

Go Make Disciples

Oklahoma iconographer brings blessed beauty to art

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

In the middle of Janet Elizabeth Jaime's living room in northwest Oklahoma City, a slab of white birch meticulously transforms into a light-filled 8-foot icon of Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

The Oklahoma iconographer was commissioned this year by Archbishop Coakley to create the icon in honor of the Church's newest saint. Archbishop Coakley recently blessed the icon during a dedication Mass at the new Saint Teresa of Calcutta Chapel at Catholic Charities in midtown Oklahoma City, where the icon now hangs.

"Saint Teresa of Calcutta is the ideal patron for the mission of extending Christ's love and compassion to all, especially the most abandoned and overlooked. This is the mission Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City pursues each and every day. The icon

of Mother Teresa will be a visible reminder of the privilege we have of serving the poorest of the poor."

Each icon created by Jaime requires three months to complete with the artist working several hours a day, seven days a week. The process uses egg tempera, a technique used in the Byzantine era, and powder ground from natural rocks, minerals and plants instead of paint.

Once the birch wood is sanded and prepped with a special glue, calcium carbonate and marble dust, Jaime uses a mixture that includes egg yolk and vinegar to mix the colors. The rocks are ground to a powder form and include pigments of burnt bone, azurite, French ochre and sankir.

"Each mineral is a crystal and light. It sits there in its natural state and it just sticks to the board," Jaime said.

Within, and across, the lines drawn of the figure, Jaime brushes on the darker, duller colors first, then builds with the lighter colors layer by layer. The gold is applied using the complex process of water gilding.

"It's quite a process, and very time consuming. You start with the dark and work toward the light. The whole point is light. The light is inside the figure rather than how the light hits the figure," Jaime said. "Every icon is an image of Christ in the saint and that's what you're trying to show."

Each icon typically requires 20 layers of color before Jaime is satisfied with its presentation. After three coats of linseed oil varnish, the icon is dried and framed.

"Our icons tell the story of the Incarnation of Christ – that God became man. They tell us that we can become one with God and reflect the



Religious sisters of the archdiocese stand in front of the icon of St. Teresa. At left, Janet Jaime applies color to the icon. Photos Cara Koenig.



uncreated light of Christ."

Jaime, who was raised in the Baptist church in Ponca City, began her work as an iconographer after starting her career as an oil and gas draftsman during the Oklahoma oil boom. She and her husband, Reggie, joined the Greek Orthodox Church in the 1990s and she became intrigued with the technique and spirituality of icons.

"We are each uniquely blessed with gifts from God. My gift is iconography," she said. "When we offer our gifts to God, we are really just

returning what was given to us. In iconography, our materials are taken from the earth to create, with our hands, and image to be venerated; an icon created as an act of devotion and prayer to God."

Jaime's next work for the archdiocese is an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The finished icon of Saint Teresa can be viewed at the Catholic Charities chapel where Mass is celebrated every Friday at 11 a.m.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

When times are tough, rant at God, don't run from trouble, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Don't respond to grief or anguish with pills, alcohol or avoidance, Pope Francis said in a morning homily.

Figure out what is going on inside your heart, then turn to God and beg him for help, he said Sept. 27 during an early morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

Reflecting on the day's readings, the pope looked at the "spiritual desolation" experience by Job and the responsorial psalm, "Let my prayer come before you, Lord."

Job lost everything and felt utterly abandoned and unfairly tormented, the pope said. He unleashed his desperate cries to God, venting all of his feelings of hopeless despair and regret, and yet, he never blasphemed or cursed God in his ranting, he said.

Everyone has experienced some degree of despair that "makes us feel as if our soul were crushed," unable to breathe and perhaps even eager for death, the pope said.

"We have to understand when our spirit is in this state of extended sadness, where there is almost no air. This happens to all of us" to some degree, he said.

Some people might "take a sleeping pill," avoid facing the situation or "have two, three, four shots" of something strong to drink; but that "doesn't help," he said.

So then, what should people do when they go through "these dark moments because of a family tragedy, an illness, something that brings me down?" he asked.

In times of hopeless, spiritual



CNS photo / L'Osservatore Romano handout via EPA.

Put Out Into the Deep
Luke 5:4

Election Day is approaching: what are we to do?

In little more than a month, American citizens will be going to the polls to elect local, state and national leaders, and to weigh in on many questions that will help shape our society for years to come. The right to vote is a precious thing. It is a privilege that we never can take for granted. Even more than a privilege, however, voting is a moral responsibility for those who are eligible to vote.

Admittedly, like many other people, I am more than ready for the campaign season and Election Day to be behind us. It has been deeply disturbing. The quality of candidates that we voters have to choose from for certain offices is far less than we might have hoped and certainly far from consistent with many of the historic values and aspirations of this great nation. For Catholics who take seriously their public responsibilities and seek to integrate their deeply held religious beliefs with their civic duties, we are faced with a more difficult discernment than in any election in recent memory. At the top of each ticket, we are faced with deeply flawed candidates. (That shouldn't come as a great surprise, however, since all of us are flawed and sinful human beings.) Some Catholics who I have spoken with are so disheartened by our choice of candidates for president that they are considering staying home on Election Day.

So, what are we to do? All of us ought to begin by praying for our nation and for the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit as voters prepare to cast their ballots. We ought to recall the teachings of our bishops and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which remind us that responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.

Speaking of participation in political and public life the Catechism urges us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. ... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1913-1915).

So again, what are we to do? Deep dissatisfaction with the candidates at the top of the ticket should not be used as justification to stay home on Election Day. There are many other important races and questions that we have an opportunity and moral obligation to weigh in on as we seek to advance the common good in our nation, state and local communities.

There are some issues that must be given first consideration because they are of fundamental importance, among them is the protection of human life and dignity. A Catholic cannot in good conscience, for example, vote to expand legal protection for abortion. Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Neb., made this point at our recent Red Mass by citing Saint Teresa of

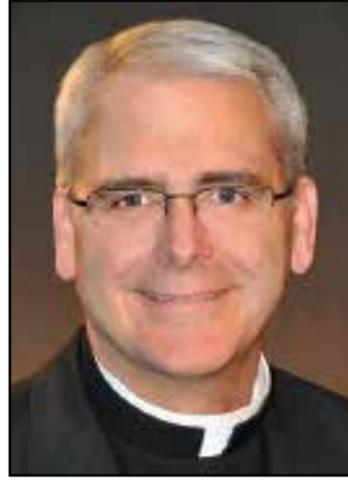
Calcutta who said, "Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father's role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a child – as a competitor, an intrusion and an inconvenience. ... Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign."

As Election Day approaches, we have to do our homework. We have to look past the heated rhetoric and slogans to discern whether there is a candidate in each race who can advance the common good, protect life, and advance human dignity in its many manifestations. When there are such candidates, we should feel free to vote for them, in spite of party affiliations. In some races we may discover that there is not a candidate that we can in good conscience support and choose to abstain from voting in that particular race.

In choosing among flawed candidates, we ought never to fall into the trap of thinking we must choose the lesser of two evils. We may never choose evil. However, we can choose a candidate who with reasonable probability will be most likely do some good and limit the amount of harm done. This is true especially concerning those foundational issues such as protecting the right to life, strengthening the family and preserving conscience rights and religious liberty.

As a matter of conscience we have to carefully weigh and discern all of these matters in order to choose candidates or decide where we stand on issues in ways most likely to advance the common good of our nation. We may, in fact, make different prudential judgments on some issues and arrive at different conclusions. This is certainly true, for example, when considering to the best ways to promote racial equality, create jobs and economic opportunities, protect creation, or achieve educational or criminal justice reform.

There is much at stake on Nov. 8. I urge you to pray, to study the candidates and issues, and then to vote. May Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States, pray for us!



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- Oct. 2** – Mass for Oasis Retreat, 11 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 2** – Archbishop's picnic for priests, deacons, religious, CPC staff and board members, 5 p.m., CPC
- Oct. 4** – St. Ann Retirement Center board meeting, 8 a.m., CPC
- Oct. 4** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Oct. 4** – Rosary procession, 4:30 p.m., St. James, OKC
- Oct. 6** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Oct. 7** – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. John Nepomuk School, Yukon
- Oct. 8** – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Helen, Frederick
- Oct. 9** – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Okarche
- Oct. 11** – Department directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
- Oct. 11** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Oct. 11** – Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
- Oct. 12** – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. Mary, Guthrie
- Oct. 13-14** – Province meeting, Little Rock, Ark.
- Oct. 14-16** – Annual meeting of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Little Rock, Ark.

Find more
news on the
website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

- ✓ **2016 St. Andrew Dinners** St. Andrew Dinners are for young men in high school and college who are interested in discerning a call to the priesthood. Join pastors and Vocations Director Fr. Brian Buettner for an evening of food, fellowship and prayer 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Upcoming St. Andrew Dinners:
 - Oct. 11** – St. Francis Xavier, Enid (RSVP by Oct. 7)
 - Nov. 3** – Blessed Sacrament, Lawton (RSVP by Oct. 31)
 - Nov. 10** – St. Thomas More, Norman (RSVP by Nov. 7)
 Contact vocations@archokc.org or (405) 721-9351. www.okcvocations.com.



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



*For a growing love of each human person from conception to natural death;
That the life of every human person might be enshrined and protected in our laws;
For a growing love of God's little ones, in the womb, in the nursing home or at death's door:
That we might love with the love of Jesus;
We pray, Lord, hear our prayer.*

I was in prison and you visited me

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25, 35-36, 40)

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

Those imprisoned are in danger of losing their faith and their hope. By reaching out to them in loving prison ministry we aren't just practicing a Corporal Work of Mercy, we also are helping them hold on to the merciful and loving Christ. He can help them transform their pain and suffering through the faith and hope we witness to them when we visit.

The path to this transformation requires the proclamation of God's love, and assuring them that this love is a never ending constant in all of our lives. Prisoners need to hear this again and again, and when they do, their faith and hope is reignited and their suffering begins to be transformed.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter “Spe Salvi” speaks to us about this transformation and also shares with us the writings of the

Vietnamese martyr, Paul Le-Bao-Tinh. Here is the portion of the encyclical letter that I am referring to: “It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love.”

“In this context, I would like to quote a passage from a letter written by Le-Bao-Tinh that illustrates this transformation of suffering through the power of hope springing from faith.

“I, Paul, in chains for the name of Christ, wish to relate to you the trials besetting me daily, in order that you may be inflamed with love for God and join with me in his praises, for his mercy is forever. The prison here is a true image of everlasting hell: to cruel tortures of every kind – shackles, iron chains, manacles – are added hatred, vengeance, calumnies, obscene



speech, quarrels, evil acts, swearing, curses, as well as anguish and grief.

But, the God who once freed the three children from the fiery furnace is with me always; he has delivered me from these tribulations and made them sweet, for his mercy is forever. In the midst of these torments, which usually terrify others, I am, by the grace of God, full of joy and gladness, because I am not alone – Christ is with me. ... How am I to bear with the spectacle, as each day I see emperors, mandarins, and their retinue blaspheming your holy name, O Lord, who are enthroned above the Cherubim and Seraphim?

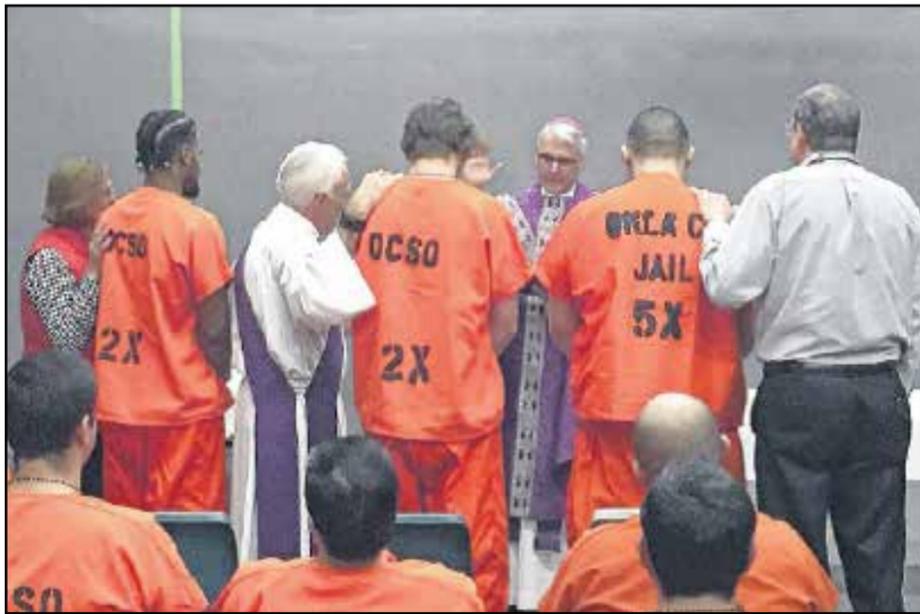
Behold, the pagans have trodden your Cross underfoot! Where is your glory? As I see all this, I would, in the ardent love I have for you, prefer to be torn limb from limb and to die as a witness to your love. O Lord, show your power, save me, sustain me, that in my infirmity your power may be shown and may be glorified before the nations. ... Beloved brothers, as you hear all these things may you give endless thanks in joy to God, from whom every good proceeds; bless the Lord with me, for his mercy is forever. ...

I write these things to you in order that your faith and mine may be united. In the midst of this storm I cast my anchor towards the throne of God, the anchor that is the lively hope in my heart.”

This is a letter from “hell.” It lays bare all the horror of a concentration camp where to the torments inflicted by tyrants upon their victims is added the outbreak of evil in the victims themselves such that they become further instruments of their persecutors' cruelty. This is indeed a letter from hell, but it also reveals the truth of the Psalm text: “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I sink to the nether world, you are present there ... If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light’ – for you darkness itself is not dark, and night shines as the day; darkness and light are the same.”

Pope Benedict ends this section of his encyclical by reminding us that: Christ descended into “hell” and is therefore close to those cast into it, transforming their darkness into light. Suffering and torment is still terrible and unbearable. Yet, the star of hope has risen – the anchor of the heart reaches the very throne of God. Instead of evil being unleashed within man, the light shines victorious: suffering – without ceasing to be suffering – becomes, despite everything, a hymn of praise.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to consider signing up for prison ministry in the archdiocese. Many incarcerated brothers and sisters need someone from the community to remind them that our merciful and loving Christ is with them and will never abandon them. Not now, not ever.



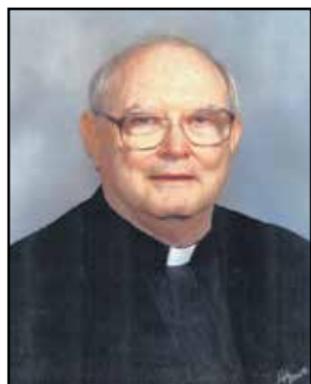
Archbishop Coakley confirms inmates at the Oklahoma County Jail in Dec. 2015. Photo archives of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Rev. Lowell L. Stieferman

After celebrating more than 50 years of joyful service to God, Rev. Lowell L. Stieferman died on Sept. 19 in Oklahoma City.

Father Stieferman was born on May 8, 1937, in Perry to Leo and Pauline (Beier) Stieferman. He attended elementary school at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Perry before entering high school at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Bethany. After three years, Father Stieferman entered Saint John the Baptist Home Mission Seminary in Little Rock. He was ordained to the priesthood at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City on May 25, 1963.

Father Stieferman's first assignment was as associate pastor of Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City. He also served as associate pastor of Saints Peter and Paul in Tulsa and as administrator of Saint Jude in Tulsa. Father Stieferman served as pastor at Saint Peter in



Guymon and missions in Mooreland and Shattuck; Saint John the Baptist, Edmond; Saint Francis Xavier, Enid; Corpus Christi, Oklahoma City; Saint Francis of Assisi, Newkirk; Epiphany of the Lord, Oklahoma City; and Saint Paul the Apostle, Del City. Father Stieferman retired from active ministry in 2010.

In addition to parish ministry Father Stieferman served as director of the permanent diaconate program, chairman of the archdiocesan personnel board, director of vocations, regional vicar (several regions), and defender of the bond for the archdiocesan tribunal. He also served on the pre-cana team (for more than 30 years), the seminary board, the board of evangelization, the priest ministry team, and as a priest delegate to the Black Catholic Congress.

Even with all the ways he contributed to the archdiocese, he always remained humble, likening himself to Ananias, one of his favorite Biblical characters. He used the story of Ananias to remind those who knew him that each of us has a part to play in the great Body of Christ. Father Stieferman was a kind

and gentle pastor and friend to all he met.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd. in Oklahoma City on Sept. 24 with interment at Saint Rose of Lima Cemetery in Perry.

Memorial donations may be made to the Stieferman Seminarian Burse, c/o the Archdiocesan Business Office, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123.



Fr. Stieferman's funeral was held at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Oklahoma City. Photo Cara Koenig.



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Contagious Faith

A total shift of mentality

Shortly after I began my work here in Oklahoma City, I asked a colleague in another archdiocese for his “take” on the practical realities involved in bringing about the new evangelization. The phrase he chose was almost breathtaking: “This is going to require a total shift of mentality.”

The longer I am involved in the process, the more it has become clear that his assessment was correct. I’d like to suggest a few of the polarities around which this mentality shift revolves.

The first mentality shift is from a predominantly communalistic mentality to one that is equally personalistic in its orientation. “Personalistic” doesn’t mean individualistic, it simply means that no one is an anonymous cog in the ecclesial machinery. God knows me, personally. He loves me, personally. He wants to be loved by me, personally. He offers salvation to me, personally, and I must make a personal decision to accept and receive all of that.

When I do, I become obsessed with the desire for others to receive this love as well. People sometimes express reservations about the personal aspect of our faith, as if it implies that we go into a figurative “phone booth” to be alone with Jesus. It doesn’t really work that way.

The intimacy of one’s personal relationship with the Lord compels one to seek this same good for others. As Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “The love of Christ compels me. ... He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. ... And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

The second mentality shift is from an ecclesiocentric mentality to a Christocentric ecclesiology. The Church’s mission is to magnify Jesus, to make Jesus known and loved – to magnify him, to make him the center of everyone’s attention. Jesus is the chief cornerstone, the author and perfecter of our faith. Nothing the Church has to say makes sense unless we know Jesus.

All the Church’s authority derives from Jesus. If people are unconvinced of who Jesus was, they will not be able to receive the teaching of the Church. Another way of putting it is that

if Christology is eclipsed by ecclesiology, then the Church risks being understood in primarily sociological terms rather than supernatural terms. Ask yourself, are you convinced of Christ’s divinity? Why or why not? And, what are the implications of his divinity for the Church? And for you personally?

A third mentality shift is that the new evangelization is primarily targeted toward baptized Catholics, the people in the pews – not toward Protestants or pagans. Saint John Paul II pointed out that our “challenge frequently consists not so much in baptizing new converts as in enabling those already baptized to be converted to Christ and his Gospel.”

This calls for serious attention to be given to a catechumenal style of formation for Catholic adults, which enables them to make a conscious decision to place Jesus Christ at the center of their lives. The discipleship process that many parishes have undertaken is an excellent method for building this into parish life. However, in order to work, such a process requires dedicated leadership similar to what is given to the RCIA.

Finally, programs should be ordered to the process of con-



Carole Brown
Director of New
Evangelization

version. Many times we offer catechetical programs without discerning what part of the “process” they serve. Some programs serve initial evangelization or initiatory catechesis, while others serve the more advanced forms of perfective catechesis, which rely on the former in order to work.

In fact, it is the case that most programs on the market are ordered to perfective catechesis, and overlook the prior stages of the process of evangelization. (More information about the process of conversion is available on the new evangelization webpage at www.archokc.org.)

If we can make this shift to a personalistic and Christocentric understanding of the Church, with programs that are truly ordered to the process of conversion, we will be well on our way to realizing the new springtime in the Church that is promised by the new evangelization.



The 9th annual St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk took place on Sept. 24 at All Saints School in Norman. Families from across the archdiocese walked to raise funds to help prevent homelessness. *Photos Chris Porter.*



The Catholic Difference

Speaking of “deplorables”

You'd think presidential candidates would have learned that shooting from the lip in front of deep-pocket donors is asking for trouble.

Mitt Romney's ill-advised comment about the “47 percent” of us who are “dependent on government” helped sink his candidacy in an otherwise winnable election. Barack Obama's snark about folks clinging to their guns and Bibles because they can't handle post-modernity got a mulligan from a star-struck press corps; but among those paying attention, that elitist smackdown put the final nail in the coffin of Obama-the-unifier, the trope Obama had exploited since his first appearance on the national stage at the 2004 Democratic convention.

Now, we have Hillary Clinton, speaking to a group of LGBT activists and donors and going off-message with a rant about those Americans who fall into her “basket of deplorables:” racists, sexists, homophobes, Islamophobes, whatever. The national media quickly consigned all that to the rear-view mirror.

But, let me suggest that what was dismissed as an atypical, off-message gaffe was in fact an expression of Mrs. Clinton's true sentiments – just as Donald Trump's boorish crack about Senator John McCain being a loser for having been a POW spoke volumes about his fitness for the presidency (or indeed for village dog-catcher). So, on the chance that Mrs. Clinton is elected POTUS 45 on Nov. 8, let's be clear what that revelatory riff about “deplorables” tells us about what's coming.

What's coming is an administration in which the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services will

argue in the federal courts that religious freedom in full – religious communities conducting their affairs and providing needed care for the weakest in our society according to their religious convictions about the moral life – is misogynist and homophobic, a mask behind which lurk irrational biases that cannot be countenanced in law.



U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks as Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton listens during their first presidential debate Sept. 27 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. *CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters.*

What's coming is an administration in which the U.S. Agency for International Development, which dispenses billions of dollars of foreign aid, will continue to condition that aid on recipient nations bowing to the LGBT agenda – thus making enemies for America in traditional societies and cultures that will learn to equate “democracy” with libertine bullying.

What's coming is an administration that privileges identity-politics in everything from Cabinet appointments to ambassadorships.

What's coming is an administra-

tion that will regard any effort to restore order to homicide-ridden inner-urban communities as “racist,” thus condemning more and more innocent African-Americans to violent, random death.

What's coming is an administration that looks down its nose at those portrayed with unsparing clarity and deep compassion

in J.D. Vance's “Hillbilly Elegy:” which means that those who aren't making it in America today – for no fault of their own or because of bad decisions they've made – will continue to spiral downwards both socially and economically.

And, it means that faithful Catholics who believe in colorblind equality before the law, the dignity and value of every human life at all stages and in all conditions, marriage rightly understood, and an ethic of love that recognizes the truths built into us by the Creator and confirmed by reason will



George Weigel
Ethics and Public Policy Center

be considered ... well, deplorable. And, thus will likely be deplored, in any number of ways.

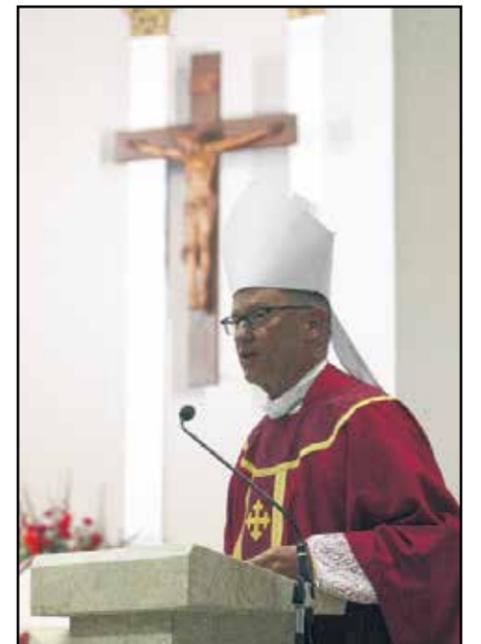
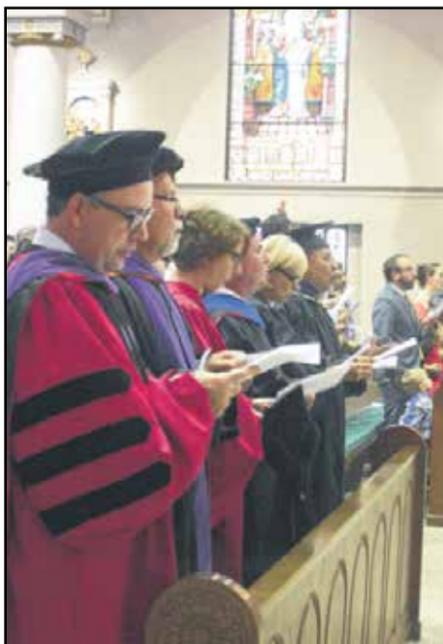
But, while we're on the subject of deplorability, let me go equal-opportunity here and say that I think it utterly deplorable that Mrs. Clinton's principal opponent, Mr. Donald Trump, continues to praise Vladimir Putin – and is joined in doing so by bears of little brain who've doubled-down on Trump's queer notion that the Russian president is a strong leader who gets things done.

Well. What the ex-KGB hand, Putin, has gotten done is this: he's erected a kleptocratic quasi-dictatorship on top of a crumbling civil society while murdering his political opponents, invading his neighbors, backstopping Syria's murderous Bashar al-Assad, and conducting a fantastic propaganda campaign throughout the world (supported, sadly, by the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church); all of which is aimed at reversing the verdict of recent history, rebuilding Stalin's empire in a new guise, and deconstructing the West.

Anyone who doesn't recognize this aggression as just that, a reversion to the Cold War, is deplorably ill-informed or deplorably gullible. Anyone who thinks Putin's accomplishment admirable is morally obtuse and, well, deplorable.

The Republic is in deep trouble.

Bishop of Lincoln honors legal profession at Red Mass



“The Christian vision of political life says that government must take into account the meaning and the role of the family, and the community, and the Church. When we lose that vision, we lose our sense of life's dignity, of man's innate worth, of the purpose of life, in goodness, and virtue, and eternal salvation.” ~ Bishop James Conley, Diocese of Lincoln, Neb.

Lawyers, judges, law professors and students attended the Red Mass on Sept. 24, celebrated by Archbishop Coakley and Bishop James Conley. *Photos Cara Koenig.*

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me”

Knights fill helmets to support Center of Family Love

By Charles Albert
For the Sooner Catholic

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy and following Archbishop Coakley’s call to go make disciples, the Knights of Columbus have been ignited into action to help the Center of Family Love in Okarche.

The Knights founded the center in 1981 to help people with intellectual disabilities who are unable to provide for themselves. With recent cutbacks in state funding, the Center of Family Love is under tremendous financial strain to stay open.

To help alleviate the financial strain, parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa are participating in Knights-on-Bikes. During the program, they will speak to various parishes and ask for help for God’s children with physical and developmental disabilities. Knights will be at the doors of each exit at the end of Masses for “Fill the Helmet for the Center of Family Love!” All funds go directly to the Center of Family Love.

“It is through donations, great and small, that this care and service has been sustained, and we look forward to bringing more awareness and support to their mission,” said Mark Cearley, Oklahoma vice president of Knights-on-Bikes.

“The Knights-on-Bikes is an auxiliary organization and offers a chance for Knights to combine their passion for the KofC and their hobby of riding motorcycles for a great cause.”

Rick Miller, district marshal, also mentioned, “that spouses find it a great way for travel, to visit with other spouses from other councils,



Members of the Knights-on-Bikes present a check for more than \$3,300 to Debbie Espinoza, the director of the Center of Family Love, at Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City. *Photo provided.*

For more information about “Fill the Helmet for the Center of Family Love,” contact Larry Morgan, president of Knights-on-Bikes, at (405) 445-8553, KofC_larry-morgan@outlook.com; or Mark Cearley, vice-president, at (918) 835-8110, knights-onbikesokla@cox.net.

and be a part of a fantastic cause.”

With service as a part of its fundamental belief, the Center of Family Love does not charge the residents or their families for the care they provide. The Knights-on-Bikes wholeheartedly embrace this service, and over the years have looked for ways to help the mission.

“This outreach project by the Knights-on-Bikes is a strong witness of faith,” said Debbie Espinoza, executive director of the Center of Family Love. “There is never a doubt of their loyalty to our organization and we are so grateful for their work.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Knights’ fifth annual Love Run

The Knights of Columbus Council #11909 of Lawton will host a Charity Poker Run on Saturday, Oct. 22. Ride through the Wichita Mountains and support the Center of Family Love. Registration is 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at 301 S.E. Interstate Dr. in Lawton. \$25 single, \$30 couple. Pre-register by Oct. 15 and pay \$20 single, \$25 couple. Prizes for best and worst hand, oldest rider, farthest traveled, etc. Make all checks payable to “Knights of Columbus” and send to 1010 N.W. 82 St., Lawton 73505. Call (580) 595-1347.

Knights join Abbey in honoring victims of abortion



The Knights of Columbus, the monastic community of St. Gregory’s Abbey and the faithful observed a Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Sept. 10. The remains of unborn children were interred in the cemetery of St. Gregory’s. Fr. Price Oswald celebrated Mass and blessed the remains. *Photos courtesy of Br. George Hubl, O.S.B.*



Catholic youth gather for spiritual, social event

By Judy Hilovsky
For the Sooner Catholic

More than 80 young adults, ranging in age from 18 to 39, gathered at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City on Sept. 25 for the 11th Annual Mass and Cookout for the young adults of the archdiocese.

“It is always a good opportunity for the young adults to come together, grow in faith and pray together. Plus, it’s nice to have an event with both a social and spiritual dimension,” Archbishop Coakley said.

The event started with a half-hour meet-and-greet followed by a presentation from Father Chris Brashears, associate pastor at Saint Eugene. Fr. Brashears’ talk, “Free Fallin’: From Trust to Conviction, How to trust God more and keep our Faith through the Struggles” was well received by the crowd.

Fr. Brashears focused on the origin of words, Bible verses and stories from his own childhood to show the way to deeper faith. He encouraged the group to foster a relationship with God, build upon it by using a spiritual/ blessing/grace journal to help track how God is present in daily life. Additionally, he suggested using scriptures to know God more deeply and to read the lives and biographies of the Saints.

“It was a great honor to talk to this group,” Fr. Brashears said. “It is inspiring that they desire to grow closer to God. That they are putting in the time and the effort by coming out on a Sunday afternoon to really give themselves to grow closer to God. I think that’s inspiring.”

Dominic Hoang, the group’s social director,



Archbishop Coakley prays with young adults at a cookout he hosted. At left, Fr. Chris Brashears gives a talk on trust and faith. Photos Judy Hilovsky.

said, “I joined because I have always wanted to be part of a ministry. I feel called to it. And, this group is extremely inviting.”

Neal Hubbard, who lives in Lawton, stays involved to enjoy the fellowship with other young adults in the archdiocese.

After celebrating Mass, Archbishop Coakley said grace before the bar-b-que was served. “Lord, bless this coming together of your young church. Bless our conversations and our time together.”

The group holds prayer night on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., check the website for monthly location. On the second Thursday, the group meets at Fassler Hall, 421 N.W. 10, for fellowship, food and drink.

The third Thursday is Theology on Tap at Blu’s BBQ, 612 N. Robinson Ave., for discussions on deepening faith.

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Catholic Young Adults of OKC
www.catholicyoungadultsokc.com
Instagram - @CYAOFKOC
Facebook - Catholic Young Adults of Oklahoma City



Maronite mission celebrates Lebanese culture in Oklahoma

By Olivia Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

Hundreds of Oklahomans celebrated Lebanese culture Sept. 24 at the 5th annual Lebanese Heritage and Food Festival at Our Lady of Lebanon in Norman. The mission uses the festival to share their culture and raise funds for the parish.

The rain held off allowing patrons to eat and enjoy the entertainment. Entertainment ranged from a Dabke, a Lebanese folk dance circle, to local bands Mike Hosty and Boyd Street Brass.

Food prepared by parish members was available to purchase – silky, homemade hummus, falafel and tabouli, kafta, which is spiced ground beef with herbs and kibbeh, and fried croquette stuffed with bulgur, meat and onions. Lebanese coffee, beer and wine were offered along with water and soda.

The funds raised from the raffle went to the church with the top prize winner receiving a Caribbean cruise. Inside the church was a bake sale and



an opportunity to learn about Christians in the Middle East with a lecture by Bishop Elias Sleman.

Other parts of the festival included a kid’s area with face painting, moon bounce and games, and a vendor booth that sold Christian jewelry, souvenirs emblazoned with the Lebanese flag, and beaded skirts for dancing.

The festival also featured a Lebanon information center with travel information and Lebanese trivia. Did you know that the first law school was built in Lebanon’s capital, Beirut? Or that Beirut was destroyed and rebuilt so many times it’s called “The Phoenix?”

Our Lady of Lebanon is a Maronite Catholic mission. For more information, go online to www.maroniteok.org.

Olivia Biddick is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Charbel Sliby and Julie Chagouri lead a traditional Lebanese dance. Photo Theresa Bragg.

Gerri Hough named 2016 Religious Educator of the Year

Over the past 12 years, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. At the Catechetical Congress held at the Catholic Pastoral Center Sept. 24, the foundation awarded the 2016 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year Award to Gerri Hough, RCIA director, confirmation teacher and former volunteer director of Religious Education at Saint Mary in Clinton.

Hough has volunteered in her parish for more than 30 years. When she moved to Clinton from Wichita, she immediately volunteered to take over the small religious education program at her new parish.

Under her leadership, the program has increased to more than 200 children, requiring more than 30 teachers and aides. Gerri earned her master's degree in pastoral ministry through the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis and works as a full-time librarian at Clinton High School.

Her nominator said, "Although retiring this year from her role as RE director, Gerri remains an ac-

tive volunteer with both RCIA and marriage preparation programs. Her welcoming attitude and love for her kids has never wavered and Saint Mary's is proud to have such a fine program under her leadership, offering a solid Catholic education for the youth in Western Oklahoma."

The two other finalists for the 2016 Religious Educator of the Year Award were Roger Haraughty, third grade catechist at Saint James the Greater in Oklahoma City, and Ale Colmenares-Jimenez, second grade catechist at Saint Catherine of Siena in Pauls Valley.

Finalist Roger Haraughty has been involved in religious education at Saint James for more than 20 years. He has a wonderful rapport with his students, a wonderful sense of humor and enjoys joking with his kids. Outside of the classroom, Haraughty helps the parish cook Lenten meals, runs booths at the parish festival and helps with enrollment. Ann Ward, the parish RE director said Roger is "a priceless asset to our religious education program."

Finalist Ale Colmenares-Jamenez has devoted herself to the parish and the community of Saint Cath-



Photo Cara Koenig.

erine of Siena in Pauls Valley for the past 15 years. She has been a second grade sacramental preparation catechist, a faithful RE instructor and is bilingual. She has received the basic certification for catechists from the archdiocese. Father Jim Chamberlain said, "Ale likes to see her kids grow spiritually from the beginning to the end of the year. They get so excited to think about receiving Jesus for the first time. She is a wonderful asset to our parish."

In making the presentation of the awards, Catholic Foundation

President Manny Sanchez said, "The Catholic Foundation is most honored and grateful to all of the nominees for their great contribution to religious education in the archdiocese. The strength of our mission in the Catholic Church to 'Go Make Disciples' is with these volunteer teachers."

The award winner receives \$500 and a \$5,000 grant for the parish's religious education program. The two finalists also receive a \$500 award.

Michael Chavez named 2016 Catholic School Educator of the Year

At the annual Teacher's Fall Institute held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation awarded its 2016 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Michael Chavez, theology and business law teacher at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

Chavez came to Bishop McGuinness in 1994 from a successful law practice to "give back to his Catholic community" as an educator of theology. His love of learning and passion for theology is evident in his meticulous preparation, research and constant reading. His classes are engrossing and informative with a distinct emphasis on the teachings of the Church.

His students acknowledge his distinct teaching style and are appreciative of his high standard of academic excellence. He has brought to his students a passion for learning, a wealth of knowledge and an increased understanding of their faith that has enhanced their spiritual life. Chavez is highly regarded among his peers and administration at McGuinness for his professional and personal integrity, enormous credibility and positive influence on others. Outside the school, Chavez has been a pastoral minister, teaching catechists throughout the archdiocese.

His nominator said, "Mr. Chavez has shared his exceptional teaching gifts with many types of students both young and old over the



Photo Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

years and has been a model for us at McGuinness for encouraging the development of the whole person ... to love and serve God. He has made a tremendous positive impact as a true Catholic educator."

Each year, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma supports educational programs within the archdiocese, including the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award and the Religious Educator of the Year Award.

The other finalists were Leroy Cantrell, technology and business teacher at Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School, and Breanna Sizemore, physical education teacher at All Saints Catholic School. The award winner receives

\$500 and his school receives a \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in his honor at his school. The two other finalists receive \$500.

Finalist Leroy Cantrell started his 21st year at The Mount this fall. He has led the school in technology education, and has served as a basketball coach, a finance teacher, a tennis coach, a class sponsor, the National Honor Society sponsor and one of the lead actors in their annual Faculty Follies performances.

His nominator said "Mr. Cantrell believes in sharing his spirit of Mercy for the sake of teaching our students about the value of 'giving back.'" This man lovingly and willingly continues to mentor, guide

and influence our students. When you meet Leroy Cantrell, not only will you see and hear the spirit of God's love and laughter, but you'll absolutely feel the spirit of God's grace upon this man who is answering the call to serve."

Finalist Breanna Sizemore is the physical education teacher at All Saints Catholic School in Norman. Prior to 13 years at All Saints, Sizemore taught at Villa Teresa and Saint John Nepomuk. In addition to her duties as a physical education teacher, Sizemore has led the archdiocese in instituting the Lifelines program for suicide awareness and responsiveness. She has trained the All Saint's staff in first aid and CPR after becoming a certified trainer.

Her nominator said, "Mrs. Sizemore is an outstanding educator who would never believe that she, herself is deserving of such an award, but her dedication to our school, our students, our staff and the school community knows no bounds, and that makes her the perfect nominee for the Educator of the Year Award."

In presenting the awards, Catholic Foundation President Manny Sanchez said, "What a wonderful group of finalists this year! They all are excellent examples of what Catholic teachers should be - living examples of teachers as Jesus taught. They are dedicated role models for their students and we congratulate them as they receive this honor."

New principal inspired by family and faith

The Sooner Catholic interviewed Adriana Garza, the new principal of Sacred Heart School in Oklahoma City.

What is the best thing about your school?

The best thing about Sacred Heart Catholic School is its people. People as in students, parents, teachers, staff and priests. At Sacred Heart, you feel at home. It is a large family in which we all work and learn together. We know each other and care for one another. It is a wonderful community.

What is your favorite thing to do when not at school?

I love to spend time with my family; talking about our day, joking around or just being with them makes my day. Going for a walk after a long day is just perfect as is sitting at a peace-

ful place to read a good book. I also love watching old TV shows and movies.

How does faith play a role in your work?

My faith plays a role in everything I do. For a long time, I tried having total control of my life without considering my faith an important part of the equation. Needless to say, my life was not easy or enjoyable. I learned to put God above everything: my work, my marriage, my family and my relationships. Since then, things just tend to fall into place. Life is not easier, but I see a purpose for it. It reminds me of a quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta, "God has not called me to be successful; he has called me to be faithful."



Sacred Heart's Mission: *To empower our students to pursue and achieve academic excellence and personal responsibility as authentic witnesses for Jesus Christ.*

www.sacredheartokc.org/school

Principal - Okarche

Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is seeking a principal who will be a faith and academic leader for a rural Catholic parish school, serving students in grades PreK-3 through 8 for the 2016-2017 school year. Candidates must be practicing Catholics with knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Master's degree in educational administration or related field, and a minimum of five years educational experience, previous administration or principal experience preferred. Request application at (405) 721-4202; P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123; or dfloyd@archokc.org.

Principal - OKC

Christ the King in Oklahoma City seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as an academic leader for a large Catholic parish school, serving more than 500 students in grades PreK-3 through 8. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic who has knowledge and understanding of the faith. Applicants should have a minimum five years teaching experience, preferably at a Catholic school, and a master's degree in education field. At least 18 semester hours of graduate work should be in administration, supervision and curriculum development. For application, contact (405) 721-4202.

Grant from Catholic Foundation results in new equipment for STEM class

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has received a \$2,500 grant from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma for a STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) project. Grant funds went toward the purchase of a Zortrax 3D printer, a 3D scanner and color filaments.

The new equipment allowed STEM teacher Lauren Smith to address a design problem that local car dealer Rick Jones was having with a broken, discontinued car part. Jones, a 1972 Bishop McGuinness graduate, reached out to the STEM class. He sent the broken part to school, along with engineering plans. The students used the 3D scanner to create the object based on the drawings.

The STEM I curriculum focuses on engineering challenges, 3D design and printing, programming and robotics. Two first year STEM classes completed prototyping through bridge building. Four robotics teams have been



BMCHS junior Gabrielle Russell stands in front of one of the new 3D printers. *Photo provided.*

formed and will complete locally.

In its second year, the BMCHS STEM program also has expanded to include a STEM II class where the students focus on a year-long project-based design. Smith said the new equipment provided by the CFO grant was instrumental to the success of our three STEM classes.

Yukon parish to host Stephen Ministry retreat

YUKON – Saint John Nepomuk will host an annual retreat for Oklahoma Stephen ministers, offering the opportunity to gather in one location to build on their skills.

The retreat keynote speaker will be Doug Manning, an author and video producer who will speak on grief and elder care. He has worked with professionals and families in the Oklahoma City bombing, Jonesboro and Fort Worth shootings and the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies. During the retreat, Manning will speak about his new book, "Grief 2nd Mile."

The retreat also will feature breakout sessions:

- Taking Care of Yourself while Serving Others, by Michele S. Morris, M.S., T.E.
- My Spiritual Journey on the Camino, by Deacon Dan Lombardi
- Walking with One in the Dying Process, by Mary Diane Steltenkamp, RN, MAPM, FCN
- How to Make Supervision Group Meetings more Effective, by Frank Andrews
- Establishing and Keeping Appropriate Boundaries while Helping Others, by Rodney Cargill, LADC-MH

The retreat will be Saturday, Oct. 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at SJN, 600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. Cost is \$20, including continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Diana Hale to register at stephenministry@sjnok.org, (405) 226-2699.



Grace Urbanski helps parents teach children to pray

By **J.E. Helm**

For the *Sooner Catholic*

Book Review

Grace Urbanski has written a guide for parents titled simply, "Pray with Me." Subtitled "Seven Simple Ways to

Pray with Your Children," the book has seven chapters, each one of which offers a simple, straightforward idea about how to develop your child's prayer life.

In her introduction, Urbanski defines prayer as "a personal encounter with Jesus prompted by the Holy Spirit" and states that "so many different kinds of prayer exist, so many different ways to encounter God." Her book, she says, "explores seven different kinds of prayer," each of which is adapted to use by and with children.

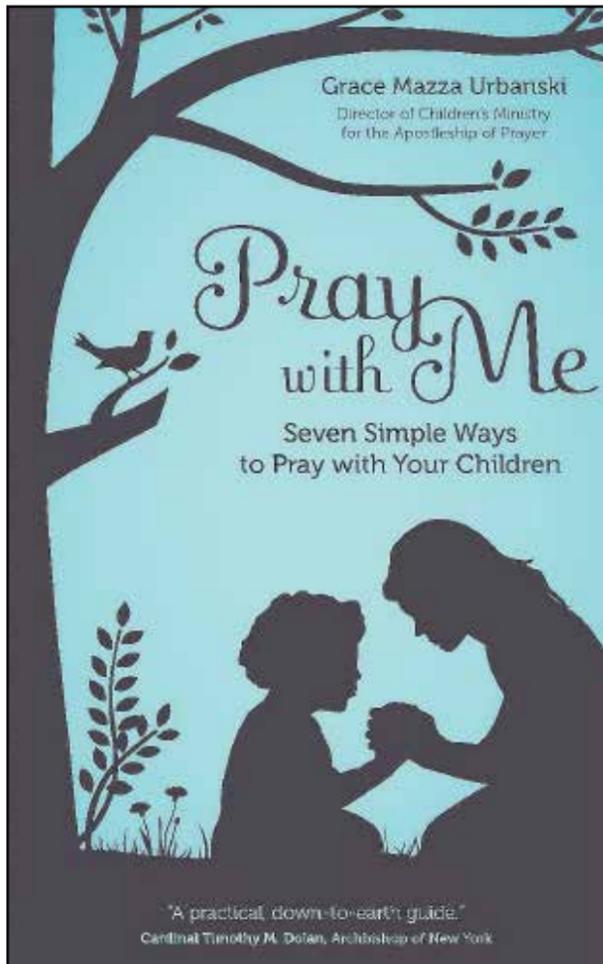
Ch. 1 is "Praying Spontaneously." This type of prayer, she explains, is where we "share with God what's on our heart."

Urbanski quotes Scripture, the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and various writers. She tells us, for example, that Saint Teresa of Avila said prayer is "a close sharing between friends." Saint Paul urged us to "pray without ceasing," and Saint Therese of Lisieux wrote that "for me, prayer is a surge of the heart."

Urbanski is a skillful writer. Her chapters have some intriguing captions, like "One Cannot Get What One Does Not Have (Maybe)," and she has many real-life and personal experiences that make her book highly readable. Her son was bullied at school; he came home with "a rotten banana squished into every crevice" of his school bag. (They prayed about this, and things eventually worked out well.)

When she became pregnant with her fifth child, and her oldest was just 7, she was exhausted. She writes, "I hunted sleep like a starving hyena scans a herd for pitiful stragglers."

Ch. 2 is "Praying from Memory," and here she presents ideas about the Rosary, "the mother of all memorized prayers" and Scriptural passages that refer to "prescribed prayers." Memorization, she says, "allows children to carry



prayers with them everywhere."

Ch. 3 is "Praying with Scripture," and here Urbanski says that "reading Scripture with the whole family welcomes Jesus into our home." She maintains that "children can feel as comfortable talking with Jesus as they do the 'Very Hungry Caterpillar,'" a children's book they know and love. In a more scholarly mode, she presents Lectio Divina for the whole family, including the children.

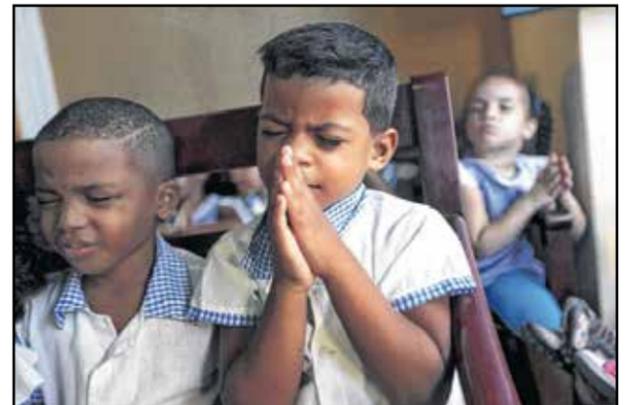
"Praying with Song" is Ch. 4, and this one is an easy idea to use with children. A counterpart is Ch. 5, "Praying with Silence," and while this one may seem difficult since "childhood is not associated with silence," she has some very good ideas about making silent prayer effective in the family setting as a way of fostering silent prayer as lifelong practice.

Ch. 6 is "Praying with Reflection," and again Urbanski is introducing a concept that has potential for long-term development. She believes children, amazingly enough, think and reflect about the events in their daily lives, and reflective prayer can follow naturally enough from this. She recommends "The Examen," a review of the day's events and a reflection on what took place. Reflection, she says, helps us pay attention to how God works for us and through every moment of the day.

Ch. 7 is "Praying with the Apostolate of Prayer." The Apostolate, Urbanski explains, "are believers, of any age, who trust that God accepts our offerings and transforms them into grace for others." The Jesuit priest who first presented this idea to his novices in 1844 advised them to "offer everything you are doing each day in union with the Heart of Our Lord for what he wishes." Children, Urbanski believes, respond to this idea readily.

An especially nice feature of this book is that following each chapter, there are "Questions" for review and reflection that help the reader make the topic of each chapter personal and realistically applicable. She asks, for example, "What were your experiences of music making when you were young?" and "Have you ever felt a Bible passage speaking directly to your circumstances, directly to your heart?"

"Pray with Me" is a lovely little book (just 139 pages) that any parent or grandparent or godparent or aunt or uncle or close friend can use to bring the children in their lives closer to God in a loving, trusting and personal relationship, and so this book is as highly recommended as it is enjoyable.



Remember the Church

Are you looking for an easy way to help your parish or other ministry?

I've received quite a few questions

Wills & Trusts Week 2016

Information sessions about planning an estate will be at six parishes in October. These informative sessions address issues regarding preparing a will or trust, including recent changes in the law. Admission is free to Catholics from all parishes. Monday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., St. John, 900 S. Littler Ave., Edmond; Monday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., St. John Nepomuk, 600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon; Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., St. Joseph, 421 E. Acres Street, Norman; Thursday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, 110 N. Madison St., Enid; Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Christ the King, 8005 N. Dorset Ave., OKC; Monday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 711 Hickory Ave., Duncan. Reservations encouraged. Contact (405) 721-4115 or visit www.cfook.org.

about Congress permanently extending the IRA charitable rollover law this past December. So, I thought I would put together a roadmap for folks to use in considering whether making this type of gift makes sense for them.

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift from your IRA account to help support the work of your parish or other archdiocesan ministry this year, and benefit nicely from it, along with helping the Church - with zero taxes paid by you or the ministry of your choice on the entire gifted amount.

Why make an IRA charitable rollover gift?

Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover and made it permanent. An IRA rollover gift is a way for you to support your parish or other ministry today without impacting your checking or savings account balance. Gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They also qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD), which can lower your income and taxes.

In addition, making an IRA rollover

gift may prevent you from: being bumped into a higher federal and/or state income tax bracket; hitting the phaseouts on your deductions and personal exemptions; or falling into the alternative minimum tax (AMT), incurring the Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax.

You can benefit from giving from your IRA if...

- You wish to make a significant gift without using cash or other assets;
- You do not need all or a portion of your IRA income;
- You are paying too much in taxes and are looking to reduce income and tax liability;
- You do not itemize deductions. Because a rollover gift can reduce your income and taxes, you can still benefit from charitable giving even as a non-itemizer;
- You want to give above your normal giving this year. An IRA rollover gift does not count toward the 50 percent annual limitation on charitable gifts.

What if you have a 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement plan?

This gift opportunity only works



Barney Semtner
Executive Director
Catholic Foundation
of Oklahoma

for IRAs. If you own another type of qualified retirement plan, you must first make a tax-free rollover of funds into an IRA. Then, you can make the gift from the IRA account to support your parish or other ministry.

How can I make an IRA rollover gift?

Contact your IRA plan administrator to learn their procedure for making a rollover gift to charity. To qualify, it must go directly from your plan to your parish or other chosen archdiocesan ministry. If it comes to you, it will be treated as a regular taxable distribution from your IRA.

To learn more about the benefits of an IRA charitable rollover gift, contact the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma at (405) 721-4115.

St. Gregory's Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents "The Tempest"

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Saint Gregory's University announced the upcoming production of "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare, premiering Thursday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m. in the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center.

"Our hope is that even audiences who are new to Shakespeare will find the show exciting and easy to understand. I think viewers will experience the continuing relevance of Shakespeare's work in contemporary society," said David Coley, director of theatre at SGU.

"The Tempest" is Shakespeare's classic tale of magic, betrayal and redemption. Prospero, marooned on an island since being unseated from power by his brother, Antonio, is offered the perfect chance at revenge when his brother and co-conspirators are shipwrecked on that same island. This unique production is set in the 1950s on a South Pacific island in the age of nuclear testing, and will incorporate dance to help tell this powerful story.

Christopher Robinson, an SGU theatre alumnus, and community member Victor Tolman, will join students in this production.

Dominic Reyna, a senior theatre major from

Midwest City, plays the lead role of Prospero.

Additional performances:

Oct. 7 – 8 p.m.

Oct. 8 – 8 p.m.

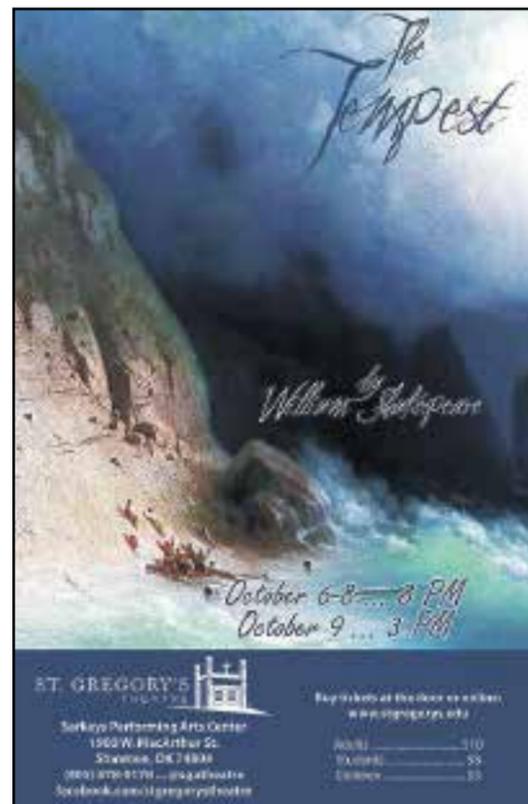
Oct. 9 – 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$5 for children. They can be purchased at the box office in the theatre lobby one hour prior to each performance.

For more information, contact Jessica Van Oort at (405) 878-5178 or jvanoort@stgregorys.edu.

Oct. 28 – Spirit and Sole Dance Ensemble, SGU's resident company, will present an evening of varied styles of dance choreographed by faculty and students. This year's fall production, "Once Upon a Stage," will be Oct. 28 through Oct. 30. The dance pieces explore the theme of fairy tales from different perspectives, from the serious to the humorous.

All performances will be held at the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center on the SGU Shawnee campus. More information, as well as advance tickets, available at www.stgregorys.edu.



Making Sense of Bioethics

Leaving our values at the door of the strip club

I recently was talking to a Massachusetts family with a 21-year-old son on the autism spectrum. Because of the Asperger syndrome and obsessive compulsive disorder that have affected him since childhood, he is only about 13 or 14 in his understanding and behaviors.

Jimmy (not his real name) has been in and out of mental institutions and recently had to be placed into a group home because his single mom could no longer manage him at home.

Jimmy came from a good family, conscientious and Catholic, raised in a clean environment by his mother and grandmother, who hoped to see him cared for in a protected and secure setting at the group home. Soon, they saw, however, that there were issues: the residents had unlimited TV access in their private rooms; there seemed to be high worker turnover; and some of the tattooed staff were not only heavy smokers, but used foul language.

Things took an unexpected turn as Jimmy prepared to celebrate his 21st birthday. Others at the group home started pushing him to visit the strip club in a nearby town now that he was "going to be an adult." Always guileless, and never hesitant to talk openly about whatever was going on around him, Jimmy blurted out to his grandmother that the group home staff were going to drive him the next weekend to the Foxy Lady Club.

A series of phone calls ensued. When the grandmother spoke with a staff member at the home, she was informed there was nothing she could do to prevent it, that the group home routinely offered transportation to the strip club not only for their residents, but for

residents of the other group homes run by the same company in nearby towns.

The staff member said that Jimmy was now 21 and the group home had to let him do what he wanted. A second phone call to the staff supervisor resulted in the same song and dance: the group home had no choice but to cater to



Attorneys, residents and community activists join the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo for a June 18 procession to Club Allure, a strip club in Stone Park, Ill. They were protesting the strip club's proximity to the sisters' convent. *CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World.*

his wishes; he was within his legal rights now that he was 21; they would drive others at the home to the strip club, etc.

Finally, the grandmother called the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, which had contracted with the compa-

ny running the group home, and spoke to the woman in charge of Jimmy's case. She noted that Jimmy was not only within his legal rights, but it was, she asserted, a matter of basic human rights to allow him go to the strip club.

His grandmother replied it would be a failure to care for persons with mental disabilities if caretakers facilitated sexually-addictive practices, which such persons were prone to engage in anyway, often struggling with self-control and masturbatory behaviors, and this might set them up for a trip back to the mental hospital. When she continued to protest that visiting such a club was not a good or moral activity, the official replied, "Well, if you're concerned about 'values,' I leave my values at the door every time I go to work in order to get my job done."

Cases like Jimmy's serve as a disappointing reminder of how low the bar has come to be set in certain segments of our society. The misappropriation of public tax money by state agencies to subsidize damaging behaviors in a vulnerable patient population is also regrettable and fundamentally unjust.

The family's struggles further highlight an astonishing cultural misunderstanding around the idea of "human rights." To suggest that the activity of leering lecherously at the bodies of naked women is a "basic human right" is itself a profound perversion, and represents a lamentable instance of outright moral bankruptcy.

Probably the most striking element of a case like Jimmy's is the remarkably well-honed ability of some who serve in positions of authority and leadership — while professing to be "good" or even "re-



Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic Bioethics Center

ligious" people — to jettison their values and beliefs the moment they are called upon to stand up and defend what is right.

Because individuals like Jimmy are consistently unable to make good decisions on their own behalf, it goes without saying that they require a guardian to attend to their interests and protect them.

Yet, legal guardians, like Jimmy's grandmother, are finding themselves in the unenviable position of being ignored on certain issues by those entrusted with the care of institutionalized residents, apparently determined to bypass the guardian's will whenever specific sexual agendas or views about "rights" need to be duly imposed.

Good parents never drive their children to strip clubs, and neither should any institution entrusted with a protective parental role; on the contrary, such institutions should erect appropriate boundaries and limits on harmful behaviors, so their residents can grow and flourish, contribute positively to society, and perhaps one day become good and mature moral agents themselves.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

El día de las elecciones se acerca: ¿qué vamos a hacer?

En poco más de un mes los ciudadanos de este país irán a las urnas para elegir a los líderes nacionales, estatales y locales y opinarán sobre muchas preguntas que ayudará a dar forma a nuestra sociedad por los próximos años. El derecho al voto es una cosa preciosa. Es un privilegio que nunca podemos dar por sentado. Incluso más que un privilegio, sin embargo, el voto es una responsabilidad moral para aquellos que son elegibles para votar.

Es cierto que, como muchas otras personas, estoy más que listo para que culmine ya la temporada de campaña y el Día de las Elecciones ya quede atrás. Ha sido muy desconcertante. La calidad de los candidatos que los votantes tienen que elegir para ciertas oficinas es mucho menos de lo que podríamos haber esperado y ciertamente lejos de ser consistentes con muchos de los valores históricos y las aspiraciones de esta gran nación. Para los católicos que toman en serio sus responsabilidades públicas y tratan de integrar sus profundas creencias religiosas con sus deberes cívicos nos enfrentamos a un discernimiento más difícil que en cualquiera de los comicios electorales de la historia reciente. En la parte superior de cada papeleta electoral nos enfrentamos con candidatos con graves defectos. (Sin embargo, esto no debería ser una gran sorpresa ya que todos somos seres humanos imperfectos y pecadores.) Algunos católicos con los que he hablado están tan desanimados por nuestra selección de candidatos a la presidencia que están considerando quedarse en casa el día de elecciones.

¿Entonces, qué vamos a hacer? Todos deberíamos comenzar por orar por nuestra nación y para que la luz del Espíritu Santo nos guíe y prepare como votantes para emitir nuestro voto. Debemos recordar las enseñanzas de nuestros obispos y el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica que nos recuerdan que la ciudadanía responsable es una virtud y la participación en la vida política es una obligación moral.

Hablando de participación en la vida política y pública del Catecismo nos insta: "Es necesario que todos participen, cada uno según el lugar que ocupa y el papel que desempeña, en promover el bien común. Este deber es inherente a la dignidad de la persona humana. ... Los ciudadanos deben cuanto sea posible tomar parte activa en la vida pública." (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 1913-1915).

Así que de nuevo, ¿qué vamos a hacer? Profunda insatisfacción con los candidatos en la parte superior de la papeleta electoral no debe utilizarse como justificación para quedarse en casa el Día de las Elecciones. Hay muchas otras candidaturas importantes y preguntas en las cuales tenemos una oportunidad y obligación moral para intervenir en ellas a medida que tratemos de promover el bien común en nuestra nación, estado y comunidades locales.

Hay algunas cuestiones que hay que darles primera consideración, ya que son de fundamental importancia, entre ellos se encuentra la protección de la vida humana y la dignidad. Un católico no puede, en buena conciencia, por ejemplo, votar para ampliar la protección legal para el aborto. El Obispo James Conley de Lincoln, Nebraska, enfatizó este punto en nuestra reciente Misa Roja citando a Santa Teresa de Calcuta, quien dijo, "Roe v. Wade ha deformado una gran nación. El llamado derecho al aborto ha enfrentado a las madres contra sus hijos y las mujeres contra los hombres. Ha sembrado violencia y discordia en el seno de las relaciones humanas más íntimas. Se ha agravado la derogación del papel del padre en una sociedad cada vez más huérfana. Ha retratado el mayor de los regalos — un niño — como un competidor, una intrusión y un inconveniente. ... Los derechos humanos no son un privilegio conferido por el gobierno. Ellos son el derecho de todo ser humano, en virtud de su humanidad. El derecho a la vida no depende, y no debe ser declarada contingente, al placer de cualquier otra persona, ni siquiera un padre o un soberano".

A medida que se acerca el Día de las Elec-

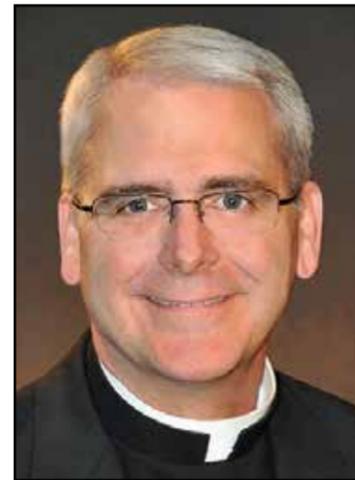
ciones, tenemos que estudiar.

Tenemos que mirar más allá de la retórica climatizada y consignas para discernir si hay candidatos que puedan promover el bien común, proteger la vida y avanzar la dignidad humana en sus múltiples manifestaciones. Cuando hay este tipo de candidatos deben sentirse libres de votar por ellos, a pesar de las afiliaciones de partido. En algunas competencias políticas podemos descubrir que no hay un candidato que podamos apoyar en buena conciencia y optamos por abstenernos de votar en esa competencia política en particular.

En la elección entre candidatos imperfectos nunca debemos caer en la trampa de pensar que debemos elegir el menos malo de los dos. Nunca podemos elegir el mal. Sin embargo, podemos elegir un candidato que tenga más probabilidad de hacer algo bueno y que limite la cantidad de daño causado. Esto es cierto especialmente en relación con estas cuestiones fundamentales como la protección del derecho a la vida, el fortalecimiento de la familia,

y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos o decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones de plataformas que sean más probables en promover el bien común de nuestra nación. Es posible que, de hecho, hagamos diferentes juicios prudentes sobre algunas cuestiones y llegar a conclusiones diferentes. Esto es cierto, por ejemplo, cuando se considera cual es la mejor forma de promover la igualdad racial, crear puestos de trabajo y oportunidades económicas, proteger la creación, o lograr la reforma educativa o reformar la justicia criminal.

Hay mucho en juego el 8 de noviembre. Insto a que oren, estudien los candidatos y sus plataformas, y luego a votar. Que María bajo el título de su Inmaculada Concepción, Patrona de los Estados Unidos, ¡ruegue por nosotros!



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



ejemplo, votar para ampliar la protección legal para el aborto. El Obispo James Conley de Lincoln, Nebraska, enfatizó este punto en nuestra reciente Misa Roja citando a Santa Teresa de Calcuta, quien dijo, "Roe v. Wade ha deformado una gran nación. El llamado derecho al aborto ha enfrentado a las madres contra sus hijos y las mujeres contra los hombres. Ha sembrado violencia y discordia en el seno de las relaciones humanas más íntimas. Se ha agravado la derogación del papel del padre en una sociedad cada vez más huérfana. Ha retratado el mayor de los regalos — un niño — como un competidor, una intrusión y un inconveniente. ... Los derechos humanos no son un privilegio conferido por el gobierno. Ellos son el derecho de todo ser humano, en virtud de su humanidad. El derecho a la vida no depende, y no debe ser declarada contingente, al placer de cualquier otra persona, ni siquiera un padre o un soberano".

A medida que se acerca el Día de las Elec-

En breve

40 días por la vida

Del 28 de septiembre hasta el 6 de noviembre, usted está invitado a unirse a otros cristianos por 40 días por la vida, 40 días de oración y ayuno por el fin del aborto. También está invitado a ponerse de pie y orar en paz durante una vigilia de 40 días en la vía pública exterior de South Winds clínica de mujeres, 1240 SW 44th St. (esquina de Blackwelder y 44^o) para ayudar a difundir la palabra acerca de esta importante comunidad. Si desea más información póngase en contacto con: Deanne Gribble, (206) 498-6791.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
Norman

Vigil location: 2453 Wilcox Dr. in Norman. Behind Braums on 24th Ave. SW and Lindsey

Vigil hours: 7 AM — 7 PM daily

Local contact: Connie Lang at 405-249-1041 or jlang9@cox.net

Aniversarios de matrimonio

El arzobispo Coakley invita a

las parejas casadas a celebrar sus aniversarios de matrimonio en una misa a las 3 p.m. el 23 de octubre a la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Perpetuo, 3214 N. Lake Ave. Contactar a la oficina de vida familiar, (405) 721-8944.

Curso de enfermería

Se estará llevando a cabo un Curso Comunitario de Fundamentos de Enfermería del 26 al 28 de octubre y del 9 al 11 de noviembre en la Universidad de Oklahoma City. Es requerido asistir a las seis sesiones. Cupo limitado. Las enfermeras parroquiales trabajan

en Ministerios de Salud parroquiales, en ministerios educativos sobre la salud, como agentes de referencia, defensoría, consejero de la salud personal, desarrollador de grupos de apoyo, coordinador de voluntarios, e integrador de la fe y de salud. El aspecto espiritual es clave para la enfermería comunitaria y la promoción de la salud integral y la salud preventiva. Becas disponibles a través de Caridades Católicas y FCNAOK. Para más amplia información favor de comunicarse con Nelda Hobbs al (405) 640-0458 o nhobbs@okcu.edu.

Estuve en la cárcel y me fueron a ver

“Cuando lo hicieron con uno de los más pequeños de mis hermanos, me lo hicieron a mí”

Por **Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.**
Director del Ministerio Hispano

Los encarcelados están en peligro de perder su fe y su esperanza. Al llegar a ellos en un amoroso ministerio en las prisiones no sólo estamos practicando una obra de misericordia corporal, también estamos ayudándoles en aferrarse al misericordioso amor de Cristo. Él puede ayudar a transformar su dolor y sufrimiento a través de la fe y la esperanza que les testimoniamos cuando los visitamos.

La ruta a esta transformación requiere el anuncio del amor de Dios y asegurándoles que este amor es una constante sin fin en todas nuestras vidas. Los encarcelados tienen que escuchar este mensaje una y otra vez y cuando lo hacen su fe y la esperanza se reaviva y su sufrimiento comienza a transformarse.

El Papa Benedicto XVI, en su encíclica “Spe Salvi” nos habla de esta transformación y ahí también comparte con nosotros los escritos

del mártir vietnamita Pablo Le-Bao-Tinh. He aquí la parte a que me refiero: “Lo que cura al hombre no es esquivar el sufrimiento y huir ante el dolor, sino la capacidad de aceptar la tribulación, madurar en ella y encontrar en ella un sentido mediante la unión con Cristo, que ha sufrido con amor infinito.”

“En este contexto, quisiera citar algunas frases de una carta del mártir vietnamita Pablo Le-Bao-Thin en las que resalta esta transformación del sufrimiento mediante la fuerza de la esperanza que proviene de la fe.

“Yo, Pablo, encarcelado por el nombre de Cristo, os quiero explicar las tribulaciones en que me veo sumergido cada día, para que, enfervorizados en el amor de Dios, alabéis conmigo al Señor, porque es eterna su misericordia. Esta cárcel es un verdadero infierno: a los crueles suplicios de toda clase, como son grillos, cadenas de hierro y ataduras, hay que añadir el odio, las venganzas, las calum-



nias, palabras indecentes, peleas, actos perversos, juramentos injustos, maldiciones y, finalmente, angustias y tristeza.

Pero Dios, que en otro tiempo libró a los tres jóvenes del horno de fuego, está siempre conmigo y me libra de las tribulaciones y las convierte en dulzura, porque es eterna su misericordia. En medio de estos tormentos, que aterrorizarían a cualquiera, por la gracia de Dios estoy lleno de gozo y alegría, porque no estoy solo, sino que Cristo está conmigo. ... ¿Cómo resistir este espectáculo, viendo cada día cómo los emperadores, los mandarines y sus cortesanos blasfeman tu santo nombre, Señor, que te sientas sobre los querubines y serafines?

¡Mira, tu cruz es pisoteada por los paganos! ¿Dónde está tu gloria? Al ver todo esto, prefiero, encendido en tu amor, morir descuartizado, en testimonio de tu amor. Muestra, Señor, tu poder, sálvame y dame tu apoyo, para que la fuerza se manifieste en mi debilidad y sea glorificada ante los gentiles. ... Queridos hermanos al escuchar todo esto, llenos de alegría, tenéis que dar gracias incansables a Dios, de quien procede todo bien; bendecid conmigo al Señor, porque es eterna su miseri-

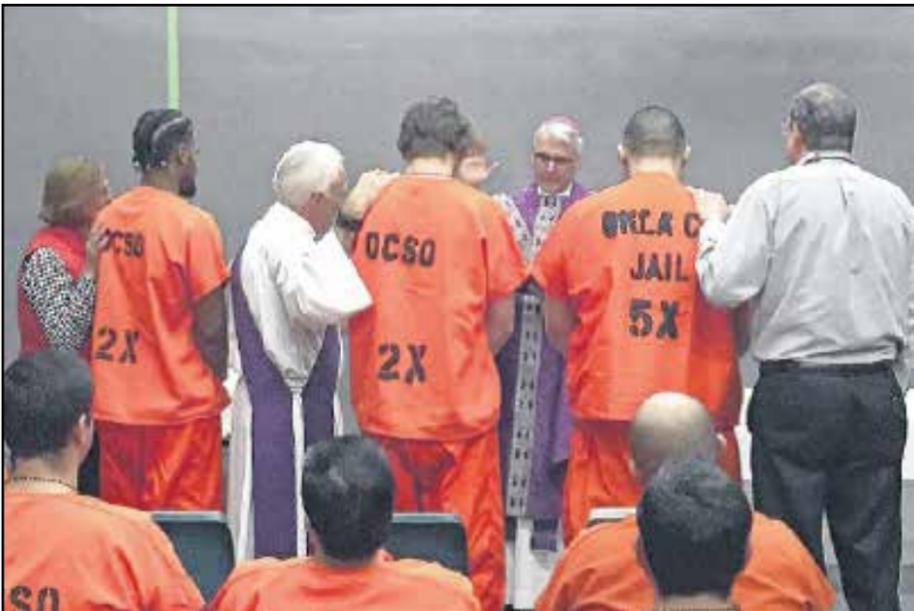
cordia. ...

Os escribo todo esto para que se unan vuestra fe y la mía. En medio de esta tempestad echo el ancla hasta el trono de Dios, esperanza viva de mi corazón”.

Ésta es una carta ‘desde el infierno’. Se expresa todo el horror de un campo de concentración en el cual, a los tormentos por parte de los tiranos, se añade el desencadenarse del mal en las víctimas mismas que, de este modo, se convierten incluso en nuevos instrumentos de la crueldad de los torturadores. Es una carta desde el ‘infierno’, pero en ella se hace realidad la exclamación del Salmo: ‘Si escalo el cielo, allí estás tú; si me acuesto en el abismo, allí te encuentro ... Si digo: ‘Que al menos la tiniebla me encubra...’, ni la tiniebla es oscura para ti, la noche es clara como el día”.

El Papa Benedicto termina esta sección de su encíclica al recordarnos que: Cristo ha descendido al ‘infierno’ y así está cerca de quien ha sido arrojado allí, transformando por medio de Él las tinieblas en luz. El sufrimiento y los tormentos son terribles y casi insostenibles. Sin embargo, ha surgido la estrella de la esperanza, el ancla del corazón llega hasta el trono de Dios. No se desata el mal en el hombre, sino que vence la luz: el sufrimiento – sin dejar de ser sufrimiento – se convierte a pesar de todo en canto de alabanza.

Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo les invito a considerar el ofrecerse como voluntarios para el ministerio en las prisiones en la arquidiócesis. Muchos hermanos y hermanas nuestras necesitan de personas de la comunidad que vayan a recordarles que el amor y la misericordia de Cristo esta con ellos siempre y nunca los abandonarán. Ni ahora, ni mañana.



Arzobispo Coakley celebra la confirmación de prisioneros. Foto del archivo.

La directora encuentra inspiración de familia, fe

Una entrevista con **Adriana Garza**, la directora de la escuela Sagrado Corazón en Oklahoma City.

¿Qué es lo que más te agrada de tu escuela? Lo mejor de la Escuela Católica del Sagrado Corazón es su gente. Los estudiantes los padres, los maestros, personal no docente y sacerdotes. En el Sagrado Corazón, se siente como en casa. Es una gran familia en la cual todos trabajamos y aprendemos juntos. Nos conocemos y cuidamos unos a otros. Es una comunidad maravillosa.

¿Qué rol tiene tu fe en tu trabajo?

Mi fe tiene un rol en todo lo que hago. Por largo tiempo, traté de tener control total de mi vida sin tener en cuenta como mi fe es una parte importante de esta ecuación. No hace falta decirlo, mi vida no fue fácil ni agradable. Aprendí a colocar a Dios sobre todas las cosas: en mi trabajo, mi matrimonio, mi familia y

en todas mis relaciones. Desde entonces todo tiende caer en su lugar. La vida no es más fácil, pero le encuentro un propósito. Esto me recuerda una frase de Santa Teresa de Calcuta, “Dios no me ha llamado a tener éxito. El me llamó a ser fiel.”

¿Qué es lo que más te gusta hacer cuando no estás en la escuela?

Me encanta pasar tiempo con mi familia; hablando sobre nuestro día, bromeando o simplemente estar con ellos me trae felicidad a mi día. Salir a caminar después de un largo día es perfecto al igual que pasarla descansando en un lugar tranquilo donde pueda leer un buen libro. También me gusta ver programas viejos de televisión y películas.

La misión de Sagrado Corazón: *Para capacitar a nuestros estudiantes a seguir y alcanzar la excelencia académica y la responsabilidad personal como auténticos testigos de Jesucristo.*



Pope

continued from page 1
despair, he said, the answer is to pray hard, just like Job, who cried out day and night for God to listen.

He said Psalm 88 and its response – “Let my prayer come before you, Lord” – “is a prayer of knocking at (God’s) door, but hard, ‘Lord my soul is surfeited with troubles and my life draws near to the nether world. I am numbered with those who go down into the pit; I am a man without strength.’”

This is praying with genuine candor and honesty, he said, because it is the way children

pour out their emotions to their parents. And, this is how “we must pray in the most terrible, darkest, most desolate, crushing moments.”

A person can help with loving silence, “being close, a caress and prayers to the father.”

The pope asked that people pray for the grace to recognize and reflect upon the reasons for their despair, the grace to pray fervently to the Lord in times of trouble, and the grace to know how to best accompany those who are suffering, sad and despairing.

Frs. Janocha and Grover to lead pilgrimage to Fatima

Fr. Carl William Janocha and Fr. Daniel Grover will lead a pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, and Lourdes, from Nov. 7-17, 2017. Cost is \$3,099 pp, including airfare from Oklahoma City, four-star hotels, most meals. Sites include Lisbon, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca, Avila, Madrid, and Lourdes. In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three small children in a field in Fatima. Join in to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this apparition, and visit the pilgrimage site of Santiago de Compostela, with the burial place of St. James, see the shrine to St. Teresa of Avila, and the Grotto of the Apparition of Our Lady to Bernadette in Lourdes. \$400 deposit required. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha, (580) 395-2148, cwjanocha@kanokla.net.

Fr. Jim Goins to celebrate silver jubilee with pilgrimage

Join Fr. Jim Goins to celebrate his silver jubilee by walking the Way of St. James through coastal Portugal and Spain May 28-June 9, 2017. Limited to 25 pilgrims. Valencia, Pontevedra, El Parque Natural de Ria Barosa, Rua de Francos Padron, Santiago de Compostela and more. Cost is \$4,399 pp dbl. occ., includes meals, roundtrip air from OKC, luggage transfers, hotels, guides, all admissions. Mass daily, support/chase van available and luxury motor coach for sightseeing and transfer to and from trail start/end locations each day. \$300 pp deposit. Contact (405) 293-2003, mroewe@Unitours.com.



Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

Fall has arrived and at Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, we are approaching the Fall Radiothon, Oct. 25-26.

We are continuing with an initiative called the Parish Challenge that we began last spring to get parishes across the state involved in Catholic radio. Tune in and listen to your station on Tuesday, Oct. 25, as we announce the Parish Challenge participants for the Fall Radiothon. This is one way you can find out what your parish has pledged and what the parish match is.

Don't hear your parish named as a "Challenge" participant? Your parish has already completed its challenge in the spring? Not to worry. You still can help by becoming a monthly donor.

When you donate, share with the OCBN family in a few words why you give or

what Catholic radio means to you. Your encouraging words would be meaningful to the current Parish Challenge partners as well, so we might read some of these comments on the air.

Don't know how to reach us or where to listen? You can call toll-free at (800) 891-8589. To listen online, go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com.

Listen on your radio throughout the state at the following stations:

Oklahoma City 97.3 FM
Tulsa 94.9 FM
Lawton 88.3 FM
Prague 88.3 FM
Shawnee 107.1 FM
Bristow 105.7 FM
Broken Arrow 102.9 FM
Antlers 90.3 FM
Elk City 100.7 FM

... And now Edmond at 100.9 FM and Ringwood near Enid at 104.9 FM.

Briefs

Attention Christ the King alumni

Christ the King School is searching for all CK Knights and for alumni news! The school would like to include alumni news in the annual school newsletter this fall. E-mail information and pictures to alumni@ckschool.com. The newsletter will be posted under the "Alumni" link at www.ckschool.com/groups/4984/alumni/home. Also, keep the database up-to-date by e-mailing address and e-mail updates.

St. Monica Women's Retreat

Featuring speaker and musician Anne Trufant, the St. Monica Women's Retreat will be Friday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 15. Cost \$20, scholarships available. Registration deadline Oct. 10. To register, e-mail Kailee at stmon-icakz@gmail.com. Include name, telephone number and e-mail address. Mail registration fee to St. Monica Catholic Church, Attn: Kailee Zehrung, 2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond 73012.

Ireland pilgrimage

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a unique pilgrimage to Ireland, July 10-22. Includes Dublin, Our Lady of Knock, St. Patrick's Tomb and Cathedral, Giant's Causeway,

Titanic Museum in Belfast, Trinity College, Holy Well of St. Brigid, Cliffs of Moher, O'Brien's Tower, Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle, Galway, and more. Breakfast, dinner daily. 4-star hotels, luxury motorcoach, roundtrip air from OKC. \$4,399 pp. \$300 pp deposit. Contact Melani Roewe at (405) 293-2003 or go online to <http://bit.ly/RevAckermanIreland>. Secure online registration at <http://bit.ly/29KPZTT>.

40 Days for Life OKC

From Sept. 28 through Nov. 6 join in 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray in the public right-of-way outside South Winds women's center 1240 S.W. 44 (Corner of Blackwelder Avenue and S.W. 44). Contact Deanne Gribble at (206) 498-6791. www.40days-forlife.com/oklahomacity.

40 Days for Life Norman

Join in prayer Sept. 28 until Nov. 6, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily outside the Norman abortion center at 2453 Wilcox Drive. Contact Connie at (405) 249-1041.

St. John Nepomuk craft fair

St. John Nepomuk Altar Society's Annual Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. Seasonal, jewelry, unique handmade items and a raffle for a handmade quilt. Vendors call (405) 834-3528.

Widowed, divorced and separated retreat

There is help for the heartache of separation, divorce and widowhood at a Beginning Experience weekend. The program helps with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for turning the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. Trained team members who have suffered the loss of a loved one share their experience. The next Beginning Experience weekend will be Oct. 21-23 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. To register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944. Download registration form online at www.archokc.org/office-of-family-life/home.

KoC fall retreat

The Knights of Columbus Retreat for all Catholics will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, Oct. 22. Father Rick Stansberry, pastor of Christ the King, will present "How to get more out of the Mass." Cost \$15 per attendee, lunch and two breaks included. Contact Michael

Zink at Michael-the-j@cox.net.

Children's fall festival

St. Paul the Apostle is having a fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 3901 S. Sunnyslane Rd., Del City. Festival open 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free admission; tickets for games \$.25 each or a pack of 25 for \$5.

Oblate Day at St. Gregory's

Benedictine Oblates are lay persons who associate themselves with a Benedictine monastic community to share in their search for God. Oblates strive to incorporate Benedictine values and spirituality into their everyday lives, incorporating the Divine Office and reflection on Scripture as they are able. They do not live in a religious community or take vows. The Abbey hosts special days of prayer and reflection for Oblates twice a year. The next Oblate Day is Oct. 23. Contact (405) 878-5490.

Anniversary Mass

Archbishop Coakley invites married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries to attend a Mass at 3 p.m. Oct. 23 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. Attendees should contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 721-8944.

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

- 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.
- 4 Join Archbishop Coakley and Pastor Walter B. Hoye II from Issues4Life Foundation on Oct. 4, beginning at 5 p.m. at St. James the Greater Church, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., and prayerfully process near the new abortion facility in OKC. All are welcome.
- 6 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.
- 7 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m.
- 8 Materials about First Friday Devotion and consecrating family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus available after Mass.
- 8 The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica meet from Noon to 2:30 p.m. in the school building, Rm. A/B, at St. Charles Borromeo. Contact Judith Martin at (405) 635-5665, jmmartinosb@yahoo.com.
- 9 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 3901 S.W. 29, OKC. Call (405) 685-4806.
- 11 Feast of St. John XXIII.
- 11 Catholic War Veterans will meet in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt at (405) 235-4565.
- 12 Catholic War Veterans USA Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 meet at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact Ken at (405) 739-0036, OklaPost168@cox.net.
- 13 St. Ann's Ministry for Pregnancy and Infant Loss will meet 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at St. John's Raphael House in Edmond. Everyone is welcome, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. Contact Marilyn Seiler (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parish-nurse@stjohn-catholic.org.
- 14 Featuring musician Anne Trufant, the St. Monica Women's Retreat will be Oct. 14 and 15. Cost \$20; scholarships available. Deadline to register Oct. 10. E-mail Kailee at stmonicaakz@gmail.com.
- 14 Bingo at St. Joseph, Norman. Dinner served 6:15 p.m. Games begin 7 p.m. with second session at 8:30 p.m.
- 15 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meetings following. Contact Karen Banks at (405) 396-9086.
- 15 St. John Nepomuk Altar Society's Annual Craft Fair will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon.
- 15 The Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus meets at Little Flower Church, OKC, from Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Jobs Box

Managing editor – Sooner Catholic newspaper

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a managing editor for its newspaper, the Sooner Catholic. The full-time position is responsible for management of freelance writers, bulletin communication, e-newsletters, issue design and layout, and invoicing. Bachelor's degree required; experience with InDesign, Adobe Suite

and layout preferred. Bilingual a plus. Send resume to Nancy Largent at nlargent@archokc.org. Applications available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC.

Administrative assistant - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for an administrative assistant for the Office of Stewardship and Develop-

ment. The position is responsible for providing assistance of an administrative, clerical and technical nature, primarily for the executive director. The successful candidate will be bilingual English/Spanish and have excellent written, verbal and social media communication skills. Familiarity with The Raisers Edge or other CRM databases preferred. Send resume to nlargent@archokc.org. Applications available

at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

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The office coordinator oversees the daily organizational tasks of the admissions office and supervises student workers. Apply at www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

See more at www.archokc.org/jobs-box.

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Edmond Knight named treasurer of international organization

By Steve Gust

For the Sooner Catholic

Ron Schwarz of Edmond has risen to a major leadership position with the Knights of Columbus and its 1.9 million members worldwide.

In August, Schwarz, 58, was named treasurer of the lay group during the group's international convention in Toronto. That meeting drew dozens of clergy and was broadcast on EWTN.

The Knights, headquartered in New Haven, Conn., promote the Catholic faith and are engaged in a variety of charities, locally and internationally. In addition, the organization is a \$100 billion life insurance company, covering members and their families. It is one of the larger insurers in North America. Providing financially for families was part of the vision of Knights founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, in 1882. The insurance arm of the Knights allows the group to donate

millions to charitable causes.

Originally from Okarche, Schwarz first joined the Knights in 1977 at age 18. He has held nearly every office on the local level, including grand knight of his parish home council at Saint Monica in Edmond. A little more than 10 years ago, he started serving in various leadership roles of the Oklahoma Council of the Knights of Columbus, a group with about 7,000 members. His involvement there, including two years as state deputy, 2013-2015, led to trips to the supreme office.

This year, he was approached by the supreme knight, Carl Anderson, about becoming treasurer. Unlike officers on the local and state level, this post is a full-time job. Schwarz was working for the Benham architectural firm in Oklahoma City. He moved to New Haven in September.

"I've had a pretty quick rise with the Knights," he said. "I'm excited about this opportunity. This is a great organization."

It's also something of a milestone for Oklahoma, according to Richard Schulte. To his knowledge, no Oklahoma knight has risen to this kind of a leadership position with the supreme office. Schulte has been an Oklahoma leader with



Ron Schwarz with his family. *Photo provided.*

the group for decades, including establishing the Edmond Knights of Columbus in 1973.

"This is a great honor for not only Ron, but for the State of Oklahoma," Schulte said. "Ron has been involved at the supreme level and they recognized his abilities."

Schwarz earned an accounting degree at the University of Central Oklahoma and is a certified public accountant.

The new treasurer said the Knights are involved in a myriad of outreach programs.

Most recently the group pushed to have the American government declare a state of genocide against the terrorist organization ISIS for that group's treatment of Christians in Syria and Iraq.

"We've also been involved in the relief effort for flooding in Louisiana," Schwarz said.

In 2013, Schwarz and the Knights also were part of assistance to those who suffered losses during the tornado damage in Moore.

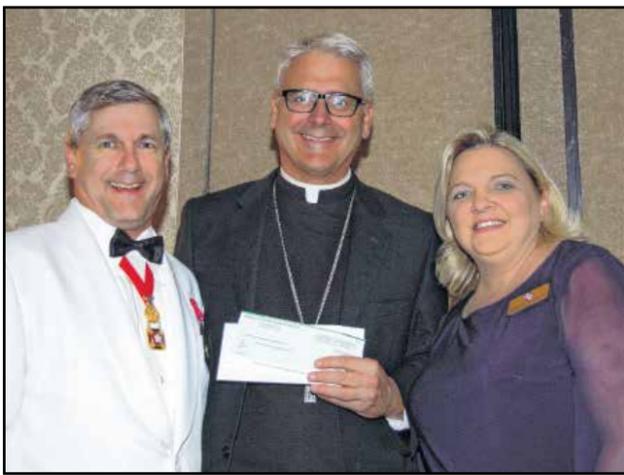
The Knights, Schwarz said, is expanding its membership with new councils internationally in places such as Ukraine, France, Poland and South Korea.

Schwarz and wife Janette have two daughters, Jenna Garcia, 31, and Kristen Schwarz, 27.

The new treasurer has been busy since moving to New Haven and believes the future is bright for the Knights.

"Younger men are interested in the knights and our expansion continues," he said.

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



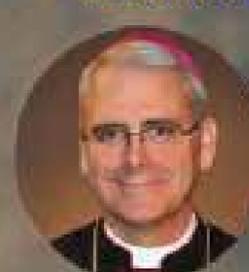
Archbishop Coakley with Ron Schwarz and his wife.

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