Sooner Catholic

soonercatholic.org **September 8, 2019** archokc.org

Go Make Disciples

"I have this miraculous story to tell"

Catholic Charities 2019 Annual Appeal

Hello!

You have never met me. You do not know me personally, and you don't know my name. But because of your thoughtful gift to Catholic Charities, you have helped my family and me.

My story begins in California where I was raised by loving parents with my eight brothers and sister. I married in my early 20s and my husband and I had five children together. I am not proud to admit this, but we began using drugs and for 10 years I struggled with addiction.

It got so bad, my brother and sister-in-law had to take temporary guardianship of my children in Oklahoma. The drugs, the gang violence and not seeing my children all made me feel unsafe, alone and depressed. I knew I needed to change my life, so I made the trip to Oklahoma. I knew my children needed me and missed me as I missed them.

For a year, I lived on the streets. The Recovery Center gave me a place to sleep. I completed a sobriety program at Jordan's Crossing and was referred to Holy Family Home in Midwest City. I got a job and lived alone at Holy Family Home for a year. After getting a car, I applied for a better job with paid time off and insurance. Holy Family Home staff took me through the process of transferring my case to a different Catholic Charities program called Family HOPE. This program approved me to reside in a three-bedroom unit at Casa Maria Apartments. With everything in place, I was ready to be the mother my children desperately needed. The mother they deserved. For 10 years I fought to get my next drug fix. I knew I had it in me to fight hard or harder to get my children back.

It took months for my Family HOPE case manager and me to gather all of the papers for my court date. I would have given up if I'd had to do it alone. On the day of my court appearance, I was really nervous. When the judge called my name, I tearfully walked up to hear his decision. The judge looked through all the paperwork and paused before telling me he wished he could use my story as an example for others to see, and then he granted me a second chance at being a mom.

Today, I hold a full-time job and all my children live with me at Casa Maria. I never knew I had it in me to change. I never knew I was strong. The staff at Holy Family Home and Family HOPE gave me the courage I needed to see that in myself.

If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have made it. Some people don't have family, but when I lived at Holy Family Home, the staff always treated me like part of theirs.

My name is Emma and because of your gift I have this miraculous story to tell. Sometimes all you need are people seeing you for who you are and supporting you along the way.

Thank you for your generosity,

Emma

The inspirational stories shared by those who have been helped by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City provide a glimpse of the wonderful work being done in your name through your support of our brothers and sisters in need. As Archbishop Coakley mentioned in his recent pastoral letter, we must work to build a culture of discipleship and conversion by living as missionary disciples who are called to make a difference in the lives of others. Each September, every parish is given a goal for the Catholic Charities Appeal that your pastor will share with you. To complete this goal, we must come together in love and mercy to ensure Catholic Charities has the resources to assist men, women and children who arrive at the door with nothing more than the clothes on their back. It is our responsibility, and part of our mission, to help them with basic needs and not turn them away. Please consider a gift to the 2019 Catholic Charities Appeal.

"When we practice seeing through the eyes of Jesus, we will always be able to recognize those who need our help." ~ Pope Francis

Archdiocese selects Cristo Rey OKC students at "Draft Day"

OKLAHOMA CITY – Representatives from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Catholic Charities joined more than 50 businesses, non-profits and government agencies at the Meinders School of Business on Oct. 23 to participate in Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School's "Draft Day."

The event was styled after an NBA or NFL

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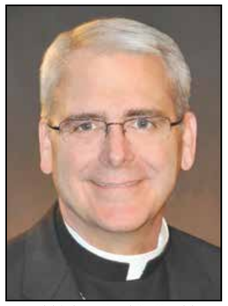
Catholic Schools Superintendent Diane Floyd and staff members from the Catholic Pastoral Center met eight new interns from Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School during Draft Day. *Photo provided.*

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

This is my blood



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

I often have found that when I hear, read or pronounce a sacred text of the liturgy or the Scriptures that a word or phrase may come alive with unexpected power. It may bring insight or understanding. It might bring consolation or healing. Sometimes it pierces my heart and convicts me leading to repentance. Even though it may be a familiar text, it seems as if I am hearing it for the first time. I suspect that this is not an uncommon experience for many people of faith.

Today, when pronouncing the words of consecration at Mass, these words struck me powerfully: "This is the chalice of my blood, which will be poured out for you and for many." The Lord's blood is still being poured out for us. It is poured out and offered sacramentally at Mass for our salvation and redemption.

But, it also is being poured out in and through the members of his body in the violent and senseless mass shootings that have become all too frequent in our country. This is what struck me as I raised the chalice of Precious Blood at Holy Mass.

On Sunday, Sept. 1, we heard of yet another terrifying act of brutal gun violence when a driver passing through Odessa and Midland, Texas, randomly killed at least seven and wounded numerous others. In August, 22 people were shot and killed in an El Paso Wal-Mart and nine more in a Dayton, Ohio, historic district. Dozens more were wounded in these attacks. Mass killings involving firearms have become tragically commonplace as they occur with increasing frequency across our country.

I don't claim to have the solution to this complex issue. Many solutions have been proposed and warrant consideration. These include more strenuous background checks for gun purchases, limiting the types of weapons available for purchase, increased attention to mental health services and other common-sense proposals.

It will be up to all of us to address the root causes of the violence that is tragically symptomatic of something deeply wrong in our society. It will take more than new policies and laws to root out this problem. It will require a new heart. The violence we are experiencing with such increased frequency speaks to a loss of respect for the dignity of human life in our throw-away culture. It speaks of the existence and power of evil in our society that attacks and destroys with such indiscriminate and cold-blooded indifference.

Instead of clinging to the self-interested defense of our status quo, let us pray that our minds and hearts might be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance to seek and find fresh solutions to this bedeviling problem. Let us pray for all victims of violence, especially those families and communities that have been affected across our nation this year.

May God give us wisdom and the courage to act and stem the flow of blood being poured out through gun violence.

> *"The violence we are experiencing with such increased frequency speaks to a loss of respect for the dignity of human life in our throw-away culture. It speaks of the existence and power of evil in our society that attacks and destroys with such indiscriminate and cold-blooded indifference."*

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

Sept. 8 – Our Lady of LaVang Mass and celebration, 11:45 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Sept. 9 – USCCB Pro-Life Committee meeting via teleconference, 1 p.m.
Sept. 10 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center
Sept. 10 – Archdiocesan Review Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Sept. 11 – Catholic Relief Services Overseas Operations Committee meeting, 2 p.m., CRS headquarters, Baltimore
Sept. 12 – Catholic Relief Services Board meeting, 8 a.m., CRS headquarters, Baltimore
Sept. 14 – Mass for National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, 9 a.m., St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee
Sept. 15 – Young adult Mass and cookout, 4 p.m., CPC
Sept. 17 – Presbyteral Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., CPC
Sept. 17 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 17 – All staff meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC
Sept. 17 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Sept. 19-20 – Bishops Conference on Evangelizing Dioceses, Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio
Sept. 22 – Mass for OU Fall Retreat, 12:30 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

✔ To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail tips@archokc.org.

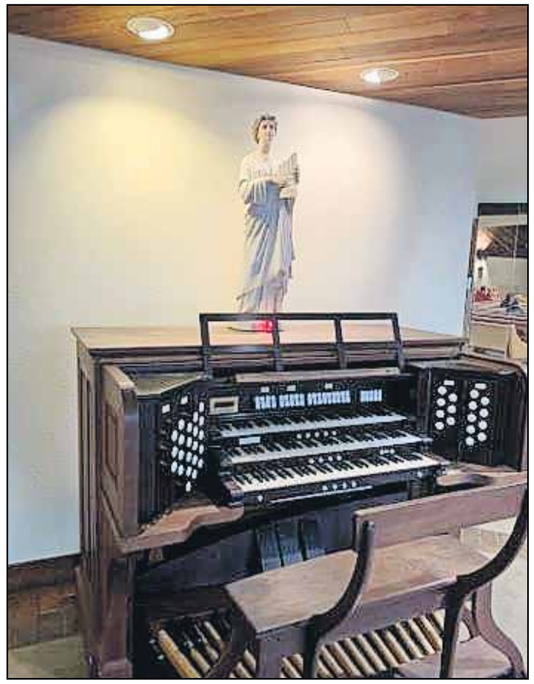
✔ Archbishop Coakley's new pastoral letter, "Go Make Disciples! Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City," lays out the vision for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City through 2030. Read the letter or download a copy at archokc.org/2030. Print copies available at parishes.

@archokc

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Lord Jesus,
open our eyes that we
may see you in all our
sisters and brothers.
Open our minds that we may
understand their hopes and
dreams, their sorrows and
pain, their longing for you.
Open our hearts to give
generously of ourselves.
Grant us wisdom to
respond effectively to the
needs of your people
with grace and compassion.
Give us the courage to speak
your words of life, peace, love,
mercy and human solidarity.
Bless the people who we
serve, and strengthen us
to reach out to them every day
in your spirit of charity.
Amen.



The organ console. *Photo provided.*

St. Thomas More in Norman opens organ restoration campaign

By Debi Wagner
The Sooner Catholic

St. Thomas More parishioners are in the process of building a new church. The larger space requires a larger pipe organ than the model currently used.

The parish purchased an organ designed and built by the E.M. Skinner Company in 1923. Skinner was a pioneer in pipe organ development, and the organ is now part of a catalogue of important and historic instruments in the United States.

The organ was originally in the First Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Conn., but when that church closed, a pastor from Delaware saved it from destruction by moving it to his church. Eventually his church closed as well and the pastor's family intended to auction it off.

After hearing from St. Thomas More, the family sold the valuable organ to the Norman parish for much less than asking price. The organ requires considerable work before it can serve as the primary instrument for services.

Restoring this organ will be a lengthy process that involves replacing hundreds of miles of cotton wrapped wiring, cleaning the pipework and repairing or replacing some of the pipes. There also is a lot of woodwork needed.

The parish has raised $90,000 of the $1 million estimated for repairs.

The goal is to have restoration complete before the organ's 100th anniversary in 2023.

To give a gift of support for the organ restoration, contact Nolan Reilly at (405) 321-0990, Ext. 205, or at music@stm-ou.org.

Debbie Wagner is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

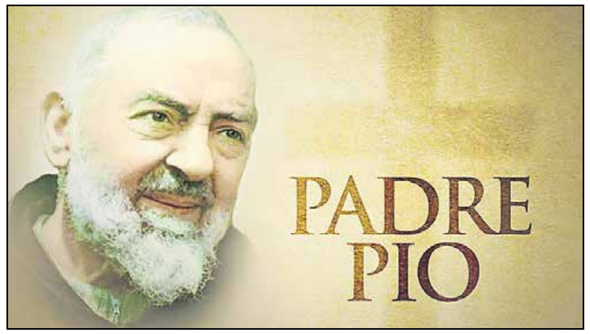
Relics of Padre Pio in OKC Sept. 27

The relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, O.F.M. Cap., commonly known as Padre Pio, are touring the United States and will be available for veneration on Friday, Sept. 27, at Christ the King, 8005 Dorset Dr. in Oklahoma City.

Doors open at 9 a.m. Priests of the archdiocese will be available for confessions from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Veneration will be suspended at 5:30 p.m. for Archbishop Coakley to celebrate Mass at 6 p.m.

During veneration, visitors will show reverence through prayer.

Available for veneration will include Padre Pio's glove, cotton gauze bearing his blood stains, a lock of his hair, his handkerchief soaked with his sweat only hours before his death, and the cloak he wore. All relics except his mantle will be available for the faithful to touch.



Padre Pio was born May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy, and became a priest in 1910. On Sept. 20, 1918, the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appeared on his body, making him the first Catholic priest in the history of the Church to be stigmatized. In 1940, Padre Pio began working to develop a Home for the Relief of Suffering (the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza), which opened in 1956 on Mount Gargano.

Padre Pio, a mystic, was known for his gift of "reading souls" and spent many long hours hearing confessions. In his lifetime, one of his fellow friars claimed to witness Padre Pio levitating, and others reported that he bilocated – appearing in two different places at the same time – to lend comfort or support to people in dire need. He is said to have had gifts of healing and prophesy.

Padre Pio died in September 1968 at age 81 in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. Thousands of mourners attended his funeral at Our Lady of Grace Church where his body was entombed. The Cause for Padre Pio's canonization was opened in February 1973, and Saint John Paul II declared him "Venerable" in 1997. On June 16, 2002, Saint John Paul II proclaimed Padre Pio "Saint Pio of Pietrelcina." Padre Pio is the patron saint of Italy, civil defense volunteers, adolescents and stress-relief.

Padre Pio national tour of relics
www.saintpiofoundation.org
Oklahoma City
ckokc.org/padre-pio

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Volume 41, Number 17

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The Sooner Catholic
(USPS 066-910) is published biweekly except for once in July by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.
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Subscription rate: $25 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.

Official Assignments

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

The following assignments were effective Aug. 31

Medical leave

Rev. M. Price Oswalt

Six-month medical leave of absence

Administrator

Dcn. Paul A. Albert

St. Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City

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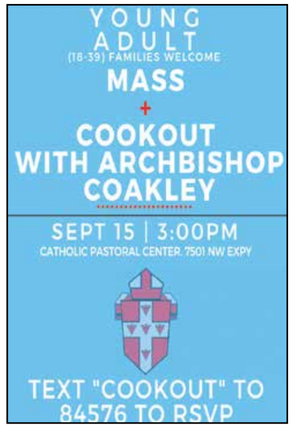
draft and matched a team of students with each participating employer.

As each selection was announced, students and employers high-fived and some hugged as they met on stage to celebrate. The students will work at the corporate offices of the organizations that drafted them one day a week during the coming school year. Each will receive a stipend that pays the bulk of their tuition at Cristo Rey OKC, a private college preparatory school for children in low-income families.

The archdiocese will employ eight Cristo Rey interns for the school year. They will work in stewardship and development, finance, communications and in the archbishop's office. The students will work with chancery staff to learn different skills and be a part of a professional environment.

Cristo Rey President and CEO Chip Carter said the Corporate Work Study Program is what makes Cristo Rey OKC such a unique and successful school.

"There are a lot of great schools that don't really have a 'special sauce,'" Carter said. "We do. It is the support we receive from the business and non-profit communities through our Corporate Work Study Program. That support not only makes this school financially viable, it also provides our students with valuable work experience and professional connections they would not otherwise receive."



From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

Saint Peter in Woodward long has been a hub for ministry in northwestern Oklahoma at one point serving four missions (now three). Missionary activity predates the arrival of the Benedictines by at least three years as a Jesuit priest, Father Paul Ponziglione, visited nearby Camp (later Fort) Supply in 1872.

As the population grew, Bishop Meershaert appointed Father Peter Kamp in Alva as first pastor of Woodward with the name of Saint Peter as the patron for the new church in January 1905.

Father Kamp began to construct the church and rectory. The structures served the town well until the events of April 9, 1947, would change Woodward and weather reporting forever. On the fateful day with what would now be classified as an EF5 tornado, the church and rectory (pictured in 1917) were completely destroyed. More than 1,000 homes and businesses were demolished with 107 fatalities in and around the town and at least 1,000 injuries.

Saint Peter in Woodward.

Historian Father James White stated, "The Woodward tornado was one of the chief reasons for the National Weather Center establishing a tornado watch and warning program in 1953."

The damage was so extensive that the resilient souls of Woodward were unable to build a new church until 1960 shortly after adding a parish hall and education building. In the interim, a World War II Quonset hut was used for Mass until funding was procured.

The strength and courage of this Oklahoma community continues as the parish thrives and serves an expanding Hispanic population with energy and unshakeable faith.

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

Real Life Disciples

The amazing orchestration of the Holy Spirit

Jim Beckman
Executive Director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

I shared in my last column the many powerful events I experienced over the summer. There was something else I experienced that is worth sharing as well. Early in the summer, at one of the camps, a friend introduced me to a novena I had never heard of – The Surrender Novena.

He was carrying the novena card all week, and one day I asked him what it was. He told me it was one of the most powerful novenas he had ever prayed. I found the novena online and started reading about it, and over the next several days, started praying it myself.

When I returned home after that camp, I was meeting with Archbishop Coakley and brought up the novena to him, wondering if he had ever heard of it. "Oh, yes," he said, "I pray it all the time, over and over again!" I was hooked. I already had been experiencing some fruit from the prayer, but to find out that Archbishop Coakley himself found it powerful enough that he just kept repeating the novena over and over again, then it was something I was going to incorporate into my spiritual routine.

Several weeks later, I was at the Saint John Bosco conference in Steubenville, Ohio. We had several parish and diocesan leaders from around the archdiocese who attended this year – 17 of us!

While there, I had coffee one day with a friend. He had a book on the table that he was reading. It got my attention because of the title, "Come Holy Spirit," so I asked him about it. He told me that it was a book he recently had been introduced to by his pastor and was finding it very powerful for his spiritual life. I paged through the book while we were talking, read several short passages, and by the time our meeting was over, had ordered a copy on Amazon that was delivered before I got home.

You could say this past summer for me had a "golden thread" – The Surrender Novena and "Come Holy Spirit." The two works became a daily source of inspiration and growth for me. I ended up praying the novena many times over the summer months. And, I have been reading "Come Holy Spirit" daily.

Toward the end of the summer, I was feeling called to share about the Surrender Novena with friends, especially those involved in full-time ministry. As I was praying about how to do this, one day I was struck with an urge to invite people to join me in praying the novena the nine days leading up to the Feast of the Assumption (Aug. 15). I especially invited my family to join me but extended the invitation to many other friends who were speakers, authors and ministry leaders. In the end, more than 100 people joined me.

As I was crafting the e-mail inviting people to join in the novena, I had the novena prayer card in my hand. But, on the table next to me was the "Come Holy Spirit" book. For the first time, I noticed the author's name on the book, Don Dolindo Ruotolo. I looked at the back of the prayer card where there was a note about the author of the novena, Father Dolindo Ruotolo. I went back and forth between the two things several times, almost not believing what I was seeing. My "golden thread" of the summer, these two things that came to me at different times, in different places and from different people, completely independent of each other, were written by the SAME person!

The amazing orchestration of the Holy Spirit! God somehow knows exactly what we need, even before we ask. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8).

How is the Holy Spirit giving you little nudges toward a book or a prayer? Be generous in your response – you won't be disappointed!

Pilgrimages

Shrines of Italy pilgrimage

St. Ann Retirement Center is sponsoring a trip to the shrines of Italy Oct. 28 – Nov. 7. There are a few spots open. Richard Amend and Fr. Boniface Copelin will be on the trip. Trip includes the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo, tomb of Padre Pio, Abbey of Santissima Trinita, Madonna del Rosario sanctuary, Vatican City, papal audience, St. Peter's Basilica, Christian Rome city tour, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major and St. John in Lateran. The trip is 11 days and includes 15 meals. Cost $3,749 pp. Call Richard Amend at (405) 721-0747.

Pilgrimage to England, Scotland

Fr. Carl Janocha and Fr. Danny Grover will lead a pilgrimage to highlights of England and Scotland, Nov. 5-15. The trip is $3,549 pp, including airfare from OKC, four-star hotels, most meals and more. Sites include Stonehenge, Salisbury, Bristol, Bath, Stratford, Lake District, Edinburgh, York, Oxford and London. A $400 deposit is required. Contact Fr. Janocha at (580) 395-2148, cwjanocha@kanokla.net.

Holy Land pilgrimage

Join Fr. Jim Goins and Fr. Zachary Boazman on a Holy Land pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan Jan. 13-25, 2020. Includes roundtrip air from OKC, daily Mass, all breakfasts and dinners, and two lunches; four-star lodging, and all admissions. Includes Petra, Jerash, Amman, Dead Sea, Mt. Nebo, Capernaum, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, Jericho, Mt. of Temptation, Qumran, Tiberias, Magdala, Sea of Galilee, and much more. $500 deposit. Call (405) 293-2003 or visit www.travelovertures.com.

Pilgrimage to Eastern Europe

Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., K.C.H.S., will host the Splendors of Eastern Europe pilgrimage, featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau May 13-24, 2020. Visit Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, Oberammergau and Munich. Cost: $4,329 pp from OKC, includes round-trip airfare, first class/select hotels, hotels/guesthouses in Oberammergau, first class admissions tickets for the Passion Play, most meals and comprehensive sightseeing with an English-speaking guide. Contact Abbott Lawrence or Theresa Bragg, (405) 878-5490, abbot@monksok.org, tabragg@monksok.org.

Passion Play pilgrimage to Oberammergau

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman, St. John in Edmond, on an 11-day classical Austria and Germany trip May 19, 2020, including first-class admission to the Passion Play of Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps for the 387th performance. Call (405) 340-0691, Ext. 109. Tour arrangements by Nawas International Travel. Roundtrip airfare from OKC to Frankfurt.

Oberammergau pilgrimage

Join Fr. Scott Boeckman on a pilgrimage May 23-31, 2020, to experience the dramatic and inspiring Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. It has been presented every 10 years since the mid-1660s in thanksgiving for being spared the ravishes of the plague. The pilgrimage includes visits to Lucerne and Engelberg, Switzerland; the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, Germany; Salzburg, Austria and Munich, Germany. Visit www.travelillume.com/trc/ttv. Contact Judi Wilkinson at (405) 751-7115, Ext 115, jwilkinson@steugenes.org.

Pilgrimage to Berlin, Prague, Austria

Fr. Carl Janocha and Fr. Danny Grover will lead a pilgrimage to Berlin, Prague and Austria; also featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau, Sept. 21-Oct. 2, 2020. The trip is $4,599 pp, including airfare from OKC, four-star hotels, most meals and more. Sites include Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Cesky Krumlov, Salzburg, Munich, Oberammergau featuring the Passion Play produced every 10 years, and Frankfurt. The people of Oberammergau have put on the Passion Play since the time of the plague when it passed over their valley and they have been giving thanks to God. Join us for this truly beautiful, historic, faith-filled journey to the areas of the Bavarian countryside of Europe. We will have opportunities to visit the Berlin cathedral, the remains of the Berlin Wall, old town Prague, the birth place of Mozart, and the fairy tale Neuschwanstein Castle. Contact Fr. Janocha at (580) 395-2148, cwjanocha@kanokla.net.

Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain, France

Join Fr. Aaron Foshee on a pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France, featuring Santiago de Compostela, Sept. 25-Oct. 6, 2020. Visit the shrines of Our Lady and the saints in these vibrant countries. There is a special travel presentation at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at St. Joseph, 1300 E. Beverly St. in Ada. RSVP at (580) 332-4811.

Pilgrimage to best shrines of France

Join Fr. Carson Krittenbrink on an all-inclusive pilgrimage Oct. 5-16, 2020. Explore France's beautiful Catholic shrines. From small villages in southern France to Paris. See magnificent shrines and churches and learn of the lives of St. Bernadette, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Veronica and Zaccheus, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Catherine Labourne. Cost $5,024 pp from OKC. The pretour to Lisbon and Fatima is Oct. 2-6, 2020. For more information or to register, visit www.pilgrimages.com/frkrittenbrink, call 206 Tours at (800) 206-TOUR or e-mail katherine@206tours.com, danielle@206tours.com or alexandra@206tours.com.

Making Sense of Bioethics

Contradictory suicide messaging

In July 2014, police found the body of 18-year-old Conrad Roy inside his truck in Fairhaven, Mass., having died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

As the case unfolded, it became apparent that a friend of his, 17-year-old Michelle Carter, had encouraged him toward suicide. In a series of texts, she repeatedly pressured him to go through with it by sending messages like, "You keep pushing it off and say you'll do it but u never do. It's always gonna be that way if u don't take action."

As he sat in a remote spot in the K-mart parking lot, the truck's cab filling up with fumes, he got cold feet and stepped out of his makeshift death chamber, seemingly conflicted about what he was doing. Then, he spoke with Michelle by phone, who coaxed him to continue the suicide. The call was not recorded, but months after his death, she texted another friend and recounted how Conrad had grown scared at the last moment, climbing out of the truck, and that she had told him to get back in. She listened over the phone as he succumbed to the fumes 47 minutes later.

> "Who is to say that Michelle was wrong if the white lab coats are right?"

Following a high-profile trial that received extensive media coverage, Michelle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2 1/2-years behind bars, of which she has to serve a minimum of 15 months. Prosecutors claimed that her motive may have been to gain attention and sympathy as the "grieving girlfriend."

The case drew intense national and international attention, partly because it involved a relationship that had played out mostly through texts and Facebook messages. Even though Michelle and Conrad lived less than an hour apart, they rarely met in person.

As Michelle was led away from the trial in handcuffs, the court of public opinion was virtually unanimous in condemning her actions as reprehensible. Her actions and the trial proceedings, however, also opened up broader questions about provocation toward suicide in a society like ours that increasingly devalues human life. In fact, the public reaction to Michelle's behavior reveals a striking irony at the heart of Conrad's suicide.

The irony involves the moral outrage that surfaced regarding Michelle's text messages. Similar indignation about encouraging someone to commit suicide is, paradoxically, almost entirely absent when it comes to "physician-assisted" suicide. Michelle's text messages embraced the same key ideas that lawmakers in nine states have now enacted through legislation, namely, that it's sometimes allowable to encourage and participate in suicide. Most legislation, however, only permits those in the medical field, those dressed in white lab coats, as it were, to be involved.

This requirement seems quite arbitrary, of course, if the real goal is to alleviate suffering by eliminating the sufferer. After all, Michelle was convinced she was acting compassionately by assisting Conrad to escape from what she claimed was his misery, depression and intense emotional and psychological suffering. Who is to say that Michelle was wrong if the white lab coats are right? If it were deplorable for Michelle Carter to facilitate Conrad Roy's suicide, how can it be good for physicians and other health care workers to facilitate the suicides of their ailing patients who are at least as fragile and vulnerable as Conrad was?

This remarkable moral schizophrenia soon may be enshrined in a new piece of legislation that claims to outlaw participation in a person's suicide. Massachusetts state lawmakers and Conrad's family gathered in July 2019 at the statehouse to introduce Conrad's Law, a bill making it a crime to encourage or assist a person in taking his or her life.

Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic Bioethics Center

On the face of it, the law obviously seems like a sensible piece of legislation, but even as lawmakers were trying to stop people from assisting suicides like Conrad Roy's, they were simultaneously seeking to protect medical personnel who might assist at the suicides of their patients.

The double standard was impossible to miss, with Conrad's Law including an explicit subsection exempting those involved in physician-assisted suicide from prosecution. Even though physician-assisted suicide is not yet legal in the Massachusetts Commonwealth, another bill promoting it is under active consideration by the legislature.

Society really can't have it both ways, glamorizing the act of suicide in some cases and demonizing it in others. By yielding to the proposition that suicide is not an evil to be repudiated, but a form of "relief" to be conferred on those who suffer, we effectively abandon our neighbors, the Conrads and countless others, in their moment of greatest need.

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.

Bingo at St. James

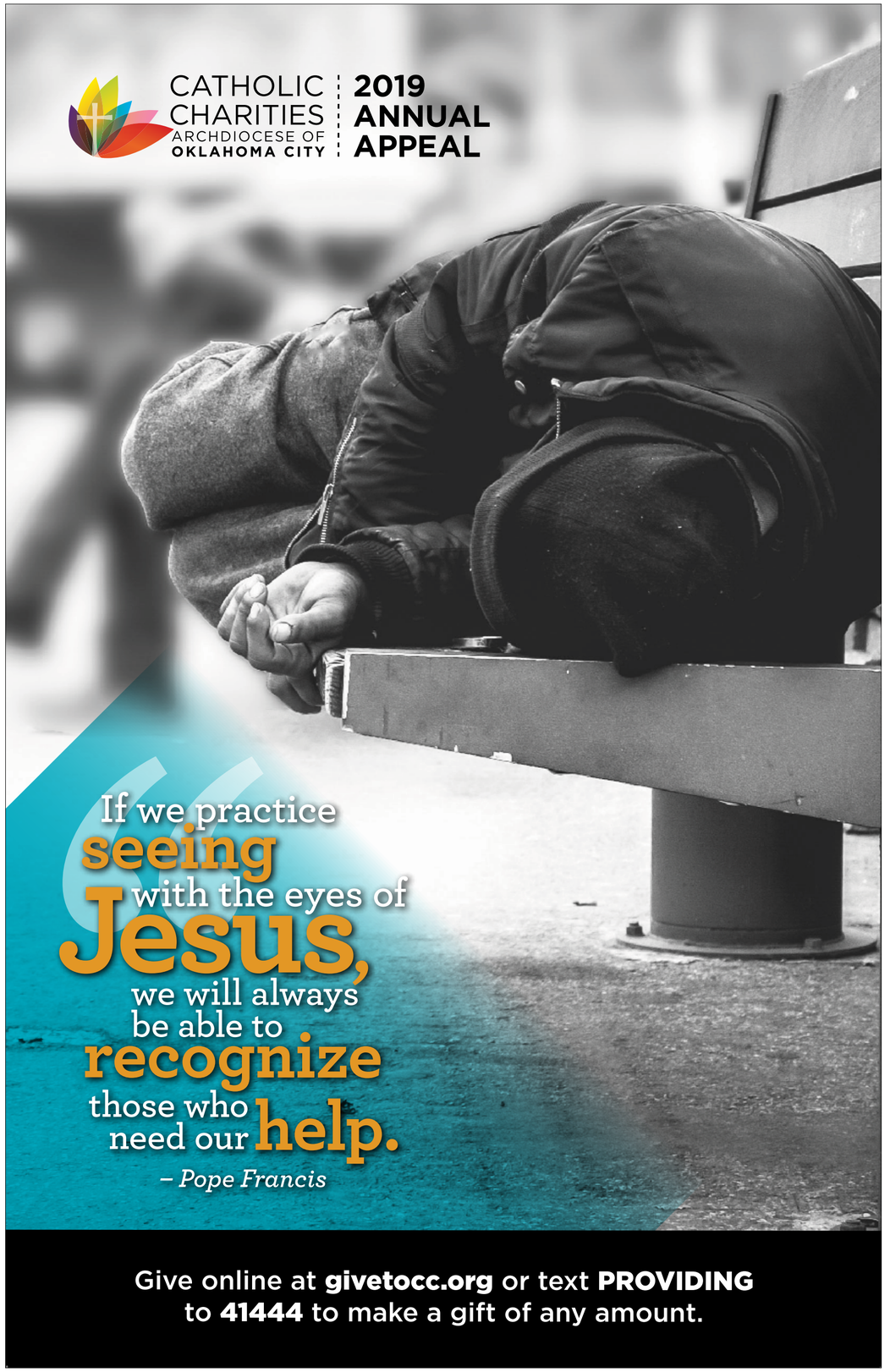
Bingo at St. James, 41st and S. McKinley in Oklahoma City, is Sept. 19, Cost $10 all games, door prizes, food and entry for 50" TV that will be given away in October. Food at 5:45 p.m., Bingo 6:30 p.m. Proceeds for charitable services.

Garden Party Luncheon

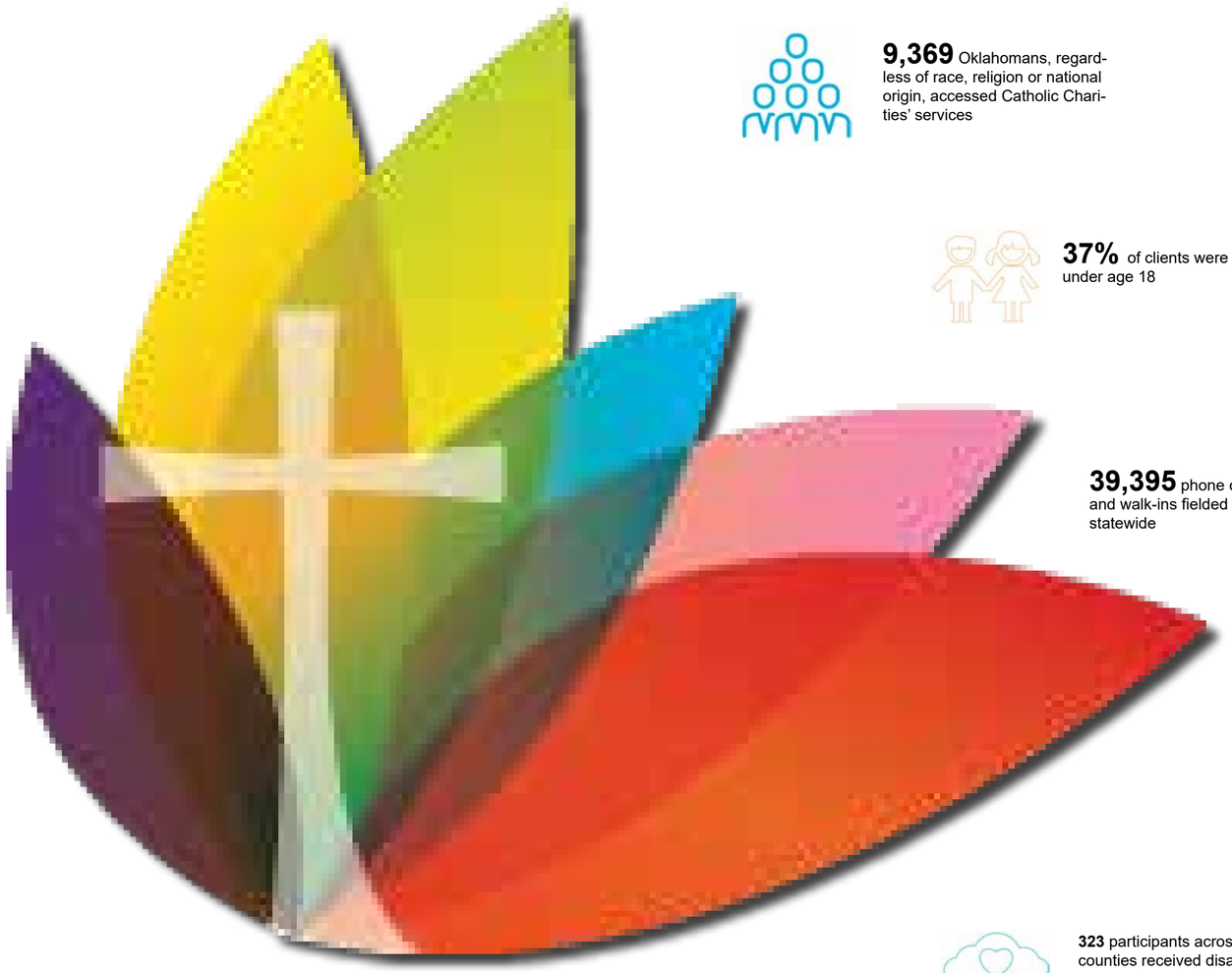
Willow Pregnancy Support invites everyone to the 5th annual Garden Party Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 26 at Coles Garden, 1415 N.E. 63 in Oklahoma City. The luncheon benefits Rose Home, a shelter for pregnant women and their young children. Hats and fascinators are highly encouraged. Visit willowpregnancy.org or call Carrie at (405) 606-8426.

Coffee with Principal DeNegri

The annual Coffee with the Principal event for prospective families at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School will be Sept. 26. Light breakfast and coffee. Principal DeNegri will share her vision for the high school. Question and Answer session following. Contact MSM Admissions Director Diane Wilson at dwilson@mountstmary.org, (405) 631-8865.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



Cheryl would chronically get fired or quit a job within a year or two due to lack of focus and motivation. Her financial stress was beginning to constrict her quality of life. Saint Joseph's Counseling Center assessed her needs and referred her to a medical doctor. She was diagnosed with depression and prescribed medicine to help her regain her quality of life.

Cheryl now manages her health by taking her medicine for physical symptoms and continues counseling with Saint Joseph's for her mental health. She has been employed for three years!

337 individuals were trained in mental health first aid and suicide prevention (QPR) through Saint Joseph's Counseling

Debbie was a passionate senior nurses' aide when her own health took a turn. She relocated to Oklahoma, and depression began to weigh heavy. She was without a permanent home for five years before joining the Family HOPE program. In just seven months, Debbie went through counseling to identify and tackle her depression and repair lost social connections. She has a part time job, reliable housing and is engaged!

955 clients served through Immigration Legal Services: 18 percent in English, 77 percent in Spanish, 8 percent in other languages

A Muslim family fleeing war-torn Myanmar resettled with refugee services and was paired with a differing faith community. The host community soon became much more than volunteers. They drove Mohamad and Rokiya, and their two daughters, Hodaa, 4, and Iman, 7, to appointments and guided them through the process of living in the United States. Their new friend celebrated with them and worked through challenges of language barriers and cultural differences. This family now attends birthday parties and cookouts with their volunteer family and friends.

164 refugees from **11** different countries resettled in Oklahoma

500 families and **356** volunteers participated in A Very Giving Christmas

9,369 Oklahomans, regardless of race, religion or national origin, accessed Catholic Charities' services

37% of clients were under age 18

39,395 phone calls and walk-ins fielded by staff, statewide

323 participants across **54** counties received disaster preparedness training

202 homeless women visiting Sanctuary Women's Development Centers were placed in housing

Dee came to Sanctuary Women's Center after her father died. She was the sole caregiver for him as well as her 12-year-old son who is severely disabled. Dee was living with her father. When he died, she felt lost and didn't know what to do. Sanctuary case managers were able to get Dee in touch with legal services, which allowed Dee to remain in her father's home. The case managers worked with Dee to get her son enrolled in special care. Because of the support of her case managers, Dee was able to focus on her own needs and recognize that social support and counseling were necessities.

Dee came to Sanctuary at a stressful time and still comes weekly for support. She also receives food from the Sanctuary pantry twice a month, which allows her food stamps to last her the whole month.

Randa's mobile home was damaged in a tornado. She needed her roof patched, so the disaster recovery team connected her to Samaritan's Purse, and the process began for a new home on her land. The three-bedroom, two bath house featured a storm shelter, and, at the request of the Catholic Charities team, the builders incorporated the framing of her former home. The essence of the home she shared with her mother and sister continues to serve her well.

2,502 hours of infant care were provided by our foster parents and three adoptions were completed

The adoption program has connected thousands of children with loving families, creating a lasting bond between adoptive parents and birth mothers who hope to provide a better life for their children. Searches have been done for those adopted through Catholic Charities dating back to 1912. The program ensures that throughout the search all parties' privacy and sensitivity are carefully considered. Due to DNA testing through Ancestry.com, Babs and Maxine discovered they were related. Our records were able to confirm that they are sisters! This service provides help and hope by reuniting families and sparking new beginnings.

1,126 clients took a budget and financial literacy class

On April 25, 1989, Peruvian citizen Ricardo entered the United States on a tourist visa. He applied for asylum in 1990. The claim was denied 11 years later, and he departed voluntarily in 2001. He left behind two daughters who are U.S. citizens. They could not petition on behalf of their father until they were age 21. In 2016, Ricardo's daughter, Amber, contacted Immigration Legal Services at Catholic Charities for assistance in her father's case. The ILS team came alongside the family for two years filing a family petition and assisting Ricardo through the entire consular interview stage. In September 2018, Ricardo's immigrant visa was approved. He was reunited with his daughters after 17 years. The work done in Immigration Legal Services provides hope.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Providing Help • Creating Hope • Serving All
Est. 1912

Legal & Refugee Services

Immigration Legal Services
Provides affordable immigration legal services to low-income families in Oklahoma. Immigrants and non-immigrants are able to obtain reliable and trustworthy assessments of cases of family-petitions, U-Visa, VAWA, T-Visa, Adjustments of Status, citizenship, and temporary protected status.

Refugee Resettlement
Provides social service assistance for refugees, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Helping refugees become self-sufficient through assistance with navigating government processes, arranging initial housing, medical treatment, language training and employment services. Case management assists clients in accessing community resources as they move towards healthy integration into American life.

Clinical Services

St. Joseph's Counseling, Education and Outreach
Provides short-term, professional, counseling and related services to individuals, couples, families. Counseling is available to parochial staff, students, and members who are experiencing emotional distress. Suicide prevention training (QPR) and psycho-educational presentations are available to parishes and Catholic schools. Archdiocesan affiliation required for services.

Adoption and Pregnancy Services
Pregnant women in crisis are offered support, counseling and case management. Ethical, pressure-free licensed child placement is available for infant adoptions. Support and counseling for birth parents and adoptive parents is provided throughout the adoption process including on-going post-adoptive services. Parish-based Project Gabriel Ministries receive orientation and professional support through these services.

Development & Outreach

Community Engagement
Supports all programs and projects of Catholic Charities through volunteer, event, marketing and donor relationship management.

Parish Engagement
Works to build relationships and collaborate with parishes to support social ministries in order to reduce poverty.

Social Services

Homeless Services
Sanctuary Women's Development Centers
Provides homeless and low-income women and their children resources in Oklahoma City and Norman. Women are offered support and advocacy to alleviate the effects of poverty, empowering them with the tools to overcome homelessness. Shower and laundry facilities, computer lab, food and beverages, clothing, hygiene items, life-skills classes, job search, counseling and case management are available.

Holy Family Home
Provides a multi-generational transitional housing facility for community-based services and case management to homeless women and their children - educating, empowering and promoting positive lifestyles to residents.

Family Support Services
Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance
Provides limited financial assistance for rent and utility bills to families struggling to achieve self-sufficiency. Once approved for assistance, families must participate in a one-time budgeting course and are strongly urged to enroll in Family H.O.P.E. Case Management. Families may access this assistance annually and a set number of families are assisted per week.

Family H.O.P.E. Case Management
Offers strength-based case management that builds partnerships with families threatened by homelessness and severe financial stressors to eliminate barriers to success and self-sufficiency.

Transitional Housing
Provides affordable housing to low-income families and individuals. To be eligible to live in housing units, adult family members must enroll in the Family H.O.P.E. program. Clients who successfully complete their case management goals will transition into permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

A Very Giving Christmas
In partnership with Sunbeam Family Services, client families visit St. Nick's Shoppe and select gifts for their family members. In exchange for this opportunity, clients are asked to give back to the community through the volunteer opportunity of their choice.

Disaster Services
Provides emergency assistance, trauma counseling, service coordination and long-term case management after disasters. Also works with communities to enhance and strengthen preparedness for and resiliency after a disaster.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was founded in 1912 and serves all regardless of race, religion, ability to pay, or national origin.

1232 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Offices in Ardmore, Clinton, Enid, Guymon & Lawton | Program Locations in Norman & Midwest City

Phone 405.523.3000
Fax 405.523.3030
Toll Free 800.375.8514

ccaokc.org facebook.com/CCOKC @CCAOKC

United Way Partner Agency

The Gospel of the Holy Spirit

Luke's second volume is history

Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Luke, the author of the third God-inspired Gospel that is a required prelude to this work, continues to be open to the inspiration of God and prepares for us the first Church history in a unique way.

This gentile physician beloved by Paul (see Col. 4,14 and 2Tim. 4,10) continues a biblical history, which started in his Gospel, and describes for us how the process of God's eternal salvation promised to the Hebrews is now being extended to the rest of the gentile world through the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. This is why Acts of the Apostles is at times referred to as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.

This first volume on Church history or the history of Christianity, written before 70 AD, can be summed up in one verse, "…you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1,8).

This verse from the past is our clear God-mandated path for the future!

The three key themes in Acts of the Apostles are simple:

Jesus Christ is exalted by God as our redeemer, Lord, savior and messiah. All this clearly manifested through the Paschal Mystery of his passion, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The Holy Spirit is essential for the life of the Church. Beginning from Pentecost, and all through the life of the Church, disciples must be open to the Holy Spirit, also known as the spirit of Christ or the spirit of God, if they are to fulfill their mission to proclaim to the world the Good News of salvation. The Church needs to breathe in the life of the Spirit to be able to be the community of life, love and joy that we are called to be. Through the Holy Spirit we see the development of a Church hierarchy.

The Church is the continuation of the mission of Christ. The Church is the risen Christ still present and acting in the world in a special way through a young and developing liturgical life. The Church lives by and through prayer and the Eucharist! Through this liturgy, celebrated on the first day of the week, the Church learns to be a generous and loving family of faith. We also see how, as in every family, at times we don't see eye-to-eye and differences of opinion must be resolved as they were in the first council of the Church in Jerusalem.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles is a wonderful God-inspired history. Let me rephrase that, it is still about Christ, it is his story as told through the Holy Spirit.

"After Suicide:" There's still hope

By John Dolezal
The Sooner Catholic

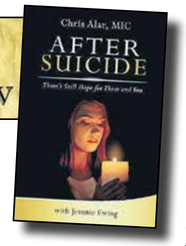
Initially, when asked to write a book review on Chris Alar's "After Suicide," I had concerns as to whether I could relate to the content well enough. I have not had a family member or loved one commit suicide.

However, thanks be to God, I read the book subtitle, "There's Still Hope for Them and You." This one statement gave me the courage to dive in and write this review.

While this book was written by a Catholic priest with contribution from another Catholic priest, and perhaps, for the target audience of those who have experienced the loss of a family member or loved one to suicide, I believe the content offers hope for all, given that, as humans, we all experience loss and the grace of hope is a gift all can utilize.

The content of the book is neatly organized into two major divisions. Part 1 is titled, "There really is hope for them," and Part 2, "There really is hope for you." While there are only 205 pages to read, there is much to ponder and pray on throughout the book.

Book Review



The author does a great job of connecting the "real" teaching of the Church with the message of Divine Mercy and his own experience of losing his grandmother to suicide while offering the reader ample opportunity to gain hope for dealing with traumatic and unsettling loss of a loved-one.

While there is ample theology relating to suicide and hope for dealing with loss presented throughout this book, for me, most of my attention and pondering was attracted to the Divine Mercy.

The Divine Mercy is a devotion to Jesus Christ associated with the apparitions of Jesus to Faustina Kowalska and God's loving message of "Divine Mercy" for mankind. While serving as a Polish nun shortly before WWI, Saint Maria Faustina (Kowalska) was instructed by Jesus to record messages of mercy in a diary. These messages were chronicled by her in notebooks and the words contained within are "God's loving message of Divine Mercy."

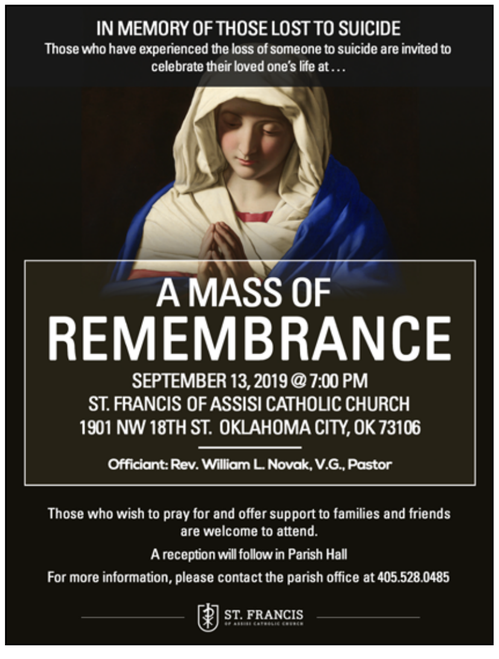
In hope of encouraging others to read "After Suicide" I share three short messages from Jesus as recorded in Saint Faustina's "Diary:"

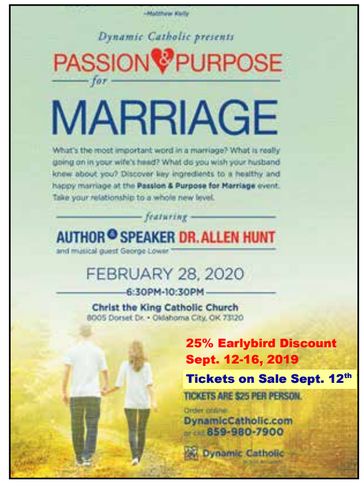
- "My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of fathers to them and that it is for them that the blood and water flowed from my heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. I desire to bestow my graces upon souls."
- "Call upon my mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion."
- "O soul steeped in darkness, do not despair. All is not yet lost. Come and confide in your God, who is love and mercy."

Father Alar, in the preface of this book, suggests, "After Suicide, connotes a topic that is perhaps both daunting and unsettling. Dealing with the aftermath of a suicide is difficult. … It is for this very reason that the authors of this book hope to encourage in you an 'epiphany of hope.'"

In my opinion, there is plenty of hope that can be gained by reading this book and, I for one, experienced such an epiphany.

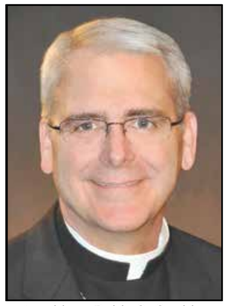
John H. Dolezal is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.





Lánzate a lo más Profundo Luke 5:4

Esta es mi Sangre



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

A menudo he descubierto que cuando escucho, leo o pronuncio un texto sagrado de la liturgia o las Escrituras, una palabra o frase puede cobrar vida con un poder inesperado. Puede aportar perspicacia o comprensión. Puede traer consuelo o sanación. A veces me penetra el corazón y me lleva al arrepentimiento. Aunque puede ser un texto familiar, parece que lo estoy escuchando por primera vez. Sospecho que esta es una experiencia común para muchas personas de fe.

Hoy, al pronunciar las palabras de la consagración en la Misa, estas palabras me impresionaron poderosamente: "Tomen y beban todos de él, éste es el cáliz de mi Sangre, Sangre de la alianza nueva y eterna, que se derrama por ustedes y por todos..." La sangre del Señor todavía se derrama por nosotros. Se derrama y se ofrece sacramentalmente en la Misa para nuestra salvación y redención.

Pero también se está derramando dentro y a través de los miembros de su cuerpo en los tiroteos masivos violentos y sin sentido que se han vuelto demasiado frecuentes en nuestro país. Esto es lo que me sorprendió cuando levanté el cáliz de la Preciosa Sangre en la Santa Misa.

El domingo 1 de septiembre, escuchamos de otro acto aterrador de brutal violencia armada cuando un conductor que pasaba por Odessa y Midland, Texas, mató al azar a al menos siete e hirió a muchos otros. En agosto, 22 personas fueron asesinadas a tiros en un Wal-Mart de El Paso y nueve más en un distrito histórico de Dayton, Ohio. Docenas más resultaron heridos en estos ataques. Los asesinatos en masa que involucran armas de fuego se han vuelto trágicamente comunes a medida que ocurren con mayor frecuencia en todo nuestro país.

No pretendo tener la solución a este complejo problema. Se han propuesto muchas soluciones y merecen consideración. Estas incluyen verificaciones de antecedentes más extenuantes para la compra de armas, limitar los tipos de armas disponibles para la compra, una mayor atención a los servicios de salud mental y otras propuestas de sentido común.

> *"La violencia que estamos experimentando con tanta frecuencia habla de una pérdida de respeto por la dignidad de la vida humana en nuestra cultura de descarte. Habla de la existencia y el poder del mal en nuestra sociedad que ataca y destruye con tanta indiferencia indiscriminada y fría."*

Depende de todos nosotros abordar las causas profundas de la violencia que es trágicamente sintomática de algo profundamente malo en nuestra sociedad. Se necesitará más que nuevas políticas y leyes para erradicar este problema. Requerirá un nuevo corazón. La violencia que estamos experimentando con tanta frecuencia habla de una pérdida de respeto por la dignidad de la vida humana en nuestra cultura de descarte. Habla de la existencia y el poder del mal en nuestra sociedad que ataca y destruye con tanta indiferencia indiscriminada y fría.

En lugar de aferrarnos a la defensa egoísta de nuestro statu quo, recemos para que nuestras mentes y corazones estén abiertos a la guía del Espíritu Santo para buscar y encontrar nuevas soluciones a este problema abrumador. Oremos por todas las víctimas de la violencia, especialmente aquellas familias y comunidades que han sido afectadas en nuestra nación este año. Que Dios nos dé la sabiduría y el coraje para actuar y detener el flujo de sangre que se derrama a través de la violencia armada.

El Evangelio del Espíritu Santo

El segundo volumen de Luke es historia

Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Secretariado de Evangelización y Catequesis

Lucas, el autor del tercer Evangelio inspirado por Dios que es un preludio requerido para esta obra, continúa abierto a la inspiración de Dios y nos prepara la primera historia de la Iglesia de una manera única.

Este médico gentil amado por Pablo (ver Col. 4,14 y 2 Tim. 4,10) continúa una historia bíblica, que comenzó en su Evangelio, y nos describe cómo el proceso de salvación eterna de Dios prometido a los hebreos ahora se está extendiendo al resto del mundo gentil a través del poder y la dirección del Espíritu Santo. Esta es la razón por la cual Hechos de los Apóstoles se reconoce por algunos como el Evangelio del Espíritu Santo.

Este primer volumen sobre la historia de la Iglesia o la historia del cristianismo, escrito antes del año 70 DC, se puede resumir en un verso: "...recibirán la fuerza del Espíritu Santo cuando venga sobre ustedes, y serán mis testigos en Jerusalén, en toda Judea, en Samaría y hasta los extremos de la tierra." (Hechos 1,8).

¡Este versículo del pasado es nuestro claro camino, ordenado por Dios, para el futuro!

Los tres temas clave en Hechos de los Apóstoles son simples:

Jesucristo es exaltado por Dios como nuestro redentor, Señor, salvador y mesías. Todo esto se manifiesta claramente a través del misterio pascual de su pasión, muerte, resurrección y ascensión al cielo.

El Espíritu Santo es esencial para la vida de la Iglesia. A partir de Pentecostés, y durante toda la vida de la Iglesia, los discípulos deben estar abiertos al Espíritu Santo, también conocido como el espíritu de Cristo o el espíritu de Dios, para cumplir su misión de proclamar al mundo la Buena Nueva de salvación. La Iglesia necesita respirar la vida del Espíritu para poder ser la comunidad de vida, amor y alegría que estamos llamados a ser. A través del Espíritu Santo vemos el desarrollo de una jerarquía en la Iglesia.

La Iglesia es la continuación de la misión de Cristo. La Iglesia es el Cristo resucitado todavía presente y actuando en el mundo de manera especial a través de una vida litúrgica todavía joven y en pleno desarrollo. ¡La Iglesia vive a través de la oración y la Eucaristía! A través de esta liturgia, celebrada el primer día de la semana, la Iglesia aprende a ser una familia de fe generosa y amorosa. También vemos cómo, como en todas las familias, a veces tenemos diferencias de opiniones que deben resolverse como lo fueron en el primer concilio de la Iglesia en Jerusalén.

El libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles es una maravillosa historia de la Iglesia inspirada por Dios. Permítanme reformular eso, todavía se trata de Cristo, es su historia contada a través del Espíritu Santo.

Papa creará 13 nuevos cardenales en octubre

Por Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO – El papa Francisco anunció que creará 13 nuevos cardenales el 5 de octubre, escogiendo prelados de 13 diferentes países como un signo de "la vocación misionera de la iglesia que continúa proclamando el misericordioso amor de Dios a todos los hombres y mujeres de la tierra".

El único cardenal canadiense nombrado fue el padre jesuita Michael Czerny de 73 años, subsecretario de la Sección Migrantes y Refugiados del Dicasterio para el servicio del Desarrollo Humano Integral. Ninguno de los nuevos cardenales es de Estados Unidos.

El cardenal-designado Czerny, a quien el papa Francisco había nombrado anteriormente como secretario especial para el Sínodo de los Obispos para la Amazonía, estaba en Guararema, Brasil, cuando se difundió el anuncio. Él declaró a Catholic News Service, por mensaje de texto, que no sabía que iba a convertirse en cardenal.

Al anunciar los nombres de los nuevos cardenales el 1 de septiembre, el papa incluyó a 10 hombres que tienen menos de 80 años y por lo tanto serán elegibles para votar en un cónclave para elegir a un nuevo papa. Tres de los futuros cardenales ya tienen más de 80 años y el papa dijo que los escogió por su servicio a la iglesia.

"Oremos por los nuevos cardenales para que, confirmando su apego a Cristo, ellos me ayudarán en mi ministerio como obispo de Roma por el bien de toda la feligresía, el santo pueblo de Dios", dijo el pontífice a los peregrinos reunidos a mediodía para orar el Ángelus con él.

Además del cardenal-designado Czerny, los otros dos miembros del grupo también son funcionarios del Vaticano: el obispo de 67 años Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, presidente del Pontificio Consejo para el Diálogo Interreligioso, y el arzobispo de 53 años Tolentino Medonca, archivista y bibliotecario del Vaticano.

Uno de los cardenales-designados con más de 80, es el arzobispo de 82 años, Michael Fitzgerald, un misionero de África nacido en Inglaterra, quien ha servido como presidente del Guararema y luego como nuncio del Vaticano en Egipto.

Los otros, en el orden en que fueron nombrados por el papa, fueron:

- Arzobispo Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo de Yakarta, Indonesia, 69.
- Arzobispo Juan García Rodríguez de La Habana, 71.
- Arzobispo Fridolin Ambongo Besungu de Kinshasa, Congo, 59.
- Arzobispo Jean-Claude Hollerich de Luxemburgo, 61.
- Obispo Alvaro Ramazzini Imeri de Huehuetenango, Guatemala, 72.
- Arzobispo Matteo Zuppi de Bolonia, Italia, 63.
- Arzobispo Cristóbal López Romero de Rabat, Marruecos, 67.
- Arzobispo retirado Sigitas Tamkevicius de Kaunas, Lithuana, 80.
- Obispo emérito Eugenio dal Corso de Benguela, Angola, 80.

Misa de Aniversario

El Arzobispo Pablo Coakley invita a las parejas casadas que estén celebrando su aniversario especial de (25, 40, 50+) del presente año 2019 para que participen en la Misa Especial de Aniversario el domingo 20 de Octubre de 2019, iniciando a las 3 p.m. en la parroquia de Cristo Rey (Christ the King), 8005 Dorset Dr. en Oklahoma City. Después de la Misa habrá una recepción. Es muy importante que si usted desea asistir por favor contacte a la Oficina de Ministerio Matrimonial y Vida Familiar al (405) 721-5651, Ext. 109, (405) 721-8944. El Arzobispo le impartirá su bendición y la comunidad local se alegra en su ejemplo y compromiso al Sacramento de Matrimonio.

Pre-Cana

Próximo clase de Pre-Cana, en español, está programado para el 5 de octubre, 2019. Este programa se realiza en el Centro Pastoral, 7501 NW Expressway en Oklahoma City. Inscripción empieza a las 8:30 a.m. y la clase de 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Si están interesados o necesitan más información, favor de llamar a Lisa Carrasco (405) 709-2709. El costo de este programa es 40.00 por pareja. El almuerzo esta incluido. Esta clase también sirve como un entrenamiento para trabajar en tu parroquia como 'padrinos" de matrimonio. (ULTIMA DIA PARA REGISTRAR ES JUEVES, EL 3 de octubre, 2019)

Briefs

Rother shrine groundbreaking

The groundbreaking for the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine will be 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, at the site of the future shrine, S.E. 89 between Shields Boulevard and Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City. The groundbreaking is open to the public. Tickets are not required. RSVP helps with visitor count: rsvp@archokc.org. To learn more, go online to archokc.org/shrine.

Silver Tea Potluck Luncheon

The St. Benedict Parish Guild in Shawnee will be hosting their annual Silver Tea Potluck Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in the community room.

Opening night

The Bl. Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute invites everyone to attend the opening night of the fall 2019 semester at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 in the St. Joseph Parish Center Metta Room, 421 E. Acres, Norman. Contact (405) 321-8080, mariadejp-ruiz@att.net or rotherhispanicinstitute@gmail.com. Visit the Hispanic institute page on Facebook.

Passion, Purpose for Marriage

Dynamic Catholic will present Passion and Purpose for Marriage 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, at Christ the King, 8005 Dorset Dr. in Oklahoma City. The event will feature author and speaker Allen Hunt and musical guest George Lower. Tickets $25 pp. Early bird discount Sept. 12-16. Visit dynamiccatholic.com or call (859) 980-7900.

Mass of Remembrance

The 2019 Mass of Remembrance will be 7 p.m. Sept. 13 at St. Francis of Assisi, 1901 N.W. 18, OKC. The Mass is in memory of people lost to suicide. Everyone is welcome. People who have experienced the loss of someone to suicide are invited to attend and celebrate their loved one's life. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Come and See weekend

The Dominican Sisters of Peace will host a "Come and See" retreat Sept. 13-15 in St. Catharine, Ky., at their Motherhouse for single, Catholic women ages 18-45. Call or text Sr. Mai-dung (pronounced MY-ung) at (405) 248-7027 or e-mail mdnguyen@oppeace.org. Some travel assistance is offered on a need basis.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Archbishop Coakley will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, at St. Gregory's Abbey for the 7th annual day of remembrance. A rosary will be prayed after Mass. Light refreshments provided. abortionmemorials.com

Young adult Mass, cookout

The young adult (ages 18-39) Mass and Cookout with Archbishop Coakley is 3 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Families are welcome. Fr. Aaron Foshee, pastor at St. Joseph in Ada, will be the speaker. Text "cookout" to 84576 to RSVP.

Surviving Divorce

The next Surviving Divorce class starts Sept. 17 in Norman. The program offers hope, healing and community to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. This 14-week program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Classes will meet 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. each Tuesday at St. Mark in Norman. Register at www.saintmarknorman.org/ministries/divorce-ministry.

BMCHS class reunion

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 1969 is looking for classmates for a 50th reunion Sept. 19-22. Contact Rich Tuohy at Rftuohy@aol.com, (405) 820-1812.

40 Days for Life kick-off baby shower

The Oklahoma City 40 Days for Life will kick off their prayer campaign with a baby shower 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sept. 20 at St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave. in Oklahoma City. The baby shower benefits Willow Pregnancy Support. Bring diapers sizes 3-4 and formula. There will be speakers, a walk to the center and prayer. All denominations welcome. The campaign begins Sept. 25.

Catechetical Congress

The 2019 Catechetical Congress is 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. This event is for all catechetical leaders, youth ministers, directors of religious education, catechists and parents.

Day of Reflection

A Day of Reflection "From Monologue to Dialogue in Prayer" with Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B., will be 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 21 at St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee. Early bird discount is $30 (pre-payment seven days prior) or $35 at the door, includes lunch. Contact (405) 878-5656, retreats@monksok.org.

St. Benedict Carnival

St. Benedict Catholic Church invites everyone to attend their 2019 annual carnival Sept. 21 at 632 N. Kickapoo in Shawnee. Granny's Attic garage sale and pancake breakfast begin at 8 a.m. Game booths, vendor booths, inflatables, bake sale, food booths and entertainment 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Contact (405) 275-0001.

Norman 40 Days for Life kick-off rally

The Norman chapter of 40 Days for Life will have a kick-off rally at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at All Saints Catholic School gymnasium, 4001 36 Ave. N.W., Norman. Contact Connie Lang at (405) 249-1041, jlang9@cox.net.

Financial Peace University Class

A Financial Peace University Class will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in Marian Hall at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, starting Sept. 22. Childcare provided. Register at daveramsey.com.

Jobs Box

Cook

The Catholic Pastoral Center is seeking an experienced cook for a full-time position. This position will work a flexible schedule that requires evening and weekend work. Minimum of five years' experience in food service. Catering experience preferred. Send resume to nlargent@archokc.org. Applications available during regular business hours at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Development, administrative assistant

Willow Pregnancy Support is seeking a full-time development and administrative assistant to help manage the administrative office and handle duties for upper management. The ability to multitask is essential in this position. The ideal candidate for this job is resourceful, a good problem solver and organized. The role also includes large-scale fundraising initiatives, working with board members and building relationships with donors, staff and volunteers. The candidate should be familiar with CRM nonprofit software, donor databases and other fundraising technology. Experience in fundraising and bachelor's degree required. Send resume to mlcark@willowpregnancy.org.

Catapult teachers needed

Catapult Learning works in partnership with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to provide instructional intervention services to students, while coordinating efforts with school personnel and conferencing with parents and teachers. We have various positions available, such as teachers, counselors, and instructional coaches. Visit catapultlearning.com/careers to learn more or search for Catapult Learning on Indeed.

Parish and resources coordinator

Catholic Charities is seeking a full-time parish and resources coordinator to serve as consultant, educator and supporter for parishes and communities to develop and sustain social ministries and ecumenical outreach to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Coordinator will provide support to the director of grants and donor administration to ensure good donor/donation stewardship through various database functions. Must have degree in a related field; be a practicing Catholic with knowledge of Catholic social teaching and spirituality; at least two years' experience in social ministry with education and communication skills. E-mail cover letter and resume to bsmith@ccaokc.org.

Cemetery maintenance worker

Resurrection Cemetery in Oklahoma City is seeking an individual to fill a part-time cemetery maintenance position. The person would maintain the overall appearance of cemetery, mausoleum and columbarium, including maintenance and grounds keeping, locating grave sites, digging graves, installing crypt faces, conducting interments, entombments and inurnments and simple repairs and maintenance tasks. Need a strong work ethic and previous experience in a general labor or grounds keeping position. Contact Branden Seid at (405) 721-4191, bseid@rescemokc.org.

To see more job openings, go online to www.archokc.org/jobs-box.

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.

September

8 Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 p.m., 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com

9 Feast of St. Peter Claver.

10 The St. Benedict Parish Guild, in Shawnee, will be hosting their annual Silver Tea Potluck Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

11 Catholic War Veterans (of any war/conflict) meeting, 7 p.m., St. Ann Retirement Center community room. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

12 Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

12 The Catholic Women's Activity Club meets the second Thursday of each month September-May in the patio room at Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 Britton Rd., OKC. Lunch 11:30 a.m. followed by short program and business meeting. Contact Sharon Fernbaugh at (405) 721-2183.

12 St. Ann's Ministry for pregnancy,infant loss, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., St. John Raphael House, Edmond. Contact (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org.

12 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine at (405) 358-3610, ccrprayers@gmail.com.

13 Feast of St. John Chrysostom.

14 Mass of Remembrance in memory of people lost to suicide, 7 p.m. Sept. 13, St. Francis of Assisi, 1901 N.W. 18, OKC.

15 Young adult (ages 18-39) Mass and cookout with Archbishop Coakley, 3 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Speaker is Fr. Aaron Foshee, pastor at St. Joseph in Ada.

16 Feast of Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian.

16 St. Catherine's miscarriage and infant loss ministry meets 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd., OKC, on the third Monday of every month. Call (405) 618-2402.

17 Feast of St. Robert Bellarmine.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to the Infant Jesus of Prague. During the nine days, the novena prayers will be: Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday following 5 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

17 17 Suicide grief support group, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., St. Francis, 1901 N.W. 18, OKC.

19 Feast of St. Januarius.

19 Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 1969 50th reunion Sept. 19-22. Contact Rich Tuohy at Rftuohy@aol.com, (405) 820-1812.

20 Feast of Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions.

20 The Oklahoma City 40 Days for Life baby shower campaign kick-off 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sept. 20, St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., OKC.

21 Feast of St. Matthew.

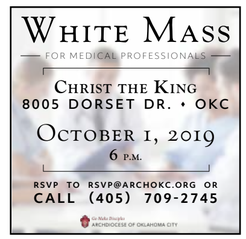
21 Catechetical Congress 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC.

21 A Day of Reflection "From Monologue to Dialogue in Prayer" with Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B., 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 21 at St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee. Contact (405) 878-5656, retreats@monksok.org.

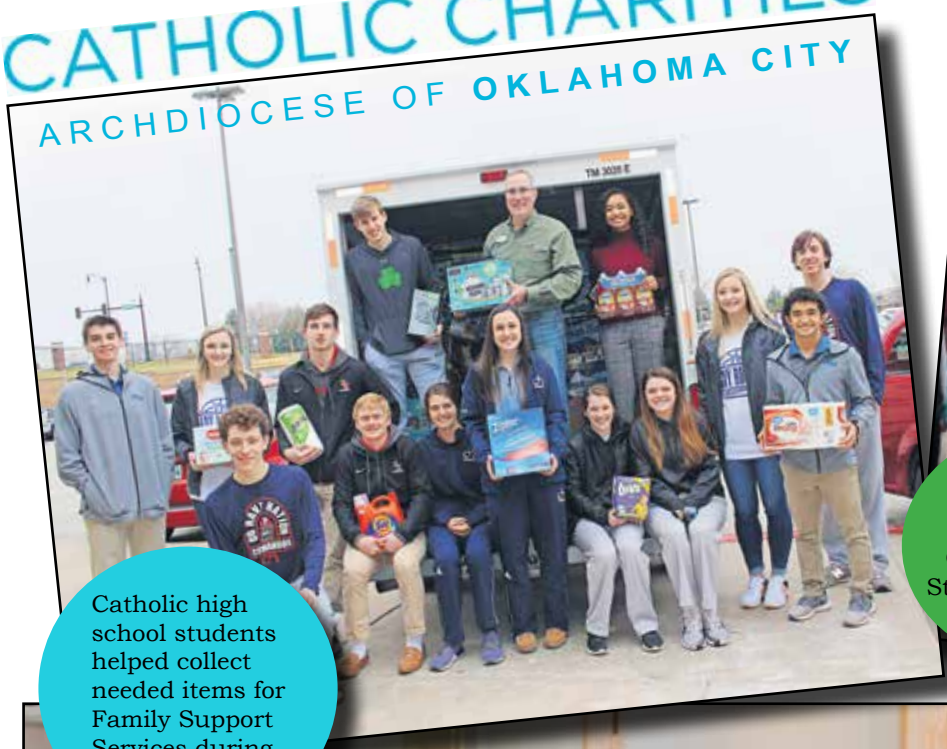
21 St. Benedict annual carnival 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sept. 21 at 632 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee.

21 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Teresa of Calcutta, meeting at St. Ann Independent Living, OKC. Mass 9:30 a.m. in the St. Joachim Chapel; meeting 10 a.m. - Noon. Contact Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199, (405) 694-1292.

21 The Oklahoma City Community of Secular Carmelites meets monthly at Little Flower, OKC. Anyone interested in deepening prayer life with community support, call Vicky Caudell at (405) 637-4611 or William Ginn at (405) 737-2024.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



Catholic high school students helped collect needed items for Family Support Services during Hoops for Hope.

Clients and volunteers march in the Oklahoma City St. Patrick's Day parade.

Clients at the Sanctuary Women's Development Center near Stockyards City enjoyed Christmas dinner.

A Very Giving Christmas allows families to shop for gifts when they're facing challenging financial situations.

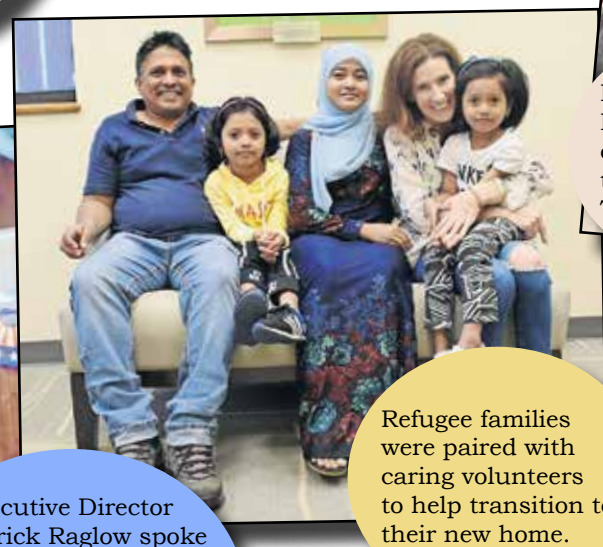
Queen for a Day at the Sanctuary Women's Development Center in Norman treated clients to a relaxing manicure.

Queen for a Day offered haircuts, makeovers, new clothes and life skills to assist in job interviews.

Pat's Tire and Auto was awarded the Mosaic Award at the 2019 Green Tie Gala.

Holy Family Home residents enjoyed dinner together for Thanksgiving.

Executive Director Patrick Raglow spoke at the 2019 Reds, Whites and Brews event hosted by Cattlemen's Steak House and Southern Glazer's.



Refugee families were paired with caring volunteers to help transition to their new home.

The Vici Family stands in front of their new home following a tornado loss.

Photos provided.