

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 36, Number 9 * May 2, 2010

YOU ARE INVITED

To join in the celebration of the

**GOLDEN JUBILEE OF
PRIESTLY ORDINATION FOR
MOST REVEREND
EUSEBIUS J. BELTRAN
ARCHBISHOP OF
OKLAHOMA CITY**

Who: All Oklahoma Catholics

When: Saturday, May 15, 2010

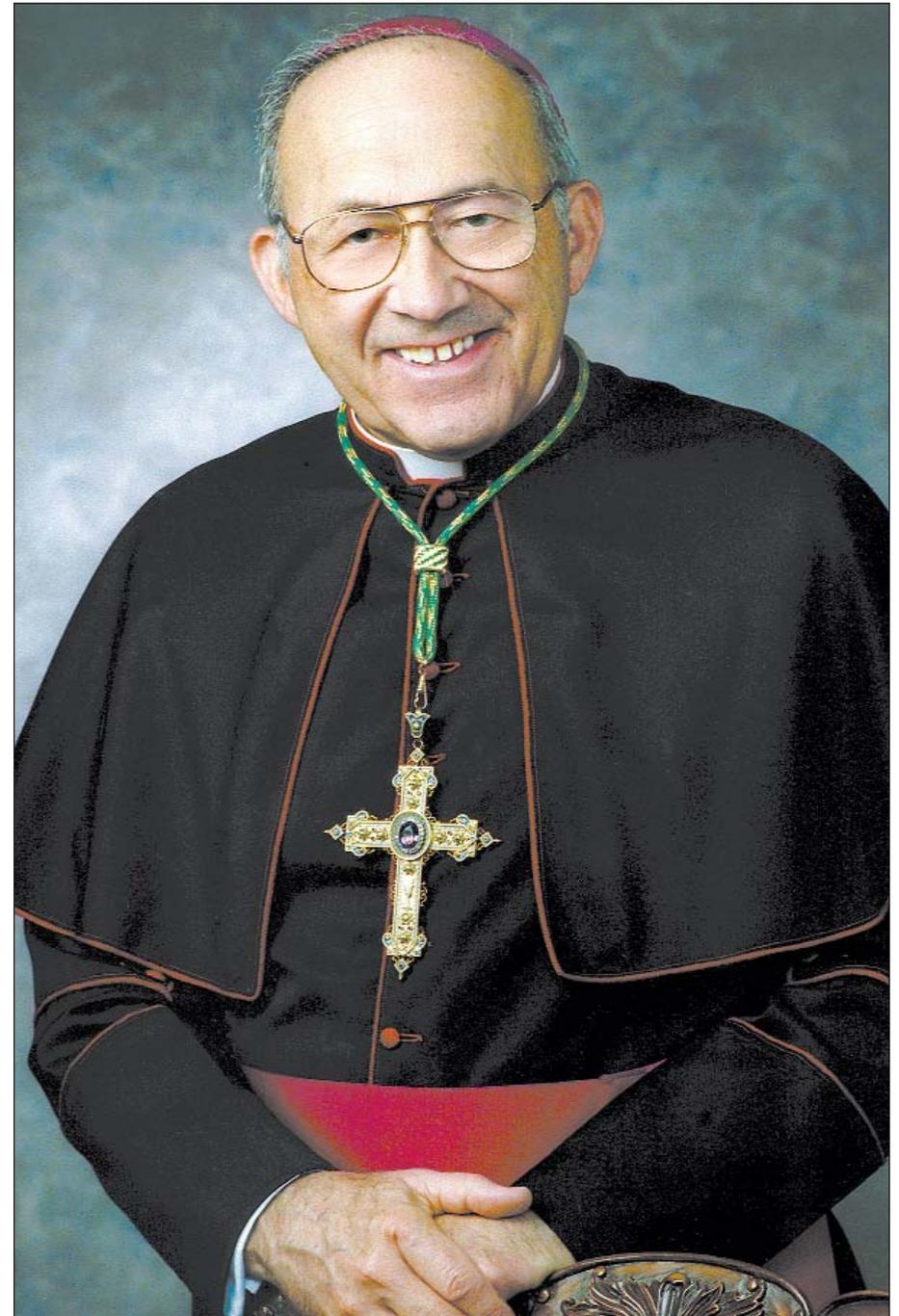
**Where: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic Youth Camp (OLOG)**

**What: Anniversary Mass followed by picnic,
entertainment and children's games**

The camp will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mass begins at 11 a.m.

Archbishop Beltran is very pleased to invite you to share in his special jubilee, 50 years as a priest. He looks forward to celebrating Mass and visiting with his guests. Come and join in prayer, visiting and a picnic lunch.



State Lawmakers Override Abortion Veto

Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee said a lawsuit filed by Reproductive Services following the successful override of Gov. Brad Henry's veto of two anti-abortion laws contradicts what the organization has said and done in the

past. "It is striking that a pro-abortion organization based in New York believes they know what is best for Oklahomans and will go to the expense of filing suit over a bill that passed both legislative bodies by wide, bi-

partisan margins," Coffee said.

"The Left consistently claims that education and more information is always beneficial for our citizens. Now, we pass a bill which would provide more information for a woman contemplating the

Continued to Page 4

The Good News

... Homily, Mystogogy Mass

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is with great joy that I welcome you here today to our Catholic Pastoral Center. I am especially pleased to extend that welcome to those of you who recently were baptized, received First Communion and were confirmed in your parish church. You entered the Catholic Church after a long and prayerful search. You heard the Lord calling and offering you new life. You discovered in the teachings of the Church the fulfillment of the Word of God.

In your RCIA instructions and formation, you learned that the human being is made in the Image and Likeness of God but we are not God. We are His creatures. We depend totally upon God as Jesus says: "Without Me, you can do nothing."

When human beings first sinned, we rejected the plan that God had established for us. We were like branches cut off the vine. There was no hope for us, for without God, we can do nothing. But Almighty God, Who is good and gracious, looked upon us with love. He said: "I will send My Son and He will save you." This promise of salvation was the Good News that suffering humanity could depend upon in its daily struggles against evil. This was the hope that faithful, loving people nourished for generations and even centuries. Then, at the appointed time, the angels proclaimed the Good

News anew: "Behold, this day a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."

Jesus is the Christ. He is the Lord. He is the One and only Savior of the world. It is He Who offers us new life through the holy, Catholic Church which He established. Thus to become a member of the Catholic Church is radically different than joining any other group, society or institution. This is the uniqueness of the holy Catholic Church. While the Church is a community, an organization, a visible society, at the same time, it is, in the revealed plan of God, the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church is Divinely established, sustained and directed. Jesus is the Foundation and the Head of this Church. Therefore, when by the inspiration of God, we respond to His invitation and join the Church, we become not just members of a community but also members of the Mystical Body of Christ. This new and intimate relationship with Jesus is a communion, a coming together so that we truly share in His life and His love. It is through this unity with Christ that we receive the fulfillment of our human longing and nature.

In today's Gospel, we heard the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples at the Sea of Galilee. They had fished all night and caught nothing. At dawn they met Jesus standing on the shore and He challenged them to cast their nets again and when they did, they pulled in such a large number of fish that the boat was

'The Catholic Church may not answer all your questions as you would like them to be answered but it will always direct you to the Lord...'



Archbishop
Beltran

sinking. It was then that the disciples realized this was Jesus Who had risen from the dead.

Like the disciples, we too have been challenged by the Lord to place our trust and faith in Him. The Catholic Church may not answer all your questions as you would like them to be answered but it will always direct you to the Lord Himself because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Now that you share His life in the Eucharist, continue to follow Him all the days of your life.

Therefore, I congratulate you for responding to the invitation of Jesus. I pray that you will be devout and active members of the Catholic Church. If so, I know that you will have life everlasting. May God Who has begun this good work in you, bring it to fulfillment.

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Mother's Day Collection to Aid Birth Choice

Editor's Note: *This letter was sent to priests in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. It was written by Jan O'Neill, development director for Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc. On May 9, Mother's Day, Archbishop Beltran, as he does each year, is asking Oklahoma Catholics to support the ministry of Birth Choice with a special collection.*

Dear Shepherds of His Flock,

Mother's Day is fast approaching. I am writing you to request that you please ask your parishioners to participate in the Archbishop's Mother's Day Collection. This

annual collection is critical to the lifesaving efforts at Birth Choice. It helps keep the doors open at four centers in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area in Bethany, Edmond, Norman and south OKC, along with Rose Home, our shelter for homeless pregnant women 18 and older and their children. The monies raised help provide pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, prenatal medical assessments, prenatal vitamins, shelter and food through Rose Home, maternity and infant clothing, diapers and formula, all at no cost to the women who need them. During 2009, an additional prenatal assessment clinic was

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Sooner Catholic

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A Golden Anniversary

Archbishop Beltran Reflects on Half Century of Love, Service to God and to His People; Celebration Set for May 15

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

On May 15, Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. All are invited on this day to celebrate with him at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp.

"It's wonderful to be alive," Archbishop Beltran said when asked his thoughts leading up to the celebration of his golden anniversary. He said this thought enters his mind each morning when he awakens. He is truly grateful to God for the beautiful gift of life. A life the Archbishop said our Catholic faith rightfully teaches us is the beginning of our journey to the promise of eternal life with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Heaven.

In 1934, Eusebius J. Beltran was born into a large Catholic family. The fifth of eight children, the future Archbishop would grow up in a predominantly Catholic neighborhood.

"There were a number of different nationalities in the neighborhood, but more than 50 percent of the people were Catholic," Archbishop Beltran said. He said the Catholic faith was a way of life, from attending Mass on Sunday, often during the week and attending Catholic school. The Beltran children, born to Joseph and Helen Beltran, were raised to

know and love their faith. They were raised to understand their Catholic faith was a gift to be cherished and taken seriously.

"We were a very devout Catholic family," Archbishop Beltran said. An older brother, Joseph Beltran, would enter the priesthood before Archbishop Beltran. It was actually Father Joseph Beltran who persuaded his younger brother to be ordained a priest for the Church in Georgia.

Archbishop Beltran said at the time of his discernment of a priestly vocation, he was strongly considering responding to a plea from the bishop of Mobile, Ala. The Alabama bishop was making a strong recruiting pitch for priests, calling Alabama "mission territory." Father Joseph Beltran was successful in convincing his younger brother the need for Catholic priests was even greater in Georgia.

At 25 years of age and following 12 years of Catholic education, as well as four years of college seminary and four more years of theological studies, Father Eusebius J. Beltran was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on May 14, 1960, in Atlanta's Cathedral of Christ the King.

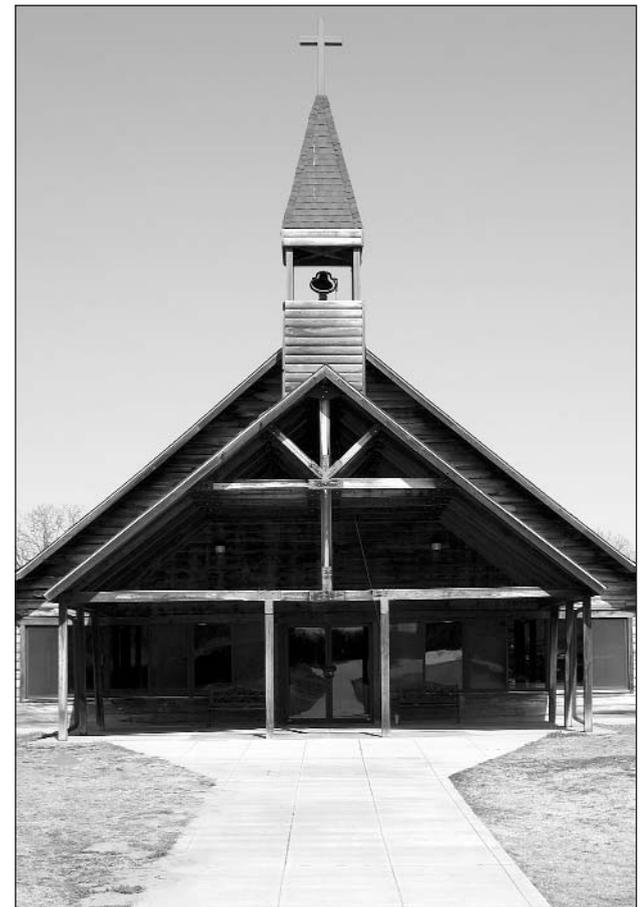
As a priest, Father Beltran served in parish and Archdiocese appointments. He served as pastor for three assignments, as well as Officialis, presiding Judge for the Tribunal and Vicar General.

The 1960s were turbulent times in the Deep South with the Civil Rights struggle reaching a fever pitch. As a young priest, Father Beltran was deeply affected by the injustice he witnessed. He chose to stand and walk with the blacks, Catholics and Jewish people who demanded that all in America be treated as equals. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and remembers the orders he and his fellow priests received from their Archbishop. The priests were told what they were doing was the right thing, but were warned if they were arrested while marching, they would not be bailed out of jail by the Church.

St. Anthony's was the last Atlanta parish in which now Monsignor Beltran would serve. The inner-city parish was "probably 10 percent black" when he arrived as a priest. By the time he left six years later, white-flight had transformed it into a parish that was 80 percent African-American.

Pope Paul VI appointed Monsignor Beltran to serve as Bishop of Tulsa on Feb. 28, 1978. He was ordained by Most Reverend Charles A. Salatka in Holy Family Cathedral on April 20, 1978. So loved was he from his time in Atlanta, the Gospel choir from St. Anthony's Church traveled to Tulsa to sing at his ordination.

Newly ordained Bishop Beltran chose for his motto: "We are one in Christ." His actions proved his belief in this Biblical statement. As Bishop of Tulsa, he would work to build up the ministries of Catholic



The Chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp will greet those who take part in the May 15 celebration.

Charities. He reached out through the parishes to the needy and saw that support was increased for unwed mothers, AIDS victims, the homeless and women who had just been released from prison. During his 15 years in the Diocese of Tulsa, Bishop Beltran opened eight new parishes.

Bishop Beltran's great love for the Church and God's people did not go unnoticed. In November of 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him Archbishop of Oklahoma City. He was installed on Jan. 22, 1993.

As Archbishop of Oklahoma City, he has fought for the sanctity of life, constantly delivering the unwavering message that we are created in the image and likeness of God. He is a staunch supporter of Birth Choice and ministries that help support women who have been abused or abandoned. He is outspoken in his opposition to the death penalty. Archbishop Beltran has led the effort to build homes for the elderly, modern and affordable housing for needy families and sanctuaries for young women who are with child. He is an advocate for those men and women who with their families seek to build a better life in our nation.

Tens of thousands of Oklahoma children will carry wonderful memories of their days spent at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. Archbishop Beltran led the effort to build the beautiful camp. It is the Camp where his Golden Jubilee celebration will be celebrated May 15.

As always with Archbishop Beltran, all are welcome and invited.

How to Get to OLOG

Directions: From I-35 (north of Oklahoma City), take Highway 66 East for 16 miles. You will go through Arcadia and the north edge of Luther. At the Lincoln-Oklahoma County Line Road (also called Pottawatomie Road), there will be a large sign which says OLOG. Turn north at this County Line Road and go three and a half miles. Another sign will be at the entrance which is on the east side. At that point, there will be greeters and people giving parking instructions.

In Lieu of Gifts

Archbishop Beltran can be honored with a donation to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund or the Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp Endowment Fund at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. The donation can be made online at www.cfook.org or by calling Barney Semtner at (405) 721-4115.

Archbishop: First Bishop Built Solid Foundation

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

The Catholic Faith in Oklahoma is “mature” and “growing,” and much of the credit for this should go to the man who first planted the seeds of the faith here, Bishop Theophile Meerschaert.

“Bishop Meerschaert did a very wise thing,” Archbishop Beltran said. “He brought very well-educated priests to Oklahoma.” It was these well-educated priests who helped immigrants and Native Americans struggling to carve out a life in this new and rugged territory build up strong Catholic communities. The kind that nurtured people like Father Stanley Rother, the priest Oklahoma Catholics are praying will one day be declared a saint.

Archbishop Beltran said Oklahoma’s first bishop was able to attract some of the very best and brightest priests from Belgium and other European countries. This gave Oklahoma a solid Catholic foundation and opened the way for the faith to grow and flourish.

Oklahoma is certainly enjoying the fruits of the early Catholic faithful who ventured here, many in covered wagons or on foot. Today, our Catholic faith provides more hospitals and health care for Oklahoma than any other non-government entity. And every year Catholic schools educate several thousand

young Oklahomans, relieving the state of a great financial burden, something that seems too often overlooked by Oklahoma’s political leaders.

Archbishop Beltran will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Catholic priest on May 15 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. It was his vision that led to the creation of the beautiful youth camp.

For the past 17 years, the son of Joseph and Helen (Kozlowski) Beltran has served as Archbishop of Oklahoma City. Before that, he was Bishop of Tulsa, 1978 to 1993. And before that he was a parish priest for close to two decades in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Ga.

Archbishop Beltran points to those who came before him, calling them the ones who planted the seeds of faith in the red Oklahoma clay.

“Oklahoma has been very blessed by the thousands of Catholic Sisters who have ministered here,” he said. “Those Sisters served as great missionaries in schools and in hospitals. They have meant a great deal to the development of Oklahoma and to the growth of the Catholic faith. And while their numbers aren’t as large today, they continue to make a major contribution to our

Archdiocese and our state.” Catholic schools, Archbishop Beltran said, continue to play a major role in creating a healthier and more prosperous Oklahoma. He said our Catholic schools provide a wonderful opportunity for evangelization, a statement strongly supported by the fact more than 120

students, parents and teachers involved in our schools entered the Church this past Easter.

“Catholic schools are the key to the future,” said Archbishop Beltran. That’s why he continues to strongly support Catholic education and the reason he created the Catholic School Endowment. Administered by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc., the Endowment is one of the gifts Archbishop Beltran will leave to the future. It is his prayer that one day the Endowment will grow to the point it helps cap tuition at our Catholic schools and eventually make Catholic education affordable to every family in the Archdiocese.

While Archbishop Beltran talks of the countless blessings he has received in his 50 years of Catholic leadership and ministry, those who have witnessed his faith and commitment to Christ-like service are in a word, inspired.

They have seen him travel continuously throughout our large Archdiocese, celebrating Mass, administering the Sacrament of Confirmation, meeting with school-children, visiting priests and church leaders and presiding at countless groundbreaking and blessings. Most importantly, they and every other Catholic see Archbishop Beltran doing these things in a loving and Christ-like manner.

Jim Weinmann has served the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for more than 30 years. He has held positions such as superintendent of Catholic Schools, director of the Pastoral Center and today he serves as coordinator of special projects, including the Heritage Room at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

“I have had the distinct pleasure of working with four bishops since 1973,” Weinmann said. “All were great to be with and yet Archbishop Beltran ranks number one in his being available, pleasant and ‘ordinary’ as a person.”

Weinmann points to how approachable and welcoming the Archbishop always is, even when it’s obvious he’s quite busy.

“He is so kind and caring as a shepherd,” Weinmann said. “He is a great teacher of the faith; certainly his relationship with the staff is one as friend and yet he is always our Archbishop and Shepherd of the Archdiocese.”



Lawmakers

Continued from Page 1

decision to end a life growing inside of her, and we hear them claim that more information is not beneficial in this case.

“We heard a Democrat senator say that HB 2780 would not prevent any abortions from occurring,” Coffee said. “Unfortunately for his argument, history and the plaintiffs themselves in this lawsuit refute that claim.”

“In November, 2009, the director of the Planned Parenthood office in Bryan, Texas, resigned her position after witnessing a pre-abortion ultrasound. She is now a pro-life advocate. Certainly, that ultrasound and her decision has resulted in fewer abortions in that location and nationwide.

“Further, in paragraph 37 of the Reproductive

Services lawsuit, the plaintiff states clearly that the impact of this legislation will result in less medical supervision of their clients, and ultimately fewer abortions performed.

Requiring the physician to perform the ultrasound imaging himself or herself, or requiring that the ultrasound imaging be performed while the physician is on-site, would drastically reduce the number of abortions that Reproductive Services could perform. Reproductive Services would not be able to meet the demand for abortions from its patients and might not be able to remain in business.

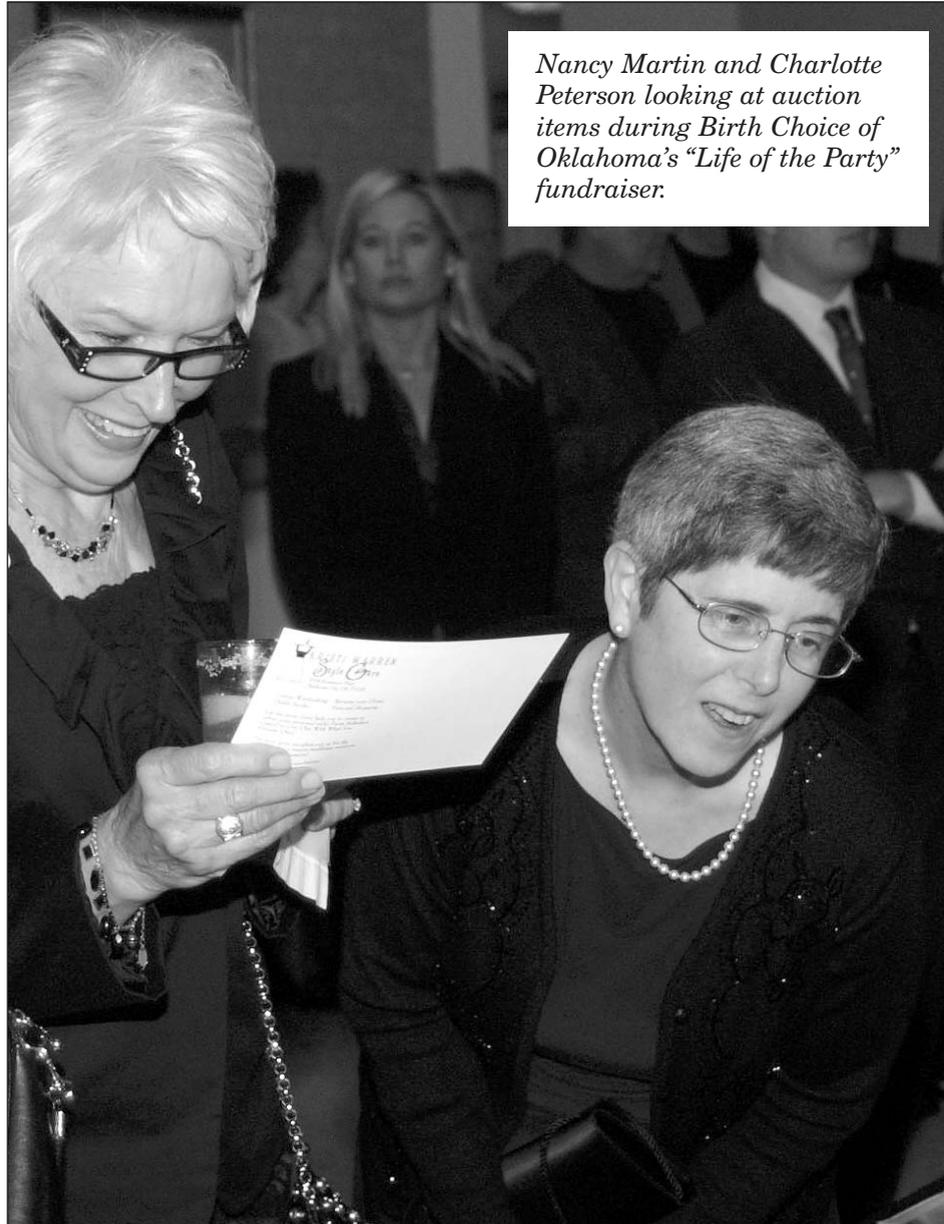
“Because abortion is a billion-dollar business, those promoting the termination of pre-born lives will stop at no expense to forestall or circumvent the will of the people through their elected officials.”

Tony Lauinger, state chairman of Oklahomans for Life Inc., said pro-life Oklahomans provided great support for members of the House and Senate who were willing to oppose the governor.

“Thanks to all of you who have contacted members of the Legislature urging support for the pro-life bills,” said Lauinger. “Your e-mails to members of the Senate these past few days were a tremendous encouragement in helping them to stand true and resist the pro-abortion pressure.”

“Later in the week, we will forward the names of the House members who voted to override the pro-abortion vetoes of the Ultrasound and Wrongful-life bills. Thank you for protecting that tiniest little masterpiece of God’s creation, the helpless, innocent child waiting to be born.”

Producer Life of the ‘Birth Choice’ Party



Nancy Martin and Charlotte Peterson looking at auction items during Birth Choice of Oklahoma's "Life of the Party" fundraiser.

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

Leo Severino, a Hollywood writer and producer, made a promise to young people attending the Birth Choice of Oklahoma fundraiser dinner.

“My pledge is not to be involved in any film ever that in any way, shape or form degrades human dignity and I want you to make a pledge to me.

“I beg you to be careful what you watch. Make a promise to God that you will be careful what you watch. That you won’t watch films that our Lord and Our Lady wouldn’t sit next to you and watch it all the way through,” Severino said.

Severino was guest speaker at Birth Choice’s “Life of the Party” dinner and auction at the Oklahoma Golf and Country Club to raise money for Birth Choice of Oklahoma.

Severino is the producer of “Bella,” an award-winning movie about a New York City waitress who becomes pregnant. The film is about her journey and those around her who help her make the decision to have her baby.

“My hope for that film is that we touched one heart and some day someone would knock on our door who is 12 or 13 years old and says a few years back my mom was con-

fused and because of your film I’m here. Wouldn’t that be amazing ... a living Oscar,” Severino said.

He said he has several films in the making and he has found a niche in the Hollywood film business.

“Eighty-one percent of films glorify some sort of vice or drug use. There’s a correlation between sex and the media, and premarital sex among teens. It is almost the same correlation as drunk driving and getting in an accident.

“There is a real-life correlation to what we are producing and what we are doing as a society,” Severino said.

Jan O’Neil, Birth Choice development director, said the preliminary numbers indicate the event raised about \$170,000, and she anticipates additional pledge money will be coming in.

O’Neil said the fundraiser represents about one-third of the money that Birth Choice needs to run its programs.

“We did about the same as we did last year and we feel pretty good about that,” O’Neil said.

Birth Choice of Oklahoma provides a variety of services for pregnant woman including Rose Home, a shelter for pregnant and homeless women.

Mother’s Day

Continued from Page 2

added to our South Birth Choice center. Open one day per week, the clinic typically sees 12 to 14 women in one afternoon. Just last month, the South Center alone ran 252 pregnancy tests, of which 139 were positive!

Statistics from 2009 are as follows: 18,468 - women assisted; 3,191 - pregnancy tests; 2,986 - infant and maternity clothes; 2,294 - diapers; 1,539 - formula; 934 - ultrasounds; 122 - prenatal clinic patients.

There were 2,653 more women assisted in 2009 than 2008, a 17 percent increase. Birth Choice centers ran 591 more pregnancy tests, 23 percent more than 2008, and experienced a 14

percent increase in ultrasounds, performing 115 more than in 2008.

We have come to rely heavily on the generosity of you and the people of God. The Mother’s Day Collection last year was instrumental in the ability of Birth Choice to meet these increases doing God’s work on behalf of the unborn and their mothers.

As we are reminded in John’s gospel, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd and I know my sheep and my sheep know me ... My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.”

You are His Shepherds here on earth and your parishioners are influenced by what you

say and do. Please support the unborn and their mothers with your endorsement of parish participation in the Mother’s Day collection! Countless lives are depending on you. Thank you for all your support!

You are in my daily prayers, that you will continue to grow in your love and faith of God, and for guidance of the Holy Spirit in all you think, do and say,

In Christ,

Jan
(Mrs.) Jan L. O’Neill
Development

Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc.
405-606-8426

'Women of Achievement' Honored at Banquet

By Eliana Tedrow
For the *Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — As goes the annual tradition, women from across the Archdiocese were honored for their dedication and faithful service to their parishes and community. The tradition, which started in 1934 as "Mother of the Year," evolved to "Women of Achievement" in 1964. This year, 16 women from across the Archdiocese were honored for their faith and commitment to servitude.



Pearl Sullens

The banquet was held April 10 at St. James the Greater Parish, where almost 300 were treated to Mass, a luncheon, and words of encouragement and praise by Archbishop Beltran.

Every honoree was presented a medal, blessed by the archbishop.

The "Women of Achievement" award is sponsored by the Central Region Council of Catholic Women (CRCCW), an affiliate of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW), Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Catholic Relief Services provide an abundance of economic and social services to women and children in need — the most recognized being "Works of Peace" and "Works of Reconciliation."

This year, the CRCCW has chosen "Water for Life" — a fundraising program that provides people the opportunity for clean and safe drinking water, primarily through the drilling of wells — as their primary cause.

"Water for Life" is one of the many international social programs facilitated and funded by Catholic Relief Services.

"If you leave here with one thing," Brenda Arambula, chair of the Woman of Achievement banquet, stressed to the crowd, "remember that every 15 seconds a child dies from the lack of clean drinking water."

Of the parishes represented, four have pledged to raise the \$1,200 needed in order for a well to be drilled.

"We don't just do 'Women of Achievement,'" Arambula reiterated to the audience, "we do a lot of things."

In addition to those honored was



Archbishop Beltran pictured with the ACCW Women of Achievement.

Pearl Sullens, a member of St. Francis of Assisi and 30-plus-year member of the CRCCW/ACCW. Sullens was recognized for her years of dedication to the organization, which has included a vital role as the chair of "International Concerns," advocating and fundraising for Sister Mary Sponsa Beltran, founder of "Our Lady of Fatima Rehabilitation Center" in Liberia, in addition to numerous charitable contributions.

Archbishop Beltran, in his address to the recipients, pointed to the first canonized American saints, including Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose persistence and dedication to everyday works of charity led to a profound effect on God's people.

Further stressing the importance of everyday, practical works, the archbishop concluded with the final urge, "Don't give up on the hope of becoming a saint ... That is the only reason you're on this earth. Love God, love your neighbor, do the best you can with the talents God has given you and realize that through all the bad things and discrepancies — that basically life is good."

2010 Women of Achievement

- Catholic Women's Activities Club - Kathy Ward
- St. Joseph - Norman - Katie Fisher
- Saint Francis of Assisi - Lyn Swihard
- Saint Teresa of Avila - Pat Russell
- Church of the Epiphany of the Lord - Pat Cunningham
- St. John the Baptist - Rosalie Seikel
- Our Lady of Fatima - Kathy Dilbeck
- Saint Joseph - Union City - Mari Esselmann
- Saint James the Greater - Annette Sharp
- Saint Charles Borromeo - Betty Temple
- St. Joseph Old Cathedral - Linda Connally
- Saint Mark the Evangelist - Marilyn Wehling
- Saint Eugene - Ellen Kiss
- Saint John Nepomuk - Alberta French
- Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Carol Woitchek
- Saint Monica - Helen O'Connor
- Our Lady of Sorrows - Yvonne Dennis

Death Penalty Foes Learn of Innocence Project

By Carmen Bourlon
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — The state of Oklahoma currently has 79 men and one woman on death row. What if one of these people were actually innocent of the crime for which they have been sentenced to die?

The Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty hosted its annual banquet April 17 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Several organizations were represented at the banquet, including Catholic Charities and a group from Oklahoma City University.

A group of OCU acting students

portrayed scenes from “The Exonerated,” a play by Erik Jensen and Jessica Blank. “The Exonerated” is a play about six death row inmates who were falsely accused and convicted, in spite of their innocence. All of the inmates were eventually released, but not without serving time in prison.

Lawrence Hellman, dean of OCU School of Law, told the audience of an initiative to start an innocence project at OCU. An innocence project is a law clinic that is created to research cases where some type of misconduct may have led to a false conviction. These projects are often created at law schools and are run by students.

There are innocence projects in Arkansas, Kansas and Texas, Hellman said.

“There is no such program in Oklahoma yet. But we’re about to change that at OCU,” he said.

OCU officials aim to have the clinic open in fall 2011, Hellman said. He said officials need \$1.5 million to start the clinic. A third of their budget has been raised as of April 17.

Hellman presented a video, which was taped at OCU School of Law when author John Grisham visited to help raise money for the OCU innocence project.

“Every wrongful conviction can be prevented,” Grisham said in the video.

Rev. Bryan Brooks was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by Monsignor Edward Weisenburger. Rev. Brooks received the award because he prays before each execution at Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. He invites anyone to attend his prayer vigils and has hosted the vigils for about 15 years.

Monsignor Weisenburger ended the evening with a prayer.

For more information about Rev. Brooks’ prayer vigils, call (918) 687-1351.

For more information about the innocence project at OCU, contact Dean Lawrence Hellman at (405) 208-5440.

Conference Speakers Set

The second annual Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010, at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman. The theme of this year’s conference is “Moving Forward In Faith, Hope and Love.” Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and close with Mass at 5:30 p.m. Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, will be the principle celebrant and homilist, with the Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery-Bishop of Tulsa concelebrating at the closing Mass. The morning session will begin with a Byzantine prayer service with Rev. Phil Seeton, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church presiding.

Keynote speaker is Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery, bishop of Tulsa, who will speak in the morning session on “Praying with the Icons” and in the afternoon session on “The Little Way of St. Therese.”

Special guest speaker Tim Staples, an apologist, of Catholic Answers and EWTN will address the assembly both in the morning and afternoon sessions, and his topics are: “Saved by Faith Alone or Faith, Hope and Charity” and “The Eucharist — God’s Extravagant Love Revealed.”

National seminar speaker Rev. Tom Boyer, pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church in Norman, will address “Moving Forward in Faith, Hope and Love.”

Guest speaker Karen Painter, V.P.

Region II of the National Council of Catholic Women, will be speaking on the newest resource packet, “Campaign for Human Dignity,” focusing on the National Council’s involvement with Catholic Relief Services.

A priests panel including Revs. Tom Boyer, Jim Goin and Paul Gallatin will entertain questions from the assembly.

Donations from Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference 2010 will benefit “Water for Life” through Catholic Relief Services.

This will be a wonderful spiritual-filled day with speakers, prayer service, music, priests panel, Catholic vendors, pastoral services and catered box lunch. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring this great event. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010. Registration to attend is \$40. A box lunch will be provided for \$10. A conference T-shirt is \$15.

To register by PayPal or for information, visit our Web site: <http://okacw.tripod.com/woa/index.html>

For mail-in registration, contact Marilyn Blevins at 6300 S.W. 104th St., Oklahoma City 73173, or call (405) 745-5966 or e-mail Barbara Wann at wann@sbcglobal.net, (580) 875-2278.

For general information, contact Chris Thomas at thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net or call (405) 306-5187.

Archdiocese Continues Efforts To Build Network

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City covers over 47,000 square miles. Eighteen states have fewer square miles each. This distance among us in the Archdiocese presents quite a challenge for all members of the Archdiocese to feel connected and to participate in Archdiocesan activities, programs and events. Beginning in fall 2010, the Archdiocese is taking a creative step forward in addressing the distance among us, and connecting us in a new way.

The Pastoral Ministry program will begin offering classes using video-conferencing technology. The main site classroom at the Catholic Pastoral Center will be linked to classrooms at four remote parish sites: St. Mary, Clinton; St. Francis Xavier, Enid; Holy Family, Lawton; and St. Peter, Woodward. Classes will be live and fully interactive. Students will enroll in courses through the Pastoral Ministry Office, and can attend at any one of the five sites. Live and fully interactive, each site will experience the classroom in real time with all of the other sites.

During the next few months, equipment will be installed, tested and piloted. Training and practice sessions will follow. The fall 2010 Pastoral Ministry program schedule will then be announced by early May. For this year only, no Pastoral Ministry courses will be offered during summer 2010.

This is an exciting and hopeful project for our Archdiocese. More information will be coming in future issues of the *Sooner Catholic*. For information on Pastoral Ministry programs, please call or e-mail the Office of Pastoral Ministry, (405) 721-4208, dksorie@catharchdioceseokc.org. You can also visit the Archdiocesan Web site, www.catharchdioceseokc.org, Archdiocese Offices, Education, Pastoral Ministry, for information on our programs.

Catholic Radio – Now on AM and FM radio

KTLR 890 AM and

KTLR 94.1 FM

Peggy Noonan Is Out of Touch

A Response to the Wall Street Journal Article of April 17, 2010

Peggy Noonan is usually so good. But I am afraid she is stuck in the past with regard to the Church's response to sexual abuse (WSJ, April 17). She charges Vatican officials with complacency and declares, the "more relaxed the institution, the less likely it will reform."

But Peggy has apparently not noticed that tremendous reform has occurred. In fact, more reform has taken place in the Catholic Church than in any other social institution in which the abuse of minors has occurred. In 2002, the U.S. Bishops approved a Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. They hired the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to conduct an independent investigation of the problem. They established a National Review Board chaired by a woman (Peggy called for a woman's touch), Justice Anne M. Burke. The National Review Board monitors the policies of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the bishops and oversees its annual audit. Five of its current 13 members have that "woman's touch." One of the original members of the Review Board was a media representative, William Burleigh, at the time head of the Scripps news agency. This was surely expressive of a desire on the part of the bishops for transparency.

The chairman of the research committee of the original National Review Board, Robert Bennett, said when the report was issued that the sexual abuse of minors was a broad social problem and that a focus merely on the Catholic Church would be a disservice to our children. Regrettably, however, that is exactly what has happened.

There will be media reports of sexual abuse by schoolteachers, Scout leaders, swimming coaches and others, but they are fleeting. In March a judge ordered the Boy Scouts to release over 1,200 "perversion files" with Scout leaders who had molested boys. In early April a headline shouted, "Sex Abuse Pervasive in USA Swimming," with reports of molesters going unchallenged for decades as they moved from state to state. In 2002, Dr. Carol Shakeshaft of Hofstra University prepared a report for the U.S. Department of Education that found that 6 to 10 percent of high school students across the country have been sexually abused or harassed. "The physical sexual abuse of students in schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests," she declared. However, such reports will surface for a day and then quickly recede from public consciousness.

Many have heard of the sexual abuse by clergy in Catholic schools in Germany. However, at the time these reports were surfacing, it was learned that a prestigious private boarding school had an unspeakable record of abuse of its own. The Odenwaldschule is a UNESCO model school whose administration would arrange to have students

'There will be media reports of sexual abuse by schoolteachers, Scout leaders, swimming coaches and others, but they are fleeting.'

provide "entertainment" for visitors and whose male students were having sexual relations with the wives of teachers. A music teacher had numerous pupils living with him in his apartment. The administrator of the school was an adviser to the German Ministry of Education. Where were the headlines proclaiming that a UNESCO model school was engaged in the systematic molestation of children? In fact, when the report of the Odenwaldschule first appeared, it was under a headline decrying abuse in Catholic schools!

None of these other social institutions have put safeguards in place that even begin to approach those that have been established by the Catholic Church. There is nothing on a national level that tracks abusive schoolteachers, for example. And such negligence by these other institutions leaves more children at risk.

'Peggy Noonan and others should recognize and applaud the reforms which have taken place in the Catholic Church and urge other institutions working with the young to be equally as bold and as far-reaching in establishing programs to protect our children.'

Frankly, the only pedophile our family has ever known personally was our children's dentist. He was married with children, an elder in his Protestant church, and delivered Meals on Wheels to shut-ins. He was also a child pornographer and abuser. If we are not vigilant against abuse everywhere, our children are at risk.

The reforms in the Church have been extensive, indicating anything but complacency. When Josef Ratzinger was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he arranged for abuse cases to be moved from another Vatican office to his own — not for purposes of cover-up but so that the cases could be dealt with in a more expeditious

manner. In 2001, Pope John Paul II issued a decree *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela* drawn up by Cardinal Ratzinger. Among other things, it amended canon law in 18 places to allow a more effective response to charges of sexual abuse. Priests came to be more easily disciplined and defrocked, and they were.

Other reforms continued. One can visit the Web site of virtually any diocese in this country and there will be an icon taking the visitor to the policies pertaining to abuse. Most dioceses have a victims assistance coordinator who is a layperson to whom abuse can be reported if the victim would be uneasy approaching a cleric. The Church has also adopted a "zero tolerance" policy, meaning that if a priest admits to any past sexual activity with a minor or is found guilty of it, he may no longer function as a priest. No other social institution has as many safeguards in place for dealing with perpetrators of these criminal acts.

All were shocked by the sexual abuse in Catholic and state institutions in Ireland. But is it known that the Church has been engaged for some time in addressing the problem?

In 1996, the Catholic Church in Ireland published *Child Sexual Abuse: Framework for a Church Response*, which provided guidelines for dealing with abuse cases. The Bishops Committee on Child Abuse actually commissioned independent research into the problem by the Royal College of Surgeons. Their report was published in 2003 as *A Time to Listen*. The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland had its inaugural meeting in May 2006 and was headed by layman Justice Anthony Hederman. It is currently chaired by an attorney. Four of its members are women. (There's that woman's touch again, Peggy.) Pope Benedict severely criticized the Irish bishops for their handling of the abuse cases, and four have offered their resignation. And the Holy Father just met with abuse victims during his trip to Malta, not shying away from a public acknowledgment of the sins of those in the Church and the Church's desire to make amends. None of this seems to express complacency.

Peggy Noonan and others should recognize and applaud the reforms which have taken place in the Catholic Church and urge other institutions working with the young to be equally as bold and as far-reaching in establishing programs to protect our children.

John M. Haas, Ph.D., S.T.L.
President

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Father Stephen Hamilton, left, and Father Shane Tharp, at right, traveled with a group of young men to Conception Seminary in Missouri.

Young Men Journey To Seminary

By Gavin Anderson
Saint Mary, Ardmore

On April 17, 35 young men, representing 19 archdiocesan parishes, and two great priests set out by chartered bus to Conception Seminary in Missouri to participate in Encounter with God's Call, a priesthood discernment retreat. Many of the boys had never been to the weekend retreat; however, some had been multiple times before. On the long bus ride we watched movies, laughed, prayed the rosary, and slept. Upon arrival at the seminary we were greeted by all the seminarians from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Throughout the

weekend we ate with the seminarians, we talked one-on-one with them, and we played sports with them. We were able to interact and experience the life of the seminary.

The trip was a great spiritual experience. There was lots of time for prayer and reflection, and most of us took advantage of it. We were able to tour the campus with the seminarians, and visit their dorms and recreation areas. There was always something to do and there was lots of free time. The seminarians gave some very good talks. They went into depth about experiencing God's call and how to respond to Him when He calls. Eucharistic adoration was a great time to

pray and reflect. Confession was also available.

I think many people were surprised after we left Conception. Some went there just because they didn't have anything better to do, or because their parish priest had been nagging them to go and they finally gave in. For whatever reason, all 35 young men took something back home with them from Conception.

On the way home one participant said that Encounter with God's Call was the most significant religious experience he has had so far in his life. I'm absolutely sure that all of us had a great and wonderful experience and I can't wait to go back.

Author Takes Look at Lives of Unlikely Spiritual Heroes

Unlikely Spiritual Heroes.
Brennan R. Hill. Cincinnati, Ohio:
St. Anthony Messenger Press,
December, 2009. 143 pages.
Paperback. ISBN 978-0-86716-924-
9. \$14.95.



Dr. Brennan Hill presents short biographies on Jean Donovan (a lay missionary martyred in El Salvador), Sister Helen Prejean

(advocate against the death penalty and author), Sister Dorothy Stang (martyred in Brazil and advocate for the poor), Father Pedro Arrupe (former superior general of the Jesuits), Thomas Merton (Trappist monk and author), St. Maximilian



By Brother
Benet Exton

Kolbe (martyred by the Nazis), Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (former archbishop of Chicago), and the Venerable Pope John Paul II (third longest serving pope). Only one of these is still alive, Sister Helen Prejean, while all the others are dead. Hill presents their stories based on various sources about or by the person he is writing about which are included in the endnotes. These biographies show how these people fought against the evils of social

injustice.

Hill is professor emeritus in the theology department at Xavier University in Cincinnati. He is the author of "8 Freedom Heroes: Changing the World with Faith" and "8 Spiritual Heroes: Their Search for God." This book is inspiring and thought-provoking. This book is highly recommended to those interested in saints or heroic Christians. — Brother Benet Exton, O.S.B., St. Gregory's University, Shawnee.

Small But Mighty Teacher Honored for Dedication to Faith, Church, Children

By Candace Krebs
For the *Sooner Catholic*

Suzie Mitten is a study in contrasts: a tiny woman, with larger-than-life faith, heart and spirit.

Of severely limited mobility since age 2 when she was diagnosed with a rare form of rheumatoid arthritis, she never let it hold her back, eventually accomplishing her highest goal of all: making a difference in the lives of countless children and having a family of her own.

Mitten was recently named Religious Educator of the Year by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma and honored with a celebration at St. Gregory's Church of Enid, where she has taught religious education for 25 years. In addition to sponsoring the reception, the foundation provided her with a \$500 cash gift and presented St. Gregory's religious education program with a \$2,100 technology grant in her honor. She also received a large plaque.

"She's one of only two R.E. teachers we've had where the classes asked her if she would graduate with them, because they enjoyed her teaching so much," said Father Larry Kowalski, who has known her since the 1970s. "She just stays cheery. There's a light in her eyes. She is such a blessing to the human family, the parish and to our religious education program."

Mitten has taught several different elementary classes over the years, most recently the fifth-graders, who studied the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Her goal for the class was to help them recognize "when they have failed to love." She plans to teach it again next year.

"It was the first time I'd done it, but I loved it," she said. In revamping the religious education program at St. Gregory's, director Allison Aholt placed a renewed emphasis on instruction of the sacraments, which fit Mitten like a glove.

"I want them to know why their church is important to them," Mitten explained. "I really try to impress on them that when you go to communion, it is such a powerful thing."

Mitten engages students by using active exercises like role-playing of biblical stories. New this year, students rotated weekly between classrooms painted and decorated to go along with different activities, such as computers, food, theater or games, a setup Mitten says has met with great enthusiasm.

Aholt applauded Mitten's special gift for working with kids who — as Mitten puts it — just need "a little extra help." She's achieved remarkable results, in both group and private tutoring settings, in one case, calming and helping an autistic boy stay focused in her classroom; in another, assisting a struggling niece in learning to read proficiently.

"My heart goes out to people who are having any kind of problems," Mitten said.

She holds an education degree from Phillips University. She also attended St. Joseph's Catholic School for 12 years.

"I think educating your children in the faith is one of the most important things you can ever do. You also have to live by example," Mitten adds. "I believe you can't just instruct children in the gospels, you have to live it."

Despite physical challenges, Mitten's dedication to others and service to the church has been exemplary.

In nominating her for the award, Aholt called her "a Christian role model of service."



On behalf of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Dr. Charles Lawrence presents a plaque to fellow parishioner Suzie Mitten. She is joined at the front of the church by her son, Ray, of Tulsa, her husband, Wayne, and Father Larry Kowalski. (Photo by Bonnie G. Vculek)

"In addition to her role as a catechist, Suzie's faith is put into action as she has held nearly every office in the Altar Society, has served on the Social Action Committee, and assists in the church office as needed," Aholt wrote.

Mitten expressed gratitude to her husband, Wayne. "He has been right beside me with everything we've done in life," she said.

They married 42 years ago on the second anniversary of their first date, despite the fact that it fell on a Tuesday.

He was Lutheran at the time. "When he proposed, the first thing I said is, 'I'm not going to ask you to join the Catholic religion, but I am going to ask that you take me to church every Sunday, because I don't drive.' And he said, 'I will.' And he did," she recalls. "A year later he said, 'I think I'd like to take instruction.' He's been very active in the church ever since."

After she broke her leg a few years ago after a wheelchair mishap at a Tulsa mall, he gave her a pin that read, "I've survived darn near everything."

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"There isn't anything she can't do when she puts her mind to it," he said. "She's always just amazed me with the things she could do that a lot of people who don't have her handicap couldn't, or wouldn't, do."

She's also been there for him, working in the same truck parts supply business and faithfully nursing him through eight surgeries and four months in the hospital after he suffered a brain aneurism several years ago that forced him to retire early.

"Susie continued working at Truck Pro for a year or so after I retired. She said she wasn't ready to retire," he recounted.

Early in their marriage, she was a social worker at the Salvation Army, with the key role of conducting intake interviews. When a teenage boy arrived with nowhere to go, she convinced her new husband they should take him in. "We'd only been married four years, and he wasn't that much younger than we were," Mitten recalls. The boy lived with them for a year, while they got him back into school and helped him reunite with his mother. They remain in touch to this day. They also housed a teenage girl under similar circumstances along with helping other children in need.

"I wanted kids so badly at the time, I couldn't believe they could be so unwanted by their own parents," Mitten says.

It took nine years but eventually the couple was approved for adoption through Catholic Charities. To Wayne's surprise, they were given two children, a brother and sister a year apart in age. His wife assured him she was up to the task of raising two kids at once. Ray and Katherine are both married now, with children of their own.

Mitten accomplished her dreams, but it took fortitude. While her mother, Mary Alice "Mimi" Collar brushed off compliments, her daughter credited her with imparting a can-do attitude.

"She taught me that I could do anything," Mitten said.

Her father, Bill Waltz, died suddenly 31 years ago, but he was also a source of encouragement in her early years.

"Growing up, all we had was aspirin," she recalled of her childhood. "Every morning I would get up, and I could hardly walk. My mother had to help me walk to the bathroom to get ready for school. It would be about 10 in the



Suzie Mitten, seated in the center, was honored at a reception, where she was surrounded by family members, including her mother, Mimi Collar, seated to her left, her husband, Wayne behind her, their son, Ray and his family, to her right, and one of her two younger brothers, Bill Waltz, far left, and his family. (Photo by Bonnie G. Vculek)

morning before the aspirin would kick in, and then I would be OK."

"I didn't like the pain, but I didn't know any different," she continued. "I remember that riding in the car was painful, going over dips and bumps. But I would do everything I could. I was involved in everything at school. I would do dishes, even though I would cry sometimes because I hurt."

Today's medications are vastly improved, helping her live largely pain-free, enjoying the gifts of faith, family and children that clearly mean the most to her.

"I think I've been so blessed to be a Catholic, and I wish all Catholics could feel like that," she said.

CFO Presents Educator of the Year Awards

Over the past six years, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has recognized outstanding educators in the Archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education.

For the year 2009-10, the Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran Catholic School Educator of the Year Award was presented to John Keilty of Mount St. Mary

High School. The award was presented at the Catholic Schools Spring Professional Day at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Feb. 15, 2010. Keilty is a science teacher at the Mount. In his nomination form, it said that he teaches God's lessons in his science courses and that he also lives his Catholic faith. He is there to

drive school buses, paint with our custodians and even pick up trash with the ISS students. With his remarkable patriotism, he speaks about his love for America due to his commitment to the Navy. He also constantly encourages and praises both his students and his colleagues. He challenges his students to Dream Big Dreams and uses

the whiteboards in his classroom to focus his students on their individual dreams.

Likewise, for the year 2009-10, the Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran Religious Education Educator of the Year Award was presented to Suzie Mitten of St. Gregory the Great Parish, Enid. Her award was presented on

Continued to Page 12

CFO Awards

Continued from Page 11

March 21, 2010, at her parish Mass by Rev. Lawrence Kowalski. Mitten has served as a catechist for 25 years, in the first-, third-, fifth- and seventh-grade levels. She has built her own faith not only by obtaining her Advanced Catechist Certification but by her continued activities in Women's Bible Study, Marriage Encounter, teacher training, RCIA and Confirmation sponsor. She is active in the Altar Society, has served on the Social Action Committee and assists in the church office as needed. Disabled since childhood, Susie is confined to a wheelchair, but her disability has obviously not limited her ministry.

In addition to the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award, the Catholic Foundation also awarded two Finalist Awards for Catholic Schools Educator. They were presented to Steve McConnell of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and Donna Holmes of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School in Edmond.

McConnell is the longest tenured teacher at McGuinness, joining the faculty in the spring of 1974. He teaches art and has spent his career helping his students explore and express their creative gifts. His nomination form tells of countless stories from students of how McConnell helped them discover a love of art and a talent they didn't know they possessed.

As a 14-year veteran as a second-grade teacher, Holmes' nomination form tells of her most obvious strengths in relating to students and developing their potential. She provides critical faith instruction to her second-graders in preparation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. On the parish level, she is a Eucharistic Minister and also sings in the choir.

In addition to the Religious Education Educator of the Year Award, the Catholic Foundation also awarded two Finalist Awards for Religious Education Educator. Finalist Awards were presented to Mary Long of St. Peter Parish, Guymon, and Barbara Hietpas of St. John Nepomuk Parish, Yukon.

Long lives on a farm near Optima, 27 miles northeast of Guymon, but



Steve McConnell



Father William Novak with Barbara Hietpas



Archbishop Beltran and Catholic Foundation Executive Director Barney Semtner with John Keilty.

has demonstrated her commitment to St. Peter's religious education program as an active catechist for over 25 years. She is active in her parish and her own ongoing faith formation by participating in parish missions, retreats and adult education programs. Not only does she teach each week, Long also mentors prospective catechists and shares successful teaching strategies and projects with other catechists and parents. Her award

was presented Feb. 14, 2010, by Father Pruitt at St. Peter's in Guymon.

As a catechist at both her former parish, St. Patrick Church, and now at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, Hietpas has taught for the past 18 years and has attended the Archdiocese Catechetical Congress for the past 15 years. She has developed a special tradition of celebrating St. Nicholas Day for the children in her class. Within the parish, she helped coordi-



Donna Holmes

nate the JustFaith Program, was a founding member of the Social Ministry Board and has served on the Christian Formation Council.

She also volunteers for the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life "Beginning Experiences" team, at Catholic Charities and Calm Waters non-profit agency in Oklahoma City. Her award was presented Jan. 31 by Father Novak at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon.

Briefs

Correction

The date for the upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreat was incorrect in the April 18 issue of The Sooner Catholic. The correct date for the retreat will be June 18-20.

CFO Golf Tournament Slots Still Open

OKLAHOMA CITY — It's not too late to sign up for the 2010 CFO Golf Classic. The tournament will be held at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club on Monday, June 7, with a noon start. Visit www.cfook.org for a golf tournament brochure or call The Catholic Foundation at 721-4115 for more information.

Pastoral Ministry Graduation May 23

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Department of Catholic Education Office of Pastoral Ministry will host a graduation ceremony for students receiving diplomas in Pastoral Ministry studies.

The May 23 event will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. It will begin at 3 p.m. with prayer led by Archbishop Beltran. A reception will follow.

Sister Merys Jimenez and Alfonzo Lopez will receive the Archdiocesan Diploma. Receiving a bachelor of arts in Pastoral Ministry, Newman University, will be Deborah Bates, Ann Grover and Denise Slattery.

Receiving a master's of arts in Pastoral Ministry, Aquinas Institute of Theology, will be Mary Fahy, Irene Haefele, Barbara Harris, Geralyn Hough, William King, Peggy Kitchens, Paul Lewis, Gary Peterson, Danna Schweitzer and Steve Young.

Precious Blood Devotees To Host Retreat May 20

OKLAHOMA CITY — A retreat will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on May 20 focusing on Pentecost. The retreat will be from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Thursday, May 20 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 21. On Saturday, the retreat will run from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The retreat is a three-day waiting vigil in preparation of Pentecost Sunday. The theme is "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit — The Breeze of the Second Pentecost." There will be Mass, adoration, rosary, Scripture readings, reflection and prayer from the book "The Breeze of the Second Pentecost," accumulation of the devotion to our Lord's most precious blood which our Lord has awakened in Nigeria through Barnabas since 1995. Bishop Ayo-Maria Atoyebi, OP of Nigeria, is the spiritual director of the devotion worldwide.

Father George and Father Billy will celebrate Mass beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 22. Blessed Sacrament Procession will follow with songs and prayers. Refreshments will be served throughout the day in the Parish Hall. The retreat is free and open to everyone. For more information, contact Carolyn at (405) 793-7664 or Loan at (405) 946-5429.

Summer Youth Program Available at Villa Teresa

OKLAHOMA CITY — Are you looking for a fun summer program for your child? Check out Villa Teresa Moore, 13501 S. Western. We have a few openings for 3- to 8-year-olds that we would love to fill. Each week has a special theme plus we have swim lessons every day, taught by certified lifeguards. A few of the weekly themes are vacation Bible school, Father's Day, Fourth of July, etc. Call Ann Grover at 691-7737 for more information.

Bishops Target College Campuses With Web Site

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development has collaborated with 11 Catholic organizations to create a new Web site to help college students and campus ministers promote Catholic social teaching on campus.

The Web site, "Transforming Our World: Our Catholic Faith in Action," can be found at www.usccb.org/campus.

Site elements include principles of Catholic social teaching, prayer materials, small group resources, tools for action, and multimedia such as videos and podcasts. The home page features quotes from Church leaders, ideas of the week and an invitation to site visitors to submit resources and ideas for possible features on the Web site.

The Holy Trinity second-grade school and Religious Education First Communion classes went to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns Monastery in Piedmont on Monday, March 22. The students learned how the altar bread is made. Sister Donna escorted the group to the kitchen where the demonstration took place. The Holy Trinity children learned about the ingredients, how it is baked, dried and cut with the cutting machine. All of the students tasted the altar bread. Following the demonstration, the group proceeded to the chapel where they learned about the Carmelite Order and about St. Therese of Lisieux. Sister Donna answered the students' questions.



Father Rick Stansberry, center, is pictured with Dr. Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Education Association, and Brother Robert Bimonte, Director of the Elementary Department of NCEA at the NCEA convention in Minnesota. Father Stansberry was honored with the "Distinguished Pastor" award. A number of fellow Oklahomans, principals and teachers attended the conference and offered their support for Father Stansberry.



LIFE ISSUES FORUM

Questions About Abortion in the New Health Care Law?

By Tom Grenchik

Since the recent passage of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," scores of people have been contacting the Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops with a multitude of questions, such as:

Does the new health care legislation actually provide federal funds for elective abortions? Answer: Yes.

Can individuals be forced to pay for other people's abortions even if they are morally opposed? Answer: Yes.

Are there new challenges to the consciences of individuals, employers and health care providers? Answer: Yes.

Didn't President Obama's Executive Order fix the abortion and conscience problems that the bishops had raised about this legislation? Answer: No.

For those interested in more in-depth answers, we offer callers a couple of helpful new resources developed by the bishops conference:

* A one-page fact sheet called "Abortion Funding in the New Health Care Reform Act": [\[Funding-in-Health-Care-Law-4-12-10.pdf\]\(http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/Abortion-Funding-in-Health-Care-Law-4-12-10.pdf\).](http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/Abortion-</p>
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* A nine-page legal analysis of the abortion and conscience issues in the Act and President Obama's subsequent Executive Order: www.usccb.org/healthcare/03-2510-Memo-re-Executive-Order-Final.pdf.

Then there are callers with tactical questions, like:

Weren't the bishops just out to kill health care reform all along? Answer: No.

Haven't the bishops just been over-reacting to abortion-related problems that weren't really there? Answer: No.

Can anything be done to fix these problems? Answer: Yes.

For many, many months now the U.S. bishops have made statements and sent numerous letters to Congress with the message that our country needs reform that makes health care available to everybody, while killing nobody (www.usccb.org/healthcare/official_documents.shtml#releases). The bishops have long supported reform, but they made it very clear that no matter how much perceived good might be accomplished, such legislation must

not promote a fundamental moral evil or force people to participate in that evil. Health care reform should not have become the vehicle for expanding abortion or challenging conscience protection. It was not the bishops who forced the issue, but congressional leaders themselves. They refused to apply longstanding current policies on abortion funding and conscience rights to this legislation, all the while claiming that abortions were not being funded.

When it became clearer that congressional leaders would not back down, the bishops' message to Congress was unambiguous as well. Just before the final vote, the bishops sent one more appeal to Congress that was introduced with a USCCB press release titled: "Bishops to House of Representatives: Fix Flaws or Vote No on Health Reform Bill." It stated: "House leadership ... won't even try to address the serious problems on abortion funding ... [and are] ignoring conscience protection and fair treatment of immigrants." (www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2010/10-051.shtml).

Ignoring the plea of the bishops and the large majority of Americans

who oppose abortion funding in health care reform, Congress has now enacted the largest expansion of abortion funding in our nation's history, since *Roe v. Wade*. Assurances that abortion funding would be removed and consciences would be thoroughly protected have turned out to be empty promises.

But our efforts are far from over. Now we must go back to all the legislators who stated that the abortion and conscience problems were either not there, or would be fixed at another time, because that time is now! We must fix this "deeply flawed law," as Cardinal George called it, and we'll need a strong bi-partisan effort to do so. It will require the active engagement of Catholics and other constituents demanding this congressional response. Correcting this law, so it will truly uphold everyone's rights to life and health, will take much prayer and hard work, but the stakes have never been higher.

Tom Grenchik is executive director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities.

New Arizona Law Criticized

WASHINGTON — In solidarity with the Catholic Bishops of Arizona, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration, issued a statement April 27, opposing the enactment and implementation of Arizona SB 1070, which criminalizes undocumented immigrants.

“This new law, although limited to the state of Arizona, could have impact throughout the nation, in terms of how members of our immigrant communities are both perceived and treated,” Bishop Wester said in the statement. “SB 1070 gives law enforcement officials powers to detain and arrest individuals based on a very low legal standard, possibly leading to the profiling of individuals based upon their appearance, manner of speaking, or ethnicity.”

Bishop Wester called SB 1070 “symptomatic of the absence of federal leadership on the issue of immigration” and called for “the administration and Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to enact comprehensive immigration reform as soon as possible.”

Full text of the statement follows.

**Statement of Most Reverend John C. Wester
Bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah
Chairman, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Committee on Migration
April 27, 2010**

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I join with the Catholic Bishops of Arizona in strongly opposing the enactment and implementation of Arizona SB 1070. This new law, although limited to the state of Arizona, could have impact throughout the nation, in terms of

how members of our immigrant communities are both perceived and treated.

SB 1070 gives law enforcement officials powers to detain and arrest individuals based on a very low legal standard, possibly leading to the profiling of individuals based upon their appearance, manner of speaking, or ethnicity. It could lead to the wrongful questioning and arrest of U.S. citizens and permanent residents as well as the division of families — parents from children and husbands from wives. It certainly would lead to the rise in fear and distrust in immigrant communities, undermining the relationships between their members and law enforcement officials.

SB 1070 is symptomatic of the absence of federal leadership on the issue of immigration. For years now, the U.S. Catholic bishops have called upon Congress and two administrations to enact meaningful and just comprehensive immigration reform.

While many of our federal elected officials have made good faith efforts to pass reform, too many still view the issue through a political lens, using it to gain political or partisan advantage. This gamesmanship must stop.

Our national leaders must educate the American public on the need for reform and show courage in making it happen. Until immigration reform is passed, other states will attempt to create and enforce immigration law, with harsh and ineffective consequences.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops stand in solidarity with the Bishops of Arizona in opposing this draconian law. We call upon the administration to review its impact on civil rights and liberties. We renew our call for the administration and Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to enact comprehensive immigration reform as soon as possible.

Woman: Abortion Does Not Heal Rape

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (CNA) — In an interview with Mexican columnist Sergio Sarmiento, Lianna Rebolledo, who was raped at the age of 13 but chose to carry her child to term, explained that “abortion is not the solution” to an unplanned pregnancy, even “in cases such as rape.”

Rebolledo said in the interview that during her upcoming visit to the city of Cancun to promote the Forum for the Defense of Life, she hopes to meet the 11-year-old Mexican girl who was raped and is currently 19 weeks pregnant. The girl has been the object of intense pressure from feminist groups to undergo an abortion, but has resisted, saying that she understands “a life is growing in her womb.”

Carlos Polo of the Population Research Institute said the girl’s case is the modus operandi of abortion supporters in Latin America who seek to legalize the procedure at any cost. Rebolledo’s testimony shows that these kinds of situations are not resolved by abortion and that young girls need to be protected and guaranteed a chance to grow and mature in a safe environment.

Museum to Host Spanish Colonial Religious Art

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art will be hosting the exhibition, *Objects of Devotion: Spanish Colonial Religious Art 1650-1950* from April 30 - June 13.

From the 17th century on, Spanish friars in New Mexico imported religious sculptures and paintings from Europe and Mexico to adorn newly built mission churches. By the second half of the 18th century, several New Mexican artists were transforming native woods and other materials into bultos, retablos, hide paintings and more in a local version of the Baroque style. The exhibition examines 300 years of this tradi-

tional, but nearly forgotten, art form.

The bulk of the exhibition is on loan from the Mathis Gallery in Wisconsin. “This collection includes some good examples of the different types of religious art being created in Mexico and New Mexico from the 17th century to the 20th century,” said Dane Pollei, director of the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. “Several of these pieces are unique, well-preserved examples that are hard to find today.”

The exhibition has been enhanced with several pieces from the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art’s permanent collection including a very large altar-

piece which dominates the gallery.

“The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art has a very nice, well-rounded collection of Spanish Colonial artworks including retablos, niches and altarpieces,” said MGMTA Curator of Collections, Delaynna Trim. “This exhibition is a great way for us to bring out pieces that have not been seen for 10 years or more.”

Daniel Lay, MGMTA Preparator, set up the gallery in a chapel format so that the visitor can see the objects in a way similar to how they were meant to be seen.

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is located on the campus of St.

Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur St. in Shawnee. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors age 65 or older, \$3 for students and children ages 6 to 17, and free for children age 5 and younger.

This exhibition is funded in part by the Inasmuch Foundation, Oklahoma Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and Allied Arts. For accommodations on the basis of disability or more information on this exhibit, call the museum at (405) 878-5300.

Buenas Noticias...

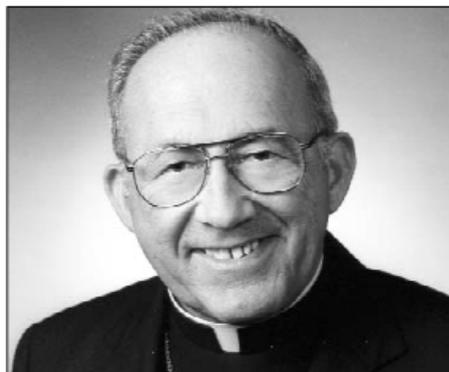
Homilía oficiada en el Centro Pastoral el 18 de abril en ocasión a la última etapa de la catequesis que reciben los recién bautizados por durante la primera semana de la Pascua.

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Es una gran alegría para mí darles la bienvenida a todos ustedes hoy en nuestro Centro Pastoral Católico. Estoy especialmente complacido y les extiendo la bienvenida a todos aquellos quienes recientemente fueron bautizados, recibieron la Primera Comunión y fueron confirmados en su iglesia parroquial. En su Instrucción y formación del RCIA, ustedes aprendieron que los seres humanos somos hechos a Imagen y Semejanza de Dios, pero no somos Dios. Somos Sus criaturas.

Nosotros dependemos completamente de Dios como Jesús dijo: "Yo soy la vid y ustedes las ramas. El que permanece en mí y yo en él, cada mucho fruto, pero sin mí no pueden hacer nada."

Cuando los seres humanos pecamos por primera vez, rechazamos el plan que Dios tenía establecido para nosotros. Éramos como ramas cortadas de la parra. No había esperanza para nosotros sin Dios, no podíamos hacer nada. Pero Dios Todopoderoso, Quien es bueno y generoso, nos miro desde arriba con



*Muy Reverendo Eusebius Beltrán
Arzobispo Metropolitano de la
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City*

Jesús es Cristo. Él es el Señor. Él es el Único Salvador del mundo.

amor. Él dijo: "Enviaré a mi Hijo para salvarlos." Esta promesa de salvación fue la Buena Nueva de que el sufrimiento de la humanidad podría depender de la lucha diaria en contra de la maldad. Esta fue la esperanza que muchas personas con fe y amor nutrieron por generaciones y durante siglos.

Luego, cuando llegó el tiempo designado, los ángeles proclamaron la Buena Nueva, nuevamente: "No tengan miedo, pues yo vengo a comu-

nicarles una buena noticia que será motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo ya que ha nacido para ustedes un salvador que es el Mesías y el Señor."

Jesús es Cristo. Él es el Señor. Él es el Único Salvador del mundo. Es Él quien nos ofrece vida nueva a través de la Santa Iglesia Católica, la cual Él estableció.

Por consiguiente, convertirse en miembro de la Iglesia Católica es radicalmente diferente que pertenecer a cualquier otro grupo, sociedad o institución. Esta es la cualidad única de la Iglesia Católica. Mientras que la Iglesia es una comunidad, una organización, una sociedad visible, al mismo tiempo, es en el plan revelado por Dios, el Cuerpo Místico de Cristo.

La Iglesia está Divinamente establecida, sostenida y dirigida. Jesús es el Cimiento y la Cabeza de esta Iglesia.

Por lo tanto, cuando por la inspiración de Dios, nosotros respondemos a Su invitación y formamos parte de la Iglesia, nos convertimos no sólo en miembros de una comunidad, sino también en miembros del Cuerpo Místico de Cristo. Esta relación nueva e íntima con Jesús es una comunión, un encuentro, que nos hace verdaderamente compartir en Su vida y en Su amor. Es a través de esta unidad con Cristo que nosotros recibimos nuestro añorado deseo de

sentirnos realizados.

En el Evangelio de hoy, escuchamos la historia de Jesús cuando se le apareció a Sus discípulos en el Mar de Galilea. Ellos estuvieron pescando toda la noche y no atraparon nada. Al amanecer encontraron a Jesús parado en la orilla y Él los animó a que lanzaran de nuevo sus redes, cuando lo hicieron sacaron tal cantidad de pescados que su bote comenzó a hundirse. Fue entonces cuando los discípulos se dieron cuenta de que era Jesús que había resucitado entre los muertos.

Como los discípulos nosotros también somos animados por el Señor a colocar nuestra confianza y fe en Él. La Iglesia Católica puede que no conteste todas sus preguntas de la manera en que probablemente ustedes desearían fueran contestadas, pero siempre los dirigirá hacia el Señor, porque Dios es el camino, la Verdad y la Vida.

Ahora que ustedes comparten Su vida en la Eucaristía, continúen siguiéndolo todos los días de sus vidas.

Por lo tanto, los felicito por responder a la invitación de Jesús. Ruego para que ustedes sean miembros devotos y activos de la Iglesia Católica. Si así lo fuese, que tengan vida eterna. Dejemos que Dios, quien ha comenzado este buen trabajo en ustedes, lo lleve a culminación.

El 15 de mayo en el Campamento Juvenil de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe **Invitación formal a Todos los Católicos de Oklahoma**

**Por Mauro Yanez
*Sooner Catholic***

OKLAHOMA CITY — Todos los Católicos de Oklahoma están invitados a compartir con el Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltrán sus cincuenta años de sacerdocio. La celebración comenzará a las nueve de la mañana hasta las cinco de la tarde.

Habrà una Misa que se oficiará a las once de la mañana. Después de la Misa habrá comida, entretenimiento musical, juegos para

los niños y por supuesto la oportunidad de conversar con el Arzobispo Beltrán y estrecharle la mano, felicitarlo y pedir su bendición.

Para llegar al campamento donde tendrá lugar la celebración se debe tomar la autopista I-35 hacia el norte, como si se fuese a Edmond por la I-35 y se debe salir y tomar la carretera 66 hacia el este por 16 millas hasta llegar a la carretera que divide el condado de Oklahoma y el condado Lincoln. No se pasen de esa carretera. Al llegar a la carretera que

divide el condado de Oklahoma y Lincoln giren a la izquierda y sigan por otras tres millas hasta que vean el campamento. Habrá personas en la entrada del campamento que ayudarán y les darán las instrucciones para estacionar sus vehículos.

Como todos sabemos el Arzobispo Eusebius Beltrán ha sido un gran líder espiritual para la comunidad hispanoparlante y ha luchado y sigue luchando para que los derechos y dignidad como seres humanos de los inmigrantes sean

respetados en Oklahoma. Esta es una ocasión para darle las gracias por tan intenso trabajo en sus cincuenta años de sacerdocio.

El Arzobispo Beltrán en diversas ocasiones ha dicho que la inmigración en Oklahoma no es un problema, ni una amenaza o una invasión, sino una oportunidad para la Iglesia y para el progreso de nuestra sociedad. También ha sido un gran defensor del derecho a la vida, y por supuesto a los derechos humanos y la unidad de la familia.

Quienes llevamos el lado y guía de Dios no juzgamos imágenes

Parroquia San Carlos de Borromeo celebra convivencia familiar



Católicos de la parroquia San Carlos de Borromeo dicen no a la desunión y sí a la unión en la comunidad de Cristo. (Foto por Mauro Yanez / *Sooner Catholic*)

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Las Hermanas Catequistas Guadalupeñas están haciendo un trabajo evangelizador que está garantizando que los jóvenes, muchos de los cuales proceden asimismo de familias rotas, sean educados e incluidos desde su más tierna edad en la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre los diferentes sacramentos que la Iglesia imparte en nombre de Dios. El trabajo

de esta congregación de religiosas, se evidencia en su capacidad de convocatoria bajo el lema de amor y paz al prójimo. El pasado sábado, 24 de abril celebraron junto a la feligresía de la parroquia de San Carlos de Borromeo un gran evento que abre más el camino efectivamente para asistir a los padres para que se conviertan en los primeros predicadores del Evangelio y en los principales catequistas en la familia. Sin duda alguna, la Iglesia sabe y desea compartir las heridas y

las batallas de los padres y de las familias, así como sus alegrías. También, los feligreses queremos defender con la oración y el amor de Dios a nuestra Iglesia Católica de aquellos que abusan, levantan falsos testimonios, manipulan o se niegan a respetar la sagrada misión de la doctrina Católica.

Los espectáculos infantiles con payasos son parte de la cultura hispana que ayudan a recordar que no importa tanto lo que nos pasa como la

actitud que tenemos ante lo que nos pasa.

Los payasos que se prestaron para amenizar a los niños, no son los mismos que de forma peyorativa fueron a los medios de comunicación seculares a dar un circo sobre la imagen sagrada de Cristo crucificado en San Carlos de Borromeo. Hay que rezar mucho por la paz y amor y de igual forma agradecer a las Hermanas Guadalupeñas por ser protectoras de la familia y sobre todo de Cristo Jesús.

Jobs Box

Teacher Openings

Holy Trinity Catholic School, Okarche, has positions available for highly motivated and qualified applicants looking for a challenging career in Catholic education for the 2010-11 school year. Second-grade teacher, early childhood certification required, additional middle certifications desired. Qualified candidate must be Catholic; 3- and 4-year-old preschool teacher, early childhood certification required. It is preferred that the qualified candidate be Catholic. Full benefits package is paid by the school for full-time employees. All qualified and interested applicants should contact Tammy Jacobs, Principal, at (405) 263-4422. For more information, visit our Web site: www.holytrinityok.org.

Middle School Science Teacher

Christ the King School in Oklahoma City is looking for an experienced, certified middle school science teacher. Prefer active Catholic with high school experience. Contact Christ the King Catholic School, 843-3909, Karen Carter, Principal.

High School Coaches Needed

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is currently seeking qualified candidates in the following coaching fields for the 2010-2011 school year: cross country, boys basketball assistant, track, football assistant with offensive line and/or receivers experience, and soccer assistant. Teaching fields are chemistry with experience in AP and Pre-AP, social studies and physical education. Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Youth - Young Adult Minister

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic youth - young adult minister. Full-time position with benefits. Send or drop by an application together with curricula vitae and references to "YOUTH MINISTER Search Committee" - St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N. W. 18th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106.

Teacher Openings

Villa Teresa Catholic School has opening in Learning Center for 3-year-olds. The applicant must have an early childhood certification. This position is a 12-month commitment. Please send resume to Sister Veronica Higgins and call for an interview (232-4286).

Part-Time Organist Needed

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church is in need of an organist to play for our 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 300 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 Ext. 123 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. - SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ.

Catholic Elementary Principal

St. Pius X Catholic School in Tulsa, serving approximately 400 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, is seeking a candidate for the 2010-2011 school year. St. Pius X Catholic School is a parish school located in midtown Tulsa. We are seeking a highly motivated, well-qualified administrator with excellent people skills and experience in Catholic education. Requirements: practicing Catholic, master's degree (prefer education administration) and classroom teaching experience. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of and practice strong educational, administrative and communications ability and a commitment to partnership with pastoral staff, parents and faculty. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should contact Principal Search Committee, Catholic Schools Office, 820 S. Boulder Avenue, Tulsa, Okla. 74137, telephone (918) 582-9177.

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

St. Eugene Parish is accepting applications for the full-time position of Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Applicant must be in full communion with the Catholic Church, have previous experience in youth ministry, have flexible working hours, and be fluent in Spanish. Principle responsibilities are ministry to youth and young adults and overseeing the preparation of youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please submit resumes in writing to Rev. Joseph A. Jacobi, St. Eugene Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20930, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156-0930.

Rosary Students Enjoy the Magic of Chemistry

Science is fun! That's the message the eighth-grade physical science students at Rosary Catholic School received when two chemists from Tronox presented their "Chemistry Magic" show for the class. Tom Rachal, a parishioner at St. Eugene, and Clay Chambers, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, hosted the show, but the students did all the work. Under the direction of the chemists, the students were invited to mix various solutions or add different chemical reagents to produce some dazzling effects throughout the hour-long presentation.

At least 10 different chemical reactions and/or physical principles were shown and each student had their own particular favorite.

Lisa Chambers, eighth-grade

physical science teacher, got into the act first. Chambers was invited to sit down while a student held a plastic bag full of water over her head. The student then pushed a pencil through the bag and out the other side without a drop spilling on Chambers. A discussion of water pressure and the physical properties of plastics then ensued.

One of the students' favorite demonstrations involved mixing three different solutions together in a large beaker. When stirred, the solution changed colors from clear to gold to blue/black. This process repeated itself dozens of times to the delight of all.

Another demonstration showed the formation of carbonic acid when dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide) is

placed into water. By means of a universal indicator solution, the students were able to observe a series of color changes in the water as more and more acid was formed. As the show wrapped up, the window blinds were closed and the lights in the classroom were turned off. Two liquids were mixed together to produce an eerie blue solution which glowed in the dark for several minutes.

During the show the students were asked to predict what would happen or explain the chemistry involved as each new reaction or effect was introduced. To their credit, the students were able to employ many of the scientific methods learned in class and use deductive reasoning techniques to master the

concepts which were demonstrated. These students had previously attended Chemistry Day activities at the Science Museum. The principles learned at Chemistry Day, such as exothermic reactions, were reinforced in the "Chemistry Magic" show. Because the show was so well received, Chambers hopes to make "Chemistry Magic" an annual event.

Chambers strongly believes in a firm science background for her students as they prepare for their transition to high school. As such, her students put on their own version of Science Magic for the Rosary kindergarten class. Experiments for the kindergartners included a balloon rocket, suspended animation, color-changing water, fun with polymers, and the bouncing ball.

Calendar

MAY

4 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

6 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

7 1st Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

7 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact HFMH at 741-7419.

7 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

8 Retreat Living the Fullness of Our Baptismal Commitment, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Benedicta Boland, OSB. Dare to consider the exalted gift of baptism in your life. Place: Retreat House at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: \$40 (\$10 deposit). Bring a sack lunch.

8 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osbokc@ionet.net.



Christ the King librarian Tanya Brown planned a unique way to recycle books to honor Earth Day this year. Students bring in books they have read and outgrown and receive credits to select from other donated books. The students get a new supply of reading material without any cost and we will donate any leftover donated books to another Catholic school that can use our help. Pictured, third-grade students were participating in the book swap. Photo provided.

9 Mother's Day

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

10 17th Annual Christ the King Golf Tournament at Rose Creek Golf Course, Monday, May 10. Check-in and lunch is at noon with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. This is a four-player scramble, men and women teams. Cost for an individual player is \$150 or a team of four is \$600. CK on the Links 2010 Registration deadline is May 7. For more information, contact the school office at (405) 843-3909.

10 Dementia Seminar, sponsored by St. Eugene's at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in learning about dementia, its effect on your family and what you can do now to avoid problems later, should benefit from this event.

You will learn how to spot early signs of dementia, and what you can do to financially prepare for dementia. Dementia, long-term care insurance and estate planning will be discussed. No product sales will occur at this educational seminar. For questions or to reserve your seat, call Chris Matteson at (405) 314-4608.

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

12 Catholic War Veterans USA, Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyslane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

14 Bingo at St. Joseph's, Norman, in

the gym. A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., first session begins at 7 p.m., second session at 8:30. Each session is \$5, blackouts are \$1 each, no limit. On Friday, May 14, we will celebrate our sixth anniversary with a drawing for a 22-inch TV grand prize.

15 Gourd Prayer Bowl Retreat, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with Melissa Anna Letts, OSB. Enjoy creating your own decorative gourd bowl using wood-burning tools, paints and dye while learning the spirituality and meaning of American Indian symbols. All materials provided. Place: Red Art Barn at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: \$50 (\$15 deposit). Bring a sack lunch.

16 The community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

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

16 The Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated in St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and experience the diversity and richness of our Catholic Church. By attending Divine Liturgy, you fulfill your Sunday obligation and all Catholics who are properly prepared are welcome to receive Holy Communion. St. Mark the Evangelist Church is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Refreshments with questions and answers will follow the Liturgy. For more information, please call Father Phil Seeton at (405) 789-2595.

Maronite Catholic Church Dedicated in Norman

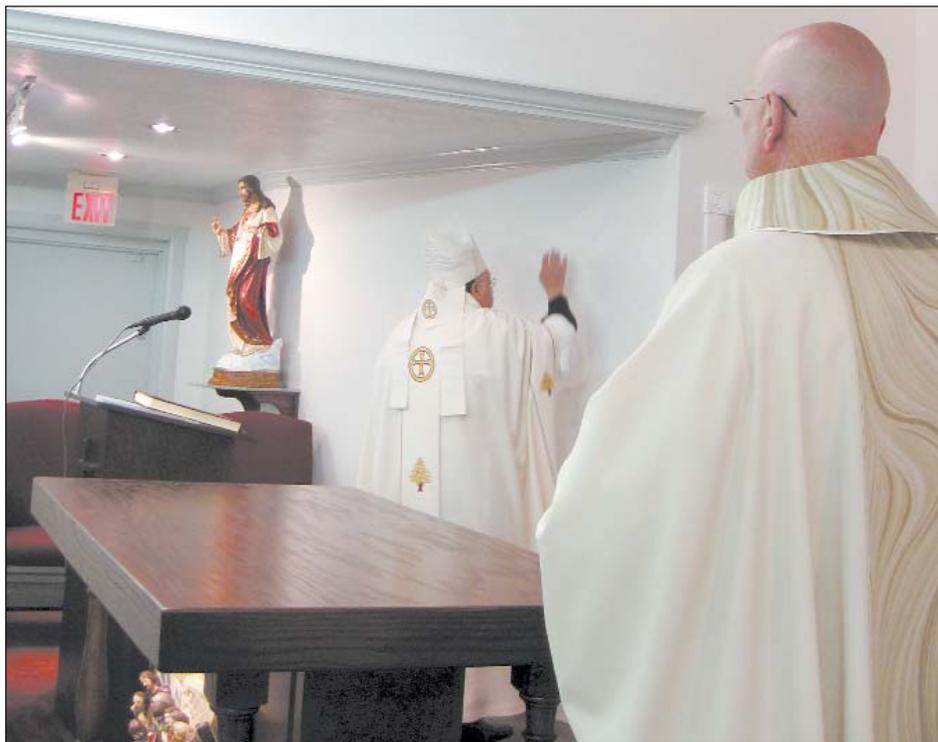
By Anamaria Scaperlanda-Ruiz
For the *Sooner Catholic*

NORMAN — Seventeen Maronite rite families dreamed of opening a Maronite Catholic Church to bring this central part of their Lebanese heritage to their community. On April 11, their dream became a reality with the blessing and dedication of Our Lady of Lebanon by Bishop Robert Shaheen.

The new church, a converted funeral home, is located at 500 Alameda in Norman, blocks from St. Joseph, a Roman Catholic parish. The sanctuary is a simple white room, adorned with an image of Our Lady of Lebanon at the rear, a depiction of Jesus and Peter above the altar, and Stations of the Cross lining the walls. The church lacks kneelers as the Maronite liturgy doesn't include the kneeling posture.

Sunday's liturgy included the consecration and blessing of the church, which took place between the Service of the Word and the Service of the Holy Mysteries. The consecration began with a solemn procession inside the church. During the procession, the bishop sprinkled the whole church with Holy Water, as if to clean it in preparation for the Rite of Consecration. Next, the bishop anointed the door and the walls with Holy Oil, making the sign of the cross three times on the door and on each wall. After the anointing, the priest, aided by ministers from the congregation, encircled the church walls with a red ribbon. According to Father Galssan Mattar from San Antonio, "The red ribbon is fire from the Holy Spirit. Encircling the community is the bond of the Holy Spirit." Finally, the bishop consecrated the altar, which involved burning incense on the four sides of the altar and reverencing the altar. Clapping and other noises of celebration ensued.

The liturgy took place in a mixture of Syro-Aramaic, English and Arabic. As in all Maronite liturgies, Syro-Aramaic was used for the consecration of the Eucharist. Arabic was the predominant language for the music, which consisted of beautiful Arabic chants led by choir director Leila Dina.



Maronite Bishop Robert Shaheen blesses the walls of Our Lady of Lebanon as Father Thomas Boyer looks on.

Maronite Bishop Robert Shaheen, who traveled from St. Louis for the event, was joined by Father Assaol El Basha, Father Elias Abi-sarkis, Father Galssan Mattar and Father Thomas Boyer in celebrating the liturgy. Father Assaol El Basha is the pastor of the new church. Before the church was open, he came once a month from Dallas to celebrate the Maronite liturgy in the Apostles Chapel at St. Mark the Evangelist.

Despite this short history of the Maronite liturgy in Norman, Maronites have a long history in Oklahoma. Maronite Catholics have

been present in Oklahoma since the 1890s, when they came with the railroad.

Most Maronite Catholics are from Lebanon or Syria, or are Lebanese in the Diaspora. The Maronite rite is an Eastern Catholic rite with unbroken royalty to Rome. Father Thomas Boyer said that he has "heard it accurately described as the bridge between the East and the West." The Maronite liturgy is an ancient liturgy that developed at Antioch in Aramaic, right after the time of the Apostles, and is ascribed to St. James the Less.

The presence of Maronite liturgy

in Oklahoma brings much to the Oklahoma Catholic community as a whole. The culturally and historically distinct rites, all of which adhere to the truths of the Holy Gospel and Sacred Tradition as well as to the essential elements of the liturgy, are expressive of the universality of the Church. Bishop Shaheen said, "The existence of the 22 different rites gives a fuller picture to the Catholic Church."

Until recently, most Maronites in Oklahoma attended the Roman liturgy. Bishop Shaheen sent Father Elias Abi-sarkis to Tulsa in October 2002 to start a church for Maronites at the request of 28 families. At the dedication of that church four years ago, a group of 17 families from Norman and Oklahoma City approached the bishop about starting something in this area. At that time, Father Abi-sarkis began coming from Tulsa once a month to celebrate the Maronite liturgy, which was celebrated in the Apostles Chapel of St. Mark's in Norman. After Father Abi-sarkis received additional administrative duties, Father Assaol El Basha began to come from Dallas to celebrate the liturgy. While grateful to St. Mark's for the use of their chapel, the 17 families wanted their own church and worked to have that happen.

Louis Khoury, a member of the new parish, said, "I am excited about the Maronite mission because it brings a piece of home to the United States. I have been here for 14 years and having this here completes it."



Altar servers lead the procession out of the newly dedicated Our Lady of Lebanon.