

Sooner Catholic

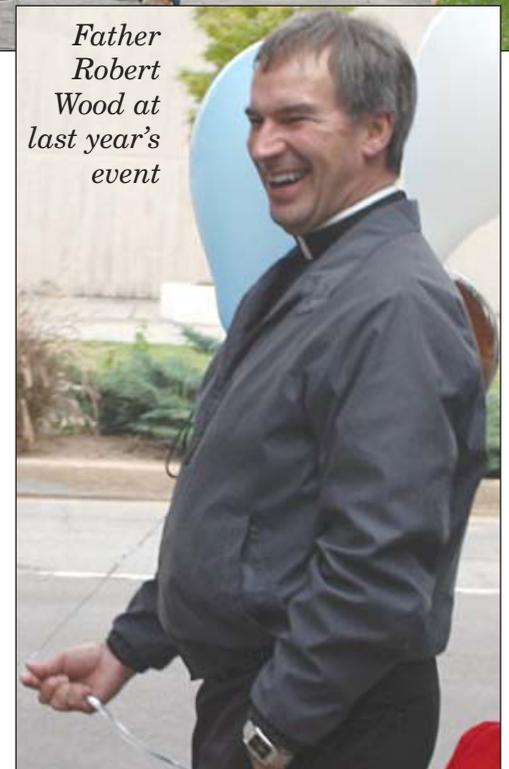
Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Birth Choice Walking

Father Robert Wood at last year's event



OKLAHOMA CITY — Pro-life supporters will be out in force on Oct. 3 during the annual Celebration of Life event in support of Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc.

Life Walk 2010 will be held at Wiley Post Park, located along the Oklahoma River at 2021 S. Robinson. The day begins with registration at 1 p.m. and the walk is set to start at 2 p.m.

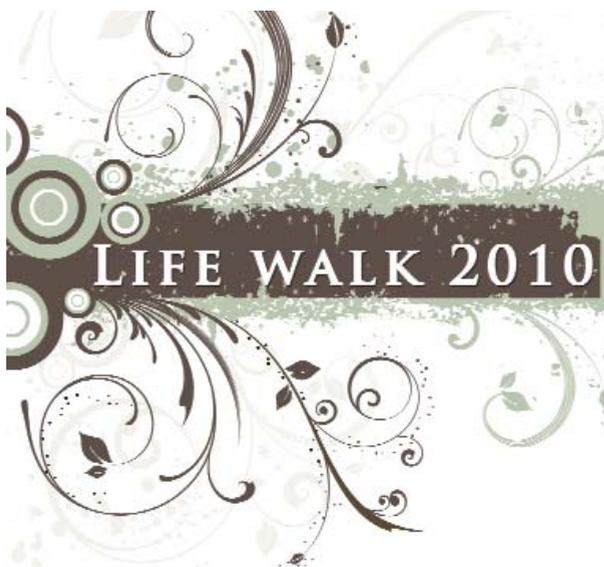
A suggested donation of \$10 per person or \$25 per family is requested. Organizers encourage participants to seek sponsorships from family and friends.

The day will include music, face painting, games, food and family fun.

For more information, visit www.watchfor-theunborn.org.

On the same day in El Reno, the local Birth Choice organization will host its annual Walk For Life event. Also a fundraiser, the event attracts dozens of pro-life supporters each year who walk through the downtown area. The Walk for Life begins at 2 p.m. at Petree Plaza in downtown El Reno and concludes at the Birth Choice of El Reno office, 400 W. London.

For more information about the El Reno walk, call 262-0003.





Priests in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City celebrated the Jubilee Mass. Following Mass a dinner was held. The Jubilee is in celebration of ordination anniversaries.

Pictured are Archbishop Beltran, Father Charles Buckley, OSB, and Father Lowell Stieferman, retired.

Archbishop Chaput: Living the Faith Today a 'Revolutionary Act'

NEW YORK — In upcoming years, Catholics will likely find it harder to influence the course of American culture or to live their faith “authentically,” Archbishop Charles J. Chaput has written. A social consensus which once supported Christian assumptions in the United States is “much weakened” to the point that there is “no more revolutionary act” than to live Christian faith with integrity, he said.

Writing in an essay titled “Catholics and the Next America” at the First Things website, the Archbishop of Denver noted a central “myth” of American Catholicism: The 1960 election of John F. Kennedy as president helped U.S. Catholics break through into the mainstream.

This is not entirely unfounded, he explained, because baptized Catholics make up the largest religious community in the United States, serve in Congress and on the Supreme Court, while also having leading roles in the business world.

However, the direction of the country is less reassuring than these apparent signs of progress.

“Catholic statistics once seemed impressive. They filled many of us with tribal pride. But they didn’t stop a new and quite alien national landscape, a ‘next America,’ from emerging right under our noses,” the archbishop commented.

He cited reports that the number of Americans with no religious affiliation is at about 16 percent, double

the percentage in 1990. One quarter of young Americans have no religious affiliation and show greater criticism toward Christianity. Catholic losses have been “masked” by Latino immigration, and less than 24 percent of Americans self-describe as Catholic even though 31 percent say they were raised Catholic.

“These facts have weight because, traditionally, religious faith has provided the basis for Americans’ moral consensus,” Archbishop Chaput explained, describing this consensus about God and man as the framework for public life.

“In the coming decades, Catholics will likely find it harder,

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Sooner Catholic

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NFP Helps Open the Door to Love, Faith

"And we went dancing in the mine fields, we went sailing in the storm and it was harder than we dreamed, but I believe that's what the promise is for. That's what the promise is for."

Andrew Peterson

Dancing in the Mine Fields

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

Frank and Christy Cleary stood before about a dozen people inside a meeting room at Epiphany Church and spoke about sex. Their words were open and honest, something they said is greatly lacking in our culture today when it comes to the topic of sex.

"Sex should be placed on a pedestal and taken out of the gutter," Frank Cleary said. Unfortunately, often parents don't know how to talk about sex and so it's doubtful their children will learn the true beauty of one of God's greatest gifts to His people.

"To this day, my mother still thinks I should be on the pill," said Christy Cleary. She and Frank have been married for 10 years. Both are graduates of St. Gregory's University. Frank serves as director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Philip Neri Church in Midwest City.



Frank Cleary and his wife, Christy, discuss Natural Family Planning.

The couple joined Father Michael Chapman in a discussion concerning Natural Family Planning. The gathering was hosted by the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life. Cristy Welch, NFP coordinator, served as moderator. Father Daniel McCaffrey, of Natural Family Planning Outreach Inc., was also in attendance.

Christy Cleary said she grew up in a loving home, but both her parents were strong supporters of birth control. In fact, her mother often told

her that she was close to aborting her, but when she viewed an ultrasound and realized her daughter's heart was beating inside her womb, she changed her mind.

Christy and Frank met at St. Gregory's University and began dating. They remained true to Frank's vow of abstinence until their wedding night.

As a young couple, they soon realized they "would never have children" if they waited until they

were earning enough money to raise a family by today's standards.

They said Natural Family Planning is simply abstinence during fertile times of the month. They said it's a small sacrifice and actually is a blessing, rather than a sacrifice.

"NFP is not the whole picture," Frank said. "The whole picture is to love God and love one another."

Frank Cleary pulled a quote from Jason Everett, a Catholic apologist and outspoken advocate of chastity.

"The true measure of a man is not what he can take from a woman, but what he will sacrifice in his love for her."

Father Chapman said the culture's addiction to birth control reminds him of the 1970s song by Roberta Flack. "What was that song, 'Killing Me Softly With His Song,'" Father Chapman said. "That's what we're doing, we're killing ourselves softly."

Father Chapman said priests will need to speak out more openly about Church teaching concerning contraception if the Catholic faithful are to understand the grave complications associated with its use.

"Contraception is not saving marriage, it's killing marriage," Father Chapman said.

Priest Says Culture, Lives Damaged By Contraception

By Father Matthew Habiger, OSB

There is a direct connection between contraception and divorce. In our society today, one out of two marriages ends in a divorce. Our society thinks in terms of a fault-free divorce, where no one is at fault, and where either party can initiate the divorce, regardless of how much the other party wants to save the marriage. Thirty-nine percent of all babies born today in the United States are born to single moms. In the black community, the rate is up to 75 percent. The greatest source of poverty today is single parent families, usually unmarried moms. Think of what this does to single mothers and their children.

Because of the high divorce rate, many young couples today don't believe in marriage. They live together, and some have babies, without making commitments to each other. They can split anytime. Because there is a certain fear of the child, many couples do not want to have children. The total

percentage of people who are married in this country continues to decline.

What is the connection between contraception and divorce? Why is it that divorce rates began to skyrocket when the Pill arrived in the 1960s? The main reason is that contraception interferes with the bonding of the couple, with their commitment to each other. The marital act is designed to renew the marriage covenant that the couple made at their marriage. Contraception interferes with the total self-donation that the marital act requires. It rejects the goodness of their fertility, and their openness to new life. Now their love is always conditioned, with reservations. Now the emphasis is upon the pursuit of pleasure with the hope that this will enhance their intimacy. Now there is a demand that the woman always be available for the man when he wants her. The woman begins to feel more used than loved. There is no shared responsibility in spacing the pregnancies. The woman is told to take the required medications. It

is "her" problem. Or the husband sterilizes himself. One out of every six men in the United States over the age of 35 has had a vasectomy. Contraception is like a corrosive acid working on the bond between the couple.

By contrast, did you know that the divorce rate among couples who use Natural Family Planning (NFP), which requires periodic abstinence during the couple's fertile periods, is less than 5 percent? NFP couples know God's plan for marriage and spousal love. Their respect for this plan brings them greater intimacy, better communications, a more satisfying sexual life and much happiness. Just look at their low divorce rate.

Everyone wants to have a strong marriage where there is much love, devotion and commitment. How do you get such a marriage? By discovering God's wonderful plan for marriage, spousal love and family, and then embracing it. This demands a rejection of all the false substitutes for that plan, which block it and sterilize it.

Amalia Gensman Named Religious Educator of the Year

Over the past seven years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the Archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. The foundation has awarded the 2010 Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran Religious Educator of the Year Award to Amalia Gensman, Catechist at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton. The award was presented at the Catechetical Congress on Sept. 18 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Amalia is a full-time certified teacher in the Lawton Public Schools. She is a wife, mother and grandmother. Her nominator says that Amalia is “the epitome of commitment to parish religious education and demonstrates her commitment by being open, willing and available where she is needed and her heart is fully and joyously committed to her ministry.”

Amalia has served since 1985, in the role as Catechist, for children and youth in elementary and secondary grade levels, teaching everything from fourth grade to RCIC. She chairs the Hispanic group for the small group Renewal Program, which is still meeting to this day. She has implemented Spanish adult classes for convalidation, the Sacraments of Confirmation, and First Eucharist. She instructs the Hispanic parishioners in baptismal classes, Eucharistic minister training and altar server training. She promotes RE classes to the Hispanic community and always works on improving relations and bringing together the Hispanic and English-speaking communities.

Finalists for the 2010 Religious Educator of the Year Award include Deacon James Young, RCIA Catechist at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Midwest City, and Dana Hoffman, Director of Religious Education at St. Eugene Catholic Church, Weatherford. These finalists were selected from nominees submitted earlier this summer and were interviewed in late August by the selection committee. The accomplishments and dedication of all three finalists made the choice of a winner an extremely difficult task.

Finalist Jim Young has been a deacon for 22 years and the last 13



Amalia Gensman receives the Religious Educator of the Year Award. In the picture with Amalia are Archbishop Gregory Michael Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, Ben Byers, President of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Barney Semtner, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, and Deacon Jim Young, St. Philip Neri Church and a finalist for Religious Educator of the Year.

years he has taught in the RCIA program. His nominator says that “Deacon Young’s actions reflect his devotion to the educational and spiritual development of the people of our parish. He taught as St. Francis did, through the generosity of many acts of kindness.” He has led Thursday morning prayers for over 20 years, blessed countless homes and personal objects, prepared sacramental, school and vacation Bible school graduation certificates, education announcements, personalized birthday cards, counseled couples about their marriage, weddings or annulments, and conducted school liturgy services. In RCIA, Deacon Young has shared his own deep love of Christ and his Catholic faith as he works to get to know each candidate and catechumen.

Finalist Dana Hoffman has held the unpaid position of Director of Religious Education for the last 13 years. Nominated by her pastor, he said, “She not only does well in finding good and dedicated Catechists,

but she trains them and works with them. She is superb in scheduling and coordinating, and with the parental handbook she developed, she has engaged most of the children in the parish in her programs and is able to retain her catechists.”

Aside from her regular religious education program, Dana organizes vacation Bible school each year, creating fun activities for the children and involving many high school students who help. She works well with and helps the RCIA team, the youth coordinators, the altar server trainers and parish musicians. She is able to get cooperation from parents and catechists alike. Father says that St. Eugene Parish is blessed to have her as DRE.

The winner received a \$500 award and a \$5,000 grant for her parish’s Religious Education Department. There will also be a reception held at her parish in her honor as soon as it can be scheduled. The finalists received a \$250 award.

The Catholic Foundation is most

honored and grateful to all of the nominees for their great contribution to Religious Education in the Archdiocese!



CFO President Ben Byers presents the Heart of the School Award to Mary Swymeler of St. Philip Neri School.

Catholic Educators Honored By Foundation

Donna Holmes named Catholic School Educator of the Year

At the recent Fall Teacher In-Service Day at the Catholic Pastoral Center, the Catholic Foundation awarded its 2010 Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Donna Holmes. Donna is a second-grade teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. She has taught at Seton for 15 years. Her nominator says that she is “in her 15th year of leading children to God.” She is the first to volunteer and has the energy and enthusiasm of a first-year teacher. Donna has the ability to relate to her students and develop their potential. She has guided and prepared second-graders for the sacraments of reconciliation and first communion that becomes a lasting foundation for these students to have a lifelong relationship with Christ.

In her classroom, she teaches discipleship through monthly contributions to the Samaritan House and decorating lunch bags for Sister Barbara Joseph’s outreach program, “Hot Dogs for the Homeless.” She leads activities in preparation for students to receive the sacraments that reinforces what they are being taught, which includes a Seder supper, making banners, creating quilt squares, planting and decorating garden pots, all as symbolism associated with the sacraments.

Donna incorporates music into her classroom and carries it into her worship as she sings in the church choir. She has a long tradition of singing “Love Grows Here” with her class at the end of their Second Communion and the school Mass following First Communion that the second grade hosts. You can look around the church and see the older students singing along. Her impact is long lasting and she is truly a master teacher in her ministry.

Annually, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma utilizes its discretionary funds to support educational programs including the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award along with the Religious Educator of the Year Awards. Applications were narrowed down to three finalists from which the foundation committee selected an ultimate award winner. The 2010 finalists were Colleen Linke, fifth-grade teacher at St. Eugene School, and Mary Swymeler, library/media teacher at St. Philip Neri School. The award winner receives a \$500 award and her school receives a \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her honor at her school. The finalists receive a \$250 award.

Finalist Colleen Linke has taught in Catholic schools for over 20 years and took a strong leadership role when teachers were asked to map their curriculum. Her nominator credits her for being an exemplary steward, sharing her time, talent and treasures for the betterment of the Catholic community. Her self-described teaching style is exploratory. She teaches by engaging students in the learning process, whether it is by making historical



The 2010 Catholic Schools Educator of the Year Award was presented to Donna Holmes, right, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. With Donna are the finalists for the award, Mary Swymeler of St. Philip Neri School, left, and Colleen Linke, center.

characters come to life in a living museum, building a maze to study stimulus and response in rodents, or preparing the children to participate in a day of mock business and commerce.

Finalist Mary Swymeler is the library/media teacher at St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City. She began her career as a volunteer in the library and upon completion of her education degree, became the full-time library/media teacher in 1977. During her years at St. Philip she has served on the yearbook staff, is the book fair coordinator each year, is the Liturgical coordinator, teaches third-grade religion and serves as the school’s vice principal. Her nominator says, “Mary is a role model for God’s love for us as she happily serves the school in so many capacities. She does not seek recognition or reward for her hard work. Instead her greatest goal is to see the joy on the children’s faces as she opens the world to them through books.”

All of the teachers nominated are superb examples of what Catholic teachers should be — living examples of teachers as Jesus taught. They are dedicated role models for their students and are all to be commended.

Mary Swymeler presented CFO Heart of the School Award

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Board of Directors is presenting a Heart of the School Award for the first time this year. During the selection process for Catholic School Educator of the Year, the foundation’s selection committee discovered that one of the nominees had made an additional impact on their school that was worthy of recognition. They

had interviewed her and learned that Mary Swymeler was a product of Catholic schools and that her pastor had paid for her education and that she loved giving back for that gift of Catholic education. They learned that she had served as vice principal at her school and that on two occasions, she was asked to step in and serve as principal during difficult times.

In 2006, the principal of St. Philip Neri, Bette Novak, was diagnosed with cancer. While she underwent treatment, Mary Swymeler filled in to help ease the burden.

She kept the teachers informed as well as provided a feeling of stability during rocky times. In January 2009, Mrs. Novak succumbed to her illness and Mary took over the full-time duty of principal while maintaining her role as teacher. Mary’s dedicated leadership assured that the school community did not suffer more than the loss of a beloved principal.

The following year, the new principal, Mary Dresel, was called away to care for her husband, who also succumbed to cancer. During the absence of the principal, Mary Swymeler once again became the solid rock that the teachers, students and parents turned to during a difficult time. Without Mary’s dedication to Catholic education, the losses suffered by the school community could have torn them apart. As they dealt with the blows that came their way, Mary Swymeler stood as a constant reminder of God’s love, His Hope and His presence in their midst during trying times. It is for this extraordinary service that the Catholic Foundation presented its Heart of the School Award to Mary Swymeler.

Irish Have Four Named Merit Semifinalists

OKLAHOMA CITY — Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced recently that four seniors from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School have been named semifinalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Lillian Flannigan, daughter of James and Kelly Flannigan of Edmond; Grace Johnson, daughter of Laura Johnson of Oklahoma City; Valerie Kastens, daughter of Dr. Donald Kastens and Dr. Teresa Folger Kastens, both of Oklahoma City; and Parker Klingenberg, son of Kenneth and Gaile Klingenberg of Oklahoma City.

More than 1.5 million juniors in over 22,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2011 Merit Program by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Approximately 16,000 were named semifinalists and about 90 percent



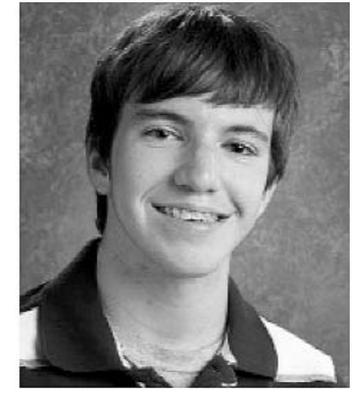
Lillian Flannigan



Grace Johnson



Valerie Kastens



Parker Klingenberg

of those are expected to fulfill all requirements to become finalists. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, is made up of the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semi-finalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a finalist, semifinalists must have an outstanding high school academic record, be endorsed and recommended by their school principal and submit SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance.

In addition, the student and school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self-descriptive

essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Merit Scholar designees are selected based on their accomplishments as well as the potential for success in college, without regard to race, religion or gender. The names of the finalists will be released in the spring.

Archbishop Chaput

Continued from Page 2

not easier, to influence the course of American culture, or even to live their faith authentically. And the big difference between the 'next America' and the old one will be that plenty of other committed religious believers may find themselves in the same unpleasant jam as their Catholic cousins," he wrote.

America's Secularization

The archbishop then turned to American history, describing the "deeply Protestant" roots of the American experience, noting Gov. John Winthrop's 1630 homily exhorting early English colonists to live Christian lives. Later, John Adams and many other American founders were men who could blend an "earnest" Christian faith and Enlightenment ideas "without destroying either."

Later criticisms of the Puritan colonists began to depict them as "intolerant, sexually repressed, narrow-minded witch-hunters." Intellectual weakness and internal divisions among the American Protestant establishment, Archbishop Chaput said, allowed the secularization of American life mainly from 1870 to 1930.

"This insurgency could be ignored, or at least contained, for a long time ... because America's social consensus supported the country's un-

official Christian assumptions, traditions and religion-friendly habits of thought and behavior," Archbishop Chaput contended. However, law is only as strong as popular belief and the traditional consensus is "much weakened."

"Seventy years of soft atheism trickling down in a steady catechesis from our universities, social-science 'helping professions,' and entertainment and news media, have eroded it," the archbishop wrote in *First Things*.

In addition, modern consumer capitalism creates a citizenry of "weak, self-absorbed, needy personalities" to whom religious beliefs are depicted as private and not relevant.

"I shop, therefore I am' is not a good premise for life in a democratic society like the United States," he explained, claiming that the pastoral reality facing the Gospel today is "a human landscape shaped by advertising."

Catholics and Secularization

The archbishop then considered the place of Catholics in this history. While Protestants had discriminated against Catholics, by 1960 mainline Protestantism had exhausted itself in the face of secularism.

"Catholics arrived on America's center stage just as management of the theater had changed hands -- with the new owners even less friendly,

but far shrewder and much more ambitious in their social and political goals, than the old ones," Chaput wrote.

While Christian believers share unity in Jesus Christ and share with Jews a belief in the God of Israel, the gulf between belief and unbelief or disinterest is "vastly wider."

"The world is a different place. America is a different place — and in some ways, a far more troubling one," he commented, saying that Catholics helped make the country's present flaws because of a desire for success, self-delusion, vanity, compromise and "our tepid faith."

This leaves Catholics defenseless in the face of government pressures to push religious entities out of the public square, to promote same-sex "marriage," and to undermine the family and the sanctity of human life.

"But the future is not predestined," Archbishop Chaput said in closing his *First Things* essay. "We create it with our choices. And the most important choice we can make is both terribly simple and terribly hard: to actually live what the Church teaches, to win the hearts of others by our witness, and to renew the soul of our country with the courage of our own Christian faith and integrity. There is no more revolutionary act."



Oklahoma Knights of Columbus State Deputy David Roewe presents a check to St. Gregory's University President David Marker. The donation, which totaled \$35,755, will go to support the university's scholarship fund. The presentation was made at a special community Mass inside St. Gregory's Abbey Church. The Knights and SGU have partnered since 1972 in promoting Catholic higher education. Pictured from left, current Knights of Columbus State Scholarship Director Peter Pickett, Marker, Roewe, former State Scholarship Director Paul Martin, and the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

United Way Can Help Support Dorothy Day

If you work for the city of Oklahoma City, or know someone who does, you can choose The Dorothy Day Center for your workplace giving in the Heart of the City campaign. Designate The Dorothy Day Center a recipient by checking this important number: HOTC 9226. The Dorothy Day Center is part of the Regional Food Bank federation of food pantries.

Heart of the City is the annual municipal employees fund drive. It is operated by United Way of Central Oklahoma and is governed by a committee of city leaders. According to the agency's website, www.unitedwayokc.org, city employees prove their generosity every year with 80 percent participation.

Founded in 2005, The Dorothy Day Center is the food ministry of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. It is a warehouse and an all-volunteer ministry that provides emergency aid through referrals from numerous agencies. In five years, the ministry has provided food for almost 65,000 people. Children receiving assistance numbered 25,990. These are figures that every volunteer works hard to reduce. Your generosity is appreciated.

The campaign began with a kickoff on Sept. 24 and ends on Oct. 29.

Bishop Urges Congress On Tax Credits

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., urged Congress to give priority attention to working poor families and their children as it debates tax policy.

"Too often the weak and vulnerable are not heard in the tax debate," wrote Bishop Murphy in a Sept. 20 letter to Congress. He specifically asked them to preserve and improve the Child Tax

Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

"Poverty is increasing in our nation. How you structure taxes can make this moral challenge better or worse," wrote Bishop Murphy.

"Recently the U.S. Census Bureau reported that in 2009, 43.6 million people in the United States lived in poverty. It went on to point out that if refundable credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit were added to income, then almost 3 million children would move above the poverty line."

Bishop Murphy added, "We believe these essential programs assist workers and families raising children to provide the necessities of life. Unless Congress acts, these vulnerable workers and their children will be left worse off than they are now. The ethical principles of all Americans lead us to recognize that we have a social and civic responsibility to stand with these families and children."

The full text of the letter is available online at www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/2010-20-09-ltr-murphy-taxcredits.pdf

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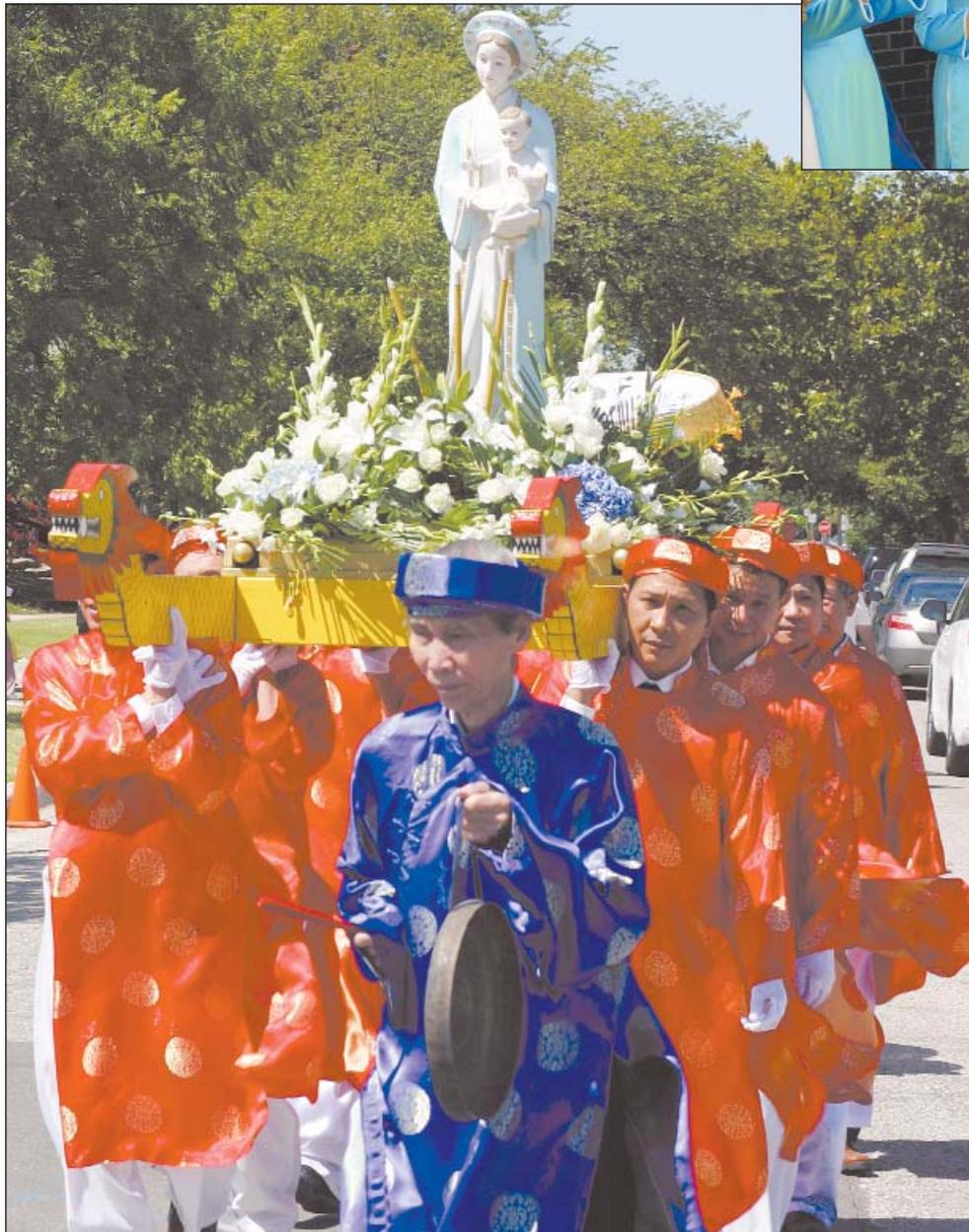
Monday through Friday starting at 1 p.m.



Archbishop Beltran in the procession dedicating the statue of Our Lady of Lavang



Our Lady of Lavang Dedication



OKLAHOMA CITY — Hundreds of Vietnamese Catholics gathered in great joy on the grounds of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to pray and celebrate the blessing and dedication of a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Lavang.

Archbishop Beltran presided at the Aug. 29 Blessing and Dedication. He celebrated Mass following the colorful and faith-filled blessing ceremony. The ceremony included prayers, and the hoisting of the statue of Our Lady of Lavang into the air in a show of great love and reverence as it was carried by the faithful in a procession that covered more than a city block.

Reciting a prayer written by Monsignor Edward J. Weisenbuger, VG, the Archbishop asked God to watch over the Vietnamese people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as they continue on their earthly journey and the promise of one day entering into eternal life with our Heavenly Father.

Prayer of Blessing of Our Lady of Lavang

Lord God,
We acknowledge your infinite glory
and the abundance of your gifts.
Before the foundation of the world,
you appointed Christ
the beginning and end of all things.

You chose the blessed Virgin Mary
as the Mother and companion of your Son,
the image and model of your Church,
the Mother and advocate of us all.

She is the new Eve,
through whom you restored
what the first Eve had lost.
She is the daughter of Zion,
who echoed in her heart
the longings of the patriarchs
and the hopes of Israel.



She is the poor and lowly servant,
who trusted solely in her Lord.

In the fullness of time
she was delivered of the Sun of justice,
the dayspring from on high,
your Son, Jesus Christ.

In her flesh she was his mother,
in her person, his disciple,
in her love, his servant.

Father,
may your children who have provided
this statue of Mary
know her protection
and trace in their hearts the pattern of her holiness.

Bless them with faith and hope, love and humility;
Bless them with strength in hardship and self-respect
in poverty;
Bless them with patience in adversity
and kindheartedness in times of plenty.

May they search for peace,
strive for justice,
and realize your love,
as they pursue their journey through life
toward your heavenly city,
where the blessed Virgin Mary
intercedes as Mother and reigns as Queen.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



'Preventive Services' That Carry a High Human Cost

Planned Parenthood is organizing a national effort to have contraceptives included among the free "preventive services" under the new health care reform law (Press Release, 7-14-10).



By Susan Wills

Normally, preventive services mean vaccines, tests, screenings, etc., that are given with minimal risk to patients in order to prevent — or at least detect and provide an early warning of — serious illness and life-threatening conditions. Common examples: blood pressure and cholesterol screening for hypertension, mammograms for breast cancer, Pap tests for cervical

cancer, and vaccines to prevent transmission of communicable diseases.

But prescription contraceptives don't prevent or screen for disease. Their purpose is to block the normal functioning of a healthy reproductive system to prevent a person from being conceived or, once conceived, to keep him or her from being born.

Contraceptives cannot be considered "preventive services." Far from preventing diseases, contraceptive use has been associated with many harmful side effects and actually increases the risk of acquiring certain diseases.

The World Health Organization lists estrogen as a carcinogen. Estrogen is used in combined oral contraceptives (e.g., the pill, the patch, the vaginal ring) and in hormone replacement therapy (HRT)

for menopause. U.S. breast cancer rates soared as the number of women on HRT increased from the early 1980s to 2002, when the Women's Health Initiative trial was halted after finding elevated risks of breast cancer and stroke. Between 2003 and 2006, when HRT use dropped significantly, the breast cancer rates in the United States plummeted 18 percent.

Cancer is not the only problem: Contraceptive Technology cites numerous studies in which estrogen in contraceptives has been associated with increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, blood clots and hypertension.

Progestin-only contraceptives — mini pills, injections and implants — have been associated with risks of menstrual cycle disturbance, excessive weight gain, hair loss and depression. The injectable contraceptive

Depo-Provera has been found to significantly decrease bone mineral density.

Hormonal contraceptives offer no protection against sexually-transmitted infections and diseases (STDs). In the United States alone, there are over 19 million new cases of STDs annually (half among those ages 25 and under), and more than 60 million people are currently infected with STDs. The total keeps growing because viral STDs are incurable — like HIV/AIDS, genital herpes and strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause genital warts, as well as other strains responsible for 99 percent of cases of cervical cancer.

Hormonal contraceptives also have been shown to increase a woman's risk of becoming infected

Continued to Page 11

Briefs

Art Auction Nov. 5

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop John Carroll School and The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will hold their annual fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 5 in the Connor Center located at 3214 N. Lake Ave. AN EVENING OF ART will begin at 6 p.m. with an hors d'oeuvre and wine reception. Art donated by local and parish artists will be bid on by silent auction. Funds from this event will benefit Bishop John Carroll School and the new playground project. For additional information, please call Liz Dominguez at 570-0608 or Debbie Brown at 664-4942.

Golf Tourney Set

Golfers, it's time to test your prowess on the links at John Conrad Municipal Golf Course, the site of this year's Knights of Columbus Council 8204 charity golf tournament. The four-person, select shot scramble is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m. It will be a shotgun start. The cost is \$65 per golfer, which includes green fees, cart and dinner following the tournament. Proceeds will be used for the K of C 8204 scholarship programs, support to a northwest Oklahoma City free clinic, seminary support and parish activities. To register or for additional information, please call Fred M. Crump at 819-4066/948-0230 or Pat Determan at 728-8614.

Youth Invited to Retreat

Youth in grades fifth through 12th are invited to attend the 2010 Outdoor Retreat Experience, "Navigating the Waters." The retreat will be held Oct. 8-10 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp.

The retreat is for parish youth groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire USA, Venturers, individuals, leaders and parents. One adult chaperone is needed for every six youth with a minimum of two for each group.

Food will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. Check-in time on Friday is 7 p.m. The retreat will end by 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Cost is \$30 per person. All adults must have Safe Environment Training.

For more information, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adults at (405) 721-9220.

Pumpkin Patch to Open

DEL CITY — St. Paul the Apostle will hold its annual Pumpkin Patch starting Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Pumpkin Patch will run through Oct. 31.

Parish to Host Bazaar

SHAWNEE — St. Benedict Catholic Church Annual Fundraiser Carnival and Bazaar. Starting

on Oct. 8 from 5 to 9 p.m., we begin with an oldies dance, car show, and wine and cheese tasting event. On Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., there will be fun activities and food for all ages along with entertainment throughout the day. St. Benedict Church is located at 632 N. Kickapoo. Take Exit 185 off I-40 and go south three miles.

St. Francis/Rosary 22nd Annual Oktoberfest

For many years, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City has celebrated the Feast of St. Francis on the first Sunday in October. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is also that week.

On Sunday, Oct. 3, the celebration begins at 1 p.m. with the Rosary Run, a 2-mile "Fun Run" through the Gatewood neighborhood. Medals are awarded in several categories. This year's theme, "Pray, Eat, Run," will be reflected on T-shirts, which come with race registration and are available for purchase for non-runners.

The day continues with carnival rides, games with prizes, arts and crafts, and a cake walk. Bratwurst, hamburgers, German potato salad and more are served all day. Sunday, Oct. 3, 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., at 1901 NW 18th in Oklahoma City.

Also, Saturday, Oct. 2 (the day BEFORE the carnival) at 10 a.m., Father Murphy will bless animals in the Prayer Garden. Please make sure pets are restrained or in carriers!

‘A Deep Thirst’

Pope Says People of UK Hungry For Gospel Message

BIRMINGHAM, England (CNA/EWTN News) — The Holy Father met with the bishops of Scotland, Wales and England at Oscott College in Birmingham on Sunday before concluding his papal visit to the United Kingdom. During his remarks to the prelates, Pope Benedict touched on the “deep thirst” that people within the U.K. have for Christianity, urging the episcopal leaders to “offer them the living water of the Gospel.”

Recalling the influence of Cardinal John Henry Newman in giving “voice to the new confidence and vitality of the Catholic community” over a century earlier, the Pope said that his beatification on Sunday was “a reminder of the continuing action in calling forth gifts of holiness from among the people of Great Britain.”

The Holy Father focused on the importance of living and transmitting the Gospel message within society throughout the address, insisting on the “urgent need to proclaim the Gospel afresh in a highly secularized environment.”

Noting the “deep thirst” the people of the U.K. have for the Christian message, he told the bishops that they are chosen by God “to offer them the living water of the Gospel, encouraging them to place their hopes, not in the vain enticements of this world, but in the firm assurances of the next.”

Pope Benedict then invited them to work together with the newly formed Pontifical Council for New Evangelization, also employing Church movements with a charism



for evangelization to develop an approach to spreading the Word while being “sure to present in its fulness the life-giving message of the Gospel.”

He also highlighted the necessity for “the prophetic voice of Christians” to help those in need, stressing that today’s world provides “a good opportunity to reinforce that message, and indeed to encourage people to aspire to higher moral values in every area of their lives, against a background of growing cyn-

icism regarding even the possibility of virtuous living.”

Referring to “shameful” abuse of young people in the Church for the second time in as many days, he asked them to reach out to children who suffer abuse elsewhere “in a humble spirit of compassion.”

“Our duty of care toward the young demands nothing less,” he said.

“As we reflect on the human frailty that these tragic events so starkly reveal, we are reminded that,

if we are to be effective Christian leaders, we must live lives of the utmost integrity, humility and holiness.”

Before closing his remarks, the Holy Father spoke on the upcoming publication of the new translation of the Roman Missal, thanking the bishops for their “painstaking care” in contributing to and reviewing the texts.

The Pontiff also addressed a “matter I touched upon in February with the Bishops of England and Wales, when I asked you to be generous in implementing the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.”

“This should be seen,” he explained, “as a prophetic gesture that can contribute positively to the developing relations between Anglicans and Catholics. It helps us to set our sights on the ultimate goal of all ecumenical activity: the restoration of full ecclesial communion in the context of which the mutual exchange of gifts from our respective spiritual patrimonies serves as an enrichment to us all.”

“Let us continue to pray and work unceasingly in order to hasten the joyful day when that goal can be accomplished,” the Pope underscored.

“With these sentiments, I thank you warmly for your hospitality over the past four days,” the Holy Father concluded, adding, “I am pleased to impart my Apostolic Blessing to you and to all the clergy, religious and lay faithful of England, Scotland and Wales.”

Human Cost

Continued from Page 10 with HIV (doubling the risk of HIV in one 10-year study), Chlamydia and other STDs due to their damaging effects on the cervix and lining of the womb.

Aside from being immoral to use and involving the above-mentioned health risks, it’s also worth mentioning that contraceptives don’t work very well. Fifty-four percent of U.S. women seeking

abortions were using contraception the month they became pregnant, and the presumed efficacy of condom use in preventing STD transmission has been shown in studies to be completely offset by complacency and “risk compensation” (more casual partners, less care in use).

Planned Parenthood is fully aware of these increased risks, yet they want free contraception for all, perhaps so women can use their other services

— emergency “contraception,” STD screening and treatment, mammograms and Pap tests, pregnancy testing and abortions. Is it not wiser and healthier to avoid these risks by respecting one’s own dignity and the dignity of marriage?

Susan Wills is Assistant Director for Education & Outreach, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. For more information on contraception, visit www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception.

Inmigrar no es un pecado

Entrevista con Monseñor Anthony Taylor, Obispo de Little Rock en Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, (ZENIT.org)—La sociedad estadounidense está polarizada en lo que respecta a la legalización de los inmigrantes indocumentados, que en la práctica lleva casi 25 años de retraso desde la última "amnistía" de 1986. ZENIT conversó sobre este argumento con monseñor Anthony Taylor, Obispo de Little Rock en Arkansas, Diócesis con cerca del 90% de indocumentados entre la población hispana.

--¿Cómo califica la reciente propuesta de algunos senadores republicanos de revisar la enmienda 14 de la Constitución que otorga la ciudadanía a todo aquel nacido en territorio estadounidense?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Es una propuesta descabellada motivada por miedo y odio, pero con muy poca posibilidad de ser aprobada porque, como dijo un asesor del Partido Republicano en declaraciones a la prensa: "Una reforma constitucional requiere supermayorías en el Congreso, la aprobación del presidente y la ratificación por tres cuartos de los estados."

--Usted hizo un llamado a la sociedad norteamericana a que responda a su tradición de buenos ciudadanos y que acojan a los inmigrantes. ¿Por qué estamos ante esta situación?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Creo que es por temor a sentirse desplazados. Hay miedo a lo que es diferente y muchos se aferran porque su país está cambiando, se está haciendo menos anglosajón, menos protestante y está surgiendo una sociedad más diversa, inclusiva y más variada en la cultura.

--Hace unos años, se firmó en Oklahoma una carta en que los representantes de la Iglesia llamaron a la "desobediencia civil". Ahora que aparecen otras leyes anti-inmigrantes como la de Arizona, ¿reitera usted este llamado?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Sí. Invocamos a la gente a que no se puede obedecer una ley injusta. Y la Iglesia dijo muy claramente entonces que es un pecado obedecer una ley injusta.

--¿Por qué es injusta esta ley?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Toda persona tiene el derecho de proveer de lo necesario para su familia. Si no puede hacerlo en su lugar, puede migrar al interior o sino a otro país. Este es un derecho que Dios nos otorga y no viene de ningún estado. El Estado puede aprobar leyes para favorecer estos procesos de inmigración y a la vez proteger los intereses legítimos del país de recepción. Pero no tiene el derecho de quitarle a uno el derecho de migrar si es la única forma de proveer para su familia. Y las leyes actuales de inmigración de los Estados Unidos tienen ese fin: impedir la inmigración y no facilitar la llegada y la adaptación de la gente que viene.

--¿Estar de ilegal en Estados Unidos es un pecado?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: No, más bien es un pecado estructural de la sociedad perpetrado en contra de ellos. No es pecado para quien ejerce su derecho humano de proveer de lo necesario. Hoy la gente se siente rechazada y despreciada; aunque sin odio, pero sí con tristeza y decepción.

--¿No hay facilidades para la llegada de inmigrantes a Estados Unidos?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Es que hay un límite máximo que se otorga a cada país (México tiene el mismo límite que Luxemburgo o Liechtenstein que son pequeños). Si algún pobre quiere migrar de México no lo puede hacer porque todas las visas están comprometidas en reunificación familiar. Y peor aún, los que se reunifican tardan 16 ó 17 años para ser procesados. Esto tiene el propósito de impedir la inmigración. Sin embargo, igual van a venir 500.000 personas por año de México. Lo nefasto en esto es que algunas de las industrias del país están muy conformes, porque así pueden aprovecharse de los migrantes indocumentados, pagarles menos, explotarlos...

--¿El Senado no es consciente de esto? ¿Sabe usted si hay voluntad de modificar algo?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: He hablado con los dos senadores

(una demócrata y un republicano) de Arkansas y están conscientes de hacer una reforma migratoria, pero no quieren sacrificar su futuro en el intento. Actualmente en las campañas se usa el miedo para motivar a ir a las urnas y votar en contra de algún político que no defienda la frontera suficientemente. El problema que tiene el público al decidir por quién votar es que siempre tenemos que analizar todo el conjunto de propuestas, incluyendo el aborto, el matrimonio homosexual, etc. La Iglesia no apoya a ningún partido.

--Algunos políticos y periodistas critican que la Iglesia apoye la reforma sólo para incrementar el número de católicos...

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: La Iglesia busca lo que es justo sin importar la religión. Hemos apoyado mucho la lucha de los afroamericanos, a pesar de que poquísimos fueron católicos. Es falso también que lo hagamos por el aporte económico, pues ante situaciones muy difíciles en que se vive en sus países, ellos apoyan a sus familias enviándoles remesas.

--¿Cuáles son las cifras actuales de inmigración?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Difícil saberlo. Se dice que son 12 millones de hispanos sin documentos. El 60% se queda cuando se le vence la visa y el resto entró por la frontera sin autorización. En Arkansas antes no habían muchos y se cree que más del 90% de los inmigrantes hispanos llegan sin documentos.

--En una reciente reunión regional de obispos mexicanos y norteamericanos se dice que no hay mejoras, e incluso se advirtió años atrás de que la política de fronteras habría fracasado...

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Yo he dicho en dichas sesiones que la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México es la más larga (y de hecho también la única) entre un país del primer y del tercer mundo y que es imposible cerrarla. El mejor modo de darle seguridad al país será teniendo leyes migratorias que la gente pueda cumplir.

--¿Qué propuesta ha presentado la Iglesia para comenzar?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Como hicimos en la amnistía de 1986, muchas de las parroquias se organizaron para ayudar a la gente a juntar los papeles y así comprobar su estancia en el país. Se les ayudó con los formularios, porque aún cuando estaban escritas en español, muchos eran medio analfabetos y no pudieron llenarlos. Esa vez, la amnistía alcanzó a 3 millones y lo pudimos hacer desde el nivel parroquial.

--¿Debe haber otra amnistía?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Mi opinión personal es que la palabra "amnistía" no es la adecuada, porque esto presume que la persona ha hecho algo malo y lo estamos perdonando. Y no es así. Los que buscaron un futuro para su familia han hecho algo bueno y lo malo fueron las leyes injustas. Debemos dar acogida a la gente y hasta pedirles perdón por lo que han sufrido, aunque ésta no será la actitud del país...

--¿Los políticos han ofrecido a la Iglesia hacer algo en el siguiente año?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: No sé si los políticos vayan a hacer algo el siguiente año, pero sea así o no, lo que va a pasar es que la gente seguirá viniendo. Y aquellos nacidos aquí no van a olvidar cómo fueron tratados sus padres y esto va a influir mucho en el futuro de la política del país; veo que habrá resentimiento. Es lamentable que los políticos no busquen el largo plazo por el bien del país, tal como se pudo ver en la política de salud, la economía y ahora en la inmigración...

--Finalmente, ¿qué grado de esperanza tiene usted en una reforma migratoria?

--Monseñor Anthony Taylor: Eventualmente lo creo, pero en este año lo dudo. Vienen las elecciones de noviembre y es difícil que hagan algo. Un factor a tener en cuenta es que algunos quieren que el presidente actual fracase, como intentaron con la reforma de salud. Así no tengan opinión sobre el tema, quieren hacerlo fracasar por consigna.

Por: José Antonio Varela Vidal

Padre Rother luchó en contra de la soberbia, avaricia, lujuria, ira, gula, envidia y pereza La sensibilización dentro de nuestra Iglesia nos llama a la tolerancia



El Padre Don Wolf un gran líder pastoral de la comunidad hispanaa.



Padre Menasco ha dado un gran apoyo a los hispanos. (Fotos por Mauro Yanez)



La Dra. María Ruiz con una entrega total en vida a los preceptos de Dios.



Los niños, nuestros hijos, por ellos lucharemos hasta que impere la Justicia de Dios.

Por Mauro Yanez *Sooner Catholic*

NORMAN – En una intensa pero breve jornada espiritual, de unión, oración y amor en Dios, el Instituto Cultural Hispano inició sus actividades y lo hizo honrado la memoria del Siervo de Dios, Padre Stanley Rother. Con un buen relato de la vida del Padre Rother, el presbítero Wolf, quien por cierto es pariente del Padre Rother, habló a los presentes sobre el propósito de vida del Padre Rother. Los hispanoparlantes que colaboran en este instituto buscan que los laicos en general entiendan que somos una Iglesia univer-

sal y que el idioma, la comida, costumbres e idiosincrasia son un componente inseparable de la misión evangelizadora de la Iglesia Católica.

Según el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, debemos predicar lo que se nos enseña. Por lo tanto, reflexionemos que no está permitido hacer el mal para obtener un bien. Damos gracias a Dios por permitir tener a tanay gente entre nosotros que ayudan a que la caridad se practique, hable y se logre para que consistentemente compartamos desinteresadamente el amor y de Dios y el apostolado de ayuda al prójimo sin distinción de condición social, nacionalidad o color de piel.



El Dr. Francisco Martínez y su esposa Berta junto al Economista Gonzalo Guamán.

Jobs Box

Rector of the Business Department

St. Gregory's University has an opening for the position of Director of the Business Department at our Tulsa location. This position will teach undergraduate and graduate business courses; director and curriculum coordinator for undergraduate business programs. Earned doctorate in a business related field with strong quantitative background preferred; MBA with strong quantitative background required with three to five years of academic program development experience desired; 12-month faculty reporting to dean of College for Working Adults. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation to the attention of Jean Thornbrugh, Ph.D. Materials may be sent electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu or via mail service to Human Resources Department, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804.

Adjuncts

The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory's University has adjunct faculty openings on campus locations in Tulsa and Shawnee at the undergraduate and graduate level for courses in finance, marketing, project management, research methods, clinical social work, art, nutrition, speech, statistics, math, English literature, economics, history, critical thinking, accounting and accounting control systems. Candidates for adjunct faculty openings for undergraduate courses are required to hold a minimum of a master's degree in the preferred subject, doctoral degrees preferred and related business and industry experience. Adjunct faculty openings at the graduate level require a doctorate in a business-related field or in Health Care Management/Health Care Administration or a doctorate in Management/Business with an area of specialization in Health Care Management. Candidates for graduate courses should have related business and industry experience. All adjunct faculty candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to the attention of Jean Thornbrugh, Ph.D. Materials may be sent electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu.

CWA Financial Aid Counselor (Tulsa)

St. Gregory's University, College for Working Adults, Tulsa campus, a private institution of higher education in the Catholic and Benedictine tradition, has an opening for a financial aid counselor. Candidates must be able to advise students about financial aid eligibility, applications procedures, aid programs and indebtedness and work closely with accounting and student services staff. Qualifications: Bachelor's

degree preferred and financial aid experience, knowledge of data processing and computer tracking systems required. Applicants must be supportive of the university's Catholic and Benedictine identity and mission. Send cover letter, resume and three references to hr@stgregorys.edu or mail to Att: HR, 5801 E. 41st St., Tulsa, Okla. 74135. EOE.

Part-Time Organist Needed

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City is in need of a principal organist/accompanist to play for Sunday Masses (8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.), solemnities and feast days and accompany Wednesday evening (7 p.m.) choir rehearsals. The candidate must be proficient in sightreading and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 350 in the singing of hymns, psalm and other liturgical music, and accompanying the choir in special numbers. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. An interview and audition is required. Present a resume at the time of interview/audition. To arrange for an audition/interview, please contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 or bernard_jones@me.com. — SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ with MIDI capability, and a Kurzweil PC2x synthesizer.

Library Media Specialist

Mount St. Mary High School is now accepting applications for a library media specialist. Send resume and letter of interest to tdenegri@mountstmary.org or fax to (405) 631-9209.

DRE Opening

St. James the Greater Parish, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for a part-time, leading to full-time position, as Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith who has a vision and experience in setting objectives, priorities and deadlines, and in serving our 1,000 parish families. The director will develop, maintain and administer catechetical programs for the children and adults of the parish. The director will also be responsible for recruiting and training catechists, attending scheduled diocesan DRE meetings, and fostering cooperation with other parish organizations. Interested candidates should contact Deacon Marti Gulikers at (405) 636-6805 to initiate the application process.

Substitute Teachers

Bishop John Carroll School in Oklahoma City is now taking application for substitute teachers. Bishop John Carroll School is pre-K through eighth grade. We will be also seeking a long-term substitute beginning mid-October. Please contact Connie Diotte at (405) 525-0956 or cdiotte@bjcs.org.

Safe Environment Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator. The Safe Environment Coordinator is a member of a team of Archdiocesan professionals who are charged with developing and implementing Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs consistent with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter) adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, as revised in 2005 (the "Charter"). The position is part time, approximately 18 hours per week. Applicants should have a background in child-protection services, education and/or behavioral sciences, a firm understanding of Catholic religious education and youth ministries and excellent communication skills. Job duties include planning and implementing training sessions and workshops for Archdiocesan personnel and parish facilitators and assisting parishes with their Safe Environment Programs, including on-site visits to gauge compliance with the requirements of Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs and the Charter. The Safe Environment Coordinator also assists with the USCCB annual audit for compliance with the Charter. Those interested should send a complete Archdiocesan Application (available on the Archdiocesan website) and resume to Tish Eason, Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

Part-time Music Director

St. Benedict Parish, Shawnee, has an opening for a part time-music director. Please contact Father Don Wolf at 275-0001.

Director of Music

St. Charles Borromeo Church in Oklahoma City seeks full-time Director of Music. Duties include planning and staffing weekend liturgies, holy days, weddings and funerals. The director is responsible for directing, scheduling and rehearsing with the choirs as well as providing keyboard accompaniment for the English liturgies. Would also provide supervision and assistance for the Spanish Choir. Degree in music is required as well as thorough knowledge of the Roman Catholic Liturgy along with excellent keyboard and vocal skills. Send cover letter and resume to Rev. Tim Luschen, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 5024 N. Grove Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73122. E-mail at Thluschen@prodigy.net.

Volunteer Driver

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store needs a volunteer driver for the donation truck. Person applying needs to have a clear driving record and be able to load and unload furniture. Call 917-5999 for further information.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

26 Annual Czech Mass at St. John's in Yukon. Mass at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. John Michalicka. The homily will be presented in Czech as well as English and everyone is invited to dress in their traditional Czech Kroj. After Mass, there will be a reception in Marion Hall, coffee and kolaches will be served.

26 Annual Young Adult Mass and Cookout with the Archbishop,

Catholic Pastoral Center from 2 to 7 p.m. All young adults high school graduates to 39 single and married are invited to attend. RSVP to Becky at bjaime@catharchdioceseokc.org.

28 RCIA Coordinators

Discussion Group at Holy Angels Church in Oklahoma City at 11 a.m. To RSVP, e-mail Paul C. Stokell at paul@stokell.us.

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

29 Prayer Day for the Retired

from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Judy Reilly, Pastoral Associate at Epiphany, is the facilitator for the day. Cost is \$7 for the day, including lunch. To register, call the Office of Worship at (405) 721-5651.

OCTOBER

1 Retreat in Daily Life, a seven-month experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, is a blessed way for busy people to grow spiritually. The retreat extends from October through April and is sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters at Red Plains Spirituality Center. It involves daily prayer, weekly group meetings and individual spiritual direction. Call with questions or to register, Benedicta Boland, OSB, (405) 373-4461.

1 1st Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City.

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

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

1 First Friday Sacred Heart

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

2 The Lay Missionaries of Charity of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

meet at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month. Mass is in the parish chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will be in the council room. For more information, contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199.

2 Retreat Inventory of Your Spiritual Gifts

with Bea Parker, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fee: \$45, includes book (\$10 deposit). Place: Red Plains Spirituality Center – Library.

3 22nd Annual OKTOBERFEST

at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and Rosary School (1910 NW 19th Street in Oklahoma City) starting at 1 p.m. The event begins with a 2k Fun Run/Walk through the Historic Gatewood Neighborhood and continues with great food, music and entertainment. For more information or to register for the 2k Fun Run, please contact Rosary School at 525-9272.

3 18th Annual Birth Choice

LIFE WALK will be held at Wiley Post Park, 2021 S. Robinson Avenue. Registration begins at 1 p.m., with the Life Walk at 2 p.m. followed by food and activities for children and

teens. The group Zero to 60 will provide music for the afternoon. For registration forms or more information, visit our website, www.watchfortheunborn.org.

3 Byzantine Liturgy will be offered on Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. in Holy Family Church, 1010 NW 82nd St., Lawton, Okla. 73505. Dinner will follow in the parish hall. For more information, please call Father Phil Seeton at (580) 536-6351.

4 St. Paul the Apostle in Del City Annual Pumpkin Patch,

starting Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:30 to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Pumpkin Patch will run from Oct. 4 through Oct. 31.

7 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.

7 Fall Fest Craft Fair

at St. Ann Retirement Center, Oct. 7, in our brand new Grand Theater. The Fall Fest will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have approximately 30 vendors at this special event. Live music will occur on the stage area throughout the day. Come and join us, enjoy music, crafts and tour our beautiful community. For more information or to have a booth, contact Jo Gleghorn at 721-0747.

8 St. Benedict Catholic Church Annual Fundraiser Carnival

and Bazaar. Starting on Oct. 8 from 5 to 9 p.m., we begin with an oldies dance, car show, and wine and cheese tasting event. On Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. there will be food and fun activities for all ages along with entertainment throughout the day. St. Benedict Church is located at 632 N. Kickapoo in Shawnee. Take exit 185 off 140 and go south 3 miles.

8 Bingo at St. Joseph's, Norman, in the gym. A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., first session begins at 7

p.m., second session at 8:30. Each session is \$5, blackouts are \$1 each, no limit.

8 A Life in the Spirit Weekend

on Oct. 8, 9 and 10, at Immaculate Conception Church at 3901 SW 29th St. in Oklahoma City starting at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8. The presenters will be Mary Jo Webb of Fairfax and Jackie Butler of Pawhuska. There will be a Mass to conclude at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10. Registration and information: dsdirkschneider@gmail.com or call (405) 720-8942.

8 2010 Outdoor Retreat

Experience, "Navigating the Waters." For all youth grades 5 through 12, Oct. 8, 9 and 10, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. Cost is \$30 per person and should be sent with the registration form. Contact the Youth Office at (405) 721-5651.

8 Homecoming - McGuinness

home football game vs. Elk City at 7:30 p.m.

9 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery

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

10 Charismatic Healing Mass,

5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4806.

10 COMPANY Adult Singles ages 35-plus Book Study,

"The Five Love Languages for Singles." Sunday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 10 through Nov. 28. \$15. Register by going by the church office to pick up the book and paying the fee. We will meet at an Edmond restaurant for this Book Study. You must be registered and have your book by Friday, Oct. 15. Read the first chapter before the first meeting. To RSVP or if you have questions, contact Mary at (405) 401-4105.

Anniversaries of Faith

SHAWNEE — Three St. Gregory's Abbey monks marked a jubilee commemorating their profession of vows. The St. Gregory's community celebrated with them at a special liturgy on Friday, Sept. 3, the feast day for Pope St. Gregory the Great. The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., marked his 25th anniversary of profession, while the Very Rev. Louis Vander Ley, O.S.B., and Rev. Joachim Spexarth, O.S.B., both marked their 50th anniversaries.

Abbot Lawrence, the 10th abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey, was born and raised in Tecumseh. He made monastic profession of vows on July 11, 1985, and was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 6, 1994. He was elected abbot on Jan. 6, 2006, and was blessed on Feb. 24, 2006, by Archbishop Eusebius Beltran of Oklahoma City.

Abbot Lawrence is a 1984 graduate of St. Gregory's College, and completed a bachelor's degree in English from St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, the Benedictine university in Rome. Abbot Lawrence served as the president of St. Gregory's University from May 2000 to April 2007. He now serves as chancellor of the university, and as an instructor in theology.

Father Louis, who serves as the prior of the monastery, was born and raised in Chicago. He made monastic profession of vows on July 11, 1960, and was ordained a priest on May 29, 1966. As part of his formation, he earned his bachelor's degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and a master's degree in economics from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

Father Louis has taught and served as a chaplain at St. Gregory's University and at Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City. Father Louis served in pastoral ministry for many years, including as pastor at St. Wenceslaus Church in Prague, St. Vincent de Paul Church in



Three St. Gregory's Abbey monks commemorated their profession of vows last week at the abbey's church. Pictured from left, The Very Rev. Louis Vander Ley, O.S.B. (50th anniversary), The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B. (25th anniversary), and Rev. Joachim Spexarth, O.S.B. (50th anniversary). (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

McLoud, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Chandler, and St. Benedict Church in Montebello, Calif.

Father Joachim, who serves as subprior of the monastery, was born in Colwich, Kan., and attended St. Gregory's High School and College. He made monastic profession of vows at St. Gregory's on July 11, 1960. Following studies at Conception Seminary College in Missouri and St. Gregory's Abbey, Father Joachim was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1965. He subsequently earned a master's degree in speech communication

from Oklahoma State University.

Father Joachim has taught speech to generations of students at St. Gregory's College and University. He also served for a time as a residence hall adviser in DeGrasse Residence Hall. In addition to his classroom teaching, Father Joachim sits on the Senior Council of the monastery and coordinates the weekend pastoral assistance to parishes throughout Oklahoma provided by the monastic community.

Founded in 1875, St. Gregory's Abbey is a community of Benedictine monks. The community con-

sists of 26 members ranging in age from 26 to 88. St. Gregory's Abbey monks pursue a communal life of prayer and work based on gospel values.

In addition to their life of prayer, the monks provide various services through education at St. Gregory's University, the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art and the National Institute on Developmental Delays, and through pastoral ministry at parishes and military institutions in Oklahoma.

For more information about St. Gregory's Abbey, call (405) 878-5491 or visit www.monksok.org.