

# Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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## Bishops Call Obama Health Decision ‘Unconscionable’

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Bishops of the United States called “literally unconscionable” a decision by the Obama administration to continue to demand that sterilization, abortifacients and contraception be included in virtually all health plans. The Jan. 20 announcement means this mandate and its very narrow exemption will not change at all, instead, there will only be a delay in enforcement against some employers.

“In effect, the president is saying

we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences,” said Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The cardinal-designate continued, “To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their health care is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically,

this represents a challenge and a compromise of our religious liberty.”

The HHS rule requires that sterilization and contraception — including controversial abortifacients — be included among “preventive services” coverage in almost every health-care plan available to Americans. “The government should not force Americans to act as if pregnancy is a disease to be prevented at all costs,” added Dolan.

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Archbishop Timothy Dolan



Oklahoma college students take part in the 39th annual Walk for Life in Washington, D.C.

## Students Trek to Capitol to Walk for Life

By Andrew Browne  
*Director of Catholic Ministries  
University of Central Oklahoma*

Catholics from the University of Central Oklahoma, St. Gregory's University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 39th Annual Walk For Life. The event is done in response to the 1973 Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade in order to promote the dignity of every human person no matter age, race, creed, sex or dependency.

The students' trip began with a 1,300-mile bus ride that included prayer and much

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# A Bold Attack on Conscience and Religious Liberty

In 1809, Thomas Jefferson affirmed that “No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.” This very right of conscience which is so central to the fundamental right of religious liberty guaranteed in the First Amendment is under direct attack in the recent Health and Human Services Mandate issued by the current administration.

In spite of many protests since the issuance of the “interim final rule” on Aug. 1, 2011, the administration affirmed on Jan. 20, 2012, that this mandate will take effect as originally proposed. What does this mandate require? In sum, it requires that virtually all private health insurance plans offered by employers must include coverage for all FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and female sterilization procedures. This coverage will include even abortifacient drugs, that is, drugs that prevent the implantation of the human embryo, thus causing an abortion at the very earliest stage of human life.

This federal mandate requires an unacceptable level of cooperation in moral evil. Catholics will be required to pay for contraceptive drugs and procedures which the Church teaches and

believes to be gravely sinful and morally evil. Never before has the federal government dared to force citizens to directly purchase what violates their beliefs.

In the original “interim final rule,” an unacceptably narrow “religious exemption” was granted. It is so restrictive, however, that while it might cover a parish staff, it would not include Church-sponsored ministries such as Catholic universities, Catholic health-care facilities or even Catholic charities. In spite of assurances given by the administration in the last few months, the only concession to the rights of conscience that has been offered, as of Jan. 20, is that Catholics in these institutions are being given one year to comply. In effect, we are being given 12 months to prepare to violate our consciences!

While not all Christians or people of faith will feel the full impact of this ruling, since not all hold our particular moral convictions about the sinfulness of these procedures, this is an encroachment on religious liberty and the rights of conscience that should alarm everyone! Today it is the Catholic Church. Who will it be tomorrow? This is an issue that is much broader than the so-called HHS “contraceptive mandate,” as it is being frequently identified. What



Archbishop  
Coakley

*“Put out  
into the  
deep and  
lower  
your nets  
for a  
catch.”  
Luke 5:4*

does the mandate require? It requires the violation of conscience! This is an affront not only to the religious liberty guaranteed in our Constitution. It is a violation of the fundamental human right whose source is to be found not in any government, but in the Creator.

A silver lining may be emerging as a result of this controversy. There has been an emerging broad-based consensus and outcry that the administration has gone too far! I call upon the faithful of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, all people of faith, as well as all concerned citizens to join in prayer, fasting and political action to turn back this encroachment on the rights of conscience and religious liberty. Pray that our president may rescind this mandate. This cannot stand!

For more information and to follow developments on this matter, I encourage you to visit the USCCB webpage, which will be kept updated regularly. You can find it at [www-usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty.org/](http://www-usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty.org/)

## Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- February 5** - *Confirmation*, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet, 9 a.m.
- February 5** - *Mass*, Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Norman, 12:30 p.m.
- February 8** - *Mass* and classroom visits, Sacred Heart School, El Reno, 8:30 a.m.
- February 8** - *Rose Day Ceremony* at State Capitol, 11:30 a.m.
- February 18** - *Mass*, Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference, 8 a.m.
- February 19** - *Confirmation*, St. Mary Church, Guthrie, 10:30 a.m.

## Seminary Burses

- A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse** in loving memory of Jerry Cebulski.
- A \$100 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by the Catholic War Veterans Oklahoma Memorial Post 168.

- A \$800 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** from the proceeds of Jamie Biller’s “The Shepherd Cannot Run” CD.
- A \$300 donation was made to the **Father James Kastner Seminary Burse** in memory of her brother’s birthday from Adele Crump.

- Donations were made to the **Seminary Fund** in memory of Father Kirk Larkin:
  - \$20 from Robert and Denise Baker, Humble, Texas
  - \$50 from Les, Sally and Samantha Reser, Ardmore.

## Sooner Catholic

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# Lenten Penance Rites Set At Number of Parishes

During Lent, many parishes make a special effort to encourage Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, also known as Confession. For Catholics who have not celebrated the sacrament in awhile, especially those who have been away from the Church, Lent is an excellent time to be reconciled to God and to the Church.

Lent is a season of penance, reflection, prayer, almsgiving and fasting in order that we can prepare ourselves to better celebrate and live Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday and beyond. God's divine mercy is a central theme of Lent. The priceless gift of God's mercy is highlighted and celebrated by the Church in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Gospels provide numerous examples of Jesus' mission to forgive sins. While only God can forgive sins, the Church is His instrument of forgiveness on earth. On Pentecost, Jesus shared with the Apostles His power to forgive sins: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:21-23) Today, priests and bishops continue this sacramental ministry.

Below is a partial list of parish penance services:

- Sacred Heart Parish**, OKC - March 1 at 7 p.m.
- St. John the Baptist Parish**, Edmond - March 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Francis Xavier Parish**, Enid - March 6 at 7 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo Parish**, OKC - March 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Patrick Parish**, OKC - March 7 at 6 p.m.
- St. Monica Parish**, Edmond - March 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. John Nepomuk Parish**, Yukon - March 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- Our Lady's Cathedral**, OKC - March 11 at 5 p.m.
- St. Joseph Old Cathedral Parish**, OKC - March 13 at 6 p.m.
- St. Matthew Parish**, Elk City - March 13 at 7 p.m.
- St. Thomas More Parish**, Norman - March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Holy Name Parish**, Chickasha - March 14 at 6:30 p.m.



- St. Mary Parish**, Medford - March 14 at 6 p.m.
- St. Mary Parish**, Guthrie - March 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- Corpus Christi Parish**, OKC - March 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Mary Parish**, Ardmore - March 21 at 6:30 p.m.
- Epiphany Parish**, OKC - March 25 at 5 p.m.
- Cathedral Parish**, OKC - Vietnamese - March 25 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. James Parish**, OKC - March 26 at 7 p.m.
- St. Joseph Parish**, Hennessey - March 27 at 7 p.m.
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, OKC - March 27 at 7 p.m.
- St. Peter Parish**, Woodward - March 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Rose of Lima Parish**, Perry - March 28 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Wenceslaus Parish**, Prague - March 29 at 7 p.m.
- St. Andrew Parish**, Moore - April 1 at 5 p.m.

## Health Decision ‘Unconscionable’

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At issue, the U.S. bishops and other religious leaders insist, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for the conscience of Catholics and all other Americans.

"This is nothing less than a direct attack on religion and First Amendment rights," said Franciscan

Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairperson of the board at Franciscan Alliance, Inc., a system of 13 Catholic hospitals. "I have hundreds of employees who will be upset and confused by this edict. I cannot understand it at all."

Daughter of Charity Sister Carol Keehan, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health

Association of the United States, voiced disappointment with the decision. Catholic hospitals serve one out of six people who seek hospital care annually.

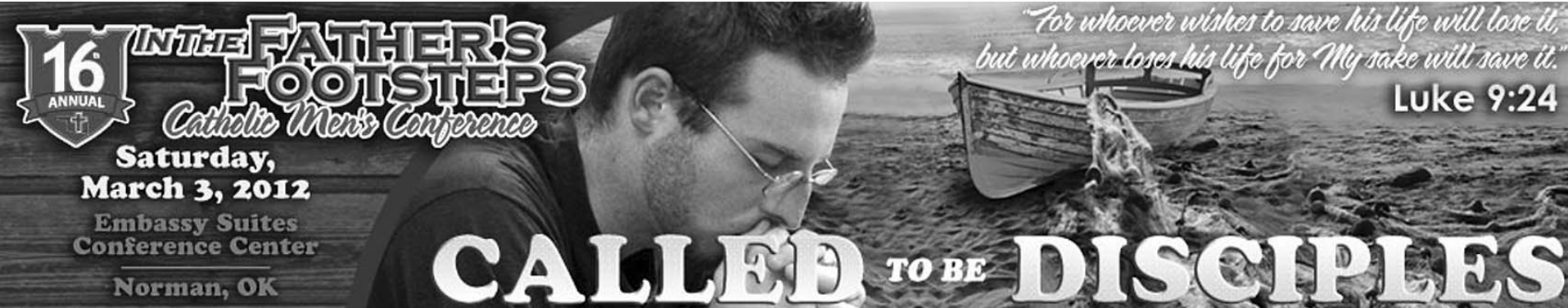
"This was a missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection," Sister Keehan said.

Dolan urged that the HHS mandate be overturned.

"The Obama administration has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand," he said.

"The Catholic Bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation. We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision."





# Oklahoma Catholic Men To Gather For Conference

NORMAN — The 16th Annual Catholic Men’s Conference will be held here March 3 at the Embassy Suites. The event will feature several outstanding speakers and conclude with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley.

Doors open at 8 a.m. and the conference starts at 9 a.m. Mass will begin at 4:30 p.m. In between, those attending the conference will hear speakers and have the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To register for the conference, go to [www.catholicmen.net](http://www.catholicmen.net). Adult registration is \$55 if mailed by Feb. 13. After that, registration is \$65. Priests may register for free. College-age registration is \$39 and high school age is \$29. If necessary and without question, registration will be waived or reduced if cost is a barrier to attending.

The lineup of speakers and the title of their talks includes:

**Matt Swaim**  
**Digital But Disciplined: Developing A Life of Prayer In An Age of Distraction**

Matt Swaim is the producer of The Son Rise Morning Show on EWTN Radio, and the author of “The Eucharist and the Rosary” and “Prayer in the Digital Age,” which explores the challenges and opportunities of living a Christian life in the 21st century. Matt converted to the Catholic faith during the 2005 Easter Vigil.



**Father Nick Rice**  
**The Circles And The Center Of Our Lives**

Father Nick Rice retired last year after 45 years as a pastor of two suburban Louisville parishes. For 35 years he’s produced, funded and presided over “Mass of the Air,” a Mass televised on a local ABC affiliate. A past president of three national church organizations, Father Rice was raised in Lebanon, Ky., in a family of 12 children.



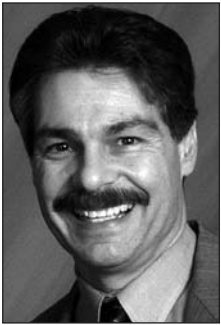
**Steve Givens**  
**Embraced By God: Facing Tough Times And Leaving A Legacy of Faith**

Steve Givens is a widely published writer on Catholic faith and spirituality and a performer in the Christian band Nathanael’s Creed. He’s a regular contributor to the daily Catholic devotional “Living Faith,” and has written five children’s books. His battle against a rare blood disease is the subject of his book, “Embraced by God: Facing Chemotherapy with Faith,” and he writes a blog at [givenscreative.com](http://givenscreative.com).



**Dr. Ray Guarendi**  
**Catholic Men Are Not Wimps**

Dr. Ray Guarendi is the father of 10, a clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and nationally syndicated radio host. Archived broadcasts of his radio show “The Doctor Is In” can heard on Ave Maria Radio. He has written eight books, the first of which, “You’re a Better Parent Than You Think,” is in its 28th printing.



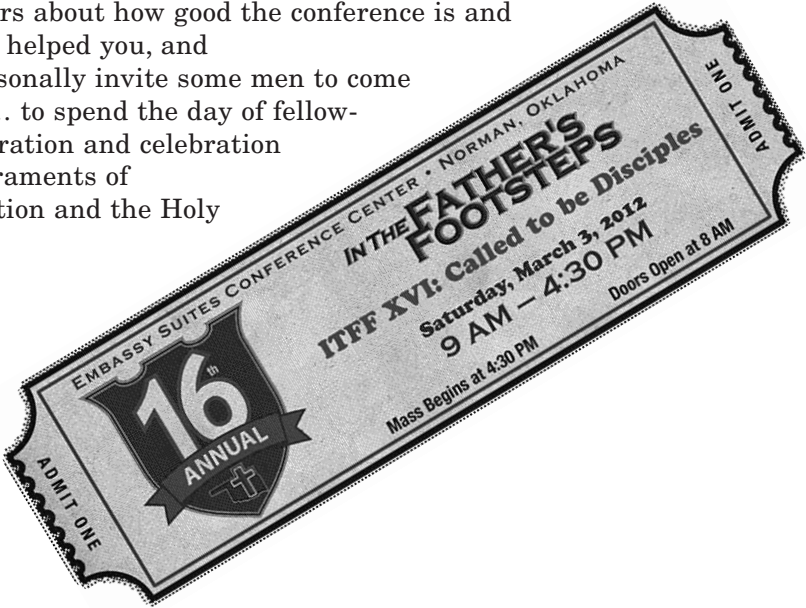
**High School Program**  
**Todd Sylvester**  
**Keys To Living A Life of Happiness and Fulfillment**

Todd Sylvester is a husband, father of 10, a youth minister and Catholic musician. Once an aspiring recording artist, Todd decided being on the road and absent from his family was not the path for him. Todd and his family live in Fairhope, Ala., where he serves at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. He founded Fortune for Families, a debt-free living program, with the goal to help others become all that God intended.



You can play such an important part in the success of this conference, simply by doing these three things:

1. Include the conference in your daily prayers
2. Spread the word to your friends and fellow parishioners about how good the conference is and how it has helped you, and
3. Personally invite some men to come with you ... to spend the day of fellowship, inspiration and celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.





# Catholic Women to Meet Feb. 18 for Annual Conference in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Catholic women are invited to spend a day of reflection, healing and renewal at the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference. The sixth annual conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Clarion Conference Center at I-40 and Meridian in Oklahoma City.

The conference will include a morning Mass with Archbishop Paul Coakley, Adoration, Reconciliation, and a vendor area. Four sessions featuring nationally known speakers have been scheduled, and vendors have contracted to set up booths selling books, clothing and religious items.

The registration fee is \$60, \$30 for students, which includes a box lunch and drink, and will be accepted as space permits. Registrations can be submitted on the conference website using PayPal, or by mailing in a registration form available on the website or in parish offices.

Speakers and topics are:  
**FATHER LEO PATALINGHUG**  
**“The Theology of Food on Earth and in Heaven”**

The relationship of faith and food is evident when reviewing the scriptural account of the Salvation History (the forbidden fruit) to the invitation to the Heavenly Banquet (the Lamb of God). This fascinating discussion based on the doctrine of the Eucharist engages food as a biological, psychological and theological tool that will help strengthen personal faith and devotion in the true food that God provides at the Eucharistic Liturgy.



**“Grace Before Meals for Family Feast Days”**  
Families are constantly pressured to give into the “fast food mentality,” which can have serious negative effects for family members, especially the most vulnerable. The Grace Before Meals movement provides a message of hope and a message of good news to every meal. This high-energy and thought-provoking presentation, which includes an actual cooking demonstration, will make family meal times a divinely inspired and religious experience for everyone.

Born in the Philippines and raised in the Baltimore area, Father Leo Patalinghug actually developed his love for cooking while attending the seminary at the North American College in Rome. Father Leo was ordained in 1999 and served as a parish priest for five years at St. John’s Church in Westminster, Md. He was often invited to his parishioners’ homes for dinner. To their surprise, he would turn the table and cook for them, using these opportunities to build friendships and engage in relaxed conversations in the kitchen. Those memorable and unstructured times spent making a meal together provided the inspiration for Father Leo’s first book, “Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life.”

Currently, he is a member of the faculty at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary where he directs the Pastoral Field Education Program for future priests.

Along with cooking, Father Leo’s hobbies include writing, singing and jogging. He especially enjoys traveling, viewing it as an opportunity to broaden his multilingual talents. He holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has won a national competition in Arnis, a form of full-contact stick fighting.

To learn more about Father Leo, go to [www.gracebeforemeals.com](http://www.gracebeforemeals.com).



**ANNIE KARTO**  
**“Bridges of Mercy”**  
Pope John Paul 11 called Divine Mercy the “bridge” into the third millennium. Annie will highlight examples of people who were instruments of God’s mercy, including John Paul II, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and more recently, genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza. As a Catholic singer/songwriter, spreading the message of God’s mercy is her passion and focus.

As a Catholic singer-songwriter and inspirational speaker, Annie Karto hopes to stir the flame in the Catholic Church through the power of God’s great gift of music. The healing mercy of God is the heart of her music ministry, along with singing of the beautiful sacraments of the Church, and honoring the Blessed Mother Mary. She has a desire to encourage priests in their vocations and has been blessed to share the song she received, “You Are A Priest Forever,” to many priests across the country.

Being firmly rooted in the Catholic faith, and in complete obedience to the Magisterium of the Church and the Holy Father, Annie belongs to a lay apostolate, the Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy, an outreach of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, Mass. Together they strive to promote Eucharistic Adoration, bring the Divine Mercy message to a hurting world, form small faith groups called cenacles, which meet to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, pray for an end to abortion, and study Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the diary of St. María Faustina. They also encourage praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick and the dying.

To learn more about Annie, go to [www.anniekarto.com](http://www.anniekarto.com).

**KATIE GORDY**  
**“Worry-Busting ... How to be joyful, no matter what is happening.”**

She used to be the “Queen of Worry,” but through some very tough times, she had to give it up to keep her sanity. Come hear a touching story and practical ways to let go of what we can’t control and give it to God.

Katie Gordy is a Pastoral Associate at St. Monica Parish in Edmond. The mother of five girls, she now has six grandchildren. She has a master’s degree in human relations with an emphasis on chemical dependency, and taught at junior and senior high schools. She is writing a book on her experiences, “Worry-Busting — How to Live Joyfully No Matter What.” She can be reached at [kgordy11@cox.net](mailto:kgordy11@cox.net).



For registration and more information, call (405) 396-6292, or email [ocwc@OCWConference.com](mailto:ocwc@OCWConference.com), or visit the conference website at [www-OCWConference.com](http://www-OCWConference.com).



# CFO Grants Awarded



Catholic Foundation board member Pete Dimond presents a CFO grant to Reverend Daniel Letourneau and Pastoral Associate Sandy Soulek for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program materials at St. Rose of Lima in Perry.



Catholic Foundation board member Mary McAnulty presents a CFO grant to Sister Veronica Higgins, principal at Villa Teresa School, for a teacher and staff professional development program.

## Scholarship Applications Available

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year. All forms and required information must be submitted to the Catholic Foundation Office no later than Monday, April 2, 2012, in order to be considered. You can obtain an application from your pastor or director of Religious Education, or you may download an application from the Foundation website at [www.cfook.org](http://www.cfook.org).

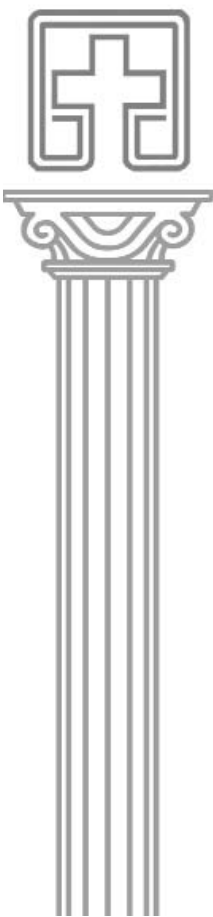
Each year, the Catholic Foundation awards college scholarships to an estimated 70 students from throughout the Archdiocese. The scholarship recipients are determined based on financial need, academic achievement and service to church and community. The recipient must be a full-time student and a permanent resident of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Scholarships are renewed for all recipients for four years of undergraduate study as long as the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Scholarship committee chairman John Baransy, from Woodward’s St. Peter Church, and a Catholic Foundation board member recently commented, “Catholic Foundation scholarships have been given to Catholic students annually for over 40 years. It is part of our evangelization within the Archdiocese and another way that gifts to the Catholic Foundation continue to invest in the future of our faith.”

While all scholarships are awarded regardless of the college or university chosen by the applicant, students attending a Catholic university receive triple the customary Catholic Foundation award of \$1,000. Additionally, St. Gregory’s University matches the CFO scholarships for students.

In addition to scholarships awarded from the Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund, special scholarships are awarded to students through several named funds at the CFO. These include the Bob Little Pastoral Music Scholarship (for pastoral music majors); the C.W. and Frances Aneshansley Scholarship (for students from St. Mary Church, Clinton); the Amelia Davis and Elizabeth Davis Lawrence Scholarship (for students from Enid, Okarche, El Reno); the Evelyn and Katherine Hau Scholarship (for students from Enid and Okarche); the Dr. and Mrs. Francis Duffy Scholarships (for students attending St. Gregory’s University); the P.B. Connelly Medical Scholarship (for a student attending the OU School of Medicine); and the Helen Hall Nursing Scholarship (for a student enrolled in a nursing school or program).

For more information, call the Catholic Foundation Office, (405) 721-4115.



### The Catholic Foundation

## CORNERSTONE

### Your Gift Continues Forever

The stories of good people doing good work for our Church throughout central and western Oklahoma are abundant. Many good works have happened because of gifts to the Catholic Foundation that support the ministries of our Church. The Catholic Foundation maintains numerous parish and school-based endowments to meet specific needs. Additional endowments support:

Catholic Schools Endowment \* Scholarships \* Parish and School Grants Program \* Catholic Charities \* Educators of the Year Awards \* Vocations and Seminarians \* Priests Retirement \* Worship and Spiritual Life \* Youth Ministries \* Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp \* Family Life \* Hispanic Ministries

Your gift will invest in the future of our faith because the income from your gift will continue to serve these ministries for years to come. A new endowment can easily be established through a one-time gift, a bequest or a planned giving gift in the form of an annuity, trust or other estate planning arrangement.

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**



# Mount, Irish Take Part in Benefit Tournament

TULSA — It was a lesson for girls and boys basketball players at the state’s Catholic high schools to learn about what it means to be Catholic.

Bishop McGuinness, Bishop Kelley, Cascia Hall and Mount St. Mary boys and girls basketball teams played a two-day tournament Jan. 13-14 at the Cascia Hall gymnasium called “Hoops for Hope.”

Players and cheer squads were asked to bring clothing, food and/or personal items to be donated to the Catholic Charities, Tulsa, emergency assistance program.

Those who attended the games were asked to do the same.

After the tournament ended, basketball players loaded the donations on trucks, which took the items to Catholic Charities.

Tish Stuart, Catholic Charities director of Mission Advancement/Development, expected that. What happened next she didn’t expect.

She was handed \$2,700 in cash. The money came mainly from adults who watched tournament games and dropped bills into a donation basket.

“That was a huge surprise. We didn’t expect any cash, we just asked people for gifts in-kind,” Stuart said.

Plans for the Hoops for Hope

tournament started last year and was developed by Cascia Hall boys basketball coach Brian Rahilly.

“I’d been going to Catholic middle school tournaments and I thought, ‘Why aren’t we doing that,’” he said.

The key to putting the Catholic high school tournament together was Mount St. Mary.

“McGuinness, Kelley and Cascia played in Kelley’s tournament last year, but we hadn’t had that much interaction with the Mount.

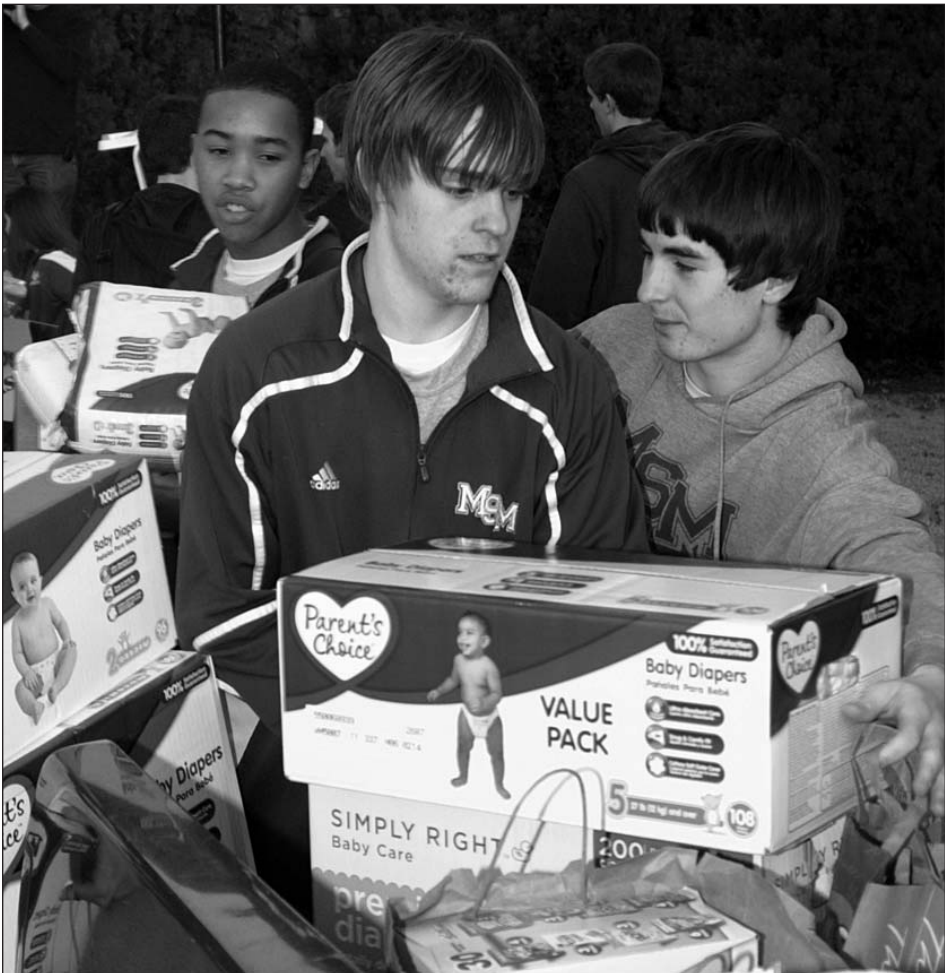
“I called (Mount St. Mary boys basketball coach and athletic director) Lenny Hatchett. He said, ‘We’d be very interested in something like that,’” Rahilly said.

“Then it all started coming together. We agreed it had to be Catholic to the core, not just a basketball tournament,” he said.

After the four Oklahoma Catholic high schools agreed to a date and a place, Rahilly called Catholic Charities of Tulsa.

“I told them, ‘Why don’t we restock your shelves after the holiday,’” Rahilly said.

Next year Mount St. Mary will host the Hoops for Hope tournament. Donations will be given to Catholic Charities, Oklahoma City.



Mount St. Mary players, from left, Holden Baker, Mak Corder and Shaedon Castor loading donations to Catholic Charities, Tulsa, following the Hoops for Hope basketball tournament in Tulsa.

# Tickets Available for Catholic Charities Green Tie Gala

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities invites Oklahomans to don their finest green and join them for the St. Patrick’s Green Tie Gala, benefiting Sanctuary Women’s Development Center. The Green Tie Gala, featuring a dinner and auction, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Located in south Oklahoma City, Sanctuary provides much-needed resources, support and empowerment to homeless and at-risk women and their children. Operated by Catholic Charities, the program not only provides assistance for basic needs, but also a plan and the guidance needed to enable women and their families to overcome poverty and become self-sufficient.

In addition to raising money for a very worthy cause, this year’s Green

Tie Gala will honor Patrick Rooney, who has been named Grand Marshal of the 2012 St. Patrick’s Parade to be held in Oklahoma City on March 17.

“Over the years, Pat has worked diligently to make Oklahoma City a better place to live, for people of all walks of life. As we mark our Centennial year, we celebrate the support of so many great Oklahomans, like Pat, and are thrilled he has agreed to serve as this year’s Grand Marshal. We would also like to thank our many generous sponsors for making this event possible,” said Catholic Charities



Executive Director Tim O’Connor.

The position of Grand Marshal is given each year to a man or woman of Irish descent who has made extraordinary contributions to the Oklahoma City community.

An accomplished business leader and civic leader, Rooney is chairman and controlling shareholder of First National Bank of Oklahoma. He is also an active community advocate, who serves on the board of directors of the United Way of Oklahoma, as president of the Last Frontier Council Boy Scouts of America and chairman of the

Oklahoma Student Loan Authority, as well as a director of Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) and the Oklahoma Medical Center Foundation.

In addition, he is a trustee of the Inasmuch Foundation, the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, MAPS for Kids (MAPS II), NewView Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City Medical Business District (MBD).

Tickets for the dinner gala are \$125 and all proceeds benefit the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center sponsored by Catholic Charities. Irish-inspired musical entertainment will be provided by Timothy O’Brian’s Celtic Cheer.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (405) 523-3000 or visit [www.catholic-charitiesok.org](http://www.catholic-charitiesok.org).



# Sanctity of Life Mass Packs Our Lady’s Cathedral

OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Paul Coakley told the Catholic faithful attending the Sanctity of Life Mass that human beings were “created out of love, for love.” He then said legalized abortion remains the “scandal of our age” and the “most pressing human rights issue of our time.”

The Archbishop said he was overjoyed by the overflow crowd that attended the Jan. 18 Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Mass is held annually to reflect on the dignity of life and the atrocity created in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court made abortion on demand the law of the land.

Archbishop Coakley said it was exciting to see so many young people in the Cathedral. He called on Catholics and all of society to protect and respect life from “conception to its natural end.” He said this means protecting the unborn, but it also means caring for the elderly, the abandoned, the prisoners, those on death row, the homeless, the jobless and the poor.

“God created every human being with wonderful dignity,” the Archbishop said. He said we “dim the radiant light” that God created in us when we sin, but “even sin cannot eradicate” the dignity God has created in us.

“The moment we forget that God is God and we are not, we have gone astray,” Archbishop Coakley said. He acknowledged that the Catholic Church is



Archbishop Coakley delivers his homily. Photos by Cara Koenig

often criticized for “saying no.” The Church says “no” to all that threatens human life and dignity. This is in support of a clear “yes” to life and all that promotes and defends the dignity of human persons.

“God determines the proper meaning and destiny of everything He created,” the Archbishop said. He said it’s not up to any creature to determine that certain lives are without value and therefore disposable, or to presume to redefine marriage.

The struggle to turn hearts and minds to God and away from abortion and the other moral evils is long and difficult, but Archbishop Coakley said Catholics and people of faith must continue to bear witness to the message that all life is sacred.

“We cannot grow discouraged. We cannot give up,” he said. “God is the source of life. He made us stewards of life. We must care for the gifts of the Creator.”



Catholic faithful filled Our Lady’s Cathedral for the Jan. 18 Mass.

## “A sad, vicious circle”

*“When the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life; in turn, the systematic violation of the moral law, especially in the serious matter of respect for human life and its dignity, produces a kind of progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God’s living and saving presence.”*

— *Evangelium vitae* 21



# Lies Feed Culture of Death, Pro-Life Speaker Says

OKLAHOMA CITY — The culture of death relies on all kinds of lies, distortions and rationalizations to lure people into believing it provides a path to freedom and happiness. But what Catholics know truly is the culture of death leads only to the destruction of human life, families and homes.

Over the years while serving with the Nebraska Bishop’s Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, Greg Schleppenbach has heard and seen many of the untruths spread by those who make their living promoting the destruction and pain that thrives in our secular culture of death.

One tactic Schleppenbach said is used by these proponents of the culture of death is “verbal engineering.” Schleppenbach included examples of verbal engineering in the presentation he gave to the adults who attended the Sanctity of Life Mass on Jan. 18. He met with the adults following the Mass that was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It is held annually to reflect on the decision handed down in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court that made abortion on demand legal in our country. Some 50 million human beings have been destroyed through abortion since that decision known



Greg Schleppenbach, left, speaks with Richard Klinge of Catholic Charities.

as Roe vs. Wade was cast in the name of freedom.

Schleppenbach said, “Verbal engineering always precedes social engineering.” He said Pope John Paul II recognized the roots of the culture of death, explaining they are found in “distorted freedoms” promoted by “relativism, individualism, materialization, lust and pride.”

Schleppenbach said man’s arrogance is central to promoting the culture of death. He cited a statement made by a scientist who in 1998 was involved in the cloning of Dolly the sheep. Schleppenbach said the scientist, Dr. Richard Seed, was quoted as saying researches have come so far that mankind is close to having “almost as much knowledge

and power as God.” Seed went on to say that through human cloning, “man would become one with God.”

Scientists and others who support embryonic stem cell research avoid calling the human embryos they destroy by what they truly are, human beings in the very early stages of development. Instead, they refer to these embryos by other names such as blastocysts.

Schleppenbach pointed out that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was once an embryonic stem cell as he grew in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He said it is this failure to take “responsibility” for the truth and our actions that allows our society to push agendas that lead to the abandonment of the elderly and terminally ill. And Schleppenbach said it is this same failure to “take responsibility” that leads us a society to “abandon pregnant mothers to abortion.”

Schleppenbach said the “family is the sanctuary of life.” He said the way to combat the culture of death is through authentic love of God and our fellow man. He again turned to Pope John Paul II who said, “Only true love is able to protect life.”

“Build healthy marriages and families and we’ll begin to change the culture,” Schleppenbach said.

## Priest Tells Teens Life Issues Take Place Daily

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 300 high school students attended the Sanctity of Life Mass and teen presentation on Jan 18 at Our Lady’s Cathedral. Father Joe Irwin, pastor of St. Francis in Enid, addressed the teens following the Mass.

Father Irwin said the sanctity of life impact many aspects of our lives on a daily basis and this is often overlooked in our secular culture. Using the example of a new student entering a youth group, Father Irwin said in the United States, 160,000 children stay away from school every day to avoid being bullied.

Father Irwin showed a video clip about a girl with severe autism who had never said a word in her life. One day this girl started typing on the computer. Now she has her own blog and is working on writing a book. Her father said they never thought their autistic daughter understood them, he said they used to talk about her as if she was not there in the room with them.

Father Irwin’s talk helped bring a greater understanding of the Catholic Church teaching: We believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.



Father Joe Irwin makes a point with assistance from a Catholic teen.



# Walk for Life

**continued from Page 1**

discussion over the pro-life issues that face us today. Several documentaries were viewed to further emphasize the need to be informed in order to better share the message of life to fellow students at the various colleges and universities.

Following the long bus ride was a day spent touring the nation’s capital, beginning with the Lincoln Memorial and then walking toward the Vietnam Memorial, followed by the World War II Memorial, and from that to the newest memorial dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and ending with the Korean War Memorial. One theme stood out above all else. A theme that spoke volumes to many of the students, that every monument and memorial was dedicated to heroic lives of people from every generation of the great United States of America, and that those heroes fought for worthy and noble causes. They fought and many of them died so that others might have life and liberty.

The last day in D.C. was freezing cold and raining, but it was not going to deter these dedicated pro-life students from achieving their mission. The day began with Mass in the crypt of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with the bishop of the diocese of Syracuse. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, the group proceeded to the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol Building. Waiting for a few hours in the rain, the sound of joy and hope resonated from every direction. Further encouragement came from the stage, which was set up in the middle of the Mall, where pro-life speakers, priests, bishops, cardinals and politicians gave blessings and approval to all in attendance. The march began with the singing of “God Bless America.” This mile-long walk took almost three hours to complete and there was a sea of people in every direction. The great majority of these people were under the age of 25. Many estimates put the total number in attendance above 400,000 people, and that number seems modest. Directly following the march, the group met in an auditorium in the Capitol Building where we had a very informal question and answer session with our state representatives and senators. Only one representative could not attend but sent his assistant to show his support and encouragement. We were also given the opportunity to voice our concerns over the government coercing Catholics to violate their consciences when it comes to life issues in the new health-care law. It was great to hear representatives were already aware of the situation and working diligently to correct the matter.

This awesome pilgrimage to our nation’s capital gave many the courage, zeal and knowledge needed to invigorate fellow students and Oklahomans to continue standing up and speaking out for the unborn children and to offer help for those mothers in crisis. Please pray for an end to abortion and for our culture to once more Celebrate Life!



*Oklahoma Catholic students visit the new memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



# Catholic Lawmaker to Battle HHS Regulations

OKLAHOMA CITY — State Rep. Rebecca Hamilton announced today that she will file a resolution urging Congress to overturn new federal regulations that will require church organizations to fund activities they morally oppose, including abortion

“I believe these new HHS regulations are a deliberate attempt to force religious groups, in particular and specifically the Catholic Church, to cede their teaching authority regarding moral issues to the government,” said Hamilton, D-Oklahoma City.

Under regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Catholic hospitals will be required to provide coverage for abortifacients in employee insurance plans. The rule does not include a robust religious exemption for those whose moral beliefs are opposed to abortion except in very narrowly tailored cases that exclude hospitals, schools and other religious charities.

“This policy directly orders religious institutions to violate their own moral beliefs concerning

core issues of the sanctity of human life. For years, I’ve heard the argument that Christians, if they don’t believe in abortion, just shouldn’t have one and leave the rest of the world alone. This policy goes the next step and says that Christian organizations must either provide abortion funding for their employees or close down shop.

“In addition, the HHS regulations violate promises made to the American people and Catholic leaders who supported passage of the new federal health care law,” Hamilton said.

“I am very reluctant to attribute motives regarding public policy moves, but religious leaders, especially the Catholic bishops, have attempted to work with the government to change this policy for months. The issues have been thoroughly and



*Rep. Rebecca Hamilton*

publicly discussed. Supporters of the policy have made speeches demonstrating that they understand what they are doing and that they intend to do it anyway.

“All this leaves me with no option but to accept that this is a deliberate, almost malicious, attack on the religious freedoms of all Americans, but Roman Catholics specifically. It has every appearance of a calculated attempt to drive the Church out of participation in public life by forcing it to shut down its hospitals, aid organizations and other institutions. This regulation must be overturned.

“These rules violate the basic separation of church and state we all hold dear, and give the appearance of being a direct government attack on the rights of people of faith to practice their religion without government interference. Congress should not hesitate to overturn this intrusive, unnecessary and counterproductive regulation.”

Members of the Oklahoma Legislature will be able to take up the resolution after they reconvene on Feb. 6.

## Across Oklahoma

### Irish Benefit Feb. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY — La Fiesta de Clancy is the theme of this year’s dinner and auction benefiting Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. The event will be held Friday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Tickets are \$100 per person and available for purchase by contacting Patricia Hudacko, Development Director, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, at 842-6638, phudacko@bmchs.org, or visit bmchs.org.

### Hope For Marriage Offered

Retrouvaille is a program designed to provide help and support to married couples who are undergoing difficulties in their relationship. It has also proven helpful to couples who are separated or divorced.

The program is Catholic in origin and orientation, but is open to couples of other faiths. The main emphasis of the program is on communication between husband and wife. It gives couples the opportunity to rediscover each

other and to examine their lives together in a new and positive way.

The program begins with a weekend session and is followed by six follow-up sessions. During the weekend a series of informal talks are given by a team of three couples and a priest. Participating couples are not asked to share their problems with anyone else. There are no group dynamics or group discussions.

For information about the program starting the weekend of Feb. 10-12 in Tulsa, call (918) 695-7010, or go to [www.helpour-marriage.com](http://www.helpour-marriage.com). All inquiries are confidential.

### Concert Feb. 12

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dr. Nettie Williams and The Oklahoma Master Choral and Orchestra will present a free concert of Joseph Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m., St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Oklahoma City. For information, contact St. Joseph’s at (405) 235-4565 or [oklahomamasterchorale.org](http://oklahomamasterchorale.org). This is a rescheduled performance from Nov. 6, 2011.

### Marriage Enrichment Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage. Based on the Blessed John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, this one-day seminar offers a refreshing, liberating vision of marriage and marital love. This one-day seminar is perfect as a supplement to those preparing for marriage as well as enrichment for married couples. Cristy Welch, an NFP instructor and teacher at Mount St. Mary’s High School will facilitate.

The date for this opportunity is Feb. 25 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Lunch will be provided and the cost is \$20 per couple. Please call the Office of Family Life to register at 721-8944.

### Faith Nursing Conference

EDMOND — The fifth annual Faith Community Nurse Association Conference will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Thursday, March 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year’s theme is titled “Touching Souls, Spiritual

Interventions in Nursing.” This educational program is sponsored by Mercy Health System, Catholic Charities and St. John the Baptist Church. 5.25 contact hours will be applicable for RN, LPN and LMHT relicensure. Cost for FCNA OK members is \$45; non-FCNA OK members is \$75; nursing students, \$45.

For more information, contact Marilyn Seiler at (405) 334-1630, or [marilynseiler72@gmail.com](mailto:marilynseiler72@gmail.com). Registration closes Feb. 15.

### Birth Choice Event Feb. 18

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Life of the Party, a benefit to support Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc., will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, 7000 NW Grand Blvd. The black tie optional event will include dinner and an auction. Guest speaker will be Jerry Twombly. Tickets are \$100 per person and corporate tables are available. For more information, contact Barbara Chishko at (405) 606-8428.



# Valentine’s Day About More Than Flowers, Candy

St. Valentine’s Day is approaching and men are beginning to think about what to do for their wives. Some will send flowers, others will go out to dinner and most will give Valentine cards.

While many men see this as an opportunity to show their love for their wives through romantic remembrances, I want to challenge them to do more. True love extends beyond romance. It means standing by your wife through thick and thin, the good times and the bad, in sickness and in health, as you promised. I propose we use St. Valentine’s Day to show our true commitment to our wives and our marriages. Here are some ways we can do this based on Pope John Paul II’s writings.

In *Theology of the Body and Love and Responsibility*, John Paul II writes about three kinds of love in a marriage: Romantic, Friendship and Spousal. I believe we can show our true love and commitment through them.

**Romantic Love:** This is the most common type of love we feel for our wives. It’s the warm feeling we get inside when we think or talk about our wives. It’s the excitement we feel coming home to her after a hard day at work; the gratitude we feel for all the things she does for us and our children. Showing this type of love is pretty easy. We can do this through cards, gifts, flowers, dinners out, poems, spa treatments, etc. We can also show this type of love through

acts of kindness, such as helping her with household chores and thanking her for all she does. She will appreciate this.

**Friendship Love:** Have you ever asked anyone who has been married for 50 years what their secret is? They will probably tell you that it’s because they “married their best friend.” Being your wife’s best friend is a special kind of love. A best friend is a person you stick by and defend no matter what. When you have good news or bad news, they are the first person you tell. You share secrets with each other. There is a special bond that no one can break.

Showing this kind of love and devotion can be done by choosing to spend time with your wife. For example, it can mean giving up playing golf or watching a ball game on Sunday afternoon just to spend time with your wife. Or hiring a babysitter so you and your wife can go out for an afternoon. These acts show her that she is your best friend and that you’d rather spend time with her over anything else.

**Spousal Love:** This is the strongest type of bond between a husband and wife. It is where the two become one. Couples with this type of love work daily to overcome any selfishness. No decisions are



By Peter C. Kleponis

made without consulting the other person or at least considering how they would affect the other person. Many of us know couples like this. Their bond is clearly visible. They are a “package deal.” They can practically read each other’s minds and finish each other’s sentences. They truly know each other inside and out.

Here is where one also finds the sexual relationship between a husband and wife. Sex becomes a celebration of their love and unity. It mirrors the love of the Trinity. It is also an act of total self-giving as each spouse focuses on the other. In addition, it is open to new life as spousal love creates a healthy environment to raise children.

Couples can grow in spousal love by spending time with each other talking about their relationship. While this is often difficult for men at first, with practice it gets easier and more enjoyable. In talking about your relationship, you can reminisce about all the good times you’ve had together and the tough times you’ve gotten through. You can tell your wife all the things you love about her.

If you’re really brave, you can ask your wife how you can be a better husband and father.

This type of conversation will be worth more than all the flowers and candy in the world to your wife! To learn how to have this type of communication with your wife, I recommend a Worldwide Marriage

Encounter Weekend.

Sexually, a couple can grow in spousal love by realizing that they are renewing their marital vows every time they engage in sexual intercourse. This adds greater depth and meaning to the sexual act and their relationship.

By focusing on practicing these three types of love, you can show your wife your true love and commitment to her. While it can be a challenge, she will truly appreciate it.

I now want to challenge you even further. Don’t show her your true love and commitment only on special occasions, such as her birthday, your wedding anniversary or St. Valentine’s Day. Make an effort to show her your love as often as possible. I am sure she will do the same for you in return. It’s a win-win situation!

Your children will also benefit from your expressions of love and commitment to your wife. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is to model a healthy, loving marital relationship. Some day, when they are adults and searching for a spouse, they will know what to look for in a spouse and how to have a healthy, loving marriage.

*Happy St. Valentine’s Day!*  
*Peter C. Kleponis, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical therapist and Assistant Director of Comprehensive Counseling Services in West Conshohocken, Pa.*

# Pontiff: Authority of God About Service, Humility, Love

Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) — The power of Jesus Christ is manifested in humble service and love, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Sunday Angelus address on Jan. 29.

“For man, authority often means possession, power, control, success,” the Pope said to thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“For God, however, authority means service, humility, love,” he continued. “It means entering into the logic of Jesus who stoops to wash the disciples’ feet, who seeks the true good of man, who heals wounds, who is capable of a love so great as to give up

his life, because he is Love.”

The Pope made his comments as part of a reflection on today’s Gospel reading in which an unclean spirit identifies Jesus Christ as the “Holy One of God,” during his travels in Galilee. The Pope observed how Jesus heals both spiritually and physically through his teaching and miracles.

He then quoted the fifth-century Church father St. John Chrysostom, who noted that Jesus “alternates the speech for the benefit of those who listen, moving on from wonders to words and again passing from the teaching of his doctrine to miracles.”

The Pope suggested that Jesus’ use of words immediately opened up most of those listening to “the will of the Father and the truth about themselves.” However, the scribes who “struggled to interpret the Holy Scriptures with countless reflections” were not open to his words.

Therefore, Jesus also united to his words to miraculous actions as “signs of deliverance from evil,” the pontiff explained. He further recalled how St. Athanasius, the third-century Church father, would say that the “commanding and driving out demons is not human but divine work” and demon-

strates how Jesus “distanced men from all diseases and infirmities.”

“Divine authority is not a force of nature.” Instead, it is “the power of the love of God who created the universe and, in becoming incarnate in His only begotten Son, in coming down to our humanity, heals the world corrupted by sin.” Pope Benedict finished with a quotation from Romano Guardini, the 20th-century Italian-German philosopher and theologian, who wrote, “The whole life of Jesus is a translation of power in humility ... Here is the sovereignty that lowers itself to the form of a servant.”



# Eucharistic Adoration Around the Archdiocese

Eucharistic Adoration Around the Archdiocese will soon be offered on the Archdiocesan website instead of being listed in every issue of the *Sooner Catholic*. The many parishes which are now listed are a tribute to the faith of our people in the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ — and to the transformative grace there is in the practice of Eucharistic Adoration. Most of all, they are a loving witness to our love for our Lord Jesus Christ, and we know that nothing but good can come of that! It has been a joy for me to have been of service to you! Jesus, Bread of Life, humbly we love and adore You! Jesus, Pan de Vida, te amamos y adoramos!

**Barbara M. Curcio**  
**St. Eugene Parish**  
**(405) 755-9163**  
**Barbara-Curcio@OUHSC.edu**

**Perpetual Adoration, 24 hours a day/ year-round**  
**St. Monica Parish** - 2001 N. Western, Edmond  
**St. Joseph Parish** - 421 E. Acres Street, Norman  
**St. Andrew Parish** - 800 NW 5th Street, Moore

**Sunday 2:30 to 5 p.m.**  
**Wednesday 6:30 to 10 p.m.**  
**Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**St. Francis Xavier Parish** - 110 N. Madison Street, Enid

**Sunday 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Joseph Parish** - 403 Kate Boevers Avenue, Union City

**Monday 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Christ the King Parish** - 8005 Dorset Drive, Oklahoma City

**Monday 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**Immaculate Conception Parish**, Highway 9 West, Seminole

**Monday 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Holy Family Parish**, 1010 N.W. 82nd Street, Lawton

**Wednesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon**  
**Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, 3214 Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City

**Monday noon to 10 p.m.**  
**Sacred Heart Parish** - 208 S. Evans Avenue, El Reno

**Second Monday 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
Holy Hour of Adoration for Vocations  
**St. Katherine Retirement Center**, El Reno

**Wednesday 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.**  
**First Friday 11 a.m. to noon**  
**First Saturday 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**  
**St. Benedict Parish** - 632 N. Kickapoo Avenue, Shawnee

**Wednesday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**St. Charles Borromeo Parish** - 5024 N. Grove Avenue, Oklahoma City

**Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Damien Parish** - 8455 NW 234th Street, Edmond

**Wednesday 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
**First Friday 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday**  
**St. Eugene Parish** - 2400 W. Hefner Road, Oklahoma City

**Wednesday 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**St. Francis of Assisi Parish** - 610 W. 9th Street, Newkirk

**Wednesday 5 to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Francis Xavier Parish** - 700 E. Oklahoma Avenue, Highway 7, Sulphur

**Wednesday 6 p.m.**  
**St. Mary Parish** - 125 E. Street, Ardmore

**Wednesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**  
**St. Mary’s Parish** - 707 E. Ponca Avenue, Ponca City

**Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.**  
**Friday 9 to 10 a.m.**  
**St. Rose of Lima Parish** - 421 N. 9th Street, Perry

**Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**Daily M,T,W,F 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**  
**Epiphany of the Lord Parish** - 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City

**Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sacred Heart Parish** - 627 12th Street, Alva

**Thursday 5 to 9:30 p.m.**  
**St. Gregory’s Monastery** - 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee

**Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**St. James the Greater Parish** - 4201 S. McKinley, Oklahoma City

**Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**St. Philip Neri Parish** - 1107 Felix Place, Midwest City

**Fourth Thursday 7 to 8 p.m.**  
Divine Mercy Adoration  
**St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral**, 307 NW 4th Street, Oklahoma City

**Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Prince of Peace Parish** -1500 Falcon Road, Altus

**Friday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Peter Parish** - 1220 N. Quinn Street, Guymon

**Friday 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**Holy Cross Parish** - 14 W. Francis, Madill

**Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m**  
**St. John the Baptist Parish** - 900 S. Littler, Edmond

**Third Friday 5 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday**  
**First Friday 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Joseph Parish** - 1300 E. Beverly, Ada

**First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Holy Name of Jesus Parish**, 210 S. 7th Street, Chickasha

**First Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Holy Angels Parish** - 317 N. Blackwelder Avenue, Oklahoma City

**First Friday 9 a.m. to noon**  
**St. Mark the Evangelist** - 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman

**First Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sts. Peter and Paul Parish** - 309 S. Main Street, Kingfisher

**First Friday 6 to 7 p.m.**  
**St. Teresa of Avila Parish** - 1576 N. Tim Holt Drive, Harrah

**First Friday 7:30 p.m.**  
**St. Ann Parish** - 8492 State Highway 17, Elgin

**First Friday 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**  
**St. Vincent De Paul Parish** - 123 S. 9th Street, McLoud

**Saturday 6 a.m. to Sunday 9 p.m.**  
**Sacred Heart Parish** - 2706 S. Shartel Avenue, Oklahoma City

**Third Sunday of the Month 7 p.m.**  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish** - 220 N. “A” Street, Sterling



# Jobs Box

## Chief Financial Officer

**St Gregory’s University** seeks a Chief Financial Officer. The CFO will provide leadership in strategic planning processes, particularly relating to financial and budgetary components maintaining a high degree of financial accountability and transparency. The CFO will provide budgetary leadership and oversee all the university accounting functions. CPA required with 7+ experience in financial administration in a management or supervisory capacity. Knowledge of relevant regulations and requirements to satisfactorily meet government reporting requirements for financial

activities pertaining to the accountability and stewardship of university resources. Submit resume to [hr@stgregorys.edu](mailto:hr@stgregorys.edu). Full job description available at [www.stgregorys.edu](http://www.stgregorys.edu) under Faculty and Staff tab.

## Field Agent

**The Knights of Columbus** is seeking a field agent for a career opportunity representing our insurance program in the Norman-Lawton area. This professional position offers the chance to make an above average income, a career path into management if desired, paid advanced education

and generous bonus opportunities. We offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. Works in an assigned and exclusive marketing area to sell and service our insurance and retirement products. Performs needs analysis for assigned members and recommends appropriate products to meet those needs. Develops positive relationships with the local councils to help recruit new members. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please email a resume to Kevin Pierce, FICF, General Agent, at [Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org](mailto:Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org), or call (405) 514 7660.

# Study That Promotes Cohabitation Called ‘Garbage’

By Benjamin Mann  
*Catholic News Agency*

Boise, Idaho (CNA) — A new study touting the “benefits” of cohabitation is based on deeply flawed ideas about human nature and fulfillment, according to a leading scholar on the social role of families.

“It’s garbage-in, garbage out,” said Dr. Scott Yenor, the Boise State University political science professor whose book, *“Family Politics: The Idea of Marriage in Modern Political Thought”* (Baylor University Press, 2011) surveys changing ideas about society’s fundamental institution.

CNA spoke with Yenor about a paper published in the February 2012 installment of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, titled “Re-examining the Case for Marriage: Union Formation and Changes in Well-Being.”

The study, Yenor says, “uses the ‘thinnest’ understanding of human happiness — one that requires the least of any human being — and judges relationships on that basis.”

Lead author Dr. Kelly Musick, a Cornell University professor of policy analysis and management, says her research “shows that marriage is by no means unique in promoting well-being, and that other forms of romantic relationships can provide many of the same benefits” to individuals.

“While married couples experienced health gains,” Musick says of her findings, “cohabiting couples experienced greater gains in happiness and self-esteem. For some, cohabitation may come with fewer unwanted obligations than marriage and allow for more flexibility, autonomy and personal growth.”

But Yenor says Musick’s study,

co-authored with University of Wisconsin-Madison professor Larry Bumpass, reveals more about the authors’ flawed assumptions, than it does about marriage and cohabitation.

“The standard that they’re judging institutions by is the self-assessment of individual happiness,” Yenor explained. “The questions that they ask these people are along the lines of: ‘Do you feel good about yourself?’ They use such low standards to judge these situations.

“The lower the bar, the easier it is to hop over. They asked questions like whether married and cohabiting people were ‘satisfied with themselves.’ That’s a very low bar.”

Musick and Bumpass used data from the National Survey of Families and Households to examine the difference between married and cohabiting couples in seven areas: happiness, symptoms of depression, health, self-esteem, relationship with parents, contact with parents, and time with friends.

The authors of “Re-examining the Case for Marriage” focused exclusively on benchmarks for the well-being and social lives of individual adults. Their work is a response to other sociologists who have attempted to base pro-marriage arguments on findings about individual adult well-being. Children thus receive few mentions from Bumpass and Musick, though it is noted they “tend to be part of the marriage package.”

As Yenor pointed out, none of the benchmarks they used to judge the “benefits” of marriage against cohabitation actually involved the respondent’s evaluation of the relationship itself.

Many kinds of questions, he said, could gauge the quality of a relationship between two people — rather than just the reported happiness of the individuals involved. He suggested asking: “Do you trust the other person? Are you more ‘one’ with the other person? Do you pool your resources? Do you share labor? Do you share goals? Do you talk about the things you hold in common, and try to make them better?”

“Those are the things I would expect marriage to be better for, than cohabitation — not things like, ‘Taken altogether, are you happy?’”

But Yenor observed that the authors of “Re-examining the Case for Marriage” were responding, in large part, to pro-marriage studies that may have made the same kinds of troubling omissions. In his opinion, these defenders of marriage may have given too much ground to their opponents’ assumptions, by focusing on marriage as a source of individual fulfillment for adults.

“What a lot of conservative scholars have done with the family — and this is what the journal article’s going against — is to say: ‘Even given the pitifully thin goal of modern self-esteem, marriage is better than cohabitation.’”

“Usually you want to judge marriage on other grounds: ‘Is it good for the kids? Is love present? Are people living more virtuous lives?’ But since society’s rejected those kinds of standards, conservative defenders of marriage are willing to use the standard: ‘Does it provide happiness and self-esteem?’”

“What I try to argue in my book, is that defenders of marriage and family

life need to defend it on ‘thicker’ grounds,” said Yenor.

“Once we give up and say marriage is about promoting individual happiness and self-esteem, we’ve already lost most of the battle. The marriage that exists to promote those goals is already going to be a weak marriage.”

“We need to defend marriage as a serious community that requires commitment, time and investment — getting away from the goals that modern autonomy has set, and back to what the family’s true goals are.”

Pro-family sociologists, Yenor warned, will find the institution of family “increasingly difficult to defend” on the basis of their opponents’ own assumptions about mere individual happiness.

Although Yenor is himself Lutheran rather than Catholic, his book “Family Politics” concludes with a discussion of Pope John Paul II’s ideas about love, marriage, the family and society. He told CNA that sociologists, like other scholars, can learn much from the late philosopher-pope.

“What he does is defend necessary connections,” Yenor recounted. “There are things that are connected, in the created order — and there are many attempts in the modern world, to sever those things that are connected.

“Love and marriage are connected — and when you try to disconnect them, you end up with less love and bad relationships. Likewise, contraception severs the connection between sex and procreation. When you sever that connection, you end up with people using each other, and neglected children.”

“In a way, he’s a great sociologist,” Yenor said of Pope John Paul II.



# Calendar

## FEBRUARY

5 **The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month in the library at St. Thomas More Church in Norman. All are welcome. If you would like to learn how Francis lived, plan to attend one of our meetings. For more information, call Alice at (405) 473-7680.

8 **Rose Day** brings pro-life Oklahomans to the Capitol for a day-long campaign to make sure state lawmakers understand the importance of supporting pro-life legislation. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. with supporters distributing roses to state lawmakers, followed by a rally at 11:45 a.m. in the House chambers.

9 **The Catholic Woman’s Activities Club** is a club made up of women from our parish. CWAC is a group which enjoys programs on gardening, music, civics and the arts. We meet on the second Thursday of each

month at noon from September through May in the Patio Room of Epiphany of Our Lord Church (7336 W. Britton Road.) All Catholic women are invited to join us. After attending one meeting, you may choose to become a member. For more information, call June at 525-6904 or Pearl at 524-3641.

10 **The 26th Annual Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Benefit Dinner Auction**, “La Fiesta de Clancy,” is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Reservations are required and seating will be limited. Proceeds benefit the Bishop McGuinness Endowment Fund and capital projects. For more information, invitations or raffle tickets, please contact Patricia Hudacko at 842-6638 Ext. 239, or phudacko@bmchs.org, or visit our website at www.bmchs.org.

11 **The Benedictine Oblates of**

**Red Plains Monastery** will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osboko@ionet.net.

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

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

15 **Catholic War Veterans USA.** Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyside Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday.

For more information. contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by email at OklaPost168@cox.net.

18 **Life of the Party.** Please join us for an elegant evening in support of Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc. The Life of the Party Gala fundraiser event with dinner and auction will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, 7000 NW Grand Blvd. Guest speaker will be Jerry Twombly. Black tie optional. Tickets are \$100 per plate and corporate tables are available. For more information, contact Barbara Chishko at (405) 606-8428.

18 **The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199 or lmcoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.



St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y.

# Pilgrimage Set to Buffalo, N.Y., and Niagara Falls

Buffalo was the quintessential 19th century boomtown. Its position at the western end of the Erie Canal made it the Gateway to the West — the departure point for immigrants on their way to the heartland. Buffalo was also one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad, a beacon for runaway slaves seeking freedom on the far side of the Niagara River. Battles were fought in the area, the city put to the torch by British loyalists during the War of 1812. Fortunes were made in Buffalo by the likes of young William G. Fargo, founder of American Express and Wells Fargo.

A president was assassinated in the city — William McKinley at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition — and another inaugurated — Theodore Roosevelt at the Wilcox Mansion on the city’s grand boulevard, Delaware Avenue. Buffalo also sent two of its sons, Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland, to Washington as presidents.

The Catholic Church has a strong presence in the Buffalo area. The Diocese of Buffalo was established in 1847, with over 650,000 Catholics and 171 parishes.

The pilgrimage includes round-trip air transportation from Oklahoma City on Southwest Airlines (no luggage fees), hotel accommodations at the Hampton Inn (downtown Buffalo), motor coach transportation in the Buffalo area, daily breakfast and supper,

admission to all scheduled activities, and tips (except for hotel rooms). Space is limited.

Double occupancy: \$1,450 per person; single occupancy: \$1,720; three in a room: \$1,360 per person; four in a room: \$1,315 per person

A deposit of \$300 per person must be received by Wednesday, Feb. 15. Balance due in monthly payments. Because space is limited, reservations accepted on a “first-come” basis. Final payment is due June 15.

Air schedule: Depart Oklahoma City on Monday, Aug. 6 at 12:15 p.m., change planes in Chicago, arrive in Buffalo at 5:45 p.m. Depart Buffalo on Friday, Aug. 10, 1:15 p.m., change planes in Baltimore, arrive in Oklahoma City at 7 p.m.

+Daily Mass (Tuesday-Friday) +Our Lady of Victory Basilica and National Shrine (Lackawanna) +Our Lady of Fatima Shrine (Youngstown) +Sacred Heart Shrine (Bowmansville) +St. Joseph Cathedral (Buffalo) +Our Lady, Help of Christians Shrine (Cheektowanga) +St. Jude Shrine (Lewiston) +Holy Infant of Jesus Shrine (North Tonawanda) +Old Fort Niagara (1726) +Niagara Falls with “Maid of the Mist” boat trip to the base of Horseshoe Falls +Two-hour Erie Canal Cruise through the Lockport Locks (canal completed 1825).

For more information, call (405) 721-5651 Ext. 158. Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123-0380.



# Special Collection to Help Restore Damaged Building at St. Greg’s

SHAWNEE — Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City and Bishop Edward Slattery of Tulsa have authorized a special collection March 3-4 in support of the Benedictine Hall Restoration Fund at St. Gregory’s University. The building sustained major damage as a result of the 5.6 magnitude earthquake that struck the state in November. The collection will take place at all 190 parishes within Oklahoma’s two dioceses.

“We are grateful to Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Slattery for this opportunity to gain support for restoring a building that many consider the iconic symbol of Catholic higher education in Oklahoma,” said SGU President Greg Main. “We have learned convincingly that Benedictine Hall is beloved by thousands of individuals who spent time on campus as students or in other capacities.”

The cost to fully restore Benedictine Hall is estimated at \$2.8 million. Main said through support from parishioners, alumni, friends of the institution and various organizations, SGU may be able to obtain the funds to begin the restoration process this summer.

“We hope to be able to restore Benedictine Hall to her former beauty by rebuilding the four turrets, repairing all earthquake damage and addressing long-deferred, critically needed maintenance projects,” he said.

Most of the earthquake damage was contained to the building’s four turrets, which rose 120 feet from the ground and gave the building its “castle-like” appearance. One of the turrets fell to the ground during the quake, and the remaining three had to be removed because they were so badly damaged. Minor damage from the quake and after-effects included broken windows, water main breaks, water damage, cracks to interior surface finishes, damage to the outside façade of Benedictine Hall and roof damage. The building was closed from the time of the earthquake through

Dec. 15, when workers completed a phase of the project that included removing and capping the turrets.

Built in 1915 and subsequently renovated, Benedictine Hall is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. It contains most of the university’s administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, science laboratories, computer laboratories, campus mailroom and the James J. Kelly Library, which contains more than 50,000 bound volumes.

St. Gregory’s University is a distinctly Roman Catholic university. Founded in 1875, it is Oklahoma’s oldest institution of higher learning. Further information regarding St. Gregory’s University can be found at [www.stgregorys.edu](http://www.stgregorys.edu) or by calling 1-888-STGREGS.



A crane is in place in front of Benedictine Hall at St. Gregory’s University during repairs.



The northwest turret atop Benedictine Hall at St. Gregory’s University falls to the ground on Nov. 19. All of the turrets had to be removed from the building because of damage caused by an earthquake. The cost to fully restore Benedictine Hall is estimated at \$2.8 million. A special collection has been authorized March 3-4 to assist with the restoration costs. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)