

# Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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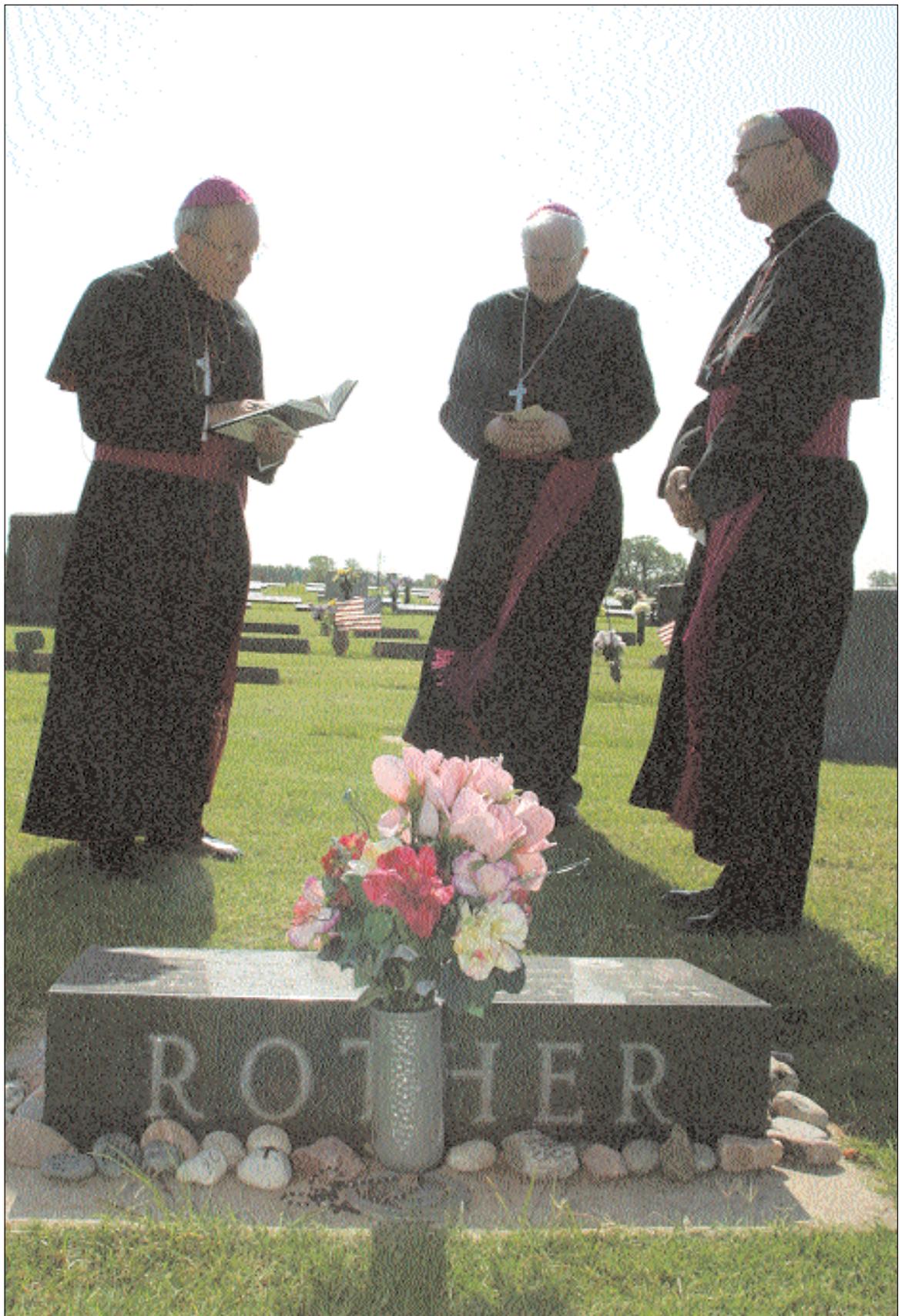
## Bishop's Prayers Offered At Okarche Gravesite of Father Stanley Rother

By Cara Koenig  
*The Sooner Catholic*

OKARCHÉ — On a clear and sunny July 1, Archbishop Beltran and Bishops Edward Slatery of Tulsa and Anthony Taylor of Little Rock gathered at the site of Father Stanley Rother's grave. The three held a prayer vigil for the Oklahoma missionary killed in Guatemala on July 28, 1981. Prayers were said for Father Rother as well as for the souls of the faithfully departed and a prayer asking for the Church to recognize Father Rother as a martyr and saint.

Following the prayer vigil, Archbishop Beltran pointed to the stones that people have begun to place around Father Rother's headstone. Each stone carries a message asking for Father Rother's prayers. All three bishops took a moment to read a few of the intentions, many were deeply moving. Some stones asked for prayers for their families or a loved one's health. Many intentions were for the world, the end of abortion or the end to war. Some were more personal, one read, "I am lonely." Another asked for help forgiving others.

The three bishops then made the short drive to Holy Trinity Church, the home parish of Father Rother. Again prayers were said for Father Rother at a plaque dedicated to him that hangs on the wall. Identical plaques hang in Our Lady's Cathedral as well as the church in Santiago Atitlan. This was Bishop Slatery's first visit to Holy Trinity. He was given a tour and visited the baptismal font where more than 3,000 baptisms have taken place, including that of Father Stanley Rother.



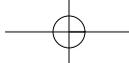
Archbishop Beltran prays with Bishop Slatery and Bishop Taylor at the grave of Father Stanley Rother. At left are the prayer stones people have placed at the gravesite. Sooner Catholic Photos/Cara Koenig



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## The Good News

On that great national holiday, Independence Day, the Fourth of July the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra performed a concert in the park in Yukon. The patriotic music was planned to lead into an hour-long fireworks display. Between the concert and the fireworks, a series of quotations from presidents and other public historic persons were narrated. Those words of history were solemnly accompanied by appropriate music as they confirmed what we already know and cherish. Those quotations served as beautiful reminders of the truths upon which our country was founded. Our great country was established on firm principles which shaped us in the land of the free.

*The basic principles I heard were:*

1. A belief in a good and gracious God who created and sustains the universe.
2. A recognition of the God-given dignity of the human person.
3. An acknowledgement that among the inalienable rights given to human beings are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These fundamental rights come from God and not from the state.
4. The centrality of freedom (liberty) in the human condition.
5. The willingness of patriots to sacrifice to defend the liberty of our land.
6. The existence of good and evil and the responsibility of each person

for his acts, choices and decisions.

7. The need (obligation) of the government to protect human life.

The contrast of those Fourth of July words and the actual situation in our country today flashed at me more strikingly than the spectacular fireworks before me.

When these truths were first spoken, they were stated as part of the vision and hope of our nation. They were proclaimed sincerely by presidents and other national leaders and patriots. Today, they constitute our heritage which we must preserve and defend if we wish to remain the land of the free.

While change is a necessary part of life and history, it is most unfortunate when the change is negative. Change is good when it leads to positive development. It is obvious today that many of the changes we are experiencing are actually threats to our freedom. They are destructive to those principles stated above.

Although many, many Americans still profess a belief in God, there are increasing numbers who have abandoned faith and the practice of religion. Many have substituted false practices or secular attitudes. When the concept of the One, True God, Creator and Redeemer, is ejected from the public square, true respect for the dignity of the human person is lost. If someone doesn't believe in God, he cannot see the Image of God in people. With that perspective, the true dignity

# ... Patriotism

*We should pray daily for our country and its leaders. We must recognize the obligation and privilege we have to vote. Our voting should always be guided by our belief in God and the recognition of the dignity of the human person.*



Archbishop Beltran

of the human being is lost and inalienable rights become arbitrary.

As a church community, we believe in God and are grateful for all the gifts and blessings He has given us. We must express that gratitude in prayer and action. We should pray daily for our country and its leaders. We must recognize the obligation and privilege we have to vote. Our voting should always be guided by our belief in God and the recognition of the dignity of the human person.

What I learned in elementary school many years ago remains true today: Be a good Catholic and you will be a good American.

## Sooner Catholic

Most Reverend  
Eusebius J. Beltran  
Archbishop of Oklahoma City  
*Publisher*

Ray Dyer  
*Editor*

Cara Koenig  
*Layout / Design /  
Photographer*

Mauro Yanez  
*Hispanic Editor*

Ammanda McCabe  
*Staff*

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

**Visit us online through the  
Archdiocesan Web Page at  
[www.catharchdioceseokc.org](http://www.catharchdioceseokc.org).**

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## Seminary Burses

A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by Holy Name Church, Chickasha.

A \$50 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by the Carmelite Sisters of St. Therese.

A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by Joe Kretchmar Jr.

A \$30 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse in memory of George Rund from Gerald and Elizabeth Ivie and Edward and Agnes Kraus.

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by Mother of Sorrows Church, Elgin.

A \$100 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. Eugene Church, OKC.

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse in memory of Jerry Cebulski.

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Totals as of 6/30/2008

# Benedictine Priest Joins Father Rother Canonization Effort

By Ray Dyer  
The Sooner Catholic

Father Albert Bruecken, OSB, pauses from shuffling through a pile of papers to answer the question posed to him. How was it he came to be involved with the canonization effort of Father Stanley Rother?

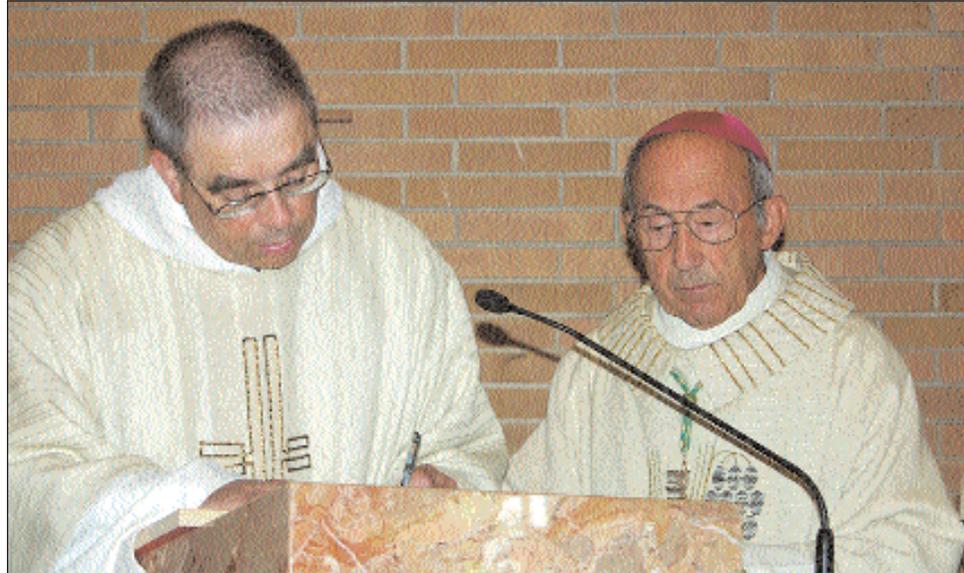
"The hand of God, I would say," Father Bruecken said.

The Benedictine priest, normally found teaching university math and science to seminarians at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo., has been in Oklahoma since mid-June. He was summoned to help with the cause of Father Rother. But he explains it took a series of events to make this possible.

On June 16, Father Bruecken was made a part of the canonization effort when Archbishop Beltran officially swore him in as "Episcopal Delegate in the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Reverend Stanley Francis Rother, regarding his life, virtues and reputation of sanctity." The Benedictine priest replaces Father Anthony Taylor, who was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock on June 5.

Ordained in 1977, Father Bruecken was raised in Des Moines, Iowa, one of five children. The family home was inside the city limits but open spaces were plentiful. A neighbor raised a variety of vegetables on an acre near their home. While Father Bruecken didn't grow up a farm kid as did Father Stanley Rother in Okarche, he did see up close some of what goes into planting and harvesting food from the earth.

Father Bruecken's abbey had cleared his schedule for the summer in order to help care for his 89-year-old mother, who had suffered a serious



Father Albert Bruecken, OSB, signs his oath as Archbishop Beltran looks on during Mass on June 16.

stroke. But when his mother died on Holy Saturday, it meant he now had little on his plate for the summer.

So, when Archbishop Beltran called Conception Abbey seeking assistance with the Father Rother canonization effort, Father Bruecken was the logical choice.

"I can blame Mom for getting me into this," he said with a laugh.

Father Bruecken is well versed in Father Rother's life and death. Over the years he has instructed a number of Oklahoma seminarians, now archdiocesan priests, at Conception. Father Edward J. Weisenburger, V.G., and Father Tim Luschen are two that immediately come to his memory.

He calls Father Rother's 1981 martyrdom in Guatemala "a worthy cause" for canonization and hopes the Oklahoma-born priest will indeed one day be proclaimed a saint by the Catholic Church.

It is Father Bruecken's duty to

spend the summer days interviewing people who knew Father Stanley Rother, both as a priest and before he was ordained. He is bound by confidentiality and can't give details concerning the interviews, but he did say it's obvious Father Stanley Rother was a man of great love, strength and compassion.

"Father Rother knew the great danger he was in and still he was willing to remain in Guatemala and minister to his people," Father Bruecken said. "He was not a political person; he was simply doing his job as a priest."

As Father Bruecken holds up a 2-inch-thick manila folder, it's equally obvious how in-depth the interview process can be.

"This is one interview," Father said. "It was translated into three languages, English, Spanish and Tzutuhil." Father Bruecken does not speak Spanish fluently. "I can say Mass in Spanish, but that's about it." He relies on support

from Ana Romero in the Archdiocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry for the Spanish translation. The translation to Tzutuhil is done in Guatemala.

Father Bruecken said there is a great lesson for Catholics in the life and death of Father Stanley Rother. He called him a true role model.

"Was he squeaky clean, no," Father Bruecken said. "I think his brothers and sisters would attest he was a bit rambunctious when he was young, which is certainly normal. He even was known to have a bit of a temper at times." But Father Bruecken said Father Rother's parents were serious people and serious about their faith and that was something they passed on to their children. He described Father Rother as a very quiet person.

"I think Oklahomans can feel proud," Father Bruecken said. "Not that the way he died wasn't awful, but how he lived and how he died." He said Father Rother's life and death are wonderful examples of living one's faith.

An avid baseball and sports fan, Father Bruecken said it's important the Church and society have people like Father Rother, "people who are willing to die for what they believe in."

"It's important for Oklahomans and people in the United States to have role models other than the Michael Jordans, the Tiger Woods and the Mickey Mantles," Father Bruecken said. Nothing against these celebrities, but Father Bruecken said, people such as Father Rother, Mother Teresa and John Paul II stand for something more meaningful than celebrity. That something he's talking about is the courage to live a life of faith, even if it means losing one's life.

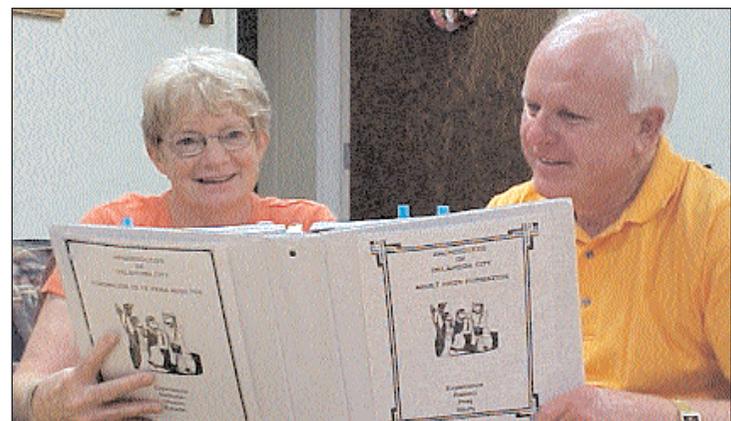
## AD Appeal 2008

Before this update of current progress, let us first revisit the theme "Open Your Heart to God's Love." Have you begun your personal journey through life with Him at your side? Have you told God you love Him, lately? How can we not love the "One" who has given so much because of His love for us? Peace and happiness will come into our life as our personal relationship with God grows and matures. A relationship so great that we will find ourselves sharing God's love and gifts in many different ways. These changes will not happen suddenly. It will be a gradual process as we learn to open up, to accept His love, to bring Him into our daily life, and to rely on His help to make decisions about how to live our life.

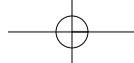
During this year's appeal, nearly 10,400 families and individuals con-

tinue or are beginning their personal journey of growth in God's love. They are sharing their gifts and helping His family. Almost 3,000 of that number are new participants who have accepted the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to play a special role in God's family. Together all of these families and individuals have pledged a total of \$3,084,449. Of that amount, \$2,086,508 has been paid as of July 15, 2008.

Once again, the staff of the ADF Appeal would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Archdiocesan Development Fund. Your continuing support throughout the year is extremely important to the many ministries and the operations of this Archdiocese. If you are still searching for a way to share your gifts and would like to make a pledge, please call the ADF Office and we will assist you in your donation, (405) 721-5651.



Task Force members Peggy Dooley and Harry Kocurek review the new Adult Faith Formation resource binder. The binder includes information on speakers, short courses and retreat/spirituality offerings, available in both English and Spanish, and has other materials to support adult education in the parish. Every parish is invited to send two representatives to the first presentation of this resource. This event will take place on Aug. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bishop McGuinness High School, 801 NW 50th, OKC. The presentation will be offered in English and Spanish. Archbishop Beltran will speak. Each parish will receive two copies of the resource binder. Information and registration forms have been faxed to every parish. Ask your pastor or catechetical leader for more information. You may register by calling the Office of Religious Education, (405) 721-1415, or the Office of Pastoral Ministry, (405) 721-4208.



# Pope: Paul's World Not So Different Than Ours

VATICAN CITY, (Zenit.org). — Benedict XVI says the world and culture in which St. Paul lived and preached is not so different from that of today.

The pope affirmed this in a reflection on St. Paul at the general audience held in St. Peter's Square. The pontiff explained that today's catechesis is the first in a series of teachings for the newly inaugurated Pauline Jubilee Year, which runs through June 29, 2009.

"In this, our first meeting," he said, "I would like to pause to consider the environment in which he lived and worked. Such a topic would seem to take us far from our time, given that we must insert ourselves in the world of 2,000 years ago. And yet, this is only apparently and partly true, because it can be verified that in many ways, the socio-cultural environment of today is not so different than that of back then."

Benedict XVI proposed that Paul would have been evaluated by a "double attitude" in regard to his Jewish culture: There were those who admired the Jews for the way their beliefs and lifestyles set them apart from the environment, and those who disdained them for this.

"Paul himself was the object of this double, contrasting evaluation," the pope said.

And yet, he added, the "particularity of the Jewish culture and religion easily found a place within a reality as all-pervasive as the Roman Empire. More difficult and trying was the position of the group of those Jews and Gentiles who adhered in faith to the person of Jesus of Nazareth, insofar as they were distinguished both from Judaism and the prevailing paganism."

### Three cultures

The pontiff noted two other factors that affected Paul's situation.

First, he mentioned "the Greek, or rather the Hellenistic culture, which after Alexander the Great became the common patrimony at least of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, though integrating within itself many elements of peoples traditionally regarded as barbarians."

And second, "the political-administrative structure of the Roman Empire, which guaranteed peace and stability from Britain to southern Egypt, unifying a territory of a dimension never before seen. In this space, one could move with sufficient liberty and security, enjoying among other things an extraordinary road system, and finding in every point of arrival, basic cultural characteristics that, without detriment to local values, represented in any case a common fabric of unification.

Hence, the Holy Father affirmed: "The universalistic vision typical of St. Paul's personality, at least of the Christian Paul after the event on the road to Damascus, certainly owes its basic impetus to faith in Jesus Christ, inasmuch as the figure of the Risen One goes beyond that of any particularistic restriction. [...] Yet, the historical-cultural situation of his time and environment also influenced his choices and commitment.

"Paul has been described as a 'man of three cultures,' taking into account his Jewish origin, Greek language, and his prerogative of 'civis romanus,' as attested also by his name of Latin origin."

### Stoics

The bishop of Rome then focused on another element of the Pauline world that affected the apostle: "Stoic philosophy, which prevailed in Paul's



St. Paul

time and also influenced, though marginally, Christianity."

"When Paul writes to the Philippians: 'Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things,' he does no more than take up a strictly humanist concept proper to that philosophical wisdom," the pope said.

He continued: "In Paul's time, there was also a crisis of the traditional religion, at least in its mythological and also civic aspects. After Lucretius, already a century earlier, had controversially stated that 'religion has led to so many misdeeds,' a philosopher such as Seneca, going well beyond any external ritualism, taught that 'God is close to you, he is with you, he is within you.'

"Similarly, when Paul addressed an auditorium of Epicurean philosophers in the Areopagus in Athens, he says literally that 'God does not live in shrines made by man ... but in him we live and move and have our being.'

"With this, he certainly echoes the Jewish faith in one God that cannot be represented in anthropomorphic terms, but he also follows a religious line with which his listeners were familiar."

Furthermore, the Holy Father noted, it was not uncommon for pagan intellectuals of the time to worship not in the official temples of the city, but in private places. In this way, Christian worship in homes "must have seemed to their contemporaries as a simple variation of this more intimate religious practice," he said.

Finally, the pope affirmed that "all of us today have much to learn" from St. Paul.

"This is the objective of the Pauline Year," he said, "to learn the faith from him, to learn from him who Christ is, to learn, in the end, the path for an upright life."

## Pauline Year Will Have Ecumenical Dimension

VATICAN CITY, (Zenit.org). — Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the year of St. Paul in celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

The Holy Father explained during his homily: "This 'Pauline Year' will take place in a special way in Rome, where for 2,000 years under the papal altar of this basilica, lies the tomb that according to experts and undisputed tradition has conserved the remains of the apostle Paul."

The pontiff said: "In the papal basilica and Benedictine abbey attached to it, there can take place a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all of them inspired by Pauline spirituality.

"Special attention can also be given to pilgrims who from various places will want to go to the tomb of the Apostle in a penitential way in order to find spiritual benefits.

"Meetings for study will be promoted and there will be special publications on Pauline texts, to promote the immense richness of the teaching contained in them, true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ.

Benedict XVI explained that this year must have an important "ecumenical dimension."

"The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all Christians," the pope said.

"May he guide us and protect us in this bimillenary celebration," he added, "helping us to advance in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of the mystical body of Christ."



Father Joe Uhen of Santisimo Sacramento Parish, Piura, Peru, and two Peruvian missionaries, Freddy Cornejo and Ginet Ambulay, will visit St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond on Aug. 16-17. The Peru Mission Board will host a fiesta dinner following the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Aug. 17.

## Applications Now Being Accepted Diaconate to Start New Formation Class

The office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will start a new deacon formation class in the fall of 2009. If you feel that you have a calling to holy orders and believe that you are called to serve beyond your current role within your parish, you may want to explore the permanent diaconate.

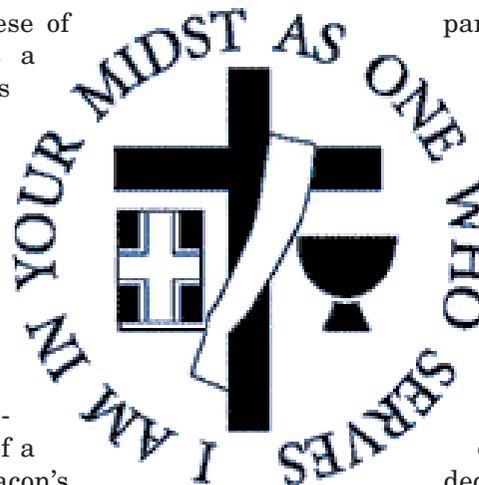
There are still many misconceptions about the role of a deacon in the Church. A deacon's primary role is a ministry of service. Today in our Archdiocese we have more than 80 active deacons. They serve as prison chaplains, hospital chaplains, parish administrators, directors of religious education, directors of inquiry for the Catholic faith (RCIA) and work in many areas of charity within the Archdiocese. Deacons do marriage and baptism preparation, baptize people, serve as the Church's witness to Catholic marriages, teach adult education, plan and officiate at funerals, preside at communion services in the absence of a priest, take communion to and visit shut-ins and nursing home residents, and generally help

with various functions within the parish and diocese.

Deacons do not take the place of a priest. Deacons are ordained to serve the people of the archdiocese.

The deacon receives the sacrament of holy orders but in most cases, does not function in the order as his full-time occupation. A deacon must support himself and his family in a normal job. He offers service as a deacon, by dedicating 10 to 12 hours each week to the work of the church.

Are you a person who feels the call to serve the universal church in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City? If you are a male between the ages of 35 and 60, a member of the Roman Catholic Church for at least five years, are actively serving in your parish and are either single or have been in your marriage for at least five years, you may have the calling to be a deacon. To learn more about the diaconate, call the director, Deacon Max Schwarz, at (405) 263-4760. The process of application takes about a year. Applications for the next class will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2008.



## Mustang Parish Celebrates Anniversary

By Carolyn Cole

MUSTANG — As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, Holy Spirit Catholic Church invited the entire town of Mustang to a free community-wide pancake breakfast in honor of the congregation's silver anniversary.

Parishioners served up pancakes, french toast, sausage and ham, along with juices and coffee at the church, 1100 N. Sara Road.

A few dozen people gathered for Holy Spirit's first Mass July 2, 1983, at the local funeral home. Now the congregation numbers almost 400 families, and parishioners are outgrowing the church and parish center, which they have called home since November 1985.

Holy Spirit's 25th anniversary falls during a time of growth and expansion for the church. The congregation has just finished a new entryway project.

In honor of the milestone, 75 volunteers worked to build the Celebration Pavilion, nestled on Holy Spirit's grounds. Construction was funded through private donations, and skilled volunteers donated more than 2,000 hours of their time to finish the 2,350-square-foot

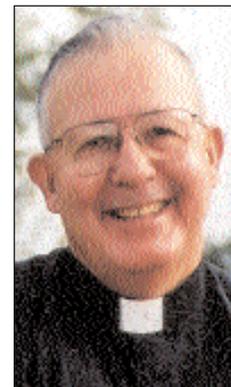
covered picnic facility, complete with lighting and ceiling fans. The pavilion was designed so future leadership could enclose the facility to hold classrooms or a fellowship hall.

For Holy Spirit, the pavilion and entryway projects are just the beginning. The congregation is saving money to build a new sanctuary on its property. Plans call for the existing church to be transformed into a family center.

Under the leadership of Father Jim Greiner, Holy Spirit offers more than a dozen ministries, including social action groups, which help support local nonprofit organizations and the community.

Holy Spirit has expanded the number of Masses offered, including a weekly Mass celebrated in Spanish.

Carolyn Cole is a writer for the Mustang News.



Father Jim Greiner

### THE ABC'S OF A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

**A** Charitable Gift Annuity is a contractual agreement, between a donor and The Catholic Foundation, in which the donor transfers assets in exchange for a promise of annuity payments for life.

**B**y donating through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you contract for a fixed payment for yourself and make a gift to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. If you itemize deductions on your tax return, savings from the charitable deduction reduce the net cost of the gift to the Archdiocese.

**C**an a Charitable Gift Annuity work for you? After reviewing the chart below, contact The Catholic Foundation for additional information on the mutual benefits of donating through a Charitable Gift Annuity.

Age of Annuitant	60	65	70	75	80
Annuity Rate	5.50%	5.70%	6.10%	6.70%	7.60%
Annual Payment	\$550	\$570	\$610	\$670	\$760
Charitable Deduction*	\$2,540	\$3,225	\$3,807	\$4,344	\$4,856

\*Deductions vary with periodic changes in the IRS Discount Rate - Assumed Rate is 3.0%



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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR FAITH

# Safe Injection Sites More Like Safe Enabling Sites

So-called “safe injection sites” are special buildings where drug addicts can go to shoot up illegal drugs without fear of arrest or prosecution. Such a facility has been operational in Canada on the east side of Vancouver for several years, and drug abusers from around the area come to receive clean needles, ampules of sterile water, swabs for cleaning injection sites, Band-aids, ascorbic acid powder (to cut the drugs with), and small metal spoon tools. The Canadian government has been funding this site and is in the process of renewing the funding. Other municipalities like San Francisco and New York have also been considering instituting such sites. Many groups are opposed to these drug zones, seeing them as cooperating in, if not directly promoting, a practice that is clearly unethical and highly damaging to society. They argue that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for places where people can use illegal drugs and destroy their lives.

The idea behind the safe injection sites is to reduce the collateral damage from drug abuse. Proponents argue that since addicts have begun to use the safe injection sites, the crime rate on the east side of Vancouver has fallen, and that the rates of HIV and hepatitis have declined because clean needles have been made available. Because nurses can keep an eye on addicts after they shoot up in the facility, they say that deaths by overdose will decline, since ambulances can be called more easily

than if drug users were shooting up alone in a darkened alley. They further claim that the needle exchange program can allow users to remain healthy until they get help for their substance abuse problem. There is even a priest who has penned a kind of defense of these sites, writing, “Some people would say you’re giving them the OK. I disagree with that because I think the implication is that we’re dealing with people who can make choices. When they’re addicted, that’s a whole different kettle of fish.” In other words, drug users, like fish, have no free will.

While drug addiction certainly puts a major dent in human freedom, it would be false to conclude that an addict can’t make choices. The only reason there is any hope left for an addict is because he still has a small and diminishing space of freedom that he can act on, allowing him to decide whether or not to begin a new journey. He can choose to take the first step along the road leading away from addiction toward rehabilitation. Our public strategy for dealing with drug addiction must always show great sensitivity toward that tiny space of freedom that remains in each individual struggling with addiction. After all, it is precisely this freedom that sets us apart from our animal counterparts. Public policy should not contribute to shrinking that space of freedom even further through approaches that enable destructive behaviors and greater addiction.

The widely touted claim that safe injection sites reduce collateral damage from drug abuse is itself dubious. Researcher Garth Davies, at the conclusion of an extensive analysis of the question, notes how safe injection sites are “too often credited with generating positive effects that are not borne out by solid empirical evidence.” The claim that crime rates dropped in Vancouver following the opening of the safe injection site may have resulted from the injection of 60 police officers into the area when the facility opened (including four officers stationed immediately outside the facility), rather than from the injections occurring at the facility itself. He concludes, “In truth, none of the impacts attributed to the safe injection facilities can be unambiguously verified.”

Public funding should be directed toward rehabilitation programs rather than safe injection sites. Some argue that safe injection sites may themselves, on occasion, afford the opportunity to lead addicts toward rehabilitation. Yet there is a contradiction between enabling the addiction on the one hand and promoting rehabilitation on the other.

This contradiction may be seen very clearly in what our society has learned about treating alcoholism.



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Most of us have seen — even among our families and neighbors — how destructive the addiction to alcohol can be. Not only can it ravage a person’s life, but it can also destroy their family, lead to loss of employment, and, even, in some cases, endanger the lives of others through drunken fits or drunken driving. We’ve also seen how many alcoholics have been helped by 12-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous, where the accumulated wisdom of millions of former addicts recognizes clearly that the only way they can conquer their addiction is through supporting each other never to have another drink. Imagine that, instead of supporting programs like AA and alcoholic rehabilitation centers, a government were to establish bars where alcoholics could come to get drunk, by providing clean glasses, furniture and bathrooms, healthy hors d’oeuvres and munchies, and police protection so that they couldn’t be robbed in dark alleys. Would any of us really think that this would be promoting their rehabilitation? Those who struggle with substance abuse are deserving of public policy initiatives that rehabilitate rather than enable the addicted individual.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).*

# Immigration Reform Focus of National Conference

WASHINGTON — Comprehensive immigration reform will be a major topic at the 2008 National Migration Conference, “Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice,” to be held July 28-31 at the Hilton Washington Hotel.

“The issue of immigration is one of the most controversial domestic concerns facing our country,” said Kevin Appleby, director of Migration and Refugee Policy at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “The Holy Father spoke about the human side of the issue several times during his April visit. The conference will examine the issue in-depth and hopefully provide conference participants more insight into it and how the Church can make a positive contribution to the national debate.”

In his keynote address on opening night, Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles will speak on the current national immigration debate and give participants a blueprint for engaging in the debate and creating the political will for comprehensive reform.

Professor Manuel Suárez-Orozco, an expert on international migration from New York University, will give a detailed presentation on global migration patterns and their root causes, linking them to the current U.S. situation.

On Tuesday, July 29, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement Julie Myers will speak and answer questions on the recent government enforcement raids around the country.

In the afternoon, several workshops will focus upon immigration and the need for reform. Two successive workshops — “Back to the Future: Strategies for Comprehensive Immigration Reform” and “Back to the Future: Comprehensive Reform and Messaging” — will revisit lessons learned from the loss of reform in 2007 and steps necessary to win new reforms in 2009 and beyond. The second workshop will look at proper messaging to influence Catholics and others and to counter the anti-immigrant rhetoric

often used by opponents of reform. The Justice for Immigrants Campaign, the U.S. bishops’ effort to educate Catholics on immigration, will host a reception Tuesday night.

Also on Tuesday afternoon, a workshop titled “Catholic Teaching and Migration” will focus upon Catholic teaching as the underpinning for the Catholic position on immigration. “All of our work on migration is grounded in Catholic social teaching. Catholic teaching determines the advocacy positions we take, the people we serve and the way we structure our programs,” said Donald Kerwin, executive director of Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC), which co-sponsors the event.

The workshop will feature a talk by Father Daniel Groody of the University Notre Dame, on the core principles of Catholic social teaching; Jill Gerschutz of the U.S. Jesuit Conference will apply these principles to the current policy debate; and Kerwin will be speaking on what Catholic teaching has to say

about the competing visions of nationality that underlie the immigration debate.

Immigration reform will also be a topic for Advocacy Day, Wednesday, July 30, when hundreds of participants will visit their legislators on Capitol Hill. Nearly 700 people from all parts of the country have registered to participate in the conference. The USCCB Migration and Refugee Services and CLINIC co-sponsor these large-scale gatherings every five years to help their networks become more technically proficient, to solidify their ties to colleagues in the field, and to bring a collective voice to bear on Capitol Hill. “Above all, however, these gatherings are intended to remind all of us why we do the work we do,” added Kerwin.

The conference will include several presentations on faith and migration and the USCCB’s Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church will offer several workshops on providing pastoral care and welcoming to newcomers.

# Parishioners Say Thank You to Father Matthew J. Brown, OSB

By Kelly Matteson  
For the Sooner Catholic

WEWOKA — It is not often that a priest gets to remain in one parish for 29 years, but Father Matthew J. Brown, OSB, did so at Saint Joseph's, Wewoka. Father Matthew celebrated his last Masses as pastor of Saint Joseph's, Saint Mary's, Wanette, and Sacred Heart, Konawa, where he has served the last 10 years and resided, on June 15.

After 50 years in parish pastoral ministry, Father Brown once again resides at Saint Gregory's Abbey where he began as a novitiate after completing two years at Saint Gregory's College.

Often recognized for his good sense of humor, Father laughed during Mass on his 85th birthday as he told parishioners about his first meeting with the church secretary at Sacred Heart.

The secretary asked his age. When Father told her he was 75, she said, "Well, you ought to be good for 10 years."

Sacred Heart parishioners held a reception in honor of Father on his 85th birthday, March 16. Three days later, he celebrated his 59th anniversary as a priest, and he said he has had many interesting experiences during this time.

"In 1949-1958, I was in Our Lady's of Lourde's Catholic Church in Los Angeles, Calif., and I used to hear 100 confessions every week," Father Brown

said. "Every other week, I'd have baptisms. This one time, I had 14 baptisms at one time. Weekends out there, I used to hear 100 confessions every weekend."

It is these experiences of which Father is most proud. As Father Brown reflected on his time as a priest, he pointed out a Sacred Heart parishioner who had joined the church a year ago. He said bringing people into the church is one of the most rewarding parts of his vocation.

"I received her into the church here. So, this is one of the good-feeling things — to receive someone into the church," Father said.

His parishioners have many good feelings for their priest, too.

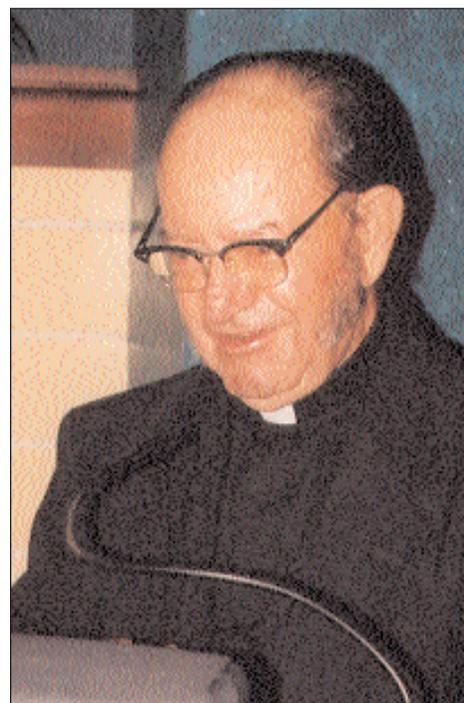
Sacred Heart parishioner Kathy Lowrey described Father as a gentle spirit, speaking often of his humility. She said he was always true to his Benedictine beliefs, living his faith.

"If people just sat down and got to know him, they couldn't help but fall in love with him," she said.

Saint Joseph's parishioner Patti Edwards said there was a time when, as a working mother, she did not make it to church regularly. Edwards recalled how Father Brown would always inquire about her absence. She said he always acted out of care and concern.

"He was instrumental in getting me to come back to the church on a regular basis," Edwards said.

Saint Joseph's parishioner Paul Loeffelholz said one of Father Brown's



Father Matthew J. Brown, OSB

most significant contributions during his time as pastor was building a new church.

"(Father Brown) was always real particular about keeping the properties up," Loeffelholz said. "He built this chapel (Saint Joseph's Catholic Church) in Wewoka. He bought an old school building over at Bearden and had it hauled over here to Wewoka. All of us guys got in there and ripped it out, rebuilt it and put the paneling on the walls inside. The only thing that we hired done was the bricking and the roofing. (Father) was right in there,

making sure everything was done right."

One of Father's favorite parts of caring for the church property was mowing. Kathy Lowrey's husband, Tim, was in charge of keeping Father Brown's lawn mower running.

Kathy Lowrey said Father loves to mow, and he did not just mow around the church, but also the cemetery and the mission grounds if time allowed.

Loeffelholz said Father was like part of the family. He recalled one particular visit Father had made to the Loeffelholz home on a Sunday afternoon, when Loeffelholz's granddaughter, Amber, was only 4 or 5 years old.

"She was sitting there looking out the front door and Father Brown parked out front, got out and was coming up the front steps, and Amber turned around kind of nonchalantly and went back to her mother and said, 'Mom, God's here,'" Loeffelholz said.

Father Brown's work has enabled others to see God in him as well. Kathy Lowrey spoke of the challenges Father faced as he said Mass despite the pain he endured in his knees.

"You knew he was in pain, and he never complained," she said. "It teaches you a lot of humility."

"For me, he definitely affected my spiritual life. I didn't used to go to daily Mass, but I felt like I needed to. If he could go and be in pain like he was and say Mass, then surely I could give up a little sleep."

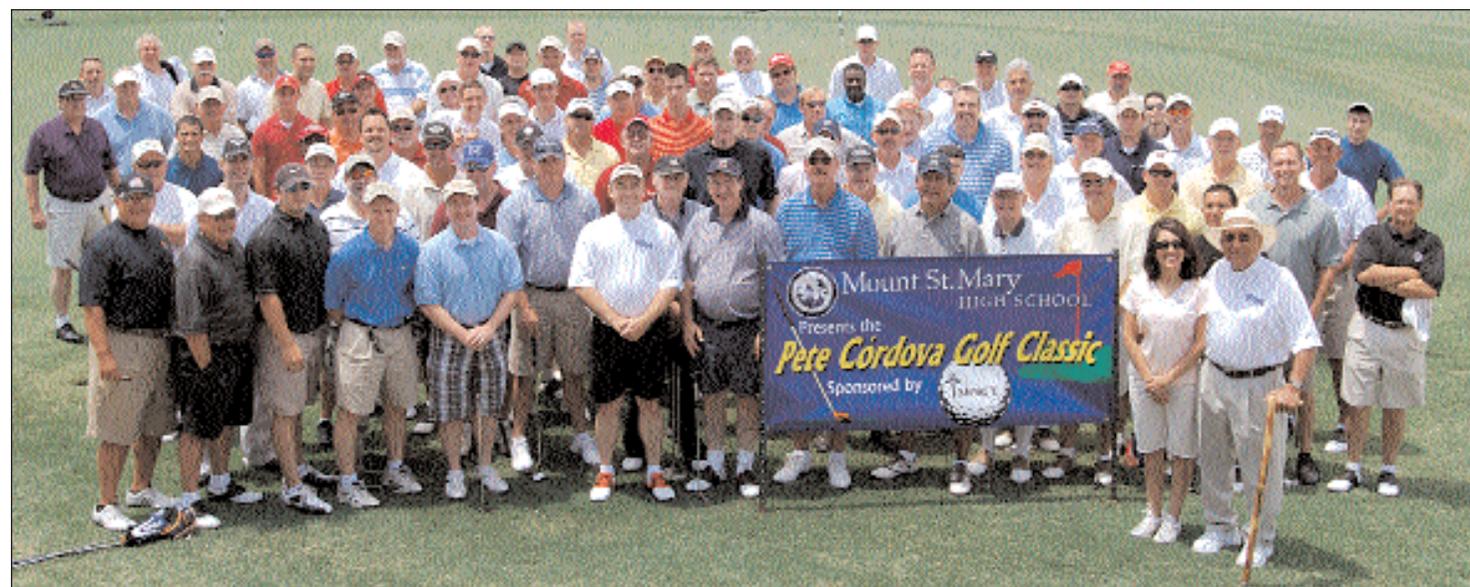
# Mount Celebrates Successful Pete Córdoba Golf Classic

On June 16, the Pete Córdoba Golf Classic sponsored by Mercy Health Center celebrated its most successful year, with 115 golfers and a record amount of money raised to support Mount St. Mary High School. The Córdoba Golf Classic is a 21-year tradition that brings together alumni, family and friends of the school. This year, golfers enjoyed the beautiful setting of The Greens Country Club in northwest Oklahoma City.

"Our goal was to put on a first-class golf tournament to cultivate alumni and friends of The Mount to join us in an afternoon of fun and fellowship that supports a worthy cause," said Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement at Mount St. Mary High School. "The name Pete Córdoba stands as a cornerstone of character, integrity and leadership. To have a record number of golfers at this year's tournament is a tribute to him and to the worthy mission of Mount St. Mary High School."

Twenty-nine teams competed for fun, bragging rights and prizes that included a 37-inch plasma TV donated by Audio Dimensions.

Proceeds totaling \$14,000 go di-



rectly to build the Pete Córdoba Endowment Fund for tuition assistance at Mount St. Mary High School, to college scholarships to graduating Mount seniors, and to support Alumni Association events such as class reunions.

In addition to the lead sponsorship of Mercy Health Center, the Pete Córdoba Golf Classic could not have been possible without the generous

support of our partners in mission, which included lunch sponsor BancFirst, putting green sponsor Tyler Media, driving range sponsor John and Melanie Maguire, and golf cart sponsor Keith and Rosa Crall of Benchmark Construction.

Other partners included Mark Wolf of Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance, CareSource, Affiliated Movers of Oklahoma City Inc., McCorkle Truck

Line Inc., Golconda Foundation Inc., Spectro Wire and Cable Inc., Mollman Energy Company, Cooper Medical Buildings, Brandt's Ace Hardware in Ponca City, Oklahoma Energy Services Inc., G & R Auto Parts, Byford Auto Group, Wegener Human Resources Group, Buchanan Realty Group, Mark Tomlinson Agency of Farmers Insurance, Christian Brothers Automotive, and Ferguson Pontiac GMAC.



# Shawnee Parish Thanks Benedictine Monks For More Than A Century of Ministry

By Alex Lee  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

SHAWNEE — After providing pastoral care to Saint Benedict Catholic Church for 113 years, Saint Gregory's Abbey has abdicated administrative and staffing responsibilities of the parish to the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

In addition to the Shawnee parish, Saint Gregory's Abbey is also withdrawing all Benedictine monks from other parishes in Pottawatomie and Seminole counties.

The sole exception is the Sacred Heart Church in southern Pottawatomie County. Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., abbot of Saint Gregory's Abbey, said that Sacred Heart will remain a parish of the Benedictine monks of Saint Gregory's Abbey because of its tradition with the Benedictine community and its proximity to the historical site of the original monastery complex.

Citing that the decreased number of monks available to serve in residential ministry has necessitated the abbey to withdraw its personnel, Abbot Stasyszen said also that today's inquirers about the abbey feel called to experience the life of prayer and work in the context of the monastic community and not as pastors living away from the monastery.

Abbot Stasyszen noted that the abbey will remain committed to furthering and developing Catholic higher

education at St. Gregory's University.

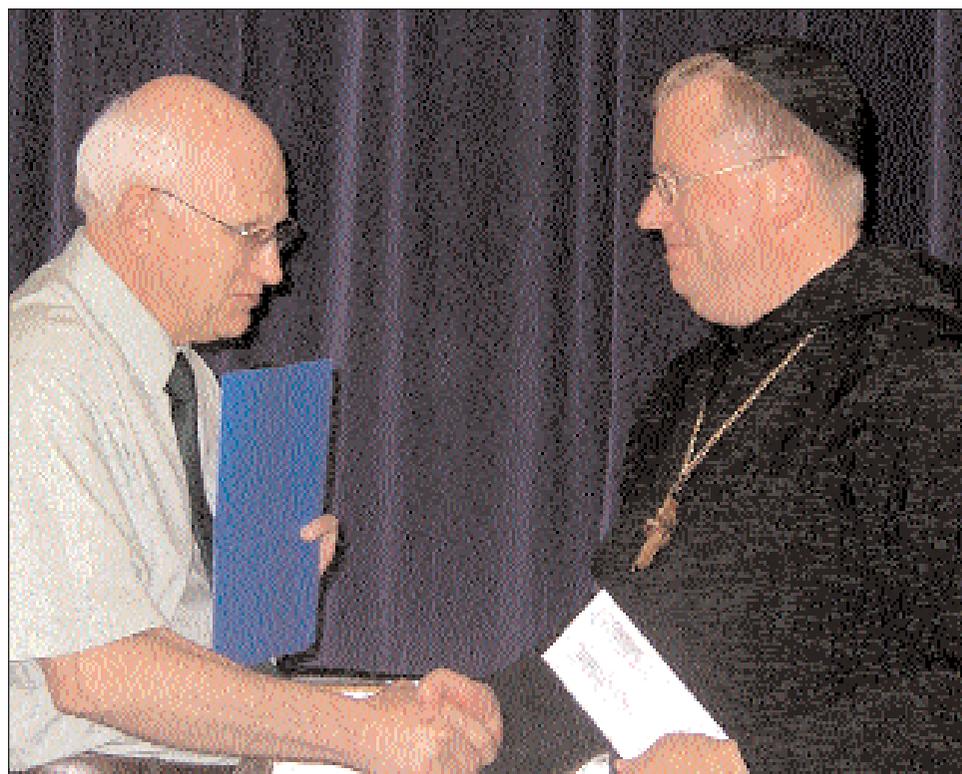
"We will focus on preparing members of our (monastic) community to serve in various capacities at the university," he said. "We will also continue to provide weekend assistance in parishes throughout the state."

The Benedictine monks first came to present-day Oklahoma from the Monastery of Pierre-Qui-Vire in France prior to statehood. They arrived at Atoka, Indian Territory, in 1875, and began ministering to American Indians and other peoples who were moving into the region.

They eventually settled on land donated by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and founded Sacred Heart Abbey and School (now known as Saint Gregory's Abbey) near Konawa. From this base, they established more than 40 Catholic churches throughout the territory. And for more than a century, the Benedictine monks have faithfully served many parishes, convents, military chapels, prisons and hospitals across Oklahoma, especially the churches of Pottawatomie and Seminole counties. In addition, they also serve the Montebello and east Los Angeles parishes in California.

Due to shifting populations and pastoral needs, Sacred Heart Abbey was subsequently relocated to the campus of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee in 1929.

Saint Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee was founded by Rev. Felix



Deacon David Schrupp presents a check on behalf of the parishioners of Saint Benedict Church to Abbot Stasyszen during an appreciation lunch. The money will be used to erect a granite monument listing the 40-plus towns where Benedictine monks have established parishes in Oklahoma since 1875. Photo by Alex Lee

DeGrasse in 1895. The original church was built on North Park Street between Ninth and Tenth streets. The current edifice on North Kickapoo was completed in 1907. It is the home parish for more than 600 families in the northern two-thirds of Pottawatomie County.

In commemoration of the Benedictine ties with the Shawnee parish, Abbot Stasyszen celebrated all Masses at Saint Benedict Church the weekend of May 31 to June 1 as a formal ritual marking the transition of pastoral care to the archdiocese.

An appreciation lunch was held after Mass on June 1 at the Benedict Center in recognition of the dedicated witnesses and pastoral ministries the Benedictine monks have provided to

the peoples of the Indian Territory and the states of Oklahoma and California. The lunch was attended by several hundred parishioners as well as monks from Saint Gregory's Abbey.

To express their gratitude to the Benedictine monks, Deacon David Schrupp presented Abbot Stasyszen with a monetary gift on behalf of all parishioners for the erection of a granite monument to be built in front of the chapel on the campus of St. Gregory's University. The granite monument will bear the outline of the state of Oklahoma, with the names of the 40-plus towns where the Benedictine monks have established parishes after their arrival in 1875. A landscaped plaza and a walkway will also be built around the monument.

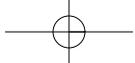
## Oklahoma Parishes Founded by the Monks of Sacred Heart Abbey / Saint Gregory's Abbey

Konawa/Asher, Sacred Heart-1876  
Lehigh, Our Lady of Good Counsel-1884  
Krebs, St. Joseph's-1884  
N. McAlester, St. John's-1886  
Pawhuska, Immaculate Concept.-1887  
Purcell, Our Lady of Victory-1887  
Hominy Creek, St. John's-1889  
Edmond, St. John the Baptist-1889  
Oklahoma City, St. Joseph's-1889  
Guthrie, St. Mary's-1889  
El Reno, Sacred Heart-1889  
Kingfisher, Sts. Peter & Paul-1889  
Ponca City, St. Mary's-1890  
Norman, St. Joseph's-1890  
Hennessey, St. Joseph's-1890  
Lexington, St. John the Baptist-1891  
Muskogee, Assumption-1891  
Coalgate, Blessed Sacrament-1891  
Anadarko (Mission), St. Patrick's-1892  
Perry, St. Rose of Lima-1893

Mulhall, St. Agnes-1893  
Langston, Holy Family-1893  
Hartshorne, Holy Rosary-1893  
Tecumseh, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-1893  
Anvil, St. Michael's-1894  
Minco, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-1895  
Shawnee, St. Benedict's -1896  
Eason, St. Gregory's Mission-1897  
Wanette, St. Mary's-1897  
Chandler, Our Lady of Sorrows-1897  
Durant, St. Williams-1898  
Boggy Depot, Sacred Heart-1898  
Chickasha, Holy Name-1898  
Geary, St. Joseph's-1899  
Calumet, Immaculate Heart-1900  
Anadarko (parish), Holy Family-1901  
S. McAlester-1904  
Maud, St. Cecelia-1907  
Wewoka, St. Joseph's-1908  
Seminole, Immaculate Conception-1908



Benedictine monks from Saint Gregory's Abbey who attended the formal ritual marking the relinquishment of the abbey's pastoral care of Saint Benedict Church after 113 years are front row, Father Manuel Magallanes, Brother Kevin McGuire, Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, Father Martin Lugo and Brother Dominic Ramirez; (back row), Father Adrian Vorderlandwehr, Father Eugene Marshall, Father Louis Van der Ley, Father Maurus Jaeb, Brother Damian Whalen and Brother Benet Exton. Photo by Alex Lee



## Fatima Statue to Visit Oklahoma Parishes



The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will be hosting a tour of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the month of August. The statue is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, Aug. 2, and will depart from the Archdiocese on Friday, Aug. 22. The mission of the travels of the statue is to spread Our Lady's message that was given to the children of Fatima and to bring the presence of Mary to the people.

The history of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima began in 1946. Under the suggestion from Sister Lucia, a statue was created to be used as a pilgrim statue. The statue was blessed on May 13, 1947, and began its journey. The statue has a full-time guardian and has never stopped traveling.

Various miracles, favors and signal graces have occurred in the presence of the statue.

During the visit of the statue, the guardian will provide a 25- to 30-minute presentation about the message of Fatima. Each parish involved will have its own schedule of events to occur while the statue is at that location. This may include the celebration of Mass, adoration, praying of the Rosary, or a combination of events.

The list of locations that the statue is currently scheduled to visit can be found on the calendar of events section. There are several dates open during the time that the statue will be here. If a parish has received a letter of invitation and has not yet

responded, or if a parish would like to receive the statue but did not receive a letter of invitation, contact Jennifer McKay at (405) 823-8906 by Aug. 1. For more information about the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, visit [www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com](http://www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com).

### Calendar

Please see parish bulletin for times

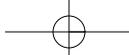
- 08/02/08 - **St. Peter**, Guymon
- 08/03/08 - **St. Peter Church**, Woodward
- 08/05/08 - **Church of St. Mary**, Ponca City
- 08/06/08 - **St. Joseph**, Bison
- 08/07/08 - **Sts. Peter & Paul**, Kingfisher
- 08/08/08 - **St. Matthew**, Elk City
- 08/10/08 - **St. Patrick**, Anadarko
- 08/11/08 - **Holy Family**, Lawton
- 08/12/08 - **St. Helen**, Fredrick
- 08/14/08 - **St. Thomas More**, Norman
- 08/15/08 - **St. John the Baptist Church**, Edmond
- 08/17/08 - **Christ the King**, Oklahoma City
- 08/18/08 - **Sacred Heart**, Oklahoma City
- 08/18/08 - **St. Eugene Church**, Oklahoma City
- 08/19/08 - **Our Lady of Fatima Church**, Nicoma Park
- 08/19/08 - **Holy Family Maternity Home**, Midwest City
- 08/21/08 - **St. Wenceslaus**, Prague

## Saint Andrew Parish Fun in the Summer Sun



*Parishioners at Saint Andrew Church in Moore turned out June 29 for the annual parish picnic. Families, Food and Fun was the theme for this year's picnic. Youth and adults enjoyed a number of activities including the watermelon-eating contest and the animal balloon-making tent. Photos/John Prati*





# Catholic Youth Enjoy Summer Camp, and Writer Finds She Does, Too

By Ammanda McCabe  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Our Lady of Guadalupe looks in many ways like a typical summer camp. Cabins, swimming pool, lots of trees. As I stood in the dining hall at the start of breakfast, watching ravenous crowds descend on the two food lines, I felt like I'd been thrown back to my own teenage camp days. The smell of sunscreen, chlorine, bacon, the sound of loud music, laughter, chatter — all so familiar.

But in reality, it's not just any camp. It's a place to find the spirituality of God in the every day, which was the theme I kept hearing throughout the day from everyone I talked to. I wandered around the lush green campgrounds, taking in all the activities — archery, canoeing, swimming, volleyball, crafts. Even in the busiest of moments, starting with outdoor morning prayer under the trees, that presence of God was apparent. (Just maybe not in the most visible ways — many of the arrows went wide of the target, and the canoes tended to row in circles, but everyone was having fun and helping each other!)

Stephanie Woods, 26, is the camp nurse for the third summer. An RN at Deaconess Hospital in Oklahoma City, she has been coming to OLOG since she was 9, and always looks forward to returning. "I can't stay away!" she said, as she distributed bandages and morning medications after breakfast. She started out as a teenager working in the kitchen, and moved up to counselor-in-training, counselor, and the YA staff. It's a legacy, too, as her young cousin attended camp for the first time this summer. When asked what brings her back, she answered, "It's seeing God through different people, through nature. So often you see someone who may be struggling themselves, still reach out and help others. It's inspiring."

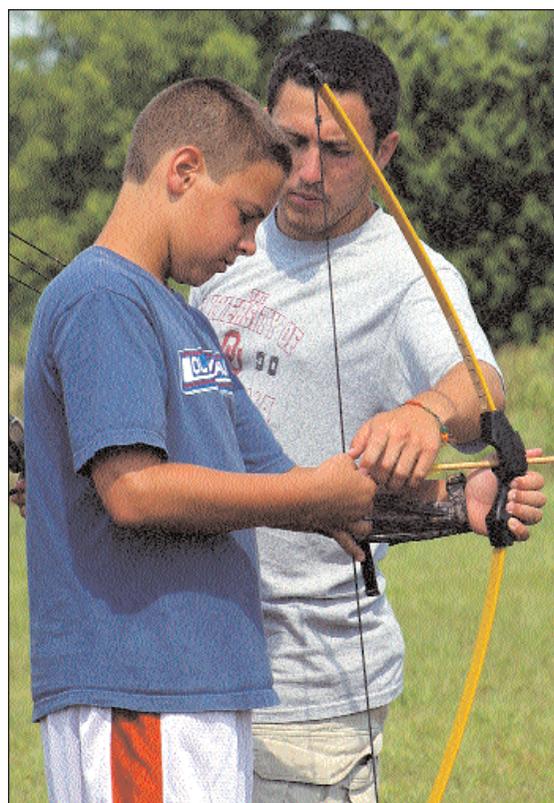
Seminarian Danny Grover, who is working this summer on the mission team, says the best part of the job is "Mass every day. You don't get that working in a restaurant!" He also enjoys organizing the nightly camp fires and special events, like camp Olympics.

When I needed a break from the sun, I headed back to the dining hall to sit in the air-conditioned room and talk with a group playing games of Battleship and working on crafts. Being 12-year-olds, there was some shyness and giggling when I asked what they liked best about camp. One girl said it was the food (not something often heard at summer camp, and a testament to the excellent kitchen staff!). They also answered "Making new friends" and getting to know people they might not encounter in their everyday lives. "Lots of stuff to do" and "basketball" were also mentioned. Yet they all agreed that they like the prayers and daily Mass, and the way they can find God in the beauty of the nature around them.

I had so much fun reliving summer camp for the day! It was a great privilege to see the energy and enthusiasm of the young campers, and to hear about their closeness to God there in nature and with each other. I wonder if OLOG might need another volunteer next year...



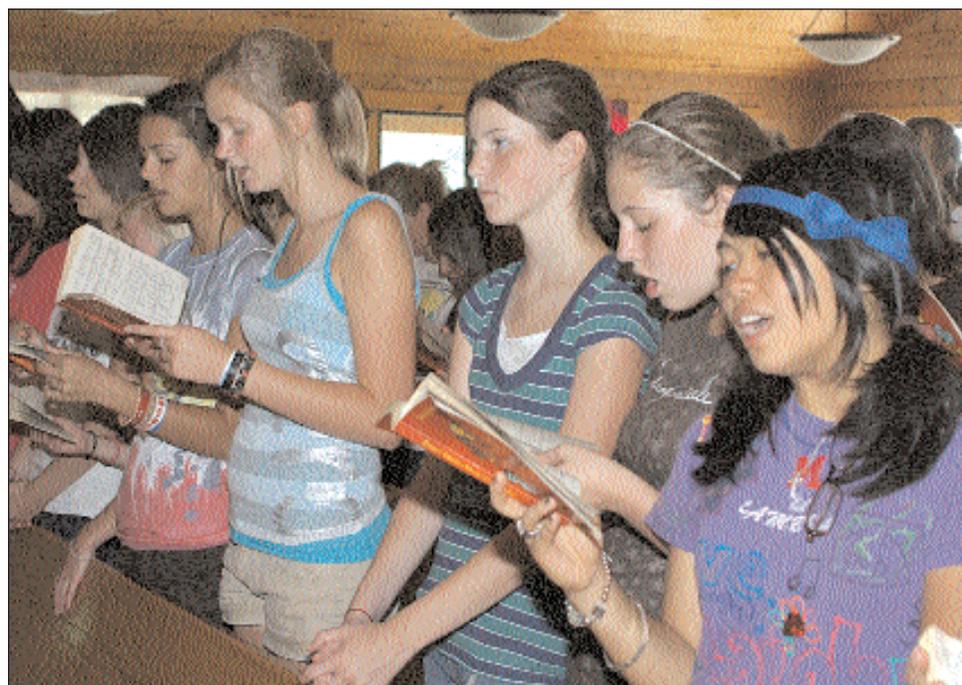
*Seminarians Brian Buettner and Danny Grover with Zak Spitz and camp director Nancy Housh serving breakfast for the campers.*



*Left: Counselor Justin Linck teaches John Schafer how to use a bow and arrow during archery. Above, four-square is a way of life at camp. RarLey Ledet takes her turn before Mass. Photos Sooner Catholic / Cara Koenig*



*Campers have the opportunity to canoe and fish on one of the five ponds at camp.*



*Daily Mass is part of what makes OLOG different than other camps.*

# Guymon Parish Celebrates Centennial With Mass on June 29

GUYMON — Saint Peter Church celebrated its 100th anniversary with an array of activities June 27-29. On Sunday, the Feast of Saint Peter and Paul, Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass as 1,000 people packed the Texas County Activity Center. Following Mass a catered dinner was held at the Pickle Creek Reception Hall.

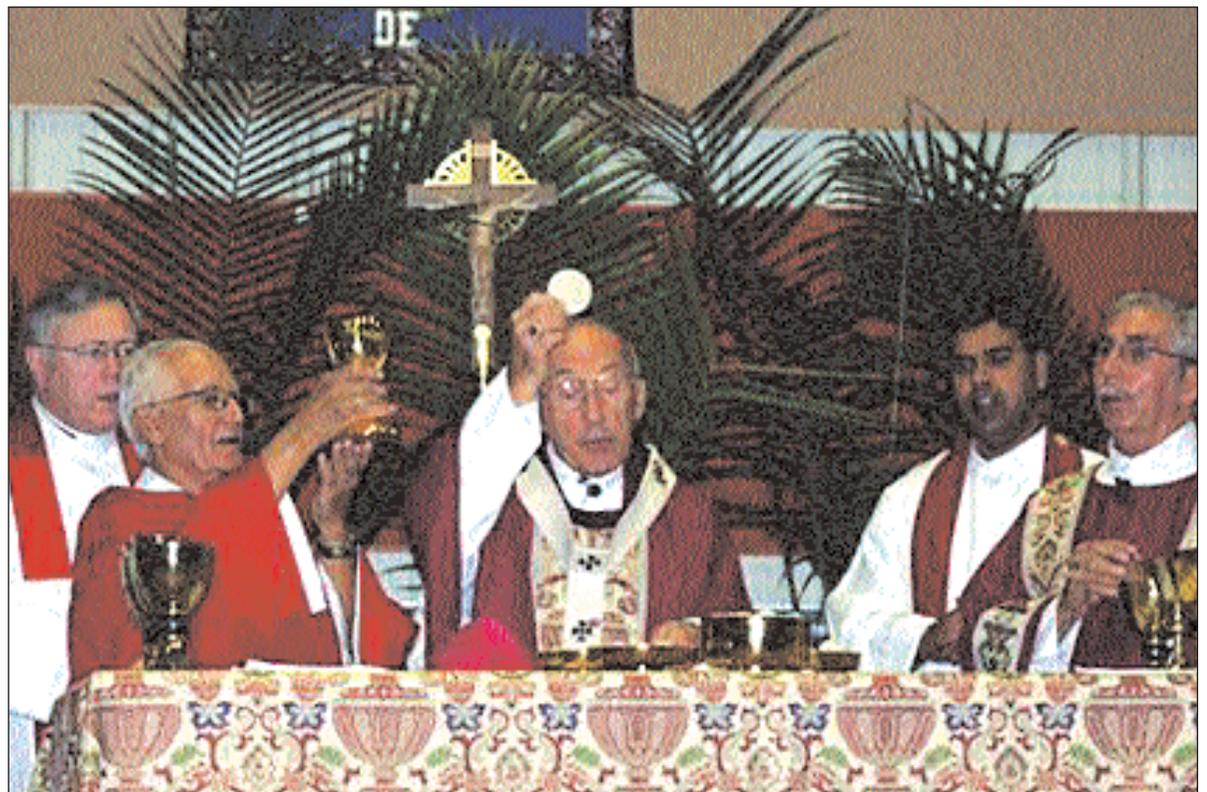
In his homily, Archbishop Beltran told the Catholic faithful their history in Guymon is part of the universal Church and their faith is a gift from God.

“Today’s important feast day of Saints Peter and Paul and your celebration of the centennial anniversary of your parish help us to appreciate more fully the great gift of our Catholic faith,” Archbishop Beltran said. “This gift was given to us at the moment of our baptism. It was then that Almighty God washed away our sin and gave us a share in His own life.”

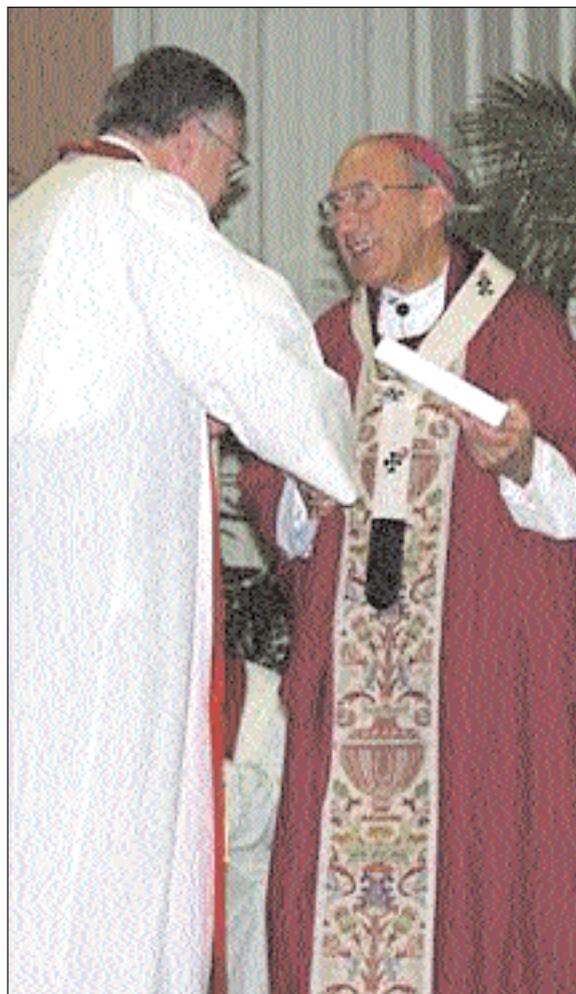
Father Bill Pruett, pastor at Saint Peter, said the centennial celebration began Friday evening with a reception for priests who have served throughout the years at Saint Peter. Priests attending included Father Joe Burger, Father Joe Kolb, Father Don Wolf, Father Steve Hamilton, Father Chuck Murphy and Father Roberto Quant.

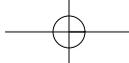
Saint Peter is mission to Saint Frances Cabrini Church in Beaver, Church of the Good Shepherd in Boise City and Sacred Heart Church in Hooker.

Father Pruett said Texas County in the Oklahoma Panhandle is home to more than 3,000 Catholic families. He is assisted by associate pastors, Father Raul Sanchez and Father Anthony Raj Ram.



*Above, Archbishop Beltran celebrates Mass for the faithful of Saint Peter Church. At left and below, the archbishop greets members of the Saint Peter faith community during the centennial celebration held on the Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul. Below left, Father Bill Pruett thanks Archbishop Beltran and presents him with a gift.*





# St. Eugene Church Celebrates 50 Years

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Eugene Catholic Church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a weekend of activities to recognize its past and look toward the future. The weekend celebration from Friday, May 30 through Monday, June 2 included a founding members dinner, a parish picnic, an outdoor anniversary Mass and a Mass on the feast of Pope Saint Eugene.

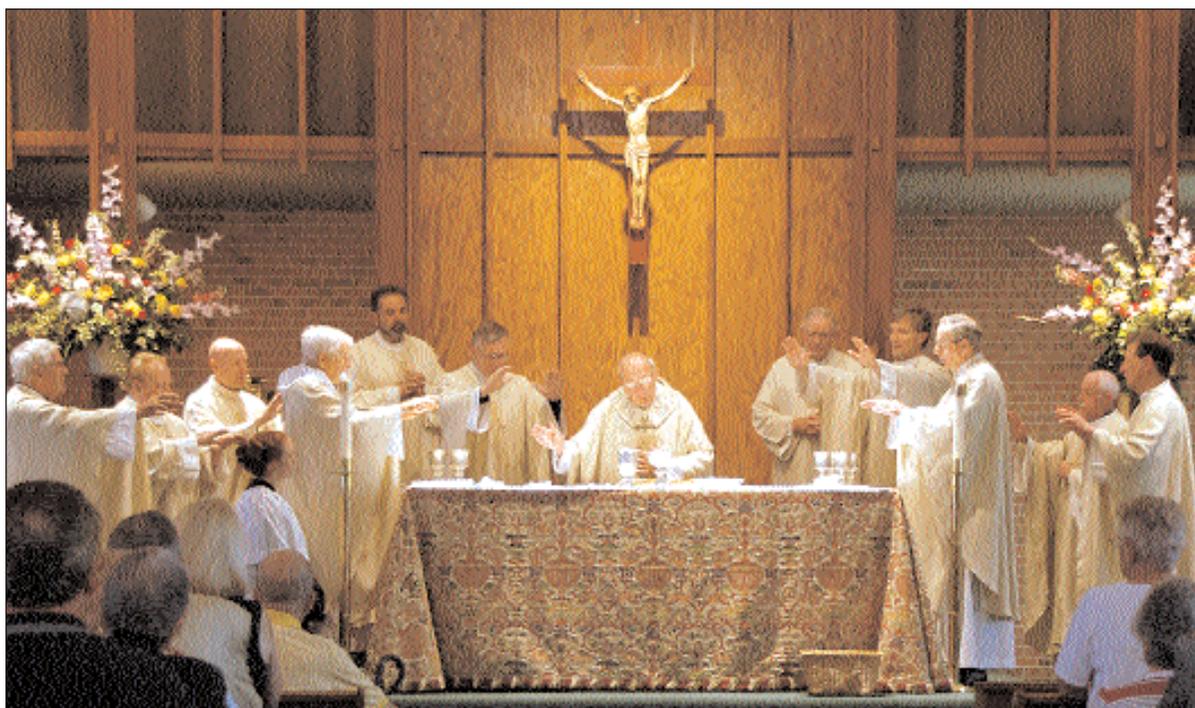
Eighty-five founding members, past priests, religious and staff gathered for the founding members dinner on May 30 in which founding members received certificates honoring the “living stones” who first built the parish. Each member will have a personalized stone placed in the new Founders Garden. Those gathered for the dinner shared memorable stories of the parish’s early days, and they had the opportunity to view the time capsule that was buried by founding member Jim Steffen in 1983.

The Knights of Columbus prepared some 600 hamburgers and hot dogs on May 31 for the parish picnic, which was organized by the Community Life Commission. More than 600 joined for food and fun. The RCIA class and their sponsors served the food, and the Saint Eugene Seniors served lemonade.

Sunday’s outdoor Mass on June 1 celebrated Saint Eugene’s diversity. The musical selections featured both English and Spanish, as did the Liturgy of the Word and the Homily. More than 850 parishioners, including founding members, were in attendance. The concelebrants included Father Joseph Jacobi, Father Bill Ross, Father Bill Pruett, Father Jerry MacAulay, Father Rick Parker, Father Frank Wrigley, Father Phil Donohoe and Father Stephen Bird. Each has served as either pastor or associate pastor of Saint Eugene’s.

Archbishop Eusebius Beltran, 40 priests, several deacons and about 200 parishioners gathered June 2 to celebrate Mass on the feast day of Pope Saint Eugene, the parish’s patron saint. In addition to the many former pastors and associate pastors in attendance were former parishioners Father Rex Arnold and Father Kirk Larkin. Also, William Turner was one of the altar servers, and he had just received word that he had been accepted to study for the priesthood as a seminarian.

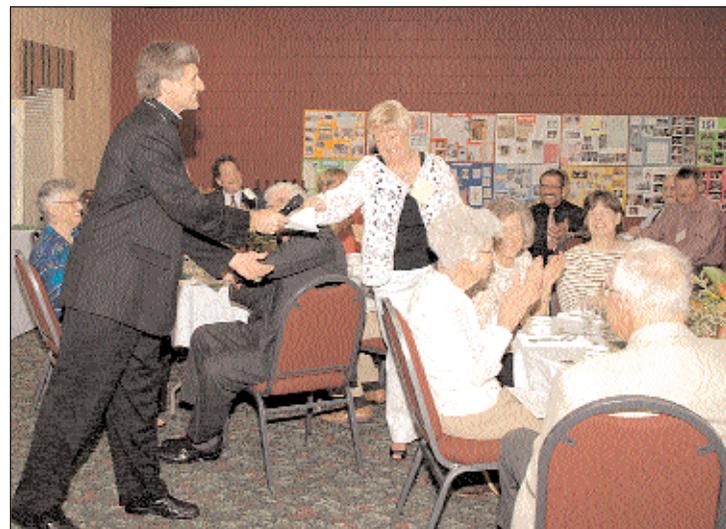
A formal anniversary banquet is scheduled for Sept. 20 at the Beacon Club. Also, the parish is still trying to locate founding members. If you need information about the Sept. 20 banquet or if you have information about founding members, call the church at (405) 751-7115.



*Past and present pastors of St. Eugene’s Parish concelebrate the anniversary Mass with Archbishop Beltran.*



*There were many activities at the parish picnic for the children including bubble blowing.*



*At the Friday night founding members dinner, founding members received certificates honoring them and their dedication to the church.*



*Hundreds attended the outdoor Mass on Sunday.*

## Catholic Roots Used by Author *St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores Needs You*

By **Ammanda McCabe**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Oklahoma resident Sandra Wilkins's novel *Ada's Heart* started with a friendship. She met two women while working at a Ponca City bookstore. "I liked the fact that even though we had different personalities, we were still good friends," Wilkins said. She just had to find the right setting for those three characters, Ada, Rose and Gwen, and decided on Shawnee in 1905.

*Ada's Heart* is the story of actress Ada Marsh, who arrives in bustling Shawnee in 1905 with her acting troupe. After a scandal involving her fiancé, Ada decides to leave her old life behind and settle in Shawnee. She befriends two young ladies, Gwen and Rose, along with Gwen's handsome cousin, Luke Logan, who has to earn Ada's trust before he can earn her love.

Wilkins was also inspired by her own family history in creating this story. Her ancestors, the Marak and Schiltz families, were early members of St. Benedict's Church in Shawnee, and Wilkins wanted to use the building of the church as a backdrop for

her book. St. Benedict's was dedicated May 12, 1907, and in 1905, the parishioners were holding fundraisers for its construction. Wilkins found an old newspaper article describing a "Catholic Fair" held in downtown Shawnee. They sold "fancy work and useful articles" as well as flour, eggs and butter. They also sold chances for high-ticket items, including an Angora goat! Wilkins also used historical sites like the Norwood Hotel and the Santa Fe Depot (used on the book's cover).

Wilkins, who is a parishioner at St. Michael's in Meeker, says her faith is very important to her. "I have set each book in the series around a Bible verse," she said. The one used in *Ada's Heart* is Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Wilkins added, "I feel God gave me a gift, and I've tried to develop it over the years. I am a true believer that with hard work, dedication, and in His time, with God, all things are possible!"

*Ada's Heart* is available through Avalon Publishing, [www.avalon-books.com](http://www.avalon-books.com), and at Amazon.com.

## *St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores Needs You*

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store needs volunteers and can use as much or as little time that you have to give. Call (405) 917-5999 or (405) 602-0011 and talk with the store manager, Kathy, to set up a time. We have two locations, N.W. 10th Street and N.W. 23rd Street in OKC. Remember that your donation of goods or time will help the less fortunate with food, clothing, utilities and much more. Please come and help. Volunteers needed for: truck drivers, people to help sort clothing, toys and houseware as well as helping with laundry, checking electronics, pricing items, arranging merchandise on the sales floor as well as wash dishes and clean merchandise. Special talents that are needed are carpentry, plumbing and manual labor when needed. Clerical help is also needed for making phone calls, thanking, asking for volunteers, organizing volunteers, typing and writing thank you letters from home and much more. Hours of operation are Mon-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed Sunday.

### *Sister Rosina Mies Celebrates 60th Anniversary*

Sister Rosina Mies, ASC, celebrated her 60th anniversary at the Wichita Center on June 7. Sister Rosina made her first profession of vows at the Wichita Province on July 1, 1948.

Sister Rosina Mies was born in Mount Hope, Kan., to Mathias and Rosa Helen Bergkamp Mies. She entered the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in December 1946.

Since 1958 when Sister received her nursing degree, she has devoted her life to health care, primarily at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid where she began as a nurse, then returned in 1970

and served 25 years as a nursing manager. In 1995 she began her current position there as manager of medical/surgical.

She also served several years at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa as surgery supervisor and at St. Francis Hospital in Washington, Mo., as a staff nurse.



*Sister Rosina Mies, ASC*

## Across Oklahoma

### **Twin Beds Needed**

The Refugee Department of Catholic Charities is in need of twin size bed mattresses and box springs, and twin size bedding for refugees arriving this month. Bed frames are also needed, especially twin size frames. Other items needed are toiletries, hygiene products, etc. If pickup is needed, please call 523-3002 to arrange for a time. Tax donation forms are also available.

### **Maternity Clothing Needed**

Birth Choice of Oklahoma is in need of summer maternity clothing. The clothing can be dropped off at any Birth Choice office, 4701 S. Western (OKC), 5106 N. Rockwell (Bethany), 11C Burton Place (Edmond), or 457 W. Gray (Norman). If any items need to be picked up, please contact the South Office at 631-4477. We are very appreciative of any and all donations!

### **Volunteers Needed**

Birth Choice needs registered nurses, licensed practical nurses as volunteers to do ultrasounds on women who might be considering abortion. You can help save a life. Over 90 percent of women choose life when they are able to see their baby via ultrasound. Interested? Volunteers are needed in all offices, Bethany, Edmond, Norman and south Oklahoma City. Call Pat at 330-2111.

### **Hymnals Free to Good Home**

St. Philip Neri Parish is giving away hymnals to a parish in the Archdiocese that can use them.

These are Gather Comprehensive, first edition (1994)

- Pew edition: approximately 300
- Choir edition: 37
- Organ accompaniment, 2 vols. (landscape)
- Guitar accp, 4 vols. (spiral bound)
- Keyboard accp, 2 vols. (3-ring binder, 8.5x11)
- C instrument

Please call the parish office at 737-4476 if you are interested in receiving these hymnals.

### **Midwest Catholic Family Conference**

WICHITA, Kan. — The Midwest Catholic Family Conference will be held Aug. 1-3 at Century II in Wichita, Kan. Father Frank Pavone discusses life issues; Teresa Tomeo tells you how to steer your family away from the harmful effects of media overload; Andrew Pudewa addresses how music influences your life; Rebecca Dussault, Olympic skier, encourages you to keep godly priorities in your family life; Jim Stenson brings you the ins and outs of effective parent leadership. The weekend brings special time for worship with Mass, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and the outdoor Eucharistic Procession on Friday evening. Program information and registration available at [www.catholicfamily-conference.org](http://www.catholicfamily-conference.org) or from brochures located in the Parish Office. You may also register at the conference for the weekend or for a day. For more information, contact Kevin Regan at 316-618-9787 or [midwconf@cox.net](mailto:midwconf@cox.net).

### **Summer Retreat at St. Gregory's Abbey**

SHAWNEE — Called to Attention: Reflections on Frederick Buechner's Telling the Truth Retreat, facilitated by Father Charles Buckley, OSB, Aug. 1-3. Cost of retreats: \$75/person includes lodging, meals and registration. Contact [cjbuckley@stgregorys.edu](mailto:cjbuckley@stgregorys.edu).

### **40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration**

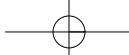
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Eugene Parish in Oklahoma City will hold a 40-hour Eucharistic Adoration Devotion Aug. 18-20 in connection with the visit of the International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to our parish. St. Eugene is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a parish. We will make the Eucharistic devotion in thanksgiving and prayer for the future of our parish. All are welcome.

### **Bishop John Carroll Golf Classic**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop John Carroll 10th annual Golf Classic, Aug. 23 at Lincoln Park West Course. Shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. Visit [www.bjcspto.golfreg.com](http://www.bjcspto.golfreg.com) to register or to become a sponsor or contact Roger Brown at 990-3585 or [omegaroyalty@coxinet.net](mailto:omegaroyalty@coxinet.net).

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Take the time to make a difference in your marriage. Spend a weekend building on this most sacred sacrament. The next weekend in Oklahoma City is Oct. 24-26. Contact Dan or Jean Forgue at (405) 760-0390 or (405) 760-0349 or e-mail [partpeople@att.net](mailto:partpeople@att.net) for more information.



# Red Plains Monastery Celebrated 40th Anniversary June 21

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Sisters of Benedict at Red Plains Monastery celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ministry and service in Oklahoma on June 21, at the Church of the Epiphany. In addition, three of their Sisters celebrated their Jubilees. Sister Eunice Ballmann celebrated 60 years; Sister Elena Hernandez celebrated her golden Jubilee with 50 years; and Sister Roberta Schachle, who could not be present, also celebrated 60 years.

Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass in recognition of the anniversary. Concelebrating were Abbot Lawrence Stasyszyn, Father Price Grimes, Father John Feehily, Father John Metzinger, Father Don Wolf and Father Joseph Jacobi.

Growing up in St. Louis, Sister Eunice Ballmann always wanted to be a Sister, and this was strengthened when two Benedictine Sisters from Oklahoma visited her high school. A year after graduation, she entered the Benedictine Community. Sister Eunice is “thankful each day that I discovered Benedictine monastic life in Oklahoma, and have carried the Good News of the Gospel to the many children I taught in parish and vacation Bible schools.”

Sister Roberta Schachle also knew at a young age what her path in life would be. She grew up in Canute with seven brothers and sisters, and joined the community at Guthrie after college in 1945. “My life in Community is where I have worked and developed my gifts and talents,” she says, and those talents include the beautiful pottery she still works on.

Sister Elena Hernandez came from Irapuato, Mexico, and entered St. Joseph Convent in Tulsa in 1956. Twelve years later, she joined in establishing Red Plains Monastery. “I am the ‘elder’ member in my community,” she says, and after 18 years serving as pastoral minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hollis, she was glad to return in 1993.

In his homily, Archbishop Beltran commented on the Sisters’ early service at St. Joseph Monastery in Tulsa, where they were “schooled in Benedictine spirituality” in a “time of social change,” and praised their years of devoted service. They continue still their lives “as religious women dedicated to the Lord. You introduce people to Jesus and accompany them on their pilgrimage of faith,” the archbishop said. “May each of you continue this journey of faith to life everlasting in heaven!”

Sister Janice Futrell thanked everyone who contributed to making the anniversary such a success, and said, “Even as we affirm the past in our celebration today, so too do we look to assuring the future — hoping that our presence as a community of prayer and hospitality engaged in spiritual life ministries can be sustained.”

A reception was held following the celebration in Bryce Hall.



*Sister Eunice Ballman and Sister Elena Hernandez renew their vows before Sister Jan Futrell, prioress.*



*Abbot Lawrence Stasyszyn, OSB, shares the Sign of Peace with the Benedictine Sisters.*



*Sister Elena Hernandez, OSB, and Sister Gertrude Nagel, OSB, deliver the gifts during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.*



*Many faithful supporters of the Benedictine Sisters attended the celebration.*

# Villa Celebrates 75th Anniversary with Fun and Games

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa School celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 20 at the school at 1216 Classen Drive. More than 500 people attended, with more than 400 hamburgers and hot dogs served. Attendees could choose from a wide variety of games, including water balloons, decorating the new driveway with chalk, making murals from butcher paper to cover the walls, and bouncy toys with a background of bagpipe music from the band Arbroath. “The bingo was especially popular!” said Villa Teresa Principal Sister Veronica Higgins. “Everyone had a wonderful time.”

Villa Teresa was established by the Carmelite Sisters of St. Therese in 1933, with the present school built in 1950 and expanded over the years. It

is still a private Catholic school owned and operated by the Sisters, serving children ages 2 1/2 through fourth grade. Attendance is growing every year at the school, which emphasizes volunteerism and service, liturgical celebrations, the fine arts and technology, in addition to a traditional educational curriculum.

“Smart Board technology is already used in the first- through fourth-grade classroom, and we’re adding them to the kindergarten class this summer,” said Sister Veronica.

Villa Teresa provides a before- and after-school program as well as year-round education.

The anniversary celebration will continue with more events throughout the year, including the annual carnival the last Saturday in October.



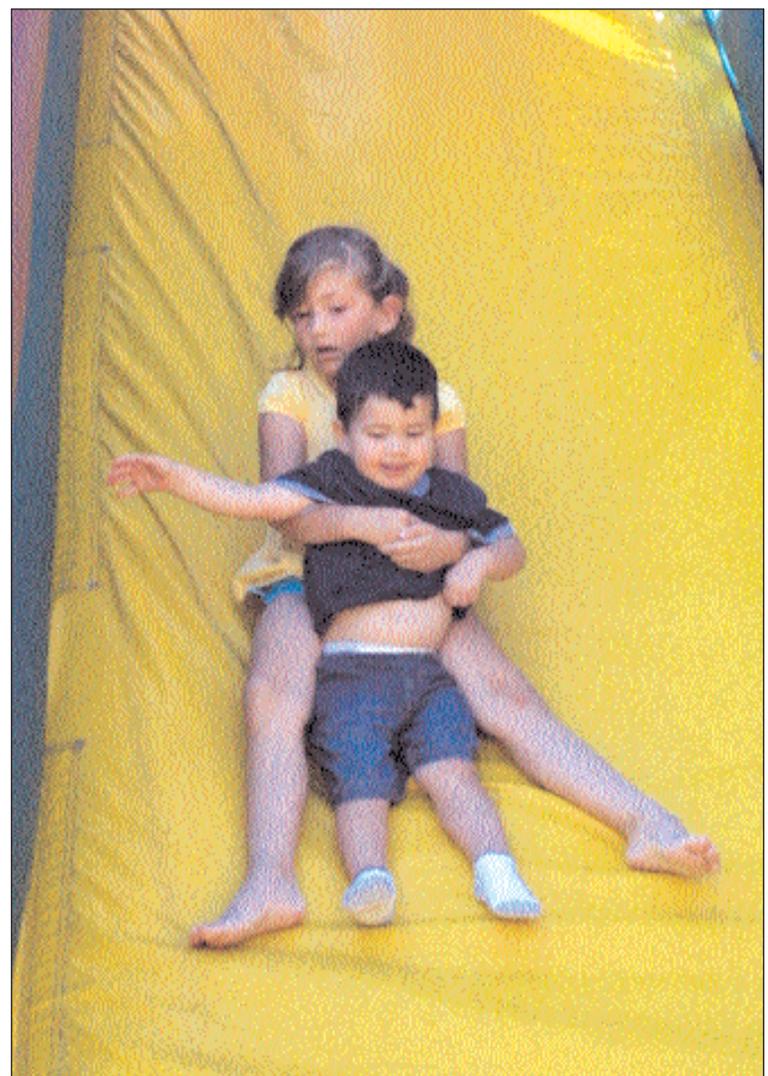
*Sister Terese Ranallo and Blaise Bittle having dinner at the Villa Teresa School’s 75th anniversary kickoff celebration.*



*Alyna and Alyssa Dinh receiving play tattoos from Mattie Balloon.*



*Sister Veronica Higgins and Kevin O’Nan at Villa Teresa’s celebration.*



*Seria Ward and Alex Partin sliding down the balloon ride.*

*Buenas Noticias...*

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de Cristo:

En el gran día en que celebramos la independencia, el cuatro de julio, la orquesta filarmónica de Oklahoma City realizó un concierto en un parque de la ciudad de Yukon.

La música que tocó esta orquesta estuvo planeada y dirigida en antelación al momento en el cual los fuegos artificiales se lanzaron. Entre el concierto y los fuegos artificiales, una serie de expresiones que llegaron a decir algunos de nuestros presidentes y otras personas en la historia fueron narradas. Esas palabras en la historia fueron solemnemente acompañadas por música que ya conocíamos y adoramos. Esas expresiones que fueron narradas sirvieron para recordarnos humildemente la verdad en la que está fundamentada nuestra patria. Nuestro gran país fue establecido sobre los principios en los cuales somos una tierra de libertad.

Los principios básicos que escuché fueron:

1. Una creencia en la bondad y gracia de Dios, quien nos ha creado y sostenido en el universo.
2. Un reconocimiento a Dios por haber nos dado la dignidad de la persona humana.

3. Un reconocimiento de los derechos inalienables que tienen los seres humanos como la vida, la libertad y perseverancia a la felicidad. Estos son derechos fundamentales que vienen de Dios y no del Estado.

4. La centralidad de la palabra libertad en la condición humana.

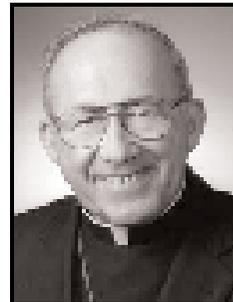
5. La disposición que tienen los patriotas de sacrificarse para defender la libertad de nuestra patria.

6. La necesidad (obligatoriedad) que tiene el gobierno de proteger la vida humana.

El contraste entre esas las palabras escuchadas ese cuatro de julio y la situación verdadera en nuestro país me destellaron más que los espectaculares fuegos artificiales.

Cuando esas verdades fueron expresadas se hicieron como una visión de esperanza de nuestra nación.

*Debemos reconocer la obligación y el privilegio de votar. Nuestro voto debe siempre ser guiado por nuestra creencia en Dios.*



Arzobispo Beltrán

Esas palabras fueron proclamadas sinceramente por los presidentes, líderes nacionales y patriotas Hoy, estas palabras constituyen nuestra herencia y las debemos preservar y defender si deseamos seguir teniendo la tierra de libertades. Mientras un cambio se hace necesario como parte de la vida y la historia, es muy desafortunado cuando ese cambio es negativo. Un cambio es bueno cuando éste conduce a un desarrollo positivo.

Es obvio que muchos de los cambios que experimentamos son actualmente amenazas a nuestra libertad. Son destructivos a los principios de los cuales hablo anteriormente.

Aunque muchos, pero muchos estadounidenses siguen profesando una creencia en Dios, hay quienes en un número que se incrementa están abandonando la fe y la práctica de la religión.

Aunque muchos, pero muchos estadounidenses siguen profesando una creencia en Dios, hay quienes en un número que se incrementa están abandonando la fe y la práctica de la religión.

Muchos han sustituido esto con falsas prácticas y actitudes. Cuando el concepto de un Único y Verdadero Dios, Creador y Redentor, es expulsado de la palestra pública, la verdad sobre el respeto a la dignidad de la vida humana está perdida.

Cuando alguien no cree en Dios, no puede ver la Imagen y semejanza de Dios en el pueblo. Con esa perspectiva, la verdad de la dignidad del ser humano está perdida y su derecho irajuntable se convierte en arbitrariedad.

Como pueblo de Iglesia, creemos en Dios y en todos los grandiosos regalos y bendiciones que Él nos ha dado. Debemos expresar nuestra gratitud mediante la oración y nuestras acciones. Debemos rezar diariamente por nuestro país y por nuestros líderes.

Debemos reconocer la obligación y el privilegio de votar. Nuestro voto debe siempre ser guiado por nuestra creencia en Dios y el reconocimiento de la dignidad de la persona humana.

Lo que aprendí en la escuela primaria hace muchos años atrás sigue siendo una verdad en estos días: **Se un buen Católico y serás un buen Americano.**

*Feligreses dieron calurosa bienvenida al nuevo Párroco del Sagrado Corazón Renovados retos y una gran visión para seguir el camino de Cristo*



A la izquierda, el Padre Arledge a centro, Padre Guerrero y a derecha, el Padre Rojas.



El Padre Joseph Arledge compartió el recibimiento formal con su familia.

Por Mauro Yanes  
Socorro Católica

OKLAHOMA CITY — En una actividad vespertina, amenizada con mariachis, comida y mucha alegría, le fue dada la bienvenida formalmente por su comunidad al sacerdote Joseph Arledge, quien por disposición del Arzobispo Eusebio Beltrán, pasó a ser el nuevo titular de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en remplazo del

anterior párroco, Anthony Taylor, quien como ya es conocido fue nombrado Obispo de Little Rock por su Santidad Benedicto XVI.

El nuevo sacerdote viene de ser párroco de la Iglesia Católica Príncipe de la Paz, en la ciudad de Altus. Allí ganó simpatía y mejoró su español.

"Es un honor estar entre ustedes mis amigos", fueron las primeras palabras que ofreció el Padre Joseph

Arledge a los presentes en este evento. En la recepción de bienvenida, el Padre Joseph Arledge estuvo acompañado por su familia, entre quienes se encontraban sus dos abuelas, tanto materna como paterna.

La familia y el mismo Padre Joseph Arledge expresaron su agradecimiento a los parroquianos por su gesto de bienvenida. El Padre Juan Manuel Guerrero, quien es el párroco auxiliar de la Iglesia Católica del

Sagrado Corazón, comentó que el nuevo párroco titular viene con mucha energía y disposición de comprometerse con la comunidad Católica de origen hispano.

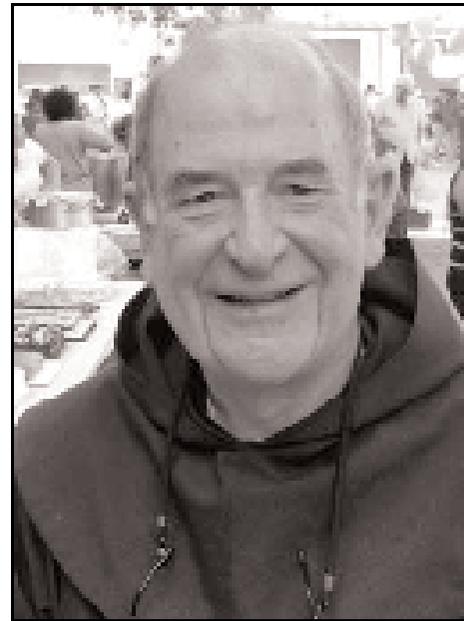
"El Padre José tiene abiertos nuestros corazones para trabajar juntos", acotó el Padre Guerrero.

Decenas de feligreses Católicos se hicieron presentes para dar la bienvenida al nuevo párroco, al que manifestaron sus mejores deseos.

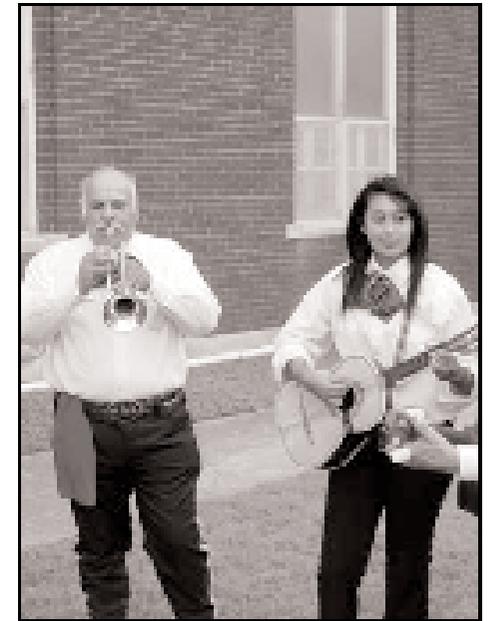
# Dejan un legado histórico en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City Homenajeados el Padre Jenaro de la Cruz y el Padre Henry Bordeaux



Buenos bailarines de la parroquia de la Florencia expresaron su agradecimiento.



Padre Henry Bordeaux dijo adiós.



Musicalizaban para un festejo alegre.

Por Mauro Yan es  
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — El pasado viernes 11 de julio, en los jardines de las instalaciones de la Iglesia de la Florencia, la iglesia de esta parroquia organizó una cena al aire libre para homenajear y darle una cálida despedida a dos sacerdotes de la Congregación de Padres Carmelitas Descalzos, el presbítero Jenaro de la Cruz, quien fue párroco de la Florencia y el presbítero Henry Bordeaux, quien estuvo como sacerdote auxiliar de este templo misionero. Estos dos misioneros sacerdotes han sido trasladados en julio a su congregación en San Antonio, Texas, por disposición de sus superiores para seguir su tarea misionera evangelizadora.

"Los cambios en nuestra congregación se hacen generalmente cada tres años y son procedimientos normales, sin embargo yo tuve la suerte de estar aquí quince años como párroco de la Florencia, llegué aquí el 20 de julio de 1993 y he estado en toda mi vida en sólo dos lugares, Dallas y Oklahoma City", así lo dijo el Padre Jenaro de la Cruz durante el ameno ágaso, en el cual decenas de feligreses demostraron el afecto y cariño que estos dos sacerdotes se ganaron con su carisma y buenas acciones durante su tiempo misionero en Oklahoma.

El Padre Jenaro de la Cruz es un inmigrante también, es oriundo de Burgos, España, haber nacido y ser criado en el extranjero le permitió entender muy bien la necesidad de no dar un paso atrás en la búsqueda del respeto de la dignidad de los seres humanos inmigrantes en Oklahoma y en los Estados Unidos.

La parroquia la Florencia cuenta

con más de mil familias registradas y su inmensa mayoría de feligreses son de origen hispano. Es una de las parroquias más grandes en el territorio de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y la administra la Congregación de Padres Carmelitas Descalzos.

La parroquia la Florencia es bastante diversa, al respecto el señor Frank Hernández dijo lo siguiente: "Yo nací en México hace más de setenta y cinco años y me crié en Oklahoma City y la Florencia fue siempre mi parroquia desde mis tres años de edad, fui bautizado en México pero los otros sacramentos los hice aquí, no he visto ningún sacerdote desde que tengo memoria que haya hecho tantas cosas buenas como el Padre Jenaro de la Cruz y el Padre Henry, aquí hay gente joven y vieja conviviendo con respeto y alegría".

El Padre Henry Bordeaux dijo en esta ocasión tan memorable: "Es mi segunda vez aquí en la Florencia, ya habé estado en 1964 hasta 1968, cuando era bastante joven, ahora que cumplo más de seis años de haber estado aquí, me voya San Antonio con un mejor español, la gente me ayudó mucho y les pido a los hispanos que sigan manteniendo su cultura hispana, pase lo que pase".

El Padre Jenaro de la Cruz y el Padre Henry Bordeaux hicieron muchísimas e innumerables cosas buenas, no obstante uno de los logros más resaltantes que se les han reconocido al Padre Jenaro de la Cruz y al Padre Henry Bordeaux fue la disciplina y animación a participar en la Eucaristía con respeto y solemnidad. Además, lograron la construcción del "Centro Guadalupano" con el apoyo de la iglesia y el Arzobispo Eusebio Belloán. Este centro, consiguió dar res-



Padre Jenaro de la Cruz rodeado de feligreses que le desean lo mejor.

puesta al crecimiento de esta parroquia en su iglesia y acomodarlos mucho mejor.

La despedida fue muy emotiva, llena de música, comida, bailes y sobre todo de muchas demostraciones de respeto, aprecio y agradecimiento por el buen trabajo pastoral que dejan.

La señora María Mercedes Merián comentó para el Sooner Catholic: "Quiero decir que estoy en esta parroquia por el Padre Jenaro desde hace más de siete años y me he traído a toda mi familia de California para esta parroquia, porque me encantó la manera de ser del Padre Jenaro, me gustan sus sermones y su

estilo, es directo y claro y estoy muy agradecida por toda su ayuda espiritual, le pido a la Congregación de los Carmelitas y a la Providencia de Dios que lo vuelvan a enviar aquí, a pesar del cambio, vamos a seguir sirviendo a Dios y al nuevo sacerdote. El Padre Jenaro nos regaló quince años de su vida y aceptamos las decisiones y lo que Dios quiera, justamente servir a Dios fue lo que nos enseñó el Padre Jenaro y el Padre Henry".

El nuevo párroco de la Florencia es el Padre Raúl Reyes de la Congregación de Padres Carmelitas Descalzos, quien dijo: "Seguiré el buen trabajo que Cristo nos pide que hagamos."

## JOBS BOX

### Campus Minister

There is an immediate opening for a campus minister to direct the **UCO Catholic Student Center** at the University of Central Oklahoma. Applicants are asked to send a resume to Rev. John R. Metzinger, St. John the Baptist Parish, P.O. Box 510, Edmond, Okla. 73083. For additional information, contact Father Metzinger at (405) 340-0691.

### Temporary Full-Time Activity Director

**Saint Ann Retirement Center** will have an opening Sept. 1, 2008, for a full-time activity director. This position is a temporary position for four months. The position is responsible for scheduling and providing activities for all residents on a daily basis, and having scheduled activities periodically in the evening hours and on weekends. Insures that transportation is arranged for all residents for outings, scheduled activities and physician appointments. A valid driver's license is required. Applicants can fax letter of interest to Sid Espinosa, executive director, at (405) 721-0747. Saint Ann Retirement Center is located at 7501 W. Britton Road in OKC.

### Director of Homeless Day Service Programs

**Catholic Charities** is looking for a homeless services director. The homeless services director will be responsible for identifying and defining service programs, developing and coordinating social service delivery with other service partners in the OKC metro area, and monitoring and reporting on program implementation. As the director of the day shelter facility, this position will have responsibility for the management of the facility and will coordinate and supervise the daily operations. This position will coordinate all administrative functions for the shelter and will collaborate with the homeless services coordinator to assure delivery of social services. Master's degree in social work, human services or related field plus three years related experience. Knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching is required. Successful candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Send résumé to Catholic Charities, Attn: HR, 1501 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106, or call (405) 523-3000.

### Administrative Assistant

**Catholic Charities** is looking for an administrative assistant for the Development department. A successful candidate will possess computer proficiency in Word, Excel and Outlook; excellent organizational skills with the ability to multi-task; excellent typing and document production skills; Publisher or equivalent software proficiency preferred; positive oral and written communication skills; and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Preference will be given to Catholic candidate. Send résumé to Catholic Charities, Attn: HR, 1501 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106, or call (405) 523-3000.

### Help Wanted with Adults with Developmental Disabilities

**The Center of Family Love** in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: **Production Floor Supervisor** - To supervise our clients as they work in our Kingfisher filter workshop. **Dietary Manager** - Responsible for the food service operation while insuring our client's nutritional

needs are met and directs food preparation. **LPN** - Full-time shifts available (3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and weekend doubles). **Individual Program Coordinator** - Must have good communication skills interacting with our clients, their families and the community. Two years experience working with people with developmental disabilities or degree combination. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4563, e-mail [alemke@cflinc.org](mailto:alemke@cflinc.org), or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

### Extended Care Program Provider

**Holy Trinity Catholic School** is seeking an adult who is 18 years or older who can work as our extended care program provider for the 2008-2009 school year. We will provide Safe Environment training. Experience with children is preferred. Hours of service are 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each school day. Contact the school office at 263-4422 to apply.

### Full-Time Music Teacher

**Mount St. Mary High School** is seeking a full-time certified music teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Contact Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-8865, or fax resumé and letter of interest to (405) 631-9209.

### Full-Time Maintenance

**Mount St. Mary High School** is seeking full-time maintenance employee. Contact Danny Calhoun at (405) 631-8865.

### Math and Science Teacher

**St. Mary's School** in Ponca City is accepting applications for a three-fourths-time math and science teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Oklahoma state certificate in middle school science and math, including Algebra I required. Competitive salary. Benefits available. Send resume, copy of certificate and references to Principal, 415 S. 7th, Ponca City, Okla. 74601.

### Full-Time Director

**Villa Teresa Moore School** in south OKC has an immediate opening for the position of director. VTM accepts children ages 3 through kindergarten. Candidate for director must be a practicing Catholic and meet the requirements for the Oklahoma Director's Credential. Send resumes to Villa Teresa Moore, 13501 S. Western, OKC 73170, or contact Sister Patricia Miller at 691-7737 for an interview.

### Part-Time Religion Teacher

**Sts. Peter and Paul School** in Kingfisher is seeking a part-time religion teacher. Candidate will be required to coordinate the religious education program of the school. Current state teaching certificate is not required. Contact Kim Kroener at (405) 375-4616 for more information.

### Four-Year-Old Teacher

**Villa Teresa School** in Oklahoma City has an opening for an additional 4-year-old class and are in need of a teacher with Oklahoma certification in Early Childhood. Send resumes to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, or call for an interview, 232-4286.

### Part-Time Cafeteria Help

**Bishop McGuinness High School** cafeteria has three part-time positions open for next school year. The hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The duties include some cooking,

food prep, cashier and general cleaning. Bishop McGuinness is located at 801 N.W. 50th. Interested parties may e-mail at [claybaughx237@mcguinness.k12.ok.us](mailto:claybaughx237@mcguinness.k12.ok.us), leave a voice message at 842-6656 Ext. 257 or bring a resume to the school, attention to cafeteria manager.

### Dean of Enrollment Management

**St. Gregory's University** in Shawnee invites applicants for the position of Dean of Enrollment Management. Position responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, analysis and general supervision of all programs related to the recruiting and retaining of undergraduate students. Involves developing and implementing the university's strategic enrollment and marketing plan and recruiting goals for the College of Arts and Sciences. This position manages the budget for the office and supervises the admissions counselors and office support staff. In addition, this position will coordinate and support the contracted recruitment companies. Applicants must possess an understanding of and willingness to support the St. Gregory's University Catholic and Benedictine mission. Master's degree is required. Experience as an admissions counselor and a minimum of two years experience in the director's or assistant position is preferred. Electronic résumés are preferred, and should include a letter of application describing experience, qualifications, vision and record of achieving/exceeding enrollment goals at one's recent institution. Shingi Goto, Executive Vice President, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, [sngoto@stgregorys.edu](mailto:sngoto@stgregorys.edu), (405) 878-5435.

### Provost

**St. Gregory's University** in Shawnee invites applications for the position of provost. This executive level position is the chief academic and student oversight officer under the direction of the president, and is the administrator of academic affairs, student life, intercollegiate athletics and enrollment management. The successful candidate will provide visionary leadership in these areas, prepare and oversee budgets, ensure athletic program compliance with NAIA regulations, oversee the academic programs offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults, and ensure the academic integrity of all programs and adherence to the university's academic policies, regulations and procedures. The provost supervises the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults, the registrar, the library director, the director of the Student Exploration Center, athletic director and the admissions director. A doctorate degree is required in a discipline represented among our academic programs and an academic background sufficient for tenure. This individual must be a practicing Catholic with knowledge of Benedictine spirituality. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. Electronic applications are preferred, and should include a cover letter and resume. Nominations, expressions of interest or requests for the complete position specifications may be sent directly to the university: Shingi Goto, Executive Vice President, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. Mac-Arthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, [sngoto@stgregorys.edu](mailto:sngoto@stgregorys.edu), (405) 878-5435.

**For a full and up-to-date jobs box listing,  
go to [catharchdioceseokc.org](http://catharchdioceseokc.org) and  
click on Jobs Box**

## Calendar

### JULY

**28 Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** at Christ the King Catholic Church, located one block north of Wilshire, halfway between Penn and May at 8005 Dorset Drive, every Monday beginning at 7 a.m. and concluding with Benediction at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Linda at 496-0033.

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

### AUGUST

**1 Holy Family Home Mass**, 11:30 a.m. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMH at 741-7419.

**1 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 (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

**1 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass** at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of

Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. Those wanting to learn more about First Friday Devotion and the practice of consecrating the family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will find materials available after Mass. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

**1-3 Called to Attention: Reflections on Frederick Buechner's Telling the Truth**, facilitated by Father Charles Buckley, OSB, at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee. Cost of retreats: \$75/person includes lodging, meals and registration. Contact [cjbuckley@stgregorys.edu](mailto:cjbuckley@stgregorys.edu).

**2 Mass in Tagalog**. St. Paul the Apostle Catholic in Del City will celebrate Mass in Tagalog (Filipino) at 7 p.m. each Saturday. A potluck dinner will occasionally follow Mass. All are welcome.

**2 Lectio Divina** with Sister Marie Ballmann, OSB, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. An ancient prayer for modern times learn the gentle rhythm of Lectio Divina. Fee: \$40 (\$10 deposit). Register: (405) 373-0804 or mail registration form. Bring a sack lunch. Monastery Library.

**4 Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** at Christ the King Catholic Church, located one block north of Wilshire, halfway between Penn and May at 8005

Dorset Drive, every Monday beginning at 7 a.m. and concluding with Benediction at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Linda at 496-0033.

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

**8 Bingo** at St. Joseph's Church in Norman. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the serving of a light dinner. First session of games begins at 7; second session at 8:30. Concessions serve popcorn, candy, coffee, soft drinks and desserts. There are drawings for door prizes.

**9 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](mailto:osbokc@ionet.net).

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

**15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation**

**16 Mindfulness Meditation Retreat** with Debra Luther, LPC

and spiritual director, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. A half-day retreat for practicing being present in the moment, deepening your ability to be in stillness, and relaxing into being here now. Fee: \$60 (\$15 deposit). Register: (405) 373-0804, or mail registration form. Place: Monastery Library. Limit: 15 people.

**17 Taize Prayer**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

**17 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese, meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Janet Mildfelt at (405) 848-6275 or Deacon Jim Breazile at (405) 377-9478.

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

**23 Pre-Cana**. A day for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. To register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

**For an up-to-date calendar, go to [catharchdioceseokc.org](http://catharchdioceseokc.org)**

## Oklahoma Catholics Challenged to Help Promote Justice

As I complete my first year at Catholic Charities as the associate director for Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services, the words of Pope Benedict XVI In Deus Caritas Est continue to help me define the scope of my role as a legislative advocate. Pope Benedict instructs us that "The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible ... or replace the State ... [but] at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper and . . . [that] the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the Church deeply." In my role as advocate, it is

my responsibility to make the Church's voice heard on various legislative issues promoting or negatively impacting, as the case may be, human life, human dignity and social justice.

However, another part of my job is to keep other interested persons aware of those issues and how Catholic Social Teaching impacts or addresses those issues and to encourage their participation in that quest for justice. Hopefully, this information sharing will cause others to raise their voices on these issues as the political process struggles to find solutions which will both reflect justice and serve the common good. I periodically share information on those issues through the e-mailing of Action Alerts which identify these issues, discuss the impact of Catholic Social Teaching and a recommended course of action. As an example, Action Alerts in July 2008 address the

USCCB Statement on stem-cell research, poverty issues to be dealt with at the G8 meeting in Japan, economic trends in Oklahoma and health insurance issues to be dealt with by a Health Care Task Force appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House. Many of you may already receive these Action Alerts, but if you don't and would like to receive them, e-mail me at [rklinge@catholiccharitiesokc.org](mailto:rklinge@catholiccharitiesokc.org) and give me your name and e-mail address and I will add you to my Action Alerts Distribution List. If you have any questions, call me at (405) 523-3000.

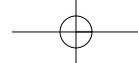
Please feel free to add your name and e-mail to my Action Alerts Distribution List regardless of your



By Richard Klinge

faith tradition. If you know of others who might like to be added to that Distribution List, please share this information with them and let them know they are welcome to join the Distribution List. Once you are on the Distribution List, please share your comments with me about the content or the issues addressed in an Action Alert. I improve my understanding of issues through dialogue with others. It takes all of us, working together, to make a difference on behalf of the unborn, the poor, the marginalized and anyone impacted by legislative action or non-action relating to human life, human dignity and social justice. Through this process we will help insure that people of faith will be a part of that "spiritual reawakening" and that we will not "remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice."

Klinge can be reached at [rklinge@catholiccharitiesokc.org](mailto:rklinge@catholiccharitiesokc.org) or (405) 523-3000.



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