

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Path of Faith

Two Men Will Give Their Lives To God in June 5th Ordination at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — On June 5, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Orders conferred upon William Michael Lewis and Long N. Phan. Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran will celebrate the 7 p.m. Mass and ordination at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Phan and Lewis have taken different paths to the priesthood. Both said they are greatly excited about their future of serving God and His people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Long N. Phan

A year after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a growing fear that communism was spreading caused Washington to set the stage for a massive troop buildup in southeast Asia.

This was the world Long N. Phan entered on Nov. 30, 1964, when his mother, Bao Phan, and father, Xuan Huynh, celebrated his birth in their country of South Vietnam. Phan's childhood would be anything but normal.

"I was forced to grow up early," he said, by telephone from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

In April of 1975, U.S. leaders abandoned the war effort, leaving behind the South Vietnamese people who had battled alongside the Americans against the communist forces. At the age of 11, Phan watched as his father was thrown into prison by the communists who had overrun their homeland. His father had worked for the South Vietnamese government and was considered an enemy. He would spend two years in prison before escaping and making his way to the United States.

Phan said his father would have loved to take his entire family with him, but he knew anyone who was caught trying to flee the country would be im-

mediately shot by the communists. His father would risk his life, but he could not risk the lives of his wife, his son and his four daughters.

With his father gone, Long Phan became the man of the house. He said his mother was a strong woman of faith who risked greatly to ensure her children attended Mass when possible. It was at the celebration of the Eucharist that Long Phan would come to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. He would also come to love and respect the Catholic priest who endured abuse and ridicule imposed by the communists.

"They treated the priests like dogs," said Long Phan. And yet the priest he remembers was "truly a witness" with his gentle manner and his strong faith. The communists did not allow daily Mass, only on Sunday. No formal religious training was allowed either. The communists would often abuse and mock the priest, who Long Phan said had the opportunity to leave, but chose to stay "to suffer with his people." Long Phan said he was greatly moved by the love and courage demonstrated by this priest. At his First Communion, he knew he wanted to someday be a priest.

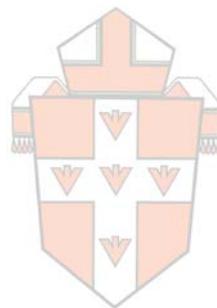
In 1990, Long Phan's family was reunited in the United States. His mother and father are retired now and live in Oklahoma City. They plan to be in the front pew when their only son is ordained a Roman Catholic priest on June 5. His youngest sister became a Carmelite nun and lives in San Antonio. His other three sisters

also plan to be at the ordination.

Long Phan says he once hated the communist people for what they did to his family. He said he no longer hates them.

"I love them now," he said. He said he knows they are abusive because they live in fear of losing power.

It was at the celebration of the Eucharist that Long Phan would come to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.



"Through music the Lord has shown me how He uses this powerful tool to draw us closer to Him,"

Inside 2009 Graduations
Held at St. Greg's,
Mount St. Mary
and McGuinness
9-19



Norman School
Breaks Ground
on New Gym

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*The Good News***... Receive the Holy Spirit!**

The 2009 observance of the Easter season ends today with the celebration of the great feast of Pentecost. The Easter promise Jesus made to His Church was fulfilled on the first Christian Pentecost, which we commemorate today. However, as people of faith enlivened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we not only commemorate the historical fact of Pentecost, but we also re-enact the sacred Mystery of Pentecost.

There is a New Pentecost every time we: 1) celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation, 2) ordain new priests, 3) actively fulfill our fundamental Christian responsibility to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

1) This spring, approximately 1,000 teenagers will have been confirmed at 55 churches across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. These young people spent two years in study, prayer and Christian service preparing for their Confirmation. These young people, signed and sealed with the gifts of God's Holy Spirit, will be better equipped to live our Catholic faith more fully. They can face the difficulties of life with an assurance that God is with them. And if they respond to God's presence and nurture the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they will mature into good and holy and faithful Catholic people.

2) We are very blessed to have

two young men prepared and ready for ordination to the priesthood. This ordination of Reverend William Lewis and Reverend Long Phan will be at the Cathedral of Our Lady next Friday, June 5. Priests are ordained through the biblical imposition of hands at the direction of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the sacramental act of ordination, men who have been chosen by Christ through the ministry of the Church are commissioned to act in the Name of Jesus and on His authority. The sacramental actions they will be empowered to effect are the work of Jesus Himself.

The ordained priest, by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus, changes bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Through the ministry of the Church and the empowerment of our Triune God, the priest forgives our sins with sacramental absolution. Thus, the priest accomplishes what no human power can effect, which is the reason I say ordination is indeed a New Pentecost.

3) At the time of our baptism, each of us was forgiven of our sins and reborn as God's people. As people of God, we are all commissioned to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus. On our own, we really could not accomplish this. However, by the power of God and in union with the

Pentecost is the fulfillment of the Easter promise of Jesus Who said, "I will send my Holy Spirit, the Advocate, and He will confirm everything that I have taught you."



Archbishop
Beltran

Church, we are given the grace to fulfill this responsibility. Living the fullness of our Catholic faith, we proclaim the Good News of Jesus to others. This inspiration and example, which we give to others, results from us first receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit ourselves. Thus, our active Catholic faith indicates a New Pentecost which we can celebrate every day of our lives on this earth into eternal life in heaven.

Pentecost is the fulfillment of the Easter promise of Jesus Who said, "I will send my Holy Spirit, the Advocate, and He will confirm everything that I have taught you."

Seminary Burses

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond.

A \$25 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Perez, Altus.

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by Prince of Peace Church, Altus.

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran**

Seminary Burse by St. Joseph Church, Norman.

A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. Joseph Old Cathedral, OKC.

A \$600 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. Philip Neri Church, Midwest City.

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by Little Flower Church, OKC.

A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by St. Charles Borromeo Church, OKC.

A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by St. Mark Church, Norman.

A \$250 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by St. Mary Church, Medford.

A \$250 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by St. Peter, Guymon, and St. Frances Cabrini Church, Beaver.

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Dallas Site of Benedictine Retreat

The 12th annual interdenominational Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at The Catholic Conference Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 24 to Sunday, June 28. This retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C. Participants will live at the conference center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. Please call 214-339-8483 or e-mail dallas-benedictine@yahoo.com for more information.

The retreat will be led by two nationally known religious figures. The Very Rev. Robert Hale, O.S.B. Cam, is a Roman Catholic Camaldolese Benedictine monk. He has a Ph.D. in theology from Fordham University. He has taught theology at Sant'Anselmo University

in Rome, and at The Jesuit School of Theology of The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He is the author of *Canterbury and Rome: Sister Churches*; *Christ and the Universe* (a book on Teilhard de Chardin); and *Love on the Mountain: The Chronicle Journal of a Camaldolese Monk*. This will be Father Robert's sixth time as a leader of the Dallas retreat.

Brother Abraham Newsom, O.S.B., a Texas native, is a monk at St. Gregory's Abbey (Episcopalian) in Three Rivers, Mich. He was the co-editor of *Singing God's Praises: The First Sixty Years, a History of St. Gregory's Abbey*, and has had articles published in various media, including *Veil and Cowl: Writings from the World of Monks and Nuns* and St. Gregory's own *Abbey Letter*.

Both Father Robert and Brother Abraham will give presentations on Benedictine values and their applications to life today. They will also offer spiritual direction for those who wish it. This interdenominational retreat is open to anyone interested in learning Benedictine spirituality.



Bishop McGuinness Business Management students present a check to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Pictured back row from left, Patrick Carver, Robert Dobbins, Ryan Bass, Dylan English, Jay Lester, Conner Tharp and Dillon Drosselmeyer. Middle row, Rachel Pyle, Kindall Donehue, special events coordinator for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and Anna Prince. Front row, Andy Brown and Juvenile Diabetes board member Ron Brown.

Irish Business Students Lend Support

OKLAHOMA CITY — Students from Mrs. Robertson's Business Management class at Bishop McGuinness recently sponsored the seventh annual Battle of the Bands. This event is a fundraiser held during Olympics week with all proceeds going to charity.

There were nine acts ranging from solo numbers to six member bands who performed. The class raised several hundred dollars with the proceeds distributed to various local non-profit agencies. Ron Brown, board member of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, accepted a check for \$350. Checks in the amount of \$180 were also presented to Clyde Grover, McGuinness theology teacher, on behalf of the Peru Mission project, and to Dr. William Meyer at Jimmy Everest Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders in Children.

Ordination June 5

continued from page 1

"They don't know God and they don't want to know God because they are afraid he will take their power away." Long Phan said people who say they know God, but continue to hurt other people "really don't know God."

He said those who support abortion or discriminate against the elderly "don't really know God. If they did, they could not do what they do."

"If you truly love your wife, could you go with another woman," he asked. "The same is the love for God. If you truly love God you cannot harm another person."

William Michael Lewis

"A gradual thing" is how William Michael Lewis described his call to the priesthood.

Born Jan. 12, 1972, to William and Donna Lewis, young William

would attend Mass regularly with his mother. His father was not Catholic at the time, but had no objections to him celebrating the faith with his mother. Most of the relatives on his father's side were not as accepting of the Catholic faith, said Lewis, an only child.

Sometime in his early teens, Lewis said he and his mother "fell away from the Church."

"I'm not really sure why, but we just stopped going" he said in a telephone interview from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. His mother would eventually feel guilty about missing Mass and began to pray for God to intervene and give her strength to return to her faith.

By this time, Lewis had become a gifted piano player. When he and his mother did return to Mass, he found himself being asked to serve in the parish music ministry. He credits

music with helping him to draw closer to his faith.

"Through music, the Lord has shown me how He uses this powerful tool to draw us closer to Him," Deacon Lewis said.

It was in his second year of study at the University of Science and Art at Chickasha when he said he began to seriously consider the priesthood.

"I really started thinking about it seriously at this time," he said. As his discernment grew deeper, so did his realization that God was calling him to the priesthood.

About five years ago, Lewis said his father joined the Church. "Now he's part of the regular gang at Mass," he joked.

As his ordination to the priesthood grows closer, Deacon Lewis said he is overwhelmed by the love and support he feels from God.

"What I'm most thankful for is

God's faithfulness," he said. "God has never let us down, in all the different areas of our life, our worries and doubts, He has always been with us. He hasn't let me down."

Deacon Lewis said he hopes to use his musical talents to reach young people. He knows many, young and old, are struggling. His advice to those who feel a sense of loneliness in this world of confusion is to stop and listen, listen to what God is saying to their heart.

"God loves everybody," Deacon Lewis said. "I am not sure people are hearing this enough." They are not hearing this, not because the Church is not telling them, but because they are not slowing down enough to take the time to listen.

"God said, 'Be still and know that I am God.'"

"The big message is God loves us. We need to be still and listen."

Governments Around the Globe Penalize Motherhood, Traditional Family

By Father John Flynn, LC

ROME, Zenit.org — The number of children born outside a stable married life continues to rise. Northern European countries have the highest levels of births to single women, but the United States is catching up.

The latest figures come from a report published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the May Data Brief issued by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, births to unmarried women totaled 1,714,643 in 2007, 26 percent more than in 2002. As a result, in 2007, nearly four in 10 births in the U.S. were to unmarried women.

Contrary to the traditional concerns about adolescent single mothers, the report noted that the rise in birth rates was concentrated in women in their 20s or older, while declining or changing little for unmarried teenagers. In fact, teenagers accounted for just 23 percent of non-marital births in 2007, down steeply from 50 percent in 1970.

Thus, while no less than 86 percent of teenage births are non-marital, older women are catching up. For women age 20-24, 60 percent of births were to singles, and nearly one-third of births to women 25-29 were non-marital in 2007. Overall, in 2007, 45 percent of births in the 20s age bracket were to unmarried women.

The higher number of single mothers in the older age groups is a recent change, according to the CDC. For women over 30, about one in six births were to singles in 2007, much higher than the proportion in 1970: one in 12. Births outside marriage are typically low for the youngest teens and for women over 35, and are highest for women in their early 20s, the report observed.

Racial background also influences the percentages of single mothers. Births outside marriage are highest for Hispanic women, followed by black women. Rates for non-Hispanic white and Asian or Pacific Islander women are much lower.

The proportions in the United States are considerably higher than in some industrialized countries. For example, 30 percent or less of recent births were to unmarried women in Germany, Spain, Canada, Italy and Japan.

Other European countries, however, have higher proportions of single mothers. The latest information from the Eurostat, the official statistical body for the European Union, is also for 2007.

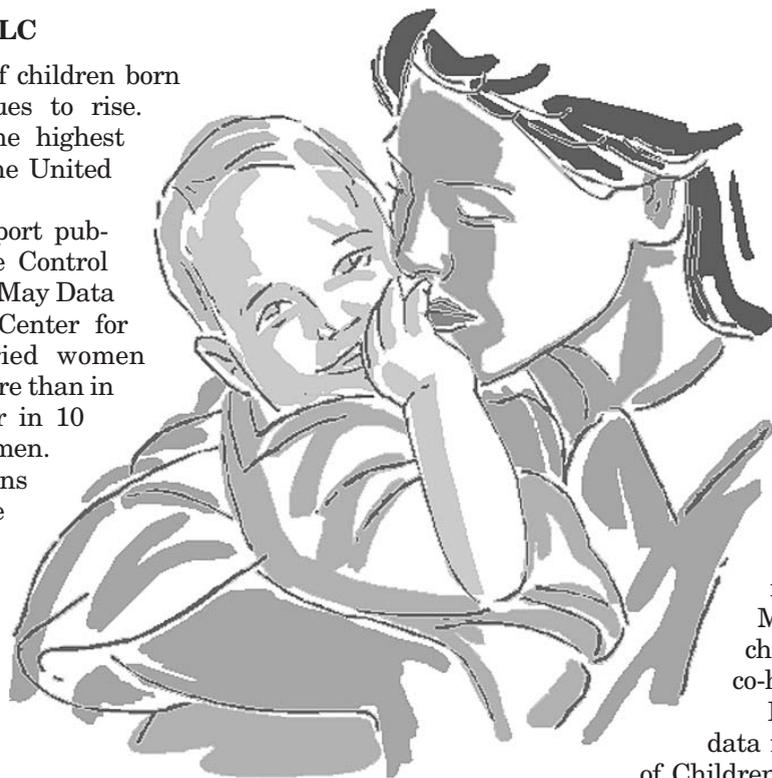
It shows that Denmark, for example, had 46.1 percent of live births occurring outside marriage. France was even higher, at 51.69 percent, as was Sweden, at 54.76 percent. Iceland had the highest proportion, at 63.77 percent.

Meanwhile, in Britain, marriage continues to weaken. The latest data revealed that marriage rates are at their lowest since they were first calculated in 1862, reported the Times newspaper, Feb. 13.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for 2007 showed that only one in 50 single women marries each year, and only one in 43 single men. The information relates just to England and Wales.

There were 231,450 marriages in 2007, a decline of 3.3 percent compared to the previous year. The number of marriages has fallen by a quarter since 1991, according to the ONS. The average age at first marriage continued to be high. In 2007 it reached 31.9 years for men and 29.8 for women, compared with 31.8 and 29.7 respectively, the year before.

The number of couples getting married in religious ceremonies has gone down as well. There were 77,490 religious weddings in England and Wales in



2007. That number means church weddings have halved since the early 1980s.

A couple of months later, another report from the ONS gave more details on family life. According to a report published April 16 by the Telegraph newspaper, the percentage of households comprising the traditional nuclear family — a couple with children — fell from 52 percent to 36 percent in the period between 1971 and 2008.

The number of adults living alone has gone from 6 percent to 12 percent in the same period, due to a combination of divorce and marrying at a later age. Overall, around 1.6 million children were being brought up by an unmarried couple in 2008, a sharp rise on the figure of 1 million a decade previously.

The decline of marriage and the traditional family continues as research confirms that children are best off when raised in a stable married environment. A March 11 report by the Canadian Institute of Marriage and Family looked at the differences between children brought up in married homes and those raised by co-habiting couples.

Frank Jones, a research fellow at the institute, analyzed data from Statistics Canada's National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. He found that teens who as children had parents who co-habited are more likely than teens of married parents to smoke, sell drugs, engage in sexual intercourse, have a lower age of sexual initiation, have poor relationships with their mom and dad, and have parents who do not get along. "Marriage benefits children in ways that living together does not," Jones commented. "Public policy should acknowledge the social good that healthy marriage delivers."

One of the reasons that children fare better when raised by a married couple is the greater degree of stability in the household. Married parents are more than twice as likely to stay together compared to those who are unwed, reported the British newspaper the Daily Mail, Oct. 18.

The information came from the Millennium Cohort Study, a survey of more than 15,000 children born in the first two years of this decade. The study found that 23 percent of children of co-habiting parents had suffered the breakup of their families before they reached the age of 5. By contrast, only one in 10 children of married parents saw them divorce or separate before reaching 5 years of age.

In spite of the clear evidence in favor of marriage, government policy in many countries fails to support married couples sufficiently.

Civitas, an English study group, published a report in January showing that married couples are thousands of pounds worse off than single parents when it comes to taxes and benefits.

In the report "Individualists Who Co-Operate," Civitas also pointed out that the welfare system financially rewards single mothers if they live separately from their partner. The fiscal disadvantage of forming a single household or getting married is especially marked for those on a lower income.

In what Civitas termed "a triumph of romance over economics," many couples choose to live together in spite of the loss of welfare benefits. Clearly, the study pointed out, without these powerful economic incentives favoring living apart, there would be a greater number of couples coming together.

Britain is particularly unfavorable to married couples, the report continued. It cited data from a 2006 survey of industrialized nations, showing that a single income married couple with children in the UK paid 40 percent more tax compared to other countries.

"The importance of the family for the life and well-being of society entails a particular responsibility for society to support and strengthen marriage and the family," the Catechism of the Catholic Church observes in No. 2210.

Kansas City Prelate Says Church Can't Back Down

Kansas City, Kan., (CNA). — Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph has pointed out that Notre Dame's president said he chose to honor President Obama and let him speak to promote dialogue, but that Obama said in his speech that he and the Church have "irreconcilable" differences on abortion. This admission, the bishop said, "shut the door on dialogue."

Regarding this latter idea, Bishop Finn expressed that the Church can and in fact does cooperate with the government, but that this cannot mean it will ever move away from its values and ideals, making any negotiation regarding the Church's tolerance of abortion impossible.

"As a country we want to see an end to racial prejudice. We want a more secure peace in the world. We want sound economic justice for people. So we can't give up on working with the administration," Bishop Finn said.

Areas where the Church can work with an administration that protects abortion involve the "many associated elements that have to do with taking care of women in distress, offering alternatives to abortion," he told Jack Smith, editor of his diocese's newspaper.

Bishop Finn added, "We have to work together, discuss and study how best we can provide for the needs of women and families. How can we reduce the number of abortions? These are elements for dialogue."

"But the rightness or wrongness of abortion - this is an intrinsic evil," the bishop stressed.

"The direct taking of an innocent life can never be negotiated. ... Dialogue is important, but the question is fairly raised, 'May we negotiate about things that are intrinsic evils?' and I think the answer is no."

He also pointed to the importance of being acutely aware of the nature of abortion and not allowing oneself to lower his or her guard in an alleged environment of cooperation.

The reality of abortion is that "we're fighting for our lives - literally. We are attempting to protect real unborn children by the thousands. We're fighting for the right to exercise a rightly-formed conscientious difference with public policy. We shouldn't underestimate the danger of dragging our feet in this effort, or taking a 'wait and see' approach. If we are not ready to make a frontal attack on the protection of conscience rights, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, and the primacy of

authentic marriage, we will lose in these areas."

Although some Americans think that the current administration is willing to do something about protecting life and family, Finn disagreed, saying, "I think the rug is already being pulled out from under us. If we sit back and allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of peace and cooperation in regards to these things, then we will lose these battles and, later, wonder why."

Later, when he was asked about the dozens of U.S. bishops' who protested the honoring of President Obama and his speaking at Notre Dame's Commencement, the Kansas City-St. Joseph bishop examined Fr. Jenkins' statement that this showed "a tendency to demonize each other."

Bishop Finn said that the protest over Obama being honored and speaking demonstrated that the invitation was of a "hurtful nature," and that the bishops realize that the president has promised to make and has already made "very destructive decisions" on issues concerned with protecting life.

"This is serious business; it is about life and death," Finn alerted.

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U.S. Bishops: Stem Cell Guidelines Ignore Science, Embryonic Humanity

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Bishops Conference has submitted comment concerning the National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines on embryonic stem cell research, saying the rules ignore science, ethics and the humanity of the embryo.

Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), authored the comments. He said the proposed guidelines miss an "enormous opportunity" to combine science and "responsible ethics." He declared it a "central fact of science" that the embryo is a human being "at a very early stage of his or her development." Federal advisory groups had acknowledged this fact, Msgr. Malloy said, citing the National Bioethics Advisory Commission appointed by President Clinton.

The monsignor insisted it was a human right not to be subjected to harmful experimentation and said laws which do not protect that right are of questionable moral legitimacy.

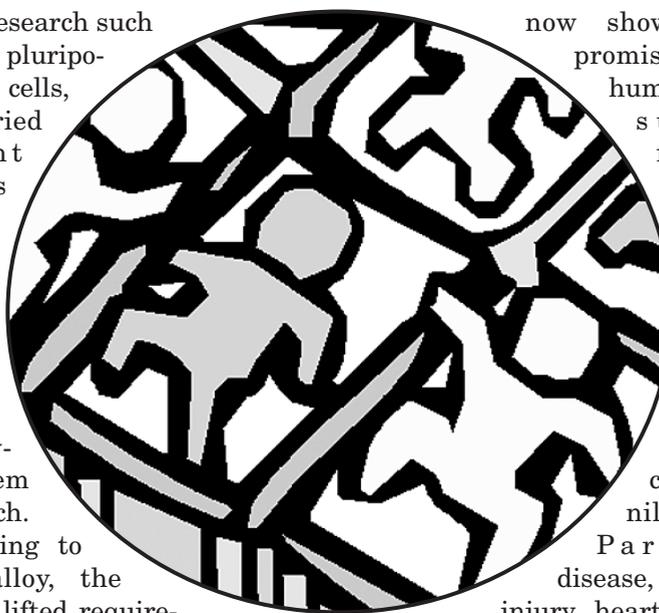
Noting alternative methods of

stem cell research such as induced pluripotent stem cells, he decried President Obama's executive order which lifted funding restrictions on embryonic stem cell research.

According to Msgr. Malloy, the order also lifted requirements that NIH "thoroughly explore new avenues for obtaining pluripotent stem cells without destroying human embryos."

"Both science and ethics have been ignored in this decision," he charged.

"Avenues of stem cell research which pose no moral problem are



now showing great promise. In fact, human patients suffering from all the conditions cited by President Obama when he signed his executive order — cancer, juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, heart disease —

have been shown in peer-reviewed studies to benefit from clinical trials using human stem cells," he continued.

"And in every case, the benefit has come not from embryonic stem cells, but from the adult and cord blood stem cells that this organization and others have said should

receive priority attention."

Msgr. Malloy said the guidelines do not seek to fund research in which embryos are created for the purpose of research, but he said they were "broader or more permissive" than any previous research policy in key respects.

"As the president noted," he said, "we must not make 'a false choice between sound science and moral values.' In fact, these sources of guidance both point in the same direction, away from destructive embryonic stem cell research. His executive order and these guidelines nonetheless insist on a course of action that is both morally objectionable and, increasingly, scientifically obsolete."

"This is not merely a political or ideological problem, or a problem of religious dogma, but a deeply human problem: We are testing the limits of our obligation to treat all fellow human beings, of every age and condition, with basic respect," Msgr. Malloy said.

Eagle Rank Celebrated by Scouting Family for Fourth Time

By **Ammanda McCabe**
The Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — For the family of Randy and Diane Peppler, Scouting definitely runs in the family. The Peppers' two oldest sons, Adam and Kyle, are Eagle Scouts, earning the highest Scouting rank in 1999 and 2003. On May 24 their two younger brothers, Drew and Noah, joined them.

In an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman, both Drew and Noah were awarded the Eagle rank.

The family's interest in Scouting goes back even further.

"My brother is an Eagle Scout, and my husband was involved with Scouting as a youth, so we saw an opportunity for our sons that would give them a lot of interesting experiences," said Diane Peppler. She and her husband have served in many Scouting capacities, Den coach and leader, committee chairman, merit badge counselors and safety chairmen as well as taking

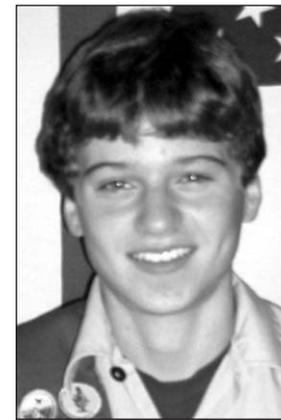
groups to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

"We have enjoyed all the positions we've had, and enjoyed working with the Scouts," Diane said.

Drew Peppler, 17, is a senior at Norman North High School, where he participates in track and National Honor Society. He plans to enter the University of Oklahoma to pursue an accounting degree. He started as a Tiger Cub in the first grade at All Saints Catholic School, and went on over the years to earn 36 merit badges along with his bronze, silver and gold palms, spent 74 nights camping, hiked 97 miles, 61 miles canoeing, and performed 66 hours of service. He's also held several troop leadership positions including assistant senior patrol leader and Junior Scoutmaster. As his Eagle project,



Drew Peppler



Noah Peppler

Drew designed and coordinated the construction of three benches for All Saints School's baseball field and earned the rank of Eagle in January 2005.

Noah Peppler, 14, is a freshman at Norman North, where he's active in track, cross country, TAPP, Young Democrats and Rotary Club. He followed closely in his brothers' Scouting footsteps, earning 26 merit

badges, along with a bronze palm, and spent 38 nights camping, 39 miles canoeing, hiked 7 miles, and performed 37 hours of service. Like Drew, Noah has held many leadership positions such as patrol leader and librarian. His Eagle project was designing and helping to install a fire pit for the new summer campsite at the JD McCarty Center in Norman.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church Holds Annual Festival

MUSTANG — On May 17, Holy Spirit Catholic Church held its annual Festival of the Holy Spirit. The day began with Mass. Parishioners then joined outside for the traditional balloon release. Each of the more than 250 multi-colored balloons carried with it a special Scripture verse signed by the children and other members of the parish. As the balloons were released, a Mustang Fire Department unit flashed its lights and sounded its siren. A lunch of sloppy Joe sandwiches was then served followed by a full day of fun. Activities included several children's inflatable slides, clowns, cake walk, hayrides, live pony rides, Cotton Eyed Joe snow cones, horseshoe tournament, volleyball and various other games.

After evening prayers, Father James Greiner led a group of architects and parish leaders in a town hall meeting where parish-

ioners were briefed on the preliminary designs and cost estimates of building a much-needed new church. After three and a half years of fundraising, \$5 million is still needed in order to actually begin building. The 480 families in the parish intend to continue to pray and work toward finding a way to make the new church a reality. In the meantime, they will continue to worship in their family center.

A dinner comprised of various international foods, each representing a different ethnic group within the church community, was served following the meeting. A traditional meal of barbecue was complimented by dishes from Italy, Germany, Africa, Mexico and Asia. Evening entertainment featured local favorites Rumba Karibe and Zero to Sixty. An estimated 500 parishioners participated in the daylong activities.

Letter

Church is Charity

I am writing concerning the growing confusion about social justice and the IAF/Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee.

We need to make clear that all opposed to the group are not trying to deny people help and definitely not to diminish the extremely devoted work of the individuals who do social justice. We seem to be arguing essentially about something we are in agreement on.

People do need help. If this is not clear, then we will never come to an agreement.

My concern is how does the pursuit of power help anyone? The poor or needy seem to be the means to this "end" — power. This group is modeled after Saul Alinsky, who was a socialistic-minded person. If we know that a group is socialist, why don't we use something else? Why this program?

The fact that some of us believe this is a problem should not divide us. Many, I do not believe, knowingly participated in this group. Their agenda is deceptive. I hope that those who have sounded the alarm are seen as acting out of love.

I love the history of solidarity in Poland after JPPI's visit. People were loving, forgiving and united! The only way solidarity or unity works is if we are all working for the common good of all. Real charity can only be an act of love if it is freely given.

With charity, let us try this or that but not IAF or Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee. We as Catholics are the largest charitable institution in the world. Do we really need OSC?

Elaine Naugle
Saint James
Oklahoma City

Letters

We Opened the Door

All of the debate about whether or not President Obama should have spoken and(or) received an honorary degree at Notre Dame was quite interesting. In the last presidential election, 53 percent of Catholics voted for a pro-abortion candidate instead of the pro-life candidates from the Republican Party. If all Catholics had voted the way of the Church's beliefs, perhaps a pro-life president would have spoken at the commencement.

**Bob Sepulvado
Assumption
Duncan**

Wanting What You Have

I would like to commend the *Sooner Catholic* and author Lauren Pinaroc for the back page article in the May 17 edition. There is so much of the Christian spirit in the article! To highlight a couple of its insights — deep interior joy shines through most clearly in those who have little in the way of material comforts, and in the elderly whose bodies are wasting away but who evidence God's presence in interior peace and in the warmth of God's love within them. Also, the article ends on the central theme of Christian prayer, that we are a Eucharistic, "thankful" people, and we maintain this spirit by being grateful, by "wanting" what we have. This gives depth to Paul's statement in Romans that God who has given us His own Son has given us all things besides.

**Rev. John Zupez, SJ
Catholic Pastoral Center
Oklahoma City**

Truth Not A Threat

I am disappointed that Loren Gatch in a May 17 letter to the *Sooner Catholic* is shocked by the language used by Tony Lauinger in the defense of innocent human life. The Bible itself is full of the names of saints who dared to confront the evil of

their day. John the Baptist lost his head; Jesus himself was crucified! Who will cry out for the innocent ones?

President Obama is causing as much loss of human life on the face of the Earth as anyone alive today! In their time, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin and Adolph Hitler directly killed millions in war and through extermination in concentration camps. They were all leaders who convinced their people to follow them, openly or by coercion. Today, our leaders kill millions indirectly through advancing abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research across the globe.

By reversing the Mexico City policy, President Obama ties the receipt of our federal aid by foreign countries to acceptance of contraception and abortion.

What an abomination.

It worries me that those who would speak up for the innocent; those that try to openly speak the truth are attacked in the popular media. The most popular tactic is to call names and "silence" those who would speak the truth. This occurs when Catholics are offended by Tony Lauinger's remarks. I say, bring on the saints! We need them more than ever!

**Dr. Frank Lipsinic
Christ the King
Oklahoma City**

Courage Not A Threat

I am writing in response to a letter in the May 17 issue of the *Sooner Catholic* titled A Threatening Tone. I always cringe when I hear or read someone, especially a Catholic, finish a statement supporting or defining their pro-life stance with a conditional statement, such as but or except. In this instance it was "nonetheless." The letter goes on to criticize the words Anthony Lauinger, chairman of Oklahomans for Life and vice president of the National Right to Life Committee, used in his article in the May 3 issue of the *Sooner Catholic*.

Lauinger's article expressed his displeasure with Notre Dame's choice of bestowing an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon and inviting President Barack Obama to give the commencement speech at their May 17 graduation. Lauinger expresses his disdain, along with 75 bishops across the nation including our own archbishop, not only because he sees the direct contradiction this act is to his Catholic faith and values, but also because he has entrusted Notre Dame with educating his eight children.

Ms. Gatch expresses disagreement with Lauinger's statement of "He (Obama) is doing more to promote the destruction of innocent lives than anyone else on the face of the earth." She refutes that by saying, "Excuse me? Lauinger is referring not to Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin or Adolph Hitler, but to the democratically elected president of the United States of America."

Well, "excuse me" Ms. Gatch. Obama's or any other person, regardless of any special status including holding an elected office, beliefs, actions and policies are subject to an objective reality — the reality of moral truth, of right and wrong, good and bad, holiness and evil.

The language used by Lauinger is entirely and ideally appropriate. There is nothing of hate, spite, or of threats either in or behind his words. Mr. Lauinger has done more than most could ever dream to protect and fight for the right to life of the unborn through his countless hours of lobbying, teaching and praying. The words expressed by Lauinger must be used time after time in order to bring to the public awareness the true threat to life that Obama and his beliefs and policies have brought and are bringing to our country. Lauinger is a champion for the unborn and the teachings of the Church.

**TJ Krug
Saint Monica's
Edmond**

Saint Greg's Abbey to Host Three Summer Retreats

St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, will offer three retreats during the summer of 2009: A Pilgrimage with St. Paul, June 26-28; St. Benedict and the Way of Humility, July 10-12; and Let Your Life Speak, July 30-Aug. 2.

A Pilgrimage with St. Paul, an ideal way to bring to a close the Jubilee Year of St. Paul, will focus on five principle themes from the writings of St. Paul: pilgrimage in following Christ, baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, obedience in imitation of Christ, sharing in the sacraments of Christ, and being the Body of Christ. Conferences will be presented jointly by James Shelton, Ph.D., and monks of St. Gregory's Abbey. Dr. Shelton is a noted author and professor of New Testament and Early Christian literature, teaching at Oral Roberts

University and the Pastoral Studies Institute of the Diocese of Tulsa.

The second retreat, St. Benedict and the Way of Humility, will be presented by the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey. Abbot Lawrence will explore the 12 steps of humility listed in the seventh chapter of The Rule of St. Benedict, reflecting on how these steps might be embraced by persons of all walks of life in our contemporary culture. The retreat will coincide with the Feast of St. Benedict on July 11.

The third retreat is themed Let Your Life Speak. Father Charles Buckley, OSB, will use the book of this title by Parker Palmer. In this book, Palmer reflects on vocation, the life-long search to live out our lives in the ways of God. Retreatants

will be guided in their own reflection on their pathway to God.

Participants will stay in the St. Gregory's University residence hall. Meals will be in the monastic dining room. Participants will be able to use the swimming pool, the aerobic center and the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art during their free time.

Cost for the retreats is \$80 per person in advance and \$85 for those not pre-registered. This fee includes lodging, meals and registration fee. The cost for those not needing lodging is \$50. An offering is taken up for the retreat master.

For further information, consult the abbey Web page monksok.org or contact Father Charles at cj Buckley@stgregorys.edu or (405) 878-5462.

Retreat in Daily Life Experience Can Help Spiritual Growth

Are you experiencing a pull or a call to deepen your relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ? One way to answer this call is participating in the life-changing experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius offered in the Retreat In Daily Life by the Sisters of Benedict of the Red Plains Spirituality Center.

St. Ignatius spent 20 years developing the Spiritual Exercises in the 16th century to help men spiritually discern their participation in the Society Of Jesus or the Jesuit Order of Priests. At that time the Spiritual Exercises were experienced within a 30-day retreat.

Twenty five years ago, the Sisters of Benedict adapted the Spiritual Exercises into a 30-week Retreat In Daily Life consisting of one hour of prayer a day, weekly group sharing with six to eight other retreatants, and bi-monthly sessions with a spiritual director. The retreat is offered at 10 locations throughout the Oklahoma City area, Stillwater, Edmond, Norman and Guthrie.

The Retreat in Daily Life is not a class nor a Bible study. The retreat is

a personal conversion experience that facilitates retreatants putting on the mind of Christ. What characterizes the Spiritual Exercises is a personal experience of a series of deep internal movements leading to a personal commitment to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spiritual Exercises are focused primarily on passages from the four gospels of Jesus Christ and provide retreatants an immersion in Christ's teachings and in his ministry. As a retreatant, you will experience a more focused commitment to seeing and making decisions in accordance with the teachings and life of Jesus.

As a retreatant, you will experience spiritual and emotional growth through a new and deeper awareness of God's unconditional and compassionate love and an increased self-knowledge and self-awareness as a follower of Jesus. These new aware-



By Joe Froehle

nesses and graces, emanating from God's unconditional love, will contribute to a movement from the false self toward freedom, peace, joy and happiness in the true self.

As a retreatant having a deep awareness of God's unconditional love, you will experience a better understanding of how sinfulness and disordered attachments separate you from God's love. You will learn about the two strategies of Christ and Satan and the struggle we all experience in choosing between the two. You will learn about the Daily Examen of Conscience and how this daily review brings you closer to God.

The series of movements within the Retreat In Daily Life will enable you to experience within, a closer relationship with God in becoming the person you are meant to be with an increased clarity of purpose and meaning in your life as a follower of Jesus.

Fees for the retreat are \$90 a month, which includes the two monthly sessions with a spiritual director. However, the Sisters of Benedict do not wish anyone sincere-

ly considering the Spiritual Exercises to not do so because of finances.

This is the 25th year the Sisters of Benedict have offered the Retreat In Daily Life and more than 1,300 have experienced these wonderful Spiritual Exercises. If you feel called to this kind of spiritual journey, please call the Sisters of Benedict at 373-4565 after July 4. Time is needed to prepare for this spiritual experience and to discern readiness to this commitment.

I hope you will sincerely consider this retreat as a way to enrich your life, deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ, and move toward becoming the person God is hoping you will become. If you live in Edmond, you may call me at St. John's Counseling Center, 359-8539.

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

Kansas City Prelate

continued from page 5

"If in speaking out on these things, we are characterized as being angry or condemnatory - then so be it. Such actions are worthy of condemnation.

One major effect that the bishops are worried about is the potential confusion of people "concerning the Catholic teaching against abortion, and on the priority of abortion among other issues of public policy," he explained.

When asked about President Obama's speech, he addressed the contradiction of Father Jenkins' hope for cooperation and President Obama's invitation of "joining hands in common effort" with the rest of his speech, where he cataloged the departing views on abortion as "irreconcilable":

"I think the message of the day was this - that the President of Notre Dame said that they had

"The perception unfortunately was that this was a completely acceptable position of his and, because he is a bright and talented man, this trumps the destructive decisions that he's making day after day."

invited the President of the United States and decided to honor him for the sake of dialogue. And then the President got up and said that the differences that we have on abortion - namely the Catholic Church's staunch opposition to abortion and his staunch support of abortion were "irreconcilable." And at that moment, it would seem to me that the dialogue came to a screeching halt. Father Jenkins' expressed desire for dialogue, whether it was well-founded or justified, at that point got thrown back in his face. The President shut the door on dia-

logue by saying that there was not going to be any change in his position on abortion and he understood that there was not going to be any change in the Church's position on abortion. To me, that was the lesson of the day. I am glad that Mr. Obama was so clear."

Then he added: "The perception unfortunately was that this was a completely acceptable position of his and, because he is a bright and talented man, this trumps the destructive decisions that he's making day after day."

Finally, when asked if

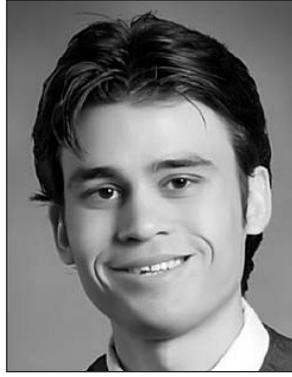
President Obama's "call to work together in reducing unintended pregnancies" was a possible way of finding common ground, Bishop Finn said:

"I fear that the specific way that the [U.S.] President frames this in terms of 'reducing unintended pregnancies' is through the promotion of Planned Parenthood and contraceptive services. The President has supported the Prevention First Act bill that's going forward. This is not about abstinence education. This is about promoting contraception and giving Planned Parenthood a huge blank check. If Catholics don't see a problem with this then I don't think they understand the threat it represents to the meaning of marriage, to fidelity, to chastity, to the very sanctity of human life and intimate love."

Mount St. Mary Class of 2009



AnaKaren Aguilar
OCU Full Scholarship



Min-Allah Akmal



Emily Allen
OU



Anahi Angeles
Rose State



Bryan Benson
St. Gregory's



James Biscione
OCU Full Scholarship



Julianne Bragg
OCCC



John Brennan
OSU-OKC



Trent Brewer
OCU



Elizabeth Cain
Ave Maria University



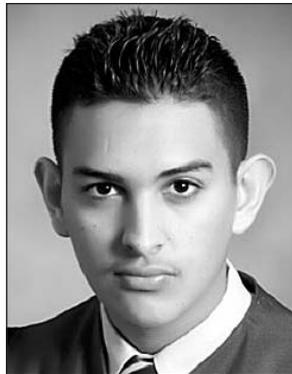
Sean Carpenter
The Citadel



Nikita Chauhan
Adelphi University



Layne Colin



Israel Contreras
UCO



Madison Crawford
University of Tulsa



Danielle Derr
OCU



Elizabeth Dudzinski
OSU-OKC



Zelina Estrada
OU



Tyler Garling
OU



Joshua Gonshor
UCO



Madeline Griffin
UCO



Alyssa Grossen
Valedictorian
OU Full Scholarship



Shylo Hastings
Rose State



Casey Hawkins
OCU

Mount St. Mary Class of 2009



Conner Keupen
UCO



Jimmy Kim
OSU



Francisca Lang
UCO



David Lim
OU



Andrew Lott
OU



Mary Anne Luckowski
Rose State



Lacy Luttrell
OU



Nick Mance
Rose State



Vincent Marino
U.S. Army



Cassandra Martin
SWOSU



Lorena Martinez
Rose State



Jessica Mascote
OCCC/OU



*Christian Massey-
Dunsworth*
OSU-OKC



Sydney Miller
Salutatorian OU



Kevin Mogg
UCO



Jose Montavalo
OCCC



Erin Naugle
UCO



Steven Nguyen
Valedictorian OU



Vi Nguyen
Richland Community College



Jacob Niles
Frances Tuttle



Rikki Ogden
UCO



Adriana Pando
UCO



Celina Pang
Salutatorian OCCC/OU



Maribel Pantoja
Our Lady of the Lake

Mount St. Mary Class of 2009



Jenny Parizek
UCO



Elizabeth Phillips
OU



Gabrielle Pugh
St. Gregory's



Samantha Pulver
Rose State



Jose Realzola
OCCC



Carlton Reis-Herron
Rose State



Toby Rives
Mid-America Christian
University



Cathrine Salazar
Marian University



Jesse Staton
OU



Christopher Stiles
OU



Kelsey Stonebraker
Rose State



Edward Tagoe
OU



Cathrine Tanner
OSU



Whitney Tener
Rose State



Sarah Tillotson
UCO



Christian Vail
Southern Nazarene
University



Vu Vong
OCCC



Huan Vuong
OCCC



Brice Williams
Rose State



Jessica Williams
Rose State



Jacqueline Wilson
UCO



Stephen Windsor
OCCC



Sarah Wylie
UCO



Macy Zaragosa
UCO

Rockets of 2009 Blast Off



Andrew Lott being robed by his sister, Caroline Lott, also a Mount student.



A moment of celebration one last time as a class.



Valedictorians Alyssa Grossen and Steven Nguyen both gave speeches at graduation.

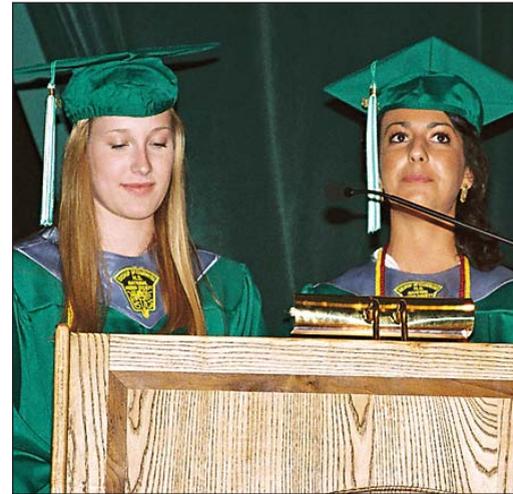


From left, Akmal min-Allah Sr., Kevin Mogg with mom, Roseanne Mogg, and Jose Montalvo with brother, Tony Montalvo, also a Mount student, at the senior farewell assembly.

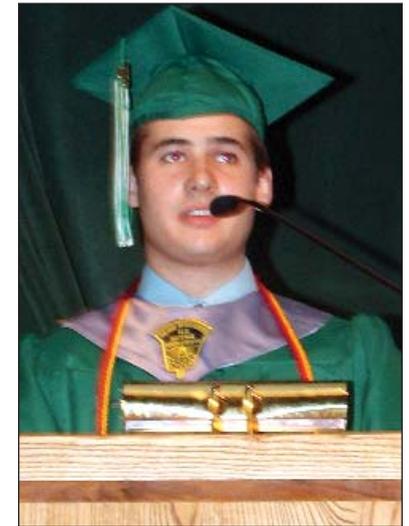
McGuinness Grads All Smiles As New Doors Open



Robert Dobbins robes Jacob Lowery at the senior farewell assembly.



Valedictorians Emma Land and Tanya Watts gave their speech together.



Salutatorian Zachary Yokell.



Top from left, Christine Hickson, Carey Nash and Elle Fitzpatrick. Right, Kelley Hughes can't hide her excitement as she poses for a photo.



From left, Brian Scott is robed by his brother, Brett Scott; Jeb Shadid and Chris Starr at the senior farewell assembly.

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2009



Olivia Amundsen
Arizona State
University



Margaret Archer
Villanova



Aubrey Atherton
OSU



Andrew Baltasar
OU



Grace Barry
OU



Trinity Billetter
University of
Arkansas



Courtney Bisson
Texas Christian
University



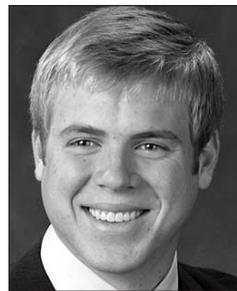
Thomas Black
OSU



Morgan Blackburn
Dartmouth



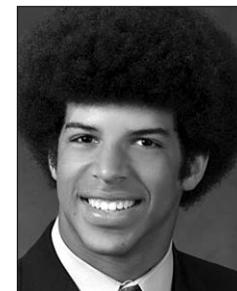
Kristen Bloomer
Undecided



Andrew Boaz
Texas Christian
University



Maggie Boer
OU



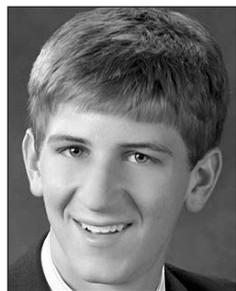
Nikolas Bray
OU



Allison Brewer
University of
Arkansas



William Brezny
Undecided



David Broussard
OU



Andrew Brown
UCO



Jacob Brown
Undecided



Kaitlynn Buettner-
Scully
OU



Ellen Burton
OU



Caitlin Cadieux
OU



John Canfield
Undecided



Scott Casso
OU



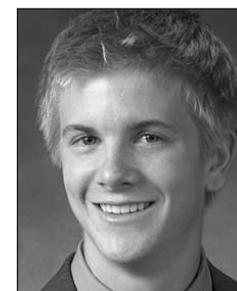
Rachael Cervenka
OU



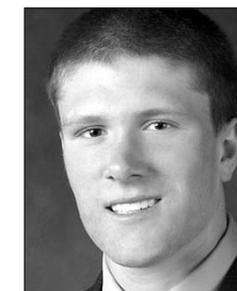
Patrick Chong
George Washington
University



Chelsea Cinotto
OU



Stuart Cobb
OSU



Nicholas Coffey
OU



Katelyn Connelly
OU



Chelsea Cooper
University of
Arkansas, Ft. Smith



Joel Cranmer
OCU



Danielle Curiel
OU



Remi Dalton
University of San
Diego



Casey Dolezal
OU



Daniel Domek
Undecided

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2009



Melissa Duncan
OSU



Colby Dye
OU



Back row from left, Gracie Barry, Misty Harris, Morgan Hammock, Kacie Kusbel, Sunia Khosravani and Andi Evenson. In front is Emma Trimble.



Colin Eggleston
OSU



Emily Engel
OU



Andrea Evenson
OU



Caitlin Fabian
OU



Ellen Fitzpatrick
OU



Tyler Fling
Northern Oklahoma
College



Jackson Flinton
OSU



Jordan Fowler
OSU-OKC



Dylan Frazier
OU



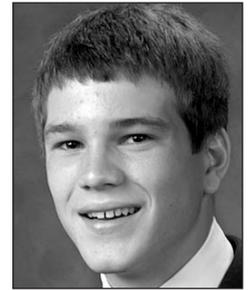
Rachel Ginter
OSU



Scott Goldie
OU



Andrew Goode
OSU



William Graves
OU



Morgan Hammock
OSU



Kevin Hanson
OCU



Rachel Harper
OU



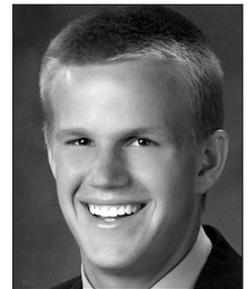
Allister Harrell
Texas Christian
University



Misty Harris
OSU



Kevin Haworth
OSU



John Heinen
OU



Brian Herritt
OU



Elizabeth Herzig
OSU



Christine Hickson
OU



Thomas Hochla
Vassar



Alexander Hoelscher
OU



Katelyn Hollas
UCO



Natalie Hovde
OSU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2009



Felicia Hudak
Undecided



Kelley Hughes
OU



Gabriel Ikard
OU



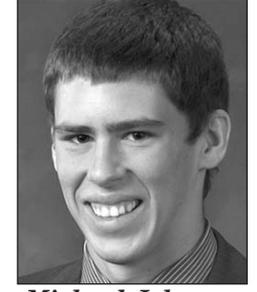
Scott Jackson
Undecided



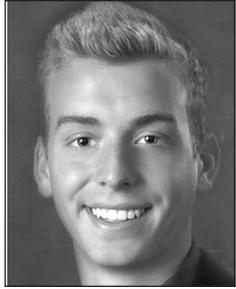
Claire Johnson
Undecided



Hollis Johnson
Humber College,
Toronto, Canada



Michael Johnson
OU



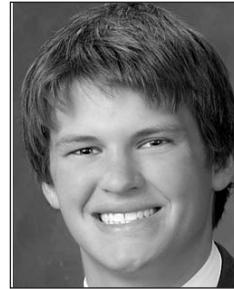
Nick Johnson
OU



Rachel Kelch
OSU



Zachary Kelch
OSU



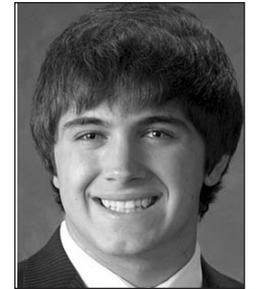
Frederick Kempf
OSU



Sunia Khosravani
OU



Kathryn Konarik
OSU



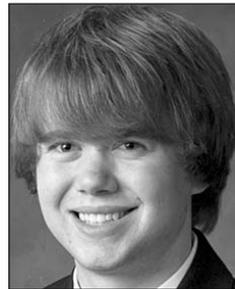
Philip Krier
Undecided



Kacie Kusbel
OSU



Brianna Kwasny
OU



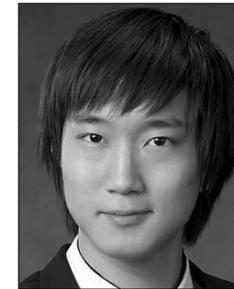
Matthew Lambert
OU



Emma Land
Valedictorian
Texas Christian University



Gregory Latta
OU



Seung Lee
School of Visual
Arts



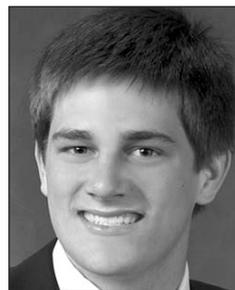
Kayla Lewis
OCCC



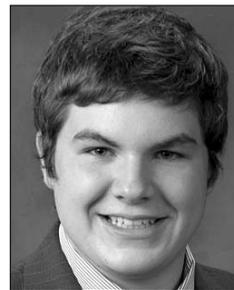
Michael Lewis
Texas A&M at
Galveston



Krystal Leyva
OU



Thomas Love
OU



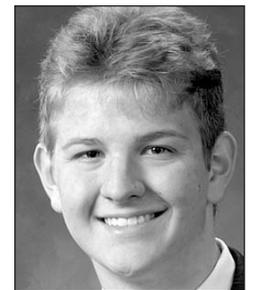
Jacob Lowrey
OU



Delaney Maguire
OU



Luke Martin
Undecided



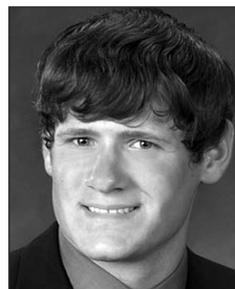
Franklin Mass
OSU



Gabriela McAllister
UCO



Elizabeth McCan
OSU



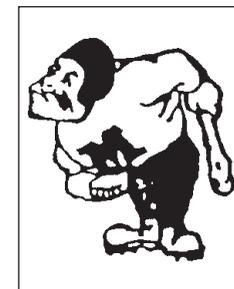
Kevin McGarry
OU



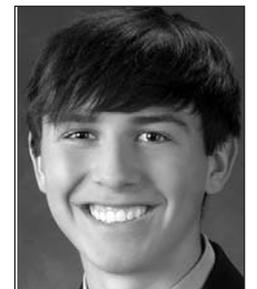
Neil McGlohon
OU



Edwin Miles
University of Texas



Andrew Morgan
Undecided



Franklin Muskrat
Undecided

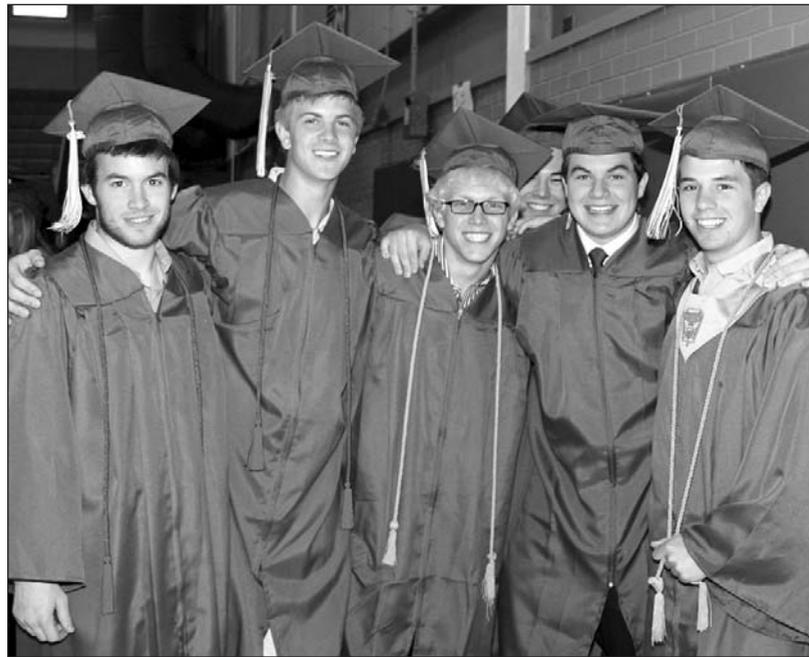
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2009



Nicholas Muzyka
UCO



Jacqueline Myers
OSU



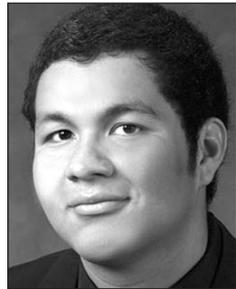
From left, Brian Scott, Stuart Cobb, Eric Casso, Jacob Lowery and Tate Triska.



Carey Nash
Creighton



Jillian Neville
OU



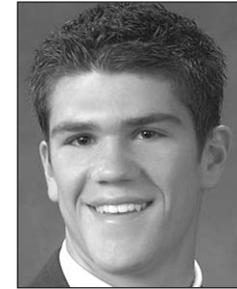
Edson Ochoa
OSU-OKC



Daniel Orton
University of
Kentucky



Brett Patterson
OU



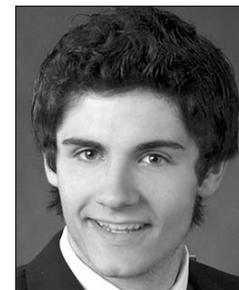
Joseph Pedulla
Franciscan University
of Steubenville



Jennifer Perry
OU



Lauren Pinaroc
Washington University
at St. Louis



Kallen Pitts
OCU



Allegra Pusateri
DePaul University



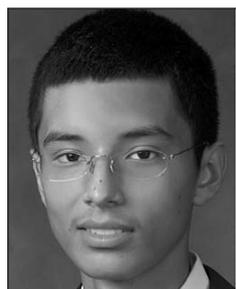
Ryan Randolph
OU



Katie Reap
OU



Elizabeth Rescinito
OCU



Erik Reyes
OU



Taylor Rieger
OSU



Mary Rischard
OU



Jaime Roman
Colorado College



Erica Romano
OU



Ellen Rosencrans
OU



Dakota Rowenhorst
OSU



Morgan Roy
Undecided



Lee Ann Ryan
University of
Colorado



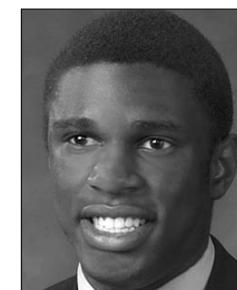
Brian Scott
OSU



Rohan Sebastian
University of
Michigan



James Shadid
OSU



Delvin Sirleaf
SWOSU



John Sosanya
OU

Bishop McGuinness Class of 2009



Daniel Spurr
UCO



Chris Starr
OU



Kyle Thomas
Purdue



Courtney Thurman
University of Tulsa



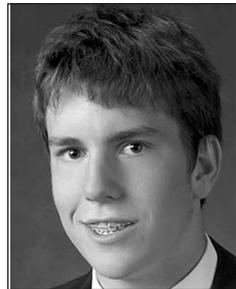
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Undecided



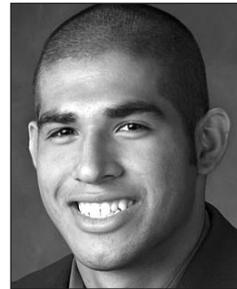
Emma Trimble
OU



Tate Triska
OU



Patrick Turpen
OU



Alejandro Valle
OU



John Vater
University of Virginia



Carl Walkup
OU



Kelsey Wallace
Undecided



Tonya Watts
Valedictorian
Notre Dame



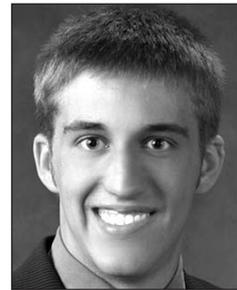
Christopher Weigl
OSU



Elizabeth White
Undecided



David Whitmarsh
Conception
Seminary College



Justin Wright
OU



Zachary Yokell
OU
Salutatorian



Sean Zentner
OSU-OKC



Leah Zimmerman
OSU



Raymond Zschiesche
OSU

Irish Tab Dr. Peter Kierl as Outstanding Alumni for 2009

Dr. J. Peter Kierl has been named by the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Alumni Association as the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Kierl graduated from McGuinness in 1972. He was one of 10 children who attended McGuinness from 1965 through 1981. During high school, Peter was the senior class vice president, Student Council representative, a junior Rotarian and a member of the Science Club, and played football, basketball and golf. He was a four-year member of the Lettermen Club. He went on to Notre Dame where he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science. He received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the OU College of

Dentistry and a master's degree in orthodontic sciences from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. He currently has an orthodontic practice in Edmond.

He and his wife, Barbara, have sent three children through McGuinness. Kierl can often be seen at Irish athletic events and at fundraising events. Oftentimes his contributions go unnoticed as he works tirelessly behind the scenes. He has given countless hours in service and dedication to our school. Principal David Morton stated that "Peter is the kind of guy that you can call at anytime for anything. If we need a volunteer for an event, or a donation to get T-shirts for a team, we know we can call Peter and he will help in a second."



Dr. Peter Kierl poses with his family, from left, son, Brian Kierl, '05, daughter, Jessie Kierl, '08, Dr. Kierl, '72, wife, Barbara, and son, Kevin, '04.

Saint Greg's Honors Grads at 94th Commencement

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University celebrated its 94th commencement exercise Saturday inside W.P. Wood Field House, with bachelor's degrees conferred on 87 graduates. An additional 23 received associate degrees and six received master's degrees.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D., vice president for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, delivered the commencement address, offering "Travel Tips for Life." Galligan-Stierle offered six tips in all: love, believe in yourself, believe in others, seek wisdom, be competent and value oriented, and be thankful.

"Welcome to the first day of the rest of your life," he said. "Remember, you are not traveling the road alone, you never have been. You were created by your parents, loved by God, and are surrounded this day by family and friends who love you."

Galligan-Stierle concluded his address with a series of visuals as a way to reinforce his "Travel Tips for Life." He changed hats for all six tips as he reviewed them.

"Find ways to remember your days here at St. Gregory's," he said. "The feeling you experience of driving in the entrance and into a campus of trees lining the roadway, walking up the steps of Benedictine Hall and experiencing its grand entrance, sitting in the university chapel or walking this beautiful campus, celebrating Christmas dinner with the monks, walking through the Great Room and talking with friends endlessly, or sending the softball team off to yet another national tournament — find ways to remember these days."

Valedictorians Sean O'Brien and Susan Carrillo also addressed the audience. O'Brien, who is from Broken Arrow, was the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Carrillo, from Owasso, was the valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

O'Brien's speech centered around the question, "How can you love the most?"

"There are many ways that we can choose to love, and I ask each of you to consider how you can best love on a daily basis and through your whole life," O'Brien said. "The best advice I can give toward discovering how to live such lives is by first committing time to prayer, and second to committing time to reflection on your life."

Said Carrillo: "I challenge each of you in this audience today — graduates, faculty members, family, friends — to aspire to a level of greatness, to a level of awareness of what you can accomplish. There is not a person in this audience who does not have the ability to move forward and accomplish great things. All you have to do is reach, and reach high."

The ceremony also included the presentation of a special award. The school's Legacy Award was



Derek Washington gets a hug after graduation.

given to former theater instructor Pat Snider.

Snider directed St. Gregory's theater department for 20 years, including the first production in the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center.

Baccalaureate Mass was held Friday in St. Gregory's Abbey Church. Rev. Don Wolf, pastor of St. Benedict Catholic Church, preached the homily. The SGU Chorale, under the direction of Brother Damian Whalen, O.S.B., and music faculty member Aaron Kellert provided music.

The following students received their degrees:

Associate Degrees

Bixby: April Washington
 Broken Arrow: Carolyn Billy, Robert Ruhl
 Claremore: Rona Stevens, Teresa Buttery, Sammy Weygand
 Cleveland: Jennifer Hoggatt
 Holdenville: Leslie Garner
 Mannford: Cindy Meadows
 Midwest City: Emily McGinnis
 Mounds: Jalie Morrow
 Owasso: Manuel Quezada, Brenda Queal
 Proctor: Leah Moore
 Shawnee: Phillip Mee, Judy Burgin
 Tulsa: Michelle Manly, Jessica Burns, Teresa Callihan, Mary Thompson, Diana DeLeon, Heather Gordon, Katharine Colvin

Bachelor's Degrees

Albuquerque, N.M.: Christina Helland
 Broken Arrow: Sean O'Brien, Anne Demmy, Holly Eagles, Janet Honeywell, Merlinda Williamson, Brigitte Baenziger, Darlene Moore, Monica Hargrove, Shannon Frith, Lorrie Mullen
 Chesapeake, Va.: Derek Washington
 Chickasha: Shembra Reed
 Choctaw: Linda Frederick, Katherine King
 Claremore: Rebekah Powell, Shellie Rhine, Debra Stubblefield, Leona Tanner
 Colwich, Kansas: Brandon Albert
 Coweta: Bernita Narvaez
 Cushing: Gretchen Donaldson
 Dallas: Thomas Burke
 Duncanville, Texas: Elena Padilla
 Edmond: Mallory Thurman
 Glenpool: Jaclyn Sullivan
 Hartshorne: Brenda Kihlstrom
 Houston: Ashley Wine, Marisol Hernandez
 Maud: Jeremy Lewis
 McLoud: Victoria Morris, Christopher Cochran, Tammy McCoy-Guardiola
 Midwest City: Stephanie Ginn
 Morris: Laura Manning
 Oklahoma City: Kelan Maguire, Kimberly Allison, Amanda Newton
 Owasso: Candice Ramsey, Susan Carrillo, Melinda Jones
 San Jose, Calif.: Nkechi Okorie
 Sand Springs: Jessica Thompson, Pamela Shaw
 Sapulpa: Brenda Dillman
 Seminole: Deanne Haney, Joaquina Arredondo
 Shawnee: April Boggs, Jade Van Sickel, Marion Bettis, Deborah Shafer, Rita Hunnicutt, Bruce Edwards, Lonnie McDaniels, Jeanne Roach
 Talala: Deborah Bradshaw
 Tecumseh: Tracy Haney, Justin Bone
 Tulsa: Patrick Jones, Michelle Eckles, Shannon Hand, Gloria Boudreaux, Fernando Caballero, Sally Fowkes, Shenara Culley, Andrea Clum, D'Wayna Williams, Kenshun Davis, Cindie McMath, Shannon Holmes, Allison Morris-Wallace, Charles Krienke, Jeffrey Beltran
 Tuttle: Paul Underwood
 Vinita: Tiffany Hayes, Robert Pippin
 Yukon: Abby Wolf
 International: Sharon Bell, Misato Tamura

Master's Degrees

Broken Arrow: Thomas Locicero
 Owasso: Kellee Gahagan
 Sumner, Texas: Robert Parks
 Tulsa: Meagan Johnson, Adrian Nienhuis
 Vinita: Brian Stecklein

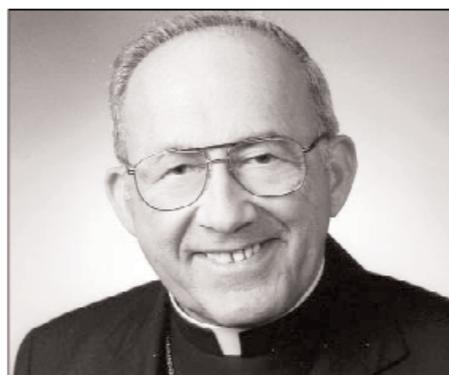
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

La observancia de la temporada de Pascua termina hoy con la celebración del gran festejo de Pentecostés. La promesa de Pascua hecha por Jesús a su Iglesia fue cumplida con el primer Pentecostés Cristiano que conmemoramos hoy. Sin embargo, como personas de fe avivados por el regalo del Espíritu Santo, no sólo recordamos el hecho histórico de Pentecostés, sino que también promulgamos el sagrado Misterio de Pentecostés.

Hay un Nuevo Pentecostés cada vez que: 1. Celebrando el sacramento de la Confirmación, 2. Ordenando un nuevo sacerdote, 3. Cumpliendo activamente con la responsabilidad fundamental Cristiana de vivir y proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesús.

1. Esta primavera, aproximadamente mil adolescentes serán confirmados en cincuenta y cinco templos a través de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Estos jóvenes pasaron dos años en estudio, oración y servicio cristiano preparándose para su Confirmación. Estos jóvenes, signados y palpados con el regalo del Espíritu Santo de Dios, estarán



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

*Como pueblo de Dios,
todos estamos comisionados para vivir y proclamar
la Buena Nueva de Jesús.*

mejor proveídos para vivir nuestra fe Católica con profundidad. Podrán enfrentar las dificultades de la vida con la seguridad de que Dios está con ellos. Y sí responden a la presencia de Dios y nutren los dones del Espíritu Santo, entonces habrán madurado como buenos, santos y fieles católicos.

...¡Recibe el Espíritu Santo!

2. Estamos muy bendecidos por tener dos hombres jóvenes preparados y listos para ser ordenados. La ordenación del Padre William Lewis y del Padre Long Phan será en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, el próximo viernes 5 de junio. Los sacerdotes serán ordenados, a través de la imposición bíblica de las manos por la dirección de Jesucristo a través del poder del Espíritu Santo.

En el acto sacramental de ordenación, los hombres que han sido escogidos por Cristo a través del ministerio de la Iglesia son comisionados para que actúen en el Nombre de Jesucristo y su autoridad. Las acciones sacramentales que ellos hacen son en efecto el trabajo que hace el mismo Jesús.

Un sacerdote ordenado por el poder del Espíritu Santo y en el Nombre de Jesucristo, transforman el pan y vino en el Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo. A través del ministerio de la Iglesia y la autorización de nuestro Dios Triuno, el sacerdote perdona nuestros pecados mediante la absolución sacramental. Con lo cual, el sacerdote realiza lo que ningún poder humano puede, por esta razón afirmo que la ordenación es de hecho,

un Nuevo Pentecostés.

3. Al momento de nuestro bautismo, cada uno de nosotros es perdonado de nuestros pecados y renacemos como personas de Dios. Como pueblo de Dios, todos estamos comisionados para vivir y proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesús. Por nuestra cuenta, nosotros no podríamos hacerlo. Por eso, a través del poder de Dios y en unión con la Iglesia, se nos ha dado la gracia para realizar esta responsabilidad. Viviendo a plenitud nuestra fe católica, proclamamos la Buena Nueva de Jesús a nuestro prójimo.

Esta inspiración y ejemplo que damos al prójimo, es resultado de primero haber recibido el regalo del Espíritu Santo en nosotros mismos. A través de nuestra activa fe Católica, se indica un Nuevo Pentecostés con el cual podemos celebrar cada día de nuestras vidas en esta tierra, hasta la vida eterna en el ciclo.

Pentecostés es la realización de la promesa de Pascua de Jesús, quien dijo: "En adelante, el Espíritu Santo, el interprete que el Padre les va a enviara en mi Nombre, les enseñará todas las cosas y les recordará todo lo que yo les he dicho."

Trabajando aunadamente por el bienestar común

La educación es parte esencial de la integración cultural en la Iglesia



Los maestros Galindo y Pacheco.



Matrimonio Ruiz es un ejemplo a seguir.



Padre Menasco apoyando las iniciativas del laicado en materia de educación.

Promesas rotas

“Uno no puede más que desearles bien a los Edwards y al Padre Cutié”

Por Sor Mary Ann Walsh
USCCB

WASHINGTON — La saga mediática del Padre Alberto Cutié, el sacerdote de Miami que ha admitido tener una relación sexual con una mujer, y el caso de John Edwards, cuya infidelidad está siendo expuesta por su esposa Elizabeth en su gira para promover su libro "Resilience" (Capacidad de resistencia), tienen algo en común.

Ambos casos cuentan la historia de una infidelidad. Pudiera parecer que las similitudes terminan ahí. Pero no es así.

El libro de la señora Edwards pone énfasis en los efectos de una relación fracturada sobre el otro miembro de la pareja. Dice que esto a ella la ha cambiado. La simpatía del público se ha puesto generalmente del lado de la esposa traicionada, quien está librando una batalla contra el cáncer y además perdió a un hijo adolescente en un accidente de tráfico.

En la historia del Padre Cutié, sin embargo, la simpatía parece encontrarse del lado del hombre que "la ha traicionado" en lugar de aquel/los que han sido traicionados - la gente en la iglesia.

En ninguno de ambos casos se trata solamente de una historia personal de estos dos hombres. Aun sin la notoriedad pública de ambos,

las dos son historias tristes que nos afectan a todos; pues, parafraseando el poema "Ningún hombre es una isla" del poeta metafísico John Donne, "La infidelidad de los demás me empobrece".

La mayoría de las mujeres se estremecen por dentro cuando escuchan acerca de la infidelidad en el matrimonio de alguien a quien conocen. El temor es obvio: si le ha sucedido a ella, también me puede suceder a mí. Es un pensamiento que pone el alma intranquila y que hace que la mujer se pregunte si se puede confiar en alguien y si ella será la última en saberlo.

La situación del Padre Cutié, sin embargo, encuentra reacciones diferentes. El apuesto sacerdote con aura de estrella de Hollywood, quien se ha convertido en una industria unipersonal de publicaciones y consejos, se ha convertido, para mejor o peor, en la imagen de la última salva dirigida en contra de la Iglesia Católica.

Cutié declaró en el programa *Early Show* de la cadena CBS que "no quiero convertirme en el "sacerdote que está en contra del celibato". Creo que eso es desafortunado. Creo que es un debate que se está dando en nuestra sociedad y creo que ahora yo me he convertido en una especie imagen, de abanderado de esta postura".

Puede que el Padre no quiera

ser la imagen de esto, pero parece haber quebrantado la primera regla para acallar los comentarios: permanece lejos de los medios.

A los medios de comunicación les fascinan las historias de sexo e hipocresía y, cuando ambos convergen en la historia de un sacerdote infiel, los medios no conocen fronteras. El celibato se convierte en un chiste, en lugar de algo que merece respeto; en algo imposible, a pesar de los millones -posiblemente más- de personas que han vivido célibes durante siglos.

Y sin embargo, a pesar de lo que cada uno piense sobre el celibato, el verdadero asunto aquí es la infidelidad, el haber quebrantado un voto sagrado. Esta ruptura de la fidelidad tiene impacto más allá de la pareja a la que involucra.

La fidelidad quebrantada menoscaba no sólo a la pareja sino también a la comunidad en sentido amplio. John Edwards no hirió sólo a su esposa sino también a su familia, sus amigos y las personas que lo admiraban. Sembró una sombra de duda sobre su trabajo en favor de los pobres, aunque su esposa alabe abundantemente esos esfuerzos en su libro y en la promoción mediática que lo acompaña.

El Padre Cutié también ha hecho daño a otros, incluyendo a toda la gente de la parroquia que él guió

tan bien. Parecen estar aguantando bien mientras tratan con los medios afuera de la iglesia. Sin embargo, uno se pregunta acerca de las parejas a las que él preparó para un compromiso de por vida en el matrimonio, los niños a los que enseñó a no decir nunca mentiras, los feligreses enfermos a los que les dio seguridad sobre su lugar en el cielo.

El efecto de la infidelidad es profundo. Elizabeth Edwards lo expresa bien en su libro cuando escribe: "Soy una persona diferente ahora. Antes no estaba herida, no tenía miedo, no sentía incertidumbre y ahora siempre los sentiré".

Uno no puede más que desearles bien a los Edwards y al Padre Cutié en vista de sus debilidades y de sus fallos.

No hay nada aquí de lo que sus enemigos, en la política o en la iglesia, deban mofarse. Sólo algo que lamentar - el profundo dolor que John, Elizabeth y el Padre Alberto están experimentando en sus propias vidas y la sórdida y prolongada pena evocada en las comunidades a su alrededor. Nadie es una isla. La fidelidad quebrantada nos duele a todos. *Nota del Editor Hispano del Sooner Catholic:* Este artículo fue escrito por la Hna. Mary Ann Walsh, Directora de Relaciones Públicas de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB).

Feligresía Católica ayuda a los inmigrantes para que aprendan inglés

Por Mauro Yancz
Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — Un grupo de feligreses de la parroquia San José desde hace algún tiempo han estado comprometidos en ayudar a los inmigrantes a que aprendan hablar y escribir inglés.

Aunque la Constitución de los Estados Unidos no menciona cuál es el idioma oficial de este grandioso país, se entiende que el idioma común es el inglés. Entonces, se puede afirmar que no hay idioma oficial que se dé por mandato constitucional en los Estados Unidos. Pero para progre-

sar y obtener una vida mejor es bueno aprender el inglés y ver progresivamente que se puede ser bilingüe en un mundo globalizado del cual Estados Unidos no escapa. Ya no es solamente hablar inglés, es que hay que hablar también otro idioma debido a la globalización acelerada y generada por la tecnología y la apertura evangelizadora que ha hecho el cristianismo en los corazones del ser humano. Además por la apertura económica estamos obligados a ceder para sobrevivir en el mundo actual tan conmocionado por una crisis de valores y una recesión económica sesgada. Las nuevas medidas econó-

micas del gobierno federal están generando nuevos empleos en sectores como el de la construcción, por cierto en este ramo, los latinos inmigrantes tienen unas habilidades únicas.

Esto indica que el flujo de inmigrantes de origen hispano aumentará en Oklahoma en los próximos cuatro años, ya que la falta de mano de obra en Oklahoma es muy precaria para realizar proyectos como los que se avecinan, tales como nuevas autopistas, edificaciones, carreteras, casas, etc.

Todos somos iguales ante la ley y sobre todo ante los ojos de Dios.

Tenemos que educarnos más y más.

Aprender inglés es una herramienta de trabajo y permite una integración más profunda en esta sociedad donde se habla predominantemente el inglés.

Gracias a gente como los parraquianos de San José y otros miembros de tantas parroquias e instituciones de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se están ofreciendo clases de inglés gratuitas a los inmigrantes.

Para más información sobre las próximas sesiones en San José en la ciudad de Norman pueden llamar al Telf. (405) 321-8080.

Jobs Box

Part-Time Youth Minister

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Duncan is seeking a dynamic individual to minister to our youth through fun and fellowship. Responsibilities include planning and leading activities, trips and conferences in a Christian environment. Bilingual preferred. For more information, see our Web site at www.assumptionparishonline.org. Send résumé with references to "Youth Minister Search Committee," Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 711 W. Hickory Ave., Duncan, Okla. 73533, or e-mail to duncancatholic@sbcglobal.net.

Health Clinic Needs Medical Volunteers

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond has a full appointment book every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. More health-care providers are needed to maintain operation and to expand in the future. Please contact us if you are a physician or ARNP in family or internal medicine or pediatrics. Deacon Lee Hunt, 348-9461, DeaconLee@cox.net, or goodsamaritanofedmond.com.

Financial Representative Openings

The Knights of Columbus has an opening for a financial representative in the Oklahoma City, Lawton and Stillwater areas. This is ideal for a determined, high-energy, high-expectation, professional, self-disciplined, independent individual desiring to serve others, yet earn a better than average income. We provide top-rated financial products to our members and their families and will provide excellent benefits and training. Please contact Kevin W. Pierce, general agent, for more information or an interview at 4001 NW 122nd St. No.827, Oklahoma City, 73120, by phone at (405) 514-7660 or by e-mail at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.

Chapel Part-Time Position Available

Tinker Air Force Base Catholic community coordinator position: The Statement of Work, explaining the position and necessary qualifications for this job (average 20 hours per week), is available at the chapel weekdays. If interested, please pick up a Statement of Work. Once all resumes are collected, the applicants will be contacted to set up a time for an interview, valid applicants will be asked to formulate and submit a bid. The committee will score applicants and their bids on the basis of skills, education, experience, organization/administrative ability and motivation, ministry focus, people focus, and whether reasonable/within budget and value received for the amount paid. Please contact the chapel at 734-2111.

Health Care Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: DCT's - Certified is great, if not we will train. Shifts available are 3 to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 7a.m and float. Dietary aide - Help prepare meals following recipes and menus. Full-time hours available. HTS - To provide specific training to developmentally disabled adults that live in the community. Full-time and part-time hours available. Garden Center manager - Responsible for managing both our greenhouse and gift shop. Background in horticulture, accounting or business preferred. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

School Openings

Faith-Filled First Grade Teacher Needed

St. Eugene Catholic School in Oklahoma City needs a first-grade teacher. If you are an early childhood teacher who would like to teach in a life-giving, pre-3 through eighth-grade school, please send your resume to Suzette Williams, St. Eugene Catholic School, or e-mail Swilliams@steugenes.org.

Dynamic Director for Extended Care

St. Eugene Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for an energetic and joyful director to supervise staff and manage a very vital ministry of our school. This position is for the person who has experience with child care and a zeal for creating a program that is true to our mission. Please send your resume and application to Suzette Williams, St. Eugene Catholic School, or e-mail Swilliams@steugenes.org.

Fifth-Grade Teacher Sought

Sacred Heart Catholic School, El Reno, is accepting applications for a fifth-grade teacher. Must hold certification in elementary education. Please send a resume, attention to Shannon Statton, principal, to 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to (405) 262-3818.

Elementary Teacher Openings

All Saints Catholic School in Norman is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions for the 2009-10 school year: pre-K teacher, junior high religion teacher and technology teacher. The pre-K teacher must hold early childhood certification by the state of Oklahoma. The technology teacher will work in cooperation with the school's computer and network administrator. The teacher is responsible for teaching computer curriculum for students in pre-K through eighth grade. The junior high religion teacher is responsible for teaching reli-

gion as well as elective courses to 140 students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Oklahoma certification is highly recommended, must be an active, practicing Catholic and Archdiocesan Religious education certification must be completed within three years. Please send a resume, attention to Ms. Leslie Schmitt, principal, to 4001 36th Avenue, NW, Norman, Okla. 73072, or fax to (405) 447-4600.

Kindergarten Teacher

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is accepting applications for a kindergarten teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. SEAS is a PK-4 through eighth-grade school. Please send resumes to ahoward@stjohn-catholic.org or call the school office at (405) 348-5364 for more information.

Second Grade and Preschool Openings

Villa Teresa Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions for the fall 2009-2010 school year, second grade and preschool. Applicants must possess an Oklahoma state certificate in the area of elementary or early childhood (for the preschool position). Please call Sister Veronica at 232-4286 for an interview.

English Teacher

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is currently seeking qualified candidates for the 2009-2010 school year for an English position with experience in AP and pre-AP. Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Coaching Openings

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is seeking qualified coaches in the following fields for 2009-2010: volleyball, track and football (assistant with experience). Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Part-Time Music Teacher

Bishop John Carroll School has an opening for the 2009-2010 school year for a part-time music teacher. BJCS is a pre-K through eighth-grade school. Call the school office at (405) 525-0956 for an application or send resume to Connie Diotte, 1100 NW 32nd St., Oklahoma City 73118.

Calendar

MAY

31 **Pentecost Sunday**

JUNE

2 **Genesis to Jesus Scripture Study** at St. Mary's Church in Ponca City. Meet in the McGurk room at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father Schwarz at the parish office at (580) 765-7794.

2 **Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Rosary is said every weekday at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome.

4-5 **Parish Garage Sale** at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 3901 S. Sunnyslane Road, Del City. June 4, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; June 5, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

5 **Holy Family Home Mass**, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie

Changes in Upcoming Sacred Heart Mass

June 5 Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center is canceled due to Ordination.

July 3 Mass is moved to Immaculate Conception Parish.

Regular schedule to resume in August.

Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMH at 741-7419.

5 **First Friday Adoration** at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th in Oklahoma City.

5 **First Friday Sacred Heart Mass** is canceled due to Ordination.

7 **St. Joseph Catholic School Fourth Annual Golf Tournament** at the Pheasant Run Golf Club. To register or for more information, call the school office at (580) 242-4449 or go to the Web page at www.stfrancis-eind.com.

8 **Catholic Foundation Golf Tournament** at Twin Hills benefiting all Catholic education in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese. For more information, go to www.cfook.org.

9 **Catholic War Veterans** (of any war/conflict) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Oswald at Epiphany, (405) 722-2110.

12 **Bingo** at St. Joseph's Parish, Norman, is scheduled for the second Friday evening of every month. A light dinner is served at 6:30 and two sessions of games are played, the first at 7 p.m. and the second at 8:30 p.m.

13 **Knights of Columbus Council 11909, Holy Family, Lawton, town hall meeting and picnic** at 11 a.m.

in the parish hall for all members and prospective members.

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

17-25 **Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus**, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Nat'l Shrine of the Infant Jesus, St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

19 **Michael John Poirier** in concert at St. Peter Church in Woodward. Join us for an evening of songs and stories for the soul.

20 **International Food Fest** at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City at 6 p.m. in the T. Phil Kierl Gymnasium. The dinner benefits the Rosary School Scholarship and Endowment Funds and celebrates the diversity of our faith community. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is located at 1901 N.W. 18th St., Oklahoma City. Dinner tickets will be sold for \$20 each or call Mary Lalli for ticket information, 947-2947.

Catholic Church in Congo Announces \$144 Million Plan to Help AIDS Victims

Democratic Republic of Congo (CNA). — The Catholic Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo has announced a plan to collect \$144 million to be used by Caritas Congo for a three-year HIV and AIDS program. Many of the HIV sufferers are women who had been raped in "acts of war."

Caritas reports that the funds will be used for education and prevention, treatment and care, and for work against the stigma attached to the disease.

There are about 450,000 people infected with HIV in the Congo, with as many as 50,000 of them being children.

In the east part of the country, about 1.5 million people have fled

their homes because of conflict. This has left women and children vulnerable to rape and HIV infection. In 2006, as many as 27,000 sexual assaults were reported in South Kivu Province. About 10 to 12 percent of women who were raped are infected with HIV.

Plans for the program have been drafted with the participation of 47 dioceses in the country. The church's widespread network provides access to communities which don't have a solid health infrastructure, Caritas says.

Dr. Bruno Miteyo, director of Caritas Congo, presented the program at a conference of Congolese bishops in Kinshasa earlier this month. He said that millions of

people affected by HIV or AIDS will benefit.

At the meeting, Congo's government said that faith-based organizations like the church had a strong role to play and affirmed its commitment to addressing the pandemic.

Monsignor Robert J. Vitillo, Caritas Internationalis special adviser on HIV and AIDS, was also in Kinshasa. He recounted to Caritas how he had visited the Mama Yemo Hospital during his trip. There, 60 percent of all patients in the Internal Medical Section are living with HIV.

"The hospital's director told me that patients relied on the special social, emotional, nutritional and

spiritual support offered by church organizations," he said.

"In this new AIDS plan, the church in Congo is providing its resources, expertise, experience and outreach for this work. We have to hope that government, international agencies and sister Catholic donors will make available sufficient resources to Caritas Congo in order to fulfill its mandate.

"The tragic and systematic (use of) rape as a so-called 'act of war' causes even greater vulnerability to contracting HIV among women who already are deprived of control over their lives and prevented from enjoying their God-given dignity," Monsignor Vitillo explained.

All Saints School Breaks Ground on Gymnasium

NORMAN — Construction of a gymnasium at All Saints School in Norman is almost under way after 10 years of planning. Not long after the new school was built, the idea and need for a gym was brought up. The most recent fundraising campaign was extremely successful, raising most of the money needed to build the \$1.2 million facility. The 12,000-square-foot facility will hold a gymnasium, kitchen, PE facilities and office, concession stand and storage. With the addition of this new facility, additional space will be freed up in the main building to house the library and music program. The library and physical education program are currently housed in portable buildings that were brought on-site in 2001.

The school has grown from 160 students in 1996 to 460 during this current school year. The enrollment has outgrown the current school facilities. At this time, the school lacks a space large enough to hold the entire student body, staff and parents.

The student groundbreaking was held May 20 because the students were such an integral part of the campaign. The faculty and staff wanted the students to share in the excitement before they left for summer vacation. The “official” groundbreaking will be held Sunday, June 7 at 3:30 p.m.

Additional funds and in-kind are sought to complete the inside of the facility, gymnasium equipment, bleachers and the full-service kitchen.



Persons wishing to make a monetary or in-kind donation are encouraged to contact Dr. Theresa Bragg at the school at 447-4600 or Father Tom Boyer at 366-7676. Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2010.



Jackson Leon, Bolu Ielboye, Ethan Mitchell and Daniel Worthing all dig together.



The students were told to bring their shovels from home to help with the groundbreaking. Shown: Hadley Moses, Josey Ray, Abby Kernal, Brendan Ezell and Camille Thomas. Photos by Cara Koenig.



Clayton Kinsey, eighth-grade class president, Jerry Meek, Apollo Building Systems, Greg Buwick, chair of All Saints School Advisory Council, and Principal Leslie Schmitt break ground on the new gym site.