

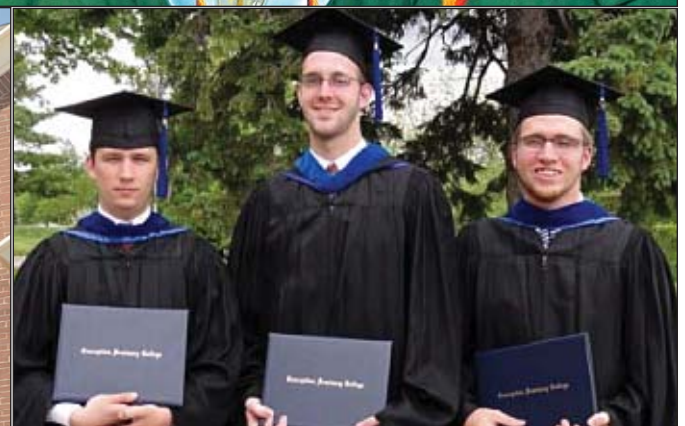
Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 37, Number 11 * May 29, 2011

Graduation 2011

Clockwise: Bishop McGuinness grad Brooke Shewmaker celebrates at the end of graduation May 17; Andrew Horn, Matt Thomason and John Lewis in their caps and gowns for graduation from Conception Seminary; Mount seniors toss their hats after graduation; St. Gregory's grads walk to graduation.



What Have We Learned Since 2002?

In the aftermath of the clergy sexual abuse crisis which erupted in 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to undertake two independent studies to investigate this disastrous betrayal. The first study, examining *The Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons*, was published in 2004. The second study, examining *The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States*, was released on May 18 of this year. It should be clearly noted that these are reports for the bishops, not by the bishops.

These studies represent an unprecedented self-scrutiny, unique among institutions which serve children in the United States or anywhere. We bishops thought it necessary to undertake these studies in order to understand the full extent of the problem and to ascertain whether we are responding appropriately to protect our children and ensure that this sort of violation never happens again.

The report indicates that the Church's failure to prevent the abuse of minors occurred for a variety of reasons. During the period when most of the abuse occurred, there was certainly a lack of adequate reporting mechanisms. There also was a lack of understanding about

the extent of harm inflicted by abuse and an unrealistic confidence in the prospects of an abuser being "cured" through psychological treatment. Today we more clearly understand and unequivocally affirm that any form of child abuse is an unspeakable affront against the dignity of a human person. Moreover, the sexual abuse of a child by a priest, deacon or any Church worker bears an added weight of gravity because it involves the betrayal of a sacred trust.

Though even one incident of the sexual abuse of a single child is wholly unacceptable, the number of priests accused of abuse was not found to be any greater than the number of abusers in the general population or in any other organization. We are grateful for the 96 percent of our priests who have served faithfully. We are ashamed by the criminal and sinful actions of the 4 percent who have brought such sufferings upon victims and their families. As a bishop and priest, I share a deep pastoral concern for each innocent victim and as well as for those priests who have been wrongly accused and whose reputations have been diminished or destroyed. There have been many kinds of victims throughout this period.

The results of the Causes and Context study indicate that there is no single cause to account for the sexual abuse of children by clergy.



Archbishop
Coakley

*"Put out
into the
deep and
lower
your nets
for a
catch."*

Luke 5:4

For instance, it did not find that celibacy was a contributing factor in any way. The sharpest rise in reported incidents occurred during the 1960s and 1970s and then dropped sharply in the mid-1980s. Those were years of great turmoil and upheaval both in society and in the Church. Societal factors, such as the sexual revolution, increased frequency of divorce, a sharp rise in drug abuse, as well as civil and social unrest all parallel the pattern and time frame of the spike in sexual abuse of children and young people by clergy.

The great majority of the reports of abuse across the United States received in the last few years took place more than 25 years ago. One of the reasons that may account for the relatively few incidents of abuse in the 21st century has been the great emphasis which seminaries now

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Sooner Catholic

Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher

Ray Dyer
Editor

Cara Koenig
*Layout / Photographer /
Special Projects*

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

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

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Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

May 29 — Confirmation, St. Andrew Dung-Lac Church, 11 a.m.

May 30 — Mass at Resurrection Cemetery, 8 a.m.

May 31 — Mass at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.

June 1 — Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

June 1 — Thursday, June 2, Catholic Extension Society Board Meeting, Chicago, Ill.

June 3 — Mass and Dinner, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Christ the King Church, 5:30 p.m.

June 5 — Confirmation, Holy Name of Jesus Church, Chickasha, 10 a.m.

June 6 — Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc. Golf Tournament Reception, 4:30 p.m.

June 6 — Thursday, June 9, Clergy Days, Catholic Pastoral Center

June 9 — St. Ann Retirement Center Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8 a.m.

June 10 — Mass for Curriculum Conference attendees, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

June 11 — Legion of Mary Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.

June 11 — Confirmation, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.

June 12 — Confirmation, St. Peter Church, Woodward, 1 p.m.

John Jay Reports No Single Cause, Predictor of Clergy Abuse

WASHINGTON — A landmark study by researchers at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, which examined the causes and context of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the U.S. Catholic Church, concluded that there was no single cause or predictor of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy. The report added that that situational factors and opportunity to abuse played a significant role in the onset and continuation of abusive acts.

“The bulk of cases occurred decades ago,” said Karen Terry, Ph.D., John Jay’s principal investigator for the report. “The increased frequency of abuse in the 1960s and 1970s was consistent with the patterns of increased deviance of society during that time.” She also stated that “social influences intersected with vulnerabilities of individual priests whose preparation for a life of celibacy was inadequate at that time.” Terry also said that neither celibacy nor homosexuality were causes of the abuse, and that priest candidates who would later abuse could not be distinguished by psychological test data, developmental and sexual history data, intelligence data, or experience in priesthood. The development of human formation components of semi-

nary preparation for priesthood is associated with the continued low levels of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests in the United States, she said.

The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010 report by a John Jay College research team, was made public May 18 in Washington. Terry presented the report to Diane Knight, CMSW, chair of the National Review Board, a group of lay Catholics who oversaw the project, and to Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, Wash., who chairs the U.S. Bishops Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

The study also found that the initial, mid-1980s response of bishops to allegations of abuse was to concentrate on getting help for the priest-abusers. Despite the development by the mid-1990s of a comprehensive plan for response to victims and the harms of sexual abuse, diocesan implementation was not consistent or thorough at that time. Yet, the decrease in incidence of sexual abuse cases by clergy was more rapid than the overall societal patterns.

Knight, a social worker from Milwaukee, lauded the work of

John Jay. “Through its extensive processes of data collection and statistical analyses,” she said, “the researchers found that the crisis of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests is an historical problem.”

She added that “researchers also concluded that much of what has been implemented through the Charter is consistent with a model response to the prevention of child abuse. However, this in no way should lull us as a Church into complacency.”

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2002 and has guided their response in dealing with sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Bishop Cupich found hope in the documented progress that shows that “what we are doing works” in addressing child sexual abuse. He said that the inability to predict individual sexual deviance “makes the safe environments programs valuable and necessary.” He added that “the Catholic Church has taken a position of zero tolerance of any cleric who would sexually abuse a child.”

“Such a position protects children,” he said. “But it also protects the tens of thousands of priests who have suffered greatly in

this crisis, all the while quietly serving with honor and self-sacrifice every day of their lives.”

The way forward for the bishops must be marked by humility and partnerships with others, Bishop Cupich said. “The shame of failing our people will remain with us for a long time. It should. Its sting can keep us resolute in our commitments and humble so as to never forget the insight we came to nearly a decade ago in Dallas. We cannot do any of this on our own.”

Established in 1964, John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University of New York is an international leader in educating for justice. It offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum to upwards of 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 135 nations. In teaching and research, the college approaches justice as an applied art in service to society and as an ongoing conversation about fundamental human desires for fairness, equality and the rule of law.

The report can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/mr/causes-and-context-of-sexual-abuse-minors-by-catholic-priests-in-the-united-states-1950-2010.pdf>.

What Have We Learned

continued from Page 2
place on what is called human and spiritual formation. There is a much stronger emphasis on preparing seminarians to live priesthood in a healthy manner and developing a strong affective maturity.

One of the clear findings of the study, and of great importance for our Church and society, is that the best way to protect children from abuse is to create safe environments where appropriate boundaries between adults and children are maintained. Though sexual abuse of minors is a societal problem and not a challenge unique to the Church, we in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are committed to continuing our

efforts in this area. We have put in place structures and procedures designed to create safe environments for children and young people, to provide safe environment training for clergy, staff and volunteers who work with children, and to conduct criminal background checks on all who work with children and young people. A Code of Conduct for all who minister to children outlines appropriate ways to work with these treasured members of our churches.

These efforts and many other procedures mandated by the U.S. Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People are very important in educating our people and ministers and preventing abuse

in the future. A recent circular letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome has mandated that Episcopal Conferences throughout the world put into place guidelines which will help bishops deal with instances of abuse. We hope that our efforts in the United States since 2002 can be a model for such guidelines in other nations, even as we continue to review and improve our own at home.

In the name of all of the clergy, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City I apologize to any person who has been abused by any priest, deacon, religious man or woman, volunteer or employee of

the Church in the Archdiocese or elsewhere. We continue to pledge our assistance and resources in helping these victims to heal, in responding promptly to new reports of abuse and preventing such occurrences in the future. Finally, I regret the scandal that these horrendous acts have caused to many members of the faithful whose confidence in the Church they love may have been shaken during this dark period. I believe that we are now moving beyond the crisis and that the Church today, though chastened and purified by this experience, is indeed a very safe place for children and young people.

Immigration Issue Discussed at St. Monica Forum

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

EDMOND — An immigration forum, at St. Monica's Parish May 12, covered plenty of ground — providing a wealth of information and eliciting a few strong emotions. If there was one consensus to the evening, it was there was probably not going to be a quick fix to the sometimes heated issue.

The forum featured six panel speakers, including Archbishop Coakley. After introductions by Marka Acton and a prayer by Father Ray Ackerman of St. Monica's, the crowd of 155 heard from Archbishop Coakley.

He told the forum the church and Scripture instructs us to deal with immigration and immigrants with love and compassion. He said the dignity of the person always has to be respected. In the Bible, he noted the struggles Israel had in its immigration from Egypt as well as Mary, Joseph and Jesus in their early travels — looking for safe haven.

"Work is a natural right," Archbishop Coakley said. "It's an expression of human dignity."

He also noted Pope Benedict's visit to America in 2008 — when the Holy Father urged us to welcome immigrants — noting it wasn't only a church tradition, but an American tradition to accept peoples from other lands.

Archbishop Coakley cited the case of a young man he knew while serving

as Bishop in Salina, Kan. The young man had expressed an interest in the priesthood, but was scared of his legal status. He had been in America since a toddler and spoke English with no accent. Yet the thought of deportation was real for him.

"The church sees each person as a divine gift," Archbishop Coakley said. He added that within the past 10 years, American Catholic bishops had

"The church sees each person as a divine gift,"
— Archbishop Coakley.

said sovereign nations have a right to protect borders and the "church doesn't support breaking laws."

He further stated the issue was one for the laity.

"The church doesn't legislate laws," he said.

Kris King of the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee reviewed the history of immigration in America.

In the 19th and early 20th century, millions of Irish came to America — many the result of the great potato famine.

"There was a great reaction against the Irish and Catholics," she said. Some of that included the creation of the Know Nothing party. It was empowered by popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed by German and Irish Catholic immigrants, who were often regarded as hostile to Anglo-Saxon Protestant

values and controlled by the Pope in Rome.

Today, King said, about 11 percent of Americans can trace their ancestry to the Irish. It is usually a struggle for immigrant groups to achieve full legal status, she said.

"Blacks didn't attain full citizenship in America until the 1965 Civil Rights Acts," King said.

In another example of a first-

person account of the struggle, Gabriel Carreon of St. Monica's noted the hardships many face in their native lands.

"Here in America I can earn in a half an hour what it would take me all day to earn," he said — looking back at his 21-year immigration struggle. He noted it's also dangerous in some of these nations from which people flee.

"It's amazing I'm even here to speak with you," he said. "I could have been shot easily."

Dianne Wigley, also of St. Monica's and the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee, said there is sound economic reasons for advocating immigration. Social Security needs more workers to pay into the system to help support the payments to Baby Boomers, who will receive Social Security.

"For the next 19 years there will be 10,000 new people added to Social Security a day. We need more workers and more people to pay the taxes," she said.

Frank Lipsinic of Christ the King Parish probably set off the most emotional response of the night — noting the new workers wouldn't be needed if "America hadn't aborted 55 million babies since Roe v. Wade in 1973."

Staying on the economic theme, Derek Sparks, manager of governmental relations of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, said Oklahoma should realize a strong anti-immigrant law could have a negative impact on job creation. He cited the fallout Arizona has received since its anti-immigration law was put on the books.

"The canceled conventions in Arizona have led to a \$388 million negative economic impact," he said.

And Sparks said 3 percent of Oklahoma's current labor force is undocumented workers.

The status of new possible anti-immigrant laws was discussed by Catholic Charities lawyer Richard Klinge. He said the original 32 anti-immigrant bills filed at the beginning of the just completed legislative session had now been reduced to one and its passage was in doubt, he said. The law actually died later in May when the House voted it down.

Klinge said while reviewing possible statutes, he wondered if the laws met the "human dignity test."

White House Follows Bishops' Recommendation on Haitian Immigrants

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA) — The U.S. Catholic bishops expressed appreciation on May 17 for the Obama administration's decision to extend the "Temporary Protected Status" of Haitian immigrants, in keeping with the bishops' own recommendations.

"It is simply the right thing to do," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, the U.S. bishops chairman on migration. "This action will permit those who entered the United States in the aftermath of a devastating

natural disaster to remain and work to support their families."

The administration's decision will extend Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for another 18 months, beginning on July 23. It will apply to Haitians who entered the United States up to one year after the earthquake that struck the island on Jan. 12, 2010.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., chairman of Catholic Relief Services, noted that many of these immigrants were sending

money back to a country hit hard by disease and natural disasters.

"The re-designation of TPS to Haiti will preserve the flow of much-needed remittances to that stricken country," he said. He said these money transfers from friends and relatives were "vital to bolstering the fragile Haitian economy and supporting the national recovery."

However, both bishops are concerned about deportation of some individuals back to Haiti. The deportations stopped temporarily after one

deportee died of cholera in a Haitian jail, but resumed in April 2011.

"We remain troubled by the resumption of deportations to Haiti," said Bishop Kicanas, noting that the country may be "ill-equipped to handle them" in a manner that would respect prisoners' human dignity.

More than a million Haitians remain homeless due to last year's earthquake, and there are fears that the coming rainy season will worsen the ongoing cholera epidemic.

CFO Seeks Educator of the Year Award Nominees

OKLAHOMA CITY — Over the past seven years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the Archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. Each year the Foundation awards the Catholic School Educator of the Year and the Religious Education Educator of the Year.

These exceptional award recipients are recognized for their significant contribution to the Catholic education process in both Catholic Schools and in Religious Education programs within their parish. Nomination forms were recently sent to pastors, school principals and directors of Religious Education, but anyone

can submit a nomination form for a worthy individual. Nominees should be classroom educators or catechists in youth, confirmation, RCIA or adult education/formation programs. On the Religious Education side, the nominated catechist must be an unpaid volunteer. The 2011 Awards will be presented in September and nominations must be received in the Catholic Foundation office by Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

For the year 2010-11, Donna Holmes of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Edmond, was recognized as the recipient of the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award. Finalists for the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award were



Mary Swymeler of St. Philip Neri School, Midwest City, and Coleen Linke of St. Eugene School, Oklahoma City.

Likewise, in 2010-11, Amalia Gensman of Holy Family Church, Lawton, was recognized as the recipient of the Religious Education Educator of the Year Award. Finalists for the Religious Education Educator of the Year Award were Deacon James Young

of St. Philip Neri Church, Midwest City, and Dana Hoffman of St. Eugene Church, Weatherford.

The winner of both awards will receive a \$500 cash prize and their parish/school will receive a \$5,000 educational grant. There will also be a reception held at the winner's parish/school in their honor. The finalists received a \$250 cash prize.

The Catholic Foundation is honored and grateful to all of the teachers and religious educators within the Archdiocese. Nominate an outstanding educator before the June 15 deadline.

Call the Catholic Foundation Office at (405) 721-4115 for a nomination form.

Seminary Burses

- A \$250 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by Holy Family Church, Lawton.
- A \$260 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by the Stephen Ministry of St. John Nepomuk Church, Yukon.
- A \$100 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Montano Sr. from Guymon.
- A \$150 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** by the Oklahoma Catholic Women's Conference Inc.
- A total of \$11,000 donations were made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** in memory of Mike Stroud; \$10,000 from the family of Mike Stroud; \$500 from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet; \$500 from friends.
- A \$650 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse** from the proceeds from Jamie Biller's "The Shepherd Cannot Run" CD.
- A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse** by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cebulski.

- A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse** by an anonymous donor.
- A \$250 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse** by Christ the King Church, Oklahoma City.
- A \$185 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse** in memory of Rosalie Miller.
- Father Joseph Beltran**
Seminary Burse
\$99,425
- Father Stephen Bird**
Seminary Burse
\$11,200
- Father Denis Blackledge**
Seminary Burse
\$8,337
- Father Wade Darnall**
Seminary Burse
\$10,545
- Father Larry Gatlin**
Seminary Burse
\$10,000
- Father Bernard J. Havlik**
Seminary Burse
\$51,710

- Father James A. Kastner**
Seminary Burse
\$10,820
- Bishop Stephen A. Leven**
Seminary Burse
\$64,628
- Father John A. Petuskey**
Seminary Burse
\$11,850
- Father Clement E. Pribil**
Seminary Burse
\$6,351
- Father Stanley Rother**
Seminary Burse
\$207,797
- Archbishop Charles Salatk**
Seminary Burse
\$185,970
- Father John Scheller**
Seminary Burse
\$10,000
- Father Gerald Ucker**
Seminary Burse
\$10,098
- Totals as of 4/30/2011

Proposal to Withhold Care From Babies Called Unethical

ROME, Italy (CNA) — A proposal to allow premature or sick newborn babies to die even when their life would be deemed worth living by medical staff has been condemned by a leading member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Doctor Carlo Bellieni says the suggestion being made by Oxford-based physician James Wilkinson is both “flawed” and “an erroneous way of considering life.”

Dr. Wilkinson outlines his controversial argument in the *American Journal of Bioethics*. “The prevailing official view is that treatment may be withdrawn only if the burdens in an infant’s future life outweigh the benefits. ... I conclude that it is justifiable in some circumstances for parents and doctors to decide to allow an infant to die even though the infant’s life would be worth living,” Dr. Wilkinson wrote.

But as Dr. Bellieni explained to CNA, such a suggestion makes for bad ethics and poor patient care. “Firstly, babies are not the property of their parents. Secondly, at birth parents are often stressed and full of pain and suffering. The mother has the pain of childbirth. The

father has the shock and stress of being faced with a very premature baby. When you’re in such pain and stress, you’re not really free to make clear-minded decisions that

“Firstly, babies are not the property of their parents.” – Dr. Carlo Bellieni

are so important for your offspring.”

Most importantly, Dr. Bellieni said, “The decision about life should only be taken on an objective basis and in the interest of the patient, not in the interests of a third party.”

Dr. Bellieni, who is a director of the Neonatal Intensive Therapy Unit at Siena University Hospital, is internationally recognized as an expert in the field of neonatal care. In addition to being a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, he is also the Secretary of the Bioethics Committee of the Italian Pediatrics Society.

Although the Italian neonatologist said he doesn’t know whether hospitals in the Western world are

actually practicing Dr. Wilkinson’s radical approach, he pointed toward recent research in Canada suggesting that newborn babies are now receiving less guarantees of treat-

ment than adults. “It’s a very sad scenario. I believe that babies should receive more care than other patients but many philosophers now believe that newborns are not persons and so they actually are receiving fewer guarantees than older people.”

“Even when burdens do seem to be high, for example in the case of severe disability, this is not a sufficient reason to withhold lifesaving treatments. After all, a disabled baby has a full right to life too,” Dr. Bellieni stressed.

“Dr. Wilkinson claims that the prevailing clinical view is contrary to this. If that is the case, then it’s very worrying indeed and we cannot possibly accept such a view-

Saint’s Daughter To Address End of Life Panel

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNA) — The youngest daughter of St. Gianna Molla will join Cardinal Raymond L. Burke in addressing a Kansas City conference on Catholic end-of-life care on July 23.

Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla’s mother was declared a saint in 2004 by the Catholic Church and is known for her heroism in choosing a risky operation to save her daughter’s life when she was two months pregnant. The conference marks the first visit to the United States for St. Gianna’s daughter.

The conference, titled “Being Faithful, Even Unto Death,” will address medical issues surrounding those suffering and those at the end of their lives. The St. Gianna Physician’s Guild organized the conference.

“With the help of Cardinal Burke, we have assembled experts in all areas of medicine, law, and the Catholic Church to analyze and explain the proper and obligatory way to provide Catholic care to the most vulnerable and those who are dying,” said Thomas McKenna, the guild’s founder and president.

Pro-Life Group Asks MTV to Reconsider Ad Pull

AUSTIN, Texas (CNA) — Heroic Media is hoping MTV will have a change of heart and reconsider pulling a pro-life ad campaign from its airwaves.

“Heroic Media has asked MTV to reconsider the decision and allow Heroic Media and other organizations to make women aware of the availability of life-affirming resources,” group spokeswoman Marissa Gabrysch told CNA on May 24.

The Texas-based pro-life group recently announced its We Can Help campaign, which was set to air for several weeks on the MTV and BET networks, starting May 2.

However, the ads — which provided practical information for women with unexpected pregnancies — were pulled after one airing.

MTV spokeswoman Jeannie Kedas told Fox News that the network cut the ads because of a controversial billboard campaign in New York City by a group with connections to Heroic Media.

On Feb. 22, pro-life group Life Always displayed a prominent billboard depicting a young black girl beneath the phrase “The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb.” The ad was removed within days, despite the protests of pro-life supporters

around the United States, including Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

Although MTV claims that the billboard is the main reason behind the cuts, Bill Eisner — head of Nonbox, a brand agency representing Heroic Media — argues that the real issue is the ads’ conflict with some of the promotions between the network and Planned Parenthood.

Although the television network has denied the connection, Eisner says one of his network sales representative confirmed that MTV president Stephen Friedman chose to nix the ads because of the projects currently in place with

Planned Parenthood.

Eisner added that MTV did not inform Heroic Media its ads had been canceled, and that the pro-life group reportedly found out after being contacted by a reporter.

Despite having its spots canceled, Gabrysch said, “Heroic Media remains committed to airing positive messages that connect women with hopeful alternatives to abortion.”

“Everything Heroic Media does is designed to reach women where they are,” she added, noting that when a woman learns “about compassionate, positive alternatives to abortion, she’ll choose life.”

Mount, Irish Graduates First To Receive Medal

In late 2009, an organization was created with its mission being to recognize young people who commit themselves to defending our nation right out of high school. The Veterans and Patriots of Oklahoma is the name of the organization. It consists of veterans and patriots.

A medal, originally called the "Military Torch Medal," was established in the late spring of 2010 by founders Ken Provost and Bob Lambert as a tool to recognize young adults who made the decision to join the military upon completion of high school. Later, the name was changed to the "Military Spirit Medal." The medal was to be presented to high school senior students who have committed their immediate futures to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces following graduation.

The newly established Military Spirit Medal was presented for the first time this month to students at six high schools in the Oklahoma City area. The 2011 Military Spirit Medals were awarded at Bishop McGuinness High School to Molly Hatch, Army Reserves; at Star Spencer High School to Brianna Peery, Army, and Luis Gonzales, Air Force; at Jones High School to Cedrik Conrad, Navy; at Mount St. Mary High School to Joshua Babb, Naval Academy; Jacqueline Kennedye, USN Acado Prep; Jakob Jones, Air Force; Bryan Wilson, Air National Guard; at



Military Spirit Award being presented to Mount graduates Joshua Babb, Jacque Kennedye, Jakob Jones and Bryan Wilson.

Choctaw High School to Lawrence Bartling, Navy; Alexandria Carson, Army National Guard; Kyle Franchi, Navy; Aaron Heck, Marine Corps; Brian Navalta, Marine Corps; Steven Rolland, Marine Corps; Desirae Simmons, Air Force; at Harrah High School to Derek Baez, Marine Corps; Summer Donaldson, Navy; Courtney

Kramer, Navy; Symphonie McKillip, Air Force; and Brandon Weeks, Marine Corps.

Local veterans who presented the Military Spirit Medals to the first recipients of the honor were Laurann Donahue, Liam Donahue, Charles Gamble, Ralph Gosselin, David Koelsch, Bob Lambert, Ken

Provost, Mike Skolaut and Tony Wangler.

To learn more about how you can support this effort, call Bob at (405) 672-7728 or Ken at (405) 760-3886. You may also contact the Veterans and Patriots of Oklahoma by mail at P.O. Box 15376, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73155.

Catholic Schools Help Swell Ranks of Easter Converts

WASHINGTON (RNS) — With less than two weeks to go, fifth-grader Simone Marshall ticked off what she was looking forward to most as she awaited the Easter Vigil where she would officially become a Roman Catholic.

"I cannot wait to get baptized so I can be born again and I can be closer to Jesus," she said, dressed in her plaid school uniform from St. Augustine Catholic School. "I cannot wait to receive the blood and body of Jesus."

Last year, 19 non-Catholic children at St. Augustine entered the Catholic Church at the elaborate vigil the night before Easter, when the

Catholic Church typically receives thousands of new members in the United States.

This year, Simone was one of more than a dozen children from St. Augustine who donned purple robes for their baptism, and then changed into white robes for their first Communion.

Across the country, Catholic schools have become non-traditional mission fields for the large number of non-Catholic children who enter their doors. More than 700 non-Catholic students, parents and staff joined the church last year, according to an informal survey by the National Catholic Educational Association.

In many dioceses, just one or two children became Catholic. But some archdioceses reported they came by the dozens — 100 in Philadelphia, 76 in Miami and 74 in Baltimore.

The Catholic ethos of the schools — regular Masses, prayers and religious education — prompt non-Catholic students to consider conversion, often when they come from unchurched or Protestant backgrounds, students and staff say.

"That's just kind of the perfect setting for people to be receptive to the faith," said Karen Ristau, president of the NCEA, based in Arlington, Va. "They build these wonderful communities, they teach

the faith well and consequently new people are joining the church."

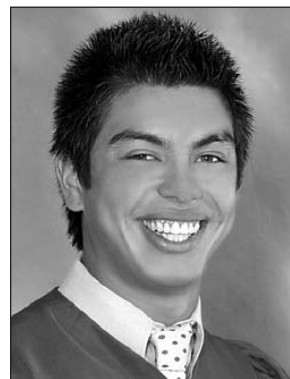
At St. Augustine, the school day ends with a child's voice on the public address system asking fellow students to "please stop for a moment and get ready for the afternoon prayers." Students' drawings of the Stations of the Cross line the main hallway, which ends at a statue of the Virgin Mary, draped in a purple scarf for Lent.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, at least 41 students, 60 parents and eight teachers became Catholic last year. At this year's Easter Vigil in Oklahoma City, 15 students, three teachers and 28 parents joined the church.

Mount St. Mary High School Class of 2011



At senior robing May 16, on the left is student James Peake and his mother, Angela Peake. On the right is student Bianca Ponce de Leon and her mother, Norma Ponce de Leon.



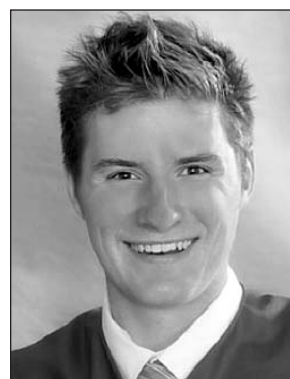
**Andrew Flores
Aguilar**
OSU-OKC



Anna Therese Anthony
Marquette University



Joshua Daniel Babb
*United States Naval
Academy-Full Scholarship*



Bradley M. Beahan
OU



Aren Kristen Brewer
OSU-OKC



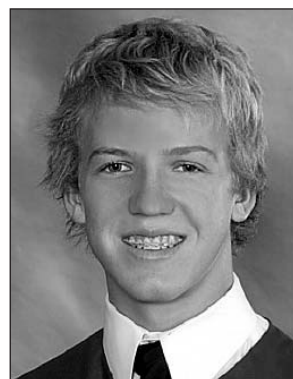
Soo-Young Chae
UCO



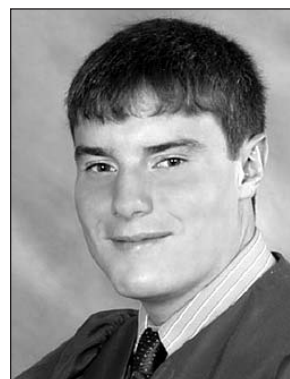
Christianna K. Clark
*Maryland Institute College
of Art*



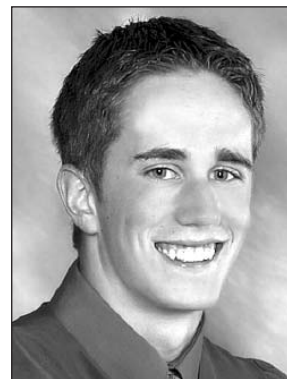
**Zachary Tanner
Collums**
OSU



John Austin Cowan
OU



David Andrew Crall
OSU



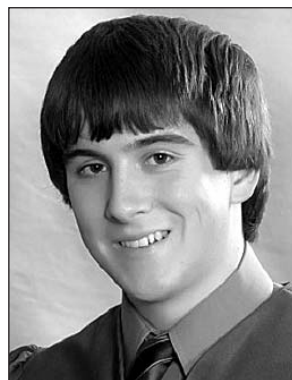
Clayton James Cromer
*Texas A&M University
Salutatorian*



Siying Dai
*Northeastern University
(Boston)*



Bryce J. Davis
UCO



Phillip Charles Davis
*Southern Methodist
University — Valedictorian*



Ethan Holloway Day
Rose State College



Rebecca Ann Denny
OSU — Full Scholarship



**Christopher Steven
Eldridge**
Oklahoma City University



**Jonathan Michael
Fairchild**
OSU

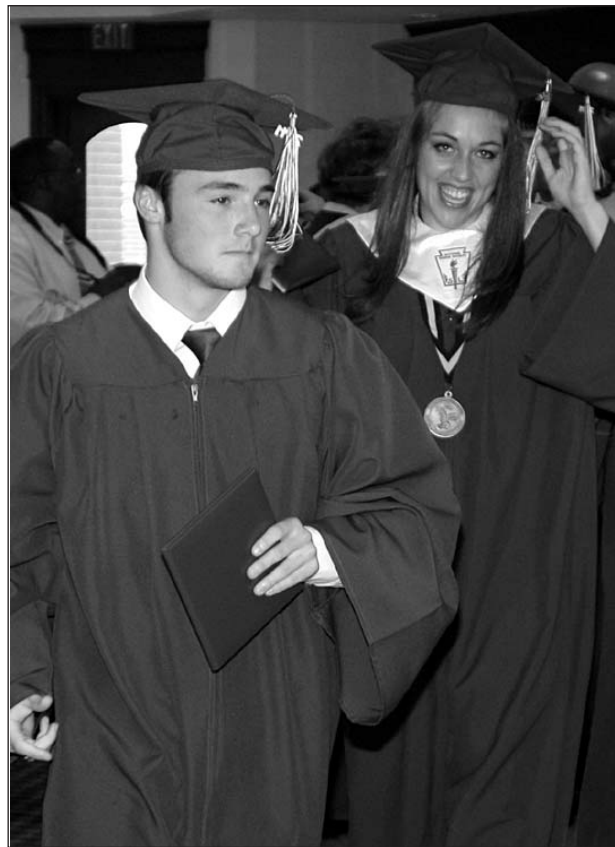
Mount St. Mary High School Class of 2011



Lucia Rose Fitzmorris
OU — Valedictorian



Brittanie Faye Forsyth
OSU



Devon Hastings and Camila Lang walking out of graduation at St. Mark's in Norman.



Hurley Joseph Fry
OU



Logan Douglas Furgeson
OU



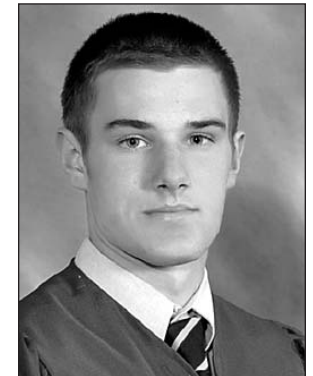
Andrew Michael Garvey
UCO



Devon Irl Hastings
Rose State College



Kaitlyn Nicole Housh
UCO



Alexander Braden Hughes
UCO



Autumn Hailey Jones
Oklahoma City University



Jakob R. Jones
United States Air Force



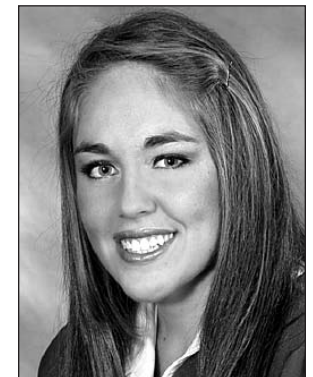
John Ross Kastner
OSU



Jacqueline Elizabeth Kennedy — *Naval Academy Preparatory School Full Scholarship*



Thomas J. Krug
Conception Seminary College



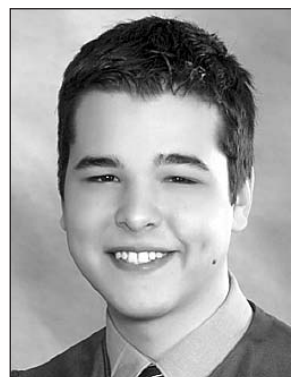
Camila Alejandra Lang-Rivera
UCO



Emily Katharine Lee
St. Gregory's University



Elias Jacob Marsee
OU



Nathanael Luke Martinez
UCO



James Brandt Mayfield
OSU



Kyle Benjamin McGoffin
OU



Micah Brittany Miller
St. Gregory's University

Mount St. Mary Class of 2011



**Shane Sidney
Misialek**
UCO



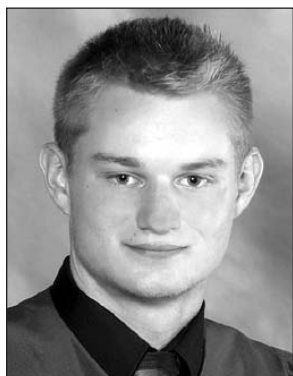
Maddison Mollman
UCO



**Sydney Taylor
Monday**
UCO



Andy Garvey poses for a photo during the Mount's senior farewell assembly as his mother, Connie Garvey, prepares to robe him.



Austin C. Murrah
OU



Megan Marie Nash
OU



**Theresa Thien-Thanh
Nguyen**
OU



James Marion Niles
OSU



Gabriela Niño
OU



Landon Chase O'Shea
OU



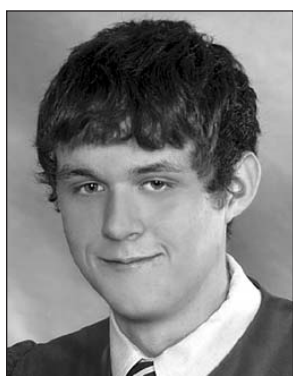
Jessica Pando
UCO



Michael Parizek
OSU-OKC



Jacob Andrew Peace
*New Mexico State
University*



James Vincent Peake
UCO



Bianca Ponce de Leon
OSU-OKC



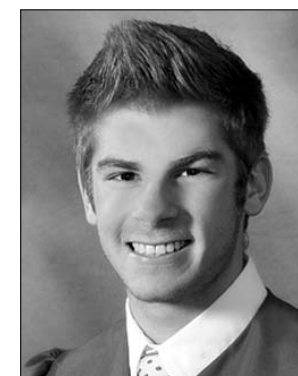
Rachel Pulver
Rose State College



Angelica Marie Ramos
*University of Texas
(Corpus Christi)*



**Elizabeth Ann
Rischard**
Marquette University



Chad Austin Rives
UCO

Mount St. Mary High School Class of 2011



Cole Gregory Robinson
OU



Amy Rodriguez
OU



Emily Taylor and Rachel Pulver pull double duty as graduates and band members at graduation.



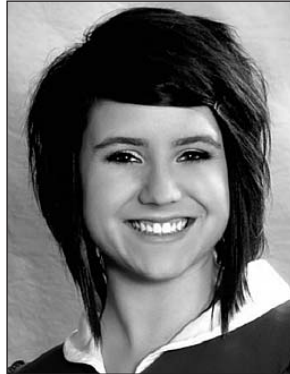
Ryan Matias Rosas
UCO



Soo Kyung Ryu
University of Washington (Seattle)



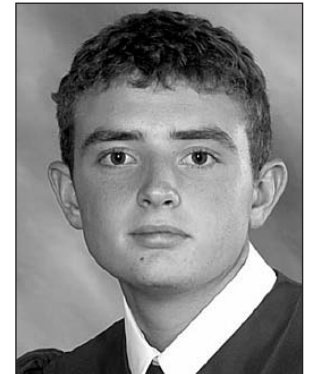
Ryan Joseph Santa-Pinter
OSU



Melanie Marie Scherer
OU



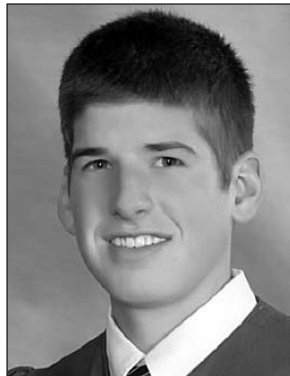
Reginald Damon Smith Jr.
NOC Stillwater



Anthony Louis Tasetano
Southwestern College



Emily Fern Taylor
OU



Blayne Trevor Theunissen
UCO



Stephen A. Trujillo
Francis Tuttle Technology Center



Victoria Dolores Vasquez
Northwest Vista (San Antonio)



Victoria Ann Vaughn
OU



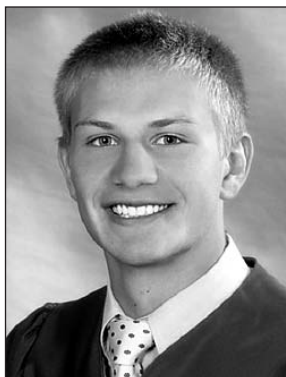
Morgyne E. Weaver
Wellesley College



Amanda C. Wesselhoft
UCO



Juanita Elizabeth Williams
Oral Roberts University



Bryan Wesley Wilson
OU



Cody Taylor Woodward
OU



Tae-Suh Yun
OU



Jennifer M. Zapata
UCO

Rockets 2011



Above, Anthony Tasetano helps Ryan Santa-Pinter with his tassel before graduation May 21. At right, Micah Miller receives congratulations from her family.



Valedictorians Lucy Fitzmorris and Phillip Davis.

2011 Mount St. Mary Legacy



Second Generation

Zachary Collums — Dawn Williams Collums, '85
 Bryce Davis — John Hall, '89
 Brittanie Forsyth — Tommy Forsyth, '86, Becky Ashworth Forsyth, '88
 Elias Marsee — Teresa Jaime Marsee, '75
 James Mayfield — Grandparents, Barbara Forrester Brandt Schwarz, '55, Leroy Brandt, '55
 Shane Misialek — Missy Sherer Cramer, '82
 Maddison Mollman — Charlotte Schumacher Mollman, '54
 Chad Rives — Sherri Toby Stupka, '82
 Cole Robinson — Greg Robinson, '80

Third Generation

Jacque Kennedye — James Kennedye, '87, Christy Wise Kennedye, '87, Marian Flanagan Keef, '67
 Nathanael Martinez — Philip Martinez, '83, Myra Mollman Martinez, '85, John Mollman, '56
 Micah Miller — Cliff Miller, '89, Kay Wenthold Miller, '64

IRISH Class of 2011



Valedictorians Valerie Kastens and Grace Johnson hug after they give their combined speech.



Courtney Thurman, '09, and Mallory Thurman, '05, robe their brother, Chad Thurman, at the senior farewell assembly.



Principal David Morton and Brian Smith, '05, present the 2011 Brian Smith Award to three graduates, Rachel McLemore, P.J. Allen and Tyler Frederickson.



Kurtis Kunz, Carter Hood and Dean Fitzpatrick.



Katie Massad, Sicily Splitt and Cameron Collins.

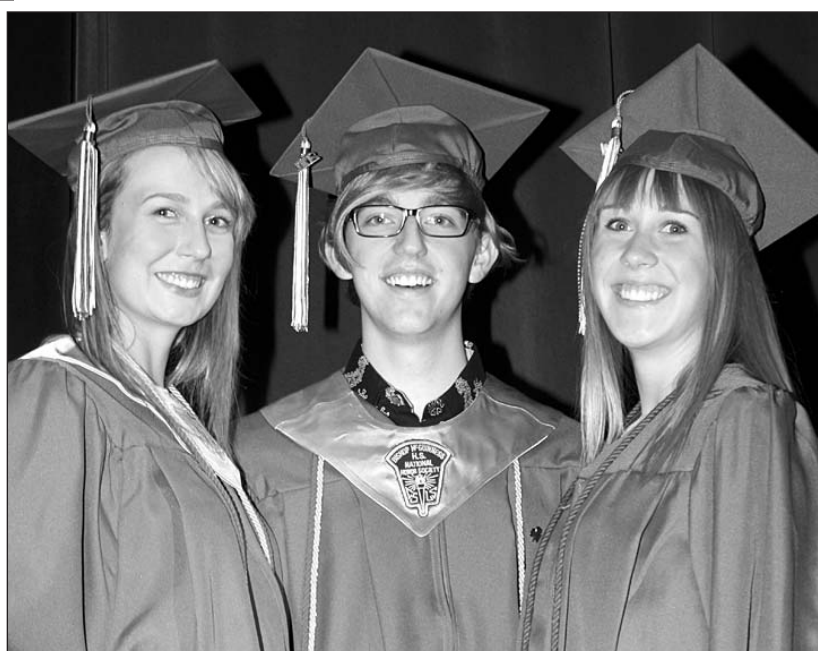
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



Abigail Ann Akin
OSU



Phillip James Allen, IV
OSU



Julia Peacock, Chase Reeser and Josselyn Davis pause for a photo at the senior farewell assembly.



Scott Michael Archer
OU



Brooke Atherton
OSU



Tessa Anne Bastida
OU



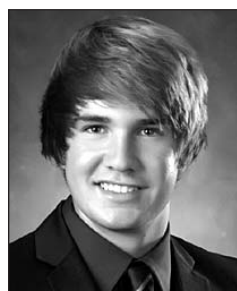
Breanna Lene Beaver
UCO



Dylan Tamerlane Bellmard
UCO



Izza Paige Bennai
OSU



Ethan Beck
Berney, Colorado School of Mines



Amy Leigh Bosley
Bethany College



Blake Ryan Brennan
Undecided



Elizabeth Ann Brown
Notre Dame



Katherine Ross Brown
Texas Christian



Blake Owen Burgess
OSU



Brett Lee Caesar
OSU



Nicholas Samuel Callaway
OU



Caroline Love Cameron
OU



Mary Beth Elizabeth Canfield
OU



Ashleigh Lauren Chiaf
University of Missouri



Matthew Kyu Chul Choi
Dartmouth



Matthew Edwin Clausen
OSU



Chelsea Elizabeth Coffey
Lehigh University



Madeline Patricia Coffey
OU



Cameron Jones Collins
OU



Dustin Leroy Combs
UCO



Kylie Rosemary Conner
OU



John Dale Crowder
OSU



Nicholas Edward Cudjo
OSU



Gabriel James Cummings
UCO

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



**Sara Cathryn
Daugherty**
Baylor University



**Josselyn Ann
Davis**
OU



**Andrea Leigh
Dougherty**
OU



**Collin Morgan
Douglas**
OU



**DillonBlake
Drosselmeyer**
Regis University



Aaron Tyler Duncan
*University of
Mississippi*



**Tyler Joseph
Duncan**
OSU



**Haley Hope
Evans**
Regis University



**Abby Mae
Ferguson**
UCO



**Tiffany Ann
Fernandez**
UCO



Sara Rose Figueroa
*Art Institute of
Michigan*



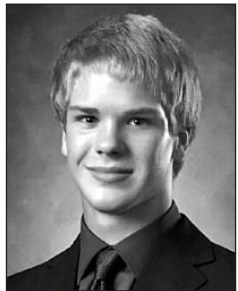
**Adam Alexander
Fitzgerald**
OSU



**Dean Christopher
Fitzpatrick**
OU



**Lillian Victoria
Flannigan**
OU



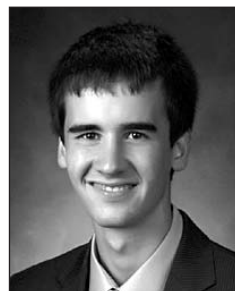
**Andrew Thomas
Fleet**
OSU



**Jacob Tyler
Floresca**
OSU



**Francis Kerry
Frantz**
OU



**Thomas Barrett
Frantz**
OU



**Tyler Gray
Frederickson**
OCCCC



**Chelsee Ericka
Freeman**
Undecided



**Olivia Suzanna
Glazner**
University San Diego



**Elizabeth Anne
Goetzing**
OU, Salutatorian



Alexis Elaine Goff
*Oklahoma Baptist
University*



Alexa Nicole Gonce
*Texas Christian
University*



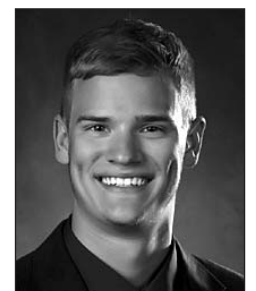
**Ashley Marie
Graham**
UCO



**Steven Brundige
Grossman, Savannah**
College of Art & Design



**Cenayda Elena
Guzman, St. Rose,**
New York



**Jerome Francis
Haag, IV**
Undecided



Molly Clare Hatch
OU



Ashley Nicole Hess
UCO



**Hallie Elizabeth
Hickman**
University of Arkansas



**Paige Constance
Hilton**
UCO



**Pia Alexa
Hinahon**
UCO



**Joan Elizabeth
Holmes**
Undecided



**Carter Markham
Hood**
OU

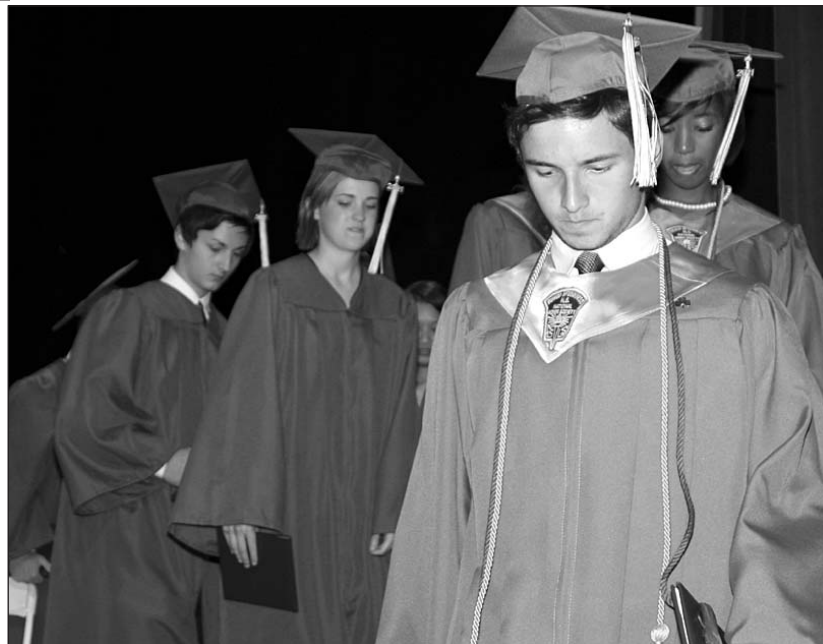
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



**Eryn Morgan
Irvin**
Undecided



**Andrew Mark
Jackson**
OCU



J.T. Southard, Maddie Smith and Ashton Slatev process out of graduation May 17.



Grace Iras Johnson
*University of Tulsa
Valedictorian*



**Gunner Brock
Joyce**, Oklahoma
Wesleyan University



**Valerie Renee
Kastens**, OU
Valedictorian



Zoe Alise Kent
*Beloit College -
Wisconsin*



Phillip Han Kim
OU



**Bryan Edward
King**
UCO



**Parker Wayne
Klingenberg**
Undecided



**David William
Krah**
OU



**David Jacob
Krenger**
OU



**Robert Cain
Kumler**
OU



**Kurtis Philippe
Kunz**
OU



**Chad Joseph
Kwasny**
UCO



**Mary Ellen Rose
Lacher**
Newman University



**Kenny Nguyen
Lam**
OCCCC



**Dakota Bing
Leftwich**
UCO



**Alexa Jane
Lienhard**
OU



**Catherine Mackenzie
Loeffler**
University of Arkansas



Erin Julia Lucas
OSU



**Ashley Michelle
Lutter**
OSU



**William Frederick
Lutz**
OU



**Sean Robert
Marshall**
OSU



**Matthew Charles
Martin**
OSU



**Tyler Joseph
Martin**
McPherson College



**Jessica Meaghan
Mass**
OSU



**Katie Alexis
Massad**
OU



**Madelyn Louise
Maxwell**
Undecided



**Sarah Michelle
McAnulty**
OCU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



**Susannah Grace
McCabe**
University of Arkansas



**Tyler Leah
McClellan**
NOC/OSU



**Jessica Ann
McCord**
OU



**Zachary Tyler
McCurdy**
Platt College



**Alexandra Claire
McGowen**
OSU



**Rachel Catherine
McLemore**
Oklahoma Christian



**Pierina Solange
Melendez**
Undecided



**Giovanna Nicole
Migliaccio**
OU



**Charles Benjamin
Milam**
St. Gregory's



**Garrett Patrick
Milner**
OSU



**Alexandra Flora
Montoya**
Oklahoma Christian



**Megan Lynne
Moore**
OSU



**Matthew William
Morrissey**
OSU



**Victoria Kelly
Moyer**
OSU



Brennah Murphy
Tulane University



Devin Murphy
OCU



**Colin Andrew
Murray**
OU



**Kevin Connor
Murray**
DePaul University



Theresa Louise Nash
*Colorado State
University*



**Ashley Renee
Newbury**
OSU



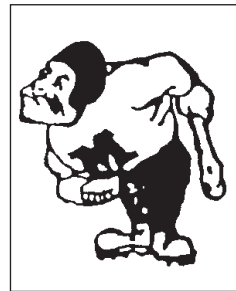
**Amy Quynh
Nguyen**
OU



**Frank Thai Chau
Nguyen**
OU



Steven Nguyen
*SWOSU,
Weatherford*



Tam Nguyen
OCCC



**Katherine
Courtney Nix**
OSU



**Isioma Kelechi
Nwokolo**
OU



**Nicholas Kyle
O'Hara**
OSU



**Emily Anne
Oliphant**
OU



**Trinian Lark
O'Neil**
OU



**Julia Elizabeth
Peacock**
Texas Christian



Claire Maria Pedulla
Benedictine College



**Matthew Taylor
Perry**
OU



**Devin Nicole
Pinaroc**
Vanderbilt University



**Greyson Anthony
Psencik**
OU



Ashley Ann Quick
UCO

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



**Chase Allen
Reeser**
Undecided



**Gillian Bethany
Ressler**
OSU



**Duncan Cole
Reynolds**
OU



**La Rone
Richardson**
NOC/OSU



**James Matthew
Ritz**
OSU



**Andrew Crosby
Roberts**
OU



Larry David Ross
UCO



Stephanie E. Roy
OSU



**Madelyn Maguire
Rupert**
Wake Forest



William Ryan
OSU



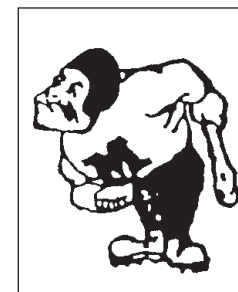
**Zachary Carter
Sanchez**
OSU



**Cole Hamilton
Sanders**
OSU



**Christina Lynne
Schleider**
University of Arkansas



HyeJin Seong
*Penn State
University*



**Brooke Alexandra
Shewmaker**
Undecided



**Jillian Nicole
Shewmaker**
Fort Lewis College



**Ashton Blake
Slatev**
Dartmouth



**Alexis Denay
Smith**
University Missouri



**Colleen Flynn
Smith**
OSU



**Madeline Jane
Smith**
OBU



**Jonathan Tylar
Southard**
OCCC



**Andrew Feller
Spidell**
OSU



**Sicily Diane
Splitt**
OU



**Anthony Joseph
Stancampiano, Jr**
Undecided



**Rayna Suzanne
Stem**
UCO



Young Seok Sur
Texas A&M



**Austin Taylor
Swink**
UCO



**Stuart Louis
Symes**
Connors State



**Kaleb Aaron
Thornton**
Rose State College



**Chad Ellis
Thurman**
OSU



**Rachel Renee
Tonseth**
OU



**Lillian Tuyen
Tran**
OU



**Kathleen Dianne
Trivitt**
OU



**Mary Katherine
Tyler**
Baylor University



**Bruce Anthony
Umali**
NOC/OSU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2011



**James Gavin
Vater**
OU



**Christopher
Michael Volz**
UCO



**Ashley Morgan
Voss**
OSU



**Marcy Anne
Wallace**
OSU



Amy Renee Ward
OSU



**Robert Chadwick
Waters**
OSU



**Jamaal Rashad
Whitney**
*East Central State
University*



**Michelle Diane
Wiggins**
Hendrix College



**Elizabeth Marie
Williams**
OSU



**Calvin Behrendt
Williams**
Loyola Marymount



Erin Lindy Wolf
UCO



**Marissa Elaine
Wolf**
OSU



**Brittany Lea
Yanchick**
OCU

Irish Honor Lil Ross With Alumni of the Year Award

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has bestowed the 2011 Alumni of the Year Award to Mary Lillian (“Lil”) Ross.

Lil is a 1956 graduate of Bishop McGuinness, who has been a tireless supporter of both the school and other charitable causes in the central Oklahoma area for decades. Lil attended St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind., and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1960. With her husband, Bill, she has been the parent of three other McGuinness graduates, Rebecca (’81), Molly (’92), and Bob (’92).

The list of organizations Lil supports with her time and talent is lengthy. An incomplete list would include her service with Junior League of Oklahoma City, as well as a volunteer and board member of both the YWCA and United Way of Oklahoma City. Lil has also carried on a longstanding family tradition in benefiting the Volunteer League of St. Anthony’s Hospital, chairing its Saints Ball fundraiser in 2000, among other duties. One of her special passions has been the support of orchestral music within Oklahoma, and in support of that art form she has served since the early 1980s both in fundraising and leadership capacities with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Foundation and the Oklahoma City Orchestra League.

Her service to both McGuinness and the broader Catholic community has been no less



McGuinness Alumni of the Year Mary Lillian Ross.

impressive. Lil is a longtime member of the Community Development Committee of Catholic Charities of Oklahoma, and has served on both the Parish Council and School Board for her home

parish. She has also served on the auction committee for Bishop McGuinness, and organized her class’ 50th reunion in 2006, as well as the All-Class reunion in 1990, which marked the school’s 40th anniversary. Lil was also instrumental in McGuinness’ \$9.5 million capital campaign from 2004-2006, which transformed the school’s main academic building.

Her most recent focus has been as a breast cancer awareness advocate, serving on the Community Advisory Board at the University of Oklahoma Breast Institute, of which she was president in 2009-2010.

The Alumni Association of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is proud to add its Alumni of the Year Award to Lil’s long list of well-earned recognitions, and is thankful for her longstanding commitment to both the school and its spirit within the community.



Mary Lillian Ross receiving her award at this year’s graduation from alumni president Bill Tunell.

St. Greg's Celebrates 96 Years of Catholic Education

SHAWNEE (May 7, 2011) — St. Gregory's University celebrated its 96th commencement exercise Saturday inside W.P. Wood Field House. Bachelor's degrees were conferred on 86 graduates with an additional 29 receiving associates degrees and nine receiving master's degrees.

The Reverend Don Wolf, pastor of St. Benedict Church in Shawnee and chair of SGU's board of directors, addressed the near-capacity audience. Father Wolf read a message to the graduates from the Most Reverend Eusebius Beltran, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City. Beltran's message focused on the "secret" of the graduates' education.

"The secret is this: Education is, and has been, the process of drawing out of you your deepest and fullest self," Beltran wrote. "Your teachers have deduced what lies within you to have you to see more clearly yourselves and the world. Education comes from you."

Beltran concluded his remarks with the following:

"During all of these years, in all of these classes, we've been showing you your soul and helping to adorn it — get it into shape so that it will be your gift to yourself and become a gift to the world ... Your education is a secret now revealed. The door has been opened, and you have been given a great gift: Give it away."

Valedictorians Igor Manfro and Richard Desruisseau also addressed the audience. Manfro, from Brazil, was valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Desruisseau, from Sand Springs, was valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

Manfro's speech focused on "making every second count," while Desruisseau commented on the bond with his classmates.

"Cherish the time we have spent together. Cherish the bond we have formed," Desruisseau said. "Most of all, cherish the moments we laughed and toiled; agreed and, yes, disagreed. Treasure those bits and pieces we each bring to the table, for we will never know which piece of ourselves we might leave for someone else."

"Always remember the world will be a better place because of you, and because of you, I will be a better person."

As part of the ceremony, St. Gregory's honored two retiring members of the faculty, James Meyer, Ph.D., and Harry Moore, Ph.D. Both were promoted to the rank of professor emeritus. Moore taught at St. Gregory's for 10 years, while Meyer had a 36-year tenure.

Baccalaureate Mass was held Friday in St. Gregory's Abbey Church. The Rev. Brian O'Brien, president of Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa, preached the homily. The SGU Chorale, under the direction of Brother Damian Whalen, O.S.B., Ph.D., provided music.



David Groff receives congratulations from St. Gregory's University President David Marker on May 7 during the university's commencement exercises. Groff, of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in McLoud, received a bachelor of arts degree.

Associates Degrees

Broken Arrow: Christina L. Drake
Chouteau: Sheila Marie Cox
Mannford: Tracy Mechelle Johnson
Moore: Rosaland Lynn Rathbun
Oklahoma City: Claire Elaine Challis, Jessica McGuffee Childers, Vance Ruben Mata
Owasso: Russell Tyler Brown, Douglas Lee Trammell
Sand Springs: Tiffany Dawn Hough
Sapulpa: Jason Edward Warren
Shawnee: Allison Rae Davis, Melissa Jeanette Skillern
Tulsa: Peter Alexander Churchich, Susan E. Petrunak, Natalie Elaine Prentice, Jessica M. Prince, Heather Maryie Quiroga, Clifford Carl Riley, Brandon Nathaniel Steele

Bachelor's Degrees

Bartlesville: Jill Suzanne Buoy
Broken Arrow: Matthew Arthur Crawford

Cashion: D'anthony Scott Cavazos
Chickasha: Joshua Neal Kirksey, Sloan Woods
Parsons: Claris Kathleen Periman
Choctaw: Katie Marie Carlaw, Yuyu Denny
Claremore: Mark Edward Botkin
Edmond: Steven Lane Courtney, James David Harper, Leah Marie Harper, Matthew Travis Tasetano
El Reno: Emily Gail Kindiger
Glenpool: Jennifer Christine Hemphill
Harrah: Amanda Elizabeth Visnieski
Hennessey: Mario Ayala
Justin, Texas: Joshua Reynaldo Dutchover
Little Rock, Ark.: Krista Ann Lassiter
McAlester: Nicole Lee Harris
McLoud: Claudia Garcia, David Michael Groff
Midwest City: Vickie Kim Horn, Miko W. Noley
Moore: Rebecca L. Johnson, Michael John Popenhagen, Denise Nicole Stewart
Mounds: Jennifer Jill Morgan
Muskogee: Jeremy Dale Springer
Nassau, Bahamas: Angelique Lynnette Sawyer
Newalla: Melissa Renee Alexander
Norman: Danica Elaine Easley, Daniel O'Dowd Patterson
Oklahoma City: Alysia Kay Davenport, Kelly D. Hodges, Kyle Anthony Lulko, William Franklin Schula Jr.
Owasso: Constantine George Michalopoulos
Pauls Valley: J Guadalupe Salgado-Andrade
Richland Hills, Texas: Tino Baltazar Galvan
Sand Springs: Richard Peter Desruisseau
Shawnee: Dorris Marie Arrasmith, Ashley Marie Kelley, Scott Alan Miller, Michelle Lynn Sims, Misty Gail Tiller
Shell Knob, Mo.: Tricia Joy Friedt
Skiatook: Krista ReNee Ryan
Trophy Club, Texas: John Joseph Twomey
Tulsa: Nicholas S. Badraun, Jessica Elaine Burns, Jerri Deneen Cherry, Diana DeLeon, Rosalyn Ann Gille, Michelle M. Manly, Mindi Puanani Mariboho, Christie Lynn Marshall-Wilkins, Brittany Anne Moore, Kennieth Jerome Norman, Patricia Ann Pook, David Kevin Thompson, Mary Carrol Thompson, Theresa Diane Willis, Neishan A. Wilson
Wagoner: Novita Maria Kohart,
West Helena, Ark.: Cecelia F. Brickell
Yukon: Joshua Alan Yax
International: Laura Curiel Duran, Igor Gonzalez Manfro, Nathalie Silva Pfeifer, Honorine Sylva, Miho Takenoya

Master's Degrees

Broken Arrow: Tracy Jo Miller
Coweta: Ashley Louise Smith
Owasso: Catrina Lynn Shumaker
Tulsa: Sally Ann Fowkes, John A. Deckard, Kayson Alphonso Gregg, Wendy Zoe Martin

An Open Letter to My Catholic Friends in Poland

A son of Poland is now Blessed John Paul II. What is Poland to do now?

If a friend might offer a suggestion: The Church in Poland should start looking forward rather than backward.

Ever since the late pope's death in 2005, the Polish Church seems to have been looking over its shoulder at the colossal figure of John Paul II. Given the magnitude of John Paul's accomplishment, and the widely shared sentiment that John Paul II was a God-given blessing to Poland in thanks for the country's fidelity during decades of partition and totalitarian occupation, that nostalgia is understandable. But it is now time to look forward, which is what Blessed John Paul II would want.

I'm often asked about the human traits I saw in John Paul II. One answer I often give is that the late pope was the most intensely curious man I've ever known. He always wanted to know about the new books, the new articles and new arguments in my corner of the intellectual and cultural world. He even wanted to know the latest pope jokes.

That intense curiosity was a

matter of theology, not psychology. John Paul II truly believed that in the designs of Providence, there are no mere coincidences. What seems to us "coincidence" is actually an aspect of Providence we have not understood yet. So his curiosity was a matter of looking into "here" and "now" to see where the wind of the Holy Spirit might be blowing, and in what direction.

Polish Catholicism should adopt this future-oriented stance. Remembering the John Paul II years should now be a remembering in service to the future. The 21st century Church in Poland must take up John Paul's challenge in the 1991 encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* and re-imagine itself as a Church that is a mission, not an institution for which mission is one among many activities. Or as John Paul put it in closing the Great Jubilee of 2000, the Church must leave the shallow water of institutional maintenance and put out "into the deep" of the New Evangelization.

How?

The Polish Church must recognize that the faith can no longer be transmitted by the ambient culture; it has to be persuasively and

courageously proposed. There is a compelling Catholic apologetic in the magisterium of Blessed John Paul II. Let Poland take the lead in translating this teaching into effective catechetical material.

Polish Catholicism has not fully developed its public voice, and when it speaks about public policy, it does not always speak in a vocabulary that everyone can understand. Developing a public voice that speaks to all is another important way for the Church in Poland to be a "John Paul II Church" looking forward, not backward.

Then there is Europe. John Paul II knew that "old Europe" was in serious trouble. In "new Europe," in America, and in their willingness to take the social doctrine of the Church seriously, he saw a chance for the entire West to recover its Christian roots: not as a matter of reconstructing the old altar-and-throne regimes but precisely in order to build the free and virtuous societies of the future. A



By George Weigel

Polish Church that helps Poland build a free and virtuous Europe for the future would be a Church living the legacy of John Paul II in public in a very important way.

Poland has to stop looking in the rear-view mirror. Strengthened by the great spiritual, moral and intellectual patrimony left it by its noblest son, John Paul II, Polish Catholicism must now look boldly toward the future. Monuments will continue to be built throughout Poland to this man who changed the global Church and the course of 20th-century history, and that is fine. Yet the most fitting Polish monument to Blessed John Paul II, the pope who called the world to courage out of the depths of Poland's own courage, would be a courageous Polish Catholicism that maintained its own vibrant faith while helping re-evangelize Europe.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.

Conference to Address National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) are offering a summer conference titled "2011 Marriage-Building Construction Zone."

Catholic clergy and laity from across the United States and abroad with a passion for marriage and family life are invited to come together at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 3-6, 2011. Pre-conference workshops begin Aug. 2.

Offered in partnership with the USCCB Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, this incredible opportunity will feature top leaders, speakers and resources from the field of marriage and family research, enrichment, education and spirituality.

The conference aims to assist the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops, who, in November 2004, began a National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage to communicate from the riches of our Catholic faith, the meaning and value of marriage as both a Sacrament of the Church and a social institution.

The bishops pledged to be a Marriage-Building Church that draws strength from God's grace, invites and includes the gifts of many, beginning with married couples themselves, and celebrates and incorporates the diversity of races, cultures, ethnicity and heritage "with which God enriches the world and the Church especially in our nation." (2010, MARRIAGE: Love and Life in the Divine Plan, USCCB).

In 2010 they published a pastoral letter titled MARRIAGE: Love and Life in the Divine Plan that extends and enriches the work of this Pastoral Initiative, while urging a renewed

commitment by the entire Catholic community to help "those called to the vocation of married life to live it faithfully, fruitfully and joyfully ... from the early years when young people begin to learn about committed relationships to the later years of married life, and even beyond them to grieving the loss of a spouse." They pledge their collaboration "with all those who seek to create a vibrant culture of marriage rooted in God's plan for the good of humanity."

Individuals and couples who attend the conference can increase their knowledge of marriage and family life issues and Catholic teachings on marriage and family. There will be pre-conference workshops and three-hour trade school classes offering in-depth learning on topics helpful to clergy; marriage preparation and marriage enrichment leaders;

marriage and family counselors; bereavement ministers; religious educators; those involved in ministries to the divorced; and natural family planning ministries, to name a few. Several trade schools will be given in Spanish. Conference keynoters include some of the most respected speakers in the United States:

Bishop Thomas Doran and Don and Lorrie Gramer, "...In the Construction Zone!" the story of Marriage-Building with Power, Passion and Possibilities. John Roberto, "Envisioning the Future of Marriage and Family Ministry." Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, "Love, Sex and the Catholic Church."

A complete brochure and registration information can be found at NACFLM.org, or call or e-mail Lorrie and Don Gramer at 815-387-3370, lgramer@rockforddiocese.org.

Jobs Box

Elementary School Openings

All Saints Catholic School in Norman has the following full-time positions available for the 2011-2012 school year: **Pre-K teacher** — Must have certification in Early Childhood Education. **Grade 5 teacher** — Must have elementary education certification, and will team-teach Grade 5 students. The applicant is responsible for teaching language arts (reading, English and spelling) and science. **Junior High religion teacher** — Responsible for teaching religion in Grades 6, 7 and 8. The applicant must be an active, practicing Catholic. **Resource Room Director** — The director tutors students and small groups in various subjects, administers make-up exams, works directly with classroom teachers to coordinate implementation of ISP/IEP modifications, assists with ESL students, and teaches a study skills class for ISP/IEP students. Oklahoma teaching certification preferred, reading specialist or special education experience a plus. Direct inquiries and send resume to Leslie Schmitt, Principal, 4001 36th Avenue, NW, Norman, Oklahoma 73072, (405) 447-4600 or by fax, (405) 447-7227.

Job positions available

Lifeguard for summer program at **Villa Teresa School**. Applicant must be certified and at least 16 years of age. Teaching position for 2 1/2-year students. This position requires at least an associate degree in Early Childhood or Child Development or CDA. Interested applicants may call Sister Veronica (232-4286) for an interview appointment.

Elementary School Openings

St. Mary's Catholic School in Lawton is seeking persons of faith wanting a challenging career in Catholic education. The school will have the following openings for next year: **Middle school social studies teacher; Music Appreciation teacher (middle school); P.E. teacher; cook assistant; kitchen assistant**. There are both full- and part-time positions available. Teaching positions require degree and certification. Cafeteria workers need to be able to obtain proper food

handlers permits. Full benefits package paid by the school for full-time employees. Submit resume and copy of application, in addition, for teaching positions, submit transcripts to Paolo J. Dulcamara, 611 SW 'A' Avenue, Lawton, Okla. 73501. Phone (580) 355-5288 to schedule an interview.

Kindergarten Teacher

Holy Trinity School in Okarche has an opening for a kindergarten teacher. Applicants must be certified in Early Childhood. If you are interested in joining a well-established staff and work with small classes and outstanding parental involvement, send resume to Tammy Jacobs, Principal, Holy Trinity Catholic School, P.O. Box 485, Okarche, Okla. 73762. You may also send it via e-mail to tiacobs@holyltrinitvok.org.

Kindergarten Teacher Opening

St. John Nepomuk School in Yukon is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2011-2012 school year. A full-time position is available for a kindergarten teacher certified in Early Childhood. This position is for a classroom that has a full-day kindergarten program. Applicants for this position must be certified in the state of Oklahoma. Call the school office at (405) 354-2509 for an application or send a copy of your current Oklahoma teaching certificate and resume to Diane Floyd, St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Okla. 73099.

Elementary School Openings

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2011-2012 school year. SHCS is a PK4 through eighth-grade school. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

Business Manager

St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center in Norman is looking for a business manager. Responsibilities includes bill-paying, recordkeeping, oversight

of parish property and supervision of office staff. Needed are organizational skills, talent for multitasking, proficiency with standard office software (Word, Excel, etc.), and experience in a business office and/or supervisory role. Successful candidate will show promise as parish resource and office leader. Send (1) letter of application, (2) resume, and (3) contact information for three references to Search Committee, St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center, 100 E. Stinson, Norman, Okla. 73072. Job remains open until filled, with first round of consideration commencing April 27, 2011. Questions: call (405) 321-0990.

Teachers Needed

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is in need of two certified teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Send resume and references c/o Shannon Statton, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax (405) 262-3818. Sacred Heart Catholic School will be hiring a janitor pending a background check for the 2011-2012 school year. Please apply in person after 3:30 p.m. or send resume to Sacred Heart School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036.

Part-Time Music Teacher

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time music teacher for the

2011-2012 school year. Liturgical music director duties for leading student choir and accompaniment at school Masses to be negotiated. Please fax résumé and certification to Todd Gungoll at (405) 789-3583 or e-mail to tgungoll@scbschool.org.

Director of Religious Education

Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith with experience and vision to serve its 1,600 families. The director will coordinate all education programs for children and adults. Will be responsible for catechist recruitment, formation and certification, and must also collaborate with the parish leaders of youth ministry, music, and the Journey of Faith. Applicants should have a degree in theology, religious education or related area and a minimum of five years experience working in catechetical ministry (Master's degree preferred). Interested candidates should contact Patricia Koenig in the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education to initiate the application process, PKoenig@CathArchdioceseOKC.org, (405) 721-5651 Ext. 126.



Seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Mary's School in Ponca City pose with Oklahoma State University head wrestling coach John Smith in Stillwater. Smith arranged for a private tour of Gallagher-Iba Arena and then spoke with the students about setting goals, discipline, and how living his Catholic faith has enabled him to accomplish his goals. The students also visited St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church to learn about campus ministry and to celebrate Mass with Father Stuart Crevcoure.

Calendar

MAY

30 Memorial Day Masses at Resurrection Cemetery.

Archbishop Coakley will say Mass at 8 a.m. and Archbishop Emeritus Beltran will say Mass at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

30 Memorial Day Mass at

Lockridge at St. Patrick Cemetery at 10 a.m., located one-half mile west of Council Road on Sorghum Mill Road. A potluck luncheon will follow the celebration of the Mass. Bring a lawn chair and a covered dish. In case of stormy weather, Mass and luncheon will be moved to St. Monica Church at 2001 N. Western, Edmond.

JUNE

1 Perpetual Adoration at St.

Monica, St. Augustine chapel located at the back of St. Monica Church. For more information, call Toni Harrelson by e-mail at tonimah@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (405) 341-2199.

3-5 Rachel's Vineyard Post-

Abortion Healing Retreat. Inquire for details at the confidential phone or e-mail (405) 623-3844, rachels-vineyardokc@gmail.com.

3 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass

at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m., Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

4-5 Book Sale.

Attention bibliophiles! Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral youth group and Our Lady's Altar Society book sale June 4 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and June 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Connor Center, 3300 Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City. Contact Faith Reilly at 523-3057 or freilly@cathedralokc.org.

4 Mount St. Mary High School classes of 1971 and 1972 40-year reunion

for graduates and their

MSM friends. A reception will be held at the Mount in the Heritage Room from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by dinner at Belle Isle Brewery. For more information, contact Diane McGlashan Wilson at 631-8865 or Dwilson@mountstmary.org.

4 Redhawks Baseball with the

COMPANY: Single adults ages 35-plus. Tables have been reserved at Coach's on the Patio. There are only 40 spots available, only \$6 a spot! These must be prepaid. Reservations begin at 6:30 p.m. Contact Mary at maryhall@consultant.com or call/text 401-4105.

4 St. Charles Catholic Singles

Dance from 7:30 to 11 p.m. The church is located at 5024 N. Grove Avenue, Oklahoma City. For more information, call Al at 631-0763.

5 Byzantine Liturgy

will be offered at 5 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Moleben-Intercessions to Christ

Emmanuel will be celebrated after Liturgy. For more information, call Father Phil Seeton at (580) 536-6351.

10-12 A Walk in the Garden, a Catholic Young Adult Retreat

for ages 18-35. Featuring Father Boniface Copelin, O.S.B., S.T.L., and Brother Simeon Spitz, O.S.B. To register or for more information, contact FIDE at (405) 878-5353 or fide@stgregorys.edu.

10 Bingo Night at St. Joseph's Church in Norman. Light supper served at 6:30 p.m. Games begin at 7 p.m. with a first session; second session at 8:30 p.m. \$5 per session, no limit on blackout cards, group photo of all the winners.

12 35th Anniversary of Epiphany of the Lord Parish,

founded the summer of 1976. We invite all current and former parishioners to join us for the weekend Masses and for the parish picnic. Games begin at 4 p.m., dinner is served at 5 p.m.

Spirituality Retreat, Training Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — Where do you find the inspiration that restores you for the work of the Gospel? Do you yearn to live more deeply? Are you looking for ways to connect your prayer life with the needs of the world?

Engaging Spirituality, a JustFaith Ministries process, invites adult Christians to explore the intersection between contemplative presences and social action. "Two opportunities will be offered in Oklahoma City on June 3 and 4 to experience this formation process that can give a connection to a deeper faith life," said Becky VanPool, Parish Outreach Director of Catholic Charities.

"Still In the Storm," a presentation on Friday, June 3 at 7 p.m., will be an introduction to the themes and flow of Engaging Spirituality. Joe Grant, author of JustFaith Ministries Engaging Spirituality will lead participants to experience a prayerful process to draw this world down into our hearts, to hold it in prayer together and to practice living deeply. The evening retreat is free but

participants need to register with VanPool at (405) 523-3003.

Engaging Spirituality — Reflection and Discernment Day for potential co-facilitators will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The training is a day-long immersion into some of the unique elements of this spiritual deepening process, and well as an experience of contemplative-engagement practices. This small group process uses discernment, Lectio Divina, prayerful listening, journaling, spiritual reading, Centering Prayer and outreach to explore the intersection between contemplative presence and social action.

Epiphany of the Lord Parish, 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City, will host both presentations. Registration for Saturday is \$32 which includes lunch. Housing at the Pastoral Center is also available. To register for events or for additional information, contact Becky VanPool at bvanpool@catholic-charitiesok.org or by calling (405) 523-3003. For more information regarding JustFaith Ministries, go to justfaith.org.

Scout to Receive Eagle May 29

Parker Rice, 18, son of Craig and Juanita Rice, is a senior at Norman North High School where he participates in tennis, band, orchestra, Jazz Band, National Honor Society and GEMS Science Club. He is also active in a 4-H FIRST Robotics Club. He plans on attending Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.



Parker Rice

Parker began Scouting as a Tiger Cub with Pack 159 at All Saints Catholic School. He earned Cub Scouting's highest award, the Arrow of Light. He joined Boy Scout Troop 217, chartered by St. Mark the Evangelist Church, in the spring of 2004 as a member of the Scorpion Patrol.

Parker has served his troop as senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, bugler, scribe, patrol quartermaster, junior assistant Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster.

He has sold over \$15,250 in Boy Scout popcorn fundraisers. He has completed 95 nights camping, 87 miles hiking, 70 miles canoeing and 51 service hours. He has participated in Slippery Falls Scout Ranch, Philmont Scout Ranch, Current River float trips and Trappers Rendezvous. The highlight of his Scouting career was attending the 2010 100th Anniversary Boy Scout National Jamboree.

Parker's Eagle service project involved designing and coordinating the construction of raised garden beds and a fence for an outdoor classroom for the high schools of Norman Public Schools. His Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held on May 29.

Benedictines Celebrate

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's Abbey celebrated several anniversaries in mid-May.

On Monday, May 16, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley celebrated Mass at the Abbey church, giving special thanks for the priestly ministry and life of Father Charles Massoth, OSB. Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, concelebrated and offered the homily.

Father Massoth is celebrating his 60th anniversary of Priestly Ordination. At the end of Mass he strolled to the microphone with the help of his walker and belted out a beautiful rendition of "To Dream the Impossible Dream."

"From Jesus, the true and perfect shepherd, comes a call to others that is so compelling that it leads them to lay down their very lives out of love of Christ and for the sake of Christ's flock," Abbot Lawrence said in his homily. "They hear the voice of the True Shepherd calling them to the life and ministry of the priesthood and they respond with openness and joy."

"Today we give thanks for this call to priestly ministry made manifest in the life of Father Charles Massoth, OSB. Ordained to the priesthood on April 7, 1951, Father Charles has been indeed an exemplary image and embodiment of the ministry of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, for over 60 years."

On Thursday, May 19, St. Gregory's celebrated the anniversaries of monastic profession of Brother Benet Exton, OSB, 25 years. Father Basil Keenon, OSB, and Father Adrian Vorderlandwehr, OSB, are celebrating 50 years of profession. They received a special staff and blessing. And finally, Brother Andrew Raple, OSB, is celebrating his 60th anniversary of monastic profession.

Top right, Archbishop Coakley congratulates Father Charles Massoth, OSB, on his 60th anniversary. Below, clockwise, Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, listens as Father Basil Keenon, OSB, Father Adrian Vorderlandwehr, OSB, Brother Benet Exton, OSB, and Brother Andrew Raple, OSB, repeat their vows.

