Religious education is essential for the faith and growth of young parishioners across the globe. Catechists, or faith teachers, are essential in that education. Catechists throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are invited to a special conference in September for their own faith training—further equipping them to serve their parishes.

The 2022 Catechetical Conference is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 17 at Bishop McGuiness Catholic High School, 801 N.W. 50 St. in Oklahoma City. The theme is, “This is My Body,” the heart of the Eucharist in the Gospels, with two focuses. “The Eucharist theme is focused on The Last Supper and Bread of Life Discourse,” Larann Wilson, associate director of the department of evangelization and discipleship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said. “The second focus is on St. John Paul II’s ‘Theology of the Body,’ which is our proper understanding of our dignity, according to God’s plan as human persons.”

Catechetical ministries at the conference include parent, young adult ministries, marriage and family, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), children’s ministries, small discipleship groups, youth ministry as well as priestly ministry.

“This is a conference that supports anyone in faith formation ministries. People who work within ministries, anybody who are coordinators in the leadership, as well as team leaders,” Wilson said. “We also have people attend from the Diocese of Tulsa, as well.” Parents with young will have a special focus. “This year we’re also opening it meeting their deadlines this fall, giving us ample time to ensure the shrine, museum and pilgrim center will be open to the public. continued on page 20

Annual conference provides training, faith formation

By Everett Brazil, III

The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – Archbishop Paul Coakley on Aug. 22 announced the rescheduling of the Mass and dedication of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine to Friday, Feb. 17, to ensure all non-construction items are ready, and necessary staff members are in place for the shrine to open immediately following the dedication. The blessing of Tepeyac Hill on the northwest corner of the shrine campus to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego will be celebrated Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “I am thankful The Boldt Company and contractors will be continued on page 20

Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine dedication week rescheduled for February

Tepeyac Hill blessing and dedication Dec. 12

September 4, 2022

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September 4, 2022

Go Make Disciples
The death penalty is a life issue

This column was originally published in 2019. As this edition of the Sooner Catholic is published on September 4, I will once again be on pilgrimage at the Camino de Santiago with Bishop Wall and Bishop Tingey. We are walking the French route many called Via Clunia to O Cebreiro. Please pray for us as we will be praying for you.

Each year we have an opportunity to renew our prophetic commitment to promoting human dignity and sanctity of every life from conception to natural death. Human dignity is an endowment given by our Creator and cannot be taken away by any act of violence; we cannot totally uproot or destroy it. It is not something we can or should give to another or take away from a government but created in us by God. He alone is the Lord of life.

It is a good time to focus on an important part of our Church’s prophetic teaching about the sanctity of life that we often overlook or question. I am referring to the death penalty.

In recent years, we have witnessed an authentic development of the Church’s teaching on the use of the death penalty. In 1999, Saint John Paul II called for an end to the death penalty, which he described as “an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible to eliminate the death penalty.” In 2018, Pope Francis called for an end to the death penalty, which he described as a “life issue”.

While the Church is coming to a clearer appreciation of the incompatibility of the death penalty with our fundamental conviction about human dignity and the sanctity of every human life, other factors also are leading to a growing realization in society that the time has come to eliminate the death penalty.

Let’s be clear that we do acknowledge the harm done to the victims of crime and to society at large because of horrific acts of violence. We do stand for justice. We must stand with victims of crime. However, we can protect society and punish crime without resorting to the death penalty.

The use of the death penalty only contributes to the continued coarsening of society and to the spiral of violence. Taking another life does not ultimately bring closure and peace to those who have lost a loved one through violent crime. Justice is necessary, but it is not enough. As William Shakespeare wrote, “Mercy seasons justice.” Mercy perfects justice and brings healing and closure. This is the message of the Cross and Resurrection.

For many years, we have tolerated the death penalty based on our belief that it was a deterrent to crime. The facts do not bear that out. In fact, 88 percent of criminologists do not accept this assertion. The areas of the country with the highest execution rates also have the highest crime rates. Conversely, those areas of the country with the lowest execution rates also have the lowest crime rates.

There are many other factors that we should consider. While execution is final, our system is not infallible. To date, there have been 166 exonerations of death row inmates. These often have been based on DNA evidence that was not available at the time of trial. A profile of the inmates on death row and those executed show that they are disproportionately poor, people of color and those who suffer from intellectual disabilities or mental illness. Contrary to what many believe, it is far more costly to execute a criminal than to sentence that person to life without parole.

For many years, the tide of public opinion has trended away from support of the death penalty. The number of executions has declined dramatically since 1999 and an increasing number of states are doing away with it altogether. It is certainly a cause for concern that the federal government has recently decided to begin executions again for federal crimes, something that has not occurred since 1993.

I know that in Oklahoma people are generally well-informed about these issues, but it is a cause for concern that the federal government has recently decided to begin executions again for federal crimes, something that has not occurred since 1993.

The second annual mother and daughter breakfast, “Wonderfully Made,” was held on Aug. 13 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman. The keynote speaker was singer Silvia Vega. The day consisted of talks on Theology of the Body and more. Photos provided.

The zocalo in front of the shrine church will stand as a beacon of faith to all. From all over the world, thousands of pilgrims arrive to this site, which has been a focus for the general operation of the shrine and the welcoming of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world to this site, which will stand as a focus of faith to all.

The construction of the atrium is also underway. A atrium is a place of transition. In Mexico City, the atrium is a location for large public events, such as the ones expected to be held at the shrine. The atrium and the heart of the shrine church will include a large fountain.

For more information, visit corpuschristichurchok.org.

Archbishop Coakley’s statement on denial of clemency for James Coddington

“No matter how serious the crime committed, we do not forfeit the dignity bestowed upon us by God. Governor Stitt’s denial of clemency to James Coddington is disappointing.

There are other ways to administrate just punishment for crimes without resorting to lethal measures that do not align with our state’s pro-life values and only serve to perpetuate the cycle of violence.

Pray for an end to the death penalty. Pray that our leaders may have the wisdom and compassion to recognize the humanity in every person, regardless of their state in life. Pray for the victims of violence and their families that God brings them comfort and peace.

Pray for the souls of the condemned and those who will be involved with his executions.”

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Sept. 6 – St. Ann Retirement Center Board meeting, 8 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Sept. 6 – Presidatory Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., CPC
Sept. 6 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis of Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 6 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Sept. 6 – Jubilarian Dinner, 6 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKCSext. 8 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Sept. 8 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis of Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 8 – Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Sept. 8 – Mass and breakfast with archdiocesan missionaries, 8:30 a.m., St. Francis of Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 8 – ACCW Priests and Presidents’ luncheon, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 8 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis of Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 8 – ACCW Priests and Presidents’ luncheon, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Sept. 11 – Mass and celebration of the Keynote speaker, 11:45 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Sept. 11 – Young adult cotillion, 3 p.m., CPC
Sept. 13–14 – USCCB Administrative Committee meeting, Washington, DC
Sept. 15 – Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Sept. 15 – Walking with Mamas in Need event, 7 p.m., CPC
Sept. 16 – Mass for Fall Education Institute, 8:30 a.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
Sept. 16–18 – Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher Investiture, Houston, Texas

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on soonercatholic.org.

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

We pray that the Lord may comfort all those who have been affected by sui-cide, grant eternal rest to those who have died by sui-cide and provide hope and healing to those who have attempted it. We pray to the Lord, hear our prayer.

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

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of those in poverty. Open our eyes to see you in the cries of those in poverty. Open our mouths to defend you in the public square as well as in the private square. Remind us that what we do to the least of these, we do to you. Amen.
From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Riganza, archdiocesan archivist

Catholicism in the Oklahoma Panhandle can be traced back nearly 500 years to when the Conquis-
dadores crossed the area and Mesas were there in 1542. The history from that point, however, is less clear.

What is known, though, is that a priest, Father David Dume, from nearby Amarillo, Texas, came to offer the Mass in the area around Guymon in 1904.

A Catholic community in Hooker had been formed by Father Peter Kamp, the pastor at Woodward. The first Sacred Heart Church was constructed in 1907 and included a rectory. Saint Peter’s in Guymon was also built in 1907. In the beginning, Hooker was the parish and Guymon the mission.

With the arrival of Father Allert Monnet, later Monsignor and rector of the Cathedral in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa, in 1909, Guymon became the parish and Hooker the mission. Father Monnet used a motorcycle to make his pastoral rounds on the rural dirt roads. The missionary spirit was alive and well with Father Monnet.

From 1916 until 1923, the pastor of Dillhart, Texas, cared for Guymon, Hooker and the Kollman farm in Beaver County. A grove was fashioned in honor of the Immaculate Conception and it was used as the future pas-
tor of Father Harold Pierce. He later became pastor of the Richland Parish in upstate New York, where I grew up.

In 1943, Bishop Kelly from Cincinnati, Ohio, to man the missions of the Panhandle.

They accepted and remained through 1964. Of the meantime, the first Catholic church in the vicinity of Boise City was Good Shepard Chapel on the Lujan Ranch, near what is now Whiter-rocks. It had been closed for de-
cades until Bishop Reed asked Father Monnet to build a church in 1961, and it was dedicated to the patronage of Saint Philip Beniti. In the early 2000s, the original name was restored back to Good Shepard to honor its roots. It is still attended by Guymon.

Saint Francis Cabrini in Beaver was established in 1947. The Kilman ranch had been the Catholic presence in Be-
aver County, but Bishop Kelly believed a parish church in the town of Beaver had become neces-
sary. He chose the name of the newly canonized naturalized American citizen, Mother Fran-
cis Cabrini. Saint Francis had come to America to serve Italian immigrants and was a remark-
able woman. Bishop Kelly had a fondness for her when, as the head the Catholic Church Extension Society, preached her funeral homily in Chicago in 1917. A schoolhouse was pur-
chased, renovated and became the parish church. Guymon was transformed in the 1970s as economic oppor-
tunities arose that changed the face of the town. A larger church became an inevitability, and in 1985 the new Saint Peter’s was constructed at a different location. Ministries expanded and due to an emergent Hispanic population and the parish is thriving.

Due to its rather isolated ge-
ography, it is a unique church. The ability of the church to grow and maintain the faith under sometimes trying condi-
tions, and being so far removed from the Archdiocese of Shreveport, in the story of Catholicism in the Panhandle. The grit and persever-
ance of the people is indeed inspiring to the entire archdio-
cesan.

St. Peter Catholic Church, circa 1948.

Fr. Kelly Edwards greeted students on the first day of school at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He greeted Julius Koons, dressed in his dorm room and offered some advice. Go to Mass, go to class and go to confession. Koons is pictured with Fr. Kelly at Noon Mass on the first day of school. Photo provided.

A ministry fair was held Aug. 20-21 at St. Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. Photo provided.

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Subscription rate: $35 per year.

Vagabond Missions to begin evangelizing to inner-city youth in 2023

By Jolene Schonchin

The goal of Vagabond Missions is to preach the gospel to inner-city teens. Cipriano said there are other organizations helping with housing, helping with addiction and help with the social justice aspect.

“We simply focus on bringing Jesus into the lives of the inner-city youth. I have worked with teens from all different economic back-
grounds. Throughout my lifetime I have worked in Kentucky and South Texas, with all differ-
ent types of people, and the reality is every kid is facing obstacles. Especially the obstacle of living in a post-Christian society where it is no longer socially acceptable to be a Christian for many teens. A lot of teens in the inner city, you pile on the obstacle of poverty, increased drug use, increased abuse and you start to find many young people who feel trapped and feel like there is no way for them to move forward with a joyful life. I really believe that Jesus and the Gospel give people hope and give people life. Their obstacles are more frequent, and some are almost impossible to overcome,” Cipriano said.
The Ladder of Ascent / La Escalera de Ascenso

This fall, the Bl. Stanley Rother Institute is offering The Ladder of Ascent, a course for adults on the Catechism of the Catholic Church presented in English and in Spanish. Students will encounter the richness of the Catholic faith, understand the Church’s reasoning and embrace their call to Go Make Disciples. To learn more and enroll, visit archokc.org/ladder.

Fundraiser

Knights of Columbus Council 12108 is having a fundraiser to provide financial support for fire seminars for the 2022-2023 school year.

First prize: TCL 55” class 4k KDR LED Smart ROKU TV.

Second prize: LG-TONE free wireless active headphones.

Third prize: OU Legacy letter jacket.

Tickets $10 each or three for $25. Drawing on Oct. 2. Purchase tickets via the QR code below.

To purchase tickets online:

Open phone camera

Aim at QR code

Tap the banner

Over $2 million gala launches new CFL vision

The Center of Family Love’s multi-million-dollar, 9th annual Gift of Love Gala, provided the platform that launched a new direction and expansion for the Oklahoma-based organization. Founded in 1981, the Center has been providing lifelong care and career opportunities for adults conquering disabilities, at no change to families who cannot afford their care.

“We are excited to unlock the talents of our NextGen Heroes and infusing their love into the world.” Debbie Espinosa, president and CEO of CFL, said. Espinosa’s remarks referred to the biggest news of the night, that the Center of Family Love, and their partners attending the gala, are igniting an unstoppable global movement to empower future leaders in the workplace with different abilities.

“The Center of Family Love is determined to change the largest gaping hole in society for those who live with disabilities. For generations, children with developmental differences have not been given the opportunity to transition into high school after school. Their extraordinary talents have been underdeveloped and they have not had the opportunity to incorporate their abilities in advanced positions in our workforce … until now,” Espinosa said.

“The Center of Family Love does much more than provide quality lifetime care to their residents. They discover and develop the hidden talents of each hero. A hero is someone who is admired for their courage, outstanding achievements and noble qualities.”

“When our residents conquer their disabilities every single day, they are heroes to us, and will one day soon be heroes to the next generation. We call them NextGen Heroes,” Espinosa said. A centerpiece of their new vision is a brand-new 60,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building that will serve, Espinosa described, “as a catalyst for career development and leadership training for those conquering disabilities. This building will not only serve our 130 current heroes, but an additional 500 elderly, veteran and disabled adults living in the Oklahoma City metro area who will continue to live at home supported by their families.”

“The vision is shared by some of the most influential Oklahomans in the restaurant industry as well. David Egan, director of operations for Cattlemen’s Steakhouse interrupted the gala proceedings with several other head chefs and owners from top Oklahoma City restaurants including: Kurt Fleischhauer, director of operations at Vast; Oliver Boudin, chief executive officer at Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club; Michel Buthon, owner of La Baguette Bistro; Vere Jaisavat executive vice president of Oklahoma City Petroleum Club; Rick Naideh, president of Premium Brands Wine & Spirits and Greg Conrey, owner of Jamil’s Steakhouse.

Egan spoke for the group, stating, “we believe in what the Center of Family Love is building, and we want to partner with your culinary art school to develop the next generation of sous chefs with different abilities. We can all use our expertise to help you develop your culinary program.”

Restaurateurs were not the only people that were impressed, a new documentary by a former BBC internationally-acclaimed documentary filmmaker will begin filming in 2022, covering the genesis of this global movement.

“Together we are going to ignite a generational impact like nothing the world has ever seen. We invite you to join our global movement and redefine the next generation of role models, with different abilities, entering their rightful place in our workforce,” Espinosa said.

Located in Okarche with more than 41 years of experience, the Center of Family Love has developed nationally recognized, innovative solutions to the ever-growing, worldwide demand for comprehensive development after high school, at no charge for those who cannot afford their lifelong care.
The Catholic Daughters of the Americas holds national convention

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas held its national convention in Ramada Plaza Hotel, Juan, Puerto Rico on July 20-24. The Oklahoma delegation included Saint Basilian Daughters, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Altus, All Saints in Oklahoma City, Saint Andrew's Catholic Church in Altus, Saint Charles Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, and Saint Francis of Peace in Altus.

The Oklahoman received several recognitions from the CDA National Board. The Oklahoma State CDA representative won the Faith Formation Award. She was also a member of the National CDA Executive Board.

For more information about the CDA conventions, please contact your State CDA President or the CDA National Office at (202) 628-0400.

Book review: “In the Eye of the Storm: a biography of Gregory the Great”

By Dr. Benet Eston, O.S.B.
The Sooner Catholic

At Saint Gregory’s Abbey, there is a book read to the monastic community each day by the abbot or some other member of the community. This book is a biography of Gregory the Great, by Sigrid Grabher, which was first published in 1994. General editor, General Index, and the author’s Index. The book includes a prologue, an introduction, and an index.

Gregory the Great is known as the first pope to hold the title “the Great” after their names. He was the first pope to hold the title of “the Good.”

The most important of those biographies is in the second book, which is the first biography of Saint Benedict, the founder of Western monasticism. This book does not have any maps or illustrations. A monk who has helped to guide the reader through the text.

The book does not contain a chronology, an index of persons and a subject index. The book is very readable. It is a translation from the original German. The book was originally published in 2009. General and academic readers will enjoy this fast-paced book. Saint Gregory’s feast day is Sept. 3.

This book is highly recommended to those interested in Church history. Saint Gregory the Great, the Church, and Benedictine monasticism.

By Dr. Benet Eston, O.S.B., Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Seven Catholic schools welcome new principals

By Courtney Rhone

The Sooner Catholic recently welcomed the leadership of all seven Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Congratulations to the following new school leaders!

Name: Fred Martin
School: Saint Joseph Catholic School, Enid
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
The new year is such a time of excitement: new books, new classes, new teachers and new classmates. It is the time when we see all the potential we’ve yet experienced the struggle and the growth. It is a fresh start.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I enjoyed English especially, and I discovered at the end of my studies is love for drama.
How will you help students and teachers succeed?
My role is to help the faculty meet the goals of Vision 2030 and the needs and demands of parents and students. To do this well, I must listen to those groups and communicate clearly and efficiently to faculty.

Name: Lou Ann Wood
School: All Saints Catholic School
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
I am very excited to be at All Saints! We are an amazing school with fantastic teachers, parents, friends, and students. I look forward to building relationships with our All Saints families and learning about the rich history of All Saints Catholic School.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I am a history teacher and my favorite subject was history. I was a history lover. It is the time when we see all the potential we’ve yet experienced the struggle and the growth.
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Name: Wade Laflay
School: Saint Mary Catholic School, Ponca City
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
The first day of school is the best day of the year! The first few weeks of summer are nice, but mid-July, the school building begins to quiet—almost of excitement and interaction. With the start of school, I am especially renewed with each student.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I look forward to teaching in a high school setting alongside a tremendous group of educators and professionals in Catholic education.
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Name: Laura Cain
School: Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School, Oklahoma City
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
I am excited about the opportunity to meet our new students and teachers and get to know each of them. As a principal at the school, I am especially reminded of the 24/7/365 nature of living the Catholic life that only a Catholic school environment can provide. God gives me the chance to learn and grow from my mistakes at the start of each new school year.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I am an English teacher. I enjoyed the subject. I was a history lover. It is the time when we see all the potential we’ve yet experienced the struggle and the growth.
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Name: Janet Edgar
School: Saint John Neumann Catholic School, Yukon
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
As a new principal from out of state, I am excited to come in and observe all the things the school does. We will line up our self-study for accreditation, so I will get to know all the wonderful things about the school and also the things we need to do better in the future.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I love music. I was a history lover. It is the time when we see all the potential we’ve yet experienced the struggle and the growth.
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Name: Nicole De Lange
School: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Edmond
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
The start of every new school year is a wonderful time of year. It is the culmination of the high school seniors, new goals and growth opportunities for all—creating a safe and secure environment for students, parents and teachers.
What was your favorite subject in school growing up?
I enjoyed English especially, and I discovered at the end of my studies is love for drama.
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Name: Laura Hames
School: Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School, Oklahoma City
What do you look forward to most at the start of a new school year?
I am excited about the opportunity to meet our new students and teachers and get to know each of them. As a principal at the school, I am especially reminded of the 24/7/365 nature of living the Catholic life that only a Catholic school environment can provide. God gives me the chance to learn and grow from my mistakes at the start of each new school year.
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The academic rigor and experience of a college-level class, these courses also offer the opportunity for students to earn college credit for classes on the end of the year AP exam. Taking AP exams gives a student the advantage in college by allowing them to earn 3 or more AP classes in high school, allowing students open up time in high school, allowing students open up time in the class of 2022, 78% of graduates had taken an AP course while at McGuinness, while the national average is 39.

AP Scholar with Honor

All AP Scholars Awards, College Board’s Advanced Placement Program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams. The different award levels are described below:

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive college credit for four or more AP classes.

AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.0 on all AP classes.

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams, taken and scored 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

The Catholic Difference

CRACOW – Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees have put their trust in this ancient cultural capital of Poland since Vladimir Putin’s poorly equipped, inadequately armed army of occupation has been driving hundreds of thousands of refugees into their territories. After they had passed through transit centers on the Polish-Ukrainian border and found shelter in皱纹 in Polish homes, not camps or checkpoints, where Ukrainian refugees found themselves throughout Poland in 2022.

Polish Catholics have many problems these days. The episcopate, or at least the most vocal bishops, are too closely aligned with a single political party. Moreover, the Polish bishops seem to have learned little from other episcopal statements about the imperative of transparency and truth. This new challenge is self-inflicted, the Polish and Ukrainian will be seen as one country. The two scientists spoke of the same refugee tide that has washed through Poland since February — and then Professor Rozkoski’s guest asked the question: “Where are the camps?”

In his experience, and that of much of his academic work, that is where you warehouse them in refugee camps. The Polish apostolic pretense that Poland can absorb such colossal numbers of refugees is false. The Polish government has estimated that 9 million or more refugees would be needed in Poland, and this estimate is now too small. Putin’s Russia as the Great Defender of Christian Civilization.

The warmth and generosity of Poland’s response to Ukrainian refugees also demonstrates the power of the Church to create networks of solidarity. There is not a lot of history between Poland and Ukraine, and some of the worst of that history took place here. The question is not told. No one is talking about that now, however. As Saint John Paul II put it, “history’s memory” has been erased, and mutual reconciliation has been the result.

The Church, in another reason why, amidst Europe’s most severe refugee crisis since 1945, Polish Catholic refugees in Poland and Ukrainian refugees welcomed, sheltered and nurtured in Polish homes.

McGuinness Advanced Placement update 2022-2023

In 2022, 278 Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students took 567 exams in their college-level courses for students while still in high school. Beyond providing students

AP Advantages

This advanced placement program offers college-level courses for students while still in high school. Providing students

AP Scholar (19)


AP Scholar with Honor (25)


AP Scholar with Distinction (44)


AP Scholar with Honor (25)


Christian solidarity vs barbarism

George Weigel

Ethics and Public Policy Center

Sooner Catholic

Catholic Schools Jobs Box

Teachers – OKC

St. Eugene Catholic School is accepting the following positions for the 2022-2023 school year. Applicants should hold at least a bachelor’s degree in education for the 2022-2023 school year. Applications should include both a bachelor’s degree in education for the 2022-2023 school year. For more information about each position, visit stegn.org, careers or email appmgr@stegn.org.

Teachers – Okarche

Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is seeking teachers for the 2022-2023 school year for the following positions: Pre-K, 1st grade English language arts and reading.

Baylor’s degree with Oklahoma state teaching certification is desired. Send a resume and cover letter to Principal Alice Newman at anewman@baylorok.org.

Band teacher – OKC, Yukon

Christ the King Catholic School, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic High School, and St. Sebastian Catholic School are seeking a band director. This position would meet the students in grades 4-8. Applicants must have music education, instruction, first and prior experience as a band director.

Director of Admissions – OKC

Crain’s Okla Okc Catholic High School is seeking a director of admissions and assistant principal to apply to the school, direct the admission and pre-kindergarten point of inquiry to enrollment, supervise and manage the school’s admissions process and manage the office of Admissions. This position requires a college degree in education or related field required; master’s degree preferred. At least three years of admission, instruction, first and prior experience as a registrar to be ready to serve as the registrar of Catholic High School on PowerSchool. This position starts at the beginning of school year and applications are welcome at cr主义oryok.org/carriers.

Register – OKC

Catholic High School is seeking a registrar for the 2022-2023 school year to be responsible for the principal and academic leadership by registering students, continuation of student information system, record management, grade reports, student transcripts and school enrollment. Must have bachelor’s degree and prior experience as a registrar to be ready to serve as the registrar of Catholic High School on PowerSchool. This position starts at the beginning of school year and applications are welcome at cr主义oryok.org/carriers.

Teach for Interstellar

Christian Solidarity vs. Barbarism

George Weigel

Ethics and Public Policy Center

Sooner Catholic

Catholic Schools Jobs Box
Executive assistant – OKC
City is seeking a full-time executive assistant to provide administrative support for the chancellor, chief financial officer, director of human resources, and moderator of the council. The executive assistant will maintain databases and coordinate documents and other requirements for the chancellor, chief financial officer, and moderator of the council. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Gift shop manager – Shrine
The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a gift shop manager to supervise the gift shop, including purchasing, receiving, inventory, and financial procedures. Must be highly motivated and able to maintain office supply inventory. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint is preferred; customer service-related experience is required. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a willingness to learn behavioral concepts and tablet-based software for data collection are essential. Emile Biddick at (405) 226-6387 or b6Q3xrh9dnF4MHRP7. Contact by email required. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

Refugee job developer – OKC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a refugee job developer to develop and maintain partnerships with employers to identify employment opportunities; provide job readiness training; assist with applications, interviews and placement activities and conduct follow-up actions. Services are conducted in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. High school diploma and at least two years of experience are essential. At least five years of previous experience in a related field is preferred. Must be able to communicate and work in Spanish. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Volunteer coordinator – Shrine
The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a volunteer coordinator to oversee the daily management, implementation of the support of volunteers at the shrine. Job duties will include recruiting, training, scheduling, supervising and recognizing volunteer efforts in support of pilgrimage activities as well as special events and celebrations held at the shrine. Applicant must have previous experience or a bachelor’s degree in a related field, exhibit an interest in volunteerism and community building and demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations. Leadership experience with volunteer groups within the Catholic Church is a plus. Must have a desire to evangelize and to promote devotion to Bl. Stanley Rother. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Marketing, volunteer coordinator – OKC
City is seeking a marketing volunteer coordinator to develop and manage relationships with individual and corporate donors, oversee social media and website postings; provide effective support for the organization’s various volunteer opportunities; help produce the monthly newsletter and external collateral and fortify the structure of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The coordinator will coordinate and maintain the Volunteer program, direct communication and registration for departmental events, submit timely and accurate reports and perform other administrative duties as assigned. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Director of Communications – Sooner Catholic
The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a director of communications to oversee all aspects of communication, media relations and promotional efforts. Minimum three to five years of experience in public relations, journalism or marketing; bachelor’s degree in a related field is preferred. Must be able to communicate in Spanish if desired, but not required. To curric/viace generalis. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Paralegal – OLC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a paralegal to provide quality legal services relating to the Archdiocese’s fiduciary and business transactions. Must be highly motivated and have legal experience through assessing their eligibility and potential benefits under the IRA and related statutes. Must be highly motivated and available to work full-time. Send resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

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La pena de muerte es un tema vital

La pena de muerte es un tema vital y necesario. Hasta la fecha, hay 16 ejecuciones programadas en el mes de febrero, lo que nos lleva a pensar que es un tema que debemos abordar con seriedad.

La pena de muerte es inadmisible, porque atenta contra la santidad de la vida desde la concepción hasta la fecha, y se considera una de las formas más brutales de castigo. En 1999, San Juan Pablo II pidió la abolición de la pena de muerte. El número de ejecuciones ha disminuido desde 1999 y el número de ejecuciones disminuye cada año.

La pena de muerte es una forma de castigo que se considera inadmisible, porque atenta contra la dignidad inviolable de cada persona. El uso de la pena de muerte solo contribuye al calendario recrudecimiento y violencia. Tomar otra vida en última instancia es inadmisible.

Aunque podemos dañar esa dignidad por nuestra pecaminosidad, no podemos destruir la totalidad de un ser. No es algo que ganemos o podemos perder. No nos lo concede un gobierno, sino es creado por Dios en nosotros. El solo es el Señor de la vida.

Es un buen momento para enfocarse en un parte importante de la enseñanza moral de nuestra Iglesia sobre la santidad de la vida que a menudo pasamos por alto o cuestionamos. Me refiero a la pena de muerte.

En los últimos años, hemos testigos de un desarrollo auténtico de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre el tema de la pena de muerte. En 1999, San Juan Pablo II pidió el fin de la pena de muerte, que describió como “cruel e innecesario”. En 2011, el Papa Benedicto XVI dijo: “Los líderes de la sociedad deben hablar de la pena de muerte para eliminar la pena de muerte”. En 2018, el Papa Francisco reivindicó a su Catecismo que la pena de muerte es inadmisible, porque atenta contra la inadmisibilidad de la pena de muerte. Pero, hay consistencia en nuestra posición de la pena de muerte desde el 19 de febrero.

Durante muchos años, hemos tolerado la pena de muerte en base a nuestra creencia de que es un instrumento discursivo de los crímenes. Los hechos no lo confirmaron. De hecho, el uso de la pena de muerte aumentó, y las parejas también tienen las tasas de criminalidad más altas. Por el contrario, aquellas áreas del país con tasas de ejecución más bajas también tienen las tasas de criminalidad más bajas. Hay muchos otros factores que debemos considerar. Si bien el ejecutar a una persona es un fin, nuestro sistema no es infalible. Hasta la fecha, se han habido 16 ejecuciones programadas en el mes de febrero.

Mientras la Iglesia está llegando a una apreciación más clara de la incongruencia entre la pena de muerte y nuestra convicción fundamental sobre la dignidad humana, y la santidad de cada vida, más vidas son costadas a la violencia cometida. Hay que reconsiderar la pena de muerte.

En 2011, el Papa Benedicto XVI dijo: “La misericordia perfecciona la justicia”. La misericordia perfecciona la justicia, y a su vez, él es la misericordia de la Cruz y la Resurrección.

Durante muchos años, hemos tolerado la pena de muerte en base a nuestra creencia de que es un instrumento discursivo de los crímenes. Los hechos no lo confirmaron. De hecho, el uso de la pena de muerte aumentó, y las tasas de criminalidad más altas también tienen las tasas de criminalidad más bajas. Hay muchos otros factores que debemos considerar. Si bien el ejecutar a una persona es un fin, nuestro sistema no es infalible.

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Según San Juan Pablo II, reconocemos el daño causado a las víctimas del delito y a la sociedad en general debido a los atroces actos de violencia. Nosotras respaldamos a la justicia. Debemos apoyar y ayudar a las víctimas del crimen. Sin embargo, podemos proteger a la sociedad y castigar el crimen sin recurrir a la pena de muerte.

El uso de la pena de muerte solo contribuye al calendario recrudecimiento y violencia. Tomar otra vida en última instancia es inadmisible.

La pena de muerte es un tema vital y necesario. Hasta la fecha, hay 16 ejecuciones programadas en el mes de febrero, lo que nos lleva a pensar que es un tema que debemos abordar con seriedad.
Shrine Tepeyac Hill dedication Dec. 12
Join Archbishop Coakley, priests of the archdiocese and guests for the dedication of Shrine Tepeyac Hill at Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 901 S. Littler Ave., in Oklahoma City on Monday, Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Oklahoma City. The dedication and procession open to the public and will include blessing of the statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John Bosco atop the hill. More information at archokc.org/shrine.

Rothar shrine dedication Feb. 17
Join Archbishop Coakley, priests of the archdiocese, bishops and guests for the dedication of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine on Friday, Feb. 17, in Oklahoma City. The dedication will be the centerpiece of a week-long celebration and is open to the public. Seating will be limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis. Find more information at archokc.org/shrine.

Catholic-Lutheran prayer service for Ukraine St. Eugene Catholic Church in The Village will host an ecumenical prayer service for Ukraine 7 p.m. on Feb. 28, in Oklahoma City. The service will join area Lutherans and Catholics in charity and intercessory prayer.

Catholic-Lutheran prayer service for Ukraine St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., in Oklahoma City, will be at 6 p.m. on Sept. 15 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., in Oklahoma City. The Mass is a part of the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Salvation announcement service Fr. Rick Blueberry will lead a general information session about Salvation Army’s 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sept. 11 in the Great Hall at St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave. in Edmond. Open to everyone. Contact the church at (405) 340-0691.

Mass of Remembrance The 2022 Mass of Remembrance will be at 6 p.m. on Sept. 15 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., in Oklahoma City. The Mass is in remembrance of those lost to suicide. Everyone is welcome.

Bingo The Knights of Columbus Family Bingo is 6:30 p.m., Sept. 22 at St. James the Greater Catholic Church, 4210 S. McKinley Ave in Oklahoma City. All games $10. City, the Queen of Heaven, 1005 N.E. 15 St., in Oklahoma City, will have Bingo with dinner, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Sept. 18. For more information contact the church at (405) 535-3075 or cathedralko.org/youth/education-consent-form. Visit washuppurpose.com/blize.

Memorial Mass A Memorial Mass to honor the memory of the more than 62 million unborn children who have been the victims of abortion will be at 9 a.m. on Sept. 10 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1000 W. MacArthur St. in Shawnee. Bishop David Konderla will be the celebrant at the Mass. A Mass is a part of the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Annulment information session Fr. Rick Blueberry will lead a general information session about annulments 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sept. 11 in the Great Hall at St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave. in Edmond. Open to everyone. Contact the church at (405) 340-0691.

Annulment Mass Oklahoma City’ssql.august.org.

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the day of the dedication,” Archbishop Coakley said. “This is a once in a lifetime project and we want it to be ready to properly serve our Catholic community, especially our growing Hispanic population, and to welcome pilgrims from around the world on Day 1. It will be worth the wait!”

The dedication of the shrine church originally was scheduled for Nov. 4. All festivities, Masses and the vigil with Blessed Stanley’s casket at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help that were originally scheduled the week before the dedication will move to the week of Feb. 12. More details of the events will be available on social media, in the Sooner Catholic newspaper and in parish bulletins.

The first Masses at the shrine campus for Sacred Heart Catholic Church will be the weekend of Feb. 18-19. Weekend Masses will continue at the Shartel location of Historic Sacred Heart until February and continuing after the shrine opens.

Shrine rector Father Don Wolf said his parishioners are preparing for their move to the new location and are excited to begin celebrating Mass in the new shrine.

“It became clear we needed more time once construction was completed to get the shrine, the museum and the parish offices ready to go. This will be a magnificent place of pilgrimage for generations of people who will come to honor Blessed Stanley and glorify God,” Father Wolf said. “Taking an extra few months to get this perfect is the right thing to do.”

The shrine is named for Blessed Stanley Rother (ROW-THER), an Okarche farmer who in 1963 became a priest of what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa and served as a missionary in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. In 1981, Father Rother was murdered in his rectory during a violent civil war. The perpetrators have never been caught. In 2016, Pope Francis declared him a martyr for the faith – the first recognized Catholic martyr from the United States. He was beatified in 2017 in Oklahoma City.

The $50 million shrine and pilgrim center and grounds is the signature element of the first-ever capital campaign for the archdio-

cese – One Church, Many Disciples. The site eventually will include the 2,000-seat church, a chapel where Blessed Stanley will be entombed, an education building, an event space and several areas designated for shrines and devotion. The site will be developed over time.

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