

Catholic War Veterans: “For God and Country”

By J.E. Helm

For the Sooner Catholic

In the United States, Nov. 11 is Veterans Day, a day dedicated to all American veterans who have served their country. Initially known as Armistice Day after World War I, it was intended to honor those who had fought in that war. In 1938, it became a legal federal holiday, and it was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. Today, it honors all veterans, living and dead, who have served on active duty. All over the United States, Americans will enjoy parades and other celebrations, while, at Arlington National Cemetery in D.C., a wreath will be laid on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, two chapters, or posts, of the national service organization Catholic War Veterans meet regularly. Catholic War Veterans was founded in 1935 by Father Edward J. Higgins, a veteran of World War I. The organization was blessed by Pope Pius XI in that same year and was officially recognized as a veterans' service organization when it received a Congressional Charter in 1984. Speaking at that time, President Ronald Reagan remarked, “There have never been any summer soldiers or sunshine patriots in your ranks, and I have the deepest admiration for your commitment to serve both God and country.”

The Catholic Church acknowledges that war sometimes cannot be avoided and provides criterion for a “just war.” The legitimate use of force may be employed when an aggressor nation poses a grave and certain threat but only when all other means of ending the conflict have proved to be ineffective. Currently, the church supports our



2012 Veterans Day celebration at Resurrection Cemetery.

military by providing chaplains via the Archdiocese for Military Chaplains, established in 1985.

In fact, a military chaplain, Father Emmanuel Okwaraocha, assists Oklahoma City CWV Post 168 by saying Mass for the group at each monthly meeting. Post Commander Roger Thibeault reports that the Del City group meets on the second Wednesday of each month to plan and organize activities. Post 168 will march in the Midwest City Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 this year. They will also participate in a morning ceremony on Nov. 8 at the VA hospital to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action. With the Knights of Columbus, they will participate in a flag-raising ceremony at 1 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Center of Family Love in Okarche.

Thibeault also explained that his post volunteers at the military welcome center run by the YMCA at the OKC airport. New Army recruits from all over the country are funneled into Oklahoma City

before departing by bus for initial training at Fort Sill in Lawton. Thibeault says they “meet with them, talk with them, give them some idea of what to expect” in training. Oct. 29 saw 261 young men and women move through Oklahoma City, and Post 168 will be on hand again “when the graduates come back,” Thibeault says. “We will send them on their way” to duty stations all over the U.S.

One very noble service performed by Post 168 involves the Homeless Veterans Burial Service. Sometimes veterans die with no family members to bury them. Post 168 then performs one of the seven corporal works of mercy by assisting at their funerals. Thibeault described how on Friday, Oct. 28, CWV members provided burial services for one such veteran.

“We went to the service at a chapel in Shawnee” then went on to the graveside service “at the Veterans Cemetery at Fort Gibson, near Muskogee,” reports Thibeault.

On the north side of town, Cath-

olic War Veterans Post 902 is also very active. Post 902 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Saint Ann's Retirement Center. Before the meeting at 7 p.m., the group hosts a bingo game for residents of Saint Ann's, providing some much-welcomed entertainment. The Post is named in honor of Father Emil Kapaun, an Army chaplain who has been named a Servant of God, the initial step toward canonization. Father Kapaun was recently awarded the Medal of Honor for his service in Korea.

Post Commander Stephen Fischer explains that, like Post 168, Post 109 “was established in 2009” and is currently “working to attract new members.” This year, Post 109 will again participate in Wreaths Across America, a program to place live, balsam wreaths on the graves of veterans in December. Fischer explains that his group will lay wreaths at Resurrection Cemetery from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

Fischer explained his reasons for being a member of Catholic War Veterans.

“It offers a unique opportunity to help veterans, their families, and the community as a whole,” he said.

Any veteran with an honorable discharge who is also a Catholic in good standing is eligible for membership in Catholic War Veterans. Those currently on active duty are eligible as well. For more information, contact <http://www.post109.cwv.org> or www.okpost168.org.

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic and an adjunct professor of English at several area colleges. She also served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps (1972 to 1977) and achieved a final rank of Captain.

Archbishop Coakley to long-married couples: Your faithfulness has its source in God's faithfulness

By Cara Koenig

The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — At the Nov. 3 Archdiocesan Anniversary Mass at Our Lady's Cathedral, Archbishop Paul Coakley honored 90 couples celebrating anniversaries from 25 years to 68 years.

Archbishop Coakley welcomed all the couples and their families, noting what a wonderful occasion they had come to celebrate.

“Married life is the gift of love that spouses bestow on one another. It allows the other to be transformed and sanctified. That is the beauty of marriage and it is what we are celebrating tonight. The gift of love

transforms both the giver and the one who is the recipient of the gift,” Archbishop Coakley said in opening his homily.

This is the third year the Office of Family Life has hosted the Anniversary Mass. It was a celebration that Archbishop Coakley brought with him from the Diocese of Salina.

In his homily, Archbishop Coakley spoke to the couples about the vows they took and how those vows are so much more than just “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer.”

“In marriage, there are days of suffering, days that you will need to forgive your spouse, days you will have to ask forgiveness of your

continued on page 6



Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

We are an immigrant nation and an immigrant church

Although the Statue of Liberty was not originally erected to welcome immigrants, it quickly became a powerful symbol of hope as countless ships sailed or steamed past Lady Liberty carrying their foreign passengers to their new homes in a land of promise and opportunity. It was especially the words of the poet Emma Lazarus in “The New Colossus,” commissioned for its construction and placed on a bronze plaque in its base, that sealed the association of this great symbol of American freedom with this young nation’s attitude toward its immigrant population. “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.”

America has always been at its best when it has lived up to this great ideal of hospitality to those seeking freedom and opportunity. We justly pride ourselves on this. But sadly, we have not always lived up to our own ideals. There have been ugly outbursts of anti-immigrant “nativism” and xenophobia throughout our history. My Irish ancestors endured hostility and suspicion largely because of their Catholic faith, as did waves of southern European immigrants. The same can be said for the Asians, who also came, and, more recently, the Latinos. Integrating immigrants into this land and its complex culture has always been a challenge. But it is a challenge that we have always risen to embrace and accept. We are richer as a nation because of our diverse cultural heritage.

Our nation is currently facing a monumental challenge concerning immigration. Questions about immigration policy stir up strong emotional reactions. But there is no question that our immigration system is woefully inadequate. It is broken and problematic in many ways. The demands of our vast economy are not being adequately served by the limited number of visas that allow workers to legally enter this country and take jobs that must be filled. Families are separated and kept apart for years at a time because of lack of access to family unification visas. Violence and hunger abroad bring people to our borders every day. These are some of the powerful driving forces behind illegal immigration.

The Catholic Church certainly does not support or encourage illegal immigration. A nation has a sovereign right to control its borders. While acknowledging this duty, we also affirm that this is not the only con-

cern that our legislators must take into account in reforming our immigration system.

Many contributing factors have left us with millions of undocumented migrants forced to live a shadow life where they are subject to exploitation and violence at the hands of unscrupulous traffickers, employers and criminals. If we do nothing to remedy this situation quickly, we are in danger of creating a permanent underclass without access to full participation in our economic and civic life. One of the truly tragic costs of this situation is

its effect on a generation of innocent children who entered the United States with their parents and now live without hope or an opportunity to live the American dream. A major overhaul of the immigration system is in everyone’s best interest!

As Catholics, we cannot take a seat on the sidelines in this immigration debate. Many of these immigrants are members of our Church who look to us for support and assistance. They should not be invisible to us. They are our neighbors, they attend church with us, they go to school with our children, they work with us and they work for us. We have an opportunity to help affect a significant reform of this system. The Scriptures and rich tradition of our Catholic social teaching form the basis of our concern. Jesus reminds us that he is the “stranger” whom we welcome or refuse to welcome when we confront human suffering: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt. 25:35, 40).

The Senate has already passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill and the House may take some action on immigration reform before the end of the year. Though the House will not likely address comprehensive reform, it may produce individual bills that can then become the basis of negotiation with the Senate. I urge you to study these matters prayerfully. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has set up a website called Justice for Immigrants (www.justiceforimmigrants.org), which is updated regularly. Please contact your congressman and ask him to support comprehensive immigration reform. Our nation needs it. Our faith urges us to act.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- Nov. 9 – Nov. 14 — U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Meeting, Baltimore, Md.
- Nov. 15 — Catholic Foundation Board Meeting, 1 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Nov. 16 –Nov. 19 — Pontifical Commission for Latin America Pilgrimage to Mexico City
- Nov. 20 — Priests Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Nov. 20 — Blessing of Mercy Hospital Kingfisher, 6 p.m., Kingfisher
- Nov. 21 — Catholic Extension Board Meeting, Chicago, Ill.
- Nov. 22 –Nov. 23 — National Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.

Seminary Burses

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** in honor of Archbishop Beltran from the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln.

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by Christ the King parish, OKC.

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by St. Charles Borromeo Church, OKC.

A \$1,000 donation was made to the **Father Clement Pribil Seminary Burse** in memory of Father Pribil’s 30th anniversary of his death by George and Nola Pribil.

To make a donation to a Seminarian Burse mail a check to the Vocations Office Attn: Seminarian Burse, P.O. Box 32180, OKC, OK 73123. Make the check out to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and in the memo write which Burse it is for, and if we can publish your name or if it is to remain anonymous.

Exclusively on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

✓ Archbishop Paul Coakley’s Oct. 7 pastoral letter “Go Make Disciples” is now available online as a .PDF at <http://archokc.org>.

✓ The full list of names of couples who celebrated significant anniversaries and attended the Nov. 3 Anniversary Mass this year, as well as additional photos, is available at www.soonercatholic.com.

✓ The annual national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is Nov. 23 to Nov. 24. To read more about the organizations that received local grants last year, visit www.soonercatholic.com

✓ The first Sunday of Advent -- and the beginning of a new liturgical year -- is Dec. 1. For ideas to observe Advent, visit www.soonercatholic.com.

✓ Retrouvaille -- a program for married couples facing difficulties -- hosted a weekend experience Nov. 8 to Nov. 10. To learn more, visit www.soonercatholic.com.

✓ To register for the Catholic Schools enewsletter, visit flocknote.com/ArchOKC.

Plus, don’t miss daily updates on Facebook and Twitter!



Mount administrators, students extol benefits of new Chromebook program

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

As schools across the country brainstorm how to respond to our society’s increasingly close relationship with technology, Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School, in Oklahoma City, hopes a new 1:1 computing initiative can ensure that the student body has access to the tools that will help them be successful after graduation.

This year, after a two-year study on how to integrate technology into the classroom, every student and teacher was given a Samsung Chromebook with a Google operating system. Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School plans to make the Chromebooks an integral part of the classroom experience replacing textbooks, pencils and paper.

“I am extremely proud of our Digital Curriculum and Instruction Team for the efforts they made over the last two years to thoroughly investigate not only the procedures and curriculum we now have in place but also the research done on the many options there are for students regarding digital devices,” said principal Talita DeNegri. “The Mount is committed to the responsibility of ensuring that our



students have the most up-to-date resources available as well as the

best preparation for their high school studies, therefore preparing them for after graduation.”

With a student body that grew up with computers and the Internet, Mount Saint Mary administrators anticipate that this tool will more effectively help their students re-

ceive the most out of their education.

“The purpose of having a 1:1 program with Chromebooks is to give Mount Saint Mary’s students every opportunity to learn with the technology available,” said director of the digital curriculum and instruction team Christina Wipfli. “Not only are students using their Chromebooks to write papers; they use them to interact with each other and their teachers. The amount of collaborative work in our school has increased. This is a critical skill for the workplace and the future.”

Noted Catholic OBGYN to speak at NFP Outreach mission at Saint Monica’s

By Sooner Catholic Staff

EDMOND, OKLA. — Dr. Robert Lawler, an obstetrician and gynecologist from the Archdiocese of Chicago, will join Father Daniel McCaffrey of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for a mission at Saint Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, Okla., the weekend of Nov. 16 and Nov. 17.

As a Catholic OBGYN who has been in practice for about 15 years, Dr. Lawler recently courageously decided he would no longer prescribe birth control or

That first day when I told patients I would no longer be prescribing birth control was a very long day, and it was a very long year.

perform sterilizations. The decision wasn’t easy.

“That first day when I told patients I would no longer be prescribing birth control was a very long day, and it was a very long year,” he told The Catholic New World, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Yet, he knew something more than his popularity was at stake. He had read the words of Pope Paul VI in the pivotal 1968 encyclical “Humanae Vitae.”

In that seminal document, the pope wrote: “The direct interruption of the generative process already begun and, above all, all direct abortion, even for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as lawful means of regulating the number of children. Equally to be condemned, as the magisterium of the Church has affirmed on many occasions, is direct sterilization, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary. Similarly excluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means.”

Dr. Lawler took those prohibitions seriously.

“I had visions of meeting the Lord at Judgment Day and him saying to me, ‘OK, Robert, what part of ‘intrinsically evil’ did you not understand about contraception?’” he said, according to The Catholic New World.

Then, too, he knew his decision was medically sound: While birth control masks various symptoms of reproductive or other health problems, it doesn’t treat the un-

derlying causes, Dr. Lawler says.

“Say a young girl comes in with terrible, painful periods,” he said. “If she goes to a regular gynecologist, nine times out of 10, she’s going to leave with a prescription for the pill in her hand. But why does she have painful periods? Does she have endometriosis or is there something else going on? We are going to dig deeper.”

At first, Lawler continued to work at a general OBGYN practice, but, this year, he opened a free-standing practice with Dr. Anthony Caruso, a reproductive endocrinologist who has also committed to forgo procedures that conflict with church teaching.



If You Go

NFP Outreach mission

When: 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16; 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 17
Where: Saint Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, Okla.
Why: To learn more about the moral underpinnings of the Church’s teachings on contraception and natural family planning and to hear from Catholic OBGYN Robert Lawler
To secure a space: Simply attend Mass at Saint Monica’s during the mission weekend!



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

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Doing Rome at home

In the middle centuries of the first millennium, the Bishop of Rome celebrated the Eucharist with his people during Lent in a striking way. Each day, the pope would lead a procession of Roman clergy and laity from one church (the collecta, or gathering point) to another, the statio or “station” of that day. There, over the relics of one of the Roman Church’s martyrs, Mass was celebrated and a communal meal that broke the daylong Lenten fast followed. Over time, this annual tradition was formalized into the Roman station church pilgrimage, and, as the tradition evolved, the pilgrimage sites shaped the Lenten liturgical texts. The pilgrimage was also universalized in a very concrete way: every Missal in the world once carried a stational indicator during Lent, such as “Ash Wednesday: Station at Saint Sabina.”

In one of the most intriguing developments in post-conciliar Catholicism, the ancient Roman station church pilgrimage has been revived in our time by Americans, and specifically by the North American College in Rome. Beginning in the mid-1970s, American seminarians, NAC faculty and student-priests began to walk Rome’s stational pilgrimage trail again: informally at first; later, as a College-organized activity that began to attract fellow-pilgrims from Rome’s English-speaking communities. Today, the daily Lenten stational Mass draws hundreds of pilgrims at 7 a.m. to one of the city’s most venerable (and often unknown) churches, as NAC faculty and seminarians are joined by undergraduates from American universities with Rome campuses, diplomats, graduate students from all over the world, religious sisters and officials of the Roman Curia.

The Vicariate (or Diocese) of Rome also sponsors a daily station-church Mass in the early evening, but attendance is generally poor. When I once asked my friend Hannah Suchocka, then Poland’s ambassador to the Vatican, why she attended the crack-of-dawn English-language stational Mass rather than the more convenient evening stational Mass, she gave me a short and pointed answer: “I found a living Church here [i.e., at the English-language Mass].” So an ancient Roman tradition has been resurrected, in Rome, by American Catholics who bring the vitality of the Church in the New World to the banks of the Tiber.

Hastening the hour of the saints

By Joe Tremblay

Catholic News Agency

“To avoid the confrontation with death is a refusal to live life to its fullest.” Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete goes on to say, in his article, *Humanae Mortis*, that the link between love and life is sacrifice and that the only way for man to gain his life is to lose it, to give it up, to sacrifice it. Indeed, the ultimate sacrifice is at the hour of death in which each person is called to freely give his or her life back to God.

Yet, during life, God gives every person many opportunities for sacrifices and acts of self-denial as a kind of preparation for the hour of death. And it is the office of the Mother of God that the link between our love and our sacrifices be brought together as closely as possible for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

At each Mass we are called to offer our love and sacrifices at the altar. And how efficacious will these sacrifices be if we offer them with the Blessed Virgin for the conversion of sinners. This ritual offering that we make on behalf of ourselves and others will undoubtedly prepare us for the hour of our death, the very hour we utter in every Hail Mary we pray.

This, in my opinion, should be at the center of every parish program. Most of us are aware of the declining numbers at parishes throughout the country. It could even be said that the Catholic Church in the West is growing old. Daily Mass, quite often, is attended by people who are 50 to 60 years of age and older. Younger generations are cohabitating more and marrying less. So why not take what the Blessed Virgin has asked of us and make it the centerpiece of the New Evangelization? And if her messages are not persuasive enough, let us look to the saints who were especially devoted to her. They will tell us that

I first experienced the station church pilgrimage during the 1990s, when I was in Rome working on the biography of John Paul II and living at the NAC.

Three years ago, I decided that this remarkable experience should be made available to a much wider audience: to those who might not be able to “do the station churches” in Rome, but could do so at home. So I enlisted as partners in this effort to “bring Rome to home” a good friend, Elizabeth Lev, the best engaging and thoughtful Anglophone art-and-architecture guide in Rome, and my son Stephen, a professional photographer. Liz, Stephen and I made the entire station church pilgrimage during Lent 2011, and, after two years of editing and polishing both text and pictures, *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches* has just been published by Basic Books.

Roman Pilgrimage is meant to be absorbed in small doses, as the book includes, for each day of Lent and the entire Octave of Easter, my commentary on the daily liturgical texts (from both holy Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours), Liz’s insightful descriptions of the history, architecture and art of the station church of the day, and Stephen’s exquisite pictures (even more compelling in the eBook edition of *Roman Pilgrimage*, in which all the photos are in color and can be “zoomed” to larger sizes that display a remarkable fineness of detail). The book also includes two introductory essays: in the first, I reflect on the human habit of pilgrimage and the specific history and spiritual texture of the Roman station church pilgrimage; in the second, I explore Lent as a baptismal season in which all Christians are invited into a kind of “annual catechumenate,” re-experiencing the central mysteries of the faith.

Thus Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches is an invitation to take from “Rome at home” renewed spiritual energy for the evangelical task that is every Christian’s vocation.

George Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

sacrifice and death – especially in Mary’s hands – are God’s chosen instruments for resurrection.

Saint Louis de Montfort put it this way: “If we do not die to self and if our holiest devotions do not lead us to this necessary and fruitful death, we shall not bear fruit of any worth and our devotions will cease to be profitable.”

Practically speaking, Saint Maximillian Kolbe told his Franciscans that they should find ways to deny themselves two or three times a day. Offering up little things is quite beneficial, like not jesting with a friend when we are tempted to do so or not eating that extra piece of chicken at dinner. And what is even more important than these little offerings throughout the day is to accept the crosses that the Lord gives us. And, even with this, the Blessed Virgin will help us. He said, “The Lord Jesus does not expect us to walk exactly the same way He did. But He demands that we bear the cross of our duties daily and make sacrifices of our will. If, however, we find even these things difficult, let us go to the Immaculata and pray for help. She surely will not refuse us. This life demands sacrifices of us.”

Yes. Life demands sacrifices of us. But for many, such sacrifices go to waste. Too often, they are not used for spiritual sacrifices and neither are they used to prepare for the greatest sacrifice of all, the hour of death. So, let us pray that, to use the words of Saint Pius X, she will tend and nourish her little victims and at the appointed time present them for the sacrifice. By allowing her to hasten our hour, more saints will be made and more souls will be saved. This, no doubt, is what the Church and society desperately needs.

Joe Tremblay writes for Sky View, a current event and topic-driven Catholic blog.



By George Weigel

In times of trouble, pope says, call on the communion of saints

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Trials and doubts are part of everyone’s faith journey, “even mine,” Pope Francis said, but Christians know they can get through the hard times with help from God, other Christians and those in heaven.

“Who hasn’t experienced insecurities, losses and even doubts in the journey of faith?” the pope asked. “It’s part of life. It should not shock us because we are human beings, marked by fragility and limits.”

“Don’t be frightened,” but ask for help, Pope Francis said Oct. 30 at his weekly general audience, talking about the “communion of saints” as the church prepared to celebrate the Nov. 1-2 feasts of All Saints and All Souls.

In times of difficulty, the pope said, “it is necessary to trust in God through prayer and, at the same time, it’s important to find the courage and humility to open yourself to others in order to ask for help.”

“We are a great big family”

Pope Francis set to create first batch of cardinals in February

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis will create his first cardinals during a consistory Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

The pope also is expected to use the occasion “to have a meeting with the cardinals for consultations” immediately before the ceremony, as retired Pope Benedict XVI did in the run-up to his consistories, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. No specific dates were given for that meeting.

The names of the new cardinals usually are announced a little more than a month before the consistory itself.

Father Lombardi told reporters Oct. 31 that also in mid-February, the pope will have members of the governing council of the Synod of Bishops meet in preparation for the extraordinary session on the family in October 2014 and to have his Council of Cardinals, the group of eight advisers, hold what will be their third gathering.

The spokesman said that the pope wanted to hold a consistory for the creation of new cardinals during the same time period as the cardinals’ other meetings “to facilitate all these appointments.”

The group of eight cardinals will probably meet Feb. 17 and 18, Father Lombardi said, to continue their work on helping the pope wanted to hold a consistory for the creation of new cardinals during the same time period as the cardinals’ other meetings “to facilitate all these appointments.”

The synod council will meet Feb. 24-25, Father Lombardi said, to discuss the extraordinary synod the pope convoked for Oct. 5-19, 2014, to discuss the “pastoral challenges



Candles with images of St. Laura Montoya are seen at Mother Laura convent in Medellin, Colombia. (CNS photo/Albeiro Lopera, Reuters)

through baptism, the pope told the estimated 50,000 pilgrims and visitors gathered for the audience in St. Peter’s Square. The communion of saints, he explained, refers not only to those who have been canonized by the Catholic Church but to all the baptized.

“The communion of saints goes beyond earthly life,” the pope said.

“It extends beyond death and lasts forever,” to find its fullest expression when all believers are “reunited in heaven.”

“All the baptized here on earth, the souls in purgatory and the blessed souls in heaven form one big family,” he added in remarks to Polish pilgrims. “This communion between heaven and earth is

expressed particularly in prayers of intercession, which are the greatest form of solidarity, and is also the basis of the liturgical celebrations of the feasts of All Saints and All Souls.”

Every Christian, the pope said, has an obligation to be a responsible part of the communion of saints, supporting other Christians in their faith.

A believer’s communion with God and with Jesus must find expression in communion with all those who also believe, he said. Those who truly enter “the glowing furnace of the love” of God, love others because God’s love “burns away our selfishness, our prejudices, our internal and external divisions,” he said. “The love of God also burns away our sins.”

Immediately after the audience, Pope Francis met leaders of Iraq’s Christian, Kurdish Yazidi, Sunni and Shiite Muslim communities. He had asked pilgrims at the audience to pray for Iraq, which “unfortunately is struck daily by tragic episodes of violence,” and needs “to find the path to reconciliation, peace, unity and stability.”

Young and old celebrate family life

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A Catholic wedding is not simply a beautiful ceremony; through the sacrament of marriage a couple receives from God the grace they will need to fulfill their mission in the world, Pope Francis said.

Addressing an estimated 100,000 people who came St. Peter’s Square Oct. 26 for a Year of Faith celebration of family life, Pope Francis said Catholic spouses are not naive; they know difficult moments will come.

But vowing to love one another in sickness and health, joy and sorrow all the days of their lives, Catholic couples put their lives in the hands of God and rely on him for strength.

“Life is often wearisome. Work is tiring. Looking for work is exhausting,” he said. “But what is most burdensome in life is a lack of love.”

Through the sacrament of marriage, a couple receives the grace they need, he said: “The sacraments are not decorations in life; the sacrament of marriage is not just a pretty ceremony. Christians celebrate the sacrament of marriage because they know they need it.”

Pope Francis urged Catholic couples to go against the cultural trend of seeing everything, including relationships, as fleeting. Marriage is a life-long journey, he said, “a long journey, not little pieces.”

For families, as for all Christians, he said, Jesus is the source of endless love.

Pope Francis also told the crowd that three phrases are essential for a peaceful family life: “‘May I?’ to make sure you aren’t being intrusive, ‘Thank you’ and ‘I’m sorry.’”

Sister Diane Koorie celebrates Golden Jubilee

By Brianna Osborne
The Sooner Catholic

Sister M. Diane Koorie, RSM, celebrates her Jubilee this year – 50 years as a Sister of Mercy of the Americas. Currently, Sister Diane is the director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. She continues to lead a life of enthusiastic service, especially in helping lay people realize their calling.

“I didn’t always want to be a sister,” said Sister Diane. While attending Catholic elementary and high school, Sister Diane got to know sisters throughout the year. Ultimately, it was a combination of these relationships and the witness of her own family that brought Sister Diane to her vocation.

“My family considered a religious vocation to be something very special,” said Sister Diane. “My parents were always doing things for the sisters. In high school, I was active in service projects with the sisters, so I came to know of their works and really became attracted to the ministry they did. During senior year I became serious about the next steps and decided – as best I could – that I was being called to the religious life. Making that decision involved prayer, talking with my parents and others and knowing that there would be a long period of preparation before making a final commitment.”

She suggests a similar path for young women interested in religious life.

“Pray, discern within yourself if you feel strong attraction to service to others, or a desire to work for justice and peace in our world. Talk to persons whom you admire and trust to learn the gifts and



The education department leads a blessing on Sr. Diane Koorie (in the green suit) at her jubilee celebration.

talents they might see in you. Get on the Internet, visit vocations websites and then start talking to sisters from various communities. Keep praying, perhaps seek a spiritual director... Consider the words of Frederick Buechner, ‘You will find your vocation where your deep gladness and the world’s deepest need meet.’”

Sister Diane joined the community during the time of the Second Vatican Council. Her order, like the Church, has experienced significant changes in the last 50 years.

“We renewed our life together in community, and continue that even today. Another highlight is the formation of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 1991. More than 3,000 sisters in the U.S. and 11 other countries in Central and South America,

the Caribbean and the Pacific now form the Institute. We now have Mercy Associates, women and men who associate with us to share prayer, study and service, spreading the charism of mercy wherever they are.”

Today, her life as a religious sister is marked by great beauty.

“I live in a community with 14 other sisters, who are all retired, and in various stages of activity and ability. There’s much grace and wisdom among our elder sisters and it is wonderful to live in such a setting. It is also challenging and a real call to faith to be with our sisters as they age, and to companion them in their dying. They are a real testament to the faithfulness of God, and the grace of perseverance,” said Sister Diane.

As she celebrates her Jubilee this year, Sister Diane is hopeful that

her ministry has had a meaningful impact.

“I hope that women and men throughout our archdiocese feel better prepared and empowered for lay ministry in our local Church. As a Sister of Mercy, I am inspired in this work by our Institute Direction Statement which has in it that we act in solidarity with those seeking their place in the Church and in society. I hope that the programs and resources that we offer are making it possible for persons to grow in awareness of and commitment to respond to the call of baptism, which calls each of us to be responsible for the life and ministry of the Church,” said Sister Diane.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic and the editor of the Sooner Catholic e-newsletter.

With all that accumulated knowledge on marriage, we had to ask a few of the couples: What is the secret to the longevity of their marriage?

59 years of marriage
Richard and Carroll “Teddy” Devero

Richard: Never really go to bed mad.

Teddy: Faith and the grace of God. There was never anything too bad not to see it through.

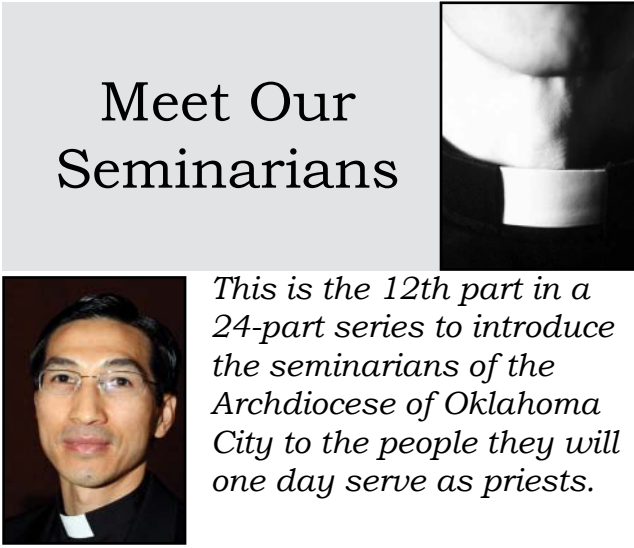
60 years of marriage
Jay and Genevieve Burns
Genevieve: We have always kept God in our marriage. We pray together every night. We always made it happen.

Jay: Just say yes.
60 years of marriage
Clayton and Mary Ann Poindexter
Mary Ann: Each person has to give 70 percent.

Clayton: I have been the luckiest man for 60 years and a little bit before.

65 years of marriage
John and Joyce Reinig
Joyce: Commitment and forgiveness.

John: We moved a lot and I give Joyce all the credit in the world for keeping us all together.



Meet Deacon Linh Bui

1. *What is your home parish?* The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
2. *What seminary do you attend?* Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology
3. *If it is God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest?* 2014
4. *How old were you when you first thought that God might be calling you to the priesthood?* When I was 21 years old, I met a Vietnamese priest, Father Athanasius Lam Nguyen at An Hoa Parish in Vietnam. He lived a simple life with great love; he loved God and people, especially the poor. I liked to do the same. This was the first time I thought that God might be calling me to the priesthood.
5. *Describe your typical day.* I usually get up at 7:00 a.m. After having breakfast, I attend the communal Morning Prayer at the chapel. Then, I go to class. I have two classes in the morning. After morning classes, I attend Mass at 11:30 a.m., then lunch. In the afternoon I attend one more class. When I finish the class I return to my room to relax a bit and read assignments. I have communal Evening Prayer at 5 p.m. and dinner after that. After dinner I spend one hour working out, playing volleyball or table tennis with other seminarians. I do homework at night. After a short evening prayer, I go to bed around 11:00 p.m.

6. *Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know.* All Catholics are called to holiness. Sainthood is not something reserved for special people, such as clergy. All of us are called to sainthood by God, who wants us to live in eternal joy and peace.
7. *Describe your relationship with Christ.* My personal relationship with Christ is trustful and joyful. I share everything in my life with him and open my heart to receive him as my savior.
8. *Why choose a life of sacrificial love in any vocation rather than a life of self-gratification?* This is the life that Jesus chose for Himself to manifest his love for people. If one wants to follow Christ, one needs to follow His way: “Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 3:16).

After 35 years, first class of permanent deacons reflect on meaning of ministry

By Cara Koenig
The Sooner Catholic

The permanent diaconate has a long and vast history in the Catholic Church, dating back to the 12 Apostles. One of the first mentions of deacons was in Acts 6:2, in which Saint Peter says it is not proper for the apostles to give up preaching so that they can wait on tables. Accordingly, they ordained seven deacons to serve the Christian community.

The position of deacon was to be the right-hand man of the bishop, handling the day-to-day business of the church and leaving the bishop to handle the spiritual needs of the community. This position soon was called the archdeacon.

The position of archdeacon grew to encompass increasingly important responsibilities; the role of the archdeacon was comparable to the role of the modern Vicar General. At times, some archdeacons were eventually ordained priests; others stayed archdeacons for life.

At the Council of Trent, the leaders of the church drastically restricted the archdeacon’s power.

After Trent, the church made no substantive changes to the diaconate, but, nevertheless, the permanent diaconate gradually waned. Eventually, only men on the way to the priesthood became deacons.

Vatican II changed that. In 1964, Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate with “Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem,” permitting countries to request the ordination of celibate and married men permanently to the diaconate. In April 1968, the American bishops made that request and, four months later, it was granted.

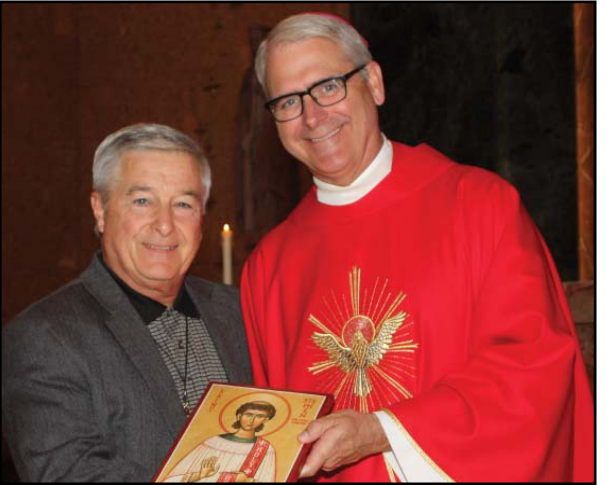
Today, we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the ordination of the first class of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, a class that consisted of nine men: Frank Beloncik, David Best, Brother Justin Jones, Stan Knipp, Arthur Marchessault, Bernard O’Loughlin, John Pitt and Charley Wade.

Just two men from the original class – David Best and Bernard O’Loughlin – are alive today. Deacon Larry Sousa was ordained in 1978, as well, for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif.; he was incardinated into our archdiocese in 1990.

“I often tell the story of when I was first approached by the archdiocese to be a deacon. My wife, Virginia, replied, ‘Of course he will!’ before I could even answer!” said O’Loughlin.

Sousa said his mother always wanted him to become a priest, but he knew he wanted to be married.

“At 30 years old I had a deep spiritual encounter with Christ,” he said. “I was thankful for His love and His sacrifice and realized that I was called to some way of loving Him back. Then they announced the restoration of the



Deacon Larry Sousa receives his plaque for 35 years of service. He is still an active deacon. Best and O’Loughlin, not pictured, are both retired.

permanent diaconate. God had made a way for me to married and become clergy!”

Best said it was a little scary to be in the first class.

“Everyone involved wanted to make sure we were the best educated and best trained class so that we did not screw it up for those to come,” he said. “That’s part of the reason we studied for five years instead of the three years now. It was a great experience, however, because they brought in some of the most renowned teachers in their fields to train us,” said Best.

O’Loughlin said he appreciated how the program of preparation and instruction included wives.

“They kept our wives very much a part of it, as though they were just as important in the process as the training of the deacons,” he said.

Best said a highlight of his ministry was baptizing his six grandchildren, while O’Loughlin cited working with all of the missions in his area as one of the most satisfying aspects of his service.

Sousa said his proudest accomplishment was cofounding the Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Network with Jeff Finell.

“Since 2006, OCBN has grown to five Oklahoma Stations with more coming in the future,” he said.

Other memories stand out for him, as well.

“The best memories have been officiating at my own daughter’s wedding; baptizing children in India; assisting and preaching at a wedding in Mexico; participating as deacon at Archbishop (Emeritus Eusebius) Beltran’s installation and Bishop Larry Silva’s ordination in Hawaii,” Sousa said.

All three said the greatest challenge of being a deacon is learning to balance family, work and the responsibilities of the diaconate.

“It took years to finally get it close to being right,” said Sousa.

Cara Koenig is the photographer and special projects editor for the Sooner Catholic.



Other Deacon classes are celebrating big anniversaries this year. Pictured at left are George Leal and Jim Young of the class of 1988, celebrating 25 years. Celebrating 15 years, the class of 1998 is pictured above: Pat Gabrish, James Conway, Bill Enos, Jeff Kelly and Byron Jacobson. Pictured with Archbishop Coakley.

continued from page 1

spouse,” the archbishop said. “You will be faithful to one another with all your imperfections, during times of sickness, times of struggle, during separations, and times of genuine sufferings that will come to you in your marriage, in your family and even in your children. Yet, through it all, you are called to renew the gift of love, to share the very love of Christ who sealed and sanctified your love through the holy sacrament of marriage. And there will be great joy.”

After the Lord’s Prayer, there was a nuptial blessing for all those married in attendance. After the final prayer, Archbishop Coakley presented certificates to the couples, many of whom held hands as they walked down the aisle to meet the archbishop.

After all the names were read, Father John Metzinger, the rector at Our Lady’s Cathedral, said, “If I have done my math right, all the anniversary couples here today represent 4,397 years of married life.”



Archbishop Coakley greets a couple at the Nov. 3 Anniversary Mass.

Archbishop Coakley summed up the event best: “After all these years it is good to look back and see how God’s love has revealed itself and has sustained you and lifted you up. Your faithfulness

has its source in God’s faithfulness!”

Cara Koenig is the photographer and special projects editor for the Sooner Catholic.

Bishop McGuinness hosts Dancing with the Irish Stars

The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School DanceVisions program presented Dancing with the Irish Stars dance contest last Saturday night in the Petuskey Performing Arts Auditorium. Under the direction of DanceVisions Sponsor Brandi Kelley, the event featured DanceVisions members joining with a partner to perform in the contest. Guests could vote by donating \$1.00 for their favorite couple either online or the evening of the performance. Every dollar donated represented one vote per couple. All proceeds benefitted the DanceVisions program.

Students as well as faculty members participated. Winning the Gold Ball in the student competition were Liza Cameron and John Higgins dancing to Pom Poms by Jonas Brothers choreographed by Liza Cameron and Blair Tarman. Other student dancers competing in the contest were Celynne Beaudoin and Jonathan Olay, Dru Chilson and Conor Maguire, Allison Cook and Chris Noll, Ali Lane and Will Little, Elaina Noll and Hunter Voss. Claiming gold for the faculty were Kathy O'Meara and Maura Hobbs dancing to Roar by Katy Perry choreographed by Brandi Kelley. Other faculty performers were Julia Anderson-Holt, Peter McConnell, and Joe Welch; and Aimee Phillips and Adam Sermersheim.



Liza Cameron and John Higgins



Kathy O'Meara and Maura Hobbs

CCOKC staff takes pilgrimage

OKARCHIE, OKLA. (Nov. 1, 2013) -- The staff of Catholic Charities Oklahoma City took a pilgrimage to Okarche for All Saints Day. The group started the day at Holy Trinity Cemetery at Father Stanley Rother's grave and had a prayer service. They then went to the church where they were greeted by the pastor. They listened to a talk by Cara Koenig on the life, ministry and death of Father Rother, as well as on the cause of canonization. They had time for silent reflection and a chance to participate in all-day adoration in the church before walking to eat at Eischen's. They spent the rest of the day on team-building exercises.



40 Days for Life closes with prayer

WARR ACRES, OKLA. (Nov. 3, 2013) -- 40 Days for Life in the Oklahoma City area ended as it began -- with prayer. Father Stephen Hamilton led a prayer service the evening of Nov. 3; approximately 100 people attended to encircle the lone abortion facility in Oklahoma City and to pray for an end to abortion. Subsequently, Father Hamilton and Father Cory Stanley blessed salt and deposited it on the ground surrounding the abortion clinic.

Catholic politician-turned-producer to release first film in theaters Nov. 22

Former U.S. senator and presidential candidate Rick Santorum, now at the helm of Dallas-based EchoLight Studios, will soon release his first major movie, "The Christmas Candle," a traditional Christmas story that aims to restore the observance of Advent, as well as the holiness and beauty of the Christmas season. The family-friendly film opens in theaters nationwide on Friday, Nov. 22, 2013.

"It's remarkable that we've gotten to the point where putting a traditional Christmas movie in theaters at Christmastime is a major event, but here we are!" Santorum remarked. "It's a great blessing to be able to change the narrative after so many years of attacks on Christmas in our culture. Rather than cursing the darkness, we chose to light a candle."

Produced by Tom Newman of Tulsa-based Impact Productions, "The Christmas Candle" is based on a book by beloved Christian author Max Lucado and introduces the acting debut of British singing sensation Susan Boyle alongside an ensemble cast of beloved Hollywood talent.

With the themes of Advent woven into its narrative, the story takes place deep in the heart of the English countryside in the enchanting village of Gladbury. Legend has it every 25 years an angel visits the village candle-maker and touch-

es a single candle. Whoever lights the Christmas candle receives a miracle on Christmas Eve. But, in 1890, at the dawn of the electric age, this centuries-old legend might be forced to come to an end.

"We placed great emphasis on the quality of the production, filming at a village in the English Cotswolds for authenticity and emphasizing period costumes and props for realism," explained Newman. "Many of the cast, while seasoned veterans of the stage and film, found themselves touched by this lovely story and script full of hope and the true spirit of Christmas."

Directed by John Stephenson, "The Christmas Candle" stars Hans Matheson ("Clash of the Titans," "Sherlock Holmes"), Samantha Barks ("Les Miserables"), Lesley Manville ("Disney's A Christmas Carol"), Sylvester McCoy ("The Hobbit Trilogy," "Doctor Who"), John Hannah ("The Mummy," "Four Weddings and a Funeral"), Barbara Flynn ("Miss Potter") and James Cosmo ("Game of Thrones," "Braveheart").

"This movie puts Christ back into Christmas," Santorum said. "It's a cultural event that American families and the American Church have long been waiting for, and it's already uniting Christians around a common purpose. It's what Christmas is all about."

For more information visit www.TheChristmasCandleMovie.com.



Mount Saint Mary Reception honors donors

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Mount Saint Mary principal Talita DaNegri speaks to the assembled crowd at a recent reception to honor donors.

Submit photos to these pages:

To submit photos to the "Across the Archdiocese" section of the Sooner Catholic, please send your photos and captions to tips@archoke.org. We look forward to featuring you here!

Catholic Foundation awards 2013 educational grants

The Catholic Foundation annually awards grants to parishes, schools and religious education programs throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in support of education-related projects. In addition to program materials, many of the grant requests have focused on computers and technology as a means of engaging more students in the educational process.

“The Catholic Foundation is proud of its continued support of educational projects for parishes and schools within the archdiocese. These grants provide extra resources that many parishes and schools would not otherwise be able to afford,” said Dr. Charles Lawrence, president of the Catholic Foundation.

This year, the Catholic Foundation will award 44 grants totaling a record \$84,500, according to

Lawrence.

Many of the grants go to technology improvements in the classrooms. As a special emphasis, grants for STEM projects were promoted within the schools. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Youth programs at parishes are also supported by grants that help students attend the Steubenville Youth Conference and other retreats during the year. The Catholic Foundation fulfills its mission to provide grants for educational resources to Catholic programs throughout the archdiocese. “Investing in the Future of Our Faith” remains the goal of the Catholic Foundation as Catholic parishes, schools and religious education programs educate our current and next generation of Catholic men and women.

The 2013 grant recipients are:

- Good Shepherd Church** — Marietta — Transportation for Youth Conferences, DVDs for Faith Formation
- Holy Cross Church** — Madill — NET Retreat and Divine Mercy Congress
- Holy Name Church** — Shattuck — Seeds of Faith — Adult Format
- Holy Name of Jesus Church** — Chickasha — Chairs/Equipment for Students
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church** — Sterling — Copy machine/Dry Erase Boards
- Prince of Peace Church** — Altus — TV Sets for Classrooms
- Sacred Heart Church** — Mooreland — Seeds of Faith — Adult Format
- Sacred Heart Church** — Oklahoma City — Screens for Adult Faith Formation and Rosetta Stone (English)
- Saint Charles Borromeo Church** — Oklahoma City — Presentation Computer Hardware
- Saint Eugene Church** — Weatherford — Enhance Technology for Education/Spirituality
- Saint Francis Xavier Church** — Enid — Totus Tuus — Summer Parish Program
- Saint Gregory the Great Church** — Enid — “Capture Their Attention” with TV/DVD player
- Saint John the Baptist Church** — Edmond — eBeam Interactive White-board Device
- Saint Mary Church** — Ardmore — Update Classroom Equipment and Libraries
- Saint Matthew Church** — Elk City — Classroom equipment
- Saint Patrick Church** — Anadarko — High School Program Update
- Saint Patrick Church** — Oklahoma City — Program Workbooks and Guidelines for RE Teachers
- Saint Paul the Apostle Church** — Del City — Upgrade to PDS Formation Office
- Saint Peter Church** — Lindsay — Equipment for Classroom
- Saint Teresa of Avila Church** — Harrah — Improving the Journey of Faith
- Saint Thomas More Church** — Norman — Upgrade Technology in RE Classrooms
- Church of Saint Mary** — Ponca City — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Joseph Church** — Ada — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Joseph Church** — Buffalo — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Joseph Church** — Tonkawa — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Mary Church** — Guthrie — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Peter Church** — Woodward — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saints Peter & Paul Church** — Hobart — Steubenville Youth Conference
- Saint Joseph Church** — Norman — Youth Work Camp
- Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School** — Oklahoma City — Apple Initiative
- Christ the King School** — Oklahoma City — STEM Manipulatives
- Good Shepherd School** — Oklahoma City — Sound Sponge Quiet Dividers
- Mount Saint Mary High School** — Oklahoma City — Forensic Science Class
- Sacred Heart School** — El Reno — Hands On Science Lab Equipment
- Sacred Heart School** — Oklahoma City — Computer Tables for Computer Lab
- Saint Charles Borromeo School** — Oklahoma City — Hands On Science Equipment and Software
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School** — Edmond — Robotics Field Trips
- Saint Eugene School** — Oklahoma City — Lego Club
- Saint James the Greater School** — Oklahoma City — Smart Boards
- Saint John Nepomuk School** — Yukon — Dr. Petroc Willey: The Gift of Catechism
- Saint Mary School** — Guthrie — Robotics Program for Science Enrichment



Catholic Foundation board member Sharon Robinson recently presented a \$2000 check for PDS School Module software to Tammy Jacobs, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School, Okarche.

- Saint Mary School** — Lawton — Moving Toward the Future with Mobile Lab
- Saint Mary School** — Ponca City — iPad Lab
- Saint Philip Neri School** — Midwest City — Replace and replenish Bibles in classrooms

The Catholic Foundation

CORNERSTONE

Memorial gifts

When a loved one dies, many times the family asks that memorial gifts be directed to specific causes near to the deceased’s heart. Why not consider making the Catholic Church the recipient of these gifts? In many cases the family adds to the obituary that, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a specific parish where the deceased worshiped or to a specific Catholic cause or program. In any case, the appropriate wording would be “In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Catholic Foundation (for the benefit of xxx), P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123 or www.cfook.org.” The Catholic Foundation maintains an online presence and “[Deceased’s Name] Memorials” are added as a line item on the “donate now” page. The Foundation has memorial self-addressed envelopes for distribution at wakes or funerals if needed. Tracking the donations for memorials is taken care of by the Foundation. Acknowledgement thank-you notes are promptly sent to the donors and the family is notified of the gifts. For more information about memorial gifts, please contact the Catholic Foundation office.

For more information on Planned Giving contact:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4115 ■ www.cfook.org ■ bsentner@archokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Inspired at Camp OLOG, Okarche teens support Rother Guild

By Brianna Osborne
The Sooner Catholic

Every person who has been to camp will tell you: A week of campfires, cabins and summer activities can change your life. The same was true for Abbey Shelley, Kara Robinson and Maddie Wofford, but in a way they didn’t expect.

The three friends had gone to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp since they were in third grade. But this time, their first time attending as high school students, delved deeper into the richness of their faith.

Robinson described how this year, Father M. Price Oswalt, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Prague and Cara Koenig, spokespersons for the Father Stanley Rother Guild, had talked to the campers for an hour about Father Stanley Rother, a priest from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who was murdered in Guatemala in 1981.

The girls knew who Father Rother was, of course. All three of them had graduated from Holy Trinity School in Okarche, Father Rother’s hometown. Sister Marita Rother of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ,



Abbey Shelley, Kara Robinson and Maddie Wofford.

Father Rother’s sister, had taught at their school.

Something was different when they heard the story this time.

“I didn’t know so much had been done, and was being done, to make him a saint,” said Shelley, referring to the cause for Father Rother’s beatification and canonization, which is currently underway at the Vatican.

Two days after they returned from camp, the girls had lunch together after their Driver’s Ed class

and talked about how they could help make Father Rother a saint. They came up with a slogan, “Father Stan’s Our Man,” and an idea to help raise money for the Rother Guild – selling T-shirts.

Wofford designed the praying hands logo with the dates of Father Rother’s life.

The girls got permission from Holy Trinity Church to sell the T-shirts at a Knights of Columbus carnival, and business quickly took off. The girls have been meet-

Catholic Charities’ Adoption and Pregnancy Services Director Natalie Bross channels personal experience in present position

For Natalie Bross, working with clients in Catholic Charities’ adoption and pregnancy services isn’t just part of the job; it’s a calling. Adopted by her stepfather at a young age, Bross knows how the love of an adopted parent can forever change a child.

“Adoption is part of my life story, though not in the traditional way,” Bross said. “When my dad adopted me, it changed my life for the better. As a result of experience, I knew I wanted to help children find the incredible love I found with my dad.”

Bross, who joined Catholic Charities in summer 2013, has worked with adoptive families for more than eight years. As a member of the adoption team, she works closely with the birthmother and adoptive parents to create a customized birth plan. According to Bross, the best part of working in adoption is that moment when the adoptive parents meet their child for the first time and become a very special family.

Although the process begins with an expectant birthmother and a couple hoping to adopt, it doesn’t end once the adoption is finalized. As part of a larger network, Catholic Charities offers a wide range of services to help those

throughout the continuum of adoption, including counseling and follow-up programs.

“Adoption can be a life-changing decision and each family’s needs are unique. Catholic Charities is here to help both before, with pre-adoption counseling and adoption assistance, as well as counseling for birth mothers and adoptive families,” said Bross. “Fortunately, most of our services are provided at a minimal cost to adoptive parents, and free to mothers in need, thanks to our donors. As a faith based-organization, our primary concern is creating a caring environment for everyone involved.”

In addition to her work as director of adoption, she is able to provide assistance and guidance for expectant mothers who wish to keep their child, but may need a little help during her pregnancy. Among the services Catholic Charities provides to women facing an unplanned pregnancy are pregnancy counseling, transportation to doctor’s appointments, goal planning, education and care after the baby is born.

To learn more the adoption and pregnancy services offered by Catholic Charities, call (405) 523-3012.



Sister Mary Joseph Mies, ASC, dies at age 85; 69 years as an Adorer

Sister Mary Joseph Mies died early Tuesday evening, Oct. 29, 2013, at the ASC Wichita Center. She was 85; 69 of her years were lived as a professed Adorer of the Blood of Christ.

She was born in Viola, Kan., on Nov. 13, 1927, to Matthew and Rosa (Bergkamp) Mies and baptized Anita. She and her 12 siblings grew up near Saint Mark, Kan. After eighth-grade graduation, she entered the ASC congregation in Wichita where she completed high school. At age 16, she made her first religious vows; she

pronounced her final vows July 1, 1949.

Sister Mary Joseph has a multitude of domestic duties in Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Forty-four years of her ministry were in Oklahoma City. For 21 of those years, at the bishop’s residence, she cared for the household of Bishop Victor Reed, then Archbishop John Quinn and then Archbishop Charles Salatka.

For almost 23 years, she was pastoral associate at Saint Francis of Assisi parish in Oklahoma City. The parish celebrated with

her on the occasions of her 40th, 50th, and 60th anniversaries of her religious profession. Much of her ministry – visiting the sick and shut-ins, serving as chaplain for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and sacristan – was behind the scenes. Open to view were her vegetable garden, roses, irises and other carefully tended flowers.

She retired to the ASC Wichita Center in February 2006, and



moved into Caritas Center.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her brothers Alphonse, James and Alfred, and her sisters Louise, Lorraine and Mary Ann. She is survived by siblings Sister Rosina, ASC, Florence, Bernetta, Theresa, Ralph and Raymond, many nieces and nephews, and her ASC community members.

Memorial contributions in Sister Mary Joseph’s name may be sent to the ASC Retirement Fund, 4233 Sulphur Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109 or made online at www.adorers.org by clicking on the “Donate” button.

*Lánzate a lo más Profundo**Luke 5:4*

Somos una nación de inmigrantes y una iglesia inmigrante

A pesar de que la Estatua de la Libertad no fue originalmente construida para dar la bienvenida a los inmigrantes rápidamente se convirtió en un poderoso símbolo de la esperanza como un sinnúmero de naves le pasaban por el lado a la Estatua de la Libertad cargando a sus pasajeros extranjeros a sus nuevos hogares a una tierra de promesas y oportunidades. Fue especialmente las palabras de la poeta Emma Lazarus en “El Nuevo Coloso”, un soneto escrito en 1883, actualmente grabado en una placa de bronce colocada en su base que selló la asociación de este gran símbolo de la libertad norteamericana, con la actitud de esta joven nación hacia la población inmigrante. “Dadme a vuestros rendidos, a vuestros pobres. Vuestros masas hacinadas anhelando respirar en libertad... Enviadme a estos, los desamparados, sacudidos por las tempestades a mi.”

Estados Unidos siempre ha estado en su mejor momento cuando cumple con este gran ideal de hospitalidad hacia aquellos que buscan libertad y oportunidades. Esto justamente nos enorgullece. Pero, lamentablemente, no siempre hemos estado a la altura de nuestros propios ideales. Ha habido grotescos estallidos nacionalistas anti-inmigrantes y xenofobia a través de nuestra historia. Mis antepasados irlandeses sufrieron la hostilidad y la desconfianza en gran parte debido a su fe católica, al igual que las olas de inmigrantes del sur de Europa. Lo mismo puede decirse de los asiáticos, que también vinieron, y más recientemente los latinos. La integración de los inmigrantes en este país y su cultura compleja siempre es un reto. Pero es un reto que siempre hemos estado a la altura para abrazar y aceptar. Somos más ricos, como nación, a causa de la diversidad de nuestra herencia cultural.

Actualmente nuestro país se enfrenta a un reto monumental en materia de inmigración. Preguntas sobre la política de inmigración despiertan fuertes reacciones emocionales. Pero no hay duda de que nuestro sistema de inmi-



gración es lamentablemente inadecuado. Está quebrado y es problemático en muchos aspectos. Las exigencias de nuestra vasta economía no están siendo adecuadamente atendidas por el limitado número de visas que permiten a los trabajadores entrar legalmente a este país para tomar empleos que deben ser llenados. Las familias se separan y se mantienen separados durante años a la vez, debido a la falta de acceso a los visados de reagrupación familiar. La violencia y el hambre en el extranjero trae personas a nuestras fronteras cada día. Estos son algunos de los motores de gran alcance detrás de la inmigración ilegal.

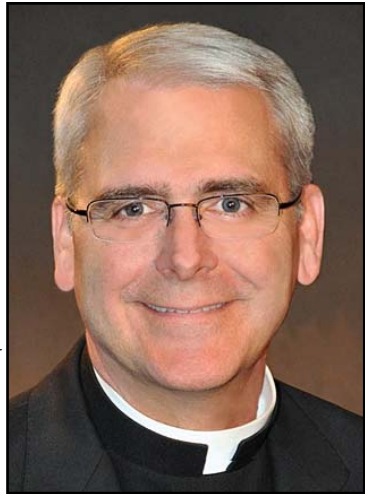
La Iglesia Católica no apoya ni alienta la inmigración ilegal. Una nación tiene el derecho soberano de controlar sus fronteras. Aun reconociendo este deber también afirmamos que esta no es la única preocupación que nuestros legisladores deben tomar en cuenta al reformar nuestro sistema de inmigración.

Muchos factores han dejado a millones de inmigrantes indocumentados obligados a vivir una vida en las sombras donde están expuestos a la violencia y la explotación a manos de traficantes, empleadores y criminales sin escrúpulos. Si no hacemos nada para remediar esta situación rápidamente corremos el riesgo de crear una subclase permanente que no tienen acceso a la plena participación en la vida económica y cívica. Uno de los costos verdaderamente trágicos de esta situación es su efecto sobre una generación de niños inocentes que entraron a los Estados Unidos con sus

padres y que ahora viven sin esperanza o la oportunidad de vivir el sueño norteamericano. ¡Una amplia reforma del sistema de inmigración está en el mejor interés de todos!

Como católicos no podemos tomar un asiento al margen de este debate sobre la inmigración. Muchos de estos inmigrantes son miembros de la Iglesia que ven en nosotros apoyo y asistencia. No deben ser invisibles para nosotros. Son nuestros vecinos, van a la iglesia con nosotros, van a la escuela con nuestros hijos, trabajan con nosotros y trabajan para nosotros. Tenemos una oportunidad de ayudar a afectar a una importante reforma de este sistema. Las Escrituras y rica tradición de nuestra Doctrina Social Católica establecen la base de nuestra preocupación. Jesús nos recuerda que él es el “extranjero”, a quien le damos la bienvenida o a quien le negamos la bienvenida cuando nos enfrentamos al sufrimiento humano: “Cuanto hicisteis a uno de estos mis hermanos más pequeños, conmigo lo hicieron” (Mt. 25:35, 40).

El Senado ya ha aprobado un proyecto de ley de reforma migratoria y la Cámara puede tomar alguna acción sobre la reforma migratoria antes de que finalice el año. Aunque la Cámara probable no toque el tema de una reforma integral puede producir proyecto de leyes que luego se convirtieran en la base de las negociaciones con el Senado. Les insto a estudiar estos asuntos en oración. La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos ha creado un sitio web llamado Justicia para los Inmigrantes (www.justiceforimmigrants.org), que se actualiza regularmente. Por favor, póngase en contacto con su congresista y le invito a apoyar la reforma migratoria integral. Nuestra nación lo necesita. Nuestra fe nos urge a actuar.

*Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley*

Piden los obispos que se evalúen el matrimonio y la vida familiar en preparación del sínodo

Por Cindy Wooden*Catholic News Service*

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Se les ha pedido a los obispos de todo el mundo que observen la realidad existente de las familias a las que sirven y que evalúen la efectividad de los programas pastorales y de educación en referencia a la promoción de las enseñanzas católicas sobre sexualidad, matrimonio y vida familiar.

El documento preparatorio del sínodo extraordinario de obispos cuyo tema es la familia, y que se llevará a cabo el mes de octubre del año entrante, 2014, termina con 38 preguntas sobre la manera en la que se promueven las enseñanzas de la iglesia, la forma en la que se aceptan y las diferentes maneras en las que la gente moderna y su grupo social presentan obstáculos para la perspectiva católica sobre el matrimonio y la familia.

El arzobispo Lorenzo Baldissieri, secretario general del sínodo, les pidió a los obispos que distribuy-

eran el documento y el cuestionario “lo más ampliamente posible” entre los deanatos y parroquias, que hicieran un resumen de las respuestas y lo enviaran al Vaticano a finales del próximo enero.

Ha sido práctica normal en la preparación de los sínodos que se distribuya un guión de los temas seleccionados y cuestiones anexas, para reunir respuestas de obispos, órdenes religiosas y grupos católicos interesados. El arzobispo Baldissieri no especificó la manera en la que los obispos deberían allegarse información, a fin de estimular una consulta lo más amplia posible.

Los obispos de la Conferencia Episcopal de Inglaterra y Gales teclearon el cuestionario electrónicamente el pasado mes de octubre, lo que llevó a nuevas historias acerca de “encuestas” hechas a los católicos para reunir sus opiniones y sugerencias.

La convocación al sínodo extraordinario con el tema de “obstáculos a vencer para la acción pastoral entre familias dentro del

contexto de la evangelización” la hizo el papa Francisco, a llevarse a cabo del 5 al 19 de octubre del 2014, y a él acudirán presidentes de conferencias episcopales, cabezas de la Iglesia Oriental y jefes de dependencias del Vaticano a fin de que se describa la situación actual y para “reunir textos en los que se hayan volcado las experiencias de los obispos y sus propuestas para proclamar y vivir el Evangelio de la familia de manera creíble”, se decía en el documento.

En el año 2015 se convocará a una segunda reunión para el Sínodo de los obispos en la que se enfocará el tema de la familia “para encontrar lineamientos generales de trabajo en el cuidado pastoral del individuo y de la familia”, se decía.

“Existen amplias expectativas con respecto a las decisiones pastorales que se tomarán para la familia”, se decía en el documento.

Algunas personas podrían creer que estarían por venir cambios

en las enseñanzas de la iglesia, considerando el énfasis que el papa Francisco le ha dado a la misericordia, al perdón y a la abstención de juicio sobre el prójimo, con comentarios específicos que vendrían en ayuda de personas divorciadas, parejas vueltas a casar solamente por lo civil que por ahora no pueden acercarse a recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Sin embargo, se afirmaba en el documento que “las enseñanzas de la fe sobre el matrimonio se presentarían de forma articulada y manera eficiente a fin de poder alcanzar el corazón de las personas y transformarlas conforme la voluntad de Dios”.

Las enseñanzas de la iglesia con respecto al matrimonio siempre han sido claras, asentando que es una unión de por vida entre un hombre y una mujer viable para la concepción y educación de hijos, se decía, y la meta del sínodo será “la de comunicar este mensaje de una manera más incisiva”.

Cortas enseñanzas de Apologética Católica

Fue un largo recorrido por este extraño mundo del grupo fundamentalista mas radical y erroneo en materia de fe y doctrina. No obstante, no se abordó todo, pero considero que se tocó lo básico.

Trataremos como colofón algo que verdaderamente es para ponerse las manos en la cabeza, de las cosas tan absurdas que prohíben e imponen. Un gran número de los miembros de esta secta son personas sencillas, humildes,fáciles de confundir por su bajo perfil intelectual. En virtud de todo ello sus dirigentes les imponen una disciplina llena de imposiciones y prohibiciones traídas de los cabellos. Desde una sana psicología y antropología en clave de fe o teológica, el daño que les hacen es de proporciones tristísimas enormes. Veamos algunas de ellas: No pueden ser cantantes o practicar determinados deportes. El daño de estas prohibiciones radica en que se les niega ejercer su vocación como atletas o en las artes; violentando su libertad y libre desarrollo de su personalidad. No pueden celebrar cumpleaños. ¿En qué se basan para prohibir esto? En el texto bíblico donde el rey Herodes, día en que cumplía años mandó decapitar a Juan el Bautista. Esto definitivamente desconcierta a cualquiera que conoce sobre hermenéutica bíblica; no se sabe si ponernos a llorar o soltar-nos a reír de tamaño despropósito prohibitivo. No celebran la Navidad. Toda vez, que afirman que la Navidad es de origen pagano. ¡Santa Bárbara bendita! Si es por ser de origen pagano estaríamos todos sin poder hacer muchas cosas, como manejar dinero; comer determinados alimentos; usar cubiertos; usar

determinada ropa; celebrar fiestas matrimoniales, etc. Todo eso es de origen pagano. Eso por una parte, por otra, constan en documentos como tarjetas, fotografías y anuncios navideños las celebraciones de la Navidad que hacia Russell el fundador de la secta, con sus amistades y compañeros. Prohibir lo que celebraban muestran el endeble soporte doctrinal que poseen. No pueden fumar. Afirman que es perjudicial para la salud; aquel que sea sorprendido fumando tiene como sanción la excomunión. Si, es verdad que el tabaco es perjudicial para la salud; pero por que no se les prohíbe tener automóvil, no es desconocido para nadie que la contaminación de los autos es mucho más perjudicial y dañino para la salud no solo para los usuarios sino para el prójimo, que unos cuantos cigarrillos. No pueden rendir honor a la bandera, ni ponerse de pie para entonar el himno nacional. Se basan para esta prohibición el hecho que el único de honor es Jehová. Es seguro que no han leído a San Pablo, que nos enseña algo distinto a este respecto sobre las autoridades y mucho menos conocen lo que enseño Jesucristo, de dar al César lo que es del César y a Dios lo que es de Dios. No pueden colaborar en campañas de caridad. Es decir que no contribuyen a favor de campañas de cáncer, cruz roja, sida etc. No colaboran para auxiliar a un compañero de trabajo en caso de necesidad. Únicamente se ayudan entre ellos mismos. Para esta secta el resto del mundo esta

*Por Padre Raul Sanchez*

lejos de Dios, prácticamente unos pobres condenados. Siendo sensatos, el pasaje bíblico del buen samaritano, no les dice nada. Para mayor claridad al lector, el Testigo de Jehová no hace absolutamente nada por la humanidad. Es lamentable como una secta como esta,pueda prosperar y tener adeptos. En mi humilde entender, desde una postura pastoral católica; este fenómeno de la sectas es claro ejemplo de múltiples razones que llevan a muchas personas a tomar esta dirección fundamentalista. Varias de ellas, lo que afirmó Benedicto XVI en su oportunidad, el desconocimiento sobre doctrina católica es enorme. Desconocimiento sobre historia de la Iglesia Católica; desconocimiento de historia de las religiones comparadas; Un secularismo apabullante; un indiferentismo religioso descomunal; falta de adoctrinamiento, evangelización y catequisis eficiente por parte de sacerdotes y agentes de pastoral. Sólo son algunas razones, no dudo que hay más. Todos estamos llamados a crecer en fe, a la santidad; y uno de los pasos dentro de ese largo proceso existencial y vital es abrirnos a la razón, al estudio. No es gratuito cuando San Pedro nos invita a saber dar razón de nuestra esperanza, de nuestra fe a todo aquel que nos pregunte.

El Padre Raúl Sánchez, original de Bogotá, Colombia incardinado a esta Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es Pastor Asociado en la Parroquia Santiago en Oklahoma City. El Padre Sánchez es abogado en Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad la Gran Colombia, de su país. Y es Licenciado en Teología del Seminario Mayor de Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Concierto a beneficio del Sagrado Corazón a través del Fondo de Becas

Por Brianna Osborne*The Sooner Catholic*

“La Música Sana el Corazón”, un concierto benéfico para el Fondo de Becas Padre Roberto Quant se llevará a cabo el 6 de diciembre a las 7 pm en la Iglesia de Santiago Apóstol (St. James) en Oklahoma City.

El fondo de becas ayuda a los estudiantes con los costos para asistir a la Escuela del Sagrado Corazón, de donde el Padre Quant, quien murió el 6 de mayo de este año, fue párroco.

Joana Camacho, directora de la Escuela del Sagrado Corazón, se le ocurrió la idea del concierto durante sus oraciones diarias.

“El Padre Quant me había dado un breviario, y durante mis oraciones de la mañana, sólo se me vino a la cabeza”, dijo.

Según Camacho, el Padre Quant fue un amante de la música.

“El piano y cello eran sus favoritos, estamos tratando de ver si podemos conseguir un violonchelista que toque en el concierto”, dijo Camacho.

Los alumnos del Sagrado Corazón y su profesor de música contribuirán al concierto, al igual que algunos estudiantes de música de la Universidad de Oklahoma Central.

La historia del fondo de becas, comenzó poco después de la muerte inesperada del Padre Quant, es alentadora hasta ahora. En este momento, el fondo tiene cerca de \$9,000. Los propios alumnos del Sagrado Corazón contribuyen al fondo. En la escuela, los 3 dólares pagados por un día sin tener que traer puesto el uniforme van al fondo. Cada semana,

*Sra. Mary Jo Smith y sus estudiantes han donado \$125 al fondo de becas de Padre Roberto. En la foto, transfieren el dinero del tarro de su clase al tarro de Padre Roberto.*

cada clase tiene una colección que se deposita en la Fundación Católica.

Un símbolo amado del fondo de becas es un frasco de vidrio que solía estar en la oficina del Padre Quant. El Padre Quant solía echar su cambio en el frasco, y tomar del cambio cada vez que iba a un juego de basquetbol de los Thunder.

“Me dijo que cuando las familias iban a buscar asesoramiento o simplemente a visitarlo, dejaba que los niños jugaran con el dinero, mientras que los adultos hablaban”, dijo Camacho. Si los niños eran bien educados, los dejaba quedarse con el dinero, pero - “el siempre pensó que eran de buen comportamiento.”

Los Estudiantes de Pre -Kinder del Sagrado Corazón han estado poniendo sus monedas en el tarro desde el comienzo de la escuela, y sólo ellos ya han recaudado \$125.

El frasco tiene lleno unos tres cuartos de su capacidad, van a empezar de nuevo una vez que se llene.

Camacho dijo que ha sido una bendición que el actual párroco, el Padre Gilberto Moya Hurtado, y los dos pastores asociados, los Padres José Reyes Navarro y Francisco Morales Zuccoloto, apoyan a la escuela y al proyecto.

Todos los sacerdotes de la Ar-

quidiócesis de Oklahoma City han recibido una carta sobre el concierto, con la esperanza de que apoyen la causa. Esto incluye al Obispo Edward Weisenburger de la Diócesis de Salina y el Obispo Anthony Taylor de la Diócesis de Little Rock, quienes eran ambos sacerdotes de la arquidiócesis con el Padre Quant.

Durante el concierto, los estudiantes de la Escuela Sagrado Corazón que reciben becas compartirán sus testimonios, hablarán de lo que significa para ellos tener la oportunidad de recibir una educación católica.

El precio de las entradas para el evento está en una donación sugetida de \$ 10, y se pueden obtener llamando a la oficina de Joana Camacho en la Escuela del Sagrado Corazón. También habrá una colección especial y ofrenda de amor en el concierto.

En todo el entusiasmo y arduo trabajo de planificación para este evento, Camacho agradece que providencialmente “Todo acopló y se convirtió en realidad.”

“El concierto tiene el potencial de ayudar a que muchos niños tengan un futuro mejor”, dijo Camacho.

SI USTED VA...

Cuándo: 7 pm, Viernes, 6 de diciembre**Dónde:** Iglesia Católica Santiago Apóstol (St James), 4201 Sur McKinley Avenue, Oklahoma City, 73109**Por qué:** Para recaudar dinero para el fondo de becas Padre Roberto Quant, la cual ayuda a que los estudiantes reciban una educación católica en el Colegio del Sagrado Corazón.**Precio de las entradas:** Se sugiere una donación de \$10. Para obtener un boleto, llame a la oficina de la directora Joana Camacho al (405) 634-5673.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection slated for Nov. 23 - 24

The collection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is slated for Nov. 23 to Nov. 24.

The theme of this year's collection is "Defend Human Dignity. Take Poverty Off the Map."

As the primary source of funding for CCHD anti-poverty grants and education programs, the collection is taken up in parishes and dioceses nationwide, including in parishes across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go to the USCCB Subcommittee on CCHD, the members of which will allocate the dollars to fund projects across the country through grants.

The other 25 percent will stay in the archdiocese. Diocesan director Becky Van Pool and an advisory committee comprised of parish representatives, who are invited to serve on the committee by Van Pool, will allocate those dollars to local programs. Appointed by Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran, Van Pool has served in this capacity for seven years.

"As Catholics, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are vulnerable and marginalized by combining our resources to address the social structures that keep people in poverty and give them the opportunity to change

their lives and have a better future for their families," Van Pool said. "Our experience has been that, when we treat people with dignity and give them the opportunity to grow in their capacity to provide for their families and their community, we are doing God's work."

Archbishop Paul Coakley also stressed the need to treat those who are poor or marginalized with respect.

"Our Lord has a deep concern for the poor and identifies with the poor," Archbishop Coakley said. "He says whatever you do or fail to do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do or fail to do to Him, so I think that's our Lord's instruction describing what our attitude ought to be toward the poor. Love them; care for them; support them; treat them with respect and dignity."

During the 2012-2013 grant cycle, the USCCB Subcommittee on CCHD approved 178 grants in the community development category, 36 in the economic development and job creation category and 10 in the technical assistance category for a total of \$9 million.

The full list of recipients of national CCHD grants, including those in the Oklahoma City area, is available at <http://usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/upload/grant-ee-list-2013-2014.pdf>.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the local CCHD advisory committee steered grants to five programs: "Nurturing Hispanic Families," based out of Saint Peter Parish in Woodward (\$1,000); "My School's Report Card and Education Analysis Project for Hispanic Parents" based out of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Oklahoma City (\$2,000); "Juntos en Cristo" based out of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Pauls Valley (\$1,000); "Cities in Schools" based out of Saint Mary Parish in Ardmore (\$2,000); and Fasting and Faith Leadership based out of Holy Angels Parish in Oklahoma City (\$1,000).

A full description of each of these programs is available at www.soonercatholic.com, but, as one example of the work these programs undertake, "My School's Report Card and Education Analysis Project for Hispanic Parents" teaches Spanish-speaking parents the skills they need to evaluate school curricula and programs so they can become engaged in their children's education and advocate for their children.

"The purpose of the local grants is to provide funding that gives parishes the opportunity to work with persons to provide for their social needs and address the causes of poverty," Van Pool said. "As Catholics, we're called as a Church

to reach out to the vulnerable and the underprivileged. The goal of the outreach from Catholic churches is to live our faith in a practical application in the real world."

Archbishop Coakley said the ability of the CCHD to achieve its stated aims depends on local oversight and a shared commitment to the program.

"There have been criticisms over the years about the way CCHD has been run – its guidelines, its grant-making – and the bishops have taken those critiques seriously and, a few years ago, completed a very thorough review and revision and renewal of CCHD," he said. "Much of it depends upon local oversight of the local bishops where the grantees are located, but all of the grants are vetted very, very carefully for their compliance with Catholic teaching so that we are not supporting anything that is contrary to Catholic moral teaching."

The archbishop added that the bishops appreciate input on this and other matters.

"The bishops can't see everything that is happening so we need to have that input," he said. "If there's something that's questionable, we oughtn't to jump to the conclusion that the bishops don't care or that they're asleep at the switch; we have to work together to make the best of the program."

Briefs

Catholic Pastoral Center to host holy hour Nov. 19

A holy hour to pray for a renewal of respect for life, marriage and religious liberty is slated for 4 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Saint Francis de Sales Chapel of the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. The event is open to the public.

Mount Saint Mary principal to host a Q-and-A over coffee

Coffee with Mount Saint Mary Principal Talita DeNegri is scheduled for 9 a.m. Nov. 22 and Dec. 3. Over coffee and breakfast pastries, DeNegri will answer questions about Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School prior to leading a tour of the campus. The events are open to the public. For more information, contact Jessica Stiles at (405) 631-8865 or jstiles@mountsaintmary.org.

Saint Charles Borromeo Annual Holiday Bazaar Nov. 23 to 24

The Saint Charles Borromeo Annual Holiday Bazaar will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 in the school gym at 5024 N. Grove, Oklahoma City, OK 73122. The Nov. 23 vendor market, will feature wood crafts, décor, a women's boutique, jewelry, homemade craft items, themed baskets, baked goods, raffles and more. To learn more to express interest in becoming a vendor, contact Bonita Konop at (405) 397-9477 or gladtallone@gmail.com.

Father Stanley Rother Guild seeks experienced rosary makers

The Father Stanley Rother Guild is starting a Chaplet Guild much like a Rosary Guild. The Rother Guild needs help to make advanced chaplets to go along with the chaplet prayer for Father Rother. Rosary makers should have experience working with metal. The Chaplet Guild will meet once a month. For more information, contact Cara Koenig at (405) 721-1810 or by e-mail at fatherstanleyrotherguild@gmail.com.

Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference set for February

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa will present "Redeemed," a conference for young adults aged 18 to 25, the weekend of Feb. 14 to 16 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp. Apologist Peter Kreeft will keynote the conference, which will also feature Chris Stefanick. Archbishop Paul Coakley will say Mass Feb. 15 and Bishop Edward Slattery will say Mass Feb. 16. The cost is \$40 and includes food and two nights lodging. Deadline to register is Feb. 3, 2014. For more information or to register, contact the Youth and Young Adult Office at (405) 721-9220 or jcogburn@archokc.org.

Calendar

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

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

13 **Catholic War Veterans USA**
The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by e-mail at OklaPost168@cox.net.

14 **Devotion to The Precious Blood Of Jesus**. An unending

means of tapping the inexhaustible mercy of God from the source of our salvation. Thursday's 9 p.m. -12:30 a.m. St. James Church 4201 S. McKinley, Okc. Loan at (405) 420-2527 (Bilingual).

16 **McGuinness Placement Test** for any 8th grader interested in attending the school as a freshman for the 2014-2015 school year. All prospective 9th graders must take this test. Students not attending a feeder school and interested in taking the placement test must contact Amy Hanson, Freshman Counselor at ahanson@bmchs.org or 842-6638 ext. 225 to register for the test.

16 **The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**, at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month beginning with Mass at 7:30 am in the Chapel. For more information contact Toni Harrelson, lmc at (405) 341-2199

or lmccoklahoma@sbcglobal.net

16 **The community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese, meets at Little Flower Church, OKC from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call Katherine Payne (405) 210-4826.

19 **Holy Hour** at Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel 4-5 p.m.

22 **Mount St. Mary Principal's Coffee** at 9 a.m. Enjoy a cup of coffee and a breakfast pastry in a small group setting as MSM Principal, Mrs. DeNegri tells you about Mount St. Mary Catholic High School!

23 **Fall Bazaar** at St. Teresa's Church, Harrah, from 1 - 6 p.m.

23 **St. Charles Catholic Singles** (and friends) Gathering from 7 - 8 p.m. Music begins at 8 p.m. and

last dance at 11 p.m. Snacks are welcome for our sharing table. All are welcome to invite others to come along. Further information call Al: (405) 631-0763.

23 **Natural Family Planning Appreciation Dinner for Couples** at St. James Church, 4201 South McKinley Ave, OKC at 7p.m. for couples using NFP methods. Dinner is \$20 per couple. Babysitting is provided, if possible, provide number of children to the Office of Family Life. To register, call (405) 721-8944. Registration deadline is November 15.

24 **Thanksgiving Dinner and Bazaar** at St. Teresa's Catholic Church, Harrah, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1576 N. Tim Holt Dr. The public is invited to participate in the dinner and bazaar. Cost for the dinner is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Carryout orders will also be available. For more information, contact Bernadette Klimkowski at 454-2871.

Job Box

Chemistry/Pre-AP Chemistry Mount St. Mary Catholic High School has a full time teaching position open for the second semester of the current school year for a certified high school Chemistry/Pre-AP Chemistry teacher. Interested applicants may fax their resumé/certification/letter of interest to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or email to tdenegri@mountstmary.org.

Full Time Administrative Assistant Holy Name Parish is seeking an Administrative Assistant. Interested applicants should consult the parish website (www.holynamechickasha.org) or contact the parish office at (405) 244-6068 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Submit resume, application, and references by November 9, 2013. Qualified

for grades 7-12. For full job description: www.stjames-catholic.org/Jobs. Apply online or send resume to Pastor @ 4201 South McKinley, Oklahoma City, OK 73109.

applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

Development Director St. Thomas More University Parish & Student Center in Norman, Oklahoma is seeking Development Director. To apply send cover letter, resumé, and salary requirements to simon@petrusdevelopment.com.

Weekend Monitor for Rose Home
Birth Choice of Oklahoma is looking for a Weekend Monitor for Rose Home. Rose Home is a shelter for homeless pregnant women. This position will be working with

For a full calendar and up-to-date jobs box, visit soonercatholic.org or use this QR Code with your smart phone.



the ladies and children at Rose Home, monitoring the facility, making sure basic needs are met, rules are enforced, and general procedures are followed. If you are interested contact Misty Warfield, at (405) 361-9172 or misty@birth-choice.org



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Trey Welker
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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

2013 • 2014

SEMINARIAN EDUCATION APPEAL

**“These seminarians are called to serve as our future priests ...
... we are called to pray and support them in their journey!”**

We are profoundly grateful to the Lord for the growing number of young men in seminary formation, now **25** for the Archdiocese. But our success in recruiting new seminarians adds to the annual cost of preparing these men for the priesthood.

In order to stay abreast of the cost of educating our seminarians I am asking you to consider a monetary gift specifically for the education and formation of our seminarians. No single source of revenue is adequate to fully fund the cost of seminary education but this annual appeal is very necessary. Consider this as an investment in the future of our faith in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. These are the men who will one day be the pastors of your parish.

*They will bring Jesus to us, and bring us to Jesus
in ways that only a priest can do!*

+ Paul S. Coakley

+ Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Go Make Disciples

► Look for this mailing containing your Seminarian Brochure and Prayer Card!

2013–2014 SEMINARIAN COSTS

Tuition/Room & Board	\$715,081
Stipends	\$72,000
Books	\$20,800
Insurance	\$137,496

Total Cost Per Year \$945,377

Total Cost Per Seminarian \$37,815
(Based on 25 Seminarians)

Please Be Generous In Prayer & Financial Support.

We fall considerably short of the total cost per year. So, along with your prayers, please use the Investment Form below and help support our seminarians and the future of the Church.



2013–2014 Seminarian Education Investment Form

► Please complete & cut-out this form, place in envelope with your generous investment, attach first-class postage and mail to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Office of Vocations today!



**ARCHDIOCESE of OKLAHOMA CITY
OFFICE of VOCATIONS**

P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123-0380

☐ **Yes!** Please accept this gift for the future of our Archdiocese

☐ \$300

☐ \$250

☐ \$100

☐ \$75

☐ \$50

☐ Other:

\$

☐ Enclosed is my Check Payable to: **Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**

☐ Please Bill my **Credit Card:**

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

CARD NUMBER

3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

X

SIGNATURE

EXPIRATION DATE

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PARISH

Thank You for Your Generous Tax-Deductible Donation!