

**Go Make Disciples**

## The virtue of America's first martyr

*Model of missionary discipleship*

**By Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda**

*For the Sooner Catholic*

In a world that idolizes MVPs, lauds superheroes and glorifies celebrities, for someone to be described as ordinary could be taken as an insult.

Yet, one of the most inspiring things about Stanley Rother – the farmer from Okarche – is precisely how average and ordinary he was.

“His beatification is a verification that God can do great things with relatively ‘insignificant’ people,” explained Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Seattle and an Okarche native. “God chose a humble virgin in Nazareth (an out of the way, no-place village) to be the Mother of His Son. In the same way, God chose a priest from a remote rural part of Oklahoma who couldn’t

learn Latin and barely passed

seminary to be the Proto-Martyr for the United States!”

Father Rother’s life is a reminder that heroic holiness is accessible to each one of us, “if we want it. It’s that simple ... and it’s that challenging.”

Saints are local. They come from ordinary places like Okarche and Santiago Atitlán, yet their holy witness strengthens the Church universal.

**A life of discipleship**

Stanley Francis Rother was raised in a staunchly Catholic, German farming family in the farmhouse where he was born on March 27, 1935. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic School for 12 years, and in between seminary semesters, Stanley returned to help with the harvest.

Life for the Rother family centered on the family, the farm and on the Church and its traditions. From an early age, Stanley and his four siblings (a

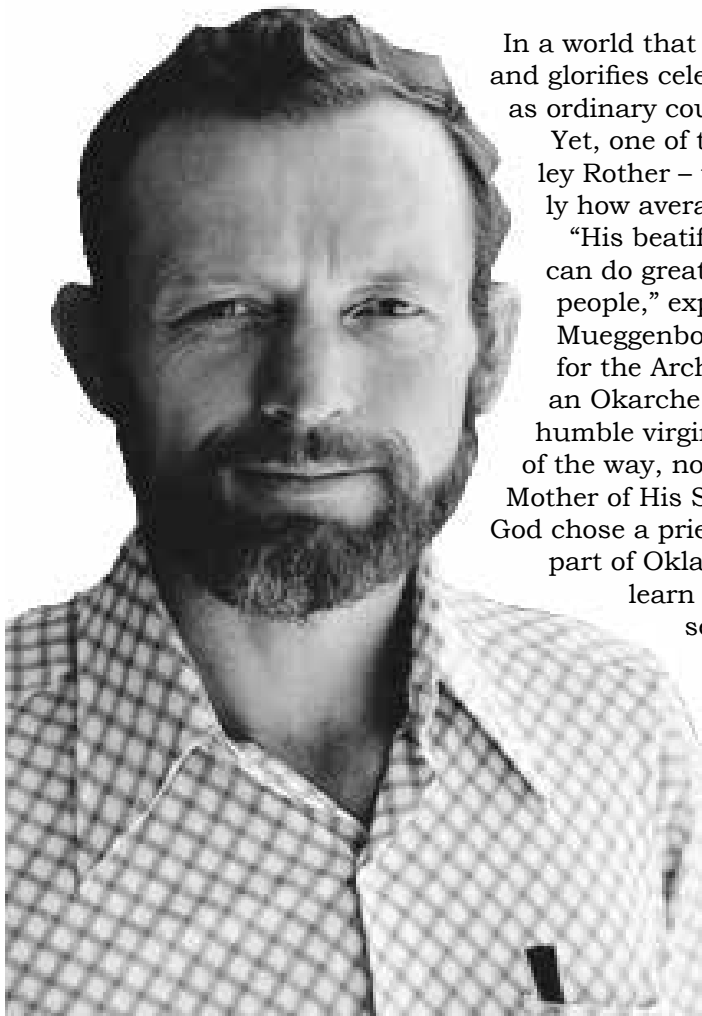
sister died in infancy) learned the importance of prayer and of praying together as a family.

After supper every night, they knelt by their chairs around the kitchen table to pray the Rosary. Daily and seasonal religious practices “were integrated into our daily life,” said his sister,

Sister Marita Rother, A.S.C. “We prayed a lot together as a family, and I know that’s what drew us closer.”

It is in this ordinary life that Stanley first experienced a personal encounter with the Good Shepherd, where he learned what it meant to live as a disciple of Jesus. This is where he learned to be a man of prayer,

**continued on page 16**



## Kansas nun shares memories of her brother who is on path to sainthood

**By Christopher M. Riggs**  
*Catholic News Service*

WICHITA – Sister Marita Rother really didn’t get to know her brother, Father Stanley Rother, as a priest until she visited him in Guatemala in the 1970s.

She was at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ convent in Wichita when he left to study for the priesthood.

“He went to the seminary right after high school,” she said, adding that he didn’t tell his parents of his interest in the priesthood until after he graduated.

“We never talked about it,” Sister

Marita told the Catholic Advance, newspaper of the Wichita Diocese. “We were both rather quiet. I didn’t even tell my friends until shortly before I left that I was actually leaving (to become a nun).”

Still, she and her three brothers were close to one another and to

**continued on page 16**



Sister Marita Rother, a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, holds a picture of her brother, Father Stanley Rother, a priest of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, who will be beatified Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City. *CNS photo/Christopher Riggs, Catholic Advance.*

*A message from*  
Archbishop Coakley ...



**O**n Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. – a once in a lifetime event will take place in Oklahoma City to honor one of our own – Fr. Stanley Rother.

I invite each one of you to take the time to join me and Cardinal Amato in the beatification of Fr. Rother at the Cox Convention Center.

This is an historic event for the United States and for Oklahoma that you don’t want to miss!

Please see the insert in this edition for more information or visit [stanleyrother.org](http://stanleyrother.org).



Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

## A personal Invitation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I returned for my second year at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., everyone was talking about the death of Father Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma priest who had been killed at his mission parish in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. He was a "Mount" alumnus. It was big news; in all of the newspapers. It captured my attention and fired my imagination. From that time on I have always been eager to learn all that I could about the life of this heroic parish priest.

So, in 2010, as soon I accepted my new appointment to become the next Archbishop of Oklahoma City (even before it had been announced), I drove to Okarche, Okla., incognito to visit Father Rother's gravesite and his boyhood parish. I was struck with the solemn realization that it now was my responsibility to carry forward the cause for Father Rother's

beatification and canonization, and to make his story of generous pastoral charity and courageous sacrifice known to the world.

Following the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Father Rother had poured his whole heart and being into serving his parishioners. During his years of priestly ministry he was being transformed into a living icon of the Good Shepherd by the spirit of the living God dwelling within him. He gave his all; as Christ gave his all.

God has blessed the Church in Oklahoma with this opportunity to share our good shepherd and native son with the whole world and to hold up his example

of holiness for generations to come.

On Sept. 23, we will celebrate the life of Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother at his Beatification Mass in downtown Oklahoma City. The ceremony will be only the second beatification in the United States and the first beatification of a U.S.-born priest and martyr. This once-in-a-lifetime event should not be missed!

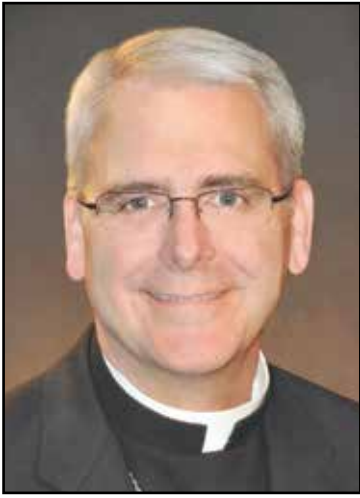
Please join me, Cardinal Amato, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful from across the United States and Guatemala as we honor an ordinary man who was called to do extraordinary things.

We are all called to be saints. We praise and thank God for raising up this heroic witness and exemplary model of priestly holiness for the whole Church. Through his beatification, we gain a powerful intercessor in Blessed Stanley Rother. May he continue to pray for us as we seek to follow the path where the brave Shepherd has gone before us.

Sincerely yours in Christ

*+Paul S. Coakley*

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley  
Archbishop of Oklahoma City



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

## Find more news on the website

By **Sooner Catholic Staff**

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

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail [tips@archokc.org](mailto:tips@archokc.org).

✓ **Catholic Charities**  
Due to recent changes at Catholic Charities, anyone seeking adoption or pregnancy services should call (405) 523-3007.

Find more information at [catholiccharitiesok.org](http://catholiccharitiesok.org).



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



### Prayer for the Cause of Canonization of Father Stanley Rother

*O God, fount of all holiness, make us each walk worthily in our vocation, through the intercession of your Saints, on whom you bestowed a great variety of graces on earth.*

*Having graced your Church with the life of your priest and martyr Stanley Rother, grant that by his intercession this humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone.*

*Grant that your Church may proclaim him a saint living in your presence and interceding for us.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# St. Kateri center opens at St. Gregory's

By **Dana Attocknie**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

SHAWNEE – The American Indian Catholic Outreach (AICO) for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City opened the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Spiritual Center of Oklahoma Aug. 28 on the campus of Saint Gregory's University in Shawnee. The spiritual center is a ministry of the AICO.

"The center is there as part of the new evangelization effort that Archbishop Coakley has instituted in the archdiocese," said Deacon Roy, AICO coordinator. "We are there not only to evangelize, but also to re-evangelize those who have drifted from the faith."

As with most days, Deacon Roy and his wife Susan set up an information table on Sept. 6 in the middle of Rockwood Center on campus. Not long after they set up, students Krystal Lopez and Brendon Johnson walked to the table filled with books, brochures and Bibles. As they picked up pamphlets and rosaries, they began visiting with Deacon Roy and Susan. The students learned about the new center, the annual Saint Kateri Honor Dance held on campus and where the new office was located.

"I think it's great. I didn't know about it," said Lopez, an exercise science senior. "Now, I can spread the word. I'm happy they're here. What they do is good."

Johnson, also an exercise science senior, is Seminole and said it's "cool" the center is at Saint Gregory's, and that he'll be at the Saint Kateri Honor Dance next year.

"The deacon and his wife, are like soldiers on the front lines tending to our students. They're there to answer questions that go beyond 'where is this office?'" said Lily Bermudez, Saint Gregory's dean of students. "I see them as collaborators to the mission of the university, which is a faith-filled mission, to help a person academically, spiritually, socially, culturally, ... and for me I see them as the kind of aid that we need to engage our students spiritually."

Stephen Zaborowski, director of alumni and donor relations, said having the AICO and the spiritual center on campus is fantastic, and is another example of how the Catholic mission is flourishing.

"This spiritual center really demonstrates our commitment to the mission of outreach to American Indians. That's how Saint Gregory's got started with the monks 142 years ago," Zaborowski said. "A beautiful thing I see with

Deacon and Mrs. Callison, is that they're just friendly. They present a public witness and a public resource, which I just find is beautiful."

The vision statement for the center states, "The purpose of the center is to provide the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy to American Indian People through the blending of Catholic spirituality and the teachings of the Catholic Church with American Indian traditions and culture."

The center also is "committed to the healing and reconciliation of American Indian people under the guidance of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City."

Saint Gregory's President Michael Scaperlanda said one of the strategic goals of the university is to further cement their relations with American Indians. He jumped at the opportunity for the spiritual center to be on campus.

"Another one of our strategic initiatives is to be the center of Catholic culture for the state of Oklahoma. So, they run together, Catholicism and American Indian mission, and so it's a wonderful opportunity for us. We had some space and we welcomed them here," Scaperlanda said. "This really is a location that will be a benefit to our students, but it also will draw people from the community here as they do programming and the Honor Dance every year. This is a place that if you're American Indian or if you're Catholic or if you're both, this is a place to be."

Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., abbot of Saint Gregory's Abbey, said other locations were considered for the spiritual center, but they kept going back to Saint Gregory's. He said it's a natural choice for the center to be there because it touches on the original founding of the monastic community there, when in 1875 the monks came to Oklahoma to

serve the people in Indian Territory.

"The development of the campus and the mission that's already here just seems very complementary to the center," Abbot

met," Abbot Lawrence said. "It can become a good partner with the university to both enhance the experience of our university students and to bringing the various resources of the university to the people."

Abbot Lawrence said he hopes the spiritual center, "becomes something that will survive all of us. To see that something goes to the next generation we have to lay good foundations."

One of the first students to visit Deacon Roy and Susan when they arrived on campus was Heath Steward, a biology sophomore. He said it's nice

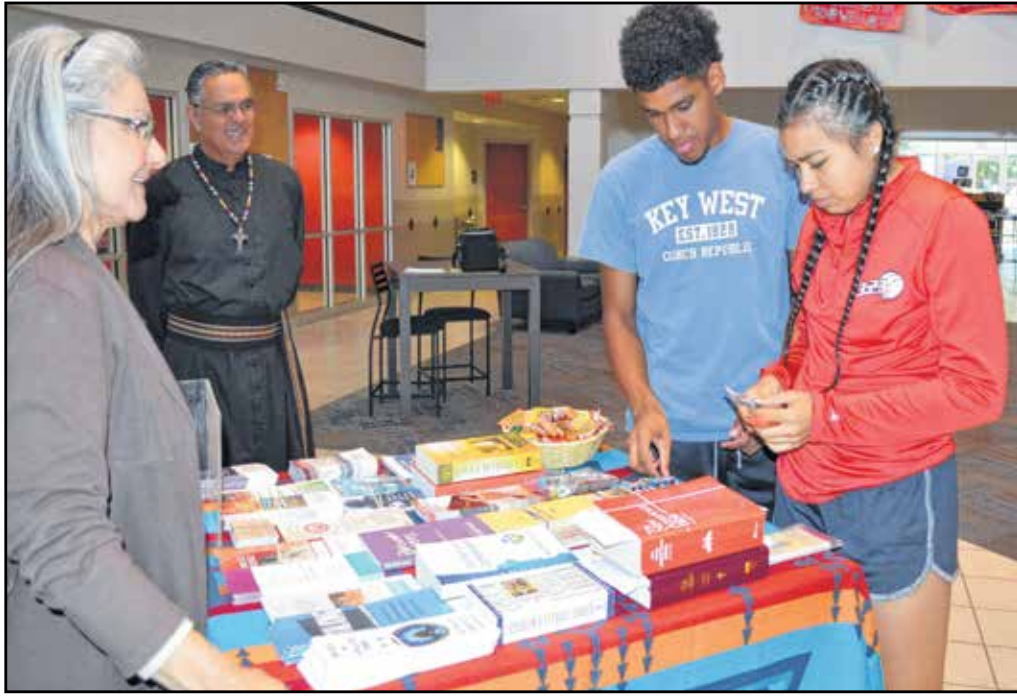
Lawrence said.

He also recognized that Saint Gregory's is the only Catholic university in the state, and they have an extensive collection of American Indian art and artifacts at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. Plus, Shawnee is in the center of the state and provides good access from the interstate.

"I would encourage everyone to go and see what the center can do for them," Steward said. "It would be nice to see more people get involved with the community."

The center is open to everyone. The office is in Benedictine Hall, Rm. 015. For more information, contact Deacon Roy at (405) 878-5495.

*Dana Attocknie is managing editor of the Sooner Catholic.*



Students Krystal Lopez and Brendon Johnson visit the information table set up by Deacon Roy Callison and his wife Susan Aug. 6 in Rockwood Center at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee. Photo Dana Attocknie/ Sooner Catholic.

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## Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

- Sept. 17** – Annual Youth Interfaith Tour, 1:30 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
- Sept. 19** – Presbyterian Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Sept. 19** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Sept. 21** – Mass, 9 a.m., Center of Family Love, Okarche
- Sept. 22** – Opening Mass for Archdiocesan Teacher In-Service, 8:30 a.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
- Sept. 23** – Beatification of Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother, 10 a.m., Cox Convention Center, OKC
- Sept. 26** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Sept. 27** – St. Vincent DePaul Society Mass and dinner, 6 p.m., CPC
- Sept. 30** – Passion and Purpose Conference with Matthew Kelly, 6 p.m., Cox Convention Center, OKC
- Oct. 1** – Mass and "Mortgage Burning" celebration, 10:30 a.m., St. Mark, Norman
- Oct. 1** – Archbishop's picnic for clergy, religious, CPC staff and board members, 5 p.m., CPC







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## New Catholic Charities office in Ardmore already helping residents

**By Charles Albert**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime."

Gerald Johnson is not a fisherman, but three years ago he took a new job and now teaches people to change their lifestyles and "learn to fish." He has been the director of the Ardmore regional office of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Johnson is in charge of seven counties in southern Oklahoma. His duties range from helping immigrants, providing emergency

financial assistance and, most importantly, family hope services.

His one-man office handles all the above duties and has visited with more than 740 clients. His No. 1 goal is to help people "break the cycle of multi-generational poverty."

Many of the clients may not have their GED or worked with a budget. They often are living pay-check-to-pay-check with no contingency plan for emergencies. Most have never had the opportunity to work one-on-one with someone who can offer both support and assistance.

Under the Emergency Financial Assistance Program, Johnson has

a limited budget and works with five to six families per week who have financial emergencies.

Ardmore has a large number of immigrant families and 10 percent of Johnson's time is devoted to helping immigrant needs. He also works closely with various churches to help with the needs of immigrants.

Johnson said Juan Jimenez, director of Hispanic Ministry at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore, is a great resource with the parish providing a number of programs to assist immigrants. Johnson arranges for occasional immigration attorneys who are fluent in Spanish to come from Oklahoma City to Ardmore to provide seminars on the "dos and don'ts" for immigrants.

*Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*

### Catholic Charities Ardmore

For more information about Catholic Charities in Ardmore, contact (580) 788-2305 or go online to <http://catholiccharitiesok.org/regional-offices>.

## Peaceful, prayerful 40 Days for Life campaign kicks off Sept. 17

The 40 Days for Life campaign will start with a rally at Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, at 7 p.m. Sept. 17. Oklahoma City is one of more than 300 cities conducting simultaneous 40 Days for Life campaigns through Nov. 5.

"We start this effort by drawing members of the community together to share the vision of 40 Days for Life and to pray for God's blessings on this effort. It is time to focus attention on the harm abortion has done to our city," said Dale Dirkschneider, coordinator of 40 Days for Life.

Speakers at the 40 Days for Life kickoff event include Archbishop Coakley, Rep. Kevin Calvey and his wife Toni, and Margo MacRobert, archdiocesan coordinator of Rachel's Vineyard, and others.



For information about **40 Days for Life**, visit [40daysforlife/oklahomacity](http://40daysforlife/oklahomacity) or contact Dale Dirkschneider at [dsdirkschneider@gmail.com](mailto:dsdirkschneider@gmail.com) or (405) 209-0309.

"This will mark the start of 40 days of prayer and fasting with special attention to prayer in the public right-of-way outside the abortion facility at 6112 N.W. 63 in Warr Acres as well as various types of community outreach. We look forward to seeing what kind of transformation God will bring about in our city."

All prayer vigil participants are asked to sign a statement of peace,

pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, intensive campaign that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion

facilities, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.



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## The seeds of delight that Christ sowed in Stanley's heart

This column has been a long time in the making. You can even say that my previous columns on saints and martyrs have been

Each one of them is a model of Christian living. Each one of them shines because they reflect the love and presence of God to us. They are friends of God and they show this by lives of loving and sacrificial friendship to those they ministered to.

Holy men and women not only love God intensely, they also want to share their God of love with others and help them fall in love with this wonderful God who is love and has shown us His love in His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. To have this strong desire to share Jesus, to share God's Good News of love is the heart of true discipleship.

And let's be honest here, there is no greater sign of being intentional in your discipleship ministry than being willing to give your life for the sake of the Gospel. Father Stanley could have come back to Oklahoma, but as our friend from Okarche has so clearly stated "The shepherd cannot run." That is intentionality. I find in the life of Father Stanley Rother the example of an intentional disciple. The greatest

example of this passion to share Christ, this passion to "Go Make Disciples," is his love for the Word of God and his desire to share Christ, the Living Word of God, with others.

The people he served in Guatemala spoke a unique language, Tz'utujil, and they couldn't hear God's loving words from scripture because there was no Tz'utujil New Testament or Bible. He was convinced that this was necessary and continued the project to translate the New Testament.

He would be martyred before he could see the project come to completion, but the project was completed. Today, many can read about Jesus Christ in the Gospels because of what Father Stanley worked on so many years ago.

Every sacrament we celebrate is an encounter with, and a sharing of, our loving and life giving Christ! When a sacrament is celebrated well we are witnessing a unique disciple-mak-

ing moment. Father Stanley did this well and did this often.

Father Stanley Rother was open to God's loving presence in His Word, in the Eucharist and open to God's loving presence in the community of faith he so loved and served. In a letter dated Nov. 16, 1980, that begins "My Dearest Frankie," I found a sentence that for some unknown reason has resonated in some way within me.

"When I hear the people during Mass here on Sunday or Thursday, the cacophony of prayers going up to the Lord, His presence must be there. I am delighted to be a part."

Father Stanley Francis Rother – the Word of God delighted him because there is love in that Word. The sacraments, and above all the Mass, delighted him because God's love is present in every sacramental celebration. The people he served delighted him, their prayers delighted him, because God's loving presence is there. His priesthood delighted him because it gave him a unique opportunity to respond to God's loving call and to love others in a special way. Christ delighted him because Christ is love incarnate.

Stanley Francis Rother – a model of Christian living and an intentional disciple.

**Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.**  
*Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry*

### Rev. James Stafford

Rev. James David Martin Stafford, 88, died on Sept. 7 in Oklahoma City.

Father Stafford was born on Dec. 11, 1928, in Oilton, Okla., to Clay and Abbie Martin Stafford. He attended Seminole public schools, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, his master's degree at the University of Tulsa and attended Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May

27, 1961, at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa. He was a colonel in the U.S. Army, fourth infantry regiment, and received the National Defense Services Medal.

Father Stafford devoted 47 years in active ministry to the people of Oklahoma, serving as assistant pastor, Immaculate Conception, OKC; associate pastor, Saint Francis Xavier, Enid; chaplain at Enid State School and Saint Ann Nursing Home, OKC; chaplain, counselor and teacher, Bishop Kelley Catholic High School, Tulsa; administrator, Saint Andrew, Haskell; teacher, Edison High School, Tulsa;

associate pastor, Saint William, Los Altos, Calif.; associate pastor, Saint Patrick, OKC; pastor, Saint Barbara/Holy Family, Lawton and mission Saint Patrick, Walters; and pastor, Blessed Sacrament, Lawton.

In addition to his pastoral assignments, he served on the Worship Commission, Building Committee, Council of Priests, Seminary Board, Archdiocesan Chaplain of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima and as a Regional Vicar. Father Stafford retired in 2008.

Father Stafford is preceded in death by his parents.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Saint Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Sept. 11 with interment at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery, 7801 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Memorial gifts may be made to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 1232 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City 73106.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith & Kernke Funeral Home, 14624 N. May in Oklahoma City.

*Rev. James Stafford*

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Contagious Faith

# A method for our mission mentality shift

Many years ago, I served on a team of missionaries in Austria. Once, when I was attending a German class, the volunteer teacher was helping me with basic conversational skills. Naturally, one of the things I needed to learn is how to ask what someone does for a living, and how to tell them what I do. So, when I told the Austrian lady that I was a missionary, she said, “But, what are you doing here? We are already Christian!”

I was discovering that indeed, Austria was a country with deeply Catholic roots. In spite of the impact of secularism, cultural Catholicism was still alive and well. There were still crucifixes hanging on the walls of stores, and even at the bank. Virtually all the historic bridges had a statue of Saint John Nepomuk on them.

Pentecost was even a national holiday – though few took advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the feast day by going to Mass! Like so many Austrians, my German teacher no longer practiced the Catholic faith of her childhood. And, that is why my colleagues and I were there, as missionaries. I soon learned that it was better not to tell people this because of the possibility of insult. Missionary activity, as far as most Austrians were concerned, was something that happened somewhere else, to someone else and would be done by someone else.

What we are learning in the Church throughout the west is that a missionary mentality needs to become the central feature of our understanding of ourselves as Catholics. Catholics of every rank are being asked to go through a mentality shift that will enable us to see our whole life through missionary lenses. In every relationship we have, Jesus asks us to be his ambassador. In our day and age, we must

learn the skills and attitudes that enable us to be missionaries in our own friendship circles, neighborhoods and work places.

This past summer, two events of critical importance occurred in the Church in the United States to facilitate this mentality shift. One was the National Convocation of Catholic Leaders in Orlando in which the bishops gathered with the faithful to evaluate our response to “The Joy of the Gospel.” The other was the publication of the USCCB booklet “Living as Missionary Disciples.”

In both instances, a four-pronged “methodology of missionary formation” was proposed: encounter, accompany, community and send.

1. Encounter with Christ: “This encounter must be constantly renewed by personal testimony, the proclamation of the kerygma ... and the missionary action of the community. ... Only out of the kerygma does the possibility of true Christian initiation occur” (LMD, p.11).

2. Accompany: “To create a culture of encounter and witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. We are called not only to believe in the Gospel, but to allow it to take deep root in us in a way that leaves us incapable of silence. ... Of course, being a disciple is a challenge. We cannot live a life of discipleship

alone. We need others to model lives of discipleship and accompany us as we grow in the spiritual life and experience of ongoing conversion” (LMD, p. 14-15).

3. Community: “Accepting the first proclamation, which invites us to receive God’s love and to love him in return, with the very love that is his gift, brings forth in our lives and actions a primary and fundamental response: to desire, seek and protect the good of others” (LMD, p. 16).

4. Send: “As they get to know and love the

Lord, disciples experience the need to share with others their joy by proclaiming Jesus Christ, not just with words, but also through service to those most in need” (LMD, p. 17).

This methodology is deceptively simple. Moving in the direction of creating a culture of missionary discipleship that permeates the atmosphere of our parishes will be complex – but not impossible. It will mean prioritizing things we haven’t necessarily prioritized before to create opportunities for adult Catholics to have an experience of discipleship.

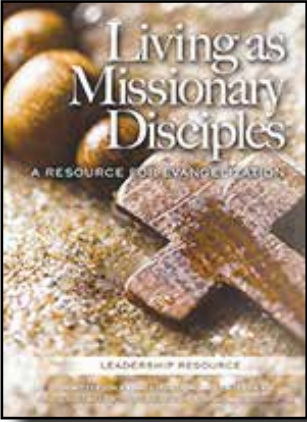
It will mean giving explicit witness to our faith; to overcome the tacit “don’t ask-don’t tell” agreement that prevents spiritual conversations from being initiated in the public space. It will mean making counterintuitive decisions at times – like prioritizing the discipleship of adults over children – why? Because a disciplined adult can disciple their own kids – and other adults too!

It will mean eliminating some of the busyness of the parish to direct resources and energy into accompanied discipleship initiatives, which are by their nature time consuming and labor intensive. It will mean improved, evangelical (kerygmatic) preaching. It will mean a deepening commitment to pray with the Scriptures. It will mean a renewed devotion to the Holy Spirit, who is the principle agent of evangelization. And, it will mean taking the long view.

There are no microwave solutions. This kind of change requires the commitment of decades –indeed lifetimes. But, we can see this culture shift happening already in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City wherever such commitments are made.



**Carole Brown**  
*Director of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship*



## Vincent de Paul, Padre Pio and September saints

By **Ted King**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

**Saints Cornelius and Cyprian**

Sept. 16 is the feast day of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian. Saint Cornelius was a Roman priest who was the pope from 251 to 253. He led the Church during an aggressive persecution under Emperor Decius. Pope Cornelius was martyred by the Romans in the year 253. Saint Cyprian, a barrister and later Bishop of Carthage (in modern day Tunisia) and Primate of Africa, was a convert who had personal wealth that he gave away upon his conversion. Saint Cyprian was a great evangelist. He, like Saint Cornelius, faced great difficulties in the midst of Roman persecutions. Saint Cyprian was martyred in 258.

**Saints Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions**

Sept. 20 is the feast day of Korean martyrs Saints Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions. Saint Andrew Kim Tae-Gon (1821-1846) was the first Korean-born Catholic priest. He was martyred in 1846 during the Joseon Dynasty. He is the patron saint of Korea. Saint Paul Chong Ha-Sang (1794-1839) was the son of Catholic converts. At age 15, he became the servant of an interpreter and was

allowed to travel to Peking, China, where he encouraged the bishop there to send priests to Korea. He wrote Pope Gregory XVI, requesting a diocese for Korea. Saint Paul Chong Ha-Sang was martyred for his faith by the Korean authorities. There are 103 Korean martyred companions that are honored this day.

**Saint Matthew**

Sept. 21 is the feast day of Saint Matthew, one of the 12 apostles. “As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, ‘Follow me,’ and he rose and followed him.” (Mt 9:9). Saint Matthew wrote the first Gospel and preached in Palestine (Israel) and Ethiopia, where he was martyred in 60. Ethiopia is a Christian nation to this day.

**Saint Padre Pio**

Sept. 23 is the feast day of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (1887–1968), better known as Padre Pio. He was a Capuchin friar who possessed the supernatural gift of the stigmata. When he said Mass, his hands and feet, correlating to the wounds of Christ, bled. He often was bedridden on Good Friday. He also had the ability to read the souls of people who came to him for confession.

**Saints Cosmos and Damian**

Sept. 26 is the feast day of Saints Cosmos and Damian, who are very important in the Eastern Church.

They were brothers and physicians in Syria during the Roman Empire. It is believed they were born in what is present day Saudi Arabia. They cared for the sick without payment and were responsible for many conversions as a result of their charitable work. Both are believed to have been martyred in the year 287 under the reign of Emperor Diocletian. They are the patron saints of physicians and surgeons.

**Saint Vincent de Paul**

Sept. 27 is the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), a French priest known for his works of charity. As a young priest he was taken prisoner by the Muslim Barbary pirates and was a slave for several years. He escaped and became an advocate for ransoming slaves. In 1622, he founded a religious order, the Congregation of the Missions, known today as the Vincentians. Pope Leo XIII proclaimed Saint Vincent de Paul the patron of all charitable associations. There are Saint Vincent de Paul Societies in many parishes



*Saint Wenceslaus*

that help the poor.

**Saint Wenceslaus**

Sept. 28 is the feast day of Saint Wenceslaus and Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions. Saint Wenceslaus, also known as Vaclav the Good, was a Bohemian (modern day Czech Republic) duke. He was murdered by his brother while praying in church in 938 and is considered a martyr. He is the patron saint of the Czech Republic and its capital, Prague. He also is recognized as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

**Archangel Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael**

Sept. 29 is the feast day of Archangel Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

**Saint Jerome**

Sept. 30 is the feast day of Saint Jerome (347-420). He was a Roman citizen born in Dalmatia (modern day Croatia and Slovenia). He was a hermit and is a Doctor of the Church. Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, known as the Vulgate. The Eastern Orthodox Church also recognizes him as a saint.

*Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*



## BEATIFICATION OF FATHER STANLEY ROTHER





# Beatification Mass 10 a.m. Sept. 23, Cox Convention Center, OKC

## Bus Registration

Please register your charter bus or parish shuttle at stanleyrother.org.

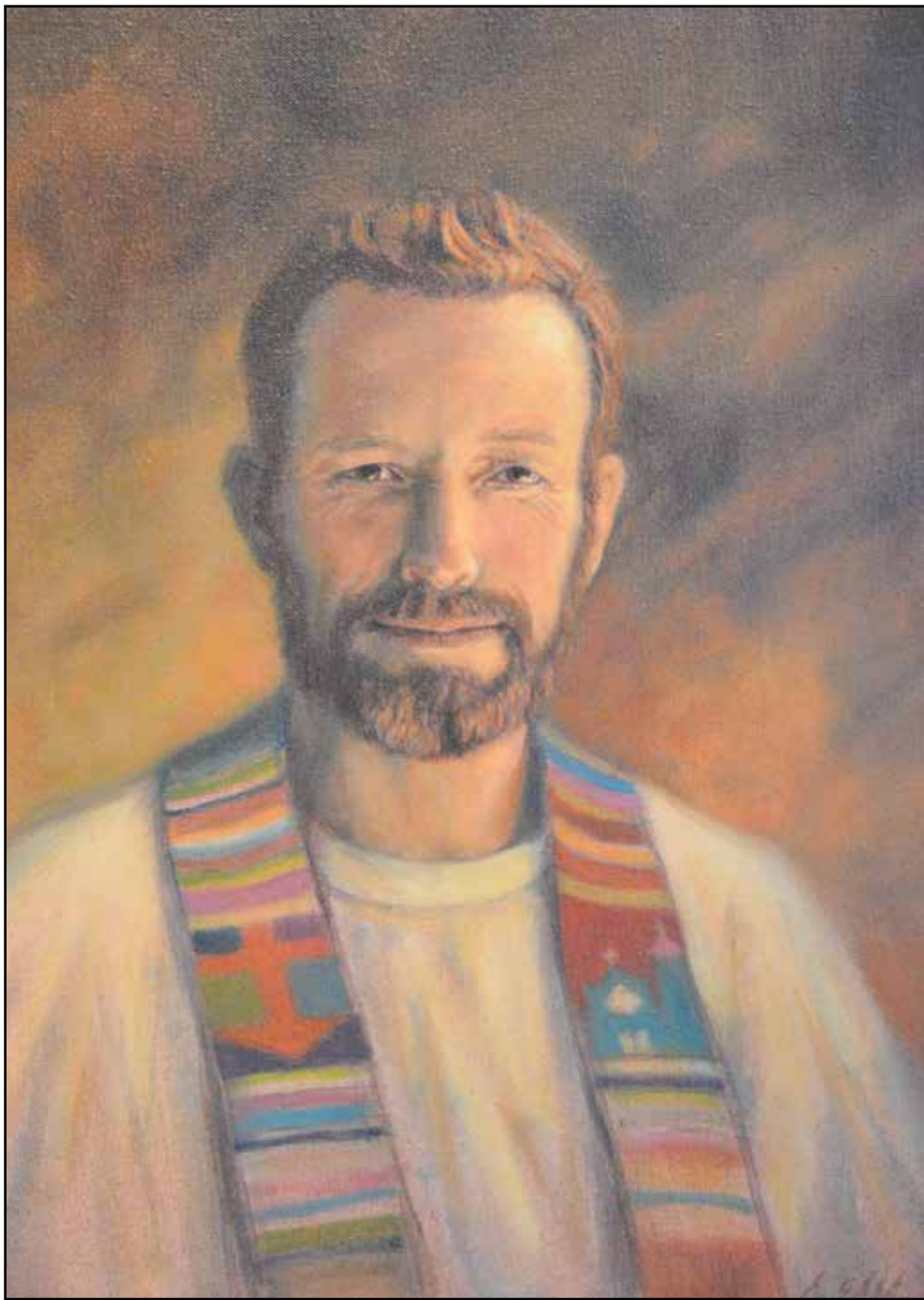
Nearby parking areas will be provided for buses and shuttles during the Beatification Mass. Find more details on lot locations and where to park buses at stanleyrother.org.

Doors open at the Cox Convention Center arena at 8 a.m. No tickets are required.

For questions and other information, contact Deacon Norm Mejstrik at (405) 623-9453.

## Help

If you need help or have questions at the Beatification, find a person in a teal shirt with a button that says “Ask Me.”



### When and where is the beatification?

The Beatification Mass is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Doors to the arena open at 8 a.m.

### Do I need tickets to attend?

Tickets are not required. It is open seating for the public. An overflow area is provided in the arena.

### Will there be accessible seating for wheelchair, walker or other special needs?

Yes. For assistance, use the elevators on the south end of the arena. A sign language interpreter also will be available.

### What entrance should be used?

Greeters will be at all four entrances of the Cox Convention Center arena to direct you to seating and to answer questions.

### Where do we park?

A list of parking locations is available in this issue and online at stanleyrother.org. There is underground paid parking available at the convention center. Street parking is free on Saturday.

### Will there be parking for buses?

Yes. There will be two large parking areas for buses less than two blocks from the convention center. For specific bus and parish shuttle parking information, go online to stanleyrother.org. Please register your bus at stanleyrother.org/bus.

### Will we receive a program?

Everyone in attendance will receive a 120-page program in English and Spanish, a commemorative coin, a prayer card, a special edition of the Sooner Catholic and other items.

### What should we bring?

There will security at each entrance of the arena. They will search bags as people enter. The smaller the bag, the better. No backpacks. Preferably no strollers. There is no food or drink allowed in the arena.

### What should we wear?

Comfortable clothing is suggested. Keep in mind it is a Mass.

### Do we receive communion?

Catholics can receive communion. Communion will be distributed in each section. You will find more detailed information in the event program.

### Who is celebrating Mass?

Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, will be the principal celebrant. Archbishop Coakley and more than 50 other bishops will concelebrate. The Mass will last about two hours.

### Can we give to the collection before the beatification?

During the Mass, an offering will be taken for the benefit of the parishes in Guatemala served by Father Rother through an endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. If you would like to give online, go to stanleyrother.org/mass.

### Do you have a list of restaurants?

A list of restaurants is available online at stanleyrother.org. The Cox Convention Center is just west of the Bricktown area and within walking distance of many restaurants. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can get information from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau at (405) 297-8912.

### Are rooms reserved at hotels?

A list of hotels near the convention center is available at stanleyrother.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can get information from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau at (405) 297-8912.

### Where is Fr. Rother buried? Can we visit?

Father Rother is buried in a crypt in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City. To arrange a visit/tour, call (405) 721-4191. In addition, there is an exhibit about Father Rother’s life at the Catholic Pastoral Center Heritage Gallery. For a special group tour, contact (405) 721-5651, Ext. 141. Exhibit hours are M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and by special arrangement.

### What does beatification mean?

Beatification is the last step before someone can be made a saint (canonization). More information is available at stanleyrother.org.

### Can we pray for a miracle?

Yes, please pray for the intercession of Father Rother. A verified miracle is required for him to be canonized. For information on how to document prayer and his intercession, go to stanleyrother.org.

### Are there relics and other religious items for sale?

Not at this time. Father Rother must be beatified before anything is classified as a relic. You can download the prayer for canonization at stanleyrother.org.

### Spanish-speaking callers

Contact: Ana Romero, (405) 709-2708, Ext. 108, or aromero@archokc.org.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## Rother commemorative coin

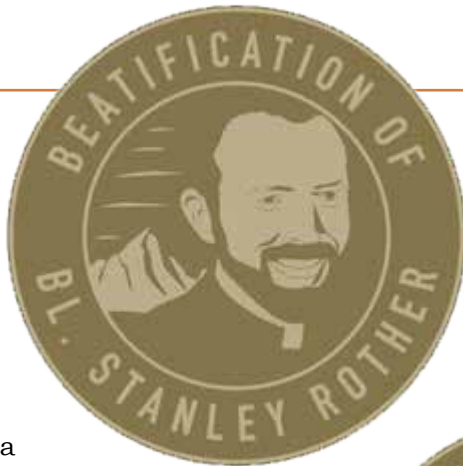
Each person who attends Father Rother’s Beatification Mass at 10 a.m. on Sept. 23 will receive a commemorative coin commissioned by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

This special coin features Father Rother’s image on the front, and an image of Father Rother’s parish in Guatemala, the date of the Mass and the archdiocesan crest on the reverse.

Along with the coin, those in attendance will receive an official program from the Mass, a new Rother prayer card and a copy of the Rother Special Edition of the Sooner Catholic.

The Beatification Mass is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Doors at the Cox Convention Center arena open at 8 a.m.

For more information about parking, hotels, restaurants and to register a bus or shuttle, go online to stanleyrother.org.



## Hotels

### BRICKTOWN HOTELS

#### AC Hotel

411 E. Sheridan Ave.  
(214) 774-4650

#### Aloft Oklahoma City Downtown/Bricktown

209 N. Walnut Ave.  
(405) 605-2100

#### Courtyard by Marriott

2 W. Reno Ave.  
(405) 232-2290

#### Hampton Inn & Suites

300 E. Sheridan Ave.  
(405) 232-3600

#### Hilton Garden Inn

328 E. Sheridan Ave.  
(405) 270-0588

#### Holiday Inn Express and Suites

101 E. Main St.  
(405) 601-8900

#### Homewood Suites by Hilton

328 E. Sheridan Ave.  
(405) 232-3200

#### Residence Inn

400 E. Reno Ave.  
(405) 601-1700

#### Sheraton Hotel \*\*

1 N. Broadway Ave.  
(405) 235-2780

#### Skirvin Hilton Hotel \*\*

1 Park Avenue  
1-800-Hiltons  
Group Code MASS

### NW OKC HOTELS

#### Fairfield Inn and Suites \*\*

5700 NW Expressway  
(405) 470-8484  
Must Call. Ask for church rate.  
\*12 miles from Cox Convention Center

#### Residence Inn Northwest \*\*

3151 NW Expressway  
(405) 605-6666  
Must Call. Ask for church rate.  
\*10 miles from Cox Convention Center

*\*\*Discount Available at these Hotels*

stanleyrother.org



## Parking



### Cox Convention Center Parking

1 Myriad Gardens  
(405) 232-3870  
947 spaces  
24 ADA accessible spaces



### Century Center Parking

100 W. Main St.  
(405) 297-2540  
805 spaces  
19 ADA accessible spaces  
One block north and one block west of Cox Convention Center



### Sheridan/Walker Parking

510 W. Sheridan Ave.  
(405) 297-2540  
1,116 spaces  
28 ADA accessible spaces  
Four blocks west of Cox Convention Center



### Main Street Parking

119 W. Main St.  
(405) 232-2700  
1,100 spaces  
One block north and one block west of Cox Convention Center



### Harvey/St. Joseph Parking

433 N. Harvey Ave.  
675 spaces  
Five blocks north and two blocks west of Cox Convention Center  
South of St. Joseph Old Cathedral  
No charge for Beatification Mass



### Santa Fe Parking

101 N. E.K. Gaylord Blvd.  
1,518 spaces  
46 ADA accessible spaces  
Two blocks northeast of Cox Convention Center



# Official Rother biography honors life, witness of first U.S. martyr

By J.E. Helm  
The Sooner Catholic

A long-awaited narrative of the life and martyrdom of Servant of God Stanley Rother is available in Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda's book, "The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Father Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma."

Since the release of the well-written and highly readable biography, a Vatican commission has officially recognized the Oklahoma priest as a martyr and cleared the way for his beatification, which will be held Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City.

"His people in Santiago Atitlan don't need an official declaration," Scaperlanda points out in her conclusion. "They already affirm Padre A'plas as a saint, their saint, and they come to him daily asking for help and intercession — much as they did during the 13 years he served as their priest."

Ch. 1 of the book describes "the quiet, clear night" of July 28, 1981, in the Guatemalan village when three men broke into the rectory of Saint James the Apostle and tried to kidnap Father Rother.

Father had once said, "I'm not afraid of dying. I'm afraid of being tortured" and betraying his beloved Tz'utujil natives. "They won't take me alive," he said.

He fought the three men "forcefully, so much so that skin was torn from his knuckles." Finally, he was shot in the head at point-blank range and died. His body bore bruises from the assault.

His body was returned to Okarche for burial, but his heart and some of his blood were enshrined at Saint James, symbolically remaining with the people he had served with such tender love.

The book quotes many people who had known Father Rother during his lifetime, a great deal coming from his sister, a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Sister Marita Rother, A.S.C., provides the forward to the book in which she focuses on the inscription on his ordination card, "For myself, I am a Christian. For the sake of others, I am a priest."

Sister Marita spent "two different summers, 1972 and 1975, working with Father Stan and three sisters from my religious community."

The book's preface is by Archbishop Coakley, who notes that Father Rother's life is important because "we need attractive models of priestly holiness. We need witnesses to pastoral charity."

The Epilogue of the book is authored by Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran, who describes Father Rother as a man of integrity, a dedicated missionary who loved God and his people."

Referring to Father Rother's work

at the mission, Archbishop Beltran said, "the Church was truly alive under his pastorate."

Two things strike the reader when reading through the pages of Scaperlanda's book. One is how ordinary Father Rother was. Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1935, he was raised in a very loving and very Catholic family who frequently recited the rosary together after dinner. He was physically hard-working and mechanically inclined. "If it needed doing, he did it. If it was broken, he fixed it," Scaperlanda explained.

Beyond the ordinariness of his life, the second thing that strikes the reader of Scaperlanda's book is his truly awesome courage, his strength and the Christ-like aspects of his martyr's death. He left Santiago Atitlan briefly in 1981

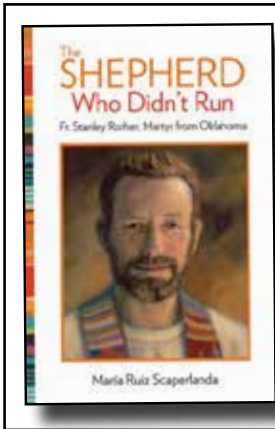
when he learned that his name was on a "death list" in Guatemala. At home in Oklahoma, he struggled with the question of returning to

ready been there for hours, praying, singing and crying together." The mourners filed past the open coffin, and both men and women

kissed the coffin. When the body was later taken to the airport to be flown to Oklahoma, great crowds packed the streets and reduced the procession's movement to a snail's pace.

In a Mass five weeks later, Bishop Angelico Melotto said at Saint James "The presence of Father Francisco's blood will be an efficacious sign that will remind coming generations of the great apostolic soul of this priest of Christ. He loved the parish community of Santiago Atitlan with all his heart."

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



### "The Shepherd Who Didn't Run"

by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

Available at  
Our Sunday Visitor,  
Amazon and at your local Catholic bookstore.

the mission, and Scaperlanda calls this period "his Garden of Gethsemane."

At his funeral, the coffin was borne by the men of the mission. More than 2,000 people had "al-

## Wills and Trusts Week 2017 in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



## THE FINANCIAL DECISIONS YOU MAKE TODAY WILL DEFINE YOUR LEGACY

Come to **Wills and Trusts Week 2017**

**October 9— October 17**

Informative and spirit-filled sessions for Catholics in Oklahoma.

Decisions about your estate plans are some of the most important you will make. Are you prepared? We can help. Catholics from all parishes are invited to attend one of the information sessions during Wills and Trusts Week, October 9 – October 17.

The Local Parishes listed here, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma — financial stewards of the Catholic faith in Oklahoma — and Catholic Charities — providers of vital services to those in need, combined to present this special program of information and prayer at this very important time in your life.

### Stewardship: Giving Back to God

In a call to all Catholics, Archbishop Paul Coakley said, "A Christian steward is someone who receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them generously, and returns them with increase to the Lord. Planning is an essential part of stewardship and I encourage all Catholics to participate."

### SPONSORED BY THESE LOCAL PARISHES AND...



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
OKLAHOMA CITY



CATHOLIC FOUNDATION  
OF OKLAHOMA



### WILLS AND TRUSTS WEEK 2017

Sponsored by these local parishes and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City  
Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma  
Catholic Charities

**Monday Evening, October 9, 2017 - 7-9 p.m.**  
**Blessed Sacrament Church**  
12 SW 7th St., Lawton, OK

**Tuesday Evening, October 10, 2017 - 7-9 p.m.**  
**Holy Trinity Church**  
211 W. Missouri, Okarche, OK

**Thursday Evening, October 12, 2017 - 7-9 p.m.**  
**St. Mark the Evangelist Church**  
3939 W. Tecumseh Rd., Norman, OK

**Monday Evening, October 16, 2017 - 7-9 p.m.**  
**St. Monica Church**  
2001 N. Western Ave, Edmond, OK

**Tuesday Evening, October 17, 2017 - 7-9 p.m.,**  
**Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City

Sessions will be presented by **local Catholic estate planning attorneys.**

**Admission is free to all Catholics. Reservations are not necessary but welcome. Refreshments will be served. You don't have to be a parishioner to attend a session at any of the parishes.**

**Call, email or go online to make your reservation:**  
(405) 721-4115 jbohan@archokc.org  
www.cfook.org  
Please do not call the individual parishes for information.

**Estate planning** is the process of anticipating and arranging for the disposal of your assets when you die. There are four or five essential legal documents that every adult should have prepared that will protect them and their family. These documents direct your family and health care providers regarding your end of life plans and your estate. Your end of life plans should be clearly stated and legally enforceable in order to minimize conflict and confusion among family members and health care providers if you become incapacitated or pass away. As you prepare your will or trust be sure to communicate your Catholic values which should include a Catholic Healthcare Directive and Durable Power of Attorney. Attend one of these information sessions and learn more about the process of estate planning or how to refresh your current plan in light of today's laws.



## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

### Una invitación personal

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Cuando regresé a mi segundo año en el Seminario Monte Santa María en Emmitsburg, Maryland, todo el mundo estaba hablando de la muerte del Padre Stanley Rother, un sacerdote de Oklahoma que había muerto en su parroquia misionera en Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Era ex-alumno del Seminario Monte Santa María. Fue una noticia de gran impacto y aparecía en todos los periódicos. Capturó mi atención y

despertó mi imaginación. Desde entonces siempre estuve ansioso por aprender todo lo que pude sobre la vida de este heroico párroco.

Así que, en el 2010, tan pronto acepté mi nuevo nombramiento para convertirme en el próximo arzobispo de Oklahoma City (incluso antes de que se anunciara), me dirigí a Okarche, Oklahoma, de manera incógnita, para visitar la tumba del Padre Rother y la parroquia de su infancia. Me sorprendió la solemne comprensión de que ahora era mi responsabilidad llevar adelante la causa de beatificación y canonización del Padre Rother y dar a conocer su historia de generosa caridad pastoral y sacrificio valeroso al mundo.

Siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús, el Buen Pastor, el Padre Rother había derramado todo su corazón en el servicio a sus feligreses. Durante sus años de ministerio sacerdotal estaba siendo transformado en un ícono vivo del Buen Pastor por el espíritu del Dios viviente que moraba dentro de él. Él dio su todo; Como Cristo dio todo.

Dios ha bendecido a la Iglesia en Oklahoma con esta oportunidad de compartir nuestro buen pastor, e hijo nativo, con el mundo entero y presentar su ejemplo de santidad para las generaciones venideras.

El 23 de septiembre, celebraremos la vida del Venerable Siervo de Dios Stanley Francis Rother en su Misa de Beatificación en el centro de Oklahoma City. La ceremonia será sólo la segunda beatificación en Estados Unidos y la primera beatificación de un sacerdote y mártir nacido en Estados Unidos. ¡Este evento, único en la vida, no debe perderse!

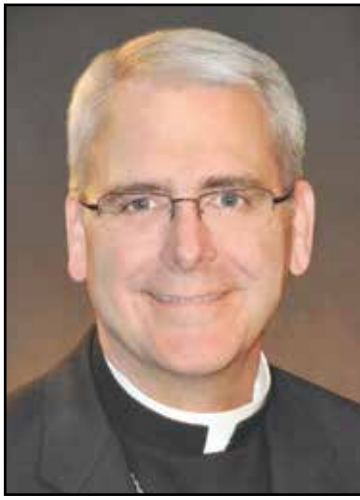
Por favor, únense a mí, y al Cardenal Amato, obispos, sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos y religiosas y los fieles laicos de todos los Estados Unidos y de Guatemala para honrar a un hombre ordinario que fue llamado a hacer cosas extraordinarias.

Todos estamos llamados a ser santos. Alabamos y damos gracias a Dios por levantar a este heroico testigo y modelo ejemplar de santidad sacerdotal para toda la Iglesia. A través de su beatificación, obtenemos un poderoso intercesor en el Beato Stanley Rother. Que continúe orando por nosotros mientras seguimos buscando el camino donde el valiente Pastor ha ido delante de nosotros.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo

+Paul S. Coakley

Reverendísimo Pablo S. Coakley  
Arzobispo de Oklahoma City



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

## Las semillas de deleite que Cristo sembró en el corazón de Stanley

### Semillas de Amor

Esta columna lleva mucho tiempo haciéndose. Incluso puedo decir que mis columnas anteriores sobre santos y mártires han estado preparándole el camino a esta. Mi teoría era que al comprender a otros santos y mártires podría conocer y comprender mejor al Padre Stanley Rother.

Cada uno de ellos es modelo de vida cristiana. Ellos brillan porque reflejan el amor y la presencia de Dios para nosotros. Son amigos de Dios y lo demuestran por medio de vidas de cariosa y sacrificada amistad con aquellos a quienes servían.

Los santos son hombres y mujeres que no se contentan con amar a Dios intensamente. Ellos también quieren compartir a su Dios de amor con los demás y ayudar a otros a que se enamoren de este Dios maravilloso. Un Dios que es amor y nos ha mostrado Su amor en Su Hijo, nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Este fuerte deseo de compartir a Jesús, compartir la Buena Nueva de amor del Dios, es el corazón del verdadero discipulado.

Y seamos honestos, no hay mayor señal de ser intencional en el ministerio de discipulado que estar dispuesto a dar la vida por el bien del Evangelio. El padre Stanley podría haber regresado a Oklahoma, pero como nuestro amigo de Okarche ha dicho claramente “El pastor no puede huir”. Eso es ser intencional.

En la vida del Padre Stanley Rother encuentro el ejemplo de un discípulo intencional. El mayor ejemplo de esta pasión por compartir a Cristo, esta pasión de responder al llamado “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos”, es su amor por la Palabra de Dios y su deseo de compartir con otros a Cristo, la viva y vivificante Palabra de Dios.

Las personas que él servía en Guatemala hablaban un lenguaje poco común, Zutujil, y

no podían escuchar la Palabra de Dios tan llena de amor en las Escrituras porque no había ni Nuevo Testamento o mucho menos una Biblia en su idioma. Stanley estaba convencido de que esto era necesario y continuó con el proyecto de traducir el Nuevo Testamento.

Recibió su martirio antes de que pudiera ver el proyecto finalizado, pero el proyecto se completó. Hoy en día, muchos pueden leer acerca de Jesucristo en los Evangelios gracias en gran parte a lo que el Padre Stanley hizo hace tantos años.

¡Este discípulo intencional fue el instrumento de Dios para salir y hacer más discípulos a través del Nuevo Testamento Zutujil, que todavía está en uso hoy en día!

Su deseo de compartir a Cristo con el pueblo guatemalteco también se manifestó en su amor por cada celebración litúrgica. Me encantan las fotos del Padre Stanley bautizando a los niños y celebrando la Santa Misa.

¡Cada sacramento que celebramos es encontrar y compartir a Cristo, nuestro amor y vida! Celebrar bien los sacramentos es vivir un momento especial de hacer discípulos. El Padre Stanley hizo esto a menudo y lo hizo bien.

El Padre Stanley

Rother vivía abierto a la presencia amorosa de Dios en Su Palabra, en la

Eucaristía y abierto a la presencia amorosa de Dios en la comunidad de fe que tanto amaba y servía. En una carta fechada el 16 de noviembre de 1980, que comienza “Mi Querido Frankie”, encontré una frase que por alguna razón ha resonado de alguna manera en mí.

“Cuando escucho al pueblo durante la Misa aquí en domingo o el jueves, esa cacofonía de oraciones subiendo al Señor, su presencia debe estar allí. Me deleita ser parte.”

Padre Stanley Francis Rother - la Palabra de Dios lo deleitó porque hay amor en esa Palabra. Los sacramentos, y sobre todo la Misa, lo deleitaron porque el amor de Dios está presente en cada celebración sacramental. Las personas que servía lo deleitaron, sus oraciones lo deleitaron, porque la amorosa presencia de Dios está allí. Su sacerdocio lo deleitó porque le dio una oportunidad única de responder al llamado de amor de Dios y la oportunidad de amar a los demás de una manera muy especial. Cristo lo deleitó porque Cristo es el amor encarnado.

Stanley Francis Rother - un modelo de vida cristiana y un discípulo intencional.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.

Director, Oficina de Ministerio Hispano

## Los Obispos Católicos de Oklahoma instan a Trump a dejar DACA en su lugar

### El Congreso debería moverse para proteger a los jóvenes inmigrantes

Basado en informes de que la Casa Blanca terminará en seis meses el programa de Acción Diferida para Llegados en su Infancia (DACA), le pedimos al Presi-

legal a los jóvenes que esperan por un futuro mejor.

En el corazón de la Doctrina Social Católica está la obligación moral de proteger la vida y la

dignidad de cada ser humano, particularmente de los más vulnerables, que incluye a nuestra juventud. Estos jóvenes que se benefician de DACA fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos por sus padres cuyo deseo era proporcionarles a sus hijos con

esperanza, oportunidades y mayor seguridad.

Los Obispos Católicos en los Estados Unidos han apoyado por mucho tiempo a DACA, y ellos

continuarán apoyándolo. Si bien DACA no proporciona ningún estatus legal o camino a la ciudadanía, si les proporciona a sus beneficiarios con un respiro temporal de la deportación y con la autorización de empleo para las diversas oportunidades de trabajo legal en los Estados Unidos. Se estima que 800,000 jóvenes en los Estados Unidos se han beneficiado del programa DACA.

A través de nuestras parroquias y a través de Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y de la Diócesis de Tulsa y del Este de Oklahoma, hemos tenido el privilegio de reunirnos y trabajar con estos individuos sobresalientes, quienes forman parte de lo que somos como comunidad en Oklahoma. Son contribuyentes a nuestra economía, veteranos de nuestro ejército, destacados

continúa en la página 13

Un mensaje del  
Arzobispo Coakley ...



El sábado, 23 de septiembre, a las 10 de la mañana, un evento único tendrá lugar en Oklahoma City, para honrar a uno de los nuestros, El Padre Stanley Rother.

Invito a cada uno de ustedes, a la Misa de beatificación del Padre Rother, en el Centro de Convenciones de Cox.

Este será un evento histórico para los Estados Unidos y para Oklahoma, ¡que no te puedes perder!

Visiten nuestra página de internet stanleyrother.org para más información.



dente Trump y a los miembros del Congreso, específicamente a la delegación de Oklahoma, que desarrollen legislación para fortalecer el programa o para otorgarle estatus

continuado de la página 12

académicos en nuestras universidades, seminaristas y líderes en nuestras parroquias.

Legislación que garantiza que estos jóvenes puedan seguir trabajando, estudiando y protegiéndose de la deportación es importante para la estabilidad de nuestras comunidades.

Sin embargo, una decisión de ponerle fin a este programa, sin un arreglo legislativo como el Proyecto de Ley DREAM Act, es como si nuestra nación le estuviera dando la espalda a la juventud inmigrante que está tratando de alcanzar la plenitud de su potencial, dado a ellos por Dios, e impedirles el poder cumplir la promesa de expresar su agradecimiento a el único país que la mayoría de ellos han conocido. Tal decisión pondría a los jóvenes de DACA en riesgo de deportación de los Estados Unidos.

La administración tiene una oportunidad extraordinaria para demostrar, tanto ahora como a las generaciones futuras, el espíritu de generosidad y compasión de nuestra nación. Nuestra esperanza y nuestras oraciones son para que el Presidente Trump y el Congreso puedan trascender el rencor partidario para fortalecer el programa DACA o proporcionar estatus legal para miles de jóvenes de Oklahoma y cientos de miles de jóvenes en nuestra nación.

Reverendísimo Paul S. Coakley  
Arzobispo de Oklahoma City

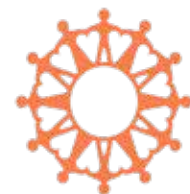
Reverendísimo David A. Konderla  
Obispo de Tulsa y del Este de Oklahoma



Únete al Papa Francisco y a Caritas junto a los migrantes y refugiados de todo el mundo, el 27 de septiembre de 2017.

“El futuro lo haces tú y está hecho de encuentros”

PAPA FRANCISCO



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## Briefs

### Don't miss the Beatification!

The Beatification Mass for Fr. Rother is open to the public, free and no tickets are required! The beatification is 10 a.m. Sept. 23 at the Cox Convention Center. To register a bus or shuttle or for information on parking, restaurants, security, etc., go online to stanleyrother.org.

### Rother Heritage Gallery

The Heritage Gallery at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, is presenting "The Shepherd Cannot Run: A Retrospective on the Life of Father Stanley Rother." The free exhibit is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Special tours arranged by calling (405) 721-5651, Ext. 141.

### Guatemalan bishop Mass and talk

Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, bishop of the Diocese of Sololá-Chimaltenango where Fr. Rother served at the Oklahoma mission, will celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in St. Gregory's Abbey Church in Shawnee. The bishop will give a public talk at 7 p.m. in the Sarkey's Performing Arts Center at SGU with a reception following in the Mabree Gerrr Museum of Art.

### Pro-life lecture

A public lecture by Daniel K. Williams, "The Forgotten Origins of the Pro-Life Movement: The Liberal Human Rights Campaign against Abortion before Roe v. Wade," will be at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman.

### 40 Days for Life

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, everyone is invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life - 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility at 6112 N.W. 63. For information or to volunteer, contact Dale Dirkschneider, (405) 209-0309, dsdirkschneider@gmail.com; or Dick Smith, (405) 650-1603, dicksmith77@cox.net.

### 40 Days for Life Norman

From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, everyone is invited to join 40 days of prayer vigil 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the

Norman abortion center, 2453 Wilcox drive. Sign up for one or more hours at 40daysforlife.com/norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com. The opening ceremony will be a 5:30 p.m. Mass Sept. 26, at St. Mark the Evangelist, Norman.

### Bishop McGuinness reunion

The class of 1962 BMCHS 55th reunion to be Sept. 29-30. Call "CAP" Shidler at (405) 830-3611 or frankjshidlerjr@yahoo.com.

### Matthew Kelly Live!

Dynamic Catholic presents "Living Every Day with Passion & Purpose" with Matthew Kelly and special musical guest Eliot Morris from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sept. 30 at Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Visit dynamiccatholic.com/events/passion-and-purpose.

### Falcon 5K and Fun Run

St. John Nepomuk Catholic School one-mile Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. and 5K begins at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 30 at the school, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd. Register at <http://bit.ly/falcon5K>. Contact falcon5K@sjnok.org.

### Celebration of Life Walk

Birth Choice will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Life Walk Oct. 1 at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. Registration and activities begin at 12:30 p.m. Walk begins at 2 p.m. For information and to register, visit [www.birthchoice.org](http://www.birthchoice.org).

### Oktoberfest

St. Francis/Rosary School community 29<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest, honoring their patron saints, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Francis of Assisi. The family friendly event is Noon - 5 p.m. Oct. 1, at 1919 N.W. 18, OKC. Events begin after 11 a.m. Mass, with a two-mile Fun Run through the historic Gatewood neighborhood, followed by a carnival and live entertainment.

### Anniversary Mass

Archbishop Coakley invites married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 40, 50+) in 2017 to attend a special Anniversary Mass at 3 p.m. Oct. 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., OKC. A reception will follow. Contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944, if attending. The archbishop will impart his blessing and the lo-



### Are you listening?

We hope it is a time for old friends and loyal supporters to come together. We expect to draw new donors and sponsors. We plan to introduce our new development director and share our vision for the future of Catholic radio in Oklahoma.

You all are invited! Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting and Archbishop Coakley invite you to attend the first Catholic Radio Benefit Luncheon on Oct. 4. The luncheon is being held in the atrium of Christ the King Catholic Church in Nichols Hills.

As OCBN continues to transform into a stronger, self-sustaining evangelization resource, each new development has a hand in shaping our future. The luncheon is one of those milestones. When Development Director Marianne Pierce takes the microphone at the luncheon, she will identify what we have undertaken so far and unveil our vision.

The occasion is, after all,

*By Sally Crowe Nash*

designed to create awareness of who we are and what our potential is for helping people know Jesus Christ.

When people listen and absorb the substance and the grace they receive from listening to OCBN, their response is, "Catholic radio is the only thing I listen to!"

More than anything, this affair will be an annual celebration. Guests can pair up the voices they have heard on air with the people behind the voices.

In years to come, the luncheon will be a time to remember the modest beginning and the growing pains. Then, as we attend, year after year, we will marvel at the hand of God, drawing Catholics and our fellow Oklahomans throughout the state, to hear and abide in His word. All through the instrument of Catholic radio.

Need tickets or more details? Go online to [okcr.org](http://okcr.org).

## Oklahoma Catholic Radio Stations

**OKC - 97.3 FM KKNK**  
**Antlers - 90.3 FM KMAC**  
**Broken Arrow - 102.9 FM KPIM**  
**Clinton - 98.3 FM KFWG**  
**Edmond - 100.9 FM KSMJ**  
**Elk City - 100.7 FM KPFS**  
**[okcatholicbroadcasting.com](http://okcatholicbroadcasting.com)**

**Tulsa - 94.9 FM KPIM**  
**Lawton - 88.3 FM KOEG**  
**Prague - 88.3 FM KIOF**  
**Ringwood - 104.9 FM KEUC**  
**Shawnee - 107.1 FM KOGD**  
**Woodward - 93.3 FM KFPP**

cal Catholic community will rejoice in the example and commitment to your Sacrament of Marriage.

### Western Barn and Dinner Dance

Sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, the event will be 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Oct. 21, at Corpus Christi, 1005 NE 15th Street in OKC. Dinner is 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Live band, dancing, dance contest, best costume king and queen crowned. Tickets

\$20 (not sold at door).

### John Michael Talbot concert

"A Lifetime of Music & Ministry," at 5 p.m. Oct. 22 at Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd., OKC. Tickets: \$25 general seating (\$35 at door), \$50 VIP package. Call (405) 722-2110 or visit [www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com](http://www.JohnMichaelTalbot.com).

To see more briefs, go online to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).

## Calendar

*This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).*

<b>September</b>	<b>21</b> Feast of St. Matthew.	<b>23</b> Center. Visit stanleyrother.org.	<b>29</b> Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School class of 1962 reunion Sept. 29-30. Contact "CAP" Shidler, (405) 830-3611.
<b>17</b> Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague. During the nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows - Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday following 5 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.	<b>21</b> Bishop Gonzalo de Villa y Vásquez, bishop of the Diocese of Sololá-Chimaltenango, will celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the St. Gregory's Abbey Church, Shawnee, then speak at 7 p.m., Sarkey's Performing Arts Center.	<b>27</b> Feast of St. Pius of Pietrelcina.	<b>29</b> Feasts of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.
<b>17</b> Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. at the abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. In cases of inclement weather, meet at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.	<b>21</b> Pro-life lecture by Daniel K. Williams, 4:30 p.m., Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman.	<b>27</b> 40 Days for Life begins. Pray daily outside Planned Parenthood, 6112 N.W. 63, OKC. Ends Nov. 5. Contact Dale Dirkschneider, (405) 209-0309.	<b>30</b> Feast of St. Jerome.
<b>20</b> Feast of Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions.	<b>21</b> Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, Thursdays 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey, (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit <a href="http://www.SpiritOKC.org">www.SpiritOKC.org</a> .	<b>28</b> Feast of St. Vincent De Paul.	<b>30</b> Falcon 5K and Fun Run, 8:30 a.m. St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, Yukon.
	<b>23</b> Beatification of Venerable Servant of God Stanley Rother, 10 a.m., Cox Convention	<b>28</b> Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions.	<b>30</b> Matthew Kelly Live, 6 p.m. Cox Convention Center.
		<b>28</b> Feast of St. Wenceslaus.	
		<b>28</b> Bingo at St. James, S. 41 and McKinley, 6:30 p.m. All games \$10. Door prizes, all players receive an entry into a big screen TV drawing in October and recognition of all September born players.	



## Jobs Box

### IT help desk assistant

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time IT help desk assistant to provide IT support to staff and visitors of the Catholic Pastoral Center. High school diploma required; college degree or certificate from a vocational/technical school is preferred. Excellent computer skills necessary as well as the ability to solve problems and troubleshoot.

Customer service experience is usually required. The computer support technician should have strong communication skills and be able to converse with and support those employees who are not technologically proficient. The position also requires knowledge of basic hardware and software functions and networking. Organizational skills essential. Send inquiries and resumes to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

### Director of adult formation and leadership development

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of adult formation and leadership development. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan formation efforts for adults, with a particular emphasis on forming missionary disciples at all levels. A master's degree in theology or related field required.

Previous experience leading adult formation as well as teaching background and curriculum development a must. Bilingual in Spanish a plus. Send inquiries and resumes to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

To see more job openings, go online to [www.soonercatholic.org](http://www.soonercatholic.org).

## Adrian Dominican sister who served in OKC marks 70-year jubilee



Sister JoAnn Fleischaker, OP

Sister JoAnn (Marie Bernard) Fleischaker, O.P., a Chicago native, is celebrating 70 years of religious life.

Sister Fleischaker entered the Adrian Dominican Congregation in 1947. She professed first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1953. She holds a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights College (University), a master's degree from DePaul University in Chicago and a music therapy certificate from Wayne State University, Detroit.

After a sabbatical, Sister Fleischaker ministered for more than 20 years at Las Casas Dominican Ministry in Canton, Okla., ministering with the Cheyenne and Arapaho. She retired from that ministry in 2015. She currently lives in Chicago, where she does volunteer ministry with immigrants and at the Saint Kateri Indian Center.

"My 70 years as an Adrian Dominican have been spiritually, physically and mentally enriching," she said. "I am

grateful to God, our Creator, for all of the wonderful graces and blessings I have received from the loving hands of God."

The Dominican Sisters of Adrian are a Congregation of nearly 640 vowed women religious whose roots go back to Saint Dominic in the 13th century. The sisters minister in 22 states and in the Dominican Republic, Norway and the Philippines. The vision of the Adrian Dominican Sisters is to "seek truth, make peace, reverence life."

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# America’s first martyr

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a hands-on servant – with a resolute desire to become a priest.

Years later, when 33-year-old Father Stan volunteered for Oklahoma’s mission in Guatemala, he found his heart’s vocation – as a priest to the Tz’utujil Mayan people of Santiago Atitlán. It is here where he experienced and integrated into his ministry the love and compassion that led him to lay down his life for the Gospel and for his sheep.

**Imitating Christ’s servant leadership**

In Pope Francis’s words, “Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being” (The Joy of the Gospel, 8).

It is no coincidence that the same values Stanley learned growing up in an Oklahoma farming community – family-first, hard work, kindness, generosity, perseverance – are precisely the values that enabled him to become a missionary shepherd to the Tz’utujil when he first arrived to Guatemala in 1968.

At the young age of 40, Stanley Rother be-

their parents, she recalled.

“We were very seldom not doing things together. Our parents really did keep us in line. We had great respect for each other ... anytime they would hear squabbling — if it was in their earshot — they would calm us down.”

But, Stanley was different from his siblings, she said.

“I actually do not remember him getting a scolding from my parents,” Sister Marita said. “I got my share, my other brothers got theirs. Not that I was comparing myself, but when I thought back on it, I don’t remember, particularly my mother, ever correcting him for anything, or scolding him like we used to get.”

His behavior may have been a foreshadowing of why he will soon be honored by the church.

Sister Marita will be among those participating in a beatification ceremony for Father Rother Sept. 23, in Oklahoma City. Pope Francis acknowledged Father Rother’s martyrdom in December, making the Okarche, Oklahoma, native the first recognized martyr to have been born in the United States.

Hundreds of thousands of Catholics died in the Guatemalan civil war from 1960 to 1996, targeted because of the church’s insistence on catechizing.

In time, Father Rother’s name appeared on a death list. He and an associate left Guatemala in 1981 because of the danger. Father Rother returned to Oklahoma, but his heart was still with the people.

He had a great empathy for the poor, Sister Marita said. Though many of his flock spoke Spanish, a year or two after he began his missionary work in Santiago Atitlan, he asked to begin training

came the sole priest and pastor at the Oklahoma mission, which served 25,000 Tz’utujil Mayan parishioners.

He instituted a personal tradition of Sunday meals with his parishioners in their homes where he ate whatever they ate – a practice that also led him to have regular bouts of dysentery.

When it came to celebrating the Sacraments, the numbers alone were staggering. In 1974, for example, Father Stanley celebrated 649 baptisms, 85 weddings and 150 First Communion every week.

By 1980, however, el conflicto armado interno – Guatemala’s violent war, had made its way to Santiago Atitlán and the other villages surrounding Lake Atitlán. In addition to his pastoral work, Father Stanley’s priestly and sacramental duties now included walking the roads searching for the bodies of the desaparecidos, parishioners who had gone missing.

Writing about his experience visiting Santiago Atitlán three years after Father Stanley’s death, author Henri Nouwen emphasized, his martyrdom needs to be told, for “martyrs are blood witnesses of God’s inexhaustible love for his people.” Ultimately, Nouwen wrote, we honor martyrs because they are reminders of God’s loving presence.

**Patron of missionary discipleship**

Even before Pope Francis began to challenge every Catholic to go to the “peripheries,” to live as missionary disciples, Father Rother had discovered his place and his mission in a remote part of Guatemala. “He had moved well beyond his comfort zone to embrace a life of missionary discipleship far from the familiar comforts of Oklahoma,” Archbishop Coakley said.

Salvador Atzip Sosof remembered during his wedding how Father Stanley told all the couples being married about Saint James and the apostle’s martyrdom, “then we went to confession one by one.

Afterwards, he gave us a remembrance, a diploma (marriage certificate) and a medal,” which Father Stanley blessed.

Our missionary journey to the peripheries of our life will inevitably be different than the ones encountered by soon-to-be Blessed Stanley Rother. But, the question we face is the same. What brave thing has God put in front of me to face right now? Whether it’s with my marriage, or my children, or my health, or my need to forgive – will I say yes in trust that it will lead me to eternal life?

Let the martyr from Okarche show us how.

*Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda is author of Father Rother’s official biography “The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run.”*

continued from page 1

in the Tz’utujil language, one of the 21 Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala, so that he could better serve his flock.

“It’s a very difficult language to learn and almost everyone who heard him speak it could not believe that he learned it in the short time that he did. This man who flunked a year in the seminary because he couldn’t learn Latin is now speaking Tz’utujil,” she said.

It was a blessing for many of his parishioners.

“They could understand what he was talking about,” Sister Marita said. “It got to where he was giving his homilies in Tz’utujil. He soon became known as Padre A’Plas, his Indian name, which was Tz’utujil for Francis.”

Francis was Father Rother’s middle name.

Because of his ability to communicate in the Mayan dialect, she said, the people claimed Father Rother as one of their own.

“When he left, it was like leaving his people,” she said. “There was no one there to continue the Mass in their language. He did not want to leave. When he got home, he longed to be back with them. He knew they were not going to survive spiritually and I think he felt like he abandoned them.”

He returned to Oklahoma for about three months.

“When I saw him ... he looked terrible. It was like he was lost. He kept gazing out the window, kind of in his own thoughts, and we knew what they were.”

When he was told it was safe to return to Guatemala, he hesitated because of his mother’s illness, but he decided to return.

“I’ve got to do it,” he told his sister. “And I knew that. I could see it in his eyes. He had to do it.”

Within three months of his return, on July 28, 1981, three men

entered his rectory in the dead of night and murdered him.

“We knew he was in danger. We didn’t know that things had escalated to that point,” Sister Marita said. “To get that call was very painful.”

She added that she began to understand the love the people had for her brother on her second trip to Guatemala in 1978. She met children here and there all named Francisco.

“It turns out there were lots of Franciscos there,” she said. “It became a very common name.”

Although Father Rother’s body is buried in Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City, his heart will always be with the people he loved. It is enshrined at Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church in Santiago Atitlan.

*Riggs is editor of the Catholic Advance, newspaper of the Diocese of Wichita.*

## From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist



Due to escalating tensions in Guatemala, Father Rother returned to Oklahoma in January 1981. His name had been added to a “death list” due to his “subversive” activity, which included aiding parishioners, voicing his displeasure at the murders of his catechists, and other issues threatening to the military. In this poignant photo, Father Rother is seen embracing his parents at the airport as he arrived from Guatemala. He returned to the mission for Holy Week in April 1981 and made one last visit to Oklahoma in May for the ordination of his cousin, Father Don Wolf, now pastor of Saint Eugene in Oklahoma City. His final visit was brief and friends say there was finality in his words. On July 28, 1981, Father Stanley Francis Rother was murdered in his rectory. As Father Wolf has so eloquently stated, “He did not go back to die; but to live.”



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES