“It’s the happiest moment in my life”

Dcn. Robert Miller ordained a priest

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

Overcoming a faulty microphone and no air conditioning before his ordination seemed fitting for Father Robert Miller, who has persevered through “twists and turns” for more than 17 years to get to this point in his journey to the priesthood.

“It has been a long time, but I'm overjoyed,” Archbishop Coakley said.


Sue Rother Bond, her husband Jim and their five kids, Kate, Ava, Cade, Collin and J. Michael donated trees to the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. Photos provided.

Rother family reflects on Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine

By Sally Linhart
The Sooner Catholic

As the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine nears completion, an excited buzz is palpable in south Oklahoma City. Since the groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 3, 2019, the gradual progression of construction of the shrine has been witnessed by thousands of passing motorists each day.

While the details of the dedication are being tended to, people of all faiths are waiting with bated breath for the opening. In particular, the family of Blessed Stanley is eagerly anticipating the dedication.

continued on page 10

continued on page 20
Life as camino

This column was originally published in 2016. As this edition of the Sooner Catholic is published on August 21, 2022, we again revere it on pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago with Bishop Wall and Bishop Coakley. We are walking the French route from Bosdarros (Spain) to O Cernon. Please pray for us as we will be praying for you.

On Aug. 10, I set out from Oviedo in Spain with my friend and fellow pilgrim, Bishop James Wall, to walk the ancient Camino Primitivo. Over the next few days, we covered 212 kilometers (131 miles) on our way toward Compostela. The Camino Primitivo is one of the oldest of the pilgrim ways that make up the Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), which for the past 1,200 years has attracted pilgrims to the tomb of Saint James the Greater in the cathedral of the city that bears his name, Santiago de Compostela.

In fulfilling his apostolic mandate to announce the Gospel to all nations, Saint James had traveled to the farthest reaches of the known world, which in those days meant to the known regions of the Roman Empire. The notion of Christian religion was just beginning to spread across Europe and the Near East. It was a time of brutal persecution of Christians by the agents of the Roman Empire, who considered Christianity a heretical religion. The Camino de Santiago was a pilgrimage route that connected the lands of the Holy See with the lands of the Roman Empire.

The Camino de Santiago is a network of routes that lead to Santiago de Compostela, the tomb of Saint James. The pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that allows pilgrims to reflect on their faith and connect with the history of the Church. The Camino is a path of self-discovery, where pilgrims can find inner peace and spiritual growth.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

I was thinking that this was such a welcome relief from the ordinary pressures and challenges that we faced every day. The pilgrimage opened up my eyes and my feet and began to feel the effects of just walking, my reflection and prayer began to become more of a complaint! All I have to do today is WALK! The camino is a good teacher. It was indeed teaching me important lessons. The camino is not only about getting to our destination. The camino is the destination. The grace is in the journey. The camino is life.

One of those important lessons is the importance of learning to live in grace of the present moment rather than living in the past or worrying about the future. It’s simple, but not easy. It was surprising again and again by the way the Lord’s loving providence manifested itself along the way. This unusual occurrence in seemingly chance encounters and conversations with strangers and fellow pilgrims.

On one occasion it was an old woman who came to our assistance when our car broke down on the side of the road. She was the first to arrive on the scene when the car broke down. She immediately took control of the situation and assured us that she would call for help. She then proceeded to check the oil level and tire pressure before removing the flat tire and throwing it in the back of her van. The car was soon running again and we were able to continue our journey. It was an unexpected act of kindness that left a lasting impression on us.

The second time was when we were crossing a river on a footbridge and the water was flowing rapidly. We were worried about the current and whether we could make it across safely. A friendly fellow pilgrim noticed our concern and offered to help us. He provided us with a rope and guided us across the river. We were grateful for his assistance and thankful for his care.

These experiences were a reminder of the reality of the grace that is present in everyday life. The grace is present in the simplest acts of kindness and in the unexpected encounters that we face. The grace is in the way that the Lord provides for us, even in the most unexpected ways.

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

May we understand more deeply the difficulties of others in need and respond with increased care and support. We pray to the Lord, Lord, hear our prayer.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory’s Abbey have launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Scholars Project to better understand the history and experiences of native scholars in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. To contribute documents, photographs or oral histories to the project, e-mail oknativeschoolsproject.org. Learn more at archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject.

Find items such as rosaries, books and Guatemalan crafts at the Briteur Store online at briteursstore.com. A Together in Holiness conference for married couples and engaged couples is 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Oct. 29 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 8001 Dorset Dr. in Oklahoma City. Archbishop Coakley will welcome Mass at 8 a.m. Early bird pricing: $54 couple or $35 individual ends Sept. 5. Regular pricing: $64 couple or $40 individual. On-site childcare is $5 per child (12 years old). Register at togetherinholiness.org.

continued from page 2

primarily for saints. It is especially for sinners. Often pilgrims would undertake the Camino of Saint James as a way of doing penance for their sins. A confessor might send a penitent on pilgrimage as the penance for the sins he or she confessed and for which he or she had received absolution in the sacrament of Reconciliation. I began to find it easy to embrace the penitential aspect of the camino accepting the little pains and difficulties of the daily walk as an expression of penance for my past sins and indeed for the evils and injustices of our world today. I am now an expression of solidarity with the sufferings and struggles of our brothers and sisters.

The camino is for saints and for sinners. It seems to that relatively few of the people walking the Camino de Santiago are saints.

We met many who acknowledged that they were “spiritual, but not religious.” These are the seekers. Like many of us, they may not know clearly what they are seeking. Nonetheless, they are being drawn by grace, by a realtionship in their hearts that will only be satisfied when their hearts find rest in the heart of Jesus.

One of the joys of my camino was the recognition of grace at work in my own life and in the lives of fellow pilgrims. Even when we might seem lost, God does not lose sight of us.

Walking the Camino de Santiago is like being plunged into the flowing waters of a great river. It is the river of our common humanity created by love and created for love.

We arrived in Santiago and celebrated the completion of our pilgrimage with Mass in the Cathedral of the city that bears the name of Saint James. It is truly a deeply moving experience to gather in prayer with these fellow pilgrims from around the world. We are all on our own journeys raising to heaven like incense as the smoke pours from the great Bishops’ house, the huge silver thurible that hangs from the ceiling of the cathedral and swings like a pendulum across the sanctuary for victims’ families.

The most familiar greeting exchanged by pilgrims when they meet one another is “Benvenuto.” But, perhaps is more poignant: “Ulvýyy!” “Oman!”

The camino doesn’t end when the pilgrim reaches Santiago. Hopefully, the experience of the pilgrimage has prepared the pilgrim to continue to live in the spirit of the camino, the way of Jesus Christ. Ulvyýyy!

The St. Blanfui Rother Shrine held its “Worker Appreciation Day” with an ice cream social in the construction site of the shrine on Thursday, Aug. 11. Archbishop Coakley welcomed the board, its subcontractors and the building team, its subcontractors and the building committee to the event.

“We have been watching the building of this church that will bring hope and vision to the world to see the progress. Thank you all for your talent and dedication to this project. You are working hard on a shrine church, museum and pilgrim center that will help us tell the story of Bl. Stanley Rother, a priest who died for his faith. We are praying for your continued good work and safety to stay on schedule and complete the project for all of us to use,” Archbishop Coakley said.

Father Don Wolf, rector of the St. Blanfui Rother Shrine, also thanked the workers for their hard work and dedication.

A Together in Holiness conference for married couples and engaged couples is 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Oct. 29 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 8001 Dorset Dr. in Oklahoma City. Archbishop Coakley will welcome Mass at 8 a.m. Early bird pricing: $54 couple or $35 individual ends Sept. 5. Regular pricing: $64 couple or $40 individual. On-site childcare is $5 per child (12 years old). Register at togetherinholiness.org.

“The Camino is a path of self-discovery, where pilgrims can find inner peace and spiritual growth. The grace is in the journey. The camino is life. The camino is the destination. The grace is in the present moment rather than living in the past or worrying about the future. It’s simple, but not easy.”

My Queen, my Mother, I give you all myself and, to show you my devotion, I consecrate to you my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart and my entire self! Wherever I am going, as long as I live, I will consecrate to you my home and priests and every other place that I visit. Amen.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
A photo from Archbishop Coakley's 2016 Camino Primitivo pilgrimage.
“Make Straight the Way”
hosted by Deit. Larry Roux

• Sept. 6 and 7: Jaimie Biller, singer, song writer, “The Shepherd Cannot Run”
• Sept. 13 and 14: Fr. William Novak, vicar general, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, pastor of St. Frances of Assisi Catholic Church, Oklahoma City.
• Sept. 20 and 21: Jennifer Sharpe, author and member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond.
• Sept. 27 and 28: Austin Harper, seminarian from Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church, Lawton.

“Make Straight the Way” broadcasts on Oklahoma Catholic Radio Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Find a local station, or listen online at okcr.org.

From the Archives …

The town of Midwest City was incorporated in 1943 and named for the Air Depot that was to become Tinker Air Force Base. Priests from Sacred Heart Catholic Church helped meet the sacramental needs of those stationed at the base. Seeing the need for a new parish due to the constant influx, and departures, of military personnel, Bishop Eugene McGuinness erected Saint Philip Neri Church on March 28, 1946. Meeting in a junior high school, the congregation began to increase and the first pastor, Father John T. Murray, began to seek property on which to build a church. Securing a plot of land on Felix Place, a rock structure was constructed with the help of the Catholic Church Extension Society, an organization founded by Oklahoma’s second bishop, Francis Clement Kelley. Bishop McGuinness had also served with Extension, so his intervention was no doubt advantageous in procuring the funds. It was completed in August of 1947. The parish is a truly caring environment where everyone is friendly and helpful. It attracts us to Saint Ann Retirement Center. It is a fantastic environment to seek property on which to build a church. Securing a plot of land on Felix Place, a rock structure was constructed with the help of the Catholic Church Extension Society, an organization founded by Oklahoma’s second bishop, Francis Clement Kelley. Bishop McGuinness had also served with Extension, so his intervention was no doubt advantageous in procuring the funds. It was completed in August of 1947. The parish is a truly caring environment where everyone is friendly and helpful. It attracts us to Saint Ann Retirement Center. It is a fantastic environment to

Photo Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic

The Sooner Catholic celebrated its 20th anniversary in June with a month full of special events. Festivities included a fun fair, talent show, special Mass and reception, a base-volleyball tournament and a dusky, 17-piece band and singer entertained the standing-room-only crowd. For more information about St. Ann Assisted Living, call Lisa McKibben at (405) 721-0747, Ext. 322. Photos Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic and provided.

St. Ann Retirement Center offers independent and assisted living campuses

By Charles Albert

St. Ann Retirement Center

Clark spoke with pride of her loyal staff who enjoy going to work and to the quality of meals residents receive. She said, “Our three cooks have a combined 53 years of service working at Saint Ann Retirement Center and do an outstanding job preparing great tasting meals. We are blessed to have a stable team with infra- structure to support the way we take care of our residents.” Ten- nine percent of our employees have worked here for 10 years or more. The average tenure of a dining ser- vice employee is eight years. Additional levels of care were recently added to Saint Ann assisted living. Having both independent and assisted living under the same roof allows someone to stay in one place if their care needs go up or down. It also allows couples to stay together when one spouse needs assisted living and the other prefers the independent living setting. The monthly rent at Saint Ann is all-in- clusive. Included are meals, life-enriching activi- ties and outings, a driver to appointments, housekeeping, laundry of linens, utilities, basic cable television and concierge services. In addi- tion, assisted living rent includes personalized assistance with bathing, dressing, medication administration and other care and supportive services.

“Daily Mass and the Catholic environment at- tracted us to Saint Ann Retirement Center. It is so convenient to have our own in-house chapel and priest. Everyone is friendly and helpful. It is a truly caring environment where everyone is welcome,” residents Joseph and Sheryl. “We are thankful the Archdiocese of Oklahoma Church is a truly caring environment where everyone is welcome,” residents Joseph and Sheryl. “We are thankful the Archdiocese of Oklahoma Church is a truly caring environment where everyone is welcome,” residents Joseph and Sheryl.

Sooner Catholic August 21, 2022

Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic
A

As for Catholic Charities, Steltenkamp is a for-
er board member and 15-year employee. “I have
t at the Golden Heart is one of SigEp's high-
est honor, recognizing excellence
among long-serving volunteers. These men
represent the best of the best in the brotherhood.
They have given their time and talent to make
the fraternity great and are role models for what people
can achieve as volunteers.

The Order of the Golden Heart is awarded to selected
volunteers who have served the fraternity for 30 years or more, making
a significant impact on SigEp locally,
regionally or nationally. The
fraternity bestows the gold medal-
lion to honorats Grand Chapter Conclave, symbolizing the esteem
with which brothers hold these
dedicated volunteers and immense
appreciation for the sacrifices
they’ve made over the decades. At
the 2021 Alumni Awards dinner,
this prestigious award was pre-
 sented to four volunteers who have
gone above and beyond to serve
the fraternity.

With nearly two centuries of continued service to SigEp, this
impressive group includes a past
grand president, a brother who led
the successful rechartering of his chapter, a national officer and a
tillage mentor who also guides
the fraternity’s national fundrais-
ing efforts.

Ray Ackerman, Oklahoma ’77
impressed by his character,
brothers elected Ackerman
president of his undergraduate chapter. He
inspired the recently
recognized group to focus and set
goals, and in the process, helped
the chapter become the campus
leader in philanthropy and earn
several Buc Cups in the years to
come.

From then on, until now, brothers have looked to him as “a barome-
ter for honor, character and truth-
fulness which mirrors our cardinal
principles.” His early leadership
set the tone for Ackerman’s alum-
mi journey. After graduation, he
served as a regional director on the
fraternity’s headquarters staff, fur-
ther solidifying his reputation as a
popular radio personality. Ack-
erman’s faith and ded-
sire to help others
led him to join the
priesthood. He also
ancel
awarded to anyone who
needs him. Since 1997, Ackerman
has also served as the Fraterni-
y’s national chaplain, creating
moving tributes to brothers who
have passed away and providing
over the Grand Chapter Conclave
oration ceremony.
In each role, he has embodied
what it means to show brotherly
love to all and empathetic advance.

Fr. Ray Ackerman recognized by Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

By Owen Canfield

Owen Canfield is associate director of gift plan-
ing for The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

By Ally Gospodar

The Order of the Golden Heart is one of SigEp’s highest honors, recognizing excellence among long-serving volunteers. These men represent the best of the best in the brotherhood. They have given their time and talent to make the fraternity great and are role models for what people can achieve as volunteers.

The Order of the Golden Heart is awarded to selected volunteers who have served the fraternity for 30 years or more, making a significant impact on SigEp locally, regionally or nationally. The fraternity bestows the gold medal-lion to honorats Grand Chapter Conclave, symbolizing the esteem with which brothers hold these dedicated volunteers and immense appreciation for the sacrifices they’ve made over the decades. At the 2021 Alumni Awards dinner, this prestigious award was presented to four volunteers who have gone above and beyond to serve the fraternity.

With nearly two centuries of continued service to SigEp, this impressive group includes a past grand president, a brother who led the successful rechartering of his chapter, a national officer and a lifelong mentor who also guides the fraternity’s national fundraising efforts.

Ray Ackerman, Oklahoma ’77 impressed by his character, brothers elected Ackerman president of his undergraduate chapter. He inspired the recently recognized group to focus and set goals, and in the process, helped the chapter become the campus leader in philanthropy and earn several Buc Cups in the years to come.

From then on, until now, brothers have looked to him as “a barometer for honor, character and truthfulness which mirrors our cardinal principles.” His early leadership set the tone for Ackerman’s alumni journey. After graduation, he served as a regional director on the fraternity’s headquarters staff, further solidifying his reputation as a popular radio personality. Ackerman’s faith and desire to help others led him to join the priesthood. He also began volunteering with his home chapter, serving on the AVC for more than 30 years.

A longtime chapter counselor, Ackerman is a model of integrity and brotherly love, sharing life lessons and providing a listening ear to anyone who needs him. Since 1997, Ackerman has also served as the fraternity’s national chaplain, creating moving tributes to brothers who have passed away and providing over the Grand Chapter Conclave ordination ceremony.

In each role, he has embodied what it means to show brotherly love to all and empathetic advance.

Fr. Ray Ackerman

By Owen Canfield

Owen Canfield is associate director of gift planning for The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

On March 25, the Feast of the Annun-
ciation of the Lord, a group of 12 women
at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton
together for Father Phil Seeton. Together they prayed the commit-
ment prayer and received a blessing from
Father Seeton.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is an inter-
national prayer group that was started on
March 24, 2011, by Janette Howe in Saint Paul, Minn. Since that time, the apostolate
grows to include six continents, 25
countries, all 50 United States and nearly
every province in Canada. The apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensure-
ing that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop for his deeper conformity to Christ.

This year, a group of seven women commit
to pray one hour, one day a week, before the Blessed Sacrament or in front of a Taberna-
cle. If a sister is unable to keep her com-
mittance for that day she is to arrange for a substitute. The commitment for each sister is one year, but not limited to that one year.

If there are additional groups, they can pray for other priests or a bishop. One sister from each group is chosen as an anchor to coordinate and schedule a meeting for their two-year commitment.

Each year on the anniversary of the start of the group, the seven sisters will discern if they would like to continue for another year. The traditional year of service is in June to June, the month of the Sacred Heart, but groups can begin any time of the year.

At Holy Family there was a strong de-
sire to create the group, and together with Father Seeton, they chose the Feast of the Annunciation to begin.

It was at a Spiritual Life Committee meet-
ing that the idea for The Seven Sisters Apostolate was presented for the con-
discernment. After prayer and discussion, it was decided they would begin by personally inviting individuals known for their inten-
tional life prayer and frequent daily Mass atten-
dance. Each woman invited was asked to pray and discern if this was something she wished to do. None of the women hesitated to “say yes” immediately. They currently have a core of seven sisters and five substi-
tutes. Many of the substitutes pray the Holy Hour for Father Seeton regardless of if they attend another religious as-
sembling or not. In her welcome message to the sisters at Holy Family, Janette Howe said, “There are a few groups in your diocese, but none so
grown the good news. Praying for our pastor has been a blessing for each of us
as individuals, as sisters united in prayer for our pastor and for Father Phil. We would
courage others to prayerfully consider forming a Seven Sisters Group for your pas-
tor.”

For more information, visit

By Elizabeth Cerone, parishioner, Holy
Family Catholic Church, Lawton.

A Seven Sisters Apostolate at Holy Family in Lawton

On March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, a group of 12 women at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton began praying together for Father Phil Seeton. Together they prayed the commitment prayer and received a blessing from Father Seeton.

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is an international prayer group that was started on March 24, 2011, by Janette Howe in Saint Paul, Minn. Since that time, the apostolate has grown to include six continents, 25 countries, all 50 United States and nearly every province in Canada. The apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop for his deeper conformity to Christ.

This year, a group of seven women commit to pray one hour, one day a week, before the Blessed Sacrament or in front of a Tabernacle. If a sister is unable to keep her commitment for that day she is to arrange for a substitute. The commitment for each sister is one year, but not limited to that one year.

If there are additional groups, they can pray for other priests or a bishop. One sister from each group is chosen as an anchor to coordinate and schedule a meeting for their two-year commitment.

Each year on the anniversary of the start of the group, the seven sisters will discern if they would like to continue for another year. The traditional year of service is in June to June, the month of the Sacred Heart, but groups can begin any time of the year.

At Holy Family there was a strong desire to create the group, and together with Father Seeton, they chose the Feast of the Annunciation to begin.

It was at a Spiritual Life Committee meeting that the idea for The Seven Sisters Apostolate was presented for the discernment. After prayer and discussion, it was decided they would begin by personally inviting individuals known for their intentional prayer and frequent daily Mass attendance. Each woman invited was asked to pray and discern if this was something she wished to do. None of the women hesitated to “say yes” immediately. They currently have a core of seven sisters and five substitutes. Many of the substitutes pray the Holy Hour for Father Seeton regardless of if they attend another religious assembling or not.

In her welcome message to the sisters at Holy Family, Janette Howe said, “There are a few groups in your diocese, but none so spread the good news. Praying for our pastor has been a blessing for each of us as individuals, as sisters united in prayer for our pastor and for Father Phil. We would encourage others to prayerfully consider forming a Seven Sisters Group for your pastor.”

For more information, visit seven sisters apostolate.org.
Back to school

Students from Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City returned to class the week of Aug. 8-12. To learn more about Catholic schools, visit archokc.org/schools. Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic and provided.

Fr. Don Wolf blessed classrooms on Aug. 10 at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City.

The Archbishop’s Dinner for Seminarian Education was held Aug. 11 at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. The dinner benefited the St. John Vianney Endowment for Seminarian Education. This year 560 people attended and $370,144 was raised. To learn more about the endowment, visit archokc.org/dinner. Photos AVERY HOLL, Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

St. Ann Retirement Center offers independent and assisted living campuses

You Can’t Buy Happiness
but Living at Saint Ann is Pretty Much the Same Thing

• Assisted and Independent Living
• No Day in Fees. Just a Monthly Agreement!
• People of All Faiths Welcome
• Numerous Activities and Great Food
• Affordable Luxury

About Saint Ann
Saint Ann Retirement Center, Oklahoma City

Voluntary, non-profit organization. We provide a community which is based on family values and respect for individuals.

For additional information about Saint Ann Retirement Center, visit saintannretirementcenter.com or contact Lisa McKibben or Richard Amend at (405) 721-0747, Ext 322.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

The Ladder of Ascent

What is the Ladder of Ascent?

The Ladder of Ascent explains the growth in spiritual life. It is based on a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.” The four sections are suggested in a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42:

SEMESTER 1: “THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC),” published in 1994, was the first universal Catechism intended for the whole Catholic Church in more than 400 years! It is divided into four sections, upon which the Church’s teaching is based. The four sections are suggested in a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42:


SEMESTER 3: “FELLOWSHIP,” THE MORAL LIFE: FULFILLMENT IN BEATITUDE

SEMESTER 4: “PRAYER,” THE BLESSINGS GIVEN AND RECEIVED

The Ladder of Ascent: A study of the teachings of the Church about freedom, independence and fun. Residents are free from chores like cooking, shopping, housekeeping and home maintenance,” Clark said. “They can choose to do as little or as much as they prefer. Our focus is on enhancing residents’ life with friendly supportive services. It is a great place to live and to work. I have the most amazing team of staff members.”

For more information about Saint Ann Retirement Center, visit saintannretirementcenter.com or contact Lisa McKibben or Richard Amend at (405) 721-0747, Ext 322.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

You Can’t Buy Happiness but Living at Saint Ann is Pretty Much the Same Thing

• Assisted and Independent Living
• No Day in Fees. Just a Monthly Agreement!
• People of All Faiths Welcome
• Numerous Activities and Great Food
• Affordable Luxury

About Saint Ann
Saint Ann Retirement Center, Oklahoma City

Voluntary, non-profit organization. We provide a community which is based on family values and respect for individuals.

For additional information about Saint Ann Retirement Center, visit saintannretirementcenter.com or contact Lisa McKibben or Richard Amend at (405) 721-0747, Ext 322.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

The Ladder of Ascent

What is the Ladder of Ascent?

The Ladder of Ascent explains the growth in spiritual life. It is based on a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers.” The four sections are suggested in a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42:

SEMESTER 1: “THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC),” published in 1994, was the first universal Catechism intended for the whole Catholic Church in more than 400 years! It is divided into four sections, upon which the Church’s teaching is based. The four sections are suggested in a description of the early Church found in Acts of the Apostles 2:42:


SEMESTER 3: “FELLOWSHIP,” THE MORAL LIFE: FULFILLMENT IN BEATITUDE

SEMESTER 4: “PRAYER,” THE BLESSINGS GIVEN AND RECEIVED

The Ladder of Ascent: A study of the teachings of the Church about freedom, independence and fun. Residents are free from chores like cooking, shopping, housekeeping and home maintenance,” Clark said. “They can choose to do as little or as much as they prefer. Our focus is on enhancing residents’ life with friendly supportive services. It is a great place to live and to work. I have the most amazing team of staff members.”

For more information about Saint Ann Retirement Center, visit saintannretirementcenter.com or contact Lisa McKibben or Richard Amend at (405) 721-0747, Ext 322.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

excited to start this new chapter in my life and fulfill what God wants me to do. It’s the happiest moment in my life,” Miller said a few minutes before his ordination began on Aug. 6.

With the air conditioning repaired and the audio fixed, more than 300 priests, deacons, religious men and women, family, friends and parishioners filled The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley presided over “The Celebration of Holy Mass with Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.” As he reviewed his homily shortly before Mass began, he said “It’s always a good day when you get to ordain a priest.”

Miller, 35, grew up in Oklahoma, graduating from Putnam City North High School in 2005. After a growing childhood curiosity about the Catholic Church, he attended an Emmaus Days vocation retreat at the suggestion of Father Paul Gallatin, then asked Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran if he could become a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

He was accepted and attended Conception Seminary in Missouri where he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. He also earned a bachelor’s degree in classical languages from the University of Oklahoma, a master’s degree in historical theology from Boston College and a master’s degree in divinity at Pope Saint John the XXIII Seminary in Massachusetts. He is working on a canon law degree from Catholic University of America. His home parish is Saint Damien of Molokai in Edmond.

During his homily, Archbishop Coakley thanked Miller’s family for preparing him and giving a great gift to the Church. He then turned his attention to soon-to-be Father Miller.

“After this ordination, Father Robert will begin to live out the mystery of the priesthood. And it will involve a share of the cross. It will involve sacrifice; it must involve sacrifice. As you offer your life and you gather the hopes and prayers and aspirations of your people, you lift them up to the Lord each time you celebrate the Holy Mass,” Archbishop Coakley said.

“Our greatest tool for promoting vocations to the priesthood is a happy, a holy priest. Let young people see and experience the joy in your life in serving the Lord and giving yourself generously and sacrificially in love for his people… Keep always before your eyes and in your heart the example of the Good Shepherd.”

Father Miller was formally presented for ordination by Father Brian Buettner, vocations director for the archdiocese and pastor of Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman.

He was vested by Father Philip Sea, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton, and Father Simon Zurita, pastor of Saint Damien of Molokai Catholic Church in Edmond.

The readings were read by Brad Forshee and Jason Murray with the Gospel read by Deacon Paul Lewis.

Following the ordination, a reception was held at the Connor Center where Father Miller offered blessings to friends and family. His Mass of Thanksgiving was held Aug. 8 at the cathedral. His first assignment will be as associate pastor at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman.

“I’m ready for the priesthood, to serve others,” he said. “I’m ready to work for the salvation of souls. That’s what priesthood is all about.”

Diane Clay is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Around the Archdiocese

A welcome dinner was held for Fr. Vic Luong on July 24 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko. Parishioners from Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Binger and St. Richard Catholic Church in Carnegie also attended. Fr. Vic’s family and friends from Oklahoma City made Vietnamese food for the dinner. Photos provided.

In July, a week-long Totus Tuus program at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Chickasha ended with water fun. The Chickasha Fire Department sprayed water from a hydrant and doused the participants during the triple-digit weather. Photos provided.

Knights of Columbus and their families from across the state gathered in Edmond to participate in the Liberty Fest Parade. Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran and Carol Durno joined District Master Rick Miller, State Deputy Dennis Kurtzman and Former Vice Supreme Master Paul Weiss for their first Fourth of July parade. Photos provided.

Fr. Alexander Kroll, Dcn. Rodrigo Serna, Ronald Willis, Stephanie Willis, Jennifer Eubanks, Stephanie Reeder, John Stovall, Becky Brown, Edgar Barcenas, Lorraine Gutierrez and Marianne Smith visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City and Teotihuacan. Photos provided.

First Holy Communion, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Chickasha

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City held their 13th annual Reds, Whites & Brews fundraiser on July 22 at Dunlap Codding in Oklahoma City. Proceeds support the homeless services of Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Stockyards City. Photos Fran Ronikiewicz.

In Memory of Those Lost to Suicide

Those who have experienced the loss of someone to suicide are invited to celebrate that loved one’s life at…

The annual Catechetical Conference gathers Catholics from around the archdiocese to grow in faith and mission. This day-long conference offers Mass, keynote speakers, breakout sessions, vendors and networking opportunities. The event continues to grow and invites people in all faith formation ministries. This year’s theme is centered on the Eucharist and Pope St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. Visit the conference webpage to explore more about the 2022 Catechetical Conference.

Register Today at ArchOKC.org/CatCon
Volunteer coordinator – Shrine
The Blessed Stanley Rother Catholic Church in Jones is seeking a part-time volunteer coordinator to oversee the daily operations of the Shrine. The volunteer coordinator will provide support of volunteers at the Shrine. Duties will include coordinating, training, scheduling, supervising, and conducting special events as needed. Volunteers will be involved in efforts as support of pilgrimage activities as well as special events and celebrations. Applicants must be a Catholic in good standing and must be available to work at least two years in a relevant experience or a bachelor’s degree in a field related to human resources is preferred. The volunteer coordinator must exhibit an interest in and energy for volunteerism to provide a positive and meaningful experience to visitors and staff and demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations. Leadership experience with volunteer groups within the Catholic Church is preferred. Bilingual in Spanish is a plus. Must have a desire to evangelize and promote to devotion to Blessed Stanley Rother. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Director of Admissions – OKC
Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a director of admissions to recruit to the school, direct the admissions process from point of initial contact, counsel and coordinate staff and volunteers for admission events and manage the Office of Admissions. Must have an education or related field; required; must have a proven track record of at least three years of admissions administration experience in a high school or college setting. Bachelor’s degree in English, Spanish, French or comparable language; proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is required. Must have a desire to provide an effective and accurate accounting for payments made to the gift shop. Must be a cheerful and cultured observer of the mass, including history and biography of the priests and staff. Applicants are not required to be a gardener and must be able to work in a gift shop and museum management. must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalency in a field, and at least three years of work experience in sales, business management/administration, human resources, education, and experience in customer service skills and abilities to perform the above-described responsibilities.

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is looking for a director of admissions to recruit to the school, direct the admissions process from point of initial contact, counsel and coordinate staff and volunteers for admission events and manage the Office of Admissions. Must have an education or related field; required; must have a proven track record of at least three years of admissions administration experience in a high school or college setting. Bachelor’s degree in English, Spanish, French or comparable language; proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is required. Must have a desire to provide an effective and accurate accounting for payments made to the gift shop. Must be a cheerful and cultured observer of the mass, including history and biography of the priests and staff. Applicants are not required to be a gardener and must be able to work in a gift shop and museum management. must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalency in a field, and at least three years of work experience in sales, business management/administration, human resources, education, and experience in customer service skills and abilities to perform the above-described responsibilities.

www.archokc.org/jobs-box.

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a director of admissions to recruit to the school, direct the admissions process from point of initial contact, counsel and coordinate staff and volunteers for admission events and manage the Office of Admissions. Must have an education or related field; required; must have a proven track record of at least three years of admissions administration experience in a high school or college setting. Bachelor’s degree in English, Spanish, French or comparable language; proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is required. Must have a desire to provide an effective and accurate accounting for payments made to the gift shop. Must be a cheerful and cultured observer of the mass, including history and biography of the priests and staff. Applicants are not required to be a gardener and must be able to work in a gift shop and museum management. must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalency in a field, and at least three years of work experience in sales, business management/administration, human resources, education, and experience in customer service skills and abilities to perform the above-described responsibilities.

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a director of admissions to recruit to the school, direct the admissions process from point of initial contact, counsel and coordinate staff and volunteers for admission events and manage the Office of Admissions. Must have an education or related field; required; must have a proven track record of at least three years of admissions administration experience in a high school or college setting. Bachelor’s degree in English, Spanish, French or comparable language; proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is required. Must have a desire to provide an effective and accurate accounting for payments made to the gift shop. Must be a cheerful and cultured observer of the mass, including history and biography of the priests and staff. Applicants are not required to be a gardener and must be able to work in a gift shop and museum management. must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalency in a field, and at least three years of work experience in sales, business management/administration, human resources, education, and experience in customer service skills and abilities to perform the above-described responsibilities.

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a director of admissions to recruit to the school, direct the admissions process from point of initial contact, counsel and coordinate staff and volunteers for admission events and manage the Office of Admissions. Must have an education or related field; required; must have a proven track record of at least three years of admissions administration experience in a high school or college setting. Bachelor’s degree in English, Spanish, French or comparable language; proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is required. Must have a desire to provide an effective and accurate accounting for payments made to the gift shop. Must be a cheerful and cultured observer of the mass, including history and biography of the priests and staff. Applicants are not required to be a gardener and must be able to work in a gift shop and museum management. must have a bachelor’s degree or equivalency in a field, and at least three years of work experience in sales, business management/administration, human resources, education, and experience in customer service skills and abilities to perform the above-described responsibilities.
Esta columna se publicó originalmente en 2016. Como esta edición de Sooner Catholic se publica el 21 de agosto, está nuevamente en peregrinaje en el Camino de Santiago con el obispo Wall y el obispo Wall. Vamos por el camino francés esta vez desde Burgos (España) hasta O Barón, por favor, vení con nosotros y a su vez nosotros estaríamos orando por ustedes.

El 10 de agosto parte de Orfeo en España con mi amigo y compañero peregrino, el Obispo James Wall, a caminar el antiguo Camino Primitivo. Durante los siguientes catorce días recorreremos 212 millas al peregrinar siguiendo nuestro camino hacia Compostela. El Camino Primitivo es el más antiguo de la red de caminos de peregrinación que conforman el Camino de Santiago, que desde hace mil años han llevado a los peregrinos a la tumba de Santiago el Mayor en la ciudad de Santiago de Compostela.

En el cumplimiento de su mandato apostólico para anunciar el Evangelio a todas las naciones, los doce apóstoles en su mayoría fueron martirizados y después de su muerte, continuaron sus esfuerzos apostólicos para anunciar el Evangelio a todas las naciones que hoy es España. Santiago Apóstol viajó hasta el siglo I en lo que hoy es España.

Una inquietud en sus corazones que sólo estaría satisfecha cuando sus cenizas encontrarían reposo en el corazón de Jesús. Una de las alegatos de mi camino fue el reconocimiento de la gracia en el trabajo, algo que puede ser fácil de olvidar. Una vida propia en las vidas y las vidas de otras peregrinos. Aun cuando pueda parecer que estamos perdidos, Dios nos pide de vista a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Recorriendo el Camino de Santiago es como estar sumergido en las aguas que fluyen de un gran río. Es el río de nuestra humanidad común creado por el Amor y creado para el Amor.

El Camino es Santiago, que nos dice: “Yo Soy el camino, la verdad y la vida.” El camino es aprender a caminar como y con Jesús: El Camino del Discípulo, El Camino de la Conversión, El Camino de la Comunión y el Camino que conduce a la Santidad.

A través de los siglos han habido muchos santos que han recorrido el Camino de Santiago. Entre ellos algunos de los más conocidos son San Francisco de Asís y Santa Brígida de Suecia. Pero el camino no es principalmente para los santos. Es especializado para los pecadores. A menos que los pecadores emprendan el Camino de Santiago como una manera de hacer penitencia por sus pecados, no confiaría en qué hacer el pecador podría emprender en peregrinación como penitencia por los pecados que él o ella comete y para el cual o ella ha recibido la absolución en el sacramento de la Reconciliación.

Pero uno de los aspectos del Camino es el aspecto estival del Camino. Amantes de los males e injusticias, los peregrinos cuando se reúnan entre sí y se enamoren de un amigo, de un padre, de un hermano, de un presidente y de un párroco, se encontrarán con muchas de las presiones y retos de sus vidas. Pero en estos sitios habrá un santuario y retos de sus vidas.

Los peregrinos que desean caminar el camino, el Camino de Jesucristo. ¡Ultreya!...
**Annulment information session**  
Fr. Rick Shaneley will lead a general information session about annulments 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sept. 7 in the Great Hall at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 N. 82nd Ave. in Oklahoma City. Open to everyone. Contact the archdiocese at (405) 340-6961.

**Blue Mass**  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host a three-day “Walking with the Holy Spirit” retreat Sept. 11-13 at 1055 N.E. 1 St. in Oklahoma City. Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration in Los Angeles, will be the keynote speaker. The 11 a.m. mass on Sept. 11 will include a celebration of the Feast of St. Peter Claver. Visit archdioceseokc.org/bluemass.

**Day of Reflection**  
Day of Reflection “God’s Gift to the Family of Nations,” presented by Aidan Lawton of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 22 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 N.W. 50, in Oklahoma City. Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, rector is Dr. Michelle Miller. Cost $35 per person or $33 for groups of 5 or more. Limited seating. Masks are recommended, but not required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retrseucmokok@gmail.com or call (405) 876-4666. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Red Mass**  
Archdiocese will host a Red Mass for law enforcement and first responders at 6 p.m. Sept. 29 at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Guest speaker is Bishop Anthony M. Jankowski. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Blue Mass**  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host a three-day “Walking with the Holy Spirit” retreat Sept. 11-13 at 1055 N.E. 1 St. in Oklahoma City. Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration in Los Angeles, will be the keynote speaker. The 11 a.m. mass on Sept. 11 will include a celebration of the Feast of St. Peter Claver. Visit archdioceseokc.org/bluemass.

**Day of Reflection**  
Day of Reflection “God’s Gift to the Family of Nations,” presented by Aidan Lawton of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 22 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 N.W. 50, in Oklahoma City. Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, rector is Dr. Michelle Miller. Cost $35 per person or $33 for groups of 5 or more. Limited seating. Masks are recommended, but not required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retrseucmokok@gmail.com or call (405) 876-4666. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Blue Mass**  
Archdiocese will host a Blue Mass for law enforcement and first responders at 6 p.m. Sept. 29 at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Guest speaker is Bishop Anthony M. Jankowski. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter is having a weekend to strengthen couples Sept. 10-12 at the Church of the Passionate Heart in Oklahoma City. Contact Bryan Riley at 505-266-0376, or email bluereiley@gmail.com.

**Join Bishop Anthony M. Bozeman for a year-end reflection and Mass at his residence, 1201 N. Britton Rd., Oklahoma City. Contact Bishop Anthony M. Bozeman at 405.381.7807 or e-mail rector.stgeogrey@gmail.com.**
Sue Rother Bond, Blessed Stanley’s first cousin once removed, has contributed to the shrine in many ways. A museum on the shrine campus will feature her children’s book about Blessed Stanley. The biography, titled “Blessed Stanley Rother: An Extraordinary Ordinary Life” has also been translated into Spanish by Bond’s daughter who lives in Mexico.

As the beatification neared, Bond was looking for something that would get younger children excited about the historic event.

“I grew up hearing stories about Blessed Stanley and I loved them,” Bond explained. “I knew his many virtues would be relatable to young people, because he was a wonderful role model for me.”

Bond self-published the book so Blessed Stanley’s story could be shared quickly. Proceeds from book sales are donated to causes that Bond feels Blessed Stanley would approve of, including sending relief to Guatemala during the pandemic.

Additionally, the proceeds were used to establish a tree farm at the site of the shrine. For Bond, it was important to support causes that will serve to honor Blessed Stanley’s legacy.

“When I began serving on the shrine board, I noticed numerous trees included in the architects’ rendering. Although there is a budget for landscaping, I realized that the number of trees would likely not match with the landscaping budget,” Bond said. “My husband and I own 42 acres that had been mined for dirt and were barren. We learned economic ways to restore the land that included planting trees from bare root seedlings.

So, we decided to do the same for the shrine and donated the tree farm. Now 3,000 seedlings and the watering system have produced many 12-foot trees.”

The trees will be transplanted around the property, allowing Bond to help pay it forward to the visitors of the shrine.

Bond’s relation to Blessed Stanley is like a puzzle.

“Blessed Stanley’s mother, Gertrude Smith Rother married Blessed Stan’s father, Franz Rother, and my grandmother, Elizabeth Smith Rother, Gertrude’s sister, married my grandfather, Hank Rother, Franz’s uncle,” she explained.

As part of the Rother family, Bond described her unique perspective on the shrine and the devotion to Blessed Stanley. “I feel incredibly proud as a Rother and as an Oklahoman Catholic to see the shrine become a reality,” said Bond. “I also love the excitement the shrine has created in the Oklahoma City community in general!”

“The legacy of Blessed Stanley is a strong presence in Oklahoma, and the dedication of the shrine is sure to amplify that legacy. Bond feels that Blessed Stanley would be happy to see how his legacy is working to bring people closer to God.

“Blessed Stanley was a very humble man, but I do think he would be pleased to see more space for the overcrowded Oklahoma parishes serving the Hispanic Catholic community,” she said. “The shrine’s presence is a beautiful way to give glory to God and provide a wonderful manifestation of the Catholic faith.”

Patrick Rother, Blessed Stanley’s nephew, is excited about the opening and dedication of the shrine as well. “It’s great for Oklahoma Catholics,” Rother said. “It will highlight a good man and how his example is something we can all do.”

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.