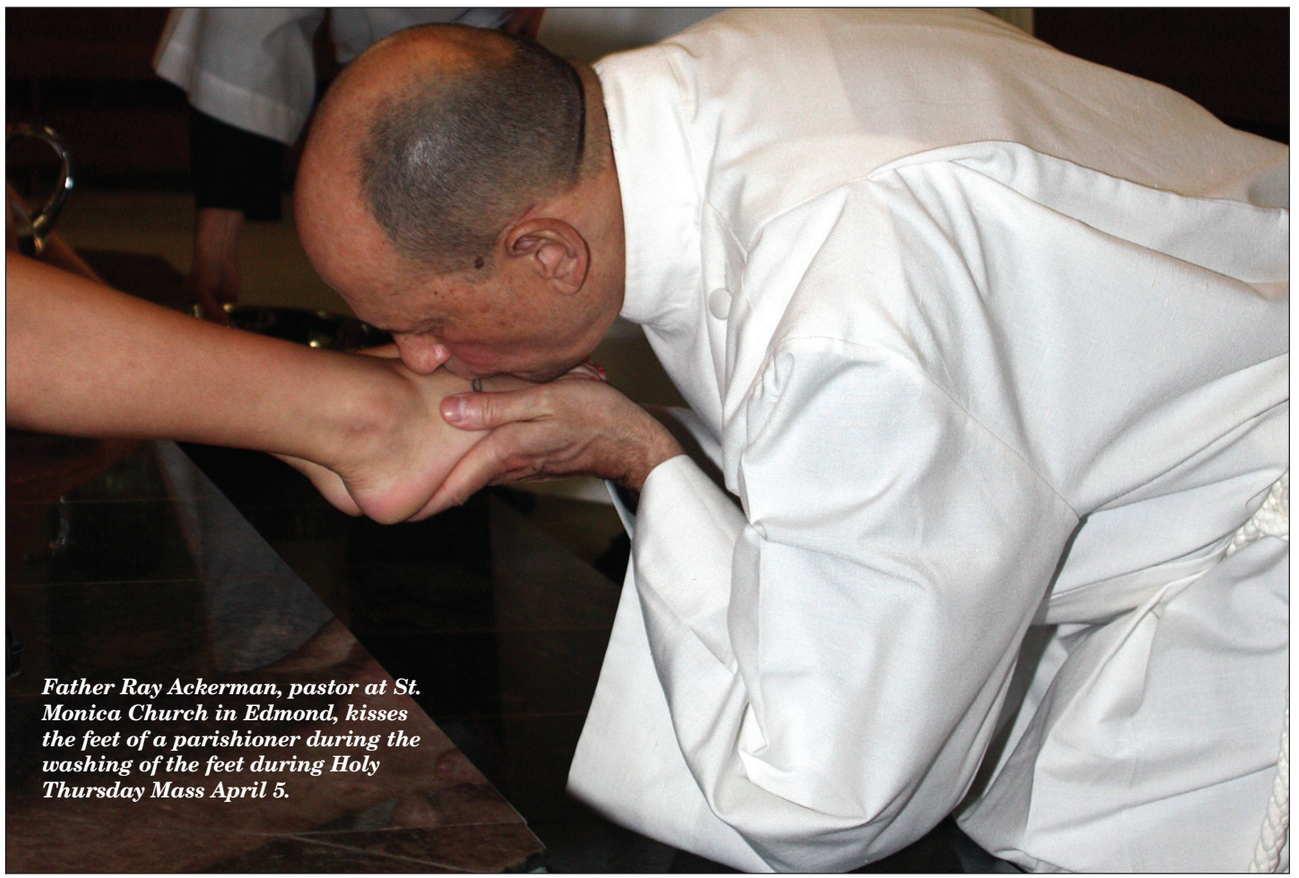
Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 38, Number 8 * April 15, 2012

Pope: Risen Christ Changed World Then, Now, Forever



Father Ray Ackerman, pastor at St. Monica Church in Edmond, kisses the feet of a parishioner during the washing of the feet during Holy Thursday Mass April 5.

VATICAN CITY — Light and darkness, truth and lies, hope and despair are in a constant battle in the world, but with his death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death for all time, Pope Benedict XVI said on Easter.

"If Jesus is risen, then — and only then — has something truly new happened, something that changes the state of humanity and the world," the Pope told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square before giving his Easter blessing "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world).

With the sun shining on the square — transformed into a garden with 42,000 flowers, flowering plants, shrubs and trees — Pope Benedict began the celebration of the morning Mass April 8 just 10 hours after having finished celebrating the three-hour-long Easter vigil in St. Peter's Basilica.

In his Easter message at the end of the morning Mass, the Pope said every Christian can share the experience of Mary Magdalene, who was the first to encounter the risen Jesus on Easter morning.

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O'Connor to Retire from Charities

OKLAHOMA CITY — Longtime Catholic Charities Executive Director Tim O'Connor said he plans to retire in early 2013. During his tenure, O'Connor has overseen a great increase in Catholic Charities' services for Oklahomans in need, while managing one of the most respected nonprofit organizations in the state.

Tim O'Connor

The longest-serving director in Catholic Charities' 100-year history, O'Connor has led the organization for 27 years. To ensure a seamless transition, he will stay with Catholic Charities until a replacement is selected and trained.

"I've been honored to lead Catholic Charities as its executive director, and am thrilled to see the positive impact its good works have had on people in central and western Oklahoma," O'Connor said. "As we began to plan Catholic Charities' Centennial, however, I realized the time was ripe for the organization to begin its next century with new leadership and for me to mark a new chapter in my life.

"I'm very proud of the wonderful works Catholic Charities and our talented staff and volunteers have achieved during my time here, and look forward to continuing my involvement in the future, albeit on a smaller scale. In the meantime, I am working closely with Archbishop Coakley and Catholic Charities board of directors and succession planning committee to ensure the change in leadership is as smooth as possible." Catholic Charities board

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A Seven-Point Recipe for a New Evangelization

Archbishop Coakley

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

Later this year, the Church will begin a special Year of Faith, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Those watershed events are being celebrated in preparation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops in October. The Synod focuses on the theme: The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.

Pope Benedict XVI, like his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, has been insistent in calling the whole Church to a renewal of faith, especially in once Christian areas where faith has grown cold. This is the essence of the New Evangelization. It is not a new message. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. But it is a new way of proposing the Gospel so that it responds to the questions of a highly secularized culture in a compelling manner. It recognizes that in places where faith and the apostolic impulse has grown cold, we have to move deliberately and with all haste from maintenance to mission.

The Church exists to evangelize: to bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ. But in order to evangelize the culture we have to be fully evangelized ourselves. This is a challenge for all of us: laity, religious as well as the ordained. This is the crucial pastoral challenge of our time: to propose the faith, to witness to the faith, to unveil the beautiful riches of the Christian faith so that all people might come to know Christ, to love Christ, and to follow Christ in the bosom of his Church. Faith is not an abstraction. We put our faith in a person, Jesus Christ. Nor can we separate the person of Jesus from the Church which he established to continue his mission and hand on the treasures of faith.

This is a tall order! Or so it may seem. At the February Consistory in Rome which gave the Catholic Church 22 new cardinals, one of these, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, outlined a Seven-Point Plan for the New Evangelization. It is a framework to help us embrace our mission as agents of the New Evangelization. I would like to share a summary of it with you.

1. The secular mind-set disdains the need for God. Though this mind-set is widespread in our culture, it will not win the day. We are created in such a way that we are hard-wired for God. There is an innate longing in each of us for a transcendent reality, for God. St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Our hearts cannot be satisfied by anything less than God: not wealth, not pleasure, not prestige or power. The recent film "The Way" depicts this longing in a beautiful and compelling way showing how the Christian message can strike a chord even among very secular irreligious people. The first key for the New Evangelization, then, is to keep this quest for God alive. We have to find ways to tap into it.

2. The second point: "Be not afraid!" With a humble confidence we have to stand ready to "Put out into the deep." We have been entrusted with the treasure that every human heart is searching for: the Word of God. This is the key to the mystery of human existence. We have to put our trust in that reality. It is the power and authority of God which sends us

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Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

April 15 - *Confirmation* at Holy Spirit Church, Mustang, 10:30 a.m.
April 15 - *Scout Awards Mass* at Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, 4 p.m.
April 16 - *Opening Prayer Service* - National Workshop on Christian Unity at Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
April 17 - *Mass* - National Workshop on Christian Unity at St. Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City, 6 p.m.
April 18 - *Priests Council Meeting* at Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
April 18 - *Confirmation* at St. Mary Church, Clinton, 7 p.m.
April 19 - *Mass* at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
April 20 - *Mass and Dedication* of New Church at St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
April 21 - *Confirmation* at St. Peter Church, Guymon, 5 p.m.
April 22 - *Confirmation* at St. Philip Neri Church, Midwest City, 11 a.m.
April 22 - *Mystagogy Mass* at Catholic Pastoral Center, 4 p.m.
April 24 - *Confirmation* at St. John Nepomuk Church, Yukon, 7 p.m.
April 25 - *Mount St. Mary High School Annual Board Meeting*, 9 a.m.
April 25 - *Confirmation* at St. Eugene Church, Weatherford, 6 p.m.
April 26 - *Catholic Charities Board Meeting*, 11:30 a.m.
April 26 - *Confirmation* at St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman, 7 p.m.
April 27 - *Confirmation* at St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman, 7 p.m.
April 28 - *Mass for Knights of Columbus Annual Convention*, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman, 5 p.m
April 29 - *Confirmation* at St. Francis Church, Newkirk, 10 a.m.

Sooner Catholic

Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher

Ray Dyer
Editor

Cara Koenig
Layout / Photographer / Special Projects

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

Visit us online through the Archdiocesan Web Page at www.archokc.org.

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

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

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Subscription rate: $20 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

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

Official Pastoral Appointments

Effective June 13, 2012

Archdiocesan Curia

Rev. William L. Novak
Vicar General
(*Effective April 13, 2012)*
Director of Seminarians
(Continuing as pastor of Saint John Nepomuk, Yukon)

Rev. Stephen V. Hamilton
Vocation Director

Rev. Scott A. Boeckman
Vicar for Priests
(Continuing as pastor of Saint Peter, Woodward)

Pastors

Rev. Raymond K. Ackerman
Saint John the Baptist Church, Edmond

Rev. Stephen V. Hamilton
Saint Monica Church, Edmond

Rev. Carl W. Janocha
Saint Mary Church, Medford
Saint Joseph Church,
Pond Creek
Saint Mary Assumption Church, Wakita

Rev. William M. Lewis
Holy Trinity Church, Okarche
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet

Rev. John R. Metzinger
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Rev. Francis T. Nguyen
Saints Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher
Saint Rose of Lima Church,
Watonga

Rev. Lourdu Ponnapati
Saint Matthew Church,
Elk City
Queen of All Saints Church,
Sayre

Associate Pastors

Rev. Cory Stanley
Saint Monica Church,
Edmond
(*Effective July 3, 2012)*

Rev. Pudota Stoutus Thomas
Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
Photo not available

New Evangelization

continued from Page 2

forth to share this good news. We do not labor on our own authority or take on this mission by ourselves. We are sent as ambassadors of Christ and of his Church.

3. The New Evangelization does not first propose a belief-system, but a Person: Jesus Christ. We don't lead with apologetics. We are sent to help people encounter Christ. It is Christ who captivates the hearts and minds of men and women.

4. Jesus is the Truth. The encounter with Jesus, this first step of evangelization, has to be followed by a systematic catechesis (and an effective apologetics). Jesus has entrusted his mission to the Church and it is the Church guided by the Holy Spirit that transmits the fullness of Christian faith to every generation. The evangelizers themselves have to be fully evangelized and catechized.

5. An evangelist is a person of joy. Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Leon Bloy said, "Joy is the infallible sign of God's presence." St. Teresa of Avila said, "A sad saint is a sorry saint!" If we are going to be credible witnesses, we have to be joyful. Do our lives manifest the joy of faith? Do we smile? Are we cheerful and hopeful? Our lives will either be a sign or a countersign to the truth of the Gospel's claims. Gospel means "Good News." Do we conduct ourselves as bearers of good news?

6. The New Evangelization is about sharing the love of God. As St. Paul writes, "The love of Christ urges us on!" The love of Christ has to be made manifest in concrete ways, especially in our willingness to serve others. Jesus said, "I have come to serve and not to be served." Whether in our personal relationships, or through our ecclesial institutions such as Catholic Charities, Christian service motivated by the love of Christ is a necessary element of evangelization.

7. Martyrdom is a sign of the times in which we live. Does this sound shocking? The 20th century saw more martyrs than the previous 19 combined. Martyrdom is the supreme witness to the truth and power of the Gospel. Those who live the faith with integrity will suffer persecution in some form. A few might even be called upon to shed their blood. Those who patiently suffer persecution for their faith give a powerful impetus to the New Evangelization. We are called to bear the cross faithfully and joyfully by following Jesus as his disciples and witnesses. An ancient Christian writer, Tertullian, wrote that "The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians."

Teen Describes Faith-Filled Trip to Seminary

By John D. Herrera
For the Sooner Catholic

Matthew Gardocki, Ryan Wellington, Adam Carubelli, Tomas Sandoval, Lee Kantowski, Daniel Cartwright, Joe Naugle, John Herrera, Martin Parizek, Austin Schudalla, Tyler Grubb, David Dube, Garrett Finnell and Father Hamilton.

For young men discerning the priesthood, there is no better way to really get a feel for the seminary life than to go experience it. I figured this out after I signed up for the "Come and See" weekend at Conception Seminary in Missouri. As our bus pulled in to Conception, I was struck by the incredible beauty of the countryside. The large campus, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and Benedictine Monastery with burgundy-colored brick and a small lake contrasted well with the rolling green hills surrounding it. It gave me the impression of a modern-day castle that had been secretly tucked away in the Middle-of-Nowhere, Missouri. And I mean middle of nowhere. As far as the eye could see, there was nothing but farm country, a few modern windmills and occasionally a farmhouse.

My first thought was, "Why would anyone establish a seminary way out here?" Nevertheless, as the weekend progressed, the answer became clear. It was tranquil. A silence like nothing you can find in a city, or even a small town was there. And in that silence, God can speak. You can hear him speaking in the monks, in the priests and the seminarians. Not just in their words, but in their lighthearted demeanors, and more than anything in their laughter. This excited me. In addition to two soccer fields, a lake, multiple dormitories, a guest house, a recreational facility, great food and an amazingly beautiful basilica, there was this: a truly spiritual commune where education, silence and joy in a holy life are all cultivated together.

The culmination of a great experience that weekend was in the basilica. During the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, amid the solemn resonating chant of a hundred or so other men, I realized this is where I wanted to be. This is where I want to continue my discernment. This is where Jesus has been calling me.

Editor's Note: On March 24-26, 12 young men from eight different parishes of the Archdiocese attended the Conception Seminary "Encounter with God's Call" weekend. The trip is an annual trip sponsored by the Vocations Office for young men who are at least juniors in high school. The trip was led by Father Hamilton, Associate Vocation Director, with the assistance of Matthew Gardocki as chaperone.

CFL to Host Annual Golf Tourney

KINGFISHER — The Center of Family Love (CFL) will hold its eighth annual CFL Masters Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 5 at the Kingfisher Golf Club. Proceeds from this tournament will benefit the CFL programs by helping fund attendance at Special Olympics and summer camps, providing resident Christmas gifts and meeting other resident needs.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun scramble time at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee is $55 per individual or $200 for a team, which includes the greens fee for 18 holes of golf, a cart and lunch served courtesy of Cimarron Electric.

Golfers have the opportunity to win $10,000, two airline tickets, golf equipment or electronic equipment for hitting a hole-in-one. Prizes will also be awarded to golfers who get closest to the pin and the male and female with the longest drives. In addition, there will be prizes for the top three teams with the lowest scores and door prizes.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for any business or person interested. Sponsor levels include:

— Platinum Sponsor — $1,000 includes (two) foursome entries, company tee signs on holes 1, 9, 10 and 18, company name on tally scoreboard and verbal advertisement during presentations.

— Gold Sponsor — $500 includes a foursome entry and (two) company tee signs on holes of your choice.

— Silver Sponsor — $300 includes foursome entry and (one) company tee sign on non-designated hole.

— Bronze Sponsor — $100 includes (one) company tee sign on non-designated hole.

— Golf Cart Sponsor — $45 per cart to support the Center in reimbursement of cart fees.

— Prize Sponsors — Prize donations for the longest drive, closest to the pin or winning teams, which includes a verbal advertisement during presentations, sign posted on prize table of your sponsorship, and your company and/or individual name in all printed promo materials.

Those interested in participating should contact David Blair at (405)263-7100.

Since 1981, The Center of Family Love (CFL) has provided quality lifetime care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Center provides a continuum of care approach for its residents based on their level of disability to help them achieve their highest potential level and live as independently as possible. CFL serves 117 individuals.

O'Connor

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of directors has named a succession planning committee, led by Molly Bernard, to ease the transition in leadership. The committee, which has been working closely with O'Connor to establish a succession timeline, will begin its executive search this month. It is hoped the new executive director will be in place this fall and able to train with O'Connor for several months.

"Tim has set a pretty high standard for leadership during his tenure with Catholic Charities, which his successor will have to meet," Bernard said. "Fortunately, the longer timeline he has established allows us to find, and train, the right person for this position. We are so grateful for his insight and advice as we plan for the next phase of Catholic Charities."

Catholic Charities' succession planning committee will begin its search for potential candidates within the Archdiocese first, then, if none is found, expand its efforts beyond Oklahoma. Potential candidates should have nonprofit leadership experience, preferably with a strong social service background.

To learn more about the position, qualified candidates may contact Molly Bernard at molly_bernard@ajg.com, or Tim O'Connor at toconnor@catholiccharitiesok.org.

The Catholic Foundation

11th Annual GOLF CLASSIC

presented by

GMX RESOURCES INC.

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Gaillardia Country Club

Monday June 4, 2012

Shotgun Starts 8:00 am & 1:00 pm

Benefiting Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

You are invited to play in or support the 11th Annual Catholic Foundation Golf Classic presented by GMX Resources, Inc. Over the past 10 years the net proceeds of over $300,000 has benefited the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund, established with the vision of lowering the cost of Catholic school tuition at the 20 grade schools and 2 high schools in the Archdiocese.

Two Sessions this Year!

Morning Session: Registration & Continental Breakfast begin at 7:00 am — Shot Gun Start at 8:00 am. Lunch follows play then come back for Awards Dinner.

Afternoon Session: Registration & Lunch begin at 11:30 am — Shot Gun Start at 1:00 pm. Awards Dinner follows.

Sessions are limited to 120 players each and are awarded first come– first served, so REGISTER EARLY.

Tournament Fees

Flight Sponsor (2 teams)	$5,000	_____
DBLEagle Sponsor (1 team)	$2,200	_____
Team Sponsor (4 players)	$1,500	_____
Team Entry (4 players)	$1,200	_____
Single Player	$300	_____
Premium Hole Sponsor (no play)	$500	_____
Hole Sponsor (no play)	$300	_____
Donation	$	_____
Mulligan Package $25 x___=		_____
Total:		_____

Mail Registration to CFO, PO Box 32180, OKC, OK 73123

Register online at www.cfook.org

Three Flights to Choose:
The Schools Flight teams compete for the Archbishop's Trophy plus Grant money to go to the winning Team's School. Women's Flight teams compete for separate prizes and offers a unique ladies perspective. The Foundation Mixed Flight is our general flight with prizes for both an A & B Section.

Father Larkin All-Parish Team Trophy
Named in Father Kirk Larkin's honor, this Trophy is awarded to the winning Team that certifies that it's four members are all parishioners of the same parish and have registered to participate in the All Parish Team Competition. Teams from the Women's or Foundation Flights are eligible for this traveling trophy.

Team or Sponsor Name: _____

Contact: _____ Phone _____

Schools Flight ☐ All-Parish

Foundation Mixed Flight ☐ ☐

Women's Flight ☐ ☐

Player 1 _____

Address _____

City_____ State __ Zip ____Ph: _____

E-mail_____

Handicap _____

Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL

Player 2 _____

Address _____

City_____ State __ Zip ____Ph: _____

E-mail_____

Handicap _____

Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL

Player 3 _____

Address _____

City_____ State __ Zip ____Ph: _____

E-mail_____

Handicap _____

Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL

Player 4 _____

Address _____

City_____ State __ Zip ____Ph: _____

E-mail_____

Handicap _____

Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL

For more information, call CFO at (405) 721-4115 or visit the website www.cfook.org

Catholic Author to Speak at SGU

Scott Hahn

SHAWNEE — One of the premier Catholic apologists in the world will be in Shawnee May 5 for a one-day-only event hosted by the office for Faith Integration, Development and Evangelization (FIDE) at St. Gregory's University. Dr. Scott Hahn will speak inside W.P. Wood Field House on campus from 9 a.m. to noon. His presentations are titled "Letter & Spirit" and "The Lamb's Supper."

"We are very pleased and excited to welcome Scott Hahn to St. Gregory's University," said Rev. Nicholas Ast, O.S.B., vice president for Mission and Identity at St. Gregory's. "To host a speaker of Dr. Hahn's stature is truly a privilege. We hope that people will take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience Dr. Hahn's insights into our faith."

Hahn is an internationally renowned Catholic author and speaker. Hahn studied and was ordained a Protestant minister in 1982. He was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 1986 and often tells of his conversion experience. Currently, Hahn is a professor of Theology and Scripture at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. More than 500 of his presentations have been produced on audio and video tapes, and he can be seen on various programs on the EWTN Catholic television station. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Steubenville and have six children.

Tickets for the event are $20. Group rates are available and may be purchased by contacting FIDE at (405) 878-5352 or fide@stgregorys.edu.

St. Gregory's University is an authentically Roman Catholic University providing a liberal arts curriculum and professional programs to students in Shawnee and Tulsa. Founded in 1875, St. Gregory's is Oklahoma's oldest institution of higher learning. Further information regarding St. Gregory's University can be found at www.stgregorys.edu or by calling 1-888-STGREGS.

The Catholic Foundation

CORNERSTONE

Wills

Bequests, made through your Will, are the most frequently-made Planned Gifts. Yet 65 percent of Americans don't have a will. Without a will, the laws of the state and the decisions of a probate court may determine how your estate is distributed and who will care for your children if they are minors. A Will is not only a statement of your priorities, but an expression of your lasting commitment to our Catholic faith. Through your Will, you designate the final recipients of the many gifts you have been given by God in His generosity. Remembering your parish, Catholic school or other Catholic ministries through a gift designated in your Will is your final Investment in the Future of Our Faith. A well-planned Will allows you to make your wishes known, take care of loved ones and leave a lasting legacy to your church.

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

(405)721-4115 ■ www.cfook.org ■ bsemtner@archokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Parish Clinic Lands $10,000 Foundation Grant

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Charles Borromeo/McAuley Clinic has received a $10,000 grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to help the clinic expand its treatment of diabetics.

Barbara Trimble, clinic director, said the money would allow the clinic to expand it diabetic treatment programs in a number of areas.

Nancy Anthony, Community Foundation executive director, delivered the check to the clinic April 2. She said the St. Charles Clinic was one of five nonprofit clinics to receive grant funds from the foundation.

"These funds are for people who do not have access to health care," Anthony said. "We had a group of free clinics that applied. Of the five that were awarded grants, all were primarily for diabetics and all were faith-based."

Pat Froehle, chair of the St. Charles Borromeo Social Ministry Board, left, and center, Barbara Trimble, clinic director, accept a check from Nancy Anthony, executive director of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

Trimble said the grant will allow the clinic to improve its glucose testing procedures. She said the clinic also would expand its nutrition, tobacco cessation and exercise programs for diabetic patients.

Trimble said the clinic has been focusing on diabetic patients who have lost their health care and live at or below the federal income poverty standards. She said the clinic serves 113 diabetic patients now and during 2012 will be adding three new diabetic patients per week to its program.

Clinic patients are high risk because they do not have money to buy medications or to take part in nutrition and exercise programs, Trimble said. "Because of these factors, they run the risk of having to be hospitalized, which then places the burden of costs on the hospitals since these patients do not have the resources to pay for their hospitalization," Trimble said.

St. Charles Borromeo/McAuley Clinic has been offering free medical services since 1993.

Local ACCW Says Happy 87th Birthday to Sr. Sponsa Beltran With $4,200 Donation

OKLAHOMA CITY — For years, Pearl Sullens has toted around a can collecting dollars, dimes, nickles, anything anyone is willing to give to help support the ministry of Sister Sponsa Beltran, OSF.

On March 27, Sullens and a dozen other women from the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women presented a check of more than $4,200 to representatives of Sister Sponsa's. The gift was made in honor of her 87th birthday.

The sister of Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran, Sister Sponsa spent some 38 years in Liberia, Africa, building a boarding school to help children who are often abandoned by their families. She is now retired.

Our Lady of Fatima School has helped thousands of children who otherwise would have been left to fend for themselves, many to die.

Kevin Rockensies has been involved with helping Sister Sponsa's ministry for a number of years. He attended the reception that was held at Catholic Charities.

Rockensies offered a history of Sister Sponsa's ministry. He said in Liberia, if a child is born with a physical disability, the parents consider the child to be "witched." The child is often abandoned.

This is how Sister Sponsa came to be involved in the lives of these children. In turn, Rockensies told how he came to be involved with Sister Sponsa.

He said his mother attended nursing school with Sister Sponsa in the 1960s. They lost track of one another, but in 1993, Sister Sponsa was scheduled to speak at the parish in Shavertown, Pa., where Kevin and his family attended. Sister Sponsa was there to thank the parish for helping to support her ministry in Africa.

That's how Kevin and Sister Sponsa came in contact. He said after graduating college, he had no plans to enter into the business of helping disabled African children. He was working as a mortgage broker and has a degree in mass communications when Sister Sponsa came along.

For the past 11 years he's been telling the story of Our Lady of Fatima School in Liberia, Africa. Twice a year he travels to the school meeting the children firsthand and working to educate the adults so they understand a disability is not something to fear or be ashamed over.

As Sister Sponsa says, "Disability does not mean inability."

After Sister Sponsa retired, Rockensies and other supporters began looking around for ways to continue her ministry. They came in contact with the Teach Peace Foundation headquartered in California and soon the two ministries were working as one. Rockensies helped form the Special Ambassadors program that is geared to help support Sister Sponsa's ministry. The partnership has worked well.

To learn more, visit www.special-ambassadors.org, or email krock@epix.net.

As the brochure promoting the Teach Peace Foundation says: Membership is free and the benefits are priceless.

Kevin Rockensies and Pearl Sullens at the March 27 event in honor of Sister Sponsa Beltran. Photo/Kathy Ward

Dr. Greg Main Inaugurated as 15th President of Saint Greg's

Plan to help unemployed unveiled in first speech

St. Gregory's University Chancellor Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., left, and board chair, Rev. Donald Wolf, right, place the SGU presidential medallion on D. Gregory Main Friday at W.P. Wood Field House on campus. Main was inaugurated as the university's 15th president. He announced during the ceremony a tuition assistance program for unemployed Oklahomans. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

SHAWNEE — Citing a renewed focus on providing access to quality higher education, St. Gregory's University President D. Gregory Main announced during his inauguration on March 30, a special program aimed at helping Oklahoma's long-term unemployed. The St. Gregory's University Learn to Earn program will offer state residents a unique opportunity to earn a college degree without incurring any out-of-pocket costs for tuition or fees. The university will begin taking applications immediately.

"It is well understood in an increasingly competitive world that Oklahoma's workforce educational attainment must be improved," Main said. "Gov. Fallin has called for a significant initiative to increase the number of Oklahomans with college degrees, and St. Gregory's University supports this initiative in a bold and exciting way."

Qualified applicants must be Oklahoma residents 25 years of age and older who have been unemployed for at least 18 months and have not already earned a bachelor's degree. Applicants must meet entrance qualifications for the SGU College for Working Adults, which offers classes in Shawnee and Tulsa. The university will cover each student's remaining balance on tuition and fees after all federal and state aid is applied. Loans will be available to cover book expenses. Main said the program is a win-win situation because the financial liability is minimal on both the university and the student.

"At any given time, we have limited space available in our classes," Main said. "We may not to be able to accept everyone who applies, but we hope to fill that space with people who really need help getting back out in the workforce. This is part of our mission at St. Gregory's. It's an expression of our Catholic identity."

The announcement capped the day that included the celebration of Mass by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. Concelebrating were Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa, Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran, and The Rt. Rev. Lawrence R. Stasyszen, O.S.B, Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey.

Father Bill Pruett delivered the Homily.

Dr. Main is the 15th president of St. Gregory's. He brings a long and impressive resume to the position. In 1991, then Gov. David Walters brought Main to Oklahoma from Michigan to serve as the state's chief economic development officer.

He designed and implemented initiatives including the award-winning Oklahoma Quality Jobs program and Quality Jobs Investment Act. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing the Alliance for Manufacturing and the launch of the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board Venture Investing program.

Father Don Wolf, chair of the St. Gregory's board of directors, called the inauguration of Main as university president a "home run" for the school.

Addressing Main's initiative to enroll the unemployed, SGU Vice President for Enrollment Management Bill Kuehl said the path from a layoff to a new career often runs through the classroom.

"Many unemployed workers believe their only chance of being rehired is to go back to school," he said. "These people are being forced to make tough decisions about their futures."

Recent Bureau of Labor statistics indicate a sharp contrast between those with a degree and those without. Nearly 10 percent of Americans with a high school education are unemployed compared to only 4.4 percent for those with a bachelor's degree. Degreed workers can also expect to make at least $1 million more in their lifetime than non-degreed workers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"I believe this program will give many Oklahomans greater job opportunities at higher wages," Kuehl said.

To enroll in the St. Gregory's University Learn to Earn program, applicants should schedule an appointment with an SGU admissions representative at (405) 878-5161. For more information about the program, visit www.st-gregorys.edu.

St. Gregory's University was founded in 1875 and is Oklahoma's oldest institution of higher learning. General information regarding SGU can be found on the university's website or by calling 1-888-STGREGS.

Archbishop Coakley blesses Holy Oils during the April 3 Chrism Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Chrism Mass Celebrated

Joe and Angela Staudt with their children, Noah, Abigail, Meralyn, Caroline and William presenting the offertory gifts at the Chrism Mass. The family attends Saint Mary's in Guthrie.

Archbishop Coakley and Bishop-elect Weisenburger.

Priests Honor Bishop-Elect With Father Stanley Rother Award

Archdiocesan priests have honored Bishop-elect Edward J. Weisenburger with the 2012 Father Stanley Rother Faithful Shepherd Award.

The presentation was made by Archbishop Coakley during a Holy Hour of Prayer held April 3 prior to the Chrism Mass. The Holy Hour and Chrism Mass were celebrated at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the parish where Bishop-elect Weisenburger was ordained to the priesthood in 1987 and where he has served as Rector since 2002.

On Feb. 6, Bishop-elect Weisenburger was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Salina. He will be ordained there as Bishop on May 1.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger, who has served as Vicar General for the Archdiocese since 1996, is the 12th recipient of the Father Stanley Rother Faithful Shepherd Award. The award was created by the Priests Council in honor of Father Rother, who was shot to death in 1981 while ministering in war-torn Guatemala.

Father Rother's cause is being promoted for sainthood and Bishop-elect Weisenburger serves as Promoter of Justice for the Cause of Canonization for Stanley Francis Rother, Servant of God.

Risen Christ

continued from Page 1

The encounter "lets us experience all God's goodness and truth," he said. The risen Lord "frees us from evil not in a superficial and fleeting way, but sets us free radically, heals us completely and restores our dignity."

The resurrection means that Jesus belongs not just to the past, but is present today, giving hope and comfort to all those who suffer, the Pope said.

Pope Benedict offered special prayers and encouragement to Christians persecuted for their faith and to the people of the Middle East, asking members of all religious and ethnic groups to work together for the common good and respect for human rights.

"Particularly in Syria, may there be an end to bloodshed and an immediate commitment to the path of respect, dialogue and reconciliation" after months of violent battles between Syria's government and opposition forces.

The Pope also prayed for the people of Iraq, for Israelis and Palestinians, for those suffering famine and violence in the Horn of Africa, and for those suffering from conflict in Mali and in Sudan and South Sudan.

At the end of his message, he wished people a Happy Easter in 65 languages, including Mongolian, Hebrew, Hindi, Chinese, Maori, Esperanto and Latin.

In English, he said: "May the grace and joy of the risen Christ be with you all."

At the Easter vigil the night before, the Pope welcomed eight adults into the Catholic Church. Among those he baptized and confirmed was Jason N. Emerick, a 36-year-old man from the Archdiocese of Boston. Two of the catechumens were from Germany and the others were from Turkmenistan, Italy, Albania, Slovakia and Cameroon.

Light, fire and candles were the symbols highlighted during the Pope's vigil.

Like Easter vigils throughout the world, the Mass began with the lighting of a fire. In the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica there was a large brazier full of blazing coals. An assistant lit a small taper from the coals and handed it to the Pope so he could light the towering Easter candle.

A deacon carried the candle to the entrance of the darkened basilica and chanted, "The light of Christ."

The smaller candle carried by Pope Benedict was lit and he got onto his mobile platform to be pushed up the aisle of the basilica in silence and what should have been darkness. Although announcers — in multiple languages — had asked the crowd not to use flashes on their cameras during the procession, bursts of light accompanied the Pope toward the altar.

Father Ed Menasco of St. Joseph Church, Norman, confirming Julie Lovegrove.

Father Ed Menasco of St. Joseph Church, Norman, baptizing Katherine Flores, with godmother, Jenny Juvera, and mom, Karina Flores.

However, the cameras could not destroy the impact of the candles held by members of the congregation being lighted one by one and the glow spreading throughout the world's largest church.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said, "To say that God created light means that God created the world as a space for knowledge and truth, as a space for encounter and freedom, as a space for good and love."

The light of Easter, he said, proclaims forever the fact that "life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies."

The world needs the light of Christ and the light of faith, because darkness always attempts to obscure people's vision of what is good and evil and what the purpose of their life is, the Pope said.

"Today we can illuminate our cities so brightly that the stars of the sky are no longer visible," he said. "Is this not an image of the problems caused by our version of enlightenment? With regard to material things, our knowledge and our technical accomplishments are legion," he said. But when it comes to the more important matters, such as "the things of God and the question of good," people can no longer see them.

"Faith, then, which reveals God's light to us, is the true enlightenment, enabling God's light to break into our world, opening our eyes to the true light," he said.

Veneration of the Cross at Sts. Peter and Paul in Kingfisher.

Father Joe Vas greets Archbishop Coakley at Chrism Mass.

Left, Father Ray Ackerman places the Blessed Hosts in the temporary chapel on Holy Thursday. Above, families kneel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Monica Church.

Seminary Honors Fr. Don Wolf With Alumni Award

Fr. Don Wolf

Father Donald Wolf, pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Shawnee, will receive the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award this summer.

Father Wolf attended Saint Meinrad College and later the School of Theology from 1975 to 1981. The honor will be bestowed during the annual Saint Meinrad Alumni Reunion at the closing banquet on Tuesday, July 24.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is given to alumni who have exemplified the gospel values in their life and work and have provided exemplary service that reflects the core values of Saint Meinrad. Father Wolf will be the 20th recipient of the award, which was first bestowed in 1990.

Before his current assignment, Father Wolf served as associate pastor in Guymon and pastor at St. Francis Xavier in Enid, Sacred Heart in Mangum, Prince of Peace in Altus, Holy Angels and Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City, and Assumption Parish in Duncan.

In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, he served for eight years on the executive board for the National Federation of Priests Councils (NFPC), and from 1997 to 2000 he served as its president in Chicago. His service enriched "the experience of priesthood in the United States by forming bonds of collaboration and fraternity among priests of different cultures and countries," according to one individual who nominated him for the award.

Father Wolf's passion for Hispanic ministry and his influence in Oklahoma were highlighted in one recommender's statement: "Numerous Spanish-speaking Catholics have found a welcome (environment) in Oklahoma and opportunities for grace because of Don's dedication to priestly ministry." Another person noted Father Wolf "has been a primary force for Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese (of Oklahoma City) and beyond."

In the Archdiocese, Father Wolf has served on the Priests Council, the Clergy Continuing Education Committee and as spiritual director for numerous Cursillo retreats, both in English and Spanish.

A seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma at Saint Meinrad wrote that, while serving at Father Wolf's parish, he learned "how to empower the laity so they can participate in parish functions, and most importantly, share their gifts and talents with the larger community." The seminarian continued, "Father Wolf's humility, commitment and zeal as a parish priest made me fall in love with what a priest does and who a priest is when he gives himself completely to the needs of others."

In his recommendation for the award, Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock said he knew Father Wolf when they were students at Saint Meinrad, both studying for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Bishop Taylor mentions that Father Wolf's cousin, Father Stan Rother, whose cause for beatification is in Rome, visited the United States from Guatemala in 1981 for Father Wolf's ordination. Two months later, Father Rother was martyred. Bishop Taylor suggested that this inspired Father Wolf to "serve the Lord as courageously, sacrificially and with the same preferential option for the poor for which Father Rother gave his life."

Father Wolf's latest involvement has been as chairman of the St. Gregory University board of directors, which is owned by the Benedictines of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee. St. Gregory's abbot, Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, writes that Father Wolf brings "a valuable and effective voice and vision" to this role, and that his love for the university's Benedictine tradition "has its roots in his experience as a seminarian at Saint Meinrad."

In his time on the university's board, Father Wolf helped the institution through a president's dismissal, the hiring of a new president and sorting through difficult financial challenges.

"Saint Meinrad looks forward to celebrating Father's Wolf's accomplishments on July 24," says Tim Herrmann, director of alumni relations. "His dedication and service bring honor to his parish, his Archdiocese, the Catholic Church, and of course, his alma mater."

Accros Oklahoma

Bingo at St. James April 26

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and South McKinley Avenue, will be held April 26. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10. A Magnavox 37-inch flat-screen TV will be given away in October and all players get an entry into the drawing.

Training Set for Safe Environment

OKLAHOMA CITY — Safe Environment Facilitators Workshop, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m. April 26. Please reserve a spot. If you have questions, please contact Tish Eason, 405-709-2749.

Blue Ribbon Photos Sought

If your parish or organization decorated trees with blue ribbons to recognize April as child abuse prevention month, please consider sending a photo of the tree along with those who decorated it to the Sooner Catholic. Please email to rdyer@archokc.org.

ACCW to Hold Convention, Training

OKLAHOMA CITY — ACCW on April 27-28 is holding its 17th Biennial Convention and sponsoring a team of professional presenters from the Leadership Training Development team of the National Council of Catholic Women. The first day will include the ACCW business meeting and election of new ACCW board officers, with keynote speaker and ACCW Spiritual Adviser Rev. Robert Wood also speaking. Mass will be celebrated, followed by lunch. There will be two hours of board training after the business meeting.

Saturday is the Leadership Training for Women, a six-hour course, with a break for lunch and either Mass or the Rosary, then the workshop resumes. Registration is from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. both days. The event will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center Conference Center. The fee is $30 for one or both days, and includes a continental breakfast and lunch on both days. Check your parish for registration forms, or call or email Barbara Wann, bwann@sbcglobal.net, or (580) 875-2278.

Theology of the Body for Couples

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage: Based on the Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body, this one-day seminar offers a refreshing, liberating vision of marriage and marital love, and is perfect as a supplement to those preparing for marriage as well as enrichment for married couples. Cristy Welch, an NFP instructor and teacher at Mount St. Mary's High School, will facilitate. The date for this opportunity is Saturday, April 28 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Lunch will be provided and the cost is $20 per couple. Please call the Office of Family Life to register at 721-8944.

Nurses to be Celebrated

EDMOND — The first week of May has traditionally been marked as a time to honor the nurses in our community. On Thursday, May 10, Mercy Health Center, St. Anthony Hospital, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and Catholic Charities will sponsor an evening of appreciation for our many nurses. Mass will be celebrated beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 900 S. Littler, Edmond. Dinner will follow in the parish hall. Though the evening is free, reservations are required by calling Marilyn Seiler at 340-0691 Ext. 197, or emailing parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org. Deadline for registrations is Sunday, May 6.

Parish to Host Flea Market

SHAWNEE — St. Benedict's Flea Market will be held Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. St. Benedict's is located at 632 N. Kickapoo in Shawnee, I-40 Exit 185, go south two miles, church is on your right. Several vendors with arts and crafts, garage sale items, home interiors, handcrafted jewelry, crafts by PROJECT GABRIELLE and more. Mass is celebrated at 8 a.m.

New Church to Be Blessed

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Eugene parishioners will celebrate the opening of their new church when Archbishop Coakley blesses the new building and celebrates Mass on Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m. The opening of the new church is the result of almost four years of fundraising and planning.

St. Eugene Parish opened more than 50 years ago and has been worshipping in a building that was constructed as a temporary church structure that was intended to be a permanent gym and parish hall. A parish planning process in the 1990s identified two major needs: a new school building and a new church building. A new school was built and completed in 1997, and the debt on that building was paid off in 2007.

The previous structure seats only 475, which led to five different Masses being celebrated to accommodate the more than 1,800 weekend worshipers. The new church will seat 800 and has the ability to accommodate overflow crowds that commonly occur during Holy Week. In addition to the increased capacity, the new church structure will be more easily identified to the thousand of vehicles that pass by on Hefner Road daily that didn't realize the previous structure was a place of worship.

In the final week leading up to the opening of the new church, there will be special events each night for parishioners to give thanks and celebrate the more than 50 years of memories of the previous sacred space.

For more information, contact Father Joseph Jacobi at 751-7115, or Bob Rapp at 286-5124.

Red, White and Boots Wine-Tasting May 3 in Stockyards

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Red, Whites and Boots event will be held May 3 at Cattlemen's Event Center, 1309 S. Agnew in the historic Stockyards City.

The annual wine-tasting event benefits the Sanctuary Women's Development Center for Oklahoma City's homeless women and children.

David Egan of Cattlemen's said the Red, Whites and Boots will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will feature wines from Oakville Ranch, one of Napa Valley's premier producers of fine wines, as well as Oregon's famous Domaine Serene.

Participants will enjoy great Napa Cabernet and Oregon's most celebrated Pinot producer with food by Cattlemen's Steakhouse.

Tickets are $40 per person with VIP admission of $65, which includes an after-event reception at one of Oklahoma City's famous historic landmarks. For more information, call David Egan at (405) 947-1484 Ext. 7.

Sanctuary Mission is a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. It supports basic human rights through offering homeless and low-income women and children resources, support and advocacy to alleviate the effects of poverty within the community, and empowering them with the tools to overcome homelessness.

Visit the Archdiocese on the Web
www.archokc.org

Schedules Released

Summer 2012 Schedule, Pastoral Ministry Program

THEO 4883 Liturgical Prayer: Praying Shapes Believing, Believing Shapes Living

Tuesdays, June 5-July 31 (no class July 3), 6 to 10 p.m. - Father Phil Seeton.

Available at all locations, depending upon registrations.

Following the ancient teaching, "Lex orandi, lex credendi" ("The law of prayer expresses the law of belief"), this course will explore the various ways the Church's liturgical prayer can lead us more deeply into a life of faith and belief. Through the study of the history and development of liturgical texts and ritual, the course will help learners to experience the shared faith of the Church in relationship to our communal worship of the Holy Trinity. This course will be especially helpful to those who lead prayer in parish ministry and other settings.

THEO 4883 Bereavement Ministry

Thursdays, June 7-July 26, 6 to 10 p.m. - Peggy Browne.

Available at all locations, depending upon registrations.

This course will provide students an opportunity to study bereavement, grief and loss from theological and pastoral perspectives. The pastoral care of individuals and families will be addressed, as well as ministering in situations of grief and loss in the parish and other settings.

Fall 2012 Initial Schedule
Pastoral Ministry Program

Note: Other offerings are in process. Check our website for updates.

THEO 3053 Sacramental Theology

Tuesdays, Aug. 21-Dec. 4, 7 to 10 p.m. - Peggy Dooley.

Available at all locations, depending upon registrations.

This course is a consideration of the Church community as Sacrament — sign and cause — of Christ in the world today. Ideas to be explored in this class include an understanding and appreciation of sacramentality, religious ritual and symbol. These understandings will provide the basis for an in-depth reflection of the seven sacramental actions of the Church from both a historical and contemporary point of view. Prerequisites: Ordinarily Theology of Church and New Testament.

THEO 4883 Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century

Thursdays, Aug. 23-Dec. 6, 7 to 10 p.m. - Jim Smith.

This course will "break open" both the Good News and those essentials of the tradition and teachings of Catholic Christianity that distinctively make us Catholic, familiarize students with the developments of Catholic Social Teaching, and its movements, specifically within the context of American history. The course will foster the cultivation of a spirituality of personal and social discipleship.

Courses may be taken for three hours credit, personal enrichment or continuing education (for graduates of any of our formation programs). Cost, $160 credit; $90, personal enrichment; $75, continuing ed; plus cost of textbooks.

For more information or to register, go to our webpage at http://archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministry/home, click on Schedule, or the link for the registration form. You may also call or email Cecilia Grimes, cgrimes@archokc.org, (405) 721-4208.

Mandate A Cruel Attempt to Block God's Love

By Mary McClusky

After many frustrating years of searching for answers to various health symptoms, I was diagnosed with a hormonal disorder, the cause of which is still unknown. After four years of marriage, I've finally accepted the painful reality that I might never become pregnant or give birth to a child who has my husband's wit and generous, loving heart. So the recent federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that would force me to pay for other women's contraceptives and sterilizations as part of the new health care law's "preventive services" mandate adds insult to my injury.

Health care is about healing and restoring the body to good and proper functioning. Sterilization, abortifacients and contraception communicate the irrational message that the healthy, natural state of fertility is somehow wrong and diseased. Mutilating healthy organs and distorting a woman's natural hormone levels in order to avoid pregnancy have nothing to do with preventing and treating diseases. Contraception promotes an impoverished view of a woman's body and the gift of her fertility. It is an affront to God's design for life and love because it deliberately separates a married couple's loving union from their ability to be open to life. God wove humanity into an incredibly delicate but splendid intricacy. We should celebrate and protect the capacity of women to join with their husbands in becoming co-creators with God.

Although Catholics and others recognize that hormonal contraceptives can harm a woman's body, her relationships and her soul, the personal decision to contracept is not the public policy issue that is currently being debated. The bishops object to the HHS mandate mainly because it violates religious liberty and conscience rights by forcing all who conscientiously object to these drugs and procedures — whether they are religious or not — to pay for them against their will. The Catholic bishops recognize that increased access to contraception does not reduce, and often increases, abortions. They also objected to the final version of the new health care law because it allocates billions of dollars in new funding that evades longstanding laws against federal funding of abortion. The HHS contraceptive mandate is a dangerous step toward mandating that everyone carry insurance coverage for abortion. The bishops are calling for the mandate to be dropped.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes are given periodically throughout the Archdiocese. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651, or go to http://archokc.org/office-of-family-life/home.

Instead of undermining their natural capacity to accept children lovingly from God by using contraceptives or sterilizations, married couples are encouraged to use Natural Family Planning (NFP) as a way of cooperating with God's plan for their family size. NFP promotes responsible parenthood by working with the couple's natural fertility cycle; it is a healthy and morally acceptable way of spacing or delaying the gift of children. NFP can also be used to achieve pregnancy, and is a useful tool to help identify hormonal imbalances and other health issues.

Women need not feel alienated, but rather honored and protected, by the Catholic vision of sexuality and reproduction. Blessed John Paul II's Apostolic Letter "On the Dignity of Women" (1988) presents a vision of women's unique role in society and in the Church. Women are called by the Church to use their particular gifts to glorify God.

While I may have to bear the pain of childlessness, I am heartened by the Church's courage in advocating for my freedom to live out my beliefs without government interference and control. To learn more about how to promote and protect conscience rights and religious liberty, visit www.usccb.org/conscience.

Mary McClusky is Special Projects Coordinator at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, USCCB. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to www.usccb.org/prolife.

Daily Review Can Help Reveal Blessings in Our Life

By Joe Froehle

Something we can do to nurture our relationship with God as well as with ourselves is to conduct a review of our successes and failures at the end of the day. This daily review (those familiar with the Retreat in Daily Life refer to it as the Examen), may be experienced as we fall asleep or upon awakening in the morning with our first cup of java.

This review can begin with gratitude for the blessings we have experienced during the day, i.e. walking in a park, sharing with our spouses, noticing a rose, hugging a child, talking with a grandchild, etc.

The review continues with noticing two or three successes we experienced during the day when we believe we were in the flow of God's will. We might notice when we listened to another with an understanding and accepting heart; we let go of wanting something our way and lovingly went along with our spouses; we visited and comforted an ill friend; we gave the homeless man standing on the corner two bucks; we smiled at a cashier, etc.

We might notice other successes when we cautioned ourselves against being critical or judgmental of another; we didn't take a hurtful comment personally; we listened without giving advice; we said "no" instead of attempting to please another; or we spoke up in defense of another, accepting whatever criticism might be offered.

In this review of our successes, we can notice that we were truly with God, letting go of our selfish ways, and doing His will. We might notice the feelings of peace, happiness, calmness we experienced at the time or that we may be experiencing during this review. We can allow these feelings to affirm our actions and just know that at these times we were being our true, authentic selves who God wants us to be. What a blessing!

And to continue the review, we can make note of one or two times when we failed and we said "no" to or forgot about God. We might notice when we intentionally hurt or wounded another, oftentimes those we love the most — our spouses and our children. We can also notice less grievous offenses such as when we failed to attentively listen to another, participated in critical gossip, fearfully remained quiet rather than asserting ourselves, nurtured a resentment and wallowed in self-pity, failed to yield to someone on the highway, criticized another, etc.

Again, only notice one or two failings, realize God has forgiven us and we can forgive ourselves while letting go of any guilt, shame and/or remorse. We can also reflect on how we would like to act next time and ask God for the willingness and the power to do so.

By this time many of us may be sound asleep, knowing that we are children of God who loves us no matter what. We are so blessed! Peace!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joe Froehle has many years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. His work includes many years at St. Anthony Hospital. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by email at jfroehle@swbell.net.

Calendar

APRIL

15 **The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at Little Flower Church, OKC, from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Katherine Payne, (405) 210-4826, or Betty Sharp, (405) 408-4275.

15 **The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8688.

15 **Chaplet of the Divine Mercy** with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 2-3 p.m. Confessions at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Old Cathedral, 307 N.W. 4th St., Oklahoma City.

15 **Divine Mercy Sunday** at St. John the Baptist Church in Edmond, 3 p.m. Call (405) 359-0578.

15 **Divine Mercy Sunday** at St. Francis Church, 1901 N.W. 18th. The prayer service will be from 3 to 4 p.m. Dr. Mary Martin, OB/GYN, will speak on God's Mercy and the HHS Mandate. The special intention for the Rosary this year will be for religious liberty. For more information, call Theresa at (405) 816-2727.

15 **Divine Mercy Holy Hour** from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 5024 N. Grove Ave. The Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayers will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

17-25 **Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus.** Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly.

19 **TAP INTO FAITH** - Open to ALL adults - married and single, at Louie's located at 2nd and Western in Edmond, 7:30 p.m. Meet and Greet, 8-9 p.m. Speaker: Father Dan Letourneau. Topic: God Calling: Being Receptive to God's Voice. For more information, contact marylacher@consultant.com or text/call (405) 401-4105.

20 **Dedication for the New Church at St. Eugene's** will be celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley at 7 p.m. with a reception to follow.

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

22 **Pilgrimage Sunday,** Mass begins at 11 a.m., noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

28 **Theology of the Body for Couples.** Based on the Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Starting at 9 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Lunch will be provided, cost is $20 per couple. Call the Office of Family Life to register at 721-8944.

28 **St. Charles Borromeo School "La Fiesta Borromeo" Auction** from 6 to 11 p.m. at 5000 N. Grove. Enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine, a live auction, live music performed by "Mariachi Lopez," a DJ, open bar and plenty of items to bid on. Cost of ticket is $40, which includes dinner, drinks and dance.

Jobs Box

Parish Secretary

Holy Name Parish in Chickasha is seeking a parish secretary with organizational skills, interpersonal skills and computer expertise to respond to the needs of the parishioners and to act as a liaison between parish staff and parishioners in order that all in the parish can easily access the ministries and facilities the parish provides. The role description, explaining this part-time position of 20 hours a week and the necessary qualifications, is available at the parish office during regular business hours. Interested applicants should contact the parish office at (405) 244-6068. Submit resume and references by May 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

High School Teaching Positions

Mount St. Mary High School is seeking certified teachers for the 2012-13 school year in the following areas: Chemistry, Biology with Pre-AP and AP experience, Spanish with Pre-AP and AP experience, and Music with experience in instrumental, vocal and general music, with pep band as extra-curricular. Coaching assignments are also available with these positions. Fax résumé and certification to Talita DeNegri, 405-631-9209.

Full-Time Teaching Position

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for certified teaching position for the 2012-2013 school year. SHCS is a community of dedicated clergy, teachers and staff, families and students living the Gospel values of faith, hope and love. Send a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, 73109.

Teaching Positions

St. Mary Catholic School in Guthrie is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood, Elementary Education or Middle School subject specific certification areas. Interested individuals should be able to share their faith within an academic challenging classroom environment. Send your resume to St. Mary Catholic School, Attention: Sheila Whalen-Guthrie, Principal, 502 E. Warner, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Teacher Openings

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno has two teaching positions open for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate and must also be committed to providing academic excellence in a Christian environment. Send resumes to Principal Shannon Statton at 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to (405) 262-3818.

Behavioral Interventionists

Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy is in need of several "Behavioral Interventionists." A behavioral interventionist is an individual who works one-on-one with children with disabilities to provide academic and behavioral support for children on the autistic spectrum. The position is part-time and hours are negotiable. The school is in session from Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m). If you are a very patient person and experienced/interested in working with children with disabilities, please contact Dr. Donna Kearns, Principal, at (405) 752-2264. The school is located at 13404 N. Meridian, Oklahoma City.

LPN, Direct Care & Residential Staff

The Center of Family Love has openings for Licensed Practical Nurses, Direct Care Staff and Residential Staff. Paid training is offered for the Direct Care and Residential positions. Night (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.), overnight (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.), and weekend double shifts currently available with health and wellness benefits starting the first of the month following just 90 days of employment. For consideration, apply in person at the corner of 6th & Texas Avenue in Okarche between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email a resume to HR@cflinc.org.

Mount Grad Finds Joy in Service

Peter Brunette had no idea what the future held when he graduated from the Mount in 2008.

He attended Rose State College on a baseball scholarship and later transferred to the University of Oklahoma to study Industrial Engineering, but something was still missing.

That is, until the summer of 2011 when he attended a project named Kaleo, a nine-week program in Florida that focused on becoming a spiritual leader on campus.

"Since I've come back, I've been trying to meet up with the guys in my fraternity to talk about God and start up Bible studies with them," Brunette said. "I just want to impact their life in that way."

In addition to his ministry work at home, Brunette is participating in two international trips in 2012.

"For spring break, I went to Haiti," Brunette said. "I played with kids and helped out with whatever they needed help with."

Brunette is also raising funds to go to Mumbai, India, as part of a Maharashtra Cultural Exchange Program for six weeks in the summer.

"We'll be going as students to learn about their culture, but we will be working on spreading the gospel to the people of India during our stay," said Brunette.

No matter where in the world his travels take him, Brunette said he can still trace his decision to move into ministry work back to his experiences at the Mount.

"Coming from such a God-centered background at the Mount and being in that environment gave me the heart for wanting to work for God in college," he said.

In particular, one teacher at the Mount gave Brunette the confidence he needed.

"When I had conversations with Coach Keilty, he always had confidence that I would do great things, even though I had no idea what was going on in my life," Brunette said. "His confidence has given me the confidence to do all these things."

If you are interested in helping support Peter Brunette, please email him at peter.brunette-25@gmail.com, or call (405) 206-8656.

Peter Brunette in Haiti with some new friends.

Irish Host German Exchange Students, Build Friendships

OKLAHOMA CITY — At the end of March, 17 high school students from Neuburg, Germany, arrived as foreign exchange students to stay with host families at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (BMCHS) for 22 days.

"This is a very unique opportunity for all of our students, as well as the visiting German students, to experience the similarities and unique difference of two distinctly different cultures," said David Morton, principal of BMCHS.

The students hail from Descartes-Gymnasium School in Neuburg, the Bavarian region of southern Germany, a predominately Catholic region of Germany. BMCHS has participated in this exchange program for the past eight years, under the guidance of Frau Ursula Skuta-Bolding and the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP). The program alternates with each school visiting every other year.

"The relationships that develop between the students from Neuburg and their host families here in Oklahoma City have sometimes gone well beyond the three weeks that they are together here," said Frau Bolding, German Language instructor at BMCHS. "In many cases, students from either school often travel to either city independently. On these return visits, the students stay with not only their original host families, but other families in each community and develop friendships which last a lifetime," she said.

While in Oklahoma City, the students will live with their host families and attend classes at BMCHS. Both the American and the German students are encouraged to exchange information on their cultures and traditions, especially over the Easter holidays.

In addition, the German students have prepared entertaining and informative Power Point presentations featuring youth-oriented areas of interest including what their school is like, what they do for entertainment in their hometown, German culture, popular music and other activities. The German students will share their presentations to the foreign language classes at BMCHS and with selected elementary schools.

The exchange students had an opportunity to get to know all of the host families and host students at a special welcome party at the home of James and Karen Kwasny.

Field trips will allow the exchange students to learn about American and Oklahoma culture through visits to the Oklahoma State Capitol, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum and a special trip to the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge where they will experience the regionally famous Meersburger hamburgers. Fun activities such as an evening at Laser Quest and an afternoon at Frontier City will also be offered to the students.

The hosting students and their German guests are Connor Ahrens hosting Bettina Vogl; Anna Bahm hosting Klara Sofia Keidl; Ryan Barth hosting Stefan Fuerst; Jordan Drullinger hosting Lena Boeswald; Braden Farris hosting Laura Habermeier; Shelby Garvey hosting Vanessa Scherer; Terran Hill hosting Olivia Wuermseher; Eric Hughes hosting Sebastian Mayr; Maddie Jacobs hosting Maike Suedhaus; Ian Kipgen hosting Luis deJesus Marques; Nick Kwasny hosting Lukas Bayer and Sebastian Weber; Catherine Lewis hosting Victoria Schmitz; Kaylee Martin hosting Johanna Riesinger; Hope Powers hosting Sabrina Brockmann; Joey Saucedo hosting Justin-Constantin Kroiher; Sarah Vaughan hosting Anna Suedhaus; and Aspen Weber hosting Christina Heckl.

Life of Colorful Bishop Kelley on Display in Heritage Room

For decades, Father Jim White chronicled the history of the Church in Oklahoma. This is how he summed up Bishop Francis Clement Kelley, the second Bishop of Oklahoma.

"He dreamed big and acted big, perfectly suited for 1920s America, and he took the place by storm."

A stroll through the Archdiocesan Heritage Room would bear this out as the latest exhibit pays tribute to the man who led the Church in Oklahoma through the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression and World War II, leaving a legacy of great faith and hope that continues to this day.

George Rigazzi, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life, was handed the reins of the Heritage Room following the retirement of longtime curator Jim Weinmann. Rigazzi said the exhibit featuring Bishop Kelley was inspirational and one he recommends "every Catholic in Oklahoma" needs to experience.

"Bishop Kelley was a very creative and bold man of faith," Rigazzi said. "He was very brilliant. He was the embodiment of our history."

Bishop Kelley was born in 1870 in the Canadian Province of Prince Edward Island, growing up in a predominately Irish-Catholic culture. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Detroit in 1893 and served as an Army chaplain in the Spanish-American War.

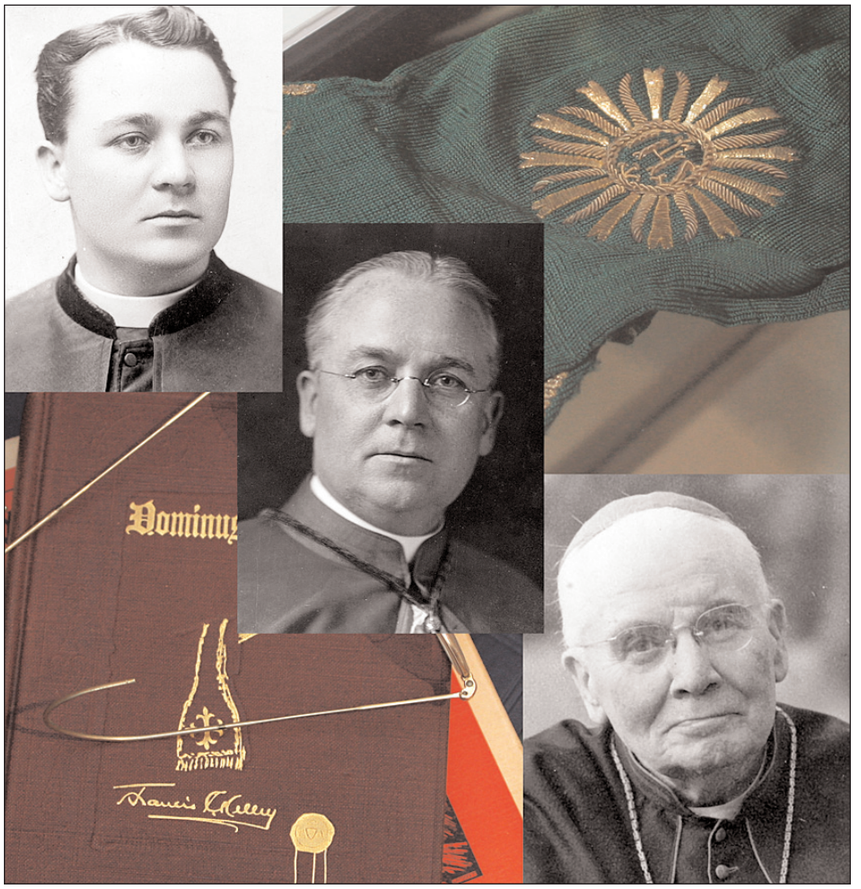
Later, as pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Lapeer, Mich., he saw firsthand the plight of the rural Catholic Church in America.

Father Kelley was so moved by the struggles of the faith in rural America, he founded the Catholic Church Extension Society in Chicago. He worked tirelessly convincing wealthy Catholic parishes in large cities to contribute financially to the survival of small rural parishes. He helped bring priests from Ireland and Canada to help minister in the rural areas of the United States, and many of them found their way to Oklahoma through the Extension.

Rigazzi said Bishop Kelley's love for the poor in rural America played a role in him being sent here.

Bishop Kelley came to Oklahoma with the same determination that helped him build up the Extension Society. He quickly became good friends with the leaders at the time, Catholic and non-Catholic. He transformed these relationships into ways to help the minorities and the poor rural areas in the state.

Oilman Frank Phillips was one of his close friends, as was Gov. Alfalfa Bill Murray. Neither was Catholic.

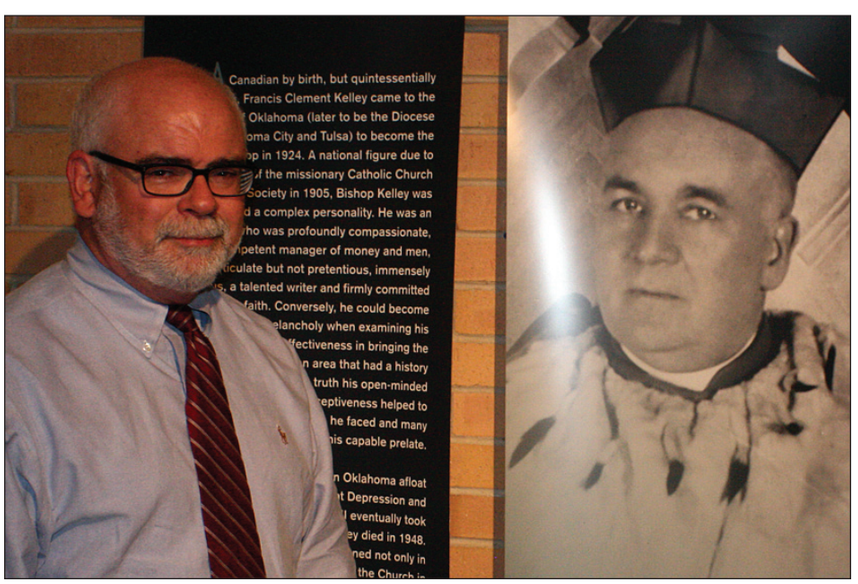


After hearing Bishop Kelley in 1933 speak at the University of Oklahoma on the importance of education, Gov. Murray asked him to develop Oklahoma's system of higher education.

A reporter asked Murray how a Protestant governor could be such close friends with a Catholic bishop. "There are two intelligent people in Oklahoma and we have to talk with one another," Murray was said to have responded.

Heritage Room Hours

The Heritage Room at the Catholic Pastoral Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also, by appointment, call (405) 721-5651 Ext. 141 to schedule an appointment.



The Southwest Courier
THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1926
Oklahoma Forward!
NUMBER 51

$772,000 SENDS DRIVE OVER TOP AMID CHEERS OF CITY WORKERS

EVERY OKLAHOMA CITY PARISH GOES OVER QUOTA; CARDINALS SEND WORDS OF CONGRATULATION

THE BISHOP'S THANKS

Officially the Drive is over. In a few places the work is still unfinished and in one or two it is yet to be started. But the returns are in for the greater part and it is plain to all that we have been successful and that the objective has been reached and passed. Oklahoma has justified our hopes and shown of what devotion its heart is made. My financial worries for the most part I have left, perhaps to seek another victim, though I hope not. I would not wish my worst enemy the difficulties of the last two years. I bore them because I had confidence in God and in my people. I cannot help keeping in mind the sad prayers I said every night in the darkness and silence of my chapel, when others slept because they could do what I could not. I asked for success in this drive because the Diocese needed it. I thought I was asking something next to the impossible. But I did say: "Lord, Thou art rich in the possession of all things. I am poor. But

BISHOP SAYS HE IS GREATLY SURPRISE

OBJECTIVES OF DIOCESAN DRIVE

George Rigazzi stands next to an exhibit of Bishop Francis Clement Kelley in the Heritage Room at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Above, photos of the Bishop from his early days as a seminarian to one of the last photos taken before his death.