

Go Make Disciples

The liberation Easter brings

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service

Easter begins in the darkness and at night, when the great vigil Mass for this central Christian feast is celebrated. Yet, Easter is all about daylight – a “new day” in time.

The resurrected Jesus is “the Morning Star,” according to the Exsultet, the rather ancient and remarkable hymn still heard during the Easter Vigil. Like the morning star shining at dawn, Jesus signals a new day’s arrival, with all the hopes attached to it.

The Exsultet proclaims Jesus as “the one Morning Star who never sets.” With his return “from death’s domain,” it reminds worshipers that he sheds “his peaceful light on humanity.”

It would be a shame to reduce Easter to a series of nice-sounding words and phrases to describe the risen Lord and to escape from the challenge of telling who he really is. So, I need to be clear that calling Jesus the Morning Star was anything, but that for our forebears.

Christ is the light; he illumines the world. His followers, like him, are called to carry his light and to assure that it shines brightly in the universe of all their

activities. The resurrection is like the break of dawn. To state this is to reach into the very heart of Christianity and to begin a conversation about the essentials of Christian living.

Christ is light, just as he is life – new life.

Yes, Easter begins in the night darkness. But, in the Exsultet’s words, “this is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day” and “full of gladness.”

“Gladness,” admittedly, is not a word uttered often nowadays. But, we know what it implies: joy, happiness and, no doubt, a life in which hope plays a significant role and opportunities arise to experience fulfilling satisfactions.

Gladness may assume many forms, but in some form, I believe, it represents what most people desire. That’s just the point.

Easter zeros in on the desires of the human heart.

Truth be told, darkness casts a shadow over the lives of too many. Pope Francis is well aware of this. “Christ wants to come and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish,” the pope said on

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The risen Christ is depicted in this 16th-century painting titled “The Resurrection of Christ, from the right wing of the Isenheim Altarpiece” by Matthias Grunewald. Photo CNS/Bridgeman Images.

Oklahoma Catholic Women’s conference draws hundreds of faithful

By Dana Attocknie
The Sooner Catholic

EDMOND – As women shuffled from Mass and into the crowded hallway, they began to form friendships.

“Where are you from?” said Marsha Greer from Saint Monica in Edmond.

“Our Lady of Sorrows in Chandler,” Barbara Smith replied.

The introductions were happening throughout the Edmond Conference Center in the Hilton Garden Inn on March 10 during the 2018 Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference. About 700 women attended this year’s event.

The mission of the conference is to give women, “a more extensive knowledge of their Catholic faith as well as encourage them to receive the many graces available through frequent reception of the Sacraments and the study of sacred Scripture in conjunction with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.”

Greer said she attended because she wanted to hear Immaculée Ilibagiza speak.

“I have a real devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows and Immaculée promotes the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady’s Rosary,” Greer said. “I pray her CD almost every day.”

Joining Ilibagiza was Donna Heckler and Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda.

Journey to forgiveness

Her father knew he was going to die and yet he smiled. He handed her a Rosary and then sent her to



Women join hands and pray during the 2018 Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference. Photo Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic.

a pastor’s home to hide.

“I felt like God was telling me take a last look,” Immaculée Ilibagiza said of seeing her father alive for the last time. “To this day I’m glad I looked.”

Ilibagiza shared her journey of fear, fury and forgiveness during the conference as she recalled the 91 days she and seven other women hid in a 3-by-4 foot bath-

room during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

On April 6, 1994, the Rwanda and Burundi presidents were assassinated when their plane was shot down. This ignited a three-month massacre of Tutsi tribe members by the Hutu, a majority population.

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Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

The prophetic vision of Blessed Paul VI

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI's prophetic encyclical letter, "Humanae Vitae" (Of Human Life) published on July 25, 1968.

Pope Paul VI reminded Catholics and all people of good will that something as sacred as the transmission of human life cannot be cut loose from its moorings without grave consequences to individuals, marriages and families, and to society as a whole. The transmission of life and dignity of married love are integrally entwined. Both are sacred.

The moorings that ensure respect for the dignity of human sexual love are rooted in God's plan for marriage. The conjugal act (sexual love between spouses) has a meaning that comes from the Creator. As a sign and expression of the covenant between spouses, every conjugal act ought to be both unitive (an act of mutual self-giving love) and procreative (open to the transmission of life).

To separate these two prevents the intimate expression of conjugal love from realizing its divinely intended purpose. To engage in sexual activity outside of marriage or for selfish purposes or while interfering with its natural fruitfulness by contraception is a rejection of God's intended meaning and purpose. It is sinful.

The publication of "Humanae Vitae" was a reaffirmation of the traditional moral teaching of the Catholic Church. It was met with widespread controversy and a vocal dissent that was symptomatic of the age.

1968 was a year of massive social and political unrest worldwide. In the United States, it was the year of the assassinations of Senator Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was the height of American involvement in the war in Viet Nam. It was a year of rioting on campuses and cities all over the country, including at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. It should be no surprise that the challenge to authority that characterized that age, and ours, affected the way this teaching was received by many within the Catholic Church and certainly by those outside of the Church.

The secular mentality says that human beings, rather than God, are the measure of all things. Right and wrong are determined on the basis of what is practical rather than what is true or good. This worldview values results over reason.

It has affected the attitudes and values of many in the Church as well. Uncomfortable with being a "sign of contradiction," some prefer to accommodate the Gospel and the Church's teaching to the wisdom of the world. The salt loses its savor (Mt. 5:13). The Church loses its credibility as a witness.

Pope Paul VI had prophetic insight in recognizing the grave consequences that follow when people fail to consider where the acceptance of artificial birth control would lead society. Separating sex from babies has disastrous and far-reaching consequences.

A contraceptive mentality would lead inevitably, he said, "toward conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality."

It would be disastrous for marriage and families leading to loss of respect for women, "to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer as his (man's) respected and beloved companion."

Certainly, many family problems and social ills are linked to this widespread contraceptive mentality that separates sexual love from its proper context in the divine plan for marriage. The recent judicial redefinition of marriage is a clear result of this separation.

A refusal to accept God's plan in creating us male and female with a natural complementarity between the sexes has led to gender confusion on a massive scale. It has led to plummeting populations and a "demographic winter" in many countries.

Skyrocketing divorce, widespread tolerance for extramarital and homosexual activity, abortion and a host of other problems follow in its wake. The loss of respect for God's plan for marriage erodes respect for the dignity of human sexuality and the sacredness of life.

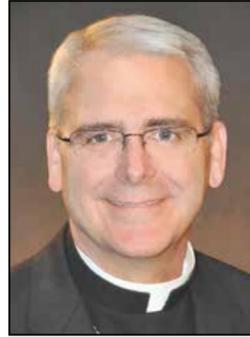
It has contributed to the explosion of pornography as a multi-billion-dollar industry and society's slide toward embracing euthanasia, embryonic stem cell experimentation and even human cloning. Instead of reverencing one another, we use one another as instruments for our own selfish purposes and enjoyment.

The Church cannot change its teaching on the immorality of artificial contraception, however unpopular and admittedly difficult it can be to embrace and live. The Church does not create the moral law, but is only its guardian and interpreter. Ultimately, contraception is morally unacceptable because it is contrary to the true good of both the human person and marriage.

Catholics who strive to live according to the Church's teaching will find divine assistance by having recourse to the grace of the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Penance and the Eucharist, as well as to prayer and the cultivation of virtue.

A priceless gift also is available through the scientifically-proven methods of Natural Family Planning. NFP is a healthy means of family planning that enables couples to cooperate with God and one another in spacing pregnancies in a way that actually strengthens their relationship.

Perhaps now is a good time to take another look at the benefits NFP can offer to you and your marriage.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

Everyone is invited to a free, two-hour dramatic performance of "The Gospel of Mark" with Michael Reardon and Patrick Lane at 5 p.m. April 8 at St. Andrew in Moore.

Catholic Advocacy Day April 24 at the State Capitol. Speakers will address key issues of concern by Catholics during the legislative session with an opportunity to visit legislators. Contact Brett Farley, (405) 706-0936 or brett@okcatholic.org.

Health fair and open house at St. Ann Retirement Center, 7501 W. Britton Rd., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 25. There will be healthy snacks, entertainment, representatives from various health-related organizations, tour guides and door prizes. Contact Richard, Maria or Theresa, (405) 721-0747.

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May the celebration of resurrected life bring new hope to your being. May the victory over earthly death turn your eyes to the promises of heaven. May the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of the cross. So, that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life forever. Amen.

Birth Choice celebrates 45 years of helping moms, babies

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

It was 1972, and Americans watched as the last troops were pulled out of Vietnam. Hippies in bell-bottoms were popular and the sexual revolution had made its mark. It was one year before the U.S. Supreme Court would rule in favor of Roe vs. Wade, officially legalizing abortion in the United States.

One of the consequences of these cultural changes was an influx of unintended pregnancies among both teenage and adult women. It was at this time a group of Oklahomans gathered to discuss concerns and to address the mounting problem. The compassionate and pro-life group began doing research, trying to find a way they could help women who believed their only option was abortion.

On March 5, 1973, Birthright of Oklahoma City Inc. was born. Originally envisioned as a referral service, they soon discovered there was greater demand for their services than originally determined. "I worked the first day we opened the office, March 5, 1973. You never forget that day," recalls Ruth Blakley, one of the original founders of Birth Choice.

"I don't know what we thought we were going to do, to tell the truth. We thought we would have doctors and counselors to refer people to, but it turned out we had to do it ourselves."

Since its beginning, volunteers primarily have operated Birth Choice. With a staff of only 15, more than 200 volunteers and four locations, they have served more than 250,000 woman and unborn children. Some volunteers represent fourth generations.

Birth Choice of Oklahoma

www.birthchoice.org
(405) 631-4477

Locations in OKC, Bethany, Edmond, Norman, Lawton and El Reno

In 1986, Rose Home was opened. A group home for homeless pregnant women, Rose Home is the only one of its kind in the state.

This past March, Rose Home succumbed to a devastating fire and is in the process of repair. All residents and staff were able to escape unharmed.

Birth Choice plans to rebuild and expand the services of Rose Home, relying on donations and volunteer support.

In 1994, it was decided to change the name from Birthright to Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc.

To-date, Birth Choice has not drifted from its initial purpose, which is to offer a non-jud-

gmental, compassionate ear to every woman who needs help. Women are offered a loving, supportive environment where they receive the tools needed to become self-sufficient.

This year, Birth Choice celebrates its 45th year. "When I

vised pregnancy testing;

- Limited ultrasounds performed by certified nurse sonographers;

- Medical services for women seeking pregnancy care;
- Housing and shelter through Rose Home;
- Counseling;
- Practical assistance to help women recognize their worth and the worth of their unborn child.

Birth Choice volunteers practice the principle of love without indictment, extending compassion and a listening ear, giving each woman whatever is necessary for her to choose life for her unborn child.

"The main thing we do besides ultrasound, and all the wonderful things we do today, is just to be there for them," Blakley said.

"We have to take care of the mothers, because if we can love them and take care of them and encourage them, then they're going to take care of their baby."

Ray Merchant has been the director of Birth Choice's north office for 36 years, and she agrees with Blakley.

"All the things we do are very important. If a mom doesn't have those things, it's hard for her to say 'yes' to that pregnancy. But, the most important thing we do in our office is we listen; and listen with a non-judgmental ear."

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Above: Ruth Blakley. Top: Barbara Chishko and Ruth Blakley. Right: Little yellow house that was Birth Choice for 31 years. Photos provided.



tell people 45 years, to me it seems like yesterday. But, when I stop and think about it, it has been a lifetime," said Barbara Chishko, founder and chief executive of Birth Choice.

"I think about all the women who I talk to, and not just clients, but volunteers and people in general, and what a blessing they have been. For a lot of people it's hard to understand, because I find it hard to understand, that there have been so many miracles."

"I think that somehow those who come to us already trust us, that we will tell the truth and we will not judge them, even though we know how we believe and that they may go ahead and have the abortion," Chishko said.

From its inception in a small room with just a telephone, Birth Choice has been able to provide an array of support to women who want it. The services are offered free of charge, in a loving, strictly confidential manner.

Almost totally funded by gifts from donors, clients now have access to:

- Medically super-

Campaign Update

TO: Campaign Leaders and Volunteers
FROM: One Church Many Disciples Campaign Office
DATE: March 28, 2018

- Wave 1 pilot parishes reported an additional \$227,000 in new gifts and have now achieved 114% of their combined goals.
- Wave II parishes raised \$186,000 this week to bring their total to date to more than \$2M - 15% of their combined goals.

One Church, Many Disciples Campaign Summary

Campaign	Minimum Goal	Raised to Date	% Goal
Archbishop Coakley's Lead Gifts	\$20,000,000	\$23,544,000	118%
Wave 1 Pilot Parishes	\$8,535,000	\$9,747,100	114%
Wave 2 Parishes (individual parish listings coming after Easter)	\$13,600,000	\$2,021,500	15%
One Church, Many Disciples	\$60,000,000	\$35,329,000	59%

One Church, Many Disciples received new gifts totaling nearly \$500,000 this week. The total raised to date has now topped \$35.3M - 59% of the overall campaign goal!

Fr. John Metzinger led an orientation meeting at Wave II parish the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wave 1 Pilot Parishes	Pastor	Parish Goal	Raised to Date	% Goal Raised
Our Lady of Victory, Purcell	Fr. Jim Chamberlain	\$225,000	\$438,000	195%
St. Joseph, Union City	Fr. Mark Mason	\$130,000	\$231,200	178%
Sacred Heart, El Reno	Fr. Mark Mason	\$375,000	\$603,240	161%
St. Mark the Evangelist, Norman	Fr. Robert Wood	\$1,765,000	\$2,170,615	123%
St. Gregory the Great, Enid	Fr. Joseph Irwin	\$480,000	\$584,000	122%
Epiphany of the Lord, OKC	Fr. Stephen Bird	\$1,450,000	\$1,573,000	108%
St. Monica, Edmond	Fr. Stephen Hamilton	\$1,870,000	\$2,012,000	108%
St. James the Greater, OKC	Fr. Bill Pruett	\$1,355,000	\$1,404,000	104%
St. Francis Xavier, Enid	Fr. Joseph Irwin	\$870,000	\$857,000	99%
St. Michael, Goltry	Fr. Joseph Irwin	\$15,000	\$10,600	70%

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- April 3 - Confirmation of college students, 5:15 p.m., St. Thomas More, Norman
- April 4 - Resurrection Cemetery Board meeting, 2 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- April 5 - School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Sts. Peter and Paul, Kingfisher
- April 5 - Senior Staff meeting, 1 p.m., CPC
- April 5 - Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board teleconference, 3 p.m.
- April 6 - Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Edmond
- April 7 - Confirmation, 2 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle, Guymon
- April 8 - Confirmation, 11 a.m., St. Philip Neri, Midwest City
- April 8 - The Hidden Holocaust, hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater OKC, 2 p.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, OKC
- April 10 - Department directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
- April 10 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- April 10 - Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
- April 10 - On air for spring radiothon, 4 p.m., Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting
- April 11 - Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, OKC
- April 12 - Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine CORE Building Committee, 1:30 p.m., CPC
- April 14 - Mass with diaconate candidates, 11 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- April 15 - Mystagogy Mass, 4 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC



Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
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Jason Fugikawa, Alex Schimpf, Archbishop Coakley, Jim Beckman, Pedro Moreno and Alvaro Marfull. Photo Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

Blessed Stanley Rother Institute faculty receive mandatum from Archbishop Coakley

Faculty includes: Jason Fugikawa, Alex Schimpf, Jim Beckman, Pedro Moreno and Alvaro Marfull. A mandatum is a bishop's mandate for college-level faculty to faithfully transmit Catholic theology to others. The mandatum affirms the instructor's role in the teaching mission of the Church and establishes an accountability structure for what is taught in the classroom relative to the doctrine of the Church. Jason Fugikawa received his mandatum previously for his theological instruction at St. Gregory's University.



Official appointment

Effective April 16

- Interim administrator Rev. Linh Bui – St. Matthew, Elk City



Registration open for Catholic youth camp

The mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp is to nurture positive Catholic values in young people and to provide campers a community of faith and fun in a safe environment. We promote the personal and spiritual growth in each young person by developing their prayer life, social skills, independence and respect for others. Each session begins on Sunday with registration 5-6 p.m. and ends on Friday with pick-up 4-5 p.m. www.archokc.org/youth-and-young-adult-office/summer-camp.

Saint Mary wins national award for science, engineering program

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

LAWTON - Saint Mary Catholic School in Lawton has been named one of five elementary and middle schools to be offered a grant to provide the initial funding for its Project Lead The Way program.

With the consistent commitment from the teachers, students and staff members, the school achieved the recognition in just three years.

"Project Lead The Way is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the United States," said Lauren Curtis, Project Lead The Way spokesperson.

For Saint Mary to be recognized as a PLTW Distinguished Middle School Gateway Program, it had to achieve the following goals:

- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;
- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2016-17 school year (St. Mary had 100 percent participation);
- Have 25 percent of students in high school participate in two or more units.

"There are only three middle schools in Oklahoma and 110 schools nationwide that have received recognition as a distinguished gateway program," Principal Nancy Post said.

The results also have manifested in the re-

cent Oklahoma state tournament when Saint Mary's robotics team finished first in the skills competition and third overall.

"The program curriculum engages students by using real-world problems to help students develop math, science, technology and writing skills, along with transferable skills, including logical thinking and problem solving," Principal Post said. "Saint Mary's program begins at the kindergarten level. By the time students reach middle school, they participate in classes such as "The Magic of Electrons, Design and Modeling that teaches computer aided design, Automation and Robotics, including computer programming, and App Creators, which allows students to create computer apps for mobile devices.

The award was recognized by the Superintendent of Oklahoma Catholic Schools, Diane Floyd.

"Today's parents expect technology and next-generation learning to be part of any quality education. Saint Mary's commitment to provid-

ing the Project Lead The Way program to their students demonstrates their understanding of this," Floyd said. "The archdiocese is proud of Saint Mary's program for its recognition as a distinguished program."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Cristo Rey Founding Freshman



Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School has begun announcing its Founding Freshmen. Cristo Rey opens this August and is enrolling students now. Admissions deadline is April 17. Apply online at www.cristoreyokc.org or call (405) 945-9100. Photos provided.



Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

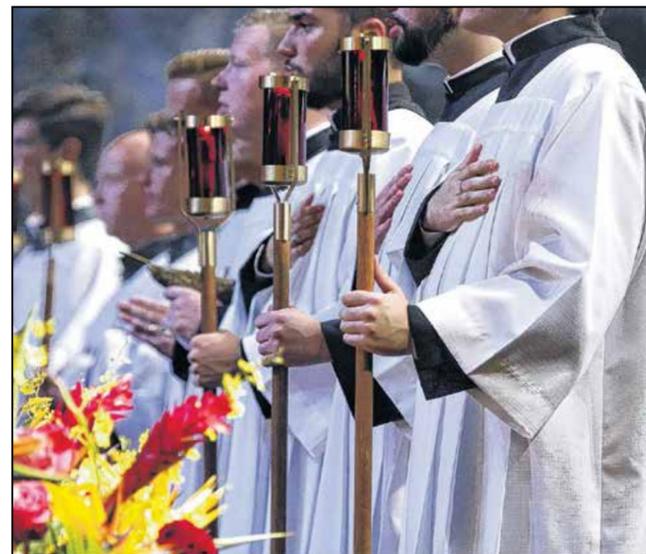
Mass and luncheon
March 17
Epiphany of the Lord



Photo Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic.

Women of Achievement winners

- Dee Frey – St. John Nepomuk
- Laurann Donahue – St. Philip Neri
- Doris Stone – St. Charles
- Becky VanPool – St. James
- Mary Kay Gumerlock – The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Carlene Edwards – Catholic Women's Activity Club
- Cindy Alexander – Epiphany of the Lord
- Mary Jane DeLuccio – Holy Spirit
- Terry Debbie – Our Lady of Sorrows
- Susan Braun Roberts – St. Eugene
- Mercedes Lyon – St. Francis, OKC
- Maggie Beckham – St. John the Baptist
- Margaret Bauer – St. Joseph, Norman
- Betty Lagaly – St. Joseph, Union City



Encounter with God's Call

For young men discerning the priesthood

April 14-16

vocations@archokc.org; 405-721-9351
www.okcvocations.com

Sherlock Holmes and the Paschal Mystery

Part I: The murder on Calvary Hill

Everyone loves a good mystery. In my youth, I couldn't wait for the arrival of the next section from the Mystery Book Club. As soon as the book arrived guess who would be playing detective? On TV the old black and white movies, more than a dozen of them, with the



British actors Basil Rathbone as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson, will always be "must see tv." Just imagine if we could send Sir

Arthur Conan Doyle's characters back in time to deal with all that occurred on that first Good Friday. A preliminary report would include details like these:

"Based on eye witness accounts and a careful observation and analysis of the burial shroud, we can state that the person crucified, center cross on Calvary from this past week, a.k.a. Jesus the Christ, was a healthy man of about 71 inches in height, estimated to weigh 175 pounds. The sole of the left leg rested on the surface of his foot causing a slight bend in the left knee. The deceased had long hair, short beard and puncture tracks, and blood trails are clearly visible on the head due to the crown of thorns. The direction of the blood is downward.

Bruising on the face also is visible and his eyes are closed."

"The back manifests multiple puncture wounds that coincide with eyewitness accounts of a particularly savage scourging with the customary Roman whips. The front chest area has a two-inch wound on the right pectoral area consistent with the accounts of a post-mortem piercing with a spear. Blood and a clear water-like substance have left markings on the shroud and, in all probability, are signs of a pericardial effusion. Hands and feet also have clear wounds consistent with the nails used in Roman torture and crucifixion."

Holmes and Watson can give me many details, but they are limited to their observation and scientific analysis and cannot, from the observable details, come up with anything close to a declaration of faith. In the world of faith there are other sources available to anyone who wishes to investigate a mystery not limited to this world.

From our perspective of faith, a mystery is a truth revealed by God. The possibility of this truth is beyond our wildest imagination until God reveals it. Even after God reveals these truths we are truly incapable of understanding these truths completely because they are, in the fullest sense, beyond us and our limited minds.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is filled with mysteries! The word mystery itself, in its various forms, is in the catechism more

than 900 times. But, these wonderful mysteries are beyond Holmes and Watson.

The mystery of the Cross also is known as the Paschal Mystery. The Catechism reminds us in paragraphs 571 and 572 that:

"The Paschal Mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished 'once for all' by the redemptive death of his Son, Jesus Christ. The Church remains faithful to the interpretation of 'all the Scriptures' that Jesus gave both before and after his Passover: 'Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' Jesus' sufferings took their historical, concrete form from the fact that he was 'rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes', who handed 'him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified.'"

While our mysteries of faith are not completely solved, God has helped us see his love in them and through them.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Secretariat for
Evangelization and
Catechesis

Beloved auctioneer returns to Taste of Sacred Heart



Ken Reding

Ken Reding missed last year's Taste of Sacred Heart. The longtime El Reno auctioneer had a good excuse, he was on the verge of death.

A 1965 graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Reding had called the live auction for the popular school fundraiser for more than two decades. But, when his liver failed to the point of no return, the possibility grew ever so close that he might not live.

But, on Saturday night, with microphone in hand, Reding, 71, collected more than \$80,000 from the crowd of 400 who came to support the school of about 160 children. Organizers said another \$30,000 was raised through silent auction items and creative fundraising efforts.

The live auction Reding conducted produced a record amount, the largest single item being \$10,000 paid for dinner for six with Sacred Heart pastor, Father Mark Mason.

"The couple who bought the dinner isn't

Catholic, but their children go to school there," Reding said.

Over the years, Reding said the faces have changed at the Taste of Sacred Heart, and with help from his staff, he said the auction portion of the event has been more "streamlined."

Reding said a younger crowd now fills the tables inside the school gymnasium and that changes how he approaches the auction.

"It's amazing that a small school like this can generate this kind of community support."

Sacred Heart High School closed soon after Reding and his five fellow classmates graduated in 1965. A few years later the elementary school would close too.

But, in the early 1990s, the school was resurrected and has seen an elementary enrollment in the range of 150 to 160 children most years since.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration April 8, 2018 St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond



3pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour in the Sanctuary.

Sacrament of Confession will be available, but best to go before Feast.

Refreshments will follow in the Great Hall.

Everyone is WELCOME, bring your loved ones and JOIN us!

Nurses
INSPIRE
INNOVATE
INFLUENCE
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2018
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Celebrating Nurses
May 10, 2018

Mass 6:00pm
Dinner 7:00pm
Archbishop Paul Coakley, Celebrant
Fr. Timothy Fuller, Con-Celebrant

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church
1107 Felix Place
Midwest City, OK 73110
(off SE 15th, east of Air Depot)

RSVP by May 3, 2018
Lynn Stewart, 405.833.3333
lsw@stphilnecatholic.org

Sponsored by St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, St. Anthony Hospital, Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City

Contagious Faith

As many of you are no doubt aware by now, the Lord is redirecting my steps onto a new path.

In the coming weeks, I will be returning to my home diocese (Rapid City) to take over the leadership of a small retreat center with an expanding mission. Besides giving me the opportunity to devote more of my energy to spiritual direction, it comes with the added blessing of being only an hour from my parents and siblings. After nearly 25 years away, the prodigal daughter is returning to home turf.

Nearly that long ago, my life was deeply touched by making the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. For me it was both a "school of prayer" and a "school of discernment." It helped me to solidify the habit of daily prayer as I learned to nourish my spirit on the sacred Scripture.

The spiritual exercises gave me the practical principle of holy indifference and the practical skills of sensing God's guidance, and of discerning God's will.

A few years after I made the exercises, a friend of mine came over for dinner. As we caught up on life, she began to disclose to me the struggles of her heart. As I listened, I found myself thinking how helpful it would be for her to make the spiritual exercises. So, I suggested that she look into it. She asked me, "Do you know anyone who could help me to make them?" Sadly, I did not.

In the days that followed, I continued to think about that conversation, and I felt sad that this was not an option for her. As I continued to mull it over, the thought occurred to me:

perhaps I could lead her through it. I ran the idea past my friend, and then my own spiritual director, who offered to assist me with supervision. We decided to go for it.

Little by little, people began to find out that I was helping her with the spiritual exercises. They began to ask if I would help them as well. I found these encounters very life-giving. Over the years, I've had many opportunities to offer this kind of spiritual accompaniment. I have often wished I had more time for this ministry, but the necessity of making a living always seemed to complicate my freedom to offer myself in this way. Until now.

I am so grateful for my time here in Oklahoma City. I have come to know and love many of you in what will no doubt be lasting friendships. Since my arrival in 2013, the archdiocese has taken critical steps to reposition its mission for the years ahead. Both the chancery reorganization and the efforts made in parishes to cultivate a culture of intentional discipleship have been important strides forward.

I have had the opportunity to know many in this diocese who have experienced a more personal conversion to Jesus Christ because of the discipleship experience that happened in their parishes. What a joy to see ordinary parishioners, fully equipped and confident to "Go Make Disciples." I am proud of all that you have accomplished! And, I expect to hear great things going forward. To God be the glory!

It has been said that "culture eats strategy for breakfast." Changing hearts, minds, habits and thus culture takes a long time. There is no magic bullet. Anyone who wants to serve

such an important cause should not expect smooth sailing at all times,

for indeed, we have an unseen enemy who will exploit every opportunity to distract the Church from fulfilling its mission.

Thankfully, he doesn't know who he's messing with – for "Greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world." And, God has more ideas, plans and time than any one of us – and fewer limitations.

Thank you for welcoming me and sharing your lives with me. As I complete my mission here, I cannot help but think of the advice that Jesus gave to his disciples:

"So, should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are only unprofitable servants; we have done that which it was our duty to do.'"

As I entrust the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and all of you into the Lord's hands, I can offer no better prayer than that of my friend Saint Ignatius himself:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will; all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.



Carole Brown
Director of
Evangelization
and Missionary
Discipleship

Making Sense of Bioethics

The wrong-headedness of "wrongful birth" lawsuits

At its core, the idea of a "wrongful birth" claim is unreasonable and ethically incoherent. Parents who bring these lawsuits against obstetricians and hospitals claim that medical professionals should have detected a particular disease or defect in their unborn baby through prenatal testing and informed them about it.

Had they been given this information, their argument continues, they would have chosen to abort their baby, rather than spending years of their lives caring for a less-than-perfect, possibly infirm child. Wrongful birth lawsuits enable the parents to seek legal redress, often in the form of multi-million dollar settlements.

In 2013, for example, a jury in Washington state awarded a \$50 million payout to a couple who claimed they would have aborted their 5-year-old son Oliver if they had known he had an "unbalanced chromosomal translocation." Because of the mismatched chromosomes he received from his parents, he has an IQ of less than 70 and is unable to walk.

Rachelle Harz, a malpractice lawyer who spearheaded one of these lawsuits in New Jersey in 1999, expressed some of the tortuous thinking that goes into these cases during an interview for 60 Minutes. She noted that although the physician in this case, "didn't cause the child's retardation, what he caused was not giving the proper informa-

tion to the parents to allow them the choice to abort the child." She concluded that the doctor "caused the birth of this very, very neurologically impaired child."

The fundamental flaw in her argument, of course, is the claim that the doctor "caused the birth" of the baby, when, in fact, the birth was caused by an activity that took place nine months prior between the husband and wife. That action of the mom and dad, not an action by the doctor, resulted in the birth.

What the doctor actually "caused" by not discovering and sharing specific medical information with the parents was the preservation of the child's life.

These lawsuits rely on fundamentally flawed logic: first, that it is wrong and illegal for a doctor not to know or to withhold medical information such that a life that would have been ended is saved; second, that a doctor is somehow obligated to facilitate or cooperate in harmful or lethal actions that parents intend to carry out against their own offspring.

The medical profession, however, has long professed allegiance to the creed of "do no harm," so that doctors can serve uniquely as healers, not killers. For obstetricians in particular, the unborn children they track and follow during pregnancy count as that doctor's patients in the same way that the mothers do.

Whenever a couple sets out with

the intention of aborting an imperfect child and requests that prenatal testing be performed for this purpose, the process of testing itself becomes immoral. In the same way, any physician or health care professional who arranges for such tests, if they have prudential certainty that a couple intends to abort an imperfect child, would be guilty of cooperating in evil when that abortion takes place.

To consider a parallel example, if a physician believed that a child arriving to the hospital emergency room had been physically abused or severely beaten by his parents, he would be duty-bound, not to mention legally obligated, to report that abuse to authorities. He would not be permitted to turn a blind eye, or otherwise cooperate in the ongoing harm to that child by his or her parents.

Similarly, obstetricians who work with pregnant couples should not be expected to turn a blind eye and provide diagnostic information to parents that will encourage them to fatally assault their unborn child.

None of us is perfect. None of us is born into this world completely free of defects, whether physical or psychological. Those limitations, however, never entitle others to place our lives in the crosshairs and pull the trigger – especially our own parents!

In sum, these wrongful birth cases promote catastrophic misun-



Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic
Bioethics Center

derstandings about parental duties and about the physicians' obligations toward mothers and their children in prenatal care settings.

Recognizing that some parents will face considerable expense, labor and difficulty in raising a child who requires special care and attention due to disabilities, it seems reasonable to promote a pro-life and supportive response on behalf of these families, rather than encouraging the corrosive practice of wrongful birth lawsuits.

That supportive response should include the expectation of everyone chipping in and helping out, whether through insurance, taxes or crowd-funding, or through other forms of civic, societal or ecclesial outreach.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

continued from page 1

Three days before, Ilibagiza was on scholarship at the National University of Rwanda studying electrical and mechanical engineering. She wanted to stay at school during the Easter holiday, but her parents insisted she go home.

"Now, I'm in a bathroom ... (and) as I was complaining, he brought in five more women. It doesn't help to complain," she laughed. "The best thing you can do is look forward."

No one except the pastor knew they were there. The pastor told his family he'd lost the key to that bathroom. He would take the women food at the end of the week and turn on the radio so they could hear what was going on. Through the speakers, they heard orders to kill everyone and the murderers were going home-by-home.

"The fear would kill my hunger," she said. "It pushed me to such a pain ... I remember the only reasonable theory is, life is over ... I faced such a pain just waiting for them to find us. Then, I started to feel I had two voices over my shoulders"

One voice asked her why should she wait to be tortured; just open the door. She asked God why he created her knowing she would have to go through this. The other voice told her that God is almighty and it gave her hope. Praying the rosary pushed away the evil voice and she realized she wasn't alone.

When the killers arrived at the four-bedroom home, they looked under beds, in suitcases and on the roof. When they reached the bathroom door, they turned to the pastor and said, "We trust you," and left. Ilibagiza fainted.

"I am amazed at God," she said.

A million people were killed during that April through mid-July. When she emerged from the bathroom, she saw the bodies of her friends, neighbors and family members.

"I felt in those tears, God was holding me tight," and saying, "Hey, remember me? Remember me from the bathroom? The journey of your loved ones here on earth has ended. Yours is still here."

She weighed 115 pounds when she went into the bathroom and 65 pounds when she came out. She also discovered that many of her fellow students at the university were killed.

"I realized there was a part of me that didn't want to forgive and wanted that anger," she said. "When I'm blinded by anger I'm hurting myself too."

She said if God could help her in the bathroom, why shouldn't she trust him now?

Eventually she met the man who killed her mother and one of her brothers and told him she forgives him. She said, she realized "Our Father" is the father of both the good and the bad, and some people, no matter what happens to them, they stand up for love and pray for the killers to wake up and change their mind.

"We have to forgive again and again," she said.

Ilibagiza wrote about her journey in "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust."

Time out with God

Donna Heckler and her mom were sitting outside on the porch when she began to open to the life around her.

"Mom, I really have a beautiful garden," Heckler said.

"Don't you know?" her mom replied.

Heckler didn't know. She never noticed. She had "a crazy, busy life."

"I got up in the dark, left the house in dark

and came home in dark," Heckler said. "I was living my life in the dark, in more ways than one."

Heckler was a global brand strategy executive for multimillion dollar organizations and had to constantly be available to speak to people in different time zones. She said she thought the busier she was, the more important she was.

Then, came a time-out when she shattered her leg and had to stay home to recover.

"In this first time out, I learned I was too busy to see the beauty all around me. I saw flowers in my own backyard."

Her second time-out came when she found out she had stage three breast cancer. The tumor was the size of a tennis ball.

At one point, a friend asked Heckler how she could be so calm. She said, "I trust God."

"I didn't know how deeply my trust was until I said it out loud."

Heckler began a blog, "Living like a lady when you have cancer," to document her journey.

"I tried to be radiant every day," she said. "Sometimes radiant meant that all I could do was smile."

She realized, "God had been putting himself in front of me every day." Now she was calm and had inner peace. "They say you find God when you're silenced."

Her recovery, however, hit another hurdle and she was rushed to the hospital.

After being given an ultimatum between her job and her life, she chose life. She began writing and speaking about her faith.

"God gave me a time-out because I was living in darkness. The only light I saw was at work. He wanted to teach me to be present," Heckler said. "I'm going to invite you to take your own time-out. Don't make God give you a time-out. God invites you to take a time-out with him."

Lessons from a martyr

Confident trust; presence; ordinary holiness.

These are three of the many lessons local award-winning journalist Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda learned while walking in faith with Blessed Stanley Rother.

Scaperlanda wrote the book, "The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma." Her research took her on a voyage from



Okarche to Guatemala, and she shared what she learned by his example.

She was first introduced to Father Rother when her kids came home from Saint James School talking about him. She started researching his life and would eventually write articles about him. She also was called to help the historical commission compiling information for his cause.

While in Guatemala for the 30th anniversary of Blessed Stanley's death, she visited with Archbishop Coakley about the need for a book. He would later commission her to tell Blessed Stanley's story.

While telling a friend about her hectic situation with no time to write the book, the friend said, "Why don't you just ask Father Stan to walk with you? All the things that you're doing, just let him be with you."

"I tell you it just transformed the way that I approached even thinking about the book, because it was no longer about just telling the story blah, blah, blah," Scaperlanda said. "He's walking with me and he went through so many things that were difficult."

She said, in walking with him she learned that confident trust was a big part of who Blessed Stanley was.

"I'm talking about the kind of trust that says all is grace because God transfigures all," she said. "I know God is right there in the middle of it all with

me and he will transform whatever this difficult situation is that you are in. I learned that from Father Stan. His confidence was grounded in real life, life as it is."

Her second lesson is that of presence.

She said it's "the awareness of seeing what's in front of you - beauty, pain, whatever is unfolding in front of us."

One example was how Blessed Stanley lived with the people in Guatemala. He worked alongside them, ate with them and spoke their language. It's what brought them to call him "our priest."

"For me, Father Stan lived life by what Pope Francis calls evangelizing gestures."

The third lesson of ordinary holiness speaks to Blessed Stanley's whole being.

"I love that he was like us, just like us," Scaperlanda said. "Holiness for you and for me will be in that very personal, individual, ordinariness of our lives."

She said Blessed Stanley is not someone to just read about. He was someone who lived his ordinary life faithfully, and people learn holiness precisely through their individual, personal circumstances.

"Not all of us are called to be missionaries, but we are called to that same 'yes,'" she said. "For me, Blessed Stanley Rother is a trusted friend who has reminded me over and over how to walk this road of holiness."

Inspired

Kathy Landoll and Eva Brittain, parishioners from Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City, rode to the conference together and shared moments of the conference that resonated with them.

Brittain said Immaculée Ilibagiza inspired her to start praying the Rosary more.

Landoll is a cousin of Blessed Stanley. "I read Maria's book and it was very, very good. I like the way she described Father Stan and his efforts. He had skills that he grew up with in Okarche that he could use down there."

Narmin Hilton of Saint Thomas More in Norman attended the event with her mother Mariam Alatullah from Saint Therese of the Child Jesus in Tulsa.

Hilton said Ilibagiza's story was powerful. "It's very evil what happened, but I think that seeing the way she responded; the way she turned to God in terms of prayer, it's really beautiful," Hilton said. "I mean, honestly, she might be a living saint. She handled it the way God calls us to."

First time attendee Zeela Snodgrass from Saint Andrew in Moore said friends suggested she attend.

"I believe I'll be coming back next year," she said.

Dana Attocknie is managing editor for the Sooner Catholic.



Immaculée Ilibagiza



Participants shop at the many vendor booths at the 2018 Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference in Edmond. Photos Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic.

The liberation Easter brings

continued from page 1

Easter 2016.

The "first stone" to move aside on Easter, he said, is "the lack of hope that imprisons us within ourselves." Living without hope is a "trap" that, in his eyes, means living "as if the Lord were not risen."

But, the pope indicated, Jesus' followers ought to follow his lead. The risen Lord sends each person who encounters him "to announce the Easter message, to awaken and resurrect hope in hearts burdened by sadness, in those who struggle to find meaning in life," said the pope.

An imprisoning trap. That is what Pope Francis

believes a lack of hope becomes. No wonder the risen Lord so often is called a liberator.

What freedom do people need that reflects Easter's new life? Freedom, possibly, from the fear of putting the finest of their God-given gifts to fuller use and thus beginning to grow again.

It would be a mistake, after all, to imagine weak hope as a sign that someone actually is hopeless. In a famous 2013 interview with Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, an Italian communications expert, Pope Francis

Easter sets the tone for all Christian living. The resurrection is like the break of dawn. Christ is light, just as he is life - new life.

insisted that although a person's life "is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow."

He has a "dogmatic certainty," the pope said then, that "God is in every person's life."

Easter sets the tone for all Christian living. It is a matter of coming out of the darkness and into the light. It is a matter, too, of accompanying others as they attempt, perhaps haltingly, to discover what new life means for them.

"Goodness always tends to spread," and "any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes

more sensitive to the needs of others," Pope Francis wrote in "The Joy of the Gospel," one of his most-read documents.

What the Jesus of Easter does is what Christians are meant to do. Remember, it was the resurrected Jesus who accompanied the two disciples making their way to Emmaus, spending time with them in ways that comforted and enriched them (Lk 24:13-35).

Our aim should be to make sure that everyone has a place at the table of life.

Gibson served on Catholic News Service's editorial staff for 37 years.

Internet Pornography:

Equipping Parents For An Ongoing Conversation

Parents

Did you know?

12-17 years old:

Age range of the largest population internet pornography users

8-9 years old:

The average age of a child's first exposure to pornography

80%

of 15-17 year olds have had multiple exposures to hard-core pornography

Source: Integrity Restored <http://integrityrestored.com>

Please join us for an informative evening with Ryan Foley

When? Thursday, April 19, 2018 6:30-8:00pm

Where? 7501 NW Expressway, OKC Conference Center

Why? Join the fight to protect our youth from pornography.

"Being exposed to pornography can be traumatic for children and youth. Seeing it steals their innocence and gives them a distorted image of sexuality, relationships and men and women, which may then affect their behavior. It can also make them more vulnerable to being sexually abused, since their understanding of appropriate behavior can be damaged."

Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015

Ryan Foley is Vice President of Business Development for Covenant Eyes. Since serving in the U.S. Air Force, Ryan has continually worked in the technology field with a particular focus on security.



Ryan joined Covenant Eyes in 2012 and is now applying his passion for security and safety in support of families, working to protect them from internet pornography.

He speaks regularly and provides internet safety workshops at schools, parishes, and to other faith-based organizations

A tour of the Holy Land with Fr. Charles Samson

By J.E. Helm
The Sooner Catholic

Again, in the text describing the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, he says that "in the phrase the 'Word became flesh and dwelt' literally means 'pitched his tent' (eskenosin in the original Greek)." The architect who designed the church, he says, built it "in the shape of a tent in reference to the literal meaning of the Greek in John 1:14."

Like a practiced tour guide, he takes us to see "the heart shaped Sea of Galilee about 11 miles long at its longest and seven miles wide at its widest." He points out that "Just over two miles east of Capernaum, the Jordan River runs into the sea."

He takes care to explain how an understanding of the history and geography of these places reveals important facts about the things found in Scripture, things "otherwise seemingly random or puzzling that Jesus speaks (about) or that the Gospel says about Jesus and his disciples."

At Capernaum, he writes, "The houses had walls of basalt but were weak structures; the walls could hold up only a fragile roof made of a network of light branches covered with straw and earth." We can now see how the paralytic in Mark 2: 1-2 was lowered through the roof by his friends who were able easily to remove a part of the structure.

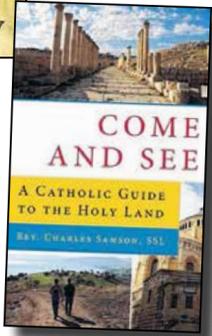
Samson demonstrate how we can be sure where and how certain things happened by looking at

Scripture along with other writings. There is the diary of Egeria, "an early pilgrim from Gaul who made a trip to the Holy Land in the early 380s AD." Church historian Eusebius (265-340 AD) writes about visiting the house of the woman cured of a hemorrhage in Mark 5:25.

Above all, he encourages his readers to immerse themselves in Scripture as they travel throughout the Holy Land. Every section of every chapter begins with a verse from the Bible.

Everywhere he has blocks with "Scripture on Site." Writing about Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration of Christ, he points the reader to Matthew 17: 1-8, the Scriptural account of the same.

Everywhere he has blocks with "Scripture on Site."



goes beyond being an intellectual exercise. He believes that the explanations he presents "fosters within the hearts of pilgrims the prayerful spirit of contact with Christ and the events on which is founded our faith, which we see here in the Holy Land is not only rooted in mystery, but also is real."

When some facts do not seem to be historically supported, Samson says it is important "first to affirm the traditional identification." In discussing the Via Crucis (here he presents one of the many excellent maps and illustrations in the

book,) he accedes that the Way of the Cross followed by pilgrims today "goes back only to the days of the Crusades."

Should pilgrims today "even bother" walking the Via Crucis? he asks. "Absolutely!" he answers. "Doing such a public prayer is a great group witness to our faith in Jesus and our love for the wood of the cross, 'on which hung the Savior of the world.'"

This is one of many instances where Father Samson ties the events of the past to today's liturgical practices. In one of his "Points for Reflection," which conclude each section, he notes that the words of the blind man Bartimaeus ("Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" Mark 10:48) "constitute one of the options for a penitent's Act of Contrition during the Rite of Penance."

Father Samson says that he is writing especially "for those in formation for the Holy Priesthood," and each of the "Points for Reflection" is followed by a few words "Especially for Seminarians."

Samson's personality comes alive on every page. He stands in awe of the sites he visits.

At the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem, he reminds himself that here, in this place, Herod "was visited by the Magi," and here, "Joseph and Mary, on their way to Bethlehem through Jerusalem, must have passed." History "happened right here!" he exclaims. More than once, Father simply stands back from a site and literally says "Wow!"

Reading "Come and See," it is very clear that its author is a man who truly loves the Lord, and through the pages of "A Catholic Guide to the Holy Land," he leads us all to do the same.

The best-written books come from the heart, and in "Come and See: A Catholic Guide to the Holy Land," Father Charles Samson, S.S.L., is writing about his experience when "the Lord shared himself with me in a special way."

He explains that while he had Dutch and Italian friends whom he thought he knew well, "It was not until I went to visit them in their homeland that I felt I really got to know them." Likewise, by getting to know the many places in the Holy Land where Jesus walked and lived, Father Samson "got to better know Christ."

Father Samson is eminently well-qualified to write this book. He holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pontifical schools in Rome, and he studied language, history and archeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The book is small enough to be packed in a suitcase for an actual tour of the Holy Land, and it is such enjoyable reading as to make for a great armchair tour of the same. Many beautiful photos give the reader a real sense of the lay of the land.

Samson's bent for scholarship is evidenced in the many footnotes that accompany the text, yet his writing is never dull and does not tax the reader's interest.

In many cases, he refers to the original language used in Scripture like when he explains that "the place of Jesus' crucifixion," Golgotha, "is an Aramaic word/name. The final letter gives it away; in Aramaic, the definite article comes, attached, at the end of the word, and it consists of a single a."

Book Review

Development, communications director

Blessed Sacrament in Lawton is seeking a full-time development and communications director for the parish and St. Mary Catholic School. The position would involve public relations, marketing, grant writing and fundraising for the parish and school. Contact the parish office, (580) 355-2054 or blessed-sacramentlawton@gmail.com.

Maintenance, janitor

Blessed Sacrament in Lawton is seeking a full-time maintenance-janitor. Contact parish office at (580) 355-2054 or blessed-sacramentlawton@gmail.com.

Director youth, campus ministry

The archdiocese is seeking a full-time director of youth, young adult and campus ministry. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan youth evangelization and discipleship efforts, oversight of young adult and campus ministry efforts, and the summer youth camp program. Bachelor's degree

in theology, religious education or related field required; master's degree preferred. Previous experience in leading youth ministry on the diocesan and/or parish level a must. Significant background with leadership training and ministry formation desired. Bilingual in Spanish preferred. Send resume to nlargent@archokc.org.

Birth Choice volunteers needed

Birth Choice is in serious need of volunteers who will mentor clients and help with clerical work. Contact Barbara at (405) 606-8428.

Teachers - OKC

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School seeks a theology and social studies (Oklahoma history and geography) teacher. Must have at least two years of full-time teaching experience. Spanish proficiency preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with a bachelor's or master's degree in theology, background in Catholic social teaching and U.S. Catholic bishop's framework. Social studies

Jobs Box

teacher must have a bachelor's degree and a valid teacher credential. Apply at www.cristoreyokc.org/careers.

Counselor, facilities manager, resource officer

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a full-time ninth grade counselor, Oklahoma certified to work with seventh, eighth and ninth grade students and implement programs; assist with recruitment, admissions and counseling services. Full-time facilities manager, school resource officer must have experience with facilities, operations and scheduling. Must be CLEET certified. Contact Talita DeNegri at tdenegri@mountstmary.org or fax to (405) 631-9209.

Head girl's basketball coach

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a head girls' basketball coach. Must have ability to oversee girls' basketball program for grades 9-12 and be involved in the Catholic Grade School Activi-

ties Association (CGSAA). Teaching positions available are English, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and others. Required to obtain CDL and SDE bus driving certification. Fax cover letter and resume to (405) 631-9209 or e-mail tdenegri@mountstmary.org.

Director of outreach ministry, volunteer coordinator

Tulsa's Church of St. Mary is searching for a director of outreach ministry and volunteer coordinator to oversee the transition from the current facilities to the new complex. The director will meet, assess and work with clients who seek assistance. The director will implement an online tracking system to log volunteers' hours and to document assistance. Visit churchofsaintmary.com/jobs for application. E-mail mmalcom@churchofsaintmary.com. Applications accepted through April 6.

To see more job openings, go online to www.soonercatholic.org.

To honor Rev. King, 'deepen' commitment to work for justice, bishops urge

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Fifty years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, "we need to ask ourselves if we are doing all we can to build the culture of love, respect and peace to which the Gospel calls us," the U.S. bishops' administrative committee said March 28.

On April 4, 1968, James Earl Ray gunned down the civil rights leader as he stood on the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tenn. Rev. King, a Baptist minister, was 39.

In reflecting on Rev. King's life and work, "what are we being asked to do for the sake of our brother or sister who still suffers under the weight of racism?" the committee said in a statement. "Where could God use our efforts to help change the hearts of those who harbor racist thoughts or engage in racist actions?"

This 50th anniversary "gives us

an important moment to draw inspiration from the way in which Dr. King remained undeterred in his principle of nonviolent resistance, even in the face of years of ridicule, threats and violence for the cause of justice," the committee said.

As the most prominent civil rights activist of his time, Rev. King fought for all races and against a system that promoted racism and racial divide. He is well-known for advocating nonviolence and civil disobedience to bring about change. He was inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

In its statement, the administrative committee recalled that Rev. King went to Memphis to support underpaid and exploited African American sanitation workers.

"(He) arrived on a plane that was under a bomb threat. He felt God had called him to solidarity with his brothers and sisters in need," the committee said. "In his



CNS photo/Abbie Rowe, National Parks Service/JFK Presidential Library and Museum handout via Reuters.

final speech on the night before he died, Dr. King openly referenced the many threats against him, and made clear that he would love a long life. But more important to him, he said, was his desire to simply do the will of God."

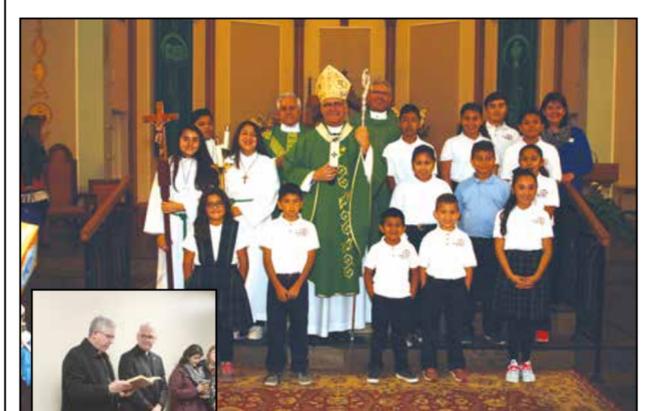
"Our faith urges us to be courageous, to risk something of ourselves, in defending the dignity of our neighbor who is made in the image of God," the committee continued. "Pope Francis reminds us often that we must never sit on the sidelines in the face of great evil or extreme need, even when danger surrounds us."

Quoting Ch. 15, Verse 13, of

Saint John's Gospel, the committee said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The best way to honor Rev. King "and preserve his legacy," it added, is "by boldly asking God -- today and always -- to deepen our own commitment to follow his will wherever it leads in the cause of promoting justice."

Rev. King's assassination sparked a wave of rioting and other civil disturbances in cities across the country. Known as the Holy Week Uprising, it lasted from April 6 to April 14, which was Easter that year.



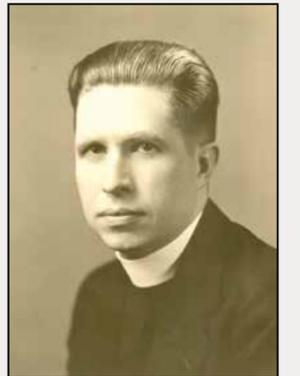
Shelter Blessing

On Oct. 27, Archbishop Coakley was at Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City to bless a tornado shelter and celebrate Mass. Photos Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic.

From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

Rev. Gladstone Kinkaid was a convert to the Catholic faith in 1925 due to the tutelage of Msgr. Walde. He was a man gifted with many talents as he was a theater organist for silent films and was by all accounts an orator of the highest caliber. Upon his conversion, he sought to fulfill his calling to the priesthood and was sent to study in Rome. After his ordination, he was assigned as assistant at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He became known as the "convert priest." He also was the choir director, lending his musical talents to the enhancement of the liturgy. Sadly, this multi-faceted cleric was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and died a scant four years after his ordination. Bishop Kelley was not able to attend his Requiem Mass, but offered these poignant observations: "He brought his sincere devotion, sterling faith and well-ordered zeal. He was loved by everyone who knew him and by no one more than his bishop."



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

What Do You Seek?

**A Practical Spirituality?
A Full Liturgical Life?
Life in Community?
Meaningful work?
Continuing a Long History of
Serving the Church in Oklahoma?**

"Come and See" Weekend April 20-22, 2018

Single Catholic men, ages 18-35, are invited to experience Benedictine monastic life at St. Gregory's Abbey during Come and See Weekend! Experience our community where we strive to balance prayer, work, leisure and our community life.

For more information, contact Fr. Boniface at vocations@monksok.org.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

La visión profética del Beato Pablo VI

Este año marca el 50 aniversario de la profética carta encíclica del beato Pablo VI, "Humanae Vitae" (Sobre la vida humana), publicada el 25 de julio de 1968.

El Papa Pablo VI le recordó a los católicos y a todas las personas de buena voluntad que algo tan sagrado como la transmisión de la vida humana no puede separarse de sus amarras morales sin consecuencias graves para los individuos, matrimonios, familias, y la sociedad en general. La transmisión de la vida y la dignidad del amor conyugal están integralmente entrelazados. Ambos son sagrados.

Los amarres morales que aseguran el respeto por la dignidad del amor sexual humano están arraigados en el plan de Dios para el matrimonio. El acto conyugal (amor sexual entre cónyuges) tiene un significado que proviene del Creador. Como signo y expresión de la alianza conyugal, cada acto conyugal debe ser tanto unitivo (un acto de amor mutuo donde se entregan el uno al otro) como procreativo (abierto a la transmisión de la vida).

Separar estos dos impide que la expresión íntima del amor conyugal realice su propósito divinamente intencionado. Participar en actividades sexuales fuera del matrimonio o con fines egoístas o al interferir con su fecundidad natural mediante el uso de los anticonceptivos es un rechazo del significado y el propósito intencional de Dios. Es pecaminoso.

La publicación de "Humanae Vitae" fue una reafirmación de la enseñanza moral tradicional de la Iglesia Católica. Se encontró con una controversia generalizada y una disidencia vocal que era sintomática de la época.

1968 fue un año de disturbios sociales y políticos masivos en todo el mundo. En los Estados Unidos, fue el año de los asesinatos del Senador Robert Kennedy y el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Era el momento culminante de la participación estadounidense en la guerra de Vietnam. Fue un año de disturbios en las universidades y las ciudades de todo el país, incluso en la Convención Nacional Demócrata en Chicago. No debe sorprendernos que el desafío a la autoridad que caracterizó a esa edad, y la nuestra, haya afectado la forma en

que esta enseñanza fuera recibida por muchos dentro de la Iglesia Católica y ciertamente por aquellos fuera de la Iglesia.

La mentalidad secular dice que los seres humanos, en lugar de Dios, son la medida de todas las cosas. El bien y el mal se determinan sobre la base de lo que es práctico en lugar de lo que es verdadero o bueno. Esta cosmovisión valora más los resultados prácticos sobre la razón.

También ha afectado las actitudes y los valores de muchos en la Iglesia. Incomodos con ser "signos de contradicción", algunos prefieren acomodar el Evangelio y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia a la sabiduría del mundo. La sal pierde su sabor (Mateo 5:13). La Iglesia pierde su credibilidad como testigo.

El Papa Pablo VI tuvo una visión profética al reconocer las graves consecuencias que se producen cuando las personas no consideran hacia dónde se dirige una sociedad que acepta el control artificial de la natalidad. Separar el sexo de los bebés tiene consecuencias desastrosas y de largo alcance. Una mentalidad anticonceptiva llevaría inevitablemente, dijo el Beato Pablo VI, hacia la "infidelidad conyugal y a la degradación general de la moralidad".

Sería desastroso para el matrimonio y las familias, y llevaría a la pérdida del respeto por las mujeres, hasta el punto de "considerarla como simple instrumento de goce egoísta y no como a compañera, respetada y amada."

Ciertamente, muchos problemas familiares y males sociales están relacionados con esta mentalidad anticonceptiva generalizada que separa el amor sexual de su contexto apropiado en el plan divino para el matrimonio. La reciente redefinición judicial del matrimonio es un claro resultado de esta separación.

El rechazo a aceptar el plan de Dios al crear varón y mujer con una complementariedad natural entre los sexos ha llevado a la confusión de género en una escala masiva. Ha llevado a poblaciones en declive y a un "invierno demográfico" en muchos países.

El divorcio en alza, la tolerancia generalizada a la actividad extramatrimonial y homosexual, el aborto y una serie de otros problemas siguen

a continuación. La pérdida del respeto por el plan de Dios para el matrimonio erosiona el respeto por la dignidad de la sexualidad humana y la sacralidad de la vida.

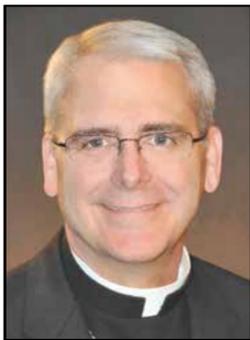
Ha contribuido a la explosión de la pornografía como una industria multimillonaria y la sociedad se desliza hacia la adopción de la eutanasia, la experimentación con células madre embrionarias e incluso la clonación humana. En lugar de reverenciarnos unos a otros, nos usamos unos a otros como instrumentos para nuestros propios propósitos egoístas y el disfrute.

La Iglesia no puede cambiar su enseñanza sobre la inmoralidad de los contraceptivos artificiales, por muy impopular y reconociblemente difícil que pueda ser abrazarla y vivirla. La Iglesia no crea la ley moral, sino que es solo su guardián e intérprete. En última instancia, los contraceptivos son moralmente inaceptables porque son contrarios al bien verdadero tanto de la persona humana como del matrimonio.

Los católicos que se esfuerzan por vivir de acuerdo con las enseñanzas de la Iglesia encontrarán la asistencia divina recurriendo a la gracia de los sacramentos, especialmente al Sacramento de la Penitencia y la Eucaristía, así como a la oración y el cultivo de la virtud.

Un regalo invaluable también está disponible a través de los métodos científicamente probados de Planificación Natural de la Familia. La PNF es un medio saludable de planificación familiar que permite a las parejas cooperar con Dios y entre sí en el espaciado de los embarazos de una manera que realmente fortalece su relación.

Tal vez ahora sea un buen momento para echarle un vistazo a los beneficios que la PNF puede ofrecerle a usted y a su matrimonio.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Sherlock Holmes y el Misterio Pascual

Parte I: Al asesinato en la loma del Calvario

A todos nos gustan las historias de misterio. En mi juventud, no podía esperar la llegada de la próxima selección del Club de Libros de Misterio. Tan pronto llega el libro, ¿adivina quién estaría jugando al detective? En la televisión, las viejas películas en blanco y negro, más de



una docena de ellas, con los actores británicos Basil Rathbone como Sherlock Holmes y Nigel Bruce como el Dr. Watson, siempre serán vistas en mi casa.

Imaginense si pudiéramos enviar estos personajes de Sir Arthur Conan Doyle al pasado para que investigaran todo lo sucedido aquel primer Viernes Santo. Un informe preliminar incluiría detalles como:

"Según los relatos de testigos oculares, y una cuidadosa observación y análisis del sudario en que fue envuelto el difunto, podemos afirmar que la persona crucificada, cruz central en el Calvario la semana pasada, conocido como Jesús el Cristo, fue un hombre saludable de aproximadamente 71 pulgadas de estatura, y con alrededor de 175 libras de peso. La planta de la pierna izquierda descansaba sobre la superficie de su pie, causando una leve flexión en la rodilla izquierda. El difunto tenía pelo largo, barba corta y marcas de punción, y los rasgos de sangre claramente visibles en la cabeza debido a la corona de espinas. La dirección de

la sangre es hacia abajo. Los hematomas en la cara también son visibles y sus ojos están cerrados."

"La espalda manifiesta múltiples heridas punzantes que coinciden con relatos de testigos de una flagelación particularmente salvaje con los acostumbrados látigos romanos. El área del pecho frontal tiene una herida de dos pulgadas en el área pectoral derecha consistente con una perforación post-mortem con una lanza. La sangre y una sustancia transparente similar al agua han dejado marcas en el sudario y, con toda probabilidad, son signos de un derrame pericárdico. Las manos y los pies también tienen heridas claras consistentes con los clavos usados en la tortura y la crucifixión romanas."

Holmes y Watson pueden darme muchos detalles, pero están limitados a su observación y análisis científico y no pueden, a partir de los detalles observables, proponer algo parecido a una declaración de fe. En el mundo de la fe, hay otras fuentes disponibles para cualquiera que desee investigar un misterio no limitado a este mundo.

Desde nuestra perspectiva de fe, un misterio es una verdad revelada por Dios. La posibilidad de esta verdad es algo que trasciende nuestra imaginación hasta que Dios mismo lo revela. Incluso después de que Dios revela estas verdades, somos verdaderamente incapaces de comprender estas verdades por completo porque están, en el sentido más amplio, más allá de nosotros y nuestras mentes limitadas.

¡El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica está lleno de misterios! La palabra misterio, en sus diver-

sas formas, se encuentran en el catecismo más de 900 veces.

Misterios que están más allá del análisis de Holmes y Watson.

El misterio de la Cruz también se conoce como el Misterio Pascual. El Catecismo nos recuerda en los párrafos 571 y 572 que:

"El Misterio Pascual de la cruz y de la resurrección de Cristo está en el centro de la Buena Nueva que los Apóstoles, y la Iglesia a continuación de ellos, deben anunciar al mundo. El designio salvador de Dios se ha cumplido de 'una vez por todas' por la muerte redentora de su Hijo Jesucristo. La Iglesia permanece fiel a 'la interpretación de todas las Escrituras' dada por Jesús mismo, tanto antes como después de su Pascua: '¿No era necesario que Cristo padeciera eso y entrara así en su gloria?'. Los padecimientos de Jesús han tomado una forma histórica concreta por el hecho de haber sido 'reprobado por los ancianos, los sumos sacerdotes y los escribas', que lo 'entregaron a los gentiles, para burlarse de él, azotarlo y crucificarle'."

Si bien nuestros misterios de fe no esten completamente resueltos, Dios nos ha ayudado a ver su amor en ellos y a través de ellos.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.

Secretariado de Evangelización y Catequesis



El padre Jorge Morales, párroco de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Rosario en Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, muestra al padre Jack Wall, presidente de Catholic Extension, el daño a su iglesia por el huracán María. El padre Wall y otro miembro de la Catholic Extension visitaron Puerto Rico del 2 de febrero al 1 de marzo. La organización lanzó una campaña para apoyar a las parroquias de la isla. Foto CNS/Rich Kalonick, Catholic Extension.



Jason Fugikawa, Alex Schimpf, Archbishop Coakley, Jim Beckman, Pedro Moreno and Alvaro Marfull. Foto Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

La facultad del Instituto Beato Stanley Rother recibe mandatum del Arzobispo Coakley

La facultad incluye: Jason Fugikawa, Alex Schimpf, Jim Beckman, Pedro Moreno and Alvaro Marfull.

El requisito canónico de un mandatum, el mandato de un obispo para que los docentes de nivel universitario transmitan fielmente la Teología Católica a los demás, es una forma de "veracidad en la publicidad". El mandatum afirma el papel del instructor en la misión de enseñanza de la Iglesia y establece una estructura de responsabilidad para lo que se enseña en el aula en relación con la doctrina de la Iglesia Católica Romana. El Jason Fugikawa recibió su mandatum previamente por su instrucción teológica en la Universidad St. Gregory.



2018 Equipo de Oración Intercesora

Gracias por comprometerse a orar por un fructífero Proceso Estratégico de planificación y por una Campaña Capital para la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

2018 Equipo de Oración Intercesora Oración diaria

Dios Todopoderoso, fuente de todo lo que es bueno y santo, te damos gracias por tus abundantes bendiciones.

Como muchos discípulos, somos una Iglesia, llamada a proclamar la Buena Nueva a todos los pueblos

Vela por la Arquidiócesis en nuestra Campaña Capital y por el Proceso de Planificación Estratégico:

inspiranos a ser generosos, ayúdanos en este esfuerzo, guiándonos en nuestra planificación, y, como el Beato Stanley Rother, danos la alegría de servirte ahora y siempre.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor.

Amén

Briefs

Prayer warriors needed

This is an historic time for the archdiocese! To build on Archbishop Coakley's pastoral letter, "Go Make Disciples," and his strategic plan, he is asking for 2,018 prayer warriors to pray for these efforts. To learn more or to join the 2018 Prayer Team, text Prayer2018 to 84576 or go to <https://app.flocknote.com/archokc/2018Intercessory>.

College scholarships available

Completed applications are due by April 3 - For current college students or high school seniors, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma offers a \$6,000 scholarship (\$1,500 per year) to students attending a non-Catholic college or university and a \$12,000 scholarship (\$3,000 per year) to students attending a Catholic college or university. The scholarships are available for up to four years and are renewable each year as long as academic and enrollment guidelines are met. Visit www.cfook.org or contact the high school counselor, pastor or DRE. Contact the Catholic Foundation, (405) 721-4115 or cfo-info@archokc.org with any questions.

Pilgrimage to France

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a pilgrimage to France June 18-29. Visit the incorruptible saints Bernadette Soubirous, John Vianney, Catherine Laboure and Vincent de Paul. Visit holy sites in Nevers, Paray Le Monial, Villefranche sur Saone, La Salette, Grenoble, Le Puy, Chartres, with two days in Lourdes and four days in Paris. All-inclusive with roundtrip flights from OKC, breakfasts and dinners, daily Mass, deluxe lodging, all site admissions. \$4,549.00 pp. Balance due April 4. Contact Melani Roewe, (405) 642-8139, Mroewe@unitours.com.

Sacred Music in Elgin

St. Ann in Elgin presents "Alleluia! He is risen!" at 4 p.m. April 8, preceded by Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:30 p.m. Reception to follow in parish hall. Contact Mary Kilgore, (580) 695-0904.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Christ the King, 8005 Dorset Dr., is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday on April 8 with a movie and a special liturgy. A screening of "Faustina: The Apostle of Divine Mercy" will be at 1:20 p.m. in the parish center atrium followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet, confessions and benediction at 3 p.m. Saint John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday in 1978 to honor the message of Divine Mercy given to a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska. Everyone is invited. Refreshments provided. Visit <https://ckokc.org/divine-mercy> or e-mail Mariam Daly at adoration@ckokc.org.

Oklahoma Catholic Radiothon

The next radiothon for the Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Network is April 10 and 11. Tune in to 97.3 FM, another local frequency or online. Visit <http://okcatholicbroadcasting.com>. Radiothon call-in number is (800) 891-8589.

Discussing depression

St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd., is hosting a seminar "Discussing Depression" at 6:30 p.m. April 12. Aimee Ryan, licensed clinical social worker, and Amy Shipman, licensed professional counselor, from Catholic Charities will help people understand what depression is, what it is not and how to get help. Reservations not required.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd open house

Learn about and experience a place and program created for Christ's littlest disciples. Open house is April 12 6:30 p.m.; April 13 10 a.m. at Christ the King formal room.

Encounter with God's Call weekend

The spring Encounter with God's Call weekend is April 14-16. The trip allows young men in 11th grade through recent college graduates to visit a seminary, spend time with the archdiocese's college seminarians, and get questions answered about the possibility of studying to become a priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Go online to www.okcvocations.com. Call (405) 721-9351.

Calf Fry Fundraiser

St. William will host the 6th annual Calf Fry Fundraiser Noon - 3 p.m. April 15 at Bryan County Fairgrounds Haggard Hall, 1901 S. 9, Durant. Live auction 1:30 p.m., silent auction, raffles, kids' activities. Drawing for \$500 cash prize. Event benefits new education building/parish hall building fund. Meal tickets \$20 by April 15; \$25 at door. Contact Ginger Lewis, (580) 916-1438, or church office, (580) 924-1989.

Annual Safe Environment facilitator in-service

The Safe Environment annual in-service will be 9:30 a.m. - Noon April 19 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, rooms C1 and C2. Fr. Sean Kilkawley, Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., will speak about "The New Evangelization and the Hypersexualized Society." Registration forms due by April 9. Send to Sr. Catherine Powers at cpowers@archokc.org or fax (405) 721-5210. Registration 9 a.m. In addition to safe environment facilitators, pastors, associate pastors, youth ministers, DREs, principals and all other staff members are invited.

Internet safety workshop

An "Internet pornography: Equipping parents for an ongoing conversation" workshop is 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. April 19 in the



Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

The next Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting radiothon is scheduled for April 10 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. For the April 2018 radiothon, we are returning to the live format with in-studio interviews, phone interviews and commentary. There is no substitute for interaction and response from donors and listeners.

In addition, Oklahoma Catholic Radio president, Jeff Finnell, was searching for a way to raise the bar for this radiothon, so he turned to EWTN. Through the generosity of an EWTN donor, Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting has been given a matching funds grant of up to \$20,000. If the donations from our listeners total \$20,000, the EWTN grant will add another \$20,000!

The prospect of doubling the impact of the radiothon is a gift from God. Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting continually is challenged to balance the desire for satisfying growth throughout the entire state with the availability of funding.

I wrote about KRGU and KHDD in my February column, both important

Oklahoma Catholic Radio Stations

<p>OKC - 97.3 FM KKNG OKC - 99.3 FM KHDD OKC - 97.7 FM KRGU Antlers - 90.3 FM KMAC Broken Arrow - 102.9 FM KPIM Clinton - 98.3 FM KFWG Edmond - 100.9 FM KSMJ</p>	<p>Elk City - 100.7 FM KPFS Tulsa - 94.9 FM KPIM Lawton - 88.3 FM KOEG Prague - 88.3 FM KIOP Ringwood - 104.9 FM KEUC Shawnee - 107.1 FM KOGD Woodward - 93.3 FM KFPP</p>
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okcatholicbroadcasting.com

conference center at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Ryan Foley, vice president of business development for Covenant Eyes, is speaker.

Come and See weekend

The Benedictine Monks of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee are hosting a "Come and See" weekend April 20-22 for men between the ages of 18 and 35, who are discerning their vocation and would like to see monastic life. Contact Fr. Boniface at vocations@monksOK.org.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The 2018 World Day of Prayer

milestones in reaching the Spanish-speaking Catholic community. This radiothon will help pay for that investment.

Serving more listeners is not the only goal. Founding members of Oklahoma Catholic Radio such as Deacon Larry Sousa and Jeff are committed to quality programming that helps us know, love and serve our Lord. This takes considerable resources, especially in developing local programming to be an authentic, relevant voice to Oklahoma listeners.

Please partner with Oklahoma Catholic Radio during the April radiothon to fulfill the vision for Catholic radio in Oklahoma.

You will be talking to familiar volunteers. Deacon Larry and Jeff will host interviews and weigh in with their insights.

As Jeff said, "We feel very blessed that EWTN has selected Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting to share in this very generous matching grant. We hope this will inspire our listeners and faithful donors to use this matching grant as a way to double the value of their donation."

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.sooneercatholic.org.

	April		
1	Easter Sunday.	Naugle, (405) 358-3610, elaine.211223@gmail.com or visit www.spiritOKC.org .	ception, 3901 S.W. 29, OKC. Call (405) 685-4806.
1	St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Greater OKC meeting, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Andrew, 800 N.W. 5, Moore, McConnell Room. Contact (316) 558-0422, billfull@cox.net .	6	Friday within the Octave of Easter.
1	Meeting of the Third Order (Lay) Dominicans, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at St. Philip Neri in Midwest City, for any Catholic layperson drawn to religious life. Call (405) 313-6611, (405) 414-9407.	6	First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m.; Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m. Call (405) 721-8944, (405) 528-6252.
1	Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. the abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com .	7	Saturday within the Octave of Easter.
2	Easter Monday - Catholic Pastoral Center offices closed.	7	The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Teresa of Calcutta, meeting at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meeting following. Contact Karen Banks, (405) 396-9086 or Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.
3	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter.	8	Divine Mercy Sunday.
4	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter.	8	Christ the King, OKC, will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a special liturgy and a screening of "Faustina: The Apostle of Divine Mercy" at 1:20 p.m. in the parish center atrium followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet, confessions and benediction at 3 p.m.
5	Thursday within the Octave of Easter.	8	Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Con-
5	Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine	8	St. Ann in Elgin presents "Sacred Music in Season" at 4 p.m., preceded by Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:30 p.m. Reception follows in parish hall.
		9	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.
		10	Oklahoma Catholic Radiothon April 10 and 11. Tune into 97.3 FM, a local frequency or online. Visit http://okcatholicbroadcasting.com . Radiothon call-in number is (800) 891-8589.
		10	Catholic War Veterans (of any war/conflict) meeting, 7 p.m. at St. Ann Retirement Center community room. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt, (405) 567-3404.
		11	Feast of St. Stanislaus.
		11	Catholic War Veterans USA the Oklahoma Memorial Post No. 168 will meet at 7 p.m., Sunnyside Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact (405) 739-0036, OklaPost168@cox.net .
		12	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program open house 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Christ the King, OKC.
		12	St. Ann's Ministry for pregnancy and infant loss, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., St. John Raphael House, Edmond. Contact (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197; parishnurse@st-john-catholic.org .
		12	"Discussing Depression" seminar at 6:30 p.m. at St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd.
		13	Feast of St. Martin I.
		13	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program open house 10 a.m., Christ the King, OKC.
		14	Encounter with God's Call weekend April 14-16. Visit www.okcvocations.com . Call (405) 721-9351.
		14	The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica Noon - 2:30 p.m., Rm. A/B, St. Charles Borromeo, 5024 N. Grove Ave. Contact (405) 635-5665, jmmartinosb@yahoo.com .

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A vocation of mercy

By Sister Constance Veit, L.S.P.

I grew up Catholic without ever hearing about the Divine Mercy devotion, which the Church celebrates annually on the weekend after Easter. Even after I had learned about it, I didn't understand it. A few sisters in my community placed great confidence in the Divine Mercy image and chaplet, but it never really appealed to me. "Why focus on the sorrowful passion and wounds of Christ when we should be singing our Easter Alleluias?" I wondered.

Even when Saint John Paul II proclaimed that the whole Church would celebrate the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, I didn't grasp the beauty and relevance of this devotion – or how much I needed it. It took a few more years and several bumps in life's "school of hard knocks" to bring me to an understanding of just how precious the Divine Mercy devotion is.

Thanks to some very compelling words of Pope Francis, I began to turn to God's unfailing love as Divine Mercy. In front of the well-known image of the risen Jesus with one hand raised in blessing and the other pointing to his heart, I prayed, "Lord, in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming

embrace" (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 3).

Since I turned to Divine Mercy as a life force, I've learned that the devotion includes two primary elements – to trust in God's merciful love and to practice acts of mercy. It's that simple – trust in mercy and be merciful.

Our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan based her life on these two pillars, even though she passed away more than 50 years before Our Lord revealed the Divine Mercy message to a young Polish

to the young Little Sisters testifies to her complete trust in God:

"Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: 'You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid.' And, then go your way. And don't worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory."

Another lesser known saying of Saint Jeanne Jugan also testifies to her confidence in God's merciful love, especially in moments of difficulty: "We should have no more strength against temptation than a little bird has to resist the hawk, were God not to give us his help – but that should increase our trust, since by God's power we can triumph."

Many quotes from Saint Jeanne Jugan demonstrate how she practiced merciful love toward the elderly poor. The following words are especially clear: "Be kind, especially with the infirm; be a mother to them ... Treat the poor compassionately and God will treat you kindly until your last day."

These words of our foundress have inspired generations of Little Sisters and they continue to speak to us today as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of service to the elderly in the United States.

As we prepare for the opening of our sesquicentennial later this year, please pray that we Little Sisters of the Poor will always be faithful to our vocation of Mercy.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.



How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use an ordinary rosary.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed
3. On the Our Father beads say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
4. On the Hail Mary beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

nun named Sister Faustina.

In our congregation, we tend to speak of trust in terms of confidence in Divine Providence, but Saint Jeanne Jugan's trust extended well beyond the provision of material goods. She entrusted her whole life to God, whom she encountered as love in the tabernacle, in the poor and in her own heart. The following bit of advice

St. Thomas More



Congratulations to Fr. Jim Goins, parishioners and students on the March 11 groundbreaking for a new sanctuary at St. Thomas More University Parish in Norman.



Photos Chris Porter/ Sooner Catholic.

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