Mary, the Blessed Mother, endured much as the mother of Jesus. Mary humbly gave people an example of submitting to God’s will. The following three mothers are examples of Christian faith to their families and parishes.

Shelia Willis, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Sulphur

On Sunday morning at Mass parishioners find Shelia Willis and her husband, Billy, trying to corral their six grandchildren ages 1-13. Both grandparents converted to Catholicism 20 years ago through a friend from work. Ever since, Willis has volunteered in almost every capacity at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, from religious education teacher, director of Christmas plays and anything else she is called upon to do.

“I attended a retreat with Cursillo four years ago and it helped me tremendously to understand the need for community and working together to promote Jesus. Our warm little church in Sulphur does a great job promoting community. Our pastor, Father Aaron Foshee, has begun integrating the Hispanic and English speaking communities more fully, through the multilingual Mass. The choir has been especially helpful with his efforts,” she said.

In addition to helping her two children raise six grandchildren, she also has brought foster children into her home. Willis’s daughter, Samantha, said, “She has such calm about her when she is in church, even with six grandkids. She goes and to stay together.” Father Hewes will continue to celebrate Mass at Holy Angels through October until the shrine is open. Father Wolf and Father Lepak will start their assignments at Sacred Heart on July 1. “For years, parishioners at Sacred Heart have had to celebrate Mass in a gymnasium. They deserve a beautiful sacred space to worship. The shrine church with its Spanish colonial architecture, Blessed Stanley’s tomb and 2,000 seats will be an amazing place to carry on this rich tradition,” Father Wolf said.

Father Wolf and Father Hewes, both fluent in Spanish, will be joined at the shrine by Father Brannon Lepak, yet-to-be named deacons, a parish staff and shrine staff. Until a ministry building is completed on the shrine campus, religious education classes will continue at Historic Sacred Heart at 2706 S. Shartel Ave. Sacred Heart Catholic School, adjacent to the church, will remain at its current location.

“She is humble of heart and filled with love for family, God”

Mother’s Day is May 8

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

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Parishioners at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Photo Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic.

Shelia Wills and her six grandkids. Photo provided.
Good Shepherd Sunday

“The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger.” These words of Blessed Stanley Rother provide a good summary of the theme for Good Shepherd Sunday that the Church shares each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

It was Jesus, after all, who said “A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.” Blessed Stanley didn’t run but remained with his flock all. What a marvelous source of encouragement for priests and members of the faithful in whatever circumstances we are called to live out our discipleship today.

In this issue of the Sooner Catholic, new pastoral assignments for many priests are being published. Transitions in the lives of our priests and in the parishes they serve give us opportunities to express our appreciation and gratitude for their dedicated service and priestly ministry.

If your pastor is de-paaring, please be sure to thank him before he moves on. For one, we are grateful for the generosity of these men who have served in a variety of ways and settings through the years. De-paartures and arrivals are usually not easy for priests or for parishioners. Let’s encourage another and work through these transitions together with understanding and patience.

Two of our priests are entering a new stage of their priesthood as they enter retirement. Retirement for a priest does not mean he is no longer a priest. Priesthood is not merely a job or something we do. It is who we are! Priests who are in retirement continue to exercise their priesthood in a variety of ways, but without bearing the burdens and responsibilities of administering a parish. I am grateful for the past and continuing service of these brother priests.

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

May 8 – Confirmation, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart, Alva
May 10 – Presbytery meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
May 12 – Confirmation, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
May 17 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Mary, Ponca City
May 19 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., Holy Cross, Mulhall
May 21 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
May 22 – Confirmation, 8 a.m., St. Mark the Evangelist, Mustang
May 22 – Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School graduation, 1 p.m., National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
May 22 – Yum Ho Shih Holocaust Remembrance event, 3 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

“arshbishop Coakley’s Calendar

We need priests who are being raised up in our own parishes and families. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, I appeal to all the faithful especially parents, grandparents, parishioners, children and young people to pray for vocations.

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news is available only on soonaarchokc.org.

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

For all the students preparing for graduation, May the Lord ease any anxiety, help them stay focused and encourage them to lean on their Catholic faith. We pray to the Lord, hear our prayer.

Roster store - Find items such as rosaries, prayer cards and Guatamalan crafts at the Roster Store online at rosterstore.com.

Become a seminarian pen pal! Our seminarians are writing from home for the next three months at a time during their formation. While at seminary, they would like to hear from people back home in Oklahoma! Visit archokc.org/pen-pal, find their addresses and write a note.

Put Out Into the Deep

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

May 10, 2023

Put Out Into the Deep

In this list of new assignments is an ordination. This year we will not be celebrating the ordination of a new priest in June as we normally hope to do. This is in a matter of great concern for as we the archdiocese. We need priests! Without priests there is no Eucharist! Yet, we are not entitled to priests. Vocations are a gift from God. Pray for vocations and support your priests! We need priests who are being raised up in our own parishes and families.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, I appeal to all the faithful especially parents, grandparents, parishioners, children and young people to pray for vocations.

Several of our priests are accepting new responsibilities as pastors to lead and guide parishes in a new pastoral vineyard. It is all God’s Church!

Provision is being made through these new assignments for a new ministry at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine when it opens in November. This involves restructuring two Oklahoma City parishes – Sacred Heart and Holy Angels – which will soon become part of a larger ministry that will include the ministry of the shrine.

We will be saying farewell to some of our missionary priests from Mexico and India, even as we prepare to welcome other international priests. I am grateful for the missionary spirit of these international priests, but concerned that we have become so dependent upon them.

One of the things you won’t read about in this list of new assignments is an ordination. This year we will not be celebrating the ordination of a new priest in June as we normally hope to do. This is in a matter of great concern for me as the archbishop. We need priests! Without priests there is no Eucharist! Yet, we are not entitled to priests. Vocations are a gift from God. Pray for vocations and support your priests! We need priests who are being raised up in our own parishes and families.

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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City released statistics on an Al-based testing platform that provides immediate access to mental health support through a chatbot named “Hope.”

“Accessibility to mental health care is a major challenge in this country, and we are working throughout the pandemic that depression and anxiety were at an all-time high. We had high hopes for the chatbot to mitigate some of the stresses for our clients, and the feedback from our clients has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Amy Shipman, director of counseling at Catholic Charities.

Hope was developed by clinical psychologists to extend mental health assistance to those in need. It is a free chat service providing encouragement and strategies on how to manage everyday stress and anxiety. The technology uses self-learning artificial intelligence. The more a person interacts with Hope, the more she can help.

Catholic Charities USA joined with XAI in 2021 to provide this preventative and proactive technology to first pilot agencies to test the service. The first-of-its-kind program was first made available to Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City in May 2021. Hope has proven to be effective since its inception.

Since the launch of the program, 15,632 messages have been exchanged between Hope and 93 percent of users have rated Hope as “helpful.”

All correspondence is confidential and anonymous.

“We have been able reach more people within the diocese, especially our rural communities. Since Hope is available in both English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the conversation gives you more of an on-demand service,” said Cindy Abell, director of Hope.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. One in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness. Along with Hope chatbot services, Catholic Charities also offers outpatient counseling for families, children and individuals. To learn more, call (405) 523-3600 or visit ccaokc.org online.

Statement from Archbishop Coakley on the Dobbs case draft majority opinion

“If the draft opinion is a precursor of what is to come in the Dobbs case, the reversal of Roe v. Wade would be a thrilling answer to our prayers and a significant step in building a culture of life that recognizes the inherent dignity of each and every human person, particularly the poor and people of color who are disproportionately targeted by the abortion industry. I applaud Oklahoma leaders for being pro-active with legislation that would essentially eliminate abortion in Oklahoma if the Roe case were overturned. Our focus must continue to be providing support and resources to families in need and connecting with expectant mothers who need reassurance they are not alone. Let us pray for the conversion of hearts and minds to end the evil of abortion, treating each child as a gift from God.”

— Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Risher update

The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine staff extends our most gracious welcometo Father Don Wolf, who will become the rector at the shrine and Father Rusty Hewes and Father Brennon Leppin, who will serve as vice rectors. We also extend a welcome to parishioners of Holy Angels Catholic Parish and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The two parishes will merge when the shrine opens this November and Masses will be celebrated on weekends.

Blessed Stanley Rother pray for us!
“Make Straight the Way”

Based on the correspondence with the Bishop:

• May 10 and 11: St. Eugene Catholic Church, Oklahoma City, Marriage Prep Ministry
• May 17 and 18: Carly Ros Ausker, director of communications for Catholic Charities
• May 24 and 25: Stephen Reel, board member, Oklahoma Catholic Radio
• May 31 and June 1: Jon Hanes, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Norman, Kansas Priests Ministry

“Make Straight the Way” broadcasts on Oklahoma Catholic Radio Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Tune in at okcr.org.

From the Archives …

The first Catholic church in Vinita

The southeastern Oklahoma town of Vinita had a Catholic presence as early as 1867 due to railroad workers building the Katy (the north-south line) and the Frisco (the east-west line) railroads. The Southwest Courier in the early Oklahoma Church notaries it as a great amount deal of money, but the lots were worth a great deal more... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More... Of the $260.00 I have collected today $200.00 has been donated by Protestants. More...

Assignments are effective on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, unless otherwise noted. 

** Pastor: Rev. Oly J. Zunnas
St. Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City

** Pastor: Rev. James A. Geins
St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City

** Pastor: Rev. Russell L. Hewes
Sacred Heart Church, Binger; St. Richard Church, Carnegie

** Pastor: Rev. Zachary Bozeman
Epiphany of the Lord Church, Oklahoma City

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. Jerome T. Krug
St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City (until 10/30/22)

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. John W. Peshily
Holy Cross Church, Moduli; Good Shepherd Church, Marietta

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. John J. Mejia
St. Patrick Church, Assiniboia; Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Bridgeport; St. Richard Church, Carnegie

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. Zachary Bozeman
Epiphany of the Lord Church, Oklahoma City

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. Joe M. Jeff
St. Peter the Apostle Church, Guymon; St. Frances Cabrini Church, Binger; St. Rose of Lima, Watonga

** Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor: Rev. Manti Maitacas
St. John Baptista Church, Edmund

** Chaplain: Rev. Zachary Bozeman
Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School

** Transitional Deacon: Rev. Mr. Robert J. Miller
St. Joseph Church, Norman

** Coordinator: Rev. James A. Goins
Coordinator of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

** Coordinator: Rev. Anthony Ram
Returned to India in April

** Rev. J. Santos Lopez, AUG, M.D.
To be reassigned by CCRC

** Rev. Ruben Tensio, CFC
To be reassigned by CCRC

** Pastor: Rev. Carl W. Janocha
Sacred Heart Church, Bined; St. Andrew Church, Moore

** Pastor: Rev. Brian E. Buchter
St. Thomas More University Church, Norman

** Pastor: Rev. Raul Sanchez
Holy Cross Church, Moduli; Good Shepherd Church, Marietta

** Pastor: Rev. Francis T. Nguyen
St. Andrew Church, Moore

** Pastor: Rev. Benjamin S. Lwin
Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher; St. Rose of Lima, Watonga

** Pastor: Rev. Vuong “Vic” Luong
St. Patrick Church, Assiniboia; Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Bridgeport; St. Richard Church, Carnegie

** Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Mejia
Epiphany of the Lord Church, Oklahoma City

** Pastor: Rev. Don Wolf
Sacred Heart Church, Bined; St. Andrew Church, Moore

** Pastor: Rev. Mr. Robert J. Miller
St. Joseph Church, Norman

** Chaplain: Rev. Jerome T. Krug
Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School

** Chaplain: Rev. Zachary Bozeman
Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School

** Temporary Administrator: Rev. Russell L. Hewes
Holy Angels Church, Oklahoma City

** Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Sacred Heart Catholic School dedicates “Our Lady of the Rosary”

Fr. Lance Warren blesses the Our Lady of the Rosary statue.

Endowment honors memory, helps school

By Owen Canfield

After David Warren’s passing in 2018, his family quickly agreed that a wonderful way to honor his memory would be to create an endowment benefitting Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno.

Warren was baptized, confirmed and married at Sacred Heart. Two of his children attended the school. Warren and his wife were regulars at the annual “Taste of Sacred Heart” fundraiser for the school.

Warren died of cancer at age 48. Soon after, his family established the David Paul Warren Memorial Endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. Annual distributions from the endowment provide funding for technology at SHCS while at the same time giving support to the school.

During his time as director of technology at Redlands Community College, Warren created an information technology system that caught the attention of Gemini Coatings Inc., an El Reno company that specializes in wood-casting products. Gemini hired Warren as IT director in 2000; a decade later, he became the company’s president and CEO.

“Earmarking the funds for technology at SHCS would support the school while at the same time giving a nod to David’s memory and his interest in technology,” said his mother, Sandra Warren.

“He was such a layer of technology, and I believe … with today’s education, it doesn’t matter how young a student is, technology is going to be a huge part of their lives,” Warren Wiewel, shared similar sentiments. His hope is that with help from the endowment, “technology can improve at Sacred Heart Catholic School for students who are there, while promoting their faith in Jesus Christ and their relationship with Jesus. That’s what David would want, too.”

The goal of the family and the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is to build the endowment through gifts from others, resulting in larger annual distributions for Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Gifts to the David Paul Warren Memorial Endowment can be made by going online to cfook.org/sacredheart and making a gift in Warren’s name. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Warren Wiewel shared similar sentiments. His hope is that with help from the endowment, “technology can improve at Sacred Heart Catholic School for students who are there, while promoting their faith in Jesus Christ and their relationship with Jesus. That’s what David would want, too.”
above and beyond to make sure they each understand as much as they can about the Mass and how to be respectful.”

Her son, Brandon said, “I am simply impressed by how much my children love going to church with Grammy.”

Fellow parishioner, Mary Dursel, stated, “Sheila is very humble and a quiet, gentle presence around the church community. She extends a warm smile and speaks to everyone she encounters. With her family you see the patience and love she shares with them. Like our Blessed Mother, she is humble of heart and filled with love for her family and wants nothing more than to love and serve God.”

Gloria Kemp, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Ada

Gloria Kemp’s mother was Italian American and a devout Catholic. However, being deaf, she never heard her daughter’s voice. Kemp is now 88 and still prays daily with her mother’s Rosary. “Over the many years I have experienced times where I have had great faith and also down times,” Kemp said. “Even Saint Teresa of Calcutta admitted she had down times with her faith.”

Kemp has lost two husbands, but the most devastating was when her 59-year-old son, Thomas, died suddenly three years ago. He was one of six of children, 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Kemp said she has a formula for solving those downtimes when someone’s faith is at the lowest:

- Continue to go to Mass even when they don’t want to;
- Continue to go to the Sacraments even when they feel empty;
- Pray even if their heart isn’t in it;
- Ask other people to pray for them;
- Rely on the Communion of Saints to pray for them;

“You cannot go through this life uncathed. You need to rely on faith and prayer,” Kemp said. “Jesus is there and will help you through the bad times. His mother also suffered through the loss of her son.”

Kelly Howard, Saint Mary Catholic Church, Ardmore

At Saint Mary Catholic Church parishioners streamed from Mass to shake the priest’s hand. Lakin Howard, 16, stood nearby with her mother, Kelly Howard, as she anxiously awaited her turn. Finally, it was Lakin’s turn, and she raced excitedly toward Father Kevin Ratterman, squealing with joy. Father Ratterman smiled as he greeted Howard.

Howard has dealt with many challenges in life. She credits the Blessed Virgin and the faith her grandmother instilled in her with helping her through the worst day any parent could ever suffer, the loss of her 11-year-old son, Dalton. Dalton was killed in an accident on their family’s ranch in June 2004. She and her husband, Steve, said they know that Dalton is with God, although his absence is still quite painful. Howard is active with her children, Rance, 14, Lakin, 16, Kade and his wife, Marylu, both 34, and grandchildren, Kase, 5, and Dylan, 7. She also is an English teacher in the Ringling School District.

“I try to prepare my students to meet the challenges they will face by encouraging prayer and exemplifying faith,” Howard said. “Unlike social media, which often gives messages to young people that everything is ok, priests, parents and teachers are needed in their lives to help equip them with knowledge to know how to react when everything is not OK. They will have challenges and do need God.”

Kade Howard said, “I am very thankful for the faith and strength my mom has practiced throughout our lives. I admire her passion and dedication while teaching her children and students.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
What does your priest mean to you?

For Priest Appreciation Week, the Sooner Catholic asked parishioners to share what their priests mean to them and their families. Here is what they said:

Father Simon Zurita – St. Damien Catholic Church, Edmond
“My wife and I are catechumens at Saint Damien’s in Edmond. Father Zurita has worked so hard to make sure we get the best catechesis possible while juggling so many different things. He always makes time for us and is deeply invested in our formation in the faith. We’re lucky to have him as our priest and we think he deserves recognition for all the work he does.”
Drew M. Johnson

Drew M. Johnson

Father James Wickersham – St. Mary Catholic Church, Guthrie
“Our family greatly appreciates Father Wickersham’s beautiful liturgy. His joyful presence and his rich teachings about Jesus and the Church are a blessing to us and our own faith.”
Jason and Linda Poteet and family

Father Pau Titus – Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC
“We love you Father Titus!”
Betty Schneider

Father Danny Grover – St. Matthew Catholic Church, Elk City
“My faith has only gotten stronger thanks to Father Grover. We are so blessed to have him as our priest.”
Sonia Ramírez

“We love Father Danny. He is very energetic and great with kids. We are blessed to have him!”
Mickey Malloy

“Thank you to all the Catholic priests in Oklahoma!”
Felix Santillan

Father Phil Seeton – Holy Family Catholic Church, Lawton
“Father Phil means the world to me and my family. I entered the Church in 2019. It became clear during the Easter Triduum in 2018 that it was God’s will for me to enter the faith. I was so excited to have my marriage convalidated and to be confirmed so that I could finally receive the Holy Eucharist and the Precious Blood only to be placed on hold because of COVID closures. I was so disheartened and shared with Father Phil how I felt during confession. He had such love and compassion he made arrangements to convalidate my marriage and to enter the Church privately with our family.”
Lisa Hurston

Father Baijay Jesudas – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alva
“Father Baija at James Crabtree Correctional Center, the men thank you!”
Mary Hoch

Father Joe Jacobi – Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mustang
“Wonderful priest!”
Penny Broughton

George

Father Carson Krittenbrink and Father Zak Boazman – St. Mary Catholic Church, Ponca City
“We are so blessed to have Father Krittenbrink and Father Boazman. What I appreciate most about Fr. Carson is he is always ready to give a theology lesson to anyone who will listen. We have learned so much from him! Fr. Zak has such a heart of kindness and a sweet spirit. He has been such a joy!”
@vondablando

Father Rusty Hewes and Father Don Wolf – Holy Angels and St. Eugene, OKC
“Father Russ from Holy Angels! He’s a great, good man! He gives us hope and is always there to listen. His homily is always interesting, and Mass is always peaceful and he’s a cool, good, great man too! God bless you Father Russ, thank you for your time! Also, Father Wolf from St. Eugene, the way he speaks both English and Spanish, he has a lot of passion in what he says in his homily. The way he serves Mass is very nice and peaceful. And he’s a good, great man too! Thank you Father Wolf!”
@jfrayre
PHILADELPHIA - The Papal Foundation, whose mission is to serve the Holy Father and the Roman Catholic Church through faith, energy and financial resources, announced the approval of $14 million in grants, scholarships and humanitarian aid that will be distributed throughout the world.

The Foundation’s 22-member Board of Trustees approved the investments to increase the Foundation’s service to the Church, including more than $9 million in grants requested by the Vatican for 123 projects in 64 countries. The Papal Foundation supports global priorities identified by Pope Francis, including the construction and renovations of churches and schools as well as seminaries, convents, rectories and monasteries. In addition, grants purchase library supplies, provide lunches for orphaned children, and install modern medical equipment in hospitals in developing nations.

“These dollars address an amazing variety of requests,” said Eustace Mita, president of The Papal Foundation Board of Trustees. “The diversity of need is great, and the foundation’s ability to respond to Pope Francis’ call has made a profound impact on many lives.”

In addition to making grants in dioceses around the globe, The Papal Foundation will support 90 priests, women religious and seminarians studying in Rome through its Saint John Paul II Scholarship Program as well as provide humanitarian aid through its Mission Fund to feed the hungry, tend to the sick and provide shelter for the homeless.

“We are here to serve the global Church by investing in Pope Francis’ priorities,” said Cardinal Sean O’Malley, chairman of The Papal Foundation Board of Trustees. “Our shared goal is to serve those most in need in impoverished communities throughout the world.”

For more information about The Papal Foundation, visit thepapalfoundation.org.
Job Book: Review: Book: St. Joseph in art

By Dr. Bent Eaton, O.S.B.
The Sooner Catholic

The recovery of the correction difference among bishops

George Weigel
Ethics and Public Policy Center

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of communications. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of communications with experience in public relations, journalism, or marketing, and a background in Catholic communications. The ideal candidate will have a degree in communications or related field, and at least five years of experience in public relations, journalism, or marketing. The director of communications will be responsible for overseeing the Archdiocese’s communications strategy and implementing effective communication plans to reach various audiences. The director will work closely with the Archdiocese’s senior leadership to develop and implement communications strategies that align with the Archdiocese’s mission and vision. The position requires strong writing, editing, and public speaking skills. A bachelor’s degree in communications or related field is required. Additionally, candidates must have a strong understanding of social media platforms and be able to develop effective social media strategies. Experience in crisis management and crisis communication is also essential. The position also requires strong interpersonal and leadership skills, with the ability to work effectively as a member of a team. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City offers competitive compensation and benefits, as well as opportunities for professional growth and development. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to communications@archokc.org.
Las Parroquias del Sagrado Corazón y de los Santos Ángeles se convertirán en una sola y realizarán su ministerio en las instalaciones del Santuario al beato Stanley Rother.

El Santuario y su iglesia con capacidad para 2,000 personas servirán a la creciente población de estas parroquias.
The featured speaker is Betsy Babcock, social worker who conducted an oral history to the project, and Julie Veuster.

“Closure” was tossed around. It was poignant to revisit this moment in our history. It was the season of Jesus’ resurrection, and that to him.

Bishop and Kresta delivered the message that God was the comforter, the one who could not put up a wall between us from seeking relief.”

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at the start of planning for the One Church, Many Disciples capital campaign was the need for a larger church to accommodate our growing Catholic communities,” Archbishop Coakley said. “Parishioners from Holy Angels and Sacred Heart will make the shrine their home, and their families will be the first to breathe life into its walls, celebrating weddings and baptisms surrounded by its beauty.”

Leif Arvidson, executive director of the shrine, added, “What a beautiful ministry parishioners will have in welcoming pilgrims from around the state, the country and the world to the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine with its spacious grounds and its own Tepeyac Hill!”

Holy Angels Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church have unique and important histories in the development of Oklahoma City.

Holy Angels at 317 N. Blackwelder Ave. was built on what was then the outskirts of Oklahoma City in 1926 to provide a place for Father James Garvey, first head of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City, to serve as pastor. It is about a mile west of Saint Joseph Old Cathedral. The current small brick structure was completed in 1950. The parish is home to 1,500 families, most of whom are from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Argentina and Columbia.

Sacred Heart was built across the street from what was then Mount Saint Mary Academy atop Capitol Hill southwest of downtown Oklahoma City. Its first Mass was celebrated in April 1911. Over the past decade, the parish has grown substantially, requiring nine Masses each weekend, most of which are being celebrated in the school gymnasium.

Father Wolf and Father Hewes will meet soon with Sacred Heart and Holy Angels parishioners to answer questions and provide more details.

More information is available at archokc.org/shrinesacredheart.

Shrine, Sacred Heart, Holy Angels frequently asked questions

For more information, go online to archokc.org/shrinesacredheart

Q: When will Fr. Don Wolf, Fr. Rusty Hewes and Fr. Brannon Lepak start at Sacred Heart?
A: Fr. Wolf and Fr. Lepak will begin their pastoral assignment July 1. Fr. Hewes will begin his assignment in November.

Q: Are Fr. Wolf and Fr. Rusty bilingual?
A: Yes, they are both fluent in English and Spanish.

Q: When will Sacred Heart Masses begin at the shrine?
A: Sunday Masses begin Saturday, Nov. 5, and Sunday, Nov. 6. Mass times will be announced at a later date. Daily Masses will be held at the shrine and at Historic Sacred Heart.

Q: Will RE (Religious Education) classes move to the shrine?
A: Religious Education classes will remain at Historic Sacred Heart. Eventually, classes will be held in a new ministry building on the shrine campus.

Q: When will the last Masses be held at Holy Angels?
A: Masses will be held at Holy Angels through October.

Q: Where will weddings, baptisms, confirmations and other sacraments be held?
A: Sacraments and parish events can be held at either Sacred Heart location.

Q: Will there be a parish staff at Sacred Heart on the shrine campus?
A: Yes, there will be a staff at Sacred Heart and a staff for the shrine. Staff members at Sacred Heart and Holy Angels will be given the opportunity to apply for all open staff positions for Sacred Heart at the shrine.

Q: Will the gymnasium at Sacred Heart be returned to full use by Sacred Heart Catholic School?
A: Yes.

Q: Will there be Masses in English and Spanish at Sacred Heart at the shrine?
A: Yes.

Q: Where can people find more information?
A: More information, bulletin announcements and a video can be found at archokc.org/shrinesacredheart.