

Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 35, Number 16 * August 30, 2009

Our Seminarians



Archbishop Beltran, along with Father William Novak, left, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, and Father Richard Hamilton, far right, vocations team member, stand with Archdiocesan seminarians. The seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are Theology 3 Cory Stanley; Theology 2 Vincente Lopez; Theology 1 Brian Buettner and Robert Miller; Pre-Theology 2 Christopher Brashears, Linh Bui and Timothy Ruckel; Pre-Theology 1 Aaron Foshee, James Matthew Thomason and Lance Warren; College 4 Cristobal DeLoera and Daniel Grover; College 3 Andrew Horn and John Lewis; College 2 Jared Ortega and Joshua Zakrzewicz; and College 1 Blake Jezioro.

Domestic Violence Conference in OKC

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is a sponsor of Oklahoma's annual conference dedicated to ending domestic violence. The two-day conference will be held Sept. 9-10 at the Renaissance Convention Center and Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office is a sponsor, along with organizations dedicated

to protecting women and children from violence.

The conference will cover a wide variety of topics related to domestic violence, including information on how to break the cycle of violence that often accompanies teen dating.

For more information or to register, go to www.regonline.com/partnersforchange.

*The Good News***... Feast of Our Lady of LaVang**

Cathedral of Our Lady
August 16, 2009

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As always, it is a great joy to gather together with you, the faithful Vietnamese Catholic people of Oklahoma City. Today there is an additional joy since we are celebrating this feast of our Blessed Mother, which most of us here in America have never observed. However, in recent decades, as you and your families came to America, we too began to learn about Our Lady of LaVang.

Like Catholics throughout the whole world, we were already aware of the unique role that the Blessed Mother played in salvation history. She is the special creation of God, immaculately conceived and preserved from all stain of sin. Totally obedient to God, the Blessed Mother always responded positively, thus fulfilling God's Will in every circumstances of her life.

Mary is the chosen one who was called to become the mother of Jesus, the eternal Son of God. She became our mother as Jesus died on the cross. There, John, the Apostle, representing us, heard Jesus say to him, "Son, this is your mother." And to Mary, Jesus

said: "This is your son." Mary thereby became mother to all of us.

Then, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary continued to inspire the Apostles as they fulfilled the mission Jesus gave them. This mission included the proclamation of the Gospel (i.e., the Good News of Jesus) and the celebration of the sacraments.

But even when Mary was called by God and taken by Him body and soul into heaven, she continued to be our mother, our guide, our helper. She is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Therefore, periodically she would appear somewhere in the world to remind us of God's goodness and love, to call us to repentance and to assure us of her love and her help.

Thus many nations and cultures and societies cherish the fact that Mary, the Mother of God and our mother, too, has appeared on their soil.

She came to different places at various times in history. In each instance she brought consolation and healing. She always led people back to her Son Jesus Who is our Lord, our Savior. She is always a kind and loving mother.

Today we are honoring Mary under the title of Our Lady of LaVang.

There in central Vietnam, Mary

*May we always
remain good
and faithful
Catholic
people,
children of
Mary, the
Mother of
God.*



Archbishop
Beltran

appeared to the local people and encouraged them to be faithful to our Catholic religion. There she healed them and watched over them. Now for more than 200 years, she has continued to bless the people of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese people who immigrated to other countries, like you who have come to America, introduced us to Our Lady of LaVang. We witness the love you have for our Blessed Mother and your devotion to her as Our Lady of LaVang. We are very happy to join you in honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, for she is mother of us all. May we always remain good and faithful Catholic people, children of Mary, the Mother of God.

Seminary Burses

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

A \$25 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse in honor of Rev. Charles H. Schettler's 80th birthday.

Father Joseph Beltran
Seminary Burse
\$87,743

Father Stephen Bird
Seminary Burse
\$11,100

Father Denis Blackledge
Seminary Burse
\$8,337

Father Wade Darnall
Seminary Burse
\$10,545

Father Larry Gatlin
Seminary Burse
\$10,000

Father Bernard J. Havlik
Seminary Burse
\$26,710

Father James A. Kastner
Seminary Burse
\$10,220

Bishop Stephen A. Leven
Seminary Burse
\$59,628

Father John A. Petuskey
Seminary Burse
\$11,850

Father Clement E. Pribil
Seminary Burse
\$5,351

Father Stanley Rother
Seminary Burse
\$184,496

Archbishop Charles Salatka
Seminary Burse
\$185,945

Father Gerald Ucker
Seminary Burse
\$9,998
Totals as of 7/31/2009

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The Good News Vietnamese Translation

Ông bà và anh chị em thân mến, Đức Tổng bày tỏ sự vui mừng hân hoan mỗi khi cùng người Công Giáo Việt Nam tại Oklahoma City cử hành những ngày lễ. Hôm nay, ngài lại còn vui mừng hơn khi được cùng chúng ta long trọng mừng kính Lễ Đức Mẹ Lavang, ngày lễ mà phần lớn những người Mỹ chưa từng biết tới. Từ những thập niên gần đây, từ khi người Công Giáo Việt Nam chúng ta bắt đầu định cư tại Hoa Kỳ, người Mỹ cũng mới bắt đầu nghe đến Danh Thánh Đức Mẹ Lavang.

Giống như những người Công Giáo khác đang sống trên toàn thế giới, chúng ta luôn nhận ra rằng Đức Maria có một sứ mạng rất quan trọng trong chương trình cứu chuộc loài người. Đức Mẹ là một tạo vật được Thiên Chúa dựng nên một cách đặc biệt, và được Ngài yêu thương gìn giữ khỏi mắc tội tổ tông truyền. Và để đền đáp lại tình yêu bao la đó của Thiên Chúa, Mẹ Maria luôn sống hai tiếng “xin vâng” trong mọi hoàn cảnh của cuộc đời.

Trong chương trình cứu chuộc của Thiên Chúa, Đức Maria được chọn làm Mẹ Đức Giêsu Kitô, Con Một rất yêu dấu Thiên Chúa Cha. Và Đức Mẹ đã trở nên Mẹ của mỗi người chúng ta khi Đức Giêsu Kitô trút hơi thở cuối cùng trên Cây Thánh Giá. Nơi chân cây Thập Tự, Thánh Gioan Tông Đồ đã đại diện cho cả nhân loại để được nghe Đức Giêsu Kitô phán rằng: “**Này là Mẹ con**”, cũng như Ngài đã âu yếm trao loài người cho Đức Mẹ mà rằng: “**Này là con Mẹ**”. Và từ đó Đức Maria trở thành Mẹ của tất cả mọi người chúng ta.

Sau khi Đức Giêsu Kitô chịu chết và sống lại, Đức Maria tiếp tục hướng dẫn các tông đồ chu toàn sứ mạng Chúa trao phó, đặc biệt qua việc rao giảng Tin Mừng của Đức Kitô và trung thành sốt sắng cử hành các phép Bí Tích.

Khi Đức Mẹ được Thiên Chúa đón cả hồn lẫn xác về trời, Ngài vẫn luôn là Mẹ chúng ta, là Đấng hướng dẫn và là Đấng che chở phù trì. Đặc biệt, Đức Mẹ là Mẹ Thiên Chúa và cũng là Mẹ của Giáo Hội. Theo từng định kỳ, Đức Mẹ đã hiện ra ở các nơi trên thế giới để nhắc nhở con người chúng ta về sự tốt lành và tình yêu của Thiên Chúa. Đức Mẹ mời gọi chúng ta từ bỏ con đường yếu đuối tội lỗi và trở về với Thiên Chúa cũng như tin tưởng vào tình yêu và sự trợ giúp của Mẹ.

Nhiều quốc gia và nhiều dân tộc đã hân hoan vui mừng vì được Đức Maria, Mẹ Thiên Chúa và là Mẹ nhân loại, hiện ra trên vùng đất của họ. Đức Mẹ đã hiện ra nhiều nơi và nhiều thời điểm khác nhau trong lịch sử, và mỗi lần hiện ra, Đức Mẹ đều đem đến sự an ủi và sự ơn chữa lành. Là Người Mẹ đầy yêu thương, Đức Mẹ luôn luôn mời gọi loài người trở về với Con của Ngài là Đức Giêsu Kitô, Đấng Cứu Chuộc nhân loại.

Hôm nay chúng ta mừng kính suy tôn Đức Maria với tước hiệu Đức Mẹ Lavang. Đức Mẹ đã hiện ra với đoàn con Công Giáo Việt Nam, đặc biệt đoàn con cái của Ngài tại miền Trung, để chữa lành, an ủi, che chở, vỗ về họ trong thời kỳ cấm đạo. Rồi trong suốt hơn 200 năm qua, Đức Mẹ Lavang vẫn tiếp tục ban ơn che chở Đoàn Con Dân Việt.

Đức Tổng kết thúc bài giảng bằng những lời khen ngợi người Công Giáo Việt Nam chúng ta, đã dùng đời sống đức tin, nhất là lòng sùng kính yêu thương Mẹ Lavang một cách đặc biệt, để giới thiệu Đức Mẹ Lavang đến cho người Công Giáo Hoa Kỳ. Đức Tổng và những anh chị em Công Giáo Hoa Kỳ rất vui mừng tôn vinh Danh Thánh Đức Trinh Nữ Maria, vì Ngài là Mẹ của tất cả mọi người chúng ta. Đức Tổng cũng khuyến khích mọi người Công Giáo chúng ta tiếp tục sống tốt lành thánh thiện, để luôn xứng đáng là con cái của Đức Mẹ Maria, Mẹ chúng ta là Mẹ Thiên Chúa.

Catholic Parishes Join With Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee

Priest Explains Role of Organization

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Six Catholic parishes are among about two dozen churches in the Oklahoma City area that have joined to form an entity known as the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee. The OSC was created in February.

Father Tim Luschen, pastor of St. Monica Church in Edmond, said the purpose of the organization is to listen to the concerns and needs of families and individuals in the churches and parishes and then determine if similar issues are posing challenges in other areas of the community.

“Families are hurting,” Father Luschen said. He said the OSC member churches will conduct research after gathering information specific to each church and parish to determine if any course of action could be implemented to help address common issues. He said by gathering this information, the churches and parishes can determine if ministries already exist that could address the situation, or “do we need to develop a new ministry” to tackle an issue.

The information will be gathered by listening to parishioners. This will occur first, Father Luschen said, in small groups, normally meeting in homes. The smaller groups will then come together for parish meetings.

Father Luschen said the six Catholic parishes have agreed to join with Protestant churches and one Jewish congregation in the OSC effort. He said in no way would the Catholic parishes agree to support anything that goes against Church teaching or tradition.

“We will only work on the issues we can agree on,” he said. He used transportation as a possible example. Low-income persons often

find it difficult to move about Oklahoma City. Father Luschen said he knows of one man with disabilities who commutes by bus from The Village to the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. He said it takes the man four hours to make the trip by city bus. In a car the route could be driven in no more than 20 minutes.

Father Luschen said he is aware there has been criticism concerning the Catholic involvement in the OSC. A number of Catholics have written or spoken against Church involvement and recently Catholic participation in the OSC has been criticized on the Internet and on an Oklahoma City radio station.

Originally, nine Catholic parishes were involved with the OSC, but Father Luschen said three decided against further participation. Parishes currently supporting the OSC include The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Monica, St. Charles, St. Patrick, Sacred Heart and St. Eugene. All are in Oklahoma City except for St. Monica, which is in Edmond.

Father Luschen said while he supports the rights of those in opposition to criticize, he believes the OSC can help do good in the community while continuing to strictly follow Church teaching.

“We will continue to do what we do in our parishes,” Father Luschen said. He said the OSC will simply allow more voices to come together in search of solutions to critical issues. He said also that community organizing has been accepted and even promoted by Catholic bishops in various parts of



Father Tim Luschen

“We will only work on the issues we can agree on.”

Father Tim Luschen

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Archdiocesan Priests Celebrate 50 Years of Service to God

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

This year Pope Benedict XVI has declared the “Year for Priests,” and how appropriate is it the Archdiocese is marking the 50th jubilee ordination of four of our priests. Father Gerard MacAulay, Father John J. Michalicka, Father Marvin F. Leven and Father Denis Hanrahan have each reached this very special of milestones.

Between them, that’s more than 200 years of celebrating Mass, bringing the Holy Eucharist to parishioners across the state as well as thousands of baptisms, weddings and funerals. And that only begins to scratch the surface of the duties of these men who faithfully answered God’s call to the priesthood in 1959 when Ike was in the White House and television was still somewhat new.

Father John Michalicka **Pastor, St. Mary’s, Ponca City**

Father Michalicka was born in Union City in November 1933. He was ordained at Our Lady’s Cathedral in Oklahoma City on May 16, 1959.

He grew up in a family where daily prayer and Sunday Mass were a regular part of their life. Although he labels his calling a “reluctant discovery,” Father Michalicka gradually was drawn to his vocation by the beauty of the Mass and liturgy.

To this day, Mass and the opportunities of sharing in the joy of baptisms, weddings and reunions hold a special place in his heart.

Over the past 50 years he’s seen the faith battle a secular and consumer culture.

“Being a witness to God in a secular world, with the love of Christ seems to surprise so many with a myopic view of earth and view of living,” he said.

Father Michalicka has served at the Pastoral Center, Our Lady’s Cathedral, St. Anthony’s Hospital, Oklahoma City, Epiphany, Oklahoma City, as well as missions in Woodward, Canute and Coalgate. He has been pastor at St. Mary’s in Ponca City since 1994. He was also an associate there in the 1960s.

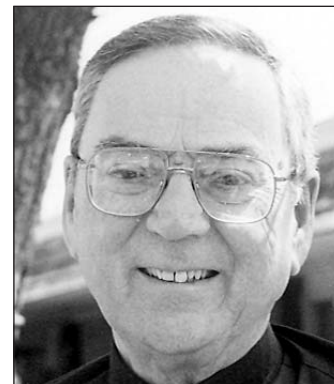
Father Denis G. Hanrahan **Pastor, St. Mary’s, Guthrie**



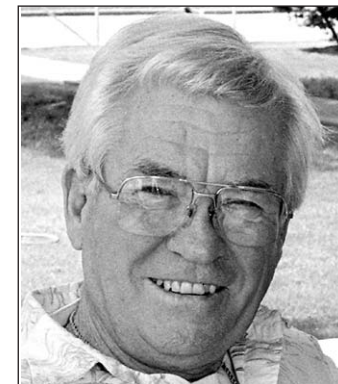
Father John Michalicka



Father Denis G. Hanrahan



Father Gerard MacAulay



Father Marvin F. Leven

Father Hanrahan was ordained June 14, 1959, in Dublin, Ireland. He followed in the footsteps of his brother, Michael, who was ordained in 1954 and served the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City faithfully until his death in 1990.

In Ireland Father Hanrahan was from a parish where the priesthood vocation was popular among young men.

“There were probably more than 20 ordained from my parish,” he said. “When they were home on vacation, they made an impression on me.”

It was their witness to the faith and Michael’s decision to serve, which also led him to his decision to serve God. Michael was born in the United States and therefore made the decision to serve in this nation. Father Hanrahan followed his brother. Father Hanrahan’s ministry has taken him to Blessed Sacrament in Lawton; Sacred Heart, Oklahoma City; St. Pius, Tulsa; St. Helen’s, Frederick; St. Eugene’s, Weatherford; St. Rose of Lima, Watonga; St. Catherine’s, Pauls Valley; and now St. Mary’s, where he’s in his 18th year as pastor.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity the archdiocese has given me to serve,” he said.

Has he ever thought about the number of Masses he’s celebrated?

“Well, it’s at least one a day for 50 years,” he said. (That comes to 18,250) Next year he turns 75 and will be eligible for retirement, he said.

Father Gerard MacAulay **Retired**

It was May 23, 1959, at Prince Edward Island, Canada, where Father MacAulay was ordained into the priesthood. Like his fellow jubilee

celebrants, he has served several parishes in the state, bringing the sacraments to worshippers.

These days, he celebrates Mass at St. Ann’s Retirement Center near the Archdiocesan Center

Born Nov. 30, 1928, he also has made an impression, a profound one with many of his former parishioners. Last May, Catherine Green, formerly of Holy Family Parish in Lawton, wrote The Sooner Catholic and recalled many of the times and experiences Father MacAulay had there.

She called him a “good priest leading the souls in his care toward heavenly pasture.” She remembered when he left Holy Family.

“The church was so full at his farewell. He had been kind to the sick, the elderly, the small children.” And perhaps she summed up best his legacy.

“I don’t know where all his parishioners are now; many have died and some moved away as we did ourselves. But we remember Father, we thank you for your many sacrifices. We thank you for your goodness and holiness and kindness.”

He served at St. Mary’s in Ponca City; Christ the King, Oklahoma City; St. Peter’s, Woodward; St. Philip Neri, Midwest City; St. Eugene’s, Oklahoma City; Our Lady of Victory in Purcell; Holy Family, Lawton; and Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City.

Father Marvin F. Leven **Retired**

On May 6, 1959, Father Leven was ordained at St. Francis Church in Newkirk. At a jubilee celebration last May at St. John’s in Edmond, Father Leven noted there had been many challenges in his 50 years. Hundreds

packed the Great Hall of St. John’s in Edmond where Father Leven said he was like a cat with nine lives. “I still have two more to go,” he joked.

It’s that sense of humor which has helped Father Leven in his vocation. He believes the Holy Spirit has had a deep effect on his life, as has his spiritual relationship with martyred priest, Father Stanley Rother. In an interview with the Sooner Catholic in 1992, Father Leven discussed both.

“I’ve seen radical changes in people’s lives through their devotion to the Holy Spirit,” he said. He recalled a time when he asked for intervention by the late Father Rother with a young woman near death. She survived her surgery and began to recover.

Father Leven was raised in rural Oklahoma and another of his stories concerned his late father, Anton. As a young man his father was turned down for Knights of Columbus life insurance — considered a poor risk. His father lived to be 105, dying in 2003.

In addition to being a longtime chaplain for the Oklahoma State Council of the Knights of Columbus, he served at St. Peter and Paul, Tulsa; St. Francis Xavier, Enid (twice); St. Eugene’s, OKC; Holy Family, Tulsa; Prince of Peace, Altus; St. John the Baptist, Edmond; Holy Trinity, Okarche; and Holy Family, Lawton.

Though retired in 1999, he continues to serve as chaplain at Mercy Hospital; as chaplain to the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of the Carmel of St. Joseph; and as chaplain for cruise ships of the Holland America Cruise Line.

Priests Stand With Us on Our Journey

Editor's Note: This column, in honor of the "Year for the Priest," is made available from the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. It is also on the Web at <http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/articles.shtml>.

The Priest

By Paula Brock

Alter Christus the Priest, another Christ. In his love and wisdom, God did not leave us alone on this earth but gave us the priest. During my pilgrimage here on earth, the priest has accompanied me, helping me to navigate and stay on the path that will lead me to my eternal home. He has come in many forms, ages, races and manners; and he has always been there, in the happy times, in the sad times and in the ordinary times.

He has been my friend, counselor, confessor and consoler. He is Augustinian, Dominican, Benedictine and secular.

When I was first born, he was there to bring me to a precious and nobler birth through the sacrament of baptism. I have seen him baptizing my children and grandchildren as infants, and my husband as an adult.

What joy for me to see my family being freed from their sins, entering the Church and being made sharers in her mission!

When I was a child, the priest was there to reconcile me to God. I received my first Sacrament of Penance as an innocent 7-year-old, little did I know of sin. But as time passed and I offended the Lord, it was the priest who showed me God's great mercy and encouraged me in the knowledge that my sins were forgiven.

How vividly I remember my First Holy Communion Day, wearing my beautiful white dress and veil and missing my front tooth. The priest was there again, to give me the life-giving food that is Christ come down from Heaven. I did not think I could ever be happier than I was on that day. Although I little understood the depths of this mystery at the time, through the years the continual reception of the most Holy Eucharist, made available to me through the priest, has shaped my life and my very being.

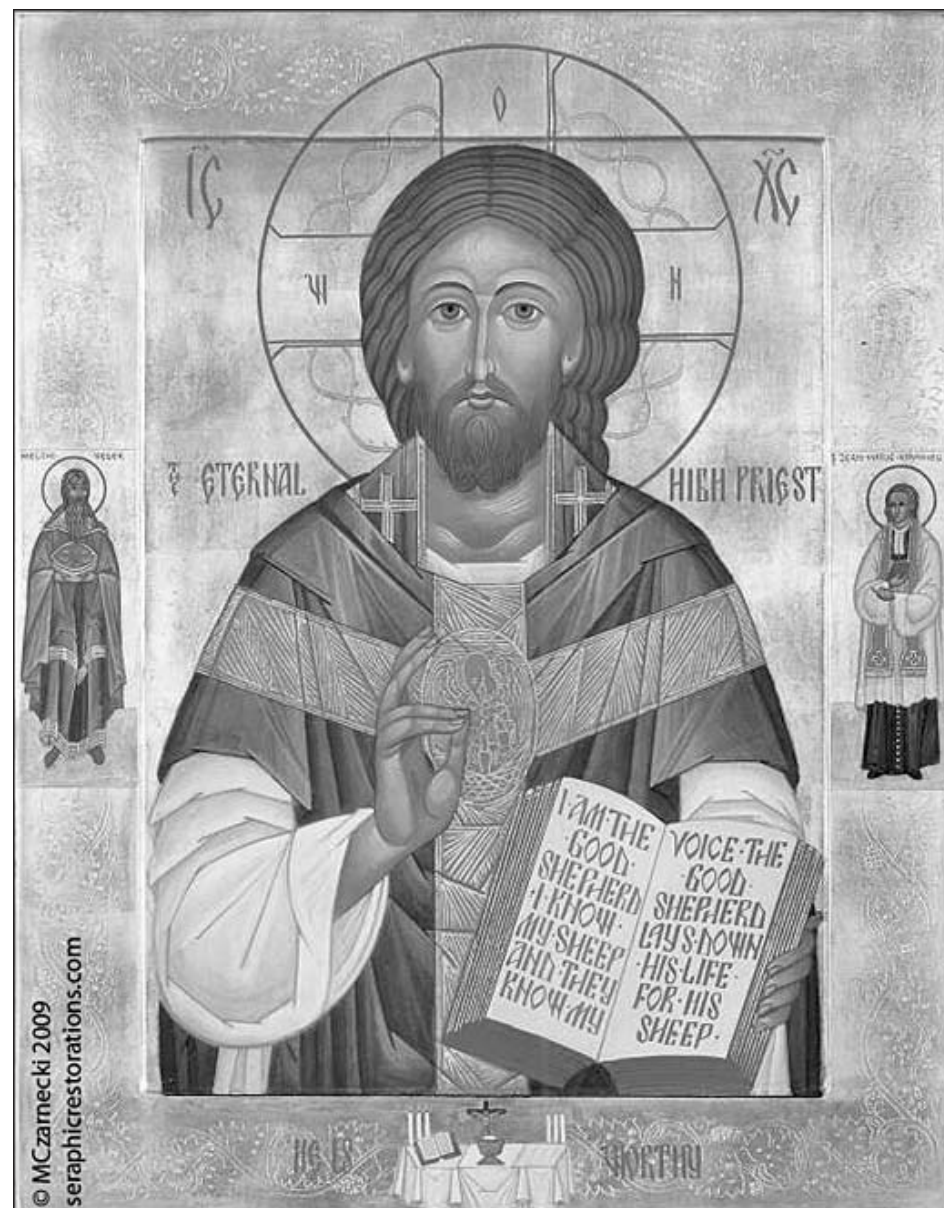
As a 9-year-old I remember wearing a red gown and receiving the light slap on the face from the bishop that was a customary Confirmation symbol at the time. I was told I was now a soldier of Christ, and I proclaimed with great certainty that I would be willing to die for the Lord! However, as I progressed through my early adult years, I was anything but a soldier. Though the priest is often scorned and condemned for defending the divine and enduring things of God, it was his example that brought me back to my senses.

As a young bride, my husband and I exchanged our vows witnessed by the priest; there he was with us as we made the public decision to cooperate with God in the founding of our family. The multitude of joys throughout our years together clearly demonstrates God's presence in our marriage. The birth of our children, seeing them grow into loving adults with children of their own, and spending simple time together in the lovely quietness of family life are all gifts beyond compare.

The priest was with me again on one sad September day, as he gave my husband the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. My husband was dying and I had to let him go. What a comfort it is to know that my husband was reconsecrated before he presented himself to the Divine and Merciful Judge. Through my conversations with the priest, I was able to have peace in making the decision to turn off artificial life support. It brings me solace today to reflect on the sound wisdom of the Church made known to me though those conversations.

As I look back over these years, I realize how integrally and essentially related to my life the priest is. His humility, sacrifice and holiness have been and continue to be a model and inspiration.

Paula Brock is the CFO of the Zoological Society of San Diego



Please Pray for Priests

*Dear Lord,
We pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.
We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you." (Jn 2:5).
May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.
May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.
May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.
Amen.*

St. John Vianney, Pray for Us

Archbishop Addresses Health Care Reform Issues

Archbishop Beltran, in collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), has been actively involved in the debate on national health care reform legislation.

The debate has reached a critical point, and the united voice of the Catholic community needs to be heard clearly and strongly as Congress makes important decisions about the principles and specific policies that will be included in legislation. The Catholic community has unique credibility in this debate, because we provide health care, we have a long and consistent tradition of teaching on the ethics of health care, we purchase health care and we pick up the pieces of a broken health care system. Much is complicated about the health care debate. There are multiple committees involved,

several bills in process, much information and misinformation being communicated.

USCCB Priorities and Message

Our message is clear and principled. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

1. Supports universal health coverage which protects the life and dignity of all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. Because Catholic teaching insists that basic health care is a right and is essential to protect human life and dignity, genuine health care reform which protects human life and advances universal coverage is a moral imperative and urgent national priority. For us, universal coverage should be truly universal, assuring decent health care for all from conception to natural death.

2. Opposes any efforts to ex-

pand abortion funding, mandate abortion coverage, or endanger the conscience rights of health care providers and religious institutions. Longstanding and widely supported current policies on these issues must be preserved. We urge members of the House and Senate to take all steps necessary to oppose abortion funding, mandated abortion coverage or weakening of conscience rights.

3. Supports effective measures to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society by expanding eligibility for public programs, such as Medicaid, to all low-income families and vulnerable people and by offering adequate subsidies for cost-sharing of insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses.

USCCB Criteria for Health Care Reform

For decades, the Catholic Bishops of the United States have supported and continue to support genuine national health care reform that meets the criteria in my several letters to the House and Senate:

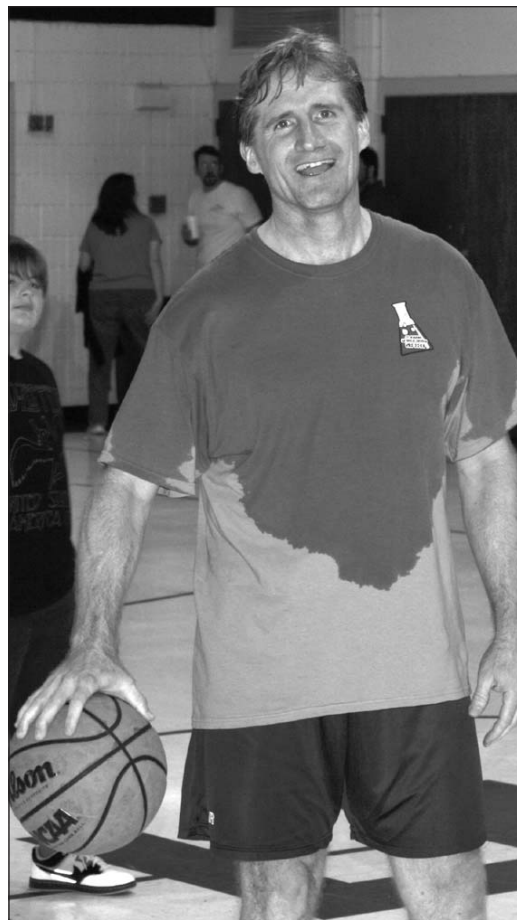
- A truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity;

- Access for all with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of legal immigrants;

- Pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism, including freedom of conscience and variety of options; and

- Controlling costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers.

Above all, Catholics are reminded to pray, especially at Mass, that the dignity of every human being be honored and respected.



Father Jacoby after the basketball benefit.

Parish Pulls Together to Support First-Grader

OKLAHOMA CITY — Members of the St. Eugene Parish and School united to support one of its families. The Babeque/Basketball Benefit held for Sara Robinson not only raised funds, but demonstrated how

St. Eugene pulls together to show love and support. Sara, a St. Eugene first-grader, was diagnosed in December with leukemia. She's currently at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston where she's being monitored after receiving a bone marrow transplant. To donate, send checks to the Sara Robinson Leukemia Medical Fund, Attention Sarita Johnson, at Coppermark Bank, 3333 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73112.



A smiling Sara

Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee—

continued from page 3

the country. He said Cardinal DiNardo of Galveston-Houston as well as the Archdiocese of San Antonio has sought assistance from the Industrial Areas Foundation, especially with the issue of immigration.

The Industrial Areas Foundation is the community organizing group that helped local parishes and churches come together to form the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee. The Web site for the OSC is www.oksponsoring.org.

"Our own archbishop has left this up to the individual parishes to decide whether or not they wish to be involved," Father Luschen said. He said if these high-ranking Church leaders believed community organizing was in any way contrary to Church teaching, they would not allow it to continue.

Father Luschen said the OSC will not endorse any "political party or candidate." The focus will be strictly on listening and then working to address issues if appropriate, he said.

Kris Ausdenmoore, a member of St. Thomas More University Parish in Norman, has been hired by the OSC to serve as coordinator. Ausdenmoore said she first got involved with the Industrial Areas Foundation and community organizing while living in Texas. She will office out of Sacred Heart in south Oklahoma City.

The OSC member churches have agreed to support the effort for a period of three years. Father Luschen said parishes involved have agreed to contribute up to 1 percent of their annual budget to the OSC for the three-year period.

Knights Install First Officers

Conducting their first installation of officers, present members of the Holy Trinity (Council 14744) Knights of Columbus gathered for Mass, a picture and dinner with their spouses in June. This chapter includes members of the St. Eugene Parish in Weatherford, Blessed Sacrament Mission in Thomas and Sacred Heart in Hinton. The council members and proposed officers have spent the past few months earning their degrees and preparing for the installation, as well as participating in the annual Tootsie Roll Drive, preparing and serving a parish breakfast, and grooming the shrubs and trees of the parish grounds. District Deputy Ray Brzozowski, faithful in assisting Grand Knight Garth Christian in the process of founding a council, attended Mass, along with his family, and installed the new officers. Chaplain Father Mark Mason encouraged the members and officers to remember their first obligation is to God and family, "remember to choose wisely a few projects each year, that you might complete them successfully, and remain faithful to your other obligations." Council officers include Grand Knight, Garth Christian; Chaplain, Father Mark Mason; Deputy Grand Knight, Tim Reese; Chancellor, Kent Bright; Recorder, Joseph Hayes; Financial Secretary, Mike Merle; Treasurer, David Autry; Advocate, Dan Dill; Warden, Enrique Hernandez; Inside Guard, Carl Schneberger; and Outside Guard, Tom Rady.



Across Oklahoma

Volunteer Translators Needed

EDMOND — English-Spanish translators needed to volunteer at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond. The clinic provides free health care to the uninsured and is open Saturdays from 9 to noon. Volunteers choose Saturdays they are available. Contact 348-9461 or fill out an application at goodsamaritanofedmond.com/Volunteers/Volunteers.html.

Health Care Workers Sought

EDMOND — Primary health care providers are needed to volunteer at the Good Samaritan Health Clinic. Needed are family medicine physicians, internists and advanced nurse practitioners. The clinic provides free health care to the uninsured and is open Saturdays from 9 to noon. Volunteers choose Saturdays they are available. Contact 348-9461 or fill out an application at goodsamaritanofedmond.com/Volunteers/Volunteers.html.

Parish Welcomes Back Catholics

OKLAHOMA CITY — Many Catholics wander away from their faith. We have a gentle way to come back to your Church family through Catholics Coming Home. We meet for two hours on Wednesdays for six weeks. Meetings start Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Church at 8005 Dorset Drive, Oklahoma City.

Masses Set for Veterans

MIDWEST CITY — Sept. 12-13, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church will host the Catholic War

Veterans USA at its Masses this weekend where veteran representatives from the Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will present parishioners information about programs for Catholic veterans. Masses at St. Philip Neri, 1107 Felix Place, are Saturday, 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 8:15 and 11 a.m. For more information, contact Bob at 672-7728 or e-mail OkPost168@cox.net.

St. Eugene's Turns 50

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Catholic School of St. Eugene is celebrating its 50th birthday! A celebration will be held Sept. 18-19. Alumni of the school, past principals and teachers will be attending the event. It will include a school tour and picnic on Sept. 18 and Mass and an alumni gathering on Sept. 19. If you are an alum of the school, please register online at www.steugene-school.org. For more information, contact the school at (405) 751-0067.

Fall Fest Set in Ponca City

PONCA CITY — St. Mary's School Annual Fall Fest will be held Sept. 26 from 6:15 to 10 p.m. Family fun featuring game booths, inflatables, silent and live auctions, raffle, bratwurst and much more will be available at the event. There is no admission charge and proceeds will benefit St. Mary's School. St. Mary's is located at 721 S. Seventh Street.

Czech Mass Sept. 27

YUKON — St. John Nepomuk Church will honor the people of Czech descent with a special

Mass on Sept. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Rev. John Michalicka of St. Mary's Parish in Ponca City will concelebrate the Mass with Rev. William Novak. The homily will be presented in Czech as well as English. Everyone is invited to dress in their traditional Czech Kroj. After Mass, St. John's Altar Society will host a reception in Marion Hall to honor our Czech heritage and the patron saint for whom our parish was named. Coffee and kolaches (traditional Czech pastry) will be served.

Retreat Set at OLOG

OLOG — The Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and Camp Fire will host its 2009 Outdoor Retreat Experience Oct. 9-11 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. The camp is open to youth groups, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Camp Fire USA, Venturers, individuals, youth leaders and parents. Individual youth are welcome to attend, but a parent should consider attending with the child. All adults attending must have Safe Environment Training. Training will be offered for those wishing to become a religious emblem counselor. For more information, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults at (405) 721-9220, or e-mail aguillotte@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Mount Magic on Oct. 24

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mount St. Mary Catholic High School will host its annual Magic at the Mount Dinner Auction and Dance on Oct. 24. The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman.

Vietnamese Catholic Bring Gift of Our Lady of LaVang

On Aug. 16, hundreds gathered at Our Lady's Cathedral for the first Archdiocesan celebration of Our Lady of LaVang. Dozens walked in the outside procession, many organizations were represented with flags, while men carried the statue of Our Lady of LaVang to the church. Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass with Father Weisenburger and Father Thanh Nguyen. A shrine and gazebo are being planned for the grounds of Our Lady's Cathedral.

History of Our Lady of LaVang

During much of the 18th century, the nation of Vietnam was embattled in various struggles for power and domination. The northern regions fell under the lords of the Trinh family, while in the southern realm, the Nguyen lords took power. As the 18th century drew toward its close, both of these rulers were shaken and threatened by peasant uprisings and emerging rebel forces.

The strongest among the many uprisings was led by the three brothers from Tay Son. In short order, they overthrew the Nguyen lords and defeated the Trinh lords to restore national unity for the first time since the decline of the Le dynasty. A Tay Son brother was enthroned to be King Quang Trung.



The statue of Our Lady of Lavang being carried into the Cathedral.



The procession of Our Lady of LaVang.

Meanwhile, Nguyen Anh continued his insurgency in trying to reclaim his throne. Earlier in his run from the Tay Son rebels in 1777, he found refuge on the Phu Quoc Island, where Monsignor Pierre Pigneau de Behaine of The Society of Foreign Missions directed a seminary for youths from neighboring countries. The bishop persuaded him to seek help from King Louis XVI of France.

King Canh Thinh knew that Nguyen Anh received support from the French missionary and worried that the Vietnamese Catholics would also endorse his reign. He began to restrict the practice of Catholicism in the country. On Aug. 17, 1798, King Canh Thinh issued an anti-Catholic edict and an order to destroy all Catholic churches and seminaries. A most grievous persecution of Vietnamese Catholics and missionaries began and lasted until 1886. Even after Nguyen Anh succeeded in reclaiming his throne, his successors continued the vehement campaign against Catholics.

It was amidst this great suffering that the Lady of LaVang came to the people of Vietnam. The name LaVang was believed to be originated in the name of the deep forest in the central region of Vietnam (now known as Quang Tri City) where there was an abundance of a kind of trees named La' Vang. It was also said that its name came from the Vietnamese meaning of the word "Crying Out," to denote the cries for the help of people being persecuted.

The first apparition of the Lady of LaVang was noted in 1798, when the persecution of Vietnamese Catholics began. Many Catholics from the nearby town of Quang Tri sought refuge in the deep forest of LaVang. At night, they often

gathered in small groups to say the rosary and to pray. Unexpectedly, one night they were visited by an apparition of a beautiful lady in a long cape, holding a child in her arms, with two angels at her sides. The people recognized the Lady as Our Blessed Mother.

She told them that from that day on, all those who came to this place to pray would get their prayers heard and answered. After this first apparition, the Blessed Mother continued to appear to the people in this same place many times throughout this period of nearly 100 years of religious persecution.

From the first time the Lady of LaVang appeared, the people who took refuge there erected a small and desolate chapel in her honor. Despite its isolated location in the high mountains, groups of people continued to find ways to penetrate the deep and dangerous jungle to venerate the Lady of LaVang.

In 1886, after the persecution had officially ended, Bishop Gaspar ordered a church to be built in honor of the Lady of LaVang. The bishop proclaimed the Lady of LaVang as the Protectorate of the Catholics. In 1928, a larger church was built. This church was destroyed in 1972 during the Vietnam War.

On June 19, 1988, Pope John Paul II, in the canonizing ceremony of the 117 Vietnamese martyrs, publically and repeatedly recognized the importance and significance of the Lady of LaVang and expressed a desire for the rebuilding of the LaVang Basilica to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first apparition of the Lady of LaVang in August of 1998.

Knit Two, Pray Two

Christ the King Group Knits Shawls of Comfort

By **Cara Koenig**
The Sooner Catholic

When you are not feeling well, one of the first things most people do is wrap up in something warm and comforting. That is the driving thought behind Christ the King's prayer shawl ministry, to give comfort to the sick and downhearted. The idea is simple — a knitter, while creating a shawl, prays for the person who will receive it that they might find comfort, peace, love and God's healing while they are going through their time of need. The knitter doesn't know who will get their shawl or if they are sick or going through a rough time. They just know that the receiver needs comfort and prayers.

"There are 12 knitters in the shawl ministry," said Pam Cullen, the senior adult ministry director at Christ the King. The idea was found on a Web site and Cullen liked the idea and ordered the book that outlines the ministry. The group meets once a month to knit and talk, while others participate by knitting at home. "At least once a week I find a new shawl on my desk and I take it to Father Stansberry to be blessed and place it in my closet until it is needed," said Cullen.

The shawls have begun to take on a life of their own over the last year since the group has been knitting. "Everyone who receives the shawl is so grateful and moved," said Cullen. Some shawls have been returned to be reused, the receiver having gained so much and wanting to pass it on. Others have called Cullen and asked if it was all right to give it to someone else they knew who was going through a rough time and could use it.

Each shawl is sent with a card and in it is this blessing. "Be well, be warm, be loved and be comforted." With more than 40 shawls having been made, that is a lot of comfort and love.



Dorothy Louis, Dolores Beck and Laura Disbrow in the knitting circle.



*I love
to knit
and
it is a
prayerful
thing to
do.*

Dolores Beck

*Anne De Marino
crochets a shawl.*

Birth Choice Sets Date for Annual Life Celebration

Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. will host its 17th annual Celebration of Life Festival on Respect Life on Sunday, Oct. 4. The event will be held at the Myriad Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City.

Check-in time is 1:15 p.m. on the northeast side of the Gardens, at Robinson and Sheridan. The whole family is invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs! Activities include our annual Life-Walk, Teen Fearless Factor Follies competition, free moon walk and slide, face painting and other activities for the kids, music provided by the band, Zero to Sixty, food and free balloons. LifeWalk T-shirts are available. The Celebration of Life is one of the major annual fund-raisers for Birth Choice.

Suggested minimum registration donation of \$10 per individual or \$25 for a family of 3-plus.

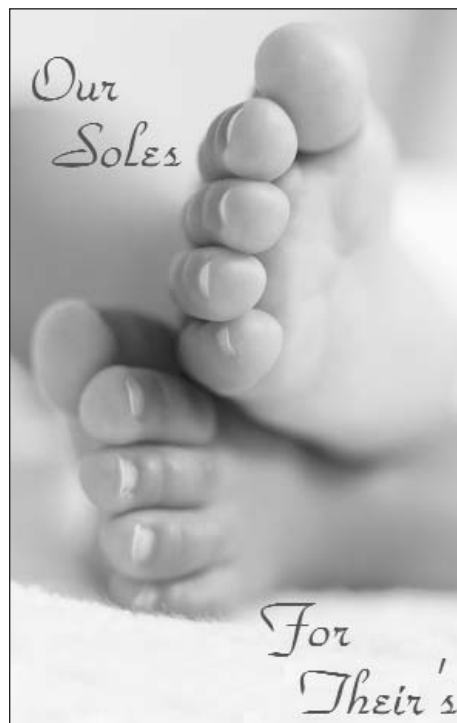
How to Celebrate!

- * Walk with us and encourage others to do so!

- * Get sponsors for your walk. The more walkers with sponsors, the more money for helping unborn babies and their moms!

- * Back again this year ... Celebration of Life wristbands! Only \$1 each, available in light blue, sage green or chocolate brown.

- * LifeWalk T-shirts, \$10 donation each or FREE with \$100 in sponsors.



- * Youth group participation in our Fearless Factor Follies contest.

- * Come join the face painting and other children's activities.

Birth Choice is an interdenominational, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Birth Choice exists to provide for the needs of pregnant women, so they can choose life for themselves and their unborn babies. Centers provide confidential pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, prenatal assessments, STD testing, maternity and infant clothing, diapers and formula, counseling, community service coordination, access to medical care, transportation and housing, all at no cost. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by IRS regulations.

For more information, call Jan O'Neill at 606-8426, or register online at watchfortheunborn.org.

Parish Starts Welcome Back Campaign

EDMOND — Catholics who are separated from the Church, for any reason, are invited to "Come Home!" The Evangelization Board at St. John the Baptist Parish is offering the "Catholics Coming Home" program on three consecutive Tuesday evenings: Sept. 8, 15 and 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Council Room. These informal sessions are facilitated by lay people, including former non-practicing Catholics. The Church is located at 9th and Boulevard in Edmond. Follow the outdoor signs to

the entrance to the Commons. Child care will be provided.

If you are currently not practicing your Catholic Faith, you are invited to these sharing sessions for an opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions about the Catholic Church. Every effort is made to be non-threatening and non-judgmental.

For more information about Catholics Coming Home, call Connie Fox Moore at 473-3453 or Nancy Martin at 922-2292.

Scout Earns Eagle Scholarship

ARDMORE — Donald "Wes" Weaver has been selected to receive one of four \$20,000 Mabel and Lawrence S. Cooke National Eagle Scout scholarships. The endowment provides a maximum grant of \$20,000 and pays up to \$5,000 per year for four years.

Over 4,500 applications were submitted for different Eagle Scout scholarship programs. Wes' selection as a Cooke scholarship recipient represents recognition of his superb record of accomplishments, which include supervising the construction of a 112-foot bridge in Lake Murray State Park, earning all 121 Boy Scout Merit Badges and commitment to his Catholic faith demonstrated through his participation in many religious activities Scouting offers.

Wes attends St. Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore. The Men of St. Mary sponsor and support Scout Troop 112. Wes graduated in May from Plainview High School and the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, regional center Ardmore. He will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind., majoring in mechanical engineering. The National Eagle Scout Association, under the direction of the national office, Boy Scouts of America, selects the winner of this scholarship by a committee. This committee also determines the number and size of all scholarships to be granted each year to deserving Eagle Scouts graduating from high school.

One of the nation's largest youth development organizations, the Boy Scouts of America currently has 2.8 million youth members and over a million adult volunteers. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has strong Scouting programs throughout the state and is represented in the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.



Donald "Wes" Weaver

Priests Help Ease Burdens Life Presents

For much of my life I have had to create my own expectations. Sometimes I reached for the stars, but more often than not, I played it safe, taking low risks and making small gains. There was a time I would take what was given and not say a word.

I have many priests that I consider friends. If all those friends lined up, it might resemble a line to a confessional at Easter or Christmas. When I was angry at God, these holy men kept me from walking away from the Catholic Church.

I have poured out my soul to many of these men. On the day my brother, Joe died, it was Father Edward Bell who brought me back from the brink. Recently, I spoke with him, reminding him what that time meant for me.

It was the first time I shared a personal loss with a priest. His understanding that day in 1992 has allowed me to do the same with other priests in time of need. Just as importantly, that day I realized through this priest that these men could be friends, they could be trusted. This new attitude took time for my family to accept. It was a definite change from my parents' mindset. My parents were upset I shared the details of my brother's overdose

with a Catholic priest.

From that day on I looked for an opportunity to write about it. I also sought chances to share about other personal struggles in my life as a person with a disability. I saw myself as a voice for those who could not, or would not, speak. I saw this as a definite calling; a mission for my life. My life had purpose and this was a definite change.

I am writing this on the occasion of the Feast of St. Lawrence, who had the courage to die for people like myself — "the poor, the broken, the disabled." When he was asked to bring "the treasures of the Church," he brought us, sealing his fate as a martyr. There was a time I did not feel like a treasure of the Church, but now I do, and that is a definite change.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill Zalot is a freelance writer who lives in Levittown, Pa. Although afflicted with spastic cerebral palsy, he writes extensively for Catholic publications. Zalot can be reached at bill@wheelsforchrist.net.



By Bill Zalot

Supreme Court Justice Let the Veil Slip with Abortion Comment

Sometimes, the veil slips.

It certainly did in a recent New York Times Magazine interview with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. There, in the course of relating her surprise at the Court's 1980 decision upholding the Hyde Amendment (which banned federal funding for abortion), Justice Ginsburg had the following to say about legal history, social policy and political surprises: "Frankly, I had thought that at the time Roe was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don't want to have too many of. So that Roe was going to be then set up for Medicaid funding of abortion."

Turn that phrase over in your mind — "populations that we don't want to have too many of." Rather odd, wouldn't you say — odd in itself, and odd in light of such 20th century horrors as the Holocaust and the Ukrainian terror famine, justified by their perpetrators on precisely such grounds? Then there is Justice Ginsburg's rationale for Roe vs. Wade and its judicially created license to abortion-on-demand: Roe was intended to clear the legal path to federal funding of abortions for poor — read "black" — people, who clearly

loom large among those "populations we don't want to have too many of."

Little surprise, then, that the National Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) had "no comment" when asked about Justice Ginsburg's comments. One wonders what the first African-American president of the United States will say when Justice Ginsburg leaves the Court.

That the contemporary pro-abortion movement in America is the outgrowth of the early 20th century eugenics movement — which explicitly sought to limit "populations that we don't want to have too many of" — is well-known to everyone who has bothered to study the history in question. Margaret Sanger, foundress of Planned Parenthood, was a devout eugenicist. Indeed, eugenics was very much the progressive cause back in my grandparents' day, and enjoyed considerable support among the upper classes. Then came Hitler and his quack racial philosophy and his genocidal "doctors" — and eugenics understandably got a very bad name. That



By George Weigel

the eugenic impulse lives on, however, no reasonable person can now doubt, Justice Ginsburg having lifted the veil.

That much, as I say, we should have known all along. What continues to baffle me is the acquiescence of America's African-American leadership in the decimation of America's black population by Roe vs. Wade — for even without that Medicaid funding of abortion to which Ruth Bader Ginsburg once looked forward with evident satisfaction, abortion has taken a tremendous toll in the African-American community since 1973 and is likely the primary reason why African-Americans now constitute our second-largest minority, after Hispanic-Americans. And the black political leadership has, with rare exceptions, supported the abortion license.

How does this make any human sense? How does it make any political sense — to support an abortion regime that drastically cuts down your own group's numbers? Is there any other occasion in history when a political leadership has been complicit in the unnatural (indeed violent) demise of its own population? I don't know of one.

Just as Sen. Edward Kennedy could have been the leader of the pro-

life movement among U.S. Catholics, so President Barack Obama (representing one of those population groups that some people "don't want to have too many of") could have been a pro-life leader among African-Americans (who in fact are more pro-life than their white fellow countrymen). Obama, like Kennedy, chose another path. And while his declared intention to reduce the number of abortions is welcome, his administration's policies seem certain to continue the assault on America's African-American population — all in the name of "choice" and progress.

It is all too strange. And very, very sad. Justice Ginsburg deserves, I suppose, a measure of credit for saying publicly what NARAL and Planned Parenthood and the rest of that gang have long believed. But where is the outrage at this blatant defense of legally sponsored and federally funded eugenics? And especially among African-Americans? Where is the new Frederick Douglas when his people, and the rest of us, need him?

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Our Hearts Find Peace When We Choose to Feed the Good Wolf

"One evening an old Cherokee Indian told his grandson about a debate that goes on inside people. He said, 'My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One wolf is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.'"

The other wolf is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, truth, empathy, generosity, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Isn't this story powerful!?!?... "The one you feed."

So simple. Yet, we make it so difficult. I find myself feeding the Evil

wolf in my selfishness, people pleasing, taking things personally and sitting on my pity pot, feeling envious and resentful, giving advice, being intolerant and judgmental of both slow and fast drivers, worrying about financial insecurity, being concerned about what others think of me, controlling the uncontrollable, the list goes on and on.

Jesus taught us that to be human is to be good and that the basic condition of humanity is love and goodness. And so we as humans are generally feeding the Good wolf within, in being the person God is wanting us to be.

We are feeding the Good wolf when we spend time in prayer and meditation, being grateful for our blessings, asking God for knowledge of His will for us and for the power to carry out that will. As we carry out His will and follow the teachings of Jesus,

we experience the joy of feeding the Good wolf within.

We are feeding the Good wolf when we are attentively listening and being present to another and focusing on understanding what they are telling us without judgment nor defensiveness and without trying to solve their problem nor giving them advice.

We are feeding the Good wolf when we reach out of ourselves in service to others, offering a smile or a kind word, supporting another, comforting someone who is grieving or bringing food to the poor, etc.

We are feeding the Good wolf



By Joe Froehle

when we pause and respond in a healthy loving way to someone who has said or done something hurtful, rather than reacting in a hurtful, inappropriate way.

We are feeding the Good wolf when we enjoy a good steak, watch a beautiful sunset, chuckle at our frailty, hug a child, hold a hand, lovingly touch our mate, pray in a chapel, read a good book, walk in a park, dance in the rain, enjoy a malt, accompany a friend, laugh in the shower, kiss our spouse, do an act of kindness, smile, etc.

It is good for us to notice and acknowledge when we have fed the Evil wolf and forgive ourselves as God has forgiven us. And we can notice and acknowledge the many ways we have fed the Good wolf, be grateful, and know that Jesus, God-made man, is smiling.

jfroehle@subell.net

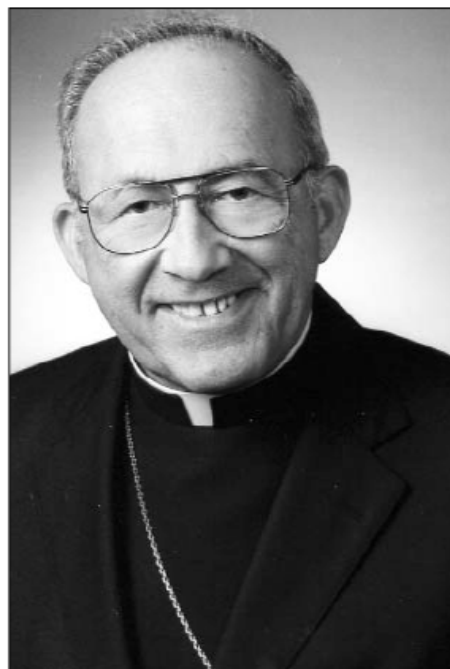
Buenas Noticias...

Homilía ofrecida 16 de Agosto del 2009 en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro en homenaje a la patrona del Vietnam.

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Como siempre, es un gran placer reunirme con ustedes, los fieles vietnamitas Católicos de Oklahoma City. Hoy es un día particularmente especial porque estamos homenajeando a Nuestra Santísima Madre, mediante su aparición milagrosa con el nombre de Nuestra Señora de La Vang. Muchos de nosotros en los Estados Unidos de América nunca hemos escuchado de ella. Sin embargo, en las décadas recientes, a medida que miles de ustedes y sus familias vinieron a los Estados Unidos, hemos comenzado a aprender acerca de Nuestra Señora de La Vang.

Como Católicos, a través del mundo estamos ya en conocimiento acerca del rol único que nuestra Santísima Madre juega en la historia de nuestra salvación. Nuestra Santísima Virgen María es la creación especial de Dios, concebida inmaculadamente y preservada de toda mancha de pecado. Totalmente



Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltran.

obediente a Dios, nuestra Santísima Madre siempre respondió positivamente para satisfacer la voluntad de Dios en cada circunstancia de su vida. María fue la elegida y fue llamada a ser la madre de Jesús, el hijo eterno de Dios. Ella se convirtió en nuestra madre al Jesús morir en la cruz. Juan, el Apóstol que representaba a todos nosotros escuchó a Jesús

...Nuestra Señora de La Vang

decirle, "Hijo, esta es tu madre". Y a María, Jesús le dijo: "Este es tu hijo".

Por lo que María comenzó a ser la madre de todos nosotros. Por lo cual, después de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, la Santísima Virgen María continuó inspirando a los Apóstoles mientras ellos completaban la misión que Jesús les dejó.

Esta misión incluye la proclamación del Evangelio (la Buena Nueva de Jesús) y la celebración de los sacramentos. A pesar de que María fue llamada por Dios y tomada por Él en cuerpo y alma al cielo, ella continúa siendo nuestra madre, nuestra guía y nuestra ayuda. Ella es la Madre de Dios y la Santa Madre de la Iglesia. Por esto, periódicamente ella aparece en algún lugar en el mundo para recordarnos las bondades y el amor de Dios. Ella hace su aparición para llamarnos nuestra atención y reflexionar que debemos arrepentirnos del pecado. Ella nos asegura su amor y su ayuda.

De este modo, muchas naciones, culturas y sociedades comparten el hecho que Santa María, la Madre de Dios y nuestra madre, también haya aparecido en su tierra. Ella ha venido a diferentes lugares y en varios momentos de la historia. En

cada instancia ella ha traído consuelo y alivio. Ella siempre guía de nuevo a las personas para que escojan el camino de su hijo Jesucristo, quien es nuestro Señor y Salvador. Ella es siempre una madre dulce y amorosa.

Hoy estamos honrando a la Virgen María bajo el título de Nuestra Señora de La Vang. Allí en el centro de Vietnam, nuestra Virgen María se apareció a los vietnamitas y los animó a ser fieles a nuestra religión Católica. Allí ella los sanó y los protegió.

Ahora por casi doscientos años después de su aparición, ella ha continuado bendiciendo a las personas en el Vietnam. Los vietnamitas que emigran hacia otros países, como ustedes que vinieron para a los Estados Unidos, nos introducen a Nuestra Señora de La Vang. Nosotros vemos el amor que ustedes tienen por nuestra Santísima Madre y la devoción a ella como Nuestra Señora de La Vang. Estamos muy contentos de compartir con ustedes y honrar a la Santísima Virgen María, madre de todos nosotros. Debemos mantenernos siempre como buenas y fieles personas Católicas, hijos de María, la Madre de Dios.

Celebrado el carnaval de la parroquia San Patricio

Lazos culturales de los hispanos con la Iglesia Católica son inseparables



Padre Thomas McSherry ayudó al kiosco que sirvió comida de Guatemala.



Las danzas no se hicieron esperar como parte del deleite de nuestra cultura hispana.

Con el gran propósito para que sus miembros colaboren mutuamente

Festival de coros parroquiales auspiciado por la Florecita



El coro de la parroquia San José de Norman se llevó un galardón por su aporte.

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recientemente en la Florecita dieron la bienvenida al primer festival de coros que se celebra en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Al respecto, el Padre

Raúl Reyes, párroco de la Florecita dijo: "Los coros que vinieron, lo hicieron para intercambiar ideas y crear confianza para poder conocernos y prepararnos mucho mejor". En este evento el señor Madrid, quien es miembro de la Florecita, expresó: "Este festival nos permite que poda-



El señor Madrid (izquierda), el señor Zapata y el Padre Reyes en las audiciones.

mos identificar a nuestros talentos para hacer un pueblo bueno". También el señor Zapata, quien es un gran colaborador de la Iglesia Católica y conocido como uno de los mejores trompetistas de la comunidad hispana de Oklahoma City evaluó su opinión sobre la forma en la

que los coros pueden mejorar. El festival busca que para el próximo año, por el mes de octubre, todas las parroquias se integren sin ánimo de competir sino de alabar a Dios con los talentos de los cantos y la música de los coros parroquiales de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Reforma del sistema de salud y una disputa sobre el final de la vida

Por Richard M. Doerflinger
Conferencia de Obispos
Católicos de los Estados Unidos

WASHINGTON — Los esfuerzos del Congreso por promulgar una reforma al sistema de salud han desatado un vigoroso debate nacional. Desde el punto de vista católico el tema que subyace es claro: decenas de millones de estadounidenses carecen de seguro de salud básico; muchos más se arriesgan a perderlo a medida que los costos suben. Y esto es un asunto de justicia. Como expresó hace casi medio siglo Juan XXIII: "[El hombre] tiene un derecho a la existencia, a la integridad corporal, a los medios necesarios para un decoroso nivel de vida, cuales son, principalmente, el alimento, el vestido, la vivienda, el descanso, la asistencia médica..." (Pacem in Terris, no. 11). Una sociedad que no asegura a sus ciudadanos en necesidad los vitales servicios de salud básicos, fracasa en una responsabilidad esencial.

Puesto que el derecho a los servicios de salud se basa en el derecho a la vida, también está claro que lo que ataca la vida no es, en absoluto, cuidado de salud, ni tampoco es una meta legítima de

su reforma. la Iglesia insiste en que esta reforma es una meta demasiado importante y legítima para verse apropiada por agendas destructivas como la cobertura obligatoria del aborto.

También han surgido preocupaciones acerca del modo en que la reforma podría tratar a las personas que están al final de su vida, específicamente lo que establece la Sección 1233 del proyecto de ley que cursa en la Cámara de Representantes, acerca de "consultas sobre planificación del cuidado avanzado". Quienes apoyan este texto alegan que es una estipulación inocua colocada ahí para asegurar que se respeten los deseos de los pacientes de edad avanzada cuando ya no puedan expresarse por sí mismos; quienes se oponen ven la ominosa mano del gobierno empujando suavemente a la abuela hacia el precipicio.

Pienso que la verdad se halla en algún punto intermedio. Esta sección dice que si los doctores hablan con pacientes del Medicare acerca de "apoyo y servicios para el final de su vida", por ejemplo, el beneficio de tener instrucciones avanzadas conocidos como "testamentos en vida" etc., el Medicare pagará a esos doctores

por el tiempo empleado.

Una preocupación en este punto es que el gobierno o los doctores podrían tener agendas en contradicción con las metas e intereses de los pacientes. Cuando un funcionario federal propuso por primera vez que el gobierno estimulara a las personas mayores a firmar testamentos en vida, en 1977, fue parte de un memorando explicando cómo reducir los gastos del gobierno en el renglón de la salud. Esta acción motivó una censura de parte de los obispos católicos y otros.

Otro problema es la presunción de que documentos como los testamentos en vida son siempre positivos, sin importar su contenido. La evidencia, en cambio, sugiere que son instrumentos imperfectos que no siempre sirven los intereses de los pacientes. Las consultas también promoverán cualquier directiva de consentimiento informado que sirva de modelo en el estado donde resida el paciente, y los documentos en algunos estados no establecen distinciones cuidadosas entre medios ordinarios y extraordinarios. Los pacientes podrían no darse cuenta de que firmar algunos formularios podría resultar en que se les nieguen incluso atencio-

nes ordinarias como nutrición e hidratación, durante una enfermedad crónica, aunque no-terminal. (La Sección 1233 incluye "nutrición e hidratación administradas artificialmente" entre los tópicos de consulta). Estas preocupaciones han persuadido a redactores clave del proyecto de reforma del sistema de salud en el Senado a desestimar esta propuesta, lo cual causó la reacción del principal proponente del suicidio asistido por médicos, la Hemlock Society (cuyo nombre fue cambiado a "Compassion and Choices" para enmascarar su entusiasmo por envenenar a los ancianos). El grupo declara que ha "trabajado incansablemente con miembros del Congreso" para insertar la estipulación, y lamentó que pudiera ser descartada debido a "información errónea" de que "promovería la eutanasia". Una insinuación a los proponentes: si quieren acallar la preocupación de que promovería la eutanasia, no se jacten de que es apoyada por grupos que promueven la eutanasia. Luce que la Sección 1233 tendrá una muerte tranquila y digna, y podemos continuar tratando de llegar a un acuerdo sobre cómo cubrir a las personas que carecen del más mínimo cuidado de salud.

Jobs Box

Director of Religious Education

Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced Director of Religious Education. The director is responsible for overseeing the K-12 religious education for students not attending Catholic school, coordinating the RCIA program, Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession. The director also will be responsible for developing and coordinating a strong adult education program for the parish. The applicant should be well-versed in Catholic doctrine, work well with a variety of people and have strong initiative. Candidates should possess a degree in religion or theology, preferably a master's degree. Resumes should be sent to Father Rick Stansberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156, or e-mailed to kelly@ckokc.org.

Full-Time Director of Religious Education

St. Philip Neri Parish, Midwest City, is looking for a full-time DRE to coordinate the religious education program. The position will be available Oct. 1. Candidates will also be required to administer the Safe Environment program of the parish. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Send all inquiries and resumes to Father Timothy Fuller, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 1107 Felix Place, Midwest City 73110.

Part-time Organist

Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher, is looking for a part-time organist to help with weekend Masses and/or occasional special events. Stipend is available. Call the pastor, Father Stephen Hamilton for more information at (405) 375-4581.

Part-Time Organist

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

Director of Admissions

St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Director of Admissions. Successful candidate is responsible for providing leadership and vision to organize and direct all functional areas within the Office of Admissions. The director is responsible for planning, managing and evaluating undergraduate recruitment and admission activities for the College of Arts and Sciences. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree required. Four-plus years of progressive experience in university admission;

supervisory-level experience preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send information to Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350. *For full job description, go to catharchdioceseokc.org/sooner/jobs.htm.*

Assistant Director of Admissions

St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Assistant Director of Admissions. The successful candidate's responsibilities include marketing to and building positive relationships with prospective students, parents, counselors, parishes and alumni; analyzing and reviewing applications with the goals of increasing class size and academic quality; recruiting and enrolling qualified students who are good community members. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree required; admissions experience in higher education and management of tour guide programs preferred. Send information to Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350. *For full job description, go to catharchdioceseokc.org/sooner/jobs.htm.*

Dean of Enrollment Management

St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Dean of Enrollment Management. The successful candidate is responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, analysis and general supervision of all programs related to the recruiting and retaining of undergraduate students for the College of Arts and Sciences. A bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree strongly preferred. Significant and progressive experience as a university admissions leader is expected. Salary is commensurate with experience. Electronic resumes are preferred, and should include a letter of application describing experience, qualifications, vision and record of achieving/exceeding enrollment goals at one's recent institution. Nominations, expression of interest or requests for the complete position specifications may be sent directly to the university: Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350.

Medical Staff Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: CMA - Certified Medication Aide to work weekend doubles. LPN or RN - Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrators license a plus! Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills! To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Administrative Assistant

Catholic Charities has an opening for an administrative assistant. Successful candidate will

possess computer proficiency in Word, Excel and Outlook; excellent organizational skills with the ability to multi-task; excellent typing and document production skills; Publisher or equivalent software proficiency preferred; positive oral and written communication skills; and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Preference will be given to candidates who are bilingual in Spanish. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Associate Director for Children/ Family Services

Catholic Charities has an opening for an Associate Director for Children and Family Services to serve on the Executive Team and oversee the direct social services for children and families offered by Catholic Charities. Successful candidate will possess excellent supervisory and administrative skills, excellent oral and written communication skills, a commitment to continuous quality improvement and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. The position requires a master's degree in social work from an accredited school of social work, a current social work license with clinical specialty, and a minimum of three years in social services to children and families. Please send resumes to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd, OKC 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Clinical Director for Children/Family Services

Catholic Charities has an opening for a Clinical Director for Children and Family Services. This position will be responsible for the direction and oversight of all counseling programs and other clinical services of Catholic Charities, including the satellite offices. This position will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures. The successful candidate will possess a clinical license and have a master's degree in social work, human services or related field plus five years related experience. Knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching is required. Successful candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills, a commitment to continuous quality improvement 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

Financial Representative Openings

The Knights of Columbus has an opening for a financial representative in the Lawton, Enid and Tulsa areas. We provide top-rated financial products to our members and their families and will provide excellent benefits and training. Please contact Kevin W. Pierce for more information at 4001 NW 122nd St. #827, Oklahoma City 73120, by phone at (405) 514-7660 or e-mail at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

2 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. All are welcome.

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

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

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

4 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

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

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

12 Spanish Pre-Cana. A day for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

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

15 Dying Well in the Christian Tradition from 7 to 9 p.m., a panel presentation on End of Life will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651.

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

19 Retreat, St. Benedict's Spirituality from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with Joanne Yankauskis, OSB. Place: Library at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register by 9/16. Fee: \$25, bring a sack lunch.

20 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 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624.

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

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

20 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 in St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

24 Sympto-thermal Method of Natural Family Planning, three nights, Sept. 24, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond, basement council room. Cost of supplies is \$135. Free child care available upon request.

National Infant Shrine Celebrates 60 Years

PRAGUE — The National Shrine of the Infant Jesus celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 2. The day began with Mass celebrated by Abbot Father Lawrence Stasyszen, abbot of St. Gregory's. The homily was presented by Father M. Price Oswalt, pastor of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and Rector of the Shrine.

Jim Greff, Prague city manager, presented the Shrine with a proclamation from the city mayor's office which states that the city of Prague recognizes both the spiritual and economic impact that the Shrine has in the community and that the mayor of Prague proclaimed Aug. 2, 2009, as a day of celebration commemorating the 60th anniversary of the National

Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Danny Morgan, state representative, presented the Shrine with a citation from the state of Oklahoma.

Father George V. Johnson, who obtained permission in 1949 to establish a National Shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague in Prague, died in 1973. His daughter, Anna Panzarino from New York, and his sister, Georgiana Oberst from Oklahoma City, attended the celebration.

After a beautiful and very moving service, the Shrine served everyone a wonderful barbecue lunch. Matthew Arnold from California presented a couple of talks during the afternoon. The first was "Art, History and

Catholic Devotions," and the second one was "Devotion to The Infant Jesus of Prague." Devotional prayers to the Infant Jesus of Prague followed his talks. Everyone enjoyed a nice evening meal served by the Shrine. John Michael Talbot performed in concert. Volleyball and horseshoes were enjoyed by many of the visitors throughout the afternoon, while younger guests enjoyed bouncing on a 50-foot inflatable obstacle course.

Visitors from 12 states were present to enjoy the celebration. Rhonda Bartos, director of the Shrine, said she would like to thank everyone who contributed their time, prayers and talent into making this a wonderful day of prayer and reflection.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

on
KTLR 890 AM

Monday through
Friday from
2 to 7:30 p.m.

Inaugural Women of Faith Conference Draws Over 300

NORMAN — More than 300 women participated in the first Women of Faith, Women of Action Conference held here Aug. 22 at St. Mark Catholic Church.

The theme of the conference was Spirituality, Service and Leadership.

Pilar Phillips browsed among the various Catholic ministries that filled the booth space in St. Mark's commons area, promoting their works with literature and videos. She said the conference is a way to be refreshed and connected to the true meaning of the Catholic faith.

"I love coming to this kind of gathering," Phillips said. "It brings me back to the center, where we all need to be."

Among the speakers was Father Juan Molina, O.S.S.T, an Advocacy Program coordinator for the Southwest Region of Catholic Relief Services.

Father Molina told conference

participants, holiness requires involvement in the world.

"Leadership is about taking ownership," Father Molina said. He said he often leads pilgrimages so Catholics can understand the connectedness of spirituality.

"To be holy, you must be engaged in the world," Father said. He said one way the National Council of Catholic Women involves itself in the world is through its support of the Water for Life

ministry sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. CRS helps establish wells for clean drinking water in Third World countries. Father Molina, of San Antonio, said CRS looks at the ministry as "water for life and water of life." He said the water for life is what the program pulls from the ground to quench the thirst of the less fortunate of the world. Water of life is the baptism we receive when we are consecrated to Christ.

"To be holy, you must be engaged in the world."

Father Juan Molina



Father Philip Seeton chats with a conference participant. Father was displaying icons, some of which were created by Bev Layton of Lawton.



Silvana Rodriguez looks at Catholic items displayed at the conference.



Rick and Bev Feller of Mustang at the Worldwide Marriage Encounter booth.



More than 300 women attended the conference on Aug. 22.