

Go Make Disciples



A dream catcher and crucifix are seen on the wall at St. Anthony Indian School on the Zuni Pueblo Indian reservation in New Mexico in this 2011 file photo. *CNS photo/Bob Roller.*

Bishops encourage cooperation to address church's past in tribal schools

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Two U.S. bishops have urged their fellow prelates to cooperate with any requests they receive from the federal government for an investigation on alleged abuses at tribal schools operated by Church entities in the past.

In a Nov. 8 letter addressed to all U.S. bishops, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, N.M.,

continued on page 8

Sr. BJ's Pantry helps homeless



Sr. BJ's Pantry hosted Homeless Friends Day Nov. 13 in Oklahoma City. People were offered jeans, socks, dog food, cat food, hygiene kits and the COVID-19 vaccine. *Photos Chris Porter.*

Members of the Oklahoma City region of the Order of Malta distributed nearly 200 specially designed coats to the needy as part of its mission to serve the poor and sick.

The coats were distributed at Sister BJ's Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, where members of the Order of Malta cook and serve breakfast each Sunday morning.

The order's Coats for the Homeless program began in Australia. The Oklahoma City region brought the program here in 2019, when members and candidates began fundraising. The first shipment of 3,360 coats arrived earlier this year and were shared with regions across the country.

The coats are designed specifically for the homeless. They're one-size-fits-all, waterproof and hooded, and have an abundance of pockets that all



close with Velcro instead of zippers to better serve those who may have bad tactile response.

"These coats will be an additional way for our friends to stay warm during the cold months

continued on page 7

Catholic Charities announces 12th annual Green Tie Gala benefiting homeless women

OKLAHOMA CITY – Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will return in-person to host its 12th annual Green Tie Gala on Saturday, March 5, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

The fundraising event provides financial support for the Catholic Charities' Sanctuary Women's Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman.

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Catholic Charities • Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
green tie gala

Advent

Nov. 28 - Dec. 24

archokc.org/advent

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

Mary and the new evangelization

Those who travel I-35 on the south side of Oklahoma City these days likely will catch a glimpse of the large church under construction as they pass 89th street. It is the site of the future Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, which is rapidly taking shape.

Those who drive along Shields Boulevard on the western side of the construction site will be struck by the large hill with a spiral path circling the mound to its summit. To curious passers-by, the earthen mound has attracted nearly as much attention as the large church. The Tepeyac Hill is a key feature of the shrine campus and will become a place of pilgrimage attracting the faithful year-round, but especially on Dec. 12 when the Church observes the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In December 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indigenous layman, Saint Juan Diego, and entrusted to him the mission to bring her message to the first bishop of the Americas, Bishop Juan Zumarraga of Mexico.

Through Juan Diego, Mary asked that a church be built on Tepayac Hill, the place where she had appeared to this humble man. When the wise bishop requested a sign to authenticate this extraordinary request from such an unlikely messenger, Mary responded not only by making roses bloom in December on a rocky hillside, but by miraculously imprinting her own image on the tilma (cloak) that Juan Diego used to carry these roses back to the bishop.

The miraculous image of Mary, who bore the mestizo features of the local people – as well as the remarkable symbols contained in the image itself – became the model for a perfectly enculturated preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this land, so recently “discovered” by Europeans.

What followed was the most extraordinary flowering of evangelization in the Church’s long history. In Christian history the evangelization of nations often has followed upon the conversion of their kings and rulers. This chapter had more humble beginnings involving the obedient response of a poor layman to Mary’s request on behalf of her Son that a chapel be built on that site.

With the bishop’s approval, the chapel was built, and the image was placed there for all to see. When simple people saw the miraculous image of Mary who looked so much like them with her mestizo complexion, they were converted by the experience of God’s love for them communicated through the tender and compassionate face of the Virgin, who is pregnant with her divine Son. Within a few short years, millions of conversions and baptisms followed.

This event on Tepeyac Hill was the dramatic impulse for the first evangelization of our American continent. Her presence can be felt palpably in that sacred place, made holy by her visitation in 1531, and where her miraculous image continues to be venerated today. Mary’s presence among the Apostles at Pentecost when the Church and its evangelizing mission were born by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, led Saint John Paul II to describe Mary as the Star of the New Evangelization.

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 as well as her Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 are two of the principal feasts of this Advent season. They point us to the coming of Christ, the Word made flesh.

My prayer, entrusted to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelization, is for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church in Oklahoma as we journey together along the synodal path of discipleship and mission.

As with the first evangelization of the Americas, the new evangelization in our time begins with an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Mary delights in facilitating that encounter. Conversion and mission flows from that encounter with divine grace and mercy and, without such an encounter, all our efforts are in vain.

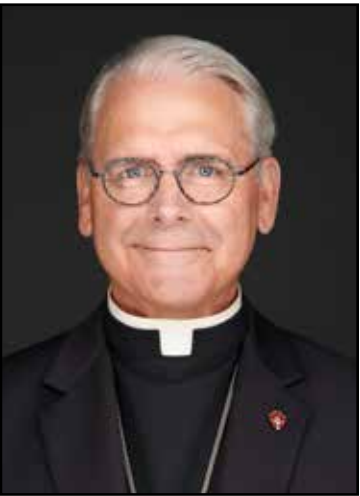
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us!



Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- Dec. 7** – St. Ann Retirement Center Board meeting, 8 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Dec. 7** – Archdiocesan Building Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., CPC
- Dec. 7** – Department directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
- Dec. 7** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Dec. 7** – Archdiocesan Review Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
- Dec. 8** – School Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Enid
- Dec. 8** – Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 6 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Dec. 9** – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
- Dec. 9** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Dec. 9** – Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine Building Committee meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
- Dec. 16** – School Mass, 9 a.m., St. Philip Neri, Midwest City
- Dec. 16** – Vocations Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
- Dec. 16** – Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC



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 soonercatholic.org.

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail communications@archokc.org.

✓ **That during Advent** we may open our hearts in love and hope as we await the celebration of Jesus’ birth. We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

✓ **A suicide grief** support group meets on the third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18, in Oklahoma City.

NATIONAL

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org



@archokc



Lord Jesus, we pray for the retired priests and religious brothers and sisters of our archdiocese.

We pray with gratitude for their love and concern for us and for one another, ever mindful of their unity in you.

We ask you to bless them for the countless years of service they have provided and continue to provide. May they experience peace and joy in their retirement.

Amen.

Statements by Archbishop Coakley on recent clemency hearings and executions in Oklahoma

A statement on the clemency decision for Donald Grant

“The Catholic Church recognizes the grave harm done to victims of crime and their families, and the need for healing and justice. It also understands that executions only perpetuate cycles of violence and often provide no measure of true healing. The burdens of trauma and violence weigh heavy in our country and world these days; this is our opportunity to reject a culture of death and build up a culture of life. Please pray for the leaders of our state that they recognize the flaws of execution. Pray for the families and friends of Brenda McElyea and Felecia Suzette Smith, innocent victims of a senseless crime, and for the redemption of Donald Grant and comfort for his family.”

Federal court denies execution stay for Bigler Stouffer

“Bigler ‘Bud’ Stouffer chose violence to solve his problems. His choices resulted in the death of Linda Reaves and caused debilitating injuries to Douglas Ivens. They were two innocent victims. It can be difficult to understand why Jesus calls us to pray and be merciful for people like Stouffer, but Jesus asks us to be better. He shows us the way and empowers us to find compassion in our hearts, even for the guilty. We need to rethink capital punishment in Oklahoma; to make a better choice that affirms the dignity of all human life and provides an opportunity for redemption.”

Gov. Stitt granted clemency to Julius Jones, committing his sentence to life without the possibility of parole

“It took tremendous courage in the face of intense pressure for Gov. Stitt to grant clemency in this case. I applaud his commitment to seeking justice while providing the condemned an opportunity for redemption. To oppose the death penalty is not to be soft on crime. Rather, it is to be strong on the dignity of life.”

Pardon and Parole Board recommended clemency for Julius Jones

“Clemency is an appropriate recommendation in this case. No matter the guilt or innocence of Julius Jones, there is doubt. The death penalty is final and leaves no opportunity to seek the truth. Please pray for the children, family and friends of Paul Howell who have endured years of appeals and hearings while grieving tremendous loss. As Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount, ‘Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy.’”

Oklahoma executed John Grant

“The unnecessary rush to restart executions in Oklahoma by the governor and attorney general is concerning and disappointing. Throughout our nation’s history we have justified the killing or mistreatment of our neighbors by lessening their value as human beings – whether it is the unborn, aged, native populations, African Americans or those imprisoned. All human life is sacred. No matter how serious the crime committed, we do not forfeit the inherent dignity bestowed upon us by our Creator. There are other ways to administer just punishment without resorting to lethal measures. May God guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and build a society that truly chooses life in all situations. May God bring comfort to the family and friends of Gay Carter, and have mercy on the soul of John Grant.”

JOIN ARCHBISHOP COAKLEY

SANCTITY OF LIFE MASS

to pray for the sanctity and respect of all human life from conception until natural death

JANUARY 26 AT 6PM

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

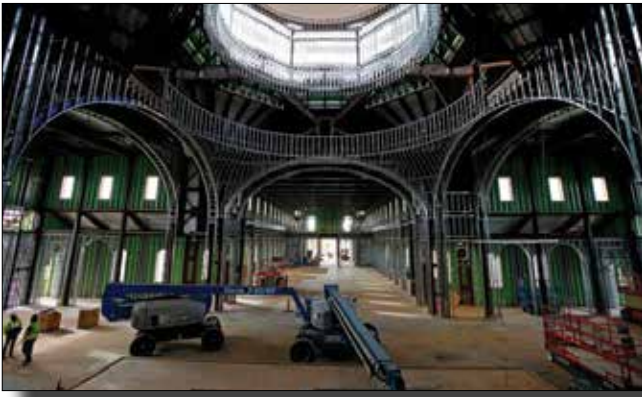
3214 LAKE AVENUE | OKC | 73118

Following Mass, pizza will be served for the youth and Father Will Banowsky will be presenting.

Rother shrine update

The construction on the interior of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine church is progressing. The interior framing continues. Other areas of construction also are progressing, including the roof, transepts, crossing towers and the chapel masonry.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!



Go Make Disciples

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER SHRINE

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

RotherShrine.org

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Questions? E-mail counseling@ccaokc.org



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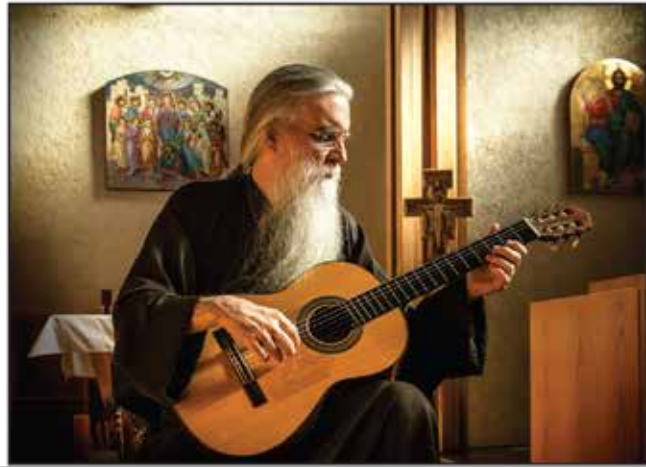
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John Michael Talbot Schedules Service of Prayer and Music at Abbey



Mark your calendars for the First Sunday of Lent, March 6th, for a service of prayer and music at St. Gregory's Abbey by John Michael Talbot. The service will begin in the Abbey Church at 3 p.m. and a free-will offering will be accepted.

John Michael Talbot is a multi-platinum selling, Grammy / Dove award winning Contemporary Catholic Christian Music pioneer. His music has been the soundtrack to the faith journey of millions of believers throughout the world! He has recorded his 56th album, "Songs From Solitude" during his time of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Best-Selling Author, John Michael's 33rd book, *Exploring the Gifts of the Spirit: Discovering the Power God Has for You* was published May, 2020 from Thomas Nelson. His 34th book, *Hermitage of the Heart* will be published September 2021.

From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

The home of the bishops and archbishops from 1939-1984 at the corner of N.W. 15 and Hudson Avenue in Oklahoma City's Heritage Hills was referred to by the clergy (affectionately) as "the big house." That moniker was appropriate because, as one priest so aptly stated, it was "22,000 square feet of opulence."

How the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa acquired the property is itself fascinating. The original bishop's residence still exists as the offices at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Built shortly after statehood, this house was the home of the first Bishop of Oklahoma, Theophile Meerschardt. His successor, Francis Clement Kelley, lived in this edifice until 1932 when the Great Depression sapped the diocese of the capital to maintain it.

To cut expenses, he moved into an apartment at Saint Anthony Hospital. Though far from ostentatious, it was a comfortable residence that he actually enjoyed.

With the coming of air-conditioning to the hospital, the brutal Oklahoma summers were a bit more tolerable. However, by 1939 Bishop Kelley longed for a place he could call his own. The previous residence had become a parochial school, so he began the search for a new bishop's mansion.

As fate would have it, the mansion of the late William Hales became available. Hales had accumulated his fortune by selling mules and horses to the federal government, and built the house in 1916 for the staggering cost of \$125,000. Twenty-five rooms and three floors (the third being the ballroom and servant's quarters) were adorned with custom built furniture and a grand staircase that was said to be large enough "to drive a mule team through."

Under the staircase, Hales had a pipe organ constructed where 3,000 pipes were housed. His daughter was married in 1923 and made her grand entrance down the staircase with the pipe organ blaring.

The Hales mansion was thought to be the finest in the city and Kelley wanted it. With the coming of World War II and the Great Depression about to come to an end, Bishop Kelley had the task of convincing the College of Consultants that the purchase was a wise move. With the passing of William Hales, the estate had an asking price of \$75,000. Kelley real-



Former bishops' residence known as "The big house."

ized that it was most likely worth four times that amount. The consultants visited the estate and unanimously voted to purchase the property with a \$50,000 ceiling. The other critical caveat was that the home also would serve as the headquarters of the diocese and all the offices of the diocese would be contained there.

With those stipulations, the home was purchased for \$50,000 with the generosity of Bishop Kelley's close friend the oil magnate Frank Phillips. He initially had given \$10,000, but is thought later to have assumed most of the expense.

The gem at 15th and Hudson remained the home of the bishops and archbishops until 1984. Archbishop Charles Salatka despised the mansion calling it "the tomb." Since the diocesan offices had moved to a space on Classen Boulevard in the 1970s, there was some truth to his statement. The hub of the diocese was no longer the vibrant place of the past.

Many had hoped that the property could still be used as an event center, but the neighborhood association of Heritage Hills would have none of it. It must remain a single-family dwelling.

With the archbishop moving to a home built on the property of what is now the Catholic Pastoral Center, the grand edifice passed into history as far as the Catholic Church in Oklahoma was concerned. It still stands complete with historical marker reminding people of its once exalted state as the seat of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Those who remember it remark that they miss the gatherings and lavish dinners in an age-long past.



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

Catholic Charities earns top 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has attained a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This prestigious rating is awarded to those charitable organizations that demonstrate sound fiscal management, good governance and commitment to transparency and accountability.

"Catholic Charities' consecutive 4-star rating highlights our commitment to building a high-performing organization that exceeds industry standards. This recognition demonstrates that not only have we proven to be fiscally responsible in how we execute our mission, but our transparency corresponds with the accountability our donors expect," Executive

Director Patrick Raglow said.

Charity Navigator uses objective analysis to provide donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in their donation decisions in the non-profit sector. This evaluation system uses key metrics to rate charities based on sound business practices and quantifiable results.

Less than one percent of charities

rated by Charity Navigator receive a perfect score, and only 6 percent have received six consecutive 4-star evaluations. Catholic Charities has received this top 4-star rating for nine consecutive years.

More detailed information about Catholic Charities' ratings is available at charitynavigator.org. Learn more about Catholic Charities at catholiccharitiesok.org.

Archbishop Naumann: Pandemic hasn't stopped Church from aiding moms in need

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. bishops' "Walking with Moms in Need" initiative may have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic, but it has not stopped helping expectant mothers, said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan.

This initiative "has the capacity to take what is often seen as a partisan divide and transform it into pastoral unity, bridging the divide between Catholics who describe themselves using the labels of 'pro-life' or 'social justice,'" said Archbishop Naumann, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"The vision of WWMIN is that a pregnant or parenting mother in need can turn to any local Catholic parish and be connected with the life-affirming assistance and accompaniment that she needs," Archbishop Naumann said Nov. 17 during a presentation at the bishops' annual fall general assembly in Baltimore.

For those who have not heard of "Walking with Moms in Need," it's understandable. The initiative was

timed to be introduced on the 25th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's encyclical "The Gospel of Life" (Evangelium Vitae).

That date was March 25, 2020, when the United States and the rest of the world were in the second week of a pandemic.

"While the pandemic posed many challenges to this initiative, the good news is that all of the

WWMIN resources, including timelines and schedules, are fully adaptable to meet the specific needs and circumstances of your diocese and parishes," Archbishop Naumann told his fellow bishops.

While he did not give a number of either the dioceses or parishes already participating in the initiative, he noted all 17,000 U.S. parishes that could take part.

While nationwide in scope, "Walking with Moms in Need" is parish-based. Its intent, Archbishop Naumann said, is "to better serve pregnant and parenting mothers facing difficulties. It provides parishes with a detailed process to help them walk with moms in their community."

All the materials, he noted, are available in both English and Spanish. The website is WalkingWithMoms.com.

While the concept may be rooted in "The Gospel of Life," "WWMIN was similarly inspired by repeated calls from our Holy Father Pope Francis for us as the Church to go to and accompany those at the peripheries," Archbishop Naumann said.

Archbishop Naumann acknowledged "there are sometimes gaps between what we, as bishops, believe is available in our diocese and the



A woman in Houston looks at a picture of her ultrasound at Houston Women's Reproductive Services Oct. 1. *CNS photo/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters.*

actual experience of a mother in need reaching out to her local parish."

But, "Walking with Moms in Need," he said, "directly confronts the false, yet popular, narrative that the Catholic Church merely condemns abortion, without providing the resources or support women need in raising their children."

Archbishop Naumann cited statistics from 2014 data showing that 24 percent of women choosing abortion self-identified as Catholic.

"Across the board, women who chose abortion were poor, young and unmarried — 75 percent were low-income, 60 percent were in their 20s, and 86 percent were unmarried," he said.

Despite the pandemic, "with some adjustments, our efforts to increase support to pregnant and parenting mothers in need has in fact continued," he said.



Leave a Legacy, Support the Church.



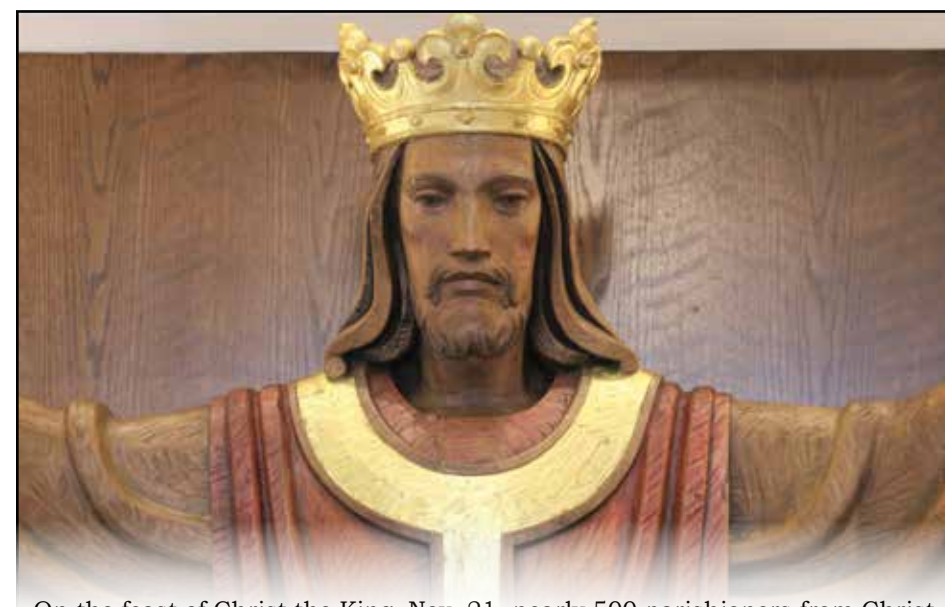
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Visit our website for more information cfook.org



The National Honor Society at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School recently hosted a canned food drive for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Students who participated brought in an average of 39 pounds of cans and the faculty raised \$1,000 to donate to the food bank. *Photos provided.*

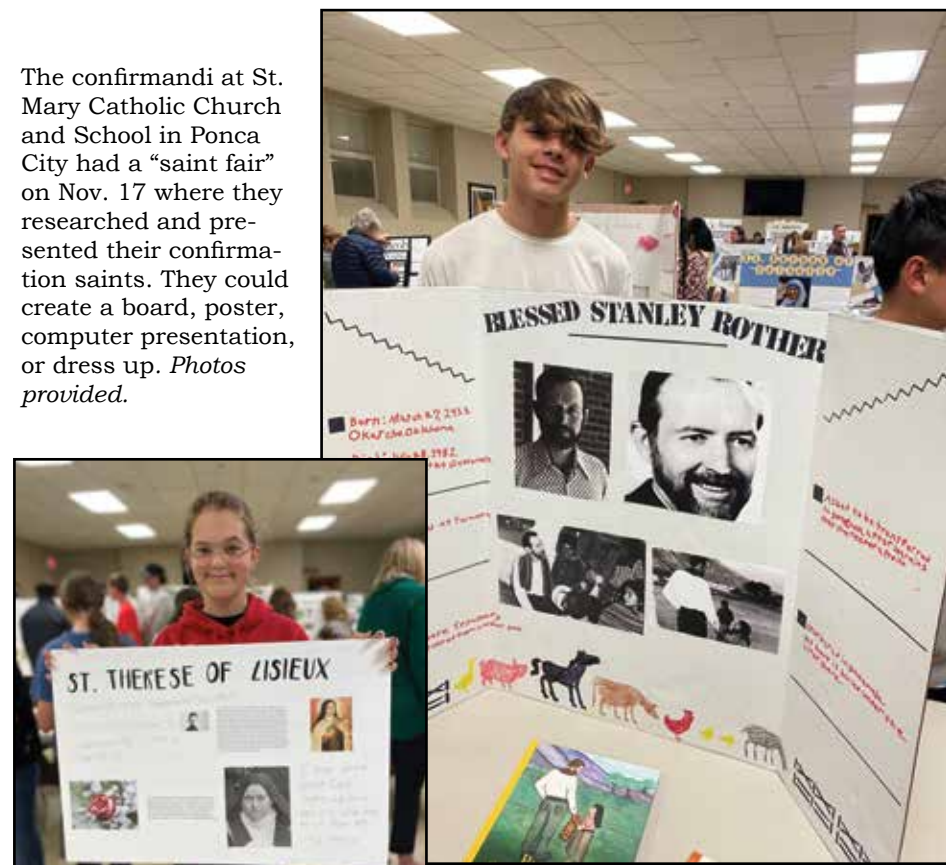


The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School robotics program recently held a first Lego League qualifying competition. MSM friends, alumni, staff members and team members made the event possible. *Photo Glenn Nead.*



On the feast of Christ the King, Nov. 21, nearly 500 parishioners from Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City celebrated the solemnity with a Eucharistic procession before the 10 a.m. Mass. Representatives from the many ministries of the parish processed with banners and signs around the exterior of the church. The procession culminated with the unveiling and blessing of the parish foyer's new statue of Christ the King. *Photos provided.*

The confirmandi at St. Mary Catholic Church and School in Ponca City had a "saint fair" on Nov. 17 where they researched and presented their confirmation saints. They could create a board, poster, computer presentation, or dress up. *Photos provided.*



Students donate more than 100,000 pounds of food to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

By Kate Fletcher
For the Sooner Catholic

"One Giant Leap for CANkind." With this theme in mind, the student council for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School set a goal to collect 100,000 pounds of cans for the annual canned food drive. The total was the largest ever collected: 103,598 pounds.

"Not only did we surpass our goal, but we also had a huge amount of participation from the entire school community," said Sophia Lopez, senior co-chairman of fundraising.

As a result of the impact of COVID-19, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma had received fewer donations, so bringing in a record number of cans was important to both Lopez and junior co-chair Sabrina Guzman.

"Last year, I learned the importance of creating the opportunity for involvement," Lopez said. "Sabrina and I worked hard to host multiple events to offer many chances for students to have fun with the school community while supporting the larger community."

These additional events collectively raised more than 44,500 pounds of canned food, and contribute to the nearly two million total pounds raised since the Canned Food Drive started 34 years ago.

"The Canned Food Drive began in 1987 when each student was encouraged to bring a single can," Lopez said. "This tradition has grown, and now our average is around 38 pounds per student."

Students were encouraged to bring cans during the first three weeks of November, leading up to Thanksgiving Break, and were given an incentive to bring 60 pounds of canned food in exchange for free dress (being out of the school uniform) from the day they brought their cans until after the break.

The last day of the drive is known as CANstruction day. Before the cans are tak-



Students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School collected 103,598 pounds of cans for the annual canned food drive. *Photo provided.*

en to the food bank, students use the cans to build a large sculpture in the front of the school.

This year's donations filled two semi-trucks and are expected to provide 90,000 meals.

Kate Fletcher is the associate editor for the Chi Rhoan student newspaper at BMCHS.



Sr. BJ's Pantry hosted Homeless Friends Day Nov. 13 in Oklahoma City. *Photos Chris Porter.*

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ahead," said Sister Barbara Joseph, founder of Sister BJ's Pantry. "The fact that they can layer underneath this coat is a definite plus. We plan on taking our mobile bus out in the months ahead and distribute more coats."

The Order of Malta dates to 1048 and counts more than 13,000

members worldwide. It was created by Blessed Gerard to serve Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem. In addition to serving the poor and sick, the order focuses on defending the Catholic faith. For more information about the local Order of Malta, visit Order of Malta - Oklahoma City on Facebook.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each Day add an item to a box.
Deliver to St. BJ's Pantry on Dec 29th or 30th

- Dec 1 - Box of Cereal
- Dec 2 - Peanut Butter
- Dec 3 - Instant Potatoes
- Dec 4 - Macaroni and Cheese
- Dec 5 - Canned Chicken
- Dec 6 - Chili
- Dec 7 - Canned Tuna
- Dec 8 - Pudding Cups
- Dec 9 - Mixed Canned Vegetables
- Dec 10 - Peanut Butter Crackers
- Dec 11 - Package of Rice
- Dec 12 - Package of Oatmeal
- Dec 13 - Pasta
- Dec 14 - Spaghetti Sauce
- Dec 15 - Variety of Soups
- Dec 16 - Cheese Crackers
- Dec 17 - Spam
- Dec 18 - Jelly
- Dec 19 - Cookies
- Dec 20 - Lunch Size Chips
- Dec 21 - Powdered Milk
- Dec 22 - Granola Bars
- Dec 23 - Canned Beans
- Dec 24 - Fruit Cups

www.srbjpantry.com



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chair of the USCCB’s Subcommittee on Native American Affairs, told prelates that “if the government asks for any records you may possess, we encourage cooperation.”

The letter comes in response to the U.S. Department of the Interior’s June 11 announcement of an investigation to look into the history of the government’s administration and funding of so-called “Indian boarding schools.” Some, but not all, of the schools were operated by entities affiliated with the Catholic Church and others were operated by other churches. A report on the investigation is due for release next April, the letter said.

The painful history of the country’s tribal schools has come to light recently as researchers have been focused on uncovering what many American Indians long have shared in their communities: abuses and deaths of American Indian children at boarding schools in the United States from the 17th century to the 20th century.

“Some were set up by famous missionaries and saints,” the letter said of the schools operated by Catholics. “However, there are many accounts, publicly reported with evidence, that the experience for many at these schools was very bad if not disastrous.”

The letter pointed out a detail raised by the Interior Department: “The purpose of the Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating them from their families and communities to distant residential facilities where their American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian identities, languages and beliefs were to be forcibly suppressed.”

And, in some cases, there was abuse that sometimes resulted in deaths. The most recent of these cases uncovered that at least 87 children died at such a facility, the Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School, which operated in Nebraska from 1884 to 1934.

Earlier this year, the bodies of more than 200 children were found buried on the site of what was once Canada’s large Indigenous residential school. In some cases, children were reported missing from the facilities and were never found.

While entities affiliated with the Catholic Church ran some of the facilities, by the 1900s, about half were operated solely by the federal government, “one quarter of the schools in partnership with entities of the Catholic Church, and another quarter in partnership with Protestant churches,” said the letter to bishops.

The extent of what happened is not known, but the letter said it hopes that “the government’s investigation may help to illuminate this,” while acknowledging that records may be missing or dioceses in the localities didn’t exist then.

“At the USCCB, we intend to cooperate with any requests from the government in connection to the investigation and encourage you to do the same,” it said.

“To be clear, to the best of our knowledge, the USCCB, which traces its origins to a predecessor organization founded in 1917, never played any role in running these schools, never was a repository for records from the schools and currently has no such records,” the letter said. “The federal government houses its repository of records of the Catholic-partner boarding schools at the Marquette University Library.”

In addition to cooperating with providing records and any information the government requests, the bishops also asked their fellow prelates to “consider reaching out to tribal leaders, and begin, if you have not already done so, a dialogue about the schools that were historically in your areas.”

The federal program that first initiated the schools ended in 1969 and the church no longer operates such facilities but there are day schools on tribal reservations that “serve almost exclusively Indigenous students,” the letter said.

It added that the USCCB Subcommittee on Native American Affairs “has long been aware of the Church’s involvement with Indian boarding schools and has been fostering dialogues with Indigenous communities and engaging in efforts to reconcile.”

But, for the descendants of those who suffered in the schools “we are sensitive ... that this is a very painful subject,” the letter said.

“If there is a way to help bring forward the truth about what happened regarding specific schools in your diocese, state or region, that could very meaningful,” it said.

Bishops also were given names of Catholic organizations willing to help develop listening sessions, including the Tekakwitha Conference, which the letter noted is the largest organization of Catholic Native and Indigenous peoples.

Others include, it said, the American Catholic Indian Schools Network, based at the University of Notre Dame, which is an organization of Catholic schools on reservations that has long worked on how best to serve Indigenous students and address the legacy of the boarding schools; and the Catholics for Boarding School Accountability, an organization of religious and lay individuals that are working on healing and reconciliation.

The letter also listed the Black and Indian Mission Office, based in Washington, as a resource and noted the USCCB’s Subcommittee of Native American Affairs “has done much work in this area” and is available to “lend support or consultation on any local effort.”

“The report in April of 2022 will likely bring to light some very troubling information,” the letter said. “It will be important to reach out in advance and form relationships, if not already existing, so that you and members of local Indigenous communities can be in a real and honest dialogue about reactions to the report and what steps are needed to go forward together.”

Being forthcoming with information “can be a meaningful step toward healing,” the letter stated.

“Although some of these dialogues may be uncomfortable or even painful, if we cling to the love and truth that is Jesus Christ, we can face any fears or shame that these situations may bring,” it continued.

“If we can hold our ancestors in the faith in loving memory, celebrating the good and also being honest and transparent about failures and sin, while seeing our Native and Indigenous brothers and sisters as fellow beloved sons and daughters of God,” it said, “then we firmly believe that this time can mark a step forward in the relationship between the Church and Indigenous peoples, and can deepen respect for the dignity of every person and the common good.”

Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project

On Nov. 11, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project. To learn more about the project, go online to **archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject**.

To participate in the project or to share an experience from a Catholic Indian boarding school in Oklahoma, e-mail **info@oknativeschoolsproject.org**.

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Catholic
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OKC



Women honored for achievement, dedication

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Central Region, hosted its annual Woman of Achievement Mass and luncheon on Oct. 2 at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond.

The event had been postponed from March 2020 due to COVID-19. The women were chosen by their parishes and honored for their years of dedication and service to both their churches and communities.

Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass along with Father Ray Ackerman, Father Bill Pruett, Father Tim Ruckel and Deacon Randy Hearn. Following a luncheon, the archbishop blessed and presented Our Lady of Good Counsel medals.

Honorees:

Barbara Streets, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC;

Amelia Stramski, Catholic Daughters of the America’s Christ the King Court;

Anna Marie Ellis, Catholic Women’s Activity Club;

Keri Warren, Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, OKC;

Lynne Size, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mustang;

Shelly Lyon, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Chandler;

Sally Crowe Nash, Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, OKC;

Priscilla Chastain, Saint Eugene Catholic Church, OKC;

Lynn Cochran, Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, OKC;

Beverly Perrault, Saint James the Greater Catholic Church, OKC;

Emaline Pohlmeier, Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church, Yukon;

Stephanie Stovall, Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond;

Toni Prioux, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Norman;



The Woman of Achievement Mass and luncheon was held on Oct. 2 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. Photo provided.

Ginger Allred, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Union City;

Melinda Winkenwerder, Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, Midwest City;

Nancy Limon, Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Harrah.

continued from page 1

The evening will be hosted by KWTW’s Amanda Taylor and will include an auction, music and a special keynote speaker. Auction items include all-inclusive trips, special event tickets, autographed memorabilia and more.

“This is truly a unique and all-encompassing endeavor,” Event Chairwoman Shannon Hill said. “We are honored to be a part of a ministry that seeks to come alongside all those in need in our city.”

Being honored with the 2022 Green Tie Ambassador Award – bestowed upon an individual for his or her unwavering support of

the works and missions of Catholic Charities – will be Sister Betty Kehoe.

The 2022 Mosaic Award will be presented to David Chansolme, M.D., of the Infectious Disease Specialists in Oklahoma City, an organization that has demonstrated, through partnership and involvement, its commitment to the organization.

Proceeds from the annual gala benefit homeless women and children at the Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman. The centers provide social services to homeless

and at-risk women and their children to help alleviate the effects of poverty within the community. Trained social workers assess the needs of those seeking assistance including health and nutritional status, income and benefits, mental health status, and safety concerns. In seven years, the development centers have transitioned more than 620 families into permanent housing.

“What we love about the women’s sanctuary is the focus on the whole person,” Hill said. “This ministry includes meeting the physical, spiritual and emotion-

al needs of these women, but it also includes caring for the pets of those who visit, preparing the women for job interviews, and even celebrating their birthdays. For many of these women, it is the first time in their lives they have even been celebrated.”

Catholic Charities assists people of all cultures to rise out of poverty and overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. The agency offers a broad range of programs such as adoption and pregnancy services, counseling, disaster support, family supportive services, homeless support, housing assistance, refugee services and immigration legal services.

Green Tie Gala 2022

greentiegala.org

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Retired priests, religious

remain active, continue ministry work

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Each year, parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City participate in a collection to help fund retirement for religious men and women.

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health care needs of aging members.

Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious can serve in compensated ministry.

Featured below are a few of the retired clergy and religious men and women who have served the archdiocese.

Father Mike Chapman

"I've been retired seven or eight years. The first part of the retirement I was more active and lived in a house on the property of Holy Angels that I served, downtown."

During his stay there, Father Chapman worked on repairs and upgrades to the nearly 100-year-old home, including overseeing the installation of a storm shelter.

Over the years, Father Chapman has subbed for priests at their parishes, including an eight month stay in Lawton as the interim pastor.

In the past three years, following a bad fall, Father Chapman became a resident of Saint Ann Retirement Center. He said it's humbling not to be able to do what he used to, but he continues to stay busy with activities. He said he stays close to his family, including his siblings in Oklahoma City and Forth Worth, and to the staff at Saint Ann.

Sister Catherine ("Kay") Powers, C.N.D.

"Since I left the Catholic Pastoral Center, the thing that has been most difficult has been COVID."

Sister Kay said the pandemic opened an opportunity to increase ministry by phone, stating telephone ministry offers a good way

to check on those who live alone or who need a caring ear.

"I've spent many, many evenings on the phone calling people." Sister Kay extended the phone ministry to several fellow sisters on the East Coast. With vaccines becoming available

and many areas opening up, Sister Kay is back to being a communion minister at her home parish, the Church of Lord in Oklahoma City. She also is a member of the rectors for the herd School in City.

She serves as of the board of community, school on Staten York that serves 2 through 12th spends time flying New York.

Sister Kay said enjoys being part of the Sanctuary Women's Oklahoma City.

"Queen for a Day is a great. I enjoy being a part of that and helping out."

Sister Elizabeth ("Betty") Kehoe, C.N.D.

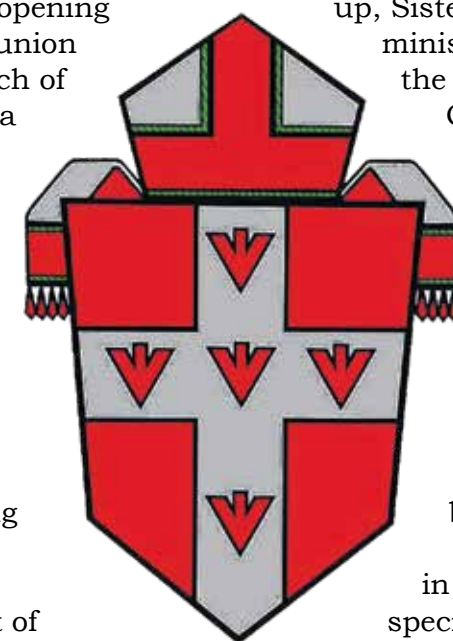
Sister Betty works alongside Sister Kay to check on people by telephone.

"People who didn't have a lot of contact with others" are people I have been able to help, she said.

She is a communion minister at her home parish, the Church of the Epiphany of the Lord.

"I was bringing communion to the homebound and nursing homes, but the pandemic interfered with that a lot."

Sister Betty is connected to Catholic Charities and the Women's



chairwoman her religious which has a Island in New children ages grade. She back and forth to

in retirement she special projects of Development Center in

Sanctuary Centers where she volunteers once a week and goes to special events like Queen for a Day, Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner. With the holidays approaching, she will be taking things for them to make Christmas ornaments or cards.

"All I can say, is a day is full somehow. Even when you think you have no agenda, everything comes to you. To have the time to really be there in the moment is very important and a blessing."

Sister Kay and Sister Betty enjoy going to garage sales together where they specifically look for items to help those in need. From coats and gloves, hats and winter blankets, to collecting lotions and soaps, they are constantly thinking of ways to help the less fortunate.

Father Henry Roberson

"I always do a little 'priestly work.' I have been doing some writing and some social activity work. For instance, helping establish a grocery for the poor in Norman by helping with various means. Nutrition is a real problem for poor people for many reasons. The inexpensive food is not always the nutritious food. A lot of the kids, especially, do not get good, regular, food."

Father Roberson helps at parishes when he is needed, stating he especially enjoys the people of McLoud.

"The parish work and being able to help out with food and shelter has been my joy."

Father Martin Lugo, O.S.B.

"Since the epidemic, I certainly have more time for community and private prayer. Many people have requested remembrance of prayer and Masses for the many who became sick and those who have died.

There are times in your life when ministry comes to you because of your own age and health conditions, so it is a God-given opportunity to include these many requests in your prayers."

Father Lugo said retirement also offers a time to be grateful for his life, that he can still be available to pray for others.

"The time will come when someone hopefully remembers to pray for you."

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



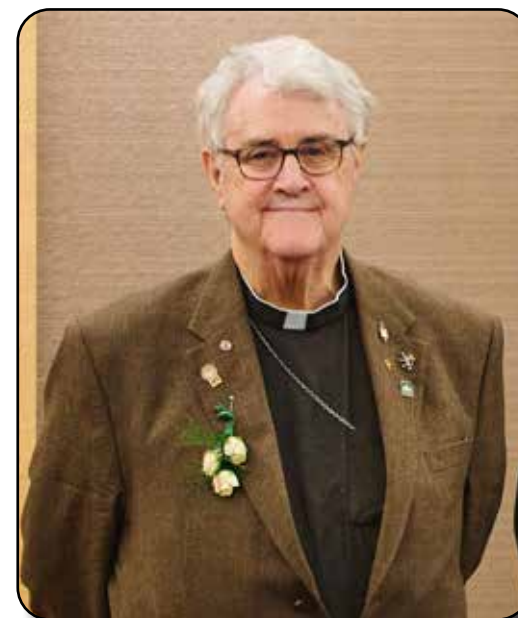
Fr. Mike Chapman



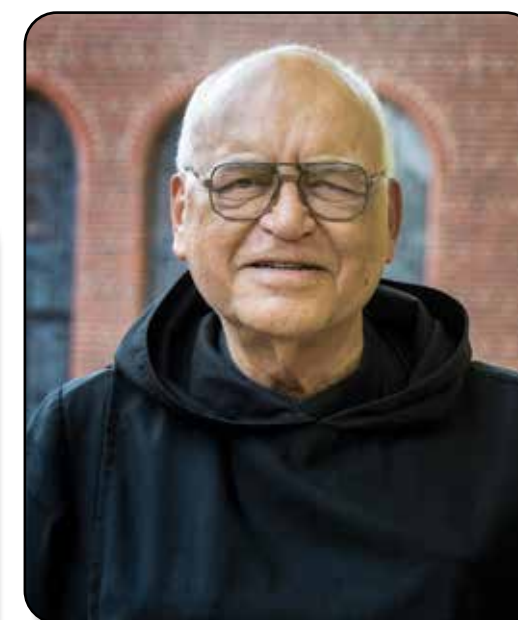
Sr. Catherine ("Kay") Powers, C.N.D.



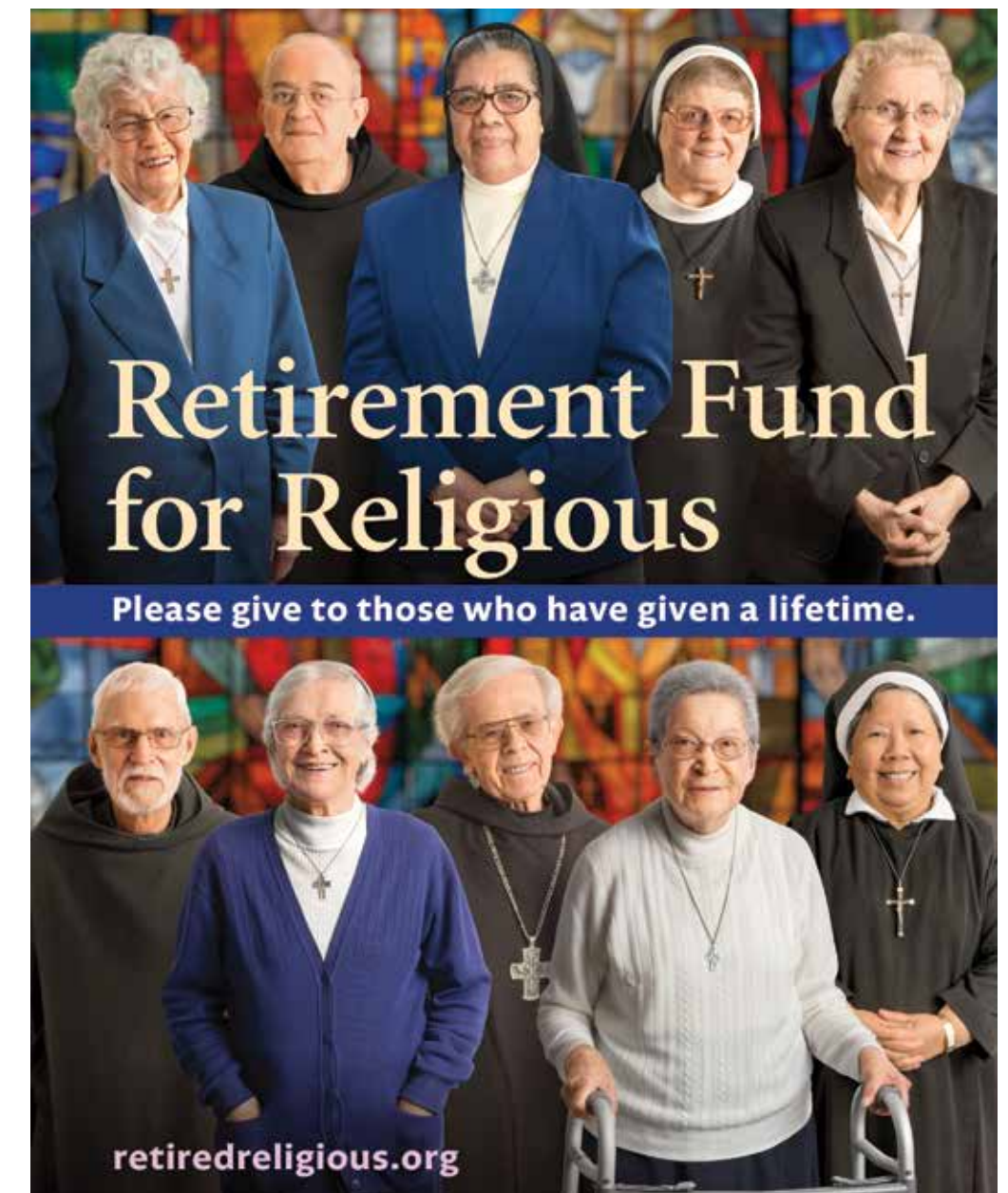
Sr. Elizabeth ("Betty") Kehoe, C.N.D.



Fr. Henry Roberson



Fr. Martin Lugo, O.S.B.



Collection helps aging sisters, brothers, priests in religious orders

Dec. 11-12

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 11-12. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the archdiocese donated \$71,021.74 to the collection. In 2021, the Benedictine Fathers received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.

"I am continually heartened by the generosity of U.S. Catholics," said NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "Even in difficult times, they find a way to give back to those who have tirelessly served our Church and our world."

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests – known collectively as women and men religious – served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.

At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious

require specialized services. NRRO data shows that 26,330 women and men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds \$1 billion annually.

To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988. Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

Religious orders typically do not receive diocesan funding but rather are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. While many dioceses hold separate appeals for their retired priests' fund, the once-yearly Retirement Fund for Religious collection is for members of U.S. religious orders and benefits both men and women religious.

The 2020 appeal raised \$20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities.

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

God can act in unexpected ways, calling for brave acceptance, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Saint Joseph teaches people to learn to take life as it comes and to accept what God has in mind, Pope Francis said.

Speaking about how Joseph reacted to Mary being pregnant while they were still engaged, the pope explained why Saint Joseph “gives us an important lesson: he chooses Mary with ‘his eyes open,’” and “with all the risks” that came with it.

“They had probably cultivated dreams and expectations regarding their life and their future,” he said during his weekly general audience Dec. 1. But then, “out of the blue, God seems to have inserted himself into their lives and, even if at first it was difficult for them, both of them opened their hearts wide to the reality that was placed before them.”

During his audience in the Vatican’s Paul VI hall, Pope Francis continued a series of talks on Saint Joseph, reflecting on his role as a just man and husband of Mary, and what he can teach all engaged couples and newlyweds.

Saint Joseph was pious and subject to observing the religious laws of the time, which called for stoning a woman accused of adultery or – with later interpretations – a formal repudiation that had civil and criminal consequences for the woman, the pope said. But Joseph’s “love for Mary and his trust in her suggested a way he could remain in observance of the law and save the honor of his bride. He decided to

repudiate her in secret, without making noise, without subjecting her to public humiliation.”

“How holy Joseph was,” Pope Francis said. In contrast, “we, as soon as we have a bit of gossip, something scandalous about someone else, we go around talking about it right away!”

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him not to fear taking Mary as his wife and explaining the divine origin of and plan for her son.

God reveals “a greater meaning than his own justice. How important it is for each one of us to cultivate a just life and, at the same time, to always feel the need for God’s help to broaden our horizons and to consider the circumstances of life from an always different, larger perspective,” the pope said.

Many times, he said, people feel “imprisoned” by what happens to them and are tempted to “close in on that pain, in that thought that the good things never happen to us. And this is not good for us. This leads you to sadness and bitterness. A bitter heart is so ugly.”

Often, “a providence is hidden that takes shape over time and illuminates the meaning even of the pain that has touched us,” he said.

By taking this risk, Joseph “gives us this lesson: to take life as it comes. Has God intervened there? I accept it” and seek to follow God’s guidance, the pope said.

During their engagement, Christian couples are called to witness to this kind of love that “has the courage to move from the logic of falling in love to that of mature love,” the pope said. Mature love moves from infatuation and

imagination to taking “responsibility for one’s life as it comes.”

It is demanding, but it will strengthen their love “so that it endures when faced with the trials of time,” he added.

“Dear brothers and dear sisters, our lives are very often not what we imagine them to be. Especially in loving and affectionate relationships,” Pope Francis said.

He repeated his advice to married couples, urging them to always make peace before the end of the day and never let arguments or bad feelings fester “because the cold war the next day is very dangerous. Don’t let war begin the next day.”

At the end of the audience, the pope recalled that Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day.

“It is an important occasion to remember the many people who are affected by this virus. For many of them, in some areas of the world, access to the necessary treatment is not available. My hope is that there might be a renewed commitment in solidarity to guarantee fair and effective health care,” he said.

He also asked for prayers for his trip Dec. 2-6 to Cyprus and Greece to visit the people whose countries are “rich in history, spirituality and civilization.”

“It will be a journey to the sources of apostolic faith and of fraternity among Christians of various confessions. I will also have the opportunity to draw near to a humanity wounded in the persons of so many migrants in search of hope: I will visit Lesbos. I ask all of you, please, to accompany me with your prayer,” he said.

U.S. Supreme Court hears its biggest abortion case in decades

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Oral arguments began Dec. 1 at the U.S. Supreme Court for the biggest abortion case in decades.

Diocesan websites across the country have posted links to the arguments as well as churches where prayers will be taking place at this time. Several dioceses also encouraged Catholics to take part in an online national prayer event in mid-November to pray for the outcome of this decision.

The case before the nation’s high court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, is an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. This ban was struck down by a federal District Court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

The Mississippi law is being challenged by the state’s only abortion facility, the Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

When the court announced this spring that it would take this case, after considering it more than a dozen times since 2020, the justices said they would only review one of the three questions presented to them: “Whether all previability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.”

That point of viability – when a fetus is said to be able to survive

on its own – is key because the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before 24 weeks, or when a fetus could survive on its own. Mississippi’s ban on abortions after 15 weeks is more restrictive than current law.

If the court sides with Mississippi, it would be the first time the court would allow an abortion ban before the point of viability and could lay the groundwork for other abortion restrictions that other states could follow.

When the court agreed to take this case, Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the justices could potentially establish criteria other than viability, such as fetal pain, for restricting abortions.

A friend-of-the-court brief submitted by Mississippi’s Catholic dioceses of Jackson and Biloxi focused on fetal pain and said the court should “find that the state’s interest in protecting unborn children who have the capacity to feel pain is sufficiently compelling to support a limited prohibition on abortion.”

The brief also urged that a “sense of morality, and indeed, logic, must prevail in the courts on this issue. How is it that Mississippi law recognizes that an unborn baby can be a victim of a crime, and can have property rights, and yet the label of personhood at 15-weeks gestation is denied them?”

The USCCB, in its brief,

stressed that abortion is not a right created by the U.S. Constitution and called it “inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this court has accorded constitutional protection.”

Referring to the court’s major abortion decisions, the brief warned that if the Supreme Court “continues to treat abortion as a constitutional issue,” it will face more questions in the future about “what sorts of abortion regulations are permissible.”

The court’s two big decisions on abortion were *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 court case, which legalized abortion, and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* in 1992, which affirmed *Roe*, and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an “undue burden” on a woman “seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.”

In a Nov. 28 op-ed in *The Washington Post*, Lynn Fitch, Mississippi’s attorney general, who is defending the state’s abortion law, said the case before the court was about “overturning *Roe v. Wade* and returning decision-making about abortion policy to the people.”

She acknowledged the contentiousness of the case saying: “There is no question that the issues involved in abortion policy are tough, complex and emotionally charged. But it is precisely because of such challenges that the Constitution gives the people the difficult task of balancing competing interests, devising

compromises and developing policy.

“It is the core principle of democratic self-governance that U.S. citizens act on hard issues through the men and women they elect and can hold accountable at the ballot box.”

When the Supreme Court decided *Roe*, she said, “it took abortion policymaking out of the hands of the people. It set it apart from all sorts of other difficult policy issues and created a special set of rules that have acted to keep abortion policy behind the bench, where unelected judges decide the fate of the people’s laws.”

O. Carter Snead, law professor at the University of Notre Dame, similarly noted in a Nov. 29 statement the strong feelings in this Mississippi case and said that “despite the intense emotions” surrounding it, the fundamental issue for the court is: Does it have the constitutional authority to create a rule regarding viability? He said it does not.

As he put it: “The court’s abortion jurisprudence has for decades imposed on the nation, without constitutional justification, an extreme, incoherent and deeply unjust regime pursuant to specious reasoning and constantly changing rules, standards and rationales.”

Snead also filed an amicus brief in favor of the Mississippi law, as did other Catholics and Catholic organizations.

The court is expected to announce a decision in July.



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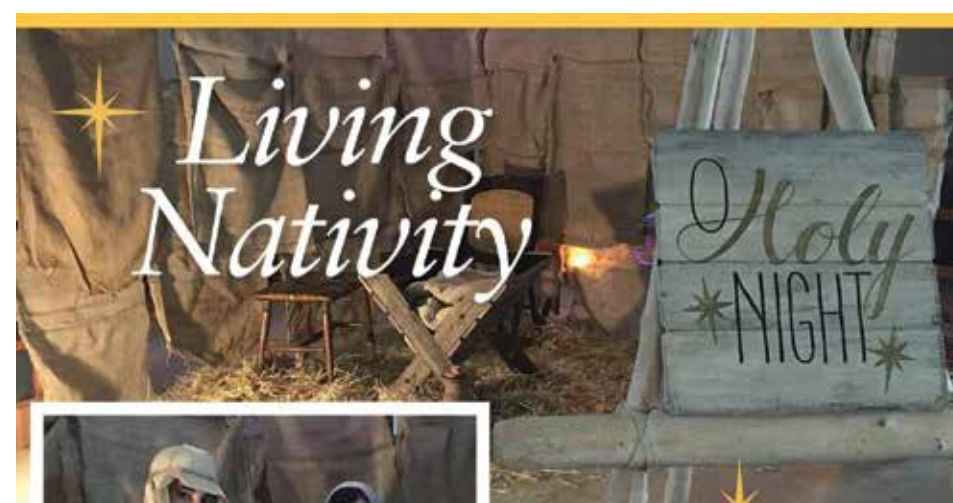
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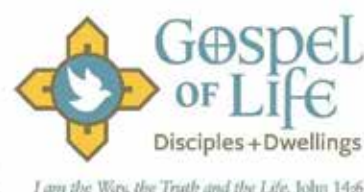
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Sr. Elena Hernandez, O.S.B.

Sister Elena (Antonia) Hernandez, O.S.B., 101, a Benedictine sister of Mount Saint Scholastica, Atchison, Kan., died Nov. 23 at the monastery. The vigil service was Nov. 30 in the monastery chapel, and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated Dec. 1 in Saint Scholastica’s Chapel.

Sister Elena was born in the village of San Gabriel, Mexico, on Sept. 5, 1920. When her mother died, she got a job in a clothing factory in a nearby city to help the family. Having always loved her faith and desired religious life, at age 30 she accompanied some Benedictine sisters to Alabama and then went to Oklahoma in 1956.

She was determined to re-

ceive an education, which culminated in a bachelor’s degree in secondary education. In 1977, she became a pastoral associate for the Hispanic community at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hollis, serving there until 1993. After the move of her Red Plains Monastery community from Piedmont to Atchison in 2009, she continued to sew, care for her beloved parakeets and make beautiful crafts for the monastery gift shop.



Sr. Elena Hernandez,
O.S.B.

Jobs Box

Safe Environment coordinator - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Safe Environment coordinator to administer the archdiocesan Safe Environment program; monitor and maintain the Safe Environment training portal, and plan and implement Safe Environment training for archdiocesan staff and volunteers. Requires regular communication with Safe Environment facilitators. Will support training and compliance efforts at the local level and conduct parish onsite visits and audits. Will work with the Catholic schools and youth office to evaluate children's Safe Environment curriculum and teen volunteer program. Requires collaboration with the victim assistance coordinator and crisis assistance as needed. Bachelor's degree and practicing Catholic in good standing a must. Knowledge and/or experience in child abuse and child abuse prevention preferred. Must possess a valid driver's license and be willing to travel the archdiocese. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Cook - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time experienced cook to work a flexible schedule that requires evening and weekend work. The successful candidate will have a minimum of two years' experience in food service. Catering experience is preferred. Send resume to mmills@archokc.org. Applications are available during regular business hours at the CPC, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City.

Tax Credit Scholarship program director - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director for the Tax Credit Scholarship program to plan, manage and implement cultivation, solicitation and stewardship activities. Candidate should enjoy a diverse range of responsibilities, a fast-paced office and have a flexible demeanor. Candidate should be calm under pressure, have excellent written and oral communication skills and be comfortable calling and meeting with people and asking for gifts to support Catholic ministries. Send resume to mmills@archokc.org.

Director of development - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a director of development for all aspects of fundraising and donor relations. The director will organize and manage all fundraising programs and services for the shrine, including direct mail, gift cultivation and solicitation, annual appeals, donor events, database management, planned giving, endowment funding and grant writing. Collaborate with pastors, parish leaders, chancery staff and potential donors to identify and cultivate gift prospects for spe-

cial projects and programs of the shrine as well as create annual calendar of development initiatives. Bachelor's degree (master's or MBA preferred) in business/management or another relevant field or possess general management experience in a comparable position a must; a minimum five years of development experience; and be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Pilgrimage director - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a pilgrimage director to coordinate pilgrimages and religious events at the shrine. The pilgrimage director will manage and organize shrine pilgrimages, including scheduling Masses, tours and special events, and train staff and volunteers. Coordinate outreach and promotion of shrine pilgrimages in dioceses, churches, schools, conferences and events. Have a desire to promote the Church's work of evangelization and promote knowledge of and devotion to Bl. Stanley Rother. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Coordinator of Catholic education: curriculum, instruction - OKC

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a coordinator of Catholic education with a focus on curriculum and instruction to provide guidance, direction and leadership to school administrators and faculty. Oversee implementation of a clearly articulated curriculum aligned with relevant standards and Gospel values; provide programs and services aligned with the mission to enrich academic programs and support the development of student and family life; assist principals by responding to issues, problems and concerns at school sites. Masters' degree in education, educational administration and supervision or a related field a must; at least five years of experience in Catholic school leadership preferred; practicing Catholic good standing, and committed to Catholic identity and mission of Catholic schools. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Coordinator of Catholic education: operations - OKC

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a coordinator of Catholic education with a focus on operations to develop, execute and supervise the formation of teachers and students as well as manage all aspects of curriculum development; facilitate ongoing training for school leaders and administrative staff with focus on leadership, staff management, strategic planning, policy and procedural implementation, and finance issues; assist principals by responding to issues, problems and concerns

at school sites. Masters' degree in education, educational administration and supervision or a related field a must; at least five years experience in Catholic school leadership preferred; practicing Catholic in good standing, and committed to Catholic identity and mission of Catholic schools. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Administrative assistant - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an administrative assistant in the Secretariat for Divine Worship to organize and coordinate archdiocesan liturgical events, retreats and workshops and assist with ongoing formation and growth of liturgical ministries as well as provide liturgical resources to be used in parishes. Catholic in good standing who is knowledgeable in liturgy. Independently manage a wide range of administrative tasks. Send resume and cover letter to mmills@archokc.org.

Alumni advisor - OKC

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking an alumni advisor to guide and support students to and through college. Bachelor's degree required; three plus years of experience in college or high school advising with students of limited economic means, underrepresented students, first generation students and their families; basic Microsoft office skills. Apply at cristoreyokc.org/careers.

Intake specialist - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an intake specialist to provides direct service and support through day services at the Sanctuary for Women's Development; conducts intakes with new clients interested in case management services. Must have high school graduation or G.E.D., associate's degree preferred; valid Oklahoma driver's license; fluency in Spanish and English preferred. Send cover letter and resume to Racheal Singley at rsingley@ccaokc.org.

Housing navigators - OKC, Tulsa

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a temporary housing navigator, one in OKC and one in Tulsa, to build collaborative relationships with community partners and help connect clients to housing and provide navigation to ensure that clients have required documents and support services, including employment and income streams. This position is grant funded for one year. Beyond a year, the position will be contingent upon ongoing housing instability related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and available funding. Must have undergraduate degree in social work or behavioral science preferred; two plus years of previous experience in adult case management preferred; computer literate; experienced with Microsoft Office, Internet; multilingual

preferred. Send cover letter with resume to Christy Knotts at cknotts@ccaokc.org.

Associate director of development - OKC

Santa Fe Family Life Center is seeking an associate director of development to assist with the implementation of the SFFLC's fundraising efforts and charitable programs. This position will be instrumental in communications, fundraising, programs, member relations, and record keeping. Two years fundraising and program experience; bachelor's degree in relevant field of study or relevant experience; proficiency in Microsoft Office; resourcefulness and creativity in planning operations and programs; demonstrated ability to work with others as a team; ability to professionally communicate verbally and otherwise. Send resume and cover letter to james.timberlake@sfflc.com.

Soccer coach - OKC

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a soccer coach for their girls' team. The season begins in January and concludes at the end of April. Practices will be 3-4 days/week after school. Driving a van will be necessary for away games. Experience is preferred and a stipend is involved. Contact the athletic director at jeremy.tilton@cristoreyokc.org.

Administrative assistant - Mustang

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mustang is seeking a full-time administrative assistant who can work well with others and offer support and leadership with regards to the parish mission and operations. Must be able to communicate in English and Spanish, proficiency in Microsoft Office, as well as a willingness to learn new systems. Send cover letter and resume to Deacon Paul Lewis at plewis@holyspiritmustang.org.

Custodian - Edmond

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is looking for a full-time school custodian. The hours are 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact Laura Cain, principal, at lcain@seasok.org, (405) 348-5364.

Assistant youth coordinator - OKC

Christ the King Catholic Church is seeking a part-time assistant youth coordinator to work with children ages 12-18. Deep commitment to the life of a missionary disciple and a joyful willingness to take an active part in parish life. Some evenings and weekends required. Experience in evangelization and catechetical leadership preferred. Candidates must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Submit resume to Antonio Guzman, antonio@ckokc.org.

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

The Catholic Difference

Books for Christmas 2021

Some suggestions for Christmas giving, in the form of books that amuse, inspire, educate or all-of-the-above:

“Prison Journal, Volume 3 – The High Court Frees an Innocent Man,” by Cardinal George Pell (Ignatius Press). The vindication of Cardinal George Pell by Australia's High Court in April 2020 was an unalloyed joy amidst plague time.

With this third volume, Ignatius Press completes the publication of Cardinal Pell's remarkable prison diary, which has become something of a modern spiritual classic, even as it has introduced the real George Pell to a world audience bombarded for decades by media caricatures of the man. Cardinal Pell bears no animus against his persecutors, but because one of my oldest friends is a better man than I am, I have a few things to say in the book's afterword about those who covered themselves in ignominy by persecuting him, or by failing to support him in his time of need.

“Journeys with a Tin Can Pilgrim,” by Lynda Rozell (Saint John's Press). Part memoir, part insightful reflection, part how-to manual and part travel guide along roads both material and spiritual, this distinctive book recounts a return to Catholic faith that transformed a hard-driving and well-compensated corporate lawyer into a peripatetic pilgrim, traveling the country in an Airstream trailer and doing the New Evangelization retail in campgrounds around the country. It's a story of delight in the love of God, coupled with reflections on maintaining spiritual and mental health in the practice and sharing of the faith. Quite unusual, and often quite moving.

“The Universe Behind Barbed Wire: Memoirs of a Ukrainian Soviet Dissident,” by Myroslav Marynovych (University of Rochester Press).

Dr. Marynovych, another man I am honored to call a friend, spent years in a different sort of campground: Perm Camp 36, the most notorious of the Soviet GULAG labor camps.

His crime? Circulating bulletins about the abuse of human rights in the workers' paradise that Sen. Bernie Sanders visited on his honeymoon. Yale's Timothy Snyder nicely described the life trajectory of this contemporary martyr-confessor in these terms: “When (Marynovych) was arrested at 28, he was an agnostic. When he was released a decade later, he was a Christian ethicist and political thinker. His memoir is a humble, and humbling, account of a man maturing in hell.”

Myroslav Marynovych now puts that maturity to work in building a free, democratic, and decent Ukraine, through his work as Vice Rector for Mission at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and in several parallel enterprises dedicated to fostering solidarity among the Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish and Crimean Tatar communities in his hard-pressed country. His book deserves a wide readership – not least in the Vatican's Secretariat of State and the papal diplomatic corps.

“The Road Less Traveled: The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916-1917,” by Philip Zelikow (Public Affairs). As if there were not enough reasons to dislike elitist, racist, anti-Catholic Woodrow Wilson, now comes a striking re-examination of Wilson's diplomacy (or lack thereof) at a moment when he and his consigliere, Edward House, might have brokered a rational settlement to World War I. That they failed to do so was in part due to their incompetence and in part because of the machinations of the “Welsh Wizard,” David Lloyd George, keen to become British prime minister. Had the opportunities Zelikow de-

scribes been seized, there would have been no Lenin or Soviet Union, no Hitler or Nazi Germany, and quite possibly no Great Depression and no World War II. A sad, instructive tale.

“Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment,” by Benjamin Storey and Jenna Silber Storey (Princeton University Press): The Storeys make intellectual history come alive in an engaging and accessible way for everyone, as they explain our current cultural and political discontents while making creative suggestions for addressing those cankers. An especially good gift for any young (or older) Catholic integralist who imagines that dismantling the liberal political order is the answer to renewing the culture.

“Before Amoris Laetitia: The Sources of the Controversy,” by Jaroslaw Kupczak, OP (CUA Press). As the Church ponders its post-Pope Francis future, this careful examination of one of the great controversies of the present pontificate should help all reflective Catholics think more clearly about the stakes in the battle over the character of Christian marriage.

And, if I may: In a season of small-bore public personalities, my “Not Forgotten: Reminiscences of, and Elegies for, a Diverse Cast of Characters, Most of Them Admirable” (Ignatius Press) may be an encouraging reminder that giants walked among us, not so very long ago.



George Weigel
Ethics and Public Policy Center

Christmas Book Wish List!

“The Night the Saints Saved Christmas”
By Our Sunday Visitor
Price: \$16.95
osv.com

“What to Say When: The Complete New Guide to Discussing Abortion”
By Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen
Price: \$18
40daysforlife.com

“Saints Around the World ”
By Meg Hunter-Kilmer
Price: \$22.95
stpaulcenter.com/emmaus-road-publishing

“Just Mercy Study Guide”
By Catholic Mobilizing Network
Price: Free download
catholicsmobilizing.org

“The Christmas Light”
By Claudia Cangilla McAdam
Price: \$16.95
sophia institute.com

“Blessed Stanley Rother”
By Susan Rother Bond
Price: \$16.95
rotherstore.com

“The Shepherd Cannot Run”
Letters of Stanley Rother
Price: \$12
rotherstore.com

“Blessed Stanley Francis Rother The First American Martyr”
By Most Rev. Anthony B. Taylor
Price: \$8
rotherstore.com

Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

María y la nueva evangelización

Todos que aquellos que manejan por el sur del I-35 en Oklahoma City estos días, sin duda que pueden ver la construcción de una enorme iglesia justo junto a la calle 89. Es el futuro Santuario al Beato Stanley Rother, que rápidamente comienza a tomar forma.

Y, por su parte, aquellos que manejan por el boulevard Shields, en el lado oeste de la construcción, se asombrarán de ver un pequeño monte con un camino en espiral alrededor para subir a la cima. Esta pequeña loma de tierra captura la atención de todos los curiosos que pasan por ahí, incluso más que la misma enorme iglesia. El monte del Tepeyac es un elemento esencial de las instalaciones del Santuario, que se convertirá en lugar de peregrinación para atraer a peregrinos todo el año, pero especialmente en la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre.

En diciembre de 1531, la Santísima Virgen María se apareció a un laico indígena, San Juan Diego, y le confió la misión de llevar su mensaje al primer obispo del Continente Americano, el obispo Juan de Zumárraga de México.

A través de Juan Diego, María pidió que se construyera una iglesia en el cerro del Tepeyac, el lugar donde se había aparecido a este humilde hombre. Cuando el obispo exigió una señal que diera certeza a esta solicitud tan extraña de parte de un mensajero tan inesperado, María respondió no solamente haciendo aparecer rosas en diciembre en una montaña rocosa, sino imprimiendo de manera milagrosa su propia imagen en la tilma (ayate)

que Juan Diego usó para llevar las rosas al obispo.

La imagen milagrosa de María, que aparece con un rostro mestizo como el de las personas a las que apareció – así como los muchos símbolos que se encuentran en la imagen misma – se convirtió en modelo de predicación perfectamente inculturada del Evangelio de Jesucristo en estas tierras recientemente “descubiertas” por los europeos.

Lo que siguió a la aparición, fue el crecimiento más grande de evangelización en la historia de la Iglesia. Comúnmente en la historia cristiana, la evangelización sucede después de la conversión de un rey o gobernante. Pero, en esta ocasión, el origen fue la respuesta obediente de un humilde hombre laico que obedeció la solicitud de María que se construyera un templo en nombre de su hijo en aquel lugar.

Con la aprobación del obispo, se construyó el templo, y se puso en ella la imagen para que todos pudieran verla. Cuando las personas humildes veían la imagen milagrosa de María, la cual lucía mestiza como ellos, se convertían al experimentar el amor de Dios hacia ellos comunicado por el rostro amoroso y compasivo de la Virgen, la cual se encuentra embarazada de su Divino Hijo. En pocos años, millones se convirtieron y se bautizaron.

Este evento en el cerro del Tepeyac fue un impulso dramático a la primera evangelización del Continente Americano. Su presencia puede aun sentirse en ese lugar sagrado,

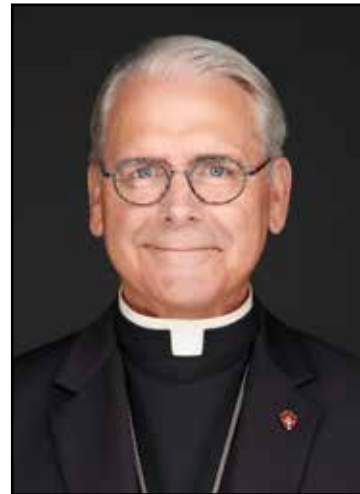
santificado por su visita en 1531, en donde hasta el día de hoy se venera su imagen. La presencia de María entre los apóstoles en Pentecostés cuando recibieron el Espíritu Santo llevó a San Juan Pablo II a describir a María como la Estrella de la Nueva Evangelización.

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre, así como la Solemnidad de su Inmaculada Concepción el 8 de diciembre, son dos de las principales fiestas del tiempo de Adviento. Ambas nos apuntan a la venida de Cristo, la Palabra hecha carne.

Mi oración, que confió a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la Estrella de la Nueva Evangelización, es por un derramamiento nuevo del Espíritu Santo sobre la Iglesia de Oklahoma, al tiempo que avanzamos en este camino sinodal de discipulado y misión.

Al igual que con la primera evangelización del Continente Americano, la nueva evangelización en nuestro tiempo comienza con un encuentro con la persona de Jesucristo. María nos facilita ese encuentro. La conversión y la misión surgen de ese encuentro con su gracia y misericordia divina y, sin ese encuentro, todos nuestros esfuerzos son vanos.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Estrella de la Nueva Evangelización, ¡rueda por nosotros!



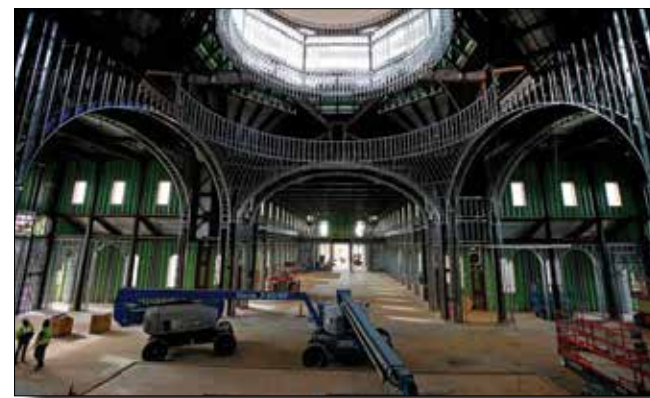
Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



Las actualizaciones del Santuario

La construcción en el interior del Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother está avanzando. El encuadre interior continúa. También avanzan otras áreas de construcción, como el techo, los cruceros, las torres de cruce y la albañilería de la capilla.

Beato Stanley Rother, ¡rueda por nosotros!



RotherShrine.org

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Código de inicio: CCAOKC

- Hope es confidencial, privado y está disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana.
- Servicio comprobado en emoción y apoyo mental, y basado en fe.
- Hope ofrece tecnología comprobada para ofrecer ayuda personalizada para la salud mental cuando y donde necesite. Es utilizada por 13 millones de usuarios en todo el mundo.

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PRESENTADORES:

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ALFONSO LARA

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Festival GUADALUPANO 2021
Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School

*** V I E R N E S ***
D I C I E M B R E - 1 0 - 2 0 2 1

TORNADO NB 4:30 P.M. A 5:30 P.M.
PADRINO 5:30 P.M. A 6:30 P.M.

BAILABLES REGIONALES 6:30 P.M. A 7:30 P.M.
DANZAS - MATLACHINES 7:30 P.M. A 8:00 P.M.
MARIACHI LOS VIAJEROS 8:00 P.M. A 8:30 P.M.
CONJUNTO GENERACION 8:00 P.M. A 11:00 P.M.

NO TE LO PUEDES PERDER
VIERNES - 10 - DIC - 2021

Festival GUADALUPANO 2021
Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School

*** S A B A D O ***
D I C - 1 1 - 2 0 2 1

LOS DEL VALLE 4:30 P.M. A 5:30 P.M.
LOS PRIMOS DE LA LOMA 5:30 P.M. A 6:30 P.M.
LOS GUERREROS DE CHIHUAHUA 6:30 P.M. A 7:30 P.M.
DANZAS - MATLACHINES 7:30 P.M. A 8:00 P.M.
PROCESION DE JUAN DIEGUITOS 8:00 P.M. A 9:00 P.M.
MAÑANITAS MARIACHI 9:00 P.M. A 10:00 P.M.
GRUPO PRENDIDO 9:00 P.M. A 11:00 P.M.

NO TE LO PUEDES PERDER
SABADO - 11 - DIC - 2021

Advent penance rites and confession times

Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, OKC

Penance Rite
Dec. 5, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Confession
Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. or by appointment

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond

Penance Rite
Dec. 6, 6 p.m.
Confession
Wednesdays 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., Saturdays 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, Madill

Penance Rite
Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

St. Eugene Catholic Church, Weatherford

Penance Rite
Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

St. Andrew Dung Lac Catholic Church, OKC

Penance Rite
Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Del City

Penance Rite
Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Confession
Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Lawton

Penance Rite
Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Enid

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Enid

Penance Rite
Dec. 14, 6 p.m., St. Francis Xavier

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman

Confession
Dec. 14, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Dec. 15, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alva

Penance Rite
Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. (Tri-Parish Penance Rite)

St. Mary Catholic Church, Ponca City

Penance Rite
Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Confession
Fridays 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Saturdays 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sundays 6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

St. Mary Catholic Church, Clinton

Penance Rite
Dec. 15, 6.30 p.m.
Confession
Priests available to hear confessions in English and Spanish.

St. Eugene Catholic Church, OKC

Confession
Dec. 15, 10 a.m. – Noon, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 16, 10 a.m. – Noon, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Dec. 17, 10 a.m. – Noon, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Dec. 18, 10 a.m. – Noon, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Dec. 21, 10 a.m. – Noon, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Dec. 22, 10 a.m. – Noon, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

St. Francis Catholic Church, Newkirk

Confession
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
Confessions at 8:30 a.m. on first and third Sunday of Advent

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, OKC

Confession
Saturdays, 3 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Advent confessions (not a rite), 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

How to Go to Confession...

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins, help you grow in holiness, and reward you with eternal life. Go in peace.

—Rite of Penance, no. 93

1 PREPARATION: Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ’s commands to “love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:37, 39)? As a help with this “examination of conscience,” you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17; Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).

2 GREETING: The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.

3 THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give days, months, or years] since my last confession.”

4 CONFESSION: Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: “I am sorry for these and all my sins.”

5 PENANCE: The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.

6 ACT OF CONTRITION: After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

(Rite of Penance, no. 45)

7 ABSOLUTION: The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, “Amen.”

8 PRAISE: The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.” And your response would be, “His mercy endures for ever” (Rite of Penance, no. 47).

9 DISMISSAL: The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, “Go in peace.”

If it has been a while since your last confession, remember, “Do not fear” (Is 41:10). The priest will help guide you. And feel free to take this how-to guide with you! (For more information, visit www.usccb.org/confession.)

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Blessing of an Advent Wreath

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:
Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.
Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev’ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.