

## Annual Women's Conference Set for March 2 in Oklahoma City

Page 8



## Advent Begins December 2

Page 16



Gabriel and Wilma Duty receive their certificate from Archbishop Coakley.

## Wedding Anniversary Mass Celebrates 'Love That Endures Anything'

By Brianna Joyce  
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — On Sunday, Nov. 18, the Archdiocese honored married couples with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley at Our Lady's Cathedral. The pews were crowded with those celebrating significant anniversaries throughout 2012.

The Cathedral's beautiful choir sang as sunlight came through the stained glass windows. One window was particularly relevant that evening — the north wall showed the marriage of Mary and Joseph, the beginning of a Holy Family that all married couples strive to imitate.

In his homily, Archbishop Coakley acknowledged that it was difficult to relate the day's readings to the theme of marriage. However, the Archbishop

pointed out that the apocalyptic imagery in the book of Daniel and in Mark's Gospel demonstrates God's faithfulness and love even in the worst of times, a reality that Christian marriage reflects.

Addressing the couples, Archbishop Coakley said, "In your youthful naiveté, you thought (your lives) would always be 'in health, for richer, in good times' ... but they weren't, were they?" Married partners must learn the love that Christ has for his Church, a love that endures anything.

Before Mass ended, the Archbishop presented certificates with his special blessing for the couples. Cathedral Rector

continued on Page 4

## Court Tosses Henry Scholarship Challenge

OKLAHOMA CITY — Parents of autistic children in Oklahoma received good news Nov. 20 when the Oklahoma Supreme Court declined to consider a lawsuit that would impact Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy.

In a 7-2 decision, the state's high court tossed out a lawsuit filed by two public school districts challenging the constitutionality of the Lindsey Nichole Henry scholarship program. The scholarship program helps send special education students to private schools. It was signed into law in 2010.

Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy is a partnership between the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, University of Central Oklahoma and Mercy Health.

The school's mission is to provide educational, as well as behavioral, services for 3- to 9-year-old children diagnosed on the autistic spectrum or with similar neurological disorders. It opened its doors in September of 2011.

The ruling reverses an order by a Tulsa district judge that ruled the program unconstitutional.

Good Shepherd School provides services not normally available in public schools. For example, at Good Shepherd School, each student receives the attention of a team of professionals that includes a special education teacher, a treatment coordinator, a Board

*Good Shepherd School provides services not normally available in public schools.*

continued on Page 4

## Pope — When Sharing Faith, Keep it Simple, Joyful, Credible

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world of hardened hearts and titillating distractions, Christians need to keep the Gospel message simple and live what they teach with love and joy, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The best place to start is with one's own family, he said, learning to spend time together, listening and understanding one another, and "being a sign for each other of God's merciful love."

During his weekly general audience Nov. 28, the Pope spoke about the challenge of communicating the saving truth of Jesus

continued on Page 4



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)



*Put Out Into the Deep* Luke 5:4

# Reconciliation: The Sacrament for the New Evangelization

G.K. Chesterton, the brilliant English convert and apologist once wrote: "The answer to the question, 'What's wrong with the world?' is just two words: 'I am.' Chesterton had an uncanny way of nailing uncomfortable truths with remarkable clarity.

Quoting Chesterton in this memorable way, Cardinal Timothy Dolan in his recent presidential address to the USCCB focused our attention on one of the key themes for the New Evangelization: our call to conversion. The emphasis is on "our" call. Evangelization begins with us, that is, with our own evangelization. During the ad limina visits earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI reminded a group of U.S. bishops of this same crucial truth: "Evangelization appears not simply as a task to be undertaken ad extra (toward others outside); we ourselves are the first to need re-evangelization."

During this Year of Faith, so intimately linked to the New Evangelization, we are summoned to rediscover the riches of our faith in all of its fullness and freshness through an encounter with Christ in his Church. Fifty years after the opening of the Second Vatican Council, we are still in the process of receiving its teaching and its clear call to holiness, communion and mission. The first document which the Council Fathers approved, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, made this same point. We must be the first to hear and respond to the call to conversion. "To believers also the church must ever preach faith and penance." (SC 9). Conversion is a lifelong process. We cannot be heralds and effective witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for others unless we have been touched and transformed by the Gospel ourselves.

It is through the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist that we are made sharers in the mystery of Redemption through a living encounter with Christ in his Church. These sacraments equip us for holiness and for our mission as evangelizers. They strengthen and nourish our faith.

But the pre-eminent sacrament for the New Evangelization is the Sacrament of Penance. Unfortunately and ironically, the Second Vatican Council's clear call to a renewal of the liturgy and the sacraments as the necessary means of fostering growth in faith and holiness for the sake of mission has not resulted in the expected renewal of the Sacrament of Penance. Instead, we have witnessed its near disappearance in parish life. How often have I and many pastors heard confessions before weddings, Confirmations or even on death beds, only to learn that the last time a penitent had been to confession was at their first Reconciliation? Too often. What grace has been forfeited as a result of the neglect of such a precious gift? Only God knows. Without the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our faith becomes stunted and we lose

touch with the experience of the unmerited mercy of Christ which is the very essence of the Good News.

In order for us to become effective evangelizers, we must first be converted ourselves. That is, we must have a living, sustaining and transforming experience of the grace and mercy of Christ ourselves. Only thus will we be compelling and credible witnesses to the Good News of salvation. Unless we are living with a vivid sense of God's mercy transforming and reconciling us in our own weakness and sinfulness, we cannot share this with others. Put another way, if we live our lives rooted in this regular experience of God's gracious love and mercy, we will radiate a joy that others will find irresistible. We will be filled with the confidence that comes not from ourselves but from Christ dwelling within us.

There is no more effective means of encountering the mercy of Christ in such a deeply personal and ecclesial way than the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is the means given to us by Christ himself, who has tailored his gift to address our spiritual, emotional and psychological needs. Here the mercy and love of Christ becomes real for baptized persons in a way that heals, reconciles and restores the fervor of our faith. Through the frequent reception of this beautiful sacrament, we experience redemption and mercy through the forgiveness of our sins.

St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, began the renewal of his parish in Ars by catechizing his lukewarm parishioners about the importance of Confession. He recognized it as an indispensable tool for evangelization. He spent time in the confessional even when nobody came. Eventually they began to come and soon the parish was totally transformed.

During this Year of Faith, I call upon all of the faithful to rediscover and celebrate regularly this precious sacrament of mercy. I ask our priests to make the Sacrament of Penance the subject of preaching and teaching and to actively encourage the frequent reception of this sacrament by being generously available in the confessional. Confessions ought to be scheduled at such times that the faithful are able to come without burden. That will speak of its importance. I also invite our priests, who may not be sufficiently fluent in Spanish, to invite brother priests with greater mastery of the Spanish language to assist them in this ministry when pastoral circumstances warrant it.

If this Year of Faith produces only one fruit, I will be content if it leads to more frequent and fruitful celebration of Sacrament of Penance among Catholics. It is the sacrament for the New Evangelization.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



**Most Reverend**

**Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Publisher

**Ray Dyer**

Editor

**Cara Koenig**

Photographer/Special Projects

**Brianna Joyce**

Office Staff

Volume 34, Number 23

Sooner Catholic Newspaper

7501 Northwest Expressway

Oklahoma City, OK 73132

(405) 721-1810 Fax: (405) 721-5210

e-mail: [rdyer@archokc.org](mailto:rdyer@archokc.org)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 32180

Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Visit us online through the  
Archdiocesan Web Page at  
[www.archokc.org](http://www.archokc.org)

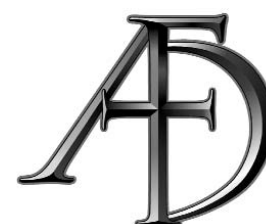
The Sooner Catholic (USPS 066-910) is published biweekly except for once in July and twice in December by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Copyright © 2012 Sooner Catholic

Subscription rate: \$20 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

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



The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

## Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

**December 2** — St. Vincent DePaul Society Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, 5 p.m.

**December 4** — Saint Ann Retirement Center Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8 a.m.

**December 4** — Department Head Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

**December 5** — School Mass and Classroom Visits, St. Mary School, Guthrie, 8:30 a.m.

**December 6** — Catholic Relief Services Board Meeting, Savannah, Ga.

**December 7** — School Mass and Classroom Visits, Sacred Heart School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.

**December 8** — Mass at Holy Cross Church, Madill, 6 p.m.

**December 9** — Mass at Holy Family Church, Lawton, 11 a.m.

**December 10 - December 11** — Catholic University of America Board Meeting, Washington, D.C.

**December 12** — School Mass and Classroom Visits, Saint Mary School, Lawton, 9 a.m.

**December 13** — Envisioning Leadership Team Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

**December 14** — Classroom Visit, Good Shepherd School, Oklahoma City, 8:45 a.m.

**December 15** — Blessing of Statute at Saint Damien of Molokai Church, Edmond, 4 p.m.

**December 16** — Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, 10 a.m.





Bishop McGuinness students fill totes from the Regional Food Bank with collected canned goods.

# Bishop McGuinness Students Share Gifts of Food, Selves During Annual Food Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students once again enthusiastically participated in the annual Canned Food Drive.

The food drive is sponsored by the Oklahoma City Regional Food Bank and provides food to Oklahoma families that are in need of help and assistance. Bishop McGuinness has been involved in the Canned Food Drive since its inception in 1988.

The theme this year was "Hunger Games," a take-off of the movie of the same name. Faculty sponsors were Andrew Worthington, Julia Anderson-Holt and Ann Bleything. Student chairmen were senior Addie Plank and

junior Ben Patterson.

Addie and Ben were instrumental in the success of the week-long collection effort. Their committee organized various events including a can sculpture contest between the classes at school. They were responsible for coordinating the collection and weighing of the cans.

Accumulating the cans was a little easier this year thanks to Crest Foods, which arranged through their supplier, Carts and Parts, Inc., to loan four grocery carts to transport canned goods from student cars into the school.

"Being the co-chairman of the Canned Food Drive was truly an honor and experience I will never forget," said Ben. "I cannot wait to be the chairman

next year, so I can bless the lives of many more hungry families in Oklahoma."

Irish students collect more canned goods for the Regional Food Bank than any other school in the state including colleges and universities.

"I applaud the enthusiasm of our students in their devotion to this project," said Bishop McGuinness Principal David Morton. "Every year they never cease to amaze me with their commitment to participate in such a worthwhile endeavor."

"The success of our Canned Food Drive would not be possible without the support of the students, parents and community. Thank you to everyone who helped with this effort," said Morton.



At left, seniors Joe Scimeca and Grace Amundsen load canned goods into grocery carts to transport to the Food Bank trucks. Above, Canned Food Drive chairmen Ben Patterson and Addie Plank.





# Court Clears Path For Health Lawsuit; Bible Publisher Wins Injunction

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way Nov. 26 for a federal appeals court to take up a Christian college’s challenge to the Affordable Care Act, reopening one of several lawsuits filed by religious and other groups who oppose elements of the law.

The court ordered the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear the arguments of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., the health care law infringes on the Christian school’s religious freedom. The court had rejected an earlier challenge by the university, made prior to the Supreme Court’s June ruling

upholding the health care law. The university appealed again, asking for its challenge to be considered in light of the June Supreme Court ruling.

On Nov. 16, a Washington-based federal judge granted a temporary injunction against enforcement of the contraceptive mandate in a suit brought by an Illinois-based Christian publisher.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton ruled that Tyndale House Publishers, which produces Bibles and various Christian publications, did not have to comply with the new mandate while the group’s lawsuit against it moves forward. The mandate “affirm-

atively compels” the company to violate its religious beliefs, he said.

Matthew Bowman of Alliance Defending Freedom, which is representing the Carol Springs, Ill., company, said in a statement that the judge’s ruling was the right one and that Bible publishers “should be free to do business according to the book that they publish.”

Tyndale objects to the HHS requirement that most religious employers provide free coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free, saying it violates the company’s moral convictions.

In another lawsuit against the

mandate, a federal judge in Oklahoma City Nov. 20 denied a request for an injunction against the mandate by the Christian-owned business Hobby Lobby, saying the arts-and-crafts stores must cover emergency contraceptives in their insurance policies even though the company argued that some are abortion-inducing drugs.

A day later lawyers for Hobby Lobby appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, asking for “emergency relief” from fines of more than \$1 million a day the company says it will face if it doesn’t comply with mandate.

## Marriage continued from Page 1

Father John Metzinger read off the names of couples celebrating anniversaries 25 years and up. Couples walked up the aisle hand in hand, smiling proudly as they received their certificates.

A reception followed in the Cathedral’s Connor Center. Each couple received small bottles of champagne and a prayer card.

John and June Hovorka, celebrating 55 years of marriage, had some advice for young couples.

“Just say, ‘Yes, dear!’” Hovorka laughed. He added, “On my wedding day my father told me, ‘Give 100 percent, expect 10 percent.’” Sounds a lot like Christ’s self-giving love!

Out of the couples present, Gabriel and Wilma Duty had been married the longest: 65 years. Their children were unable to attend — they’re scattered across Minnesota, New York, Colorado and Texas — but they were surrounded by friends and well-wishers congratulating them on their 11 grandchildren and 11

great-grandchildren!

As the Archbishop said, “We surround you with our prayers and gratitude.”

What a blessing marriage is to all of us, as it shows what Christ’s unfailing love is like.

***For more photos, go to the Sooner Catholic picture gallery at [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).***

## Henry continued from Page 1

Certified Behavioral Analyst, a university professor and behavioral interventionists. The team makes data-based decisions that guide the specific, individualized educational and behavioral intervention for each child. Parents of children attending Good Shepherd School are eligible for assistance under the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities (the Henry Scholarship Act or Act) enacted by the Oklahoma Legislature in 2010.

The ongoing court battle centers on a lawsuit filed by the Jenks and Union school districts against parents of children with special needs who receive aid under the Henry Scholarship Act. The law allows the use of state funds (already designated for a child’s education by the Oklahoma Legislature) to pay for tuition at a private school catering to children with special needs. Jenks and Union officials argue the scholarship

program amounts to government support of religion because some participating schools have religious affiliations which they contend violates Article 2, Section 5 of the Oklahoma Constitution.

Earlier, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy filed an application with the Supreme Court to argue in support of the law. The Archdiocese and School’s request to file an amicus (“friend of the court”) brief states, “[T]he trial judge erred when she found the Henry Scholarship Act to violate the religion clauses of Oklahoma constitution. She erred because the Henry Scholarship is consistent with — and protected by — the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.” In advocating for the constitutionality of the Henry Scholarship Law, the attorney for the Archdiocese and School said, “[T]he

Act has an “unmistakably secular purpose” — to promote the well-being of the students with disabilities. Secondly, the Act did not advance or inhibit religion. Payments are made to the student, not the schools. And the student may choose a secular school or a religious school. The Henry Scholarship Act provides money for the “use, benefit and support” of disabled children, not religious schools.”

Good Shepherd School represents just a small part of the positive economic impact that Catholic education has on the State of Oklahoma. During the last school year, there were nine schools in the Archdiocese which applied for eligibility to accept children from families who desire to receive scholarship money through the Henry Scholarship Act. Eighteen (18) Oklahoma students attending eight of these Catholic schools received Henry Scholarships, including five attending Good Shepherd School.

However, approximately 10,000 students attend Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa. The two Catholic dioceses are the largest non-public education provider in Oklahoma.

In 2008-2009, public school education in Oklahoma cost an average of \$8,006 per student. If the 10,000 students attending Catholic schools were to transfer to and attend Oklahoma public schools, the additional cost to Oklahoma’s state and local governments would be approximately \$80 million per year. Catholic schools save taxpayers money.

Due to the small number of students Good Shepherd School can accommodate because of its specialized curriculum, the viability of the school would be in jeopardy should the Henry Scholarship Act be declared unconstitutional.

## Faith continued from Page 1

to today’s men and women whose hearts are “often closed” and whose minds are “sometimes distracted by the glitz and glam” of the material world.

In his catechesis to 5,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican’s Paul VI hall, the Pope said “it’s necessary to recover simplicity, to return to the essentials.”

People can legitimately talk about God because God himself speaks to humanity, the Pope said.

“The first condition for talking about God is, therefore, listening to what God himself has said to us,” he said. “God is not a distant hypothesis about the origin of the world” and

he isn’t an abstract form of “mathematical intelligence.”

Rather he is real and “is concerned about us and loves us,” the Pope said. In Jesus, people can see the face of God, who descended from heaven to be with humanity, “to teach us the art of living, the road to happiness, to liberate us from sin and make us children of God,” he said.

“Jesus came to save us, showing us the good life of the Gospels.”

When St. Paul shared the faith, he didn’t espouse a philosophy he developed or ideas he dreamed up, but rather stuck to the real presence of God in his life, the Pope said.

The apostle “didn’t talk about himself; he didn’t want to create a fan club or lead some school of thought,” but wanted to lead people directly to Christ, the Pope said.

This is what individual Christians and their communities are called to follow: “to show the transformative action of the grace of God, overcoming individualism, narrowness, egoism and indifference, and living God’s love in daily interactions,” he said.

One of the best places to start talking about God is in the family — “the first school for communicating the faith to new generations,” he said.

Parents need to help their children

become aware of God’s love, talk about the Christian faith, foster a critical eye toward the many influences children are exposed to and be prepared to answer children’s questions about God, the Pope said.

But above all, he said, communicating the faith must always be done with joy — a joy that doesn’t ignore or hide from the pain, difficulties and conflicts of the world, but knows how to respond to them with Christian hope.

“It’s important to help all family members understand that faith is not a burden, but a source of deep joy,” he said.



# Saints Among Us

By Archbishop Paul S. Coakley  
for *Extension Magazine*

The heroic witness of the Servant of God, Father Stanley Rother, has been a source of inspiration for me since my seminary days. It was October 1981, a few months after Father Rother had been brutally slain at his mission far away in Guatemala. Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., was honoring this distinguished alumnus with its highest recognition. Father Rother's parents and sister had come for the events honoring their dear son and brother.

I was profoundly moved by that experience. Saints and martyrs had always seemed to be heroes from another era. Here was a priest of our own time, a good shepherd, who had revealed Christ in the midst of his people under the most difficult circumstances. He laid down his life for his people rather than flee for safety. Since first learning about the generous sacrifice of this very ordinary priest from Okarche, Oklahoma, I have followed the unfolding process toward his beatification and canonization with a keen personal interest.

It certainly never entered my mind that 30 years later, as Archbishop of Oklahoma City, I would have

the privilege of taking up the cause of his beatification that my predecessor, Archbishop Beltran, had formally initiated. When informed of my appointment as Archbishop, the first thing I sought to do was visit Father Rother's grave in the parish cemetery in Okarche and seek his intercession for my new ministry.

Since then I have had the privilege of traveling on pilgrimage with a group of Oklahomans to the parish of Santiago Atitlan where the Servant of God served as a missionary for 13 years and gave his life. It was the 30th anniversary of his death. There Father Rother, or Padre Aplas, as he is known in the village, is esteemed and honored as their own beloved saint and martyr.

Should Father Rother one day be beatified and canonized, it will be a gift not only for the people of Santiago Atitlan and Oklahoma, but for the whole Church. The Church needs heroic witnesses from every walk of life. Father Rother has been that for many of us in Oklahoma, Guatemala and beyond. The saints remind us that each of us is called to holiness. All of us are called to be saints. It is rare when the Church formally beatifies or canonizes one of her sons or daughters. The Church does so, however,



Father Stanley Rother in Guatemala.

in order to give us encouragement and authentic examples for our own journey of faith. Saints show us what Christian discipleship looks like when it is lived generously, faithfully and heroically.

As the Church embraces the challenge of a New Evangelization, the saints are a reminder of the high calling to which each of us are summoned in virtue of our Baptism. We are called beyond maintenance into mission. We are called to the fullness of the Christian life and the perfection of charity. Please pray for the canonization of the Servant of God, Father Stanley Rother, Oklahoma priest, missionary and martyr.

# Santos Entre Nosotros

Por Archbishop Paul S. Coakley  
for *Extension Magazine*

El heroico testimonio del Siervo de Dios, Padre Stanley Rother, ha sido una fuente de inspiración para mí desde mis días en el seminario. Fue octubre del 1981, pocos meses después del brutal asesinato del Padre Rother en su lejana misión en Guatemala. El seminario de Mount St. Mary en Emmitsburg, Maryland estaba honrando a este distinguido ex alumno con su más alto reconocimiento. Los padres y la hermana del Padre Rother habían venido por los actos en honor de su querido hijo y hermano.

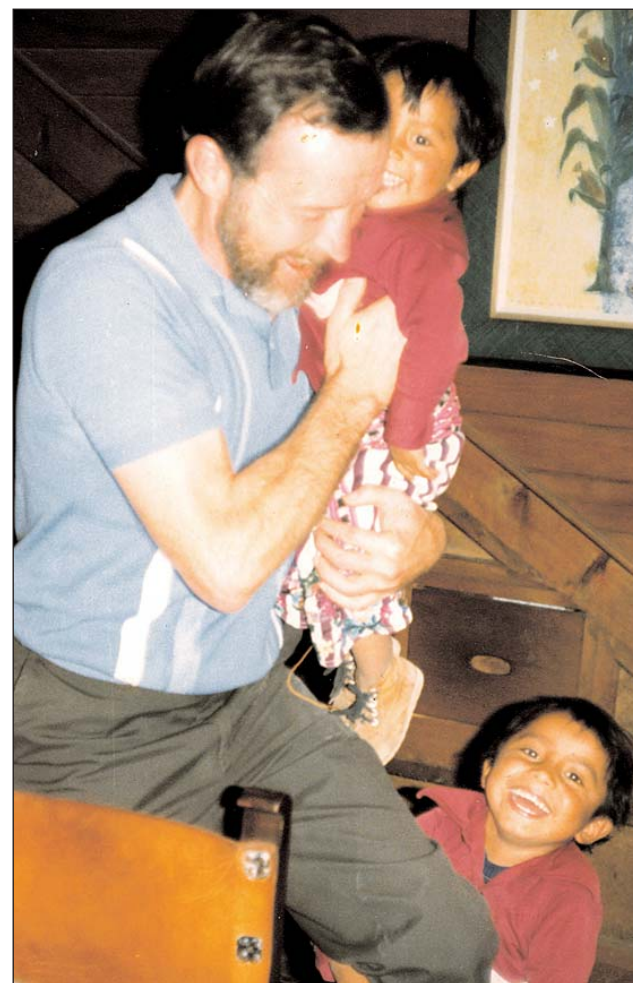
Esa experiencia me conmovió profundamente. Los santos y mártires siempre me parecían como héroes de otra época. Aquí se trataba de un sacerdote de nuestro tiempo, un buen pastor, que había revelado a Cristo en medio de su pueblo en las circunstancias más difíciles. Él dio su vida por su pueblo en lugar de huir hacia un lugar más seguro. Desde la primera vez que aprendí sobre el sacrificio generoso de este humilde sacerdote de Okarche, Oklahoma, he seguido el desarrollo del proceso hacia su beatificación y canonización con un singular interés personal.

Ciertamente nunca pasó por mi mente que treinta años más tarde, como Arzobispo de Oklahoma City, tendría el privilegio de asumir la causa de su beatificación que mi predecesor, el Arzobispo Beltrán, había

iniciado formalmente. Cuando se me informó de mi nombramiento como Arzobispo lo primero que traté de hacer fue visitar la tumba del Padre Rother en el cementerio parroquial en Okarche y busca de su intercesión por mi nuevo ministerio.

Desde entonces, he tenido el privilegio de viajar en peregrinación con un grupo de residentes de Oklahoma a la parroquia de Santiago Atitlán donde el Siervo de Dios fue misionero durante trece años y donde dio su vida. Fue el trigésimo aniversario de su muerte. Ahí el Padre Rother, o Padre Aplas, como se le conoce en el pueblo, es estimado y honrado como su amado santo y mártir.

De darse el caso de que el Padre Rother fuere algún día beatificado y canonizado, será un regalo no sólo para el pueblo de Santiago Atitlán y Oklahoma, sino para toda la Iglesia. La Iglesia necesita testigos heroicos de todos los ámbitos de la vida. Padre Rother lo ha sido para muchos de nosotros en Oklahoma, Guatemala y más allá. Los santos nos recuerdan que cada uno de nosotros está llamado a la santidad. Todos nosotros estamos llamados a ser santos. Es muy raro que la Iglesia beatifique o canonicé formalmente a uno de sus hijos o hijas. La Iglesia lo hace, sin embargo, con el fin de darnos ánimo y ejemplos auténticos para nuestro propio caminar en la fe. Los santos nos muestran que es lo que debe ser el discipulado cristiano cuando se vive



Padre Stanley Rother en Guatemala.

generosamente, fielmente y heroicamente.

A medida que la Iglesia abraza el desafío de una Nueva Evangelización los santos son un recordatorio de la alta vocación a la cual cada uno de nosotros somos llamados en virtud de nuestro Bautismo. Estamos llamados a no solo mantenernos como discípulos sino a salir a la misión. Estamos llamados a la plenitud de la vida cristiana y a la perfección de la caridad. Por favor, oren por la canonización del Siervo de Dios, Padre Stanley Rother, sacerdote de Oklahoma, misionero y mártir.



# Thunder Helps Women's Sanctuary Celebrate Good Works With Thanksgiving Feast

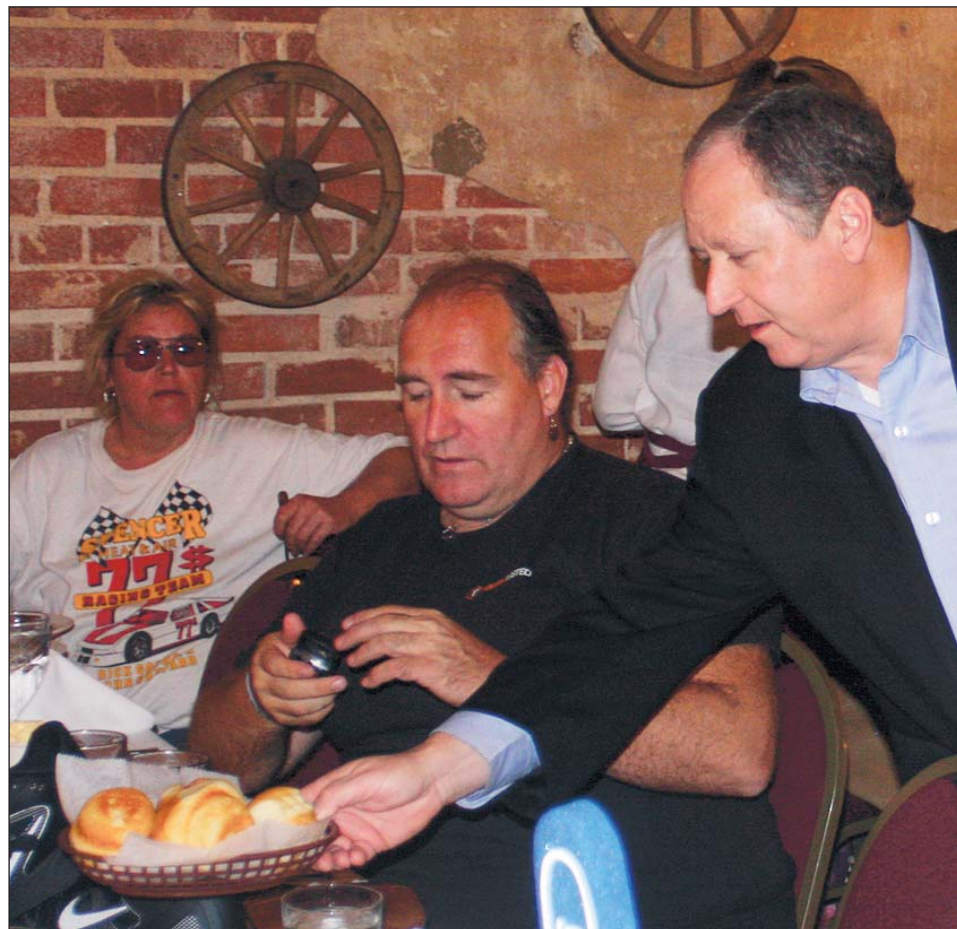
OKLAHOMA CITY — About 100 women who receive support from the Women's Sanctuary and Development Center were treated to lunch by the Thunder Foundation. The event was held Nov. 20 at the Cattlemen's Event Center in the historic Stockyards.

The Catholic Charities-sponsored Women's Sanctuary works with about 700 women and their children a year, said newly hired director Patrick Raglow. Raglow addressed the audience prior to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey and dressing being served. Longtime Catholic Charities Director Tim O'Connor attended the event as did several Catholic Charities employees. O'Connor officially steps down in February.

Amy Hampton, director of the Sanctuary Women's Development Center, greeted the Sanctuary guests and thanked the Thunder Foundation for its support of the Center. The tables at the luncheon were decorated with Thunder memorabilia as well as basketball shoes.



Top right, happy employees of the Catholic Charities-sponsored Women's Sanctuary and Development Center celebrate their ministry during a Thanksgiving luncheon held at Cattlemen's Restaurant. Above, table decorations included colorful Thunder memorabilia and very large basketball shoes. Below right, David Egan of Cattlemen's serves the Sanctuary clients and crew.



## Annual Contributions Fund Programs for Needy

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two months after it began, Catholic Charities Annual Appeal has reached 86 percent of its goal in pledged donations. This year's Centennial-themed campaign, titled "Charity Today, Hope for the Next 100 Years" has received a wonderful response from donors. As of the third week in November, Catholic Charities had received approximately \$2.17 million in pledges, up from \$2.02 million at the same time last year. Additionally, the charity has noticed not just an increase in funds, but also donors, with funds coming from 1,037 new sources.

Nevertheless, Catholic Charities is still \$330,000 away from the \$2.5 million needed to continue its charitable mission in the upcoming year. The funds raised will go toward programs benefiting needy families and children throughout the western two-thirds of Oklahoma. Catholic Charities' essential programs include adoption assistance, the Holy Family Home, the disaster relief program, Family HOPE, immigration services, parish outreach, refugee resettlement, Sanctuary and St. Joseph's Counseling Center.

"This year, Catholic Charities not only marked



our Centennial, we also recommitted our efforts to a new century of faith, hope and charity. Fortunately, when we put out the call to help those in need of assistance, many Oklahomans responded overwhelmingly," said Tim O'Connor, executive director of Catholic Charities, Arch-

diocese of Oklahoma. "We are appreciative of the pastors in each parish for their support of this appeal. Due to their efforts, we are expecting an increase in the number of new donors and friends to Catholic Charities. However, there is still work to be done. To ensure essential programs are funded throughout 2013, I encourage those who have not pledged yet to make a donation before the end of the year."

In addition to helping those in need, a gift to Catholic Charities may also lower tax bills. "By giving to Catholic Charities, not only will our supporters receive tax benefits, but spiritual ones as well. Just remember, a small donation of \$20 per month can fund programs that help families throughout the state overcome incredible obstacles," O'Connor said.

Donations made to Catholic Charities are tax-deductible, in accordance with IRS standards.

For more information about Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, call (405) 523-3000, or visit [www.catholiccharitiesok.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesok.org) to make an online donation and view the many services and programs that are supported through this appeal.



# Who Would You Ask for a Letter of Recommendation?

*An important step in building future relationships*

**By Pedro A. Moreno, OP**  
**Director of the Office of**  
**Hispanic Ministry**

**Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**

As I write this article for the Year of Faith series, I am celebrating an important milestone, at least for me, in my ministry here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Today is my third-month anniversary as the new Director for Hispanic Ministry! No cards or congratulatory calls have come in, but I don't see picket signs outside my door asking for my head on a platter either, so I will assume things are OK and will celebrate in private.

Part of the required paperwork in being considered for this position was furnishing the Archdiocese with letters of recommendation. This was a major challenge for me. Who would I ask to write me a letter of recommendation? What would it look like? What would they say about me? The questions and a little bit of self-doubt started to creep in but I needed these letters.

I invited a few priests and people from my diocese in Texas to write these letters and I explained what they were for and who they were to be addressed to. Next step, a short nervous wait, and some time wasted wondering what they would say.

While I won't go into details about the content of these letters, I will admit I was extremely humbled and very surprised. I didn't know their

opinions of me and sadly, I tend at times to be so hypercritical of myself that, as my daughter told me when I shared the letters with her, "Dad, you don't give yourself enough credit."

The letters were written by my friends and colleagues in ministry — people that are dear to my heart and that I have worked with for many years. They are my brothers and sisters in Christ with whom I have had the pleasure of working together in bringing that same Christ to others. They are all holy men and women of God.

Now what does this have to do with the New Evangelization and our Year of Faith? Actually, quite a bit! Each one of us is called to be writing, or verbally communicating, personal letters of recommendation of who Jesus Christ is to others. As His intimate friends and colleagues in ministry, we are so close to Him that we can proclaim to others just how great and wonderful He truly is and how they should open their hearts and let Him in and make a home there.

The Lord's best friends are always more convincing, and more effective, in recommending Him to others. Within the Church we have a special name for those who are friends of God, we call them saints, and we call them, and recognize them, as holy men and holy women of God. Since the Church is the community, the family, of God's friends, the whole Church is Holy!

Familia, if we are going to respond



to the call to a New Evangelization, and be truly convincing in our personal recommendation that Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior be welcomed in each and every heart, we have no other option than to be holy, we must be saints. Sanctity, holiness is not an option, it is a universal call for all the baptized. We must be true friends of Jesus Christ.

Sanctity, holiness, is a process and we are in the midst of it. We are, and are growing as saints and our paths to holiness will vary quite a bit amongst us. No two paths are identical in our journey toward greater intimacy with the Lord, but all of these paths of communion and intimacy with the Holy One have several common elements that I would like to review.

Holy men and women are on paths of continued conversion. We grow as

we struggle with sin and imperfection through the grace of God and strive to be better reflections of Christ to others.

Holy men and women have regular loving conversations with the Lord. Communication is a path of growth in love and when we have these loving conversations with the Lord, it is called prayer.

Holy men and women have intimate encounters with Christ that serve as foundational moments in the relationship with Him. These intimate moments are our sacramental life, especially encountering Christ, and entering into Communion with Him in the Eucharist, our communal moment of intimate and loving prayer and solidarity.

These are some of the common elements within the Catholic Faith. Depending on each one's unique spiritual path, other elements will appear. The bottom line is that as we grow in Christ we, His closest friends, become better equipped to be His holy personified letters of recommendation to all around us. It's an important step in building future relationships with Christ.

Familia, we are Christ's letter of recommendation. We are His holy people. We are, all together, His Loving and Evangelizing Church inviting others to follow our lead in welcoming Christ into our hearts every day. Holy men and women; Let's Evangelize!

## Parish Leadership in this Year of Faith

How does it look different?

Dynamic evangelization workshop  
Jan. 26 at SLC offers an answer

WICHITA — During a special Parish Leadership Workshop set for Saturday, Jan. 26 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center here, Chris Stewart and Tony Brandt of Casting Nets Ministries ([www.castingnetsonline.org](http://www.castingnetsonline.org)) unpack strategies designed to make traditional parish-based initiatives more dynamic and effective, with a renewed focus on heavenly goals.

"There has been much talk about evangelization," says Stewart, co-founder of the lay Catholic apostolate, "but now it is time to do evangelization. We hope that this day will be an opportunity for parish leaders to come and decide what they can do to engage their fellow parishioners in living out their faith in a more meaningful way."

The workshop will be a blend of the spiritual and practical — a real-life response to this Year of Faith and the call for a New Evangelization. The day begins with Mass, followed by presentations on the Seven Pillars of

Evangelization and how to effectively apply them in a parish.

"This is an exciting, challenging time to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church," says Stewart. "Pope John Paul II and now Pope Benedict have called for us to be bold and make a difference in the mission of the New Evangelization. If we just do our part, it can and will bring about that 'New Springtime' the late great Pope John Paul II spoke about so passionately."

The fee of \$800 per parish includes up to eight seats, lunch at the Center, a "Seven Pillars of Evangelization Manual" and 1,000 "Truth at Hand" booklets. Time will be set aside for questions, answers and group discussion as well as the opportunity to develop a customized parish action plan.

Registration for the day can be made online at [CastingNetsOnline.com](http://CastingNetsOnline.com), or by calling Abby at (620) 704-8101.

## Some Questions and Answers on the Year of Faith

**How are Year of Faith and New Evangelization linked?**

The New Evangelization is a call to each Catholic to deepen his or her own faith, have confidence in the Gospel, and possess a willingness to share the Gospel. The New Evangelization is first and foremost a personal encounter with Jesus Christ; it is an invitation to deepen one's relationship with Christ. It is also a call to each person to share his or her faith with others. The Year of Faith, just like the New Evangelization, calls Catholics to conversion in order to deepen their relationship with Christ and to share it with others.

**How does the Year of Faith affect the average Catholic?**

Every baptized Catholic is called through baptism to be a disciple of Christ and proclaim the Gospel. The Year of Faith is an opportunity for each and every Catholic to renew their baptismal call by living out the everyday moments of their lives with faith, hope and love. This everyday witness is necessary for proclaiming the Gospel to family, friends, neighbors and society. In order to witness to the Gospel, Catholics must be strengthened through celebrating weekly Sunday Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pastors are encouraged to provide their parishioners with opportunities to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith through retreats, special liturgies, Bible studies, service opportunities and formation sessions on the catechism and sacraments.

**What are some key resources for the Year of Faith?**

Catholics wishing to deepen their faith during the Year of Faith should start by exploring the Evangelization and Catechesis section of the USCCB website. Numerous catechetical resources, prayers and other resources have been prepared for the Year of Faith and the New Evangelization that can be viewed and downloaded for free. Catholics should also consider studying the documents of Vatican II and the catechism. Another resource is the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, which takes the teachings of the catechism and shares them within a uniquely American context and highlights American Catholic saints and role models. Catholics can also talk to their pastors and other parish leaders to learn about what activities and opportunities will be taking place within their communities. Most importantly, Catholics seeking to deepen their faith should pray daily, study Scripture and celebrate weekly Sunday Mass.

**Go to the Archdiocesan website for local info on the Year of Faith:**  
**[www.archokc.org/year-of-faith](http://www.archokc.org/year-of-faith)**



## Faith, Family, Hope, Love On Tap for March 2 Women's Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Catholic women and teens are invited to spend a day of reflection, healing and renewal at the Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference in March. The seventh annual conference will be held on Saturday, March 2 at the Meridian Conference Center at I-40 and Meridian.

The conference will include a morning Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley, Adoration, Reconciliation, and a vendor area.

Four general sessions and two new breakout sessions for teens, featuring nationally and locally known speakers, have been scheduled, and vendors have contracted to set up booths selling books, clothing and religious items.

Conference registration will open on Jan. 1, both through the website at [www.ocwconference.com](http://www.ocwconference.com) and with brochures delivered to parish offices after Christmas.

Author and national speaker **Susan Conroy** will give two presentations: *Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity*.

As an idealistic young volunteer, Conroy spent a summer serving in one of Mother Teresa's orphanages and in the Home for the Dying. This is an account you won't soon forget, told with simple and loving directness by an eyewitness.

*"The End of the Present World and the Mysteries of the Future Life."*

This is the book that so greatly influenced the life and spirituality of

## Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference



St. Therese, "the greatest saint of modern times."

Learn more about Susan at [www.susanconroy.com](http://www.susanconroy.com).

**Dr. Mary Martin**, practicing in Oklahoma City, is one of the nation's few NFP-only OBGYNs. *"Barefoot, Pregnant and Stupid: What Catholicism Actually Teaches about Women's Health Care."*

How can a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist make a living without resorting to birth control pills for the treatment of endometriosis, or acne or painful menstrual cramps? Come listen as Martin relates her poignant and humorous faith conversion to one of the fewer than 50 ob/gyn physicians in North America who practice in full compliance with Catholic doctrine.

Learn more about Dr. Martin at [www.marymartinmd.com](http://www.marymartinmd.com).

**Mary Poirier** and her family travel throughout the country serving the church through missions, retreats, conferences and concerts. *"Family Intimacy, Sin and Redemption: A Testimony of HOPE."*

Mary shares her life testimony of struggle, triumph, loss and redemption. From childhood memories highlighting the importance of family intimacy to the devastating effects of sin and the healing power of the sacraments.

Learn more about Mary Poirier at [www.prayerbreaks.org](http://www.prayerbreaks.org).

Speakers and topics for the teen sessions are:

**Dr. Mary Martin.** The "Pill" is not the answer to painful periods and other health concerns. Learn how an informed Catholic young woman should approach her doctor.

**Lorryn McGarry.** *"10 Life-Altering Steps to Finding Your Soulmate."* McGarry lives in Edmond and has worked in teen ministries and as a Birth Choice counselor. McGarry will walk you through practical and concrete steps to not only discern God's Will for your life, but to also increase your chances of attracting the kind of man you have always dreamed of.

For more information on the speakers and their topics, go to [www.ocwconference.com](http://www.ocwconference.com).



Conroy



Martin



Poirier



McGarry

## State Turns to Oklahoma Catholics in Plea for More Foster Homes

By Greg Horton  
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is reaching out to Catholic parishes in the state as the need for foster homes reaches a critical point. Statistics are incredibly dynamic, changing almost daily, but currently there are more than 8,000 children in out-of-home care. AdoptUSKids, a service of the U.S. Children's Bureau, reported 8,362 in their last update.

Jesse Newport, the DHS faith-based liaison for Oklahoma County, gave a presentation at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in October. He was joined by Kirstin Lee of Catholic Charities Adoption and Pregnancy Services. Both emphasized the role faith-based communities could have impacting the lives of children.

Newport said short-stay shelters in the state operate at maximum capacity almost continually. He said the state had 8,500 children in DHS care at the beginning of 2012.

"Estimating our actual need for foster homes is like hitting a moving target," Newport said. "We lose homes every year, and the number of children in the system changes constantly. Right now, we probably need homes for approximately 3,000 children."

DHS is under pressure not to use the short-term shelters, and the organization is trying to decide how best to manage the children in their care. The move away from temporary shelters was ordered as part of a settlement in a federal lawsuit in January 2012. The Daily Oklahoman reported in September that DHS had applied for and received a temporary license to open a second shelter in Oklahoma City, but Sheree Powell, a spokeswoman for DHS, told the Oklahoman that the organization remains committed to keeping children under 6 years of age out of shelters, as per the settlement agreement.

Newport estimated there are 30 such shelters



Oklahoma foster homes a critical need.

in Oklahoma, but all operate at or near capacity. The shelters are supposed to be a temporary facility until "caring, compassionate homes" can be located.

Newport said, "The fatherless are coming to us in record numbers despite Oklahoma's monumental efforts in adoptions. Oklahoma remains one of the top states for adoptions, and we have surpassed our numbers for the previous year every year for the past four years."

The goal is to place children in homes with their siblings, if they have any, and in their own school districts, thereby creating as little disruption

as possible. Ideally, the children are also placed in homes in proximity to supportive friends and family. Newport said that the goals are often not met.

"The sad simple truth is we are daily looking for a bed for them to sleep in," Newport said. "Usually not with their siblings or in their home school districts. In short, we in Oklahoma are experiencing an epidemic."

Mobilizing the faith community is Newport's responsibility. He speaks in churches around the state, encouraging Christian families to open their homes to these children in crisis.

"This situation can be rectified if the Christian community would step forward and act as the Word instructs," Newport said. "If every church in Oklahoma would have one foster home, the problem would be almost immediately solved."

For families interested in helping, a state and federal background check are required. Following the check, a rigorous house assessment is conducted by DHS. If everything is approved, parents are enrolled in a 27-hour, trauma-focused, foster parent training course. Upon completion, the family signs contracts and is eligible for placement as a certified Bridge Resource Home.

Upon certification, each Bridge Home is assigned a resource worker who offers children, assists in placement and responds to requests for help. Each child also has a permanency worker assigned who coordinates various assessments and treatment plans for the child.

Information is available at the Bridge Resource Center, (800) 376-9729, or by contacting Newport directly at (405) 767-2631.

"The honest hard truth is that OKDHS is not able to meet these children's needs alone," Newport said. "We are reaching out to the Christian community in ways that we have never done before. Everyone knows it takes a community to raise a child, this is simply an extension of that truth."



# Lawton Hosts Dominican Sisters of Mary

By Elise Cara  
For the Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — Holy Family Catholic Church and St. Mary's School had the honor of hosting the Dominican Sisters of the Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, from Ann Arbor, Mich. The Sisters' foremost model is Mary, Mother of God. They are inspired by the spirit and energy of St. Dominic. Their prayer comes first so that their apostolic work overflows from a contemplation that is nourished before the Eucharist. The Sisters were able to share their enthusiasm on their visit to Lawton the first weekend of November.

On the Friday of their visit they toured St. Mary's School and shared their vocation stories. The children were able to interact with the Sisters and ask them questions. A few of the questions included: Why do you have such long rosaries? How old do you have to be to be a nun? What do you do all day? Do you wear the same clothes every day? Do you wash your clothes? Do you get to eat good food all day? Do you ride on horses? One question that every class asked was the story behind the medal they wore around their neck. At the end of visiting with each class, one of the Sisters took the opportunity and asked the students if they had ever considered religious life. Without exception many hands went up in each of the classes. Paolo Dulcamara, the principal of St. Mary's, invited the Sisters to join Sister Barbara Masch via Skype for a question and



Young children at Holy Family Parish laugh as they gather inside one of the Rosaries the visiting Dominican Sisters wear around their waist.

answer time with the high school students. Sister Barbara has been a Sister of Notre Dame for 47 years and teaches, via Skype, for St. Mary's virtual high school.

Friday evening Holy Family celebrated the Feast of All Souls with evening prayer and a potluck afterwards. The evening provided parishioners from the area an opportunity to visit with the Sisters, ask questions and learn more about their dynamic order. The Sisters shared their personal stories of how they felt God's calling to consecrate their lives to Christ, while the children gathered around them

and asked many questions. The Sisters' spontaneity showed when they invited the children to see how many of them could fit in the middle of the Rosary that they wore around their waist.

On Saturday morning, the Holy Family Youth group hosted a retreat for the middle school and high school youth. This was the first time some of the youth had ever met a Sister. There were various talks and discussions that helped the youth to have a better understanding of religious life. The questions they asked ranged from how they spent their days to whether they used an alarm clock to get up in the morning. One of the many interesting questions that was asked was how they got their names after becoming a Sister.

The Sisters' trip to Lawton was a great blessing for the Lawton area. We hope to see the Sisters in the near future.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, please visit their website at <http://www.sistersofmary.org>.



Students at Lawton's St. Mary's School asked the Dominican Sisters all kinds of questions during their visit to the classroom.

## Archbishop Installs 11 Men to Ministry of Acolytes

On Nov. 17 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley installed 11 men as acolytes. The ministry of acolyte is the final liturgical institution of men prior to ordination to the permanent diaconate. These 11 men have completed a year of aspirancy and are in their third year of formation on the path to ordination.

An acolyte installed on the path to ordination helps the deacon and priest in setting up the altar, is an ordinary minister of Holy Communion and can purify the sacred vessels used at Mass for the consecration and distribution of Holy Communion. God willing, these men will be ordained as Permanent Deacons next fall.

During the homily, Archbishop Coakley addressed the men being installed: Dear sons in Christ, as people chosen for the ministry of acolyte, you will have a special role in the Church's ministry. The summit and source of the Church's life is the Eucharist, which builds up

the Christian community and makes it grow. It is your responsibility to assist priests and deacons in carrying out their ministry, and as special ministers to give Holy Communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick. Because you are specially called to this ministry, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord's Sacrifice and to be molded more perfectly in its likeness. You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourselves daily to God as spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him through Jesus Christ.

In performing your ministry, bear in mind that, as you share the one bread with your brothers and sisters, so you form one Body with them. Show a sincere love for Christ's Mystical Body, God's holy people, and especially for the weak and the sick. Be obedient to the commandment which the Lord gave to his Apostles at the Last Supper: "Love one another as I also have loved you."



Pictured with Archbishop Coakley are Charles L. Allen, Thomas B. Carter, Armando Cruz, Cliff Fitzmorris, James Fourcade, Manuel Garcia, Clyde Grover, D.W. Hearn, Angelo Lombardo, John Page and Charles F. Romero. For more photos, go to the Sooner Catholic picture gallery page at [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).



## Catholic Radio in Oklahoma

**KTLR FM 94.1 OKC**      **KTLR 890 AM OKC**  
**KOEG 88.3 Lawton**      **KIOP 88.3 Prague**

### FM 94.1 Schedule:

Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - 7 a.m.

Saturday from 6 p.m. - midnight; Sunday from 7:30 p.m. - midnight

### AM 890 Schedule:

Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station sign-off at dusk.

Saturday from 6 p.m. - midnight; Sunday from 7:30 p.m. - midnight

### KIOP 88.3 Schedule:

24 hours/day

Sunday Mass at noon from St.

Mark Church in Norman on KTLR

**ANNUNCIATION**  
**RADIO of**  
*Oklahoma*



Go to [www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com](http://www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com)  
for the current schedule of programs.

## Across Oklahoma

### Knights Honor David Dye

OKLAHOMA CITY — David Dye is the third George Denelsbeck Award honoree for service to the Sts. Francis-Eugene Memorial Knights of Columbus Council 4601. Dye has been a Knight since 1994.

The Denelsbeck Award was announced and presented by Stephen F. Lalli, Council 4601 Grand Knight, during the St. Francis Saturday evening Mass on Nov. 17.

The Denelsbeck Award is awarded biennially and honors the only Council 4601 member to serve as the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus state deputy, the K of C equivalent title for president. The Denelsbeck Award was created in 2008 for the council's golden anniversary, presented the same year and again in 2010.

Dye and his wife, Janet, are parishioners and Eucharistic ministers at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Among his many volunteer hours, Dye is best known as the driving force behind the annual Rosary School Oktoberfest drink booth for nearly 20 years.

### Volunteer Help Needed

OKLAHOMA CITY — You can ring in the Christmas season by helping others. On Saturday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m., volunteers are needed to provide

food for those who otherwise won't have a Christmas dinner or who need emergency food aid.

Volunteers can meet at Epiphany Catholic Church, 7336 W. Britton Road, for Catholic Worker grocery delivery day. You will sack and deliver groceries to those without transportation to a food pantry. Park in the west parking lot and enter at the Family Life Center. Also, the Dorothy Day Center at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church will be the site of a holiday food basket distribution to 130 households, sponsored by the parish holiday program.

For further opportunities and information, visit [www.thedorothydaycenter.com](http://www.thedorothydaycenter.com).

### Mount Ball Camps Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mount St. Mary High School will be holding its first Christmas clinic at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. Come and work on your game over Christmas break!

Grades 1st-4th: Dec. 27 and 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Grades 1st-4th: Dec. 29, 9 to 10 a.m.

Grades 5th-8th: Dec. 27 and 28, 3 to 5 p.m.

Grades 5th-8th: Dec. 29, 10:30 to 12 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact Coach Andy Fisher at (405) 802-5356, or by mail: [afisher@mountstmary.org](mailto:afisher@mountstmary.org).

### College Students Invited to Attend Conference

OLOG — The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference will be held Feb. 1-3 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. Participants are invited to gather with college students from all over the state to answer the call of the New Evangelization. Participants will get the tools they need to explain, defend and spread their Catholic Faith. Speakers will include Archbishop Coakley, Bishop Slattery, Bob Rice and Peter Kreeft. Registration is \$25 and includes the conference, food and two nights lodging at the camp. To register, see your campus minister or call (405) 721-5651 Ext. 115.

### Mental Health Caregivers Offered Support, Guidance

NORMAN — A series of 12 weekly classes structured to help caregivers understand and support individuals with serious mental disorders while maintaining their own well-being will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The classes will be held at the

Thunderbird Clubhouse, 1251 Triad Village Drive, Norman. The first class begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 10, 2013.

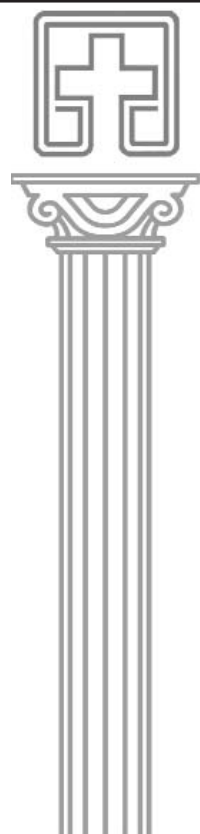
The course is taught by a team of trained NAMI family member volunteers who know what it's like to have a loved one living with a brain illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

To register, send your contact information to Debbie at [condiva@gmail.com](mailto:condiva@gmail.com), or call (405) 317-1816, or Jackie at [jacmash@tds.com](mailto:jacmash@tds.com), or call (405) 205-1013.

### Choir Members Sought

COLLEGEVILLE — National Catholic Youth Choir is seeking high school singers to audition for the 2013 camp and multi-state concert tour to be held at St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, Minn., June 17 through July 2, 2013. The choir is led by Dr. Axel Theimer and founding director Father Anthony Ruff, OSB. View a video of the 2012 choir on our website. Apply online at [www.CatholicYouthChoir.org](http://www.CatholicYouthChoir.org).

Applications and auditions are due March 18, 2013. For more information, call (320) 363-3154.



## CORNERSTONE

### Catholic Schools Endowment Fund

Please consider a gift to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund today. Catholic Schools are lighting the way, devoted to forming the whole student — spiritually, academically, socially and physically. A recent analysis by the Institute of Education Science at the U.S. Department of Education found that:

- ◆ Catholic school students generally perform higher than their public school counterparts on standardized achievement tests;
- ◆ Catholic school graduates are more likely to have completed advanced-level courses;
- ◆ Catholic high schools typically have more demanding graduation requirements;
- ◆ Catholic school students are more likely to complete a bachelor's or advanced degree by their mid-20s.

Currently, the cost of Catholic elementary school and secondary

school tuition in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is almost \$16 million annually. These figures are based on enrollments in 20 Catholic elementary schools and two Catholic secondary schools. The Catholic Schools Endowment, with a fund balance of about \$2.5 million (as of 6/30/11), was established to provide income to reduce the cost of Catholic elementary school and secondary school tuition in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Through your generosity and support, the Catholic Schools Endowment will provide a way to offset rising expenses in our schools and lower tuition. It will keep the cost of a Catholic education affordable for most families.

Please consider Investing in the Future of Our Faith by an outright gift or pledge, or by including the Catholic Schools Endowment in your estate planning.

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](http://www.cfook.org) ■ [bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org)

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans



# Nun Works to Help Refugees Tortured, Raped En Route to Israel

By **Judith Sudilovsky**  
**Catholic News Service**

TEL AVIV, Israel — Comboni Sister Azezet Kidane is fluent in Amharic, Tigrít, Arabic and Sudanese dialects, so she was a natural choice when a shelter for African refugees needed help.

It was only after the nun, known as Sister Aziza, began conducting interviews with Eritrean refugees that she realized the people she was talking to had been tortured.

"It is a horror story what is happening," she told Catholic News Service from the African Refugee Development Center's shelter for single mothers and pregnant women in a low-income neighborhood of Tel Aviv.

Shahar Shoham, director of migrants and status-less people at Physicians for Human Rights Israel, said the first clue that something was happening in the Sinai Peninsula was the condition in which refugees arrived at their clinic in Tel Aviv.

"They told us of torture and rape and we saw the scars of their torture. People who were shot by the Egyptian forces at the border started coming to our clinic," said Shoham.

"Sister Aziza is a blessing for us. People feel comfortable opening up to her," she said. "The torture continues even now. As we are speaking it is happening."

In two and a half years, Sister Aziza has taken testimony from some 1,500 refugees. As the Eritrean nun taps on the doors of the rooms, women greet her with hugs and kisses; a young girl runs after her to clutch her hand as they walk down the street together.

"I can't say all of the people I've interviewed have been kidnapped and tortured, but most of them have been," she said as she sat underneath the shade of a tree in a dusty lot next to the women's shelter. "Sometimes (the victims) can't even (recount) what happened to them and when you know (what happened), you can't repeat it, it is shameful that a human being could do such a thing."

Many of the women who arrive at the shelter are pregnant from rape.

Eritreans leave their country to escape poverty and forced military service for the authoritarian regime.

In October, a delegation from the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops Committee on Migration



Comboni Sister Azezet Kidane, known as Sister Aziza, hugs a child at the nursery school in the African Refugee Development Center's shelter in Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 24. The shelter for single mothers and pregnant women has been helping Eritrean women fleeing to Israel through Egypt. (CNS photo/Debbie Hill)

visited Egypt and reported that Eritrean refugees were being apprehended by Sudanese enforcement authorities while en route to Egypt. The authorities turn the refugees over to members of the Rashaida tribal clan, who sell them to Bedouin tribesman in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

A statement by Kevin Appleby, director of migration policy for the USCCB, said some 700 refugees were in captivity in the Sinai in mid-October. The refugees are subject to systematic rape and torture, he said.

Egyptian and Israeli authorities are aware of the kidnapping rings but still the practice continues, he said. He urged the U.S. government to work with

Egypt to identify the "torture houses," rescue the refugees and consider them for "expedited resettlement." He also said the United States should also encourage Israel to "uphold its responsibility as a signatory of the 1951 refugee convention and halt the practice of denying entry to refugees and deporting them to dangerous situations."

Physicians for Human Rights Israel reports that some 7,000 of Eritrean refugees have been held for ransom and tortured and raped at the hands of their Bedouin kidnappers. Another 4,000 people have died en route to Israel, either as a result of being smuggled, tortured or shot by the Egyptian soldiers following a shoot-to-kill policy, the agency said.

## With All Due Respect to the Late Cardinal, Catch Up to What?

Eighteenth-century British Jacobites wistfully toasted "the king over the water," referring to exiled King James II, his successors, and the Jacobite hope for a Stuart restoration to the throne of the United Kingdom. Throughout the pontificate of John Paul II, the cardinal archbishop of Milan, Carlo Maria Martini, S.J., was a kind of "king over the water" for Catholics of the portside persuasion — the pope who should-have-been and might-yet-be. That never happened (although the progressives at the conclave of 2005 implausibly ran Cardinal Martini, then ill with Parkinson's disease, in a failed attempt to block the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger). But longing for the lost cause continued.

Thus the day after his death this past September, Italy's leading newspaper, Milan's *Corriere della Sera*, published an interview with Cardinal Martini, conducted a few weeks before his death. Evidently, the archbishop-emeritus put an embargo on the interview, such that it could only be published after he died.

In the interview (immediately dubbed his "spiritual testament" by his admirers), Cardinal Martini

described the Church in Europe and America as "tired," and asked, "Where among us are the heroes from whom we can draw inspiration?" The burning "coals" of the Church, Martini continued, were hidden under piles of ashes; indeed, there is "so much ash on top of the coals that I am often assailed by a sense of powerlessness. How can the coals be freed from the ashes so as to reinvigorate the flame of love?" The cardinal went on to propose, quite rightly, that true reform in the Church is always reform inspired by Word and Sacrament. But then, at the end of the interview, came the money-quote: "The Church is 200 years behind. Why in the world does it not rouse itself? Are we afraid? Fear instead of courage?"

To which one wants to reply, with all respect, "Two hundred years behind what?" A western culture that has lost its grasp on the deep truths of the human condition? A culture that celebrates the imperial autonomous self? A culture that detaches sex from love and responsibility? A culture that breeds a politics of immediate gratification and inter-generational irresponsibility, of the sort that has paralyzed public policy in Italy and

elsewhere? "Why in the world," to repeat the late cardinal's question, would the Church want to catch up with that?

As for the question, "Where are the heroes?" Cardinal Martini seemed unaware of, or puzzled by, or perhaps even unhappy with, the heroic witness of the man who created him cardinal after naming him successor to St. Ambrose in Italy's most prestigious see: John Paul II, whose faith and courage continue to inspire the liveliest parts of the Catholic world in Europe and America. (John Paul, for his part, gave Martini's commentary on the First Letter of Peter to the cardinals gathered for the Pope's silver jubilee in 2003, as an appendix to a replica of the Bodmer Papyrus copy of the "first encyclical.") Nor was John Paul alone as an exemplar of Christian heroism during the Martini years in Milan: years in which, to take but two examples, Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko became the martyr-priest of Solidarity and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



By **George Weigel**

completed her singular witness to the "flame of love" the cardinal thought buried under ashes.

For all his brilliance, Cardinal Martini, like many on the Catholic left, never seemed to grasp that the secular culture with which Vatican II hoped to open a dialogue was not the secular culture that emerged in Europe in the aftermath of the upheavals of 1968. The new secularism was not open to the possibility of transcendent truth, as the secularism of, say, Albert Camus had been. The new secularism was embittered, aggressive and narrow-minded. It was not so much interested in dialogue as in cultural hegemony. And it is now firmly committed to driving the Catholic Church out of public life throughout the western world.

There is no need to lament being "behind" that. The Catholic challenge is to get ahead of that soul-withering ideology, and convert those in thrall to it by example and persuasive argument.

*George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register.*



*Lánzate a lo más Profundo* Luke 5:4

# Reconciliación: El Sacramento de La Nueva Evangelización

G.K. Chesterton, el converso brillante Inglés y apologeta escribió una vez: “La respuesta a la pregunta”: “¿Qué pasa con el mundo?” Son sólo tres palabras: “Yo lo soy.” Chesterton tenía una extraña manera de afirmar verdades incómodas con notable claridad.

Citando a Chesterton de esta manera memorable, el cardenal Timothy Dolan en su reciente discurso presidencial a la Conferencia Católica de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos, USCCB por sus siglas en Inglés, centro nuestra atención en uno de los temas clave para la Nueva Evangelización: nuestro llamado a la conversión. El énfasis está en “nuestro” llamado. La evangelización comienza con nosotros, es decir, con nuestra propia evangelización. Durante las visitas ad limina a principios de este año el Papa Benedicto XVI les recordó a un grupo de obispos de los Estados Unidos de esta crucial verdad: “La evangelización no aparece simplemente como una tarea a realizar ad extra (hacia otros afuera); nosotros mismos somos los primeros que necesitamos re-evangelización.”

Durante este Año de la Fe, tan íntimamente ligada a la Nueva Evangelización, estamos llamados a redescubrir las riquezas de nuestra fe en toda su plenitud y frescura a través de un encuentro con Cristo en su Iglesia. Cincuenta años después de la apertura del Concilio Vaticano Segundo aun estamos en el proceso de recibir sus enseñanzas y su claro llamado a la santidad, comunión y misión. El primer documento que los Padres Conciliares aprobaron, la Constitución sobre la Sagrada Liturgia, hizo este mismo punto. Debemos ser los primeros en escuchar y responder a l llamado a la conversión. “Y a los creyentes les debe predicar continuamente la fe y la penitencia...” (SC 9) La conversión es un proceso de toda la vida. No podemos ser heraldos y testigos efectivos del Evangelio de Jesucristo a los demás a menos que nosotros mismos hayamos sido tocados y transformados por el Evangelio.

Es a través de los sacramentos de iniciación, Bautismo, Confirmación y la Eucaristía, que nos hace partícipes en el misterio de la Redención a través de un encuentro vivo con Cristo en su Iglesia. Estos sacramentos nos preparan para la santidad y para nuestra misión como evangelizadores. Fortalecen y nutren nuestra fe.

Pero el sacramento preeminente para la Nueva Evangelización es el Sacramento de la Penitencia. Por desgracia, e irónicamente, el claro llamado del Concilio Vaticano Segundo para la renovación de la liturgia y los sacramentos como los medios necesarios para promover el crecimiento en la fe y santidad para el bien de la misión no ha dado lugar a la esperada renovación del sacramento de la Penitencia. En cambio, hemos sido testigos de su casi desaparición en la vida parroquial. Demasiadas veces he escuchado al igual que muchos sacerdotes confesiones antes de bodas, Confirmaciones o incluso en lechos de muerte sólo para saber que la última vez que un penitente se había confesado fue en su Primera Reconciliación. ¿Qué gracia se ha perdido como resultado de la negligencia de un regalo tan precioso? Sólo Dios lo sabe. Sin el sacramento de la Reconciliación, nuestra fe se atrofia y perdemos el contacto con la experien-

cia de la misericordia inmerecida de Cristo la cual es la esencia misma de la Buena Nueva.

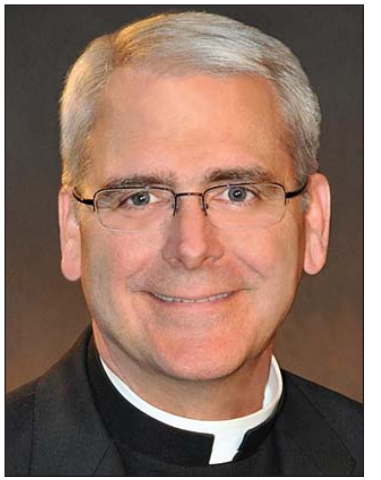
Con el fin de que lleguemos a ser evangelizadores eficaces primero debemos convertirnos nosotros mismos. Es decir, nosotros mismos debemos tener una experiencia de la gracia y la misericordia de Cristo viva, nutriente y transformante. Sólo así seremos testigos creíbles y capaces de convencer a otros a vivir y promover la Buena Nueva de la salvación. A menos que estemos viviendo con un vivo sentido de la misericordia de Dios transformándonos y re-conciliándonos en nuestra propia debilidad y pecaminosidad, no podemos compartir esto con otros. Dicho de otro modo, si vivimos nuestras vidas enraizadas en la experiencia regular del amor clemente y misericordioso de Dios irradiaremos una alegría que otros encontrarán irresistible. Vamos a estar llenos de la confianza que viene no de nosotros, sino de Cristo que mora en nosotros.

No hay medio más efectivo para encontrar la misericordia de Cristo de una manera tan profundamente personal y eclesial que por medio del Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Este es el medio que nos ha dado Cristo mismo, que ha adaptado su don para hacer frente a nuestras necesidades espirituales, emocionales y psicológicas. Aquí la misericordia y el amor de Cristo se hacen real para los bautizados de manera que sana, reconcilia y restaura el fervor de nuestra fe. A través de la recepción frecuente de este hermoso sacramento experimentamos la redención y la misericordia a través del perdón de nuestros pecados.

San Juan Maria Vianney, el santo patrono de los sacerdotes, comenzó la renovación de su parroquia en Ars por medio de una catequesis de los tibios miembros de su parroquia sobre la importancia de la Confesión. Él la reconoció como una herramienta indispensable para la evangelización. Pasó un tiempo en el confesionario, incluso cuando nadie vino. Con el tiempo empezaron a venir y pronto la parroquia se transformó totalmente.

Durante este Año de la Fe, llamo a todos los fieles a redescubrir y celebrar regularmente este precioso sacramento de la misericordia. Le pido a todos nuestros sacerdotes a que hagan del Sacramento de la Penitencia el tema de sus predicaciones y enseñanzas y que activamente animen la recepción frecuente de este sacramento al estar generosamente disponible en el confesionario. Las confesiones deben ser programadas en horarios que los fieles puedan venir sin dificultad. Eso habla de su importancia. También invito a nuestros sacerdotes, que no tienen suficiente fluidez en español, a que inviten a hermanos sacerdotes con mayor maestría del idioma español a que los asistan en este ministerio cuando las circunstancias pastorales lo exijan.

Si este Año de la Fe sólo produce un fruto, voy a estar contento si conduce a la celebración más frecuente y fructuosa de Sacramento de la Penitencia entre los católicos. Es el sacramento para la Nueva Evangelización.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

## El Papa les dice a los Jóvenes que Reciban el Abrazo de Cristo y Compartan su Amor

*Por Catholic News Service*

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Cuando los jóvenes católicos de todo el mundo se reúnan en Río de Janeiro el mes de julio próximo, estarán bajo la mirada de la famosa estatua de la ciudad que representa a Cristo con los brazos extendidos, como recordatorio de su deseo de abrazar a todos los pueblos, dijo el papa Benedicto XVI.

En su mensaje para las Jornadas Mundiales de la Juventud del año 2013, el papa les pidió a los jóvenes que reciban el abrazo de Cristo y compartan con sus semejantes el gozo de ser amados por él.

Como preparación para las jornadas internacionales de la juventud, que se llevarán a cabo del 23 al 28 de Julio, el papa Benedicto les pidió a los jóvenes católicos que “lean y vuelvan a leer su historia personal,” tratando de encontrar cómo la fe que tienen la adquirieron por razón de que las generaciones anteriores a ellos la habían compartido, la habían pasado de generación en generación.

El papa también les pidió que no esperaran a ejercer su tarea de compartir su fe cristiana con sus semejantes.

“Todos nosotros somos como eslabones de una gran cadena de hombres y mujeres que han transmitido la verdad de la fe y que depende de nosotros

que la pasemos a nuestros semejantes,” dijo en su mensaje dado a conocer el 16 de noviembre por el Vaticano.

El tema de las Jornadas Mundiales de la Juventud del 2013 es: “Vayan ustedes y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones.”

“Este mandamiento debe de resonar muy fuerte en el corazón de cada uno de ustedes,” les dijo el papa a los jóvenes.

De hecho, dijo el papa, el corazón tiene un papel principal para acercarlos a Cristo, para motivarlos a que compartan su Evangelio y para que escojan las palabras y acciones que deben usar al aproximarse a sus semejantes.

“Muchos jóvenes, hoy en día, se cuestionan seriamente si la vida es algo bueno, y pasan momentos difíciles para encontrar su camino,” dijo el papa.

La fe les ayuda a las personas a que vean que “cada vida humana no tiene precio, pues cada uno de nosotros es el fruto del amor de Dios”, dijo. “Dios ama a todos y a cada uno, incluso a aquellos que se han apartado o que tratan de ignorarlo.”

Como católicos más afectados por la globalización y nueva tecnología, dijo el papa Benedicto, los jóvenes necesitan tomar conciencia de modo especial y tener especial responsabilidad en relación a esos temas.



Unos aplausos peregrinos brasileños como el Papa Benedicto XVI anuncia que el Día Mundial de la Juventud se celebrará en Río de Janeiro en 2013. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



# ¿A Quién le Pediría una Carta de Recomendación?

## Un Paso Importante en la Construcción de Relaciones Futuras

**Por Pedro A. Moreno, OP**  
**Director de la Oficina del**  
**Ministerio Hispano de la**  
**Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City**

Al momento de escribir este artículo para las series del Año de la Fe estoy celebrando una etapa importante, al menos para mí, en mi ministerio aquí en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. ¡Hoy es mi Aniversario de 3 meses como nuevo Director para el Ministerio Hispano! No han llegado tarjetas de felicitación o llamadas, pero tampoco veo pancartas afuera de mi puerta pidiendo mi cabeza en una bandeja así que voy a asumir que las cosas están bien y celebrare en privado.

Parte de la documentación requerida en ser considerado para esta posición fue suministrarle a la Arquidiócesis cartas de recomendación. Este fue un gran desafío para mí. ¿A quién iba a pedir que me escribiera una carta de recomendación? ¿Qué aspecto tendría? ¿Qué dirían de mí? Las preguntas y un poco de dudas comenzaron a colarse pero necesitaba estas cartas.

Invité a algunos sacerdotes y personas de mi diócesis en Texas para escribir estas cartas y explique para que eran estas cartas y a quiénes iban a ser dirigidas. El siguiente paso, una nerviosa y corta espera, y algo de tiempo malgastado preguntándome lo que irían a decir.

Aunque no voy a entrar en detalles sobre el contenido de estas cartas voy a admitir que me sentí extremadamente movido y muy sorprendido. No sabía sus opiniones sobre mí y, por desgracia, a veces tiendo a ser tan hipercrítico de mí mismo que, como

mi hija me dijo cuando yo compartía las cartas con ella “Papá, no te das a ti mismo suficiente crédito.”

Las cartas fueron escritas por mis amigos y colegas en el ministerio, las personas que están cerca de mi corazón y con las cuales he trabajado durante muchos años.

Ellos son mis hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, con quienes he tenido el placer de trabajar juntos para mostrar ese mismo Cristo a los demás. Son todos hombres y mujeres santos de Dios.

Ahora, ¿qué tiene esto que ver con la Nueva Evangelización y nuestro Año de la fe? En realidad, ¡bastante! Cada uno de nosotros está llamado a escribir, o comunicar verbalmente, cartas personales de recomendación de quién es Jesucristo a los demás. Como sus amigos íntimos y colegas en el ministerio estamos tan cerca de Él que podemos anunciar a los demás cuán grande y maravilloso realmente es y cómo deben abrirles sus corazones y dejarlo entrar para hacer un hogar allí.

Los mejores amigos del Señor son siempre más convincente, y más efectivo, en recomendarlo a otros. En la Iglesia tenemos un nombre especial para aquellos que son amigos de Dios, los llamamos santos, y los llamamos, y reconocemos, como hombres y mujeres santos de Dios. Puesto que la Iglesia es la comunidad, la familia, los amigos de Dios, ¡la Iglesia completa es santa!

Familia, si vamos a responder a la



AÑO DE LA FE 2012 2013

llamada a la nueva evangelización, y ser verdaderamente convincentes en nuestra recomendación personal que Jesucristo es Señor y Salvador y que se le de la bienvenida en el corazón de todos y cada uno, no tenemos otra opción más que la de ser santos, tenemos que ser santos. La santidad no

es una opción, es un llamado universal para todos los bautizados. Debemos ser verdaderos amigos de Jesucristo.

La santidad es un proceso y estamos en medio de ella. Somos, y estamos creciendo como, santos y los caminos a la santidad pueden variar un poco entre nosotros. No hay dos caminos que sean idénticos en nuestro camino hacia una mayor intimidad con el Señor, pero todos estos caminos de comunión e intimidad con el Santísimo vienen varios elementos comunes que me gustaría repasar.

Hombres y mujeres santos están en un camino de continua conversión. Crecemos en nuestra lucha contra el pecado y la imperfección a través de la gracia de Dios y nos esforzamos por ser mejores reflejos de Cristo a los demás.

Hombres y mujeres santos tienen conversaciones regulares de amor con el Señor. La comunicación es un camino de crecimiento en el amor y cuando tenemos estas conversaciones amorosas con el Señor se llama oración.

Hombres y mujeres santos tienen encuentros íntimos con Cristo que sirven como momentos fundamen-

tales en la relación con Él. Estos momentos íntimos son nuestra vida sacramental, especialmente el encuentro con Cristo, y de entrar en comunión con Él en la Eucaristía, nuestro momento de intimidad comunal y amoroso, la oración y la solidaridad.

Estos son algunos de los elementos comunes dentro de la fe Católica. Dependiendo del camino espiritual de cada uno otros elementos aparecerán. La conclusión es que a medida que nosotros crecemos en Cristo, Sus amigos más cercanos, estamos mejor preparados para ser Sus personificadas santas cartas de recomendación para todos los que nos rodean. Es un paso importante en la construcción de las relaciones futuras con Cristo.

Familia, somos la carta de recomendación de Cristo. Somos su santo pueblo. Somos, todos juntos, Su Amorosa y Evangelizadora Iglesia que invita a los demás a seguir nuestro ejemplo para dar la bienvenida a Cristo en nuestros corazones cada día. ¡Santos hombres y mujeres, evangelicemos!

*Nota del Editor: El Sr. Pedro A. Moreno, O.P., MRE, Director de la Oficina de Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, es graduado de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico y fue profesor de teología en la Universidad de Dallas. El Sr. Moreno es casado, tiene tres hijas y está disponible para actividades de formación en las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis. Para más información pueden contactar a la a la Sra. Edith Miranda emiranda@archokc.org.*

## Cortas Enseñanzas de Apologética Católica No 6

He querido dejar en último lugar, dentro del elenco de “enemigos de la Iglesia” que he venido presentando a lo largo de estas enseñanzas de apologética, a las iglesias protestantes o grupos proselitistas evangélicos. Digo de último, pues pretendo detenerme en ellos un buen tiempo; unos meses tal vez, para ir explicando y aclarando muchas de sus doctrinas y enseñanzas que no solo confunden la fe del católico nominal sino que también los llevan a engrosar sus filas protestantes, sus iglesias.

Hoy el católico promedio, conoce poco o casi nada sobre Biblia, patrística e historia de la Iglesia; ese desconocimiento o ignorancia que no vamos a juzgar, sino a comprender, lo hace presa fácil de las falacias o interpretaciones parciales y descontextualizadas de la palabra de Dios y su doctrina. Siempre ilustro con algunos ejemplos para mayor comprensión, veamos: Preguntan los protestantes, casi por sistema: “¿Donde dice la Biblia que...?”; “¿Por qué le dicen padre a los sacerdotes si la Biblia dice que no?”; “María tuvo más hijos, porque la Biblia dice que...” y un largo etc. de inexactitudes e imprecisiones de interpretación mayúsculas. Tal vez y seguramente por eso hoy existen más de

32000 iglesias o grupos protestantes.

Se piensa que el termino PROTESTANTE se origino, porque Martin Lutero protesto contra la Iglesia Católica y se aparto de ella, dando inicio al protestantismo. Pero no, el término protestante tiene otro origen. Su origen se debió a la resistencia de los reformadores de la Iglesia Católica a los edictos imperiales que intentaban buscar una uniformidad religiosa de Alemania, donde se prohibía que las enseñanzas de Lutero salieran del país Germano y solo se concentraran allí. Esto fue lo que provoco la PROTESTA. Ahora bien, el termino protestante no se utilizo en principio para catalogar a los reformadores, sino para describir a los diferentes grupos que iban en contra de la Iglesia Católica y su doctrina (los discípulos de Lutero, Calvino, Erasmo, Zwinglio, Knox).

La doctrina o enseñanza protestante se basa en la idea de que la Biblia es la única autoridad en materia de fe y en la necesidad de la gracia de Dios para que la persona, mediante la sola fe en Cristo y el Evangelio adquiriera la salvación por un acto de conversión interior. Defiende también la doctrina protestante la sola mediación de Cristo, los sacramentos son solo el bautismo y “la cena del Señor” tenién-

dolos solo como símbolos, se rechaza la autoridad papal, las indulgencias, el purgatorio, la misa, la devoción de los santos y su intercesión, la devoción y piedad mariana, etc.

Debido a la pluralidad de grupos que se adhirieron al protestantismo y a sus diferentes ideas doctrinales, no corresponde con el modelo de UNA SOLA IGLESIA NI UNA DOCTRINA HOMOGENEA.

Debemos reconocer también que para la época de la reforma, la Iglesia Católica pasaba por una crisis y problemática enorme. Los abusos y la vida de pecado de algunos clérigos y del alto clero era escandalosa. Lo cierto de todo esto es que los reformadores encabezándolos Lutero, tenían muy claro que sus objeciones no iban tanto dirigidas a los abusos y anti testimonio clerical sino a la doctrina católica misma.

¿Pero cuáles fueron las causas doctrinales reales de la reforma? Decimos en principio, que el gran problema de Lutero consistía en que sus planteamientos chocaban duramente



Por Padre  
 Raúl Sánchez

no solo con la enseñanza del Magisterio de la Iglesia, sino con la tradición eclesiástica desde la Iglesia primitiva hasta nuestros días. Es necesario recordarles queridos hermanos católicos, que existen tres notas que caracterizan a la Iglesia Católica: 1) La Sagrada Escritura. 2) La Tradición. 3) El Magisterio. Se deduce entonces que si Martin Lutero y los otros reformadores, no consentían con lo que la Tradición enseñaba y el Magisterio aclaraba y definía; ya no eran católicos, por lo tanto poseían otra manera de concebir lo que Cristo enseñó y transmitió a los apóstoles. En pocas palabras, los protestantes empezaron a tener otro Evangelio. De ahí que nosotros seamos para ellos sus enemigos. Continuaremos en la próxima edición con la ayuda de Dios

*Nota del Editor: El Padre Raúl Sánchez, original de Bogotá, Colombia, incardinado a esta Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es Pastor Asociado en la Parroquia San Pedro Apóstol en Guymon, Oklahoma. 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.*



# Catholic Relief Efforts Post-Sandy Stretch from New York to Cuba

By Chelsea Weikart  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — As victims continue to recover from Hurricane Sandy, several dioceses and Catholic charities are still asking for support for the affected areas.

Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services are the two main charities dioceses were using to distribute these donations. Catholic Charities is working mainly in New York and New Jersey, while CRS is mostly in the Caribbean.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with branches throughout the country, also has been asking for continued support for hurricane victims.

Among the dioceses that had collected donations for at least one of these charities were the Archdiocese of Miami and the Dioceses of Albany, N.Y., Youngstown, Ohio, and Scranton, Pa.

With the memory of Hurricane Rita that hit the region hard in 2005, the Diocese of Lake Charles, La., took a second collection at Masses Nov. 24-25 as well.

"All of us here can relate to those who are recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy with its torrential rains and winds," said a statement from Father Wayne LeBleu, secretary for the diocese's Ministry of Pastoral Services. "We also remember the benefits of those who assisted us in our time of need and we would like to offer our prayerful support and gifts to assist those in need at this time."

A planeload of non-perishable food items — about 8,500 pounds — left Miami Nov. 19 for the hard-hit Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba to help the Catholic Church there feed people affected by the ravages of Sandy.

"This is an initial response to the devastation wrought by the hurricane in Cuba," said Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami at a news conference at Miami International Airport an



Residents look through photos Nov. 12 amid the debris of a house destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in Union Beach, N.J. More than 100 people in the U.S. perished after the storm made landfall Oct. 29 in New Jersey, causing an estimated \$50 billion in property damage and economic losses. It ranks as one of the most destructive natural disasters to hit the U.S. Northeast. (CNS photo/Eric Thayer, Reuters)

hour before the flight took off. "This will allow the church in Cuba to minister to the people that were most severely affected by the storm."

The food — cans of tuna, Vienna sausages, Parmalat milk, rice, beans and other non-perishable staples — was collected by various groups in south Florida, including the Friends of Caritas Cuba; the LaSallistas, alumni of schools run by the De LaSalle Brothers in Cuba; the Municipios de Santiago en el Exilio, an exile group of former residents of the various towns in the province of Santiago de Cuba; and the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who have convents throughout the island.

"We purchased the remaining food products so we could have the plane take off at capacity," Archbishop Wenski said.

Miami Air Cargo loaned the airplane and the pilots donated their time, he noted. Santiago Archbishop Dionisio

Garcia Ibanez and representatives of Caritas Cuba were among those who received the shipment in Santiago. Within the Archdiocese of Santiago, 100,000 dwellings were destroyed, along with 13 church buildings.

The Knights of Columbus tallied more than \$500,000 in donations for Sandy's victims. The amount was announced Nov. 15 by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in Dallas at an annual meeting of Texas state leaders.

The Archdiocese of New York is distributing nearly \$1 million raised through parish collections to those in the archdiocese hardest hit by Sandy. Catholic Charities' Sandy Relief Fund will forward the money to pastors in hard-hit communities so that they can provide immediate help to about 1,000 families and individuals in need.

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation donated money to Catholic Charities' Sandy Relief Fund, to the parishes that were damaged by the

storm, and to other agencies, while the Cardinal's Appeal has dedicated \$500,000 for relief efforts. A committee of pastors was to meet after Thanksgiving to begin to assess long-term needs.

St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y., donated about 2,500 early Thanksgiving dinners Nov. 17 to affected residents at Long Beach Regional Catholic School in Long Beach, one area in the Diocese of Rockville Centre hit badly by Sandy. Among those dining were needy residents, senior citizens and first responders. Nurses from the hospital's community health department gave flu shots and blood pressure screenings at the dinner.

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., which encompasses the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, all 200 parishes throughout the diocese were collecting non-perishable food items and supplies for relief efforts, and also took up a second collection to assist those in distress.

In addition, through Catholic Charities USA, a shipment of 480 boxes of food — each box feeding a family of four for one week — is being delivered to diocesan distribution centers, along with cleaning supplies.

The Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., has established telephone and email help lines for those either needing help or wanting to give help at (732) 387-1222, or [helpline@ccdom.org](mailto:helpline@ccdom.org).

In addition to a central donation and distribution center, the diocese has set up a dozen parish-based satellite distribution centers. "All donated items are welcome," said a message on the diocesan website. "Through its help line, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is doing its best to match needs with available resources."

Contributing to this story was Mark Pattison in Washington and Ana Rodriguez-Soto in Miami.

## Pastoral Ministry Courses Scheduled for Upcoming New Year

Pastoral Ministry Program Spring and Summer Course Offerings

Classes may be attended at any one of our videoconferencing locations: Catholic Pastoral Center, Oklahoma City; St. Francis, Enid; St. Peter, Woodward; St. Mary, Clinton; Prince of Peace, Altus; Holy Family, Lawton. Check for location availability when registering.

### SPRING 2013 SCHEDULE CORE COURSE

THEO 4003 CHRISTOLOGY  
Tuesdays, Jan. 22-May 7,  
7 to 10 p.m. Vince Brady

In this course, students investigate the answers given in Scripture and ecclesial tradition to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" Beginning with Gospel Christologies and tracing developments in Christological doctrine through the Councils of Nicaea and Chalcedon, this course gives a firm foundation for examining recent Christological proposals found among today's leading theologians. Emphasis is given to seeing

Christian belief, worship and moral practice as having its ground and legitimacy in the Church's fundamental Christological convictions.

Prerequisites: Ordinarily New Testament and Theology of Church.

THEO 1013 INTRODUCTION  
TO NEW TESTAMENT  
Thursdays, Jan. 24-May 9,  
7 to 10 p.m. Sheila Mueller

This course focuses on the literature, theology and history of the New Testament. Students will explore questions of authorship and critical methods of biblical interpretation from within the perspective of faith. Jesus' question, addressed to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" provides the theological center of New Testament studies and the grounding for Christology, Ecclesiology and Morality.

**ELECTIVE COURSE**  
THEO 4883 ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES  
Mondays, Jan. 28-May 6,  
7 to 10 p.m. Harry Kocurek  
This in-depth study of the Acts of

the Apostles will examine why and how the new "Way" spread so quickly in the history of Christianity. Topics include the spread of the Good News and the growth of the 1st century Christian community in the Roman Empire by the Apostle Peter; the conversion and missionary journeys of Paul and his impact on the church; the development of the earliest churches, Apostolic traditions and practices; and the Holy Spirit's movement among the earliest followers of Jesus.

### SUMMER 2013 ELECTIVE COURSE

THEO 4883 ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES  
The Year of Faith  
Tuesday evenings, June 4-July 23,  
6 to 10 p.m. Harry Kocurek  
This course will offer an in-depth study during the Year of Faith: "A summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world." (Porta Fidei 6). Focusing on the New Evangelization, the course will

examine the call to each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. Two key documents of study in this course will be Pope Paul VI's encyclical On Evangelization in the Modern World, and Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization. This course will provide for personal development as well as skills and strategies for ministry in the parish and other settings.

Costs: \$160, for credit; \$90, audit for personal enrichment; \$75, continuing ed.

For information or registration, please call or email the Pastoral Ministry Office at (405) 721-4208, 800-721-5651 Ext. 131, or [cgrimes@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:cgrimes@catharchdioceseokc.org), or [dkoorie@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:dkoorie@catharchdioceseokc.org). Go to our webpage for more information and the schedule: [archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministry/home](http://archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministry/home).

Graduation: If you expect to complete the Pastoral Ministry program and/or the BA degree in May 2013, please notify the Pastoral Ministry Office.



# Calendar

## DECEMBER

### 2 First Sunday of Advent

**2 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More Church in Norman. All are welcome. For more information, call Alice at (405) 473-7680.

**2 Sister's Christmas Catechism:** "Mystery of the Magi's Gold" comes to Christ the King Church. Buffet dinner at 5 p.m. in the school gym, at 1905 Elmhurst Avenue. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person for table seating and \$25 per person for bleacher seating. To make reservations, call Jayne Clarke at (405) 242-4511, or jayne@ckokc.org.

**2 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy** will be at St. Mark in Norman, 5:30 p.m.

**3 Mount Early Application Registration.** The early application paperwork is available online at [www.mountstmary.org](http://www.mountstmary.org), or call the school for more info, (405) 631-8865.

**6 TAP into FAITH!** This month's topic: A Conversation with Archbishop Emeritus Beltran. 8 p.m. talk, 8:45 p.m. Q & A. Tap into Faith is held at Alfredo's Mexican Cafe located at the southwest corner of 33rd and Broadway, Edmond. Questions? Call Alison Giordano at 639-9787.

**7 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass** at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Exposition at 5:30 p.m. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

**8 Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation**

**8 Craft and Bake Sale** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Villa Isenbart Senior Apartments, 3801 NW 19th St., Oklahoma City.

**8 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery** will meet from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in Room 125 at the Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway. For more information, contact Jenny Fenner at (405) 721-0832, or email [jenfen@cox.net](mailto:jenfen@cox.net).

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

**11 Catholic War Veterans** meet in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

**12 Catholic War Veterans USA** monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyside Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036, or by email at [OklaPost168@cox.net](mailto:OklaPost168@cox.net).

# Jobs Box

## Safe Environment Coordinator

**The Archdiocese** is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator. The Safe Environment Coordinator is a member of a team of Archdiocesan professionals who are charged with developing and implementing the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program. The position is part-time (approximately 18 hours per week). Applicants should have in-depth experience in child-protection services, education and/or behavioral sciences. Job duties include planning and implementing training sessions and workshops for Archdiocesan personnel and assisting parishes with their Safe Environment Programs. Those interested in this position should send an Archdiocesan Application (available on the Archdiocesan website) and your resume to Tish Eason, Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

## Director of Music

**Holy Family Church** in Lawton is looking for a Director of Music. This position will report to and work with the pastor and will be responsible for the following: serving as the principal musician, organist/pianist and choir director; planning, directing, rehearsing and performing music for the weekend Masses, Holy Day Masses, funerals, weddings and other services. Ministry also includes recruiting, supervising and providing musical coaching and vocal training for choir members and cantors. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Full benefits are offered. Position requires a solid understanding of authentic Catholic Liturgy, bachelor's degree in music (preferred), some formal liturgical education and experience in choir direction, and Spanish is a plus. Please send résumé to the listed email. Holy Family Catholic Church, 1010 NW 82nd St.,

Lawton, Okla. 73505, email: [batushka-2008@yahoo.com](mailto:batushka-2008@yahoo.com).

## Special Education Teacher

**Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy** in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time teacher to teach children ages 3-9 with autistic spectrum disorders in an 11-month school-year program. Must hold a standard Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in special education and either elementary education or early childhood education. Preference for a candidate who has completed training in Applied Behavior Analysis and experience teaching children with autism. Please submit Archdiocesan application along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Dr. Cris Carter, Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, 13404 N. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120. The application form may be found at [www.archokc.org](http://www.archokc.org).

## Executive Director

**Center of Family Love** in Okarche is looking for an executive director. Prefer experience in long-term care or with developmentally disabled. If interested, email resume to [HR@cflinc.org](mailto:HR@cflinc.org).

## Pianist/Organist Needed

**Holy Spirit, Mustang,** in search of a pianist/organist with knowledge of the Roman Catholic Liturgy to provide musical accompaniment at Saturday evening Mass in English at 5 p.m., Sunday Masses in English at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish. In addition, this person is to conduct choir practice in English on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and in Spanish on Thursday evenings at the same time. For further information, contact Father Jim Greiner at 376-9435.



**Kevin Pierce**

General Agent

405-514-7660

[kevin.pierce@kofc.org](mailto:kevin.pierce@kofc.org)

Call your agent today to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and the great products we have to offer.



Servicing  
Oklahoma

SECURITY WHEN  
YOU NEED IT MOST.



Knights of Columbus  
**INSURANCE**  
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Whole Life • Term • Retirement • Annuities • Long-Term Care • IRA

"My husband Kevin was so passionate about the importance of taking care of our family. He was the kind of guy people would look at and say, 'That is the kind of father or husband I want to be.'"

"I know too many people who don't have life insurance and haven't taken the steps to protect their family."

"Now, I am an advocate for life insurance. Without it, I would have ended up in bankruptcy, questioning how I would have raised the kids." — Dorothy, a K of C insured member's widow



Does your family have the strength of the shield?

To watch an agent in action, scan here...

Agents Wanted



Full time agent positions available. To learn more, call Kevin Pierce at 405-514-7660.



**Trey Welker**  
Assistant GA  
405-850-4092  
[Trey.Welker@kofc.org](mailto:Trey.Welker@kofc.org)  
Councils: 3113, 3220, 8204



**Rob Blakely**  
405-243-8324  
[Robert.Blakely@kofc.org](mailto:Robert.Blakely@kofc.org)  
Councils: 916, 1038, 1044, 1053, 5266, 13366, 949, 1533, 1537, 14248, 775, 4519, 1903, 2974, 3309, 3336, 7392, 9333, 14106, 4042, 9334, 11135



**Troy Snow**  
918-856-9303  
[Troy.Snow@kofc.org](mailto:Troy.Snow@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1104, 1302, 1677, 10388, 11194, 11734, 11959, 13313, 13366, 949, 1533, 1537, 14248, 775, 4519, 1903, 2974, 3309, 3336, 7392, 9333, 14106



**Chad McAulif**  
918-284-0685  
[Chad.McAulif@kofc.org](mailto:Chad.McAulif@kofc.org)  
Councils: 6606, 962, 4804, 9668, 4721, 7395, 8433, 13828, 3167, 14448, 14220, 11633



**Ric Moore**  
405-641-9582  
[Richard.Moore@kofc.org](mailto:Richard.Moore@kofc.org)  
Councils: 6477, 10822, 11237, 12669



**Chris O'Lague**  
405-343-9661  
[Chris.OLague@kofc.org](mailto:Chris.OLague@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1018, 5160, 8523, 9901, 11648, 12108, 12605, 12819, 12518, 14744, 8633, 3556, 5168, 5354, 12382



**Jody Snowden**  
405-474-6192  
[Jody.Snowden@kofc.org](mailto:Jody.Snowden@kofc.org)  
Councils: 767, 3101, 4601, 5440, 6478, 12518, 14744, 8633



**Michael Calhoun**  
405-990-0572  
[Michael.Calhoun@kofc.org](mailto:Michael.Calhoun@kofc.org)  
Councils: 965, 1287, 5396, 5759, 4026, 4598, 11909, 4889, 9583, 9900, 2604





*“Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us.”*

— Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at First Vespers of Advent, November 28, 2009

## Blessing of an Advent Wreath

Lord our God,  
We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
He is the Savior of every nation.  
Lord God,  
Let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.  
May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:  
O come, desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid ev'ry sad division cease  
and be thyself our Prince of peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

— From “Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers”

## St. Phillip Neri Parish Plans Series of Advent Taize Services

MIDWEST CITY — St. Phillip Neri Parish will host a Taize Prayer Service beginning Thursday evening Dec. 6, and each following Thursday before Christmas Day. The service dates are Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20.

These brief services will take place in the Daily Mass Chapel and will begin at 6 p.m. Parking is available in the east parking lot across the street from the church entrance. St. Phillip Neri is located at 1107 Felix Place.

All are welcome to come and join in the prayer, reflection and song during the Advent Season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.