

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Camp
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Summer
'07



Young campers leave the chapel following Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. While the weather hasn't been ideal, the campers seem to be enjoying themselves as evidenced by the smiles on these four young ladies. More photos on Pages 10 and 11. Photo/Sooner Catholic

Catholic Schools Endowment Lands \$1 Million Gift

OKLAHOMA CITY — At the conclusion of the June 11 Catholic Foundation Golf Classic, executive director Tom Casso announced the tournament's proceeds benefiting Catholic Education. And much to the surprise of the many participants and guests on hand, he also shared the news of a recent commitment from an anonymous donor of \$1 million to the Catholic Schools Endowment.

"This gift will have significant impact on the Catholic Schools Endowment and its future ability to cap the cost of Catholic school tuitions in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City," said Casso. With a current fund balance of just over \$1.25 million, the endowment will receive \$34,500 from the golf classic. "The additional \$1 million gift will provide the stimulus necessary to drive the endowment to the critical \$8 to 10 million level," he said.

Currently, Catholic school tuitions in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City total just under \$17 million, and annual increases average 4 percent or approximately \$680,000, Casso said. He said to

The principal objective of Catholic school education is to lead students and their families to know, love and serve God. In this way, a closer relationship is nurtured between us and the Lord Jesus.

cap the cost of Catholic school tuitions, the Catholic Schools Endowment will require a fund balance of \$9 million, earning 7.5 percent to 8 percent annually, to offset these necessary increases.

"The math is simple — the hard part is communicating the need to our Catholic constituency," said Casso. "Every year the cost of educating a student in one of our Catholic grade or high schools increases right alongside the average cost of living. Our educators deserve pay increases just like any other employee, and operating expenses as a whole are not getting any cheaper." The Catholic Schools Endowment will provide a way to offset rising expenses in our schools, while keeping the cost of a Catholic Education affordable for most families.

Archbishop Beltran concurred.

"This endowment is critically essential for our Catholic faith because Catholic school education is one of the most successful ministries of the Church," the archbishop said. "The principal objective of Catholic school education is to lead students and their families to know, love and serve God. In this way, a closer relationship is nurtured between us and the Lord Jesus. May Almighty God,

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Local Catholic Youth Join Mission

By Rex Hogan
For the *Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The idea for the mission trip started some time ago.

Faith Reilly, director of Religious Education and Youth at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, had seen booths at conferences set up by the Center for Youth Development. She had talked to those involved with the organization.

That's how 18 young Oklahoma City Catholics from three parishes ended up agreeing to take a weeklong mission trip to Abbeville, La.

"When we get there we'll be with three other groups, one from San Antonio and two from Wisconsin," Reilly said.

The Center for Youth Development has a program called Young Neighbors in Action. That's the program with which the local youths will be participating.

The Center for Youth Development, Reilly said, provides training for youth ministers and for youth camps all over the country.

"It has a strong social justice appeal," she said. "We could be working in day cares, or with the elderly, or in soup kitchens, or in an AIDS clinic," Reilly said.

She said the mission work will include home improvement chores.

The Center for Youth Development, headquartered in Connecticut, selected Abbeville because the town was brutalized in 2005 when a 20-foot wave of water generated from the hurricane winds of Rita crashed into the town.

Abbeville, founded in 1849 by a French priest, is located on the Gulf Coast about 150 miles west of New Orleans. It had a pre-Rita population of about 12,000.



Youths working to raise funds for a mission trip are, from left, Frank Frantz, Nick Cudjo, Chris Cudjo and Jay Howard.



John Heinan was among several young people washing cars at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral parking lot to help raise money to go to Louisiana on a mission trip.

"They have a lot of residents who are not back home yet," Reilly said.

She said she decided to work with the Center for Youth Development on the mission project because there's more to the organization's goals than just going out on a work detail.

"What really impressed me about them is that kids can learn in a positive way what their Catholic faith is all about.

"Part of the program is attending prayer programs. It's not just go work on a house; it's about 'This is why we

do this.'

"What they're doing is connecting activities and other things to being a Catholic and who we are as Catholics. It's very important," Reilly said.

She said the group will be helping restore homes.

"There are many who are not back in their homes yet. We'll be doing some Sheetrocking and painting," she said.

The group will arrive in Abbeville on July 15 and will be there until July 21. It raised \$13,000 to pay mission expenses.

Those who have signed up for the mission include from Our Lady's Cathedral, Aaron Duncan, Chris and Nick Cudjo, Tom and Frank Frantz, Justin Wright, Nolan Reilly, Clare Nolen, Maddy Rupert, Jimmy Jamus, Jared Charbeneau, Daniel Foley, Dustin Combs and Niki Bray.

From Saint Francis Parish: Erin Smith and Gary Lalli. From Christ the King Parish: Breanne Ward and John Heinen. Chaperones will be Chris and Denise Wright, Pat and Faith Reilly and Joanne Kurjan.

Helped Establish Office of Family Life

Former Del City Pastor Dies at Age 66

Rev. Kenneth Kulinski died July 3 in Oklahoma City.

Father Kulinski was born Feb. 2, 1941, in Detroit, Mich. He was ordained Feb. 4, 1972.

He attended the University of Michigan where he majored in premedicine. He received his medical degree from the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, where he served as a Papal Volunteer to Latin America.

Father Kulinski held an international license as a physician and surgeon and served as the Director of Health, State of Quiche, Guatemala, for five years before entering Pope John XXIII



Rev. Kenneth Kulinski

National Seminary in Weston, Mass. He attributed the work of the priests in Guatemala in his decision to enter the priesthood.

When he retired in 2005, Father Kulinski was pastor of Saint Paul the Apostle Church in Del City. He also had served the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City, Saint Philip Neri Church in Midwest City and Saint Joseph Church in Norman.

He helped establish the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life where he worked for many years. He was also a member of the National Council of the Catholic Bishop's Committee on Marriage and the Family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Erma Berrutti and Edward Kulinski, and a sister, Carole Bonior. He is survived by his sister Marlene

McLean and his brother-in-law Jerome McLean of Las Vegas, Nev.; brother-in-law Edward Bonior of Michigan; and his nephews and niece Darren, Daniel and Denise.

Father Kulinski was known and admired for his teaching and preaching abilities.

A Vigil for the Deceased was held July 6 at Saint Paul the Apostle Church. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Saint Paul the Apostle Church on July 7 with interment at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Norman.

In honor of his commitment to the ministry Office of Family Life, family and friends are contributing to the Office of Family Life, in care of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Ford Funeral Home of Del City.

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Foundation Makes \$125,000 Gift to Catholic Charities

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Butterfield Memorial Foundation has awarded a \$125,000 grant to Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Tim O'Connor, executive director of the agency, said Catholic Charities was one of nine faith-based organizations in central Oklahoma to receive a 2007 spring grant from the foundation.

"The grant will help fund and expand a statewide Faith Community Nursing Network coordinated by Catholic Charities," O'Connor said. "We are thankful and enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand these services. We went through an extensive strategic planning process, and this allows its development across the archdiocese and state over the next five years," he said.

This is the second grant cycle of the Butterfield Memorial Foundation, formed with assets from the sale of Deaconess Hospital. With a corpus of nearly \$120 million, the foundation makes grants only to Christian organizations for medical and health-related projects. "Though Butterfield is a newcomer to Oklahoma City philanthropy, we see much activity devoted to improving health care in our community," said Butterfield president Evan Collins.

"Many individuals and organizations are working hard to provide care for the poor and uninsured and we're delighted to be a part of that effort."

Catholic Charities parish nurse coordinator Mary Diane Steltenkamp said she is excited about the direction of Faith Community Nursing, the new name for the current Parish Nursing Program which was established in 1997. "Catholic Charities has served as the hub for parish nursing in Oklahoma for the past 10 years. It has grown and changed to meet the needs of our communities," she said.

The mission of Faith Community Nursing of Oklahoma is to preserve, support and advance the professional practice of holistic nursing care to faith community members of all ages, faiths, ethnic groups and economic status in both rural and urban areas. In the state of Oklahoma, more than 150 registered nurses of different religious faiths have attended the Basic Preparation Parish Nurse Institute. Out of those, approximately 90 nurses are providing nursing functions to members of their faith communities. "Our focus is to use the nursing process to address the spiritual, physical, mental and social



Butterfield Memorial Foundation program officer Beth Brown presents a check to Catholic Charities to help expand its Faith Community Nursing Program statewide.

health of the patient," Steltenkamp said.

Catholic Charities, which sponsors and administers the Faith Community Nursing Program, is the primary source of funding for the program. Goals in implementing the five-year plan include hiring a trained faculty coordinator for the program, training new registered nurses in the ministry, continuing education for current parish nurses, development and support of a

Faith Community Nursing Resource Center at Catholic Charities, and establishing and implementing a statewide documentation program of data collection, retrieval and analysis in order to evaluate the Faith Community Nursing Program of Oklahoma.

For more information about the program, contact Mary Diane Steltenkamp, Catholic Charities, 405-523-3009.

10 Must See Country Parishes

By Reverend Jim Goin
For the Sooner Catholic

The archdiocese is blessed with a number of beautiful urban parishes. Admittedly, as Oklahoma's Catholic population continues to move away from small towns, the city parishes will provide the defining experience of Catholic life here. However, there remain many vibrant and picturesque

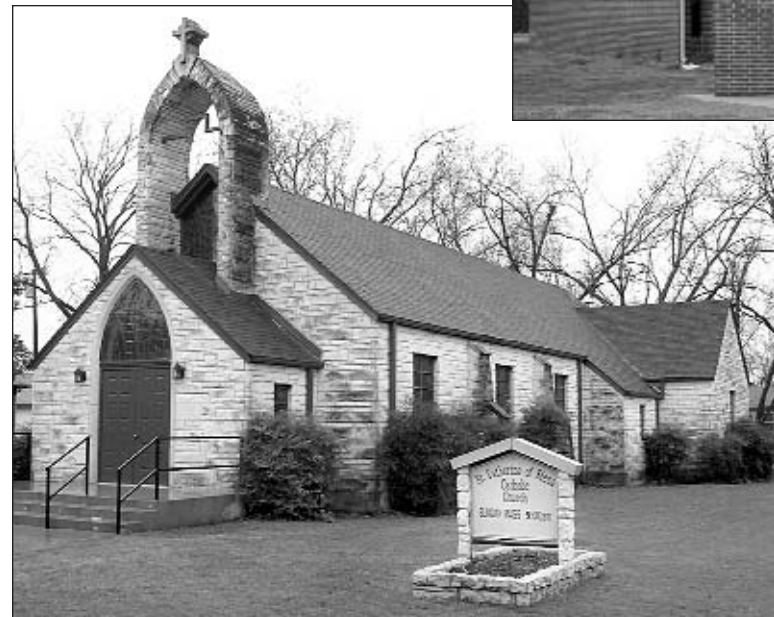
country parishes in western and central Oklahoma. Here and on Page 4, gleaned from my own travels, I've chosen 10 country churches I believe are "must-see" destinations for Oklahoma Catholics. Grab a map, fill up the gas tank and phone for Mass times!

Father Goin is a priest of the archdiocese and the new pastor of Holy Name Church in Chickasha.

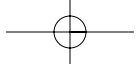


Sacred Heart, Alva: Alva is arguably the best-kept small town in Oklahoma. Unlike many of our parishes, the Catholic Church here was built in the heart of the town's best neighborhood. Designed by the same architect who gave Oklahoma the reverent Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sacred Heart, Alva, is a nearly-hidden jewel. Though built in 1937, the Spanish mission style of the architecture harkens back to a pre-Depression gracefulness. Also, tour the parish hall and walk the expansive grounds.

St. Michael, Meeker: St. Michael Church is a functional building but contains a treasure trove of original artwork, rare in this lazy age of catalog art. The Father Walch triptych of St. Michael and the icon crucifix by Louis Marak (known in Kansas City art circles) are well worth the drive. Note, too, the stained glass windows, each designed by the parishioners.



St. Catherine of Siena, Pauls Valley: The parish grounds contain one of the prettiest groves of pecan trees in Oklahoma. St. Catherine's reminds the visitor that church life before air conditioning valued shady outdoor spaces. A warm weather visit to the parish evokes memories of those Oklahoma summers that drifted from watermelon under the trees to hand-churned ice cream under the trees. The small church is lovely as well and the people are unfailingly hospitable.



St. Mary, Medford: The Catholic Churches along U.S. 81 are all pretty. St. Mary, Medford, is the last before the Kansas line and different from the dominant 81 architecture in that it is not a "Prairie Gothic" church. Instead, the style is faintly English Gothic. Inside, the stained glass includes a window dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, unusual because the church was built long before Mexican Catholics began arriving in the state in great numbers. Ask Father Mike to let you ring the bell. A convert to Catholicism, Medford's bell has a gorgeous tone and can be heard all over town.



Holy Trinity, Okarche: If Oklahoma Catholics had a Mecca, it would be Okarche. Scratch the Oklahoman next to you and you'll likely find Okarche connections. Holy Trinity Church is gloriously German yet prairie inspired. Visit during wheat harvest and you'll understand why this country is the greatest nation in the world: We have the best farmers. No visit to Holy Trinity is complete without a pilgrimage to Father Rother's resting place.



St. Wenceslaus, Prague: Home to the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Wenceslaus, Prague, is a nearly perfect example of mid-century Catholic architecture (a style once lamented but, of late, gaining respect). The shrine attracts visitors from across the nation, including many Hispanic and Asian Catholics. The Infant Jesus statue in the parish hall is especially inspiring. Also, spend some time in prayer at the statute of the Sacred Heart, it was painstakingly carved by a man who had sustained horrendous injuries in World War II.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hollis: Though far from Oklahoma City, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hollis, reminds the visitor that Mexican-American Catholicism exists at the very heart of our Church. Parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe may very well be the most welcoming in the archdiocese. As I remember my visit, the liturgy is informal yet infused with a sacredness born of the decency and dignity of the working people found in small towns.



St. Margaret Mary, Crescent: This pocket-sized Extension Society church is lovingly maintained and instantly charming. Every time I've passed by, the lawn appeared as if just mowed. I've stopped in only once but was deeply moved by the quiet sanctity of the space. You may want to visit soon as Crescent is in danger of becoming a suburb of Oklahoma City and I can't help but wonder if this small wonder of a church will survive the relentless expansion of the city.

Holy Name, Chickasha: As one of my brother priests recently noted, Holy Name, Chickasha, is the quintessential American Catholic church. Dating from the 1920s, the stately church is flanked by the obligatory two-story rectory. Between the two lies the pastor's garden, filled with robust ivy and dozing cats. Driving up to Holy Name is like traveling into a Norman Rockwell scene of small town U.S.A.



St. Mary, Ponca City: Granted, Ponca City isn't quite the country, it's a large town, and St. Mary Church is a large parish. Still, I consider St. Mary's the queen of our country parishes because the parishioners have clung to their small-town friendliness and piety. The church's beauty is luminous; it is thought by many to be the most beautiful worship space in the entire archdiocese.

At 93, Charles Collier Considered Dean of the Deacons

By Eileen Dugan
The Sooner Catholic

SEMINOLE — At 93 years young, Deacon E. Charles Collier is the oldest active deacon in the archdiocese. He was born Jan. 21, 1914, in Okfuskee County and was raised there.

Father Basil Keenan, Deacon Collier's present pastor, first met him in the summer of 1996 when Father Keenan began helping out at Seminole's Immaculate Conception Parish. Deacon Collier had been serving as deacon in that parish since his ordination in 1983. The pastor at Immaculate Conception, at the time, was Father Thomas Rabideau. He was 80 years old and legally blind. "Deacon Collier had been serving as eyes for Father Thomas for a number of years and had been conducting Bible study classes at Immaculate Conception," Father Keenan said.

Collier was ordained to the diaconate because of Father Rabideau. The priest explained to Collier what a deacon's responsibilities were and asked if he wanted to become one. "It sounded like something I would be interested in," Deacon Collier said.

Father Rabideau helped the future deacon with his application. They sent it in and waited. After an interview, E. Charles Collier was on his way to becoming a deacon. "I was surprised," he said. "I was 65 years old. I was surprised that they would accept someone that old."

Deacon Collier has spent all his service as a deacon in Seminole at Immaculate Conception Church. Over the years, Father Keenan has come to view him as a "down-to-earth, totally dependable fellow" upon whom he can always rely. "When I came to Immaculate Conception Parish in 1996, I came with defenses," Father Keenan said. "Father Thomas Rabideau had been pastor here for 46 years. It took me a while to feel comfortable. Deacon Collier helped me with that."

"Deacon Collier was already here. He was steady. I gradually found out that if I had a need and he could fill it, he would. When I had cancer, he drove me to the hospital in Ada. He has also given me rides to Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City when I needed to go there. He is always willing to help out as much as he can," Father Keenan said.

Deacon Collier likes everything about being a deacon. "The whole thing," he said.

His great love for the diaconate helped him work through his grief when his wife died in 1990. "Being a deacon was what kept me going. It was something to be interested in and to keep my wish to be alive vibrant," he said.

This deacon sees his job as a Catholic permanent deacon as helping everyone, Catholic and non-Catholic, living within the boundaries of his parish. "My biggest challenge as a deacon has been service to the people," he said. "When my sight was better, I used to drive anyone needing a ride, regardless of their religion, to their doctors or into the city, wherever they needed to go."

It is ironic that the same man who served as Father Rabideau's eyes should, years later, suffer the weakening of his own eyesight, but that is what is happening. "My only regret about being a deacon has been that I haven't been able to meet



Deacon E. Charles Collier before Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Seminole. Photo/Courtesy of The Seminole Producer

with the archbishop annually, as he wishes his deacons to do. It's because of my eyes; I can't drive any more. I can still drive around Seminole because I know the streets, but I can't drive anywhere else," he said.

Concerning his spirituality, the deacon from Immaculate Conception said, "I try to be as spiritual as I can be. Hopefully, if I live long enough, I will be able to attain a spirituality that I like."

As for the present state of his spiritual life, "I am always trying to improve upon it," he said.

Two priests are most responsible for helping Deacon Collier deepen his faith: Father Thomas Rabideau, who brought him into the diaconate, and Father James O.D. Hamlon, a priest from Pennsylvania, who brought him into the Church.

"I'm a convert," Deacon Collier said. "In 1946, I became a Catholic. I had been raised a Baptist; I gave that up when I was 13, when I realized that the Baptist Church did not have what I was looking for."

In 1936, he married his wife, Mildred, who was a Catholic. "In 1946, I realized that I had been living for 10 years with what I had been looking for since I was 13," he said about his conversion to Catholicism.

Deacon Collier's favorite book is the Bible and his favorite saint is the one for whom he is named, Saint Charles Borromeo. "The Bible has given me an understanding of what I have believed all my life," he said. "Saint Charles Borromeo is my favorite saint because of the way he helped people when they were sick."

He also has two favorite Scriptures: the Gospel of Matthew and Luke's account of Saint Paul's ministry in the Acts of the Apostles. "I like Matthew because he was writing to the Jews in the Diaspora. They weren't close to the

Tabernacle, and he was trying to explain to them why Christ was the Messiah. I also like the Acts of the Apostles because Paul's activities in Acts explain a whole lot of what a deacon does," he said.

Deacon Collier has five children, four girls and one boy. His oldest daughter, Christina, lives in Pennsylvania. She was a registered nurse there for many years but is now retired. Two other daughters, Karen Lee and Mary, the baby of the family, also live in Pennsylvania. Julia, his second daughter, lives in California.

"My son, John Matthew, lives with me here in Seminole," Deacon Collier said. "He is handicapped. He had meningitis at the age of 9 months which left him handicapped on the right side."

"I also have 13 grandchildren. Four are in California; the other nine are all over the world," he said.

"Technically, Deacon Collier is retired," Father Keenan said, "but he is here at Immaculate Conception Church every morning and sets up for the 8:30 a.m. Mass for me. Sometimes, he is my only congregation."

Deacon Collier also serves as deacon for every Saturday evening Mass at Immaculate Conception and helps out John Matthew, his adult disabled son.

"It is amazing that a man of his age is as active as he is," Father Keenan said. "Aside from his vision, he is in good health. He is mentally sharp. You would think, to look at him, that he was in his 60s."

"Several of his relatives have lived to be 100. I jokingly say to him, 'The secret of a long life is to choose your parents wisely,'" Father said.

When Deacon Collier recently found out that his grandson in California was thinking about becoming a deacon, he told him, "Stay with it, and pray."

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Company Raises Wages to Compete for Best Workers

A Note from the Author: This is the third in a series of articles on current issues of social justice. These articles, written on behalf of the Archdiocesan Commission on Justice and Human Development, will provide information, Catholic Social Teaching and questions for reflection to guide all Catholics in the work for justice.

By Mary Cobb
For the Sooner Catholic

ADA — Sister Diane Koorie, RSM, and I traveled to this community after hearing that EDGE TECH Corporation had recently given their non-management employees a significant raise. We wanted to understand why they did this and the impact it had upon their company.

EDGE TECH Corporation has a unique history. The company was founded in 1986 as Peripheral Outlet when Jeff Thompson, age 14, began the company in his Ada home using \$2,500 he had saved from a newspaper route. Today EDGE is one of the largest and most respected companies in the computer memory/storage industry and is always seeking ways to improve services while maintaining profits. The privately owned company has offices in Ada and Dallas, with 75 employees in Oklahoma.

We met with Brian Sartorius, EDGE TECH's vice president of operations. Sartorius, a Catholic from birth, has been steeped in the social teachings of the Church, however, he acknowledged that business decisions are based on improving profits. "We are in the business to make money," he said. Yet he and his company determined the bottom line could be improved by raising hourly wages. Despite the increased wages, they did not increase product costs to their customers.

Prior to the pay increase, the starting wage at Edge Tech was \$6 to



Brian Sartorius, vice president of operations for EDGE TECH Corporation, discusses his company's decision to raise employee wages with Mary Cobb, Archdiocesan Justice Commission member.

\$6.50 an hour, well above the government-mandated minimum wage. They now begin permanent employees at \$8 hour. Why did they raise wages for all hourly employees?

EDGE TECH decided to raise wages because they wanted to attract and keep high quality workers. While Ada is a small town in southeastern Oklahoma, it has many employers who pay "not small" wages. Among the many Ada employers are the Chickasaw Nation, IRT Call Center, Pre-Paid Legal and Solo Cup Company. EDGE TECH had been hiring employees, training them, giving them a year-end bonus, and then the good employees would move on to higher-paying jobs at other companies.

Brian Sartorius told us that the company — in an effort to keep quality workers — had implemented the higher salary scale because the federal government "cannot determine the appropriate minimum wage for every job and location." Sartorius indicated the pay hike had cost the company \$150,000 per year but the gain is intangible. Some of

their former team members, who had left the company, returned. They now have a better caliber of employees who are happier and are there for the "long haul." He emphasized that if wages are not set correctly, people will leave. Their company estimates that it costs 20 percent of an employee's yearly compensation to bring in a new person.

Brian gave us a tour of the Ada plant. Particularly impressive was "EDGE TECH UNIVERSITY," an on-site training center where employees can go to learn the latest computer programs. They train their employees within the organization but also offer some outside seminars. EDGE TECH offers flexible schedules to their employees who are attending East Central State University in Ada.

The company believes in employee involvement in understanding and addressing the total operation. They offer programs called "Open Book Management" and "The Net Profit Game" where each employee is trained and receives monthly information that includes the present profitability of the company. During

our visit, one large department had a meeting to address a recent problem encountered in shipping their product. The manager explained the situation, listened to employee input, and then the "team" determined how to fix the problem.

EDGE TECH recently announced it would continue to pay 100 percent of health insurance coverage for all permanent employees through June 2008. Brian said coverage costs had increased but the company would continue to offer this full benefit for at least another year. While they would like to provide coverage for employees' families, the costs are prohibitive. The company is planning to implement a wellness plan in an effort to encourage employees to make healthy life choices.

EDGE TECH is an Oklahoma company that has raised employee wages to a more just wage and we are happy to report that the company benefited as well as the employees. There is still hope that justice can happen when employers seek to do the right thing — and the just decision does not have to adversely affect the bottom line.

Points to Ponder:

■ If you are an employer or employee interested in finding out the wages being paid for comparable jobs in your Oklahoma community, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission maintains this information on the Web at: <http://www.oesc-state.ok.us/OWN/TOC000.htm>.

■ Frequently we are hearing the comment, "The economy is really good!" Who, we must ask, is it good for? Stockholders and corporate executives or the "little guy" who's working hard and still can't seem to make enough to pay the bills for family necessities? "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me."

Christ the King Students Gather Items for Mission

OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King School's Café Light group collected toiletries for the House of Mary and Joseph Women's and Children's Resource Center in the village of LaLegua outside of Piura, Peru. The toiletries were given to families when they check into the center. Most of the families who check into the center have no belongings with them because they fled their homes suddenly.

The House of Mary and Joseph Women's and Children's Resource Center was built by Christ the King Church during its 2006 Peru mission.

The center is located in the village of LaLegua, one of the poorest villages in the region. It is an emergency shelter for women and their children who are leaving abusive home situations.

The center consists of 12 apartment-style rooms for families, bathrooms, a communal kitchen, common living areas, a garden, meeting rooms for classes, and access to legal help. The bathrooms at the center are complete with flushing toilets, rare in this region of Peru.

The Blessed Sacrament Parish run by Mission Priest Father Joseph Uhen oversees the center and provides

legal council. Father Uhen is a graduate of Christ the King School and McGuinness.

The Café Light group is for fifth- and sixth-graders, and meets for one week during the summer. It is similar to a vacation Bible school. Christ the King Church director of education Tommy Cordova heads the group. Debbie Downs is the volunteer in charge of this toiletries project.

"Café Light began last year," said Katie Tooley, service project coordinator for Christ the King. "It is the next step up age-wise from vacation Bible school and is focused on service

projects."

Café Light asked all Christ the King students to collect any travel-sized toiletries from hotels they, or family and friends, might visit on vacation. The group has also asked students to ask any doctors or pharmaceutical representatives they know to donate samples of toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, sunscreen, etc.

Packs were assembled on June 18 in the gymnasium. The packs will be sent on container shipments to Piura, Peru in August. Christ the King sends four container shipments every year to Piura.

Rowing on the River

McGuinness Grad Helps Grow Sport of Rowing Among Catholic School Students

By Eileen Dugan
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Brittany Riesenbergs became interested in rowing through her younger brothers, John and Jeffrey. The boys started rowing at 12 and 14. When her mom decided that she too wanted to learn to row, Riesenbergs was “forced” to learn with her. At first, she did not want to row, but once she started, she loved it.

Soon rowing was a family affair.

“When I was in high school, my two brothers and I all got to row on the same team, the Oklahoma Association for Rowing, now the Chesapeake Boathouse,” Riesenbergs said.

Today, rowing is Brittany’s passion: “I like the actual sport of rowing, being out on the water and feeling the peacefulness of it. I like the competitive side of it, feeling the pain as you put your body to the test. And I love the community, all the people I’ve met through the sport.

“I also like the fact that, in this sport, everyone participates. I really like to see the transformation that takes place in kids who didn’t do well in other sports, who were left sitting on the bench. They start rowing, excel, and end up getting rowing scholarships to college.

“My brother is a good example. He was not the best athlete growing up, but now he’s going to OCU on a rowing scholarship. And we have many other success stories,” she said.

Riesenbergs was born in Oklahoma City and attended Catholic schools: Christ the King and Bishop McGuinness High School. She graduated from McGuinness in 2002.

For the next four years, she

studied elementary education at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Creighton is a Jesuit college from which Riesenbergs, attending on a rowing scholarship, graduated in May 2006. In the fall of 2006, she enrolled in the Graduate School of Applied Behavioral Studies at Oklahoma City University.

“I’m there to prepare myself to work with students in the classroom in the inner city,” she said. “I hope to teach math, history or religion in an inner-city junior high some day.”

Riesenbergs will finish her Applied Behavioral Program in the summer of 2008 and is not sure what she will do then. “I’d like to continue working with the Youth Outreach Program at Chesapeake Boathouse, but I’ll have to wait and see,” she said.

In the meantime, Riesenbergs is content to educate the rest of us about rowing: “There are several different levels of racing: recreational as well as

“We currently have 60 kids on our Junior Team,” Riesenbergs said. “Of these, 18 go to Catholic schools. A lot of them are my brothers’ friends and their families. The majority of the staff at Chesapeake Boathouse is also Catholic.”

competitive,” she said.

Because both types require the rower to be in top physical form, off-season conditioning is essential.

A typical racing boat is expensive. An eight-person boat costs between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Because of this expense, all those rowing in Oklahoma



Students at Sacred Heart School in Oklahoma City try their hand on the rowing machine.

City use the boats at the Chesapeake Boathouse. Boathouse requirements specify that all rowers using these boats be members of the Chesapeake Boathouse organization.

at Chesapeake Boathouse is also Catholic.”

According to Riesenbergs, four things are necessary to row: a willing person, a boat, some oars and some water. Riesenbergs explained that competitive rowing gives the racer a better physical workout than any other sport except cross-country skiing. Novices, after a time, find themselves in as good physical condition as “the old-timers” even if they did not begin that way.

At OCU, Riesenbergs coaches mainly females. Because the Chesapeake Junior Team is co-ed, at the Boathouse she coaches males and females. One of these males is her own brother. “It works out pretty good. He’s one of the oldest and most experienced members of the team.

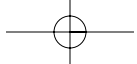
“Next year John will be going to OCU, and I’ll be one of his coaches there. I love experiencing all this with him. I think I know him well enough to know what buttons of his not to push. We share his excitement and successes with rowing,” she said. “My other brother rowed on a club at OU this year, so all three of us were at some races. This is what makes this job so special to me.”

All the rowers from OU, OCU and the Chesapeake Junior and Adult Teams practice out of the Chesapeake Boathouse. “OCU is building their own boathouse on the Oklahoma River, but all the racing programs work together. When OCU finishes their boathouse, they will still be partnering with us at the Chesapeake Boathouse,” Riesenbergs said.

To learn more about competitive rowing on the Oklahoma River, call Brittany Riesenbergs at the Chesapeake Boathouse at (405) 552-4040.



Brittany Riesenbergs explains the technique to practice rowing.



Clinton Parish Provides Hospitality for Traveling Jesuits

CLINTON — Saint Mary Parish provided the red carpet treatment for a dozen young men studying to become Jesuit priests. The group of men stopped here on their way to Denver where they were to take part in a course concerning Jesuit history.

John Hough, in his first year of study at Saint Charles College in Grand Coteau, La., from where the group hails, is a native of Clinton and a member of Saint Mary Parish. His parents, Bill and Geri Hough, are parishioners at Saint Mary's and Bill is in the archdiocesan diaconate program.

Father Rex Arnold, pastor at Saint Mary, along with a number of parishioners, greeted the guests and treated them to a barbecue lunch. Following lunch, Father Arnold gave the Jesuits a tour of the church. He also presented John Hough with a tennis racket.

Six members of the group are in their first year of study, while the other six are in their second year. The process to become an ordained Jesuit priest requires approximately 11 years of discernment and study.



John Hough and Father Rex Arnold



Father Rex Arnold, far left, and members of Clinton's Saint Mary Church pose with their Jesuit visitors on the steps of the church.



Flight A winners Phil Schwarz, Jim Fowler, Matt Parker and Gene Schwarz receive tournament top honors from Archbishop Beltran.



Daniel Stith accepts Archbishop Beltran's congratulations for winning the Straight Drive competition.



Father Kirk Larkin sinks a putt on the 18th green.

Catholic Foundation Golf Classic

The Catholic Foundation found a dry day in between the June rains to host its annual Golf Classic for Catholic Education. The 2007 tournament will return \$34,500 to the Catholic Schools Endowment, bringing total contributions to well in excess of \$150,000 over the past six years. While the participants enjoyed perfect conditions for tournament competition, the real winner was Catholic education.



Top: Don Greiner, Father John Metzinger and Tom Casso watch as yet another perfect drive hits the fairway at Twin Hills. Left: Board members Susie Nelson, Jill Nisbet and Carol Hopper enjoy a break during the spouses wine and cheese reception.

The War Against Children with Disabilities

"Dr. Goldberg said, for some couples, 'Losing a normal pregnancy secondary to the procedure is not as problematic as the birth of a Down syndrome child, so they're willing to take that risk.'" "Screen All Pregnancies for Down Syndrome, Doctors Say," *New York Times*, Jan. 9, 2007

"A very disabled child can mean a disabled family. If life-shortening and deliberate interventions to kill infants were available, they might have an impact on obstetric decision-making," the college writes in a submission to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. "Allow 'Active Euthanasia' for Disabled Babies, Doctors Urge," *The Independent (UK)*, Nov. 5, 2006

**By Nancy Guilfooy Valko, RN
Nurses for Life**

When I went to nursing school in the 1960s, we were told that we were patient advocates, not doctors' hand-maidens or just employees. And we were told that sometimes this advocacy would mean protecting our patients' rights, sometimes even against family members. Children with disabilities were specifically mentioned.

How things have changed!

Now advocacy for our patients is being reworked to even mean participating in ending basic, life-affirming treatment or outright lethal overdoses not only for competent adults but also for children.

I must confess that I was one of those skeptics in 1973 who thought the pro-life movement was absurd in claiming that the legalization of abortion would lead to an increasing acceptance of euthanasia and infanticide. It was one thing to pretend that there was no baby involved in an early abortion (it took me years to discover that *Roe vs. Wade* legalized abortion virtually throughout an entire pregnancy) but doctors and nurses would never stand for intentionally killing a born human being. Or so I thought.

My wake-up call didn't happen until 1982, when the news broke that the parents of "Baby Doe" in Bloomington, Ind., decided to let their newborn son with Down syndrome die rather than allow a routine operation to fix his esophagus (food pipe).

Legally, this couldn't happen because we had laws protecting people with disabilities. At least people with disabilities who were already born. Or so I thought.

While some good lawyers were fighting to save Baby Doe's life, I was shocked at the editorials and letters to the editor supporting the parents' "right" to choose treatment (or non-treatment, in this case) for their baby. I read very few letters arguing for poor

Baby Doe, even though several couples had come forward with offers to adopt him. As a nurse, I knew that courts routinely ordered lifesaving medical care for children when parents refused such care for religious or other reasons. Why was this discrimination being allowed?

Unfortunately, Baby Doe died after nearly a week without food or fluids. Unlike a convicted murderer appealing a death sentence, Baby Doe was not even allowed a simple IV to sustain him while his case was being appealed. Finally, I understood what the pro-lifers meant in 1973.

The Political Becomes Personal

Ironically, a few months after Baby Doe died, I gave birth to my own "Baby Doe." My daughter, Karen, was born with both Down syndrome and a very severe heart defect. How much I wished Karen's medical problem had been as easily treatable as Baby Doe's esophagus!

Unlike Baby Doe's parents, my husband and I were determined that our daughter receive the best medical care possible for her heart condition and without bias because she had Down syndrome. Baby Doe's parents and the court system were wrong, but at least we could make sure that our daughter would have her chance at life. Or so I thought.

The bias against children like Karen soon became apparent. For example, I had to insist that Karen be treated for her heart defect the same way any other child would be treated despite the cardiologist's offer to support me if I refused surgery and just "let" her die.

Next, the surgeon recommended for her heart catheterization was overheard questioning the wisdom of treating "all these little mongoloids." (I refused to let this surgeon near my daughter and I told the referring physician why.) At one point, a doctor sympathetically told us that "people like you shouldn't be saddled with a child like this." (He never explained just what kind of parents he thought should be "saddled" with a child with Down syndrome!)

Later on, I found out that my trusted pediatrician had even made Karen a "Do Not Resuscitate" behind my back because I "was too emotionally involved with that retarded baby."

Even at the very end, when Karen was apparently dying from a complication of pneumonia, a young resident physician "offered" to pull all her tubes so that she would die as soon as possible.

The final indignity happened at Karen's funeral, when a few well-meaning but woefully misguided people tried to comfort us by saying that "At

least it wasn't one of your normal children." (I'm still trying to find out if any of my children — or even I — can be legitimately classified as "normal.")

Better or Worse?

It's been almost 25 years since Baby Doe and my Karen were born. In that time, we have seen some great advances in treating and/or helping children with disabilities, especially Down syndrome.

People with Down syndrome now routinely go home with their parents rather than to an institution. And, as columnist George Will, who has a son with Down syndrome, recently wrote, "Just 25 years ago, the life expectancy of Down syndrome people was 25. Today, because of better health care, better mental stimulation in schools and homes, and better community acceptance, their life expectancy is 56.3 years."

One geneticist I know refers to Down syndrome as "the Cadillac of birth defects."

And who among us is not moved by the heartwarming performances of the athletes at the Special Olympics and the human interest stories about the accomplishments of people with special needs like Down syndrome?

But at the same time, we now have the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommending that all pregnant women be screened for Down syndrome even though ACOG has to know that at least 85 percent of those unborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted. And it seems that every few months a new, "improved" test to detect birth defects is touted in the media.

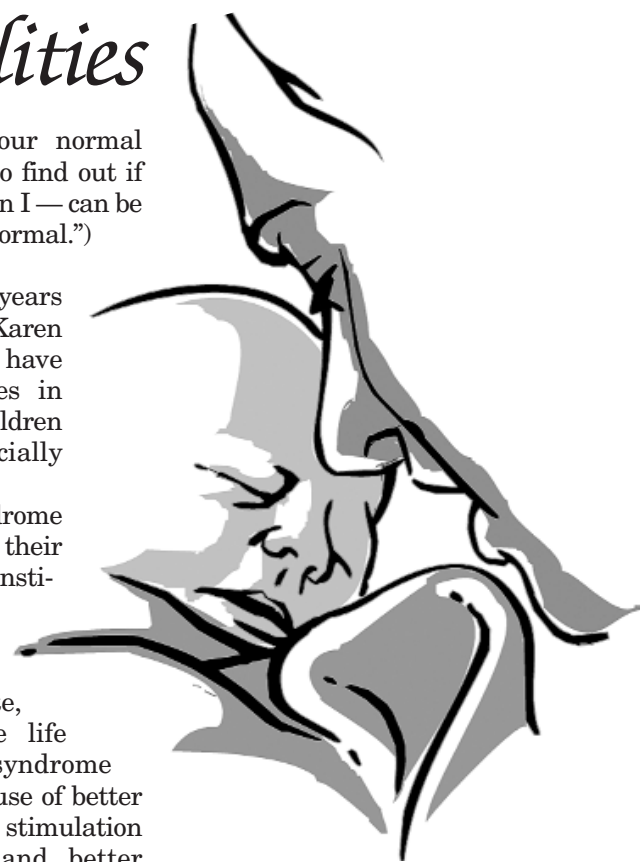
We have had the Dutch and now even a respected British medical group (see quote at the beginning of this article) endorsing outright euthanasia for so-called "very disabled" babies based on the supposed "benefit" to the child, his or her family and/or society at large. (Apparently, even "very disabled" is a subjective term. Just last year, a controversy erupted in Britain concerning cases of late-term abortions performed on babies who had very treatable problems like cleft palate, clubbed feet, webbed fingers or extra digits.)

Welcome to the disposable baby.

What do we really want for our children?

"What do you want? A boy or a girl?" "Just as long as he or she is healthy!"

How often have we heard — or even participated — in such an exchange? I know I have. And there's really nothing wrong with wanting good health for our



children.

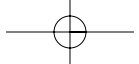
The problem arises when we assume that we have a right to a "perfect" child, even a so-called "designer baby."

In reality, no test can ensure a healthy child before birth. At best, prenatal testing can only identify a few hundred out of thousands of birth defects. And, of course, there is always the issue of mistaken diagnosis, which happens much more frequently than most people realize. And there is no guarantee that any child will be or remain healthy even after birth.

When my Karen was born, I was forced to think long and hard about what I really wanted for each of my children. I discovered that the true bottom line was that I wanted them all to be good people and to get to heaven. Those goals are the most important and, thankfully, achievable for any child. Our role as parents is to do what we can to help our children achieve those goals.

After Karen died, I miscarried another baby and, like many women, I had feelings of failure. And, like many women, I was sometimes unsure about exactly what to say when I was casually asked how many children I had. Luckily, my other children had the innate wisdom to remind me about both the reality of life and the real measure of successful parenthood when they answered, "Two up in heaven, three down on earth."

Nancy Valko is a registered nurse from St. Louis, Mo. She is president of Missouri Nurses for Life and a spokesperson for the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses. This article originally appeared in *Voices*, the publication of Women for Faith and Family (www.wff.org). It is reprinted with permission.



Summer Fun at Catholic Summer Camp

Because of the rain, most young people attending Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp this summer won't return home sunburned. But odds are even gray skies and soggy socks won't keep campers from going home with many happy and inspiration-filled memories to share with their family and friends.

This summer's camp sessions have been the wettest in memory, according to Nancy Housh, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. "It's tough when it rains all day," Housh said. "Fortunately, there have been a number of times when the rain either didn't start until later in the day or it ended in time for the kids to be outdoors." She said so far, only one day has been an entire washout.

But wet weather hasn't kept the campers from enjoying themselves and making new friends. The new large meeting center at OLOG gives the kids a place to gather and participate in games and fun activities. Camp counselors organize games and activities such as charades and crafts and there's always plenty of discussion about faith and how we're called to live as God wants us to live. When the weather breaks, kids are all over the camp playing basketball, volleyball, four-square and jump rope and learning skills such as archery. The children participate in daily Mass and enjoy learning new songs.

More than 1,000 children signed up to attend OLOG.



Bethany Heid from Bethany is rather starry-eyed.



Ben Reed from Saints Peter and Paul in Kingfisher competes at four-square.

Fun
Faith
and
Friendship



At left, girls compete to answer a question, while above some find themselves tangled up.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp Summer 2007



Daily Mass brings the campers together for worship.



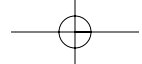
Rita Miller from Saint Francis in Oklahoma City takes a hoola-hoop for a spin.



Grant Borelli looks for an answer during a game of charades.



An impromptu dance routine always draws a crowd.



National Survey Says Voters Bring Cross to the Polls

■ Nearly Half Say Faith Guides Political Views

■ Over One Quarter Consider Candidate's Religious Affiliation

■ Americans Expect Democrats to Win the White House in 2008

■ Among Issues, Cost of Gasoline Was Second Only to the Iraq War

FAIRFIELD, CT., June 14, 2007 — According to the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute, a nationwide telephone survey of 958 Americans reveals what role religion may play in the 2008 elections.

Over half of all respondents with an opinion, 60.7 percent, believe a presidential candidate should be a religious person while 39.3 percent do not.

Nearly half of all respondents, 48.4 percent, suggested their own religious faith always or sometimes guides their views toward politics. An equal percent, 48.4 percent, said their own faith seldom or never guides their views and 3.2 percent were unsure.

When choosing a presidential candidate, 27.8 percent consider a candidate's specific religious affiliation relevant to their decisions. Another 66.0 percent do not and 6.3 percent are unsure.

"While 27.8 percent is a minority," according to Jerry C. Lindsley, director of the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute, "it represents nearly 34 million people, based on the 2004 voter turnout, who will consider the particular religious denomination of such candidates as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney — a Mormon."

Dr. June-Ann Greeley, assistant professor of religious studies and director of SHU's Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture, said that religion may have a positive or negative impact when considering throwing support behind a candidate. Although 27.8 percent of respondents said they consider a candidate's religious affiliation relevant, Greeley said it could either mean that they would vote for a candidate because of the candidate's religious affiliation or they would not support a candidate on that basis.

Greeley said one way or the other, the poll shows that for most Americans, religion is important in selecting a candidate. "We think we



can understand something meaningful about a person, a politician, if we have a sense of his/her religious beliefs because, clearly, religious belief is still esteemed by a majority of Americans," she said.

The poll also shows Democrats emerging as the party of choice in the November 2008 presidential election.

Despite how survey respondents planned to vote themselves, 60.3 percent expect Democrats to regain the White House while just 14.5 percent believe Republicans would retain the White House. One quarter, 25.2 percent, are undecided.

"When you remove undecided voters from the data, 80.6 percent believed the Democrats will win the White House — a perception that will be hard to overcome," according to Lindsley.

"Even Republicans, by a margin of 42.6 percent to 29.4 percent, believe Democrats will regain the White House," he added.

In other results, former Tennessee U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson has jumped into the top tier of preferred presidential candidates among Republican-affiliated voters. Among Republicans, the four leading preferred candidates emerging from the pack are former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (38.6 percent), former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (19.3 percent), U.S. Sen. John McCain (17.9 percent) and Thompson (9.0 percent).

Some Democrats also preferred an unannounced and undeclared

candidate. Former Vice President Al Gore received 5.4 percent backing, placing him fourth among the top four Democratic contenders. The first three included U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (54.0 percent), U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (20.5 percent), and former U.S. Sen. John Edwards (12.1 percent).

More respondents, 27.5 percent, plan to vote all or mostly Democratic in 2008 than those saying they plan

to vote all or mostly Republican (20.4 percent). Others, 39.0 percent, expect to divide their vote evenly between the two parties.

"Just 17.5 percent of those under 30 years of age say they will vote all or mostly

Republican — another indication that America's youth are trending toward the Democratic Party," according to Lindsley.

By nearly a 3-to-1 margin, Republicans are considered more likely to maintain a strong military (63.8 percent) than Democrats (20.5 percent) and more likely to protect the United States against terror attacks (51.5 percent to 24.9 percent).

Democrats are considered more likely to:

■ Maintain a strong economy — 49.2 percent to 34.0 percent

■ Reduce the U.S. budget deficit — 55.5 percent to 23.6 percent

■ Provide health care to the uninsured — 76.7 percent to 11.7 percent

■ End the military effort in Iraq — 61.9 percent to 27.3 percent

■ Support higher education — 54.4 percent to 32.4 percent

"If there is a glimmer of hope for Republicans," according to Lindsley, "it is that America remains a mostly conservative nation by a nearly 2-to-1 margin — 35.9 percent (mostly and very conservative) and 21.1 percent (mostly and very liberal) with another 37.2 percent describing themselves as moderates."

According to Dr. Gary Rose, professor and chair of SHU's Government and Politics Department, the vote may be influenced by perception about the issues closer to Election Day. "If national security is the principal concern of the electorate, the Republicans will have the advantage. If domestic issues are primary, then the Democratic Party will carry the day. That's the traditional way American politics has played out over the years," Rose said.

On issues, the escalating price of gasoline was second only to the Iraq War (51.2 percent) for nearly a quarter, 23.2 percent, of respondents when asked which issues they are most concerned about. Rounding out the top 10 issues are the cost of and access to health care (12.3 percent), immigration policy/illegal aliens (10.5 percent), poor economy (8.4 percent), high taxes (5.6 percent), environment/pollution (4.5 percent), terrorism (4.1 percent), global warming (3.7 percent) and violence/crime (3.3 percent).

The poll shows that President George W. Bush continues to lose support. Just under one-third, 32.6 percent, held a very or somewhat favorable opinion of the job President Bush is doing. This favorability rating is the lowest SHU has recorded. This latest SHU poll figure is down from 51 percent in February 2006 and 45.1 percent in October 2005.

How the Poll Was Conducted

The Sacred Heart University Polling Institute completed 958 interviews with residents nationwide between May 14-26, 2007. The sample was generated proportional to population contribution in all 50 states. Statistically, a sample of 958 completed telephone interviews represents a margin of error of +/-3.0 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

Building Healthy Community Means Building Healthy Relationships

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC
Sisters of the Holy Cross

One of the four core values of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is “community.” We declare and believe that we are called to build community wherever we are. Every place we find ourselves is an opportunity to do this. The key word is “build.” Relationships are the core of community and meaningful community doesn’t just happen. A community is only as strong as its relationships.

Some have many relatives and still do not experience “family.” On the other hand, a group of unrelated people can mean more to us than our own brothers and sisters. What makes the difference?

None of us chose our family of origin. Parents do not select their children and children don’t choose their birth mothers and fathers. However, how we develop family relationships, whether by blood or through friendship, is up to us.

To build community and/or family requires effort on the part of each person. Members must actively care for and respect one another. Trust and honesty between the members are crucial elements.

Parenting is a lot more than taking care of the material needs of children. Too often parents are so busy with their work and other interests that they fail to spend quality time with and really listen to their children. Being a good mother or father does not mean giving our children everything they want. Life-giving relationships are fueled by mutual, active love and by sharing oneself with others. If I work day and night to give my family members whatever material things they want, but rarely spend time with them, problems often develop.

Distance can limit our physical presence to others. Even so, there are many ways we can stay connected. We can write letters (when is the last

time you received a “real” letter by snail mail?), e-mail, text message, telephone, etc. The bottom line is we must share ourselves with those who have an important place in our lives.

The quality of community and family is based on the quality of our relationships. Just living in the same house or being related by blood does not make a community. Even in our church. We belong to the Christian community through our baptism, but experiencing that community doesn’t just happen. Some people can be members of a parish for 20 years and not relate in any meaningful way to other parishioners. Too many Catholics just go to Mass and that is the extent of their involvement in the parish.

To make community happen, we must be willing to go out of ourselves. We must share our lives with others. This includes both our joys and our pain. It means letting other people into our lives. It means striving to

become interdependent rather than independent and self-sufficient. Being part of a community means being willing to receive as well as give.

Authentic Christian community requires a willingness to share our values and our faith in Jesus. It involves forgiving and asking for forgiveness. Sometimes we have to take the first step. We might have to be the ones who introduce ourselves to the people who sit next to us at Mass, invite someone to join a parish organization, or begin the process of reconciliation in my life.

Each of us belongs to more than one community. It might be an interesting exercise to write down all of these groups, select one and then list all the ways you can build and strengthen that community. It could be your family, workplace, school or parish. How can you help yourself and others strengthen to relationships? What can you do to build community?

Across Oklahoma

Deadline Extended

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocesan Commission for Justice and Human Development has extended the deadline to July 16 for “seed” grant monies (\$500-\$1,000) for grass-roots projects which promote social justice, empower persons, provide for social needs or address the root causes of injustice. The funds must be applied for through a parish. For further information, contact Becky VanPool at (405) 523-3009, 1-800-375-8514 or bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Dedication and Recital Set

MIDWEST CITY — Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, 1107 Felix Place, will dedicate and bless their new Rodgers organ, July 15 at 7 p.m. The blessing and dedication will be conducted by Rev. Timothy Fuller, pastor of Saint Philip Neri. An organ and trumpet recital will follow the blessing and dedication. Artists performing will be David Howard Pettit, organist, and Michael Bennett, trumpet. Pettit and Bennett have played together for almost 10 years. Their organ and trumpet duets have met with excellent reviews throughout the country. The concert is free and open to the public.

Music Camp Set

EDMOND — Saint Monica Parish will host its 11th annual Summer Music Camp the week of July 23-28. The camp culminates with participants presenting the musical *Elijah! God’s Faithful Prophet*.

The camp is a fun-filled week learning a Christian-based musical, building the background sets, making simple costuming, learning how to ring hand bells, simple choreography and much

more. The camp is open to children in grades 2 through 12.

Camp fee for Saint Monica and sister parish Sacred Heart is \$15. Non-parishioner fee is \$35. Saint Monica is a full stewardship parish, utilizing the volunteer time of its parishioners, making available this camp at an affordable price.

For more information, call Trish Kuper at 216-5559 or Marie Connolly at 315-5093.

Garage Sale Coming

NICOMA PARK — The Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Fatima Church will have their annual indoor garage sale Aug. 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 4, 8 a.m. to noon. The church is located at N.E. 23 and Meyer Circle. Proceeds from the garage sale will benefit both organization’s activities and charities. For more information, contact Pat Holcomb at 390-8679.

Parish to Host Dinner

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N.W. 18th St., is hosting its annual summer International Food Fest at 6 p.m. July 14 in the T. Phil Kierl Gymnasium. The proceeds from this benefit dinner will be used to increase the Rosary School Scholarship and Endowment Funds. At the dinner, a surprise gift will be announced and tickets for an opportunity to win the prize will be sold at the food fest and for the next two weeks after all the Masses. The cost of a gift giveaway ticket is \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. Dinner tickets will be sold for \$20 each after all the Masses. Call Mary Lalli for ticket information, 947-2947, or Michelle McGannon at 947-0161 if you want to be a member of the Diplomatic Corps, a group of donors who sponsor the dinner.

Rachel’s Vineyard Weekend

Struggling after abortion? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat. This retreat is also appropriate for those who have had a pregnancy loss from infertility treatments, RU486, morning after pill or contraception. The retreat offers an opportunity to deeply enter into the grieving process and identify ways your abortion may have affected you. Discussions, spiritual exercises, prayer and reflection are combined with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a memorial service honoring your child and a Mass of Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential. Both men and women are invited. Next retreat: Aug. 24-26. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$75 for materials, lodging and meals. Financial assistance is available. Space is limited. Registration must be finalized by Aug. 17. To register or for more information, call Susan at (405) 709-2707 or e-mail okcrachel@yahoo.com or check out www-rachelsvineyard.org

Tour Seats Remain

Father Price Oswalt said some seats remain for the 11-day tour of Poland and Prague he will lead Aug. 27 to Sept. 6. The itinerary includes two nights in Warsaw, one night in Czestochowa, three nights each in Krakow and Prague. Visits to Niepokalanow and Wadowice (home of Pope John Paul II) are planned. Cost is \$2,950 per person and includes round-trip air from OKC, TUL, DFW, superior tourist class hotels, all fees and gratuities, escorted guides, air-conditioned motor coaches, daily breakfast and dinners. Full payment is now required to book. For information and brochures, contact John Tagnesi, toll free at 1-888-544-4461.

U.S. Farm Policy Should Help Improve Lives

By Sister Barbara Jennings, CSJ and Stephanie Niedringhaus

The USCCB recently issued a statement reminding us that, “[f]or people of faith, food production is unlike any other sector of the economy precisely because it is necessary for life itself.” If we really care about life, we are called to do what we can to make this a healthier planet. We can begin with the personal food choices we make for ourselves and our families — by sitting down to healthy meals and by actively supporting food sources such as supermarkets and farms that offer us healthful alternatives.

Too often, however, setting a healthy table is not easy. Approximately one in seven people in Oklahoma lives in poverty, and many rely on food stamps to feed their families. Sadly, they must do so on an average of just 96 cents per meal.

Most people don’t realize that the food stamp program is one of many provisions in the farm bill — a bill that is currently being debated in Congress and that deserves the attention of all people of faith. The first farm bill was created in 1933 as a New Deal program to counter the devastating effects of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl. It was a mix of price supports and income support programs. The farm bill evolved and changed in succeeding decades. Current legislation includes provisions for rural development, conservation, food stamps and other emergency nutrition programs.

As a nation, we must move beyond a commercial mind-set that promotes the overproduction of agricultural commodities at the sacrifice of our health, the environment and the well-being of those of us most in need. There are better alternatives that include a focus on more diversified, healthier crops and increased access of school lunch and other nutrition programs to fresh produce.

Furthermore, we are all hurt when government farm subsidies and other programs promote overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and “fence row-to-fence row” planting in order to maximize yields. We need programs that better enable farmers to do what they do best — grow diverse, nutritious crops and healthy livestock while protecting their land and resources.

Sister Barbara Jennings is a NETWORK regional field organizer, and Stephanie Niedringhaus is NETWORK’s communications coordinator. For more information, www.networklobby.org

Culture of Life

Father Eric Nielsen



While there has been a slight trend toward larger families, the fact remains that most people limit their family size to two or three children. And I find it ironic that the reason often cited for this is economic. “We can’t afford any more than two children.” The irony comes from the fact that at no other time in recorded history has a country had as much wealth as ours.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that for a just reason a couple may space the birth of their children, but that they are to make certain that this desire is not “motivated by selfishness.” We must be careful and realize that our society measures the good in terms of material wealth, and thus it is easy to think that our children need certain things in order to be happy.

Big Money but Small Family

While a person’s material wealth is not a bad thing, and in America may indicate a certain amount of personal industriousness and responsibility, it is not an indicator of anything that God considers important. God desires us to be faithful, forgiving, trusting, generous, loving and pure; in a word “holy.” He never says anything about being rich, except to warn us of its dangers. When we plan our family around a desire of wealth for our children, we have thus stepped into a type of selfishness.

Jesus told us “to be holy as your heavenly Father is holy.” Do we have this desire? In our over 200 years as a nation we have produced a lot of billionaires and many more millionaires, but only one officially declared native born saint. It seems we could improve a bit in our desire for holiness.

The desire for holiness is incompatible with a strong desire for financial security and an easy life. If these goods are our primary concerns, they become traps that

cloud the mind and cause us to recoil from the generous heart necessary for holiness. A heart that is willing to open itself up to the will of God and take a risk for Christ cannot be overly concerned with material advantages.

It is true that God does not will all parents to have a large family, and some of the best people I know grew up without siblings. And there are prudent reasons to limit one’s family size. It is just that in the United States, I can’t see why lack of income is one of the more common reasons given for doing so.

But, you ask, “What about saving up for college? That you are required to save enough money to send every one of your children to college is a myth. “Son/daughter,” you will say, “when your mother and I decided to have you, we knew we wouldn’t have enough money to pay for your college, but we had you anyway!” Not only will he or she not hold it against you, but his or her odds of becoming a saint would have increased.

Abortion: The First Human Rights Abuse

By Ken Ong
USCCB

Torture, political imprisonment, sexual slavery, genocide — these are a few of the examples one would think of when it comes to human rights abuses. These are heinous abuses that not only Catholics, but all people of good will should fight. But in this list of atrocities, many people can forget that abortion is the earliest and most fundamental attack on human rights.

Until recently, Amnesty International documented and decried China’s policy of coercive abortion as a human rights abuse. But earlier this year, Amnesty International changed its generally neutral stance on abortion in favor of a policy supporting abortion rights for any woman who “becomes pregnant as the result of rape, sexual assault or incest, or where a pregnancy poses a risk to a woman’s life or a grave risk to her health.” “Health” can and has been interpreted very broadly, and so this new policy opens the door to abortion on demand. By pitting women’s “rights” over the right to life of the unborn, this policy will increase the injustice unborn babies suffer worldwide every day.

A mother’s womb should be the place where the smallest of God’s children are nurtured and protected,

but abortion advocacy makes the womb a place of violence and bloodshed. Human rights groups like Amnesty International should fight to protect the beginning of life as much as they fight to stop the abuses affecting

consider their new policy. If they attack the fundamental right to life, the foundation for all other human rights, then they have no credible grounds to stand upon to promote other human rights. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther

Human rights groups like Amnesty International should fight to protect the beginning of life as much as they fight to stop the abuses affecting those already born, since the right to life is the foundation for every other human right.

those already born, since the right to life is the foundation for every other human right.

Amnesty International’s new policy fails to recognize not only the dignity of the child, but also the reality that many women suffer mentally, emotionally and physically after abortion. The regret from taking part in the death of their child can leave lifelong sorrow. People often don’t consider that men can suffer, too. Men who encouraged or who didn’t have the power to stop the abortion can also be greatly impacted by the loss of their child.

Amnesty International should re-

King, Jr.: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

As a people of faith, we have to work to prevent human rights abuses from occurring, most importantly, in the womb. We must strive to increase respect for human life from conception to natural death, to prevent abortions and the suffering of men and women. We must all work together to protect those unable to speak for themselves, born or soon to be born.

Ken Ong is staff assistant to the executive director at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Faith Fads Should Have Little Impact on Catholics

Somewhere along the line, advertisers convinced me that my skin is woefully inadequate. Dull. Porous. Trapped in dead cells.

They hurled one pejorative after another upon my 20-something skin, and not once did I defend it. Instead I cried "Uncle," cowering to the cash register with some brightly packaged, overpriced remedy.

Cosmetic advertisers are creative in their diagnosis of problems: dry, brittle, rough, damaged, parched, distressed, impure.

They are equally creative in their proposal of solutions, infusing goop with a smorgasbord of extracts: rosemary, lemongrass, seaweed, cucumber, melon, mango, pomegranate, coconut, orchid.

I'm a sucker for the exotic: Swiss Glacial Water, Tahitian Palm Milk, Australian Guava. The more remote its origin, I figure, the stronger its power.

I'm also a sucker for the scientific: alpha and beta hydroxy, nutri-keratin, complexes and formulas, fruit micro-waxes. I don't have the foggiest notion

of what fruit micro-wax is, but if the back of the bottle pictures a string of magical microbeads, I'm sold.

Then there is active fruit concentrate. It doesn't take a biology degree to know that this is infinitely superior to inactive fruit concentrate.

Garnier sells face scrub containing dermatological nutrients, a phrase that's enclosed in quotation marks and followed by two asterisks. In tiny type, wedged below the product barcode, we find the asterisks' meaning: "Ingredient complexes developed exclusively by Garnier to work on the skin's outer layer."

It is a brand name, a marketer's invention, not a scientific concept. The asterisks exist for liability's sake, because technically the product is not working below the skin, as "dermatological" suggests.

Cosmetic advertisers are selling what we never knew we always needed. We buy it because our society puts a premium on appearance. We buy it because we don't want a pressing need to go unmet, and every cosmetic cause is now packaged to seem pressing. Garnier makes it



Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi

matter, insisting, "The beauty of your skin reflects your inner health and vitality."

Catholicism works the opposite way — from the inside out. It does not come in citrus packaging, yet it renews our inner health and vitality. There is no fine print. There are no asterisks or rhetorical inventions. There is nothing trendy to it. That's not the point.

"An adult faith does not follow the waves of fashion and the latest novelties," Pope Benedict XVI said.

Our faith is ancient, steadfast and deeply satisfying. When we practice it, all the fanciful effects attributed to skin products work on our interior. Catholicism hydrates the soul, polishes the spirit and softens the heart. It regenerates morals, fortifies character, renews forgiveness and rejuvenates compassion.

Our faith offers an active virtue concentrate, infused with extracts from Saint Peter, Saint Paul and the Virgin Mary. And the benefits are long-lasting; only change that begins on the inside stands the test of time.

Distinguishing between wants and needs is the task of today's Catholic young adult. Products, promises and potions are constantly pitched to us, arriving in pretty packages. Ads are more sophisticated and better-funded than ever before.

We must be discerning. We must see through the hype so we don't invest our greatest energies on causes that are skin deep. God knows the desires of our heart, and he will grant them freely and generously if we delight ourselves in him.

Parched skin may elicit more attention, but parched spirituality matters much more. So when you tend to those sunburned shoulders this summer, don't worry about coconut vs. cucumber. Lather yourself in his love.

Christina Capecchi is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

Mother Angelica Offers Wise Words for Life

Mother Angelica's Little Book of Life Lessons and Everyday Spirituality. Edited and with additional material by Raymond Arroyo. New York: Doubleday. 221 pages. Hardback. March 2007. ISBN 978-0-385-51985-4. \$16.95.

4 ½ stars out of 5

Mother Angelica is probably one of the most known Catholic religious women in the United States. The television network, EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) she founded is the best-known Catholic network in the United States and beyond. Mother Angelica is a no-nonsense kind of person. She is very earthy and this comes through in this book which is a collection of sayings and quotes from her many years of ministry to God's people.

Raymond Arroyo, the author of Mother Angelica's biography, "Mother Angelica" (2005), edits this collection of quotes. He provides a short introduction and he also introduces each chapter and its topic which many times relate to Mother Angelica's life or experience. Some of the sayings are one-liners while a few are some paragraphs long. In these sayings the reader will find a lot of material for their prayer life and for just plain living.



Brother's Review

By Brother Benet Exton, O.S.B.

There are many sayings from Mother Angelica that involve the idea of living in the present moment. She even calls this the ministry of living in the Present Moment. Her insights into this come from Brother Lawrence who wrote "The Practice of the Presence of God." She greatly encourages us to live now in this present moment and not to live in the past or in the future. She also says this living is not worrying about the past or the future. We only have to be concerned about now. We cannot do anything about the past or the future. We can do something about the now.

Another topic of hers is depending on divine providence. That is not worrying about money and other things, God will provide. That is how she built her television network and her other ministries. If they were meant to be, God would provide for them. Her network survived from month to month. It turns out God

would provide or inspire donors to give money or other materials that were needed. Usually what came into the network was just enough to make ends meet and maybe a little more. This is a great risk, but Mother's faith in God was strong.

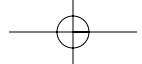
She still relies on this method. So far it has worked out very well for her and her sisters and organization. Of course she did not just sit around and expect God to provide. She worked on getting donors and prayed that God would inspire donors and others to give.

She addresses several topics in her sayings on family life, work, prayer, pain and suffering, temptations, the saints and angels, and death. Those undergoing pain and suffering will find comfort in her advice. She has suffered pain most of her life. She knows what it is like. She is presently suffering, so she knows what is to prepare for the end of life, too.

This book is a great companion to Raymond Arroyo's biography on Mother Angelica. It is highly recommended to those interested in Mother Angelica, as well as spirituality, prayer and the religious life.



The St. Gregory's University College for Working Adults hosted an open house and ribbon cutting June 11. The CWA recently expanded to the 11th floor of its 41st Street location in Tulsa. SGU's program, designed for working professionals, began in 2003 and since has grown to nearly 400 students. The CWA has also expanded to the school's Shawnee campus and added a master's degree last year. The programs of CWA emphasize the foundational values and ethical leadership essential to success in today's diverse society and expanding workplace.



Faith Under Attack

Christianity Facing More Discrimination

By Father John Flynn, L.C.

ROME, July 2, 2007 (Zenit.org). — Hostility toward Christianity is increasingly becoming a fact of life in many countries. Even in the most Catholic countries, religion has always encountered opposition, but as recent events demonstrate, believers are facing frequent episodes of animosity, both by individuals and institutions.

Cardinal Carlo Caffarra, archbishop of the central Italian city of Bologna, strongly protested a blasphemous depiction of the Virgin Mary, part of a local art exhibition. On June 19 the cardinal presided over a Mass of reparation for the offense, celebrated in the Marian shrine of San Luca, reported the Catholic daily newspaper *Avvenire* the following day.

Although city authorities distanced themselves from the exhibition following the Church's protests, the artworks had been patronized by Bologna's local government.

Just a few days later came news from Spain, where the daily newspaper *La Razón* reported June 23 that legal investigations were under way concerning pornographic images of saints. Francisco Muñoz, a Socialist Party official in charge of cultural affairs in the western Spanish region of Extremadura, was denounced for his role in giving official patronage to books by photographer José Antonio M. Montoya.

The books contained blasphemous photos of a pornographic nature not only of a number of saints, but also of Jesus and Mary. The books were published by the local government authorities and one of them even contained a preface written by Montoya.

When the books were published earlier this year, Church authorities had made strong protests. A note issued March 15 by a committee of the Spanish episcopal conference demanded greater respect for the Catholic faith. The images contained in the books are not only an offense against believers, but disturb the conscience of every upright person, the statement argued.

Neo-pagans

Meanwhile, in France authorities have arrested three young men accused of being responsible for a series of profanations of churches in May, including one 16th-century chapel that was burned to the ground. According to a June 26 report published by the daily newspaper *Le*

Monde, the men were arrested June 21 by police from the town of Quimper, in the Brittany region located in the northwest of the country.

The men inscribed the initials TABM in the places where they carried out their attacks, and at first it was thought to be a Satanic group. It later turned out the men belonged to the neo-pagan group of Celtic nature called "True Armorik Black Metal."

An offense of a different nature confronted the Church of England recently. Media company Sony included images of a violent gunfight in Manchester Cathedral as part of one of its new games for PlayStation 3,

official approval to carry out pagan ceremonies for baptism, marriage and funerals.

Pagans are also making progress in the United States, where Wiccans recently won a battle with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, reported the Associated Press on April 23. The Wiccan pentacle will now form part of the list of emblems allowed in national cemeteries and government-issued headstones of fallen soldiers. The government agreed to add the symbol to its list to settle a lawsuit initiated by a group of families.

Christian discrimination

A further victory for pagans came in Scotland, where the University of

school were wearing the rings as part of a movement that originated in the United States, called the "Silver Ring Thing."

The school argued that wearing the ring infringed rules governing what pupils can wear. Playfoot protested, pointing out that Sikh and Muslim pupils can wear bangles and head scarves in class. She also argued that other pupils regularly broke the rules with nose rings, tongue studs, badges and dyed hair.

When Playfoot refused to remove the ring, she was taken out of lessons and made to study on her own. The only reason for banning the rings was because the school refused to "give respect to aspects of the Christian faith they are not familiar with," she told the BBC.

European Union

On a wider level, any hopes that the European Union would soften its opposition to Christianity were finally killed off recently. Germany took over the rotating European Union presidency in the first semester of this year and Chancellor Angela Merkel had declared she wanted to reopen the debate over whether the prologue to the proposed new constitution should mention the continent's Christian heritage, reported *Deutsche Welle* on March 24.

"I believe this treaty should be linked to Christianity and God because Christianity was decisive in the formation of Europe," she had said following a meeting with Benedict XVI last year.

Nevertheless, Merkel admitted afterward that there was no real hope of having any such mention in the new constitution, according to *Deutsche Welle* on May 15.

In Germany the Church is concerned about the future of Christianity, as evidenced in recent comments by Cardinal Karl Lehmann, president of the German episcopal conference. According to a June 22 report by *Deutsche Welle*, the cardinal warned that an overly zealous religious neutrality by the state could lead to all faiths being treated equally, regardless of the size of their flock and their history.

"The deep cultural connection between Christianity and our legal state, which goes back to the Middle Ages and before, cannot simply be ignored," Lehmann said in a speech given in the city of Karlsruhe. A connection increasingly under attack from growing anti-Christian forces.

Hostility toward Christianity is increasingly becoming a fact of life in many countries. Even in the most Catholic countries, religion has always encountered opposition, but as recent events demonstrate, believers are facing frequent episodes of animosity, both by individuals and institutions.

reported the *Times* newspaper June 13. The dean of the cathedral, Rogers Govender, described the game as a "virtual desecration."

Following protests from the Anglican Church, supported in Parliament by then prime minister Tony Blair, Sony apologized, reported the *Times* two days later. The company said they had not intended to cause offense, but at the same time gave no indication that they would either withdraw the game or accede to the request that they make a donation to the cathedral's work on educating young people against gun crime.

Paganism is also making a comeback in Greece, reported the British newspaper the *Guardian* on Feb. 1. The article recounted a recent pagan ceremony carried out by a self-styled priestess, Doretta Peppa, in the ruins of the Athenian temple dedicated to the ancient Greek god Zeus. According to the *Guardian*, it was the first such ceremony since the Roman Empire outlawed pagan worship in the late 4th century.

According to the article last year, the group Ellinai, of which Peppa is a member, obtained legal recognition as a cultural association. This was a notable achievement as in Greece all non-Christian religions, excepting Islam and Judaism, are prohibited. Members of the group hope to obtain

Edinburgh gave permission to the Pagan Society to hold its annual conference on campus, reported the newspaper *Scotland* on May 27.

The decision drew protests from the university's Christian Union, which had earlier seen one of its events banned by campus authorities because it warned of the dangers of homosexuality.

"It's OK for other religions, such as the pagans, to have their say at the university, but there appears to be a reluctance to allow Christians to do the same," said Matthew Tindale, a Christian Union staff worker.

The article also cited Simon Dames, a spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland, who declared he felt that allowing the pagan festival to go ahead while barring the union meeting was an example of "Christianophobia."

Christians are also alleging unfair discrimination in an English case now before the High Court, reported the BBC on June 22. Lydia Playfoot, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, has accused Millais School in Horsham, West Sussex, of discriminating against Christians by banning the wearing of purity rings.

She was told by school officials to remove her ring, which symbolizes chastity, or face expulsion. According to the BBC, a group of girls at the

Un verano lleno de esperanza

Carnaval de la Florecita congregó feligreses en amor y armonía



Jóvenes pintan la bandera de México como una expresión de orgullo hispano.

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Un sano esparcimiento ofrece el acostumbrado carnaval de la Iglesia Católica la Florecita, durante todos los años del mes de junio. El carnaval en esta parroquia es una jornada que se celebra con el esfuerzo de decenas de personas en un espíritu de colaboración entre presbíteros, religiosas y laicos. Este carnaval también forma parte de la historia de la evangelización de la Florecita, la cual está llena de los frutos proclamados en el Evangelio como lo son la caridad, justicia y paz.

El carnaval de la Florecita es una actividad alentadora de los misioneros de la congregación de los Carmelitas Descalzos, quienes sembraron y siguen sembrando la semilla de la fe en el corazón de nuestro pueblo hispano.



Preparando los famosos dots.



Nada mejor que la unión por el progreso de nuestra comunidad y nuestra Iglesia.



Miembros del coro de la Florecita haciendo gala de su talento.

Pese a este drama moral y humano no debemos perder nuestras esperanzas

Intolerancia y radicalismo no deben cercenar al inmigrante

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — En una sociedad moderna, progresista, democrática y desarrollada, no puede predominar la injusticia, el relativismo y el subjetivismo moral.

Por ende, la dignidad de todo ser humano es siempre un valor en sí mismo y por sí mismo y como tal, exige ser considerado y tratado con compasión y respeto. Una persona jamás puede ser tratada y considerada como un objeto utilizable, un instrumento político o una cosa comercial. Sin duda alguna, millones de

inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos han recibido un duro revés la semana pasada con la derrota de la propuesta de ley de reforma migratoria discutida en el Congreso Estadounidense. En consecuencia, se percibe que se está perdiendo lentamente cierta tolerancia social y legal hacia los inmigrantes en general.

El aborrecimiento y la hostilidad hacia los inmigrantes es un gesto inhumano y contrario a las enseñanzas de Cristo. Cuando se desprecia a un inmigrante por el hecho de su condición legal, se está planteando un desafío a todos los inmigrantes, especialmente a los de origen hispano. El

pueblo hispano, con su variada idiosincrasia y diversidad cultural tiene un valor fundamental que comparte en comunidad como lo es la solidaridad con el más necesitado, valor que prescribe el Evangelio y el Catecismo sostenidamente.

Las leyes se hacen para corregir y ordenar a una sociedad y su Estado, preservar los derechos humanos y sobre todo buscar el bienestar común y consolidar los principios fundamentales de la democracia. Algunos medios de comunicación, así como desempeñan la noble tarea de informar y denunciar las situaciones degradantes de la persona humana

también deben respetar la dignidad intrínseca de todo ser humano y preservar los valores de la democracia. Se hace urgente la necesidad de inculcar firmemente los valores morales de todo ser humano y el respeto a sus derechos en todos los ámbitos de la vida. Por lo tanto, se debe comenzar con rechazar los comportamientos degradantes de algunas personas, que radicalmente desprecian al inmigrante por su condición legal, por grupo étnico, por su color de piel y por nivel económico.

Detener el derecho a inmigrar debe ser objeto de una firme reprobación ética y social.

JOBS BOX

Elementary School Principal

St. Mary's School in Ponca City is seeking a principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader for the school. St. Mary's has preschool through eighth grade, approximately 150 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic; have a master's degree in educational administration or a related field or be working toward such a degree; have a minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a Catholic school. Salary is based on qualifications and experience. Position available immediately. For an application, contact Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202, or contact mdubey@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Data Entry Specialist

The Office of the Archdiocesan Development Fund Appeal is seeking to fill the position of a full-time data entry specialist. Computer proficiency, including Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. Bilingual and experience with Blackbaud Software helpful but not required. Send resume to Archdiocesan Development Fund, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123 or e-mail Tmaxwell@catharchdioceseokc.org

Administrative Assistant

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is seeking an administrative assistant for its foundation office at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Should possess proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, have excellent organizational, administrative and communication skills. Send cover letter and resume to Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123-0380.

Accountant

Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City seeks an accountant. Must possess bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field; 1-plus years experience preferably in a nonprofit setting; computer proficiency, including Excel, Word and Outlook; organizational skills and ability to multi-task; excellent analytical skills; positive communication skills and ability to professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., OKC 73106 or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Administrative Assistant

Catholic Charities seeks a bilingual administrative assistant for

a new position in the Family Support Services Office. Successful candidate must possess computer proficiency, including word processing, database management and Excel; organizational skills and ability to multi-task; excellent typing skills; positive communication skills and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., OKC 73106 or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Coordinator, Case Management

Catholic Charities seeks a licensed social worker with a clinical specialty to supervise the case management staff in our Family HOPE and Transitional Housing programs. This position supervises direct services to clients. Works with all programs to develop respectful relationships with persons served while helping the clients gain skills that will empower them to solve their own problems. Catholic Charities is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive benefits and a supportive work environment. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd, OKC, 73106 or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Kids Club Director

All Saints Catholic School in Norman is looking for a part-time Kids Club director to plan educational and recreational activities, supervise assistants, supervise children from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily, and full day care on selected school holidays. Knowledge of DHS day-care regulations a plus. Please send resumes to Principal Leslie Schmitt at 4001 36th Ave., N.W., Norman, Okla 73072, or fax to (405) 447-7227.

First-Grade Teacher

St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City is accepting applications for a full-time first-grade teacher. Must be Oklahoma certified. Also accepting applications for a PE/health teacher. Submit resume to Bette J. Novak, 1121 Felix Place, Midwest City, Okla. 73110.

Part-Time Teacher Openings

St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting applications for a part-time vocal music teacher and part-time PE teacher for the 2007-2008 school year. Candidates must be certified by the state of Oklahoma. Interested

applicants may send a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Diane Floyd at 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon 73099, or call (405) 354-2509 for more information.

Elementary Teacher Openings

St. Mary's Catholic School, Guthrie, is accepting applications for employment for the 2007-2008 school year. Candidates must be certified by the state of Oklahoma and possess a degree in early childhood or elementary education. Send resume and copy of teaching certificate to Sheila Whalen-Guthrie, 502 E. Warner, Guthrie 73044, or call (405)-282-2071 for more information.

Elementary Teacher Openings

Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is accepting applications for elementary and early childhood teachers for the 2007-08 school year. Submit resume and copy of teaching certificate to Mary Jane Wittrock, P.O. Box 485, Okarche 73762, fax (405) 263-9753 or e-mail mjwittrock@holyltrinityok.org.

Elementary Teacher Openings

Saint Mary's School, Ponca City, is accepting applications for employment for the 2007-2008 school year. Openings include a part-time science teacher and part-time pre-algebra/algebra teacher. Additional teaching responsibilities may be available to qualified applicants. Elementary certification and subject endorsements required. Contact Principal Shirley Zink at (580) 765-4387.

3-Year-Old Teacher

Villa Teresa Catholic School needs a teacher for 3-year-olds. Must have associate degree in early childhood or CDA, 12-month position. Call Sister Veronica at 232-4286.

Teachers Sought

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is accepting applications for a combined fifth- and sixth-grade and pre-kindergarten and first-grade teachers. Oklahoma elementary certification. Strong math skills desired. Submit applications to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, fax (405) 262-2284, Attention Shannon Statton.

High School Coaches/Teachers

Mount St. Mary Catholic HS (Oklahoma City) is accepting applications for a part-time Spanish position for the 2007-2008 school year with some assistant coaching (football and/or basketball)

experience preferred but not required. Send resume, letter of interest, copy of teaching certificate and references to Talita DeNegri, Mount St. Mary HS, 2801 S. Shartel, OKC 73109, fax (405) 631-9209. For more information, call 405-631-8865 or e-mail tdenegri@mountstmary.org.

Music Director

St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City, seeks full-time music director to direct traditional, contemporary and children's choirs and supervise cantors. Organ and piano skills necessary. Bilingual skills preferred. Degree in music with experience directing music in a parish setting. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume with three professional references to Rev. Joseph Jacobi, St. Eugene Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, OKC 73120, fax (405) 751-8722, phone (405) 751-7115, e-mail mbrown@st-eugenese.org.

DRE/Youth Minister

St. Joseph Parish in Muskogee is in need of a director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry to coordinate religious formation and activities for youth and adults. Must be a Catholic in good standing that enjoys working with young people. The position is full time. Formal education in theology preferred. Contact Father Bryan Brooks at (918) 687-1351 for more information.

Music Director

St. Joseph Parish in Muskogee is in need of a music director to lead a vocal choir and assist in planning liturgies throughout the liturgical year. Experience as an organist is helpful but not required. Contact Father Bryan Brooks at (918) 687-1351 for more information.

\$1 Million Gift —

continued from page 1
the giver of all good gifts, bless this generous benefactor and all others who follow this example."

Casso said the major gift provides a tremendous boost to the endowment effort. "By investing in the Catholic Schools Endowment, a donor is "Investing in the Future of Our Faith" — a statement so true to the mission of the Catholic Foundation that we use it in all of our correspondence," he said. "The \$1 million gift puts us one step closer to realizing the archbishop's vision — what better way to assure the continuation of our Faith, than to make a direct investment in Catholic Education."

To learn more about the Catholic Schools Endowment, contact the Catholic Foundation at (405) 721-4115 or tcasso@catharchdioceseokc.org.

JULY

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

14 St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N.W. 18th St., is hosting its **annual summer International Food Fest** at 6 p.m. in the T. Phil Kierl gymnasium. Tickets will be sold for \$20 each after all Masses. Call Mary Lalli for ticket information, 947-2947.

14 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.

15 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.

15 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.

21 A Healing Heart Workshop will be held from 9

a.m. to noon at the Red Plains Monastery in the red art barn. The workshop will feature Bob Willis. Willis uses the medium of clay in guiding persons to share the pain of loss. As a grief professional and a professional sculptor, Bob blends his experience with music and other grief materials as persons sculpt a unique and personal Healing Heart. All materials are provided. Call 373-4739 to register. Fee: \$70, non-refundable deposit of \$20.

22 Pilgrimage Sunday, 10:45 a.m. Anointing of the Sick, 11 a.m. Mass, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer of the Chaplet of the Infant Jesus and the Litany of the Infant Jesus. Nat'l Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

23-27 St. Monica Music Camp, 8:30 a.m. to noon. The final performance is held on Saturday, July 28, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Music camp is open to second grade through high school, with a kindergarten and first-grade class available for children of full-time adult staffers. The nursery is available for those helping with camp.

AUGUST

1 Holy Family Home Mass, 10 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City, (405) 523-3000.

1-3 Emmaus Days Retreat. This is a retreat for young men (high school freshmen through seniors) who would like to learn more about the call to the

priesthood. For more information or to register, call the Vocations Office at (405) 721-9351.

3-5 Journey with Christ. This is a retreat for high school women (sophomores through graduating seniors) to consider their calling. For more information or to register, call the Vocations Office at (405) 721-9351.

3 First Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 8:30 a.m. Rosary School Mass there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 5:30 p.m. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (two blocks east of Penn) in Oklahoma City.

3 First Friday Adoration at Holy Name of Jesus in Chickasha. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. followed by Benediction. This is open to all. Holy Name of Jesus is located at 210 S. 7th St. in Chickasha.

3 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, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

For the full calendar of events go to www.catharchdioceseokc.org

RCIA Workshops Set

SHAWNEE — Three different workshops on "Christian Initiation: It Takes a Parish" will be conducted July 27-28 at Saint Gregory's University. The workshops are for RCIA leaders and volunteers. These workshops (one on Friday evening, one on Saturday morning and a third on Saturday afternoon) are sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Development of Saint Gregory's University, the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Pastoral Studies Institute of the Diocese of Tulsa. Those attending the workshops will receive credit toward the Certificate in R.C.I.A. Ministry offered by Saint Gregory's.

Sister Ginger Downey, OLMV, will lead the workshops. She is the current director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Phoenix.

Participants should each have their own copy of the RCIA ritual. Copies are available for purchase (\$17 for Study Edition).

Workshop cost is \$15 for Friday only; \$25 for Saturday only (includes meals); and \$35 for both days. Advanced registration is required. Register by July 17.

Housing is available in student resident halls at \$21 per person. Other housing is available (contact directly): Motel 6, (405) 275-5310, Days Inn, (405) 275-6720, or Ramada Inn, (405) 275-4404.

For more information, call (405) 878-5116 or online srveronica@stgregorys.edu or Office of Worship at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 158.

Cordova Classic Benefits Mount

Mount Saint Mary Alumni Association sponsored the 20th Annual Córdoba Classic at Cimarron National Golf Club in Guthrie. This year's tournament was held June 8 and featured 82 golfers, ranging from high school students to retirees, MSM alumni and friends. Thanks to the hard work of the golf committee and the support of numerous sponsors, the 20th Annual Cordova Classic netted more than \$9,500. From this, \$5,000 will be placed in the MSM Endowment Fund in honor of Pete Córdoba. Funds from the tournament will be used to award service scholarships and legacy scholarships to members of the MSM class of 2008 as well as an alumni induction breakfast for the seniors. The remaining funds will be used for alumni activities during the year as well as for the support of student activities.

Thanks to all golfers and the following sponsors for a successful tournament: Mercy Health Center, Mollman Energy Company, A.F.T.S., Arledge & Associates, CareSource, Larry Howell, OG&E, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance, Spectro Wire & Cable, Bowers Construction, Dennis Moran, Tyler Media, Wegener Human Resource Group, Anderson & House, Brandt's Ace Hardware, Byford Auto Group, Coppermark Bank, Richard Cudjo - Smith Barney, G & R Auto Parts, Rick Jones Auto Group, Ken's Tire, Mollman's Culligan Water, Marathon Electric, Martin Legacy, Oklahoma Energy Services, Thoroughbred Motors and Ultimate Collision.



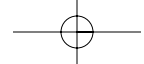
Top Flight winners, Weber, Cantrell, Weber and Rosinski.

Top Flight

1st Joe Weber '62
Leroy Cantrell
Matt Weber
John Rosinski
2nd Chris Bolding
Benny Clay
Terry Wilkerson
Jim Glazebrook
3rd Richard Faught '95
Keith Skaggs '97
CJ Wilson '98

Handicap Flight

1st Mark Wolf '80
Felton Stroud
Kyle Foss
2nd Jim Payne '62
Jim Sokolosky '62
Richard Payne '66
Chevis Sokolosky
3rd Derek Mountford '83
Jason Hart
Paul Boren
Stewart Burchett



Inaugural Family Conference Plants Seeds for Future

By Eileen Dugan
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Popular Catholic writer and speaker Mark Shea charmed participants with three presentations at the first Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference. His humorous delivery and casual style amused and enlightened the audience gathered at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

Jeff Finnell and his wife, Kathy of Saint Monica's Catholic Church in Edmond came up with the idea of a Catholic conference for the family. The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life and Saint Monica's Parish sponsored the event.

Finnell welcomed participants to the all-day meeting, and Father Shane I. Tharp, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Church in Prague, gave the blessing. Catholic vendors offered religious items for sale throughout the day.

Shea, the conference's main speaker, is a double convert, first from "agnostic paganism" to nondenominational Evangelicalism in 1979, and then from Evangelicalism to Catholicism in 1987.

Shea grew up in Seattle without any religion. "By the time I got to college, I had a deep sense of longing for something I couldn't put my finger on; I was a pagan seeking God," he said.

Shea said by the time he got to college his life was pretty much in chaos. The Evangelicals who lived in his dorm were serious believers, giving him his first glimpse of religion.

"I was drawn to the God they believed in," he said. The Evangelicals began answering Shea's questions about Christianity and, soon, had converted him to Christ.

Conversion to Evangelicalism did not squelch Shea's desire to ask questions. As he grew as a Christian, tougher and tougher questions about Christian life and belief popped into his head. When he wanted answers about Apostolic Succession and the "Real Presence" in the Eucharist, his evangelical buddies were at a loss to give, what to him were, satisfactory answers. He began to look elsewhere for enlightenment.

To his amazement, Shea found the answers he was looking for in the Roman Catholic Church. His journey from agnosticism to Catholicism concluded in 1987 when he became a Catholic.

Today, Shea lives in Washington state with his wife, Janet, and their four sons. When he is not speaking at conferences or writing books, he serves as senior content editor for the Catholic online question-and-answer



Father Shane Tharp, Mark Shea and Jeff Finnell before the inaugural Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference.

us that after Lent, we should form small groups and continue to meet. He

attend. "Conferences like this one are so motivating. To have things like this open to the whole family helps keep God alive in our homes," said Tracy Hambrick. "We really need more things [like this conference] for our teens."

Finnell shared with participants his family's vision for future Catholic family conferences. He said he and his wife foresee an Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference that will mirror the ones they attended in Wichita, Kan., where they lived before being transferred to Oklahoma City three years ago. Called the Midwest Catholic Family Conference, the Kansas gatherings totally immersed attendees in Catholic life and activities, Finnell said.

"It touched us and our children, helping us to keep the world out and the Catholic world in," he said. "We need something like the Midwest conference here in Oklahoma to help Oklahoma Catholics grow."

Finnell said this year's day-long conference was "the kickoff to set the plan for next year in motion."

"We want the second annual Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference to be a total family event. We already have the support of several parishes and the archbishop."

"We are presently planning a two-day conference at the Cox Center in downtown Oklahoma City for June 21-22, 2008. There will be several nationally known speakers, including Johnette Benkovic from EWTN's Abundant Life program," Finnell said.

He appealed to participants to sign up for one of several committees necessary to help put on such a large-scale undertaking next year. Many at this year's conference answered his call.



Michelle Owens, Karalyn Finnell and Veronica Allen listen to Shea during the conference.

Web site www.CatholicExchange.com.

At the same site, he co-authors a Catholic Scripture Study with Scott Hahn and Jeff Cavins.

Conference planners were pleased by the "positive response" the audience gave Shea.

"I read Mr. Shea on CatholicExchange.com," said Cindy Martin, a parishioner at Saint Eugene's in Oklahoma City. "I like his writing, so I invited my friends (Robyn Duginski, Theresa Sandell and Eileen Coffman) to come and hear him."

Duginski thought Shea was "funny and enlightening" while Sandell found him "inspirational."

"The four of us are following up on our Lenten Mission, given by Father David Knight [author and retreat leader from Memphis, Tenn]. He told

urged us to keep learning about our faith," said Coffman.

Jim Howard of Saint Monica's said he found "Shea's humor, like his Christianity, wonderfully paradoxical, enough to make me want to cry."

Others were also impressed.

"Attending Catholic conferences like this one is a good way to broaden our understanding of what we believe," said Dick Rossencrans from Saint John the Baptist Church in Edmond. Rossencrans was at the family conference with his wife, Monica, and their three children.

The John Hambrick family from Holy Family Parish in Lawton also appreciated a conference geared to the entire Catholic family. John, wife, Tracy, and three of the Hambricks four children drove to Oklahoma City to



Kathy Finnell fixes 2-year-old Alayna's hair prior to the beginning of the conference.