#### Go Make Disciples

## Oklahomans awarded Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by Pope Francis

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

Oklahomans Larry and Dodie Wells were honored by Pope Francis April 8 with a medal for distinguished service during a Mass celebrated by their son Archbishop Peter Wells at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The medal, which is one of the highest medals that can be awarded to the laity by the pope, was presented by Archbishop Coakley.

Larry Wells served for more than 16 years as manager of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Summer Camp before retiring in 2015. Their son, Bill Wells, a carpenter by trade, succeeded his father this year as camp manager.

The Wells' son, Archbishop Peter Wells, was ordained in March by Pope Francis as the Holy See's new Apostolic Nuncio in South Africa and Botswana. The Holy Father also elevated him to the titular see of Marcianopolis, with the dignity of archbishop. He is believed to be the first Oklahoman to be named an archbishop.

Larry and Dodie Wells have five children and live in Guthrie.

The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Latin: For Church and Pope) medal is an award of the Roman Catholic Church that is also known as the "Cross of Honor."

The medal was established by Leo XIII on July 17, 1888, to commemorate his golden sacerdotal jubilee and was originally bestowed on those men and women who had aided and promoted the jubilee, and by other means assisted in making the jubilee and the Vatican Exposition successful.

It is currently given for distinguished service to the church by lay

to the church by lay people and clergy.

The medal may be cast in gold, silver or bronze. On the medal is a cross made octangular by fleurs-de-lis fixed in the angles of the cross. The arms of the cross narrow towards the center, with slightly indented ends, approaching the form of the patonce cross.



Archbishop Coakley presents Larry and Dodie Wells with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award. Photo Diane Clay.

In the center of the cross is a small medal with the image of Leo XIII, the words "Leo XIII P. M. Anno X" (10th year of his pontificate) circle the image. In the center of the reverse side are the papal emblems. The motto Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice is stamped in the circle surrounding the emblems.

On the obverse side of the medal, the branches of the cross are comets, which, with the fleurs-de-lis, form the coat of arms of the Pecci family. Stamped on the reverse side are the words "Pridie" (on the left branch), "Kal" (on the top branch), and "Januar" (on the right branch) and the year "1888" (at the foot of the cross). The medal's ribbon is red, with delicate lines of

white and yellow on each border and is worn on the right side of breast.

The current version is only awarded in gold. The obverse depicts the Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. On the left arm of the cross is the inscription Pro Ecclesia (For Church), on the right arm of the cross is Et Pontifice (And Pope).

At the point of the top arm of the cross is the coat of arms of the reigning pope. At the points of the other arms are small Greek crosses. Below the depiction of the saints is the Latin name of the pope. The reverse depicts a Greek

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

#### Archbishop Coakley celebrates Mass with Conception Seminary College

CONCEPTION, Mo. — On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for the seminary and monastic communities at Conception Seminary College. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has five men pursuing priestly studies at Conception.

During his homily, Archbishop Coakley encouraged the two communities to reflect upon the Blessed Virgin's total surrender to the will of God, something that each of us is continually called to imitate.

While visiting the college, Archbishop Coakley also was able to meet privately with each of the archdiocese's seminarians and participate in the daily life of the college, including the annual celebration of Pastor's Day.

"It was great hosting the archbishop! Serving for him at Mass, sharing meals and having quality time to visit meant a lot to me," said Michael Krug, a freshman at CSC studying for the archdiocese. "His spiritual leadership is something I am very appreciative of as a seminarian of the archdiocese."

Conception Seminary College is one of the largest free standing seminaries in the

United States, and the main apostolate of the Benedictine monks of Conception



Archdiocesan seminarians Michael Krug, Tomas Sandoval, Chad Thurman and Martin Parizek. *Photo Charles Peirano*.

Abbey. For more information, go online to www.conception.edu or follow the college on social media.

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## Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

## Looking at "The Joy of Love"

"The Joy of Love" (Amoris Laetitia) is Pope Francis's just released apostolic exhortation "On Love in the Family." It serves as a fitting complement to his first apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium) released in 2013.

While both are characterized by their fresh approachable writing style and concreteness, this latest exhortation is much longer, and considerably more complex, dealing as it does with the many realities facing families and married couples around the world. "The Joy of Love" is the fruit of the deliberations of two recent Synods of Bishops on marriage and family that were held in 2014 and 2015.

"If we consider the immense variety of concrete situations," Pope Francis writes, "it is understandable that neither the Synod nor this exhortation could be expected to provide a new set of general rules, canonical in nature and applicable to all cases (AL 300).

He takes a very different approach. He does not propose new teaching or change any doctrine of the Church as many people had either hoped or feared. He situates this exhortation within the living tradition of the Church, rooting it in the Scriptures, the teachings of previous popes, the Second Vatican Council and various bishops' conferences. It is a teaching, however, that must be applied through a careful pastoral discernment of the particular situations in which people find themselves, and through a loving accompaniment by the Church's pastors and pastoral workers.

"Christian marriage as a reflection of the union between Christ and his Church is fully realized in the union between a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in a free faithful and exclusive love, who belong to each other until death and are open to the transmission of life, and are consecrated by the sacrament." This is a good summary of the traditional understanding of the Christian ideal of marriage. "Some forms of union radically contradict this ideal, while others realize it in at least a partial and analogous way" (AL 292).

Speaking of the former, Pope Francis affirms that "there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family ... and deplores that local Churches should be subjected to pressure in this matter" (AL 251).

At the same time, speaking of persons experiencing same-attraction, he reaffirms "that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration," deploring any sign of unjust discrimination, aggression and violence (AL 250)

In the introduction to "The Joy of Love," Pope Francis writes, "I do not recommend a rushed reading of the text. The greatest benefit, for families themselves and for those engaged in the family apostolate, will come if each part is read patiently and carefully or if attention is paid to the parts dealing with their specific needs" (AL 7). One of the risks, of course, is that certain portions may be taken out of context or that the text will be used only to glean sound bites, without making the effort necessary to really understand the teaching in its richness and nuances.

The 260-page text includes two extended meditations on the Scriptures, Psalm 128 found in Ch. 1 and Saint Paul's Hymn to Love (1 Corinthians 13). The latter med-

**April 20** – Presbyteral Council, 9:30 a.m., CPC

**April 21** – Vocations Board Meeting, 1 p.m., CPC

April 23 - Knights of Columbus state convention, Tulsa

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley's official calendar. April 17 - Catholic Day at the Dodgers, 2 p.m., Bricktown Ballpark

April 20 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City

April 27 - School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Saint Joseph School, Enid

April 28 - Catholic Charities board meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities offices, OKC

April 19 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., Saint Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

April 21 - Confirmation, 7 p.m., Saint Mark the Evangelist, Norman

**April 29** – Confirmation, 7 p.m., Saint Catherine of Siena, Pauls Valley

April 24 - Confirmation, 9 a.m., Saint Robert Bellarmine, Jones

**April 26** – Workshop for Clergy on revised marriage rite, CPC

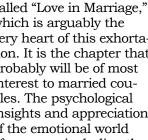
**April 27** – Confirmation, 6 p.m., Holy Angels, Oklahoma City

April 30 - Confirmation, 2 p.m., Saint Patrick, Oklahoma City

May 1 - Confirmation, 11 a.m., Corpus Christi, Oklahoma City

April 26 - Confirmation, 7 p.m., Good Shepherd, Marietta

itation is found in Ch. 4 called "Love in Marriage," which is arguably the very heart of this exhortation. It is the chapter that probably will be of most interest to married couples. The psychological insights and appreciation of the emotional world of spouses, including the



erotic dimensions of their love is unprecedented in papal

Other chapters treat the real experiences and complex challenges of families, the varieties of ways that love is made fruitful in marriage, including, of course, through procreation and welcoming children. There are chapters that address the education of children and the spirituality of marriage and family life.

While holding up the full ideal of Christian marriage and calling all to a fuller response to God's grace, Pope Francis returns to an image that he has used often: the Church as field hospital (AL 291). All of us experience brokenness in our lives. We need to experience the healing touch of mercy through the Church.

Ch. 8 is titled, "Accompanying, Discerning and Integrating Weakness." This is the chapter that will probably be of most interest to priests who are called to minister to those couples whose lived experience often falls short of that full ideal.

The pastoral approach that the Holy Father proposes calls for a careful personal and pastoral discernment of all of the circumstances in those "irregular" cases, including those couples who are divorced, cohabiting or who are not in a sacramental marriage, or who are divorced and only civilly remarried. He invites pastors to patiently accompany these couples in the hope of gradually reintegrating them as fully as possibly into the life of the Christian community.

Accompaniment is the key. Pope Francis writes, "a pastor cannot feel that it is enough simply to apply moral laws to those living in 'irregular' situations, as if they were stones to throw at people's lives" (AL 305). Through pastoral accompaniment and discernment, pastors help couples find possible ways of responding to God and growing in the midst of limits. The Holy Father acknowledges the challenges and messiness of this approach.

"I understand those who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care, which leaves no room for confusion. But, I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness that the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness, a mother who, while clearly expressing her objective teaching, 'always does what good she can, even if in the process shoes get soiled by the mud of the streets" (AL 308).

Ultimately, Pope Francis notes that it is providential that these reflections come during the Jubilee of Mercy as he cautions us lest "we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators." The "Church after all is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems" (AL 310).

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

April 17 - Mystagogy Mass, 4 p.m., , Saint Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center

April 20 - Live on-air for Catholic Radio Radiothon, 4:30 p.m., Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

## news on the website

#### By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

✓ For a copy of "The Joy of Love," go online to w2. vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html.



**Marriage Encounter** Weekend

7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC April 29 - May 1 www.meoklahoma.org Openings still available





@archokc



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de



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#### Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty ever-living God, lead unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

## Find more

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us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the for ever and ever. Amen.

## Catholic Advocacy Day





More than 100 Catholics from across Oklahoma attended Catholic Advocacy Day March 31 at the state Capitol with Archbishop Coakley, Bishop Slattery and representatives of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Following presentations by Archbishop Coakley, Bishop Slattery, Dick Klinge, senior director of advocacy and legal services for Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, and former House Speaker Kris Steele, participants visited state representatives and senators to discuss legislation.

To find legislation or to contact a legislator, go online to http://oklegislature. gov. Photos Diane Clay.





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#### A Millenial Journey in Faith

### Learning to carry Christ's forgiveness, peace to others

When Denise Uwimana was growing up, her family had a unique ritual: every night after dinner, they would discuss what they experienced that day. They sang hymns, read a Bible passage and talked about any misunderstandings that had arisen that day. Each member of the family would forgive the others for any wrongdoing. The day would end with a family prayer.

Uwimana, a Tutsi in Rwanda, grew up to have many of her family members killed by the Hutu tribe; though she and her children were spared, her husband was killed. Despite the grave evil done to Uwimana and her tribe during the genocide, she chose to forgive the perpetrators and work for reconciliation in her country.

Her childhood practice of daily forgiveness enabled her to work for peace and reconciliation in her homeland, in spite of the terrible pain she suffered. The habit of repeated forgiveness prepared her to attain heroic virtue and work toward reconciliation after an unthinkable offense was committed against her family and her tribe.

Her story makes clear what Thomas Aquinas and other great philosophers wrote: virtue is a habit. It's like a muscle; the more we exercise it, the stronger it becomes. Forgiveness in small matters leads to the ability to forgive an egregious wrong because we have practice at forgiving; our "forgiveness muscle" is strong.

So, it is with any virtue — the more we practice courage, self-control, justice and prudence, the better we are able to be courageous, possess self-control and act with justice and prudence.

Reflecting on Uwimana's story spurs me to re-evaluate my own habits of reconciliation. Do I cultivate peace and forgiveness in my home? Do I have "a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people's weaknesses," or do I "[look] for more and more faults, [imagine] greater evils, and [presume] all kinds of bad intentions," as Pope Francis contrasts in his recent exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia?"

When I am honest with myself, I know that so often I do not have a positive attitude toward other's weaknesses, especially those who I love most. For most of my life, I have been guilty of letting "the just desire to see [my] rights respected turns into a thirst for vengeance rather than a reasoned defense of

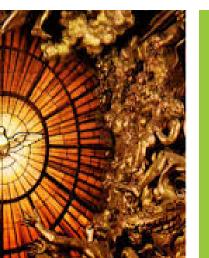


Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick For the Sooner Catholic

[my] dignity," that Pope Francis warns against.

My own habits of forgiveness and peace fall woefully short of those of Uwimana and her family. I resolve to begin again; to pray to forgive rather than dwell on the offense wrought against me; to think of the strengths of the other rather than the weaknesses; to pause before reacting; to end the day by apologizing for my own wrongdoings. I would like to work toward becoming the type of person so practiced in forgiveness that I could forgive such a severe wrong as Uwimana was able to do.

The model of virtue provided by Uwimana and other holy men and women gives me the framework for how to carry Christ's peace to others. The saints, living and dead, provide the example; we must follow.



## MAY 5, 6 & 7 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

#### A Short Course on the Holy Spirit

The early Church was launched by the power of Pentecost, when the first followers of Jesus encountered the Holy Spirit. They were empowered with gifts of preaching, healing, prophecy, and much more, enabling them to fulfill the mission Jesus had entrusted to them.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Popes have been urging us to pray for a renewal of the experience of Pentecost in the Church, which has led to the re-emergence of these gifts. The Archdiocese would like to encourage you to discover the gifts God wants to give to you. Please join us!



7 **p.m.** - 9:30 **p.m.**May 7
9 **a.m.** - 4 **p.m.** 

God's Love
Salvation
New Life
Receiving God's Gifts
Baptism in the Spirit

ansformation in

Together we shall invoke the Holy Spirit, confidently asking God for the gift of a new Pentecost for the Church and for humanity in the hird millennium."

CATHOLIC
PASTORAL CENTER
7501 NW Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK

Spiritokc.org

Contact: Toni Calvey 405-254-7264

#### Making Sense of Bioethics

# It seems odd, even a bit repulsive, when we encounter tales of elderly men running after women who are young enough to be their granddaughters. The wheelchair-bound billionaire oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall was 89 years old when he married the 26-year-old Anna Nicole Smith. He had met the Playboy model and reality TV star in a strip club. Anna insisted that she really did love the old man, and wasn't in it for the

money. With age should come wisdom. It's appropriate and fitting for older men to leave behind their former ways, and no longer live and act like college frat boys. It's right to expect growth in self-control as we mature, and to expect a more reflective and sober approach to life. Growing old invariably offers us the opportunity to redirect our focus, and as our body weakens, our mind and soul can be drawn to consider matters we may have previously avoided, like death and that which awaits us beyond death's threshold. Our later years powerfully can provoke us to come to terms with our destiny and with higher truths.

In a recent column, Father Ron Rolheiser, quoting James Hillman, speaks to the graces that aging and infirmity can bring our way:

"Why have God and nature so structured things that as we age and mature and are finally more in control of our lives, our bodies begin to fall apart, and we need a bevy of doctors and medicines to keep functioning? Is there some wisdom in the very DNA of the life process that mandates the breakdown of physical health in late life? Hillman says, yes. There's an innate wisdom in the process of aging and dying: the best wines

Pope Francis greets an elderly woman as he meets with people of Banado Norte, a poor neighborhood in Asuncion, Paraguay, July 12. *CNS photo/Paul Haring.* avoidably, our bodies decline. Our despise the good of our own lives

high blood pressure and male pattern balding.

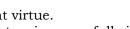
In the midst of it all, we can accept our lot with grace and gratitude. A serene acceptance of our struggles, and even of the specific death that awaits us, is surely a

strength wanes. We get hemor-

rhoids and warts and cancers and

despise the good of our own lives and to reject the graces that arise from our struggles by choosing to ingest any of a number of doctor-prescribed poisons.

On the other hand, by embracing our particular path into death, and by offering up our trials, we acquire a poise of soul and human maturity that orients us toward



On "Aging Gracefully"

have to be aged in cracked old bar-

rels. The breakdown of our bodies

deepens, softens and matures the

I once overheard a hospital

nurse chatting with one of her

patients and was caught a bit off

guard when she nonchalantly de-

clared, with a little twinkle in her

eye, "...when we get to be over 40,

flected a healthy, positive attitude

who doesn't have hemorrhoids?"

The comment, I thought, re-

toward aging and infirmity. Un-

soul."

But, aging gracefully is not something many of us tend to do well. We resist the idea. We may cling to the fantasy of eternal youth. Some in our society even push the notion that we shouldn't have to put up with the challenges of infirmity, and instead ought to receive help from the medical system so we can beat a hasty retreat to the exit.

By pushing for physician-assisted suicide, they encourage us to



Father Tad Pacholczyk National Catholic Bioethics Center

our destiny, a destiny in the hereafter that so many seem largely oblivious to. By letting our infirmities existentially speak to us, and coming to realize how true it is that we have no permanent dwelling here, we begin to grapple with that mysterious truth that heaven and home are synonymous.

Aging gracefully also involves recognizing and accepting the shortening of the time ahead of us and the lengthening of the time behind us. Even as we achieve a much-sought independence in our lives, we begin to cycle back toward a renewed dependence on others, on caregivers, family and the community, and we may even come to the realization that our own mind will have to be surrendered if dementia comes our way.

All of this can instruct us, if we accept it with grace, in the wisdom of relinquishing our own willfulness once again like little children, and returning to a humble framework of interdependence in our shared destiny with others and with God.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., 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.

## Sister M. Sponsa Beltran

Sister Sponsa Beltran, O.S.F., died on April 6, 2016, at Saint Joseph's Villa in Reading, Pa.

A native of Pennsylvania, Sister Sponsa was born Rosario Beltran on March 25, 1925, the oldest of eight children. She entered the Order of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in 1944 and received her degree in nursing.

in Liberia, Africa, where she established a residence for society's throw-away children — the handicapped. There, these children would find shelter, food, medical attention, an education and learn about the Lord. With the civil unrest in the country, there were times when she was confronted by the military regime. One time,

she had to take her children and flee to the Ivo-

ry Coast until it was safe to return to Liberia.

More than 40 years of her ministry was spent

During her ministry in Liberia, she became legally blind and continued her work even though wheelchair bound.



Many people in Oklahoma came to know her through her infrequent visits and her appeal for monetary assistance and prayers for her children.

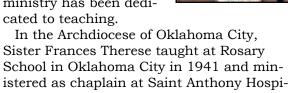
She is survived by two sisters, Helen Marie Beltran and Angie Cebulski, two brothers, Archbishop Eusebius Beltran and Frank Beltran along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and burial were at the motherhouse of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading, Pa.



Daniel.
Sister Frances
Therese's home parish
is Visitation, Chicago.
Sister Frances Therese's
ministry has been dedi-

name was Sister Mary



tal from 1981-1985.
Sister Frances Therese is retired and living in community at Saint Dominic Villa.

If you would like to honor Sister Frances Therese on her jubilee, go to the Sinsinawa Dominicans' website at www.sinsinawa. org/jubilarians.



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## A walk with Colleen Carroll Campbell

MY SISTERS

THESAINTS

A SECURE AND MADE AND ADDRESS.

**By J.E. Helm**For the Sooner Catholic



A really good memoir or autobiography must do two things.
It must be a record of the times in which it was written and

it must tell us what it was actually like to be a human being at that particular time, in that particular place.

At the same time, such a narrative must transcend these things and must deal with questions and issues that all humans have had to deal with over the centuries and across the borders of various geographies. "My Sisters the Saints," Colleen Carroll Campbell's award winning memoir does both of these things, inviting us along to search with her for the meaning of life and to celebrate joyfully with her as she discovers these truths.

Campbell is a writer and a journalist. She is the author of "The New Faithful," and her work has appeared in The New York Times and The Washington Post. She has produced and anchored for EWTN and was a speechwriter for President George W. Bush.

"My Sisters the Saints" was published in 2012, and in 2013 was awarded the Christopher Award and the Association of Catholic Publishers Award.

As a college student at Marquette University during the 1990s, Campbell finds her life as a self-described party girl is empty and unfulfilling. Highly successful academically, she nevertheless writes that she feels as if "I had lost something. I didn't know what it was or how to get it back." Enrolled in a course in feminist thought, she can only ask, "If this is liberation, why am I so miserable?"

Attending a Sunday evening Mass with her

non-Catholic boyfriend, Campbell realizes that her "lingering melancholy might be connected to the intimacy with God [she] had abandoned shortly after arriving at college." Deciding to change, she "opened the door to God."

Campbell's parents are truly devout Catholics, and over Christmas break her father

gives her a copy of a biography of Saint Teresa of Avila, enthusiastically telling her that "it makes Teresa come alive."

Campbell develops a true friendship with this saint, seeing in Teresa's early-life attachments to personal appearance and reputation parallels to her own life. Teresa's "spicy, messy, and meandering spiritual journey cast my own struggle in a new light."

Saint Therese of Lisieux was another of Campbell's father's favorites, and again there are parallels between the life of the saint and Campbell's own.

In her last semester in college, Campbell learns that her father has Alzheimer's.

Campbell loses her beloved father, even as her career takes her from newspaper reporter to author, even as she meets the convert to Catholicism who would eventually become her husband.

Campbell's adventure takes her to a job as a speechwriter for President George W. Bush, but she is torn between pursuing success in the nation's capitol and a deep desire to return home to Saint Louis and marry her medical student fiancé, John. She decides to trust her feelings of love for John, and she leaves her White House job after just one year, marrying at Christmas in 2003.

When she and her husband learn that it may not be possible for them to have children, they were completely devastated. A new saint-friend comes along to help Campbell understand that her desire for motherhood can be fulfilled, although not necessarily by giving birth. The newly canonized Edith Stein had written a series of reflections during the 1930s, published as "Essays on Woman," in which she explains what she calls woman's maternal gifts. Campbell embraces the idea that "motherhood is more about what's in your heart than what's in your womb," that she "needed to stop waiting for a baby to use [her] maternal gifts."

When Campbell's father dies, it is a terrible loss for her, but in reading "Come Be My Light," in which Mother Teresa describes her feelings of being abandoned by God, Campbell writes that "I was surprised to discover that this saint I once regarded as impossibly holy could speak so powerfully to the blackness suffocating my soul."

Almost miraculously, Campbell discovers that she is pregnant. She and John had walked on their knees to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and had bathed in the waters of Lourdes, praying for a child. Now in her early 30s, she learns they have been doubly blessed: she is carrying twins.

Campbell concludes her book with a joyful account of the celebration of the children's baptism. It is a celebration of her life's journey, of faith pursued and found, of the friendship with six holy women, of a path we all have walked with her in this inspiring work. Campbell's conclusion is truly victorious, and this wonderful book, "My Sisters the Saints," is highly recommended.

## For Catholic astronauts, flying to space doesn't mean giving up the faith

By Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – On the International Space Station there's a place, while filled with robotic equipment, where astronauts like to hang out. Called the Cupola, the small module has seven large bay windows that give crew members a panoramic view of Earth.

On his first – and thus far only – mission into space in September 2013, astronaut Mike Hopkins, was eager to find the Cupola. What he saw he found amazing.

"When you see Earth from that vantage point and see all the natural beauty that exists, it's hard not to sit there and realize there has to be a higher power that has made this," said Hopkins, who is Catholic

It was in the Cupola that Hopkins found himself praying and at times taking Communion.

Under a special arrangement with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and with the help of Father James H. Kuczynski, the rookie astronaut carried a pyx with six consecrated hosts broken into four pieces. It was enough for him take Communion once a week for the 24 weeks he was aboard ISS.

"It was extremely, extremely important to me," said Hopkins, now 47, who grew up on a farm outside of Richland, Missouri, in a United Methodist family, but completed Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes and became Catholic just before going into space.

He said he wanted to become Catholic not just because his wife and two teenage sons were Catholic, but because "I felt something was missing in my life."

Hopkins completed two spacewalks to change out a pump module with fellow spacefarer Rick Mastracchio. Before exiting ISS, he took Communion as well.

"Those events can be stressful events," he told Catholic News Service from his office in Houston. "Knowing Jesus was with me when I stepped out the door into the vacuum of space was important to me."

Such practices of faith, especially among Catholics in the astronaut corps, is hardly unusual.

"My crewmates knew I had the Eucharist with me," Hopkins said. "In fact, I coordinated with my Russian commander. He knew everything going on. They were all aware of that, but I never tried to make a large deal about it and publicize it and they didn't either. They respected my faith and my desire to follow that faith even when I was in orbit."

Astronaut Mike Good, a member of Saint Paul the Apostle in Nassau Bay, Texas, near NASA's Johnson Space Center, and a veteran of two space flights, spent about 12 days on each of his missions aboard the space shuttle. Taking Communion into space, he said, was not as imperative.

"But, if I was going to do a six-month expedition on the ISS, I would talk to my priest and figure out what we were going to do," Good said.

From another perspective, Good, 53, and retired astronaut Mike Massimino, 54, told CNS that the opportunity to fly in space offered time to reflect on creation as they gazed upon Earth.

"One thought I had is that God must love us to give us such a beautiful home," Massimino said. "It has given me a view of the planet; of how special it is; and how loved we are to have such a great place; and how we should appreciate it."

Good, Massimino's spacewalk partner on a 2009 shuttle mission, said he felt blessed to see the planet from high above.

"Looking back at Earth, I can't really describe how beautiful it is from 300 miles up," Good said. "Looking down, you can tell it's a planet. The sky is black. There's just a thin blue ribbon, what we see as blue sky on Earth. You realize how small it is and how fragile the planet is.

"It just makes it so obvious that God created this beautiful place. The word 'awe' just comes to mind. ... And looking out into space, it's just a clear view. The stars don't twinkle. It's like a high definition 3-D TV. You look out into space and feel very small."

Good expects that when the moment of launch



Retired astronaut Mike Massimino. CNS photo/courte-sv NASA.

comes, there's a feeling of connection with God or a higher power among just about everyone heading to space.

"Heading out to the launchpad is like being in a foxhole," Good said. "There's not a lot of atheists in a foxhole. I don't think there's many atheists sitting atop the launchpad."

Among the things Massimino took on his first flight was a Vatican City flag, which he later gave to St. John Paul II. On his second flight, he took a prayer card depicting Pope Benedict XVI, which he gave to the pontiff.

One Catholic astronaut, Mark Vande Hei, 49, is preparing for his first mission to the ISS next March. He said he has talked a bit with his Catholic colleagues about what to expect. For now, his spiritual preparation remains the same with daily prayer and regular Mass attendance at Saint Paul the Apostle in Nassau Bay.

To keep astronauts' spirits high, NASA arranges for occasional calls with celebrities on flights and asks each astronaut with whom they might like to talk. Vande Hei, who holds a bachelor's degree in physics from Saint John's University in Minnesota, said he suggested Pope Francis.

His request may not be outside the realm of possibility. Pope Benedict communicated with the crew aboard the ISS in May 2011 in a 20-minute conversation.

## Priestly presence: a gift to Catholic school families

On behalf of our principals and teachers, I would like to express gratitude to the many pastors who serve our Catholic schools. Our archdiocese is blessed with great support from clergy. During our recent study of Catholic schools conducted by The Catholic University of America, our pastors expressed profound support for Catholic schools as a means to evangelize.

This support begins with Archbishop Coakley and Archbishop Emeritus Beltran, and is characterized in the ministry of our priests. I would like to highlight the work of two pastors in particular who I believe represent the goodwill and dedication of all of our clergy.

First, Father Richard Stansberry, recognized by the National Catholic Educational Association as a distinguished pastor, recently published a chapter in an NCEA publication called "Priestly Leadership in Catholic Schools." In his article, Father Rick shared many examples where priestly presence has made a difference not only in the lives of students, but also in the lives of their teachers and families.

Having worked with Father Rick for many years, I can attest to the gift of his care to all parish families. In addition to his duties at a large and busy parish, Christ the King, he serves the archdiocese as judicial vicar. Although his schedule is intense, he always makes a point to visit the school just to say



Fr. Denis Hanrahan at St. Mary School in Guthrie. *Photo archives of the Archdiocest of Oklahoma City*.

hello and be present. I remember the first day of school when we were both new to Christ the King, he stood with me at the front door during morning arrival. He wanted to greet the children, to say hello to the parents and to be a welcoming presence.

That gesture of welcome set the tone for the entire year. His frequent walks through the school, his on-the-fly conversations with students and staff, and his joy in ministry said, "I care," and "I want to walk this path with you."

The second pastor I would like to recognize is Father Denis Hanrahan. He was a dedicated and loving school pastor. Father Hanrahan brought me to the Catholic school system, and that truly changed not only my professional life, but my spiritual life and that of my family. He was a quiet and gentle mentor, but he could become impassioned when he perceived injustice.

I believe it is God's plan that people cross our path to teach us to grow and come to love as God would want us to love. Through our relationships with one another, we encounter Christ's love in its human form and that love is divinely inspired. Such love is not always easy.

During the waning hours of Palm Sunday, my dear friend and our longtime pastor went home to God and to be with his beloved family members in heaven. I think perhaps he can now see his beloved County Clare as well as the red clay of Oklahoma, a place he came to love dearly.

Father Hanrahan served 18 years at Saint Mary in Guthrie and he would not be happy with me for writing about him. However, I feel compelled to remember him and to share his legacy of faith and wisdom.

During my six years as principal at Saint Mary, I learned much about trying to live my faith and about life in our parish community. Father had an uncanny way of making the complicated uncomplicated and getting to the root cause of a particular issue. He once told me, "We have two choices when it comes to dealing with people. We



**Cris Carter**Superintendent of Catholic Schools

can believe the worst or the best about them. I choose to believe the best until they prove me wrong."

This bit of wisdom has stuck with me since those early years serving as a principal. Father Hanrahan reminded me that there is more good in the world than bad, and that the majority of people want the best for their children, for their school and for their church.

He would laugh, and say "sometimes Jesus is hard to see in the other person, but it is our responsibility to look for Him."

Here are a few paraphrased tidbits I remember:

"Your conscience, that little voice inside you telling you the right thing to do, is the Holy Spirit at work within you. Listen to that small quiet voice."

"Sin is the absence of love."

"God loves us in the same way your mom, dad, grandma and grandpa love you. You are God's precious gift."

"The best way for a child to know God's love is to see parents who love one another."

"Instead of giving up things like candy and pop for Lent, go out of your way to do something good for someone else. What can you do for someone that will bring them joy and show your love?"

"If you can't remember the Act of Contrition when you come to reconciliation, just say you are sorry."

"A problem is not your problem until the person with the problem brings it to you."

"Some people spend all their time looking for the one giant miracle, but miracles happen every day in plain sight. Look around you, there are miracles all around you every day."

Thank you Father Hanrahan, Father Rick and all of our pastors for teaching us how to live and strive to build God's kingdom here on earth.



Fr. Rick Stansberry (front center) takes a hiking trip to the Wichita Mountains with the Christ the King seventh grade class in 2014. *Photo provided*.

## **Bishop McGuinness newspaper receives accolades**The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School 2015-16 Chi Rhoan

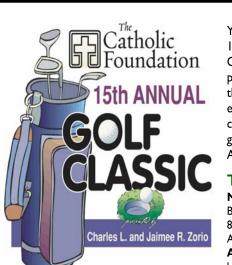
newspaper received Highest Honors and was named All Oklahoman at the Oklahoma Scholastic Media State Competition held at the University of Oklahoma April 4. Individual winners were juniors Caroline Dykstra, 2nd place in Mini Feature and Honorable Mention in News Story; Addie Martinez, 2nd place in News, Inside Spread Design, and Sports Feature; Beth Sine, Honorable Mention in Opinion Column; and Charlotte Edmonds, 3rd place in Mini Feature and Honorable Mention in Feature; sophomore Ben Miller, 3rd place in Mini Feature, and Honorable Mention in Feature. The school advisor is Betty Herman.

The 2015 yearbook The Chi Rho with the theme of "IRISH, The New Generation" received Highest Honors and a Gold Medal from New York's Columbia University Scholastic Press Association and Highest Honors from Oklahoma Scholastic Media Association.

Members of the Bishop McGuinness Chi Rhoan newspaper staff – Far left is Caroline Dykstra. Top row from left – Charlotte Edmonds and Ben Miller. Bottom row from left – Beth Sine and Addie Martinez. *Photos provided*.



Across the Archdiocese Sooner Catholic Across the Archdiocese 8 April 17, 2016 Sooner Catholic



## **Gaillardia Country Club Monday** June 6, 2016 **Shotgun Starts**

**Benefiting Catholic Education** 

Two Flights to Choose: The Schools Flight teams compete for the Archbishop's Trophy plus Grant money to go to the winning Team's School. The Foundation Mixed Flight is our general flight with prizes for both an A & B Section. In addition Mulligan

Packages are available. They include 2 regular

mulligans, a play-up hole and a roll-the dice hole.

You are invited to play in or support the 15th Annual Catholic Foundation Golf Classic. Over the past 14 years the net proceeds of almost \$430,000 has benefited the Catholic Schools Endowment Funds, established with the vision of lowering the cost of Catholic school tuition at the 19 grade schools and 2 high schools in the

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,

#### **Tournament Fees**

so REGISTER EARLY.

FI. 1 . 0			
Flight Sponsor (2 teams)	\$5,000		
DBLEagle Sponsor (1 team)	\$2,400		
Team Sponsor (4 players)	\$1700		
Team Entry (4 players)	\$1,400		
Single Player	\$350		
Premium Hole Sponsor	\$500		
(no play)			
Hole Sponsor (no play)	\$300		
Donation (support School	s) \$		
Team Mulligan Package,			
for Mixed Flights	\$100		
Mulligan Package, per player \$25			
for Mixed Flights, Prices			
goes to \$30 on day of play			
Regular Mulligans, each	\$12.50		

Per player, for Schools Flights, Prices goes to \$15 on day of play Total:

Mail Registration to CFO, PO Box 32180, OKC, OK 73123 Register online at www.cfook.org

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 Foundation Flights are eligible to compete for this traveling trophy

Team or Sponsor Name:	Schools Flight □ All-Parish
Contact: Phone	
Player I	Player 3
Address	Address
City State ZipPh:	City State Zip Ph:
E-mail	E-mail
Handicap	Handicap
Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL	Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WX
Player 2	Player 4
Address	Address
City State ZipPh:	CityStateZipPh:
E-mail	E-mail
Handicap	Handicap
Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WXL	Shirt: S M L XL 2XL 3XL WS WM WL WX

## St. Gregory's Abbey holds annual Oblate Day on Divine Mercy Sunday

SHAWNEE – Fourteen men and women dedicated themselves to Christ-centered prayer life by participating in Saint Gregory's Abbey's annual Oblate Day on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Benedictine Oblates are men and women who formally affiliate themselves with a Benedictine community and who strive to incorporate the practices of Benedictine prayer and spirituality into their everyday lives to the degree that their state in life permits. St. Gregory's Abbey has more than 200 oblates, living mainly in Oklahoma, Texas and California.

Along with the induction of new oblates, the community gathered to pray the divine office and discussed the importance of mercy in Benedictine spirituality as part of a special Year of Mercy presentation delivered by Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., abbot of Saint Gregory's Abbey.

"St. Benedict offers much to benefit persons of all walks of life in our contemporary society. His "Rule for Monasteries" contains a wealth of wisdom not only for monks and nuns, but for anyone who seeks balance, stability and ongoing conversion in their Christian journey," Abbot Lawrence said. "It is very gratifying and encouraging for the monks of Saint Gregory's Abbey to be a source for those seeking to learn more about Saint Benedict and Benedictine spirituality. Those who become Benedictine Oblates of Saint Gregory's Abbey truly are a part of our extended community and we appreciate their witness and prayerful support."

For more information about becoming a Benedictine Oblate, call (405) 878-5490, or go online to www.monksok.org.

The following individuals became Oblate Novices:

Ann Arra (Norman) Mark Endriss (Shawnee) Phil Todd (Shawnee) Tara Turner (Shawnee) Josh Young (Shawnee) The following individuals took Final Oblation:

Michael Ballinger (Shawnee) Chuck Barber (Shawnee) Mike Butt (Ponca City) Theresa Butt (Ponca City) Concepcion Diaz Jackson (OKC) Brad Maberry (OKC) Chandra Miller (Okmulgee) Ashley Parmer (Shawnee) Cynthia Pittman (Denton, Texas)



Photo courtesy of Br. George Hubl, O.S.B.

#### Schools observe Child Abuse Prevention Month



Bishop John Carroll students were honored to be part of the Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention Awards held April 12 at the State Capitol. The awards were presented by the Oklahoma Department of Health and the Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee. Students Sterling Kovash, Melissa Gathings, Thien-An Nguyen, Natalie Edmonds, Grace Engel and J.R. Gray read the poem by Ina Hughes, "We Pray for Children."



#### Report Abuse

Report known or suspected neglect or abuse, by calling the Department of Human Services Statewide Abuse Hotline: (800) 522-3511. Reporting is mandatory if the victim is under age 18.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

In addition, report abuse by archdiocesan personnel or someone representing the Catholic Church by contacting the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline: (405) 720-9878 or the Office of the Vicar General: (800) 721-5651.

Blue ribbon trees at Holy Family, Lawton and St. Mary, Ponca

## Our Lady of Lebanon brings Maronite faith to Norman

By Olivia Biddick For the Sooner Catholic

Our Lady of Lebanon in Norman is the only Maronite Church in central Oklahoma. Until recently, the closest Maronite church for the parish's community was in Tulsa, with the second closest in Lewisville, Texas; the sister parish to the one in Norman. There are about 90 established Maronite parishes in the United States.

Although the Lebanese, Maronite Catholic is a minority within a minority in Oklahoma, the community's need for a place to worship in their own Rite was apparent.

Rudy Khouri, president of the parish and owner of Norman's La Baguette, was inspired to build a church for his mother, who missed her home country and its churches. The Church, built by 17 families, aims to serve the Maronites in central Oklahoma, allowing them to preserve a centuries-old tradition of Catholic faith, and to pass it on to their children. It also aims to share the rich heritage with the larger community. Our Lady of Lebanon is fully integrated with the Apostolic Church, celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The six-year anniversary for Our Lady of Lebanon is April 18. Later this spring they will host their annual Lebanese Spring Festival.

The biggest, most salient difference between the Maronite Rite and Latin is the service is spoken in Arabic and Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke) with

some English translations. There is no kneeling; it is only reserved for private prayer and Pentecost. Communion is not passed hand to hand, but hand to mouth.

Our Lady of Lebanon Ma-

ronite Mission

500 Alameda St,

Norman 73071

(405) 321-3097

olol@maroniteok.org

www.maroniteok.org

For the sign of the cross, the acolytes, after receiving a blessing from the priest, walk up to each inner aisle, like ushers, holding their hands in prayer. The person in the pew closest to the center clasps their hands in prayer over the acolytes' hands. That person turns to the person beside them and the exchange repeats until everyone in the pews receives the sign of peace. It's a time for the congregation to participate.

Learning a new style of faith is like learning a new language. The textbook explanation doesn't come close to covering all the nuances and history that are a part of the culture that speaks the language.

However, there is something very familiar about Our Lady of Lebanon, because the Church's universality is unquestionable. Wherever a parishioner is in the world, whatever language is being used, the Church's service is the same.

Olivia Biddick is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



## Pastoral ministry program summer 2016 schedule

The Pastoral Ministry Program, in affiliation with Newman University in Wichita, Kan., offers theological education and formation for ministry. All members of the archdiocese are increasingly responsible for the life and ministry of the Church.

Theology and ministry courses are offered during spring, summer and fall semesters for the education and formation of persons for ministry in the Church. Courses may be taken for college credit (with the possibility of a bachelor's in pastoral ministry from Newman University or an archdiocesan diploma) or may be audited for personal enrichment or taken for non-credit continuing education and ongoing formation.

#### Tuition and costs:

Credit: 3-hour course, \$175, plus textbooks. Personal enrichment/ audit: \$100, plus textbooks. Graduates of our program – continuing education (no credit given): \$80, plus textbooks.

Classes may be attended at the following locations, connected via videoconferencing. Be sure to check availability of your site when registering.

Catholic Pastoral Center 7501 Northwest Expressway OKC 73132

Prince of Peace 1500 Falcon Rd. Altus 73521

Saint Mary 115 E. Street S.W. Ardmore 73401-4735

110 N. Madison Enid 73702-3527 Saint Peter

Saint Francis Xavier

1220 N. Quinn St. Guymon 73942-0731 Saint Peter

2020 Oklahoma Ave.

Woodward 73801-4256

Saint Mary 1218 Knox Ave. Clinton 73601-1295

Holy Family Lawton 73505-4103

#### Summer 2016 Schedule

The History and Theology of the Mass: A Walk through Sacred Space Tuesday evenings, June 7 – July

26, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Erin Snow From the practical domus ecclesia of the early Church to the soaring cathedrals Gothic cathedrals to the shell and round modern churches to the return to traditional elements in the New Classical churches, sacred architecture both expresses and shapes our understanding of who we are as the people of God. This course will examine the history and theology of the Eucharistic celebration using sacred architecture to explore the ways in which the worshipping community understands and interacts with each other and the Triune God. Using architectural elements that manifest and explain certain movements within liturgical practice, these elements can be applied to enhance the preparation and experience of current worship.

The History of the Papacy Thursday evenings, June 9 – July 28, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Mike Chavez

This course will explore the rich history, tradition and role of the papacy. Beginning with Saint Peter

and continuing through the papacy of Francis, the course will consider the evolution and development of the papacy through significant time periods in history as well as individual popes, key concepts and papal documents.

For information or to register, contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, (405) 721-4208, (800) 721-5651 Ext. 131, cgrimes@archokc.org or dkoorie@archokc.org. Go online to www.archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministry/home.





Students in the Pastoral Ministry Program

Archdiocesan Diploma D.W. Hearn - Eric Phan Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, Newman University Karen Kreger - Long Luong - Rachael Perry

Saturday, May 7, 2016 Morning Prayer, 10 a.m., Archbishop Paul Coakley

Reception following Catholic Pastoral Center chapel and foyer Reply by April 27 with number of people attending (405) 721-4208, (800) 721-5651, Ext. 131 cgrimes@archokc.org

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## God's Not Dead 2 misses mark on religious liberty

**By John Mulderig** Catholic News Service



NEW YORK – The very real threats to religious freedom in contemporary society

could serve as the theme for a valuable documentary or a thought-provoking drama.

What we get with "God's Not Dead 2" (Pure Flix), however, is a flawed message movie undermined from the start by a fictional premise that feels thoroughly implausible.

In following up on his 2014 original, director Harold Cronk, along with returning screen-writers Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon, shifts the scene from the groves of secularist academe to the halls of an Anywhere, USA, public high school.

There, history teacher, and committed evangelical believer, Grace Wesley (Melissa Joan Hart) is asked a question regarding the Christian antecedents of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s strategy of nonviolence during the civil rights movement. (She has already covered the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Rev. King.)

Grace responds by citing Jesus' famous admonition, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." Whereupon all hell breaks loose.

Never mind that Grace has done nothing that could possibly be seen as proselytizing in the

classroom; that she has invoked no specifically religious belief such as the divinity of Christ or his role as mankind's savior; that her answer is strictly factual and thoroughly within the appropriate confines of the discussion. Faster than you can say Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the administration is down on her like a pack of wolves – closely followed by the school board and the American Civil Liberties Union.

If only Grace would apologize for her lapse in judgment, all would be forgiven. But, she remains steadfast. So, it's off to court, where she'll be represented by untried but good-hearted lawyer Tom Endler (Jesse Metcalfe).

Cheering Grace on from the sidelines – and providing her with emotional and spiritual support – is her kindly grandfather, Walter (Pat Boone). Leading the charge against her is the American Civil Liberty Union's serpentine lead attorney, Peter Kane (Ray Wise).

Kane oozes sweet reasonableness, yet he rests his case on the thoroughly irrational notion that Jesus never existed. The debate that follows showcases the interesting work of J. Warner Wallace, a veteran Los Angeles County cold-case detective who applied police investigative techniques to examining the evidence about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But, the fact that Kane is a straw man pursuing an unrealistic strategy compromises the impact of Wallace's rebuttal.

It also may be slightly unsettled by the fact that Kane's backup counsel, who hovers around with little to say, looks like a thin Seth



Hayley Orrantia stars in a scene from the movie "God's Not Dead 2." The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. *CNS photo/Pure Flix*.

Rogen playing a young Henry Kissinger. His persona implicitly evokes a stereotype far better left alone.

Taken as a whole, this reaffirmation of belief, though appropriate for most moviegoers, suffers from an off-key tone, a pervasive sense of victimhood and sometimes painful sentimentality.

The film contains mature themes and an instance of harsh parental violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.

## A few quotes from Pope Francis's "Amoris Laetitia"

Selected by Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director of Hispanic Ministry

I have selected at least one quote from each

Here is the first sentence that gives the document its name: "The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church."

Another quote on love from the end of the introductory section says: "It is my hope that, in reading this text, all will feel called to love and cherish family life, for families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity."

**Ch. 1**, "In The Light of the Word," has many quotes from sacred scripture with some short reflections on each: "The couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon – not an idol like those of stone or gold prohibited by the Decalogue – capable of revealing God the Creator and Savior. For this reason, fruitful love becomes a symbol of God's inner life."

**Ch. 2**, "The Experiences and Challenges of Families," in addition to giving specific examples of the difficulties in love in the family, the pope speaks of love in this way: "The strength of the family 'lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. For all a family's problems, it can always grow, beginning with love."

**Ch. 3**, "Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family," is a summary of church teaching on marriage and the family. After speaking on the importance of the kerygma in all Christian formation the Holy Father gave us the following



A newly married couple hold rosaries in their hands as they leave Pope Francis's general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 24. CNS photo/Paul

warning: "Our teaching on marriage and the family cannot fail to be inspired and transformed by this message of love and tenderness; otherwise, it becomes nothing more than the defense of a dry and lifeless doctrine."

**Ch. 4**, "Love in Marriage," is my favorite chapter. Here the Holy Father gives us a beautiful meditation on 1 Corinthians 13, St. Paul's Hymn to Love. He begins the chapter by sharing every unique description of love that Paul gives us. He then connects this to Christ's sacrifice in the cross. Here are a few words after speaking about the Lord's sacrifice: "The Spirit which the Lord pours forth gives a new heart and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ loved us. Conjugal love reaches that fullness to which it is interiorly ordained: conjugal charity." A few lines later he reminds us that: "Marriage is the icon of God's love for us."

I totally recommend that everyone take time to at the very least read chapter four.

**Ch. 5**, "Love Made Fruitful,"

is a wonderful restatement of church teaching on openness to life within the marriage: "Love always gives life. Conjugal love 'does not end with the couple. ... The couple, in giving themselves to one another, give not just themselves but also the reality of children, who are a living reflection of their love."

**Ch. 6**, "Some Pastoral Perspectives," here is some of the novelty in the document regarding preparation for marriage. "Married couples are grateful that their pastors uphold the high ideal of a love that is strong, solid, enduring and capable of sustaining them through whatever trials they may have to face."

After speaking on the importance of accompanying engaged couples on their journey to the sacramental celebration of their marriage, the Pope also added: "Learning to love someone does not happen automatically, nor can it be taught in a workshop just prior to the celebration of marriage." This opens the door to new ways, some already in place, to prepare couples for marriage.

**Ch. 7**, "Towards a Better Education of Children," reaffirms the parent's responsibility in the Christian upbringing of their children, but it doesn't stop there. The Holy Father reminds us the faith community also cooperates in the education of children. A special mention is made of Catholic Schools: "Catholic schools should be encouraged in their mission to help

Prayer to the Holy Family
By Pope Francis
(Conclusion to "Amoris
Laetitia")

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

lability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.

Holy Family of Nazareth,

make us once more mindful

of the sacredness and invio-

pupils grow into mature adults who can view the world with the love of Jesus and who can understand life as a call to serve God."

Ch. 8, "Accompanying, Discerning and Integrating Weakness," here you can find some recommendations on how to respond pastorally to the unique situations many married couples are going through. I can imagine how the secular press might give this section more attention. The section states what marriage is supposed to be realizes that many are not there: "Christian marriage, as a reflection of the union between Christ and his Church, is fully realized in the union between a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in a free, faithful and exclusive love, who belong to each other until death and are open to the transmission of life, and are consecrated by the sacrament, which grants them the grace to become a domestic church and a leaven of new life for society. Some forms of union radically contradict this ideal, while others realize it in at least a partial

and analogous way.'

The mercy and love of God is for everyone and we are being called by the Holy Father to reach out with love to our brothers and sisters that live in other forms of union. The Holy Father used the example of the Samaritan Woman to show us how Jesus reached out to those living in different situations when he: "... addressed her desire for true love, in order to free her from the darkness in her life and to bring her to the full joy of the Gospel."

Ch. 9, "The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family," is the final chapter and within it you can find a beautiful reflection of the married couple's intimacy with a loving God: "The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. Living in a family makes it hard for us to feign or lie; we cannot hide behind a mask. If that authenticity is inspired by love, then the Lord reigns there, with his joy and his peace. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place. This mutual concern 'brings together the human and the divine,' for it is filled with the love of God. In the end, marital spirituality is a spirituality of the bond, in which divine love dwells.'

## A Holy Year in Rome

**By Monica Knudsen**For the Sooner Catholic



Imagine such scant papal security that during the opening of

the Holy Doors in Holy Year 1949, pilgrims carried scissors to snip a fragment from Pope Pius XII's cassock. According to a horrified witness, Father John Charles-Roux, the Pope returned to his apartments with a trimmed hem and cuts on his legs. Author Joan Lewis presents fascinating behind-the-scenes stories in her newest book, "A Holy Year in Rome: the Complete Pilgrim's Guide for the Jubilee of Mercy."

Far more than a Jubilee Year guide, the writing in this 211-page book gracefully describes why we pilgrims are seekers of closeness to God; "our yearning to know who God is, to understand His goodness, His love for us. ... A yearning to understand how truly unimportant everything else is, if it does not lead us to God."

The author notes that pilgrimages are an inversion of the Gospel mission; "as the faithful seek the route that brings them back to the Father's house."

Beyond the spiritual, Lewis conveys the Eternal City's magic, "the history, the art, the majestic basilicas, the elegant bridges, the splendid piazzas, the cobblestone streets, the bubbling fountains, and the symphony of church bells."

Chapters include descriptions and color photos of the seven major basilicas, a history of Jubilee years, Vatican City State, the Catacombs and so much more, including 18 additional historic churches to visit just a few of Rome's many hundreds.

This is a book for every year. For example, the chapter on Castel Gandolfo, the Popes' centuries-old summer residence, refers to how to book a new full-day tour of the Vatican Museums, Vatican Gardens and Castel Gandolfo (pgs. 188-189). How to visit the Vatican complex, a Jubilee Year Calendar of Events, and practical advice concerning taxis, tipping, drinking water, staying safe, traveling with children and even a few of Joan's favorite restaurants are included.

I was privileged as a recent Rome traveler, along with my former classmate, Anne, to join her at two of these, La Vittoria and La Scaletta Degli Artisti. Joan Lewis was a young French teacher in our Catholic high school in Silver Spring, Md., not much older than her students. A chance viewing of her tour of a Jerusalem church on EWTN television caught my attention, and voila!, after several e-mails, the three of us enjoyed a joyous Roman reunion 45 years after our high school days.

Joan Lewis is the EWTN Rome Bureau Chief and has lived and worked in Rome for more than 30 years. On the book jacket's review blurb, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, writes, "Leave it to Joan to make us feel at home in Rome!"

"A Holy Year in Rome" is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble on order, and Sophia Institute Press, by phone at (603) 641-9344 or online at www.sophiainstitute.com.

## The Papal Basilicas in Rome

To enter the Holy Doors in Rome, pilgrims are asked to register their visit. This can be done online at www. iubilaeummisericordiae.va. Click Participate, then Pilgrim Registration.

Saint Peter's Basilica:

The site where Saint Peter was martyred and where his bones remain today. The largest church in the world and the final resting place of many saints and popes, including Pope Saint John Paul II.

Archbasilica
of Saint John
Lateran:
The pope's ca-

the pope's cathedral and the mother church of all the world.

Basilica of Saint Mary Major:
The first church in Rome dedicated to the Mother of God. Holds the relics of the manger where

Jesus was laid after he was born.

**Basilica of Saint Paul Outside** the Walls:

The burial place of Saint Paul.

People touch the foot of the statue of St. Peter in St. Peter's Basilica. CNS photo/Paul Haring.

Pope Francis celebrates Mass outside Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran on the feast of Corpus Christi June 4. CNS photo/Paul Haring.

## Year of Mercy pins available for Oklahoma pilgrimages

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has designated eight Holy Doors for pilgrimages through Nov. 20

At each Holy Door site, passports are available with information on corporal and spiritual works of mercy, how to gain a jubilee indulgence and how to attain a Year of Mercy pin.

After visiting at least three Holy Doors, Oklahoma Year of Mercy pins are now available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Present the passport to receive a pin. The Holy Doors are located at:

▼ The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual
Help - OKC

- saint Joseph Old Cathedral OKC Saint Wenceslaus Prague
- Saint Gregory's Abbey Shawnee
- 🗷 Saint Peter Woodward
- 🗷 Saint Mary Ponca City
- us Holy Cross Madill us Blessed Sacrament - Lawton
- For more information, go online to www. archokc.org, click on Offices and Year of

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## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

## Una mirada a "La Alegría del Amor"

"La Alegría del Amor" (Amoris Laetitia) es la recién publicada exhortación apostólica del Papa Francisco "Sobre el Amor en la Familia". Sirve como un complemento adecuado a su primera exhortación apostólica, "La Alegría del Evangelio" (Evangelii Gaudium) lanzado en el 2013.

Mientras ambas se caracterizan por su modo de escribir accesible, fresco y muy concreto, esta última exhortación es mucho más larga, y considerablemente más compleja al tratar de las muchas realidades que enfrentan las familias y parejas casadas en todo el mundo. "La Alegría del Amor" es el fruto de las deliberaciones de los últimos dos Sínodos de los Obispos sobre el matrimonio y la familia, que se llevaron a cabo en 2014 y 2015.

"Si se tiene en cuenta la innumerable diversidad de situaciones concretas", escribe Francisco, "puede comprenderse que no debía esperarse del Sínodo o de esta exhortación una nueva normativa general de tipo canónica, aplicable a todos los casos". (AL 300)

El Papa toma un enfoque muy diferente. El no ofrece nueva enseñanza ni tampoco cambia doctrinas de la Iglesia, lo que muchas personas habían esperado o temido. Sitúa esta exhortación dentro de la tradición viva de la Iglesia enraizada en las Escrituras, las enseñanzas de los papas anteriores, el Concilio Vaticano II y de las conferencias episcopales. Es una enseñanza sin embargo, que debe ser aplicada a través de un discernimiento pastoral cuidadoso de las situaciones particulares en las que las personas se encuentran y a través de un acompañamiento amoroso por los pastores de la Iglesia y agentes de pastoral.

"El matrimonio cristiano, reflejo de la unión entre Cristo y su Iglesia, se realiza plenamente en la unión entre un varón y una mujer, que se donan reciprocamente en un amor exclusivo y en libre fidelidad, se pertenecen hasta la muerte y se abren a la comunicación de la vida, consagrados

por el sacramento." Este es un buen resumen de la concepción tradicional del ideal cristiano del matrimonio. "Otras formas de unión contradicen radicalmente este ideal, pero algunas lo realizan al menos de modo parcial y análogo." (AL 292)

Hablando de los primeros, Francisco afirma que "No existe ningún fundamento para asimilar o establecer analogías, ni siquiera remotas, entre las uniones homosexuales y el designio de Dios sobre el matrimonio y la familia... Es inaceptable que las iglesias locales sufran presiones en esta materia." (AL 251)

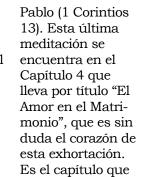
Al mismo tiempo se habla de personas que sufren de la atracción al mismo sexo, el Papa reafirma "que toda persona, independientemente

de su tendencia sexual, ha de ser respetada en su dignidad y acogida con respeto, procurando evitar todo signo de discriminación injusta y particularmente cualquier forma de agresión y violencia". (AL 250)

En la introducción a "La Alegría del Amor" Francisco escribe: "No recomiendo una lectura general apresurada. Podrá ser mejor aprovechada, tanto por las familias como por los agentes de pastoral familiar, si la profundizan pacientemente

parte por parte o si buscan en ella lo que puedan necesitar en cada circunstancia concreta." (AL 7) Uno de los riesgos, por supuesto, es que ciertos pasajes del documento pueden tomarse fuera de contexto o que el texto se utilizara sólo para recoger fragmentos de citas, sin hacer el esfuerzo necesario para comprender realmente la enseñanza en su riqueza y matices.

El texto de casi 270 páginas incluye dos meditaciones extendidas de las Escrituras, el Salmo 128 en el capítulo 1 y El Himno al Amor de San



Para obtener

una copia de "La

Alegría del Amor,

ir en línea para

w2.vatican.va/

es.html.

content/vatican/

Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

probablemente será de mayor interés para las parejas casadas. Las percepciones psicológicas y la apreciación del mundo emocional de los cónyuges, incluyendo las dimensiones eróticas de su

amor no tiene precedentes en los documentos papales.

Otros capítulos tratan las experiencias reales y complejos desafios de las familias, las variedades de formas que el amor se hace fecundado en el matrimonio, incluyendo, por supuesto, a través de la procreación y recibimiento alegre de los hijos. Hay capítulos sobre la educación de los hijos y la espiritualidad matrimonial y familiar.

Mientras que apoya el ideal completo del matrimonio cristiano y llama a todos a una respuesta más completa a la gracia de Dios. Francisco vuelve a una imagen que se ha utilizado a menudo: la Iglesia como hospital de un campo de guerra. (AL 291) Todos nosotros experimentamos quebrantamiento en nuestras vidas. Necesitamos experimentar el toque sanador de la misericordia a través de la Iglesia.

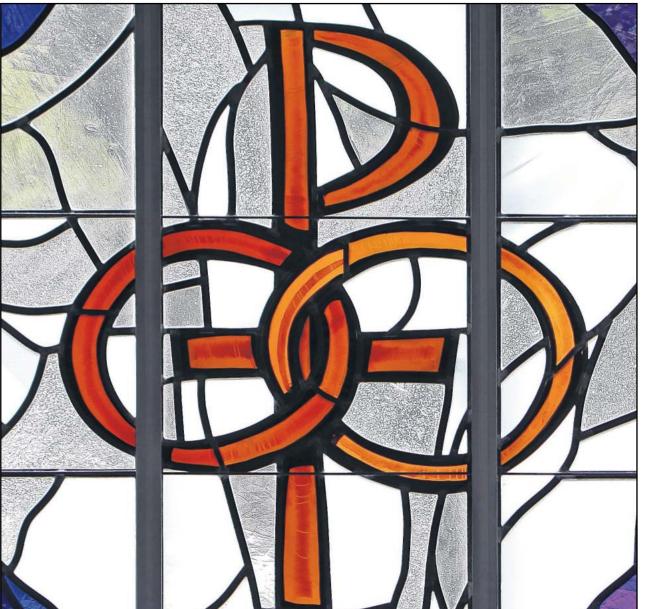
El capítulo ocho se titula, "Acompañar, Discernir e Integrar la Fragilidad". Este es el capítulo que probablemente será de mayor interés para los sacerdotes que están llamados a atender a aquellas parejas cuya experiencia vivida es a menudo menos que ese ideal completo.

El enfoque pastoral que el Santo Padre propone llama a un discernimiento personal y pastoral cuidadoso de todas las circunstancias y en esos casos "irregulares", incluyendo aquellas parejas que se divorcian, la cohabitación, o que no están en un matrimonio sacramental, o que están divorciados y se volvieron a casar civilmente solamente. Se invita a los pastores a acompañar pacientemente estas parejas con la esperanza de reintegrarse gradualmente en la medida posible a la vida de la comunidad cristiana.

El acompañamiento es la clave. Francisco escribe, "un pastor no puede sentirse satisfecho sólo aplicando leyes morales a quienes viven en situaciones 'irregulares', como si fueran rocas que se lanzan sobre la vida de las personas." (AL 305) Mediante el acompañamiento y discernimiento pastoral pastores ayuda parejas a encontrar posibles formas de responder a Dios y crecer en medio de los límites. El Santo Padre reconoce los retos y enmarañado que puede ser este enfoque.

'Comprendo a quienes prefieren una pastoral más rígida que no dé lugar a confusión alguna. Pero creo sinceramente que Jesucristo quiere una Iglesia atenta al bien que el Espíritu derrama en medio de la fragilidad: una Madre que, al mismo tiempo que expresa claramente su enseñanza objetiva, 'no renuncia al bien posible, aunque corra el riesgo de mancharse con el barro del camino.'

En última instancia, Francisco señala que es providencial que estas reflexiones vienen durante el Jubileo de la Misericordia como nos advierte, "Es verdad que a veces 'nos comportamos como controladores de la gracia y no como facilitadores. Pero la Iglesia no es una aduana, es la casa paterna donde hay lugar para cada uno con su vida a cuestas'." (AL 310)



## Algunas citas de "Amoris Laetitia"

Seleccionadas por Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE Director del Ministerio Hispano

He seleccionado al menos una cita de cada

Esta es la primera frase del documento, que le da origen a su título: "La alegría del amor que se vive en las familias es también el júbilo de la Iglesia".

Aquí hay otra cita sobre el amor tomada del final de la sección introductoria: "Espero que cada uno, a través de la lectura, se sienta llamado a cuidar con amor la vida de las familias. porque ellas 'no son un problema, son principalmente una oportunidad'.

Cap. 1, "A la Luz de la Palabra", tiene muchas citas de la Sagrada Escritura con algunas reflexiones breves sobre cada uno: "La pareja que ama y genera la vida es la verdadera 'escultura' viviente — no aquella de piedra u oro que el Decálogo prohíbe —, capaz de manifestar al Dios creador y salvador. Por eso el amor fecundo llega a ser el símbolo de las realidades íntimas de Dios".

Cap. 2, "Realidad y Desafios de las Familias", además de dar ejemplos específicos de las dificultades en el amor en la familia el Papa también habla de amor de esta manera: "La fuerza de la familia 'reside esencialmente en su capacidad de amar y enseñar a amar. Por muy herida que pueda estar una familia, esta puede crecer gracias al amor'."



Una pareja recién casada mantienen rosarios en las manos. Foto CNS/Paul Haring.

Cap. 3, "La Mirada Puesta en Jesús: Vo-

cación de la Familia", es un resumen de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre el matrimonio y la familia. Después de hablar sobre la importancia del kerigma en toda la formación cristiana el Santo Padre nos dio la siguiente advertencia: "Nuestra enseñanza sobre el matrimonio y la familia no puede dejar de inspirarse y de

transfigurarse a la luz de este anuncio de amor y de ternura, para no convertirse en una mera defensa de una doctrina fría y sin vida".

Cap. 4, "El Amor en el Matrimonio", es mi capítulo favorito. Aquí el Santo Padre nos da una hermosa meditación en 1 Corintios 13, el famoso Himno al Amor de San Pablo. Él comienza el capítulo reflexionando sobre cada descripción del amor que nos da San Pablo. A continuación, conecta este amor con el sacrificio de Cristo en la cruz. Aquí les ofrezco una cita del Papa después de hablar de sacrificio del Señor: 'El Espíritu que infunde el Señor renueva el corazón y hace al hombre y a la mujer capaces de amarse como Cristo nos amó. El amor conyugal alcanza de este modo la plenitud a la que está ordenado interiormente, la caridad conyugal'. También nos dice: "El matrimonio es el icono del amor de Dios por nosotros".

Les recomiendo a todos que tomen tiempo para por lo menos leer este capítulo cuatro.

**Cap. 5**, "Amor que se Vuelve Fecundo", es una maravillosa repetición de la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre la apertura a la vida dentro del matrimonio:

"El amor siempre da vida. Por eso, el amor conyugal no se agota dentro de la pareja... Los cónyuges, a la vez que se dan entre sí, dan más allá de sí mismos la realidad del hijo, reflejo viviente de su amor..."

**Cap. 6**, "Algunas Perspectivas Pastorales", aquí encontramos algo de la novedad en el documento respecto a la preparación para el matrimonio. "... los matrimonios agradecen que los pastores les ofrezcan motivaciones para una valiente apuesta por un amor fuerte, sólido, duradero, capaz de hacer frente a todo lo que se le cruce por delante".

Después de hablar sobre la importancia de acompañar a los novios en su viaje a la celebración sacramental de su matrimonio, el Papa también ha añadido: "Aprender a amar a alguien no es algo que se improvisa ni puede ser el obietivo de un breve curso previo a la celebración del matrimonio". Esto abre la puerta a nuevas formas, algunas ya puestas en práctica, para preparar parejas para el matrimonio.

Cap. 7, "Fortalecer la Educación de los Hijos", reafirma la responsabilidad de los padres en la crianza cristiana de sus hijos, pero no se detiene alli. El Santo Padre nos recuerda que la comunidad de fe también coopera en la educación de los niños. Se hace una mención especial de las Escuelas Católicas: "Las escuelas católicas deberían ser alentadas en su misión de Dios. En definitiva, la espiritualidad matride ayudar a los alumnos a crecer como adultos monial es una espiritualidad del vínculo habitmaduros que pueden ver el mundo a través de ado por el amor divino".

Oración a la Sagrada Familia Por el Papa Francisco (Conclusión de Amoris Laetitia)

Jesús, María y José en vosotros contemplamos el esplendor del verdadero amor, a vosotros, confiados, nos dirigimos.

Santa Familia de Nazaret, haz también de nuestras familias lugar de comunión y cenáculo de oración, auténticas escuelas del Evangelio y pequeñas iglesias domésticas.

Santa Familia de Nazaret, que nunca más haya en las familias episodios de violencia, de cerrazón y división; que quien haya sido herido o escandalizado sea pronto consolado y curado.

Santa Familia de Nazaret, haz tomar conciencia a todos del carácter sagrado e inviolable de la familia, de su belleza en el proyecto de

Jesús, María y José, escuchad, acoged nuestra súplica. Amén

la mirada de amor de Jesús y comprender la vida como una llamada a servir a Dios".

> es el capítulo donde se pueden encontrar algunas recomendaciones sobre cómo responder pastoralmente a las situaciones específicas que muchas parejas casadas están pasando. Me puedo imaginar cómo la prensa secular podría darle a esta sección más atención. Esta sección del documento establece lo que el matrimonio debería ser mientras que reconoce que muchas parejas no están allí: "El matrimonio cristiano, reflejo de la unión entre Cristo y su Iglesia, se realiza plenamente en la unión entre un varón y una mujer, que se donan recíprocamente en un amor exclusivo y en libre fidelidad, se pertenecen

hasta la muerte y se abren a la

sagrados por el sacramento que

les confiere la gracia para con-

stituirse en iglesia doméstica y

en fermento de vida nueva para

unión contradicen radicalmente

este ideal, pero algunas lo reali-

zan al menos de modo parcial y

la sociedad. Otras formas de

comunicación de la vida, con-

Cap. 8, "Acompañar, Dis-

cernir e Integrar la Fragilidad",

La misericordia y el amor de Dios es para todos y el Santo Padre nos está llamando a todos a llevar este amor a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que viven en otras formas de unión. El Santo Padre utilizó el ejemplo de la Samaritana para mostrarnos cómo Jesús se acercó a los que viven en diferentes situaciones. El Señor Jesús: "dirigió una palabra a su deseo de amor verdadero, para liberarla de todo lo que oscurecía su vida y conducirla a la alegría plena del Evangelio".

análogo".

Cap. 9, "Espiritualidad Matrimonial y Familiar", es el capítulo final y dentro de él se puede encontrar un bello reflejo sobre la intimidad de la pareja casada unida con un Dios de amor: "La presencia del Señor habita en la familia real y concreta, con todos sus sufrimientos, luchas, alegrías e intentos cotidianos. Cuando se vive en familia, allí es dificil fingir y mentir, no podemos mostrar una máscara. Si el amor anima esa autenticidad, el Señor reina allí con su gozo y su paz. La espiritualidad del amor familiar está hecha de miles de gestos reales y concretos. En esa variedad de dones v de encuentros que maduran la comunión, Dios tiene su morada. Esa entrega asocia 'a la vez lo humano y lo divino', porque está llena del amor

## Broches para Año de Misericordia disponibles para peregrinaciones

Durante el Jubileo de Misericordia, la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ha designado ocho Puertas Santas para peregrinaciones hasta el 20 de noviembre.

A cada sitio de una Puerta Santa, están disponibles pasaportes con información sobre las obras de misericordia corporal y espiritual, cómo obtener una indulgencia para el jubileo, y cómo obtener un

broche para el Año de Misericor-

Después de visitar al menos tres Puertas Santas, broches del Año de Misericordia Oklahoma están disponibles al Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway en Oklahoma City. Presente el pasaporte para recibir un broche.

Las Puertas Santas están ubica-

La Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Socorro Perpetuo - OKC San José Catedral Vieja – OKC

San Wenceslao - Prague La Abadía de San Gregorio -Shawnee

San Pedro - Woodward Santa María – Ponca City Santa Cruz – Madill Santísimo Sacramento – Lawton Para más información, ir en línea

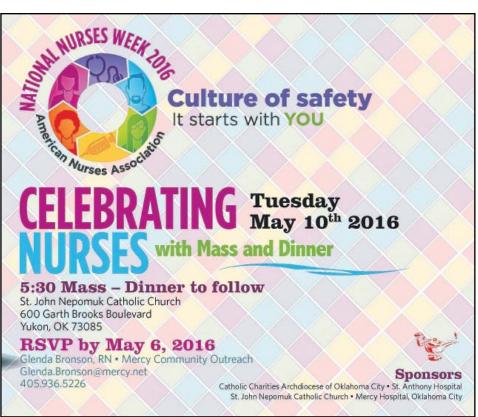
a www.archokc.org, haga clic en Offices y Year of Mercy.



Sooner Catholic Local Local 14 April 17, 2016 Sooner Catholic April 17, 2016 15



The Sooner Catholic goes to Rome! Parishioners from Oklahoma and Maryland gather in St. Peter's Square March 2 for Pope Francis's general audience. Left to right: Heidi Johnson, Ann Quinn Glickman, Kay Fife, Bob Reichert, Andrea McCoy, Doris Stone, Mary Packham, Monica Knudsen, Barbara Elter. Photo Barbara Smola



#### Pilgrimage to Ireland

Fr. Carl William Janocha will lead a pilgrimage to Ireland Nov. 2-12. The trip is \$2,949 per person, including airfare from OKC, four-star hotels, most meals and more. Sites include Waterford

Area, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Knock and Dublin. Highlights will be a visit to Blarney Castle, a visit to the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher and the Book of Kells. Contact Fr. Janocha at (580) 395-2148; cwjanocha@kanokla.net.



#### Are you listening?

Would it surprise you to know that I have been guilty of taking my faith for granted? I grew up in a Catholic home and benefitted from a Catholic education. Consequently, my interactions and associations were primarily with other Catholics until I went to college. I was pretty comfortable, thinking most people thought pretty much like me.

I do remember the rude awakening I got when my faith bumped up against a friendly college classmate who told me she was a witch and professed the Wiccan religion. I was literally dumbfounded and did not know how to respond. Today, thanks to discussions and callers on "Catholic Answers Live" and "Call to Communion," carried on Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, I am confident that I would be able to present my faith in a way that would be inviting to others and be able to address many of the common myths or misconceptions about Catholics. Specifically, for me, both "Call to Commu-

#### By Sally Crowe Nash

nion" and "Catholic Answers Live" have enriched my appreciation and understanding.

Find us in Oklahoma City at 97.3 FM; in Tulsa at 94.9 FM; 88.3 in Lawton; 100.7 in Elk City; 88.3 in Prague; 105.7 in Bristow; in Broken Arrow at 102.9; in Shawnee at 107.1; and 90.3 in Antlers.

Donations can be made in several ways. Go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com and click on the Donate link. If you have questions or problems making a donation on the website, call (405) 255-7348 or e-mail Marlene at mstapp4@gmail.com.

#### **Business Owners!**

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Are you interested in being recognized in one of our sponsor recognition spots? Contact Sally Crowe Nash at (405) 441-3798, sallycrowenash@ gmail.com.

If you live in an area that can't pick up one of the Catholic stations, you can listen online at www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com and click on the "Listen Online" button.

## Briefs

#### Saint Ann health fair

On Wednesday, April 20, Saint Ann Retirement Center hosts a health fair and open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the grand theater. The event is free and open to the public. Healthy snacks served; entertainment provided. Representatives from various health-related organizations available to discuss health issues and services. Call (405) 721-0747.

#### Spring mission

St. James the Greater welcomes deacons Eddie Ensley and Robert Herrman from St. Anne in Columbus, Ga., for a spring mission. Presentations at Saturday and Sunday Masses on April 23 and 24 as well as April 25 – 27 at 7 p.m. Receptions following. Daytime sessions at 11 a.m., Mass at 12:05 p.m. with lunch following. The presentations will cover prayer, relationship with Jesus and reconciliation with God, self and others.

#### Spring play at St. Gregory's

"The 39 Steps" is based on a film by Alfred Hitchcock and adapted for stage by Patrick Barlow. The

All performances held at the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center on the St. Gregory's Shawnee campus. Advance tickets available at www. stgregorys.edu.

play will show April 28 to May 1.

#### Tulsa parish hosts dinner

St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Tulsa is hosting 4th annual Dinner Extravaganza on Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Tickets \$100 each, includes dinner, door prizes, music by The Midlife Crisis Band, 99 drawings, and the chance to win a Lincoln MKC or \$25,000. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Project, St. Bernard's ACTS retreats, St. Bernard's next Habitat for Humanity house and The Center of Family Love in Okarche. For tickets, go online to www. stbernardstulsa.org or contact Phil Doerpinghaus (918) 808-0600.

#### Knights golf tournament

The 2016 Knights of Columbus golf tournament will be April 30 at Lakeside Memorial Golf Course in Stillwater. Cost is \$75 per play-

er. Includes green fee, cart, range balls, goodie bag and lunch. Four person scramble, 9 a.m. shotgun start, open to all golfers. Proceeds benefit Oklahoma Special Olympics. Contact Pedro Velasco at (405) 614-4585, pedropvelasco@ yahoo.com.

#### Making a Difference Conference

A conference for response of faith leadership to domestic violence and sexual assault to be held May 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Oklahoma City Community College, Visual & Performing Arts Center Theater, 777 S. May Ave. The one-day education and training program is for pastors and key leadership of all faiths to receive essential information about the issues to address domestic and sexual violence. Archbishop Coakley will offer Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. Register online at www. makingadifferenceconference.com.

#### Golf tournament

Knights of Columbus 6478, Yukon, will host their third annual golf tournament at Crimson Creek Golf Club in El Reno on May 21.

Contact Danny Parks, (405) 620-1985.

#### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program that gives words and materials to share Catholic faith with young children. It is rooted in the educational principles of Maria Montessori, the Bible and the liturgy of the Church. Level 1, Pt. 2 formation training available at Saint Eugene June 15-18 and June 22-25. Contact Susan Ison at sison@steugeneschool.org.

#### St. Gregory's Abbey golf tournament

The fifth annual St. Gregory's Abbey golf tournament will be Monday, June 20, at Lincoln Park Golf Course, West Course, 4001 N.E. Grand Blvd., OKC. Proceeds support ongoing education and health care of monks. Register by May 15 online at www.monksok. org or contact Danielle Roberts at (405) 878-5656.

## Calendar

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

#### **April**

- **17** Fourth Sunday of Easter.
- **17** Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows – Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday following 5 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.
- **19** The Dominican Lay (Third Order) group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Rother House, located at 1229 S.W. 41 in OKC. Contact John or Mary McClernon at (405) 330-6334.
- 19 Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Radiothon. www. okcatholicbroadcasting.com

The Catholic Pastoral Center

seeks an experienced cook for a

full-time position. This position re-

quires some evening and weekend

will have a minimum of five years'

experience in food service. Cater-

ing experience preferred. Submit

resume to nlargent@archokc.org.

Applications available at the CPC,

7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC.

2016

LIFE INSURANCE

work. The successful candidate

Full-time cook

- Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Radiothon.
- Saint Ann Retirement Center health fair from 10 a.m. to 3
- 21 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center chapel and Rm. 136. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.
- Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unfailing means of tapping the inexhaustible mercy of God from the source of our salvation. Thursdays 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave. (405) 420-2527.
- 23 Catholic Singles and Friends will have a Denim and Pearls

- Western style dance at St. Charles Borromeo, N.W. 50 and Grove, at 7 p.m. Dance ends at 11 p.m. Snack foods welcome for sharing table. Contact Dorothy, (405) 604-
- **24** Fifth Sunday of Easter.
- 24 Blue Sunday, day of prayer for the victims of child abuse.
- **25** Feast of St. Mark.
- **28** Bingo at St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., OKC. Food served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo at 6:30 p.m. All games \$10. Door prizes and recognition for players born in April. All players get entry for large flat screen TV drawing in October. Contact Michael Zink, (405) 314-4120.
- **28** Devotion to the Precious

- Blood of Jesus, an unfailing means of tapping the inexhaustible mercy of God from the source of our salvation. Thursdays 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave. (405) 420-
- **29** Feast of St. Catherine of Siena.

2527.

#### May

- Sixth Sunday of Easter.
- 1 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More, Norman, in the library. All are welcome. To learn how Francis lived, plan to attend. Contact Alice at (405) 473-7680.

#### Jobs Box

## Elementary principal

Sacred Heart Catholic School, OKC, seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader of a PreK4 – 8 school with enrollment of more than 200 students. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and have knowledge and understanding of the

faith. Bilingual in Spanish needed.

Candidates should have minimum

of five years teaching experience, preferably in Catholic school, and a master's degree in education field. Position effective July 1. For application, call (405) 721-4202.

#### School principal

Christ the King in Oklahoma City seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as an academic leader of a large Catholic parish school, serving more than 500 students in grades PK-3 through

8. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic who has knowledge and understanding of the faith. Applicants should have a minimum five vears teaching experience, preferably a Catholic school, and a master's degree in education field. At least 18 semester hours of graduate work should be in administration, supervision and curriculum development. For application, contact (405) 721-4202.

# Keeping Our Promise WORLD'S MOS ETHICA COMPANIE WORLD'S MOS ETHICAL COMPANIES



Chris O'Lague (405) 343-9661 Chris.OLague@kofc.org Councils: 1018, 3556, 5160, 12382, 16048

MDRT, SKC

(405) 850-4092

**DISABILITY INSURANCE** 

Trey. Welker@KofC.org

10822, 12518, 12605





(405) 474-6192 Jody.Snowder@KofC.org Councils: 767, 3101, 5440, 6478, 8633, 12669, 14744 Councils: 1038, 4601, 8204,



LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

MDRT, SKC (918) 798-0012 Troy.Snow@KofC.org 775, 1104, 1302, 1677, 7392, 9333, 10388



John.Rice@KofC.org Councils: 1044, 1533, 1537, 3113, 3220, 9334





RETIREMENT ANNUITIES







**Bobby Stevens** 

Bobby.Stevens@KofC.org

Councils: 965, 1287, 2604,

(405) 534-0397



available. To learn more, call Kevin Pierce at 405-514-7660.



**Richard Moore** (405) 641-9582 Richard.Moore@KofC.org Councils: 916, 6477,



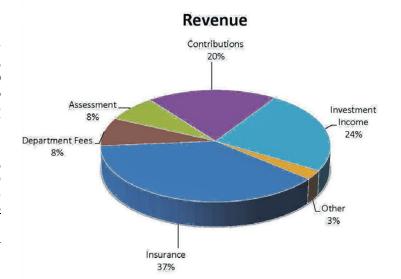
To watch an agent in action, scan here...

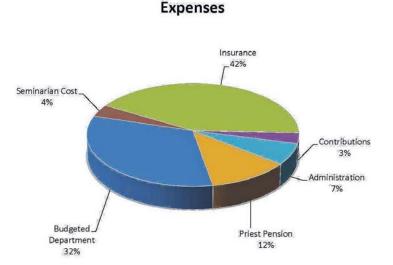


16 April 17, 2016 Sooner Catholic

# Fiscal Year 2015 financial audit results of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

711 CHAIOCCS		
Revenues, gains, and other support:		
Contributions and collections:	2015	2014
Archdiocesan Development Fund	3,210,029	3,132,232
Assessment Archdiocesan Operations Fees and Revenue of Budgeted Departments	1,752,634 1,846,273	1,682,417 1,584,666
Priest Medical Collections	139,960	65,049
Property Additions by Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School	220,307	226,656
Bequests and Other	1,274,782	550,793
Insurance Premiums Earned Oil, Gas, and Royalty Income	8,382,724 852,862	8,678,247 529,941
Interest and Dividend Income:	002,002	020,011
Investments	1,647,796	1,500,576
Notes Receivable	275,408	221,079
Gain on Investments Other Income	2,700,325 <u>379,610</u>	7,777,078 422,095
Other mediae	<u> </u>	+22,095
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	22,682,710	26,370,829
<b>Expenses:</b> Budgeted Departments and Offices:		
Pastoral Center	1,627,961	1,057,741
Business Office	1,130,564	1,234,879
Safe Environment	98,977	70,537
Archdiocesan Newspaper	419,179	440,596
Office of Communication Office of Christian Education	63,230 612,020	98,775 490,361
Youth Ministry	513,372	509,275
Office of Family Life	219,677	220,866
Hispanic Ministry	427,089	408,546
Our Lady of Guadalupe	356,090	346,156
Office of Planning, Stewardship, and Development Ministry to Priests, Permanent Deacons, and Clergy Education	171,920 417,147	191,292 292,013
Hospital Ministry	246,789	240,484
Tribunal	126,272	130,027
Office of Worship and Spiritual Life	245,140	150,837
National Conference of Catholic Bishops -	41.600	41 100
United States Catholic Conference Priests' Welfare, Retirement, and Disability	41,602 36,442	41,120 38,249
Property Taxes and Maintenance	81,725	73,450
Total Budgeted Departments and Offices	6,835,196	6,035,204
Sponsored Programs and Other Subsidies:		
Insurance	8,847,059	8,064,500
Pilgrimage	34,359	38,738
Campus Ministry	124,650	105,600
Ecumenical & Interreligous Contributions Made to Others	16,500 712,838	13,950 2,977,776
Seminarian Programs	799,146	980,653
Pension Cost	485,463	788,739
Interest Expense	343,924	253,393
Other Total Spangared Programs and Other Subsidies	384,637 11,748,576	426,167 13,649,516
Total Sponsored Programs and Other Subsidies Total Expenses	18,583,772	19,684,720
Change in Net Assets Before Other Comprehensive Income	4,098,938	6,686,109
Other Comprehensive Income:	(0 447 220)	A7 Q11
Actuarial Gain (Loss) Change in net Assets	(2,447,332) 1,651,606	47,811 6,733,920
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	109,444,632	102,710,712
Net Assets at End of the Year	111,096,238	109,444,632
Assets	2015	2014
Cash	1,823,801	3,813,393
Accounts Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts Contributions Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	1,508,131 907,478	1,800,118 842,447
Investments	100,770,333	94,138,392
Notes Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	15,118,838	16,508,742
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	52,947,447	50,559,718
Other	35,992	93,317
Total Assets	173,112,020	167,756,127
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	598,834	1,281,466
Contributions Payable, Net of Discount Investments Managed for Related Parties	1,530,122 46,709,566	2,483,026 43,151,160
Accrued Insurance Claims	1,665,148	1,586,658
Bank Borrowings	-	-
Accrued Pension Benefit Cost	11,512,112	9,809,185
Total Liabilities Net Assets:	62,015,782	58,311,495
Net Assets: Unrestricted:		
Designated and Operating	55,979,939	54,307,855
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	(4,553,291)	(2,105,960)
Net Investment in Property and Equipment and Other	52,947,447	50,559,718
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	104,374,095	102,761,613
Temporarily Restricted Permanently Restricted	446,723 <u>6,275,420</u>	534,146 6,148,873
Total Net Assets	111,096,238	109,444,632
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	173,112,020	167,756,127





#### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Risen Lord! As your shepherd, I consider it a solemn responsibility to be a good steward of the financial gifts received by the archdiocese, and to be transparent and accountable to the people of the archdiocese, who have shown great generosity in the support of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and its ministries.

In that spirit, I present this financial report for fiscal year 2014-15. It has been prepared by our archdiocesan business office and reviewed by independent auditors as well as by our archdiocesan finance council. I offer it now for your review.

Numbers on a page can only present an incomplete picture, but hopefully this report provides an overview of the activities and ministries provided by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. I give you my pledge that we are continuing to make every effort to be good and faithful stewards of the financial resources of the archdiocese.

Every good gift comes from a generous and loving God. Our gratitude to God moves us to a generous response in sharing our gifts with others. This is part of discipleship. When we acknowledge that the source of our joy is Jesus Christ, we can't help but share that good news with others. We become what we are called to be. We become missionary disciples!

With the assurance of my prayers and gratitude, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Paul S. Coalily

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley Archbishop of Oklahoma City