On March 12, more than 800 Catholic men gathered in Norman for the 26th annual “In the Father’s Footsteps” Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference.

“We want to be here to support you,” said Ray Haefele, conference chairman, in his opening comments. Adam Minihan, director of communications for the Diocese of Tulsa and host of the “Catholic Man Show,” emceed the program.

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By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference inspires faith, family devotion

The Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference was held March 12 in Norman. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

Each year, many campers look forward to summer when they can spend time with their friends, make new friends and pass the time with creative outdoor activities at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp.

“Camp OLOG not only is a place where people come to have fun and enjoy the beauty of nature, it is a place where people come to know God,” said Rae Biesiada, a coordinator of youth evangelization and summer camp.

“It is a camp for students from 4th-12th grade and even entire families. The goal is for people to leave behind the distractions of everyday life and to encounter God in the sacraments, in prayer, in relationship, in nature and in fun activities.”

Biesiada, and her husband, Chet, said they are looking forward to this year’s camp. It will be their first year as coordinators.

“We are so excited to step into this position.

continued on page 20

Oklahoma Catholic camp promotes faith, family, prayer

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

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continued on page 20
For weeks, the nations of the world have watched with a growing sense of horror and helplessness as the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced millions to flee for safety. While diplomacy, sanctions and humanitarian assistance are necessary responses to this crisis, as Christians our commitment is to join our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragic end of World War I, and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia. Our knowledge of the great need for spiritual conversion and our responsibility to pray with our suffering neighbors is not new. On Friday, March 25, 1932, and seven decades after the end to World War I, and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia and called for the conversion of Russia.

Priests and the lay faith- community leaders were met with resistance to their call for prayer. However, the work guiding individuals in spiritual development led to a program in Oklahoma City that offered on the spiritual ministry of the form of prayer and weeklong retreats. In 1981, Sister Teresa Ranallo and the Carmelite Sisters at Villa Teresa generously offered the use of the facility to facilitate the needs of the spiritual directors.

Mary Diane Steltenkamp participated in that first weekend retreat, and brought a group of participants to continue the first night of the retreat when they were given the schedule, and informed Steltenkamp that the retreat would be silent from that point forward. “My friends, let us liken the world in which you have gotten yourself into? Fortunately, for me, those friendships have remained intact,” Steltenkamp said.

Two years later, a young Methodist minister, Sister Jan was serving as spiritual directors for Retreat in Daily Life, and had formed four groups of participants that met once a week for seven months. Three groups met at the sisters’ home, the other at Church of the Servant. Thus, be- gan the Retreat In Daily Life. At its inception, the retreat was intended to be offered individu- ally as a 30-day retreat in silence and solitude. Over the years, the retreat program has evolved into a format that makes it easier for lay people to participate. The current format includes individual personal prayer and weekly meetings with a spiritual director per week over a period of seven months.

A Retreat In Daily Life reunion was held March 12 in Norman. Photo provided.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

March 27 – Scotch & Cigars event benefiting Catholic Charities, 5 p.m., Archbishop’s residence
March 29 – Archdiocesan Building Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
March 30 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., CPC
March 30 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
March 30 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., Our Lady of Victory, Purcell
March 30 – Napa Institute Based virtual meeting
March 31 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
March 31 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis of Sales Chapel
April 1 – School Mass, 9:30 a.m., Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School, OKC
April 2 – Confirmation, 10 a.m., Oklahoma Apostole, Guymon
April 2 – Confirmation, 11 a.m., Sacred Heart, Mannford
April 2 – Confirmation, 2 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul, Hobart
April 5 – On-Air for Spring Radiothon, 8 a.m., Oklahoma Catholic Radio
April 5 – Presbyteral Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., CPC
April 6 – School Mass, 9:30 a.m., Napa Institute
April 6 – On-Air for Spring Radiothon, 8 a.m., Oklahoma Catholic Radio
April 6 – Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine Building Committee meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
April 7 – CPC Retreat for staff Leeson Retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp
April 9 – Diocesan Ordination of Robert Miller, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
April 10 – Palm Sunday Mass, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news can be read on soonerarch.org.

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Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

“Amy, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often have you experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace.

We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedy of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have ignored the need we were called to be the unbreakable link of yet another world war. Arma et anima sursum corriger, and we are not God’s road toward a lasting peace. Prayer, penance and works of charity are necessary responses to this crisis, as Christians our commitment is to join our suffering neighbors in Ukraine.”

Fr. Paul Stensrud, a Jesuit priest Father John Britton and Joanne Forgue, assumed the new leadership roles and led the transition of the RIDL to the Oklahoma City Archdiocese.

Each year, the RIDL groups continued to grow. As of 2022, approximately 100 spiritual directors and directors have completed the RIDL program, and more than 2,000 people have participated in RIDL. Earlier this month, RIDL spiritual directors and participants made a pilgrimage to Rome, St. Jimmy Clark, who graduated from the spiritual director formation program in 2016, attended the reunion.

“We were just wonderful to be with all these people who have been where I’ve been,” Clark said.

For Clark, RIDL was an important part of her relationship with God. “It was the thing that moved me forward spiri- tually,” she said. “I can’t say enough about it.”

continued on page 7

Retreat in Daily Life

By Sally Linhart

Sooner Catholic

The Sisters of Benediction of Red Plains Monastery have long been known for their commitment to spirituality and to training spiritual directors. In 1980, Sister Jan Putrell, having previously participated in retreats in spiritual direction, wrote the first spiritual director formation program in 1985. These exercises have always been ecumenical. RIDL was picked up by the Methodist Church, the Nazarene Church, the Episcopal Church and interdenomi- nationally, Bledsoe said.

RIDL continued under the guidance of the sisters until 2011, when they left the Red Plains Monastery in the “panhandle” area of the site, in Piedmont to move to Mount Saint Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kan.

The sisters’ departure created a need for leadership if RIDL was meant to continue. A team was carefully chosen to imple- ment the transition and con- tinue the mission of the sisters Steltenkamp, along with Kay Britton and Joanne Forgue, assumed the new leadership positions.

“The was the thing that moved me forward spiri- tually,” she said. “I can’t say enough about it.”

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
El Reno Catholic school to host silent auction, festival

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

EL RENO — Sacred Heart Catholic School will host the 25th annual festival and fundraiser, “Taste of Sacred Heart,” on Saturday April 2. The program will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dennis-Crump Bozman Arena.

The program will feature live entertainment from Jeremy Rowe, food trucks, a silent auction and a winner’s choice raffle. It also will include dinner and adult beverages.

Jeremy Rowe, a well-known, local talent from the Oklahoma City area, will provide music from different genres and decades.

The raffle will feature $3,000 in cash or a trip to a choice of three different destinations. The live auction will include classroom projects, vacation packages and autographed memorabilia.

Shannon Stattun, principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School said, “We are so grateful for the blessings and support from our school family over the past two years. We are looking forward to an evening that brings us together as a community. Our event may look different than it has in the past, but the fun, family and fellowship remain the same.”

For more information, visit tastesacredheart.org or contact Holly Eaton at (405) 262-2284.

From the Archives...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

Father Anthony Constant Taeyearts was another priest who came to Oklahoma via the “Louvain Connection,” the alma mater of Oklahoma Bishop Theophile D’Ambrosio, Fr. Casey F. Jones and Dcn. Pete Markwald. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha at (405) 247-5255, frcarlj@gmail.com for brochure and more information.

Pilgrimages

Poland, Vienna, Germany pilgrimage

Join Fr. Rick Staunsherry on an 11-day pilgrimage to Poland, Vienna and Germany Aug. 1-11, 2022. The pilgrimage includes the Oberammergau Passion Play. Other hosts include Marcellino D’Ambrosio, Fr. Casey F. Jones and Dcn. Pete Marlewald. Contact Select International Tours at (800) 842-4842, jane@selectint.com. Visit selectinternationaltours.com.

Germany, Prague, Austria pilgrimage

Join Fr. Carl Janocha and Fr. Danny Grover on a pilgrimage to Germany, Prague and Austria Sept. 19-30. Cost: $4,590 pp, including airfare from OKC, four-star hotels, most meals and more. Sites include Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Salzburg, Munich and the Oberammergau for the Passion Play. A Eucharistic deposit of $1,500 deposits required. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha at (405) 247-5255, frvbjt@gmail.com for brochure and more information.

Br. Peter Shults ordained to diaconate

Bishop David Konderla lays his hands on the head of Br. Peter Shults, O.S.B., before the Prayer of Ordination. Photo: Theresa Bragg.


“Brother Peter has shown himself to be an excellent candidate for ordained ministry. He has a profound faith, a great love for the Church and a sincere concern for others,” Abbot Lawrence said.

During his homily, Bishop David Konderla noted that the Solemnity of Saint Joseph was a very appropriate occasion for the ordination, citing the virtues of the saint. The bishop also called upon Brother Peter to contribute to the task of evangelization precisely through his monastic vocation, emphasizing the importance of monastic prayer ministry in the mission of the Church. Monks of Saint Gregory’s Abbey frequently provide pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Tulsa through weekend parish supply, parish missions and hospital ministry.

Br. Peter Brother Peter is in his third year of theological formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. Abbot Lawrence described some of the unique challenges for seminarians during a time of pandem...
Archdiocesan Spelling Bee

First and second grade
1st: Marco Acosta, St. Joseph Catholic School, Enid
2nd: Oliver Swain, All Saints Catholic School, Norman
3rd: Ray Kanaan, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Edmond
4th: Loel Bier, All Saints Catholic School, Norman
5th: Khoi Nguyen, Bishop John Carroll Catholic School, OKC

Third and fourth grade
1st: William Pham, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Edmond
2nd: Barbara Mooney, St. Mary Catholic School, Ponca City
3rd: Bridget Hurton, Rosary Catholic School, OKC
5th: Peter Arvidson, Christ the King Catholic School, OKC

Fifth and sixth grade
1st: Azael Bereket, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Edmond
2nd: Franchesca Santos, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, OKC
3rd: Hannah Hornevoy, All Saints Catholic School, Norman
4th: Ryan Kanaan, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Edmond
5th: Ryan Flinn, Christ the King Catholic School, OKC

Seventh and eighth grade
1st: Kim Doan, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Edmond
2nd: Tony Nguyen, Bishop John Carroll Catholic School, OKC
3rd: Peter Arvidson, Bishop John Carroll Catholic School, OKC
4th: Joshua Stophan, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Midwest City
5th: Luke Bryan, Rosary Catholic School, OKC
St. Patrick parishioners celebrate patron saint

By Jolene Schenchin
The Sooner Catholic

Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Walters celebrated the feast of Saint Patrick on March 20.

Parishioners from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawson as well as Saint Jude Catholic Church in Burkburnett, Texas.

“We are so excited to have such Parishioners from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Walters, Lawton, and Saint Jude Catholic Church in Burkburnett, Texas,” said Maryann Holman, a parishioner and member of Womenn’s Sodality Group which hosted the event.

“Father John Paul Lewis said we had 50 who attended Mass, which is a lot for our little church.”

Following a potluck lunch with Irish favorites, children played board games and a silent auction took place to raise money for the women’s group.

In addition to activities, parishioners also celebrated the marriage of two longtime parishioners, Rachel Simon and Jostyn Sidewell. The couple now resides in El Paso.

By Jolene Schenchin
The Sooner Catholic

Fr. Joseph Arledge and parishioners at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with a Mass and dinner on March 17. They honored the missionary work of St. Patrick in Ireland and a bagpiper played Amazing Grace during Mass.

By Jolene Schenchin
The Sooner Catholic

Statement of USCCB president and bishop chairman in advance of Supreme Court’s Ruling in Dobbs

WASHINGTON - In anticipation of the Supreme Court of the United States issuing its ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and chairman of USCCB committees serving women and families issued the following statement:

Standing with Moms in Need

“Every human life, unique and unrepeatable, has value in and of itself; it is of inestimable value. This must always be proclaimed anew with the courage of the Word and the courage of actions. It calls us to solidarity and fraternal love for the great human family and for each of its members.” –Pope Francis on the 25th anniversary of Evangelium Vitae (March 25, 2020)

As our nation awaits the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, we join together in prayer and expectant hope that states will again be able to protect women and children from the injustice of abortion. As we affirm the value of every human life, we welcome the possibility of saving countless unborn children as well as sparing women and families the pain of abortion.

The Catholic Church has a long history of service to those who are most vulnerable and remains the largest private provider of social services in the United States. Through the sacrificial efforts of faithful Catholics, the Church serves millions through diocesan ministries and agencies, Catholic hospitals and healthcare systems, immigration clinics, shelters and Catholic schools and parishes. From religious communities to pregnancy care centers, from refugee resettlement services to foster care and adoption agencies, and from maternity homes to parish-based ministries, the Church consistently bears witness in word and deed to the beauty and dignity of every human life – including both mother and child.

As the chairmen of committees serving the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we proclaim a vision for our society that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable. …

In that effort, we recommit our committees and urge our dioceses, parishes, and Catholic agencies and institutions:

- To be witnesses of love and life by expanding and improving the extensive network of comprehensive care including pregnancy help centers, maternity homes, and Catholic health care and social service agencies;

- To reestablish our advocacy for laws that ensure the right to life for unborn children and that no mother or family lacks the basic resources needed to care for their children, regardless of race, age, immigration status or any other factor;

- In all these ways and more, the Catholic Church witnesses to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, and works to build a true culture of life in our nation. May a renewed commitment to life overflow into increased protection of unborn children and expanded support for their mothers and families.

Read the full statement at usccb.org.

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continued from page 1

"Look around. Isn’t it amazing to see 800 men gathering to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?" he said.

Father Joseph Jacob, spiritual director of the Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men, opened the morning with prayer. Dean Ray Forrester, the conference co-chairman, introduced the first keynote speaker, Marcellino D’Ambrosio. The senior fellow of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology kicked off the morning with a talk titled “Keeping your kids Catholic.”

D’Ambrosio, “Dr. Italy,” as people have come to know him, shared his successes and failures with the men, saying it was humility that helped him grow in his faith.

“Our faith is not intolerance,” he said.

“Most of the time there is a critical moment where people move from being a Sunday Catholic to really being a disciple, and that’s about an encounter the Lord has for them.”

“When we exhibit even amid our anxiety, our struggles, our financial breakdowns, whatever crisis is going on, we exhibit faith, trust and serenity. When we fail, tell our kids we are forgiven sinners, pray with them, and they will never forget it. If our family is a place where our faces tell our kids they are loved and that God loves them, they may stray, but they will come back because they will not feel that love in the world. The world is an unforgiving place. To find mercy, forgiveness and love in the Catholic community, with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and parents, that will lend them, and God will ultimately work, and he will work miracles.”

D’Ambrosio urged the men to define what it means to “Keep their kids Catholic,” stating it must be a transformation from the inside out.

Jim Beckman, executive director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catholic Formation for the archdiocese, introduced the second keynote speaker, Monsignor James Shea, president of the University of Mary. Monsignor Shea’s talk was titled “A Life Well Lived: Work, Leisure and Mercy.”

Participants were given a free copy of his book, “From Christendom to Apostolic Ministry: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age.”

“A Catholic men’s conference like this is a great witness, not just to Oklahoma, but to all of us,” Monsignor Shea said. “To have the courage and have the sense of community and manly fellowship to come together once a year in this way is tremendously impressive.”

He said we live in an age of communication where people feel their lives are spinning out of control. People struggle to find peace, he said, but feel pulled in so many different directions.

He challenged the men to think about what was precious to them and how they spend their time. He highlighted three habits men can adopt to achieve leisure.

The first habit centers on solitude or daily silence.

“We are tortured by all the noise around us,” he said, adding that people need a rest from sarcasm, cynicism and self-importance, to hear the voice of Jesus.

The second habit, celebration, keeps Sunday holy. He said keeping Sunday apart is a clear witness that production and consumption do not own us.

The last habit is to serve others by going to the margins.

“We have to find a way to serve others in the midst of our life,” he told the men.

James Riter, conference team member and co-founder of the local podcast, “Red Dirt Catholics,” organized the young men’s portion of the day. Riter said men can’t know how to be fathers until they’ve learned how to be sons.

“We have a poverty of fatherhood in our culture,” Riter said. “Generally, the world is broken, men are broken. We have a great group of fathers in our diocese amidst a world that is broken, that is fatherless. Our hope for the young men’s lunchtime is to have a place we can come directly to these men whose hearts are being shaped and formed, and also for the fathers who brought their sons, that they can have a place to be with their friends formed in their own fatherhood.”

The third keynote speaker, Steve Ray, kicked off the afternoon session with his talk “Giving yourself to God: Living a heroic and sacrificial life for God.”

“Kids will love what you love and if you love the Lord, they will follow you,” he told the men.

Ray asked men to consider what they spent their money on, especially things that consumed their thoughts and time.

“If you’re not giving your life first to Jesus Christ and his Church, then you’re giving your life to something else,” he said.

Matt Holland and his son, Garrett, drove from St. Louis for the conference.

“They are trying to tell me no matter how bad you are doing or how good you are doing, or what scenario you are in, to always believe in God and keep God first,” Garrett Holland said.

Matt Holland said the day answered a lot of questions men struggle with like working for a promotion or to get more money, leaving Christ as secondary.

Brian Greenfield, director of campus ministry at a Jesuit high school in Tampa, Fla., closed out the day with a talk titled “Seeking your sons: Our worship brings head- ing and direction to this culture.”

Greenfield shared his personal struggles with accepting God as his living Father, citing three lies the enemyputs in the hearts of man. You are alone, you are undesired and unlovable, and you can be broken through your experiences.

“Brokenness stays with us,” he said, and the enemy uses that against us.

During the day, conference participants had access to confession and adoration. Archbishop Coakley and Bishop David Konderla, of Tulsa, celebrated the closing Mass.

Next year’s conference is scheduled for Feb. 25. For more information go to catholicmen.net

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
“Make Straight the Way” hosted by Dcn. Larry Souza

- April 4 and 5: Barbara Chishko, Willow Pregnancy Support
- April 11 and 12: Dcn. Chishko again
- April 18 and 19: Dr. Christopher Edge, D.O.
- April 25 and 26: Austin Harper, seminarian

“Make Straight the Way” broadcasts on Oklahoma Catholic Radio Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Tune in at okcr.org.

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Real Life Disciples

Why pray (part II)

This is the second article in a special series on prayer. The first two fell during the season of Lent, a perfect time to lean into the amazing invitation God has given us to spend time with him in the gift that we call prayer.

My wife and I are doing a small group study with some teens at our parish using a book written by Father Jacques Philippe. “Time for God.” I highly recommend it. If you have been following this series, I hope you took me up on my invitation in the last issue to spend more of your time in prayer during this Lenten season!

Father Philippe helps lay a solid foundation for prayer and the spiritual life by establishing helpful principles. First, prayer is not driven by a technique or method, it’s the result of God’s grace. Overemphasize on techniques and methods would cause us to cling to human efforts, which though required for growth, are not the most important factor.

Philippe says, “the whole edifice of the life of prayer is built on God’s initiative and his grace … not our efforts. God, who loves us, will carry us infinitely further and higher than we could ever get on our own strength” (Time for God, 11, 12).

This is great news! It gives me great hope to realize that the whole course of the spiritual life in the end doesn’t depend on me, but rather on God. Don’t get me wrong. I need to do my part. But, my part is more about showing up than it is about doing something “right.”

Second, if the life of prayer is more about what God is doing, then it makes sense that the best way I can cooperate with that activity is to have the right dispositions. Father Philippe talks about the fundamental disposition of an attitude of faith and trust. We must believe with our whole heart that God is present, even when, maybe even particularly when, we don’t feel like he is.

We must believe that we are called to meet God in prayer and that he gives all the grace we need for this. The life of prayer is for everyone, not just a select few priests and religious. And finally, we must believe in the fruitfulness of prayer. “All who persevere in that trust will receive infinitely more than they dared to ask or hope for; not because they deserve it, but because God has promised.”

Third, our first and primary concern should be faithfulness in praying, not whether our prayer is beautiful, or seemingly fruitful, or even filled with deep spiritual emotions or thoughts. The quality of prayer will come from fidelity to praying.

Philippe goes on to say, “Time spent every day in mental prayer is that poor, arid, distracted and relatively short is worth more, and need for this meeting. For our progress, long, ardent spells of mental prayer are much superior to the time when circumstances make it easy” (Time for God, 17).

And, fourth, another basic inner attitude for anyone who wants to persevere in this gift of prayer is purity of intention. The pure of heart … eventually are those who desire more than anything else to please God, even to the expense of themselves. They are striving to live for God, rather than for themselves, which is an indispensable condition for mental prayer. . . . We pray not to find self-satisfaction, but to please God” (Time for God, 18).

The main battle in prayer is the determination to persevere. Saint Teresa of Avila has a great encouragement in this regard, “Let us now return to those who wish to travel this road . . . they should begin well by making an earnest and most determined resolve not to halt until they reach their goal, whatever may come, whatever may happen to them, however hard they may have to labor, wherever they may complain against them, whether they reach their goal or sit down on the road or have no heart to confront the trials that they meet, whether the very world disobeys love.” Keep showing up!

Keep pursuing time with God!

Father Philippe concludes that, “without a life of prayer, there is no holiness . . . There is no spiritual progress without contemplative prayer.” He even emphasizes personal prayer over the efforts of the sacrament! Are you catching the “theme here?” There’s a reason he titled the book “Time for God!”

Making time for prayer in our busy lives is an act of faith in itself. But, the fruit of time spent with him will have far-reaching ramifications.

Yet, the opposite is also true. “If someone, even someone very devout and committed, has not made a habit of mental prayer, something will always be lacking for the growth of his or her spiritual life. People like this will not find true inner peace, but will always be something too merely human in what they do: attach- ment to their own will, traces of vanity, self-seeking, ambition, narrow-mindedness and so on. There can be no deep, radical puri- fication of the heart without the practice of mental prayer” (Time for God, 25).

If you haven’t already decided to, will you make a deeper comm- itment to making time for prayer throughout the rest of this Lenten season? And if you missed the first article in this series, go back to the Feb. 27 issue and check it out. I give several suggestions for books you might read, or a small group study you might take up. The invitation is this – take time, make time, to grow in your prayer life this Lent!

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Br. Peter Bluhm, O.S.B. prostrates himself during the litany. Photo: Theresa Bragg.

challenge by initiating a telephone ministry to oblates of Saint Gregory’s Abbey, who also were isolated due to COVID-19. In this way he was able to visit and pray with people from the United States who were not able to be with their parish communities. Many have shared with me how comforting and encouraging it was to receive his calls,” Albert Lawrence said.

Another initiative Brother Peter began and continues to hold weekly in an in- teractive webinar called “Lectio Live.” He provides news on the monastery, talks about upcoming events in the Church and leads participants in a prayerful review of the readings for the upcom- ing Sunday Mass. He also shares insights from around the world.

Raised in Del City, Brother Peter professed vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Gregory’s Abbey on July 11, 2016. Prior to entering the monastery, he served for 10 years in the U.S. Army with deployments in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Brother Peter plans to petition to be ordained to the priesthood in May 2023.
Jobs Box

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Shine Foundation is seeking an associate director of development to advance their mission to engage and inspire a new generation of donors. This position offers a dynamic role with a strong potential for personal growth and development.

Coordinator of Catholic education: operations - OKC

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School is seeking a coordinator of Catholic education to work with a team of dedicated educators and support staff to ensure a solid education for all students. This position involves working closely with the school administration to develop and execute a comprehensive Catholic education program.

Receptionist - Edmond

Currently, the Church in Edmond is seeking a receptionist to provide friendly and helpful service to visitors and members.

Cardinal of Catholic education: operations - OKC

The archdiocese is seeking an individual with excellent leadership skills to manage the Catholic School Office and other departments.

School accreditation manager - OKC

The archdiocese is seeking a school accreditation manager to work with schools to ensure compliance with accreditation standards.

Review: “Saint Joseph: Our spiritual father”

By Br. Ernest Otano, O.S.B.

The documentary or video was produced for the Farmington, New Mexico, Knights of Columbus. One can view it on the website of the Knights of Columbus. It is almost an hour long, and it could be of interest to anyone concerned about Saint Joseph and how he can be a model for us today.

The video moves on to the Ortega family, and how deacon John Joseph Ortega, who is a member of the Knights of Columbus, is helping them with a questions of faith. The story is told of a man who is a consecrated layman who was the head of the family of Saint Joseph is an example to us, a noble example to all men.

The documentary moves on to how Venerable Pope Pius XII created the feast day of Saint Joseph, and how this caused a lot of confusion and dispute. The video goes on to explain how Saint Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and how he is the protector of the family in a dignified way during the dying process.

Too much morphine?

By Father Tad Pfeiffer, O.S.B.

National Catholic Bioethics Center

Too many doctors are using too much morphine near the end of life. Patients and families are suffering needlessly, as too much morphine is not only ineffective, it can also be harmful.

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**Papa pide a obispos del mundo unirse a la consagración de Ucrania, Rusia**

La ciudad, dijo, "se ha convertido en una ciudad mítica de la desgracia y la destrucción que está devastada Ucrania". "Frente a la barriada de la matanza de niños, de personas y de civilidades, no hay razones estratégicas que valgan", dijo el papa. "Ha de cesar la inaceptable agresión armada, ante de que reddan las ciudades a cementerios".

"Con volver en el corazón uno sea a la gente común, que implora el fin de la guerra", dijo el Papa. "Sera, pues sea el Dios de los que sufren, pongan fin a los bombardeos y a los ataques".

"Los pequeños países para poner fin a la guerra deben comenzar con seriedad, dijo, y los corre- dora humanitarios acordados para evacuar a los créditos y llevar las necesidades básicas a las personas en las ciudades sitiadas deben ser respetados y seguros."

Con la ONU para los Refugiados informando el 13 de marzo que casi 2.7 millones de refugiados habían huido de Ucrania desde el principio de la guerra, el papa Francisco agració a todas las personas y agencias del país vecino que los hayan dado la bienvenida, y animó a continuar con la generosidad.

También pidió a las parroquias católicas y órdenes religiosas de todo el mundo "someter los momentos de oración por la paz".

El papa Francisco dirigió a la gente en la pla- za, incluidas varias con banderas ucranianas, en un momento de oración atentos para que Dios "convierta los corazones a una firme vol-

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**El camino de la paz**

*Par Cindy Woodsen
Sooner Catholic
News Service*

En 1917, Nuestra Señora se apareció a tres niños pastores en Fátima, Portugal, y les pidió que promovieran la penitencia y penitencia por el fin de la Primera Guerra Mundial, y así proteger al mundo de los efectos de la revolución y la desintegración de Dios que estaba sucediendo en Rusia y que buscaba expiar por el resto del mundo un reino de comunismo.

La Virgen les pidió a los niños que rezaran el Rosario para rezar por la conversión de Rusia y los niños también que consagaran a Rusia al Inmaculado Corazón. Lo advirtió que, si su solicitud no se cumplía, vendría otra guerra aún más terrible. Fue el camino del paz que la Virgen María nos presentó a principios del siglo XX.

Aun cuando las medidas diplomáticas, las sanciones y la asistencia humanitaria son respuestas esenciales, también como cristianos otros recursos espirituales que deprimimos para proponer la causa de la paz.

Durante este tiempo de Cuaresma, los que hemos sido testigos del creciente sentimiento de un anuncio de una semana y está abierto al público. Encuentre más información en archokc.org/shrinededication.

*El camino de la paz*
Lenten Mission Series Count on the King Catholic Church presents a free Lenten Mission Series March 27-29 at 8005 Dorset Dr. in Oklahoma City. A Catholic radio and television personality Roy Gueren-i will speak. Visit okarch.org/lesten-speaker to register.

Dodgeball game In a fundraiser for seminarian scholarships, teams will be face off against the young adult sports league in dodge ball at 7:30 p.m. March 29 in the Bishop John Carroll Catholic School gym, 1100 N.W. 32 in Oklahoma City.

Taste of Sacred Heart In support of the Broadmoor Arts in Reno. Cost $50, includes meal, food truck dinner and adult beverages. Must be age 21 or older. The event benefits Sacred Heart Catholic School in Reno. Visit tasteforsacredheart.org.

OKCR Spring Radiothon The Oklahoma Catholic Radio Spring Radiothon is April 5-6. For more information, station or listen online at okcr.org.

Scouting, outdoor evangelization Mass Count on the King Catholic Church will celebrate a Mass for scouting and outdoor evangelization at 7 p.m. April 5 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

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Golf tournament Sit Thrum More Catholic Church in Norman presents a casual golf tournament April 16 at The Trails Golf Club, 911 S. Berry Rd. in Norman. Sign up at trylynx.com/ stmgolfliner. Sponsor sign up is trylynx.com/ stmgolfliner.

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Garden Party Willow Prog. is holding a Garden Party Luncheon to benefit the Rose Home at Norman. Fr. Alex Kroll, chaplain of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, invites the community to engage in a prayer chains for Mount St. Mary High School students from 30-minute time slots. Peo- ple may sign up for more than one time. The prayer chain will end on May 26.

Prayer chain Willow Prog. is hosting a Garden Party Lun- chon to benefit the Rose Home at Norman. Fr. Alex Kroll, chaplain of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, invites the community to engage in a prayer chain for Mount St. Mary High School students from 30-minute time slots. Peo-ple may sign up for more than one time. The prayer chain will end on May 26.

Gifts to the Offspring endowment provide stress-relieving support for our seminarians as they draw near to the priesthood.
We pray it is a summer in which many souls are set on fire with the love of God and cannot help but go out and share that love with others,” Rae Biesiada said.

At camp, she said, students learn about their Catholic faith and gain friendships centered around Christ. They encounter God in powerful prayer experiences and find joy in adventure. In addition to students attending summer camp, families also can join the camp and grow in faith as a family, and they are involved in an array of activities.

“Camp is a place where families can come together to go to Mass, to pray and to do things outside they may not typically get to do. We hope at camp families are able to encounter the love of the Trinity, imitate that love in their families and bring that love to the world,” she said.

Some of the most popular activities at camp are archery, canoeing, campfire, smores, Mass, adoration, and arts and crafts, she added.

To run an effective Catholic summer camp, the camp staff have to be enthusiastic, positive and have a love for the outdoors and for God.

“When hiring camp staff, we look for people readily living their Catholic faith and desire to go deeper. We want our staff to come to camp with a heart ready to serve and prepared to live the costly life of discipleship. And, of course, we look for people who love to work with kids of all ages and are up for an adventure!”

The Biesiadas met at Camp OLOG.

“Chet and I met at camp the summer of 2015. The camp was where we became friends. We were both silly counselors who loved camp and wanted to grow in our relationship with Jesus. As we grew in our friendship, we discovered we had the same goal, sanctity. This common goal led to deeper friendship and eventually to marriage. Now, we are striving to live out discipleship in our marriage and with our 9-month-old daughter, Iva,” Rae Biesiada said.

For more information, visit archokc.org/camp or contact Chet Biesiada at cbiesiada@archokc.org.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.