



## Tax Credit Scholarship opens Catholic education for future generations

*TCS also benefits supporters*

**By Brett Farley**  
*For the Sooner Catholic*

It's no secret that our public education system in Oklahoma is broken as we are consistently ranked in the lowest tier among the 50 states. Catholic schools exist both to address that problem and to provide higher quality private education with critical formation in our Catholic faith. So, how can we sustain this important apostolate?

Roughly a decade ago, the Oklahoma Legislature created a solution – the Tax Credit Scholarship. With the TCS program, donors can give to a private scholarship fund and receive a state income tax credit as high as 75 percent.



These private donations to the Tax Credit Scholarship are disbursed to participating private schools in the form of individual student scholarships.

The benefit of the program is two-fold. First, deserving children, oftentimes stuck in D- and F-rated public schools are given a chance to succeed in a private school of

their parents choosing.

Second, the scholarship funds help make Catholic schools more affordable and stable, reducing the chance of closure.

There's just one problem: the legislature has capped at \$5 million the total annual amount each scholarship program can receive and still provide the full tax credit to donors. This despite the amount of donations to the scholarship fund surpassing the cap every year. What does that mean? It means all of the private donations above the cap are blocked – denying scholarships to needy students and their families.

This year, the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma is working

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### Oklahoma Catholic Men's Conference

**Feb. 29 - Norman**

Tickets

Before Feb. 10 - \$59

After Feb. 10 - \$69

Discounted tickets available for students

Tickets at **catholicmen.net**

*(Includes breakfast, lunch, beverages and afternoon snacks.)*

## Men's conference 2020: Living "true manhood" through faith, grace

**By John Helsley**  
*For the Sooner Catholic*

Father Leo Patalinghug once bested Bobby Flay on his Food Network competition show, "Throw Down with Bobby Flay!"

A man of many hats, including a chef hat, Father Patalinghug is best known for his internationally acclaimed faith talks. He headlines the 24th annual In The Father's Footsteps Oklahoma Catholic Men's Conference, scheduled for Feb. 29 in Norman.

The event, titled "Remain in Me," returns to the Embassy Suites Convention Center and Hotel. Register and purchase tickets at catholicmen.net.

Father Patalinghug, a priest, chef, TV/radio host and author, highlights a lineup of five speakers during a day aimed at faith,

renewal and evangelization.

He will be joined by Edward Sri, co-founding leader of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students); Paul George, speaker, author, consultant and life coach; Dave DiNuzzo, Catholic evangelist



Fr. Leo Patalinghug

and speaker, author, retreat master, podcaster and theology teacher; and Alex Sanchez, campus ministry director at Saint Thomas More University Parish, who will speak during the young men's luncheon.

"Remain in Me" is a natural progression of our own conversions from a prior theme of 'Fol-

low Me,'" said Ray Haefele, conference director. "We are called to take the Word of God into the world. Keeping our relationship with Jesus at the center of our life will assure that his word will be done."

"The day will unfold for us how to do both, continue our conversion and to be the word of God through our daily lives."

Father Patalinghug hosts "Savoring our Faith," a weekly show on EWTN Network, with the theme of bringing the world together "one plate of grace" at a time. He's a two-time black belt martial arts instructor, an award-winning break dancer/choreographer and award-winning cook. All of that has made him a popular subject on network

**continued on page 3**



**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2020**

January 26 -  
February 1  
**#CSW1920**



## Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

# Catholic schools are a gift that keeps on giving

Among the highlights of my annual calendar are the opportunities for me to visit each of our Catholic schools. I am about halfway through my pastoral visits to our 18 elementary schools, three high schools and one special needs school.

As a Church in the United States, we set aside time each year to celebrate the unique value of Catholic schools during Catholic Schools Week. This year's observance runs from Jan. 26 through Feb. 1 and will include local Masses, open houses and activities for families, students, parishioners and community members. Among these special events, the annual Celebrating Catholic Schools Breakfast has become a special highlight of the week.

This year, the theme of the week is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Without a doubt our schools are outstanding places where students learn, where they are given opportunities to serve and to become leaders.

But, what does it mean to succeed? For people of faith, it obviously means more than material and financial outcomes. It is hard, if not impossible, to quantify the real value of Catholic education. One small marker is the fact that – based on the average cost per pupil of public-school education – Catholic schools save U.S. taxpayers more than \$20 billion annually. That's success!

More importantly, however, Catholic schools seek success as places of evangelization and discipleship. What a tremendous potential for faith and character formation exists when students spend 35 or more hours each week in a community of faith! As communities of faith and learning, Catholic schools form disciples of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel and inviting a response.

Our beautiful Catholic faith is woven throughout the curriculum: in the classroom, through worship and through service, and all sorts of extra-curricular opportunities. Prayer is not only permitted, it is promoted in our Catholic schools. As a result, studies show that Catholic school students are more likely to pray daily and retain a Catholic identity in adulthood. Catholic school graduates are more likely to be civically engaged, volunteer, vote and be committed to service. Historically, Catholic schools have provided a tremendously effective environment for nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In short, there is really no substitute for the many contributions our Catholic schools make to Church and society. These are good measures of success!

The Catholic Church always has affirmed the right and responsibility of parents as the primary educators of their children. To assist parents in this sacred duty, the Church has taught that children have a right to an education in faith, and that the state has a fundamental obligation to enable such a right.

In its document on religious liberty, the Second Vatican Council affirmed that "The rights of parents

are violated if their children are forced to attend lessons or instructions that are not in agreement with their religious beliefs, or if a single system of education, from which all religious formation is excluded, is imposed upon all."

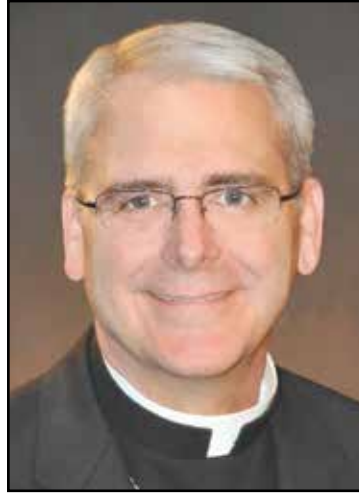
Many parents exercise their duty to educate their children in accord with their fundamental religious beliefs by choosing to send their children to Catholic schools, to parish religious education programs or by homeschooling. Sometimes the higher cost of parochial schools makes it difficult or even impossible for parents to choose Catholic schools for their children. It is the responsibility of the whole Catholic community to strive to make Catholic education accessible and affordable to more Catholic parents and children who desire it. Tuition assistance programs and other

kinds of need-based scholarship assistance are important for the sustainability of our Catholic schools and their mission.

There also is a growing recognition beyond the Catholic Church of the importance of supporting parents' educational choices for their children. The importance of parents' rights to choose the kind of education that is best for their children has led to a growing movement toward parental choice in education, that is, policies and programs that empower parents to make such choices. Effective parental choice policies give parents the flexibility to choose the kind of school that meets the needs of their children based on their religious convictions, the quality of education available or the special needs of their children.

Parental choice programs are growing nationwide. They take the form of scholarship tax credit programs, voucher programs, special needs programs, individual or business income tax credits and education savings account programs. For example, in Oklahoma families are finding assistance in sending their children to Catholic schools through the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Program, which allows children with special needs to enroll at Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy as well as several of our other traditional Catholic schools. The Tax Credit Scholarship allows individuals and businesses who contribute to the program to receive a state income tax credit so that need-based scholarships may be awarded for students who wish to attend Catholic schools.

We have a treasure in our Catholic schools. It is a gift that gives dividends! But, it is our shared responsibility to continue exploring innovative public/private initiatives and to find effective ways to make the gift of Catholic education available to still more students and families.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

## Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

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

✓ **Rose Day Mass, luncheon**  
The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a Mass at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 5 in the St. Francis of Assisi chapel, 1901 N.W. 18, OKC. A brunch will follow before going to the capitol. A van will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. and return by 1 p.m. Cost for the ride is \$10 and reservations are required. Contact Mary Ann Schmitt at (405) 650-9674.



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City  
Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

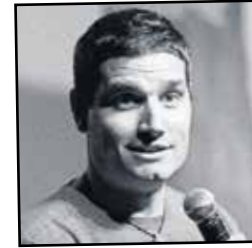


*Almighty Father, you sent forth your son as a beacon of hope for all people. As teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education. As disciples, we look to him for inspiration and strength. Thank you for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools. Thank you for the teachers and administrators who sustain our schools today. Thank you for the parents who give support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives. Thank you for the students who work hard to further their education. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

# Men's conference 2020: Living "true manhood" through faith, grace



Dave DiNuzzo



Paul George

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programs. His talk is titled "Be a Man and Feed Your Family."

Sri is a well-known Catholic speaker who also appears regularly on EWTN. His talk is: "No Greater Love: Remaining in Christ at Mass and Beyond."

George has spent more than 23 years helping people discover the art of living through searching themselves, discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and finding true happiness. His talk is: "Men Living Boldly for Christ."

DiNuzzo is the founder of TrueManhood Men's Ministry, which focuses on spreading the truth of authentic masculinity in the image of Jesus Christ. His talk will be: "Living True Manhood: Practically and Reasonably Living a Life of Virtue."

Sanchez is a University of Oklahoma graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After serving as a FOCUS missionary for five years, he now serves as the director of campus ministry for Saint Thomas More at OU's Catholic Center. His talk is: "The Guy's Guide to Handling What's Really Going on in School Today."

The conference also will provide opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Coakley.



Alex Sanchez



Edward Sri

## Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

**Jan. 18-26** – Ad Limina Visit to Rome

**Jan. 28** – Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, 7 a.m., Embassy Suites Downtown – Medical Center

**Jan. 28** – Presbyteral Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

**Jan. 28** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**Jan. 28** – Personnel Board meeting, 2:30 p.m., CPC

**Jan. 29** – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:45 a.m., St. Mary, Lawton

**Jan. 30** – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond

**Jan. 30** – Senior Staff meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**Jan. 31** – School Mass and classroom visits, 7:50 a.m., Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School, OKC

**Jan. 31** – Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board annual meeting, 1:30 p.m., CPC

**Feb. 1** – TET Mass and celebration, 11 a.m., St. Andrew Dung-Lac, OKC

**Feb. 2** – Confirmation, 12:15 p.m., Christ the King, OKC

continued from page 1

diligently as a member of the Education Choice Coalition to advance an important measure, Senate Bill 407, that promises to increase that cap to \$30 million. For comparison, similar programs in other states boast caps far larger with Florida's cap topping the list at \$1 billion.

The potential opportunities of such an increase are obvious. Hundreds of additional children across the state – underprivileged, bullied or physically impaired – will have access to scholarships for quality education.

This opportunity will not be realized, however, without a fight. Special interests opposed to school choice have allied to block SB407, and critical votes needed to pass this important reform hang in the balance. Though the 2020 legislative session does not officially begin until early February, pieces on the political chessboard already are in play both for and against SB407.

Catholic social teaching demands we advocate for and defend human flourishing in all its various aspects. This necessarily includes pushing for new opportunities with which children in our state can avail themselves of quality education.

What is left unanswered is whether and how many parents, teachers, pastors and concerned laypeople in our Catholic pews recognize this critical juncture in which we find ourselves.

I call on fellow parishioners to join in asking our state's leaders to do what is right on behalf of our children. Quality education for hundreds of deserving Oklahoma children depend on what we do in the coming weeks.

Brett Farley is director of the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma. [okcatholic.org](http://okcatholic.org).

# ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

## CHILDREN'S EVANGELIZATION AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Annual Catholic Appeal provides the formation needed to raise confident young disciples.

[archokc.org/appeal](http://archokc.org/appeal)

(405) 709-2745





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Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop of Oklahoma City  
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at [www.archokc.org](http://www.archokc.org)

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Archbishop Coakley dedicated and blessed the new St. Thomas More University Parish Dec. 21 in Norman. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

## From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

Armed with an immense amount of talent and unfailing optimism, Father Roberto Quant was ordained by Archbishop Charles Salatka on June 1, 1991. Born in Nicaragua on Sept. 22, 1960, his family moved to Honduras to escape the volatile political climate. Having owned and operated a Chinese restaurant in Nicaragua, it only was natural that their business continued in Honduras.

Father Roberto loved to joke about his Chinese features and heavy Spanish accent. In fact, to say that Father Roberto liked to joke is a gross understatement. For those who knew him well, laughter is the first thing that comes to mind when recalling this remarkable man. He could find joy in the mundane and his enthusiasm for the people he served was renowned.

Priesthood was a vocation he took seriously. He fully believed in a life of service and loved sharing himself with parishioners. Joana Comacho, the former principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School who worked with him at his final assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart, recalled: "Father Roberto's unique personality made him special to those who met him. He always made you feel like you were his favorite, most loved and most treasured friend, just as his best friend Jesus would do."

While known as one of the wittiest priests in the archdiocese, he was a canonist who knew the law thoroughly and its proper application. Because he was fun loving, it is sometimes forgotten that he possessed a sharp mind and was a cleric of great depth. Revered for his warmth and compassion, his leadership skills and vision brought out the best in people and facilitated their growth in the faith.

Understanding the feelings of being in a foreign culture (which he himself had experienced when coming to Oklahoma for college) Father Roberto embraced the Hispanic population of Holy Angels and Sacred Heart, building strong communities and, in the case of Sacred Heart, revitalizing the school (with the guidance of Comacho) and nearly doubling the enrollment.

In 2013, he had been appointed pastor of Saint Eugene, a parish with equally vibrant Anglo and Hispanic communities. It appeared to be the perfect match. Sadly, Father Roberto left this life suddenly at age 52 before he could begin his new challenge. Upon his death, Archbishop Coakley summed up a life well-lived: "He leaves behind him a rich legacy. As a priest, a son, a brother and friend, he enriched the lives of those around him with his delightfully animated intelligence and abiding good spirits. As beloved pastor of Sacred Heart parish, he attended to the spiritual needs of more than 8,000 parishioners with generosity and a smile. As judicial vicar in the provincial tribunal, he was an effective and amiable colleague."



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES



Fr. Roberto Quant in his office at the tribunal.

## Meet the Seminarians

This is part of a series to introduce the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.



**Harry  
Brown**

### What is your home parish?

My home parish is Christ the King in Oklahoma City.

### What seminary do you attend?

I attend Conception Seminary College.

### If it is God's will, what year will you be ordained a priest?

God willing, I will be ordained a priest in 2026, at the earliest.

### What advice would you give to someone discerning a call to the priesthood?

My advice would be to pray about it and really think about what you are doing. If you feel called to the priesthood talk to your pastor so he knows you are discerning.

### What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest?

I look forward to administering the sacraments, celebrating Mass, and making a positive change in many lives.

### Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know.

The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Never receive him in a state of mortal sin.

### Why choose a life of sacrificial love?

A life of sacrificial love is what we are called to do, if you truly live out your full potential in Christ (whether you are called to priesthood, religious life or marriage) you will live a life of sacrificial love.

**To learn more about seminary, contact:**  
Rev. Brian Buettner at  
[bbuettner@archokc.org](mailto:bbuettner@archokc.org) or (405) 721-9351.  
[okcvocations.com](http://okcvocations.com)

### Become a seminarian pen pal!

Our seminarians are away from home for months at a time during their formation. While at seminary, they would like to hear from people back home in Oklahoma! To become a Seminarian Pen Pal, go online to [archokc.org/penpal](http://archokc.org/penpal), find their addresses and write a note.

# Six parishes receive grants to help elderly citizens

*Oklahoma City Community Foundation awards grants to provide warm meals*

**E**piphanies of the Lord, Saint Charles Borromeo, Saint Eugene, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint James received a grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation to provide warm meals to homebound elderly citizens.

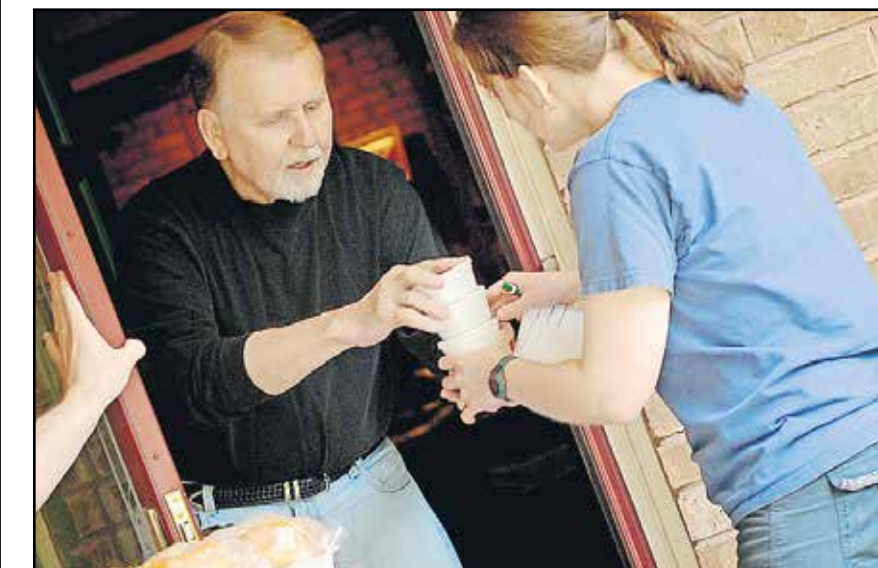
More than \$50,000 in grants was awarded to 52 area churches and organizations that prepare and deliver mobile meals throughout Oklahoma County. In addition, Meals on Wheels of Norman and Edmond Mobile Meals each received \$5,000 grants.

Since 2008, the Oklahoma City Commu-

nity Foundation has distributed more than \$400,000 in support of the central Oklahoma Mobile Meals program. According to Meals on Wheels of Oklahoma City, one in 12 senior citizens in Oklahoma County lives in poverty, and nearly 16,000 lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Seniors age 60 and older who are unable to leave their homes without assistance or prepare meals due to health limitations, may apply to receive home-delivered meals, regardless of income.

Volunteers with area churches and organizations provide nutritious meals, wellness checks and meaningful contact to more than 1,900 homebound senior citizens living in central Oklahoma who are unable to prepare their own meals. In addition, Edmond Mobile Meals prepares more than 1,100 meals per week and the Norman Meals on Wheels program serves more than 1,500 meals per week.

For information about parish meal delivery ministries, contact the parish or go online to [archokc.org/resources](http://archokc.org/resources).



Mobile Meals program volunteers deliver warm meals to homebound senior citizens in central Oklahoma. Photo provided.

**Rose Day**  
Pro-Life Rally • Wednesday, February 5, 2020



Join us on the 4th floor of the Oklahoma State Capitol on Wednesday morning, February 5, 2020.

**Rose Distribution:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Indoor Pro-Life Rally, House Chamber:** 11:30 a.m.

Bring red roses to give to your state representative, state senator, lieutenant governor and governor. For more information or to find out who your legislators are, visit [www.roseday.life](http://www.roseday.life).

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I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, John 14:6

PRAY TO PROTECT  
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Making Sense of Bioethics

The foxes and the henhouse

Probably the biggest bioethics story of 2019 involved Dr. Jankui He (known to his associates as “JK”), a Chinese scientist who employed a new technology called CRISPR/Cas9 to produce the world’s first gene-edited babies. JK made genetic changes to two little girls, Lulu and Nana, when they were early-stage embryos, attempting to modify a receptor for HIV to confer resistance to a possible future infection from the virus. He publicly announced the birth of the girls at an international scientific conference near the end of 2018, and as the news rapidly spread, many scientists and commentators expressed shock and dismay over his “designer baby” experiments.

Chinese provincial authorities quickly became aware of his activities as well, and he was placed under house arrest upon his return from the conference. In the closing days of 2019, a secret trial was held, and he was sentenced to three years in prison for producing the CRISPR babies. The trial proceedings concluded that JK had “rashly applied gene editing technology to human assisted reproductive medicine.”

The verdict reached by the Chinese court raises complex questions that must be confronted: What does it mean to “rashly apply” a new technology like human gene editing? Who should determine if a particular use is “rash” or “reasonable?”

Dr. Rita Vassena, a member of the executive committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, framed the ethical concerns around JK’s case this way: “As the current scientific consensus indicates, the use of CRISPR/Cas9 in human embryos destined to give rise to a pregnancy is, at this stage, unjustified.”

She couches her ethical analysis, as many scientists do, in terms of the “current scientific consensus.” But, such “consensus” is an extremely malleable concept. It also conveniently

implies that scientists themselves can set up their own ethical rules and provide regulatory oversight for scientific research, so that they, in effect, become the foxes guarding the henhouse.

The saga that has unfolded during the past year surrounding the gene-editing experiments of JK has demonstrated, if nothing else, how self-serving and ineffective a community of scientists can be as they try to exercise the role of lawyer, judge and jury of their own ethical standards.

Even though we should be justifiably alarmed at Chinese courts meting out jail time in secret to scientific researchers, the fact remains that it was a government-controlled court that finally put some teeth into ethical regulations. In the West, to have governments, courts or major institutions take any action whatsoever in a case like JK’s seems at present inconceivable. Instead, in American and European universities and industrial settings, we often encounter feeble, meandering discussions about research ethics, along with a proliferation of rubber-stamping “ethics review panels.” These often consist of hand-picked members devoid of strong ethical or religious training and viewpoints. Such panels give increasingly systematic cover for an ever-expanding range of unethical research practices.

Whether it’s giving a green light to use stem cells derived from human embryos or tissues from intentionally aborted fetuses for research, or to employ cloning technology to produce new human life or to manufacture three parent embryos, many biomedical researchers have come to rely so much on ethical rubber stamps that they just venture ahead, confident that they won’t be “fenced in” by ethical considerations.

JK’s gene-editing experiments and China’s strong reaction have at least managed to bring the ethical concerns momentarily back into the spotlight.

“I think a jail sentence is the proper punishment for him,” said Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology at Peking University in comments he shared with the New York Times. “It makes clear our stance on the gene editing of humans – that we are opposed to it ... signaling that there is a bottom line that cannot be broken.”

Yet, this is precisely the difficulty in biomedicine today: namely, that there are few, if any, “bottom lines” when it comes to research ethics. The lines have become exceedingly flexible, if the price is right or if a particular political administration is amenable to re-drawing them.

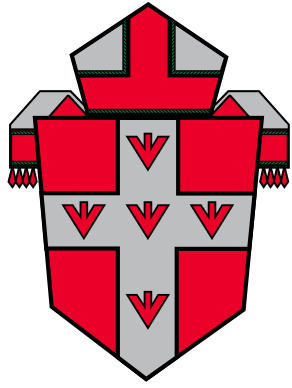
While there isn’t any perfect solution to ensure scientists never engage in unethical research – and the involvement of communist secret courts is certainly far from ideal – we clearly need to promote, fund and regulate modern biomedical research in a way that prioritizes ethics over expediency.

This means establishing significant sanctions and funding restrictions when ethical violations by researchers occur. It also means including alternative viewpoints on ethics review panels, especially those informed by longstanding religious and philosophical traditions, like that of the Catholic Church, which offer the important perspective that certain ethical lines are not able to be moved or redrawn.

This kind of input can contribute much to the kinds of discussions that need to occur and can afford an important counterbalance to any foxes who desire to keep guard over the ethical henhouse.



Father Tad Pacholczyk  
National Catholic Bioethics Center



Go Make Disciples

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

A message from the Catholic Schools Superintendent ...

Catholic Schools Week – an annual celebration of what makes Catholic education so special – will be celebrated from Jan. 26 - Feb. 1. Nationally, schools observe the celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value a Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, communities and nation.

Our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will set aside this week to build awareness of our Catholic schools. From the northern part of the state at Saint Joseph in Enid to the southern part of the state at Saint Mary in Lawton to those centrally located in Oklahoma City, we must share with everyone the important role of Catholic schools in making the world a better place. We honor those who make our schools a success – students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters and local leaders.

The theme of the 2020 celebration is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” The theme encompasses the core values found in Catholic schools across the country. Not only are we teaching students to become future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples and enriched citizens in our communities, our educators are growing with them.

In Catholic schools, we all are learners, servants and leaders. These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools succeed.

This year’s theme also focuses on key elements of Catholic education: faith development, academic excellence and dedication to service. These elements set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. They are why families make sacrifices to provide their children with a Catholic education.

Please join our Catholic Schools Week celebration by learning more about what Catholic schools can offer you and your family. Want to know more? Visit an Oklahoma Catholic school or learn more at [archokc.org/schools](http://archokc.org/schools).



Diane Floyd  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Diane Floyd



Noelle Garcia McHugh  
Coordinator,  
Respect Life Office

We are constantly told that abortion without restrictions means that we trust a woman to make decisions for her own body. Let her choose when she becomes a mother, they say. These decisions are between her and her doctor.

What if she is poor? What if she is homeless? What if she is raped? What if she can barely care for the kids she already has?

As Catholics, we need to answer these hypothetical questions with a different question:

What if we work to solve her problems? Will having an abortion get her out of poverty? Will abortion heal her trauma from abuse and rape? Will abortion cause her partner to stop manipulating and abusing her?

What if the most pro-woman thing we can do is to take care of her, surround her with love, and let her know she is beloved by Jesus – perhaps the one man in

her life who will never manipulate, use, objectify, coerce or hurt her? Jesus who heals her. Jesus who forgives her. Jesus who gave his own life for her.

This month, our archdiocese celebrated the Sanctity of Life Mass with Archbishop Coakley. Following Mass, we held an Ignite

think it means what you think it means.” We speak of compassion in a way that lends us to think that telling someone they should not do something or taking a stand based on a moral principle that someone else does not share is lacking in compassion.

Compassion, though, literally means “with suffering” or “to suffer with.” Our culture struggles with two extremes. On the one hand, it is easy for us to use our religion as a tool for condemnation. “You are murdering your child.” On the other hand, we can use our religion as tool for acceptance. “How can we make a decision for this person – it is between them and God.” But, we are called to be like Christ.

John 3:17 says, “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world.” And how did he do that? Through suffering. He suffered

Text  
“RespectLifeOKC”  
to 84576

FOR NEWS, EVENTS AND NEEDS

for Life where we prayed at adoration with music by my husband, David, and I shared the meaning of true compassion!

There’s a quote from the movie “Princess Bride” that says, “You keep using that word. ... I do not





**St. Joseph Catholic School**  
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110 N. Madison St., Enid 73701  
(580) 242-4449  
www.stjosephschoolenid.com  
Tours: By appointment



**Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School**  
PreK – 4th Grade  
309 S. Main St., Kingfisher 73750  
(405) 375-4616  
www.stspeterandpaul.org  
Tours: By appointment



**Holy Trinity Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
211 W. Missouri, Okarche 73762  
(405) 263-4422  
www.holytrinityok.org  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
925 S. Boulevard, Edmond 73083  
(405) 348-5364  
www.stelizabethedmond.org  
Open House: Jan. 26, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**All Saints Catholic School**  
PreK – 8th Grade  
4001 36 Ave. NW, Norman 73072  
(405) 447-4600  
www.allsaintsnorman.org  
Open House: Jan. 26, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



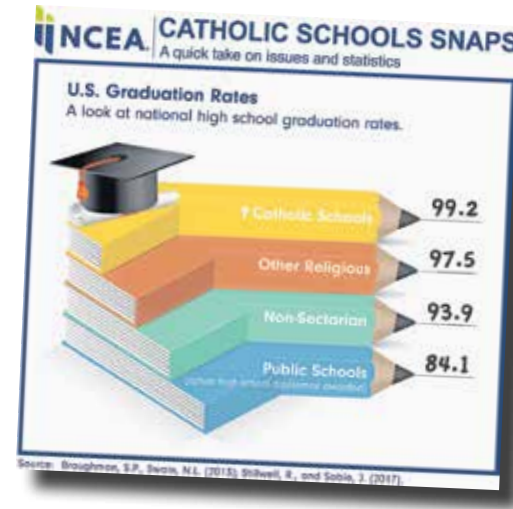
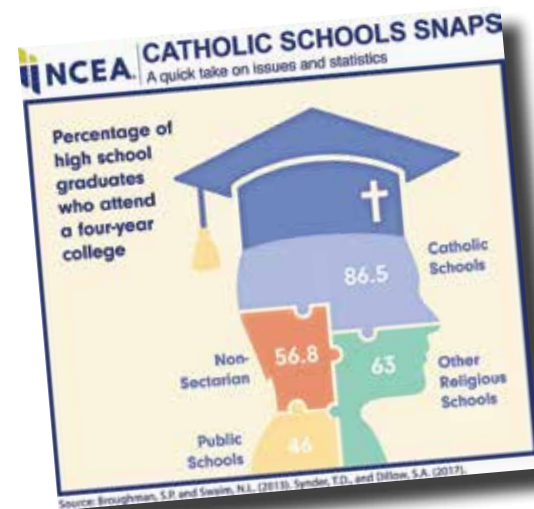
**St. Philip Neri Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
1121 Felix Place, Midwest City 73110  
(405) 737-4496  
www.stphilipnerischool.com  
Open House: Jan. 26, 12:15 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Christ the King Catholic School**  
PreK – 8th Grade  
1905 Elmhurst Ave., OKC 73120  
(405) 843-3909  
www.cksachool.com  
Open House: Jan. 26, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Catholic School of St. Eugene**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
2400 W. Hefner Rd., OKC 73120  
(405) 751-0067  
www.steugeneschool.org  
Open House: Jan. 26, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment  
eagleinfo@steugeneschool.org



## a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



“

“In entering a public college after my 12 years of catholic education, I realized that receiving a Catholic education was one of the best gifts my parents could have ever given me. I wouldn't be where I am today without the strong foundation that I was given. When everyone in a Catholic community is seeking a personal relationship with Christ, the Church becomes the Body of Christ, and this divinity that is Christ is perfect. While Catholic schools push students to succeed academically, they also teach that there is a much bigger picture than any career could fulfill, and that is Christ himself. Thank you Catholic schools!”

-- Elaina Noll, St. Mary, Guthrie; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond; Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 2016

”



**Mount St. Mary Catholic High School**  
2801 S. Shartel Ave., OKC 73109  
(405) 631-8865  
www.mountstmary.org  
Currently accepting applications for Fall 2020  
Tours: By appointment



**Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School**  
900 N. Portland, OKC 73107  
(405) 945-9100  
www.CristoReyOKC.org  
Call for enrollment information and Open House dates.



**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School**  
801 N.W. 50 St., OKC 73118  
(405) 842-6638  
www.bmchs.org  
Currently accepting applications for Fall 2020  
Tours: By appointment



**Sacred Heart Catholic School**  
PreK- 8th Grade  
2700 S. Shartel Ave., OKC 73109  
(405) 634-5673  
www.sacredheartokc.org  
Tours: By appointment



**Saint James the Greater Catholic School**  
PreK – 8th Grade  
1224 S.W. 41 St., OKC 73109  
(405) 636-6810  
stjamesokc.com  
Open House: Jan. 26, Noon - 2 p.m.  
Tours and shadowing: By appointment



**St. John Nepomuk Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon 73099  
(405) 354-2509  
www.sjnok.org/school  
Open House: Call for dates  
Tours: By appointment



ST. JOHN OF NEPOMUK  
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

**Sacred Heart Catholic School**  
PreK – 6th Grade  
210 S. Evans Ave., El Reno 73036  
(405) 262-2284  
www.elrenosacredheart.com  
Tours: By appointment



**Good Shepherd Catholic School**  
For children with autism spectrum disorders, neurological disorders  
13404 N. Meridian Ave., OKC 73120  
(405) 752-2264  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Mary Catholic School**  
PreK – 8th Grade  
611 S.W. “A” Ave., Lawton 73501  
(580) 355-5288  
www.stmarys-ok.org  
Open House: April 2  
Tours: By appointment

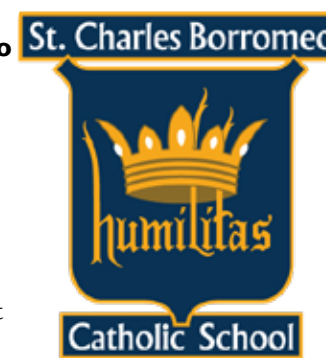


**St. Mary Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
502 E. Warner Ave., Guthrie 73044  
(405) 282-2071  
www.stmaryguthrie.org  
Open House: Jan. 26, 11:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**St. Mary Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
415 S. 7, Ponca City 74601  
(580) 765-4387  
www.stmaryspsok.com  
Open House: Jan. 29, Noon  
Tours: By appointment

**St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School**  
PreK – 8th Grade  
5000 N. Grove Ave., OKC 73122  
(405) 789-0224  
www.scbokc.org  
Open House: Feb. 9, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Rosary Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
1919 N.W. 18, OKC 73106  
(405) 525-9272  
www.rosaryschool.com  
Open House: Jan. 26, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment



**Bishop John Carroll Catholic School**  
PreK-3 – 8th Grade  
1100 N.W. 32, OKC 73118  
(405) 525-0956  
www.bjccs.org  
Open House: Grades PreK-3 - 8  
Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; PreK-3, PreK-4 and Kindergarten Feb. 4, 10 - 11 a.m. or 5 - 6 p.m.  
Tours: By appointment





# “What does Catholic school mean to you?”

“

“My Catholic school education was the best gift my parents ever gave me. What they taught me at home was reinforced at school. Our parish became my second home. I learned many valuable lessons and skills, but none more important than being taught that what I learned was to be used for the glory of God.”

– Very Rev. William L. Novak, V.G., St. Philip Neri Class of 1981, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 1985

”

“

“My time in Catholic education was not just an average sequence of classes. Through the help of teachers and fellow students, it was a time where I felt truly connected to a close-knit and supportive community. It helped me form my morality in how I treat others and helped me to view the world through a positive and hopeful lens.”

– Wendell Hixson, St. John Nepomuk Class of 2014, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 2018

”

“

“I received a stellar Catholic education from the Seton Homeschool Curriculum during elementary and middle school. Through this Catholic education I received, my parents invested their time and energy into making sure I had a great foundation in the faith at my disposal; and for that, I will be forever grateful.”

– Dominick Denney, seminarian for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Enid High School Class of 2018

”

“

“As I reflect on my life, I see that Catholic education has played a pivotal role. As a child, it gave me confidence and a strong personal identity coupled with a strong faith. As a high school student it prepared me not just for college but for the rest of my life. As a teacher and administrator, I did not find my passion until I returned to Catholic education. Catholic education is a great way to start a child in life.”

– Brenda K. Tener, principal at St. Philip Neri Catholic School and Class of 1971, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 1975


”

“

“The ability to live out my faith and grow into an adult through Catholic education was a big part of why I am a priest today. The chaplains who were men that I looked to for advice, and still rely on in my priesthood. If it weren't for my Catholic education, I probably wouldn't be a priest! As a pastor, one of my primary concerns is how to help make Catholic education more accessible to our families, especially for our minority and lower-income families.”

– Fr. Daniel Grover, pastor at Corpus Christi, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 2003

”



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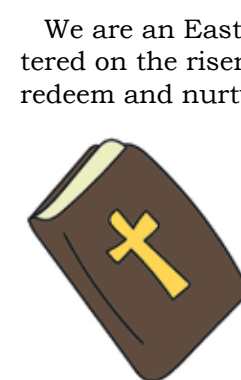


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# Divine love in word and flesh

## Sunday of the Word of God



We are an Easter people. Our lives are centered on the risen Lord that continues to save, redeem and nurture us with his very life and love. Ultimately, we live in and through the risen Christ.

While there are many Easter stories, the story of Emmaus is my favorite. Just think of it, two fearful and discouraged disciples make the wrong decision and go the wrong

way by leaving Jerusalem and the community of faith behind them. They are clearly on the wrong path but they are convinced that theirs is the best decision. Jesus joins them along the wrong path but they are so blinded by what they believe to be the best and wisest decision to go on a different path that they can't tell it's Jesus walking beside them. Yes, Jesus never abandons anyone, even if they make the wrong decision and go down the wrong path.

The Lord strikes up a conversation with them and begins to hear from them what he already knows, they are not happy with the way things went these last few days. They had other expectations and Good Friday and the cross made it clear that their expectations were not met.

Here is when Jesus begins to offer some fraternal correction with some harsh words at the beginning. “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures” (Lk 30, 25-27).

Jesus was opening their appetite with an

explanation of the Word of God.

Upon arriving at the wrong town along the wrong path, their appetites were open and they wanted more so they asked the “stranger” to stay with them. He did, and he always will stay with those who are hungry for him. Then, it happened!

“...while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then, they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’” (Lk 24, 30-32)

Their hearts burned within them with the Word of God. A powerful and living word that brought to them the fire of God's loving truth and prepared them for the breaking of the bread. The Word of God always prepares us for the breaking of the bread, the Eucharist, at every Mass.

Pope Francis said in his Motu Proprio Aperuit Illis:

“The relationship between the risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet, the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’”

To celebrate the divine gift of the Word of God, Pope Francis, in response to the voices of Christians throughout the world, has added a new celebration to our liturgical calendar that will be celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, which is to be called, Sunday of the Word of God.

Paragraph 3 of the Motu Proprio ends with these words: “The various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word. On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize in the homily the honor that it is due. ... Pastors also can find ways of giving a Bible or one of its books to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of lectio divina.”

The weekend of Jan. 26 will be historic, our first celebration of Sunday of the Word of God! We have been celebrating Corpus Christi Sunday for many years and by doing so highlighted the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The time has come for the first part of the Mass. Now, we will highlight the Word of God, the life-giving center of the Liturgy of the Word. May we continue to live by the Eucharist and also by his word. May we always be open to his love, first in word, then in flesh.

I invite you to approach the tabernacle with your Bible and thank Jesus for the gift of his word. While we all can't have a personal tabernacle in our homes, we all can have a personal Bible to celebrate and spend time with Jesus present in his word.



**Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.**



Students from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City sang Christmas carols throughout the school. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, accompanied by the school's choir, performed a wonderful Christmas program. *Photo provided.*



St. Patrick in Anadarko held their Christmas pageant on Dec. 15. It was followed by a parish potluck dinner. *Photo Carolyn Cantrell.*



St. Mary in Clinton won best church float at Clinton's annual festival of lights parade held Dec. 3. The latest float focused on the meaning of Christmas trees. *Photo Kristine Moreno.*



Children from St. Francis Xavier in Sulphur participate in the Christmas play. *Photo provided.*



Fr. Swamy and children from Sts. Peter and Paul in Hobart at the annual children's Christmas play. *Photo provided.*



Fr. Foshee, dressed as the donkey, and children from St. Joseph in Ada participate in the Christmas play. *Photo provided.*



## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

# Las escuelas católicas son un don que nos sigue dando

Entre los aspectos más destacados de mi calendario anual están las oportunidades para visitar cada una de nuestras escuelas católicas. Estoy a la mitad de mis visitas pastorales a nuestras 18 escuelas primarias, tres escuelas secundarias y una escuela con necesidades especiales.

Como Iglesia en los Estados Unidos, reservamos tiempo cada año para celebrar el valor único de las escuelas católicas durante la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas. La celebración de este año se extiende desde el 26 de enero hasta el 1 de febrero e incluirá misas locales, jornadas de puertas abiertas y actividades para familias, estudiantes, feligreses y miembros de la comunidad. Entre estos eventos especiales, el desayuno anual Celebrando las Escuelas Católicas se ha convertido en un punto culminante especial de la semana.

Este año, el lema de la semana es “Escuelas Católicas: Aprende. Sirve. Dirige. Éxito”. Sin lugar a dudas, nuestras escuelas son lugares sobresalientes donde los estudiantes aprenden, donde se les da la oportunidad de servir y convertirse en líderes.

Pero, ¿qué significa tener éxito? Para las personas de fe, obviamente significa más que resultados materiales y financieros. Es difícil, si no imposible, cuantificar el valor real de la educación católica. Un pequeño marcador es el hecho de que, en función del costo promedio por alumno de educación en escuelas públicas, las escuelas católicas ahorran a los contribuyentes estadounidenses más de \$20 mil millones anuales. ¡Eso es un éxito!

Sin embargo, lo más importante es que las escuelas católicas buscan el éxito como lugares de evangelización y discipulado. ¡Qué tremendo potencial existe para la formación en la fe y el carácter existe cuando los estudiantes pasan 35 horas o más cada semana en una comunidad de fe! Como comunidades de fe y aprendizaje, las escuelas católicas forman discípulos de Jesucristo al dar testimonio del Evangelio e invitar a una respuesta.

Nuestra hermosa fe católica está entretejida en todo el plan de estudios: en el aula, a través del culto y el servicio, y todo tipo de oportunidades extracurriculares. La oración no solo está permitida, se promueve en nuestras escuelas católicas. Como resultado, los estudios muestran que los estudiantes de las escuelas católicas tienen más probabilidades de rezar a diario y mantener una identidad católica en la edad adulta. Los graduados de las escuelas católicas tienen más probabilidades de participar cívicamente, ser voluntarios, votar y estar comprometidos con el servicio.

Históricamente, las escuelas católicas han proporcionado un ambiente tremendamente efectivo para fomentar las vocaciones al sacerdocio y la vida religiosa. En resumen, no hay sustituto para las muchas contribuciones que hacen nuestras escuelas católicas a la Iglesia y la sociedad. ¡Estas son buenas medidas del éxito!

La Iglesia Católica siempre ha afirmado el derecho y la responsabilidad de los padres como los principales educadores de sus hijos. Para ayudar a los padres en este sagrado deber, la Iglesia ha enseñado que los niños tienen derecho a una educación en la fe, y que el estado tiene la obligación fundamental de habilitar dicho derecho.

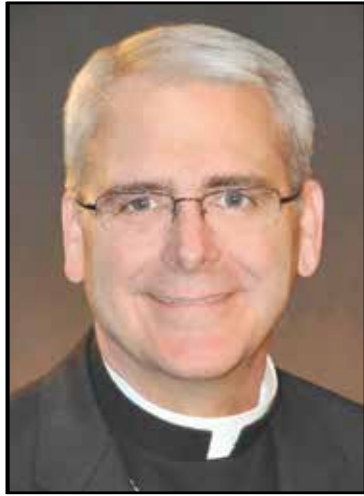
En su documento sobre libertad religiosa,

a escuelas católicas, a programas parroquiales de educación religiosa o mediante educación en el hogar. A veces, el mayor costo de las escuelas parroquiales hace que sea difícil o incluso imposible para los padres elegir escuelas católicas para sus hijos. Es responsabilidad de toda la comunidad católica esforzarse por hacer que la educación católica sea accesible y asequible para más padres y niños católicos que lo deseen. Los programas de asistencia de matrícula y otros tipos de asistencia de becas basadas en la necesidad son importantes para la sostenibilidad de nuestras escuelas católicas y su misión.

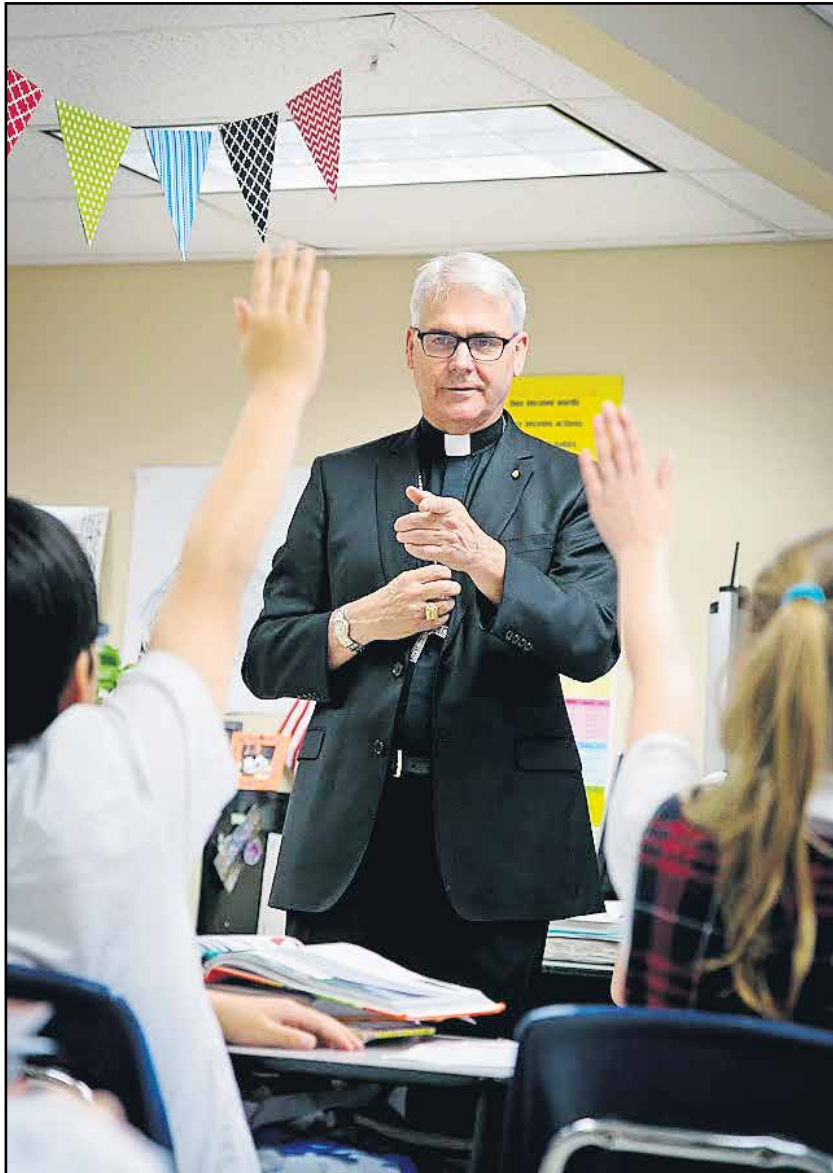
También hay un reconocimiento creciente más allá de la Iglesia Católica de la importancia de apoyar las elecciones educativas de los padres para sus hijos. La importancia de los derechos de los padres para elegir el tipo de educación que sea mejor para sus hijos ha llevado a un movimiento creciente hacia la elección de los padres en la educación, es decir, políticas y programas que capaciten a los padres para tomar esas decisiones. Las políticas efectivas de elección de los padres brindan a los padres la flexibilidad de elegir el tipo de escuela que satisfice las necesidades de sus hijos en función de sus convicciones religiosas, la calidad de la educación disponible o las necesidades especiales de sus hijos.

Los programas de elección de los padres están creciendo en todo el país. Toman la forma de programas de créditos fiscales para becas, programas de cupones, programas para necesidades especiales, créditos fiscales para ingresos individuales o comerciales y programas de cuentas de ahorro para la educación. Por ejemplo, en Oklahoma las familias están encontrando ayuda para enviar a sus hijos a las escuelas católicas a través del Programa de Becas Lindsey Nicole Henry, que permite a los niños con necesidades especiales inscribirse en la Escuela Católica Good Shepherd en Mercy, así como en varias de nuestras otras escuelas católicas tradicionales. La beca de crédito fiscal permite a las personas y empresas que contribuyen al programa recibir un crédito fiscal estatal para que se otorguen becas basadas en necesidades a los estudiantes que deseen asistir a escuelas católicas.

Tenemos un tesoro en nuestras escuelas católicas. ¡Es un regalo que da dividendos! Pero, es nuestra responsabilidad compartida continuar explorando iniciativas públicas y privadas que sean innovadoras y encontrar formas efectivas de hacer que el don de la educación católica esté disponible para aún más estudiantes y familias.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



el Concilio Vaticano II afirmó que “Se violan, además, los derechos de los padres, si se obliga a los hijos a asistir a lecciones escolares que no corresponden a la persuasión religiosa de los padres, o si se impone un único sistema de educación del que se excluye totalmente la formación religiosa.”

Muchos padres ejercen su deber de educar a sus hijos de acuerdo con sus creencias religiosas fundamentales al elegir enviar a sus hijos

Somos un pueblo nacido en la Pascua. Nuestras vidas se centran en el Señor resucitado que continúa salvándonos, redimiéndonos y nutriéndonos con su propia vida y amor. En última instancia, vivimos en y a través de Cristo resucitado.

Si bien hay muchas historias de la Pascua, la historia de Emaús es mi favorita.

Meditemos por un momento en lo que sucedió. Dos discípulos temerosos y desanimados toman la decisión equivocada y

van por el camino equivocado dejando atrás a Jerusalén y a la comunidad de fe. Claramente están en el camino equivocado, pero están convencidos de que esa es la mejor decisión.

Jesús se une a ellos por su camino equivocado, pero están tan cegados de que su decisión de irse es la mejor y más sabia decisión que no se dan cuenta de que es Jesús mismo caminando a su lado. Si, Jesús nunca abandona a nadie, incluso aquellos que toman la decisión equivocada y siguen el camino equivocado.

El Señor inicia una conversación con ellos y comienza a escuchar de ellos lo que ya sabe, no están contentos con la forma en que sucedieron las cosas en estos últimos días. Tenían otras expectativas y el Viernes Santo y la cruz dejó en claro que sus expectativas no se iban a realizar.

Aquí es cuando Jesús comienza a ofrecer alguna corrección fraterna con algunas palabras duras al principio.

“¡Hombres duros de entendimiento, cómo les cuesta creer todo lo que anunciaron los profetas! ¿No será necesario que el Mesías soportara esos sufrimientos para entrar en su gloria?’ Y comenzando por Moisés y continuando en todas las Escrituras lo que se refería a él” (Lc 30, 25-27).

Jesús estaba abriendo su apetito con una



# Amor divino en Palabra y Carne

## Domingo de la Palabra de Dios

explicación de la Palabra de Dios.

Al llegar a la ciudad equivocada por el camino equivocado, tenían el apetito abierto y querían más, así que le pidieron al “extraño” que se quedara con ellos. Lo hizo, y siempre se quedará con aquellos que tienen hambre de él. ¡Entonces, sucedió!

“... Y estando a la mesa, tomó el pan y pronunció la bendición; luego lo partió y se lo dio. Entonces los ojos de los discípulos se abrieron y lo reconocieron, pero él había desaparecido de su vista. Y se decían: ‘¿No ardía acaso nuestro corazón, mientras nos hablaba en el camino y nos explicaba las Escrituras?’” (Lc 24, 30-32)

Sus corazones ardían dentro de ellos con la Palabra de Dios. Una palabra poderosa y viva que les trajo el fuego de la amorosa verdad de Dios y los preparó para partir el pan. La Palabra de Dios siempre nos prepara para partir el pan, la Eucaristía, en cada misa. Después de recibir la Palabra y la Eucaristía regresan al camino correcto y a la comunidad de fe.

El Papa Francisco dijo en su Motu Proprio *Aperuit Illis*:

“La relación entre el Resucitado, la comunidad de creyentes y la Sagrada Escritura es intensamente vital para nuestra identidad. Si el Señor no nos introduce es imposible comprender en profundidad la Sagrada Escritura, pero lo contrario también es cierto: sin la Sagrada Escritura, los acontecimientos de la misión de Jesús y de su Iglesia en el mundo permanecen indecifrables. San Jerónimo escribió con verdad: ‘La ignorancia de las Escrituras es ignorancia de Cristo’”.

Para celebrar el don divino de la Palabra de Dios, el Papa Francisco, en respuesta a las voces de los cristianos en todo el mundo, ha agregado una nueva celebración a nuestro calendario litúrgico que se celebrará el Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, que será llamado, Domingo de la Palabra de Dios.

El párrafo 3 del Motu Proprio termina con estas palabras: “Las comunidades encontrarán el

modo de vivir este Domingo como un día solemne. En cualquier caso, será importante que en la celebración eucarística se entone el texto sagrado, a fin de hacer evidente a la asamblea el valor normativo que tiene la Palabra de Dios. En este domingo, de manera especial, será útil destacar su proclamación y adaptar la homilía para poner de relieve el servicio que se hace a la Palabra del Señor... Asimismo, los párrocos podrán encontrar el modo de entregar la Biblia, o uno de sus libros, a toda la asamblea, para resaltar la importancia de seguir en la vida diaria la lectura, la profundización y la oración con la Sagrada Escritura, con una particular consideración a la lectio divina.”

¡El fin de semana del 26 de enero será histórico, nuestra primera celebración del Domingo de la Palabra de Dios! Hemos estado celebrando el Domingo de Corpus Christi durante muchos años y al hacerlo destacamos la segunda parte de la Misa, la Liturgia de la Eucaristía. Ha llegado el momento de la primera parte de la Misa. Ahora, destacaremos la Palabra de Dios, el centro vivificador de la Liturgia de la Palabra. Que sigamos viviendo por la Eucaristía y también por su Palabra. Que siempre estemos abiertos a su amor, primero en su Palabra, luego en su Carne.

Los invito a acercarse al sagrario con su Biblia y agradecer a Jesús por el don de su Palabra. Si bien no todos podemos tener un sagrario personal en nuestros hogares, todos podemos tener una Biblia personal para celebrar y pasar tiempo con Jesús presente en su Palabra.



Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.

# SEMBRADORES DE LA FE

Sábado 22 De Febrero  
7:30am-1:00pm  
Centro Pastoral Catolico

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER INSTITUTE  
INSTITUTE OF HOLINESS CITY

Todos están cordialmente invitados a una presentación matutina en la que aprenderemos a vivir el llamado al discipulado, a la catequesis y a como invitar a los demás en el camino. Las puertas se abren a las 7:30 a.m. La misa comienza a las 8:30 y concluiremos a las 1 p.m.

### Retiro el Viñedo de Raquel - Tulsa

Feb. 7 al 9 (Ingles); Marzo 20 al 22 (Español). El aborto puede ser una de las más traumáticas experiencias en la vida de una persona. Sentimientos de tristeza, ansiedad, culpa y pérdida son comunes, no solo para las mujeres, pero también para los hombres. Este retiro da a hombres y mujeres la oportunidad de hacer el duelo por la pérdida de un hijo, perdonarse a sí mismos y restaurar paz con su hijo-s y con Dios. Guiados por el espíritu de compasión y confidencialidad, nosotros los ayudamos en su camino de sanación. Debido a las necesidades de sensibilidad y confidencialidad los grupos no son mayores de 10 participantes. Un terapeuta y un diácono guían el retiro. Para información del retiro en Ingles usted puede contactar a Mary Lee en el teléfono (918) 508-7142, o correo electrónico: marylee@cceok.org. Para el retiro en Español usted puede contactar a Martha en el teléfono (918) 508-7134, o correo electrónico: mstanton@cceok.org.

¡REZA POR LA PROTECCIÓN DE LA VIDA HUMANA!

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21 al 29 de enero de 2020



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## Briefs

### Download the new pastoral letter, plan

Archbishop Coakley’s new pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples! Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” and the Vision 2030 Pastoral Plan can be read or downloaded in English and Spanish at [archokc.org/Vision2030](http://archokc.org/Vision2030). Print copies available at parishes.

### Suicide prevention training

Catholic Charities offers QPR, a free one-hour suicide prevention training that provides three simple steps to reach someone who may be feeling hopeless. Professional counseling available. Contact St. Joseph Counseling Center at (405) 524-0969.

### Made for More

Experience “Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land” national tour 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at St. Thomas More, 1535 Jenkins Ave. in Norman. The event shines a spotlight on St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body.” Tickets \$25. Visit [corproject.com/norman](http://corproject.com/norman).

### Topic: Sex, love and gender

Everyone is invited to an evening with Fr. Tad Pacholczyk 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at St. Monica, 2001 N. Western Ave. in Edmond. He will present on homosexuality and gender identity. Fr. Tad’s column appears in the Sooner Catholic. To learn more about the National Catholic Bioethics Center, go to [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Attend the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience Jan. 24-26. Visit [www.meoklahoma.org](http://www.meoklahoma.org) or contact Gina and Mike Dougherty (405) 834-6627.

### Study and Sharing

The Gospel of Life Disciples presents First Sunday Study and Sharing at the St. John Paul II Dwelling, 4113 S. Eastern Ave. in Moore. Explore the universal call to holiness and vocations with the writings of St. John Paul II in three small groups: Women of the Way – discerning consecrated life: Vita Consecrata; Teachers of the Truth – discerning priesthood: Gift and Mystery; Lovers of Life – discerning Christian marriage: Familiaris Consortio. Join one or all encounters on Feb. 2, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7. RSVP at (405) 778-1107.

### Friends of Bolivia dinner

Knights of Columbus Council #10822 will be hosting a pasta and homemade Italian sausage meatball dinner at 5 p.m. Feb. 1 at St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd. in OKC. All profits benefit the Friends of Bolivia medical mission. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 5-12. Kids under age 5 free. Take out available. Contact Steve Chastain at (405) 470-2045.

### CRS Rice Bowl info session

An archdiocesan CRS Rice Bowl event will be 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center conference center. CRS Global Fellow Rev. Lance Warren will be guest speaker. The event is free and is for CRS Rice Bowl coordinators or anyone who is interested in learning more about the Rice Bowl. Contact Jazmin Cogburn at (405)721-1415, [JCogburn@archokc.org](mailto:JCogburn@archokc.org).

### Rose Day

The annual pro-life rally will be at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 5 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Keynote speaker is Abby Johnson, former abortion facility director. Advo-

cates begin handing out roses at 9:30 a.m. Visit [www.roseday.life](http://www.roseday.life).

### Divorced? Separated? Now what?

“Surviving Divorce” is a ministry that offers hope, healing and community to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The 13-week program is for newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues years later. It will help answer questions, restore hope and begin authentic healing. The two session options are:

**St. Eugene in Oklahoma City**  
Begins Feb. 5 and meets 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Patty at (405) 751-7115, Ext. 172, or [pyardley@steuigenes.org](mailto:pyardley@steuigenes.org).

**St. Monica in Edmond**  
Begins March 7 and meets 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. every Saturday. Contact the parish office at (405) 359-2700 or visit [stmonica-edmond.org/divorce-ministry](mailto:stmonica-edmond.org/divorce-ministry).

### Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon

The Assembly of Catholic Professionals first quarterly luncheon for 2020 is 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Downtown Petroleum Club John Nichols Room in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Kathryn Whitaker. For more information or to register, visit [archokc.org/asp](http://archokc.org/asp). Contact (405) 709-2745 or [acp@archokc.org](mailto:acp@archokc.org).

### Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat – Tulsa

Feb. 7-9 (English); March 20-22 (Spanish). Abortion can be one of the most traumatic experiences in a person’s life. This retreat gives men and women an opportunity to grieve the child lost and make peace with themselves, their children and with God. No more than 10 participants attend due to the

sensitive and confidential needs of those in attendance. A therapist and deacon guide the retreat. For English retreat, contact Mary Lee at (918) 508-7142, [marylee@cceok.org](mailto:marylee@cceok.org). For Spanish retreat, contact Martha at (918) 508-7134, [mstanton@cceok.org](mailto:mstanton@cceok.org).

### Green Tie Gala

Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will have its annual Green Tie Gala Feb. 22 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.E. 63 in Oklahoma City. This event celebrates and supports the homeless services of Catholic Charities: Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman, and Holy Family Home in Midwest City. Contact Chelsea Rose at (405) 523-3009, [crose@ccaokc.org](mailto:crose@ccaokc.org).

### Day of Reflection

A Day of Reflection: “Practicing the Presence of God in Lent” with Br. Damian Whalen, O.S.B., will be 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feb. 22 at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Early bird discount \$30; \$35 at the door, includes lunch. Contact (405) 878-5656, [retreats@monksok.org](mailto:retreats@monksok.org).

### Passion and 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. Visit [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com) or call (859) 980-7900.

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

### Director of youth ministry - Norman

St. Mark in Norman is seeking a qualified director of youth ministry who will be responsible for the coordination and organization of the parish youth programs for grades 7-12. The youth director also will be responsible for coordinating the confirmation program at the parish. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with background in religious education, pastoral ministry or theology. Send resumes to Fr. Timothy Fuller, St. Mark, 3939 W. Tecumseh Rd., Norman 73072.

### Music director - OKC

Corpus Christi in Oklahoma City is looking for a part-time music director. Knowledge of liturgy and gospel music a plus. Contact Fr. Danny Grover at [dgrover2010@gmail.com](mailto:dgrover2010@gmail.com).

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

January	February
<b>19</b> Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.	<b>22</b> “Sex, Love and Gender” with Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at St. Monica, 2001 N. Western Ave. in Edmond.
<b>19</b> Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 p.m., at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Stinson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, <a href="mailto:potato.lang@gmail.com">potato.lang@gmail.com</a> .	<b>23</b> Feast of St. Vincent.
<b>20</b> Feast of St. Fabian.	<b>23</b> Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine, (405) 358-3610, <a href="mailto:cprprayers@gmail.com">cprprayers@gmail.com</a> .
<b>20</b> Feast of St. Sebastian.	<b>24</b> Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Visit <a href="http://www.meoklahoma.org">www.meoklahoma.org</a> or contact Gina and Mike Dougherty (405) 834-6627.
<b>20</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day.	<b>24</b> Feast of St. Francis de Sales.
<b>20</b> 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. in OKC, on the third Monday of every month. Call (405) 618-2402.	<b>25</b> The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.
<b>21</b> Feast of St. Agnes.	<b>26</b> Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
<b>21</b> Suicide grief support group, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., St. Francis, 1901 N.W. 18, OKC.	<b>27</b> Feast of St. Angela Merici.
<b>22</b> Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.	<b>28</b> Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas.
<b>22</b> Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land, 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More, 1535 Jenkins Ave. in Norman.	<b>28</b> Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, 7 a.m. at Embassy Suites Downtown Medical Center, 741 N. Phillips Ave., OKC.
	<b>31</b> Feast of St. John Bosco.

Online applications are now available on the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc. website – **[www.cfcook.org](http://www.cfcook.org)** –

for the following funding opportunities:  
College scholarship application deadline: March 29;  
Pastoral Music and Fine Arts application deadline: Feb. 14.  
All applications must be completed online.  
For assistance contact (405) 721-4115.



## 2020 CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION BREAKFAST

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EMBASSY SUITES DOWNTOWN - MEDICAL CENTER  
7 a.m. - Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
**[archokc.org/breakfast](http://archokc.org/breakfast)**

## Jobs Box

### Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine executive director

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an executive director for the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. This position is responsible for the operation of the shrine, which is under construction in Oklahoma City. Duties include leading the planning and execution of all business and operational aspects of the shrine; providing executive leadership for lay employees and contractors supporting the shine; strategic planning for the facilities, programs, resource development and outreach; serving as the assistant secretary of the board of directors for the shrine corporation as a non-voting member; and promotion of pilgrimages and other activities that will take place on the campus. Must be a faithful Catholic who is active in parish life and forms life around the teachings of the Church; possess a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institu-

tion of higher education (a master’s degree in business or other discipline using analytical processes preferred); five years in executive leadership with complete financial responsibility; demonstrated ability to provide oversight to staff and volunteers. Experience in shrine leadership preferred. Bilingual in Spanish strongly preferred. Send inquiries and resumes to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

### Administrative assistant

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an administrative assistant for the Secretariat of Divine Worship. The successful candidate will possess the ability to communicate and interface in a tactful and professional manner with the clergy, Catholic Pastoral Center staff, parish and school personnel, and the general public in person, by telephone and via e-mail. This position requires attention to detail and accuracy, flexibil-

ity and adaptability. Advanced use of Microsoft Office software, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and some graphic design skills required. Organizational efficiency, adaptability, time management and the ability to anticipate needs is required. Bilingual in Spanish preferred. Send inquiries and resumes to [nlargent@archokc.org](mailto:nlargent@archokc.org).

### Accounts receivable administrator

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is seeking a full-time accounts receivable administrator. Duties include ensuring accuracy and efficiency of operations, processing and monitoring tuition contracts and payments, daily cash receipts, assist with time-keeping and payroll, and financial aid processing. A bachelor’s degree in accounting preferred. Send inquiries and resumes to Janet Ciupak at [jciupak@bmchs.org](mailto:jciupak@bmchs.org).

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# The one pope

By Bishop Robert Barron

The new and much-ballyhooed Netflix film “The Two Popes” should, by rights, be called “The One Pope,” for it presents a fairly nuanced, textured and sympathetic portrait of Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) and a complete caricature of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI).

This imbalance fatally undermines the movie, whose purpose, it seems, is to show that old grumpy, legalistic Benedict finds his spiritual bearings through the ministrations of friendly, forward-looking Francis. But, such a thematic trajectory ultimately does violence to both figures and turns what could have been a supremely interesting character study into a predictable and tedious apologia for the filmmaker’s preferred version of Catholicism.

That we are dealing with a caricature of Ratzinger becomes clear when, in the opening minutes of the film, the Bavarian Cardinal is presented as ambitiously plotting to secure his election as Pope in 2005. On at least three occasions, the real Cardinal Ratzinger begged John Paul II to allow him to retire from his position as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and to take up a life of study and prayer. He stayed only because John Paul adamantly refused the requests. And, in 2005, upon the death of John Paul, even Ratzinger’s ideological opponents admitted that the now 78-year-old cardinal wanted nothing more than to return to Bavaria and write his Christology.

The ambitious plotting fits, of course, the caricature of the “conservative” churchman, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the flesh-and-blood Joseph Ratzinger.

Furthermore, in the scene depicting an imagined meeting between Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio in the gardens at Castel Gandolfo, the aged pope frowningly lashes out at his Argentinian colleague, bitterly criticizing the cardinal’s theology. Once again, even Joseph Ratzinger’s detractors admit that “God’s Rottweiler” is in fact invariably kind, soft-spoken and gentle in his dealings with others. The barking ideologue is, again, a convenient caricature but not even close to the real Ratzinger.

The most serious mischaracterization occurs

toward the end of the film when a dispirited Benedict, resolved to resign the papacy, admits that he had stopped hearing the voice of God and that he had begun to hear it again only through his

newfound friendship with Cardinal Bergoglio! Mind you, in saying the following I mean not an ounce of disrespect to the real Pope Francis, but that one of the most intelligent and spiritually alert Catholics of the last 100 years would require the intervention of Cardinal Bergoglio in order to hear the voice of God is beyond absurd.

From the beginning to the end of his career, Ratzinger/Benedict has produced some of the most spiritually luminous theology in the great tradition. That he was, by 2012, tired and physically ill, and that he felt incapable of governing

the great apparatus of the Catholic Church – yes, of course. But, that he was spiritually lost – no way. Again, it might be a fantasy of some on the left that “conservatives” hide their spiritual bankruptcy behind a veneer of rules and authoritarianism, but one would be hard pressed indeed to apply this hermeneutic to Joseph Ratzinger.

The very best parts of this film are the flashbacks to earlier stages in the life of Jorge Bergoglio, which shed considerable light on the psychological and spiritual

development of the future pope. The scene depicting his powerful encounter with a confessor dying of cancer is particularly moving, and the uncompromising treatment of his dealings with two Jesuit priests under his authority during the “Dirty War” in Argentina goes a long way to explaining his commitment to the poor and to a simple manner of life. What would have infinitely improved the film, in my humble judgment, is a similar treatment in regard to Joseph Ratzinger. If only we had had a flashback to the 16-year-old boy from a fiercely anti-Nazi family,

pressed into military service in the dying days of the Third Reich, we would understand more thoroughly Ratzinger’s deep suspicion of secularist/totalitarian utopias and cults of personality. If only we had had a flashback to the young priest, peritus to Cardinal Frings, leading the liberal faction at Vatican II and eager to turn from preconciliar conservatism, we would have understood that he was no simple-minded guardian of the status quo. If only we had had a flashback to the Tübingen professor, scandalized by a post-conciliar extremism that was throwing the theological baby out with the bathwater, we might have understood his reticence regarding programs advocating change for the sake of change.

If only we had had a flashback to the Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith composing a nuanced document, both thoughtfully critical and deeply appreciative of Liberation Theology, we might have grasped that Pope Benedict was by no means indifferent to the plight of the poor.

Now, I realize that such a treatment would have made for a far longer movie, but who cares? Heck, I was willing to sit through three-and-a-half rather tedious hours of “The Irishman.” I would have been happy to watch four hours of a film that was as honest and insightful about Joseph Ratzinger as it was about Jorge Mario Bergoglio. It would have made not only for a fascinating psychological study, but also for an illuminating look at two different but deeply complementary ecclesial perspectives. Instead, we got more of a cartoon.

Bishop Barron is auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



development of the future pope. The scene depicting his powerful encounter with a confessor dying of cancer is particularly moving, and the uncompromising treatment of his dealings with two Jesuit priests under his authority during the “Dirty War” in Argentina goes a long way to explaining his commitment to the poor and to a simple manner of life. What would have infinitely improved the film, in my humble judgment, is a similar treatment in regard to Joseph Ratzinger. If only we had had a flashback to the 16-year-old boy from a fiercely anti-Nazi family,



Photos  
Jolene  
Schonchin/  
Sooner  
Catholic.



Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Altus celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 15 with a full day of activities and fellowship to honor the Blessed Mother.

The activities began with a procession around the church with singers, dancers and musicians processing behind Fr. Joseph David and Dcn. Eulis Mobley and an image of Our Lady. Flowers were placed at the foot of her statue. Following Mass, a gathering at the Altus Community Center continued the festivities.

“We celebrate the fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe because she is the Patroness of the Americas, not just in Mexico, but of all the Americas, so we celebrate her feast with a special Mass and the community center gets together with the entire parish,” Dcn. Mobley said.

The Mexican Folkloric Dancers from Blessed Sacrament in Lawton were invited to the celebration to share traditional dances from all regions of Mexico. The event also included a live band, an array of foods and a silent auction.



St. Patrick in Anadarko held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Change for Christmas” collection this Christmas season. The religious education students used the \$1,480 raised to buy gifts for local children in the custody of the state Department of Human Services. Photo Carolyn Cantrell.