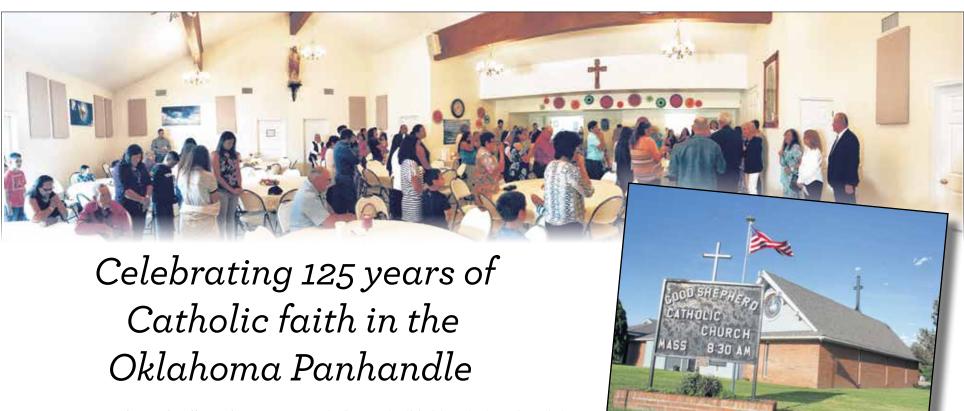
Go Make Disciples



By Diane Clay and Sally Linhart
The Sooner Catholic

BOISE CITY – Almost one hundred and twenty-five years after Bishop Theophile Meerschaert traveled 1,600 miles on rail and buggy to bless a small chapel in the windswept Oklahoma Panhandle, Archbishop Paul Coakley made the trip to celebrate the faith, family and dedication of parishioners at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Boise City.

Nearly 200 parishioners and community members gathered on a Sunday morning in the small chapel adorned with blue ribbons and American flags to remember those who came before to build this mission church in Cimarron County.

"You are God's family. Just as
Jesus tells us in the Gospel, 'Whoever does the
will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' This is what we have come together to celebrate, the fact that different though we may be,
coming from different backgrounds, different
cultures, that we recognize that in Christ we
are brothers and sisters. We are God's family,"
Archbishop Coakley said during his homily.

"What we are celebrating today is the history of faithfulness, of Catholic faith, here in Cimarron County. This is a rich history. You have exercised good stewardship with the gifts God has

recognizing those gifts, developing those gifts, sharing them with one another and glorifying God in the process. Today is an opportunity to look back in gratitude and thanksgiving for those who have come before us and the sacrifices that have been made that we might be here today to celebrate."

During the presentation of the gifts,

continued on page 16

New priest formed by family in Vietnam, Oklahoma

By Zachary Boazman
The Sooner Catholic

"The first time I thought about being a priest was in 2011," Deacon Vic Luong remembered, "it made me scared because I knew that it was hard to follow Jesus Christ."

Now, almost eight years after first considering priesthood, Vuong "Vic" Son Luong will be ordained a priest on June 30 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City.

Deacon Vic was born on July 19, 1979, in Bien Hoa City, Vietnam. It was there he was raised and grew up in the Catholic faith.

"My father was the first catechist of mine," Deacon Vic said, "teaching me to worship and to love God with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind and all my strength."

In 2008, Luong came to the United States as an international student.

"My friend introduced me to Oklahoma. I went to Oklahoma City Community College and majored in education because I wanted to teach." After moving to Oklahoma, Luong began going to the cathedral, where he quickly became friends with the associate pastor, Father Thanh Nguyen.

"I officially met with him in 2010 when I became a member of the Vietnamese choir at the cathedral," he said. "He encouraged me to attend the 2011 'Come and See' trip to Conception Seminary. That trip



Photos provided.

Sooner Catholic 2 June 24, 2018

Put Out Into the $Deep_{_{Luke\ 5:4}}$

Family separation policy is immoral

One of the memorable moments of the spring U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' General Assembly occurred during a discussion on immigration, migrants and refugees.

Regarding the recent extreme measure authorizing the separation of families who have crossed our southern border illegally, one bishop said the policy is symptomatic of a dangerous case of "cardiosclerosis," a hardening of the heart.

Obviously, he used the medical term analogously, but the point he made has stayed with me. Are we not succumbing to a gradual hardening of our hearts toward our suffering brothers and sisters?

It is inconceivable that our great nation, which once prided itself on welcoming waves of immigrants as they passed beneath the great Statue of Liberty and invited "the homeless, tempest-tost" huddled masses yearning for freedom to find refuge in this land of liberty, is now behaving with such heartless disregard for the plight of these suffering families. Adding insult

to injury is the attempt to use the Bible to justify this policy of separating young children from their

parents. Since recently implementing a zero-tolerance policy and prosecuting adults as criminals for unauthorized crossing of the U.S./ Mexico border, more than 2,000 children have been separated from their

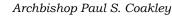
parents

and placed in detention centers. Brothers and sisters are separated from one another as well.

While defending our nation is certainly important, we can find a more humane way to secure our borders without further traumatizing children and harming vulnerable families.

The family is the foundation and bedrock of human society. Our government can find the discretion the answer. It is immoral and un-American.

within a legal framework to ensure that children and parents are not separated. The fundamental principles of Catholic social teaching call for respect for the dignity of the human person and protecting the family. We dare not forget these



principles nor the values and virtues that have forged our national identity.

Many migrants make the difficult decision to seek refuge in another land only when they have exhausted all other reasonable options to live in safety and security at home. Like you and me, they would prefer to stay in their homeland. This is certainly the case with these families fleeing gang-violence and human trafficking in Central America.



Photo John Moore/Getty Images

Many of these families, often mothers with children, are severely traumatized by the violence in their homelands by the time they reach our border. The zero-tolerance policy of separating parents and children serves only to deepen that trauma.

We can do better. We must do better. The current policy is not the answer. Separating families is not

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

June 24 – Mass, 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist, Edmond

June 27 - Archbishop's Circle Mass and reception (Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help), 6:30 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

June 28 - Catholic Charities Board meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities offices

June 29 - Holy Hour and dinner with priests, 6 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

June 30 – Priesthood ordination, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

June 30 - Knights of Columbus state officer installation Mass and banquet, 5:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist,

July 1 – Farewell Mass, 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception, OKC

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.org.

Catholic Pastoral Center Library is open again!

7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. DVDs, reference material, books. Mail service available if more than 30 miles from library. MTR - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) W - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.Contact Rose Mary Story (405) 721-1910 rstory@archokc.org







Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City



Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding and strength needed to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

One Church, Many Disciples aims to strengthen parishes

Sooner Catholic

Tn "The Joy of the Gospel," Pope Francis said "the parish is the presence **▲** of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities, the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers."

Local parishes are where most Catholics encounter Christ on a regular basis, through the Mass or other sacraments. All should be well-equipped to enable members to more fully embrace the call to missionary discipleship.

The One Church, Many Disciples campaign was launched with a goal of raising \$60 million. The money will be used to construct a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, fund shared ministries and strengthen parishes.

Gifts to the One Church, Many Disciples campaign will strengthen parishes through three main areas: evangelization programs, new and expanding parishes, and local parish needs.

Evangelization Fund

The Evangelization Fund will be a resource

For more information about the One Church, Many Disciples campaign, visit onechurchmanydisciples.org.



for parishes to begin special projects focused on spreading the Gospel. New programs will be developed for those who have disengaged from the Church. These efforts will include ongoing discipleship, religious education, faith formation and other leadership development

> programs designed to help people stay strong in their

Emerging Parishes Fund

The Emerging Parishes Fund will help accommodate growth within the archdiocese. Many parishes are experiencing tremendous population growth while land in central and western Oklahoma is increasing in cost. This fund will assist in purchasing land for future parishes in growth areas before it be-

> comes cost-prohibitive. It also will aid new church construction at existing parishes.

Each parish, through its participation in One Church, Many Disciples, will receive a 20 percent portion

its goal, and 50 percent of funds raised over its goal to meet local needs.

June 24, 2018 3

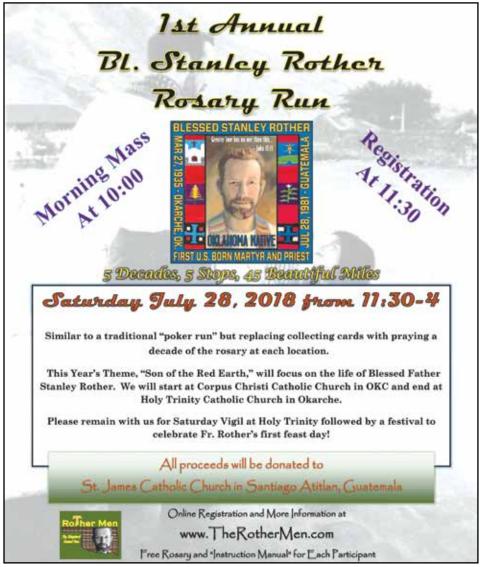
A few of the first parishes to complete the campaign in Wave 1 already have begun work on projects. Saint Monica in Edmond is using its share of campaign funds to furnish a recently constructed Saint Ambrose Center for religious education.

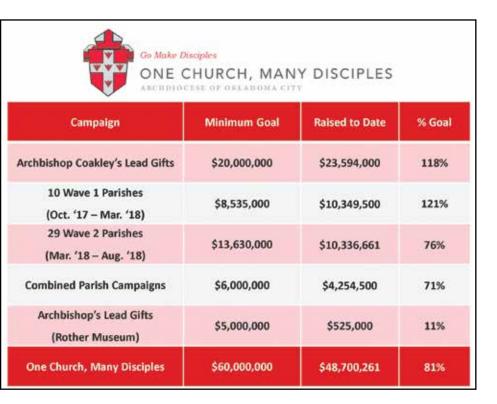
Father Stephen Hamilton, pastor of Saint Monica, anticipates the center will be dedicated later this summer. The Church of the Epiphany of the Lord in Oklahoma City is making much-needed improvements to its parish hall Bryce Hall, which pastor, Father Stephen Bird noted has not been updated in many years. Other parishes have identified various projects such as renovation of worship space, classrooms and offices, and the addition of youth ministry spaces and parking lots.

One Church, Many Disciples aims to provide parishes the resources needed to spread the Gospel message to the world.

Father Don Wolf, pastor of Saint Eugene in Oklahoma City, sees the importance of strengthening every church, from the smallest to the largest.

"If you look at the history of what has happened in this diocese over the past 100 years, sometimes the most powerful and enriching things that have ever taken place have begun in the smallest of places," he said. "Every parish, every mission has a stake in how the of funds raised up to Church is and how the Church is going to be."





Sooner Catholic 4 June 24, 2018



Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City Publisher

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"Listen to what God is saying"

By Steve Gust The Sooner Catholic

Mary Diane Steltenkamp, the priests' nurse for the archdiocese, urged members and guests of the Oklahoma City Council of Catholic Women to follow a saintly road similar to one travelled by Blessed Stanley Rother.

Her address, "Becoming Saints," was part of CCW's Spring Fling held June 2 at Saint Eugene in Oklahoma City. The CCW also used the event to honored three middle school winners. They were recognized for essays describing what they admired most about Blessed Stanley.

Steltenkamp found much to admire about Blessed Stanley, the first American recognized by the Church as a martyr.

"They knew him to be a person of deep prayer," she said. "He would always be in the chapel. In fact he went on a retreat to pray to decide if he needed to return to Guatemala."

Blessed Stanley left Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, after learning his life might be in danger. After prayer, the shepherd decided to return to his flock. A few months later, July 28, 1981, three men entered the rectory and killed him. This year, the archdiocese will celebrate his first feast day on July

"Whenever we make a decision, make prayer a part of it," Steltenkamp said. For her, some of her best prayers come during silence.

"We listen to what God is saying." Blessed Stanley, born and raised in Okarche, also brought needed skills to Guatemala. He was a farmer, mechanic and carpenter.

"What we learn early on stays with us," she said.

Her own life, she explained, found challenges in a divorced



home. Helping her through it were a huge clergy as well as staff at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. It was one reason she sought to give back to the archdiocese when offered a chance.

During Blessed Stanley's beatification this past year, Steltenkamp was moved by testimonies about

"He loved and didn't hate," she said. "He was into building up, not destroying. He saw everyone as a fellow human being.

That alone is another good lesson, she noted.

"We're all in this together. Let's turn the other ear so we can understand the other person."

She then remembered how Blessed Stanley dealt with some of his Guatemalan parishioners, who had been kidnapped and killed by government forces.

"He remembered them in a way his cousin Father Wolf has taught here at Saint Eugene. He said 'presenti' or their lives will be a part of us. Don't forget people who came in our lives and made us what we are," she said.

Returning to Guatemala was

experience for Blessed Stanley,

the nurse said. Yet, we all have the Guatemala experiences in our own lives, she explained. That can include challenges with our children or loneliness in life.

"In our own Guatemala experiences, find your holiness."

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Blessed Stanley may have taught everyone to take risks.

"He risked death in Guatemala, but earlier he also took a risk studying at a second seminary," she recalled. "He had already been kicked out of one seminary and faced that possibility at the sec-

In her ministry to elderly, many told her their greatest regret in life was not taking more risks.

"We all need to take more risks and ask ourselves who am I building up and not tearing down?"

The group also used the day to install new officers and held a silent auction to benefit victims of human trafficking.

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



The Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has awarded \$500 scholarships for the 2018-2019 year to Yukon seniors Brittany and Brooke Carr. The twin sisters are members of St. John Nepomuk in Yukon. Both girls will be attending Southwestern State University in Weatherford.

Central Region Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women announced essay winners at the recent Spring Fling. The winners are: first place, Emma Bannister, St. John Nepomuk, Yukon; second place, Abigail Escobedo, Our Lady of Victory, Purcell; third place, Carline Jamus,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond. Their essay topic was, "What are the qualities of Blessed Stanley Rother that I find inspiring?" Read essays at www.OKCACCW.com. The students are pictured with Becky VanPool, CRCCW president. Photo Cara Koenig/Soner Catholic.

Did you know you can help save a life?

Catholic Charities encourages parishioners to participate in mental health awareness training. QPR is a free one-hour suicide prevention training that provides three simple steps to reach someone who may be feeling hopeless. Professiona counseling also is available. Contact St. Joseph Counseling Center at (405) 524-0969.

The good news of Humanae Vitae

Sooner Catholic

In what feels like some sort of enormous "ecclesiastical book club," Catholics of wildly different backgrounds have been spending this year reading, pondering and discussing the significance of Blessed Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical letter "Humanae Vitae."

Often, the discussion has focused on what might be called the "bad news" of the encyclical: the pope's unnervingly accurate predictions of the ills that would befall society should artificial birth control become widely accepted.

As he foresaw, such "grave consequences" would include widespread divorce, a loss of respect for women and a general lowering of morality.

While it is important to notice that these consequences have indeed come to pass, Catholics probably do not need to devote too much more attention to them. We don't really need to "spike the football" on the Sexual Revolution; the misery of the world has become self-evident. More importantly, these

dire predictions are not the central message of the encyclical. At its heart, Humanae Vitae is good news, not bad news; it is a brief gospel of sexuality, proposing saving truths about marriage, sexuality

and life to all people of good will.

What, then, are some of these truths? What is the good news of Humanae Vitae?

The fundamental insight of the encyclical is that God desires the "conjugal act" (i.e. the sexual intercourse of married spouses) to always be open to both generating life and generating love. Of course, such an openness can sometimes result in new human life - indeed, that's a major part of the good news! The world may say that children are some sort of intolerable

burden, but the encyclical reaffirms what the Church always has known: children are the greatest gift God can bestow upon a marriage.

Marital intercourse is generally supposed to lead to babies, perhaps even to lots of babies. A Spanish translation of Genesis 1:28 makes the point rather well, when God tells Adam and Eve - and, by extension, the whole human race - about His desire that they should have "muchos, muchos hijos!"

However, another aspect of the good news of Humanae Vitae is that Catholic spouses are not simply commanded to have as many children as might be physically possible, regardless of the consequences. For couples enduring spiritually or materially difficult circumstances, the encyclical

recommends "recourse to infecund periods:" an approach to the regulation of birth that is now more commonly called "natural family planning" or NFP.

infertile periods, too, are part of God's plan; it was the Lord who



June 24, 2018 5

them a part of a woman's nature, and thus a part of marriage. By carefully tracking the fertility through observation of physical signs, NFP enables married couples to more easily achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy at a particularly difficult time – all without pills, sterilization, barriers or other human intrusions into to the marital act.

A common objection to natural family planning is that such an approach requires self-control on the part of married couples, since they may need to abstain from sexual intercourse at certain times, something that is by no means easy to do.

Indeed, Humanae Vitae itself admits as much, stating that cooperating with God's plan for marriage requires that a husband and wife "tend toward securing perfect self-mastery." Yet, this objection reveals what is the best news of all in the encyclical: the very structure of marriage makes it a path to holiness, a "way of perfection" like religious life or the priest-

Self-mastery is, after all, another word for temperance, one of the four cardinal virtues or human excellences extolled in the Sacred Scriptures and in the works of great moral writers such as Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aguinas. The virtue is an essential part of Christian holiness (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1803-1811).

To sum up: the good news of Humanae Vitae is that ordinary Christian marriage is naturally ordered to producing extraordinary results: life and holiness.



HUMANAE

VITAE

With Related

Papal Texts

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Read at www.archokc.org

On June 10, Fr. Joseph Nettem blessed the Blessing Box at St. Patrick in Anadarko. The box is available for anyone in the community who has a need

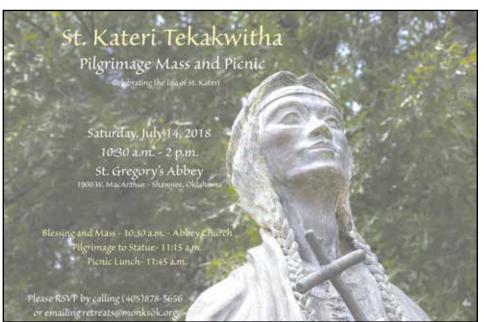


St. Patrick in Anadarko held their parish cookout June 10 with more than 100 parishioners in attendance. The students played volleyball, kickball and splashed with water balloons. Photos provided.



Parishioners at St. Benedict in Shawnee celebrated their parish picnic June 10. Photos Danielle





Sooner Catholic Sooner Catholic June 24, 2018 7 6 June 24, 2018

A prayer journey for the modern world



Retreat In Daily Life

Thousands of Oklahomans have discovered the life-changing prayer and discernment of the Retreat in Daily Life, but many people of faith remain unaware of the opportunity. Below are some of the frequent questions about the prayer journey and information to sign up for the next retreat this fall.

Q: What is Retreat In Daily Life?

A: RIDL is a prayer journey with Scripture that follows the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola to "find God in all things."

Q: How long does it last?

A: The original Spiritual Exercises retreat lasted 30 intense days away from the world. The RIDL allows men and women with busy schedules to participate by spreading the retreat over eight months.

Q: Who oversees the retreat?

A: A trained spiritual guide facilitates weekly small group throughout the archdiocese.

Q: What is the focus of the retreat?

A: The retreat focuses on the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus through prayerful encounter with Scripture.

Q: What is involved in the retreat?

A: Participants commit to daily private prayer, weekly small groups with a spiritual guide and twice-monthly individual spiritual direction.

Q: What are the **Spiritual Exercises?**

A: The Spiritual Exercises grew out of Ignatius Loyola's personal experience as a man seeking to grow in union with God and to discern God's will. He kept a journal as he gained spiritual insight and deepened his spiritual experience.

Q: Who was Ignati-

A: Ignatius was a

Spanish soldier wounded in battle in 1521. During his long and painful recovery, he reflected deeply on his ultimate desires, learning to discern between desires that were grounded in vanity and those that were grounded in holiness. After coming face to face with his own sinfulness and God's grace and mercy,

he left behind his life as a soldier and dedicated his life to God. He concluded that this personal experience of God could be experienced by all people through the practice of the spiritual exercises he himself had engaged in. The result is the Spiritual Exercises, designed to help people to experience a deepening experience of God in their daily lives.



"The whole exercise broadened my view. Jesus is not longer some pseudo-historic figure in some fabulous teaching, he's a real man that I met and that I know, and when I read about the things he did, I say 'ah, yes, I've been there."

-- Harlan Anderson, Enid

"This gave me a plan for meeting Jesus every day. Like meeting a friend."

- -- Katy Drost, Enid
- "The retreat helped me sort out the chaos that is my life."
- -- Carolyn Synovitz, Altus



Q: How do I learn more?

A: Contact Nancy Vargas at (405) 760-4640 or Danna Schweitzer at (405) 263-4472.

Rosary for Life - OKC

Sr. Maria, parishioners at St. James and community members gather every morning at 11:30 to pray the Rosary at 1240 S.W. 44 at the corner of S.W. 44 and Blackwelder Avenue near the abortion center. Anyone can participate.

Rosary for Life - Norman

The Rosary for Life is every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang at potato.lang@gmail.com or (405) 249-1041.

Holy Innocents' Chapel perpetual adoration

Holy Innocents' Foundation is seeking more adorers for the Holy Innocents' Chapel next door to the Planned Parenthood abortion center in northwest OKC. Contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199 or adoration.holyinnocents@ gmail.com.

Catholic Charities weekly Mass

Catholic Charities, at 1232 N. Classen Blvd., OKC, has Mass at 11 a.m. every Friday in the chapel. Mass is open to the public. Check holiday schedule.

From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist



he second bishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Francis Clement Kelley, was an amiable man whose intelligence and ability to converse was admired by those from all walks of life. Consequently, he forged a close friendship with oil magnate Frank Phillips. Phillips, the founder of Phillips Petroleum, saw the goodness and integrity of Kelley and enjoyed his company. When the bishop moved out of Saint Anthony's Hospital in 1939 where he had lived during the height of the Depression, Phillips funded the majority of the purchase price of the bishop's mansion on 15th and Hudson. In fact, the house had a suite reserved for him dubbed the "Phillips 66 Suite." The structure would be the

home of the bishop and later archbishop until 1984. In this photo taken at Phillips' Woolaroc Ranch, Phillips is seen in the middle with the large Stetson hat and Bishop Kelley in the far right first row. Slightly to the right of Phillips in the second row is Msgr. Depreitere, vicar general of

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

Expanded background checks among changes to child protection charter

By Brian Roewe National Catholic Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE – Incremental changes to the U.S. bishops, guiding document on addressing sexual abuse of minors by clergy were approved during the prelates, annual spring assembly, marking the first modifications since

In the first of six votes, the bishops voted 185-5, with one abstention, to approve a series of revisions to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, also known as the Dallas Charter.

The vote marks the third time U.S. bishops have modified the charter, which was first approved at the bishops' spring meeting in June 2002 in response to the clergy abuse scandal that followed a flurry of reports by The Boston Globe's Spotlight team.

The latest changes will amend Article 13 of the charter to require all those in contact with minors undergo background checks, and broaden Article 6, which addresses codes of conduct, so that anyone encountering children must abide by standards for behavior and appropriate boundaries. Previously, the stipulation applied only to those who had regular

contact with youth.

Another change will re-assert the confidentiality of the confessional with regard to reporting allegations to public authorities, a decision Bishop Timothy Doherty, chair of the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, said was prompted "due to recent changes and challenges to the inviolability of the seal of confession."

In December, Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that the Church remove exemptions from mandatory reporting laws for what clergy are told in confession.

Other revisions to the Dallas Charter will seek to promote the means, specifically digital channels, by which allegations can be reported; add reference to the causes and contexts study to the charter's preamble; and alter the revision period from two years to seven years.

The bulk of the nearly two dozen modifications address issues of style and language.

The revisions do not alter the "Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of the Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons." Since they were promulgated as Church law, any changes to the essential norms, last modified in 2006, would

require Vatican approval.

The revisions brought before the assembled body of bishops were the result of a process involving the committees for child and youth protection; for clergy and consecrated life; for canonical affairs; the office of general counsel; and the National Review Board, the group of independent lay advisers to the bishops on child protection.

On the meeting's first day, Francesco Cesareo, chair of the National Review Board, said the board supported the revisions as they stood before the bishops' debate and amending

"I think it will be very helpful in making the charter a stronger document and also will allow for the Church to be even more effective in its efforts of child protection and victim assistance," he told NCR.

Specifically, he said the expansion of background checks "will be very, very helpful," in that now everyone in contact with children will have to go through the screening.

Cesareo said that parish audits are one revision he would like to see the bishops make. He said he hoped that as more dioceses conduct

continued on page 10

Making Sense of Bioethics

Consenting to sex

Recent news articles exploring the post-#MeToo world of romance have noted the phenomenon of cell phone "consent apps," allowing millennials to sign digital contracts before they have sex with their peers; sometimes strangers they have just met. Many of these apps are being refined to include a panic button that can be pressed at any time to withdraw any consent given. Lawyers reviewing the practice, as might be anticipated, have urged caution, noting that consent apps are not able to provide definitive proof of consent, because feelings may "change throughout an evening, and even in the moments before an act."

When we look at modern views

about sex, it's not a stretch to sum them up this way: as long as two consenting adults are involved, the

to "sex in the moment," consent is touted as key, allowing for almost all mutually-agreed upon behaviors or practices.

Sex between men and women

nerabilities, with men oftentimes being, in the words of sociologist Mark Regnerus, "less discriminating" in their sex drives than women, eager to forge ahead as long as there appears to be some semblance of consent. Women often sense, rightly, that consent for a particular sexual act ought to be part of something bigger, a wider scope of commitment.

Consenting to sex, of course, signifies the surrendering of our self to another. Sex ultimately speaks of giving our self, and receiving another, in a total, rather than a fragmentary way. This is part of the reason why this unique human activity holds a perennial fascination for us; it goes far beyond

"When a person is reduced to being merely an object for another's desire, then the experience violates the core of one's sense of self."

bases are covered. When it comes other forms of communication,

Yet, this approach to sex is fundamentally flawed, and it's often the woman who is the first to notice. Even when consenting unmarried couples scrupulously use contraception, there remains an awareness, particularly on the part of the woman, that a pregnancy could follow, and a concern about who will be left holding the bag if that were to happen

involves real asymmetries and vul-

exchange and bonding.

To give our self fully to another, and to receive that person fully, forms a bond with them that extends beyond the morning dawn. Human sexual union is not a mere joining of bodies, but is preeminently a joining of human hearts. It is, at its core, consenting to share one of the deepest parts of our self with another. As Dr. Angela Franks has perceptively noted: Sexuality is not simply a matter of something that I have, as though my body is another possession just like my wallet or my car. If, as Gabriel Marcel said, I am my

body, then sexuality has to do with my very person, which has a deep value. To use the language of Saint John Paul II, when a person is reduced to being merely an object for another's desire, then the experience violates the core of one's sense of self.

In casual sexual encounters, the consent we give each other may seem sincere and genuine, expressing our desires within the moment, but this kind of consent is largely transactional and temporary.

By consenting to pre-marital or extra-marital sex, we declare, in effect, that we are giving ourselves, our bodies and our hearts to each other, although in truth, our giving remains partial and conditional,

and we may be out the door the next morning or the next month. Our consent, limited and qualified as it is, amounts to little more than an agreement to use each other as long as it's convenient, and when the break

up occurs, we are hurt, because we receive the gift of life. thought we had something special, even though we didn't really want to commit to anything special.

In the final analysis, human sexual activity calls for something much deeper and more abiding than mere transactional consent, namely, the irrevocable and permanent consent of spouses. Professor William May describes it this way:

In and through his act of marital consent ... the man, forswearing all others, has given himself irrevocably the identity of this particular woman's husband, while the woman, in and through



Father Tad Pacholczyk National Catholic Bioethics Center

consent, has given herself irrevocably the identity of this particular man's wife, and together they have given themselves the identity of spouses. Husbands and wives, precisely because they have given themselves irrevocably to each other in marriage, have established each other as irreplaceable, non-substitutable, non-disposable persons and by doing so have capacitated themselves to do things that non-married individuals simply cannot do, among them to "give" themselves to one another in the act proper and exclusive to spouses - the marital act - and to

her self-determining act of marital

Through the enduring commitment of marital consent, a man and a woman establish the foundation for personal sexual consent. In the absence of that larger marital commitment, all other consents, even with legalized authorization or electronic notarization, ring hollow.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

DID YOU KNOW? St. John Nepomuk Church is hosting Oklahoma's 1st Non-residential Weekend (you go home to sleep at night) July 20 - July 22 \$100 per Couple (Includes lunch on July 21 & 22) Register TODAY: 405-323-9119 or rbfeller@gmail.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This amazingly packed weekend will allow couples to have the time to focus on their marriage by exploring the following topics:

Encounter with Self Marriage in Today's World Listening Areas for Reaching Out -God's Desire for Marriage

-Risking to Trust our Feelings -Impact of Dialogue

 Marriage as a Sacrament Living our Sacrament



Sooner Catholic 8 June 24, 2018 Sooner Catholic June 24, 2018 9

Convent welcomes visitors to the Holy Land

By Charles Albert The Sooner Catholic

Many travelers think that visiting the places where Jesus was born, lived and died would take weeks and cost thousands of dollars. The Rosary Sisters Convent offers a convenient and inexpensive housing near the Jaffa Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The convent offers daily Mass and the gates to the complex close at 10 p.m., so it may not fit those tourists looking for Jerusalem nightlife. Room rates range from \$130-\$150 per night USD and include breakfast each day.

The convent is simple, clean and quiet. It doesn't have many hotel amenities such as televisions or coffee makers in the room. However, visitors will have the feeling of a spiritual, safe and comfort-

but they speak English well. They have

been hosting guests in the Holy Land

able stay in the Holy Land. The convent is located next to the U.S. Consulate and has a shopping mall within a five-minute walk. The sisters' native language is Arabic,

Rosary Sisters Convent http://rosarysisters-gh.com rosry_14@netvision.net.il

for many years. Sister Paschal manages guests at the convent, and Andre Garmat is the caretaker who can handle transportation and tourist needs.

Garmat's four passenger vans cost about \$600 a day USD for an eight-hour tour that includes driver and tour guide. Three days of tours will cover 90 percent of Christ's major ministry areas.

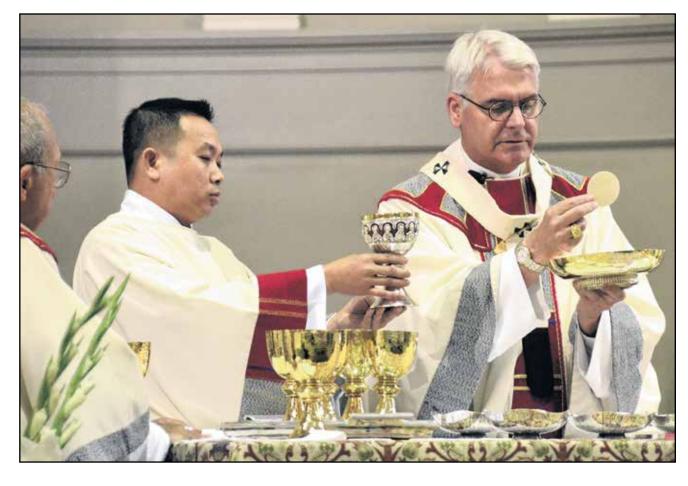
Some potential stops include Mount of Olives, Saint Stephen's Gate, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Jordan

River and the Dead Sea.

Very few churches charge admission. Garmat picks up tourists at the airport in Tel Aviv for a fee and transports them to the convent.

Besides gaining a great deal of understanding and appreciation for the Bible, groups will appreciate the physical strength of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Apostles. Israel is mostly desert and the some of the mountains are very steep. After visiting the Holy Land, travelers appreciate what the disciples faced in spreading the faith of Jesus Christ.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Left: Deacon Vic assits with the celebration of Mass with Archbishop Coakley. Bottom: Deacon Vic greets his father at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma CIty. Photos Sooner Catholic Archives and provided.

St. Andrews Flight

1st place: Bryan Bagby, Chris Eastham, Shannon Begnel, Jason Canning

Sponsored by Paycom Payroll, LLC 2nd place: Charles Lawrence, Tony Lawrence, Andy Lawrence, David Law-

St. Christopher Flight

1st place: Joe Vahlberg, Mike Chancellor, Daniel Stith, Jr., Matt Slatnick

Sponsored by Wealth Management Group, LLC

2nd place: David Eaton, Ryan Eaton, Jay Mauldin, Tom Ross

Sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors/ Saint Katharine Drexel Retirement Center

St. Clare Flight

1st place: Rick Bittle, Jeff Peles, Scott Bittle, Chad Meeke

Sponsored by Longhorn Service Company

2nd place: Joey Meibergen, Daniel Smith, Alan Boyer, Gavin Boyer Sponsored by Johnston Seed Co.

St. Lawrence Flight

1st place: Lynn Blevins, David Luster, Rocky Walcher, Matt Piercy, Rev. Oby Zumnas

2nd place: David Morton, Gary Savely, Steve Jantz, Pat Bates

St. Sebastian Flight

1st place: Kevin Karpe, Eric Kline, David Cummings, Kyle Karpe Sponsored by Heritage Trust Co. 2nd place: Hugh O'Hara, Nick O'Hara, Brian Yost, Charles Schoolcraft Sponsored by Maguire O'Hara Construction

St. Rita Flight

1st place: Bob Tener, John Tener, Jason Bertels, Jay Czajkoski 2nd place: Don Greiner, Matt Atyia, Rev. John Metzinger, Bob Metzinger

Sponsored by Grace Living Centers

CFO Golf Classic 2018

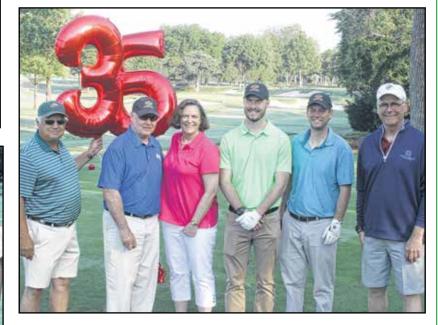
The Catholic Foundation's 17th annual Golf Classic was held on May 21 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. The tournament benefits Catholic schools and Catholic education endowments at the foundation. For more information about The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma visit cfo-info@ archokc.org. Photos provided.













New priest formed by family in Vietnam, Oklahoma

continued from page 1

changed my life remarkably."

In 2012, Luong was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and went to southern Indiana to study at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Luong spent all six of his years in formation at Saint Meinrad, graduating this past May with 21 other men who will be ordained priests for other dioceses around the country.

"My experience at Saint Meinrad has been great. I'm going to miss it; the classrooms, the chapel, the dining room and even the fish ponds where I had many great moments and memories for six years of formation."

During those years, Luong reported his call to the priesthood has strengthened.

"God has confirmed my discernment by giving me his great gift of peace in Mass and prayer."

But, it hasn't just been seminary that has formed him. The support of the community at Our Lady's Cathedral has been instrumental in fostering his vocation as well.

"I have been loved and cared for for many years by my parish community. Whenever I would come back to Oklahoma City from my seminary for a break, I was always welcomed warmly. In other words," Deacon Luong humorously added, "I have been fed well."

After ordination, Luong looks forward to celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and anointing the sick.

"I look forward to saying my first Mass, to pray for all of my ancestors who have passed away, especially for my paternal and maternal grandmothers who passed away in Vietnam."

And while practicing what he preaches is among his top pri-

orities, Luong admits he is nervous about preparing homilies. "But I trust in Jesus, and submit myself to him with love and humility.'

Luong's ordination is the occasion for another special moment in his life.

"I am very happy about my father coming to my priestly ordination. This is his first time to the United States. I haven't seen or talked with him in person for 10 years!"

Deacon Vic's ordination is June 30 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It is open to the public. First Mass is at 11:45 a.m. July 1 at the cathedral.

Boazman is a seminarian for the archdiocese and a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic. He recently was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate.

Fr. Fuller celebrates 25th ordination anniversary

Fr. Chandler and Fr. Fuller



Sr. Silvia Negrete, Sr. Barbara Joseph and Sr. Theresa Margaret of the Carmelite Sisters attend the celebration. Sr. Theresa Margaret was Fr. Fuller's first grade teacher. Photos provided.

ore than 500 parishioners, friends and fellow clergy celebrated Father Timothy Fuller's 25th anniversary of ordination at an event and Mass June 10 at Saint Philip Neri and the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City.

Special guests included Father Anthony Chandler of Immaculate Conception in La Grange, Ky., Deacon Paul Albert of Saint Matthew in Elk City as well as many family members. The celebration included video tributes from school students, a personal message from Archbishop Coakley, presentations by Principal Brenda Tener and Deacon

Norm Mejstrik, and a touching tribute from parish staff. At the end of the celebration, Father Fuller addressed

"I am grateful to the Almighty God for these last 25 years of priesthood, especially in the graces of all the people who have come into my life. I will always carry those relationships with me."

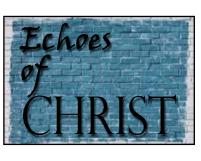
Most recently Father Fuller was given a special assignment as the director of seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Sooner Catholic 10 June 24, 2018 June 24, 2018 11 Sooner Catholic

Living a mission-driven life

The sacraments at the service of communion

Our lives as loving disciples, faithfully following and growing in our intimacy with Christ and willing to share him with others, begins with the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist open our hearts and lives to a special closeness with



Christ and his passionate

This sacramental initiation to a life of discipleship also is the first response we give God to His call to

each one of us to lead holy and mission driven lives. Holiness is to passionately live the love of Christ. Mission driven lives share with others this passionate love and life of Christ.

This is our vocation to be missionary disciples. This is our first and foundational calling. These sacraments of initiation are our door to the loving and saving power of God in our lives.

This gift of God's salvation is too great to keep to oneself and God has established ways to share this salvation with others. Ways that benefit us as we strive to help others. These ways, these paths to assist others in their salvation are the two sacraments that are at the service of loving communion; the sacraments of Holy Orders and matrimony.

These sacraments help to build up the Body of Christ by expanding the numbers of those

disciples in true love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Through these two sacraments of love, disciples living out their common priesthood receive special graces through their unique consecrations to the Body of Christ – consecrations born of love.

Those who receive the sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated in Christ's name "to feed the Church by the word and grace of God.' This service of feeding the Body of Christ with Christ himself as word and sacrament is an exercise of the ministry that Christ entrusted to his apostles. By feeding the flock by the power of the Holy Spirit and according to the loving heart of Jesus, those ordained are the Lord's instruments of love that fortify the Body

Ministry, especially the ministry of those who have received Holy Orders in any of its three degrees (bishop, priest and deacon) only can occur in, through and with love. No love, no ministry. No love, no communion. No love, the ordination received is being mocked.

Only through love can true shepherding occur. Only through love can the flock see Christ in its assigned shepherd. Only through love can communion be achieved. Only through love can a community be transformed into a loving parish family.

We need to pray for our archbishop, every priest and every deacon. We need to pray for each seminarian. We can do a lot of good by asking God to assist them in becoming better instruments of his love, so they may grow in

and as images of Christ and his for his bride, the Church.



Pedro A. Moreno. Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Those who have celebrated the grace-filled sacrament of matrimony enter into an indissoluble covenant of love and life between them, a man and a woman, and God who is love. They witness to the Church and the world the indissoluble unity of love between Christ and his Church. Each married couple is a union of passionate love and life that has Christ at its center. They are the domestic Church. They truly are responding to a call that is at the service of communion.

The sacrament of matrimony fortifies the couple's bond and elevates their love beyond

Through this sacrament, the couple is strengthened in Christ to be able to fulfill their duties as husband and wife, father and mother. We need to pray for those who are married so they may grow in Christ.

Those who respond to a vocation to Holy Orders, and those who respond to the vocation of Holy Matrimony, begin as loving disciples of Jesus Christ. Both respond to an additional calling to share the love they have found in Christ with a unique path, the service of communion. We pray for them all.

continued from page 7

such reviews, the bishops would move to codify them in the charter, perhaps in the next revision.

The 2017 audit saw an additional 15 dioceses and eparchies conducting internal or external parish-level audits, what the Review Board chair called an "encouraging result." The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City undergoes an external audit every three years.

As have preceding reports, the 2017 audit reported "a sense of complacency" among a growing number of dioceses, though Cesareo noted 58 of 61 dioceses receiving onsite visits were found compliant, as were 133 participating through data collection.

The 2017 audit reported fewer

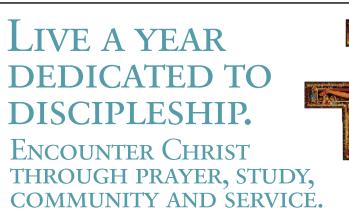
allegations of sexual abuse by clergy than the 2016 and 2015 iterations, with the number, 695, more in line with 2014 allegations. At the same time, reports of boundary violations have risen.

On June 13, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, U.S. bishops' president, appointed three new members to the National Review Board:

Stacie LeBlanc, a former child abuse prosecutor and current executive director of the New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center; Theresa Simak, an assistant state attorney in Florida; Jan Slattery, who was director of the Office for Protection of Children and Youth in the Chicago Archdiocese from 2003 to 2015. The new appointments bring the board's membership to 16.







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For more information: Gospel of Life School 1145 SW 42nd Street Oklahoma City, OK 73109 jim@gospeloflifedisciples.org 216.965.3420



"The Courage to Be Happy"

Pope Francis speaks to young people

By J.E. Helm The Sooner Catholic

In the introduction to this book, Father Thomas Rosich, C.S.B., describes the work as a "collection of texts, reflections, homilies and addresses by Pope Francis" and he goes on to say that this is a book "for young people and anyone accompanying youth or young adults in the Church and in the world today."

Father Rosich has made the pope's World Youth Days a part of his life "for more than 20 years," and so he is well qualified to introduce "The Courage to Be Happy: The Pope Speaks to the Youth of the World.'

Included are the pope's remarks to young people in several countries from Paraguay to Brazil. Like Saint John Paul II, this pope is focused on young people and tells them, "You are the wealth of the Church." He tells them there is "no force more powerful than the one released from the hearts of young people when they have been conquered by the experience of friendship with Christ."

This friendship is a theme in his talks, and he repeatedly addresses the young people as "dear young friends." The Holy Father tells

them that "friendship is one of the greatest gifts that a person, a young person, can offer" and reminds them that Jesus said, "I have called you my friends."

The pope challenges young people to "dream that this world can be different." "The Lord is counting on you," and "Jesus is looking at you now and is asking, 'Do you want to help me carry the cross?"

The Holy Father in his talks interacts with young people. Meeting with the young people of Sardinia, he asks them, "Have I gone on for too long?" and they call out "No!" In the Central African Republic, he asks if they believe that with Christ, we can fight evil, and they cry out, "Yes!"

He asks them to pray for those for whom "the family is a meaningless concept, the home only a

place to sleep and eat." He asks them to take "the interior struggles that each one of us carries in his or her heart" to God in prayer, and all pause in silence to pray.

One of the themes of the Holy Father's talks

is the Beatitudes, and here is where the title of the book, "The Courage to Be Happy" comes

Review

The Beatitudes repeatedly say, "Blessed is

Book

the COURAGE

to be HAPPY

The Pope Speaks to the louth of the World

etc., and the Pope explains that the Greek word "makarioi,"

blessed, means to be happy. He invites young people to discover "the joy of being instruments of God's mercy" and asks them to "open yourselves to his merciful gaze." The courage to be happy is, simply put, the courage to take the Beatitudes to heart. The courage to be happy is the courage to follow Christ.

book's final chapter is a "Letter of Pope Francis to Young People," and he signs it with a phrase that describes his true feelings for all the youth of the world - "With paternal affection, Francis."

Jobs Box

HS teachers - OKC

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, OKC, is seeking a certified full-time AP chemistry and pre-AP chemistry teacher; a certified part-time freshman physics teach er; and full-time social studies - American history, U.S. government, applied economics teacher for the 2018-19 school year. Fax cover letter and resume to (405) 631-9209 or e-mail tdenegri@ mountstmary.org. EOE.

Fourth grade teacher - El Reno

Sacred Heart, El Reno, is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year for a fourth-grade

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ucation with state teaching certification is required. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate to Shannon Statton, 210 South Evans, El Reno, OK 73036, (405) 262-2284 or e-mail to: sstattonsacredheart@live.com. Teacher application packets can be found at www.archokc.org/multimedia/ files/doc_download/294-teacher-application-packet.

teacher. A bachelor's degree in ed-

Coordinator children's evangelization, discipleship

The archdiocese is seeking a coordinator of children's evangelization and discipleship. The coordinator should

> with a contagious spirit who advances the needs of children and their families through programs and opportunities centered on Christ and the teachings of the Church, supporting the new evangelization. The coordinator is responsible for parish catechesis and sacramental preparation, supporting parish catechetical programs, including, but not limited to, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, family-based catechesis,

be a visionary

and traditional models of religious education. Should be Catholic in good standing, possess a bachelor's degree and be able to travel extensively throughout the archdiocese. Bilingual in Spanish preferred. Position begins July 1. Send resume to nlargent@archokc.org.

Fourth grade teacher St. Charles Borromeo Cath-

olic School is seeking a fourth grade teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Bachelor's degree in education and a state teaching certificate required; knowledge or fluency in Spanish preferred. Send resume and cover letter to Todd Gungoll, principal@scbokc.org, or St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, 5000 N. Grove, OKC 73122. Download teacher application packet at bit.ly/archokcteacherapplication.

Teachers - Norman

All Saints Catholic School, Norman, is accepting applications for teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. A bachelor's degree in education with state teaching certification in the desired teaching area hours are 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. required. Send resume, cover letter Monday through Friday on school and copy of teaching certificate to Dana Wade, principal, dwade@ allsaintsnorman.org. Download teacher application packet at bit. ly/archokcteacherapplication. No phone calls.

Teachers - MWC

St. Philip Neri Catholic School, Midwest City, is seeking elementary and early childhood teachers. Must hold state certification. Teaching experience preferred. E-mail Brenda Tener, principal, btener@spnok.org.

Teachers - Edmond

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic

School is seeking teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Bachelor's degree in education with state teaching certification in the desired teaching area a must. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate to Laura Gallagher, principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 925 S. Boulevard, Edmond 73034, or lgallagher@stjohn-catholic.org. Download teacher application packet at bit.ly/archoketeacherapplication. No phone calls.

Spanish teacher - Lawton

St. Mary Catholic School, Lawton, is seeking a part-time Spanish teacher. State teaching certification preferred. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate (if applicable) to Joanne Linville, P.O. Box 2546, Lawton 73502. Application packets at bit. ly/archoketeacherapplication.

After-school program - Lawton

St. Mary Catholic School, Lawton, is seeking a staff member for after-school care program. The days. Contact Joanne Linville at (580) 355-2054 for application.

Principal - Ponca City St. Mary Catholic School is seek-

ing a principal for the 2018-2019 school year. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum five years teaching experience. Administrative experience preferred. Effective July 1. For application, contact superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123 or call (405) 721-4202.

To see more job openings, go online to www.soonercatholic.org.

Sooner Catholic 12 June 24, 2018 Sooner Catholic June 24, 2018 13

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

La política de separación familiar es inmoral

Uno de los momentos memorables de la Asamblea General de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos de esta primavera ocurrió durante una discusión sobre inmigración, migrantes y refugiados.

Con respecto a la reciente medida extrema que autoriza la separación de las familias que han cruzado ilegalmente nuestra frontera sur, un obispo dijo que la política es sintomática de un caso peligroso de "cardiosclerosis", un endurecimiento del corazón.

Obviamente, utilizó el término médico de manera análoga, pero el punto que hizo se quedó conmigo. ¿No estamos sucumbiendo a un endurecimiento gradual de nuestros corazones hacia nuestros hermanos y hermanas que sufren?

Es inconcebible que nuestra gran nación, que una vez se enorgulleció de recibir olas de inmigrantes cuando pasaron bajo la gran Estatua de la Libertad e invitó a "tempestuosa llegada de personas sin hogar", se aglomeraran masas anhelando libertad para encontrar refugio en esta tierra de libertad, ahora se está comportando con una despreocupación tan cruel por la dificil situación de estas familias que sufren. Añadir insulto a la herida es el intento de usar la Biblia para justificar esta política de separar a los niños pequeños de sus pa-

Desde que recientemente implementaron una política de cero tolerancia y enjuiciar a adultos como criminales por el cruce no autorizado de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, más de 2,000 niños han sido separados de sus padres y colocados en centros de detención. También están separando a hermanos de sus hermanas.

Si bien la defensa de nuestra nación es ciertamente importante, podemos encontrar una forma más humana de asegurar nuestras fronteras sin traumatizar aún más a los niños y dañar a las familias vulnerables.

La familia es la base y la base de la sociedad humana. Nuestro gobierno puede encontrar la discreción dentro de un marco legal para garantizar que los niños y los padres no estén separados. Los principios fundamentales de la enseñanza social católica requieren respeto por la dignidad de la persona humana y la protección de la familia. No nos

atrevamos a olvidar estos principios ni los valores y virtudes que han forjado nuestra identi-

Muchos migrantes toman la dificil decisión de buscar refugio en otra tierra solo cuando han agotado todas las demás opciones razonables para vivir en condiciones de seguridad en país de origen. Al igual que tú y yo, preferirían quedarse en su tierra natal. Este es ciertamente el caso con estas familias que huyen de



en su tierra natal

cuando llegan a

nuestra frontera.

cero tolerancia de

separar a padres

e hijos solo sirve

para profundizar

ese trauma.

La política de

Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



Foto John Moore/Getty Images

la violencia de pandillas y el tráfico de personas en América Central

Muchas de estas familias, a menudo madres con hijos están severamente traumatizadas

Podemos hacerlo mejor. Debemos hacerlo mejor. La política actual no es la respuesta. Separar familias no es la respuesta. Es inmoral y contrario al espíritu norteamericano.

Obispos de EE. UU. censuran decisión sobre asilo



Un músico toca mientras los voluntarios de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud llegan el 24 de abril a Colón, Panamá. La Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2019 se celebrará del 22 al 27 de enero en la ciudad de Panamá. Foto CNS/Bob Roller. Por Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service

FORT LAUDERDALE - Los obispos estadounidenses censuraron el 13 de junio la decisión del secretario de justicia de Estados Unidos, Jeff Sessions, negando asilo a personas que vienen huyendo de la violencia doméstica o de pandillas, diciendo que no pueden buscar protección en Estados Unidos.

"El asilo es en su núcleo un instrumento para preservar el derecho a la vida", dice el comunicado de los obispos. Ellos pidieron a legisladores y tribunales del país "a respetar y mejorar, no erosionar, el potencial de nuestro sistema de asilo para preservar y proteger el derecho a la vida".

La decisión de Sessions "provoca una gran preocupación porque

potencialmente le quita el asilo a muchas mujeres que no tienen protección adecuada", dice el comunicado. "Estas mujeres vulnerables ahora enfrentarán un regreso a los peligros extremos de la violencia doméstica en sus países

El comunicado de los obispos se publicó el primer día de su asamblea de primavera, la que se llevó a cabo el 13 y 14 de junio en Fort Lauderdale.

Inmediatamente después de las oraciones de apertura, el cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), levó la declaración y los obispos expresaron su apovo.

Anunciada por Sessions durante

continúa en la página 13

Vivir vidas impulsada a la misión

Los sacramentos al servicio de la comunidad

Nuestras vidas como discípulos enamorados, siguiendo y creciendo fielmente en nuestra intimidad con Cristo y dispuestos a compartirlo con otros, comienzan con los sacramentos de la Iniciación Cristiana. Bautismo, Confirmación y la Eucaristía abren nuestros corazones y nuestras vidas a una cercanía especial con Cristo y

su apasionado amor por nosotros.

Esta iniciación sacramental a una vida de discipulado también es la primera respuesta que

le damos a Dios y su llamado a cada uno de nosotros para vivir en santidad y dedicados a la misión. La santidad es vivir apasionadamente el amor de Cristo. Las vidas impulsadas por la misión comparten con los demás la vida de Cristo y su amor apasionado.

Esta es nuestra vocación, la de ser discípulos misioneros. Esta es nuestra primera y fundamental vocación. Estos sacramentos de iniciación son nuestra puerta al amor y el poder salvador de Dios en nuestras vidas.

Este don de la salvación de Dios es demasiado grande para guardarlo para uno mismo y Dios ha establecido formas de compartir esta salvación con los demás. Maneras que nos benefician a medida que nos esforzamos por ayudar a los demás. Estos caminos, estas vías para ayudar a otros en su salvación son los dos sacramentos que están al servicio de nuestra comunidad de amor; los sacramentos de las Ordenes Sagradas v el Matrimonio.

Estos sacramentos ayudan a edificar el Cu-

erpo de Cristo al expandir el número de esos discípulos enamorados de verdad con nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo.

A través de estos dos sacramentos de amor, los discípulos que viven su sacerdocio común reciben gracias especiales a través de sus consagraciones únicas al Cuerpo de Cristo: consagraciones nacidas del amor.

Aquellos que reciben el sacramento de las Órdenes Sagradas son consagrados en el nombre de Cristo "para alimentar a la Iglesia por la palabra y la gracia de Dios". Este servicio de alimentar el Cuerpo de Cristo con Cristo mismo como palabra y sacramento es un ejercicio del ministerio que Cristo confió a sus apóstoles. Al alimentar al rebaño con el poder del Espíritu Santo y de acuerdo con el Corazón de Jesús tan lleno de amor, los ordenados son los instrumentos de ese amor del Señor que fortalece al Cuerpo de Cristo.

El ministerio, especialmente el ministerio de aquellos que han recibido las Órdenes Sagradas en cualquiera de sus tres grados (obispo, sacerdote y diácono) solo puede ocurrir en, a través y con amor. Sin amor, no hay ministerio. Sin amor, no hay comunión. La ausencia de amor es una burla a la ordenación recibida.

Solo a través del amor puede ocurrir el verdadero pastoreo. Solo a través del amor puede el rebaño ver a Cristo en su pastor asignado. Solo a través del amor es que se puede lograr ser una comunidad. Solo a través del amor puede una comunidad transformarse de una mera parroquia a una familia de amor parro-

Necesitamos orar por nuestro arzobispo, cada sacerdote v cada diácono. Necesitamos orar por cada seminarista. Podemos hacer mucho bien pidiéndole a Dios que los ayude a conver-

tirse en mejores instrumentos de su amor, para que puedan crecer en santidad



Pedro A. Moreno, Secretariado de Evangelización y Catequesis

y en mejores imágenes de un Cristo enamorado de su

esposa, la Iglesia. Aquellos que han celebrado el sacramento lleno de gracia del matrimonio entran en un pacto indisoluble de amor y vida entre ellos, un hombre y una mujer, y Dios que es amor. Ellos, en su amor, dan testimonio a la Iglesia y al mundo de la unidad indisoluble entre Cristo y su Iglesia. Cada pareja casada es una unión de amor apasionado y vida que tiene a Cristo en su centro. Ellos son la Iglesia doméstica. Realmente están respondiendo a un llamado que está al servicio de la comunidad.

El sacramento del matrimonio fortalece el vínculo de la pareja y eleva su amor a un nivel más allá de lo que nos podemos imaginar.

A través de este sacramento, la pareja se fortalece en Cristo para poder cumplir con sus deberes como esposo y esposa, padre y madre. Necesitamos orar por aquellos que están casados para que puedan crecer en Cristo.

Aquellos que responden a una vocación a las Sagradas Órdenes, y aquellos que responden a la vocación al Santo Matrimonio, comienzan como discípulos enamorados de Jesucristo. Ambos responden a un llamado adicional para compartir el amor que han encontrado en Cristo con un camino único, el servicio de comunidad. Oremos por todos ellos.

continuado de la página 12

una conferencia de prensa del 11 de junio, la decisión "niega décadas de precedentes que han provisto protección a mujeres que huyen de la violencia doméstica", dijo el comunicado. "A menos que sea derogada, la decisión erosionará la capacidad del asilo para salvar vidas, particularmente en casos que involucran a personas que buscan asilo y que son perseguidos por actores (no gubernamental-

El secretario de justicia anuló la decisión de un tribunal de inmigración que le concedió asilo a una salvadoreña que dijo que había sido maltratada por su esposo. Él dijo que las leyes de asilo de Estados Unidos no pueden usarse para remediar "todo infortunio", incluyendo la violencia que sufre alguien en otro país u otras razones relacionadas con las "circunstancias sociales, económicas, familiares u otras circunstancias personales" de un individuo.

El cardenal DiNardo también dijo en sus comentarios que se unía al obispo Joe S. Vásquez de Austin, Texas, presidente del Comité sobre Migración de la USCCB, condenado el uso continuo de la separación familiar

en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

"Nuestro gobierno tiene la discreción en nuestras leyes para asegurar que los niños pequeños no sean separados de sus padres y sean expuestos a daños y traumas irreparables", dijo el cardenal. "Las familias son el elemento fundamental de nuestra sociedad y tienen que poder mantenerse juntas.

"Aunque proteger nuestras fronteras es importante, podemos y tenemos que ser mejores como gobierno y como sociedad para encontrar otras formas de asegurarnos de esa seguridad. Separar a los bebés de sus madres no es la respuesta y es

El cardenal Joseph W. Tobin de Newark, Nueva Jersey, dijo que la nueva política "es consistente con la cardioesclerosis" o el endurecimiento del corazón estadounidense. Él pidió una amplia discusión entre los obispos sobre cómo responder a la práctica más vocalmente.

Él le pidió a los obispos que consideraran enviar una delegación para inspeccionar instalaciones de detención del departamento de inmigración donde se mantienen a niños v que lo hicieran "como una señal de nuestra respuesta pastoral y protesta contra lo que se le está haciendo a los niños".

Otros obispos pidieron una interacción más fuerte con miembros del Congreso mientras buscan una manera abarcar una reforma de inmigración integral y extender el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, en el que participan unos 800,000 adultos jóvenes que fueron traídos a Estados Unidos cuando eran niños

"Ellos necesitan escuchar algo de nosotros", le dijo a la asamblea el obispo Nicholas DiMarzio de Brooklyn. "Hay un elemento restrictivo un poco basado en el racismo. Para la gente es dificil decidir qué piensa de ello. Pero eso es lo que de hecho estamos viendo. Esta es una situación de crisis".

Varios obispos dijeron que es importante hacer un mejor trabajo compartiendo la doctrina de la iglesia sobre la migración y el acoger al forastero, como enseñó Cristo.

El obispo Jaime Soto de Sacramento, California, expresó preocupación por un "esfuerzo muy deliberado que está haciendo la administración, particularmente el Departamento de Justicia, para establecer regulaciones que en realidad desafían

la implementación de la ley de inmigración".

Él instó a todo el grupo de obispos a ser más activos, presionando el Congreso y a los tribunales para que entiendan los valores y las prácticas estadounidenses que por mucho tiempo han acogido a inmigrantes.

"Simplemente parece nefasto cómo el sistema de inmigración se está deshaciendo con las regulaciones más y más restrictivas que se están estableciendo", él dijo.

Un obispo preguntó sobre la posibilidad de aplicar "sanciones canónicas" a católicos que cooperan con las políticas de inmigración injustas. El obispo Edwin J. Weisenburger de Tucson, Arizona, dijo que tales sanciones son establecidas para sanar y "por lo tanto para la salvación de las almas de estas personas; quizás es tiempo de que evaluemos" tal acción.

El obispo John E. Stowe de Lexington, Kentucky, añadió que más allá de eso debería haber pasos para ofrecer una atención pastoral más amplia para los oficiales que aplican las leyes de inmigración, algunos de los cuales él ha escuchado cuestionar la necesidad de ejercer "estas políticas injustas".

Sooner Catholic 14 June 24, 2018

Briefs

Join 2018 prayer team!

Join the 2018 Prayer Team, text Prayer2018 to 84576 or go to https://app.flocknote.com/archokc/2018Intercessory.

Catholic summer camp

There are still spaces available for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp! We promote the personal and spiritual growth in each young person by developing their prayer life, social skills, independence and respect for others. Each session begins on Sunday with registration 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. and ends on Friday with pick-up 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. www.archokc.org/camp.

Bingo at St. James

Bingo at St. James, 41st and S. McKinley, OKC, June 28. \$10 all games. Door prizes, food at 5:45 p.m., Bingo 6:30 p.m. Players receive ticket for 50" TV for October drawing. Proceeds for charitable causes.

Spaghetti dinner, silent auction

OK Teens for Life, a group of prolife teens, is hosting their second annual All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. June 28 at Zion Lutheran Church, 7701 W. Britton Rd., OKC. Proceeds will support the efforts of Gateway Express Testing (Yukon) to bring a Save the Storks bus to Oklahoma. Advance tickets \$10; \$35 per family. Contact okteensforlife@gmail.com or (405) 538-9988. Tickets available at door for \$15; \$40 per family. Carryout meals available.

Idea of a Village conference

The third annual Idea of a Village conference, "The Joy of Pilgrimage," will be 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. June 30 at Sycamore Springs Ranch, 12754 S. 442 Rd., Locust Grove, near Clear Creek Abbey. Speakers, live music, food, crafts, food-making demonstrations, tours of Clear Creek Abbey and more. Speakers: Sam Guzman, Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Sean Fitzpatrick and Mitchell Kalpakgian. Contact info@theideaofavillage.com.

Retreat in Daily Life

To learn how to pray in-themidst of daily life and to live more mindful of God's love, care and guidance, consider the Retreat in Daily Life. Call with questions or to register July 1 – Aug. 31: Nancy Vargas at (405) 760-4640 or Danna Schweitzer at (405) 263-4472. The Retreat in Daily Life is a ministry of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Icon writing workshop

Two workshops with Beverly Layton Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. with lunch on July 16-21 or July 23-28 in Lawton. The icon will be Christ the Bridegroom. Beginners welcome. Learn stepby-step, the process of this sacred art form. Each student will com-

plete a 10 inch by 12 inch icon on a wooden panel. All materials and supplies, including panels, paints and gold leaf included. The icons will be blessed on Saturday morning at the end of each workshop. Cost \$400 per student. Payment required by June 30. Contact Beverly Layton at (580) 678-6745.

Reds, Whites and Brews

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is proud to present Reds, Whites and Brews at 6 p.m. July 19 at Cattlemen's Event Center. This event supports the homeless services of Catholic Charities: Sanctuary Women's Development Centers in Stockyards City. Tickets \$60; \$75 for VIP ticket that includes exclusive after party. Contact Chelsea Rose at (405) 523-3009, crose@ccaokc.org. Visit http://redswhitesbrews.com.

UND night banquet

The Notre Dame Club of Oklahoma City will host its annual Universal Notre Dame night banquet on July 19 at the V2 Events Center atop the Devon Energy building in downtown OKC. This event is open to any fans of the university. This year, the "person of the year" is Archbishop Paul Coakley. Update on campus news given by head lacrosse coach, Kevin Corrigan. For tickets visit oklahomacity. undclub.org or e-mail oklahomacity.president@alumni.nd.edu. Tickets \$65 per seat. Includes a cocktail hour and meal.

St. Gregory's Days of Reflection

The monks of St. Gregory's Abbey invite everyone to the monthly "Days of Reflection" sessions. "Your Sons and Daughters Will Prophesy" giving witness as young adults by Fr. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B. July 28. Each session has 9 a.m. Mass, 11:30 a.m. midday prayer, 11:45 a.m. lunch and 2 p.m. Holy Hour with confessions available. Closing session and departure at 3 p.m. Cost \$30, lunch included. Space limited to 40. Contact retreat office at (405) 878-5656 or retreats@MonksOK.org.

2018 Quo Vadis Days Retreat

The 2018 Quo Vadis Days retreat is July 29-Aug 1 and is open to young men in high school and college discerning the priesthood. Register by July 23. Visit qvdays.

Midwest Catholic Family

The 19th annual Midwest Catholic Family Conference is Aug. 3-5 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. Programs available for all ages. Visit catholicfamilyconference.org.

Archbishop's Dinner 2018

Join Archbishop Coakley, clergy and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at the 2018 Archbishop's Dinner in support of seminarian education at 6 p.m.



Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

Maybe you heard? The 2018 Spring Radiothon for Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting raised more than \$89,000! This was due in large part to a gracious EWTN donor who extended a \$20,000 challenge match.

Oklahoma parishes also issued challenge matches as did several parishioners donating and challenging in the names of their parishes from Saint John the Baptist, Edmond; Christ the King, Oklahoma City; Corpus Christi, Oklahoma City; Saint Robert Bellarmine, Jones; and Blessed Sacrament, Lawton. Individual donors and business sponsors also supported the

Our priests, led by Archbishop Coakley, demonstrated God's faithfulness by always including Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting as a priority. Father Brashears witnessed to listeners the impact that Catholic radio made on his life, beginning when he was a student. Father

Danny Grover served as the energy drink in our campaign. He helped Jeff Finnell and Deacon Larry Sousa with broadcast duties and advocated tirelessly for contributions.

One gift they all bestowed on us was more valuable than anything I have yet mentioned, and that is their priestly blessing. Our priests represent Jesus Himself. I was struck by the abundance the blessings yield-

Phone volunteers Barb Smola and Angie Sousa brought delicious treats to sustain us during the radiothon.

When I hear stories on Oklahoma Catholic Radio of how ordinary people like me respond to God's call in extraordinary ways, in every imaginable circumstance, I want what they have with God. I want to share in God's glory as evidenced on programs like "The Journey Home" or "Make Straight the Way."

As we act as good stewards of how God is blessing us, we are imagining what is possible with God.



and Country Club. Contact the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, (405) 709-2745, cfook.org/dinner.

Aug. 7 at the Oklahoma City Golf

Children's day out

St. John, Edmond, has openings in the part-time children's day out program for the 2018-2019 school year. More information at http:// stjohn-catholic.org or contact (405) 340-1789, nest@stjohn-catholic.

Registration open for Edmond Catholic school

Families can learn more about St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School in Edmond for the 2018-2019 academic year. Find information about admissions process at http://stelizabethedmond.org/ prospective-families. For school tour or more information, contact Susan Raymer at (405) 348-5364 or sraymer@stjohn-catholic.org. Tuition scholarships available.

Suicide grief support group

A support group for those who have lost someone to suicide meets at St. Francis in Oklahoma City on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Meerschaert House located just north of the church building. The gathering is in a caring atmosphere to remember loved ones. Call (405) 528-

Pool season begins

The Santa Fe Family Life Center's pool season runs through Labor Day. The pool offers lap swimming, swim lessons, flexible hours and great fellowship. A family membership is \$300 for the summer; individual membership \$200. Knights' families can enjoy the pool and fitness club benefits for \$29.95 per month. Call (405) 840-1817 or visit 6300 N. Santa Fe Ave. Visit www.sfflc.com for more information.

To see more briefs, go online to www.soonercatholic.org.

Sooner Catholic June 24, 2018 15

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.

June

- **24** Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.
- **24** Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. the abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@ gmail.com.
- **25** Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Clancy's 2018 All Sports Golf Classic at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. Visit www.bmchs.org.
- 27 Feast of St. Cyril of Alexan-
- 28 Feast of St. Irenaeus.
- **28** Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine, (405) 358-3610, ccrprayers@ gmail.com.
- 28 Bingo at St. James, 41st and S. McKinley, OKC. Door prizes, food at 5:45 p.m., Bingo 6:30 p.m.
- **28** OK Teens for Life Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 7701 W. Britton Road, OKC.
- **29** Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles.

- **30** Feast of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church.
- **30** Idea of a Village conference, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. at Sycamore Springs Ranch, 12754 S. 442 Rd., Locust Grove, near Clear Creek Abbey.

- St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Greater OKC meeting, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., at St. Anthony Hospital, 1000 N. Lee, OKC (Information at front desk). Contact (316) 558-0422, billfull@cox.net.
- Meeting of the Third Order (Lay) Dominicans, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., at St. Philip Neri, Midwest City, for any Catholic lavperson drawn to religious life. Call (405) 313-6611, (405) 414-9407.
- **3** Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle.
- Independence Day.
- Feast of St. Anthony Zaccaria
- **5** Feast of St. Elizabeth of Por-
- Feast of St. Maria Goretti,
- First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pasto-

ral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m.; reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m. Call (405) 721-8944, (405) 528-6252.

7 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of

St. Teresa of Calcutta, meeting at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meeting following. Contact Karen Banks, (405) 396-9086 or Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.



2018 Quo Vadis Days Retreat

JUL 29 - AUG 1

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Celebrating 125 years of Catholic faith in the Oklahoma Panhandle

continued from page 1

seven fathers gathered at the back of the church with their young sons and daughters to bring forward the bread and wine as well as corn, maize, wheat and fresh milk. The gifts were presented to Archbishop Coakley and Father Mike Wheelahan, pastor of Good Shep-

Following Mass, which featured music by a special youth choir, parishioners and families gathered to share breakfast in the parish hall. Later in the day, both children and adults enjoyed outdoor activities, including a water slide, piñatas, horseshoes and volleyball. Inside the church, there was a cake walk and other games. The day ended with a barbecue cook-

"I have been so overwhelmed by the willingness of our people to sign up and do what needs to be done," said Beth Hathaway, president of the parish council at Good Shepherd. "I have loved that everyone was willing to do whatever it took to make this celebration great!

There are about 53 registered families and 168 members of the parish. In July, Father Wheelahan will begin his new assignment in Chickasha, and a young dynamic priest - Father Christopher Brashears – will take over as pastor. He will be joined by associate pastor, Father John Paul Lewis.

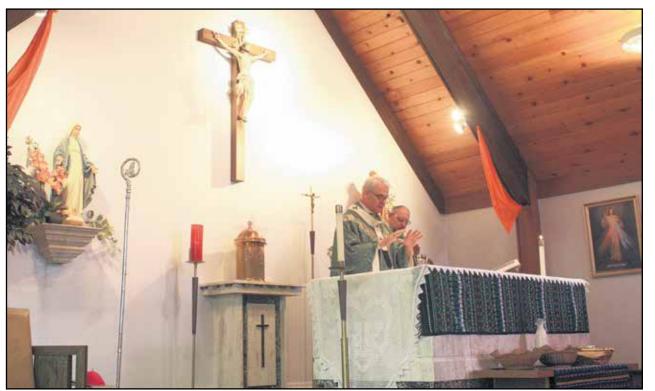
Good Shepherd began in 1893 when the first Mass was celebrated by Father Salvador Persone, a Jesuit priest from Trinidad, in the home of Juan and Virginia Lujan. Two years later, the Lujan family built a chapel on their ranch and opened it to Catholics in the area.

Throughout the years, different priests traveled to the panhandle to offer Mass in several different locations. In 1927, a church building was constructed and named Sacred Heart. Forty years later, a new building (the current home of the church) was formally dedicated and the name changed to Saint Philip Benizi.

In the 1990s, the Lujan family gifted the church a bell and a statue of The Good Shepherd from their original home chapel. In honor of the Lujan family's dedication to establishing a strong Catholic presence in the area, the name was changed back to Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

A recent addition to the building is the church's mission statement, which appears on the south side of the building and reads, "We build bridges and tear down walls, we look for the lost and welcome the stranger."

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic. Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner



Archbishop Coakley and Fr. Mike Wheelahan celebrate Mass at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Boise City. Photo Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

Students receive Sacrament of Communion, Confirmation



First Communion at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sterling on May 20



Confirmation at Saint Ann in Elgin on May 19



Confirmation at Saint Peter in Woodward on June 9



First Communion at Saint Mark the Evengelist in Norman on May 6



after First Communion at St. Eugene in OKC on May 5



Jack Taylor and Fr. Brashears Confirmation at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hollis on June 10