soubiros, John Vianney, Catherine Laboure and Vincent de Paul. Visit holy sites associated with their lives in Nevers, Paray Le Monial, Villefranche sur Saone, La Salette, Grenoble, Le Puy, Chartres, with two days in Lourdes and four days in Paris. All-inclusive with roundtrip flights from OKC, breakfasts and dinners, daily Mass, deluxe lodging, all site admissions. \$4,549.00 pp. \$300 pp deposit required by Feb. 13. Balance due April 4. Contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, Mroewe@unitours.com.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Sicily

Fr. Carl William Janocha and Fr. Daniel Grover will lead a pilgrimage to Italy and Sicily, Nov. 5-16, 2018. The trip is \$3,779 pp., including airfare from OKC, four-

star hotels, most meals and more. Sites include Palermo, Agrigento, Siracusa, Taormina, Sorrento, Pompeii and Rome. Traveling north to the Eternal City of Rome, stops at many examples of Ancient Greek and Roman Architecture at the remains of some of wonderful temples, amphitheaters, and villas. Also, we will get to ascend still-active Mt. Etna. Before reaching Rome, we will have the opportunity to visit the famous ruins of Pompeii. A \$400 deposit is required. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha at (580) 395-2148 or e-mail cwjanocha@kanokla.net for brochure.

40 Days for Life

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, 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, dick-smith777@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.

Open house

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will host its annual come and go open house for prospective students and parents 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 5.

Turkey dinner

The annual turkey dinner at Sts. Peter and Paul is 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 5 at 315 S. Main in Kingfisher. Carry-outs available. Call the church office, (405) 375-4616.

Smorgasbord dinner

The 68th annual St Joseph’s Catholic Church Smorgasbord Dinner is Nov. 6. in the parish hall, 1300 E Beverly Street, Ada. Serving times: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10 pp., \$5 children under the age of 10 and children under 3 years are free. Tickets may be purchased from parishioners, by contacting the parish office or at the door on the day of the event. Contact St. Joseph Catholic Church, (580) 332-4811.

Vendor and craft fair

From 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 11 at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Rd, OKC. Proceeds benefit the St. Eugene Youth Group Outreach Ministries Contact Christi Benites, candersen828@gmail.com.

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

15 Anniversary Mass 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., OKC.

15 Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace at St. Monica, 2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond.

15 Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. at the abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. In cases of inclement weather, meet at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.

16 Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace at St. Damien, 8455 N.W. 234, Edmond.

17 Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

17 Our Lady of Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace at St. Paul The Apostle, 3901 S. Sunnylane Rd., Del City.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to the Infant Jesus of Prague. During the nine days, the novena prayers will be: Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday follow-

ing 5 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

18 Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist.

19 Feast of Sts. John De Brebeuf and Issac Jogues, and Companions.

19 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, Thursdays 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey, (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.

21 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Teresa of Calcutta, meeting at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meeting following. Contact Karen Banks (405) 396-9086 or Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199.

21 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, Little Flower Church, OKC, Noon - 4:30 p.m. Call Barbara Basgall (405) 826-3860 or Susan Staudt (405) 473-6328.

22 John Michael Talbot concert, 5 p.m. Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd., OKC.

Call (405) 722-2110 or visit www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com.

23 “Discipleship with the Saints” 7 p.m. at St. James the Greater, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., OKC. Presentation on St. John Paul II.

25 St. Ann Retirement Center fall

craft fair and open house 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 7501 W. Britton Rd., OKC.

26 Bingo at St. James 6:30 p.m., 41st and S. McKinley. All games \$10.

28 Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude.

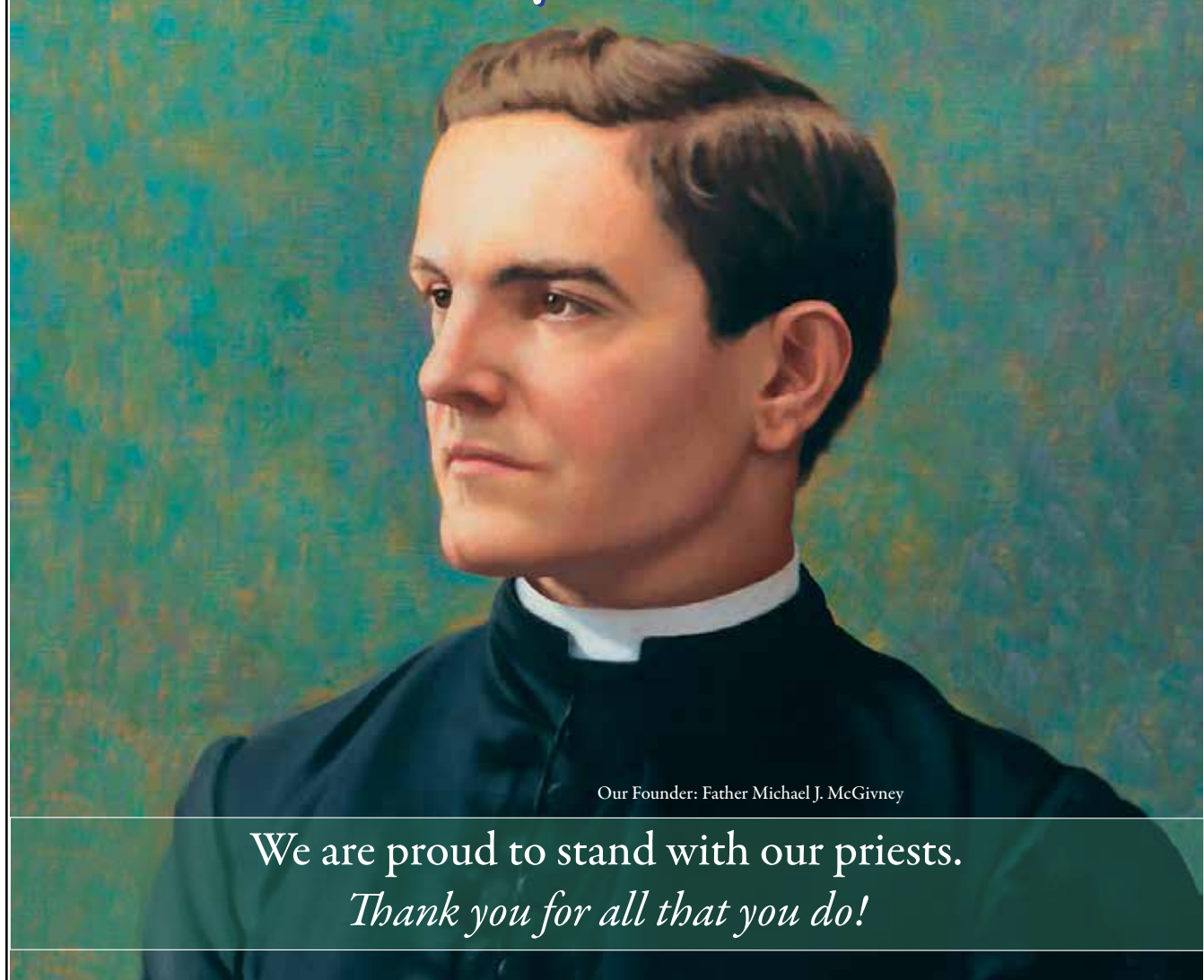
Join Fr. Ray on a pilgrimage to Lourdes & Catholic France

June 18-29 2018

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Pope recognizes martyrdom of Franciscans killed in Guatemala

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of nine men and women, including a Franciscan priest who championed the land rights of farmers in Guatemala.

During an Oct. 10 audience with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the pope recognized the martyrdom of Italian Father Tullio Merluzzo, a Franciscan priest who died alongside Luis Obdulio Arroyo Navarro, a Guatemalan layman who belonged to the Third Order of Saint Francis.

A recognition of martyrdom means the two can be beatified, a step toward sainthood, without a miracle attributed to their intercession.

Born in Vicenza, Italy, in 1929, Father Merluzzo was ordained in 1953 by Cardinal Giuseppe Roncalli, the future Saint John XXIII.

Seven years after his ordination, Father Merluzzo was sent to the Guatemalan department of Izbabal, where he helped run several schools and hospitals as well as served as pastor in several parishes.

Many priests and religious in Guatemala became targets during the country's 1960-1996 civil war as government forces cracked down on leftist rebels supported by the rural poor.

Father Merluzzo sought to help poor farmers regain property they were forced to abandon. However, this angered the local military, which accused the priest of collaborating with rebel forces and threatened his life.

His superiors, fearing for his

life, relocated the priest to another parish, in Quirigua. However, he was ambushed and murdered along with Arroyo Navarro after returning from an evening catechism

class July 1, 1981.

Father Merluzzo and Arroyo Navarro's deaths occurred several weeks before the martyrdom of Blessed Stanley Rother of the

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the first martyr born in the United States. Beatified Sept. 23, Blessed Rother was gunned down July 28, 1981, in the rectory of his church in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

The pope also signed decrees acknowledging the heroic virtues of four men and three women, including Brazilian Father Donizetti Taveres de Lima, who was known for his holiness and service to the poor and the sick, and Polish Sister Elizabeth Rose Czacka.

Despite losing her sight at the age of 22, Sister Czacka founded the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross and dedicated her life to helping the visually impaired.

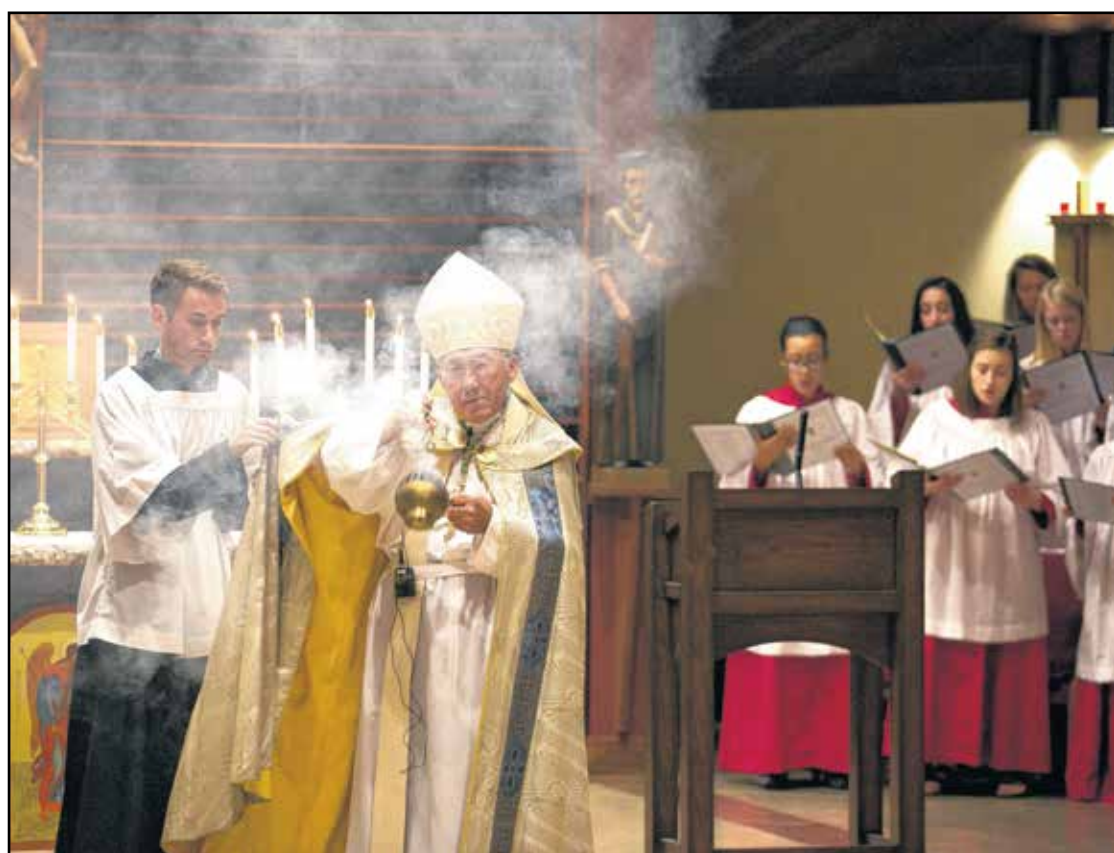
If the pope also recognizes a miracle attributed to their intercession, they would be beatified. Another miracle is needed for canonization.

The other decrees approved by Pope Francis Oct. 10 recognized the heroic virtues of:

- Ukrainian Capuchin Father Seraphim Kaszuba, 1910-1977;
- Spanish Father Magin Morera Feixas, 1908-1984, former superior general of the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph;
- Spanish Sister Maria Lorenza Longo, founder of the Capuchin Poor Clares. She also founded the Hospital for the Incurables in Naples, Italy. She was born in Spain in 1463 and died in Naples in 1539;
- French Sister Frances of the Holy Spirit, 1820-1882, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Spirit;
- Francesco Paolo Gravina, 1800-1854, an Italian prince who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent.



CNS photo.



Archbishop Beltran during Vespers on Sept. 7 at St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Puerto Rico hurricane recovery



Sara Ocasio, who was affected by Hurricane Maria, washes clothes in a river Oct. 9 near her home in the Trujillo Alto municipality outside San Juan, Puerto Rico. Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Maria tore through the Caribbean, Puerto Rico remains with little clean water, little electric power and almost no telecommunications. CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters.

To help, go online to www.archokc.org/online-giving and click on Special Collections. 100 percent of funds raised go to disaster relief.