

# Sooner Catholic

soonercatholic.org

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www.archokc.org

## OU, OSU campus ministries affirm Catholic identity

By **Brianna Osborne**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Students are once again filling the lecture halls, student unions and dorms of OU and OSU – but are the Catholics among them filling the pews at Saint Thomas More in Norman and Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater? Here is an overview of the lively and faithful communities that await Catholics on campus.

### **OU-Saint Thomas More in Norman**

At the University of Oklahoma, Father Jim Goins heads a thriving parish that is a home away from home for Catholic students.

“Saint Thomas More’s primary mission is to provide OU students with the sacraments of the Church,” said Father Goins. “We have four Masses on the weekends; we offer daily Mass Monday through Friday; confessions are offered twice weekly or by appointments.”

Last year, 20 students entered the Church or were confirmed; more are expected this year. Mass is always well-attended in the small church just down the street from Memorial Stadium. In the future, Father Goins hopes to build a larger chapel on campus.

“We also offer retreats, bible studies, classes in apologetics, mission trips, service projects, intra mural teams and numerous opportunities for fellowship with other students. One of our longest-running ministries to students is our Sunday evening free meal,” said Father Goins.

There are some important parish events coming up in the next month.

“Our next Sooner Awakening Retreat will be held Oct. 18 to Oct. 20. This annual retreat is our largest single student event of the fall semester. More than 100 students will be involved. Sooner Awakening is our best chance to engage new students in our ministry. This retreat not only

helps students to solidify their faith; it helps them meet other students,” said Father Goins.

“The other event I would note is our upcoming Gala for Campus Ministry, our annual fundraiser,” said Father Goins. “This year, it will be held at the Sam Noble Natural History Museum on Friday evening, Oct. 25. This dinner and auction is open to people throughout the archdiocese and its proceeds enable us to fund our expanding ministry to OU students.”

Father Goins was proud to acknowledge that a significant number of the archdiocesan seminarians come from Saint Thomas More. He revealed that it was one of his personal goals “to become a source for priestly vocations for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.”

“When I arrived as pastor, I told our parish council that, unless we produce vocations, we have failed in our mission. In fact, the ‘boom’ we’re experiencing now is a result of a parish-wide effort to nurture priestly vocations. We started a men’s and women’s discernment group and we encourage ongoing conversations about the joys of a life given to the Church. I will often call aside a young man who exhibits the ‘signs’ of a vocation to priesthood and ask him directly to engage in serious discernment,” said Father Goins.

### **OSU-Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater**

In the Diocese of Tulsa, Father Stuart Crevcoure guides the students through a period of transition at Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater.

Saint John will now focus mainly on students and campus ministry. The other Stillwater parish, Saint Francis Xavier, will move to the west side of town where a beautiful new church will be built. The students’ reaction to the change demonstrates the strong sense of Catholic community in Stillwater.

“Students are interested in the new church plans,” said Father Crevcoure, “but the inevitable question is, ‘We’ll still have Saint John, right?’ The model we’re following in Stillwater is that of College Station, Tex., where



Saint Mary is a true university parish dedicated to student ministry and Saint Thomas Aquinas is the local parish for permanent residents and families.”

Saint John offers a variety of activities and resources for students.

“In addition to providing the sacraments, we also seek to build students up spiritually, intellectually and in service to the church and community. Social activities like our Sunday evening dinner are very important. Making Catholic friends helps students hold on to and practice their faith through the college years,” said Father Crevcoure.

“This October we’re ... planning a large Marian procession traversing campus between Saint Francis and Saint John. This was a great suggestion from one of our graduate students from Italy who serves on the parish council,” said Father Crevcoure.

This public witness to the faith is important in an atmosphere that can be hostile to the church.

“The atmosphere of most college campuses, especially a large state school, is extremely secular,” said Father Crevcoure. “The church, her teachings and her traditions are subtly and

often not-so-subtly attacked in the classroom and the broader campus culture. ... The real challenge for students is to develop and hold on to a Catholic worldview when the church is consistently mis-represented or ridiculed.”

“A key thing is helping them understand how important the celebration of the sacraments is in their life as a Catholic. Mass attendance, confession and prayer are the foundation. In keeping with Blessed John Henry Newman’s ‘The Idea of a University,’ we also seek to instill a sense of the interconnectedness of all things – what we do, what we study, how we live, how we pray. Our firmly held beliefs as Catholics need to inform all these things. Ultimately, it’s about revealing the beauty of the Catholic faith and inviting students to participate in the banquet,” said Father Crevcoure.

*Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.*

For information on Mass times and activities:  
OU <http://www.stm-ou.org/>. Facebook, “St. Thomas More University Parish --Norman, OK”  
Twitter @OUCatholic  
OSU [www.stjohn-stillwater.org](http://www.stjohn-stillwater.org). Facebook, “St. John University Parish at OK State”

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

# “Don’t forget the poor”

When it became apparent who would be elected pope during the March conclave a brother cardinal whispered into the ear of Cardinal Bergoglio, “Don’t forget the poor.” Six months into his papacy it has become very clear that Pope Francis has no intention of overlooking these least of our brothers and sisters. His special concern for the poor and marginalized has already become the hallmark of his pontificate.

Each of us must take to heart the same admonition. The previous issue of the “Sooner Catholic” highlighted the many works of Catholic Charities as it launches its 2013 Annual Appeal with the theme, “Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.” Though there are many ways we may choose to respond to the cries of the poor, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to alleviate suffering and poverty in central and western Oklahoma. As Oklahoma Catholics we can be very proud of its outstanding service in the name of Christ and his church.

As Catholic Charities works to extend the mercy of Christ to those who suffer in Oklahoma, Catholic Relief Services acts on our behalf to bring Christ’s compassion to those who suffer around the world. CRS is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the United States. It carries out the commitment of the bishops of the United States as shepherds of the church to assist the poor and vulnerable in more than 91 countries around the world. Last year CRS served more than 100 million persons. I am privileged to serve on its board of directors.

Earlier this month I made my first site visit as a member of a CRS delegation when we travelled to Rwanda. All I knew of Rwanda had been the horrors of the 1994 genocide that claimed the lives of nearly 1 million people in the brief span of four months. Like many of you I had seen the film “Hotel Rwanda.” Though that is a very important part of that country’s painful history it does not tell the whole story. I have been deeply affected by all that we saw and witnessed during that visit.

CRS has been in Rwanda for 50 years. Its activities have changed with the changing needs of a nation afflicted by poverty, disease and violence. Early in CRS’ involvement there the focus had been on large-scale school feeding programs. Later the focus shifted to small enterprise development and agricultural production to help people develop the skills and capacities to feed themselves. When HIV/AIDS swept over the African continent

CRS increased its activities by supporting antiretroviral therapy services in rural areas and helping communities to care for orphans and vulnerable children from families living with AIDS. AIDS prevention efforts continue through effective abstinence and “Be Faithful” programs in schools and communities.

In the aftermath of the war and genocide of 1994 CRS began an immediate response to the emergency needs of a population that suffered the unimaginable violence and trauma that has left such terrible wounds in the social fabric of the country.

Today CRS in Rwanda is supporting impressive nutrition and agricultural programs, developing creative savings and internal lending communities and micro-finance programs that foster small-scale business initiatives and enable people to lift themselves out of poverty. These are just a few of the creative and effective initiatives that are ongoing.

The majority of Rwandans are Catholic. We witnessed a vibrant church but one still struggling in the aftermath of the genocide. Church/state relationships are delicate. We celebrated Mass daily in various parishes and were deeply moved by the hospitality and joy of these communities. During our visit we met with Rwandan church leaders and the papal nuncio to Rwanda. CRS is working very closely with the local church to assist the church in Rwanda in developing its own capacity to support its pastoral needs and initiatives. Through its partnerships with the local Catholic Church, as well as its collaboration with various humanitarian organizations and government agencies, CRS is extending the love and compassion of Christ to thousands of Rwandans in the name of Catholics in the United States.

Rwanda is a small country, about the size of Maryland. It has a population of more than 12 million people, and its population is very young! There is great poverty, but there is great hope. The scale of the challenges facing the country is almost unimaginable. But CRS is saving lives every day. It is affirming human dignity and fostering real hope in people who live amid great hardship and suffering. Though CRS has recently had its vocal critics, I am very proud to serve this Catholic organization and to ensure that it remains what it has been



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley



cutline

## Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- Sept. 29** — *Young Adult Mass and Cookout*, 6 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 3** — *Ordination of Mr. Christopher Brashears to the Order of Deacon*, 10:30 a.m., The Pontifical Basilica of Saint Peter at the Vatican, Rome
- Oct. 6** — *Confirmation*, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Okarche
- Oct. 6** — *Archbishop’s Annual Picnic* for CPC Staff, Principals, School Board Members and Deacons, 5 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 7** — *Catholic Foundation Golf Tournament*
- Oct. 8** — *Department Head Meeting*, 10 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 8** — *Finance Council Meeting*, 2 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 8** — *Archdiocesan Review Board Meeting*, 3:30 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Oct. 9 - Oct. 10** — *National Association of Catholic Chaplains Board Meeting*, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Oct. 11** — *School Mass and classroom visits*, 8:15 a.m., Sacred Heart School, Oklahoma City
- Oct. 13** — *Mass for Anniversary of Dedication of the Cathedral*, 10 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City

### Exclusively on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on [www.soonercatholic.com](http://www.soonercatholic.com):

✓ The pro-life community joined together for the area’s **40 Days for Life kickoff event** at 7 p.m. at the Connor Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 3214 N. Lake in Oklahoma City. The speakers for the evening were Archbishop of Oklahoma City, Paul S. Coakley, Heidi Wilburn for the Baptist Convention and Karen Herzog for “And Then There Were None.”

✓ The **Fall 2013 Parish Faith and Ministry Formation** series, sponsored by the Office of Pastoral Ministry, began Thursday, Sept. 19. For the full schedule of classes and other events, please visit [www.soonercatholic.com](http://www.soonercatholic.com).

✓ From Sept. 1 to Sept. 6, Archbishop Paul Coakley was in **Rwanda** (see column at right). For a full slideshow of the archbishop’s trip, visit [www.soonercatholic.com](http://www.soonercatholic.com).

✓ On Sept. 10, the clergy of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City celebrated the **jubilarian anniversaries** of 12 priests. For a video that features interviews with these jubilarians, please visit the “Vocations” page of the archdiocesan website at [archokc.org/vocations/home](http://archokc.org/vocations/home).

Plus, don’t miss daily updates on Facebook and Twitter!



## FlockNote enables parishioners to tailor communications to their interests

By The Sooner Catholic Staff

In his message for the 2010 World Day of Social Communications, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI promoted new media as “a valid and effective instrument for authentic and profound evangelization and communion.”

Pope Francis, too, has warmly embraced new media. From the Twitter handle @Pontifex, the pope regularly broadcasts poignant messages to his more than 3 million followers.

Inspired and informed by this positive attitude toward new media of the popes, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has adopted several new forms of communication in the past year, including Facebook and Twitter, the bread and butter of new media. (Find us at “Archdiocese of Oklahoma City” on Facebook or follow @ArchOKC on Twitter.)

This month, the Archdiocese added to its communications offerings by officially opening a FlockNote account. FlockNote is “a mass email and text message management and distribution system” – but that jargon belies its simplicity and catholicity.

Founded by a Catholic for Catholics, FlockNote enables parishioners to subscribe to relevant information from their parishes and dioceses. In other words, with FlockNote, the parishioner is in control of what information he or she receives from the parish or diocese – and how.

Picture Henry Heardman, a fic-

tional member of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and a 45-year-old father of three who works in sales and regularly tithes to his parish.

Heardman likes to read Archbishop Paul Coakley’s column in the Sooner Catholic. He’s also always been drawn to the story of Father Stanley Rother, the priest from Okarche who served and died at a mission in Guatemala.

Had he known that Pope Francis requested that all Catholics fast on Sept. 7 for peace in Syria, Heardman gladly would have obliged – but he had a busy week at work and never caught the pope’s announcement on the nightly news.

With FlockNote, Heardman could subscribe to just three lists from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City – “News Releases,” “Father Stanley Rother Guild” and “Sooner Catholic E-Newsletter” – and receive the news that is most relevant to him. He can also indicate whether he prefers to receive list updates via email, text message or both.

Here’s how it works: The Archdiocesan Office of Communications manages a FlockNote “landing page” for the entire Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. That landing page is [Flocknote.com/archokc](http://Flocknote.com/archokc). Anyone who is interested to receive email or text message communications from the archdiocese may visit that landing page, register with the archdiocese and subscribe to any lists that interest him or her. Currently, the arch-

# Are you a member of the Flock?



Join us!

diocese offers seven different lists, but the number of lists will continue to grow to ensure that parishioners receive the most tailored information possible. Conversely, parishioners may unsubscribe from a list at any time.

In addition, in the future, when parishes open FlockNote accounts, parish landing pages will be integrated with the archdiocesan landing page, forming a true communications network among all Catholics of

the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

FlockNote also provides parishioners with easy opportunities to deliver feedback to the archdiocese; they can publicly comment on the messages they receive, respond to polls and RSVP to events, all within FlockNote.

To learn more or to register to be a member of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City FlockNote community, visit [FlockNote.com/archokc](http://FlockNote.com/archokc).

## In pastoral letter, Archbishop Coakley proclaims new vision statement

By The Sooner Catholic Staff

In a special insert in the Oct. 13 issue of the Sooner Catholic, subscribers will receive a pastoral letter from Archbishop Paul Coakley.

In the letter, the archbishop introduces a new vision statement, priorities and goals for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, all of which were discerned through a 13-month process that included the formation of an archdiocesan envisioning team, eight listening sessions across the archdiocese and 12 six-hour discernment sessions facilitated by the Catholic Leadership Institute.

“Many of you participated in one of eight listening sessions held in various locations around the archdiocese from Guyton to Lawton, to Norman and Enid and other places as well,” the archbishop writes in the letter. “Perhaps you submitted your thoughts in written or electronic form. I am grateful to all who participated in those valuable and energizing sessions.”

The archbishop continues: “Over the course of 13 months, we prayed, listened, gathered information and reflected on all we had heard and learned. I am writing this pastoral letter to proclaim the vision that is the fruit of that grace-filled effort.”

In the course of revealing the vision statement, priorities and goals, the letter outlines “a call to holiness and mission,” explores “the church as

mystery” and exhorts the faithful to “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48).

“Our challenge is to embrace and proclaim anew this high standard of ordinary Christian living,” the archbishop writes of the exhortation to perfection. “Holiness is not the prerogative of an elite few. It is the fundamental vocation that every Christian receives in baptism.”

The archbishop and members of the archdiocesan envisioning team said they hope the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will be energized and encouraged by the vision statement and that it will serve as a reminder that it is possible to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Earlier this year, in March, the archbishop proclaimed the sacred purpose of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

“Our purpose as the people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” Archbishop Coakley said then, “is to joyfully witness to the Catholic faith in central and western Oklahoma through the teaching, sanctifying and governing ministry of Christ and His Church so that the Body of Christ is made present, the universal call to holiness proclaimed and all people are welcomed into the promise of eternal life.”

The vision statement, priorities and goals are informed by that purpose statement.

*You are invited . . .*

In celebration of the world-wide Year of Faith, Bishop Edward Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa will celebrate a

## SOLEMN PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

(Extraordinary Form)  
at Holy Family Cathedral, Downtown Tulsa, on Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m.

**2:00 pm: Holy Mass, reception to follow**

**6:30 pm: Marian concert with rosary & benediction**

This is the first time in the history of the Diocese of Tulsa that a Solemn Pontifical High Mass has been celebrated and those who long for spiritual beauty will want to experience this profound prayer.

For more information, please visit the Diocese of Tulsa’s Year of Faith website at [www.yearoffaithtulsa.org](http://www.yearoffaithtulsa.org)

**YEAR OF FAITH**  
DIOCESE OF TULSA



**Most Reverend  
Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop of Oklahoma City  
Publisher

**Tina Korbe Dzurisin**

Director of Communications/  
Editor

**Cara Koenig**

Photographer/Special Projects

**Brianna Osborne**

Office Staff

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Sooner Catholic Newspaper  
7501 Northwest Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132  
(405) 721-1810

**Fax:** (405) 721-5210

**Email:** tips@archokc.org

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 32180  
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

**Visit us online at**

[www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org)

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## In the land of crosses

SIAULIAI, LITHUANIA—No one knows when pious Lithuanians first erected crosses of all sizes on a hill about seven miles north of the city of Siauliai; it may have been after an abortive 1831 uprising against Russian rule over the small Baltic country. Oftentimes, the bodies of Lithuanian patriots killed during that rebellion, and a similar revolt in 1863, could not be found. So their families planted crosses in their memory on a small mound that was eventually covered with memorials. During the country's brief moment of independence between the First and Second World Wars, citizens of a free Lithuania continued to plant crosses near Siauliai, as the Hill of Crosses became a pilgrimage center.

I first became aware of this remarkable place in the late 1970s, when I began to take an interest in the Catholic Church's struggle for religious freedom in Lithuania, then a "republic" of the Soviet Union. That struggle was led by some remarkable men and women, including two priests who did time in the Gulag labor camps, Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, S.J., and Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, and a clandestine nun, Nijole Sadunaite, whose small book, *A Radiance in the Gulag*, remains a moving testament to courage forged by Catholic devotion. The resistance Church in Lithuania produced the longest-running, unbroken underground publication in the history of the USSR, *The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, which was typed, copy by copy, on manual typewriters, secretly distributed in Lithuania, and then smuggled abroad, where it was translated into English by Brooklyn-based Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

In the mid-1980s, working with my friend Congressman John Miller, I helped organize a Lithuanian Catholic Religious Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. The caucus's bipartisan membership pressed the Soviet authorities to release Lithuanian Catholic prisoners of conscience, engineered a Congressional resolution in support of Lithuanian independence and religious freedom in 1987, the 600th anniversary of Lithuania's baptism, and marked that event with a public reception in the Capitol that was broadcast to Lithuania on Radio Liberty. By the time the Soviet Union imploded—Lithuania leading the way with its 1990 declaration of independence—Father Tamkevicius, Father

Svarinskas, and Sister Nijole were free, and the Church was widely recognized as a major factor in Lithuania's successful struggle to maintain its national identity and cultural integrity.

Throughout the difficult years, I was fascinated by the Hill of Crosses. Time after time, the Soviets took down the crosses, bulldozing the site on several occasions. And each time the crosses, large and small, went back up—a dogged display of religious conviction and political courage that embodied a small, beleaguered nation's refusal to kowtow to atheistic propaganda and totalitarian power.

Sigitas Tamkevicius has been the archbishop of Kaunas since 1996; Alfonsas Svarinskas, now a monsignor, is retired but still feisty and active; Sister Nijole continues to radiate the joy of consecrated life in Vilnius. It was wonderful to see each of them during a recent visit I made to Lithuania to help the Church celebrate the 20th anniversary of John Paul II's 1993 visit. There were numerous events commemorating that epic pastoral pilgrimage: in the parliament, in the Vilnius cathedral, at universities in Vilnius and Kaunas, and at the great Marian shrine at Siluva. I hope that, through these events, Lithuanian Catholicism looked back in such a way that the path forward, to the free and virtuous society to which John Paul II called Lithuania, came into clearer focus. From a personal point of view, however, the most moving moment in a week of commemorations was my visit to the Hill of Crosses.

Some count 100,000 crosses there now; the exact count makes no difference. At Siauliai, in what John Paul II called the "land of crosses," the tradition of looking at history, and our lives, through the prism of the cross and its mystery of redemptive suffering continues. I planted a small cross in memory of the martyrs for religious freedom who lie in unmarked graves across Siberia, and prayed for those who defend the first freedom today.

*George Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.*



By George Weigel

## "But I Can't Do It!"

By Father Shane Tharp  
For the Sooner Catholic

For one glorious year, I taught high school at Mount Saint Mary's. It was glorious for me and I suspect terrifying for the students. That's an assumption on my part, although the regular letters I get from UN inspectors suggest otherwise. (This is, of course, a joke lie; the UN doesn't send letters in situations like this. They send ground troops.) I believed in challenging my students, primarily because they were bright kids and they were headed to college soon. If they thought I was bad, they were in for a world of shock.

At any rate, students would come to me when they struggled with the material (and let's be honest, the way a novice teacher teaches) with the same plea, "But I can't do it." Let's be clear, these kids achieved in so many areas of their lives: academics, sports, theater, the whole gamut. The comment "I can't do it" genuinely confused and perplexed me. It took me a while to realize that the statement "I can't do it" translated as "I need help with the skills and abilities in order to do this."

The moral life can seem that way, principally because we focus on only half the puzzle. We tend to lock down the "avoid evil" part because it is easy to measure. The logic goes "Stealing is bad; I didn't steal; Hooray, I've fulfilled the moral life." And that is right, to an extent. The problem crops up when I try to accomplish something. I'm totally fine avoiding evil but that tells me nothing about how I should actually act. The other part of the moral life of a Catholic requires me to "do good."

This area of doing the good stymies people all the time; it certainly stymies me. The avoid evil part is so good because it's relatively clear-cut. But how do I evaluate when I have actually failed to do the good necessary at that moment?

God gives to us, along with all the sacramental and necessary graces we need, charisms in order to do the good. These charisms equip every Catholic with the pow-

er to fulfill the mission God has entrusted to all the baptized. Yes, that includes you reading this article. The Church doesn't operate on a two-tier system where the clergy do everything and the laity must "pray, pay, and obey" as the old dictum goes. All members of the Church share

"co-responsibility" for the wellbeing of the Church and for its work of sharing the story of Jesus.

I experienced vividly in my own parish how this truth excites and terrifies people. During our study of Acts, the readings mentioned these charisms. The group spent some time discussing it, especially because it was exciting to see how the Holy Spirit worked in the early church. When the conversation shifted to the point that the Holy Spirit still actively works in the church in this way, one participant said, "but Father, how can we know what those gifts might be?"

The Holy Spirit gives charisms for the building up of the church; it follows that the church must help individual members of the church discern what those charisms might be and how they might be used fruitfully. At Holy Name, we are hosting a "Called and Gifted Workshop" in October in order to help people discern these charisms. If you think that God is calling you to know His will for you, consider yourself invited.

The point is this: You can do it because God gives you the tools in order to do it. What is this great work He has in mind? Nothing less than being perfect as His Father is perfect. But you can only do it in cooperation with what and how God wants to do this work in you.

## Meet Our Seminarists



This is the tenth part in a 24-part series to introduce the seminarists of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to the people they will one day serve as priests.

### Meet Aaron Foshee

1. *What is your home parish?* The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City

2. *What seminary do you attend?* Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Southern Indiana

3. *If it is God's will, what year will you be ordained a priest?* 2015

5. *What is the most important thing you have learned in the seminary so far?* One of the most important things I have learned is to accept myself, both in my talents and abilities, as well as in my weaknesses and growing edges. This has given me confidence to follow my vocation in the way God has enabled me. It's important to remember the seminary life, just like the priesthood, is lived out differently according to each individual.

8. *Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know.* John 14:1 – "Let not your hearts be troubled; trust in God." These words have often been a source of inspiration and hope for me. It reminds me that I am not the one in control; God is. That gives me comfort, because, if I was in control, I know there would be a possibility I could really mess up. But with God, there are no mess-ups! He makes good come out of evil; right come out of wrong. He can be trusted, and He should be trusted! So, if you are questioning something in your life, bring it to God. Bring it to Him through prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. God might not answer you in the way you want Him to, but He will give you the answer He knows you need. He will teach you how to love yourself, your neighbor and ultimately Him. That's a gift that will get you through anything the World can throw at you. Trust in God; he will always be there for you.

9. *Describe your relationship with Christ.* A song comes to mind with this question. It's an old traditional hymn: "Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All." That pretty much describes how I have come to know Jesus. He loves me so much that he has lived on the earth for me, suffered and died for me, and rose from the dead so that I can, too. Not only that, he established a church for me to learn about him; he gave me the sacraments so that I could be with him in more than just a spiritual way, and he is always in the process of converting my heart from stone to love by allowing me to see him in my neighbor. My relationship with Jesus is a relationship of gratitude and love.

10. *Why choose a life of sacrificial love in any vocation rather than a life of self-gratification?* If we decide to live out the vocation to which God has called us, we are choosing to be happy because it's only when we follow God's will for our lives that we live the way we were meant to live. That means that, when we love others as ourselves, we act as God does, because we are made in His image. If we only focus on what we want, we fail to realize that our very nature yearns to have a real relationship with others. We begin to objectify people instead of seeing them as they are: people made in God's image, as well, just like us! This is why we should choose to live for others; when we freely give of ourselves, we live like Christ, who gave the supreme model of living life to the fullest. Let's choose to follow his example!

## Archdiocesan priests celebrate Golden Jubilee

*Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of four articles to profile the jubilarians of the archdiocese, those priests who are celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood. This article highlights the ministries of Father Lowell Stieferman, Father Patrick McCool, OSB, and Father George Papius, all ordained May 25, 1963, and Father James Greiner, ordained Dec. 18, 1963; all are celebrating 50 years of priesthood.*

By Judy Hilovsky  
For the Sooner Catholic

### Father Stieferman, enthusiastic evangelist and former director of vocations

Father Lowell Stieferman was born in Perry, Okla., to Leo and Pauline Stieferman. There were two girls and two boys in this very devout Catholic family. When he was seven years old, his mother enrolled him at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Perry.

"At the end of my eighth grade year my pastor, Father Paul Brown, asked me if I wanted to go to the seminary and, to my surprise, I immediately said 'yes,'" Father Stieferman said.

His mother was upset and that night he heard his parents arguing.

"My dad must have persuaded my mother to let me go because, in the morning, I was given permission," he said.

Freshman year began at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Bethany, Okla., but, for his senior year and for the remainder of college and theology, he was sent to Saint John the Baptist Home Mission Seminary in Little Rock, Ark.

Father Stieferman's first assignment was at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral in downtown Oklahoma City.

"Having lived a very sheltered life, being from a small town in Oklahoma and then in the seminary for 12 years, I was in shock for a month or so as I adjusted to a downtown parish with the poverty, jails and con artists. With the help of Monsignor Harkin and Father Joe Thompson, I became a seasoned priest in a short time," he said.

"My greatest failure came shortly after ordination," he continued. "My dream was to convert most of downtown. As I observed all of the people who worked downtown, I thought, 'The church is missing a great opportunity at evangelization.' I asked for the advice of Monsignor Harkin and Father Thompson and they encouraged me. Ordinarily the instruction class was in a classroom, but I scheduled it in church so that there would be enough room for all the people. About five people came. One was actually a non-Catholic who eventually came into the church; the others were elderly parishioners who came to everything. At that point I realized that it would take me a little longer to convert most of the people who worked downtown."

His education continued as he learned about various cultures.

"My first experience of the different cultures in Oklahoma was the funeral of an elderly Catholic gypsy woman. The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' and this is certainly true of the Catholics in Oklahoma. Part of the joy of being a priest is to work with the many different cultures and how each expresses our common Catholic faith by their different customs," Father Stieferman said.

After spending four years as an associate at Saint Joseph's, he was transferred to Saints Peter and Paul in Tulsa, then as administrator at Saint Jude in Tulsa. His first parish as a pastor was Saint Peter Church in Woodward and missions of Sacred Heart Church in Mooreland and Holy Name Church in Shattuck. Other parishes included Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, Saint Francis Xavier Church in Enid, Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City, Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Newkirk, Epiphany of the Lord Church in Oklahoma and finally Saint Paul the Apostle Church in Del City.

"One of my great spiritual experiences as a priest happened when I attended the Sixth National Black Catholic Congress in Washington, D.C. in 1987. African-American parishes in the United States were encouraged to send delegates to this national convention. I was pastor of Corpus Christi parish in Oklahoma City and several of us from the parish were sent to represent our archdiocese. About 1,500 were in attendance including about 50 bishops. It was a joyful week of spiritual talks, setting goals, prayer services and a Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception," he said.

Father Stieferman talked of his other joy; he was director of vocations for the archdiocese for 11 years.

"To hear the many ways God calls young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood also helped my own Faith," he said.

Deacon Richard Fahy, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, said "Father Stieferman was a man who deeply cared for his parishioners, really enjoyed being with them and enjoyed being at Epiphany. I enjoyed working with him, very much."

### Father Patrick McCool, monastic prior and priest of the military

Father Patrick McCool was born to James and Elsie McCool in Wichita, Kan., and was their only child. He attended Saint Gregory's High School then on to Saint Gregory's College.

With his father's encouragement to think about the priesthood, Father McCool said, "I wanted to become a priest after being at Saint Gregory's College. I decided to become a priest so that I could provide spiritual assistance to others."

By 1956 he had decided he wanted to be a priest and a Benedictine monk. He entered Saint Gregory's Abbey on July 10, 1956, and professed on July 11 the following year. Father McCool studied theology at Saint Gregory's Abbey and was ordained on May 25, 1963.

For decades he taught at St. Gregory's College/University and continued his education. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame and a master's in library science from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was the pastor at Saint Vincent DePaul in McLoud from 1971 to 1976 followed by weekend assignments (pulpit fill-ins) from 1976 to 1979. Then in August 1979, he was assigned to Tinker AFB and is still assigned as a base priest.

He served for many years as prior of the abbey, second in authority after the abbot and on the senior council of the monastic community. He

continued on page 6

## Golden Jubilee

continued from page 5

succeeded Father Eugene Marshall as head librarian for Saint Gregory's College and served in that position while teaching English at Saint Gregory's College and University. In 2001, Father McCool received the Vatican Cross of Honor from Bishop Joseph Madera of the Military Diocese in recognition for his service to the community of Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City.

In his various ministries, he was called upon to help families and individuals overcome disasters and difficult situations. As challenging as that call was, it was also his greatest reward, Father McCool said.

"I have helped others during difficult times and have seen these people years later and they tell me how much it has helped them," he said. Of his legacy he hopes "that I was there when they needed me and was able to help them. I was there and cared about them," he said.

### Father Pupius, prayerful psychologist

Growing up in Krebs, Okla., Father George Pupius heard as an altar server that boys should consider the priesthood – but he was initially skeptical of his vocation.

"There were some priests in my hometown who had some problems and there was such gossip and he couldn't see himself in that fish bowl," Father Pupius said.

"God kept talking to me – thank goodness," he added.

He had family members who needed someone to pray for them – so he did.

"And the young ladies I dated – I was looking for a perfect love and decided I could only find it in God," he said.

"My pastor, Monsignor Higgins, gave me a book called *The Trappist*, and I thought, 'I'll do that' and went to be a Trappist. I was a novice to the priesthood but knew I couldn't be a Trappist; I couldn't sing and they sing everything. They suggested I try the brotherhood, but I still wanted to be a priest so it was off to Saint John's Seminary in Little Rock, Ark.," he said.

"The Lord carried me to the monastery where I learned the spiritual life and discipline. It made a man out of me and then God wanted me back out in the world," Father Pupius said.

Assignments included Christ the King, the Cathedral, Woodward with missions in Shattuck and Ceiling, pastor in Mangum with Hollis as a mission, Saint Andrew in Moore, Ada and finally Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City for the last 13 years.

With three masters degrees in psychology, counseling and applied psychology, it is understandable that helping people has been his greatest joy these past 50 years.

"I enjoy helping people get through their problems and suffering," he said.

As for his greatest challenge, Father Pupius chuckled before answering, "Myself." But he believes prayer life, devotion to our Lady and the Blessed Sacrament is what is most important.

For Father Billy Lewis of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche, Father Pupius was a big inspiration.

"I saw his example as a man of prayer, holiness and being there for people," Father Lewis said. "He was always ready to pray with people whether they were having a difficult time, needed encouragement or a pat on the back. I never heard Father George say anything bad about anyone, which was also something that stood out to me. During his time at Saint Andrew's, there were four or five of us who went to the seminary and four were ordained into the priesthood. I think that says a lot

about Father George's ministry."

### Father Greiner, from farm to Rome and back home again

By the time Father James Greiner was five or six his career path was nearly decided — priest or brain surgeon. He's not sure where the latter came from and the priesthood won his life's devotion. Like many celebrating a jubilee, he too played Mass, using his younger brother to serve and listen to his little homilies.

He was born to Austin and Lois Greiner and lived on a farm east of Marlo with his two brothers. He started serving Mass at the ripe old age of seven at a very small church. Father George Fangaear was always encouraging to Jimmy. One year, after midnight Mass, Father Fangaear presented him with a small altar, with clear candles and a clear cross with a light bulb inside. After seeing Father Greiner's expression, Father Fangaear asked what he thought.

"It's very nice but we have no electricity," Father Greiner replied.

Still, Father Fangaear continued to encourage him. Father Greiner begged his parents to allow him to go to seminary. He found out years later that it was again Father Fangaear who stepped up to help. Father Greiner's parents wrote to Father Fangaear for his opinion. The note they received back said, "If he is meant to be a priest, he will be. If not, he'll be back to help on the farm."

He went to Saint Francis Seminary in Oklahoma City starting in ninth grade and then moved on to Saint John in San Antonio, Tex., for his senior year. College at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio and then four years of theology at North American College in Rome, Italy. He was ordained Dec. 18, 1963, at Saint Ignatius Loyola Church in Rome before heading back to the United States.

His first service was to fill in at the old Mercy Hospital for a few weeks. Then off to Saint James Church for five years, followed by Immaculate Conception Church in Hugo with a mission at Saint Agnes in Antler. Then back to the Cathedral, Saint Cornelius Church, Saint Mary's in Ponca City and finally at Holy Spirit in Mustang for the last 17 years. Father Greiner will retire on Jan. 14, 2014, allowing him more time to help out where he is needed.

He has many joyful memories of teaching at Saint James and coaching the kids. Over the course of his service, Father Greiner has enjoyed sharing a meal and conversation with those in need, referring to these encounters as special times.

"I hope people will realize I gave 100 percent of myself," he said of his legacy.

Father Cory Stanley certainly thinks he did.

"Father Greiner was really the only priest I knew well as I grew up, and it was his example that inspired me to look more closely at the priesthood and to pray about what God might be calling me to do," he said.

"As I got to know him better, I knew that his hard work and faithful dedication to the church

were always rooted in prayer," Father Stanley said. "As a young seminarian, when my prayer life was being stretched, I remember him speaking to me about the importance of keeping our days holy by the constant praying of the Breviary, the priest's prayer book. His personal testimony to the power of prayer has always helped me to keep moving forward."

He continued, "Father Greiner baptized me, he has heard my confessions, he has nourished me with the Eucharist, stood next to me at my Confirmation, and he vested me both as a deacon and as a priest. The way he's walked with me along my Christian journey is a beautiful witness of what a priest does day in and day out. Getting to spiritually walk with people in this way is amazing."

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Father Stiefferman's first Mass.



Fr. Greiner with classmates in Rome.



Fr. McCool receives Papal Cross of Honor, June 9, 2001. Tinker AFB chapel

## Catechetical Congress inspires Oklahoma catechists

By Brianna Osborne  
The Sooner Catholic

Keynote speaker ValLimar Jansen prompted thought and drew laughs from an energy-infused audience at the Sept. 21 Catechetical Congress at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church.

"The people from the Baptist church next door are going to come over and say, 'What's going on with those Catholics?'" said Jansen to loud laughs.

Jansen also spoke at the Sept. 20 Catholic schools teachers' in-service.

"There'll be peace in that land, there'll be peace in that land..." sang Jansen, as catechists walked around the pews, giving high fives and finding dance partners according to Jansen's different cues.

After this initial mingling, the catechists found their seats and pondered the answer to some important questions.

"Who are you mentoring to replace you when the time is right," said Jansen. "Who is watching you profess our faith in your words and deeds?"

It was a time for reflection, as catechists thought back on their own mentors, prayed for the youth they are mentoring and remembered their role in the community. Jansen instructed each person to exchange phone numbers and emails with someone he did not know, to be a "prayer partner" for the year.

The catechists joined in with the hymns and songs throughout the rest of the day: "If you don't believe I've been redeemed, just follow me down to the Jordan stream," "Peace Before Us," "Open My Eyes, Lord."

Jansen cleverly addressed serious issues with humorous references – most notably her name for

"drive-by peacing," the phenomenon when people don't make eye contact, mumble some words and quickly move on to the next person during the Sign of Peace.

"As Catholics, we pray with our whole bodies," said Jansen. She recommended that while shaking hands Catholics should pray for each person they come in contact with.

Jansen also gave an amusing retelling of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In this version, a high energy wife tells the story of her journey to Emmaus with her husband and a stranger who turns out to be the risen Christ.

Each catechist received the book "Catholic Prayers and Practices," from which the group prayed several times during the congress. Hundreds of voices joined in praying traditional prayers such as the "Come Holy Spirit" and the "Act of Love."

Two teachers loved the presentation. "She was so lively, the non-Catholic teachers will be surprised," they said. Others waited in the back of the church during the dancing, singing and clapping, not used to these elements in Catholic celebrations.

Pat Koenig, director of the Office of Religious Education, said the weekend was a success.

"The event was very inspiring for all who came," she said. "ValLimar Jansen was very pleased with the hospitality offered her and with the interactions in the events."

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.



ValLimar Jansen

## Christian initiation rite ushers individuals into four stages of formation

By Sarah Cooper  
For the Sooner Catholic

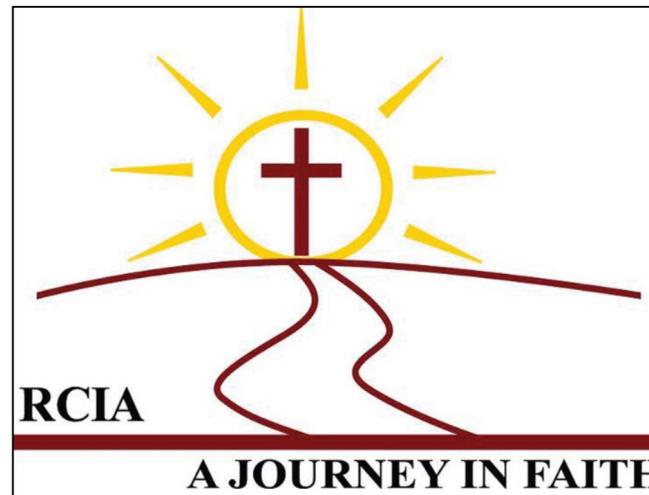
Annually at the beautiful Easter Vigil, churches are lit by candlelight and numerous individuals are welcomed into the Catholic Church. Before this can happen, potential Catholics are encouraged to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Throughout the year, RCIA programs are forming at local parishes. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith is welcome to attend weekly classes, taught by clergy and guest speakers. Participants are then able to discern if they are willing to commit their life to the Catholic faith.

"This journey usually begins quite a while before the student even enters the RCIA class," explained Jenni Butch, director of religious education at Christ the King parish in Oklahoma City. "Once they come to the class we feel our job is to open wide the teachings of the Church so that the student can make an informed decision about receiving the sacraments."

The modern form of RCIA began after the Second Vatican Council and is composed of four stages: pre-catechumenate, or inquiry; catechumenate; purification and enlightenment; and mystagogy.

"After the Second Vatican Council, there is now a dual emphasis that we want to convey information and achieve formation in Gospel living. We are trying to do more than teaching them the faith; we want to teach them how to live as a Christian,"



said Father Stephen Bird, pastor of Epiphany of our Lord parish in Oklahoma City. "The whole community of believers should be involved to form potential members in how we are called to live as a Christian."

The inquiry phase is open throughout the year to those interested in learning about the Catholic Church. Pastors decide on a case by case basis how then to proceed with the RCIA process.

"This process is not one that can be programmed on a pre-set timetable. Each individual has a unique faith journey and this journey and conversion unfolds as the Holy Spirit directs," explained Judy Reilly, the RCIA director at Epiphany of Our Lord parish in Oklahoma City. "In

our parish, Epiphany of the Lord, we have a year-round process. A person may join the process at any point in the year; when God nudges them and they are interested or ready, we are ready for them. Our inquiry team is prepared every Sunday to meet and welcome new inquirers to the group."

After inquirers determine that they would like to proceed, students will delve deeper in the Catholic faith during the catechumenate period. Finally, if the individual still desires to be a member of the Catholic Church, he or she will request baptism through the Rite of Election.

"The person seeking baptism should show evidence of a conversion of mind, heart and lifestyle, desiring to live a life of discipleship," added

Reilly.

During Lent, the phase of purification and enlightenment focuses on prayer and fasting in order to prepare the hearts of the elect for the celebration of the sacraments on Holy Saturday. As the participant progresses in RCIA, they begin to feel like they are truly meant to be members of the Catholic Church.

"Behind every tenet of doctrine, faith and teachings, was a warm smile and a true believer who was ready to wrap me up in the warmth of a familiar blanket of love and depth of conviction," said Brett Farley, who participated in RCIA at Saint Monica's. "RCIA offered me a sense of purpose and relationship I had longed for."

Once the individual has completed the first three phases of RCIA, he or she receives the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation – at the Holy Saturday Mass. New Catholics will then participate in the final phase, mystagogy, where they continue to learn about their new faith.

"When I attended RCIA, I truly realized what I had been missing in my life. RCIA provided me an adult education of the church," said Susan Hall, coordinator of RCIA at Saint John the Baptist parish in Edmond, Okla. "I was taught the joy and responsibility I have as a Catholic Christian. Anyone who is interested should just give it a try and be open-minded."

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

# Archbishop Coakley dedicates sacred spaces at Saint John the Baptist



# Jubilarians celebrate anniversaries



# Bishops, parishioners honor Our Lady of LaVang at Cathedral



## Review: Modern fairy tale – while imaginative and moral – falls short

“The Shadow of the Bear: A fairy tale retold” by Regina Doman Ches-terton Press 2008.



Reviewed by Cara Koenig  
Billed as a “Modern retelling of a classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, Snow White and Red Rose,” “The Shadow of the Bear” is set in modern day New York City. The original characters are all there: Blanch (Snow White), Rose (Rose Red), Mother and Bear.

The two girls are in high school for the first time, having been homeschooled until the death of their father. They had to move out of the country and into the city so their mother could obtain work as a nurse. So sets the story.

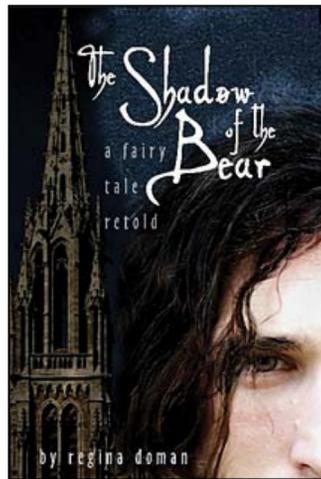
Doman has difficulty with the start of the book because of how she sees these original characters in the modern world. At times, the main four characters seem to be out of place with their thought, speech and even ideas. For example, what modern teenage girls would sit for hours and talk of poetry with each other much less with a young male friend time after time? When Blanch, Rose and Bear are having these discussions they sound as though they are 80-year-old literature teachers not modern teenagers.

After the first few chapters, this kind of talk and interaction comes

and goes, making the flow of the story choppy. Once Doman moves into the true story, the reader easily becomes involved with the characters and finally starts to be absorbed in the story, but Doman’s characters revert to the 80-year-old voices throughout the book.

This book also presents itself as a “Catholic” book, a retelling of the story with a Catholic perspective. The girls are in a Catholic high school, there are nuns as the teachers, there is a priest, and a chalice and a church are all wrapped up in the main story line. In chapter 10, before facing the “mean girls” (because there is at least one in every story!), “Blanch says a whole Hail Mary.” The girls fret about immodest attire and there is even a scene in which Blanch seeks refuge from bullying by slipping into a chapel.

The issue is that these Catholic themes in the book are more literary tools than portrayals of actual Catholic thought, actions or concerns. In chapter two, Blanch doesn’t even pray in the chapel; she just looks around. Not once in the book do they go to Mass or talk about their own faith or of faith in general. Many teens are struggling with faith, with questions about God. Yet God was never even mentioned in the book. Just because a book uses Catholic images as literary tools does not at its heart make it a Catholic book.



The meaning of “modern” in the phrase “modern retelling” is also questionable. Doman seems to just pull the characters out of “Once upon a time” and plop them into modern New York with modern problems but not always modern solutions.

Books for today’s teenaged girls need to have strong female characters to admire. Blanch and Rose at times seem to be heading in that direction; their characters begin to evolve and start to become more than the damsel in distress.

In chapter 10, Blanch steps out of her comfort zone and (spoiler alert)

goes to the prom after-party with Bear even though she had been bullied about not having a date. In chapter 11, Rose (spoiler alert) saves herself from a date gone very wrong and the bad judgment that got her there. This theme seems to continue as the two sisters become caught up in trying to save their friend Bear. They charge in to save the day, but (spoiler alert) they become damsels in distress and must be saved. In the original story of Snow White and Rose Red, the two girls are the heroes. Why would you change that?

The story overall is a fun read and it is the first in a trilogy with these characters, so maybe the writing and characters improve and the element of Catholicism becomes more realistic. At the very least, it is a book teens can read without worrying about bad language and graphic scenes. It does deal with some issues that teens face like bullying, dating and school.

“The Shadow of the Bear” is available in the archdiocesan library for check out.

If you are interested in fairy tales, though, I highly recommend you read the original Brothers Grimm tales first.

Cara Koenig is the photographer and special projects editor for the Sooner Catholic.

## Pope: Church must show what unity looks like, avoid divisions, gossip

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Backstabbing and gossip hurt people and harm God’s desire for a united human family, Pope Francis said.

Unity is a gift from God, “but often we struggle to live it out,” he said. “We are the ones who create lacerations.”

The pope also asked people to pray for persecuted Christians in the world and to be genuinely concerned about their plight, just as one would be for a family member in distress.

At his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square Sept. 25, Pope Francis continued his series of audience talks about the creed — looking at what Catholics believe about the church — and focused on the Catholic belief in “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.”

Catholics of every culture, language and part of the world are united in their common baptism and in sharing the church’s one faith and sacramental life, the pope said.

This unity in faith, hope, the sacraments and ministry “are like columns that support and hold together the one great edifice of the church,” he said. And it also helps Catholics feel like members of one family, “united no matter the distance” between them.

But the pope asked people to reflect upon whether they live out this unity or are they uninterested — preferring to be closed off from others, isolated within their own community, group of friends or nation.



Pope Francis poses with young people during an encounter with youth in Cagliari, Sardinia, Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

“It’s sad to see a ‘privatized’ church because of egoism and this lack of faith,” he said.

It’s especially sad when there are so many fellow Christians in the world who are suffering or being persecuted because of their faith, he said.

“Am I indifferent or is it like someone in the family is suffering?” he asked.

He asked everyone to be honest with themselves and respond in their hearts: “How many of you pray for Christians who are persecuted” and

for those who are in difficulty for professing and defending the faith?

“It’s important to look beyond one’s own fence, to feel oneself as church, one family of God,” he said.

But throughout history and even today, people within the church have not always lived this unity, he said. “Sometimes misunderstandings, conflicts, tensions and divisions crop up that harm (unity), and so the church doesn’t have the face we would want, it doesn’t demonstrate love and what God wants.”

“And if we look at the divisions

that still exist among Christians, Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants, we feel the hard work (needed) to make this unity fully visible.”

The world today needs unity, he said: “We need reconciliation, communion, and the church is the home of communion.”

Building unity starts with oneself and starts at home, the pope said.

“Everyone ask yourselves: Do I build unity in my family, parish and community or am I a gossip? Am I the reason for division and difficulty?”

The pope said talking badly about others hurts everyone, including the church and communities.

“Christians must bite their tongues before gossiping,” he said. “That will do us good because that way the tongue swells up, and you can’t talk” badly about others, he said to laughter and applause from the crowd.

He asked people to have the humility to repair the divisions in one’s life “with patience and sacrifice” and follow the Prayer of St. Francis to be instruments of God’s peace.

“Humility, gentleness, magnanimity and love for preserving unity are the real pathways of the church,” he said.

Because the Holy Spirit is the real “engine” behind the life and renewal of the church, prayer is important. Unity in diversity comes from the Holy Spirit, which everyone received with baptism and confirmation, he added.

The true richness of the church “is what unites us, not what divides us,” he said.

## Review: “Of Heaven and Earth” engages the imagination

By Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick  
For the Sooner Catholic

Good religious art makes us see the Gospel in a new way, by re-introducing us to a familiar scene or glimpsing another aspect of Christ’s humanity. The exhibit “Of Heaven and Earth,” at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art until Nov. 17, does just that, with its paintings from the principal artistic centers of Italy through five centuries, beginning in the 1300s.

Titian’s “Christ and the Adulteress” depicts the familiar scene from John’s Gospel in which the Pharisees bring the woman caught in adultery to Jesus, asking if they should stone her. Jesus replies, “He who is without sin shall cast the first stone.” In the painting, the young man who is dragging the adulteress to her judgment stands at the center, with Christ. The young man’s expression looks as if he is personally challenged by Christ’s words, causing the viewer to wonder whether he has been betrayed by a woman and stands in need of extending forgiveness. This leads the viewer to examine how Christ’s words extend to her, whom she might need to forgive.

Two expansive paintings by Salvator Rosa bring life to the early events of Christ’s ministry. The first, “Saint John the Baptist Baptizing Christ in the Jordan,” which covers nearly 50 square feet of canvas, is eye-catching for the jutting rocks and shaggy trees that cover the majority of the painting, with the figures small in the foreground. “Saint John the Baptist Revealing Christ to the Disciples” is similarly impressive in its immense landscape, forcing us to look for the figures. This time, underneath the projecting rocks and massive trees, we see three men facing a fourth, who stands and points into the distance. It is only then that we see the fifth figure, Christ. John the Baptist’s finger, like Christ’s gaze in Titian’s painting, connects the viewer to Christ’s promise of salvation.

Zuccarelli’s “John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness” illustrates the adult life of the last pre-Christian prophet. The crowd surround-



Above: “Saint Catherine Crowned” by Venetian At right: “Christ and the Adulteress” by Titian

ing John is diverse, and includes Roman soldiers. The face of the soldiers is obscure, making it unclear whether they are interested in the truth of John’s words or his potential threat to the established order.

The collection includes numerous portrayals of Christ’s infancy. One such painting by the unknown Master of the Glasgow Adoration, “Adoration of the Magi,” displays the



## Father Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute launches fall semester

By Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick  
For the Sooner Catholic

The Father Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute began its sixth year of classes on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Saint Joseph in Norman. Named for the Okarche native who gave his life in service of the people of Guatemala, the Institute shares Hispanic culture and the Spanish language with attendees.

The opening ceremony for the 2013-2014 Institute began with a full array of food from various countries, including Caribbean chicken, fruit salad and Cuban bread pudding for the 30 attendees. After dinner, members of the Saint Joseph’s Spanish Mass choir, led by Elizabeth Stowe, shared four songs from four different countries. The keynote speaker for the evening was Father Scott Boeckman, pastor of Saint Joseph, who spoke about our identity as children of God.

Luis Cortest, professor of Spanish at the University of Oklahoma, ended the evening by discussing the growing importance of understanding Hispanic language and culture in our own culture, including a departure from the negative view often associated with illegal immigration.

“Our Institute is committed to teaching people a positive view of



The Saint Joseph’s Spanish Mass choir shares songs from four different countries.

the Spanish-speaking world,” Cortest said. “We are lucky and blessed to have quite a few scholars from OU, including Dr. Ruiz.”

María de Jesús Páez de Ruiz, coordinator and curriculum developer for the Institute, worked in a similar institute for priests in Puerto Rico, who came “from New York, Chicago and other places to learn the language and the culture,” her husband, Ignacio M. Ruiz, shared. “This is what the point is, to learn, for people to integrate and communicate, in order to develop the society.”

Many attendees have returned, wanting to learn more after previous years’ classes. Bob Seaton,

who began attending classes last January, explained his reasons for coming back. “I’m still interested in Spanish culture, in the first hour of lecture and I want to learn beginning Spanish.”

Ann Geiger, another returning attendee, added, “It’s a fantastic place to learn about the history of Mexico and Spain, and it’s very interesting. In school, we just didn’t get that part of history.”

For Angie Matthews, the language is very important. “I’m seeing the need to learn the language. Other countries learn English. We should learn Spanish to better communicate to the people here.”

Wise Men’s visit to the young Jesus. Jesus sits peacefully on Mary’s knee, while the kings offer their gifts. An elderly Joseph looks on almost sadly from the background. What was it like for Christ’s earthly father: Was he irritated, tired, eager to be back on the road home, sorrowful that his age may prevent him from watching Christ’s life unfold?

Another highlight from Christ’s early life is Antiveduto Gramatica’s “Virgin and Child with Saint Anne,” which shows a peaceful, amused Mary alongside her mother, Anne, who is teasing the Christ-child with cherries. Christ, around a year old, is reaching for them, much like any child would reach for sweets. The strain of Christ’s body conveys his human delight in earthly pleasures.

Many more paintings in the collection, such as Signorelli’s “Lamentation Over Dead Christ,” engage the imagination with the Gospels, making the collection a must-see.

Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahoma City.

The Institute conducts classes every Tuesday through May, with the cultural portion running from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the language classes following until 9:30 p.m. While registration officially closed Tuesday, Sept. 24, the Institute will work with people who begin later. The next official registration will take place in January, with the spring semester opening on Jan. 21.

The cost for each semester is \$25, which covers the cost of the food from various countries, served at the beginning of each evening. In addition to the Hispanic cuisine, the cultural portion includes a speaker on a particular topic, with topics ranging from the Hispanic world and the Spanish conquest to arts, literature, faith and culture. The language classes are offered at the Beginner, Intermediate I, Intermediate II and Advanced levels.

Saint Joseph’s choir member Elizabeth Stowe, who has helped with the institute for five years, expressed the institute’s importance. “The students can understand the Hispanic community and enrich themselves. The more you learn about culture, the more you love.”

Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahoma City.

## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

# “No olviden a los pobres”

Cuando se hizo evidente que sería elegido Papa en el cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal le susurró en el oído al cardenal Bergoglio: “No te olvides de los pobres”. Seis meses después del comienzo de su papado se ha vuelto muy claro que el Papa Francisco no tiene ninguna intención de pasar por alto estos pequeños hermanos y hermanas nuestros. Su preocupación especial por los pobres y marginados, ya se ha convertido en el sello distintivo de su pontificado.

Cada uno de nosotros debe tomar en serio la misma amonestación. La edición anterior del periódico Sooner Catholic destacó las numerosas obras de Caridades Católicas, ya que pone en marcha su Campaña Anual de 2013 con el tema: “Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre.” Aunque hay muchas opciones para responder a los gritos de los pobres, las Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es el organismo oficial de la Iglesia católica que actúa en nuestro nombre para aliviar el sufrimiento y la pobreza en el centro y el oeste de Oklahoma. Como católicos de Oklahoma podemos estar muy orgullosos de su excelente servicio en el nombre de Cristo y de su Iglesia.

Como Caridades Católicas trabaja para extender la misericordia de Cristo a los que sufren en Oklahoma. CRS actúa en nuestro nombre para traer la compasión de Cristo hacia los que sufren en todo el mundo. CRS, es la agencia de ayuda humanitaria internacional oficial de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos. Lleva a cabo el compromiso de los Obispos de Estados Unidos, como pastores de la Iglesia para ayudar a los pobres y vulnerables en más de 91 países de todo el mundo. El año pasado CRS sirvió a más de 100 millones de habitantes. Tengo el privilegio de servir en su Consejo de Administración.

A principios de este mes que hice mi primera visita como miembro de una delegación de CRS cuando viajamos a Ruanda. Todo lo que sabía de Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994 que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en el breve lapso de cuatro meses. Como muchos de ustedes hemos visto la película “Hotel Ruanda”. A pesar de que es una parte muy importante de la historia dolorosa de ese país no cuentan toda la historia. He sido profundamente afectado por todo lo que vimos y presenciamos durante esa visita.



cutline

CRS ha estado en Ruanda durante cincuenta años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las nuevas necesidades de una nación afligida por la pobreza, la enfermedad y la violencia. A principios de la participación de CRS allí la atención se había centrado en los programas de alimentación escolar a gran escala.

Más tarde, la atención se centró en el desarrollo de la pequeña empresa y la producción agrícola para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las habilidades y capacidades para alimentarse. Cuando el VIH/SIDA se extendió por el continente africano CRS incremento sus actividades de apoyo a los servicios de terapia antirretroviral en las zonas rurales y a ayudar a las comunidades a cuidar de los huérfanos y niños vulnerables de las familias que viven con el SIDA. Los esfuerzos de prevención del SIDA continúan a través de abstinencia eficaz y de programas “ser fiel” en las escuelas y comunidades.

En las secuelas de la guerra y el genocidio de 1994 CRS comenzó una respuesta inmediata a las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inimaginable y el trauma que ha dejado tan terribles heridas en el tejido social del país.

Hoy CRS en Ruanda está apoyando impresionantes programas de nutrición y agrícolas, el desarrollo de los ahorros y de las comunidades creativas de préstamos internos y programas de micro -finanzas que las iniciativas empresariales de pequeña escala de crianza y permiten a las personas a salir de la pobreza. Estas son sólo algunas de las iniciativas creativas y eficaces que están en curso.

La mayoría de los Ruandeses son católicos. Hemos sido testigos de una Iglesia vibrante pero aún luchando las consecuencias del genocidio. Las relaciones Iglesia/Estado son delicadas. Celebramos la misa diaria en varias parroquias y quedamos profundamente conmovidos por la hospitalidad y la alegría de estas comunidades. Durante nuestra visita nos reunimos con líderes de la Iglesia de Ruanda y el Nuncio Apostólico en Ruanda. CRS está trabajando en estrecha colaboración con la Iglesia local para ayudar a la Iglesia en Ruanda, en el desarrollo de su propia capacidad para apoyar sus necesidades e iniciativas pastorales. A través de sus alianzas con la Iglesia católica local, así como su colaboración con diversas organizaciones humanitarias y agencias gubernamentales, CRS está extendiendo el amor y la compasión de Cristo a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos en los Estados Unidos.

Ruanda es un país pequeño, del tamaño de Maryland. Tiene una población de más de 12 millones de personas, y ¡su población es muy joven! Hay mucha pobreza, pero hay una gran esperanza. La magnitud de los desafíos que enfrenta el país es casi inimaginable. Pero CRS está salvando vidas todos los días. Se está afirmando la dignidad humana y el fomento de una verdadera esperanza en las personas que viven en medio de grandes dificultades y sufrimientos. Aunque CRS ha tenido recientemente sus críticos vocales, estoy muy orgulloso de servir a esta organización católica y para garantizar que siga siendo lo que ha sido durante setenta años, un abanderado de compromiso de la Iglesia católica para servir a los pobres



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

## Cortas enseñanzas de Apologética Católica

Hola amigos, continuamos con los Testigos de Jehová.

Trataremos en esta oportunidad, algo sobre las finanzas de esta organización. No es extraño para nosotros los católicos, escuchar de parte de los que no nos quieren; cosas como, que el Vaticano posee muchas riquezas; que el Vaticano debería vender todo el oro y joyas de los cálices y vasos sagrados para dárselo a los pobres y todo tipo de anacronismos e insensateces irracionales, en cuanto al dinero y bienes que posee la Iglesia. La Iglesia y sus finanzas, está en la mira de todo el mundo. Juzgan a la Iglesia, la señalan, la acusan por poseer bienes, por haber sabido manejar e invertir, etc. Pero ¿por qué será que nadie habla de los dineros o finanzas de las Iglesias no católicas? Nadie habla cómo vive un pastor; a dónde van los diezmos de los grupos proselitistas y fundamentalistas evangélicos; nadie habla sobre el evangelio de la prosperidad, que presentan algunas sectas y grupos no católicos, para llenar sus arcas a

costa de la ignorancia de la gente y la astucia de los pastores. No, nadie habla de eso. Sólo miran a la Iglesia Católica y la señalan con el dedo índice.

Considero que es oportuno, entonces, hablar de la economía y cómo se sostiene económicamente los Testigos de Jehová. Para los que nos lo saben, la organización de los Testigos de Jehová se constituye un verdadero IMPERIO COMERCIAL, revestido de religiosidad.

Los Testigos de Jehová, es una organización, una empresa, una compañía comercial de libros, folletos y revistas. Su base y centro de operaciones y casa matriz, está establecida en Brooklyn, New York. Poseen para la producción de sus libros, maquinaria tecnificada y costosa, muy bien dotada. Para poder vender su literatura utiliza en más de 200 países millones de vendedores, que no se les paga ni un centavo. ¿Quiénes? esos que van de dos en dos y que tocan de puerta a puerta,

con corbata y maletín para “convertirlo”.

Los libros, folletos y revistas se venden con relativa facilidad, toda vez que la literatura que producen en sus ediciones es de millones, así los libros salen baratos. Según, ex testigos de Jehová, que tuvieron acceso a las cifras de libros vendidos y su respectiva ganancia, constatan que en 1975 por ejemplo, se produjo en ese año 63.305.420 entre libros y folletos, calcule usted entonces, las ganancias. Animan a los vendedores, además de engañarlos que la venta de libros está dirigida por el mismo Jehová, apoyándose en textos bíblicos como Apocalipsis 9,16.

Si bien es cierto que los Testigos de Jehová no pasan la cesta en sus reuniones, no es menos cierto, que son sagaces para lograr dinero y donaciones de otra manera.



Por Padre Raúl Sánchez

En más de cien años la organización de los Testigos de Jehová ha logrado un imperio mundial. Su riqueza en bienes muebles e inmuebles es grandísima. En más de 200 países donde poseen sucursales tienen grandes edificios, equipados y con máquinas modernas de imprenta. Son propietarios de grandes granjas. ¿De dónde han sacado tanto dinero para lograr tantos bienes? De distintos modos, el más eficaz, a costa de los pobres seguidores de maletín y corbata que van de dos en dos y de puerta a puerta. (Segunda carta de Pedro, capítulo 2,1 y 3)

El Padre Raúl Sánchez, original de Bogotá, Colombia incardinado a esta Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es Pastor Asociado en la Parroquia Santiago en Oklahoma Ciudad. El Padre Sánchez es abogado en Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad la Gran Colombia, de su país. Y es Licenciado en Teología del Seminario Mayor de Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

## Instituto Cultural Hispano del Padre Stanley Rother Emrende el Semestre de Otoño

Por Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick

For the Sooner Catholic

El Instituto Cultural Hispano del Padre Stanley Rother empezó su sexto año de clases el martes 17 de septiembre, en la Parroquia de San José en Norman. Nombrado en honor del nativo de Okarche quien dio la vida por el servicio del pueblo de Guatemala, el Instituto comparte la cultura hispana y el idioma español con los que asisten.

La ceremonia de apertura para el curso del instituto 2013-2014 empezó con un surtido completo de comida de varios países, incluyendo el pollo caribeño, ensalada de frutas y pudín de pan de Cuba para los 30 asistentes. Después de la cena, los miembros del coro de la Misa en español de San José, dirigido por Elizabeth Stowe, ofrecieron cuatro canciones de cuatro países diferentes. El orador de la tarde fue el Padre Scott Boeckman, párroco de San José, quien habló de Nuestra Identidad como Hijos de Dios.

Luis Cortest, el profesor de español en la Universidad de Oklahoma, terminó la tarde en hablar de la creciente importancia de entender el idioma y la cultura hispana en nuestra propia cultura, incluyendo una reforma de las ideas negativas asociada a menudo con la inmigración ilegal.

“Nuestro Instituto está comprometido a enseñarle al pueblo una perspectiva positiva del mundo hispanohablante,” dijo Cortest. “Tenemos la suerte y estamos bendecidos de tener un buen número de eruditos de la Universidad de Oklahoma, incluyendo el Dr. Ruiz”.

María de Jesús Páez de Ruiz, coordinadora y desarrolladora del currículo para el Instituto, trabajó en un instituto similar para sacerdotes en Puerto Rico, quienes vinieron “de Nueva York, Chicago y otros lugares



Coro de la Misa en español de San José.

para aprender el idioma y la cultura,” dijo su esposo, Ignacio M. Ruiz “este es el punto, aprender, para que el pueblo se integre y comunique, con el fin de desarrollar la sociedad”.

Muchos participantes han vuelto, con ganas de aprender más después de tomar clases en años previos. Bob Seaton, que comenzó a asistir a clases en enero pasado, explicó sus razones de regresar. “Todavía estoy interesado en la cultura hispana, que se ofrece en la primera hora de la conferencia y quiero aprender el español para principiantes”.

Ann Geiger, otra participante que volvió, añadió, “Es un lugar fantástico para aprender la historia de México y España, y es muy interesante. En la escuela, no tuvimos esa parte de historia”.

Para Angie Matthews, el idioma es muy importante. “Estoy viendo la necesidad de aprender el idioma. Los otros países aprenden el inglés. Debemos aprender el español para comunicarnos mejor con la gente aquí”.

El Instituto ofrece clases cada martes hasta mayo, con la parte cultural de las 7 a las 8 de la tarde y siguien-

do con las clases del idioma hasta las 9:30 de la noche. Mientras que la inscripción se cerró oficialmente el martes 24 de septiembre, el Instituto aceptará personas que comiencen más tarde. La próxima inscripción oficial tomará lugar en enero, con la apertura del semestre primaveral, el 21 de enero.



Padre Letourneau y los participantes disfrutaron de la comida tradicional mexicana.

## “¡Pero no puedo hacerlo!”

Por el Padre Shane Tharp

Durante un año glorioso, enseñé preparatoria en Mount Saint Mary. Fue glorioso para mí y sospecho que aterrador para los estudiantes. Eso es una suposición de mi parte, aunque las cartas que recibí de inspectores de la ONU sugieren lo contrario. (Esto es, por supuesto, una mentira, una broma, la ONU no envía cartas en situaciones como esta. Envían sus tropas). Yo creía en desafiar a mis alumnos, sobre todo porque eran chicos brillantes y que se dirigirían a la universidad pronto. Si ellos pensaban que yo era malo, les esperaba una sorpresa.

En cualquier caso, los estudiantes venían a mí cuando luchaban con el material (y seamos honestos, esta es la forma en que un maestro principiante enseña), con la misma súplica: “Pero no puedo hacerlo.” Seamos claros, que estos chicos, realizados en muchas áreas de su vida: vida académica, deportiva, en teatro y toda la gama. El comentario “No puedo hacerlo” genuinamente me confundía y perplejaba. Me tomó un tiempo darme cuenta de que la frase “no puedo hacerlo” traducía a

“Necesito ayuda con las destrezas y habilidades con el fin de hacer esto.”

La vida moral puede parecer así, principalmente porque nos centramos en sólo la mitad del rompecabezas. Tenemos la tendencia a encajarnos en la parte de “evitar el mal”, ya que es fácil de medir. La lógica es “robar es malo, yo no robé, ¡Hurra, he cumplido la vida moral! “Y eso está bien, hasta cierto punto. El problema sale cuando trato de lograr algo. Estoy totalmente bien evitando el mal, pero eso no me dice nada acerca de cómo debo actuar efectivamente. La otra parte de la vida moral de un católico me obliga a “hacer el bien”.

Esta área de hacer el bien obstaculiza a la gente todo el tiempo, sin duda me obstaculiza a mí. La parte de evitar el mal es tan fácil porque está relativamente bien definido. Pero, ¿cómo evaluó las ocasiones cuando realmente he dejado de hacer el bien necesario?

Dios nos da, junto con todas las gracias sacramentales y necesarias que necesitamos, carismas para hacer el bien. Estos carismas equipan a todos los católicos, con el poder para cumplir la misión que Dios ha confiado a todos los bautizados. Sí, también esto lo incluye a usted que lee este artículo. La Iglesia no funciona en un sistema de dos niveles, donde el clero hace todo y los laicos deben “orar, pagar y obedecer,” como dice el viejo refrán. Todos los miembros de la Iglesia comparten “corresponsabilidad” por el bien de la Iglesia y por su labor de compartir la historia de Jesús.

He experimentado vívidamente en mi propia parroquia cómo esta verdad emociona y aterroriza a la gente. Durante nuestro estudio de los Hechos, las lecturas mencionan estos carismas. El grupo pasó algún tiempo hablando de ellos, sobre todo porque era emocionante ver cómo el Espíritu Santo obró en la Iglesia primitiva. Cuando la conversación se movió hasta el punto de que el Espíritu Santo sigue trabajando activamente en la Iglesia en esta forma, dijo un participante, “pero Padre, ¿cómo podemos saber cuáles pueden ser esos regalos?”

El Espíritu Santo da los carismas para la edificación de la Iglesia, se sigue que la Iglesia debe ayudar a los miembros individuales de la Iglesia a discernir lo que los carismas pueden ser y cómo podrían utilizarse



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provechosamente. En la parroquia del Santo Nombre, estamos organizando un “Taller Llamados y Dotados” en octubre con el fin de ayudar a las personas a discernir los carismas. Si usted piensa que Dios le está llamando y quiere conocer Su voluntad, considérese invitado.

El punto es el siguiente: Usted puede hacerlo porque Dios le da las herramientas para hacerlo. ¿Qué es esta gran obra que tiene en mente? Nada menos que ser perfectos como su Padre es perfecto. Pero sólo puede hacerlo en cooperación con el que y el cómo que Dios quiere obrar en usted.

# Annual Red Mass: “Justice is essential to the bedrock of our society”

By **Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick**  
For the *Sooner Catholic*

Oklahoma City’s annual Red Mass took place on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The tradition of the Mass to pray for judges, lawyers and those in public office dates back to the 13th century. The title of the Mass comes from the red vestments worn by the celebrants to echo the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon those in the legal professions.

Archbishop Coakley expressed the importance of the Red Mass: “I’m honored to have the opportunity to promote and host the Red Mass in support of the legal community and other civic leaders, who serve the church and society.”

This year’s Red Mass, attended by more than 300, was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley. Former rector of the Cathedral Bishop Edward Weisenburger of the Diocese of Salina, current rector Father John Metzinger and Father Stephen Bird concelebrated. Deacon Paul Albert, a lawyer from Elk City, and Deacon Paul Lewis assisted. Together with the clergy, professors and faculty members, members of the judiciary and civic leaders processed to the Cathedral.

The readings began with an exhortation to jus-

tice from the Prophet Amos. In his homily, Bishop Weisenburger connected this to the purpose of the Mass, speaking to those in the legal profession and civic leaders present, “We pray for you tonight, because we need you to be prophets of justice. While the task doesn’t belong to you alone, your part is absolutely critical.”

He continued, “By your professional endeavors, but even more fundamentally by your lives and example, you are to hold up a mirror to society, showing us what we can be... Justice is essential to the bedrock of our society. Without that stability, the innocent, the weak, the sick, the poor—the voiceless of our land—are stripped of their dignity. Your task of holding up that mirror to the people of our city, state and nation, helps them to recognize what Amos knew, which is that each of us has been created in God’s image.”

For many attendees, these special prayers for their profession spur them to attend. Deacon Albert expressed his reasons for attendance: “We need to ask the Holy Spirit for all the wisdom we can get to do our jobs correctly. The type of work we do is very difficult and very stressful.”

His son, John Paul Albert, a third year law student at the University of Oklahoma also attended, along with fellow classmate Philip Fletcher.

Fletcher, a parishioner of Saint Ann’s in Fairview, drove down with his wife for the Mass because he “was intrigued by the Holy Spirit calling on us, through the bishop.”

During the reception, Albert and Fletcher sat with two of their professors, Evelyn Aswad and Owen Anderson. For both Aswad and Anderson, attending the Red Mass is a tradition. Aswad, the International Law Chair who recently moved to Oklahoma from Washington, D.C., said, “I came because I used to go in D.C. to the Red Mass, and it’s a lovely tradition. The Supreme Court would come to launch their year of cases.”

Tish Eason, chancellor of the archdiocese and an attorney, added: “Each year the Red Mass leads me to recall the teachings of Saint Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church and also a lawyer, who urged all to integrate their faith and their work and by his example demonstrated how to do so. Tonight through the Scriptures and the homily this message was reinforced as we were called to be the best examples of the legal profession -- ‘men and women whose lives bear a transparent witness to the treasure that has been entrusted to them—a light to be kept burning brightly.’”

*Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahoma City.*

## Briefs



### MSM staff retreat day

Members of the University of Central Oklahoma ULEAD Challenge Course came to Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School on Sept. 6 to guide the MSM faculty and staff through games that emphasized communication, teamwork and trust. Staff members participated in several activities that included an obstacle course and parachute toss.

“We laughed together, played together and prayed together,” said Principal Talita DeNegri. “Just as we want our students to be a family, it’s important that our faculty also share a sense of family. They had to find leaders, cooperate, encourage one another through challenges, and accomplish tasks as a team.”

Staff members hope to continue to use the skills they learned at the retreat with each other and with their students in the MSM classrooms.

### Navy submarine officers visit Mount St. Mary High School

Honor. Courage. Commitment. These U.S. Navy values were shared with Mount Saint Mary students on Sept. 18 when Commander Andrew Peterson and Alexander Culpovich, MM(SS) came from the USS Oklahoma City, a nuclear submarine, to speak about life and careers in the Navy.

Mount Saint Mary Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics teacher, John Baldrige, who arranged for the visit, said, “My students learned a great deal about life and careers in the Navy, and it was an honor to have as our guests

such men who serve our country well.”

MSM coach and teacher, John Keilty, a former Navy Officer himself, stated, “Rocket students showed a great deal of respect and appreciation for that man and his crew and the incredible job and sacrifice that they do for our country and I will promise you that meant more than words can say to those Naval Officers.”

The visit was also featured on local news, including an interview with MSM student Declan Basile, whose father is also in the Navy. “It’s a great source of inspiration,” said Basile. The Navy crew was in the Oklahoma City area to tour Tinker AFB and other sites.

### Saint Ann Retirement Center prepares for 7th annual craft fair

Saint Ann Retirement Center will host the 7th Annual Fall Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 9, 2013, in the Grand Theater. The Retirement Center is located at 7501 W. Britton Road in Oklahoma City. Entertainment will include accordion player Dick Albreski in the morning and concert pianist Virginia Campbell in the afternoon. Refreshments will be served. Tours will be available upon request. For more information or to reserve booth space, call Richard, Tereasa or Martha at (405) 721-0747.

### Archbishop Coakley to commemorate apparition of Our Lady of Fatima at event in Bison

At 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, Archbishop Paul Coakley will be at the Archdiocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima in Bison, Okla., to celebrate the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. The day will include a short history of the apparition, a communal rosary at the Shrine of Our Lady, Mass and a parish dinner. The event is open to the public.

### Oklahoma City University to host basic faith community nurse preparation course

The six sessions of a basic faith community nurse preparation course will be Oct. 17 —19, Nov. 7 — 9 in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel of Oklahoma City University.

Faith Community Nursing is a recognized specialty practice for registered nurses, combining professional nursing and health ministry. This is an independent nursing practice where the nurse performs many roles including educator, personal health counselor and integrator of faith and health. At the forefront of these duties is the special emphasis on the intentional care of the spirit.

For more information, contact Sharon Rowland

at (405) 208-6404 or sjrowland@okcu.edu/nursing/continuingedu.aspx. Scholarships available.

### John Bergsma to headline Saint John Nepomuk parish mission

John Bergsma, Ph.D., will lead a mission from Oct. 19 to Oct. 21 at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon.

Bergsma is an associate professor of theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, where he has twice been named Teacher of the Year and is a frequent guest on EWTN programs like Franciscan University Presents and The Journey Home. He grew up Protestant (Dutch Calvinist) and served as a pastor for four years before becoming Catholic in 2001 while getting a Ph.D. in Scripture from the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). He completed his doctoral work on the Year of Jubilee in 2004, and has been teaching in Steubenville ever since. Bergsma specializes in the Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Bible Basics for Catholics: A New Picture of Salvation History is Bergsma’s latest publication.

The mission will kick off with a dinner at 6 p.m. Oct. 19 in Marian Hall (RSVP required). Subsequent sessions begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 and at either 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Oct. 21 (same talk at both times). Babysitting will be provided for the evening sessions. To RSVP for dinner or to reserve a space in the nursery, call the parish office at (405) 354-2743.

### Holy Name of Jesus to host “Called and Gifted” Workshop

The Colorado-based Catherine of Siena Institute will present a workshop to facilitate the discernment of spiritual gifts. The Called and Gifted workshop is a two-day live presentation, which will include Church teaching on the laity, lay apostleship, the nature of spiritual gifts, call, vocation and the process of discernment. The workshop is billed as “especially useful” for “active parishioners, young adults, people in transition, new or returning Catholics, those interested in religious vocations, those active in ministry, parish staff and leadership, clergy and religious and people looking for answers.” The first session of the retreat is from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Oct. 25, in Saint Joseph’s Hall at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Chickasha, Okla. The second session is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 26. The registration fee is \$25.00 before Oct. 11 or \$35.00 after Oct. 11. Lunch will be provided. To register, visit the “Adult Formation” section of www.holynamechickasha.org or call the office at (405) 224-6068 and ask for Joel.

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

**29 Annual Czech Mass** at St. John Nepomuk Church in Yukon at 10:20 am. The Rev. John Michalicka, will celebrate the Mass. The homily will be presented in Czech as well as English and everyone is invited to dress in their traditional Czech Kroj.

### OCTOBER

**1 Catholics Returning Home** at St. Charles Borromeo Parish. This an informal discussion group for people who are interested in returning to the Church. The group will be meeting on Tuesday, October 1, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Kastner Room. The remaining dates are Oct. 8, 15, 22, and 29. For more information contact the parish office at 789-2595.

**5 The St. Benedict Annual Carnival** in Shawnee from 8 a.m. - 7p.m. at 632 N Kickapoo. Open to everyone. Activities include a huge Granny’s

Attic, food booths, game booths, raffle, Silent Auction, Bingo, Entertainment and kid’s activities. Come join the fun and stay for Mass at 5:30 p.m.

**5 Craft Fair** at St. James in Oklahoma City, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vendors and crafters welcome call the church at 636-6800.

**6 Birth Choice of Oklahoma Celebration of Life Walk** to Benefit Rose Home at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and Life Walk starts at 2 p.m. For more information or to register go to www.watchfortheunborn.org.

**6 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy** will be at St. Mark in Norman, at 5:30 p.m.

**9 Craft Fair** at Saint Ann Retirement Center in the Grand Theater. Over 30 vendors will be present.

Entertainment will include Accordion Player Dick Albreski and Concert Pianist Virginia Campbell. The event will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served as well as drawings for door prizes. Tours will be available upon request. For more information or to reserve booth space, call Richard, Tereasa or Martha at 721-0747.

**13 Mass for Anniversary of Dedication of the Cathedral**, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 10 a.m.

**13 Charismatic Healing Mass**, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th Street, Oklahoma City. For more information call the Church office at (405) 685-4806.

**18-20 God’s Music is Silence retreat.** Come away to a Silent Retreat to explore your creativity and to get

closer to our Creative God in Whose image we are made. Katie Gordy is facilitating a retreat from 9 am October 18th- noon on October 20th at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The Retreat is open to men or women. If you have any questions or to register, call Katie Gordy at 627-6954 or email at kgordy11@cox.net.

**19 Children’s Fall Festival** at St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall 3901 S. Sunnyslane Rd, Del City Games, concessions, cakewalk Tickets are 25¢ each.

**19 St. Charles Catholic Singles (and friends) Dance** at 5054 N. Grove Ave., OKC. Gathering from 7 - 8 p.m. Music begins at 8 p.m. and last dance at 11 p.m. All are welcome to invite others to come along. Further information; call Al: (405) 631-0763

## Job Box

### Part-time Title I teachers wanted

**Catapult Learning** is seeking a part-time Oklahoma certified teacher to provide Reading and/or math instruction in small group settings in Oklahoma City, OK. Applicants must meet the highly qualified requirements as described by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Catapult Learning provides contracted instructional services with the necessary educational expertise in reading, mathematics, writing, and related areas; diagnoses learning skill deficits and delivers prescribed instructional delivery methods as determined by the Company; consults with school personnel to coordinate efforts in providing services to students; communicates and conferences with parents providing information on student progress. If interested, APPLY at: <https://careers-catapult.com/jobs/1927/teacher/job?mode=view>

icims.com/jobs/1927/teacher/job?mode=view

### Pastoral Care, Lead

**St. Anthony Shawnee Hospital** is seeking a Pastoral Care, Lead, responsible for development and implementation of a continuum of spiritual care services to carry out our Mission and Values by providing spiritual and emotional support to patients, families, visitors and hospital employees by witnessing as a Christian and fostering holistic care of the patient in conjunction with other hospital personnel. This position requires a Bachelor’s Degree and a minimum of 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Experience in a hospital setting as well as board certification with a national chaplain association are preferred. To apply please go to [www.stanthonyshawnee.com](http://www.stanthonyshawnee.com).

### Director of Vocational Services

**The Center of Family Love** is seeking a Director of Vocational Services. The Director of Vocational Services is responsible for operations management of vocational programs for developmentally disabled adults. This includes providing adequate staffing, marketing, budgeting, inventory & supply management and oversight of retail operations. Additionally, the Director must be cognizant of regulatory compliance for State Use Programs & Developmental Disabilities Service Division (DDSD) guidelines. If interested, email your resume to [HR@cflinc.org](mailto:HR@cflinc.org) for further consideration.

### Part-time cafeteria help

**Bishop McGuinness Cafeteria** is now taking applications for part-time

cafeteria help. If interested please contact Laura Scott by email [lscott@bmchs.org](mailto:lscott@bmchs.org) or call 842-6656 for an appointment

### Temporary Full Time Disaster Case Managers -4 Positions

An opportunity exists for a creative and energetic social service provider to provide case management services in our Long Term Recovery Disaster Case Management program. Requires a degree in social work or a related field and the ability to establish and maintain relationships with local community service providers. Interested applicants should submit resumes to Human Resources, Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK, 73106. For more information contact: [nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org](mailto:nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org)



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Councils: 3113, 3220, 8204



**Rob Blakely**  
405-243-8324  
[Robert.Blakely@kofc.org](mailto:Robert.Blakely@kofc.org)  
Councils: 916, 1038, 1044, 1053, 5266, 13366, 949, 1533, 1537, 1903, 2974, 3309, 3336, 4042, 9334, 11135



**Troy Snow**  
918-856-9303  
[Troy.Snow@kofc.org](mailto:Troy.Snow@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1104, 1302, 1677, 10388, 11194, 11734, 11959, 13313, 14248, 775, 4519, 7392, 9333, 14106



**Chad McAuliff**  
918-284-0685  
[Chad.McAuliff@kofc.org](mailto:Chad.McAuliff@kofc.org)  
Councils: 6606, 962, 4804, 9668, 4721, 7395, 8433, 13828, 3167, 14448, 14220, 11633



**Ric Moore**  
405-641-9582  
[Richard.Moore@kofc.org](mailto:Richard.Moore@kofc.org)  
Councils: 6477, 10822, 11237, 12669



**Chris O'Lague**  
405-343-9661  
[Chris.OLague@kofc.org](mailto:Chris.OLague@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1018, 5160, 8523, 9901, 11648, 12108, 12605, 12819, 3556, 5168, 5354, 12382



**Jody Snowder**  
405-474-6192  
[Jody.Snowder@kofc.org](mailto:Jody.Snowder@kofc.org)  
Councils: 767, 3101, 4601, 5440, 6478, 12518, 14744, 8633



**Michael Calhoun**  
405-990-0572  
[Michael.Calhoun@kofc.org](mailto:Michael.Calhoun@kofc.org)  
Councils: 965, 1287, 5396, 5759, 4026, 4598, 11909, 4889, 9583, 9900, 2604

# Frances Savely Catholic School Educator of the Year 2013

At the recent Teacher's Fall Institute held at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation awarded its 2013 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Frances Savely. Frances is a second grade teacher at Saint Eugene Catholic School in Oklahoma City. She has spent the past 27 years involved in the parish and school at Saint Eugene and has taught second grade for the last 19 years.

Through the love and sacrifices made by her parents, Frances Smith Savely learned what it meant to be committed to Catholic school education early in life. She graduated from Saint Patrick School and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School herself. She and her husband, Gary, sent their two sons to Catholic school at Saint Eugene's and Bishop McGuinness. Savely teaches with love and compassion for each child in her classroom. She knows and connects with their family. Savely said she wants to see each child grow in his or her God-given talents and she spends many hours during evenings and weekends attending events that her students participate in outside of school. She follows her students, not only through their eighth grade year, but also through high school. You can catch Savely at a recital or a basketball game supporting her current and former students.

"One of Frances' greatest accomplishments as a teacher is the development of the second grade sacramental preparation program for our school," her nominator said.



"She has created learning experiences which have become traditions that families look forward to as their children become second graders. She is a treasure for our archdiocese and is a one-person walking billboard for sharing with all she meets that Catholic schools are here to serve each child (in) mind, heart and spirit."

Annually, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma supports many educational programs within the archdiocese including the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award, along with the Religious Educator of the Year Award. Early in September, nominations were narrowed down to three finalists from which the Foundation Committee selected an ultimate award winner. In addition to Frances Savely, the finalists for the 2013 Catholic School Educator of the Year are Dean Hoffhines, middle school Catholic doctrine teacher at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond, and Monica

Schmidlkofer, middle school science, religion and literature teacher at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City. The award winner receives a \$500 award and her school receives a \$5000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her honor at her school. The finalists also receive a \$500 award.

Finalist Dean Hoffhines has been teaching school for 40 years with the last 15 years in Catholic schools. He strives for excellence in everything he does and encourages his students to do the same. For many years, Hoffhines taught math and spearheaded the "First in Math" online math competition for his students that inspired students to work math problems even into the summer vacation. In the recent competition, more than 1 million math problems were correctly solved by Saint Elizabeth students in a nine-month period.

"Mr. Hoffhines is the "go to guy" for all things Catholic at our school,"

said his nominator. "He has always been the most requested teacher for Catholic doctrine, leading the school to departmentalize and give every middle school student the opportunity to experience his knowledge and love of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary and our Catholic Faith. Dean teaches to build up your life, build up other's lives, be kind and love one another and pray often and unceasingly. He constantly emphasizes to his students that if you do this you will build treasures in heaven, a phrase that is used often in school at Saint Elizabeth's."

Finalist Monica Schmidlkofer has been teaching for 19 years with the last 15 years teaching science, religion and literature to the middle school students at Saint Philip Neri. Schmidlkofer rolls up her sleeves every day and sticks with her belief that each student she encounters is not a mass production but rather a one-of-a-kind unique gift from God. She not only teaches but instills patience, tolerance and self-respect to her students. Through her leadership, Schmidlkofer helped to implement the House System in the middle school. She is the annual science fair sponsor, and is the sponsor and leader of the award-winning Saint Philip Neri Future-City teams.

"Monica is a living example of someone who is truly doing what she loves for a living," her nominator said. "She is an extremely good listener and is capable of cherishing and meeting each child's special needs, interests and talents."

# Mary Smith Religious Educator of the Year 2013

Over the past 10 years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. The Foundation has awarded the 2013 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year Award to Mary Smith, the junior and senior high religious education teacher at Saint Monica Church in Edmond. Smith has been a catechist for the past 20 years at Saint Monica's and before that at Saint John the Baptist, also in Edmond. She received her advanced catechist certification in 1986.

Many parishes do not have a very active RE program for juniors and seniors in high school but Smith has forged a path for this to happen. She has introduced many activities to the entire youth group, including the 40 Days for Life vigil, Coffee with Christ morning prayer group, Birth Choice Walk, Food Bank volunteering, peeling potatoes for the Edmond Thanksgiving dinner, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, participating in Santa's Cause, the Annual Crud Wars and taking the kids to Summer Workcamp Mission trips and Steubenville Youth Conferences. The class, which usually has 20 to 30 students enrolled, is mostly about apologetics, Catholic social teaching and evangelization.

"Mary is tireless in her desire to evangelize others about her love for Christ. Her doors and heart are always open to our teens at Saint Monica's," her nominator said.

The finalists for the 2013 Religious



Educator of the Year Award also included Betty Lagaly, kindergarten to first grade catechist at Saint Joseph Church in Union City and Dean Fisher, fifth grade catechist at Saint Peter Church in Woodward. The award winner and two finalists were selected from nominations submitted earlier this summer and were interviewed in late August by the selection committee.

Finalist Betty Lagaly has been active in the religious education program at Saint Joseph's for more than 30 years. She started out by observing the class, then assisting the class and eventually became the lead catechist in the kindergarten to first grade class. Using hands-on activities in the classroom, she teaches, models and helps her children build a relationship with Jesus. She encourages parents to be involved also.

"If I could use only one word to de-

scribe Betty, it would be creative," her nominator said. "Her classroom is a fun learning place. She uses puppets, art, stories, field trips, nature, service and song to help her children build a relationship with Christ. She is a gardener and uses the wonders of God's earth to teach children about God and service to their parish, as they plant seeds to give flowering plants to our homebound as gifts or to decorate the parish flowerbeds. She is also a person of prayer, always encouraging the families to teach their children prayers and say the Rosary. Betty lives her faith everyday and gives to her church by her constant example. Sometimes it is the quiet and faithful ones who teach in the greatest ways."

Finalist Dean Fisher is very devoted to his students, in the classroom, in the parish at Saint Peter's and in the community of Woodward. He has been teaching fifth grade students for

15 years and believes that a strong foundation in the Catholic faith should start at an early age. Fisher is very committed to a daily prayer routine and regularly begins his day by reading scriptures. He passes this practice to his fifth grade students in class. Each week in class, the students write their prayers on slips of paper. The slips are folded into a paper prayer chain and the chain is hung on a large wooden cross. The chain grows each week and, at the end of the year, the students celebrate with a ritual by carrying the cross outside and burning the chain in a fire pit, symbolizing their prayers rising up to God.

"Dean continues to set an example as a devoted Catholic," said his nominator. "His service to his parish shines in many ways. Dean is chairman of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and takes communion to the homebound himself. He serves on the Finance Council and volunteers many hours to keep the St. Peter's campus and facilities in top shape. And with his students, he continuously invites the youth to accept ownership of their Catholic faith, to be involved and to keep the Catholic faith alive."

The winner receives a \$500 Award and a \$5000 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 also receive a \$500 Award.