



Oklahoma Catholics Called To Take Part in Religious Freedom Rally
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Caregivers Hear From Perspective Of Patient
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The Church Universal celebrates the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 27. This beautiful stained-glass window depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit can be found at Saint Mary Church in Medford.

Catholics file federal lawsuits to stop HHS

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Forty-three Catholic dioceses, schools, hospitals, social service agencies and other institutions filed suit in federal court May 21 to stop three government agencies from implementing a mandate that would require them to cover contraceptives and sterilization in their health plans.

“Through this lawsuit, plaintiffs do not seek to impose their religious beliefs on others,” said one of the suits, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, diocesan Catholic Charities, St. Anne Home and Retirement Community, Franciscan Alliance, University of St. Francis and Our Sunday Visitor.

“They simply ask that the government not impose its values and policies on plaintiffs, in direct violation of their religious beliefs,” it added.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, whose archdiocese is among the plaintiffs, said the lawsuits were “a compelling display of the unity of the church in defense of religious liberty” and “a great show of the diversity of the church’s ministries that serve the common good and that are jeopardized by the mandate.”

“We have tried negotiations with the administration and legislation with the Congress — and we’ll keep at it — but there’s still no fix,” the cardinal said. “Time is running out and our valuable ministries and fundamental rights

Archbishop Coakley weighs in on federal lawsuits
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Bishops Speak of Gospel, Marriage

By Cindy Wooden and Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A few hours before voters in North Carolina were to go to the polls to vote on a referendum defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, N.C., prayed with his brother bishops for the courage always to defend the Gospel.

Bishop Jugis said May 8 that he and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh had been criticized publicly for their support of the amendment to the state constitution and for their defense of “something so beautiful and foundational to society.”

He said when he told another bishop about the criticism, “He encouraged me by saying, ‘Wear it as a badge of honor.’”

Bishop Jugis was the principal celebrant and homilist at a morning Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica with Bishop Burbidge and the bishops of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

In his homily, Bishop Jugis said North Carolina was “the last state in the South” to consider a referendum on defining marriage.

While marriage between same-sex couples is already illegal in North Carolina, supporters of the amendment said it would add more protection for traditional marriage.

In Georgia, voters passed a similar referendum in 2004, and it was upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court in 2006.

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Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

A Remarkable Year

Abbot Lawrence, President Main, distinguished faculty, members of the university administration and board, members of the monastic community, students, alumni, friends and family, and most especially you, the St. Gregory's University Class of 2012, it is a great pleasure and distinct honor to greet you on this joyful occasion and to offer a few words in celebration of today's commencement exercises and your achievements.

There is no doubt that this has been a remarkable and eventful year here at St. Gregory's University. You have survived an earthquake and inaugurated a new president. The indomitable spirit with which the university and monastic communities responded to the former and the energy with which President Main and his team have taken the reins of leadership give evidence of the determination of this proud university to blaze a way forward by creatively seizing opportunities in the midst of formidable challenges.

Each of you graduates today has reached a truly significant milestone in your life. Whether you have been a traditional residential student here in Shawnee or a learner in the College of Working Adults, your achievements in completing your degree programs are evidence of your hard work and determination. They are evidence of the great value that you place on education.

Today you join the distinguished alumni of the oldest institution of higher education in the state of Oklahoma, and the only Catholic university in this great state. You have become part of an institution which has deep roots in Oklahoma. Reaching back to the pioneer days of those early Benedictine missionaries who came to Indian Territory in 1875, and rooted in the classical Catholic liberal arts tradition that the Benedictines have preserved for over 1,500 years and handed on through their distinctive monastic values and way of life, you are heirs to a great heritage of faith, learning and culture. St. Gregory's University draws its life and mission from the heart of the Church and its distinctive approach to education from its Benedictine values and spirit.

No doubt your education at St. Gregory's has afforded you an excellent opportunity to prepare yourselves with the intellectual, professional and technical proficiency you will need to move into your chosen fields of endeavor. For some of you the next step may be further education, for others an opportunity to advance in your current careers, and for others it is the beginning, a time to make your way in life as you seek new opportunities equipped with your new degree.

But in choosing St. Gregory's University, with its distinctive educational values as a Catholic liberal arts institution in the Benedictine tradition, you have chosen to pursue more than a business, scientific or even a professional education. The genius of a liberal arts education is that it does not have as its first and foremost goal merely the training of accountants, nurses or teachers. The liberal arts educate and form good men and women, the whole person. The liberal arts provide not just a skill set, but a preparation for life. The liberal arts core with its traditional focus on the good, the true and the beautiful seeks to instill integrity and virtue in students who through the careful and rigorous cultivation of both mind and heart, intellect and will, are uniquely equipped to take their places in business, the professions, the family and public life as well-rounded and productive citizens.

The focus of a Catholic liberal arts education is on developing the whole person: body, mind and spirit, created in the image and likeness of God. Its focus is on cultivating virtue, developing character, bringing the light of both faith and reason to bear on the very real

challenges which our society faces today. Your education has prepared you to make a significant contribution to the life of both Church and society.

In Oklahoma, we Catholics constitute only a very small minority of the population. Still, as a



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

"Today you join the distinguished alumni of the oldest institution of higher education in the state of Oklahoma, and the only Catholic university in this great state."

whole, Oklahomans retain a stronger Christian awareness than Americans in many other parts of this great but increasingly secular nation. Even in Protestant Oklahoma, however, the dominant secular culture is making its inroads. This secular mind-set may not explicitly deny the existence of God, but thinks, judges and acts in practical matters as if God does not exist. It privatizes faith and religion in order to keep their influence out of public discourse and public life. This is one of the challenges we are facing today as religious liberties are increasingly coming under assault in the United States and around the world.

One of the valuable and distinctive contributions that St. Gregory's University offers amid the various educational options available in Oklahoma is that it is able to provide a thoroughly consistent and integrated education rooted in a Catholic and Christian world view. This world view recognizes the inalienable dignity and transcendent destiny of every human person, the central importance of marriage and the family as the basic unit of society, the value of solidarity and communion and the right and responsibility of everyone to contribute to the common good. It does not settle for a truncated vision of the human person or society, but promotes the integration of faith and reason as understood and handed on through 2,000 years of living tradition in the Catholic Church.

For several hundred years, since the dawning of the period of intellectual history known as the Enlightenment, the cult of progress has been eclipsing the true cult and worship of the Living God. An unquestioning belief in the inevitability of progress is the only permissible dogma in the postmodern secular creed. But as Pope Benedict XVI has cautioned, "Progress becomes true progress only if it serves the human person and if the human person grows: not only in terms of his or her technical power, but also in his or her moral awareness." Authentic progress must have as its goal a steady advancement toward the truth about what is good for the human person and society.

Stretching out before you, graduates, is a life that all of us hope will be long, productive and purposeful. But it is unique and unrepeatable. Do not let it pass in vain. Live it with enthusiasm and with joy, but most of all live it with a sense of responsibility. Be good stewards of the gifts and opportunities that have been entrusted to you! Make choices that demonstrate your faith and most deeply held convictions. Cultivate love of God and love of neighbor and strive always to put yourselves, your talents and your abilities at the service of the common good and of the truth.

May God who has begun this good work in you bring it to fulfillment in the years before you.



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher

Ray Dyer
Editor

Cara Koenig
Photographer/Special Projects

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

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Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

May 27 — Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Union City, 9 a.m.

May 28 — Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery, 8 a.m.

May 29 — Mass at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.

May 30 — Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Church, Seminole, 6:30 p.m.

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

June 1 — Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Mass and Dinner, Christ the King Church, 6 p.m.

June 2 — Catholic Night at Redhawks Game, 6 p.m.

June 3 — Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Ada, 11 a.m.

June 3 — ADF Archbishop's Circle Evening Prayer and Reception, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.

June 4 — Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Golf Tournament, Gaillardia Country Club, 8 a.m.

June 4 — Thursday, June 7 — Clergy Days, Catholic Pastoral Center

June 7 — Catholic Extension Board of Governors Meeting, Chicago, Ill.

June 8 — Envisioning Leadership Team Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

June 9 — Mass, St. Peter Church, Guymon, 5:30 p.m.

June 10 — Mass, Church of the Good Shepherd, Boise City, 8:30 a.m.

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2012



Grace Elise Aguilera
OSU



Taylor Marie Allen
OSU



Cierra Cathay Allen
UCO



Katherine Diane Andrews
OU



Austin David Augustus
OU



Thomas Wayne Bailey
OCU



Zackary Christopher Barreto
University of Dallas



Casey Arthur Barth
OU



Kristian Beaudoin
OU



Lurah Danielle Lien Beck
OU



Emily Caitlyn Bedford
Southwestern Christian University



Robert Cooper Black
OSU



John Brennan Blagg
OU



Katherine Cavanaugh Boecking
OU



Kody J. Bollenbach
OU



Margo Ann Borders
Boston College
Valedictorian



Emily Borders
Marquette University
Valedictorian



Kimberly Anne Boross
UCO



Robert Duncan Branum
OSU



Jessica Anne Brewer
OU
Salutatorian



Christopher J. Brezny
OU



Collin Nicholas Britten
OSU



Amanda Renique Broussard
OSU



Amanda Kelsey Brown
OSU



Ronald Dale Brown III
OCU



Christina Marre Brown
USC



Haydon MacKenzie Bryan
OU



Austin Roger Burns
SNU



Lindsey Brooke Canon
OU



Carolyn Carter
Undecided



Grace Maria Castillo
OU



Matt Evenson Christiansen
University of San Francisco



Lacy Michelle Ciupak
OSU



John Sutton Clark
OSU



Margaret Ann Clark
OU



Kathryn Louise Cooley
OU



Kassidy Nicole Cornelison
Reed College



Cody Ryan Coyle
OU



Roberto Christian Crocker
TCU



Thomas Jefferson Daniel
UCO



Julia Annastasia Davidoff
St. Gregory's University



Melissa Doan
OU



Allison Ann Dodson
OSU



Ashton Van Doyle
OU



Sarah Elizabeth Dye
Belmont University



Helenmarie Glory Edem
OU



William Joseph Edmonds
University of San Francisco



Louie Beck Elder
OCU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2012



**Skylar Christian
Allen Elliott**
OU



**Margaret
Cecilia English**
UCO



**Ashley Nicole
Evans**
NOC Stillwater



**Charles Harrison
Evenson**
OU



**Madeline
Claire Farber**
University of
Kansas



**Cassandra
Dawn Fluitt**
OU



**Nicole Marie
Frazier**
University of
Dallas



**Brent Garrett
Gibson**
OCU



**Justus Wilson
Gochenour**
UCO



**Kennedy Layne
Goetzinger**
OSU



**Hannah
Elizabeth Govett**
Colorado School
of Mines



**Bradley
Michael J. Gray**
OSU



**MaryAnn
Teresa Grover**
OCU



**Brianna Rose
Whalen-Guthrie**
University of
Arkansas



**Sally Elise
Harper**
OU



**Jacob David
Harrell**
OU



**Andrew
Jeffrey Head**
Washington &
Lee University



**Christian
Andrew Heffron**
OSU



**Kathryn
Margaret Heinen**
OU



**William John
Heitert II**
University of
Missouri



**Elyse Christine
Hight**
University of
Notre Dame



David Kimmell Hill
Westpoint United
States Military
Academy



**Jesse Al
Hogan**
Undecided



**Katherine
Marie Hogsett**
University of
Missouri



**Caitlyn Gera
Hylton**
OSU



**Brandon
Uchenna
Ilechukwu**
OU



**Victor Collin
Jackson**
OSU



**Michael
Pascoe Jewell**
OSU



**William Olson
Jewell**
OU



**Christopher
Don Johnson**
Undecided



**Devan
MacKenzy
Johnson**
Undecided



**Mitchell D.
Johnson**
Cornell State



**Zachary Scott
Johnson**
OU



**Tessa Marie
Jones**
OSU



**Molly Rose
Kalk**
University of
Notre Dame



**Luke Anthony
Kennedy**
UCO



**Sydney O.
Kippenberger**
OU



**Alexander
Knight**
OCU



**Tyler Joel
Konarik**
OSU



**Alexandra
Marie Koudele**
University of
Colorado,
Boulder

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2012



Jonathan Michael Kraft
OU



Olivia Kathryn Lane
OU



Anna Ruth Lewis
OSU



Joseph Doyle Lewis
OSU



Yushan Li
San Francisco State University



Sarah Devinna Little
OSU



Ashley Nicole Litton
OU



Zachery Allen Magness
Norman Vo-Tech



Jennifer Marie Maguire
OSU



Britton David Maroney
Undecided



Grant Andrew Martin
OU



Louis Alexander Marull
OU



Alexandra Kelly Mattson
University of Texas



Ryan Jameson McDonald
Undecided



Armando G. Melendez
OU



Jonathan David Messick
OSU



Matthew Wyatt Milligan
Undecided



Stephanie Moore Milligan
TCU



Donovan Richard Moisant
OU



Kendall Katherine Morgan
OU



Olivia Jane Frances Morris
OU



Ryan Eric Mulcahy
Undecided



Mary Catherine Myers
OSU



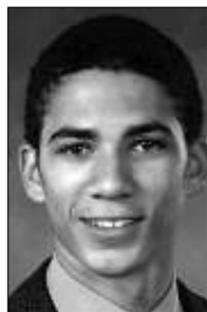
Albert Victor Narvaez
UCO



Lee Neering
UCO



Andrew James Neuberger
TCU



Miles Shaun Newcomb
UCO



Brandon Nguyen
OU



Derrick Xuan Nguyen
OU



Maria Diem Chau Nguyen
OU



Vina Theresa Nguyen
UCO



Megan Claire Noble
OSU



Scott Curtis Noll
OSU



Michael UC Nwanebu
Undecided



James David O'Geary
Clemson University



Vivian Mallory O'Hara
OSU



Nicholas Joseph Pallotta
OSU



Cameron Scott Palmer
OSU



Kennedy Lauren Parker
New England School of Art & Design



Maximilliano Kolbe Pasillas
OSU



Jeffrey Pozo
OU



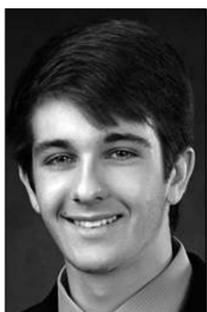
Taylor Lauren Pratt
OSU



Corey Alan Priest
OSU



Jennifer Lynn Rader
OU



Aidan Thomas Reap
OU



Madison Sue Reddick
TCU



Rachel Taylor Rengstorf
University of Kansas

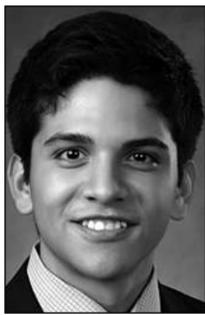


Chayanne Pepsi Riesenber
OCU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2012



Nicholas James Rohleder
OU



Efrom Alex Romero
UCO



Paul Joseph Rosencrans
OSU



Matthew Steven Ross
UCO



William Blake Ross
Technical school



Mary Katelyn Roy
OU



Nicole Migalina Saldon
OSU



Elizabeth Marie Schrantz
OSU



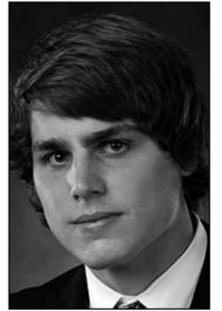
Hannah Rose Schwartz
OSU



Michael Stephen Schwarz
University of Central Arkansas



Brett Joseph Scott
Clemson University



Samuel Alden Merritt Shadid
Navy



Margaret Mary Sine
OU



Samantha Ann Smallwood
University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith



Nathan Issac Smith
OSU



Rebecca Claire Smith
OU



Killian Star Sokolosky
OSU



Addison C. Staples
University of Arkansas



Gerald Cowan Swain
UCO



William Hunter Swink
OSU



Kristen Nicole Taylor
Baylor



Camden Meyer Tharp
OU



William Robert Thompson
OSU



Bradley Michael Threet
OSU



John Edward Tidholm Jr.
Undecided



Michael John Tompkins
University of Tulsa



Victor Franz Trautmann IV
OU



Mary Frances Trimble
University of Kansas



Joseph Daniel Webber
OSU



Garrett Matthew Werner
UCO



Caroline Elizabeth West
OU



Lanie Kelly West
University of Kansas



Rachel Elizabeth Williams
OCU



Michael Anthony Wilson
OSU



Joshua Cole Wilson
Undecided



Henry Gram Wilton
St. Edward's University



Lea Ann Winterstein
OU



Scott Alexander Witcher
Undecided
Salutatorian



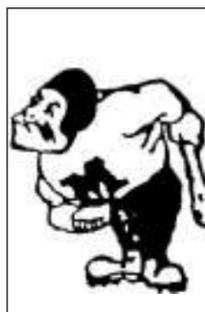
Eric T. Woitchek
University of Notre Dame



Bronte Moor Yardley
OU



Nathaniel Aaron Yokell
OU
Valedictorian



Li Yushan
San Francisco State University



Lauren Kristine Zimmerman
University of Arkansas

Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2012



Janelle Marie Archer
UCO



Jose Arellano
OCCC



Happy graduates from Mount St. Mary's pose with their medals recognizing them as being in the top 10 in their class. The students are Jeff Danusantoso, Daniel Cartwright, Blake Johnson, Johnny Pham, Morgan McCalmon, Anna Mollman, John Tener, Anne Yoon, Andrew Blattler and Rachel Wood.



Jessica Guadalupe Arteaga
OSU



Lukas Babb
OU



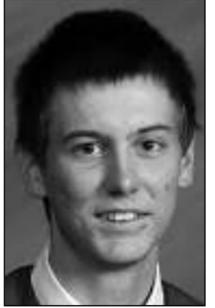
Caitlin Leigh Baker
Gap Year at
Kiowa Suicide
Prevention



Kathleen Reed Basile
OSU



Michael Steven Bennett
OU



Jason Tyler Bertels
OU



Andrew William Blattler
University of
New Mexico



Kyle Cassidy Brennan
OCCC



Justin Cook Calloway
OCCC



Jesus Eriberto Carreon
Rose State



Daniel James Cartwright
OU-Full Ride



Joshua Scott Case
Southwestern
OSU



Marcus Thomas Cera
Rose State



Bailey Morgan Charvat
OU



Johannes Fransiskus Liman Danusantoso
Holy Cross



Brittany Thi Dinh
OU



Raymond Lavern Frazier III
Colorado Christian
University



Guadalupe Garcia
OCCC



Kaden Trent Goodwin
OSU



Olivia Florentina Graham
OCCC



Trevor Patrick Grose
OU



Daphne Marie Haddad
OCCC



Sarah Elizabeth Hake
OU



McKenzie Ann Housh
Southwestern
OSU



Kaitlin Elizabeth Hurst
OSU-OKC



Blake Daniel Johnson
US Air Force
Academy
Salutatorian



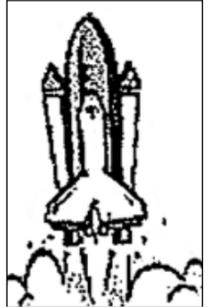
David Giorgio Johnson
OCCC



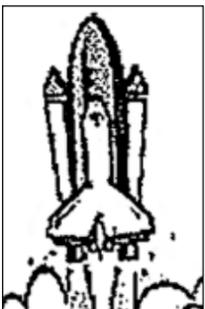
Allison Ann Keeley
OU



Jarid John Kerwin
OU



Woo-Jun Kim
OU



Kunhee Lee
Massachusetts
College of
Pharmacy &
Health



Alexa Grace Lee-Dinnes
OU



Katherine Ann Lenhart
OU



Huiqin Li
University of
Alabama



Aaron Marvin Limon
Benedictine
College



Nicholas David Long
Rose State
College

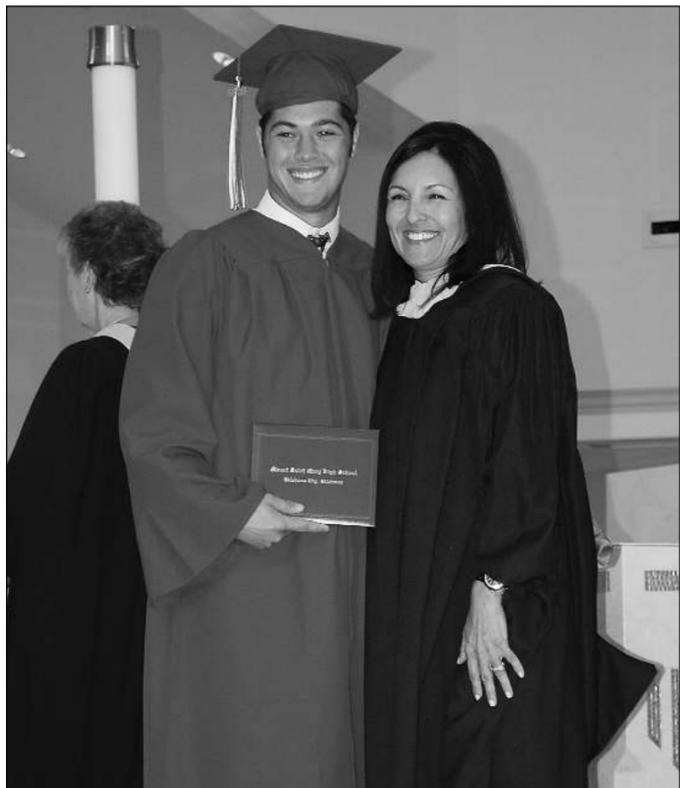


Caroline Ann Lott
OU



Samuel Christopher Luckowski
NOC, Stillwater

Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2012



Chris Zins and Mount Saint Mary Principal Talita DeNegri.



**John Sampson
Maguire Jr.**
SNU



**Teryn Anastasia
Martin**
OCU



**Morgan Nicole
McCalmon**
Dartmouth
Full Ride



**Margaret Grace
McGuffee**
OU



**Hunter Bradley
Anderson
McKee**
OU



**Derrick Manuel
Miracle**
OU



**Anna-Allyce
Mollman**
Benedictine
College



**Harrison
Bijan Motiei**
OU



**Joseph Anthony
Mussatto**
OU



**Nathaniel Ati
Myers-Antiaye**
OCCC



**Joseph Peter
Naugle**
Benedictine
College



**Nathan
Nguyen**
OSU



**Kaitlyn
Larissa Peters**
Rose State



**John Hieu
Pham**
OU



**Kaitlyn
Michelle Pham**
OSU



**Elizabeth
Claire Pickens**
OU



**Marianne
Catherine
Pierce**
OSU



**Joseph
Dewayne Reis-
Herron**
OU



Jessica Reyes
OCU



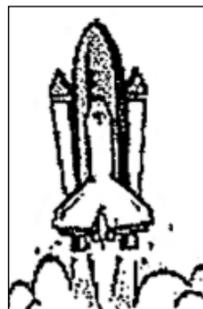
**Sylas John
Schmiedel**
Academy of
Contemporary
Music



**Austin Michael
Schudalla**
OSU-OKC



**Christopher
Michael
Sheffield**
OU



Hye Ji Shin
OU



**Zoe Rae
Steinkraus**
OSU



**Gina Maria
Stiles**
OSU



**Christopher
Michael Sutton**
St. Gregory's
University



**Hallie Morgan
Taylor**
Southwest
Christian
University



**John Loyd
Tener**
University of
New Mexico



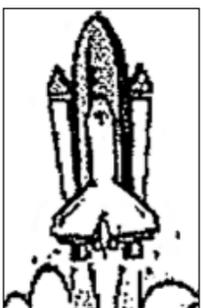
**Bryana Dare'
Wade**
University of
North Texas



**Jeremy Ryne
Wagner**
Eastern
Nazarene



**Justin Garrett
Wagner**
Eastern
Nazarene



**Matthew
Anthony
Wagner**
Rose State



**Christopher
Daniel Waite**
OU



**Anthony
Mitchell Wilson**
OU



**Desiree Renee
Wolf**
Southwest
Christian
University



**Zachary McKee
Womack**
St. Gregory's
University



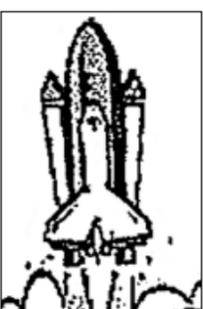
**Rachel
Elizabeth Wood**
Brigham Young
University
Salutatorian



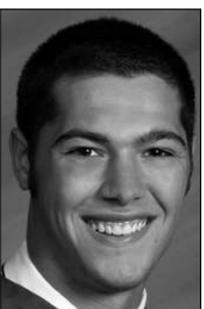
**Jasmine
Posayanukul
Yeo**
OU



**Anne Dokyung
Yoon**
St. Louis
University
Valedictorian



Tae-Suh Yun
University of
Toledo



**Christopher
Rodney Zins**
Northwestern
OSU



**Allison Kay
Zschesche**
OSU



Bishop McGuinness Class of 2012

Photos by Betsy Felton



Clockwise from top left, Bishop McGuinness' Class of 2012 celebrate their graduation milestone; above, bagpipers perform during the ceremony; below, Principal David Morton and Sister Catherine Powers, C.N.D., celebrate her service as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese. Sister Powers is retiring at the end of June; bottom left, Mary Ann Grover, Stephanie Milligan, David Hill, Grace Aguilera and Grace Castillo; and at left, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Sister Catherine Powers, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese, Anne Hathcoat, Assistant Principal, Academics and Curriculum, Steve Cooper, chairman of the School Advisory Council.





Mount Saint Mary's Class of 2012 Celebrates Graduation

Photos by Jessica Stiles

Clockwise from left, Rachel Wood, salutatorian, Blake Johnson, salutatorian, and Ann Yoon, valedictorian; above, it's official — no longer in high school; below, Austin Schudalla with his brother, John Schudalla, at robing; bottom, legacy members; and below left, Marianne Pierce with her father, Larry Pierce at robing.



St. Gregory's Celebrates 97th Graduating Class

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University celebrated its 97th commencement exercise May 12 inside W.P. Wood Field House. Bachelor's degrees were conferred on 114 graduates with an additional 34 receiving associate's degrees and seven receiving master's degrees.

The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, addressed the near-capacity audience. He said by choosing St. Gregory's and a liberal arts education, the graduates had chosen to pursue more than a degree.

"The genius of a liberal arts education is that it does not have as its first and foremost goal merely the training of accountants, nurses or teachers," he said. "The liberal arts educate and form good men and women, the whole person. The liberal arts provide not just a skill set, but a preparation for life."

Archbishop Coakley urged the graduates to make choices that demonstrate their faith.

"Cultivate love of God and love of neighbor and strive always to put yourselves, your talents and your abilities at the service of the common good and of the truth," he said.

Valedictorians Amy Aurilio and Daniel Wyatt also addressed the audience. Aurilio, from Owasso, was valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Wyatt, from Seminole, was valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

Aurilio's speech focused on the things that have changed — and stayed the same — during her time at SGU.

"Even though I am very proud of having changed and grown since high school, I find that those things that have never changed are the most important," she said. "I encourage you to take a moment today and thank those people who have never changed in their love and support of you. If you're anything like me, you know you couldn't have done all this without them."

Wyatt discussed how the mission of St. Gregory's was an integral part of his educational experience.

"St. Gregory's ignited in me a love of learning," Wyatt said. "Before beginning my education at SGU, I had the notion that I was just going to school for a piece of paper. Now I miss going to class. I miss hearing and debating the different views of my classmates."

Baccalaureate Mass was May 11 at St. Gregory's Abbey Church. The Rev. Joseph Jacobi, pastor of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, delivered the homily. The SGU Choral, under the direction of Brother Damian Whalen, O.S.B., Ph.D., provided music.

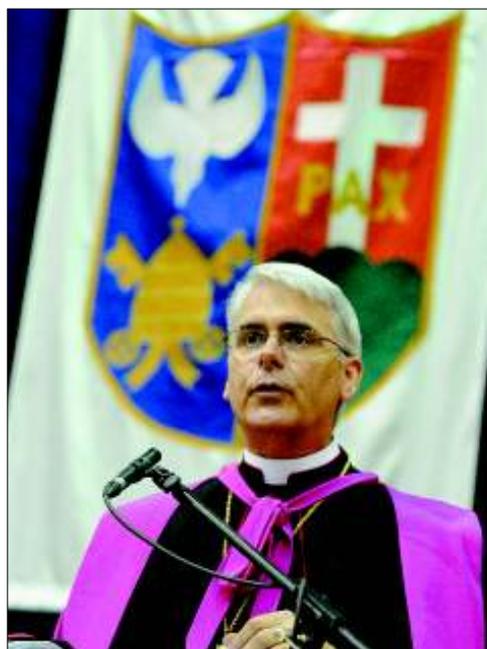
Associate's degrees:

Broken Arrow: Shawn Hair, Jacob Wing, James Boatfield, Paula Layland
 Claremore: Michael Mahoney
 Del City: Frances Perry
 Glenpool: Kimberly Olive
 Jenks: Dianne Campbell
 Macomb: Lisa Hatler
 Meeker: Kellee Culp
 Oklahoma City: Mary Barnes, Vicky Saenz
 Sapulpa: Carolina Estrada
 Shawnee: Christa Aultman, Sybil Griffin, Jonathan Mayfield, Angela Ulissi, Larry VanTreee
 Skiatook: Jessikia Mosier



Two St. Gregory's University graduates place a lily at the feet of the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha statue on campus before the university's commencement ceremony. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is set to be canonized on Oct. 21, 2012, which makes her the first Native American to qualify for sainthood. Degrees were conferred on 155 graduates. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, OSB)

Sulphur: Erica Chapman
 Tecumseh: Patricia Hogue
 Tulsa: Marcherlee Finch, Tonya Barranco, Leonora Bustos-Trujillo, Rhonda Jenkins, Allison Richman, Shawn Rogers, Jenna Shawver, Rhiannon Trepp, Amanda Frazier-Hale, Diana Jones, Linda Harwell, Maura Shattuck
 Wellston: Jody Boudreaux
 International: Sachiko Komoto
Bachelor's degrees:
 Broken Arrow: Niral Burnett
 Oklahoma City: Elizabeth Brett
 Owasso: Allison McKeon, Amy Aurilio
 Bartlesville: Megan Hudson
 Blanchard: Blair Ward
 Broken Arrow: Celia Armstrong, Geraldine Pruit, Jennifer Sorensen, Kimberly Galindo, Lisa Noles, Paula Davis, Victoria Lee, William Harvey
 Carlsbad, Calif.: Courtney Reynaga
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Jenna Trachta
 Chelsea: Cindy Shelton
 Claremore: Frank Roberts, Jennifer Dill, Keith Jutras, Scottie Russell
 Collinsville: Miranda Crow
 Comanche: Lauren Frye
 Cromwell: Nanci Chamberlain
 Earlsboro: Jennifer Kecskemeti, Mautia Hall
 Edmond: Anna Costello, Jonathan Murphy, Travis Saunders
 Glencoe: HayLea Harper
 Harrah: Becky Moore
 Holly, Colo.: Abigail Pollart
 Houston, Texas: Jalisa Howard,
 Rosemary Cruz
 Inola: Danielle Dobias
 Jenks: Katherine Beckham
 Lafayette, La.: Erin McClure
 Manchester, Conn.: Jacob Merritt
 McLoud: Melissa Saldana, Veronica Walker
 Meeker: Larry Pettitt, Michael Murray
 Midwest City: Amber Hoffman,



The Most Reverend Paul Coakley, archbishop of Oklahoma City, addresses the audience during the commencement ceremony at St. Gregory's University. Degrees were conferred on 155 graduates. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, OSB)

Autumn Brown,
 Jennifer Reynolds, Joe Ives
 Moore:
 Zachary Fernandez
 Mooreland:
 Delanda Brittain
 Mustang:
 Constance Bair
 Nemo, Texas:
 Lisa Bell
 Noble:
 Lorraine Robinson
 Norman:
 Lauren Swenson, April Putman
 Okemah:
 Steven Brandt
 Oklahoma City: Cody Moore, Megan Plank, Octavio Gonzalez
 Okmulgee: Courtney Josie
 Owasso: Aaron VanOrsdol, Christy Huckaby
 Pawhuska: Timothy Weigant
 Pryor: Jeffery Tate
 Rio Vista, Texas: Macy Fowler
 San Jose: Tyler Bento
 Sapulpa: Catherine Bennett, Jacob Estrada
 Seminole: Daniel Wyatt, Regina Stillwell
 Shawnee: Asaycia Clayton, Brenda McAlister, Brooke Webb, Bryan Webb, Candace Woolpert, Connie Wright, Derry Smith, Dillon Streber, Elisha Yarbrough, Eric Landess, Jacob Douglas, Jennifer Hernandez, Kara Peka, Kenneth Jones, Michael Stith, Morganne Lyon, Phillip Mee, Sheila Seidl, Susan Thomas, Tish Taylor
 Slinger, Wis.: Thomas Fassbender
 Tecumseh: Amy Beene, Ellen Hogue
 Tulsa: Corey Cato, Diana DeLeon, Dorothy Reinhardt, Eneida Kannard, James Hensley, Jeremy Banes, Joseph McWethy, Leslie Porter, Mary Troutman, Rickie Byrd, Robert Moore, Tanya Thomas, Paolo Velella
 Wichita Falls, Texas: Karen Hynes
 Yukon: William Hittle
 International: Akpeyi Miessan, Yvette Koffi, Luisa Bar
Master's degrees:
 Broken Arrow: Michael Steiner
 Oklahoma City: Brenda Knutson, Destinee Narak
 Shawnee: Alicia Miller
 Tulsa: Andrew Jenkins, Jody Davis, Marc Nelson, Michelle Hulbert

St. Eugene's Sets Eucharistic Adoration in Thanksgiving

Oklahoma City Parish Celebrates New Sacred Space

By Barbara Curcio
For the Sooner Catholic

First it was just a beautiful dream. Then came a groundbreaking — with vestments flying in the wind, people opening the ground and over it all a beautiful blue and white Oklahoma sky. It was exciting.

But that was topped by the first steel girders — just some vertical ones at first, but then in the roof beams there was an indisputable frame of a church, a traditional shape outlined against the same Blessed Mother sky. And then, for a time, before the roof was filled in one could see the sky captured within the girders and engage in an unforgettable reflection on what was to be the future of the new structure. It was wonderful.

We had prayed mightily for this new church at St. Eugene's over the years. We built a school first, so it took time. When the new church was "in development," we prayed literally, day and night, in novenas of days, and weeks and months, in both communal and personal prayer and sacrifice — and in thanks for the pennies, quarters and dimes collected by the little children.

In 2008, under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Jacobi and the Eucharistic Adoration Ministry, the beautiful and traditional Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration was held — the first in our experience as a parish. We did that to pray for all our intentions as a parish, but especially for the success of our efforts to build a new church. And the Lord said yes to our fervent prayers.

This June 6-8, in the church



St. Eugene's new church has now been completed.

given to us by the almighty grace of God, and through the devotion, generosity and sacrifice of the people of Saint Eugene Parish, we turn again to our Lord in the Eucharist, in this holy and traditional way. We do so in praise, love and gratitude for what we have received and in continued prayer and reliance on the Lord, that we may flourish in his care, and do His Holy Will.

Come rejoice, adore and pray with us in our new Church

In the Presence of the Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, June 6 through Friday, June 8

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 6 and 7, 2012

7 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 8, 2012
Evening Prayer and Benediction will conclude each day

8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, June 6 and 7, 2012

7:30 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2012

Georgetown Criticized for Having Sebelius Speak at Commencement Event

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius delivered her remarks as scheduled May 18 at Georgetown University at an awards ceremony during the university's commencement week events.

In her remarks at Georgetown's Public Policy Institute ceremony, Sebelius did not mention the criticism of many people to the university's invitation to her asking her to speak on campus, but the Archdiocese of Washington was among those who strongly criticized her appearance at the Catholic university because of her role in the HHS contraceptive mandate.

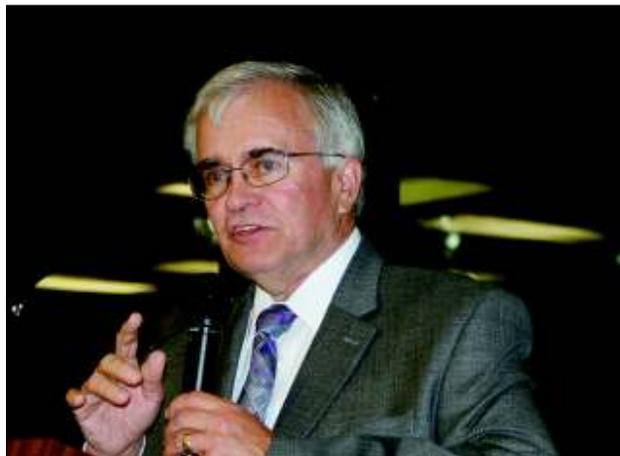
The nation's Catholic bishops have repeatedly criticized the HHS mandate, saying it threatens the religious freedom of Catholic institutions such as universities, hospitals and social service agencies because it would force them to provide employees with health insurance coverage for

abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization procedures in violation of church teaching. It would also force employers to enforce the HHS mandate.

In its May 15 statement, the Washington Archdiocese noted that because of the "dramatic impact this mandate will have on Georgetown and all Catholic institutions, it is understandable that Catholics across the country would find shocking the choice of Secretary Sebelius, the architect of the mandate, to receive such special recognition at a Catholic university.

"It is also understandable that Catholics would view this as a challenge to the bishops," they said.

In a May 14 statement, Georgetown's president, John DeGioia, acknowledged concerns were "expressed by some" on the campus and in the larger American Catholic community objecting to Sebelius participating in the institute's awards ceremony.



Attorney Richard Klinge, director of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, was speaker for the gathering of about 80 nurses on the Feast Day of Saint Damien of Molokai.

Nurses Gather for Annual Mass, Dinner Celebration

EDMOND — Father John Metzinger said it was "most appropriate" that some 80 nurses had gathered on the Feast Day of Saint Damien of Molokai to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and reflect on the sacrifices, caring and compassion offered by health-care workers, especially nurses.

The annual Celebration of Nurses began with Mass at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church. Following Mass, the nurses enjoyed dinner and a humorous and at times emotional presentation given by a man who has a great deal of experience in the business side of the health-care industry. But on this evening, his perspective was one of a patient, a very ill patient.

Saint Damian was a Belgium-born priest who gave his life while ministering to lepers in Hawaii during the late 1800s. His Feast Day is May 10. In his homily, Father Metzinger said, like Saint Damien, nurses strive to bring "healing and hope" to their brothers and sisters who are facing challenges in their lives.

Attorney Richard Klinge is Director of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Before joining Catholic Charities, much of his professional work involved legal work related to hospitals and health care.

But in late 2011, Klinge became a patient. After suffering a serious stroke, Klinge found he was totally "dependent" on others. For more than six weeks Klinge was in the hospital at Mercy Health Center, undergoing what he now describes as his "Mercy experience."

During his stay in the hospital, Klinge said he saw firsthand "the professionalism, passion, compassion, spirit, spirituality, imperfection, and the humor of nursing and the people who practice it."

He quoted John Dewey, saying, "We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience." Klinge then offered a litany of reflections on his time spent in Mercy with his audience often bursting with laughter, while at other times his own voice choked with emotion.

He said the nurses he encountered during his stay provided the care and encouragement that led to physical, spiritual and emotional healing. "You can't separate the spiritual from the physical and emotional healing," he said.

Klinge serves as a medical ethics adviser for Saint Anthony Hospital. He said before his illness he did not fully understand the perspective of the patient. Decisions were based on "facts."

Today, his perspective is much broader.

He said an archbishop in New York once told him, "Human dignity is a gift from God. It's not something to be earned."

Klinge said those words and the reflection on his own "Mercy experience" have changed his outlook.

"Whether you are a nurse in a hospital or a school, in a free clinic or the Mayo Clinic, or in a faith community, whether you are Catholic or of another Christian tradition, Muslim or Jewish, on behalf of patients everywhere, thank you for always fixing everything. Just right," he said.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

ASSIGNMENT

Effective June 13, 2012:

Irwin, Joseph M. — Associate Vocation Director for Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and continuing as Pastor, Saint Francis Xavier Church, Enid.

Congolese Bishop Urges U.S. to Monitor Industry

WASHINGTON — Congress should continue to support laws that promote transparency among companies that mine in the Congo and to “resist watering down SEC regulations to half measures that may save money, but cost lives,” said Bishop Nicolas Djomo Lola, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Congo, in a May 10 testimony to the House Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade. The U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) sponsored Bishop Djomo Lola’s participation in the hearing, “The Costs and Consequences of Dodd-Frank Section 1502: Impacts on America and the Congo.” Catholic Relief Services (CRS) coordinated the trip.

“This violence has destroyed families, villages and communities. One prominent driver of the violence is illicit mining conducted by the many armed groups in Eastern

Congo. To protect our people from the misery of minerals, the Church in the Congo publicly supported the passage of Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act,” Bishop Djomo Lola said.

Bishop Djomo Lola expressed the hope that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will publish rules that will be rigorous enough to ensure that companies and consumers do not participate,

inadvertently or not, in commerce that has led to suffering and thousands of deaths.

He added, “The Church in the Congo trusts that the business community can and will join us to protect the life and human dignity of the Congolese people by conducting legal, transparent and accountable international commerce. We are confident that they do not want to be part of the misery that has plagued Eastern Congo for years.”

Coercion in the Name of Freedom?

The “Freedom From Religion Foundation” has placed a full-page ad in the Washington Post. It urges Catholics to “quit the Catholic Church” over its teachings on sex and procreation, asking: “Will it be reproductive freedom, or back to the Dark Ages?”

Noting Catholic opposition to the Obama administration’s mandate for covering contraception, sterilization and abortifacient drugs in most private health plans, the ad declares: “The Church that hasn’t persuaded you to shun contraception now wants to use the force of secular law to deny birth control to non-Catholics.”

This is so topsy-turvy a description of what is going on that I guess the Post’s advertising fact-checkers are out sick. But in case anyone is swayed by such charges, the facts may bear repeating.

It is, of course, the administration that wants to “use the force of secular law” to deny a freedom Americans have long enjoyed. Until now, Catholics and non-Catholics alike had the freedom to decide, without federal interference, whether to buy the above-mentioned coverage or not. A religious organization with a moral

objection could exclude the coverage from the health plan it subsidizes; an individual who wanted those drugs and procedures could choose to work for an organization that subsidizes them, or use his or her own money to buy them.

Under the administration’s mandate, by contrast, there is no free choice — for employers, or for individual women. Almost everyone must have coverage for the full range of anti-pregnancy technologies aimed at women, from surgical sterilizations to the injectable and implantable drugs often used by overzealous population control programs in the Third World. (Interestingly, male methods such as condoms and vasectomies are excluded.) An extremely narrow “religious employer” exemption will let some churches and houses of worship opt out — if they focus on “inculcation of religious values,” and don’t hire or serve people of other faiths.



By Richard Doerflinger

The administration will delay enforcing its mandate for one year for a wider class of religious employers — those which educate, heal and serve the public. But once this year is up, the coverage will be provided “automatically” to these organizations’ employees, whether the employees want it or not — and to their “beneficiaries” such as teenage children with guarantees of “privacy.”

This acts out a script that Planned Parenthood and its allies wrote many years ago. In 1995, PP’s former research arm, the Guttmacher Institute, issued a position paper titled “Uneven and Unequal” that urged comprehensive “access” to “reproductive health” services as part of health care reform. It insisted on covering these procedures for enrollees’ children “confidentially,” so parents need not be aware what others are encouraging their children to do about pregnancy prevention. The Institute said such coverage should be available without co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses — not only to maximize access, but to ensure “confidential care” (that is, teens can obtain the services without telling Mom why they need \$20.

So this dispute is about religious freedom and other freedoms as well. As part of its human rights stand on population policy, the Church has long insisted that government should not be encouraging or dictating the specific methods by which parents decide the size of their families.

The Church has also supported the freedom of parents to be primary educators and guides for their children, including on matters of sexuality. Those freedoms are forfeit when the federal government can reach into every family in America to ensure that children are counseled and given drugs, implants or surgeries to prevent pregnancy behind their parents’ backs. To justify that agenda, you need a broader slogan than just “Freedom From Religion.” Maybe “Freedom From Freedom” will catch on.

Richard Doerflinger is Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops’ efforts on religious freedom and rights of conscience, visit www.usccb.org/conscience.

¿Coerción en nombre de la libertad?

La Fundación “Freedom From Religion” [Libres de la Religión] ha publicado un anuncio de página completa en el Washington Post. Exhorta a los católicos a “abandonar la Iglesia Católica” debido a sus enseñanzas sobre el sexo y la procreación, preguntando: “¿Habrá libertad reproductiva o regresamos a la Edad Oscura?”

El anuncio, al notar la oposición católica al mandato de la Administración de Obama para la cobertura de la anticoncepción, la esterilización y las drogas abortivas en la mayoría de los planes de salud privados, declara lo siguiente: “La Iglesia que no te persuadió a rechazar la anticoncepción ahora quiere usar la fuerza de la ley secular para negar el control de la natalidad a los no católicos.”

Esta es una descripción tan desordenada de lo que está sucediendo que creo que los verificadores de información de publicidad del Post estaban ausentes por enfermedad. Pero en caso de que alguien esté influenciado por tales acusaciones, vale reiterar los hechos.

Por supuesto, es la Administración que quiere “usar la fuerza de la ley secular” para negar una libertad que los estadounidenses siempre tuvieron. Hasta ahora, los católicos y los no católicos por igual tenían la libertad de decidir, sin interferencia federal, si comprar la

cobertura antes mencionada o no. Una organización religiosa con una objeción moral podría excluir la cobertura del plan de salud que subsidia; una persona que quisiera que se cubran esas drogas y procedimientos podría elegir trabajar para una organización que las subsidie, o utilizar su propio dinero para comprarlas.

Según el mandato de la administración, en contraste, no hay una libre opción — para los empleados, o para las mujeres individuales. Casi todos deben tener cobertura para toda la gama de tecnologías antiembarazo destinadas a las mujeres, desde las esterilizaciones quirúrgicas hasta las drogas inyectables e implantables a menudo utilizadas por los programas muy entusiastas de control de la población en el Tercer Mundo. (Curiosamente, se excluyen los métodos masculinos tales como los condones o las vasectomías.) Una excepción extremadamente estrecha para “empleadores religiosos” permitirá a algunas iglesias y casas de oración decidir no participar, siempre y cuando se enfoquen en la “inculcación de valores religiosos,” y no contraten ni sirvan a personas de otra fe.

La administración demorará la aplicación de su mandato durante un año para una clase más amplia de empleadores religiosos, aquellos que educan, sanan y sirven al público.

Pero una vez que se termine este año, la cobertura se proporcionará “en forma automática” a los empleados de estas organizaciones, sin importar si los empleados la quieren o no, y a sus “beneficiarios,” como por ejemplo hijos adolescentes, con garantías de “privacidad.”

Esto representa un guión que Planned Parenthood y sus aliados escribieron muchos años atrás. En 1995, la exdependencia de investigación de PP, el Guttmacher Institute, emitió un documento de opinión titulado “Uneven and Unequal” (Dispar y desigual) que exhortaba un “acceso” integral a los servicios de “salud reproductiva” como parte de la reforma al sistema de salud. Insistía en la cobertura de estos procedimientos para los hijos de los asociados “de manera confidencial,” porque los padres no tenían que estar al tanto de lo que otros alientan a sus hijos a hacer sobre la prevención del embarazo. El Instituto dijo que esa cobertura debería estar disponible sin copagos ni otros gastos de bolsillo, no solo para maximizar el acceso, sino para asegurar “la atención confidencial” (es decir, los adolescentes pueden obtener los servicios



By Richard Doerflinger

sin contarle a mamá por qué necesitaban veinte dólares).

Por lo tanto, esta disputa se refiere a la libertad de religión y también otras libertades. Como parte de su postura de derechos humanos acerca de la política de población, la Iglesia desde hace mucho tiempo insiste que el gobierno no debería fomentar ni establecer los métodos específicos mediante los cuales los padres deciden el tamaño de su familia. La Iglesia también ha apoyado la libertad de los padres de ser los principales educadores y guías de sus hijos, incluidos en cuestiones de sexualidad. Se pierde el derecho a esas libertades cuando el gobierno federal puede llegar a cada familia en Estados Unidos para asegurar que los hijos reciban consejo y medicamentos, se les realicen implantes o cirugías para evitar el embarazo a espaldas de sus padres. Para justificar esa agenda, se necesita un eslogan más amplio que simplemente “Libres de la religión.” Tal vez “Libres de la libertad” gane popularidad.

Richard M. Doerflinger es subdirector del Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. Para saber más sobre los esfuerzos de los obispos con respecto a la libertad religiosa y los derechos de conciencia, visite www.usccb.org/conscience.

Lawsuits Filed continued from Page 1

hang in the balance, so we have to resort to the courts now.”

Cardinal Dolan is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is not a party to the lawsuits.

Catholic organizations have objected to the contraceptive mandate since it was announced last Aug. 1. Unless they are subject to a narrow religious exemption or have a grandfathered health plan, employers will be required to pay for sterilizations and contraceptives, including some abortion-inducing drugs, as part of health coverage beginning as soon as Aug. 1, 2012.

In all, 12 lawsuits were filed simultaneously May 21 in U.S. district courts around the country. The defendants in each case were Sebelius, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, along with their departments.

In addition to the Archdiocese of New York and Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the archdioceses of Washington and St. Louis and the dioceses of Rockville Centre, N.Y.; Erie, Pa.; Pittsburgh; Dallas; Fort Worth, Texas; Jackson, Miss.; Biloxi, Miss.; Springfield, Ill.; and Joliet, Ill. The Michigan Catholic Conference, which provides medical benefits to more than 1,100 Catholic institutions and approximately 10,000 employees in the state, also is a plaintiff.

“We need to go to the court and say we are a church institution, we are a provider of health care and, according to the U.S. Constitution, the laws must protect our religious freedom,” said Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. “We have a very particular case to make.”

Catholic universities joining in the lawsuits included the University of Notre Dame, The Catholic University of America and Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, as well as the University of St. Francis in Indiana.

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, said the decision to file the lawsuit “came after much deliberation, discussion and efforts to find a solution acceptable to the various parties.”

“This filing is about the freedom of a religious organization to live its

mission, and its significance goes well beyond any debate about contraceptives,” he said. “For if we concede that the government can decide which religious organizations are sufficiently religious to be awarded the freedom to follow the principles that define their mission, then we have begun to walk down a path that ultimately leads to the undermining of those institutions.”

Others filing suit include a Catholic cemeteries association, an agency for the deaf, health care and social services organizations and Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newspaper based in Huntington, Ind., said in an editorial that it “stands proudly with our fellow Catholic apostolates and with our bishops in resisting this challenge.”

The newspaper asked readers “to stand with us — in charity, praying first and foremost for conversions of heart; in civility, arguing the facts of this case without recourse to bitter partisanship or political rhetoric; and in solidarity, knowing that whatever sacrifices we bear and whatever challenges we endure, we are only doing what is our responsibility as American citizens practicing our faith in the public square.”

Each of the lawsuits asks for a jury trial. Noting that the Founding Fathers agreed “that the mixture of government and religion is destructive to both institutions and divisive to the social fabric upon which the country depends,” the lawsuits contend the Constitution and federal law “stand as bulwarks against oppressive government actions even if supported by a majority of citizens.”

“Despite repeated requests from church leaders, the government has insisted that it will not change the core principle of the U.S. government mandate — that plaintiffs must subsidize and/or facilitate providing their employees free access to drugs and services that are contrary to plaintiffs’ religious beliefs,” the suits state. “If the government can force religious institutions to violate their beliefs in such a manner, there is no apparent limit to the government’s power.”

Archbishop Coakley Responds to Health Mandate Lawsuits

On Monday, May 21, 2012, the USCCB announced that 12 lawsuits have been filed around the nation in federal district courts on behalf of 43 Catholic entities — dioceses, hospitals, schools and church agencies and others. The lawsuits challenge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate finalized on Feb. 15, 2012, as a violation of religious freedom under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The various federal agencies responsible for formulating and enforcing the nationwide mandate are named as defendants in these lawsuits.

The HHS mandate requires all employers to provide in their health benefit plans abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and artificial contraception. The HHS mandate includes an exemption for certain groups, but is crafted so narrowly that most religious organizations do not qualify. The lawsuits filed on Monday came after months of negotiating with the HHS to no avail. The concerns of religious organizations regarding the HHS mandate and the narrow exemption have simply not been addressed by the government.

The HHS mandate and its exemption also run contrary to centuries of federal laws that have consistently honored and respected the conscience rights of religious institutions and individuals. These rights have been abrogated. The exemption provided by the HHS mandate is an artificial four-part test developed by HHS which allows a government entity to define who is and who is not “religious.” By defining who is and who is not religious enough to qualify for an exemption to the mandate, HHS has conferred powers on government forbidden by the U.S. Constitution.

Simply put, the HHS mandate creates a slippery slope. In forcing Catholic religious institutions and organizations to pay for services



Simply put, the HHS mandate creates a slippery slope. In forcing Catholic religious institutions and organizations to pay for services which violate Catholic teachings, the government has left no meaningful conscience provisions in federal law. One must ask, what comes next?

which violate Catholic teachings, the government has left no meaningful conscience provisions in federal law. One must ask, what comes next?

While some incorrectly hold that “separation of Church and State” intends to keep the Church out of the public square, the Founding Fathers actually sought to guarantee that the state must remain separate from the internal affairs of the Church — an ideal that today is threatened by the HHS mandate, a mandate that places our nation’s first, most cherished freedom, in grave peril.

The various plaintiffs represent a broad cross-section of Catholic institutions. While the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is not one of the plaintiffs in these lawsuits, we will follow their progress with great interest. The outcomes of these cases will affect all of us. We continue to pray for a just outcome to this grievous threat to religious freedom.

OLOG Announces Summer Camp Scholarship Recipients

Endowment Funds established at the Catholic Foundation have awarded Summer Camp Scholarships to five Catholic youth in the Archdiocese. Receiving the scholarship awards are Caleb Argo, Our Lady’s Cathedral; Ryan Banks, St. Mary Church, Medford; Adriana Bustamante, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City; Hyatt Sweezy, St. James the Greater Church, Oklahoma City; and Toni Fidel, Our Lady’s Cathedral. Caleb received the Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund Scholarship and Ryan received the Robert A. Streets Family Endowment Fund Scholarship. Adriana, Hyatt and Toni each received the Catholic Foundation Director’s Fund Scholarships.

The Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund was established by family and friends in memory of Jake Meier, a former camper and counselor at the Youth Summer Camp who passed away in 2009. Jake began attending camp while in junior high school when the Catholic Youth Camp



Tony Tyler

was located at Lake Murray. The next summer when he was 15 years old, he applied for the camp staff and was hired as a kitchen assistant. In his application for a camp counselor position the next summer, Jake stated, “Since my first summer at Lake Murray I have learned more and more about my faith while having more and more fun each year as well. The more I go to camp, the more my

eyes are opened to Christ’s light of the world.” Jake was a counselor-in-training in 1999 and a counselor in the 2000 camp session (the first year of the new camp at Our Lady of Guadalupe). Although his life ended way too early, the scholarship in Jake Meier’s memory serves as a reminder of a talented, loving and caring young man whose faith guided him in the right direction. His camping experience was a great part of that faith formation. In sharing that experience with more young campers, Jake continues to do God’s work even after he has left this earth.

The Robert A. Streets Family Endowment for Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp was established in 2000 for the benefit of the Catholic Youth Camp. This is the second year that the fund has awarded a scholarship to a camper. Mr. Streets was enthusiastic about helping to make sure all Catholic youth in the Archdiocese had the camping experience.

The Catholic Foundation Director’s

Fund awarded Summer Camp Scholarships to Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp for the first time this year. Three scholarships were awarded from the fund. Tony Tyler, president of the Foundation, said, “With so many worthy candidates, the Foundation’s board of directors believed that it was vital for as many Catholic youth in the Archdiocese as possible to be able to attend the summer camp. We echo and support the camp’s mission to nurture positive Catholic values in our youth.”

If you would like to establish a Scholarship Fund at the Catholic Foundation or contribute to either the Robert A. Streets Family Endowment Fund or the Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund for Camp Scholarships to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp, please send your tax deductible gift to the Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123, or online at www.cfook.org.

For further information, call (405) 721-4115.



At the presentation were Wade Laffey, Mikaela Malatin, Dr. Charles Lawrence, Abbey Zuech and Reverend Rajesh Mankena.

Catholic Foundation Board Awards Scholarships to Malatin, Zuech

Catholic Foundation Board Vice President Dr. Charles Lawrence recently presented college scholarships to two recipients at St. Gregory the Great Church in Enid. The recipient of the Evelyn and Kathryn Hau Scholarship was Mikaela Malatin. The recipient of the Amelia P. Davis and Elizabeth H. Davis Lawrence Scholarship was Abbey Zuech. Both students will receive a scholarship award of \$1,000 per year for up to four years of undergraduate study and both students are graduating from Enid High School this spring. Zuech will attend the University of Oklahoma and Malatin will attend Northern Oklahoma College.

The scholarships are awarded

through a college scholarship program instituted by the Catholic Foundation over 45 years ago. This year over \$90,000 in scholarships will be awarded. At the same Mass, Dr. Lawrence also presented an Educational Grant from the Catholic Foundation to Wade Laffey, principal of St. Joseph Catholic School in Enid. The \$2,000 grant is for computer equipment at the school. This year \$75,000 in Educational Grants will be available to parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese.

For more information about establishing a Named Scholarship or Grant Endowment Fund at the Catholic Foundation, contact Barney Semtner at (405) 721-4115.

Defense of Marriage

continued from Page 1

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta told Catholic News Service that the institution of marriage “predates the church and predates the state, and now people are saying it’s up for grabs.”

Young people today are growing up in a world “that easily jettisons things that have ‘lost their relevancy’” and, he said, they don’t realize there are some things that can never be rendered irrelevant or redefined according to current trends or people’s whims.

“Marriage is by God’s design, by human nature, the union of a man and a woman for the procreation of the human race and for the sanctification and augmentation of the partners. That doesn’t pass out of vogue,” he said.

The church needs to address this “cultural attack” more effectively with improved teaching and by listening to the reasons why people are more accepting of current trends against the institution of marriage, he said.

One of the problems is that people have equated tolerance toward others with a complete abandonment of moral principles, the archbishop said.

Catholics are called to be compassionate, understanding and tolerant, but not at the expense of proclaiming what is right and wrong.

“Tolerance does not always mean that one loses the capacity to make a judgment based on faith and human reason,” he said.

“That type of excessive tolerance is destructive not just of marriage but, ultimately, of society itself,” because people no longer follow the laws of nature that protect humanity and no longer recognize real aberrations in human behavior.

The problem of separation and divorce also needs pastoral support, he said.

“Sadly, human imperfection has always manifested itself and allowed for couples to go through great periods of a dysfunctional

relationship and sometimes ultimately abandon the relationship,” he said.

“I myself am the son of a single parent, so I know that there are



“We know the lines in the sand are drawn not only on this issue” of marriage, “but also on other issues: religious liberty and the defense of the right to life of the unborn.”

— Bishop Peter Jugis

good people that sometimes encounter just insurmountable obstacles to their union,” he said.

One cannot pretend that there will not be painful or difficult moments in every marriage, but the church must help people maintain hope and belief in aiming for greater holiness.

“The issue is should we abandon even the hope of having good healthy unions,” he asked.

At the bishops’ morning Mass, Bishop Jugis spoke about criticism of the bishops’ support for marriage, and he reminded his fellow bishops of how Blessed John Paul, citing the words of late Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński of Warsaw, Poland, said being a bishop often involves taking up Christ’s cross.

“Taking up one’s cross is not easy, even if it is made of gold and studded with jewels,” Bishop Jugis said, quoting the late pope.

“All of us bishops have experienced the suffering of the cross,” he said. “We know the lines in the sand are drawn not only on this issue” of marriage, “but also on other issues: religious liberty and the defense of the right to life of the unborn,” Bishop Jugis said.

Saying a bishop must be “a courageous witness,” he led his fellow bishops in prayer for “the grace to never stop” preaching the truth and teaching the faith.

The Mass on May 8 was planned for the altar over the tomb of Blessed John Paul II, but an African priest reached the altar first and already had begun his Mass when the U.S. bishops’ procession arrived there. The basilica’s ushers were flustered, but after a few seconds’ pause, the U.S. bishops turned left and proceeded to the altar over the tomb of Blessed John XXIII.

The bishops’ prayers and Bishop Jugis’ homily also were prepared for a celebration in memory of Blessed John Paul. Smiling broadly to the accompaniment of a bit of laughter from his fellow American bishops, Bishop Jugis adapted his remarks to refer to both of the beatified popes as sources of inspiration for their ministry.

When they had finished the special Mass, the American bishops walked together in procession back to the tomb of Blessed John Paul, knelt there in silent prayer for several minutes, then sang a Marian hymn.



CORNERSTONE

Do You Need a Durable Power of Attorney?

Yes! In case of a sudden accident or prolonged illness or incapacity, you’ll want someone you trust to have the legal right to make financial decisions you would typically make, until you’re able to make those decisions for yourself again. A Durable Power of Attorney is a legal document allowing another person or entity you choose (called your agent) to act on your behalf, in terms of financial matters such as handling your finances and paying bills. In the document, you give your agent authority only for the types of transactions you desire. Your power can be drafted to become effective now or later, if you become mentally incapacitated (a springing power).

A power of attorney must be signed by you. Your selected agent could be your spouse or adult child, a financial professional or an organization such as a bank. Choose someone you trust to honor your wishes. If you select an individual, name a successor in case the first person predeceases you. This document is used only while you are living and becomes null and void upon your death. Consult your estate planning attorney for more information on preparing a Durable Power of Attorney for you.

For more information about estate planning, contact:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
 P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
 (405)721-4115 ■ www.cfook.org ■ bsemtner@catharchdioceseok.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans



Dancing for a good cause

Seventh- and eighth-grade members of the Challenge Club at St. Eugene Catholic School present a \$250 check in support of Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting. The funds were the result of a recent dance-a-thon fundraiser sponsored by the students. Pictured above, from left, Fred Pope, Deacon Larry Sousa, Haley Sandell, Madison Southern, Sophie Thiebaut, Kayla Britten and Lilly Forth.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

KTLR FM 94.1
KTLR 890 AM

FM 94.1 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - 7 a.m.

AM 890 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station sign-off at dusk.

Go to
www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com
for the current schedule of programs.



Padre Pio Relics to be Placed June 11 at Holy Family Church

LAWTON — Holy Family Church, 1010 NW 82nd St., will celebrate Mass for the 10th anniversary of the canonization of Padre Pio. The celebration will include a procession and installation of his relic. The Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. June 11.

For more information, call (580) 536-6351.

Holy Family Parish is blessed to have a parishioner, Dr. Giuseppe Caccioppoli, who knew Padre Pio and visited him for many years. Because of this friendship with Padre Pio, our parish has been given a relic (something that belonged to the saint) by Dr. Caccioppoli. The relic is a piece of linen stained with the blood of Padre Pio. Relics of saints offer us closeness to the saint. God through the relics of saints has worked many miracles through the centuries. The relic will be placed in the chapel at Holy Family Church after the June 11 Mass commemorating his canonization on June 11, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to have

a shrine for Padre Pio at Holy Family Church, a place where people from all over could come and ask for the prayers of Padre Pio and learn more about him.

St. Padre Pio (1887-1968), a humble Capuchin Franciscan priest from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, was blessed by God in many wonderful and mysterious ways. In a miraculous way, by the power of God, he bore the stigmata, the wounds of Christ on his own body.

Among his other gifts were prophecy, the ability to call people to true conversion, reading of souls and cures of the spirit, soul and body. People are still being cured through his intercession in ways that cannot be explained by medicine or science.

More important, if less "spectacular," Padre Pio called others to a deeper life in Christ, to greater trust in God and to a more profound love of Christ, the Church and the Mother of God. Padre Pio was canonized a saint of the Church in 2002.

Formation Training Scheduled

Formation Training is taking place for those interested in receiving certification in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religious education program (Level 1, Part 2). This course will give you the background formation as well as the skills needed to create a prepared environment, an atrium, and make presentations that enable the child to draw nearer to God.

St. Eugene Catholic Church is sponsoring the trainer, Marilee Quinn, who has been working with children in an atrium for more than 20 years.

Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive in Oklahoma City, is hosting the formation training. Level 1 Part 2 training sessions will be June 13-16 and June 28-July 1. Level 1 Part 1 was offered last summer. If you want to receive certification, you will need to attend Level 1 Part 1 at another location. More information is available on the national website: www.cgsusa.org.

Please request a registration form by emailing Christie Ardoin at csardoin@cox.net, or call (405) 842-2323.

Across Oklahoma

Catholic Night at the RedHawks

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Catholics can root for the home team when the Oklahoma City RedHawks baseball team takes on the Iowa Cubs.

Catholic Night will be celebrated June 2 at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ball Park with first pitch slated for 7:05 p.m. Nancy Housh, Archdiocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said Archbishop Coakley has been invited to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Kyle Gehring at (405) 218-1000 Ext. 209. Admission is free for children under 2.

Annual Caregiver Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mercy Conference Center, 4300 W. Memorial Road, will be the site for the 14th Annual Caregiver Survival Skills Conference. The June 22 conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. The conference is sponsored by Mercy Hospital, Home Instead Senior Care, Concordia Life Care Community, Area Wide Aging Agency and Sunbeam Family Services.

The conference provides information to caregivers in areas such as grief, legal issues and maintaining hope for loved ones as well as the caregivers. The theme for this year's conference is "Embrace, Overcome and Celebrate."

To register, call (405) 752-3600. Registration deadline is June 15. A donation of \$10 is suggested and the conference includes lunch.

Human Trafficking Subject of Presentation

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Safe Place Faith Community Ministry of St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, invites all the adults in the Archdiocese to attend a presentation by Mark Elam with O.A.T.H. (Oklahomans Against Trafficking Humans) on Saturday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting rooms. Elam will raise our awareness of human trafficking, help us be informed of this growing problem in our state and help us learn to identify victims and how to protect those we love from falling victim. The presentation will be followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers provided by the YWCA, the Latino Agency and Elam. Please join us.

Holy Angels Church Carnival

OKLAHOMA CITY — Holy Angels Church, 317 N. Blackwelder, will hold its annual carnival May 26-27 with games and inflatables and face

painting for the kids, live bands and lots of food. There will be enchiladas, tacos, fried bananas, hot dogs and ice cream. All are welcome. The times are 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 26 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 27.

Dinner with Kate Barnard

OKLAHOMA CITY — On June 15 at 6:30 p.m., St. Charles Borromeo will present "Dinner with Kate Barnard." The event will be held in the St. Charles Borromeo Activity Center Gym, 5024 N. Grove. Barnard was a Catholic politician who was influential in early Oklahoma statehood days. She championed the poor, including widows, children and minorities. To make your reservation for this dinner theater event, contact Linda at 384-3810 by June 8. \$25 per person.

Respect Life Training Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — The next Respect Life meeting will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center from 8 a.m. to noon June 23. Karen Herzog, who trained and worked with 40 Days for Life, will present a workshop on how to talk with those who are abortion-minded. This is commonly referred to as "sidewalk counseling."

For those who wish to be involved with 40 Days, this is the perfect opportunity to learn proper techniques and boundaries. Please RSVP to the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

Sacred Heart Mass Moves

OKLAHOMA CITY — The June 1 Sacred Heart Mass has been moved to Immaculate Conception Parish, 3901 SW 29th St. The Sacred Heart Mass will resume July 6 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Vacation Bible School Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 NW 18th, will host Vacation Bible School for children finishing PK4 to fourth grade.

The theme of the school will be High Seas Expedition 2012.

The dates for the school will be July 8-13. The Sunday time will be 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday VBS will be from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Call Mandy at the church office at 528-0485 for more information.



Father Joe Uhen

Father Uhen Top 2012 McGuinness Alumnus

The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Alumni Association is proud to announce its 2012 Alumnus of the Year, Father Joe Uhen of the Santissimo Sacramento Parish of Piura, Peru. The award was presented during graduation ceremonies May 15.

A native of Milwaukee, Father Uhen grew up in Oklahoma City and graduated from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in 1976. He attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1980 with a BA in psychology. He eventually earned a master's degree in spirituality from the University of San Francisco.

Most of Father Uhen's adult life has been dedicated to serving the less fortunate in South America. He is the pastor and only priest of a parish that is home to 40,000 people and 28 chapels. With help from two retired priests, he performs 14 or 15 Masses each weekend, but his influence does not stop there. Father Uhen utilizes his grade school, high school and university ties to involve people in the United States with the work among the poor in Peru. Since he started an outreach program in 1996, dozens of high school youth groups, medical missions, parish mission groups, university volunteers and families have traveled to Piura. Under Father Joe's supervision, they have built homes, kitchens, classrooms and chapels in the area, and they have made life better for thousands of Peruvians.

Father Uhen also established a program called Family to Family, which involves the adoption of a needy family in Peru by a more fortunate family in another country, mostly in the United States. To date, more than 1,400 families have been adopted in this manner. Each month, through a simple donation, each adopting family provides rice, lentils and blankets. Letters are exchanged, photos are sent and a relationship is established.

The dedication and leadership of Father Uhen has enhanced the lives of countless Peruvians. He gives generous and willing individuals a venue by which to make a difference.



Sanctuary benefits from fundraiser

OKLAHOMA CITY — Paula Kornell, general manager of Oakville Ranch Vineyards in Napa, Calif., pours a wine sample to Geoff Eaton during the annual Red, Whites and Boots event held at Cattlemen's in the Stockyards. Dave Egan of Cattlemen's said the event raised more than \$8,000 for the Sanctuary Women's Development Center supported by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The 90-degree Reorientation — Floodlights Reveal the Church That Has Stood the Test of Time

"There's no easy path to apologetics. It requires tenacity. It takes a lot of ingenuity. You have to want to help Norma along — not beat her over the head with it."

It was the 1970s and New Math was everywhere. Mrs. Veninge paired me up with a student who didn't like me at all. Our task? To draw a straight line that was 5 inches long. We opened our desks, grabbed our rulers and sharpened our pencils.

I looked at the blank piece of paper and decided to draw a vertical line. Even in third grade, I was determined to be a bit different from everybody else.

Norma looked at my line and informed me, "That's not a line."

"Of course it is," I said to the critic seated next to me.

"No. A line goes like this." She took another piece of paper and drew a 5-inch horizontal line.

I grabbed my paper and walked straight over to Mrs. Veninge. In a spirit of indignation, I presented my case to the teacher. "Mrs. Veninge, Norma says that my line isn't a line. She thinks a line has to go this way!" I drew an imaginary horizontal line in the air. "But a line can go any way you want it to go. Can't it?"

Mrs. Veninge didn't say anything. "Can you come over to our desks and tell Norma that my line is right, too?" My teacher just sat there for a moment.

"Why don't you go over there and find a way to show Norma that a line can be horizontal or vertical?"

I wasn't happy with my teacher. She was supposed to take my side. I was right and I knew it. Why couldn't she just come over and set Norma straight (no pun intended)? A line is a line is a line! What good was a teacher if she wouldn't vindicate you in front of your peers?

I shuffled my feet back to Norma. She had a really irritating smile on her face that said, See! If you were



Denise Bossert

right, Mrs. Veninge would say so!

I sat in my chair and thought hard. How do you get through to a kid who has no respect for you? How do you get her to listen and take you seriously?

"Ok, Norma. Draw another line."

Norma took another blank piece of paper and proudly drew a second horizontal line.

"Great," I said. "That's a perfect line."

Norma smiled.

Then I reached over and laid the palm of my hand on the center of her paper. I rotated everything 90 degrees so that the line was now vertical.

"And it's still a line now," I said.

Norma stared at her paper as a light bulb turned on, and a new schema took shape in her previously closed mind. "Oh." Finally, she understood. Relief replaced my frustration.

Sometimes, I want priests or bishops to just stand up and tell it like it is. "Come on over to the fullness of the Christian faith. No other Church is 2,000 years old! History affirms who we are and what we are. This is the Church Jesus Christ founded. So why not reconsider what the Church has always taught..."

... About the Eucharist.

... About the New Ark of the Covenant.

... About what the Communion of Saints means.

... About what the Early Church Fathers taught.

... About Our Lord's High Priestly Prayer for unity.

... About heaven touching down in the Mass.

... About holiness and grace and

mercy and true social justice.

Why don't they just have one big come-to-Jesus-talk with the Normas of the world?

Here's why...

I'm the one sitting by Norma. God gave me a brain and a mouth and a passion for Truth. He wants me to learn a few lessons about getting along with Norma. He wants me to talk to her and show her the Good News. He wants me to be the Good News.

There's no easy path to apologetics. It requires tenacity. It takes a lot of ingenuity. You have to want to help Norma along — not beat her over the head with it.

Sometimes, all Norma needs is a 90-degree reorientation to the whole thing.

And the floodlights turn on, revealing a Church that has stood the test of time. A Church that goes all the way back to Jesus and St. Peter. The Church that has been empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit since that first Pentecost. With a little ingenuity and a whole lot of grace, a new schema is born in the hearts and minds of those around us. And Norma is left uttering a breathless, "Amen."

How do I know this? I was once a Norma, too. And many Catholic writers, speakers and parishioners have shown me what a 90-degree reorientation can do. Thanks be to God!

Denise Bossert has four children and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle, Mo. Her column Catholic by Grace has run in 46 diocesan newspapers. Check out her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

Scouting Achievement

On April 15, Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass for the Scouts of the Archdiocese who have earned their religious medals through Scouting programs in the last year. After congratulating each one with a kind word, a hand shake and a certificate, Archbishop Coakley presented medals to adults who were nominated in recognition for their work and support of the Scouting programs. To learn more about Scouting, call the Youth Office at (405) 721-9220.



Jobs Box

School Openings

St. Mary's Catholic School in Lawton is seeking persons of faith wanting a challenging career in Catholic education. The school will have the following opening for next year:

Kindergarten/full-time
Degree and certification are preferred for teaching positions. All applicants please submit resume and copy of application, in addition, for teaching positions, submit transcripts to Paolo J. Dulcamara, 611 SW 'A' Avenue, Lawton, Okla. 73501. Phone (580) 355-5288 to schedule an interview.

Science Teacher Sought

All Saints Catholic School in Norman is accepting applications for the position of junior high science teacher. In addition to classroom instruction, the teacher is also responsible for co-chairing the school science fair and coordinating student paperwork for district, regional and state science fairs. All applicants must hold current Oklahoma teacher certification. Mail or fax resumes to Leslie Schmitt, Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 4001 36th Avenue, NW, Norman, Okla. 73072, fax (405) 447-7227.

Certified Elementary Teachers

St. James the Greater Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time elementary teacher for the 2012-2013 school year as well as two part-time teachers for Art and Spanish. Faith-filled applicants must be committed to high standards of academic excellence in a strong Catholic environment. Please submit archdiocesan application and a copy of teaching certificate to Anne Codding, 1224 S.W. 41st, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

Part-Time Development Director Good Shepherd Catholic

School at Mercy is the only known educational collaboration between an Archdiocese, hospital system and university to provide quality education to an underserved population with autism and other neurological disorders. Our goal is to provide an integrated academic, behavioral, social and religious program to these children (age 3-9 years) and their families compatible with their needs. We provide an academic environment of improvement and success through the use of the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Each child's needs are addressed daily through a one-on-one relationship with a Behavioral Interventionist as well as a highly qualified Special Education teacher. We have a Treatment Coordinator who is also a

board certified Behavior Analyst, another part-time board certified Behavior Analyst and a principal who directs the school. Parent trainings and updates are provided on a monthly basis.

This part-time position of Development Director is responsible for developing and implementing a fundraising program and for promoting support for the organization in the community. He/she is responsible for raising funds in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and donor's wishes. Other responsibilities include comprehensive development, implementation, administration and evaluation of the organization's fundraising efforts, creating campaigns and programs to fund program and administrative needs. The Development Director will manage the daily fundraising activities including gift record-keeping, and assisting with acknowledgement and recognition. This person will work with school principal, board and volunteers to raise awareness and support of the school. We are seeking a self-starter with excellent administrative, interpersonal, financial and written communication skills. Prefer successful fundraising experience including direct mail, grant-writing and personal solicitations. Preferred candidate should have degree in nonprofit management or related field. Contact Mrs. Toby Boothe at (405) 570-3917 or richard3192@cox.net, or Dr. Donna Kearns at (405) 752-2264.

Early Childhood Certified Teachers

Christ the King Catholic School is looking for two Early Childhood certified teachers for our part-time program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Must be state certified in Early Childhood. We also need two hard-working part-time teachers aides for our kindergarten classrooms and experience working with young children is required. An Archdiocesan application is required. Submit to the main school office at 1905 Elmhurst Avenue.

Teacher Sought in El Reno Sacred Heart Catholic School

in El Reno has one teaching position open for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate. Applicants must also be committed to providing academic excellence in a Christian environment. Please send resumes to Sacred Heart School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax 262-3818. Contact Shannon Statton at (405) 262-2284 for more information.

High School Teaching Positions

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

Teaching Positions

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

Parish Business Manager

The Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist in Edmond has an opening for Parish Business Manager. Extensive experience is required in the areas of responsibility that include finance, property management, personnel management and development, and business affairs.

We seek a person with a college degree, strong financial, problem-solving, planning, facility management and people skills. Proficient computer knowledge skills regarding accounting software applications, Microsoft Office and facility management is required. Salary and benefit package is commensurate with the scope of responsibility and experience required. We are presently accepting applications and resumes. Immediate employment is available. Contact: Search Committee, Box 510, Edmond, Okla. 73083, (405-340-0691).

Parish Secretary

Holy Name Parish is seeking a parish secretary, will use organizational skills, interpersonal skills and computer expertise to respond to the needs of the parishioners and to act as a liaison between parish staff and parishioners in order that all in the parish can easily access the ministries and facilities the parish provides. The role description, explaining this part-time position of 20 hours a week and the necessary qualifications, is available at the parish office during regular business hours. Interested

applicants should contact the parish office at (405) 244-6068. Submit resume and references by May 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

Full-Time Teaching Position

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

LPN, Direct Care & Residential

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

Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education

St. Anthony Parish in Dalhart, Texas, a parish of 400 families in the rural community of Dalhart (Diocese of Amarillo) is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education. This person will direct and coordinate all aspects of religious education in the parish, including elementary, junior high, high school and adult education. A charism for working with youth is a must. While good programs have been in place, we are eager for someone with good ideas and the vision and energy to implement them. New youth and education facilities have been built in the past year. Bachelor's degree is required. Education and/or experience in catechesis or youth ministry is preferred as well as bilingual (English-Spanish) abilities. Salary will be according to education and experience. Benefits are included. Submit cover letter, resume and references prior to May 30 to Father Scott Raef, Pastor, P.O. Box 1029, Dalhart, Texas 79022. Visit our parish website at www.stanthony-dalhart.org, or email questions to scottraef@gmail.com.

Census — Catholic Population Near 59 Million in 2010

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Catholic population stood at 58.9 million in 2010, according to a new census of religious congregations.

The number of Catholics is lower than the 62 million Catholics reported in 2000, but the difference is due to a change in the way data was collected during this go-round, said Cliff Grammich, a researcher working for the Glenmary Research Center, who compiled statistics from 20,589 parishes, missions and other places with regularly scheduled weekend Masses.

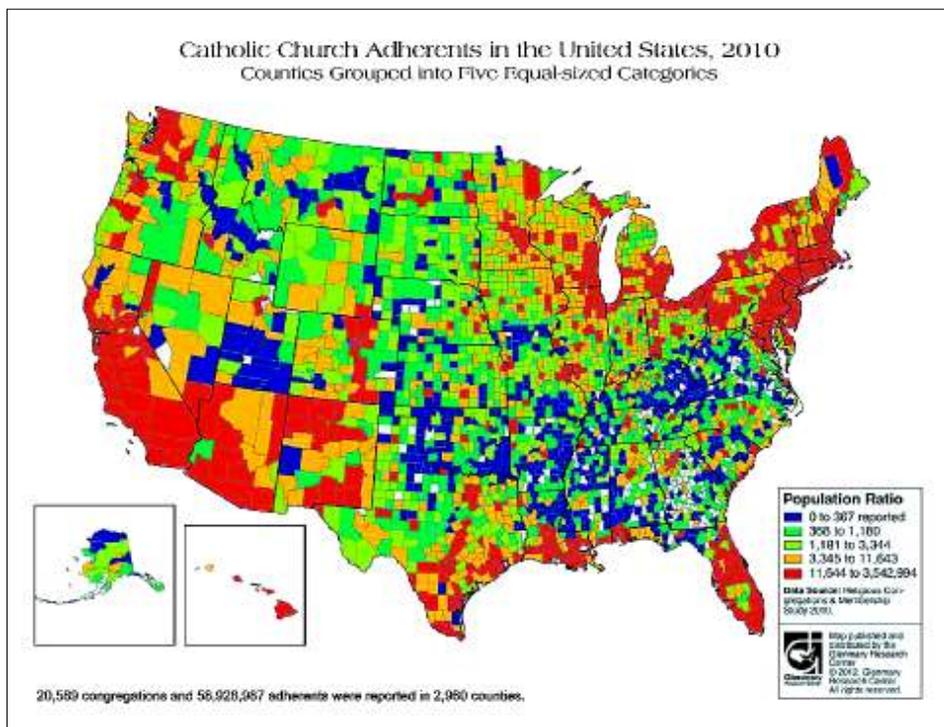
The 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations and Membership Study released May 1 showed that the number of Catholics is three times that of the country's second largest religious body, the Southern Baptist Convention, with nearly 19.9 million members.

Sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, the study is conducted every 10 years and coincides with the once-a-decade U.S. census. It also collected data from Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and other religious congregations.

Grammich told Catholic News Service that he analyzed statistics provided by individual parishes on the number of registered households, registered individuals, infant baptisms, burials and Mass attendance to arrive at the final count. In earlier studies, less specific data was sought from individual dioceses rather than from parishes, he said.

"The counts are the best that could be supported by religious data, sacramental statistics and survey data," Grammich explained.

The new study indicates a Catholic population that is significantly lower than two other oft-cited sources that track the U.S. Catholic population. The Official Catholic Directory for 2010 reported 68.5 million Catholics with data collected from individual dioceses. The 2010 General Social Survey of the National Opinion Research Center estimated there were 77.9 million American Catholics



based on percentages applied to the entire U.S. population.

Grammich explained in a statement released by Glenmary Research Center with the statistics that the survey's findings are based on the canon law definition of a Catholic "as someone who is linked with the Catholic community through baptism and burial."

Overall, 150 million Americans — 48.8 percent of the population — were associated with the 236 reporting religious bodies.

Catholic parishes in the Northeast and north central states reported the greatest losses in population. Grammich attributed the decline to the number of deaths outpacing infant baptisms, especially in north-eastern dioceses.

By region, the Northeast maintained the highest number of Catholics at 18.3 million. Elsewhere,

13 million Catholics lived in the north central region, 12.6 million in the South and 14.9 million in the West.

Other census findings include:

— Populations in urban areas of the Northeast and Midwest declined while it grew in the South and West; regionally, the number of Catholic churches by region remained more stable.

— Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Catholics were in metropolitan areas with at least 1 million residents, compared with 69 percent in 2000.

— By state, the Catholic population ranged from 3.5 percent in Tennessee to 44.9 percent in Massachusetts.

— The number of Catholics grew in 19 states and increased by 10 percent or more in 10 states: Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia.

— The number of Catholics

declined by at least 10 percent in 17 states: Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

— The size of parishes varied widely, with the average parish in California having 7,782 members compared with 489 members in the average Alaskan parish.

— Catholic churches, missions or communities are located in 2,960 of the nation's 3,143 counties, more than any religious body except the United Methodist Church, which claims a presence in 2,991 counties. The United Methodist population totaled 9.9 million people.

Editor's Note: The full study is available at www.rcms2010.org/. Catholic data is available at www.glenmary.org/rcms2010.

Calendar

MAY

27 **Flores de Mayo** culminating activities at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church. There will be a concelebrated Mass, crowning of the Blessed Virgin, procession and a potluck dinner. The church is located at 3901 S. Sunnyslane Road, Del City.

28 **Memorial Day Mass** at Resurrection Cemetery with Archbishop Coakley at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

28 **Memorial Day Mass** at St. Patrick Cemetery, Edmond. Mass and potluck will begin at 10 a.m. Bring a covered dish and a lawn chair. St. Patrick Cemetery is located on 234th Street between Council and County Line Road. For more information, call Kathy Haskett Miller at (405) 946-4588.

28 **SGU's Memorial Day Road Race and Bicycle Tour** at St. Gregory's University. Events begin at 9 a.m. The road race is 49 miles

long; the tour is 71 miles long. All proceeds go toward restoring the college's Benedictine Hall, damaged in an earthquake in November. For more information regarding the race, contact Michael Cappo at (405) 273-0110 or mlcappo@aol.com. For questions about the tour, contact Andy Dyke at (405) 650-0887 or at andy@pond-liner.com.

30 **Catholic Pilgrimage with Father Pruett and Father Wolf.** "To Pray Where Jesus Prayed" Retreat in the Galilee Sept 6-17, with Rev. Bill Pruett and Rev. Don Wolf. Walk part of the Jesus Trail, from Nazareth to Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene. Lots of time for reflection, prayer and informative, enriching retreat agenda. Franciscan convent stay on the Mount of Beatitudes and Jerusalem hotel. Mass on boat on Sea of Galilee. Pilgrimage visits to sites of Christ's life and Passion. Mass daily. \$500 pp deposit — deposit

deadline May 30. Breakfast and dinner each day. Tips included. With RT flights from OKC: \$3,942 pp; "Land Only" price is \$2,241 pp. Call Melani Roewe at (405) 642-8139 or 877-669-9387.

JUNE

9 **Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery meeting** will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 125 of the Catholic Pastoral Center, located at 7501 NW Expressway. For more information, contact Jenny Fenner at (405) 721-0832 or jenfen@cox.net, or Sandy Poe at (580) 421-6554 or sandra-poe@ymail.com.

10 **Charismatic Healing Mass** at Immaculate Conception Parish. Mass begins at 5:30 p.m. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is located at 3901 SW 29th St. in Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 685-4806.

11 **Mass for Anniversary of Canonization of Padre Pio** at

Holy Family Church in Lawton. Mass will include procession and installation of his relic and will begin at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 1010 NW 82nd St. in Lawton. Call (580) 536-6351 for more information.

24 **Pilgrimage Sunday** at National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children. Lunch will be held at noon, and Novena prayers will begin at 1 p.m. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prauge. Call (405) 567-3080 for more information or see the shrine's website at www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

More Calendar
www.soonercatholic.org

Religious Freedom Rally Scheduled

Oklahoma Catholics Called to Attend June 23 Event at Cox Center

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), concerned over threats to religious freedom both at home and abroad, have called for a "Fortnight for Freedom," a 14-day period of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom, from June 21 through July 4, and have encouraged individual dioceses as well as Catholic institutions to cooperate with other Christians and people of other faiths throughout the country to arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending religious freedom.

In response to the USCCB concerns, a rally for religious freedom will be held in Oklahoma City during the "Fortnight for Freedom." The rally will be held on Saturday, June 23 at the Cox Convention Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature local and national speakers including Archbishop Paul S. Coakley (Archbishop of Oklahoma City), Dr. Teresa Collett (Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.), Steve Ray (Catholic apologist), and William Federer (Christian historian), and patriotic music provided by Mountain Smoke.

Additional suggested activities include a daily prayer booklet, Novenas, special Adoration, and other parish level events.

Please visit [www.fortnightfor-](http://www.fortnightfor)

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

FORTNIGHT4FREEDOM.ORG

freedomok.com for an online version of the prayer booklet, and more information about how you can participate in the Fortnight for Freedom. Additional information can also be found on the USCCB website

at www.usccb.org.

In an April 12 statement, the U.S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty called for a "Fortnight of Freedom" from June 21 to July 4. The period includes a series

of feasts of "great martyrs" who faced political oppression.

Their statement was an "urgent summons" to U.S. Catholics, stressing the need for prayer, fasting, and public action for religious freedom.

Secular Society Needs Catholicism, Pope Tells U.S. Bishops

VATICAN CITY — In five speeches over a period of six months, Pope Benedict XVI warned visiting U.S. bishops of the threats that an increasingly secularized society poses to the Catholic Church in America, especially in the areas of religious liberty, sexual morality and the definition of marriage.

Yet the Pope did not advise that American Catholics withdraw from a largely hostile environment in order to preserve their values and faith. Instead, as part of his call for a new evangelization within the church and beyond, he urged believers to engage even more closely with wider society for the benefit of all Americans.

Pope Benedict addressed five of the 15 regional groups of U.S. bishops making their periodic "ad limina" visits to the Vatican, which began in late November and ended May 19. The speeches touched on themes applicable to dioceses across the country.

One constant was the Pope's warning against the demoralizing effects of secular culture, which he said had led to a "quiet attrition" among the church's members, who must therefore be the first targets of "re-evangelization."

Yet the Pope argued that moral decay is also threatening the stability of secular society itself. He noted what he called an "increased sense of concern on the part of many men and women, whatever their religious or political views" that a "troubling breakdown in the intellectual, cultural and moral foundations of social life" has imperiled the "future of our democratic societies."

Therefore, he said, "despite attempts to still the church's voice in the public square," Catholics should insist on providing "wisdom, insight and sound guidance" to "people of good will." Using the non-religious "language" of natural law, he explained, the church should promote social justice by "proposing rational arguments in the public square."

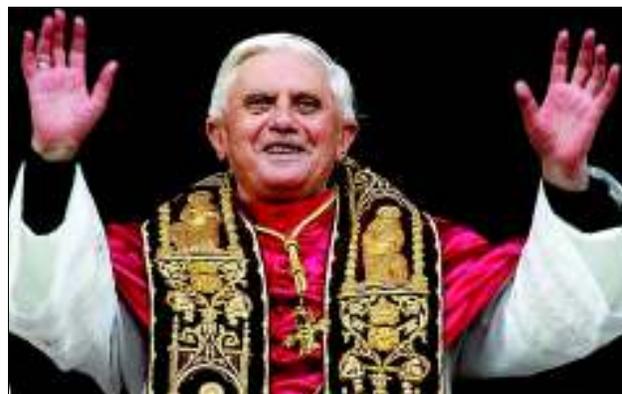
This duty is incumbent not only on bishops, the Pope said, but also on Catholic politicians, who have a "personal responsibility to offer public witness to their faith, especially with regard to the great moral issues of our time." He identified the issues as "respect for God's gift of life, the protection of human dignity and the promotion of authentic human rights."

In particular, Pope Benedict called Catholics to the front lines in defense of "that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion," which he said was especially threatened by "concerted efforts" against the "right of conscientious objection ... to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices."

The Pope's presumed reference there was to an Obama administration plan, vociferously protested by U.S. bishops, which would require that the private health insurance plans of most Catholic institutions cover surgical sterilization procedures and birth control.

American society also is served by the church's promotion of sexual morality, Pope Benedict said, since a "weakened appreciation of the indissolubility of the marriage covenant, and the widespread rejection of a responsible, mature sexual ethic grounded in the practice of chastity, have led to grave societal problems bearing an immense human and economic cost."

The Pope characterized the bishops' defense of traditional marriage against



Pope Benedict XVI

proponents of same-sex unions as a matter of "justice, since it entails safeguarding the good of the entire human community and the rights of parents and children alike."

Even in connection with the church's most terrible scandal in living memory — the widespread sexual abuse of minors by priests — Pope Benedict noted benefits that the church can offer the non-Catholic world.

"It is my hope that the church's conscientious efforts to confront this reality will help the broader community to recognize the causes, true extent and devastating consequences of sexual abuse, and to respond effectively to this scourge which affects every level of society," he said.

Although designed to serve Catholics, the church's educational institutions also enrich society at large, the Pope said.

Catholic schools' "significant contribution ... to American society as a whole ought to be better appreciated and more generously supported," he said. And Catholic universities, following in a tradition that professes the "essential unity of all knowledge," can be a bulwark against a current trend toward academic overspecialization.

Unity among Catholics can also promote harmony across American society, the Pope said.

Noting the "difficult and complex" legal, political, social and economic issues surrounding immigration in the U.S. today, the Pope suggested that a closer "communion of cultures" among the ethnic groups that make up the church in America could reduce ethnic tensions outside the church.

"The immense promise and the vibrant energies of a new generation of Catholics are waiting to be tapped," the Pope said, "for the renewal of the church's life and the rebuilding of the fabric of American society."