

# Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Volume 37, Number 17 \* September 11, 2011

## 2011 CATHOLIC CHARITIES ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ANNUAL APPEAL

*100 years of faith, hope and charity*



### *Catholic Charities Centennial Prayer*

O God of the ages,  
With every sunrise,  
You gift us with work for our hands.  
With every sunset,  
You grant us rest for our hearts.

May the light of each new day  
Give us faith in things unseen,  
Hope for victories yet unrealized,  
Charity for those who struggle.

May the dusk of each night  
Bring us dreams of a better world,  
Visions of our cause triumphant,  
Love for the sacrifices asked of us.

Grant your Church yet another century of service,  
Or time enough to build your Kingdom.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.  
Amen and Amen.

By Father James Goins

### **Inside**

*Anniversary trip to Santiago  
Atitlan, Guatemala* **11-15**

**23** *Painter rescues Our Lady*

# Catholic Charities Annual Appeal Celebrates One Hundred Years of Service

A once in a lifetime opportunity is rare indeed! Even rarer is an event that comes around only every hundred years. Next weekend, we begin just such an observance. The annual Catholic Charities Appeal, which will be held next weekend in parishes across the Archdiocese, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the founding of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma! The rich legacy of Catholic Charities in our state began with the opening of St. Joseph Orphanage in Bethany early in 1912. From that time until today the work of Catholic Charities has continued to expand throughout our state and Archdiocese. It can only continue with our generous and sacrificial support.

The many works and services of Catholic Charities express the care and concern of the Catholic Church for our brothers and sisters in need.

We do not provide these services because those we serve may happen to be Catholic (many are not), but because we are Catholic. Caring for Christ in his distressing disguise of poverty is not an option for Catholics, but a responsibility. "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me." (Mt 25:40)

The types of services which Catholic Charities offers in the name of the Church have expanded with the changing needs of individuals and families over the course of the last century. The places where these services are offered have continued to expand as well. Today Catholic Charities provides counseling services, emergency response and case management. Catholic Charities offers support for families and adoption services. We provide service-enriched affordable



Archbishop Coakley

*"Put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch."*  
Luke 5:4

housing for families and the elderly, care for women with unexpected pregnancies, sanctuary for homeless women who have no place to turn. We assist immigrants and refugees who are making a new start and many other services as well.

We would be unable to offer such an array of services to so many of our neighbors in need without the generous support of our Catholic people. The Catholic Charities Annual Appeal will be held in each parish of the Archdiocese over the weekend of Sept. 17-18. I appeal to you to be generous. Make a sacrificial gift. I know you will do what you can and I thank you for your support.

## Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- September 11** - Mass for Feast of Our Lady of LaVang, Our Lady's Cathedral, 11:45 a.m.
- September 11** - Archbishop's Annual Picnic for Archdiocesan Staff, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5 p.m.
- September 12** - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee Meetings, Washington, D.C.
- September 13** - Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
- September 14** - Opening Prayer at Domestic Violence Conference, Embassy Suites, Norman, 8:30 a.m.
- September 15** - Mass and classroom visits, Christ the King School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.
- September 15** - Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
- September 15** - Meeting with Editorial Board of The Daily Oklahoman, 3 p.m.
- September 16** - Mass, Archdiocesan Teacher Institute, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
- September 16** - Presentation of Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1:15 p.m.
- September 17** - Opening Prayer and Welcome, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
- September 17** - Presentation of Religious Education Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:45 a.m.
- September 17** - Mass, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
- September 18** - Young Adult Mass and Cookout, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
- September 20** - Mass at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
- September 20** - Good Leaders Good Shepherds Luncheon and Meeting with Priests, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
- September 20** - Archdiocesan Review Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
- September 21** - Priests Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
- September 22** - Mass and classroom visits, St. James School, Oklahoma City, 8:30 a.m.
- September 22** - Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 12 p.m.
- September 24** - Prayer Service and Reception with Benedictine Sisters, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 2 p.m.
- September 24** - Red Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
- September 25** - Guest Speaker at 40 Days for Life Rally, Christ the King Church, 3 p.m.

## Sooner Catholic

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# The Trojan Horse Is At The Gate

By Archbishop  
Paul S. Coakley

If you recall the story of the Trojan horse, you may understand why there is good reason to be very concerned about a new federal mandate that may soon take effect. This new federal regulation under the authority of last year's health care reform act will soon require all employers who provide health insurance plans to cover an array of preventive services for women that include contraceptives and female sterilization.

Among the very disturbing elements of this mandate is the fact that it treats pregnancy as a disease or a disabling condition, which clearly it is not. Secondly, it places a major focus on mandatory coverage for surgical sterilization and all contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Adminis-



tration. Included among these are drugs like Ella, which actually cause abortions in the early weeks of pregnancy by inhibiting the implantation of the human embryo. It mandates "education and counseling" to promote these measures among all women of reproductive capacity.

Though the entire mandate is essentially flawed and should be rescinded, it has another very serious problem. It contains no real conscience protection for those who may have moral objections to participating in or paying for such plans and procedures. It contains such an extremely narrow religious conscience exemption that Jesus himself would fail to qualify!

Under the proposed religious exemption, only those employers would be excused from this mandate if their primary mission is the inculcation of religious doctrine, if their employees and those whom they serve are people of their own faith, and they are considered a church or a religious order in the narrow sense. Under these very restrictive conditions, Jesus, who healed without regard for

religious affiliation and taught his followers to do likewise (as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan) would not be included under the narrow umbrella of this so-called religious exemption.

As written, this religious exemption is too narrow to protect many Catholic organizations from opting out of this mandate. Catholic hospitals and even Catholic Charities agencies, both of which provide services without regard for religious affiliation, would not qualify for an exemption. They would be forced to provide and pay for insurance coverage for procedures which violate Catholic moral teaching.

What can we do? The Department of Health and Human Services is allowing comments on this interim final rule until Sept. 30. Please take the time to visit the following link and register your opposition before it is too late. The Trojan horse is at the gate!

Please take a moment to visit the following link and register your opposition: <http://nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=299>.

## U.S. Bishops: Contraception Mandate Coerces Religious Groups

Washington, D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) — The HHS contraception mandate for insurance plans is "more radical" than any other in the United States and entails "nationwide coercion of religious people and groups," the U.S. bishops general counsel said as he called for the mandate to be rescinded.

"Only rescission will eliminate all of the serious moral problems the mandate creates," said Anthony Picarello, general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Picarello and bishops conference associate general counsel Michael Moses submitted an Aug. 31 comment to the Department of Health and Human Services criticizing its requirement that insurers provide sterilization and contraception, including some drugs like Ella, which can cause abortions.

It is "an unprecedented attack on religious liberty" to require that religious people and groups sell, broker or purchase services to which they have religious or moral objections, the attorneys said. Under the new mandate, religiously-affiliated employers will be "affirmatively barred" from offering a plan to the public, or even to fellow believers,

*It is "an unprecedented attack on religious liberty" to require that religious people and groups sell, broker or purchase services to which they have religious or moral objections.*

that excludes objectionable items.

"Until now, no federal law has prevented private insurers from accommodating purchasers and plan sponsors with moral or religious objections to certain services," they said. "Likewise, federal law did not forbid any insurer, such as a religiously-affiliated insurer, to exclude from its plans any services to which the insurer itself had a moral or religious objection. Indeed, the freedom to exclude morally objectionable services has sometimes been stated affirmatively in federal law."

Picarello and Moses said the mandate violates the Weldon amendment, the 2010 health care legislation and the Obama administration's stated policy to exclude from the mandate any drug that can cause an abortion.

They criticized a proposed religious exemption as "narrower than any conscience clause ever enacted in federal law" and narrower than the "vast majority" of exemptions from state contraception mandates.

The exemptions cover a non-profit religious employer whose purpose is "the inculcation of religious values," which primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets, and which primarily serves those who share its religious beliefs. The exemptions would not apply to many Catholic colleges and universities, charities, social service agencies and health-care providers.

Secular organizations with objections to coverage of contraceptives or sterilization will also be ineligible, they noted.

The HHS released the mandates as part of the preventive care re-

quirements of the 2010 health care legislation. A 60-day comment period on the regulations began on Aug. 1.

Other prominent Catholics have opposed the regulations, including Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

"Pregnancy is not a disease, and fertility is not a pathological condition to be suppressed by any means technically possible," he said July 19, while the rules were under consideration.

Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, has criticized the religious exemption as "not broad enough to protect our Catholic health care providers." She helped pass the health care legislation last year.

A group of Obama-friendly Catholic leaders and professors also issued an Aug. 26 open letter to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius seeking an expansion of religious protections.

The requirements are also being opposed by the San Diego-based St. Gianna Physician's Guild, which has launched an online petition against them.

Unless the regulations are rescinded, they will take effect on Aug. 1, 2012.

# 2011

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

# ANNUAL APPEAL

*100 years of faith, hope and charity*

## 100 Years of Service

*For nearly a century, Catholic Charities has responded quickly to Oklahomans in need. Here are some of the events that shaped our community and our organization.*

**1912** – The seeds for Catholic Charities are planted with the dedication of St. Joseph's Orphanage in Bethany; adoption services begin.

**1937** – Our Lady of Victory Nursery and Maternity Home opens. The home cares for 1,000 unwed mothers, over 1,200 infants and 800 children in its first 14 years.

**1975** – Refugee Resettlement services are launched to assist Vietnam-era refugees relocating to Oklahoma after the fall of Saigon.

**1987** – The federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 paves the way for Catholic Charities' Immigration Assistance Program.

**1989** – St. Joseph's Children's and Family Counseling begins.

**1993** – Holy Family Maternity Home for adolescents opens.

**1995** – Catholic Charities services are quickly mobilized to help those affected by the Oklahoma City bombing.

**1997** – Affordable housing for seniors is initiated in Oklahoma City (Villa Isenbart and Trinity Gardens).

**2001** – Catholic Charities location opens in Clinton, joining offices in Enid and Lawton in providing services to Oklahomans outside the Oklahoma City metro area.

**2008** – Villanova Apartments are opened to provide low-income housing to more than 60 families in Lawton.

**2009** – Sanctuary Women's Development Center for homeless women opens in Oklahoma City.

### Dear Friends of Catholic Charities:

On Oct. 6, 1912, St. Joseph Orphanage in Bethany opened its doors for the care of orphans. This milestone marked the beginning of Catholic Charities' ministry to the poor and its commitment to protecting the lives and security of individuals, families and children who were materially deprived and at risk in Oklahoma.

In announcing our 2011 appeal, Catholic Charities is launching a year to celebrate our 100-year legacy as well as to recommit ourselves for the next 100 years of ministry to children and families throughout Oklahoma. Our theme — One hundred years of faith, hope and charity — both reflects on our very rich history and calls each one of us to help bring about the Kingdom of God by growing in our faith and service to others.

Our history has been built on the self-sacrifice of many clergy and religious who stood with children and families in times of economic hardship, family separation and disaster. Our legacy has flourished by the millions of acts of service and prayers of our faithful benefactors, volunteers and professional staff who live their lives in service to others. Our heritage has been blessed by the trust and confidence of those whom we have served with compassion and love.

At an early age, we learn that Charity is what we do for others: giving alms to the poor, sheltering the homeless and visiting the sick and imprisoned. But the history of our Catholic Charities teaches us that Charity is so much more. Charity is God's blessing on all humanity, as we build an inclusive Kingdom where the gifts of all are revered and shared. So much more remains to be done in the next 100 years!

Please be generous to our 2011 Catholic Charities Appeal.

**Gratefully yours,  
Tim O'Connor**



*Tim O'Connor*

### Please consider pledging at least one hour's wages per month to support these Catholic Charities programs:

**Maternity and Adoption Services** provided services to 90 people in 2010. Holy Family Maternity Home serves over 40 teenage mothers per year.

**Family Support Services** provided over \$200,000 in rent, utility and other assistance in the past year.

**Transitional Housing** was provided to 44 clients. Service-Enriched Housing serves over 150 income-eligible families and seniors annually.

**Disaster Relief** helps hundreds of families each year whose lives and homes are harmed by tornadoes, flooding and other disasters.

**Refugee Resettlement** partners with the U.S. State Department to assist people who have been persecuted for religious and social reasons.

**Sanctuary Women's Development Center** helped 486 homeless women and children in 2010.

**Immigration Services** offers legal assistance and citizenship and naturalization services for immigrants with family members in the United States.

**Advocacy Services** provides a voice for the unborn, the poor and vulnerable in public policy debates.

**Faith Community Nurse Development** provides education and support to promote health ministry.

**St. Joseph Counseling Center** provides confidential counseling services to hundreds of parish-referred individuals, groups, families and children each year.



# 100 Years of Faith, Hope and Charity:

## Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

The seeds for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City were planted in 1910 when Father John Schaefer purchased land in Bethany to establish an orphanage for children who could not be reared by family due to separation, abandonment, deprivation or death. Two years later, St. Joseph's Orphanage opened, providing thousands of Oklahoma children a home with the opportunity for education and support as they grew into young adults, and with it, began the works of Catholic Charities.

At the heart of Catholic Charities, however, is the social mission of the Church, which includes instructions for the faithful to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, and care for the sick and dying. It is this social mission that has been expressed in the services of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma for nearly 100 years.

Since it began, Catholic Charities has provided comprehensive social services to poor and vulnerable children, families, pregnant women, elderly and other individuals throughout Oklahoma, regardless of religious affiliation, race, national origin or gender. Today, Catholic Charities is a major private provider of social services to children, families and individuals in Oklahoma, working alongside public and private organizations to help meet the basic needs of those who have the least. In addition to its direct services, Catholic Charities also advocates at the local and state levels for public policy that promotes the common good on behalf of those whose voices are not heard.

While its earliest programs were related to adoption and foster care, today's Catholic Charities' services touch many different facets of life in Oklahoma, from adoption and housing to family counseling, refugee services and immigration. These services, many of which grew organically from a true need in the community, are still thriving today. For example, in 1975, to assist with the many displaced people after the Vietnam War, Catholic Charities began providing relocation and resettlement services to refugees. Twelve years later, in 1987, the Immigration Legal Assistance program began. St. Joseph's Counseling Program was started in 1990 to provide individual and group counseling. In 1993, the Holy Family Maternity Home opened as a program to serve pregnant and parenting teens. In 1995, the Family H.O.P.E. (Help, Organize, Prioritize, Empower) case management program was established. Other



*St. Joseph Orphanage, Bethany, in 1915. Sooner Catholic Archives.*

programs include disaster and emergency relief, transitional housing, homeless services and faith community nurse training.

Over the years, Catholic Charities has also expanded to include offices in Lawton, Clinton and Enid, as well as its headquarters in Oklahoma City. Opened in 1992, the Lawton regional office provides long-term case management, emergency financial assistance and counseling services. The Lawton office also provides emergency services and service coordination to residents of Villanova Apartments, an apartment complex for low-income families. The Clinton and Enid regional offices offer case management and counseling services. Furthermore, adoption services and immigration legal assistance are available to Lawton, Clinton and Enid clients through the Oklahoma City office. This month, a new regional office opened in Guymon to provide immigration legal assistance and social services for children and families.

In addition to its emphasis on service, Catholic Charities also strives to be one of the state's leading nonprofit organizations, earning a full four-year accreditation by the Council on Accreditation since 2007. Additionally, for the last two years, Charity Navigator, a national service that rates the financial health of nonprofits, has awarded the agency the highest 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

### ***You're Invited!***

As Catholic Charities marks its 100th anniversary, they invite you to join them for special events and celebrations. Also, please visit their website often for specific event dates, as well as stories, photos and anecdotes about the organization's first century.

Do you have a story that you would like to share about ways in which Catholic Charities has touched your life? If so, call 800-375-8514 or e-mail [jmoon@catholic-charitiesok.org](mailto:jmoon@catholic-charitiesok.org).

***Catholic Charities Annual Meeting -  
Celebrating 100 Years of  
Faith, Hope and Charity  
February 2012***

***Catholic Charities Adoption Reunion  
May 2012***

***Refugee Reunion  
July 2012***

***St. Joseph's Orphanage Reunion  
June 2012***

***Anniversary Final Celebration and  
Time Capsule Dedication  
October 2012***



# Disaster Recovery is a Hands-On Aspect of Catholic Charities

"When you work in a Disaster Recovery Center, you encounter people in every stage of grief and emotional and physical turmoil," says Damon Britton, associate director for Children and Family Services at Catholic Charities.

After the deadly tornadoes of May 24, the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened Disaster Recovery Centers in multiple Oklahoma locations and Catholic Charities staff members provided assistance in all of them. Case managers met with disaster survivors in Piedmont, Blanchard, Guthrie, Kingfisher and Chickasha. In each location staff members worked to meet immediate needs and help plan for long-term assistance.

"A DRC is essentially a one-stop shop for disaster recovery services," Britton says.

FEMA sets up the center in a local school, church or other facility. Services include not only FEMA but the Small Business Administration, state and local government agencies such as the Department of Human Services, and local nonprofit agencies. Each agency has a specific role coordinated by the State of Oklahoma Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster. Catholic Charities' role is to provide long-term recovery case management. This service begins at the DRC and can extend for up to two years. The goal of long-term recovery case management is to help clients return to their pre-disaster condition.

One resident from Chickasha said, "Catholic Charities listened to me. They let me talk about my situation. They let me cry and then they helped me figure out a plan to recover. That day at the DRC I received a gas voucher so I could get back and forth to my property. I also got enough gift cards to buy cleaning supplies and food. I also got a good dose of hope."



*Catholic Charities Facilities Management Director Mike Carrasco delivers beds to a disaster victim in Cement.*

## *Beyond Reading, Writing and Arithmetic:*

# How St. Joseph's Counseling Center Helps Students in Times of Crisis

For many people, childhood is often remembered as a happy and carefree time, where the most trying lessons were one of the three Rs. There are times, however, when a crisis arises at one of Oklahoma's parochial schools that not only impacts a student's performance, but also his or her emotional well-being. When that occurs, St. Joseph's Counseling Center at Catholic Charities is available to offer counseling and support, as well as age-appropriate treatment, to help a student move forward.

"When a crisis occurs at one of the schools, such as a student or faculty death, it can be very difficult for all of those affected. To help ease the situation, we work closely with the administration, parents and teachers to help with notifying the students of the particular incident and provide grief counseling to classes or individual students as needed," said Monica Palmer, Catholic Charities associate director of Clinical Services. "Some students may need additional assistance due to symptoms of depression, anxiety, family and social issues. In those cases, we work closely with his or her family to help, which can include up to six free counseling sessions for the student or family."

Palmer said some children deal with grief

and stress differently than others, so parents should be aware of signs of longer-term difficulties, which may require additional assistance. Some signs of more serious depression and anxiety in children can include sleep problems,



appetite decrease, change in interest level of usually enjoyed activities, irritable mood, reduced engagement in social ties, and trouble with concentration and memory. A drastic change in academic performance or temperament can indicate a more serious problem. For example, an elementary-aged child may regress

or revert to an earlier stage of development (i.e. thumb sucking), or an adolescent may seem angry or easily frustrated when he or she is sad.

"Throughout the years, we have worked with several schools to educate and support students, faculty and staff about the stages of grief and loss," Palmer said. "I believe this support is helpful to everyone, including parents and faculty who need to help guide their students through the process while working through their own feelings of loss. To help ease this difficult time, parents and faculty are given information about talking to their children/students and they are encouraged to seek professional assistance if they do not observe improvement over the course of a few weeks."

She said, "At St. Joseph's Counseling Center, we are committed to ensuring each member of the Archdiocese has access to mental health services, no matter what the age or need. Parents and faculty have been very gracious to our team and seem quite receptive to our presence in their schools. I believe this helps them know that they are not alone and that we are honored to help them in the most difficult of times."

# Creating a Safe Haven in Oklahoma for People From Throughout the World

Throughout its history, Catholic Charities has responded to social need by creating programs that offer solutions. In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, an incredible new need would arise: refugee services.

In 1975, after the fall of Saigon to the communist Viet Cong, thousands of Southeast Asian refugees emigrated to the United States to escape the cruelties of a new regime and the widespread destruction of their homeland. As the wave of refugees grew, the U.S. State Department appealed to religious organizations, including Catholic Charities, to help relocate incoming families and provide services to help them adjust to their new lives in the United States.

This event significantly expanded the scope of Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program. Between January 1976 and the late 1980s, the program helped ease the transition for hundreds of Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees, who would need places to live, employment, English classes and enrollment in the public schools for their children.

"From its earliest days, Catholic Charities' refugee program has been devoted to providing a safe haven to people who qualified for refugee status due to religious, political and racial/ethnic persecution," said Aimee Ryan, Refugee Resettlement director. "Our program focuses on the strength of the refugee and builds on those skills

that allowed them to flee and survive their displacement. While the surroundings and cultural differences require some adjustment, the refugees are already adept at applying themselves to the kind of changes that help them to transition into self-sufficiency in an American community."

In the years since this program began, many former refugees have not only become proud U.S. citizens, they have thrived in making their mark throughout the state as business owners, professionals and even public servants.

Today, largely funded through the U.S. State Department, the Refugee Resettlement Program operates as an affiliate of the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program offers reception and placement services for the first 90 days to about 150 newly arrived refugees each year. Job orientation and preparation takes place during this period with the goal of early employment and self-sufficiency.

Ryan said most information about refugees focuses on the horrors of torture, imprisonment, the murder of family members, and primitive refugee camps. However, she said that while many have suffered some level of violence, the experience of the refugee varies widely. While the African and Burmese refugees often live in camps, Ryan said, some from other countries are allowed to rent apart-



ments and hold some jobs.

Sahar Aldurobi, a refugee through the program two years ago, was educated and employed with the government and owned her own home. She describes her trauma founded on fears for her children's safety in a country torn apart by aggression, violence and the war atmosphere that was ingrained in Saddam Hussein's dictatorship.

"I was free, but I would never truly be free," Aldurobi recalls.

Ryan said the program's success is measured not by how many

people it helps, but by the level to which clients are able to sink new roots into the community and accomplish their dreams.

"Over the years, Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Office has acted as a guiding hand for refugees from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America," Ryan said. "Many of our clients may come from different cultures, educational levels and economic backgrounds, but all are joined by their opportunity for an extraordinary new future."

*"Through the seven years that I was the director of the Refugee Program at Catholic Social Ministries (now Catholic Charities), we helped with the placement of refugees from several ethnic groups from Southeast Asia that spoke 18 different languages. The majority were Vietnamese. With the help of Catholic Social Ministries, the state of Oklahoma became a little United Nations — a place where life could begin anew for thousands of refugees — even former enemies — who could now live together in peace."*

*(Sister Anne Wisda, I.H.M. - Refugee Resettlement Director, 1976-1983)*



# Removing the Myths of Adoption

Since 1912, Catholic Charities has worked to provide safe, loving homes to children throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Over the years, the organization has placed thousands of children and changed numerous lives.

As Catholic Charities Adoption Services nears its 100th anniversary, program director Kirsten Lee, M.S.W., shares some of the top five myths and realities of adoption:

**Myth #1:** Adoption is selfish and irresponsible.

Adoption is neither selfish nor irresponsible. In fact, it is one of the most selfless decisions a mother can make. A birth mother who places a child for adoption is willing to be honest with herself and admit that she either does not want to parent or is not emotionally, physically or financially stable enough to parent.

An adoption plan takes a lot of responsibility as it involves paperwork, meetings, court dates and making sure both the mother and the baby remain healthy. It is a very courageous act and a priceless gift to give to a couple. Any mother who works with a professional adoption agency is making a thoughtful and loving arrangement for her child that will enable him or her to lead a healthy and positive life.

**Myth #2:** Once the child is born, it is too late to consider adoption.

It is never too late to consider adoption through Catholic Charities. It has been our experience that some birth mothers want to try parenting and realize weeks, months or years later that they are not meant to be a parent at this time in their lives. Despite her best intentions, the mother may not have the support or assistance needed to raise a child and may be unable to manage everything all on her own. In these situations, the birth mother makes a choice to be a good mother by giving her child

better opportunities and a more stable environment.

A child can be placed with a loving and responsible couple at any time and will continue to have a fulfilling and positive life. This also will allow the mother to focus on making other positive choices in her life. It never hurts to talk with a professional about her options and her wishes for herself and the child.

**Myth #3:** Children who are adopted are different than biological children.

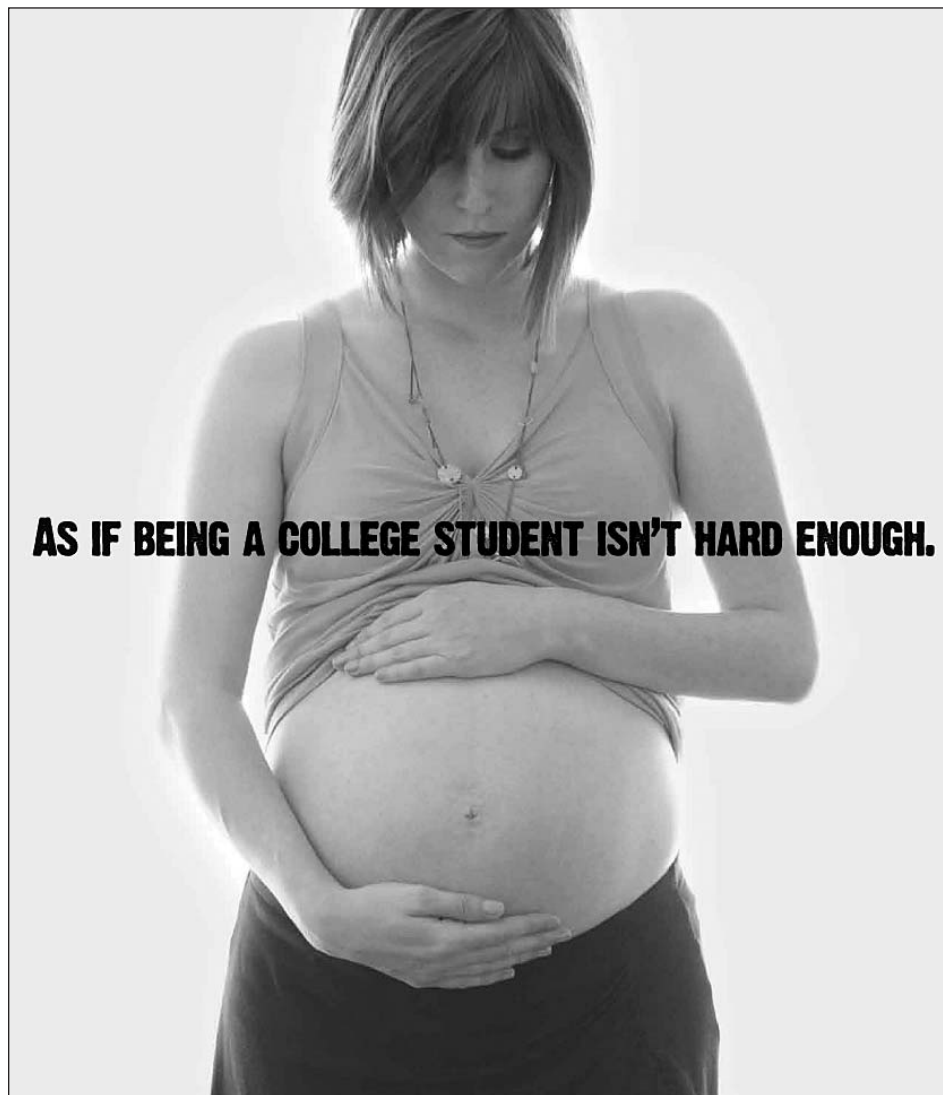
Children who are adopted develop and grow no differently than biological children. In fact, adopted children can be successful in life and have a rewarding and loving relationship with their adopted family. While some children grow in their mother's womb, some grow in their mother and father's hearts.

Catholic Charities works closely with adoptive parents to ensure the child adjusts positively into their family. Even if the child is of a different race or culture, each is completely a part of the family and completely loved. It is not unusual for families to incorporate their child's culture into their own culture by celebrating certain holidays and creating open and honest discussions about their child's race and heritage.

**Myth #4:** A woman who places a child for adoption has no control in what happens to the child.


A woman who places her child for adoption is making a thoughtful, carefully planned and loving decision. It is a plan that takes time and careful consideration of various aspects. A birth mother has many options in deciding how she wants her adoption plan to proceed and makes decisions for herself and her child.


In many cases, the birth mother may select the adoptive couple and may even meet the couple more than once to assure that they are the best parents for her child. She knows



**AS IF BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT ISN'T HARD ENOUGH.**

Life shouldn't end if you get pregnant.  
Not for you or your unborn child.  
**Adoption is the option.**

 **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

 You don't have to decide until the baby is born. If you need to talk, call us free at 800-375-8514, 405-523-3012 or visit [www.CatholicCharitiesOK.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesOK.org). We can help.

*Adoption promotion posters and materials are available from Catholic Charities.*

exactly where her child is going and has tremendous faith in the couple she chose. Many mothers choose to receive pictures of their children after they have been placed and some even establish an open relationship with the child and the adopted parents.

**Myth #5:** An adoptee and birth family can never reconnect once they are separated.

Catholic Charities has a successful post-adoption program that has helped adult adoptees and birth families reconnect years following placement. It is not unusual for adoptees and birth families to establish a relationship that lasts for years and can provide peace and comfort to both parties involved.

However, in some cases, relationships are not possible. In those situations, Catholic Charities can still be of assistance in providing adoptees with additional information about their birth or birth family that may answer long-held questions regarding health histories and family trees.

Catholic Charities has recently developed adoption promotion posters and materials which are suitable for schools, health clinics and doctors offices. For more information about these materials or about Catholic Charities Adoption Services in general, contact Kirsten Lee or Stephanie Storozyszyn at (405) 523-3012 or visit [www.catholiccharities-ok.org](http://www.catholiccharities-ok.org).



# Homeless Women and Children Find Sanctuary

Visitors to the Sanctuary Women's Development Center are often struck by the laughter which is a common sound each day.

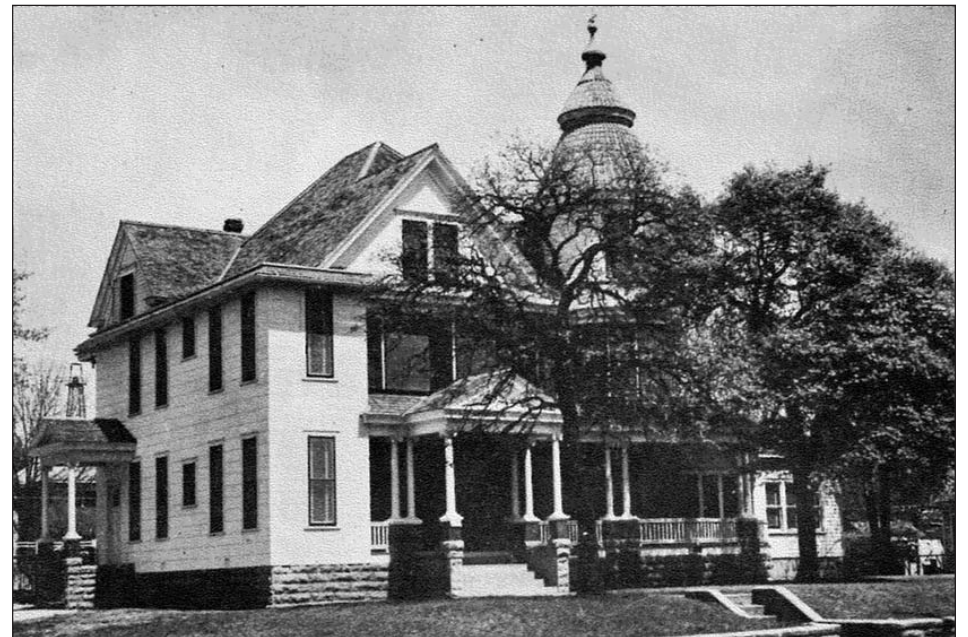
"Loneliness is a common denominator in our clients," says case manager Kirby Bewley at the Sanctuary, which is operated by Catholic Charities in south Oklahoma City, to provide a safe, nurturing environment for homeless women and their children. More importantly, however, Bewley says the center offers a joyful respite, an escape from worry.

Last year the Sanctuary served nearly 1,000 clients. Bewley says more than 95 percent of the clients participated in some form of case management. "Each wanted to create a permanent change in her life."

Bewley says Sanctuary case managers and volunteers work with clients to teach good problem-solving skills and help them see their own self-worth. As a result of intensive case management, 72 families were moved out of homelessness and into housing in the past year.

For some families, finances are the only barrier keeping them from overcoming homelessness; for others, it is domestic violence and mental illness. "Women who come to Sanctuary often have issues from childhood that affect their lives," Bewley says. "Many suffer from anxiety or depression. Counseling can break the cycle."

For more information about the Sanctuary, contact director Amy Hampton at (405) 526-2321.



*Caring for mothers and infants: Over the years, Catholic Charities has cared for thousands of young mothers and their babies through its programs for expectant mothers. This tradition, which began in the 1920s with Our Lady of Victory Maternity Home in Bethany (above,) continues today with the Holy Family Maternity Home in Midwest City (below).*

## Creating HOPE For Families

Catholic Charities Family Support Services has seen an increase of nearly 50 percent in the number of families requesting financial assistance this year, said Damon Britton, associate director of Children's and Family Services.

Family Support Services includes the Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance, Transitional Housing, and Family HOPE Case Management programs for families in crisis. Britton said the increase in requests could be due to the poor economy, excessively hot weather, or a combination of both.

Last year 265 clients participated in the Family HOPE program. This long-term case management program helps working families who are in financial crisis. HOPE is an acronym for "Help, Organize, Prioritize, Empower."

"We have seen an increase in the number of clients seeking aid for the first time in the past year," said Family HOPE case manager Cindy Kearney. "Many have lost their jobs or had their hours cut at work. Their situations are more complicated than those we have seen in previous years."

Britton described the case of a single mother, determined to create a better life for her family, who enrolled in the Family HOPE program. Catholic Charities provided her transitional housing while she worked with the case manager to develop a service plan to pay down debt. Her goal was to purchase a house for her family. The mother worked endlessly on the service plan to take care of her family by meeting intermediate financial goals and then to achieve her ultimate goal. She purchased a home for her family last December and now is financially secure, Britton said.

Through the Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance program, with special support from the Inasmuch Foundation, 635 families received rent or utility assistance last year. In addition, the agency's Transitional Housing program provided safe and affordable housing to 74 people.

Brad Hyde, assistant director of Family Support Services, summed up the program by saying, "Standing with our clients, encouraging them to succeed in achieving their goals is the greatest gift we can give."



*"Developing a maternity home program in the 1990s was a definite pro-life action. In one instance I was talking to the residents and it was sad to me that none of the young mothers had ever been on a date. They were mothers but had never had the special feeling of being taken out by someone. Holy Family Home seeks to increase self-esteem, coping and parenting skills of residents. It also offers the adoption option."*

*Pat Froehle, Catholic Charities Assistant Director, 1991-1999*



# Catholic Charities Opens New Office in Lawton



Providing emergency rent and utility assistance and case management to the citizens of Lawton with outreach to Duncan and Altus, Catholic Charities moved its base of operations to a new location in July. Located at 1930 N.W. Ferris Ave., this location will enable staff to be close to the community it serves. The staff (pictured above) at the Lawton office include Pauline Harris, Lorraine Truitt and Brenda Tohey, shown here with Damon Britton, associate director for Children and Family Services.



Archbishop Paul Coakley blesses the new Lawton Catholic Charities office on Aug. 18.

## Ministry Leads the Way

A model for parish healing ministries, developed at St. Peter Church in Woodward, pioneered a model for how parishes can utilize health professionals as well as non-professionals in embracing the healing ministry," said Mary Diane Steltenkamp, director of Faith Community Nursing at Catholic Charities USA Parish Social Ministry calendar.

In 1981, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote a document titled Health and Health Care, which stated, "Health in the Christian perspective means wholeness — not only physical and emotional but also spiritual and social. Health has to do with more than strictly medical concerns. The restoration of health and the maintenance of good health are not solely the responsibility of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. We all bear a responsibility in this regard, both as individuals and as members of large social and religious institutions."

In the spirit of Health and Health Care, Catholic Charities works with parishes to develop holistic healing ministries. "During the

past year, St. Peter Church in Woodward pioneered a model for how parishes can utilize health professionals as well as non-professionals in embracing the healing ministry," said Mary Diane Steltenkamp, director of Faith Community Nursing at Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City.

The St. Peter Parish nursing team, now comprising nine people, has embraced various programs addressing the physical and spiritual health of the community. Steltenkamp said the model has become so popular that several other parishes are developing similar programs.

Steltenkamp, who directs Faith Community Nurse training across the state of Oklahoma, will present aspects of the St. Peter model during the Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering in Fort Worth this month.

For more information about the Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing training program, contact Steltenkamp at (405) 523-3006 or [mdsteltenkamp@catholiccharities-ok.org](mailto:mdsteltenkamp@catholiccharities-ok.org).

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# A Celebration Of The Love, Life of Father Rother

## *Pilgrims Mark Anniversary*

By **María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda**  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

“Martyrs are blood witnesses of God’s inexhaustible love for his people.” (Father Henri Nouwen in *“Love in a Fearful Land: A Guatemala Story”*)

This truth is visibly and tangibly evident in the parish community of Santiago Apostol in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, where Okarche native and Servant of God Father Stanley Francis Rother is more than just remembered.

Padre Apla’s, (Francis in Tz’utujil) still witnesses the presence and power of God to His people 30 years after his death.

Martyred on July 28, 1981, Stanley Rother has been declared by the Universal Church as a Servant of God — which in time could make him the first male saint born in the United States.

But the people of Santiago Atitlán are not waiting for an official declaration. They already affirm Apla’s a saint, their saint, and they come to him daily asking for his help and intercession.

“He was a courageous missionary, who in spite of the violence that surrounded him, did not leave his flock. He is a great example for me, someone who gave his life for the People of God,” says Sister Ambrosia, a member of the Hermanas Misioneras de la Eucaristía, Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist, who remembers and survived the years of violent social unrest in Guatemala. “I can’t tell you how much I admire him. He could have returned to his country, but instead remained with his people here. He represents Jesus, who gave His life for all of us. All of Guatemala already knows that he is a saint.”

It is both appropriate and telling that Father Rother’s heart rests forever with the people closest to his heart, on a side altar of the big colonial church built by Franciscans in 1540. A large photo banner hanging on the wall above shows a vista of



*The shrine to Servant of God Father Stanley Rother in the room he was killed in inside the rectory at Santiago Atitlán. Photo by Father Stephen Bird*

the lake with Father Rother celebrating Mass, along with the words proclaimed by Jesus: “No hay amor mas grande el que da la vida por sus amigos.” — There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

### **30th Anniversary Commemoration**

This July, 38 pilgrims from Oklahoma and Arkansas, including Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran, St. Gregory’s Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, Subiaco’s Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, and Little Rock Bishop Anthony Taylor, journeyed to Guatemala to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of Father Stanley F. Rother.

One of the first things instantly obvious to visitors of the Santiago Atitlán community is that the man that the Tz’utujil Mayan people remember as Apla’s, who taught,

loved, prayed with and cared for them during the last 13 years of his life, is still their shepherd now.

“Father Stanley Rother, Padre Apla’s, came from Oklahoma to Santiago Atitlán because he loved God. Because Padre Apla’s loved God, he loved each one of you,” remarked Archbishop Beltran to the filled-to-capacity church at the 30th Anniversary Mass. “Because Padre Apla’s loved you, he wanted to share the Good News of Jesus with all of you. He proclaimed God’s love and mercy. He wanted you to know how much God loves you and how you and your children could have everlasting life in heaven. Because of this proclamation and adherence to our Catholic faith, Padre Apla’s was brutally attacked and killed here in the parish house.”

Reminding the community of Father Rother’s official cause for canonization, Archbishop Beltran

added, “I want to encourage you to continue your own public and private devotion to Padre Apla’s. Come here frequently before the enshrined heart of Padre Apla’s and continue to seek his help.”

For St. John the Baptist parish-ioner Tom Morris, “It was celebrating Masses at this crowded 400-year-old church in Guatemala that Padre Apla’s’ sainthood was made clear to me,” he explained. “It was in the eyes of the people, in their singing, in their hunger for the Eucharist, and in the parish of Santiago’s five vocations to the seminary. My wife and I recently attended a Papal Mass at St. Peter’s and we felt a greater presence of our Lord in the people of the Church at Santiago Atitlán than we did at the Vatican.”

“The people treasure that he was, and is, one of them,” noted Sister María Victoria, who worked

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# 30 Years Later

**Continued from Page 11**  
for five years at the parish of Santiago Atitlán. “Apla’s shared everything with the Tz’utujil. In spite of his different background, he embraced our culture and the poor and simple people. He ate with the people and rode out in the trucks to work the fields with them. He shared everything with them,” added Sister María Victoria, whose community — the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist — was the first community of women in Guatemala founded to take in indigenous vocations, even those without any schooling. The community now has a mission serving in Houston, Texas.

Father Michael Chapman, who has visited Santiago Atitlán three times in the past 30 years, said that being one of the large group of priests and bishops filling up the altar at the 30th anniversary Mass allowed him to observe “a vibrant community, alive with the faith. What a joy that was!”

He also enjoyed seeing Father Thomas McSherry recognized and acknowledged both at Santiago and Cerro de Oro. “As the successor of ‘Father Apla’s,’ he carried the pastoral burden with the same self-effacing dedication to the Tz’utujil people and their faith,” noted Father Chapman.

“I learned about Father Stanley Rother’s death 30 years ago as a seminarian and have remained inspired by his witness,” said Archbishop Paul

S. Coakley. “He captured my attention because he was an alumnus of the same seminary I was attending, Mount St. Mary in Emmitsburg, Md.”

Having the opportunity to celebrate Mass 30 years later at Father Rother’s parish church in Santiago Atitlán “was a powerful experience,” Archbishop Coakley added. “I was deeply moved by the vibrancy of the parish, their devotion to the Eucharist, and their continuing veneration of Father Rother, whom they call Padre Apla’s. Few of the people filling that crowded parish church would have known him personally, but his witness as a loving pastor who gave his life for his people has certainly not been forgotten! He is beloved and that is very evident.”

## Experiencing the Church of Guatemala

As part of the week-long pilgrimage, the Oklahoma and Arkansas peregrinos visited other important sites for the Church of Guatemala, including the historical city of Antigua; the parish and ministries of San Lucas Tolimán; the Hospitalito Atitlán, a community hospital with roots and connections to the Oklahoma mission; the convent of the Hermanas Misioneras de la Eucaristía, Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist; and the parish at Cerro de Oro, a small church five miles from Santiago also served by Father Rother and the Oklahoma mission.

Describing this pilgrimage as a



*A large banner of Father Rother hangs outside of the church during the parish festival. Photos by Father Stephen Bird*

defining moment for her, Carol Shean said she traveled to Guatemala already familiar with Father Rother, through a friend from her years living in Woodward, who is a relative of Rother. “I wanted to come and see with my own eyes what it was all about,” said Shean, now a resident of San Diego, Calif. “Meeting the people, observing what their life is like, and seeing the joy and hope that they live, it truly blows me away. They are a witness of faith through their living, loving and giving.”

Beth Hathaway of Boise City agreed. “I could not even imagine the impact that the Guatemalan people would have on me,” she paused. “It was so moving to celebrate Mass with them, to see their faces and experience their piety. It is clear we don’t need grand programs to pass on the faith of God!”

“It is amazing to me how God works with ordinary people to perform extraordinary works,” said Dianne Frazier of St. Patrick’s Church in OKC. “Who would ever think that a priest from Okarche, Oklahoma, would make such an impression on so many people all over the world!” remarked Frazier about her first time experiencing Santiago Atitlán. “No matter who we are, where we were raised, we can make a difference, especially if we have faith in God and in ourselves. Father Stanley Rother is truly an inspiration for all of us. We don’t have to be a



*Former U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, Stephen McFarland, talks at the Anniversary Mass for Father Rother July 28.*

genius or have extraordinary skills to make a difference in people’s lives.”

One aspect that surprised Father Timothy Luschen on his first Guatemala visit was the amount of development in the town of Santiago. But the biggest surprise was the poverty of the people. “So many things we take for granted ... the streets, the electricity, the water. The discomforts we felt on our pilgrimage are the discomforts they live with every day.”

Although it is not an easy trip,

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*Archbishop Beltran says a prayer in the rectory in Santiago Atitlán.*



# Adversity Transformed Into Faith Adventure

By **María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda**  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

Pilgrims leave home intentionally, with an expectation that the physical journey will fuel the spiritual quest. Pilgrims, as opposed to tourists, desire to approach their journey in a spirit of poverty and dependence, like refugees, consciously choosing at every phase of the journey to humbly present themselves and their needs to the Lord, acknowledging their utter dependence on God.

In the pilgrimage to Guatemala for the 30th anniversary of Father Stanley Rother, it was clear that God was very busy, often using the adversities and challenges that the group encountered to remind us that His plan was more meaningful, brilliant, better designed, than any pre-set itinerary, no matter how well thought out!

For the Arkansas pilgrims, the difficulties began immediately: mechanical airplane issues, delayed and postponed flights, and even an emergency landing in Houston, with sirens and firemen, significant enough to make CNN and local evening news.

"That set the tone for the whole pilgrimage," explained Little Rock's Bishop, Anthony B. Taylor. "The Lord was clearly in control throughout, not us ... since we were pilgrims ... the journey was really what it was all about, not any particular human timetable or earthly destination. And there were wonderful adversities almost every day!" Bishop Taylor, formerly a priest with the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, was the Episcopal delegate for Father Rother's cause of canonization.

Traveling the highlands and the southern shores of beautiful Lake Atitlán offered plenty of opportunities for the group to experience and open itself to transformation. Standing in heavy rains waiting for a tardy ride. Mudslides that diverted and canceled travel. Washed-out roads. Suspended footbridges. Delayed schedules. Illness. Standing on the back of pickup trucks for rides.

Sister Kathy Olsen, a member of the Archdiocesan canonization committee, jokes that pilgrimage director Carol Davito "could be a really terrific used car salesman!"

"When Carol suggested that we wear good walking shoes for the next day's journey because we'd have to



*The resting place of Father Stanley Rother's heart is a shrine in the church at Santiago Atitlán, which is a pilgrimage site for thousands each year.*



*The pilgrimage group at the convent, in which they had to walk a rope bridge over a large gorge to get to. Photos by Father Stephen Bird*

walk a little ways due to a mudslide, I never could have imagined that would translate into walking across a swaying suspension bridge over a deep gorge that could only support five people at a time! Or that the transportation waiting us on the other side were not buses, but rather three pickup trucks where we stood hanging on to railings. And did I mention that one of the trucks ran out of gas on our way to the convent we were visiting?!"

"It was an adventure, to say the least," agreed Jean Nashert, noting that a fellow pilgrim had already pointed out the similarities between the group's adventures and the reality TV series "Survivor."

"I never thought I'd be walking on a swaying bridge!"

"This was an adventure with a capital A!" laughed Sister Kathy about her first trip to Santiago Atitlán. "No sickness, broken planes, mudslides or other obstacles could keep us from experiencing the many blessings," added Maria Peña of Little Rock.

"Bishop Taylor has taught often about Father Rother and the great example that he is for us all, his Christ-like attitude," Peña added. "But being surrounded at Mass by the people from all the different towns who had come there to celebrate his life, and the way they welcomed us, it was way more than I expected." Having the Mass readings proclaimed in Tz'utujil "was a beautiful reminder that we are

**Continued on Page 15**



# Faith Unites Okarche, Santiago To Nazareth

By María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

Joy, awe, sorrow, inspiration, respect, sadness and admiration. A myriad of emotions rushed over me on my first trip to Santiago Atitlán.

As I continue to try to verbalize experiencing firsthand Father Stanley Rother's community in Guatemala, I can't help paraphrasing the famous gospel question about Jesus: Can anything good come from Okarche, Oklahoma?

Why do we always think that God's presence will be found in the spectacular, when over and over we find God in the simplest things, the common events, and the regular, ordinary people in our lives?

This man whose intercession we seek, this man who died in love for his brothers and sisters in Guatemala, this man who is already venerated in Santiago Atitlán as martyr for his Tz'tujil brothers and sisters, was an average farm boy from an unremarkable, ordinary small town, very much like Jesus' Nazareth.

This was also my first trip to Guatemala, and there was much about it that surprised me.

The natural beauty mesmerized. Rugged luscious mountains, towering volcanoes wrapped in fast-moving clouds, and the majestic Lake Atitlán framed the region of Sololá, where Santiago Atitlán is located. Breathtaking!

No one in our group of pilgrims could stop smiling on the one-hour boat ride between the hotel in Panajachel to the village of Santiago on the other side of Lake Atitlán. Riding often in silenced awe at the panorama surrounding us, my heart intuitively sang, "Oh Lord, my God, how wondrous are your works!"

I must confess that before this trip, my academic knowledge of the country of Guatemala did not include the fact that there are 22 distinct Mayan dialects spoken there. That over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan. Or that the country's geography is made up of 33 volcanoes! Basically, no matter what the town, we were always surrounded by two or three volcanoes, some even making their presence known by spitting out smoke.

When Pope John XXIII requested in the 1960s that a mission be established in the remote village of Santiago, no resident priest had been ministering to the indigenous community there for 80 years. But the Catholic Church has had a presence in that area for 470 years, that's almost 80 years before the pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock. Touring the city of Antigua, with its Spanish Baroque architecture and spectacular ruins of colonial churches and convents, we were constantly reminded of the fact that the Catholic roots run deep here.

The parish church of Santiago (St. James)



*The launch to Santiago Atitlán. Photo by Father Stephen Bird*

Atitlán was the first parish founded in the diocese of Sololá in 1540. It is both impressive and significant that the Church of Oklahoma has been a part of this remote and isolated community's history for 60 years.

Our pilgrim group from Oklahoma and Arkansas was graced with the opportunity to celebrate Mass with the parish community of Santiago Atitlán twice during our week-long pilgrimage: for the feast of their patron saint, St. James, and for the 30th anniversary Mass commemorating and remembering the death of Father Rother.

Appropriately decorated that week in red, the color of royalty and martyrs, the large church smelled of candles, incense and pine needles, which were ceremoniously spread on the apse floor as a sign of reverence.

During Mass I kept thinking about the many lay missionary catechists who were killed during the bloody and violent period that Father Rother served as pastor of Santiago — some surely related to the people who were there worshipping with us. So it touched my heart that the one man they honor as a community, the one they hold with great pride and affection, is the tall, bearded, quiet man from Oklahoma they call Aplá's.

They remember, honor and pay tribute to Stanley Rother, because, much like God's show of love for each of us through the mystery of the incarnation, the boy from Okarche became one of them, one with them in their suffering. He was the one who personified the incarnation for them. He loved them so much that he was prepared and willing to die with them.

There is no greater love than to give up one's

life for one's friend. This is what the community of Santiago Atitlán recalls when they think of Stanley Rother. Thirty years after his death, Aplá's is not only remembered, he is admired, respected, and asked regularly for his heavenly intercession.

The Tz'tujil people in Santiago Atitlán already recognize that Stanley Rother is a saint. They made that clear to me. They already come to him daily, regularly, with their needs and their prayers, just as they did when he was their pastor for 13 years. His death, like his life, is one more outward sign of his deep and abiding holy love for them.

At the 30th anniversary Mass, I remember smiling at a Tz'tujil woman in her 60s standing next to me. I was struck by the certainty that we would never see each other again. In culture, experience and education, we have little to nothing in common with one another. We didn't even speak the same primary language. Yet I had tears in my eyes as the two of us stood together in the celebration of our faith, how we sang the very appropriate hymn, "el Pescador de hombres," and how we raised hands praying the Our Father in Spanish together.

In our Catholic faith, and through the intercession and example of Servant of God Father Stanley Francis Aplá's Rother, we were and are already sisters in Christ.

Padre Aplá's, please pray for us now and forever. Amen.

*Scaperlanda is a journalist and author living in Norman, and a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Church. For information on her published work, visit [www.mymaria.net](http://www.mymaria.net).*



# Adventure

## Continued from Page 13

united in the Word of God, by the Eucharist, by our Catholic faith.”

The worshipping experience with the Tz’utujil people gifted Sister Kathy with the consciousness that “I take for granted the frequency and availability of the Eucharist.” Seeing the community’s willingness to travel, then stand there for hours in order to celebrate Mass was very moving. “The people are so expressive in their faith, they have such reverence and devotion. When I see that kind of faith, I realize there’s a lot of hope for the Church!”

Difficult things always happen, especially if a journey is meant to be a true spiritual quest. But it is the pilgrims’ attitude that can either ruin or bless a journey. The pilgrim heart looks to the journey with will-

ingness, openness, and quite often a huge sense of humor. When an entire group attempts this sort of attitude, the blessings of the journey simply multiply.

For Bishop Taylor, the challenges, obstacles, adversities and difficulties were nothing but wonderful. “Wonderful, because no one got upset,” noted Bishop Taylor. “We laughed when we could, which was often, and otherwise just took everything in stride, confident that all of this was one way or another God’s gift to us. We really could feel Jesus’ presence, tangibly, every step of the way.”

*María de Lourdes Ruiz*

*Scaperlanda is the author of “The Journey: A Guide for the Modern Pilgrim.” (Loyola Press, 2004). See: mymaria.net.*

## 30 Years Later

### Continued from Page 12

Father Luschen noted that this won’t stop him from going back.

“It is impossible not to be struck by Father Rother’s lasting presence both at the Masses, and in the room where he was killed — now a Blessed Sacrament chapel,” acknowledged Father Luschen. “When I entered the room I felt a sense of pride that he was one of our own,” he paused, “but also the sadness. Father Rother was a Catholic priest who loved his people so much that he died for them ... As a priest, I hope and pray that I would be strengthened to be more generous of giving of myself in serving the people of God.”

On his second visit to Santiago, Jack Nashert wanted his wife, Jean, to see with her own eyes what he experienced 10 years ago. “It is a good way of recharging my battery spiritually,” he smiled.

For Jean the experience “was everything I hoped it would be. It was wonderful.” The biggest impression for her, she emphasized, “were the children ... so happy, so full of joy, like when they grabbed the Archbishop’s hands as he processed into Mass!”

Celebrating Mass with so many priests, bishops and abbots was very special, but experiencing the faith of the Tz’utujil together was an espe-

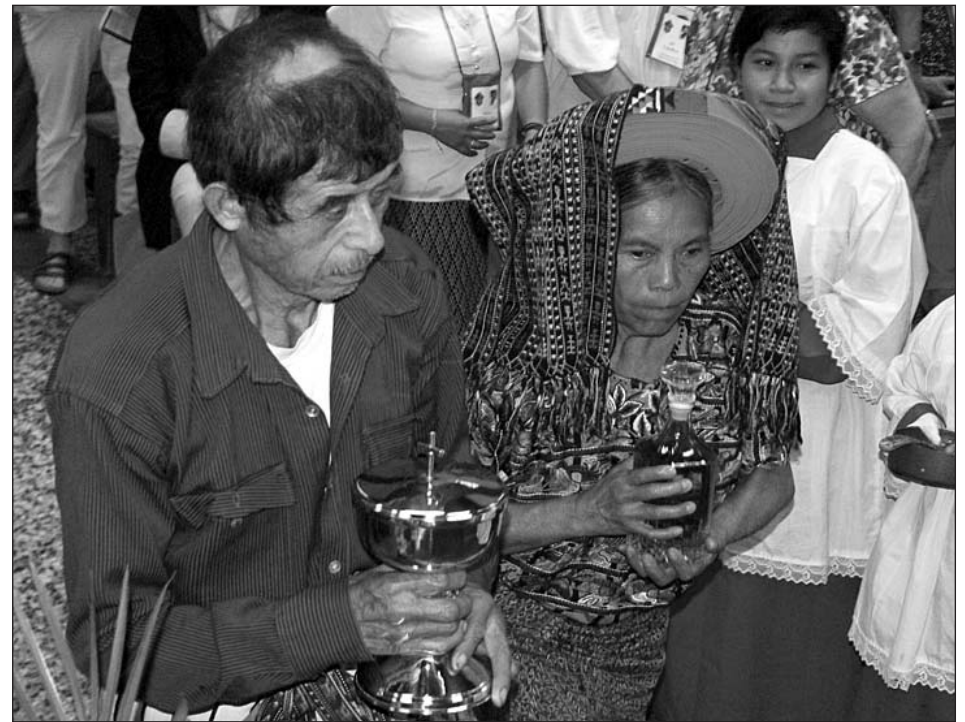
cially profound experience, Jean observed. “You felt it when you walked in ... They got it! That’s the joy and faith I wish for all of us.”

Dee and John Ward, parishioners of St. Joseph’s in Norman, celebrated their 25th anniversary during the pilgrimage in Guatemala. “The joy I witnessed becomes more wonderful each day that I think about it,” Dee described, noting that she’d like to return leading a youth group or a mission trip. “So many people traveled to Santiago by foot from throughout the region that the church was packed ... this experience is so foreign to me. It was overwhelming at times to witness their faith effort, and now I’m in awe.”

“It was so uplifting,” agreed John Ward, “a great moving experience. It was beautiful to see the love that the people of Santiago have for Father Rother, especially the children, who never even knew him. It blew me away.”

**May he be proclaimed by the Universal Church as Martyr and Saint...**

“Just before (Stanley Rother) had returned from Oklahoma to Guatemala for the last time, he told me how much he desired to come back,” Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran remembered in a message for the



*Native Tz’utujil bringing gifts up at Mass in Santiago Atitlán. Photo by Father Stephen Bird. For more photos, visit [tinyurl.com/44nxkz6](http://tinyurl.com/44nxkz6).*

community of Cerro de Oro. Archbishop Beltran served as Bishop of Tulsa in 1981 when Father Rother was killed. “He knew the dangers that existed here at that time and was greatly concerned about the safety and security of the people. Despite threats and danger, he returned and resumed his great priestly ministry to you ... It is very clear that Padre Aplá’s died for you and for the faith.”

“I still remember opening the newspaper one morning 30 years ago,” Msgr. Ed Weisenburger recalled. “I was in Lawton, home from the seminary for the summer and working a summer job. I read an article on the murder of an Oklahoma priest in Guatemala. Later that day at daily Mass, Father Jim Stafford spoke very movingly of Father Rother and the tremendous sacrifice he had made with his life. The truth and power of that story has never waned ... and his example continues to inspire me.”

Being at the 30th anniversary, “celebrating his sacrifice with the community he loved so greatly in Santiago, gave me a rare glimpse into the profound love that he held for his people and their profound love for him,” Msgr. Weisenburger declared. “It’s only in the context of that Gospel that his sacrifice makes sense. But

once you get a glimpse of it, there’s no denying that it’s a reflection of the Great Sacrifice of Jesus.”

Servant of God Father Stanley Rother is important not only for the Church in Guatemala and the Church in Oklahoma, but for everyone, emphasized Archbishop Coakley.

“We need the witness of holy men and women who remind us that we are all called to holiness and that holy men and women come from ordinary places like Okarche, Oklahoma,” Archbishop Coakley said. “His devotion to his parishioners, even to the point of laying down his life, shows how all priests are called to make Christ present daily in their lives and ministry.”

“In truth, his example of the total gift, the perfect gift given in love, is the goal of every Christian,” Msgr. Weisenburger agreed. “For that reason, it is my hope that he will be found worthy by the Church for universal veneration. In his life, his love, and his sacrifice, each of us can get a little better glimpse of the perfect love and perfect sacrifice of Jesus.”

*Scaperlanda is a journalist and author living in Norman, and a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish. For information on her published work: [www.mymaria.net](http://www.mymaria.net).*



# Stewardship: We Are Called By God's Grace

How does God alter you, transform you, make your life more fulfilling? How does God help you deepen your understanding of yourself, your loved ones and your community? What are the gifts you possess that allow God to be actively present in the world through you? Understanding Christian stewardship helps us understand these fundamental questions. "Stewards of God's Grace" is from the New Testament's First Letter of Peter. Christian stewards understand that they are entrusted with the mysteries of God's grace in order to have abundant life for themselves, their families, their communities, and a world hungry for God's peace. Christian stewardship inspires us to make better choices, rethink our priorities and become the person God created us to be.

Stewardship is the management of all of life's resources given by God to each of His children. Our management of these gifts calls us to be accountable and responsible for their use. You are a steward. Your fellow parishioners are stewards! Actually all God's people are stewards whether they acknowledge it or not. Instead of asking "Will I be a Steward?", we must ask, "What kind of steward will I be?"

The Lord has called His people to be faithful and wise stewards. We answer His call when we grow together as stewards of God's Grace.

## How to become Stewards of God's Grace

We are called and sent to proclaim the coming of the reign of God. This call and mission implies a need for change and is a lifelong process. Jesus' call is urgent. He does not tell us to follow Him at some time in the future but here and now — at this moment, in these circumstances.

Stewardship is a part of that interior change of heart (conversion). When we decide to become good stewards, the changes

we experience in our lives enable us to carry the Stewardship message to our sisters and brothers in the great family we call the Catholic Church.

Stewardship is the mission of the Church. We do not teach it; we must live it. A far more basic understanding of Stewardship is rooted in our awareness of God, of how God is involved in our lives, and how we see ourselves as disciples of Jesus in today's world. The passages from the gospel of Luke are germane to the concept and theology of stewardship. Sixteen of Jesus' 38 parables are concerned with stewardship. So, if we are to "hear His words" and "put them to practice," then and only then can we lay a solid foundation of Christian discipleship.

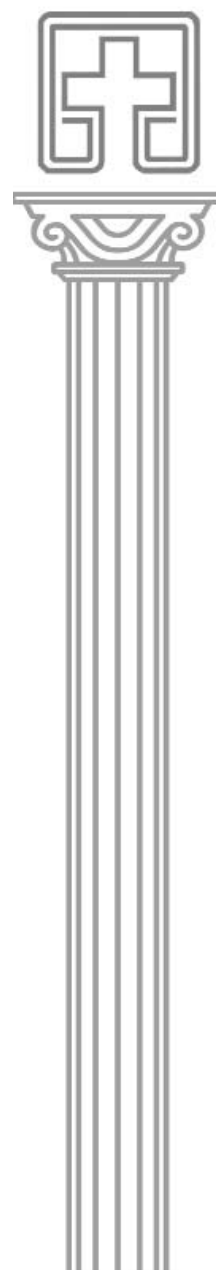
We are reminded of the story of the "Little Red Hen." Remember, the little red hen planted the seed, harvested the crop, ground the wheat and baked the bread. Throughout the story she asks for help from the pig, the cow and the horse. No one was willing to help her in her mission until the very end when the wonderful aroma of the freshly baked bread permeated the farm yard, then suddenly everyone was anxious to participate in eating the bread. The little red hen cherished her gift of seed, she planted, tended it and transformed the simple gift into something wonderful and delicious that could be enjoyed by all. She treated her gift in a responsible and accountable manner. Not only that, she was willing to share her gift in justice and love with others. We can just hear the Lord saying to the little red hen, "Well done, good and faithful steward."

If the story of the little red hen described our faith life, where would we fit? Are we like the little red hen? Have we used the Lord's gifts in a responsible and accountable manner and shared them in love and justice with others, or are we like the barnyard animals who only want to come to the table when

all the work is done?

Stewardship of God's Grace begins with patience, love and education. We must encourage all Catholics to live stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship, when lived and practiced, can do wonderful things for a parish. It can

produce vitality and vibrancy that can breathe new life, a new spirit into the parish. For help with developing a plan of action or establishing a Stewardship Committee at your parish, call the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development at (405) 721-4115.



## The Catholic Foundation

### CORNERSTONE

## Continuing Education Course Offered

The Catholic Foundation is presenting a Continuing Education Program that will kick off this fall with an Estate Planning 2011 Course from 8 a.m. until noon on Nov. 18, 2011, to be held at the Catholic Pastoral Conference Center. Our presenting sponsor is Bank of Oklahoma. We are excited that Professor Jeffrey Pennell, the Richard H. Clark Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Ga., will present the course. Professor Pennell is a much sought-after trust and estate planning speaker who makes presentations throughout the United States every year. Topics include Planning Proximate to Death; Marital Deduction Planning in Uncertain Times; Minimizing the Surviving Spouse's Elective Share; and Ethics & Malpractice Issues. This course has been approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Oklahoma for a maximum of 4.00 credit hours, of which 1.00 hour is credit covering professional responsibility, legal ethics, or legal malpractice prevention. This course has been approved by the Certified Financial Planners Board for 4.00 credit hours of Continuing Education.

To register for this course, visit our website at [www.cfook.org](http://www.cfook.org), or for more information, contact:

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:

**The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.**

P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

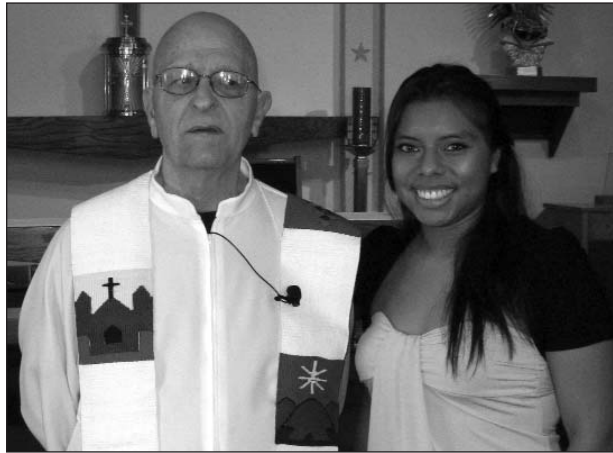
(405)721-4115 ■ [www.cfook.org](http://www.cfook.org) ■ [bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org)

**Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans**



# Students Receive Foundation Scholarships

The Catholic Foundation has presented over \$90,000 in college scholarships for the upcoming school year to 74 students in the Archdiocese. Two new recipients from Ardmore's St. Mary Church include Gavin Anderson and Melissa Dominguez. Gavin plans to attend Thomas Moore College of Liberal Arts in Merrimack, N.H., with an emphasis in business. Gavin has been home schooled through his high school years. Melissa will attend the University of Oklahoma and will seek a physician's assistant degree. She was co-valedictorian at Ardmore High and very involved both in the church and the community. While all Catholic Foundation Scholarships are awarded regardless of the college or university chosen by the applicant, students attending a Catholic university receive triple the customary Catholic Foundation award of \$1,000. Additionally, St. Gregory's University in Shawnee matches the Catholic Foundation Scholarships for students attending this Catholic institution. Scholarships are awarded based on family need,



*Adriana Meave from St. Catherine of Siena Church in Pauls Valley receives her Catholic Foundation Scholarship Award from Father Michael Vaught.*

academic excellence and parish involvement. Scholarship applications for the 2012-13 school year will be available from the Catholic Foundation



*Scholarship awards are presented to Gavin Anderson and Melissa Dominguez by Father Thomas Dowdell and CFO board member Larry Neubauer.*

office or by downloading from the Catholic Foundation website at [www.cfook.org](http://www.cfook.org) after Jan. 1, 2012.

## Briefs

### Help Available for Troubled Marriages

Retrouvaille is a program designed to provide help and support to married couples who are undergoing difficulties in their relationship, for those who are hurting in brokenness and loneliness. It has also proven helpful to couples who are separated or divorced. Although Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin, couples from all or no faith traditions are welcome to attend. The next program begins on the weekend of Sept. 23-25, 2011. For further information, call (918) 695-7010 or go online to [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com)

All inquiries are confidential.

### Building Needed for Free Health Clinic

EDMOND — The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond, a 501(c)(3) corporation, needs to move to a different rental building to medically serve Edmond clients with no health insurance. A medical office is a good model for our needs. As a minimum we require a 2,000-square-foot building with the possibility for an office, reception desk, two exam rooms, nurse station, storage room, utilities and parking. We need Saturday mornings for about four hours and need short-term access on some evenings to process client charts. Since 2009, the clinic has had 1,900 visits. Contact President Lee Hunt at 348-9461 or [DeaconLee@cox.net](mailto:DeaconLee@cox.net).

### School Sets Fun Run

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa Catholic School is hosting its first ever Fun Run Saturday, Sept. 17. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the school, 1216 Classen Drive. The event provides the opportunity for family and community involvement to promote healthy choices. The mile run/walk can involve children as well as adults (free). The 5K attracts the more serious runner and begins at 9 a.m. There is online registration available at <http://www.vtspto.com>. There is a \$25 registration fee and a commemorative shirt. To receive the shirt, you will need to register before the day of the event. Lots of fun activities will be part of the morning. Come join us for an exciting and encouraging way to be healthy. All proceeds help the educational program of the school. Sponsorships are tax-deductible.

### Parish to Host Celebration of the Arts

OKLAHOMA CITY — Michael Fresonke, MA, will present Joyful Music, a guitar concert, along with a display of contemporary art by Theresa Hurt on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 NW 18th. The performance will feature works for solo classical guitar composed by celebrated musicians Heitor Villa-Lobos, Matteo Carcassi, Francisco Tarrega and Carlo Domenici.

A highlight of the concert will be Fresonke's

presentation of Little Suite in A Major, a work for solo classical guitar he composed this year and is recorded for CD distribution. The CD will be available for purchase as will sheet music of other music the guitarist has written. Fresonke earned his master's degree at the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory of Music, studied with guitar master Gerald Klickstein and internationally famous guitarist Douglas Niedt. He teaches at Oklahoma City University's Wanda L. Bass School of Music and offers guitar classes through his Learn Guitar Correctly program. Acrylic paintings by Theresa Hurt will be on display to be viewed during the concert breaks.

Theresa first learned about color at the age of 14 while helping at the paint store her father managed.

In 1974 she started working at Pirates Alley Picture Frames and was introduced to all types of art and learned even more about color.

For more information, contact Bob Metivier at St. Francis, (405) 823-0864, Michael Fresonke at (405) 408-2123, or Theresa Hurt at (405) 826-2727.

### Parish Offers First Friday Adoration

NORMAN — First Friday Adoration at St. Mark the Evangelist on Oct. 7 and each of the first Fridays of the year. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 9 a.m. to noon and will be followed by Mass. St. Mark is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road. We invite you to join us in praying for our country.



# Youth Wins International Free Throw Contest

By Jodi Davis  
*Elk City Daily News*

ELK CITY — The Knights of Columbus honored Blake Goss, 12, of Canute as winner of the International Free Throw Competition. Blake hit 25-of-25 shots at the state level.

"He shot at a 95 percent average this year," said Bob Burkitt, treasurer for the Knights of Columbus Council 3101. "He hit the rim only one time during his warm-up," said Burkitt. "Every other time it was nothing but net."

The state competition was held at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee.

Burkitt has been heading up the

free throw competitions for the state for 21 years, and Blake is the first kid to win the International title.

The Supreme Headquarters of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., is where the numbers from around the world were tallied. In total, Goss made 62-of-65 free throws to win the competition. Burkitt said Blake's little brother, Ty, is going to be just as good.

"He's only 9, but he will be able to compete next year," Burkitt said. "He was allowed to shoot, but not compete this year since he doesn't meet the age requirement, but if he had, he would have won the 10-year-old division."



Blake Goss was presented a trophy for winning the International Free Throw Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Pictured are Grand Knight Kevin Merz, Kent Goss, Danna Goss, Ty Goss, Blake Goss, State Deputy Dan Hogan, Bob Burkitt and District Deputy Michael Harris. Photo by Jodi Davis, *Elk City Daily News*

## Catholic Scouts Earn Rank of Eagle August 14

Three Troop 21 Scouts received their Eagle Rank in an Eagle Court of Honor held on Aug. 14.

**Thomas Bainbridge**, 18, received his Eagle Scout in June, 2011. For his project, he rehabilitated two apartments for a local women's shelter. Tom is a 10-year member of Epiphany of the Lord. He is a 2011 graduate of Putnam City North High School and is attending Oklahoma State University this fall, majoring in zoology. Tom is the son of Russell and Nancy Bainbridge of Oklahoma City.



**Adam Dorety**, 18, received his Eagle Scout in February, 2011. For his project, he built four paintball targets and benches for the Muscular Dystrophy Kids Camp. Adam is a lifetime member of St. John the Baptist. He is a 2011 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School and is attending the University of Central Oklahoma this fall with plans to major in civil engineering. Adam is the son of David and Diana Dorety of Edmond.



**Ethan Scott**, 20, received his Eagle Scout in June, 2009. For his project, he designed and built four outdoor picnic tables for the Edmond Historical Society and Museum. Ethan is a lifetime member of St. John the Baptist. He is a 2009 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School and is a junior at Oklahoma State University pursuing a double major in mechanical and aerospace engineering. Ethan is the son of Steve and Laura Scott of Edmond.



## SGU Offers Dance Academy That Runs Every Saturday

SHAWNEE — The St. Gregory's University Dance Academy, a program initiated by the SGU Dance Department, is accepting enrollment for the new academic year. The academy is slated to run on Saturdays beginning Sept. 10. Classes will not be held during school breaks. Enrollment is open to students age 3 and up. Various levels of ballet, tap and jazz will be taught, depending on the age group. Classes will be taught by

current students and faculty of the SGU Dance Program. Dana Bucko, co-director of the SGU Dance Academy, says the program benefits both teacher and student. "It's a win-win situation," Bucko said. "Those who teach the classes apply their dance knowledge and gain much-needed experience as instructors. I think the academy students relate well with such youthful teachers, and, in turn, develop a real appreciation for dance."

Bucko said the academy is centered on dance technique and may serve as a supplement to current dance classes or as the primary dance class. Tuition is \$35 a month and is due on the first Saturday of each month. There is also a \$20 non-refundable registration fee. Bucko said there are no recital costume or competition fees. For more information on the SGU Dance Academy or to register, call (405) 878-5178.

## Did You Know!

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement began as a way of improving communication between husbands and wives. But as insights grew, it became apparent that the techniques used in the sessions could benefit anyone whose vocation involves close, caring communication with others. It is considered the first marriage enrichment program and has been updated on a continual basis to reflect the current marriage environment.

For more information, contact Rick and Bev Feller at (405) 376-4098 or [rbfeller@gmail.com](mailto:rbfeller@gmail.com).





# Saint Ann Retirement Center Reopens St. Joachim Chapel

By Richard Amend  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

Saint Ann Retirement Center was blessed to have Archbishop Paul Coakley, along with Father Price Grimes, Father Louis Lamb, Father Joe Vas, Father Gerard MacAulay and Father Elmer Schwarz present at the special Rededication Liturgy for Saint Joachim Chapel. This reopening of the enlarged chapel took place on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 9:30 a.m. Many of the residents and family members were present to welcome Archbishop Coakley to our Retirement and Assisted Living Community. Following the Liturgy, a reception took place in the Grand Theater.

For the past several months, Saint Ann's has been celebrating Mass in the Grand Theater while construction took place.

The wonderfully designed octagonal-shaped chapel was able to keep the same inspiring setting, but also is now able to accommodate up to 150 participants.

We want to acknowledge our architect (TAParchitecture) John Ward, and (Nashert Constructors Inc.) Jack Nashert, for their expert workmanship throughout the project.

Saint Ann's celebrates Mass daily at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Joachim Chapel with Father Price Grimes as the celebrant. There is also a 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon Liturgy, which is the vigil Mass for Sunday.

In the words of Father Grimes, "We are delighted that Archbishop Beltran gave us the opportunity to have the best possible worship space here at Saint Ann's and we also want to thank Archbishop Coakley for his support in see-



Archbishop Coakley blessing the chapel and the people.

ing the project through to completion."

For information about joining the Saint Ann

Retirement and Assisted Living Community, contact Richard Amend at 721-0747.

## Pope Asks Forgiveness For 'Cradle Catholics' Who Did Not Evangelize

Castel Gandolfo, Italy (CNA) — Pope Benedict XVI has asked forgiveness on behalf of generations of "cradle Catholics" who have failed to transmit the faith to others.

"We who have known God since we were young, must ask forgiveness," said Pope Benedict to a gathering of his former students at the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, on Aug. 28.

The Pope said an apology is due because "we bring people so little of the light of His face, because from us comes so little certainty that He exists, that He is there, and that He is the Great One that everyone is

waiting for." The Pope's comments were made at a Mass to conclude the annual meeting of his "Schülerkreis" or "Study Group."

The gathering has taken place every summer since 1977 and draws together those who defended their doctoral theses in front of Pope Benedict during his years teaching theology at various universities in Germany.

This year they were joined, for the first time, by those who have more recently written their doctrinal theses on works of the Pope. Together, the 40 invitees had spent four days exploring the issue of the

"new evangelization."

The Pope based his brief introductory comments upon the words of the psalm of the day, Psalm 62, which describes the human soul that thirsts for God "like a dry and weary land."

Pope Benedict said that believers should ask Christ — who is the living water — to send them "those who seek the living water elsewhere."

Just days after the success of World Youth Day in Madrid, he also asked for particular prayers for young people.

The homily for the Mass was delivered by another former student of the Pope — Cardinal Christoph

Schonborn of Vienna — who spoke of the need for complete renunciation of self required by radical Christian discipleship. "Only by not conforming ourselves to this world, can we recognize the will of God and make it the foundation of our lives," he said.

Pope Benedict's academic career spanned 26 years and saw him teach at universities in Bonn, Munster, Tübingen and Regensburg, prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977. Despite his increasing responsibilities, he has always attended the annual gathering of his alumni, even after becoming Pope in 2005.



# Germany, Italy Set Example U.S. Should Follow

A recent news report chronicled a Chinese woman named Huang Yijun. Sixty years ago, her unborn child died, but the pregnancy was never expelled from her body. Instead, her baby's body slowly began to calcify inside her, becoming a crystallized, stone-like mass. Such stone babies (known as lithopedions) are extremely rare. When Mrs. Huang was 92 years old, the baby was discovered in her abdomen and surgically removed.

This rare medical event prompts us to consider a thought experiment. Imagine a drug that could be injected into a child to crystallize him, but without killing him. The process would turn the child into a static mass for as many years as the parents wanted; another injection would reverse the process, and allow the child to wake up and continue growing. Parents who decided they needed a break from parenting could bring their kids to the clinic and pay to store them as crystals for a limited period of time. Some children might end up never being decrystallized, with their stony bodies piling up in warehouses.

Such a bizarre warehousing of children is not as outlandish as it might seem. In fact, fertility clinics in



By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

the United States already warehouse more than 500,000 children in high-tech freezers filled with liquid nitrogen, children who are crystallized byproducts of the in-vitro fertilization process. Parents can choose to "re-animate" their embryonic children by thawing them, implanting them and gestating them, but in other instances, they end up being abandoned because their parents are now too old to carry a pregnancy, or are content with the number of their already-born children.

The multibillion-dollar business of infertility in the United States has been aptly described as a kind of "Wild West," a lawless frontier where nearly anything goes, including the daily freezing and stockpiling of scores of humans who are still in their embryonic stages. This practice stands out as one of the great humanitarian tragedies of our age.

Few commentators, however, dare to raise their voice against this injustice, which is proficently marketed as a matter of personal reproductive choice and freedom. Because our frozen children have no voice to speak in their own defense, we slip into a mind-set that ignores their inherent dignity.

But not every country has been so blind. Germany, which has a strong historical memory of the consequences of ignoring human dignity, declines to participate in these charades. Strikingly, human embryos are not being frozen anywhere in the

country, and virtually none are held in cryogenic storage. Meanwhile, countless American parents find themselves caught in agonizing dilemmas about what to do with their offspring held in suspended animation.

The reason for this remarkable difference lies in the fact that the Germans enacted an Embryo Protection Law in the 1990s that included provisions outlawing the freezing of human embryos. Italy passed similar legislation. Both countries closely regulate in-vitro fertilization treatments, and allow the production of no more than three embryos at a time, all of whom must be implanted into their mother. Both countries forbid the production of extra embryos, experimentation on embryos, cloning and genetic testing of embryos.

Not much reflection is needed to realize the serious injustice involved in forcefully "crystallizing" another human being. The freezing and thawing process itself subjects embryonic humans to significant risk, and up to 50 percent of embryos do not survive the process. Stored embryos often end up being condemned to a kind of perpetual stasis, locked in time in the harsh wasteland of their liquid-nitrogen orphanages. This injustice, once it has been foisted upon human embryos, is then used by others to argue on behalf of an even more egregious offense against their dignity: the destructive strip-mining of embryos to acquire their stem cells.

The radical stockpiling of embryonic humans threatens to become nearly routine in our society, as such humans are reduced to little more than "stony objects" to be warehoused and manipulated — valuable primarily for how they can serve the commercial interests or the personal desires of others. The temptation to dehumanize our own brothers and sisters is a perennial one, harkening back to that time in our country, not so long ago, when slaves could be considered only three-fifths of a person for purposes of congressional representation. Treating embryos as zero-fifths of a person constitutes an even more deplorable violation of human rights.

The United States urgently needs embryo protection laws. Men and women of conscience must pressure lawmakers to act. The putative and widely-touted "self-regulation" of fertility clinics remains a dismal failure. Laws like those in Germany and Italy, while they would not stop every injustice done to the least powerful among us, could go a long way toward assuring that further forms of scientific barbarism and human exploitation do not become commonplace.

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

## Prayer Can Change The Way We Think, The Way We Live

Albert Ellis, the founder of Rational Emotive Therapy, theorizes our feelings, our behaviors and ultimately our identities are based on our beliefs, our thinking, the meaning we give to and how we interpret what is said or what happens. In summary, he says:

**OUR BELIEFS** are learned from childhood and are the basis for ...

**OUR FEELINGS**, which are a reflection of our reality and lead us to...



By Joe Froehle

**OUR BEHAVIORS**, which are appropriate responses or inappropriate reactions to our feelings. Our consistent behaviors become...

**OUR HABITS**, which develop and become...

**OUR PERSONALITY**, which consists of repeated performance of appropriate or inappropriate behaviors and habits and lead us to ...

**OUR DESTINY**, which is established by our accepted and oftentimes erroneous beliefs.

When something happens — it is our interpretation of what is happening that determines our feelings and behaviors, etc. A lighted stick of dynamite will probably mean something different to an adult than a 2-year-old boy. The adult will experience fear and will run, while the child may feel curious, excited, and go toward it.

When our spouses or bosses criticize us, we oftentimes feel hurt, belittled, unimportant, discounted, less than and inadequate, as well as angry and frustrated. These feelings are, unfortunately, pretty normal. However, they often lead to inappropriate and hurtful reactions.

When experiencing these hurtful feelings, we might reflect on what we are thinking. Are we misinterpreting the criticism as meaning, "I can't make mistakes, I must be perfect," "She's right, I'm a screw-up," "I must be a bad mother," "What's the

**Continued on Page 21**



# Pope: Beautiful Art Can Lead To God

Castel Gandolfo, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) — Artistic beauty can lead the human heart to God, said Pope Benedict XVI at his Aug. 31 general audience.

“Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God,” the Pope said to over 5,000 pilgrims at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, 15 miles to the south of Rome.

“Dear friends, I invite you to be open to beauty and to allow it to move you to prayer and praise of the Lord.”

The Pope explained how this “path of beauty” can be “an open door on the infinite” and is something experienced by all people, not merely by those who regard them-

selves as cultured.

He observed that when people stand before a sculpture or painting, read a few verses poetry or even listen to a song, everyone has “experienced deep within us an intimate emotion, a sense of joy.” This sensation, he said, is an interior recognition that says that what is being seen or heard is “not only mere matter” but “something bigger, something that speaks, capable of touching the heart, of communicating a message, of elevating the soul,” and leading people, ultimately, to God.

Pope Benedict also noted that there are “artistic expressions that are true paths to God, the supreme Beauty,” and that these works can “help nurture our relationship with Him in prayer. These are works that

are born of faith and express faith.”

The Pope then illustrated his point using his own personal experience. He recalled attending a performance of the works of J.S. Bach, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, in Munich.

“After the last piece of music, one of the Cantate, I felt, not by reasoning, but in my heart, that what I heard had conveyed to me truth, something of the truth of the great composer’s faith and this pressed me to praise and thank the Lord.”

The Pope said he was so moved by the experience that he turned to the Lutheran Bishop of Munich sitting next to him and exclaimed, “Hearing this we understand: It is true, true faith is so strong, and the beauty of it irresistibly expresses the

presence of God’s truth.”

The Pope also described how various artists themselves had observed the same in their own artwork. He recalled how the 20th century expressionist artist, Marc Chagall, once wrote “that for centuries painters have dipped their paintbrush in that colored alphabet that is the Bible.”

This is why forms, colors and light that are “the fruits of the faith of the artist,” such as painting or frescoes, can “direct our thoughts to God and nourish in us the desire to draw from the source of all beauty,” said the Pope.

One dramatic example Pope Benedict offered was the life of 19th century French poet and playwright Paul Claudel.

## NY Times Editor Slammed For Column

Washington, D.C. (CNA) — The New York Times is being strongly criticized for a column by executive editor Bill Keller that scrutinized the religions of the GOP presidential candidates and likened the Catholic belief in the Eucharist to belief in aliens.

“Keller could have made his point about politics and religion without insulting Catholics,” Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, told CNA on Aug. 30.

“But true to form, he did what comes naturally to him — he trashed Catholicism.”

In his Aug. 25 editorial, “Asking Candidates Tougher Questions About Faith,” outgoing executive editor Keller urged greater scrutiny of Republican candidates’ religious beliefs, touching on Mormonism, Evangelical Christianity and his own past adherence to Catholicism.

“If a candidate for president said he believed that space aliens dwell among us, would that affect

your willingness to vote for him?” he asked.

“Personally, I might not disqualify him out of hand; one out of three Americans believe we have had Visitors and, hey, who knows? But I would certainly want to ask a few questions. Like, where does he get his information? Does he talk to the aliens? Do they have an economic plan?”

Keller later writes: “Every faith has its baggage, and every faith holds beliefs that will seem bizarre to outsiders. I grew up believing that a priest could turn a bread wafer into the actual flesh of Christ.”

In response to the piece, Donohue criticized Keller for allowing a personal vendetta against the Catholic Church to seep through his article.

“It does not speak well about the New York Times that only embittered ex-Catholics are allowed to climb to the top,” he said.

“It is one thing to promote to senior positions those who were raised Catholic and have grown

indifferent,” Donohue added. “It is quite another to put bigots in such spots.”

In his column, Keller also incorrectly described Republican hopeful Rick Santorum as belonging to “fervid subsets of evangelical Christianity,” along with GOP candidates Rick Perry and Michele Bachmann.

This, he wrote, “has raised concerns about their respect for the separation of church and state, not to mention the separation of fact and fiction.”

The Times has since corrected the article and now lists Santorum as a Catholic.

Keller has also faced criticism for the paper allegedly giving minimal and uncritical coverage of President Obama’s religious beliefs during his presidential campaign in 2008.

The president encountered controversy over his affiliation with Rev. Jeremiah Wright — a prominent Chicago pastor known for making extremist and racially charged statements.

## Prayer

**Continued from Page 20**  
matter with me,” “I can’t do anything right,” etc.

It is these or similar thoughts that contribute to and exacerbate our feeling badly and reacting by attacking and saying hurtful things, or by withdrawing and experiencing resentment and self-pity.

By pausing and reflecting, we may change some of our thinking to: “She might be right, there may be a better way,” “It’s OK for me to make mistakes, I’m human,” “His behavior and hurtful words are about him and are not about me,” “I’m a child of God and God loves me no matter what.” These and similar thoughts can change and

soften some of the feelings while helping us respond in healthier and more appropriate ways.

The challenge for us is pausing and reflecting. Believe me, I know. However, if we can pause, notice our feelings and reflect on how we may be misinterpreting something, we give ourselves a chance to seek God’s will.

In pausing and seeking God’s will, we can respond in more appropriate and loving ways. And with God’s help, we gradually change our behaviors, habits and ultimately our destiny. In doing so, we become our true selves, the men and women we are meant to be, while being in the flow of the Holy Spirit within our souls. Peace.



# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

**11 Charismatic Healing Mass,** 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., OKC. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4806.

**12 Eucharistic Adoration** at Christ the King Church, every Monday starting with Mass at 6:30 a.m., Adoration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Benediction at 6 p.m. Christ the King, 8005 Dorset Drive, OKC.

**13 Catholic War Veterans** (of any war/conflict) 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.

**14 Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

**14 Eucharistic Adoration** every Wednesday at St. Charles Borromeo Church from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., closing with Benediction at 8 p.m. St. Charles, 5024 N. Grove Avenue, Oklahoma City. All are welcome.

**14 Engaging Spirituality** at St. Monica's, a new program offered through JustFaith Ministries. You can be part of a small group that helps us to find God's way of being in

the world. The group will meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Spaces are limited. Call Marka Acton at 216-5116 for registration.

**14 Catholic War Veterans USA.** Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyslane Family Reception Center, 3900 SE 29th St., Del City. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by e-mail at OklaPost168@cox.net.

**15 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.

**15 Eucharistic Adoration** every Thursday night from 5 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory's Chapel, St. Gregory's Monastery, Shawnee. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with Adoration to follow. Included is vespers with the monks.

**17-25 Monthly Novena** to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

**17 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** meet in the Council Room at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, call Toni Harrelson, LMC, at (405) 341-2199 or lmcoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.

**17 Villa Teresa is hosting its inaugural Fun Run!** Beginning at 8 a.m. with the children one mile run and followed by the 5K walk/run at 9 a.m. The race begins at school, 1216 Classen Drive.

**17 Project Gabriel Training.** Project Gabriel is a parish-based outreach designed to assist women in a crisis pregnancy. A training will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 136. For more information and to register, call the Office of Family Life at 721-8944.

**18 Pilgrimage Sunday,** Mass at 11 a.m., noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

**18 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 Katherine Payne at (405) 210-4826.

**18 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 The Central Region Council of Catholic Women** will meet at Catholic Charities on Classen. Registration at 9 a.m. Speaker is Rev. Bill Pruett. Cost is \$7. RSVP to your Parish Altar Society representative or to Mary Ann at 943-5758.

**21 Prayer Day for Retired** with Father Anthony Ram at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Registration at 9:30 a.m. The group will attend Mass and have lunch in the cafeteria. There will be an opportunity for confession. The day will end at 3 p.m. To register, call Mary at (405) 721-5651.

**24 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance,** 7 to 8 p.m. mix and mingle, dance lessons. Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call Al at (405) 631-0763.

# Jobs Box

**Director for the Academic Success Center**  
**St. Gregory's University** seeks qualified applicants for a full-time Director for the Academic Success Center beginning August or September 2011. This is an exempt position which assigns students needing tutoring to appropriate tutors (or faculty volunteers, or self), promotes Support Center services, monitors and evaluates tutoring sessions, processes payroll. A more complete job description is posted on the SGU website at www.st-gregorys.edu/. Minimum requirements are a master's degree or higher, commitment to help students succeed, teaching experience,

tutoring experience, supervisory experience in an educational setting, excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate should be self-directing, able to work effectively with students with physical and learning disabilities, able to work with a flexible schedule. The center director will serve as the ADA representative and may teach one course per semester in an appropriate field. Candidate should be able to accommodate change and growth at the university and should value the education of diverse populations. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of

application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and tutoring philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, attention Dr. Ron Faulk, Provost. Application materials may be sent electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu or via mail service.

**Field Agent**  
**The Knights of Columbus** is seeking a field agent for a career opportunity representing our insurance program in the Enid-Stillwater area. This professional position offers the chance to make an above average income, a career path

into management if desired, paid advanced education and generous bonus opportunities, and a complete benefits package with this full-time position. Works in an assigned and exclusive marketing area to sell and service our insurance and retirement products. Performs needs analysis for assigned members and recommends appropriate products to meet those needs. Develops positive relationships with the local councils to help recruit new members. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, e-mail resume to Kevin Pierce, FICF, General Agent, at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org or call (405) 514-7660.



# Painter Saves Our Lady

*Devout Catholic Finds  
Statue In Pile of Rubble*

By Ray Dyer  
*The Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gene Saucedo was painting a house on North Portland when something in the high grass and weeds caught his eye.

“There was something yellow shining out from under all the garbage and high grass,” Saucedo said. “I wondered what can that be, so I went over and started digging to find what this was.”

What it was, was a statue about 4 feet high of Our Lady of Guadalupe and it was in almost perfect condition.

Saucedo, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church, said he was taken by surprise at finding Our Lady in such “horrible” conditions.

“I said, ‘Oh no, Mother, I am so sorry they treat you this way.’”

For years Saucedo has traveled back and forth across Oklahoma visiting inmates in state and federal prisons. He first started in 1994 taking the Good News to prisoners in the state prison at McAlester. He now stays a bit closer to home visiting inmates at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City.

Deeply devoted to Our Lady, Saucedo hosts a weekly rosary at his home at 1609 SW 48th. He said usually “two or three, sometimes four” people will come on Mondays at 7 p.m. to pray the rosary in his home. Numerous icons of Christ and His Blessed Mother adorn his home as do photos of saints and popes.

One of 11 children, Saucedo said, “Faith is my life.”


The colorful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe now rests in a highly visible area of his living room on a pedestal and with a rosary draped around her.

“I am blessed, I am very grateful,” Saucedo said.





# 2011








## CARIDADES CATÓLICAS

ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE LA CIUDAD DE OKLAHOMA

# COLECTA ANUAL

100 años de fe, esperanza y caridad

## Promesa de la Tarjeta

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Ciudad \_\_\_\_\_ Estado \_\_\_\_\_ Código Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

Parroquia \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección de Correo Electrónico \_\_\_\_\_

Caridades Católicas tiene mi permiso para publicar mi nombre como benefactor. ☐ Si ☐ No

Colaboración Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cantidad que pagaré hoy: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cheque ☐ Efectivo ☐ Tarjeta de Crédito  
(complete el reverso)

Saldo o balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yo me comprometo a pagar mi saldo o balance, hasta Agosto del 2012, de la siguiente manera:

- ☐ Mensualmente (10 pagos desde Nov. 2011 hasta Ago. 2012)  
☐ Trimestralmente (4 pagos: Nov., Feb., May. y Ago.)  
☐ Semestralmente (2 pagos: uno en Nov. y el otro en Mayo)  
☐ Una sola contribución

### Formas de Pago:

- ☐ Cheque personal o Money Order  
(Por favor envíenme recibos cuando tenga que hacer mi pago)  
☐ Transferencia Electrónica de Fondos (complete el reverso)  
☐ Tarjeta de Crédito solo para contribuciones de  
única vez (complete el reverso)

Firma: \_\_\_\_\_

Fecha: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Asegúrese de que el cheque este a nombre de:**  
**Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal**

### Este lado de la tarjeta DEBE DE SER LLENADO

#### Complete esta sección si está realizando PAGO CON TARJETA DE CRÉDITO

☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐ MC ☐ VISA

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Fecha de Expiración \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Código de Verificación de la Tarjeta \_\_\_\_\_  
 (En la parte posterior de la tarjeta, cerca de la casilla para la firma)

- ☐ Al marcar esta casilla me comprometo a pagar la cantidad indicada en el reverso, conforme al contrato de esta tarjeta.

Nombre Que Aparece en la Tarjeta de Crédito \_\_\_\_\_

Firma (requerida) \_\_\_\_\_

Si su información cambia de alguna forma (ejemplo: la tarjeta expira, tarjeta extraviada, etc.), por favor informe cuanto antes a Caridades Católicas al (405) 523-3000, ext. 1109

#### Complete esta sección si está realizando TRANSFERENCIA ELECTRÓNICA DE FONDOS

El pago de éste compromiso se realizará mediante 10 Transferencias Electrónicas de Fondos desde su cuenta bancaria, empezando en Noviembre del 2011.

ACUERDO DE AUTORIZACIÓN PARA PAGOS  
 DIRECTOS A CARIDADES CATÓLICAS DE LA  
 ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE LA CIUDAD DE OKLAHOMA

Nombre de la Institución Financiera (Banco, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Ciudad \_\_\_\_\_ Estado \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Firma (requerida) \_\_\_\_\_

### **IMPORTANTE:**

PARA PODER PROCESAR ESTE TIPO DE PAGOS  
 SE DEBE ADJUNTAR UN CHEQUE ANULADO  
 (NO ADJUNTAR COMPROBANTES DE DEPÓSITO)