

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 36, Number 3 * February 8, 2009

Praying For Life

*Catholics Pack Cathedral to Pray,
Mourn Roe vs. Wade During
Annual Sanctity of Life Mass*

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

Archbishop Beltran beamed as he looked out over the crowd that filled the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"So many young people here this evening," the archbishop said as he delivered his homily as part of the Eucharistic Celebration dedicated to the "Sanctity of Life."

The Mass is celebrated annually to pray for healing and to remember the millions of lives lost through abortion since the infamous Jan. 22, 1973 decision known as Roe vs. Wade. The ruling, handed down by the United States Supreme Court, made abortion on demand the law of the land.

More than 1,000 Catholics packed the Cathedral on the evening of Jan. 21, many standing as every pew was filled to capacity. Hundreds of young people were in attendance. Nancy Housh, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults, said as many as a dozen youth groups, most from parishes in central Oklahoma, sent Catholic teens to the Mass. Both McGuinness and Mount St. Mary Catholic high schools were represented, as was Holy Trinity Parish in Okarche, which had 29 young people at the Mass.



Evan Holland, 19 months, peers up to the choir loft during the Sanctity of Life Mass. Evan and his siblings along with their parents delivered the altar gifts during the Eucharistic Celebration.

David Meires stood with brothers Eric and Edgar **continued on page 8**

U.S. Bishops Say Holocaust Denial 'Deeply Offensive, Utterly False'

WASHINGTON— The President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called remarks denying the Holocaust by Bishop Richard Williamson of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X, "deeply offensive and utterly false."

The assessment came in a February 3 statement by Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, USCCB President.

The Holocaust denial by Bishop Williamson was widely publicized after Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunication upon the bishops of the St. Pius X Society.

Cardinal George's statement follows.

Statement of Cardinal Francis George, President USCCB

Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the personal penalty of excommunication incurred by four schismatic bishops belonging to the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X, founded by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. This gesture on the part of the Holy Father was an act of mercy and personal concern for the ordained and lay members of this Society and was meant to coincide with the 50th commemoration of the convening of the Second Vatican Council.

The Holy Father's lifting of the excommunications is but a first step toward receiving these four bishops, and the priests who serve under them, back into full communion with the Catholic Church. If these bishops are to exercise their ministry as true teachers and pastors of the Catholic Church, they, like all Catholic bishops, will have to give their assent to all that the Church professes, including the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

As is now widely known, one of the four bishops, Richard Williamson, has recently **continued on page 7**

Inside

*Parish Opens
Health Clinic
To Serve
Uninsured*

3



*Annual Catholic
Women's
Conference
Draws
Over 900* **16**

The Good News

On Sunday, Feb. 8, the date of this issue of the *Sooner Catholic*, I will wake up very early and my first thought will be "Today is ADF!" No, no, no! I'm only kidding! Rather, my first thought, I hope, will be "Thank you, God, for another day!" I say this because this has become my usual morning practice.

Each day is a gift from God. Each day is a new opportunity to grow in the love of God by responding to the challenges and obligations of our life. Each day we are blessed to be able to serve and help others by the grace of God. I hope that you and I will continue to praise and glorify God every morning as we gratefully remember that it is God Who created us, Who saves us and loves us totally and completely.

Having mentioned ADF above, I do want to remind everyone that, yes, today is ADF Sunday! ADF is the annual appeal for the day-by-day expenses of the Church of our Archdiocese. There are a variety of ministries and services provided to all the parishes, schools and institutions of central and western Oklahoma. These services constitute the essen-

tial work of the Archdiocese. These services are dependent on the ADF appeal for their funding. They are provided by the Archdiocese because many parishes could not afford them or because of their nature, no parish alone can effect them. An example of this is the education and formation of new priests. Another is the Matrimonial Tribunal which requires the expertise of special ecclesiastical decreed people. Our Tribunal provides hundreds of married people the opportunity to enter a sacramental marriage and there are no charges or fees. The reality is that every Catholic person living in this Archdiocese benefits directly and indirectly in the services and ministries funded through ADF.

As a sign of our unity in faith and ministry, all Catholic people are asked to collaborate and support the works of the Church by participating in this annual ADF appeal. This year, I am especially sensitive to the financial crisis we are experiencing. These are very uncertain financial times. There is no doubt but that some of the things we took for granted need to be re-evaluated and assessed more

thoroughly. On the archdiocesan level, we have been doing this and we have reduced our budget to those things that are necessary to continue the essential mission of the Church.

Difficult times often help us to become more genuinely realistic. For example, we are a people of faith. Our Catholic faith is a reality. It is a firm belief in Jesus and in all that He has revealed to us, all that He has taught us. As we practice this faith, there is a temptation to cut corners or to ascribe successes and accomplishments to our own talents and resources. Yet we know that everything ultimately rests on God. It is He Who created us. He Who redeemed us. He Who nourishes us. He Who promised us life everlasting and He alone Who can and will fulfill that promise.

In difficult or stressful or confusing times and occasions, we are reminded by Jesus that too often we judge and reason by human standards. His challenge to us is to judge and reason by God's standards, placing our full trust and confidence in Him. It is in this spirit that I strive to serve you, the people of this Archdiocese. It is in this spirit, I invite you to join with me to live and work according to God's plan. It is in this spirit that I thank every one of you who has already made a pledge of support by responding to the current ADF appeal. Indeed I turn to all Catholic people of the Archdiocese, asking you to participate with me in the life and ministry of the Church. I ask you to join me and all your brothers and sisters in faith by making a pledge of financial support to the Archdiocese for the coming year. Your pledge can be satisfied in the remaining 10 months of this year.

Yes, today is ADF 2009 and I graciously thank you in advance for your generosity. Be assured that your pledge card will be placed at the altar in my chapel. There I will pray for you and your special intentions throughout the year of 2009.



Archbishop
Beltran

Sooner Catholic

Most Reverend
Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher

Ray Dyer
Editor

Cara Koenig
*Layout / Design /
Photographer*

Mauro Yanez
Hispanic Editor

Ammanda McCabe
Staff

7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
(405) 721-1810 Fax: (405) 721-5210
e-mail: rdyer@catharchdioceseokc.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

**Visit us online through the
Archdiocesan Web Page at
www.catharchdioceseokc.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 © 2009 *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.



The *Sooner Catholic* is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2009 Gift Form

Mr. and/or Mrs.

Ms., Rev., Dr.: _____

Spouse: _____

Billing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parish: _____

Signature: _____

My Total Contribution is \$ _____

Amount Paying Today \$ _____

Balance \$ _____

I will pay my balance in the following way:

____ 10 pmts. March-Dec

____ 4 pmts. April-July-Oct-Dec

____ 2 pmts. April-Oct

____ 1 pmt. Indicate Month _____

Make Checks Payable to ADF

Mail to: ADF, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Edmond Parish Opens Clinic to Assist the Uninsured

EDMOND — Residents who lack health insurance will soon have a new, state-of-the-art clinic to provide them with general medical care. The Good Samaritan Health Clinic, located at 11 Burton Place in the Birth Choice building, will open its doors on Feb. 14. The clinic will provide routine, preventative and non-emergency care, promoting wellness and preserving the health and productivity of the Edmond community.

The only requirement to receive care at the clinic is to be an Edmond resident with no health insurance. Hours will initially be 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. An open house will be held in late February. Plans are already under way to expand hours and offer an evening clinic by June, with a second evening clinic proposed for later in 2009. Expansion to include dental services is projected for 2010. The five-year goal for the Good Samaritan Health Clinic is to own its own building with two to three exam rooms, a dental room and a dispensary.

Lee Hunt, a deacon at St. Monica's Catholic Church and president of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, said the mission of the clinic is to

The idea for the clinic was born when the Hispanic coordinator at St. Monica's, Carmen Snow, became aware of the unmet health needs of the Edmond community, leading to Deacon Hunt's involvement. His research revealed more than 600,000 Oklahomans statewide have no health insurance, and between 8,000 and 21,000 of those live in Edmond.

"serve the uninsured in Edmond in a way that preserves the dignity of the human person." Patients will be seen by appointment, they will not have to wait in line to receive care. Staffed solely by volunteer health professionals, the clinic will see both adults and children. In addition to general medical care, the clinic will provide patient education and referrals to volunteer specialists when indicated. Patients referred by the clinic will be treated by those specialists at no charge. While only limited lab-work will be available at the clinic, patients will be referred and any additional testing will be

done at no charge to the patient.

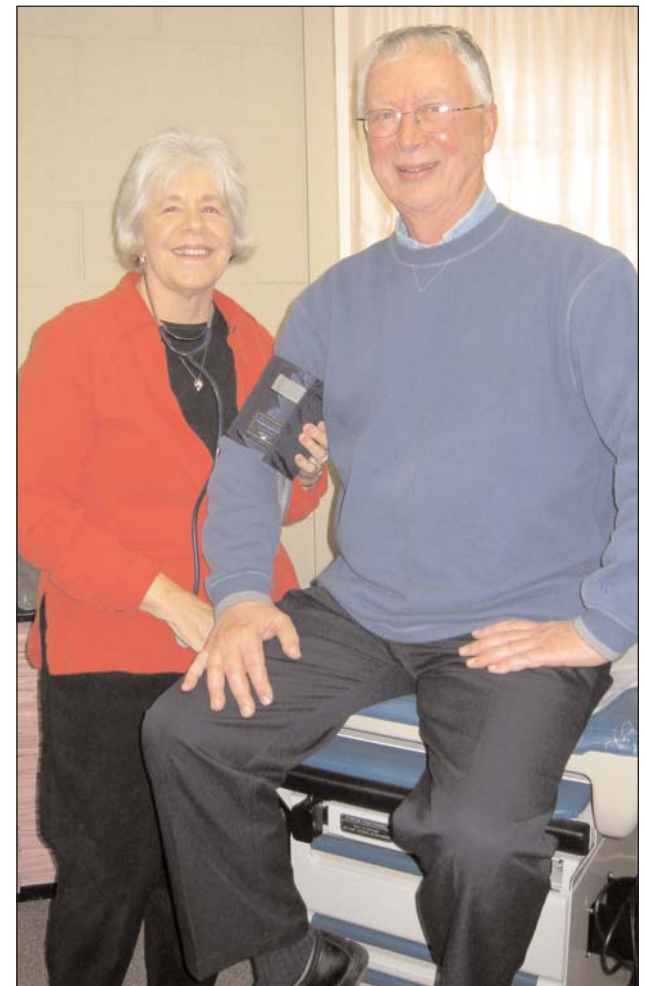
The idea for the clinic was born when the Hispanic coordinator at St. Monica's, Carmen Snow, became aware of the unmet health needs of the Edmond community, leading to Deacon Hunt's involvement. His research revealed more than 600,000 Oklahomans statewide have no health insurance, and between 8,000 and 21,000 of those live in Edmond.

"With the economy the way it is, many who do have a job right now with health insurance may not have it for long," said Deacon Hunt. He said that lack of health care for the uninsured affects the state's economy and puts all residents at risk. Free clinics reduce the inappropriate use of hospital emergency rooms which reduces the costs to taxpayers. Communities with such clinics see an improvement in the general health of their citizens as health care is provided to those who would otherwise remain ill.

St. Monica's Catholic Church is providing start-up funds and other financial and organizational support for the clinic. A candidate for this year's Good Samaritan Award, the clinic has received additional funding from grants and the generosity of private donors. Assistance has also been offered by Empowering Church Health Care Outreach (ECHO), a national, non-profit corporation that helps churches launch and maintain health clinics for families in need. A local consulting firm, Health Alliance for the Uninsured (HAU), has donated laptops and also keeps track of medical office closings, letting the clinic know when needed equipment becomes available.

Internist Jim Dixon, M.D. is on the board of directors and will also volunteer his time at the clinic. Dr. Dixon brings a wealth of experience, having started the Cottonwood Free Health Clinic in Guthrie and the Mercy Health Network outpatient clinics. Judith Harris, Ed.D., ARNP, will volunteer as a nurse practitioner and serve as the vice president of the clinic. Harris, who was actively involved in the start-up of Edmond's Hope Center Clinic, has dedicated her career to educating patients and health-care providers on improving health, health care and public policy. A core group of two physicians, 10 nurses, a dietitian, two translators, three administrators and two receptionists have come together to staff the clinic. A local pharmacist has volunteered to help find inexpensive, generic medications for clinic patients. Deacon Hunt said the goal is to have enough volunteers to allow each one to work only one shift every two months.

As more health-care professionals volunteer, the clinic will be able to expand its services and hours. The clinic especially needs donations to provide these volunteers with what they need to



Judith Harris and Deacon Lee Hunt are spearheading Good Samaritan Health Clinic in Edmond.

care for the clients, including medical equipment, administrative needs and paying for the clinic itself. Expansion can only happen if donors step forward to care for those less fortunate. The Good Samaritan Clinic is largely funded by private donations and is organized as a tax-exempt, charitable, non-profit facility. All contributions are tax-deductible, and the blessings received from giving cannot be measured.

The clinic also needs physicians, as well as nurses, social workers, translators, counselors and receptionists. Deacon Hunt tells the story of one young volunteer who works two part-time jobs, but says she just feels like she needs to "give back." Benefits are not the traditional ones: working in a fast-paced, multi-cultural environment brings its own rewards, chief among them the joy and satisfaction that comes from helping another human being.

For more information about contributing or volunteering, e-mail GSHC@cox.net. Volunteer applications and donation information can be found on their Web site, www.goodsamaritanofedmond.com.

St. Ann's Retirement Center Turns Seven

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Ann Retirement Center celebrated its seventh anniversary on Jan. 23. Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass for the residents of the retirement community, who packed the Saint Joachim Chapel for the Mass of thanksgiving.

Following Mass, the residents continued the celebration with a special

buffet brunch. The area was decorated with enlarged photos of residents and special events that have taken place at the community during its first seven years. The names of all the residents who moved in the first January Saint Ann Retirement Center opened were read aloud. Seven of the original residents are still residing at Saint Ann Retirement Center.



Saint Ann residents and supporters at Mass which celebrated the seventh anniversary of the community.



Archbishop Beltran gives the blessing before the meal. At left, residents look at photos taken during the first seven years of Saint Ann Retirement Center.

Information on St. Francis Set

Are you interested in knowing more about Saint Francis of Assisi? Would you like to learn about his life and pilgrimage on earth?

The Oklahoma City Saint Francis of Assisi Fraternity will meet at 10 a.m. March 7 in the Saint Anthony's Hospital Chapel. This fraternity is a part of the National Fraternity, and was established in Oklahoma City by the late Father John Walde.

Secular Franciscans follow the rule of Saint Francis, which is to live the gospel life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saint Francis made Christ the inspiration and center of his life with God and his people.

If you have a desire to learn more, and perhaps have a calling to

join us in following the Way and Rule of Saint Francis, please prayerfully consider contacting Jim Disbrow, minister, for more information at 830-8688.

Come join us in our journey. We remain with our families, maintain and deepen friendships. We are not called to "leave this world," but to transform it by prayer, penance and action.

If you do not live in the Oklahoma City area, there are fraternities in Norman, Stillwater, Broken Arrow and Ponca City. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8688.

The Secular Franciscan Order of Saint Francis Fraternity meets the third Sunday of each month at 1:15 pm at Saint Anthony's Hospital Chapel.

Catholic Radio is Expanding

As of Jan. 8, KTLR has begun broadcasting on FM 96.5 during the week from 2 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Though currently this station has a limited range, it can be heard in the Oklahoma City area. The programming is the same as for AM 890:



2 p.m.-3 p.m. Open Line

3 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Book Mark (Monday-Wednesday) and Good News Sunday (Thursday and Friday, a locally produced show)

4 p.m.-5 p.m. Kresta in the Afternoon

5 p.m.-6:15 p.m. Catholic Answers Live

Dr. Alveda King Leads Rally for Birmingham Letter Project

WASHINGTON, Christian Newswire — Dr. Alveda King, Pastoral Associate of Priests for Life and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered the keynote address at a rally in front of the White House. The rally was to honor the 1,400 African American children aborted every day in the United States.

“Over 45 years ago, my uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., wrote from a Birmingham jail cell that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” said Dr. King. “Today, there is no greater injustice than that suffered by the 4,000 babies, 1,400 of them black, who die on any given day at the hands of abortionists. Friday, we will stand witness in front of the White House and testify to President Obama that while he is living his dreams, those babies will be dying horrible deaths be-

cause of the policies he supports.”

The rally was part of the Birmingham Letter Project, a four-day program that, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous letter, challenges Christians to leave their comfort zones and confront injustice.

“I see the pride on African American faces everywhere, pride in the tremendous breakthrough President Obama represents,” said Dr. King. “But I also can close my eyes and see the millions upon millions of young black, white, red, and yellow faces who never had the chance to live, overcome or witness history. Friday, we will challenge President Obama to see those faces as well.”

Priests for Life is the nation’s largest Catholic pro-life organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia.

For more information, visit priestsforlife.org.



Brian Buettner



Christopher Brashears



Jared Ortega

Three Seminarians Make Dean’s List at Conception

CONCEPTION, Mo. — Seminarians Brian Buettner of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Norman, Jared Ortega of Holy Family Parish in Lawton, and Christopher Brashears of St. Joseph Parish in Blackwell have been named to the Fall 2008 Dean’s List for earning a

grade point average of 3.25 or better.

Buettner, a Pre-Theology II student, is the son of Larry and Deidre Buettner. Ortega, a freshman, is the son of Donald and Stephanie Ortega. Brashears, a Pre-Theology I student, is the son of Leslie and Connie Brashears.

Calendar

Bingo Night in Norman

NORMAN — St. Thomas More will hold its annual Chili Bingo Night Feb. 7 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on Feb. 7. Chili Bingo Night will feature a contest for the best chili; a chili dinner, chili dogs and Frito chili pie! There will also be a dessert auction and of course, bingo with PRIZES! The cost of dinner and a bingo card is \$6 for adults purchasing tickets after Masses and \$7 at the door. Children 11 and under are \$6. Total cost for families of five or more is \$25. Call Chelle Breedlove at 321-0990 Ext. 202 or e-mail cbreedlove@stm-ou.org for more information.

Artist’s Way Class Set

EDMOND — A 10-week course, from Feb. 12 to April 23, will be offered for those wanting to get closer to God through their creativity. The course is based on Julia Cameron’s book “The Artist’s Way,” and will be

facilitated by Katie Gordy. The course will meet on Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at St. Monica’s. The class is free, participants will buy their own book. To register, call Katie Gordy at 359-2700. (No class Feb. 26)

Mardi Gras Celebration

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver will sponsor a Mardi Gras celebration dinner and dance at 7 p.m. Feb. 21. The evening will feature a costume competition and silent auction. Corpus Christi Church Hall is located at 1005 NE 15th. This an adults only event, cost is \$20 per person. BYOB. For more information, call Beverly Miller at 761-0550.

Lecture Series Begins Feb. 21

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Lenten series focusing on the Letters of St. Paul will be presented by Sheila Mueller on Feb. 21. This event is hosted by the Religious Education

Board of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The session begins at 6 p.m. with a covered-dish dinner. The presentation will begin at 6:45 in the Connor Center, 3300 Lake Avenue. For more information, contact Faith Reilly at 523-3057 or orfreilly@cathedralokc.org.

Lenten Retreat

NICOMA PARK — Finding God in Everyday Life. The retreat will begin March 15 from 1:30 to 6 p.m. This will be an afternoon of prayer, reflection and fellowship as we discover the sacredness of ordinary life, living daily in the light of the Resurrection. Sheila Mueller will present this program. An evening meal will be served. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish (salad or dessert). All are invited. Child care will be available if parents register by March 8. For more information, contact Nancy Koelsch at 771-3800 or Janet Amicon at 769-7593.

Author to Keynote Dinner

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sister Helen Prejean, author of “Dead Man Walking,” will be the keynote speaker at the annual dinner for the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. March 21 at the Monsignor Connor Center, at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Sister Helen will be available at 5 p.m. to autograph books and meet attendees. Cost is \$40 for adults and \$17.50 for students. Reservations are required, call (405) 239-2454.

Golf Tourney Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — June 8 will be the Catholic Foundation Golf Tournament at Twin Hills benefiting all Catholic education in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese.

Mount Robotics Team Gains Support to Assist in 'Lunacy' Competition

OKLAHOMA CITY — Friends of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School are donating grants and services to help the school's RSAT (Rocket, Science and Astronomy) team compete in the 18th annual FIRST robotics competition.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a competition among high school teams worldwide that promotes interest in science, engineering and technology. In this year's challenge, titled "Lunacy," teams will attempt to place balls in a trailer attached to the opponent's robot. The game is further complicated by the extra-slick surface which has been designed to simulate moon-like gravity. A simulation of this year's competition, and more information about FIRST, is available at www.usfirst.org.

Mount St. Mary's robotics team — called "Atomic Shock" — received a



The Mount 'Lunacy' Team shows off of an oversized check donated to its efforts.

\$12,000 grant from Boeing through the efforts of Keith Cera, parent of freshman Marcus Cera, a \$1,350 grant from ITT Technical Institute and \$200 from a local Eastern Star chapter. In addition, Farrington Truck Towing is donating its services in

hauling the completed robot to and from the regional competition.

FIRST provides the basic materials for the building of the robot, but in order to fulfill the requirements for the competition, extra materials are needed, said Samantha Pulver, MSM

robotics team member. "The grant money helps us to give it our own touch. We get points for creativity and originality — for our team name and our T-shirt — but also for the robot. The money given to us will help us to get those extra points."

The regional competition will be held Feb. 26-28 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The team still has openings for sponsors to assist with transportation, additional materials, etc. "Even little things help," said Pulver. "My dad is building the crate to transport the robot in, and my grandmother is providing snacks. Lots of parents are involved, they like to come in and put in their two cents. We could really use sponsors helping with materials, money, time or whatever else."

For more information, contact coach John Keilty or Magi Whitaker, co-sponsors, at Mount St. Mary, (405) 631-8865.

St. John's to Host Mission

EDMOND — Mark your calendars for March 9, 10 and 11 and plan to attend the Lenten Mission at the Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist located at 9th and Boulevard. Each evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Father Jim Goin will present Sacred Wells: Sacraments and Our Thirst for God.

Father Goin is a graduate of the University of Science and Arts and St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. Currently pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Chickasha, Father Goin was ordained for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 1992. He has served in a number of parishes, including Christ the King (OKC), Holy Family (Lawton) and St. Mary (Medford). Father Goin also holds a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. He has worked with Catholic Charities

Immigration, the Oklahoma County Public Defenders and is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

St. John's is honored to have such a gifted speaker.

Father Goin is always provocative and entertaining and he will challenge you to see the Sacraments in all their fullness. Join us for this enlightening Lenten presentation.

No registration is required for the mission and a nursery will be provided each evening. A reception will follow the March 11 session. For more information, you may call the parish office at 340-0691.



Father Goin

Upcoming Catholic Charities Events

St. Patrick's Ball — Tickets and corporate sponsorships are on sale now for the 2009 St. Patrick's Grand Marshal Ball to be held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel on Saturday, March 7. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day while you bring hope to homeless families. All proceeds of the ball benefit a new day center for the homeless sponsored by Catholic Charities. Contact Jane Moon at (405) 526-2319 or jmoon@catholiccharitiesok.org for details.

Catholic Charities Annual Mass and Meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 16 at Our Lady's Cathedral. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Beltran at 4 p.m. and the program and reception will follow at 5 p.m. in Connor Center. David Lopez, president of American Fidelity Foundation, will be the guest speaker. All are welcome and reservations are greatly appreciated. Contact Cassie Nehring at (405) 523-3000.

Letter

On the Wrong Road

President Obama was elected with more than 50 percent of the Catholic vote. If he fulfills all that he has promised, will it really make us a better nation?

I was born before World War II and have seen our country go from putting God first in our families and country, to removing prayer and all reference to God from our schools and public buildings. We now have a secular government that has laws protecting animals, but not the unborn children. No matter how many bailout and government programs that are implemented, we will never have peace in our country when we kill our unborn babies on demand. We cannot turn our backs on the atrocities of aborting the unborn, while trying to move our country forward.

Keith Whitmarsh
Oklahoma City

SGU Students Fight for Life in D.C.

SHAWNEE — A group of St. Gregory's University students were among an estimated gathering of 200,000 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22 for the annual March for Life. SGU students Sean O'Brien, J Salgado, Tim Weigant and Alex Charon made the five-day trip to the nation's capital for the peaceful protest of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion in all 50 states.

"It was an awesome experience," said O'Brien, a senator for the university's Student Government Association (SGA). "It was amazing to see so many people rally for life, which is something so sacred. I would absolutely do it again if I got the chance. I'd like to thank the local community members who made this possible for us, including Tinker Federal Credit Union and Cazadorez Mexican Restaurant."

The SGU group attended a youth rally and Mass the day prior to the

protest. They also visited the Little Sisters of the Poor and Mount St. Mary's Seminary as part of the trip.

Closer to home, another group of SGU students attended a pro-life prayer service at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The group, part of the newly formed chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America (CDA), heard prayers and Scriptures at the event, which was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Archbishop Eusebius Beltran, archbishop of Oklahoma City, led the service before an estimated 75 people.

O'Brien said the university's SGA passed a resolution last week that encouraged the St. Gregory's community to participate in future pro-life events. He said the resolution also included that the university support future trips to March for Life, that the school offer a class that studies marriage and family, and that SGU commit to pro-life considerations when making decisions on investments.

Holocaust Denial

continued from page 1

made some deeply offensive and utterly false statements about the Holocaust of the Second World War. Bishop Williamson has denied historical facts about the Shoah, in which six million Jews were cruelly annihilated, innocent victims of blind racial and religious hatred. These comments have evoked understandable outrage from within the Jewish community and also from among our own Catholic people. No Catholic, whether lay person, priest or bishop can ever negate the memory of the Shoah, just as no Catholic should ever tolerate expressions of anti-Semitism and religious bigotry.

I make my own the words of the Holy Father spoken at the General Audience on January 28, 2009: "[May] the Shoah show both old and new generations that only the arduous path of listening and

May violence
never again humili-
ate man's dignity.

dialogue, of love and forgiveness, can lead peoples, cultures and religions of the world to the longed-for goal of fraternity and peace, in truth. May violence never again humiliate man's dignity." We Catholic bishops in the United States are as committed as ever to building bonds of trust and mutual understanding with our elder brothers and sisters, the Jewish people, so that together with them we may be a blessing to the world.

Francis Cardinal George

Catholics Respond With Prayer as Nation Moves Away From Pro-Life Agenda

By Susan E. Wills
USCCB

If ever there were a time for fervent prayer for an end to legal abortion and conversion of hearts, this is it!

For the first time since 1994, all branches of the federal government are firmly controlled by abortion supporters. The abortion industry is pushing hard to make its anti-child agenda come true. They want free contraception and free abortion for everyone through insurance and taxpayer funding, abortion available wherever medical procedures are done, with no regulations (like informed consent or parental involvement) and no rights of conscience for health-care professionals who object to killing innocent children.

We cannot hope to defeat this agenda on our own, so we must intensify our private and communal prayer.

Since 2002, the bishops of the United States have called for the Roe v. Wade anniversary to be observed as a "particular day of penance for viola-

tions to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life."

Catholics have responded: In the Archdiocese of Boston, for example, 188 parishes conducted Holy Hours for Life on Jan. 22!

Countless Masses across the country were offered for the intention "that our new president will govern wisely and work to protect the lives and dignity of all human beings, including those not yet born."

Washington, D.C. was transformed for 24 hours from a seat of partisanship and power politics to a living font of prayer.

Observances at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception began with an Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance and Intercession for all those affected by abortion. The deeply moving program of first-person testimonies, homily reflections on God's mercy, Adoration and Mass was developed by the Sisters of Life and Lumina, a post-abortion ministry.

Although the National Shrine is the largest Catholic church in the U.S., pilgrims gathering for the Jan. 21 Vigil Mass for Life have long exceeded its seating (and standing!) capacity, spilling into side chapels, stairwells and the lower level. Two "overflow" Masses were held this year on nearby campuses to accommodate an additional 1,000 pilgrims.

The sanctuary itself was proportionately crowded. Over 40 bishops, more than 400 priests and scores of deacons assisted the principal celebrant, Cardinal Justin Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia and chairman of the Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities. About 350 seminarians joined them in the sanctuary.

Throughout the night, pilgrims continued prayer in the Basilica's Crypt Church — the National Rosary for Life, Night Prayer (Byzantine Rite), Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours hosted by seminarians from various dioceses and orders.

By 7 a.m., the Great Upper Church was again packed to overflow-

ing with young Catholics who'd just arrived in Washington after spending the night (and longer) on buses. Arlington, Va., Bishop Paul Loverde's eloquent homily exhorted them to be the generation that brings about the end of abortion in America. Across town, the 20,000-seat Verizon Center reached maximum capacity early in the morning. Six satellite locations in downtown churches accommodated the overflow. The Verizon Center rally and Mass featured a special blessing this year. Between the Christian rock bands, rosary, testimonies and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, delivered an apostolic blessing and words of gratitude and encouragement from Pope Benedict XVI.

All in all, it was fitting preparation for the challenges ahead. May we persevere in prayer!

Susan Wills is assistant director for Education and Outreach, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Pro-life Activities. Go to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities.

Cathedral Filled

continued from page 1

Silva outside the Cathedral prior to the Mass. The Holy Trinity teens said they had been discussing abortion in their Religious Education classes.

"It's not good, it's not good at all," is how the 13-year-old Meires summed up the great harm caused by abortion.

In his homily, Archbishop Beltran challenged Catholics to pray for those who are promoting "a culture of death."

"The first instrument of love is prayer, communication with God," the archbishop said.

"Jesus says, 'What are you looking for?'" and we respond, life. We pray and ask Almighty God to enable us to live good lives and to protect the lives of others, especially the unborn and the infirm. But we don't stop there. We pray for the mothers and fathers who are victims of the abortion culture. We pray for the doctors and medical personnel who perform abortions. We pray for all counselors, parents and others who promote, encourage or foster the culture of death.

"Jesus can heal all who come to Him. Therefore, our second instrument of love is to reach out to the suffering people who are being led astray and to bring them to meet Jesus. We all know someone contemplating an abortion — a pregnant young girl or a distraught pregnant wife or the boy or man who is the father. We need to help them to realize how much God loves them. We need to console them properly and to assist them so that they too can appreciate the gift of life and hear Jesus asking them, 'What are you looking for?'"

"Human beings are not isolated persons. We

are members of families, communities and nations. Therefore, a third instrument of love consists in our interacting in the public domain. We need to support families, organizations and groups that bring a public awareness of the dignity of every human being. But we must always do this with love and respect.

"This is what it means to be Christian, to share in the life of Jesus.

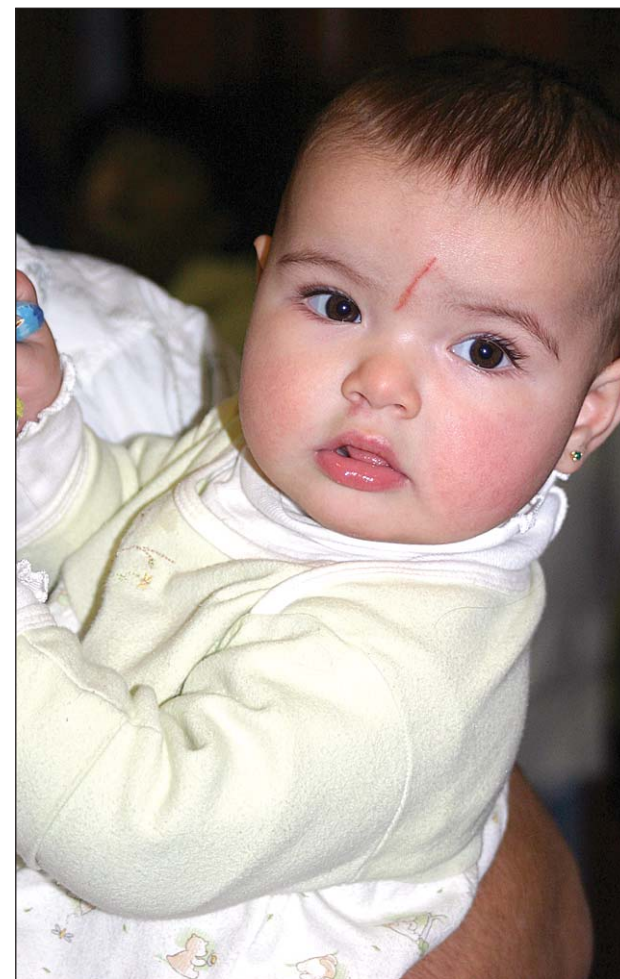
"This is the reason we ourselves must repent of sin and be freed from the tragedy of sin. Then we are restored to the likeness of God so that here and now we may build God's kingdom of peace, justice and love and one day share eternal happiness with Him in heaven forever."

Following Mass, separate programs were held for the youth and adults. Father William Novak, pastor at Saint John Nepomuk in Yukon, led the youth program, while Father Ray Ackerman of Saint Thomas More University Parish in Norman met with the adults.

For the adults, Father Ackerman discussed the powerful Rachel's Vineyard ministry, the post abortion healing offered to women and men who suffer from the deep spiritual and emotional scars created by abortion.

For the high school students, Father Novak led the group through a litany of ideas and exchanges. The program was filled with questions, reflection, laughter and a beautiful prayer challenging young people to remember Saint Agnes, who gave her life for Christ at the age of 13, killed because she would not consent to sex.

"O Lord, give us courage to face our struggles



Seven-month-old Crystal Lee Ballew attended her first Sanctity of Life Mass.

in life by honoring the memory of the glorious virgin, Agnes," Father Novak said in opening the prayer.

"She was a vessel of honor, a flower of unfading fragrance, and a young person who exemplified virtue and chastity.

"We ask your blessing upon the youth gathered here today as we celebrate the dignity and the sanctity of all life from conception to natural death.

"When they are faced with peer pressure to do things that will lead them away from you, help them to remember Saint Agnes, who believed that Jesus was always with her.

"When they are faced with those who belittle their faith or are ridiculed for going to Mass or receiving the sacraments, help them to think of Saint Agnes, who stood up against opposition and persecution and remained faithful to Christ. Make them proud of their Catholic faith, to love it, to be strong in it, and to give witness to it daily.

"And when they are faced with personal doubts about you and their life's calling, watch over them, keep them safe from harm, be with them in their hour of need and inspire them to be like Saint Agnes, who willingly gave her life to Christ.

"We ask these things in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with us and with the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

"Amen."



Fr. William Novak speaks to several hundred teenagers at a program following the Mass.



Prayers for Life

Archbishop Beltran led a prayer vigil at the Oklahoma state Capitol on Jan. 22 to mourn the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision that made abortion on demand the law for our nation. The prayer vigil was organized by the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life and featured the choir from All Saints School in Norman. Below, Lisa Carrasco, Judy Reilly, Becky VanPool and George Rigazzi listen to a solo sung by All Saints Students, Lexy Neira and Natalie Baker, below left. The students sang *Go Light Your World*, while the entire choir, pictured following the vigil with Archbishop Beltran, sang *Christ Be Our Light*. Approximately 75 people attended the vigil, including several students from Saint Gregory's University. *Sooner Catholic* Photos/Ray Dyer



Book of Essays Details Catholic Church in American West

Catholicism in the American West: a Rosary of Hidden Voices. Edited by Roberto R. Trevino and Richard V. Francaviglia. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press. 184 pages. Hardback. December 2007. ISBN 978-1-58544-621-6. \$29.95



This book is a collection of essays presented at the 2004 Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures at the University of Texas at Arlington. These essays by various essayists are on Catholicism in the western United States, which is under-examined in American Catholic Church history. This book helps to remedy this deficiency. This book is an academic presentation of various topics and places in the western United States. The general reader will also enjoy them.

Steven M. Avella wrote the introduction followed by essays by Anne M. Butler, who wrote on the need for more research into the history of the Catholic Church in the western United States. This history, as Butler points out, begins before the hierarchical Church was established in the then United States of 13 states on the East Coast. The Church was already existing and operating in present-day western United States due to Spanish and French Catholics. Father Michael E. Engh's, S.J., essay is on women activists in Los Angeles and later in San Antonio, Texas, who worked to improve conditions for the poor and the immigrant. Matthew Pehl's essay is about Catholicism existing in southeastern Utah. This Catholic colony in the Mormon state of Utah would not give up its faith even though they had few priests and churches. William Issel's essay is on Catholic Action and

how this helped the poor and those in need and united Catholics in northern California. He also presents how these Catholics' faith and country were both important to them. Gina Marie Pitti writes on the national churches and racism in the Church in San Francisco. Hispanics wanted their own national churches like the Irish, Italians, Germans and others had, but they were not allowed to have their own churches. Robert R. Trevino's essay is about the Chicano movement in Houston and how it changed the Catholic Church in that city and the state of Texas.

This book covers specific areas in the large area of the Catholic Church



By Brother
Benet Exton

of the western portion of the United States. More areas of the West could be done in the future. This collection of essays is a beginning. The essayists tapped into many times unused material for research. Most of the U.S. West is still mission territory for the Catholic Church as is true of the South.

Black and white illustrations are presented in most of the essays. Endnotes are provided at the end of the essays. A list of the contributors and their credentials are given at the end of the book. This book is highly recommended to those interested in the history of the Catholic Church in the western United States.

Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee. He serves as the librarian and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including the Sooner Catholic.

Creator of Birth Control Pill Calls Results 'Catastrophic' to Mankind

By Father Matthew Habiger, OSB

Carl Djerassi, the 85-year-old Austrian chemist who helped invent the contraceptive pill, now says that his co-creation has led to a "demographic catastrophe."

In an article published by the Vatican, the head of the world's Catholic doctors broadened the attack on the pill, claiming it had also brought "devastating ecological effects" by releasing into the environment "tons of hormones" that had impaired male fertility.

The assault began with a personal commentary in the Austrian newspaper *Der Standard* by Carl Djerassi. The Austrian chemist was one of three whose formulation of the synthetic progestogen Norethisterone marked a key step toward the earliest oral contraceptive pill.

Djerassi outlined the "horror scenario" that occurred because of the population imbalance, for which his invention was partly to blame. He said that in most of Europe, there was now "no connection at all between sexuality and reproduction." He said: "This divide in Catholic Austria, a country which has on average 1.4 children per family, is now complete."

The fall in the birth rate, he said,

was an "epidemic" far worse, but given less attention, than obesity. Young Austrians, he said, were committing national suicide if they failed to procreate. And if it were not possible to reverse the population decline, they would have to understand the necessity of an "intelligent immigration policy."

The head of Austria's Catholics, Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, told an interviewer that the Vatican had forecast 40 years ago that the pill would lead to a dramatic fall in the birth rate in the west. "Somebody above suspicion like Carl Djerassi ... is saying that each family has to produce three children to maintain population levels, but we're far away from that," he said.

Schonborn told Austrian TV that when he first read Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical condemning artificial contraception, he viewed it negatively. But he said he had altered his views as, over time, it had proved "prophetic."

Writing for the Vatican daily, *L'Osservatore Romano*, the president of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, Dr. Jose Maria Simon Castellvi, said research from his association also showed the pill "worked in many cases with a genuinely ... abortive effect."

The Spanish doctor pointed to the Federation's recent document commemorating the 40th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, which "irrefutably shows that the most widely used anti-ovulatory pill in the industrialized world, the one made with low doses of estrogen and progesterone, in many cases works with an anti-implantation effect; that is, abortifacient [effect], because it expels a small human embryo." Castellvi also pointed out that "this anti-implantation effect is acknowledged in scientific literature, which shamelessly speaks of an embryo loss rate. Curiously, this information does not reach the public at large." He also pointed to the "devastating ecological effects of the tons of hormones discarded into the environment each year. We have sufficient data to state that one of the causes of masculine infertility in the West is the environmental contamination caused by the products of the 'pill'."

After explaining that the "natural methods of regulating fertility [NFP] are the ones that are effective and that respect the nature of the person," Castellvi stated that "in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, we can say that the contraceptive

methods violate at least five important rights: the right to life, the right to health, the right to education, the right to information (its dissemination occurs to the detriment of information about natural methods) and the right of equality between the sexes (responsibility for contraceptive use almost always falls to the woman)."

After underscoring the importance of sexual relations within marriage for the union and growth in love of the spouses, Castellvi pointed out that "the doctrine of *Humanae Vitae* is largely ignored because, among other reasons, at the time doctors did not accept it."

"A doctor's prestige lies in being able to authoritatively offer to couples alternatives to contraceptives. The relationship between doctor and patient is so strong that it can only be broken with great difficulty, even if between the two it seems to be like a dissident theologian. Therefore, it is necessary that we teach and inform doctors about fertility," he said.

Castellvi said Catholic doctors would continue working for advancements in their profession, but suggested "the Holy See should respectfully create a special commission for *Humanae Vitae*." nfpoutreach.org

Greatest World Threat: How About Lack of Births?

What's the biggest threat to the world's prosperity and stability over the medium haul — say, between 2020 and 2050? The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction? A continuing economic recession? Jihadism running amok? The Detroit Lions ushering in the Apocalypse by winning an NFL championship? (Just kidding on the last...)

Guess again.

According to Neil Howe and Richard Jackson, two researchers at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, the primary destabilizer of world affairs in the mid-decades of the 21st century will be demographics — meaning, primarily, too few people throughout too much of the developed and developing world. Some numbers-crunching helps make the case:

■ In the 1980s, the median age was 34 in western Europe and 35 in Japan. Absent an unanticipated and dramatic change in birth rates, the median age in western Europe in 2020 will be 47, and in Japan, 52.

■ In the 2020s, half the adult populations of Italy, Spain and Japan will be above the official retirement age.

■ By 2030, thanks to several generations of cratering birth rates and the resulting demand for immi-

grant labor to fill low-wage jobs, the number of Muslims will double in France and triple in Germany. Amsterdam, Birmingham, Cologne and Marseilles will likely be majority-Muslim cities, 20 years from now.

■ China, the fair-haired boy of establishment international affairs analysts, is heading for serious trouble, thanks to its draconian one-child policy and communism's destruction of traditional Chinese culture. By 2030, China will be an older country than the U.S. As Howe and Jackson write, "Imagine [Chinese] workforce growth slowing to zero while tens of millions of elders sink into indigence without pensions, without health care, and without children to support them. China could careen toward social collapse — or, in reaction, toward an authoritarian clampdown."

■ Vladimir Putin's plans for a new Russian imperium may run aground, because Russia will almost certainly be in demographic free fall by 2050, if not sooner. With what demographers call "lowest-low" birth rates, and con-



By George Weigel

fronting colossal public health problems related to alcohol abuse and environmental degradation, Russia is a mess. Today, the average Russian man's life expectancy is 59, which is 16 years less than his American counterpart (and somewhat less than the life expectancy of those in his grandfather's generation who survived Stalin and Hitler). Forty years out, Russia will have fallen in the world population tables from fourth place (in 1950) to 20th place.

■ And while all this is going on, western Europe will be in continuing social, economic and political crisis, thanks to too few tax-paying workers trying to support the womb-to-tomb Euro-welfare state — which has already displaced private-sector health care and pension options while suppressing the habits necessary to sustain them.

Ever since the 1968 publication of Paul Ehrlich's intellectually fraudulent bestseller, *The Population Bomb*, enlightened opinion has held that "overpopulation" is the problem. It isn't, and it never was. Now, thanks in part to the triumph of a contraceptive mentality in societies that have lost any religious sense of obligation toward the future, the grim truth is revealing itself: The problem is too few people. Of course, there was always

something instinctively counterintuitive about the anti-natalist cast of mind, which thinks of a newborn calf as a "resource" or an "asset" and a newborn child as a "burden." Now that implausibility turns out to have, not only the gravest moral consequences, but the most severe economic, social and political results.

Yet the mythology of overpopulation is so deeply embedded in American elite opinion that even realistic observers like Howe and Jackson, after looking into the demographic abyss, can still write that contemporary sub-Saharan Africa is "afflicted" with "the world's highest fertility rates." No, sub-Saharan Africa is "afflicted" with vast governmental corruption and ineptitude, ethnic and tribal madnasses, jihadism and diseases ancient and modern. But it is not "afflicted" with people.

Ideas have consequences, for good or ill. The false idea of "overpopulation" has helped make it very likely that our children and grandchildren will live in a far less stable world than ours, which has not exactly been placid.

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

Planned Parenthood Continues Assault on Black Community

By Paul V. Esposito
Culture of Life

A few months ago, a colleague stopped by my office to show off a fundraising card he had received at home. Rick's a committed pro-lifer, married with four kids, so we were amused that it came from Planned Parenthood. But a photo on the front made us realize that the card was no laughing matter.

* * * * *

Margaret Sanger was born in 1879, the sixth of 11 children of Irish Catholic parents. By her death in 1966, Sanger had become one of the most influential women in America, and certainly its most controversial. Sanger was an ardent believer in

birth control. By 1921, she had founded the American Birth Control League, and she worked unceasingly to promote it. But underlying Sanger's work was a belief in the dangerous eugenics theories of 19th century cleric and professor Robert Malthus.

Malthus feared that the world was overpopulated, and by "unfit" people at that. He believed in racial supremacy, particularly among Aryans, whose bloodlines need to be purified. For Malthus and his followers, the world would be better if the poor, unfit, diseased, racially inferior and mentally dim were isolated and even eliminated.

Sanger took the eugenics bait hook, line and sinker. Like Malthus,

she labeled charitable organizations as "a symptom of a malignant social disease." Charity work merely increased the numbers of "defectives, delinquents and dependents." She decried the "human waste" and believed that charity should aim at "eliminating the stocks that are the most detrimental to the future of the race and the world." She wrote an essay called "We Must Breed A Race of Thoroughbreds." Sanger's views matched those of Adolph Hitler, who in *Mein Kampf* said much the same things. Sanger shared her views far and wide, even as a guest speaker at a Ku Klux Klan rally.

Sanger opened her first clinic in Brooklyn, where she worked with poor immigrants, those "unfit" to

reproduce. Sanger claimed that she could teach the "science of breeding" and so breed out the diseased, defective, poor and lawless, those "breeding like weeds." In 1929 she opened her first clinic in a black community. Instead of attacking the root causes of discrimination and poverty, Sanger sought to reduce the black population. Using the code words "better health," she convinced community leaders that it was attainable through birth control. Influential blacks began calling for "eugenic discrimination" among blacks. Having secured their support, Sanger moved forward.

In 1939 she launched the Negro Project, the plan for widespread
continued on page 15

Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

El domingo 8 de febrero cuando se publique esta edición del *Sooner Catholic*, me estaré levantando muy temprano y el primer pensamiento que me vendrá a mi mente seguro será que "hoy es el día de la colecta del ADF".

¡No, no, no, por favor, yo estaba bromeando con ese pensamiento!.

Más bien mi primer pensamiento será "gracias a ti Dios mío por darme otro día más en mi vida!". Usualmente expreso este pensamiento de agradecimiento en las mañanas porque cada día en nuestras vidas es un regalo de Dios. Cada día es una nueva oportunidad de crecer en el amor de Dios y responder todos los desafíos y obligaciones de nuestra vida.

Cada día estamos bendecidos de poder servir y ayudar a nuestro prójimo mediante la gracia de Dios. Espero que ustedes y yo continuemos orando para glorificar a Dios al comienzo de todas las mañanas.

Debemos estar agradecidos y recordar que Dios es nuestro Creador y Salvador y es quien nos ama infinita y totalmente.

He mencionado en el titular de mi columna que hoy es el día de la colecta del ADF, lo hice para recordarles a todos, que efectivamente hoy es el domingo donde se hace la colecta del ADF. Recordemos que el ADF es la colecta de fondos que permite que la Iglesia de esta Arquidiócesis pague sus gastos para realizar sus actividades de evangelización.

Existen varios ministerios y servicios que se ofrecen en sus parro-



Muy Reverendo Eusebius Beltrán
Arzobispo Metropolitano de la
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Nuestra fe Católica es una realidad. Creemos firmemente en Cristo y todo lo que Él nos ha revelado y en lo que nos enseña.

quias, escuelas e instituciones del centro y oeste de Oklahoma.

Estos servicios constituyen el trabajo esencial de esta Arquidiócesis y por lo tanto el funcionamiento de éstos depende en gran parte de los recursos que aportan a la colecta del ADF. Muchos de estos servicios evangelizadores se ofrecen por la Arquidiócesis porque en las parroquias no lo pueden costear o por la naturaleza de estos servicios.

Unos ejemplos de estos servicios son la educación y preparación de los nuevos sacerdotes y los servicios prestados por el Tribunal

...¡Hoy es la Colecta del ADF!

Eclesiástico donde se procesan las causas relativas al matrimonio por la Iglesia y en esta oficina no se cobra ni un centavo por procesar alguna petición. En realidad, todos los Católicos que viven en esta Arquidiócesis se benefician indirecta o directamente de los servicios y ministerios que se ofrecen y son apoyados con los fondos del ADF.

Cuando todos los Católicos colaboran y expresan su apoyo a la colecta del ADF están dando un signo de unidad y ministerio.

Este año, estoy muy atento y sensible a la actual crisis económica que estamos experimentando. Son momentos muy inciertos y no hay duda que las cosas que tomamos a la ligera debemos evaluarlas y sopesarlas con más cautela.

Por nuestro lado, en la Arquidiócesis, hemos tomado la decisión de reducir nuestro presupuesto para poder continuar con los programas tan esenciales en la misión evangelizadora de nuestra Iglesia.

Los momentos difíciles nos hacen a menudo ser más genuinos y realistas. Por ejemplo, somos un pueblo de fe.

Nuestra fe Católica es una realidad. Creemos firmemente en Cristo y todo lo que Él nos ha revelado y en lo que nos enseña. Como practicantes de esta fe, algunas veces hay la tentación de cortar esquinas o de atribuirnos éxitos y desempeños por nuestros propios talentos y recursos.

No obstante, sabemos que todo ultimadamente recae en Dios.

Es importante tener en cuenta siempre que Dios nos creó, redimió y nos nutre todos los días para que podamos alcanzar la promesa de vida eterna que solamente Dios nos puede ofrecer.

En momentos difíciles somos recordados por Jesús que a menudo hacemos juicios de valor bajo criterios humanos. Cristo nos desafía para que nuestros juicios de valor estén bajo los preceptos de Dios y que confiemos y nos encomendemos a Él. Es en este espíritu que yo me esfuerzo en servirles a ustedes, pueblo de esta Arquidiócesis. Con este espíritu es que los invito a ustedes para que se unan a mí, y así vivamos y trabajemos en concordancia con el plan de Dios. Con este espíritu es que le agradezco a toda aquella persona que se ha comprometido con su ayuda para ayudar al ADF.

Con gran aprecio, me dirijo a todo el pueblo de la Arquidiócesis para requerirles su colaboración y ayuda para que llevar adelante la vida y ministerio de la Iglesia.

Les pido a ustedes mis hermanos y hermanas en la fe que hagan un aporte económico para apoyar a la Arquidiócesis. Su donativo es una ayuda que podrán dar durante diez meses.

Sí, hoy es la colecta anual de fondos ADF y les agradezco de antemano su generosidad. Les aseguro que sus oraciones que pidan y coloquen en los sobres de la colecta estarán en mi capilla donde yo oraré por ustedes y sus peticiones especiales a lo largo del año 2009.

La Santa Sede inicia un informe sobre las religiosas en Estados Unidos

VATICANO, (ZENIT.org). — La Congregación vaticana para los Institutos de Vida Consagrada y Sociedades de Vida Apostólica ha dado inicio a una visita apostólica para estudiar los institutos religiosos femeninos en Estados Unidos. El objetivo de esta iniciativa es observar la calidad de la vida de los miembros de estos institutos religiosos. La visita estará guiada bajo la dirección de Sor Mary Clare Millea, A.S.C.J., nombrada

visitadora apostólica por el Cardenal Rodé. Sor Millea, nacida en Connecticut, es la superiora de las Apóstoles del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, un instituto religioso internacional con base en Roma que tiene unas 1.250 hermanas profesas en el mundo, de las cuales 135 en Estados Unidos.

La visita, que recogerá y analizará datos y observaciones sobre la vida religiosa, se limitará a los insti-

tutos apostólicos, que trabajan de forma activa en el servicio a la Iglesia y la sociedad. Las religiosas contemplativas, que tienen estilos de vida distinta, no están implicadas en el estudio.

Al final de la visita, Sor Millea emitirá un informe privado al Cardenal Rodé. Aunque no hay fecha límite, se espera que la iniciativa concluya antes de 2011.

Las religiosas Católicas se

han dedicado en Estados Unidos a apostolados como la enseñanza, la asistencia sanitaria y una serie de servicios pastorales y sociales, ya antes de que la nación se fundara.

Según el Centro para la Investigación Aplicada al Apostolado (CARA), con base en Washington, en los últimos 40 años en número de religiosas estadounidenses ha disminuido, mientras que su edad media no deja de aumentar.

“Chispitas de Luz” se puede escuchar por la radio en la frecuencia 890 AM

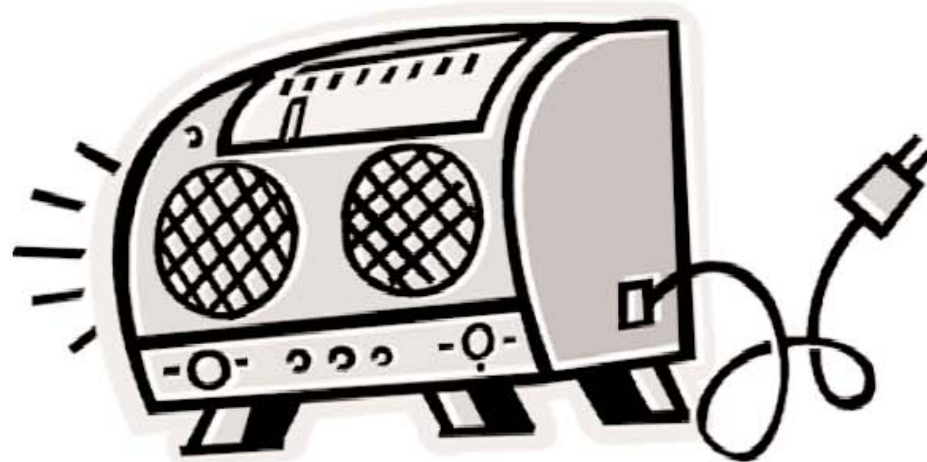
Programa radial del Ministerio Hispano vuelve al aire con vigor

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La radio es un importante medio de comunicación que permite y ayuda a divulgar de manera masiva los preceptos y dictámenes de nuestra doctrina Católica en cualquier rincón del territorio eclesiástico de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

A pesar de los avances tecnológicos del siglo XXI en los Estados Unidos, en Oklahoma todavía hay lugares con escasas y efectivas comunicaciones, por lo que la radio se convierte en una herramienta esencial de comunicación y de gran valor debido a su rapidez, alcance y por supuesto aún no puede superarse por su bajo costo. Todavía en Oklahoma hay miles de personas, tanto en las áreas rurales como en zonas más pobladas que escuchan la radio de una manera cotidiana.

La radio para el Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es fundamental, no sólo como medio de divulgación, sino para transmitir opiniones del laica-



do, avisos y en un futuro mediato programas interactivos que interesan al orden social de nuestra doctrina Católica. El programa “Chispitas de Luz” fue fundado hace unos cuantos años atrás por el Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City junto a un inestimable grupo de voluntarios y tuvo un éxito recóndito, ahora volvió al aire con una nueva visión renovadora. Este programa radial se transmite todos los domingos de diez y media hasta las once de la mañana. Es una

media hora amena por la emisora 890 AM y es conducido por un gran número de laicos, religiosas y sacerdotes que desean llevar esperanza y consuelo a quienes quieren enterarse más sobre nuestra Iglesia Católica, en nuestro idioma español.

La presencia en la radio de “Chispitas de Luz” no tiene porque estar durante todo el día, incluso no debe hacerlo, entre otras razones por el hecho de que no se oiría, ya que la gente tiene sus quehaceres. Por estas razones, “Chispitas de Luz” solamen-

te se divulga una vez a la semana. El horario de emisión y escucha, frecuencia y longitud de onda fueron aspectos que se tomaron en cuenta para alcanzar una buena audición de “Chispitas de Luz”. Se escogió la frecuencia AM por su bajo costo y para evitar la tentación de oír otras emisoras.

“Chispitas de Luz” cuenta con un grupo de asesores profesionales que de forma voluntaria hacen un trabajo que parece sencillo pero sumamente valioso, ya que el objetivo primordial de este programa radial es educar sobre nuestra fe Católica.

Existe una urgente necesidad de acercarse a nuestros adultos con decencia, sencillez y claridad sobre aspectos esenciales de la vida humana bajo el contexto de nuestra creencia en Dios. Por último, “Chispitas de Luz” llega a un grupo de radio escuchas que requieren nuestro mensaje de paz y ellos son los presos, para éstos desde la redacción del *Sooner Catholic* les enviamos un mensaje y saludo renovador de esperanza y fe.

Conferencia de Pre Cana en español

Instrumento de preparación para el Sacramento del Matrimonio

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Pre Cana es un día de preparación para el matrimonio ofrecido por la Oficina de Vida Familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Todas aquellas parejas que desean contraer matrimonio en la Iglesia Católica, deben prepararse por lo menos entre cuatro a seis meses de antelación a la boda eclesiástica. Para esta preparación se ha desarrollado una agenda estructurada que tiene como finalidad que los novios puedan asumir con responsabilidad una futura vida familiar.

De igual modo, estos talleres son el complemento de las charlas que el sacerdote o diácono tiene con la pareja para la preparación del

matrimonio.

En la Oficina de Vida familiar trabaja la señora Lisa Carrasco, quien desde hace varios años ha venido mejorando estas charlas con la ayuda del laicado comprometido con el trabajo evangelizador de la Iglesia.

No cabe duda que la unión matrimonial debe ser tomada muy en serio y es por eso que estas conferencias de Pre Cana permiten ofrecer técnicas prácticas para un mejor entendimiento de los deberes y derechos que conlleva el casarse ante los ojos de Dios.

Uno de los sacerdotes que han apoyado arduamente esta iniciativa en español ha sido el Padre Don Wolf, quien estará en las próximas conferencias de Pre Cana. Nuestra existencia exige una mejor prepara-

ción para llevar un matrimonio lleno de amor, tolerancia y sobre todo de paz en Dios.

Los talleres de Pre Cana en nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se han convertido en una exitosa herramienta para identificar y dialogar sobre diferentes temas antes del matrimonio y facilitar una comunicación abierta, comprensión y estudio del Sacramento del Matrimonio.

Por cierto, las próximas sesiones están pautadas para las siguientes fechas: 14 de febrero, 16 de mayo, 12 de septiembre y 21 de noviembre del presente año.

Para una mejor información de estos talleres de Pre Cana pueden contactar a la señora Lisa Carrasco por el teléfono: (405) 721-5651 extensión 109.



Padre Don Wolf habla español muy bien.

Jobs Box

Executive Director

Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Oklahoma Archdiocesan Council Board has a part-time position open for an executive director. Understands, interprets and applies rules/policies of the society. Coordinate and manage the day-to-day operation. Assist the board in performance of their various roles. Serve as a mentor and monitor for conference presidents to ensure the maintenance of effective local organizations consistent with the Rules of the Society. Is an active member of their Catholic parish. Possess excellent verbal, written and computer skills. Mail resume to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3031 NW 23rd St., Oklahoma City 73107, or e-mail stvincentokc@gmail.com.

Teaching Positions 2009-2010

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2009-2010 school year. SHCS is a PK4 through eighth-grade school. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Long-Term Substitute

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for two long-term substitutes for maternity leaves. The first is for a middle school language arts teacher, certification required. The second position is for a part-time music teacher, certification not required. Please call

the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Assistant Professor (English)

St. Gregory's University, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts community, seeks qualified applicants for a full-time, tenure-track position in English, beginning August 2009. Ph.D. in English (by August of 2009) is required. A specialization in English composition/rhetoric and/or secondary English education is highly desirable. We are committed to excellence in undergraduate teaching and the ideal candidate will demonstrate that value. The successful candidate will teach English Composition I and II (a common core requirement) and upper-level English courses (including young adult literature, children's literature and teaching writing/literature). Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation to the attention of Father Robert A. Busch, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts and Sciences. Application materials may be sent electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu or via mail service to Human Resources Department, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Youth Minister Opening

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic youth-young adult minister. Full-time position with benefits. Send or drop by an application with curricula vitae and references to "YOUTH MINISTER Search Committee," St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N.W. 18th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106.

Elementary School Principal

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Rogers, Ark., is seeking applications for the position of principal for its elementary school. St. Vincent de Paul is a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade elementary school with 360 students. It is located in beautiful northwest Arkansas in one of the fastest growing communities in Arkansas and the nation.

The candidate must have demonstrated leadership ability in past or present educational assignments and must be a practicing Catholic actively committed to developing a faith community. Preferred qualifications include three or more years of teaching administration experience within a Catholic school setting and a master's degree or its equivalent in Educational Administration. Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume with the names of references to Dr. George V. Schaefer, St. Vincent de Paul School, 1315 W. Cypress, Rogers, Ark. 72758.

For a complete and up-to-date list, go to catharchdioceseokc.org and click job listings.

Beginning Experience Offers Widow New Hope and Healing

By Judy Coppedge
For the Sooner Catholic

I felt like I had hit rock bottom. My husband had been dead over a year and I'd gone through all the anniversaries by now. The first Thanksgiving and Christmas without him, the birthdays and other special days alone. I'd even gone to see a counselor. I shared how I was feeling and the despair I felt. He told me I was doing fine and that I was dealing very well with the changes in my life. I remember walking out of his office — my one and only visit — and thinking, "What now?" He thinks I'm OK. Can anyone understand how I feel? Am I going to feel this pain for the rest of my life?

I really don't know where or how I heard about the Beginning Experience Weekend. I'm a Catholic, so I know there are articles in the

Sooner Catholic. However, I never focused on them or knew anyone who had ever made a weekend. I call these "God moments" — when someone or something comes into my life from an unknown source and touches me in a deeply profound way. So, God led me to Beginning Experience. I just know that I called the Office of Family Life and made a reservation for the next weekend. Truthfully, in the back of my mind was the idea that I could always cancel — just in case.

As I drove to the Pastoral Center, every doubt, every fear, every "what if" ran through my mind. I'm not good at walking into a group of strangers and making small talk. What would we talk about? I really wanted to go home with my tail tucked between my legs. But I knew what I was going back to. I didn't

know what was ahead, but back there was despair, loneliness, darkness

So in the door I went. There was a group of people there, welcoming me and ready to carry my bags to my room. So far, so good. I settled in and went down to the meeting room. People came up and welcomed me. We spent a little time just visiting. Nice folks! Then some of those welcoming faces started leaving, telling us to have a good weekend and that they'd be praying for us.

Then the work began. There were divorced and widowed, young and older. The weekend was filled with beautiful people leading us through the process of healing our lives. I could honestly share my story and no one judged me. There was no need to keep a stiff upper lip or hide the way I felt. I cried for all that had

been and finally found a way to go forward with my life.

By Sunday evening, we were all exhausted. But with the exhaustion, for me, came peace and the beginning of acceptance of my life. I can never repay the gift of Beginning Experience. All I can do is try to share my journey with others and to hope and pray I can give them the help I received.

If you or someone you know has experienced the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation, have come to terms with the loss and are ready to begin to move forward, please consider calling the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 108 for further information. The next weekend will be March 6-8 at the Pastoral Center, located at 7501 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

11 Epiphany is forming a **Grief Support Group**. The first meeting will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Patio Room. Plans are to have open meetings weekly. For more information, contact Alveria Kopp at 826-7630.

11 **Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Rosary is said every weekday at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome.

11 **All-Day Adoration**, every Wednesday at St. Eugene Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road. Mass at 6:30 a.m., Exposition of Eucharist at 7 a.m., Confessions from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Anointing of Sick at 3 p.m. Adoration all day and devotions conclude with multi-lingual evening prayer and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. Contacts: Barbara Curcio, 755-9163, O en Espanol, Gloria Pantazis, 751-7115.

12 **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in Epiphany Parish Chapel, every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

13-14 **Engagement Encounter Weekend**. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

13 **Bishop McGuinness auction**, “Sweethearts and Shamrocks,” 6 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Tickets for the auction are \$100 per person. Reservations are required. For more information or raffle tickets, call Patricia Hudacko at 842-6638.

13 **Mount St. Mary home basketball game** vs. CHA varsity, 6:30 and 8 p.m.

13 **Bingo** at St. Joseph’s Church in Norman. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a light dinner. First session of games begins at 7; second at 8:30. Concessions and drawings for door prizes.

13-15 **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** in Woodward at the Northwest Inn. All are welcome. For more information or to register, call Matt or Lindsey at (580) 698-2469.

14 **Spanish Pre-Cana**. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

14 **Mass in Tagalog**. St. Paul the Apostle Catholic in Del City will celebrate Mass in Tagalog (Filipino) at 7 p.m. every Saturday. A potluck dinner will occasionally follow Mass. All are welcome.

14 **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 osbokc@ionet.net.

15 **The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

15 **Taize Prayer**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

15 **The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital

Chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8688.

17-25 **Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus**, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Nat’l Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Saint Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

20-22 **Silent Retreat** offered by Katie Gordy at Mount St. Mary’s. For more information, call 359-2700.

21 **Chew on This**: The Letters of St. Paul, presented by Sheila Mueller at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a covered-dish dinner. The presentation will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Connor Center, 3300 Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Faith Reilly at 523-3057.

26 **Bingo** at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and S. McKinley Ave. in the gym. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are \$10. Door prizes.

Planned Parenthood

continued from page 11
birth reduction within black communities. Black physicians were placed where they would appear to be in charge. She even used black ministers to further her racist ends. Sanger wrote, “We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members.” Ultimately, her program made no significant impact on health.

Sanger is long gone, but her organization, now known as Planned Parenthood, proudly walks in her footsteps. Using its “better health” code, Planned Parenthood continues to infest black communities. The vast majority of Planned Parenthood

clinics are located in those communities, at times about 80 percent. When Planned Parenthood switched from community-based to school-based clinics during the ’80s, virtually all were placed in black, minority or ethnic schools.

And since 1973, Planned Parenthood has unleashed a new weapon in its arsenal: legal abortion.

According to Planned Parenthood’s 1992 figures, blacks accounted for 13 percent of the population but 23.2 percent of the abortions. By 2004, the numbers were 12.4 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

Abortion kills more blacks than AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer and heart disease combined, well over 1,400 each day. A black baby is nearly as likely to be aborted than born.

Abortion kills about five times as many blacks as whites. And who is the biggest abortion provider? Take a guess.

We all know about our tragic history of black slavery. We hear little about the new slavery of blacks and other people of color: legal abortion. That’s why black pro-life leaders like Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Gardner Day call stopping abortion the new civil rights movement. We must join the fight.

For starters, demand that Congress stop funding Planned Parenthood, a billion-dollar organization receiving about \$300 million annually in taxpayer dollars. Our hard-earned money has become blood money. We are supporting the killing

of our brothers and sisters, unwittingly involving ourselves in what black leaders call “black genocide.”

For its part, Planned Parenthood denies any racist intent, which brings us back to that photo. It shows a woman of color with two kids. The woman’s face is turned from the camera, but the name “Ricky” tattooed on her left breast is plainly visible. And then there are those kids, who if not black are of mixed race. So here’s the question: Why would Planned Parenthood send that photo and a request for money to a white guy living in an affluent white area?

Take a guess.

Paul V. Esposito is a Catholic lawyer who writes on a variety of pro-life topics. Visit us on the web at <http://www.the-culture-of-life.com>.

Oklahoma Catholic Women Converge On Conference

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mary Ed Cain attended the first Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference held two years ago. She was unable to make last year's conference. She was able to attend this year's gathering, held Jan. 24 at the Clarion Convention Center and she said she's back for good.

"I'll never miss again," said Cain, a parishioner at Saint Andrews Parish in Moore. "This is the most incredible experience for a Catholic woman in Oklahoma. To have this all assembled right here, in one place, is just fantastic."

That sentiment was held by many of the more than 900 women who spent the day listening to energetic Catholic speakers, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, going to confession and worshipping at Mass celebrated by Archbishop Beltran.

For Kathy Beaucourt, this was her first experience attending the Catholic Women's Conference. She said her husband has attended the Men's Conference a number of times and recommended she spend a day at the women's conference.

"I was supposed to be in Dallas,

but that fell through so I'm here," said Beaucourt, a parishioner at Saint John Nepomuk in Yukon. "I'm really glad, because this is wonderful."

"This creates a whole different perspective of what it means to be a Catholic woman in Oklahoma."

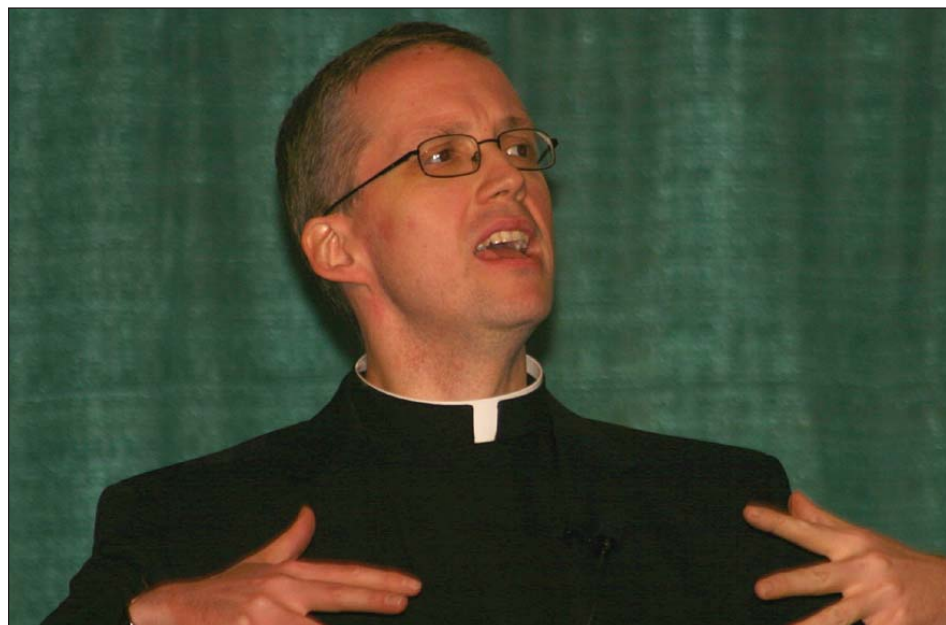
Johnnette Benkovic's perspective is that Oklahoma Catholic women must join with their sisters around the world to declare war on Satan.

Benkovic, the founder of and president of "Women of Grace," shared her perspective with a powerful evangelic-like delivery. "God wants to put feet on your faith," she told the audience. "God is asking women to transform the culture."

She said our culture has "declared war on God" and said President Obama is in desperate need of our prayers. Benkovic made the comment the day after the newly installed president reversed the "Mexico City" law. The law made it illegal for U.S. taxpayer money to help fund abortions in other countries. "We see the face of God in those we love and even more so in those we don't love," Benkovic said.

Benkovic challenged the audience to live with "authentic femininity," the kind lived by the Blessed Virgin.

Father Shane Tharp, pastor at



Father Shane Tharp gave an entertaining and thought provoking presentation to the more than 900 women at the conference.



Loriyn Finnell talks with Archbishop Beltran at the Women's Conference. Finnell served as emcee for the event.

Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Prague, had the audience rolling with laughter one moment and then pondering the horrible consequences of abortion with his delivery titled "Small Enough for a World This Big."

Father Tharp said women are misled by celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, who tell their massive audiences they can have the "best life ever" just by using particular products or reading the right books.

"That Fiber One bar might make tomorrow morning a little more

pleasant, but the best life ever, I don't think so," he said.

Father Tharp said our culture pushes us to seek control and perfection. He called this insanity.

"We live in a maniac world," Father Tharp said. He described the "maniac" as the one who thinks he or she is in control. "The cure for the maniac," Father Tharp said, "is to accept reality as reality is. I'm made to fit into the universe. I've got some control, but I did not make the universe."

Father Tharp said at one time in his life he was a pagan, but his strong attraction to chemical engineering caused him to ask questions and search for answers. He said he knew in order to understand the universe, he would have to find the one who made it.

This led him to God. Or, as he now knows, God was waiting for him all along.

Father Tharp said faith and prayer can help keep life in perspective. He encouraged the women at the conference to read the Bible daily. "Read just five minutes a day," he said. He also encouraged them to learn to pray the Rosary. "One decade at a time," he said.

"I can't fix someone else," Father Tharp said. "Only myself. That's small and it keeps the maniac at bay."



Sister Veronica Higgins and Kathy Beaucourt share a moment at the conference.