

Go Make Disciples

Pope Francis' constant refrain throughout his first year as pope: 'Go forth'

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis' most frequent advice and exhortation to Catholics — from laypeople in parishes to bishops and cardinals — is "Go forth."

In Italian, the phrase is even snappier: "Avanti."

As the world's cardinals gathered at the Vatican in early March 2013 to discuss the needs of the church before they entered the conclave to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI, "avanti" was at the heart of a speech by then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The speech captured the imagination of his confrere, Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino, who received permission to share it after Pope Francis was elected.

"Put simply, there are two images of the church: a church which evangelizes and goes out of herself" by hearing the word of God with reverence and proclaiming it with faith; and "the worldly church, living within herself, of herself, for herself," Cardinal Bergoglio told the cardinals before they elected him pope.

He also used another image that has become a frequent refrain during his first year as head of the church: "In Revelation, Jesus says that he is at the door and knocks. Obviously, the text refers to his knocking from the outside in order to enter, but I think about the times in which Jesus knocks from within so that we will let him come out."

The need for the church to go out into the world with the Gospel also was the central theme of this first apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter's Square. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Gospel"), published in November.

In the document, the pope called on Catholics to go out into the world, sharing their faith "with enthusiasm and vitality" by being living examples of joy, love and charity.

"An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral," he wrote.

Over and over during the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis has asked practicing Catholics to realize the grace they have been given and accept responsibility for helping others experience the same grace — especially the poor, the sick and others left on the "peripheries" or margins of society.

The health of the church depends on it, he has said. If Catholics jealously hoard the gift of being loved by God and the joy of salvation, not sharing it with others, "we will become isolated, sterile and sick Christians," he said

in his message for World Mission Sunday 2013.

"Each one of us can think of persons who live without hope and are immersed in a profound sadness that they try to escape by thinking they can find happiness in alcohol, drugs, gambling, the power of money, promiscuity," he told parish leaders from the Diocese of Rome in June.

"We who have the joy of knowing that we are not orphans, that we have a father," cannot be indifferent to those yearning for love and for hope, he said. "With your witness, with your smile," you need to let others know that the same Father loves them, too.

Even in countries like Italy where the majority of inhabitants have been baptized, most people do not practice their faith.

"In the Gospel there's the beautiful passage about the shepherd who realizes that one of his sheep

is missing, and he leaves the 99 to go out and find the one," Pope Francis told the parish leaders. "But, brothers and sisters, we have only one. We're missing 99! We must go out and find them."

Sheep metaphors are frequent in Pope Francis' speeches and homilies. Urging priests and bishops to spend time among people, he told them they should be "shepherds living with the smell of sheep."

In a morning Mass homily Feb. 14, the feast of the great evangelists Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Pope Francis said Christians always remember they are sheep in Christ's flock. They must preserve their humility as they go into the world with the Gospel, even if they find themselves among wolves.

"Sometimes, we're tempted to think, 'But this is difficult, these wolves are cunning, but I can be more cunning,'" he said. "If you are a lamb, God will defend you, but if you think you're as strong as the wolf, he won't, and the wolves will eat you whole."

Celebrating Mass with an estimated 3 million young people at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in July, Pope Francis said, "Evangelizing means bearing personal witness to the love of God, it is overcoming our selfishness, it is serving by bending down to wash the feet of our brethren, as Jesus did."

The obligation to share the Gospel and care for others comes with baptism, and no one is excused from the task, he said.

"Jesus did not say, 'One of you go,' but 'All of you go.' We are sent together."

Pope Francis told the young people in Rio, as he told others before and since: "Be creative. Be audacious. Do not be afraid."

Pope's gestures, choices are teaching moments

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — From the moment Pope Francis, dressed simply in a white cassock, stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica for the first time and bowed, he signaled his pontificate would bring some style differences to the papacy.

Some of the style changes are simply a reflection of his personality, he has explained. Others are meant to be a lesson. But sometimes the two coincide.

Answering questions from students in June, he said the Apostolic Palace, where his predecessors lived "is not that luxurious," but he decided to live in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, a Vatican guesthouse, "for psychiatric reasons."

Living alone or in an isolated setting "would not do me any good," he said, because he's the kind of person who prefers living in the thick of things, "among the people." However, he added that he tries to live as simply as possible, "to not have many things and to become a bit poorer" like Christ.

Unlike his choice of residence, his decision to travel in Rome in a blue Ford Focus instead of one of the Mercedes sedans in the Vatican motor pool was meant to be a message.

Meeting with seminarians and novices in July, he said too many people — including religious — think joy comes from possessions, "so they go in quest of the latest model of smartphone, the fastest scooter, the showy car."

"I tell you, it truly grieves me to see a priest or a sister with the latest model of a car," he said. For many priests and religious, cars are a necessity, "but choose a more humble car. And if you like the beautiful one, only think of all the children who are dying of hunger."

A few days after his election, Pope Francis told reporters who had covered the conclave, "How I would like a church which is poor and for the poor."

In October, he traveled to the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi and met clients of Catholic charities in the room where St. Francis had stripped off his cloak and renounced his family's wealth. The pope said he knew some people were expecting him to say or do something

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Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

Take the longer view of Lent

I love Lent. Please don't misunderstand me. It's not that I embrace penance or self-denial more eagerly than others do. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak! The disciplines of Lent, of course, do involve self-denial. But these acts of penance and almsgiving, as well as our greater commitment to prayer, are liberating. They are directed toward renewal. Lent is the liturgical season which highlights the call to repentance and ongoing conversion more urgently than any other. Now is the time to prepare ourselves with the whole Church for the celebration and experience of new life at Easter. Jesus Christ died for you and for me. We will only share the joy of his victory if we acknowledge our need for a savior. Lent puts us in touch with that deep human and spiritual need.

If we are truly seeking a deeper conversion to Christ and desire to live as his disciples it seems strange that we usually take on penances and disciplines during Lent simply to discard them at Easter. Unfortunately, that is often the way we approach this penitential season. Discipleship is a lifelong journey and a year-round way of life. The most fruitful Lenten disciplines help us focus on those areas of our life in which the Lord is calling us to deeper conversion and repentance. In other words, it is not primarily about what legitimate pleasure we should "give up" during Lent, but about what sin in our life we need to repent of so that we can follow Christ more faithfully. What obstacles need to be removed? What relationships need to be repaired, improved or ended? What bad habits need to be broken? What virtues (good habits) need to be strengthened? Our acts of fasting, almsgiving and our prayer open our hearts to God's grace so that we can follow Christ more closely.

Most Catholics still recognize the importance of a good confession during Lent. It is how we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. We humbly confess our sinfulness seeking divine mercy and we experience the liberating grace of reconciliation with God and his Church. Unfortunately, far too many Catholics approach the Sacrament of Penance only during Lent. If it is really so beneficial, why would we approach it so infrequently?

The grace of Lent is an invitation to make permanent changes in our lives. How about changing our attitude

toward the Sacrament of Penance? Beginning this Lent, I invite us to approach this great sacrament of mercy more frequently. Without the grace and healing that comes to us through the Sacrament of Penance, how can we experience the deeper conversion and spiritual growth that the Lord desires for us?

Saint John Vianney recognized the importance of this sacrament for the renewal of his parish. He spent untold hours hearing confessions because he saw this great gift, which was being neglected in his time just as it is in our own, as the key that would free his people from their bondage to sin and lead them to great holiness. By preaching its importance, praying for his parishioners' conversion and making himself available in the confessional, he eventually witnessed the fruits of a great spiritual renewal in his parish. The renewal began with the Sacrament of Penance which helped people experience God's great mercy and opened their hearts to the fruitful reception of the Eucharist and an eagerness for the works of charity.

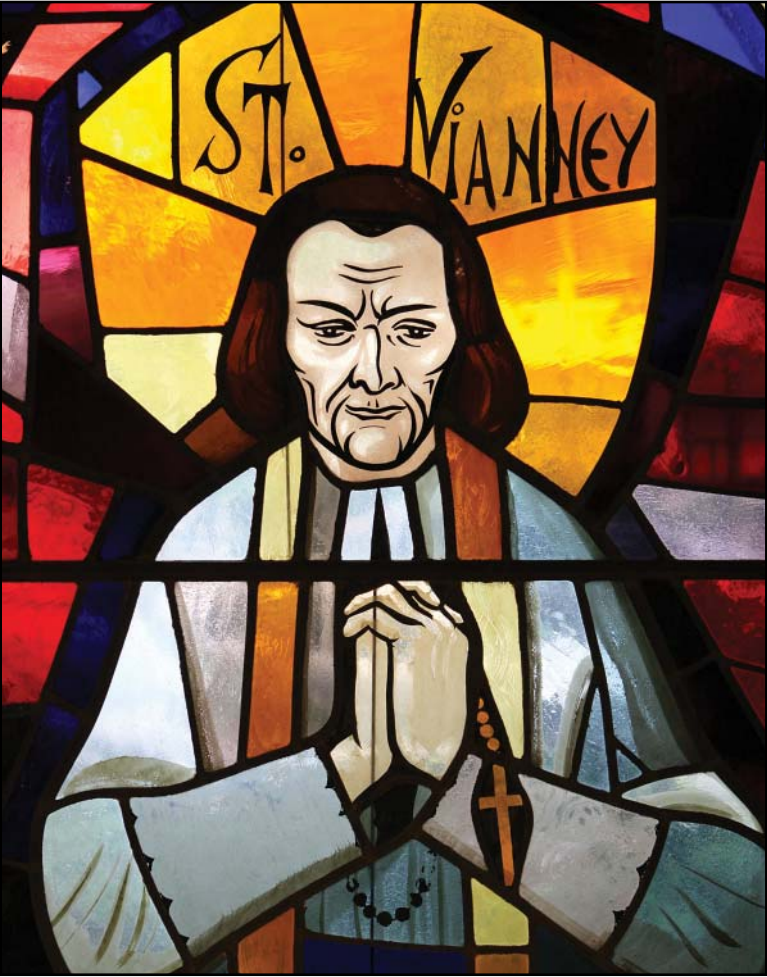
"It is beautiful to think that we have a sacrament which heals the wounds of our souls," exclaimed Saint John Vianney. Why would we not go frequently to receive the benefits of this great sacrament? Each

of us longs for the profound experience of freedom and peace which comes from a clear conscience and the experience of being forgiven and set free from our bondage to sin. Saint John Vianney describes the effects of this sacrament in just those terms: "The Good God at the moment of absolution throws our sins behind his shoulders; in other words, He forgets them; He destroys them; they will never reappear again."

This Lent, take the longer view. Recognize the need for lasting changes and ongoing conversion. A commitment to the frequent celebration of the Sacrament of Penance will transform that hoped-for outcome from a mere dream into a reality.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



St. John Vianney (CNS photo/Gregory L. Tracy, The Pilot)

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- March 9** – Rites of Election, 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- March 11** – **March 12** – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
- March 13** – Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors Meeting, Baltimore, Md.
- March 15** – Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., Saint Peter Church, Guymon
- March 17** – Saint Patrick's Day Mass, Noon, Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City
- March 18** – Cemetery Board Meeting, 2 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- March 19** – **March 21** – Seminary Visit – Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Mexico City
- March 22** – Central Regional Council of Catholic Women Mass and Women of Achievement Luncheon, 11 a.m., Saint Charles Borromeo Church
- March 22** – Confessions and Mass for Young Adult Day of Reflection, 3 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- March 23** – Confirmation, 8:30 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet

Exclusively on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

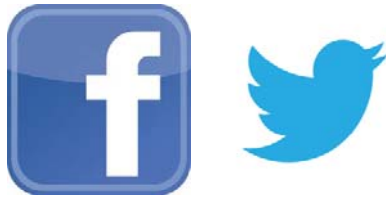
Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.com:

✓ The next **Beginning Experience** weekend is March 14 to March 16. The weekend offers support for the widowed, divorced or separated. Read past participant Donna Cord's reflections on her own experience at <http://archokc.org/news/2741-beginning-experience>.

✓ The March 1 **Ladies of Grace Women's Conference** offered attendees "wine, chocolate and wisdom." For a full rundown of the day's events, visit <http://archokc.org/news/2743-wine-chocolate-and-wisdom>.

✓ The Feb. 22 **Evangelii Gaudium Day of Study** drew an energized and enthusiastic crowd to Marian Hall at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon to hear Archbishop Paul Coakley, director of New Evangelization Carole Brown, Ph.D., Father Shane Tharp, director of Hispanic Ministry Pedro Moreno and Catholic Charities director of advocacy and legal services Dick Klinge. Photos and podcasts of the presentations from the day available at www.archokc.org.

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



Pope asks prayers for Ukraine; archbishop says country in danger

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — As uncertainty reigned in Ukraine and Russian troops appeared to have control of the Crimean peninsula, Pope Francis again asked the world's Christians to pray for Ukraine and urged the parties involved in the conflict to engage in dialogue.

"I ask you again to pray for Ukraine, which is in a very delicate situation," Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus March 2.

"While I hope that all sectors of the country will endeavor to overcome misunderstandings and build the future of the nation together," the pope said, "I make a heartfelt appeal to the international community to support every initiative in favor of dialogue and harmony."

After Russian troops entered Crimea, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, issued a statement March 1 saying, "Ukraine, unfortunately, has been pulled into a military conflict. So far no one is shooting, so far people are not dying, but it is obvious that military intervention has already begun."

"Our people and our country are currently in danger," the archbishop said. "We must stand up for our country, to be ready — if necessary — to sacrifice our lives in order to protect

the sovereign, free, independent, and unified state," he said in the statement distributed by the Catholic magazine Credo.

In Ukraine, March 2 was "Forgiveness Sunday" for Eastern Catholics and members of the Orthodox churches; Lent began March 3 for Catholics and Orthodox who follow the Byzantine tradition.

Addressing members of the church in a pastoral letter for Lent, Archbishop Shevchuk and members of the church's permanent synod said Ukrainians "enter into the great fast this year with feelings of pain, fear, suffering and trembling hope."

Months of protests sparked by a government decision to reverse a process of closer cooperation with Europe erupted in bloodshed in late February and led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich. After an interim leader was appointed in Ukraine, the Russian government began what it called military exercises along the countries' shared border and sent troops into Crimea.

In their Lenten letter, Archbishop Shevchuk and members of his synod called on Catholics to use the 40 days of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to grow closer to God and to one's neighbors. Lent, they said, is a time to convert from sin, suspicion and hatred and take responsibility together for the future of the country.



Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Cardinal: Ignorance about marriage is no reason to change doctrine

VATICAN CITY — Just because many Catholics do not understand the church's teaching about the indissolubility of marriage, that does not mean the church can change that teaching, said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Speaking to reporters Feb. 25 — just days after the College of Cardinals held a two-day meeting to discuss the pastoral care of families — he said the widespread lack of understanding among Catholics about church doctrine was "lamentable."

However, just because people don't understand Jesus' word doesn't mean it can or should be changed, he said. "It would be paradoxical if the church said, 'Since not everyone knows the truth, the truth isn't obligatory for the future.'"

Not allowing divorced and civilly remarried Catholics access to the Eucharist "is not about my opinion," Cardinal Muller said; it reflects a long history of church teaching and doctrine.

After the Archdiocese of Freiburg, Germany, said it would make it easier for divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Com-



(CNS file photo/Jon L. Hendricks)

munion, Cardinal Muller wrote an article last summer — published in a German newspaper and in the various language editions of the Vatican newspaper — countering any expectations that the Catholic Church would relax its discipline on receiving the sacraments.

Pastoral attention to Catholics cannot go against doctrine, the cardinal told journalists Feb. 25.

"Doctrine and pastoral care are the same thing. Jesus Christ

as pastor and Jesus Christ as teacher with his word are not two different people," he said.

While Pope Francis has called for new pastoral approaches that are creative, courageous and loving, Cardinal Muller said whatever those new approaches are, they cannot go against the will of Jesus.

The sacrament of marriage will remain as an indissoluble bond between husband and wife and that teaching cannot be changed,

he said. Any new approaches "must deepen knowledge" and people's understanding of that teaching.

Many Catholics "think marriage is just a festive gathering celebrated in church, but the spouses are giving their word," promising to fully live in each other, in body and soul, in faith and in God's grace, he said.

"There is no solution, since church dogma isn't just some theory created by some theologians;" it represents "the word of Jesus Christ, which is very clear. I cannot change church doctrine."

Cardinal Muller spoke to reporters minutes before a conference to present his new book on poverty. Sitting next to him at the book presentation was Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, with whom he has disagreed publicly over the church's approach to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics. The topic of marriage did not arise during the presentation.

Read the related article "Cardinal outlines possible paths to Communion for divorced, remarried" at www.soonercatholic.com.

Marriage needs to be 'preserved,' not 'redefined,' says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Marriage needs "to be preserved and strengthened, not redefined," San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said Feb. 28 in support of the State Marriage Defense Act of 2014, introduced into the U.S. Senate by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. "Every just effort to stand for the unique meaning of marriage is worthy of support," the archbishop said in a letter to Cruz. The archbishop, who is chairman of the U.S. Con-

ference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, sent a similar letter in January to U.S. Rep. Randy Weber, R-Texas, when he introduced a companion bill in the House Jan. 9. Archbishop Cordileone urged the U.S. Senate to pass the measure, saying it is necessary to keep the federal government from circumventing state laws defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. "Various agencies

of the executive branch — most recently the Department of Justice by order of Attorney General (Eric) Holder — have decided to use a 'place of celebration' rule rather than a 'place of domicile' rule when determining the validity of a marriage for purposes of federal rights, benefits and privileges," the archbishop said in the letter to Cruz.

At right: Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiehech)





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Between “as is” and “should be”: What exactly is a disciple?

A long time ago, in a land far away (Minnesota), I received some of the best ministry training I ever got. I was training for a placement as a youth minister. I didn't know where I would be assigned or what I would find there, but I was given this simple instruction: assess the “AS IS” situation; then, define the “SHOULD BE” situation; finally, develop a POA (plan of action) that will help move the situation from the “AS IS” to the “SHOULD BE.” That sounded simple enough.

I arrived at my new job, starry-eyed and confident. The “AS IS” situation soon became apparent. The high school kids had checked out almost entirely after confirmation. The first high school youth group meeting was pitiful—I actually cried. A total of five kids out of a possible 60 showed up, and appeared only rarely on Sunday. The POA for the first few years would be largely a matter of seeking out lost sheep—showing up at their schools, games, plays and recitals, building relationships of trust, and earning the right to be heard. Going out for a coke or a movie eventually won me the right to extend an invite to a Christian concert or a bible study. After two years of investment in relationships with kids, they were a visible presence in church.

When we consider our AS IS situation in the Church in the United States, the numbers are humbling. According to recent research on U.S. Catholics, 70 percent of those baptized as infants are no longer practicing by the time they are adults. Only about 1 percent of all U.S. Catholics have made a conscious personal commitment to relationship with Jesus Christ. Five percent to 7 percent of those who still practice have done so. The rest practice largely out of habit, going through the motions.

The Church's mission is to make disciples. But what is a disciple, exactly? The General Directory of Catechesis offers a description of what a disciple “SHOULD BE.” This richly vivid and experiential account captures key themes from the Second Vatican Council and the thought of Pope John Paul II.

Faith is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ making of oneself a disciple of him. This demands a per-

manent commitment to think like him, to judge like him and to live as he lived. In this way the believer unites himself to the community of disciples and appropriates the faith of the Church.

This “Yes” to Jesus Christ... is twofold: a trustful abandonment to God and a loving assent to all that he has revealed to us. [...] “By faith man freely commits his entire self completely to God, making the full submission of his intellect and will to God who reveals, and willingly assenting to the Revelation given by him.”

[...] Faith involves a change of life, a “metanoia,” that is a profound transformation of mind and heart; it causes the believer to live that conversion. This transformation of life manifests itself at all levels of the Christian's existence. ...

*Faith and conversion arise from the “heart,” that is, they arise from the depth of the human person and they involve all that he is. **By meeting Jesus Christ and by adhering to him the human being sees all of his deepest aspirations completely fulfilled. He finds what he had always been seeking and he finds it superabundantly.***

(Seriously: think about that. What an *astounding* promise is offered by Jesus!)

This is a challenging standard indeed! We might ask ourselves: have I, or my fellow parishioners, experienced a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in our Church? Have I made a conscious permanent commitment to try to think and judge like him? Have I embraced the faith of the Church, or do I retain mental reservations about some things? Have I really said “Yes” to Jesus Christ, from my heart, or am I just going through the motions? Have I made a decision to entrust my whole life to Him, or do I still feel that I have to be in control? Have my deepest hopes been completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ?

That is what SHOULD BE happening. To the extent that it isn't happening, that's the point of the New Evangelization: to create conditions that favor the development of that kind of faith.



By Carole Brown, Ph.D.

Ash Wednesday in Rome at a station church

Half an hour before sunrise on Ash Wednesday, hundreds of English-speakers from all over Rome will begin walking to the ancient basilica of Saint Sabina on the Aventine Hill. The Schwerpunkt, or focal point, for all this activity is the Pontifical North American College: More than 250 seminarians, student-priests, priest-faculty and staff, having walked from the Janiculum Hill to the Aventine, will form the largest single contingent at Saint Sabina on Ash Wednesday.

That is as it should be. For Saint Sabina is the first “station” in the Roman station church pilgrimage of Lent, a tradition dating back to the middle centuries of the first Christian millennium. And the station church pilgrimage, which extends throughout Lent and involves some 40 churches, has become, today, a predominantly Anglophone phenomenon, having been revived for the third millennium by the NAC.

I got a sense of just how American this venerable custom has become when I spent all of Lent 2011 in Rome, making the station church pilgrimage in full with my son Stephen and my friend Elizabeth Lev, as we prepared our book on this unique spiritual, historical and aesthetic journey, “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches” (Basic Books).

On the Thursday after Ash Wednesday 2011, at 7 a.m., perhaps 250 English-speakers crowded into the small basilica of Saint George in Velabro for the second Mass of Lent. Forty-five minutes later, a brave group of Germans came to honor the station church tradition by celebrating a beautifully chanted Mass together; there were seven of them.

When I asked my friend Hanna Suchocka, the Polish ambassador to the Vatican, why she regularly attended the 7 a.m. English-language station church Mass rather than the more convenient 5:30 p.m.

Vicariate of Rome Mass at the station church of the day: “Because I found a living Church here [i.e., at the American-sponsored Mass].”

Saint Sabina is a splendid place to begin the station church pilgrimage. Saint Sabina is home to the oldest known depiction of the crucifixion, on the cypress doors of its porch: an image caught beautifully in one of Stephen's “Roman Pilgrimage” photographs and a reminder that Lent is a journey with the Lord “up to Jerusalem,” where Jesus will meet his messianic destiny in the Paschal Mystery.

Liz's, Stephen's, and my intention in “Roman Pilgrimage” was to put readers “inside” the station church pilgrimage experience. Liz's brilliant descriptions of each church's architecture and decoration give the reader a sense of “being there” and understanding what, in fact, is “there.” Stephen's striking photographs are not modeled on high-end architectural magazines, where places lack people; the photos in “Roman Pilgrimage,” either in the hardback or the e-book (where all the photos are in color and can be “zoomed” out by tapping on them), literally put you “inside” the station church pilgrimage in the day, with the “living Church” of which Hanna Suchocka spoke. My meditations on the daily Mass and Divine Office texts suggest something of what that “living Church” is pondering, day by day, as it walks through Rome while, imaginatively, walking up to Calvary and the Empty Tomb.

Americans in Rome have revived an ancient Catholic tradition that had lain dormant for centuries. That's the happy fact to which “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches” bears witness; that's an experience readers can now share.

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



By George Weigel

Abby Johnson at OKC pro-life event: “We don’t have courage to call contraception what it is – sinful”

By Tina Korbe Dzurisin

The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY (Feb. 26, 2014) — To fight abortion effectively, pro-life advocates must recognize that contraception and abortion are inextricably linked in the business models of major abortion providers, a former Planned Parenthood abortion clinic director said.

Speaking at a Feb. 26 pro-life ministry fair at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, Catholic convert Abby Johnson said abortion providers are well aware that increased access to contraception does not actually reduce the rate of abortion.

“Since the widespread acceptance of contraception, what has happened to our abortion numbers?” Johnson asked. “They’ve ballooned exponentially. In fact, any unbiased study that is done shows that, where there are higher rates of contraception, there are higher rates of abortion. Why? Because the child becomes the enemy and, so, we’re no longer open to life. When we’re no longer open to life, it becomes easy to take life.”

Fifty-four percent of women who choose abortion are using contraception at the time they become pregnant, according to Johnson. (This statistic is corroborated by research from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute.)

The “radical feminist movement” pushes contraception “because it lines the pocketbooks of these abortion clinics for their contraception to fail and for the woman to go back into the clinic for an abortion,” Johnson said. “It’s a very sad business model and it’s working



Abby Johnson speaks at Feb. 26 event.

Pope’s gestures

continued from page 1
similarly shocking with the church's material goods.

Living simply is important, he said, not just out of solidarity with the poor, but because it is so easy to get attached to worldly possessions, turning them into idols. The church, he said in Assisi, “must strip away every kind of worldly spirit, which is a temptation for everyone; strip away every action that is not for God, that is not from God; strip away the fear of opening the doors and going out to encounter all, especially the poorest of the poor, the needy, the remote, without waiting.”

The first year of Pope Francis' pontificate also has been one of encounters.

A pope, like priests around the world, celebrates Mass every day. Before he became very infirm, Blessed John Paul II would invite visiting bishops and special guests to attend his early morning Mass in the chapel of the papal residence. Pope Benedict XVI's morning Mass generally was more



The newest member of the Kevin Calvey family.

for them,” she added. “One of the reasons it's working is because we don't have enough courage to call contraception and abortion what they are – and that is sinful.”

Her use of “we” notwithstanding, Johnson herself does not lack courage. By now, her story is likely familiar to many readers.

As a college coed, Johnson found herself unexpectedly pregnant. At the instruction of her then-boyfriend, Johnson aborted her baby. Shortly thereafter, a Planned Parenthood employee visited her college campus and sold Johnson on the idea that Planned Parenthood services – including abortion – help women.

“Wherever vulnerable women are, so is Planned Parenthood, and there are tens of thousands of vulnerable women on college campuses,” Johnson said. “It was very easy for me to justify what she was saying because I had already let that evil enter my mind (when I personally chose abortion).”

Johnson began to volunteer for Planned Par-

enthood. Eventually, she became the director of an abortion clinic. She had a second abortion and estimates that she assisted in some 20,000 abortions total.

“That time in my life, I was just digging myself further and further into a sinful lifestyle and really not even seeing it,” Johnson said. “That's the way sin works, right? I didn't go from being a pro-life person to all of a sudden running a Planned Parenthood clinic one day. Sin creeps into your life little by little by little, and, then, one day, you wake up and you realize, ‘I don't even know who I am anymore.’”

Then, on Sept. 26, 2009, Johnson was asked to assist in an ultrasound-guided abortion; she recoiled in shock as she saw a 13-week-old baby attempt to escape the abortionist's instrument. Profoundly moved, she sought assistance from a local pro-life group to change her life.

Since then, she has become an ardent advocate for unborn babies.

“Here, in this community, babies die every week and there is no justice,” Johnson said at the Feb. 26 event. “I don't know how God is calling you to be pro-life, but I pray that you'll listen and that you'll act on whatever it is you're being called to do. To be quite honest, we're commanded to act. The Bible says we have to stand up for ‘the least of these,’ and I'm pretty sure our unborn children qualify for the ‘least of these.’”

Johnson also founded a ministry to assist abortion clinic workers who wish to leave the industry.

“If we're doing this work without charity not just for the women who are having abortions but also for the people working in the clinics, then we're doing something wrong,” Johnson said.

In the past 18 months alone, 95 abortion clinic workers have turned to Johnson, and four abortion clinics have closed as a result of those workers coming forward.

“If you get abortion clinic workers out of the industry, the abortion clinics will close,” she said.

Tina Korbe Dzurisin is the director of communications for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

can be used by the powerful, and he has taken steps to make sure that does not happen.

At his morning Mass and at his large public liturgies, Pope Francis gives Communion only to the altar servers and deacons, then he sits down and prays.

In a 2010 book written with Buenos Aires Rabbi Abraham Skorka, Pope Francis said that at large Masses for special occasions — Masses attended by government officials and leading business people — “I do not give Communion myself; I stay back and I let the ministers give it, because I do not want those people to come to me for the photo op. One could deny Communion to a public sinner who has not repented, but it is very difficult to check such things.”

Read the related articles “10 things you didn't know about Pope Francis” and “Pope Francis' 10 most memorable quotes” at www.soonercatholic.com.

OPUBCO president and Oklahoman publisher: “My Catholic faith has been the stabilizing force of my life”

By Sally Linhart
For the Sooner Catholic

As president of OPubCO Communications Group and publisher of The Oklahoman, as well as a father of three, Chris Reen begins and ends each day with the familial duties that come with having teenagers – school, sports, activities and homework. Likewise, a day in the office is equally as bustling. A typical day is comprised of meetings, correspondence, communicating with customers, collaborating with employees in every department, strategizing, making decisions and examining details of every project.

Despite his responsibilities, he still manages to make time for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. “Although it’s been tested, my faith has no beginning and no end,” said Reen. “It’s been the stabilizing force throughout my life. My relationship with Jesus continues to evolve and strengthen, and is very personal to me.”

Reen’s faith is not only apparent in his personal life, but influences his professional life, as well.

“Successful leaders have a passion and commitment to what they believe in, just as Jesus did,” he said. “They care deeply about the people they work with and for, and show compassion, empathy, patience and encouragement. These are all strong Catholic and Christian values that I try to emulate in my actions throughout my business and in the community.”

Reen moved to Oklahoma in 2004 when he joined The Oklahoman as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. He became president and publisher in 2011.

“I’m blessed to serve as president and publisher of The Oklahoman,” Reen said. “Our pursuit of making the state a better place to live, work and raise a family is at the forefront of everything we do.”

Reen began his career in the newspaper industry as an intern with The Buffalo News in 1987, working his way into management during

his eight-year tenure. He then served as Retail Advertising Manager at the Daytona Beach News-Journal, and as Classified Director for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Before joining The Oklahoman, he was Vice President of Advertising for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Reen, his wife Amy and their three children Hannah, 16, and twins Sean and Griffin, 14, attend Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. Since moving to Oklahoma 10 years ago, the Reen family has been deeply involved in parish life at Saint John. Amy has been involved in several women’s bible study groups and he participates in the men’s group “That Man Is You” (TMIY).

“It helps us successfully navigate our relationship with God, our spouses and our children” said Reen. “As Catholic men, there are many responsibilities we juggle at home, in the community and at work. Through the support of other men in the parish that are encountering similar situations, we’re there for one another and help one another grow stronger in our faith and all aspects of our lives.”

Reen’s Catholic roots run deep. Growing up in Buffalo, he was an altar server.

“As the baby of 10 children and the youngest of six boys, (being an altar server) was a rite of passage in my house” he said. “I grew up in one of the most Catholic cities in America. Everyone I knew was Catholic. It was just assumed. There were two things on every corner in Buffalo – bars and Catholic churches!”

Reen attended the Cathedral School, Mount Saint Joseph’s Academy and Canisius High School, one of the oldest all-boy Catholic Jesuit high schools in the nation, founded in 1870.

“My grandfather, father and four of my older



Chris Reen

brothers all graduated ahead of me,” Reen said.

Providing his children with the same strong spiritual foundation is important to Reen. “It’s my experience that Catholic schools in general focus on developing a student’s spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical life.” All three of his children attend Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS).

In 2013, Reen served as the 2013 Green Tie Gala Ambassador. The annual Saint Patrick’s Green Tie Gala benefits Catholic Charities, a favorite of Reen’s. He’s also fond of Sister BJ’s pantry for the homeless and the Family-to-Family program at Saint John. Reen and his daughter Hannah will spend spring break this year in Peru on a mission trip with BMCHS to help build homes and meet their “family.”

Finding time for prayer can be difficult, but as Reen said “You have to make time. If I’m in the car driving, I can get a lot of quiet prayer and reflection in for the day. I’ve been known to say ‘Our Fathers’ instead of counting sheep if I can’t sleep.”

Additionally, attending Mass as a family is a priority for Reen.

“Receiving the Eucharist is a true blessing. My children have even remarked to me that they always feel better after Mass — and especially after receiving communion,” he said.

Although he admits to being scared of Reconciliation as a kid, Reen now looks forward to the sacrament and believes that admitting fault is a virtue.

“We’re all sinners, and are blessed that God gives us the gift of His forgiveness through confession. It’s a reminder to me that if I can be forgiven for my transgressions, then I can forgive as well.”

Aside from Christmas, which is also Reen’s birthday, another day of great celebration for him is Saint Patrick’s Day. “We treat Saint Patrick’s Day as a Holy Day!” he said. And of course, when asked who his favorite saint is, Reen answered “Saint Patrick. I’m Irish – enough said.”

Sally Linhart volunteers in the archdiocesan Office of Communications. She has a background in journalism and advertising.

Meet Our Seminarians



This is the 19th part in a 24-part series to introduce the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to the people they will one day serve as priests.

Kevin Hathaway

1. *What is your home parish?* My home parish is Saint Thomas More in Norman.

2. *What seminary do you attend?* I attend Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

3. *If it is God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest?* I could be ordained as a priest in 2018.

4. *How old were you when you first thought that God might be calling you to the priesthood?* I began to consider it seriously when I was 24.

5. *What is your favorite subject in the seminary?* I enjoy my philosophy classes. We’ve read a small amount of Saint Thomas Aquinas this semester, and I was very attracted to his understanding of the nature of man. We are made for God. We are made for the truth, and it is our nature to seek the truth.

6. *What is the most important thing you have learned in the seminary so far?* I am learning so much about the multitude of personalities in a large group. My classmates are all different, but we’re here to grow in love toward God and understand what God is calling us to in life.

7. *What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest?* I look forward to celebrating the Eucharist and being a pastor. I want to live the life of a servant of God and help build His Church.

8. *Who is your favorite saint?* Saint Patrick is my confirmation saint, and I pray his lorica prayer almost every day.

9. *Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know.* Every Catholic needs to know that God loves us and that we are called to live our faith in every aspect of our lives.

10. *Why choose a life of sacrificial love in any vocation rather than a life of self-gratification?* It is our nature to seek the good, and our tradition directs that search toward Jesus and His church. Everyone is called to grow in perfection through the love and grace of God. Everyone then is called to be more human and more alive by living our faith.

Religious Vocations Festival aims to assist young Catholics discerning a religious vocation

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

Discerning a vocation to the religious life is usually a joyful experience for the young Catholic and his or her family. However, many young Oklahoma Catholics often have little assistance in sorting through the hundreds of religious orders both here in Oklahoma and across the nation.

LaVerta Straham and the University of Oklahoma campus ministry team want their upcoming vocations festival to help those considering a religious vocation by giving them concrete examples of paths they can take in their discernment.

After returning from a profoundly impactful “nun run,” a road trip to visit religious orders from Oklahoma to Maryland, Straham and her fellow discerners brainstormed how they could make that experience possible to young people without leaving the state of Oklahoma.

“We had such a wonderful experience seeing all the different types of communities. We were able to experience religious life in a way that none of us had ever experienced it before through visiting and working with sisters with a wide range of apostolates,” said Straham. “When we got back from the trip we realized that this was an experience that we wanted to bring to a larger group of people.”

From their desire to share their experience, the Oklahoma Religious Vocations Festival was created. Over the weekend of March 28 to March 29, the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City will host both in-state and out-of-state orders to share their wisdom and experience with the youth of Oklahoma.

From 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, March

28, the festival will be for high school students, while college students are invited to attend beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 29, and concluding with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley at 4 p.m. the same day. The cost of the retreat is \$10 for both high school students and college students.

“Our goal for the vocations festival is simple; To introduce the young people of the archdiocese to what a religious vocation looks like,” said co-coordinator Lucia Fitzmorris. “I hope by talking about religious vocations and showing that they are a very viable option, the young people who come to the festival will maybe entertain the idea they might be called to a religious vocation.”

Fourteen orders, including the Nashville Dominicans, Jesuits and Sisters of Mercy, as well as diocesan priests, will be represented over the weekend.

University of Oklahoma graduate, Stephen Pitts, S.J., will be representing the Jesuit order at this year’s vocations festival. During his time at OU, an encounter with a Jesuit priest sparked his interest to consider a religious vocation.

“I think the key to discernment is to know your options, not in an abstract but in a concrete way, by meeting people who live the various choices (careers, marriage, religious vocation, etc.) that you are contemplating and imagining yourself in their shoes,” said Pitts. “Take all of this material to prayer and pay attention to the different ways that the Lord may be speaking to you through your reactions to these experiences.”

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Examples of Christ, Saint Thomas Aquinas and Dominican priest provide helpful guide for Lent

“A Lenten Journey with Jesus Christ and St. Thomas Aquinas” by Rev. Paul Jerome Keller, O.P. (Christus Publishing, 2013).



Reviewed by Brianna Osborne

Every year at the beginning of Lent, Catholics drift through their local bookstores to find a spiritual companion manual for the 40 long days of prayer and fasting. Making the journey with Saint Thomas Aquinas might sound like a daunting task, but “A Lenten Journey” skillfully engages the lay reader in the beauty of the Gospel, the wisdom of the saint and sincere prayer.

The book contains readings and reflections for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It offers the day’s Gospel reading, a short excerpt from Saint Thomas Aquinas’ writings (usually a few sentences, but no more than a few paragraphs), a reflection from Father Paul Keller and a brief prayer.

The real beauty of the book’s structure is that it includes multiple readings and reflections for Sundays, so that it can be used throughout the three-year cycle of the Church’s readings.

Meditating on the Gospels without the days’ Old Testament readings is a very interesting experience because it gives the reader a chance to really get to know Jesus. His various reactions to the crowd, his actions, his travels, his messages and teachings all show how he lived and, more importantly, how to live like him. Put together in this format, the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus’ miraculous healings and the tale of his Passion and death tell the reader something new about Christ.

The reflections from Saint Thomas Aquinas are carefully chosen from his “Summa Theologica” and other works. Though none of them are “easy” in the sense of being easy to swallow, they get right to the meat of his arguments without all the various questions and counterarguments of interest to dedicated philosophers. They cover a range of topics significant to all modern Catholics, from a timely discussion of fasting to in-depth explanations of the Gospel readings.

Father Keller’s reflections are a little lengthier, but they are written with clarity and genuine feeling. He reflects on the example of historical witnesses to the faith since the time of Aquinas, such as Saint Thomas More, and offers modern advice on living out the faith daily. Father Keller even briefly explains events like the Chrism Mass. His profound take on prayer and suffering and eye-opening interpretations of the Gospel inspire the reader to take some time to sit in silence and meditate on the word of God.

“A Lenten Journey” includes several prefaces that are worth checking out. They include a short biography of Saint Thomas Aquinas, a history of the Order of Preachers (also known as Dominicans; Saint Thomas and Father Keller belong to the Order) and more.

There are other volumes in the “A Lenten Journey with...” series. Spiritual writers and mystics such as Saint John of the Cross and Saint Therese of Lisieux are among the other guides through Lent offered by Christus Publishing.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic and the editor of the Sooner Catholic newsletter, available at <https://www.flocknote.com/list/126932>.

Catholic Foundation offers OLOG camp scholarships

The Catholic Foundation will award summer camp scholarships to six Catholic youth in the archdiocese. Applications are available at parish youth offices or from the Catholic Foundation website at www.cfook.org.

The Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund was established by family and friends in memory of Jake Meier, a former camper and counselor at the Youth Summer Camp, who passed away in 2009. Meier began attending camp while in junior high school when the Catholic Youth Camp was located at Lake Murray. The next summer, when he was 15 years old, he applied for the camp staff and was hired as a kitchen assistant. In his application for a camp counselor position the next summer, Meier stated, “Since my first summer at Lake Murray I have learned more and more about my faith while having more and more fun each year as well. The more I go to camp, the more my eyes are opened to Christ’s light of the world.”



Jacob Meier and friends at Catholic Summer Camp.

Meier was a counselor-in-training in 1999 and a counselor in the 2000 camp session (the first year of the new camp at Our Lady of Guadalupe). Although his life ended way too early, the scholarship in Meier’s memory serves as a reminder of a talented, loving and caring young man whose faith guided him in the right direction. His camping experience was a

great part of that faith formation.

In sharing that experience with more young campers, Meier continues to do God’s work even after he has left this earth. The Jacob Meier Fund at the Catholic Foundation will award two scholarships this year.

The Robert A. Streets Family Endowment for Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp was established

in 2000 for the benefit of the Catholic Youth Camp. This is the third year that the fund will award a scholarship to a camper. Streets was enthusiastic about helping to make sure all Catholic youth in the archdiocese had the camping experience.

In addition to the Streets Family and the Jacob Meier Scholarships, the Catholic Foundation Board of Directors has funded three additional scholarships from their Director’s Fund for this year’s sessions.

To apply for a scholarship from the Robert A. Streets Family Endowment Fund, the Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund or the CFO Director’s Fund for Camp Scholarships to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp, please fill out the application form and return it to the Archdiocesan Youth Office, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123, before Wednesday, March 26, 2014. If you have questions, please call the Youth Office at (405) 721-9220.

Catholic Charities Annual Mass and Awards honor those who advance mission

By **Cara Koenig**
The Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — Saint Joseph parish was full of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City staff, board members, volunteers and supporters Feb. 20 for the organization’s annual Mass and Awards.

Archbishop Paul Coakley celebrated Mass and spoke on the mission of Catholic Charities in his homily.

“Today’s gospel poses a crucial question not only for Jesus’ original audience, but also for us today,” the archbishop said. “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:27-33) In Catholic Charities’ ministry, everything that we do depends on how we respond to this question which Jesus addresses to each of us, ‘Who do you say I am?’”

“As our first reading reminds us, God chooses the poor (James 2:1-9),” the archbishop continued. “He identifies with the poor. Jesus emptied himself and became poor for our sake. We are privileged to participate in Catholic Charities’ mission to hear and respond to the cry of the poor because we realize that in serving the poor we are serving Christ.”

He added that the work of Catholic Charities brings those who engage in it face to face with human brokenness every day and invites them to carry their share of the cross of Jesus.

“It is through the cross that we can make sense of the human suffering we face every day. It is the cross that gives

us hope,” he said.

After Mass, Catholic Charities executive director Patrick Raglow presented the 2013 awards. (See the write-ups and photos of each winner at www.sooner-catholic.org)

Maria Wallace, vice president of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, spoke.

“This has been a year of great accomplishment and honor for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” she said. “We received the Readers Choice Award for the second year. We are a finalist for the Oklahoma Center for Non Profits’ ONE award. Unprecedented disaster recovery work has been done and is ongoing. During this time of disaster response none of the other programs missed a beat.”

None of these accomplishments belong to one group, she added.

“The staff, board members, volunteers and donors make the works of Catholic Charities possible,” she explained.

Raglow also spoke before he presented the awards.

“We thank those who come to Catholic Charities for assistance, who introduce us in infinite ways to the face of Christ, and, in each such introduction, leave us richer in Spirit and Wisdom than we had been without them,” he said. “It is truly a privilege to have such work, such opportunity and such support.”

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



Archbishop Paul Coakley with award recipient Ray Haeefe. Photo by Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic

2013 Award Recipients

- CLERGY/RELIGIOUS AWARD
Reverend Scott A. Boeckman
- VOLUNTEER AWARD
Thiri Htun Caplinger
- SERVANT LEADER AWARD
Gwen Johnson
- ORGANIZATION AWARD
The Knights of Columbus
- CORPORATION AWARD
Wal-Mart – Belle Isle Supercenter in Oklahoma City
- ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS EUSEBIUS J. BELTRAN AWARD
Ray Haeefe

See the write-ups and photos of each winner at www.sooner-catholic.org



NORMAN – After Catholic Charities Annual Mass and Awards at Saint Joseph Church, everyone got in their cars and drove a few blocks south for the dedication of the newest Sanctuary Women’s Development Center.

Archbishop Coakley prayed over the new shelter and blessed it with holy water. Catholic Chari-

ties supporters and staff were given tours of the yet empty space but given a full description of what is to come.

For the full story go to www.soonercatholic.org.

Photo by Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic



Birth Choice ground breaking. Photo by Carolyn Rossow.

Catholic Charities announces annual Catholic Advocacy Day

OKLAHOMA CITY (Feb. 28, 2014) – Catholic Advocacy Day, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, is slated for 8 a.m. Tuesday, March, 25, at the Oklahoma State Capitol in the Blue Room on the second floor. This annual event gives Catholic voters from across Oklahoma the opportunity to connect with lawmakers about proposed legislation that will affect Oklahoma communities and the least among us. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa will also be present.

Archbishop Paul Coakley will lead a group of speakers who will inform participants about pending legislation and how the moral and social teachings of the church apply to these issues. The archbishop urges all Catholics to examine issues affecting the most vulnerable among us “not primarily from the perspective of partisan politics or enlightened self interest, but in the light of the Catholic Faith.” He calls upon all to seek and promote policies that “uphold the human dignity of each person, all of whom are formed in the image of God.”

An “Advocacy Training Workshop” webinar will be offered at 7 p.m. March 18 by Richard Klinge, senior director of advocacy and legal services for Catholic Charities. The webinar will highlight the basics regarding the legislative process and developing relationships with legislators. To register for the free workshop, contact Becky VanPool, director of parish outreach and program development for Catholic Charities, by calling (405) 523-3009 or emailing bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

The advocacy day will begin at 8 a.m. with a

breakfast for all participants and their legislators. Presentations by Archbishop Coakley, Richard Klinge and others to highlight the legislative process and pending bills will follow. Participants will then have the opportunity to meet with legislators.

Reservations are requested by March 14. To register or make general inquiries, contact VanPool at (405) 523-3003 or bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org. Attendees are strongly encouraged to contact their legislator before arriving at the event, inviting them to breakfast and scheduling a meeting. The names and contact information for Oklahoma State representatives and senators can be found by visiting www.oklegislature.gov.

If You Go

- Catholic Advocacy Day**
- When:** 8 a.m. to noon March 25
- Where:** Blue Room of the Oklahoma State Capitol
- Why:** To connect with lawmakers about proposed legislation that touches on Catholic concerns
- To secure a space:** To register or make general inquiries, contact Becky VanPool, at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, at (405) 523-3003 or bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Men called to be evangelists and disciples at annual conference

By Colin Osborne
For the Sooner Catholic

On Saturday, March 1, more than 800 men gathered in Norman, Okla., and filled the 18th annual Catholic Men’s Conference, “In the Father’s Footsteps,” to capacity. Joshua 1:9 provided the scriptural foundation for the day: Men were encouraged to shed shame and fear, firmly trust God and become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. Conference director Ray Haelele was the master of ceremonies and Father Joe Jacobbi, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Mustang, opened the day with prayer. Four keynote speakers anchored the day and the Emmaus Road Band provided music in the intervals. During lunch, numerous priests filled the main hall to hear Confession in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Steve Ray, author and leader of Holy Land pilgrimages, described the fruits of the first Christians and their heroic conversion of the Roman Empire. Christians refused to worship the pagan deities even when it cost them their lives. They were able to do so because of their faith in the Resurrection. Ray said they converted the empire without picket signs, programs or door-to-door evangelizing. The “blue-print” was then and is now “simple relational evangelization”: Get to know a person and “earn the right” to talk to them. Catholics must preach by the example of a simple, Christian life.



Deacon Ralph Poyo addresses attendees at the 2014 Catholic Men’s Conference.

Jeff Cavins, famous for his The Great Adventure Bible studies, built his discussion around rabbi-disciple relationships at the time of Christ. The typical rabbi would have about five disciples. One had up to 70; Jesus had the Twelve. The traditional invitation to discipleship was “take my yoke upon you,” which is an invitation to adopt the teacher’s worldview. Jesus’ yoke is a way of life.

“Knowing everything about Jesus is not the same as knowing Jesus,” said Cavins. He added that when Catholics study a lot but don’t live out their faith, “it becomes a hobby.”

Archbishop Paul Coakley exhorted “we are called, my brothers, to

be saints.” The Gospel is a call to heroic sanctity, “not a license for self-absorbed navel-gazing.” The first step in evangelization is to be evangelized and fall in love with Jesus. Archbishop Coakley knows the day he fell in love: the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 1977.

He briefly yielded the floor to Carole Brown, Ph.D., director of New Evangelization, for an update on the new efforts in the Archdiocese. Archbishop Coakley concluded by challenging the men not to be “retreat junkies,” but use what was experienced at the conference to transfigure daily life.

Deacon Ralph Poyo grabbed the audience by storming the stage draped in clanking chains.

He called men out for being too dependent on programs, patiently waiting for the Vatican to release the ‘perfect’ evangelization plan. The plan is the Gospel. The lively deacon walked up and down the aisles, engaging the men with direct questions: “If I’m a disciple, who are my disciples? Who am I forming?”

Deacon Poyo said that men want to do what is right, but allow the chains of fear and shame to hold them back. Men have to make a free will decision to cast off those chains. Men must reject the materialistic definition of man in terms of money and power and accept God’s definition of man as “protector.” The domestic church requires strong disciples as fathers.

Steve Ray provided the example of his own father, who turned down power and promotions that would have interfered with his responsibilities as a father.

The annual conference is organized by the Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men to provide a break from the busyness of daily life. The conference helps men order their lives toward Christ with the Bible and Tradition to be better husbands and fathers, leaders and citizens of the Kingdom of God. “In the Father’s Footsteps” will return to Norman on Feb. 28, 2015. For more information on the Fellowship and next year’s conference, visit catholicmen.net.

Colin Osborne is a parishioner at Christ the King in Oklahoma City.

March Madness can be harnessed to motivate spiritual growth

By Rebekah Scaperlanda
For the Sooner Catholic

Every March there comes a time for preparation, training and discipline. Physical and emotional endurance are put to the test. People join together in community to support a larger cause as they strive to move toward the big dance. The question is whether this stamina and fortitude reach their height at the pinnacle of Easter or during the NCAA Basketball National Championship. As we move into Lent, as well as toward the March 18 arrival of “March Madness,” Catholics can and should focus on building a relationship with Christ even as they engage in “bracketology.”

With highlight reels showcasing college basketball players attacking fans in the stands, starting fights on the court and leaving early to make money in the NBA, it’s easy to forget that the sport was started by a man who was confident he could demonstrate Christian living more powerfully through athletics. A physical-education instructor at a Massachusetts YMCA, James Naismith declared his vision was “to win men for the Master through the gym.” In 1891 with only 13 rules, two peach baskets and a soccer ball, the game of basketball was born. Naismith went on to start the University of Kansas men’s

basketball team. He was initially hired as KU’s chapel director, not as a coach.

Naismith believed that the true value of athletics was as an evangelical tool. He hoped that by encouraging cooperation, self-confidence, self-sacrifice, self-control and sportsmanship, he would develop man’s mind, body and spirit. In modern day basketball it’s easy to get caught up in the glamour of athletic achievement within the heightened form of competition, but some coaches attempt to remain true to Naismith’s fundamental values.

In a 2006 interview with St. Anthony Messenger, Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski explained, “Not every kid I coach is Catholic. But there is a core set of values and principles that you try to teach, like honesty and acceptance of responsibility, just being a good person. Faith is (partially) about ... helping one another, which is teamwork.”

This idea of teamwork, a greater community striving for a common

goal, is echoed by Pope Francis’ words to Olympic committee members in November. “Sport is harmony, but if money and success prevail as the aim, this harmony crumbles,” the pope said. Both as athletes and spectators, sports should lead to an appreciation for God’s gifts and abilities. They should be used as a lesson in learning how to triumph and fail together in community while tempering reactions. The love of sports can and should supplement our Christian views, not pull people further away.

There is no fault in having a love of the game. Nowhere does Scripture or Tradition suggest that, as Catholics, we cannot sport team colors, fill out brackets and cry when our team loses to a relatively unknown in the sweet-16. But, as the fervor for basketball builds, we should re-

member to bring that passion we hold for the game into our faith life.

If you watch several hours of basketball a night during March Madness, perhaps on three different screens to ensure you won’t miss an upset, consider spending at least one hour in prayer for every three you watch. If you spend hours reading articles and analyzing statistics preparing your final brackets before tournament play, consider giving equal time to exploring Scripture in preparation for Easter.

We can use the excitement of the basketball season to remind us of the eagerness, dedication and enthusiasm we should be putting toward our faith. When we fight for our team to win, let’s also remember to fight for our souls.

Just as athletes prepare for the tournament with endurance and discipline, so too must we prepare our souls for the resurrection of our Lord during Lent. With every game you watch, call to mind the fundamentals of Naismith’s game and let us strengthen our mind, body and our spirit.

Rebekah Scaperlanda is a freelance writer with a background in development, sales, fashion and new media. She holds a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas.

Faith Community Nursing Conference to spotlight relationship between faith and health

By J.E. Helm
For the Sooner Catholic

The seventh annual conference of the Faith Community Nurses’ Association of Oklahoma will be March 28, 2014, at Crossings Clinic, 2208 West Hefner Road, in Oklahoma City. This year’s conference is titled “Transitions to Transformation” and will focus on how the events in our lives that affect our physical and mental health can transform us rather than make us angry and bitter.

Marilyn Seiler, parish nurse coordinator at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, is one of the organizers of the event. She is the education chair for this conference and serves as secretary of the Board of Directors of FCNA OK. She explained that the faith community nurse is concerned with caring for the whole person. Sometimes called parish nurses, they “promote the relationship between faith and health to improve body, mind and spirit” (FCNA OK Brochure.)

Seiler says that, as a faith community nurse, she helps people with everything from cancer to the flu with complications, “anything that changes us.” She is contacted in person, by phone, email and even text messaging. “People are looking for answers,” she says, and the parish nurse “has that spiritual perspective” that can often help so much. Visits to patients often begin and end with a prayer.

To become a faith community nurse, an RN must complete 40 hours of specialized training either in person or online. Faith Community Nursing is recognized as a “specialty practice area for registered nurses” (FCNA OK Brochure) and attendance at this year’s conference can be used to meet the continuing education requirements for nurses in this field.



Glenda Bronson, outreach coordinator at Mercy Health Center, also helped organize this year’s conference and she is a volunteer parish nurse at Saint John’s in Edmond. At Mercy, she is involved in helping provide health care and health education for “the underinsured and the underserved,” as she describes those in the area who use the services Mercy helps provide. Her job at Mercy is what led her to Faith Community Nursing. She is now on the Board of FCNA OK.

“As a nurse, you are taught to listen. As a Faith Community Nurse, you listen better, listen differently,” she says. “For a lot of us, we went into nursing to touch people. That’s Faith Community Nursing.”

Caryl Prati is a parish nurse at Saint Andrew’s in Moore. She says she has been involved in FCNA “since the beginning.” She explained that Catholic Charities introduced Faith Community Nursing in November of 1999 partly in response to the May 1999 tornado that swept through Moore. Prati was an active volunteer in her parish at that

time. The combination of nursing practice with spirituality is what appeals to Prati. She notes that she “has never been disappointed, always been inspired” by her work as a parish nurse.

This year’s Faith Community Nurses’ Association Conference will feature several noteworthy speakers. Roberta J. Hoppe of the Germantown Campus of Union University in Tennessee will speak on “Transformation through Transitions in Our Spiritual Journey.”

Also a featured speaker will be Professor Antony Sheehan, a health care professional with a wide and varied background in healthcare. From 1999 to 2007, Sheehan worked as a senior civil servant within England’s Department of Health. He is currently president of the Church Health Center in Memphis, Tenn., a ministry dedicated to providing healthcare for the working uninsured and to promoting whole person healthcare. He will address the conference on “Transformation through Transition in Our Delivery of Health Care.”

Attendees will also hear from Dr. R. Murali Krishna, president, CEO and medical director of Integris Mental Health in Oklahoma City. A renowned psychiatrist, author and frequent speaker nationally, Dr. Krishna will present “Transformation through Transitions of Body, Mind and Spirit.”

Attendance at this year’s conference is open to the public. Registration fees include conference materials, lunch and breaks. Contact Marilyn Seiler at (405) 340-0691, ext. 197, or email marilynseiler72@gmail.com.

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic and an adjunct professor of English at several area colleges.

Catholic Women’s Conference Speakers to tackle topic of true beauty

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

Retreats and days of reflection are a powerful way for Catholics to be renewed during the Lenten season. This Lent, Oklahoma women and teenagers have an opportunity to reflect and be renewed at the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference on April 5, 2014, at the Reed Center in Midwest City, Okla.

The eighth annual event will begin with check-in at 7 a.m., followed, at 8 a.m., by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley. The remainder of the day will be filled with inspirational speakers, Eucharistic adoration and reconciliation. During lunch and breaks, conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit with Catholic vendors and purchase Catholic products. The retreat will end with a closing prayer at 5 p.m.

“There is an energy which is hard to describe when over 700 women gather to pray, worship and receive the grace of the sacraments. Women come to be fed, to be revived and to rejoice,” explained Joanne Cromer, liturgical chairman for this year’s conference. “This conference is unique in that Our Lord is the guest of honor throughout the day in the silence and serenity of the Adoration Chapel.”

Over the years, the Oklahoma

Women’s Conference has gained a reputation for having motivational speakers. This year will be no different with four general sessions planned along with two breakout sessions for teens. All four speakers have experience in social media and are using the Internet as a tool to answer the call for the New Evangelization of the Catholic Church.

Speaking on the true meaning of beauty, national social media presence Maura Byrne will draw from her experience as the director of Made In His Image, a ministry focusing on survivors of abuse and women suffering from eating disorders. In addition to her general session talk, Byrne will share her testimony of overcoming an eating disorder during the teenage breakout session.

Also speaking at this year’s conference are Tom Peterson, Pat Gohn and Jamie Biller. Peterson, the founder of Virtue Media, will give a talk titled “Our World Needs Catholic Heroes.” Boston native and host of the Among Women podcast, Pat Gohn will speak on being blessed, beautiful and bodacious. Jamie Biller will be speaking through stories and songs about the life of local priest Father Stanley Rother.

“When I hear the speakers share how Christ has been present in

their lives, it reminds me that we are all on a journey and we walk with Christ. Taking the time to go to the conference reminds me that Christ walks with us always,” said past conference attendee Sister Veronica Higgins. “Unless we take time apart, we are not always aware of Christ’s presence in the midst of our daily lives.”

Last year, encouraged by Archbishop Coakley, conference organizers developed a program aimed at the teenagers in the area. Local speaker Lorryn McGarry will join Byrne during the teenage breakout session. McGarry’s talk, “You Go, Girl!: The Power of Femininity,” will tackle the difficult subject of accepting ourselves as God created us.

In addition, the organizers said they encourage attendees to bring personal hygiene items, snacks, baby supplies and gift cards for gas and groceries to donate to the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center, which assists low-income and homeless women and children in need.

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

If You Go

Eighth annual Catholic Women’s Conference
When: 7 a.m. check-in, 8 a.m. start to 5 p.m. close April 5, 2014
Where: Reed Center in Midwest City, Okla.
Why: To reflect on and be renewed by the presence of God in our daily lives
To secure a space: Through March 22, the registration fee is \$55, and \$30 for students, and includes a box lunch and drink. After March 22, the registration fee is \$65, 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. Hotel rooms are available at the Sheraton Hotel connected to the Reed Center. For registration and more information, call (405) 396-6292, email ocwc@OCWConference.com

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

Tomen una vista más amplia de la cuaresma

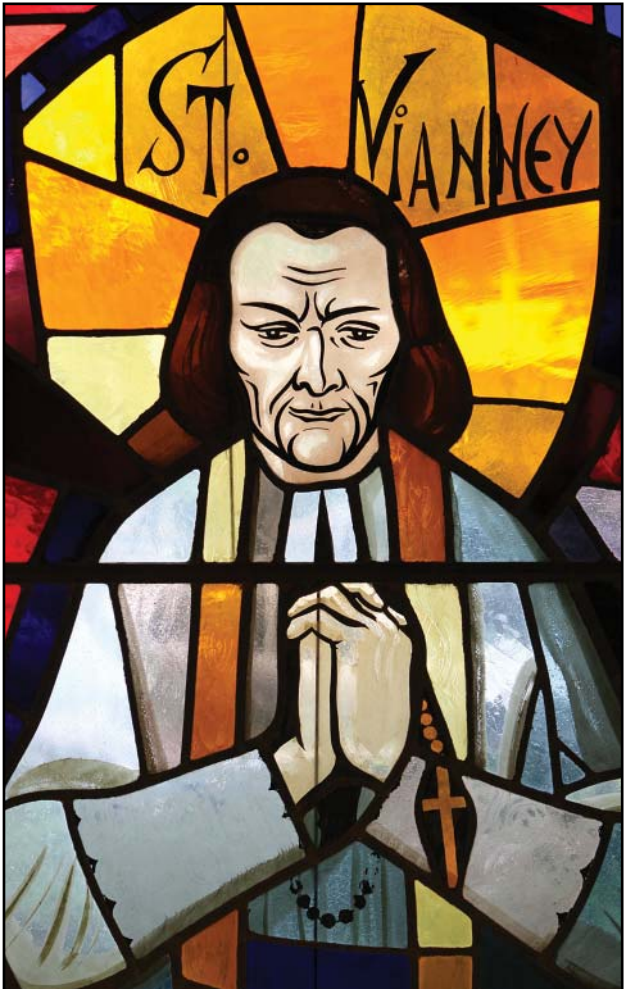
Me encanta la Cuaresma. Por favor, no me malinterpreten. No es que anhelo la penitencia o la abnegación con más entusiasmo que otros. El espíritu está dispuesto, ¡pero la carne es débil! Las disciplinas de la Cuaresma, por supuesto, implican la abnegación. Pero estos actos de penitencia y el dar limosna, así como nuestro mayor compromiso a la oración, son liberadores. Ellos se dirigen hacia la renovación. La Cuaresma es la época litúrgica que destaca el llamado al arrepentimiento y a la conversión continua más urgentemente que cualquier otra. Ahora es el momento de prepararnos con toda la Iglesia para la celebración y experiencia de nueva vida en la Pascua. Jesucristo murió por ti y por mí. Sólo compartiremos la alegría de su victoria si reconocemos nuestra necesidad de un Salvador. La Cuaresma nos pone en contacto con esa profunda necesidad humana y espiritual.

Si estamos buscando realmente una conversión más profunda a Cristo y deseamos vivir como sus discípulos parece extraño que normalmente tomamos penitencias y disciplinas durante la Cuaresma simplemente para deshacerse de ellas en la Pascua. Por desgracia, esto es a menudo la manera en que nos acercamos a la época penitencial. El discipulado es un viaje de toda la vida y una forma de vivir durante todo el año. Las disciplinas cuaresmales más fructíferas nos ayudan a centrarnos en aquellas áreas de nuestra vida donde el Señor nos llama a una conversión y arrepentimiento más profunda. En otras palabras, no es principalmente acerca de cuál placer legítimo debo renunciar durante la Cuaresma, sino de cual pecado en nuestra vida tenemos que arrepentirnos para que podamos seguir a Cristo con mayor fidelidad. ¿Qué obstáculos hay que eliminar? ¿Qué relaciones tienen que ser reparadas, mejoradas o terminadas? ¿Qué malos hábitos deben ser rotos? ¿Qué virtudes (buenos hábitos) necesitan ser fortalecidos? Nuestros actos de ayuno, dar limosna y oración abren nuestros corazones a la gracia de Dios, para que podamos seguir a Cristo más de cerca.

La mayoría de los católicos todavía reconocen la importancia de una buena confesión durante la Cuaresma. Es la forma en que nos preparamos para la celebración de la Pascua. Humilde-

mente confesamos nuestra pecaminosidad buscando la misericordia divina y experimentamos la gracia liberadora de la reconciliación con Dios y su Iglesia. Desafortunadamente, demasiados católicos se acercan al Sacramento de la Penitencia sólo durante la Cuaresma. Si realmente es tan beneficioso, ¿por qué nos acercamos a él con tan poca frecuencia?

La gracia de la Cuaresma es una invitación para realizar cambios permanentes en nuestras vidas. ¿Qué tal si cambiamos nuestra actitud hacia el Sacramento de la Penitencia? A partir de esta Cuaresma, invitémonos a acercarnos a este gran sacramento de la misericordia con más frecuencia. Sin la gracia y sanación que nos llega a través del Sacramento de la Peniten-



St. John Vianney (CNS photo/Gregory L. Tracy, The Pilot)

cia, ¿cómo podremos experimentar la más profunda conversión y crecimiento espiritual que el Señor desea para nosotros?

San Juan María Vianney, reconoció la importancia de este sacramento para la renovación de su parroquia. Pasó incontables horas escuchando confesiones porque vio este gran don, que estaba siendo descuidado en su tiempo como también lo es en el nuestro, como la llave que liberaría a su pueblo de su esclavitud al pecado y que los conduciría hacia a gran santidad. Al predicar su importancia, orar por la conversión de sus feligreses, y estando disponible para ellos en el confesionario, con el tiempo fue testigo de los frutos de una gran renovación espiritual en su parroquia. La renovación comenzó con el Sacramento de la Penitencia que ayudó a su pueblo a experimentar la gran misericordia de Dios, y les abrió el corazón a la fructuosa recepción de la Eucaristía y el afán por hacer obras de caridad.

“Es hermoso pensar que tenemos un sacramento que cura las heridas en nuestra alma”, exclamó San Juan María Vianney. ¿Por qué no habríamos de ir con frecuencia para recibir los beneficios de este gran sacramento? Cada uno de nosotros anhela la profunda experiencia de la libertad y la paz que viene de una conciencia limpia y la experiencia de ser perdonados y liberados de nuestra esclavitud al pecado. San Juan María Vianney describe los efectos de este sacramento exactamente en esos términos: “El buen Dios en el momento de la absolución lanza nuestros pecados detrás de sus hombros, es decir, Él se olvida de ellos, Él los destruye, nunca volverán a aparecer de nuevo.”

Esta Cuaresma, tomen una vista más amplia. Reconozcan la necesidad de cambios duraderos y de una conversión continua. Un compromiso con la celebración frecuente del Sacramento de la Penitencia transformará ese resultado tan esperado de un mero sueño a una realidad.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Grupo de Acción Católica sirve a la comunidad hispana

Por Brianna Osborne

The Sooner Catholic

Una devoción a la fe católica, un amor de las celebraciones hispanas tradicionales y un entusiasmo para el servicio a la comunidad son sólo algunas de las características que hacen al Grupo de Acción Católica una presencia acogedora en la comunidad hispana en Oklahoma City. Los miembros creen que el grupo es la primera organización mexicana americana en la historia del estado de Oklahoma. Fundado en 1947 en la parroquia Florecita (Santa Teresa del Niño Jesús), el grupo se trasladó al Sagrado Corazón en Oklahoma City por invitación del difunto Padre Roberto Quant. El grupo está en el proceso de reclutamiento de nuevos miembros.

Este grupo multifacético quiere “proporcionar una oportunidad a la comunidad para crecer de una manera personal y espiritual, para convertirse en mejores cristianos” a los hombres y mujeres hispanos en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, dijo el vicepresidente del grupo Merce Hernandez, miembro de San-

tiago Apóstol en Oklahoma City. El grupo considera que la preservación del patrimonio cultural, como la devoción a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, es una manera eficaz de fomentar este crecimiento.

Sin embargo, su misión incluye más que la mejora personal. Desde el principio, la misión ha sido la de “reunirse como familia, ayudar con las necesidades de los demás, para hacer la vida un poco mejor para la comunidad”, continuó Hernandez.

“El objetivo es brindar servicio a la parroquia, tanto financiero como espiritual, y proporcionar a los miembros con un ambiente en el que se atienden sus necesidades”.

El padre Alexander León, OCD, vio a las necesidades de los miembros hispanos de la parroquia de la Florecita en los años 40, y sugirió que se fundó una organización que protegería a los intereses culturales y emocionales de la gente de Oklahoma. Los primeros siete oficiales del club se reunieron el 26 de octubre de 1948, encabezados por el presidente Manuel Galindo. Se pusieron a trabajar de inmediato, y

tuvieron su primera celebración el siguiente 16 de septiembre, día de independencia mexicana.

Rey Madrid, miembro del club que se ha desempeñado como presidente en varias ocasiones, recuerda estas “Fiestas Patrias”, en las que se eligió a una reina para “representar a toda la comunidad hispana”. Según Hernandez, solía ser “un centavo por voto” para elegir a una chica, y sería coronada en el gran día del baile. Hernandez dijo que los dignitarios como el gobernador, el alcalde y el obispo asistían. Muchos residentes de Oklahoma City se acuerdan de los tamales caseros increíbles que sirvieron.

El grupo todavía tiene un calendario lleno, con muchos de sus eventos para recaudar fondos para la iglesia o la escuela del Sagrado Corazón. El Grupo de Acción Católica sortea bicicletas en la celebración de Navidad para los niños en clases de educación religiosa, y ayuda a poner en conjunto la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe que toma lugar cada diciembre en el Sagrado Corazón. Con el dinero

recaudado de las ventas de pasteles y otros eventos, el grupo ofrece una beca a un estudiante que asiste a Bishop McGuinness o Mount Saint Mary.

“Necesitamos miembros que se dedican a su fe y quieren servir al Señor siendo miembros del grupo”, dijo Madrid. “Pueden asumir algunas responsabilidades para recaudar fondos para la iglesia y ayudar a nuestros niños también.”

El grupo se reúne el segundo domingo de cada mes. El grupo es bilingüe. Miembros de preparatoria y de universidad son especialmente necesarios. La membresía está abierta a todos, no sólo a los feligreses del Sagrado Corazón. Los interesados pueden ponerse en contacto con Merce Hernandez al (405) 685-8540 o con el presidente del grupo, Richard Marmolejo al (405) 605-4355.

Brianna Osborne es escritora del personal para el Sooner Catholic y editora del boletín electrónico del Sooner Catholic, disponible al <https://www.flocknote.com/list/126932>.

Campo OLOG toma inscripciones para 2014

El campamento católico de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha comenzado inscripción para el verano de 2014. Puede descargar el formulario de inscripción de la página web de la Oficina de Pastoral Juvenil o inscribirse por teléfono y pagar con tarjeta de crédito. Los que atienden el campo por la primera vez y los que regresan se les anima a inscribirse con anticipación para garantizar un lugar en el campamento.

Sesión 1 8-13 Junio Grados 6 & 7
Sesión 2 15-20 Junio Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 3 22-27 Junio Grados 5 & 6
Sesión 4 29 Junio-4 Julio Grados 7, 8, 9
Sesión 5 6-11 Julio Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 6 13-18 Julio Grados 7 & 8
Sesión 7 20-25 Julio Grados 9,10,11 y 12

Cuaresma, Buenísimo Momento para Orar con la Biblia en Mano: *Lectio Divina*

De la Carta Apostólica Novo Millenio Ineunte del Papa Juan Pablo II

39. No cabe duda de que esta primacía de la santidad y de la oración sólo se puede concebir a partir de una renovada escucha de la palabra de Dios. Desde que el Concilio Vaticano II ha subrayado el papel preeminente de la palabra de Dios en la vida de la Iglesia, ciertamente se ha avanzado mucho en la asidua escucha y en la lectura atenta de la Sagrada Escritura. Ella ha recibido el honor que le corresponde en la oración pública de la Iglesia. Tanto las personas individualmente como las comunidades recurren ya en gran número a la Escritura, y entre los laicos mismos son muchos quienes se dedican a ella con la valiosa ayuda de estudios teológicos y bíblicos. Precisamente con esta atención a la palabra de Dios se está revitalizando principalmente la tarea de la evangelización y la catequesis. Hace falta, queridos hermanos y hermanas, consolidar y profundizar esta orientación, incluso a través de la difusión de la Biblia en las familias. Es necesario, en particular, que la escucha de la Palabra se convierta en un encuentro vital, en la antigua y siempre válida tradición de la lectio divina, que permite encontrar en el texto bíblico la palabra viva que interpela, orienta y modela la existencia.

De la Exhortación Apostólica Post-Sinodal Verbum Domini del Papa Benedicto XVI

87. En los documentos que han preparado y acompañado el Sinodo, se ha hablado de muchos métodos para acercarse a las Sagradas Escrituras con fruto y en la fe. Sin embargo, se ha prestado una mayor atención a la lectio divina, que es verdaderamente «capaz de abrir al fiel no sólo el tesoro de la Palabra de Dios sino también de crear el encuentro con Cristo, Palabra divina y viviente».[296] Quisiera recordar aquí brevemente cuáles son los pasos fundamentales: se comienza con la lectura (lectio) del texto, que suscita la cuestión sobre el conocimiento de su contenido auténtico: ¿Qué dice el texto bíblico en sí mismo? Sin este momento, se corre el riesgo de que el texto se convierta sólo en un pretexto para no salir nunca de nuestros pensamientos. Sigue después la meditación (meditatio) en la que la cuestión es: ¿Qué nos dice el texto bíblico a nosotros? Aquí, cada uno personalmente, pero también comunitariamente, debe dejarse interpelar y examinar, pues no se trata ya de considerar palabras pronunciadas en el pasado, sino en el presente. Se llega sucesivamente al momento de la oración (oratio), que supone la pregunta: ¿Qué decimos nosotros al Señor como respuesta a su Palabra? La oración como petición, intercesión, agradecimiento y alabanza, es el primer modo con el que la Palabra nos cambia. Por último, la lectio divina concluye con la contemplación (contemplatio), durante la cual aceptamos como don de

El costo total del campo es \$270 por persona, que incluye alojamiento, comidas y refrigerios, playera del campamento, seguro y gastos de personal.

Un depósito de \$130 se debe a la inscripción con saldo de \$140 debido dos semanas antes del campo.

Después del primero de mayo se cobrará una cuota de \$25 en cancelaciones. Para obtener su reembolso, se requiere un aviso de 72 horas de anticipación antes del comienzo del campamento. Ofrecemos becas parciales.

Para información, póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Pastoral Juvenil a (405)721-9220 o por correo electrónica a OLOG2014@archokc.org *No olvidese de seguirnos en Facebook.

Campamento de Verano 2014

Formulario de Inscripción

(For Error Imprima)

Nombre _____

Domicilio _____

Ciudad/Estado _____

Código Postal _____

Teléfono # (____) _____

Celular Mama/Tutor (____) _____

Celular Papa/Tutor (____) _____

Cursos Electrónicos _____

Papas/Tutores _____

Parroquia _____

Escuela _____

Grado (2013-14) _____ Edad _____ Sexo: M/F

Primera vez atendiendo el campamento: Si / No

Talla de Playera:

Niños: S(6-8) _____ M(10-12) _____ L(14-16) _____

Adulto: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Sesiones del Campamento:

Sesión 1	8-13 Junio	Grados 6 & 7
Sesión 2	15-20 Junio	Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 3	22-27 Junio	Grados 5 & 6
Sesión 4	29 Junio - 4 Julio	Grados 7,8,9
Sesión 5	6-11 Julio	Grados 4 & 5
Sesión 6	13-18 Julio	Grados 7 & 8
Sesión 7	20-25 Julio	Grados 9,10,11,12

Haga los cheques a nombre de Youth & Young Adult Office
OFICINA DE PASTORAL JUVENIL
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Ok 73123

Regulaciones para la Cuaresma

La obligación de Cuaresma, según lo determinado para los católicos en los Estados Unidos por nuestros obispos, requiere que se observe el ayuno el Miércoles de Ceniza y Viernes Santo. La ley de la abstinencia de la carne debe ser observada el Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los Viernes de Cuaresma.

¿Quién debe ayunar?

Todos los católicos que están entre las edades de 18 y 59. La obligación cesa cuando uno comienza su 60 º cumpleaños.

¿Quién debe abstenerse?

Todos los católicos que tengan 14 años o más.

¿Qué significa el ayuno?

La observancia del ayuno significa que los obligados sólo podrán tomar una comida completa en el día de ayuno. Dos comidas más ligeras (que entre ambas no equivalgan a una comida completa) se permiten si es necesario para mantener la fuerza de acuerdo a las propias necesidades. Comer alimentos sólidos entre comidas no es permitido.

¿Qué significa la abstinencia?

La ley de la abstinencia prohíbe el consumo de carne; los viernes de la Cuaresma son días de abstinencia de carne. Otros actos voluntarios de abnegación son alentados durante esta temporada penitencial.

¿Puede alguien ser dispensado o exento del ayuno y / o la abstinencia?

Los individuos con una causa justa pueden ser dispensados por un sacerdote. Los que están enfermos o tienen una razón igual de seria son absueltos de la abstinencia y del ayuno. Se recuerda a los católicos que no deben excusarse a sí mismos de esta obligación a la ligera y si lo hacen, entonces deben compensar con la oración y otros actos voluntarios de penitencia.

Are you listening?

By Marlene Stapp

Are you listening? “Make Straight the Way” - an interview program hosted by Deacon Larry Sousa at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday each week has offered some wonderful insights to the many ways the Holy Spirit can and does work in our archdiocese. Some of the upcoming interviewees will be Kevin Konrade with the Water Project in El Salvador March 11 and March 12, and Brett Farley shares a personal faith journey on March 18 and March 19.

We offer several local programs. At 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays, we broadcast the Mass from Saint Eugene’s in Oklahoma City; from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., “Sounds of Sunday” (music of our faith); and, at noon, “Living Catholic” with Father Don Wolf. In addition, Deacon Sousa and Fred Pope offer a calendar of upcoming events in the archdiocese at 3:25 p.m. every Monday through Friday following The Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 pm. At 3:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturday, they offer a preview of the upcoming weekend Mass readings on “Good News Sunday.”

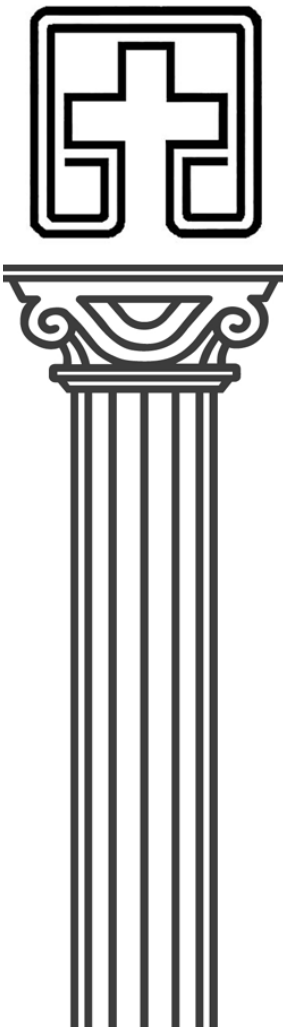
We continue to hear from



listeners who feel that Catholic Radio has made a difference in their lives. For instance, Rebecca, a college student, wrote to say how much she appreciated having access to Catholic Radio amidst the hubbub of college life; and Kathy, another “convert” from KKNK Country Music to KKNK Catholic Radio, sent in a donation in honor of her mother, Augusta Rother, on her birthday.

As reported last month, we received our Construction Permit for a station in the Enid/Ringwood area. We are happy to report that we also received our Construction Permit for the McAlester area. The big task now is to raise the funds needed to build the tower and station in each location and then be able to run it each month.

If you have not started listening to the broadcasts, do yourself a favor and turn it on! Pledge your support for Catholic Radio in Oklahoma. Send your donation to OCB, P.O. Box 1428, Guthrie, OK 73044. You may also donate online at okcatholicbroadcasting.com or call (405) 255-7348.



The Catholic Foundation

CORNERSTONE

Doubling your Benefit!

Did you know that a gift of stocks, bonds or other appreciated securities to the Catholic Foundation can generate an income tax deduction on your tax return in most cases? The Catholic Foundation can turn around and sell your securities and use the proceeds for a parish, endowment fund or programs as you, the donor, wish. You receive credit for your gift at the Catholic Foundation and an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the securities on the date of transfer, no matter what you originally paid for them. You pay no capital gains tax on the securities you donate. Gifts can be made to benefit a myriad of Catholic ministries in your name. If you need to continue to rely on the income from your appreciated securities, consider making a Charitable Gift Annuity, with the Catholic Foundation as a remainder beneficiary upon your death. Remember, your gift is an investment in the future of our faith.

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 ■ bsemtner@archchokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Briefs

Saint Gregory’s to host panel on euthanasia

Saint Gregory’s University Pro-Life Team is hosting a panel discussion on Church teaching and ethics with regard to euthanasia in cases of brain death. Panel participants will include university professors from a variety of disciplines. The event is open to the public. The discussion will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, in the Shawnee Community Room at Saint Gregory’s University (1900 W. MacArthur Dr., Shawnee, OK).

Beginning Experience to be March 14 - 16

Beginning Experience is a weekend that offers healing to those who are divorced, separated and widowed. “I didn’t think I needed to go talk to a bunch of strangers about my husband’s death, (but) there is more pent up inside than many of us like to acknowledge, and I was guilty of that myself,” past participant Donna Cord writes in an online exclusive at www.soonercatholic.com. “I can’t say enough about how this group of people came together in an intense weekend and came out the other side giving hope and peace to those that walked in a little broken.” The next Beginning Experience weekend is March 14 -16 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. The cost is \$100 for three days of food and two nights lodging. Some scholarships are also available. For more information, call (405) 721-5651 ext. 108.

Mass to honor Saint Patrick

Archbishop Coakley will celebrate Mass in honor of Saint Patrick at noon March 17, at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral. Mass is free and open to the public. An Irish Fest with food, entertainment and friends will follow at 5 p.m. at Cattlemen’s Event Center in Oklahoma City. The evening event is \$25 a person and cash bar; must be 21. For more information, contact O’Klahoma Irish Heritage Society at (405) 463-6878.

SAVE THE DATE: Birth Choice “Life of the

Party” is Saturday, March 29, 2014

“Life of the Party” is a gala fundraiser event to benefit Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc., an outreach to pregnant women. The event is slated for March 29, 2014, at the Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma City and will feature dinner and an auction. Tickets are \$100 each. Live auction items include a one-week stay in a private condo that sleeps eight on Florida’s Emerald Coast and a weekend in Shangri-La at Grand Lake that includes two rounds of golf for four people. For more information, call (405) 606-8428.

Next Retrouvaille weekend is April 4-6

Retrouvaille, a French word that means “rediscovery,” is a program that aims to restore wounded marriages. Consisting of a weekend experience and subsequent follow-up, it helps spouses uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program has even brought reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced.

Archbishop Paul Coakley speaks very highly of Retrouvaille. “I have had the privilege of witnessing the good fruits of Retrouvaille over the course of my priestly ministry,” he has said. “I am very pleased that we are able to offer Retrouvaille in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on a regular basis. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from such an opportunity.”

For confidential information about or to register for the next weekend experience April 4-6, call (405) 443-3541, visit the website www.helpour-marriage.com or call the archdiocesan Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

Catholic Family Day at the Ballpark

Catholic Family Day at the Ballpark begins at 2:05 p.m. April 27, at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. Tickets are just \$11 and include “the best seats in the house,” limited edition RedHawks cap and PlayBall! game program and more. The dead-

line to register is March 21. For more information, contact the archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults at (405) 721-5651. To download the registration form, visit <http://archchokc.org/youth-and-young-adult-office/documents>.

ACCW offers scholarship

The Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) is offering a scholarship to a high school senior who is going to enter college or trade school this fall. To qualify, he or she must be from an affiliated parish of the ACCW or a son or daughter of an individual member of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Deadline for returning completed applications is April 1. The application may be obtained by contacting Sandra Estep, c/o Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, 7336 West Britton, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 or by calling (405) 740-1794 or by email at wannb@sbcglobal.net.

Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Exemplification, Oklahoma District

At 1 p.m. March 29, the Father James Knight Assembly 3070 will host a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Exemplification at Saint Andrew the Apostle Church, 500 NW 5th Street, Moore, OK. Mass will follow at 5 p.m. and a banquet at 7 p.m. Candidates must send a completed Form 4 with a check for \$70 for the application fee and banquet. Make the check payable to “Knights of Columbus 4th Degree” and mail to SK J.J. McCarthy, executive assistant, 2102 Riverside Drive, Norman, OK 73072. Banquet reservations for a guest of the candidate are \$20. Checks must be received no later than March 22, 2014. Banquet reservations for all others are \$25 payable to “Father James Knight Assembly 3070.” These must be paid in advance and sent to: SK Robert Culbert, 2813 Misty Lake Ct., Norman, OK 73071.

For more information, contact (405) 579-9153 or email rculbert@att.net.

Calendar

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar go to www.soonercatholic.org.

MARCH

9 Charismatic Healing Mass,

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

11 Catholic War Veterans

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

12 The Father Stanley Rother

Guild will host a Mass at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Parish in Clinton, 1218 Knox Ave. This Mass is a time to come together and pray for the Cause of Canonization for Fr. Rother. All are welcome, you don’t have to be a member of the Guild to attend.

Special education teacher

Christ the King Catholic school

is looking for a full time special education teacher needed for 2014-15. Preference given to a state-certified special education teacher to work with K-grade 8 students. Submit an Archdiocesan application along with current resume by March 25 to Mrs. Karen Carter, Christ the King School, 1905 Elmhurst Ave. OKC, 73120.

Executive Director

Saint Katharine Drexel Retirement Center

is seeking an Executive Director for its Assisted Living community located in El Reno. The community consists of two care centers comprising 49 apartments for assisted living and 16 apartments in a specialized memory care.

The successful candidate should

12 Catholic War Veterans USA

The 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 e-mail at OklaPost168@cox.net.

13 Sung Vespers Service.

Join us for an evening of prayer and music. The Parish Choir of Our Lady’s Cathedral, Oklahoma City, Michael Scott, Organist & Director of Music will perform at 7 p.m.

13 St. Gregory’s University Pro-Life Team

is hosting a panel discussion on Church teaching and ethics with regard to euthanasia in cases of brain death 7:30 p.m. in the Shawnee Community Room at St. Gregory’s University (1900 W. MacArthur Dr., Shawnee, OK).

have: -Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent education and experience

-Five plus years of professional experience in long term care, at least three of which should include experience in assisted living/memory care. -Must be a Licensed Administrator in the State of Oklahoma. -Previous supervisory experience in long term care. Submit your resume to: dave@aigok.com.

Elementary School Principal

All Saints Catholic School

in Norman is seeking Elementary School Principal. Candidates for the preK-8th grade school of approximately 400 students located in Norman, must be practicing Catholics, hold a master’s degree in educational administration or related field, and have at least five years of educational experience. Exceptional communica-

tion skills and enthusiasm for maintaining an excellent academic and religious oriented school is necessary for candidates seeking this position. Contact the Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK or call (405) 721-4202 to request an application.

14-16 The next Beginning Experience Weekend

is to be held March 14-16 at the Pastoral Center 7501 NW Expressway. The cost is only \$100 for food and lodging. If someone is in need of financial assistance, there are some scholarships available. To register or for more information call (405) 721-5651 ext. 108.

15 Birth Choice Information

Session for Volunteers

from 9 a.m. to Noon at 4701 S. Western. If you wish to volunteer your time, register for this event or to get more information call Barbara at (405) 606-8428.

15-22 MOORE and MORE: OVER

Panel participants will include University professors from a variety of disciplines. All are invited to attend.

the RAINBOW into THE KINGDOM parish Lenten mission.

St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church is looking forward to welcoming Fr. Nathan Castle and his team members for a journey to recovery from the devastating storms of last May. Go to www.soonercatholic.org/archdiocese-calendar for full details.

17 Saint Patrick’s Day Mass

at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral at noon.

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



Job Box

Accounting Job

St. Eugene Catholic Church

is accepting applications for a staff accountant. Among other duties, the position will be responsible for Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, preparing Financial Statements, Payroll & Benefits and attending monthly Finance Committee Meetings. Contact Sally Boyd at jasada99@swbell.net to submit a resume or to receive more information. Put St. Eugene Accounting Position in the subject line.

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

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

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Assistant GA
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Trey.Welker@kofc.org
Councils: 3113, 3220, 8204

Rob Blakely
405-243-8324
Robert.Blakely@kofc.org
Councils: 916, 1038, 1044, 1053, 5266, 13366, 949, 1533, 1537, 1903, 2974, 3309, 3336, 4042, 9334, 11135

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Councils: 1104, 1302, 1677, 10388, 11194, 11734, 11959, 13313, 14248, 775, 4519, 8433, 13828, 3167, 7392, 9333, 14106

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Michael Calhoun
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Sacred Heart Church in Konawa celebrates 100 years

By Connie Summers
For the Sooner Catholic

On Feb. 23, Sacred Heart Church in Konawa opened its centennial celebrations with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley.

In his homily, Archbishop Coakley said that although “we are here to celebrate 100 years of the construction” of Sacred Heart Church, the “true building blocks of this church” were the families.

“We remember the living stones of those who sustained it...those who have handed on the faith to us, the Benedictines, our forefathers,” explained the archbishop.

Pictures of generations of families married at Sacred Heart Church throughout its history were proudly displayed. A few descendants of those families are still active in the parish today.

Sacred Heart Church sits on the property that is the Sacred Heart Abbey founded by the Benedictines to serve the Native Americans before Statehood in Indian Territory.

Sacred Heart Abbey began in 1875 when Father Isidore Robot, O.S.B., and Brother Dominic Lambert, O.S.B., originally from the Abbey of Notre Dame de la Pierre-qui-Viree in France, came to Indian Territory. The 640-acre spread of land was given to the Benedictines by the Potawatomi Tribe on the condition that they would build a school and church for the Potawatomi people.

“[The Potawatomi] wanted the Benedictines to educate their children” said Father Adrian Vorderlandwehr, O.S.B., pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

In 1880, French Benedictine nuns came to Sacred Heart Abbey to establish Saint Mary’s Academy for girls. Because of the harsh, wilderness-like conditions the nuns soon had to be replaced by the Sisters of Mercy from Illinois.

But tragedy soon struck Sacred Heart Abbey. On Jan. 15, 1901, a fire that began in the dining room of the boys’ school quickly spread consuming everything in its path. Within minutes the entire abbey and grounds were destroyed, though remarkably no lives were lost.

Undaunted, the monks set out to raise money for a new monastery as well as boys’ and girls’ schools. In the autumn of 1901, both the boys’ and girls’ schools were reopened.

Before the fire of 1901, the local Catholic community celebrated Mass at the abbey. After the fire, the need arose for a new place to worship. Until a new monastery was built in 1905, the granary was used for Mass and



Sacred Heart Church.

called the “Granary Church.” It was one of the only buildings left after the fire in 1901. It also served the local Catholic community until the present church building was built in 1914; it is the centennial of the church built in 1914 that Sacred Heart celebrates today.

The Benedictines of Sacred Heart Abbey labored tirelessly to bring the Catholic faith to the people, forming more than 40 parishes throughout Oklahoma.

“If it were not for their fidelity, we would not be here today” Archbishop Coakley said in his homily.

Reminding the faithful of the “high standard” to which Jesus calls them, Archbishop Coakley said “the Church is a living witness for us” and, not unlike the Benedictines of the past, Catholics today “are called to bear witness, to be light in the darkness, to give testimony to the world.”

According to Father Vorderlandwehr, Sacred Heart Church will have “many more celebrations throughout its centennial year.” The dates are yet to be announced.

Currently, small repairs are taking place inside the church on Saturdays in an effort to help restore the beauty of Sacred Heart Church.

Scheduled tours of the mission grounds can be arranged, and visitors are welcome during daylight hours. For information about Sacred Heart Abbey, contact the Sacred Heart Historical Society at (580) 925-2171.

Connie Summers is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Father Adrian Vorderlandwehr reads the Gospel at the anniversary Mass.



One of the few remaining standing buildings on Sacred Heart Abbey property.