Faithful Catholics around the world are mourning the loss of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who passed away peacefully the morning of Dec. 31, 2022.

Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger was born April 16, 1927, and held the papacy from April 19, 2005, to April 13, 2013, when he resigned.

For the first time since his death in 1981, Blessed Stanley Rother will lie in state at a public overnight vigil before being interred in the chapel at the new Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City.

The vigil will begin with vespers (evening prayer) at 5 p.m. led by Archbishop Coakley and priests of the archdiocese.

Beginning Jan. 29, Catholic schools in Oklahoma and across the nation will be celebrated for their commitment to faith, service and excellence during National Catholic Schools Week.

The National Catholic Educational Association, the organization dedicated to supporting Catholic school administrators, teachers and students, explains that the Catholic school, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution; it is the people. The NCEA, which serves as the voice for Catholic education, assigns a different theme to every day of National Catholic Schools Week. Each day is dedicated to celebrating one of the many facets of Catholic education.

At Saint Mary Catholic School in Ponca City, the commitment to educating the whole person in mind, body and spirit is evident in the degree of sacrifice and dedication of the staff.

Principal Wade Laffey lists smaller class sizes, individual attention and greater accountability as a few attributes of Catholic education; however, he believes it is the focus on Christ that puts the educational aspects into perspective.

Laffey explained that schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, including Saint Mary, "are run by individuals who absolutely believe..."
Day of Reconciliation in the Eucharist

By JD Zielinski
The Sooner Catholic

“With the Days of Reflection on Eucharistic Revival here at the Abbey we want to help re-establish and deepen the understanding why the Eucharist is and how important it is in our lives as Catholics,” he said. “Participating in the Days of Reflection helps you step outside of the everyday distractions, focus your concentration and be more attentive to your spiritual growth.”

Brother Damian stressed the importance of silence, which the third retreat on April 1 will be devoted to in a particular way. Albert Lawrence Stanislaw, O.S.B., abbot of Saint Gregory’s Abbey, will ask the participants to rediscover the spirit of silence, with short reflections and resources provided for personal meditation and a closer encounter with the Lord throughout the day.

“We believe in the value of silence and that people don’t have much opportunity for it. There is so much noise in the world. The faithful need the opportunity to get away from the demands of social media,” he said. “To spend even one minute of the Day of Reflection, we will have time for reflection, silence and meditation.”

The four spring retreats will guide the participants to deepen and strengthen their relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist — his sacrifice of love, and to better understand the opportunity the Eucharist offers everyone to grow closer to the Lord through the image of Christ. The retreats in the summer, fall and winter of 2023 will build on the spring events. They will address a wide array of moral and spiritual issues; The Eucharist and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the view of Jesus as Brother; O.S.B. and other topics to be announced soon.

Archbishop Diockley’s Ailbhe will host a series of monthly Days of Reflection on Eucharistic Revival throughout 2023.

“Our desire is to be of service to this vision. Isaiah’s challenge to do good and seek justice is a call for his disciples: “that they may be one, as you, the Father, are in me, and I in you,” he said.

Archbishop Diockley asked the Father, Jesus asked for his disciples: “that they may be one, as you, the Father, are in me, and I in you,” he said.

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“Archbishop Coakley’s statement on the passing of Pope Benedict XVI:

Pope Benedict XVI was among the greatest theologians of our time, having a profound influence on our appreciation of the call to holiness for every baptized person and the obligation as disciples to live as humble servants and seekers of truth. I was blessed by his appointment as Archbishop of Oklahoma City in 2010 and my episcopacy has been guided by, among other things, his crystal-clear teaching and his love for the sacred liturgy. We entrust this humble servant to the merciful hands of God that he may be welcomed into the glory of paradise and find eternal rest and everlasting peace.”

Church mourns loss of former pope, theologian

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help held a funeral Mass on Jan. 5 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk. “We talked about his life and legacy, his ex- aries, speeches, his books and his calling for universal holiness,” Father Krittenbrink said. Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton also held memorials. “We had vespers for the dead, and the next day, we had a mourn- ing mass,” said Father Phil Borton, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church in Law- ton. “He had a portrait, and the frame was wrapped with the black ribbon. In addition to Vespers Wednesday and the Memorial Mass Thursday, parishes held a special Eastern Orthodox and Byzantine Rite Mass, in what is referred to as a “Panachida.” During the Mass, the names of those who have passed are read aloud, he said. “They are celebrat- ed five times per year in what we are referred to as “All Souls Saturday.””

“So bad people coming from a distance – Tulsa, McAlester, Oklaho- ma City, and there were some local people as well,” Father Borton said.

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and Holy Family Catholic Church are only two examples of the outpouring of prayers that came from the universal Church. “What’s amazing to me is he had 86 ideas, 7 years of homilies, enumerable essays, three encyclopedias, three books, and I boil- ed down the four words at his funeral,” Father Borton said. “We love you, Jesus,” Father Krittenbrink said.

Sooner Catholic

“From the Archives …

A photo series from George Rippl, archdiocesan archivist

With the closing of Saint Michael Catholic Church in Goltry, another small rural parish is continued to house. However, the beautiful structure that was home to this community was the source of sacramental life in its history. In 1903, Czech families gathered on the plot where the parish would be established. Soon a small building was erected at the present site. Soon a second building was erected. The result of his work was a classic and attractive design that stands out on the landscape of the prairie. The ar- chitect was Harold Gemino of Norman, who also designed the first Catholic student center, Ma- ter Admirable, on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

A parish hall was added in 1931, and in 1942, a convent for four Benedictine sisters who came to be involved in the community helping with religious education and visiting families was added. Father Hermie Havrák was the pastor in 1951 and had the idea of opening a church in the area. It was built in 1956. It was dedicated in 1966. Resident pastors were the norm, so the pastor of Goltry was a town of eight hundred people and an agricultural center for the main crop of wheat. However, inevi-itable change occurred, and the town is now approximately two hundred residents.

When Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church was estab- lished in Goltry in 1971, Goltry became a missions and the pastor no longer resided in the presbyterium. The number of parishes attending Masses now dwindled to eight and the ability to main- tain the facility became untenable. On Nov. 11, 2022, the last Mass was celebrated at Saint Michael’s, closing the book on an era of service to the town of Goltry. The history of the parish is the story of the spirit of early settlers in the new state. The original church was constructed on the plot where the parish cemetery is today. Beginning in 1903, Czech families gathered under the care of Monsignor Gustave Dwork, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Enid. In the year of establishment, another building was erected at the present site. Soon a rectory and convent were built, and the parish received its first resident pastor in Father Alfred Deibl in 1912. Tragically, the church and rectory were destroyed by fire in 1925, and being wooden structures, they were reconstructed quickly. The pastor, Father Hulshoff, last everything he owned in the fire but quickly started the process of rebuild- ing. At this juncture there were about 35 families who belonged to the parish.

Feb. 7 and Feb. 8: “Making a difference in Oklahoma”

Feb. 21 and Feb. 22: “Jad Ziolkowska, Ph.D., friends of the University of Oklahoma”

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Feb. 7 and Feb. 8: “Making a difference in Oklahoma”

Feb. 21 and Feb. 22: “Jad Ziolkowska, Ph.D., friends of the University of Oklahoma”
On Saturday, Jan. 21, hundreds of people from across the state of Oklahoma gathered to attend the annual Sanctity of Life Mass at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral in downtown Oklahoma City, and to participate in the first Oklahoma March for Life since the overturning of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which relegated laws concerning abortion to state governments. More than 500 marchers took to the streets of downtown Oklahoma City to walk to the Oklahoma State Capitol to advocate for the sanctity of life.

The march concluded with remarks from Archbishop Coakley and Owen Nease, Ph.D., who encouraged the crowd to keep working toward the goal of supporting and protecting the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death.

“We still have much work to do,” proclaimed Archbishop Coakley to the crowd gathered at the steps of the state capital. “In this new post-Roe v. Wade era, we must stand for the dignity and sanctity of all life, from conception to its natural end.”

Archbishop Coakley continued by thanking the members of the Oklahoma government and legislature who worked to pass bills protecting the lives of unborn children, but rebuked the continued and consistent use of the death penalty in the state.

“Oklahoma has one of the most active death chambers in the country,” explained Archbishop Coakley. “Our own actions, even our own sinful actions, cannot strip us of the dignity God has given to us whom he created to his own image and likeness. We are precious in God’s sight — no matter our sins and no matter our crimes.”

Learn more about the multitude of pro-life ministries of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City by visiting archokc.org/respectlife.

Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.
Peter de Keratry is the executive director of the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development for the archdiocese and executive director of The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. He has been with the archdiocese since July 2016. His role is to encourage financial generosity and ensure the many ministries of the archdiocese have the funding they need to function effectively. His hobbies include music, traveling, and most importantly being a father to his kids.

Archbishop Coakley and Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass for the Perpetual Profession of Vows for three Dominican Sisters on Jan. 1 at St. Andrew Dung-Lac Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. The three Dominican Sisters who professed their final vows are Sr. Anna Lu Thi Nguyen, O.P., Sr. Maria Huyen To Thi Nguyen, O.P., and Sr. Maria Ngoc Bi Nhi Nguyen, O.P. The sisters are from Vietnam and members of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Go Vap. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Learn more about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at archokc.org/schools.
The value of a Catholic school:

PRICELESS

A parent and teachers, we often ask children what they want to be when they grow up. As parents, we start thinking of the potential answer long before our children can answer for themselves. For many, the question was first asked at the child’s baptism, “What do you want for this child?” The answer, of course, has a depth beyond just the immediate response of “Baptism.” It is an emotional moment; we ask all that is to come for this child entrusted to our care. We want our child to be cleansed of original sin and marked as a child of God for eternity. We want this child to have heaven opened to them and to choose it for themselves by their faith and actions. We want this child to learn skills of all kinds to give them the best of options during their life. We want this child to have good friends that raise them up and help them to shine. We want this child to be loved by all and to love us in return. As faithful, practicing Catholics, we know that the sacrament will help us as parents put the child on the right path toward heaven. Our primary responsibility as parents to educate our children ends, regardless of their age. But when they are young the education process is demanding, and we often need a community to help us. There is nothing more natural than raising our children in the faith and incorporating that faith into all aspects of their education. It is for that reason that many parents choose Catholic Schools, to educate their child: mind, body, heart and soul.

We want this child to be nurtured by the love of Jesus Christ through sacraments, prayer and high-quality spiritual formation and each other. Students learn about the lives of the saints and specifically about vocation, working day by day to acquire those virtues to take into their home, extended family and community, giving students the habits necessary to live responsible, productive and holy lives. Within this formative environment, students are encouraged to respond generously to the invitation to serve God, others and the common good.

Parents choose this by exercising their exclusive right to choose what is best for their child. As far back as 1965, the discussion of school choice considering the parent’s role was taking place in our second Vatican Council. The document Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis), No. 6, states: “Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the public power, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children.”

The recent pandemic has shown parents that being engaged in the educational choices for their children is needed. Options are good. Many exercised this option and choose Catholic schools for the first time—and they are still with us three years later! For many of these parents, this was a huge sacrifice, but their conscience told them this was needed for their child to thrive, and they made it happen. They are not alone in their desire. Legislative efforts are being made across the country, and in Oklahoma, to honor and cherish the rights of parents to choose the best educational outcome for their child and to be able to receive the necessary assistance to do so, depending on the type of school option chosen. We support parents in making the best choice for their children, be it a Catholic school, homeschool, virtual school or one of the public charter school options. A winning tide rises on all sides. With school choice in place, we can truly serve the needs of our children. For additional information from research conducted in states with successful school choice options, visit the American Federation of Children’s website, federationofchildren.org/school-choice-in-america/research. We invite parents to our one of our 25 Catholic schools during these next few weeks to see how your child can thrive with us next year. Let us assist you in carrying out your primary role of educator.

Contact schools for open house information.
Parents of students in schools across the archdiocese are seeing the benefits of a well-rounded Catholic education; one that goes further than academics alone.

Lacey Bixler and her husband Josh have two children who are students at Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City. Lacey, who attended public schools, was struck by the lasting friendships her husband made while attending Catholic schools.

“I realized before we had kids that the bonds my husband formed with friends seemed to last, and were rooted in their faith,” Bixler said. “I wanted my kids to have that sense of community and understand the importance of God in their lives from a young age.”

Bixler also noted the quality of education her husband received in Catholic schools seemed to be better than what she received—not just the academic aspect, but also through the inclusion of religious education as part of the curriculum.

While Bixler’s initial idea for her children’s education was more fluid, she quickly decided that educating them in a Catholic setting was the best choice for her family.

“One of my kids has special needs,” said Bixler. “I cannot tell you how much the entire school family has embraced him. The teachers, principal and staff are so kind and truly wish for my children’s success.”

The love and compassion that has been poured into her children, along with the sense of community, is something she considers priceless.

“I thank God for blessing us with Christ the King and its community,” Bixler stated. “I can’t imagine our kids anywhere else.”

Learn more about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at archokc.org/schools. Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Report abuse or inappropriate behavior with a minor IMMEDIATELY

Contact local law enforcement and
the state Department of Human Services at:
(800) 522-3511
Archdiocese of Oklahoma Hotline:
(405) 720-9878

Everyone in Oklahoma is a mandated reporter; Reporting even the suspicion of abuse is required; Reporting must be done immediately. If a child is in immediate danger call 9-1-1.

Jobs Box

Cook - OKC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced cook to assist with daily meal preparation at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This full-time position will allow a flexible work schedule that will include some evenings and weekends. Must have a minimum of two years’ experience as a food preparation and service worker. Catering experience is preferred but not required. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Director of marriage, family life - OKC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director for the Office of Marriage and Family Life Ministry to provide overall leadership, vision and direction including programming to help married couples and families fulfill their mission in the Church and the world. The director will coordinate programs to support the pastoral care of married couples and families in the areas of marriage preparation, relationship enrichment, healing after divorce or death and pro-life ministry. The director will develop and coordinate programs and activities related to healthy dating and relationships and continuing the Catholic Church’s Theology of the Body in the archdiocese. Duties include promoting, coordinating and teaching the Catholic Church’s Theology of the Body, including principles of modesty and chastity, assisting in archdiocesan anti-pornography efforts such as Safe Haven Sunday, and developing initiatives related to healthy dating and cultivating a culture of respect and trust for persons and community organizations to strengthen the Church’s vital role in the promotion of family and human life in a culture that is increasingly hostile.

Accountant - OKC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time accountant to assist with day-to-day financial and accounting services to parishes as well as support the archdiocesan Finance office. Responsibilities include assisting in the preparation and issuance of the financial statement audit report, processing of purchase orders, accounting for all major gifts, assisting in the preparation of annual financial reports, and preparing reports and correspondence for the Finance staff. Experience in a leadership capacity, diocesan experience strongly recommended. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Associate director - OKC
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is seeking an associate director, for Catholic school development, who also will serve as the state director of the Tax Credit Scholarship program. Seeking a fundraising leader with a proven major-gift solicitation track record who will work with colleagues to implement a comprehensive major-gift focused resource development program benefiting Catholic school communities. The associate director will plan, manage and implement cultivation, solicitation and stewardship activities and oversee the Tax Credit Scholarship program – a State of Oklahoma grant program providing gifts from companies and individuals to assist students entering the Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Scholarship Act. Send resume and cover letter to humanresources@archokc.org.

Bilingual in Spanish a plus. Send cover letter and resume to archokc.org/jobs-box.

Dissolving the dead

As a society we have laws prohibiting desecration of a person’s body. However, there are other ways that our loved one’s remains may be subjected to a severe degradation of our belief in bodily resurrection.

When alkaline hydrolysis is carried out, water is heated in a pressurized metal chamber and the process, which some have called “dissolving the dead,” involves similar steps as the drained blood and viscera that are extracted through the aspiration of the body cavities are also sent down the drain, then into the sewer line to read what he might have to offer in “Moments Ex- expansion on what he might have to offer in “Moments Ex-

By John H. Dolezal

In recent years, a number of states have legalized a new way to process human corpses that some have called “dissolving the dead.” Its technical name is alkaline hydrolysis. Because of the novelty of alkaline hydrolysis, the Catholic Church does not yet have an official teaching that addresses the practice. However, we can say that the Church hopes to retain a clear, real-life reverence for our human nature. In an age in which many tend to judge the worth of something by the outside, without recognizing the sacredness of the human body, the Church tries to emphasize the importance of bodily burial as the best way to assure loving homage towards those who have departed, demonstrating our belief in bodily resurrection.

Both cremation and alkaline hydrolysis, meanwhile, being the potential for irreverence and a certain casualness when it comes to attending to human remains. After cremation, rather than being reverently disposed, ashes are often kept in the attic or in the living room on the fireplace mantel. Some ashes are shipped over to a whole human body. Instead of being reverently preserved in the consecrated ground of ceme-

tery, our loved one’s remains may be subjected to a severe degradation of our belief in bodily resurrection.

In part one, “The Awakening,” Kelly provides his answer to the question, “What is a Holy Moment?” Fighting off the temptation to define the answer to the question, he decided to delay gratification and jump right into Kelly’s profound idea.

In the prologue, Father Tad Pacholczyk provides us with a clear, real-life explanation of what we mean by a holy moment. Kelly also describes several everyday real-life examples that we can ask whether alkaline hydrolysis or liqui-

cration of the human body, illegal burial, and other practices that can debase the human body, and we can ask whether alkaline hydrolysis or liqui-

cration of the human body, illegal burial, and other practices that can debase the human body, and we can ask whether alkaline hydrolysis or liqui-

Kelly suggests that instead of relying on others or things to make our present and future lives better, we can strive to make each moment a holy moment. And by striving to make Kelly, “Hands on Holy Moments” strongly suggests that a “Holy writing, we can arise, collect ourselves, and boldly face situations that we find difficult, while reminding ourselves that our spiritual intelligence can lead to meaningful lives, enriched relationships and a better world for everyone.”

Kelly also recognizes the opportunities for Coupled with our spiritual intelligence, human bodies can be handled in a manner that can help us become more fully who we are created to be and can help make the world a better place to live.

However, in the second part of this book, Kelly also recognizes that “we are to ‘be bold’ and adopt a can-do attitude to make each moment a holy moment.”

If you believe you have more to say or think about a particular thing, highly recommend you read “Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life.”

John H. Dolezal is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.


Moments Ex-
r

“Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life” is a short, pocket-sized book, only 116 pages, packed with simple yet powerful ideas and tips for personal spiritual growth. The author, Matthew Kelly, has done a remarkable job of compiling this practical book as a guide for us to program along the journey of “living life to its fullest.” The book is broken down into ten sections, each so much more to offer and on the idea that holy moments can help us and our loved ones to be Breathing as we do, body and soul.

The director will coordinate programs to support the pastoral care of married couples and families in the areas of marriage preparation, relationship enrichment, healing after divorce or death and pro-life ministry, helping heal divorce or death and pro-life ministry, helping heal
Semana de Oración por la Unidad de los Cristianos

“Hagan el bien; busquen la justicia”

En el mes de enero, todos los años, dedicamos un tiempo para orar por todas las personas de la humanidad. El tema del 2023 es “Hagan el bien; busquen la justicia” y fue elegido por el Consejo Pontificio para la Unidad de los Cristianos, en su discurso a sus diferentes denominaciones o sectas.

La preocupación por la unidad de los cristianos ha existido por mucho tiempo en la iglesia, aunque por mucho tiempo se concentró en las desafiantes conflictos con las grandes iglesias ortodoxas del este. Aún así, no se ha suspendido la misión de la hipocrisia que nos lleva a la desunión. Nos enseña que Dios quiere nuestra reconciliación y justicia para construir la paz y unidad que deseamos. Parte de ese virtuosismo se ha convertido en miles de encuentros en el amor de Dios para todos nosotros. Era entonces y ahora es contra esta visión. El reto del presente, como nos invita a que todos juntos hagamos el bien y buscemos la justicia, es relevante hoy en día.

Después de la reforma del siglo XVI, las reunieron en un movimiento ecuménico, quienes participaron en un octavo anual de oración por la unidad después de la festa de Pentecostés. En 1967, el padre Paul Watanabe y la hermana Luzama White, ambos convertidos del anglicanismo, comenzaron a trabajar con un clérigo inglés llamado Reverendo Spencer Jones, y juntos fundaron la Ola de Marzo para la Unidad Cristiana, que se observa cada año el 5 de Marzo.

El Decreto del Concilio Vaticano II sobre el ecumenismo en 1965, afirmó que la oración es el alma de movimiento ecuménico. Aun cuando las trabajos de caridad y los esfuerzos colectivos para combatir estas y otras amenazas a la dignidad y vida humana. A no ser que esforzemos por la unidad cristiana incluyan la solidaridad con los más vulnerables de los hermanos y hermanas de Jesús, los esfuerzos por la unidad serán efímeras y huecas. Por fortuna, no estamos solos entre los grupos cristianos; muchas iglesias y comunidades cristianas se unen a nosotros en la promoción de la causa de la vida y la promoción del respeto de la dignidad humana.

La arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, invito a las parroquias a unirse con otras denominaciones y comunidades en oración y alegría por la paz y el respeto a la vida. Cada año, los cristianos, y muchas otras personas, se reúnen en el Capítulo Eclesiástico de Oklahoma para la Marcha por la Vida y el Rose Day, un día para levantar la voz en defensa de la vida. Existen verdaderamente muchas oportunidades de unirnos en este movimiento ecuménico, siempre sabiendo que la oración por la unidad cristiana es, esencialmente, la oración de Jesucristo.

El Beato Stanley se convirtió al catolicismo en 1981, el Beato Stanley Rother permaneció en el congreso del mundo de la santidad de la vida. Durante el Concilio Vaticano II, el beato católico de la vida hasta las 5 a. m. del 13 de febrero en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, 3214 N. Lake Ave. en Oklahoma City. En la misma iglesia donde fue ordenado sacerdote en 1962.

La preocupación por la unidad de los cristianos se ha fragmentado en miles de años, en las páginas del humanismo, pero la situación de los cristianos, durante la Última Cena, Jesús pidió lo siguiente por la unidad de los cristianos en su discurso a sus apóstoles durante la Última Cena. Dirigíen-

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El Decreto del Concilio Vaticano II sobre el ecumenismo en 1965, afirmó que la oración es el alma de movimiento ecuménico. Aun cuando las trabajos de caridad y los esfuerzos colectivos para combatir estas y otras amenazas a la dignidad y vida humana. A no ser que esforzemos por la unidad cristiana incluyan la solidaridad con los más vulnerables de los hermanos y hermanas de Jesús, los esfuerzos por la unidad serán efímeras y huecas. Por fortuna, no estamos solos entre los grupos cristianos; muchas iglesias y comunidades cristianas se unen a nosotros en la promoción de la causa de la vida y la promoción del respeto de la dignidad humana.

la arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, invito a las parroquias a unirse con otras denominaciones y comunidades en oración y alegría por la paz y el respeto a la vida. Cada año, los cristianos, y muchas otras personas, se reúnen en el Capítulo Eclesiástico de Oklahoma para la Marcha por la Vida y el Rose Day, un día para levantar la voz en defensa de la vida. Existen verdaderamente muchas oportunidades de unirnos en este movimiento ecuménico, siempre sabiendo que la oración por la unidad cristiana es, esencialmente, la oración de Jesucristo.

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Yo hablo español.

Rother shrine dedication
Join Archbishop Kurtz, priests of the archdiocese, bishops and guests for the dedication of the St. Stanley Rother Shrine at 11 a.m. Feb. 2, at Oklahoma City.

Memoratic weekend
St. Gregory’s Abbey invites Ful- l-Catholic men ages 18-45 for a memoratic weekend Feb. 17-19, to St. Mary’s at, Shinnery. Participants will share a weekend centered on the liturgical arts, Divine common, communal life and the contemplative life as a monk. Contact Fr. Simon Spitz, O.S.B. at (405) 878-5456, vocations monk@okc.edu or visit monk@okc.edu/vocations.

Carnival
St. Benedict Catholic Church invites everyone to their indoor Carnival Feb. 25-27, 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Fr. 18, 632 N. Kickapoo St. Enjoy games, bingo, silent auction, cake walk, bake sale, and food booths of authenic Italian, street and street food.

Retrouvaille
Marriage can be healed. Retrou- ville offers the chance to recommit to a loving marriage and to get help in living it better. The retreat is a weekend experience for couples to explore the joys of their marriage and to discover an active path to a successful marriage. Email okc@retrouvaille.org or call (405) 523-3000 Ext. 244.

Rosary Day
Rose Day 2023 is Feb. 8 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Registration is 9 a.m. on the second floor rotunda. Rose distribution begins at 9:30 a.m. The indoor rally begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Oklahoma House of Representa- tives, fourth floor. Rose sales day.

Magic at the Mount Gala
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, 2400 W. 11th. Fr. 11 at The Omni, 100 West Oklahoma City Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Visit mountstmary.okjimmie. org/supportmag23.

Lenten Mission
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City will host a Lenten Mission Feb. 17-19 with Fr. Les Pulin- ghon on “How we can live Cath- olc traditions within our family, parish and community.” RSVP required. Visit xpsok.org/news.

Are you listening?
By Selly Cross Nash
The early church among the listeners of Oklahoma Catho- lic Radio already knew what I recently discovered. Father Mitch’s faith模具 crafts at the Rother Store viewing will be available. Check available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Outdoor seating and weather will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit rothershrine.org/meditation.

Rothstore
Find items such as rosaries, prayer cards, books and Guate- malan crafts at the Rother Store online at rotherstore.com.

Green Tie Gala
Call for bids on “The Art of tying” at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s Green Tie Gala is 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 Northeast 63 St. in Oklahoma City. This fundraising event di- rectly supports the operations of Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Oklahoma City and in Norman. Advanced reservations required. Visit GreenTieGala.org or call (405) 523-3000 Ext. 244.

Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Adoration will take place every Thursday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, from Noon to 3:30 p.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pae- tonal Center, 7501 Northwest Ex- pressway. The period of adoration will conclude with benediction.

“The Art of Mental Wellness”
A presentation on “The Art of Mental Wellness” by Amy Shipman is 7 p.m. Jan. 31 in the meeting rooms at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner in Okla- homa City. Amy Shipman works for Catholic Charities in the coun-selling services department. Contact 1-405 751-7115. Space limited.

Day of Reflection
Day of Reflection, “The Great compelling services” is led by Bishop Alphonso Lawrence (S.S.B.) is 9 a.m. Feb. 25 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreat@monksok.org, via the link at monksok.org or call (405) 878- 5656. Cost $35 pre-paid or $43 at the door. Lunch included in the Oklahoma House of Representa- tives, fourth floor. Visit monk@okc.edu.

Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference
The 2023 Ohio St. Father’s Point- est XXVII Catholic Men’s Conference is 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Oklahoma City campus of Oklahoma City University. Conference Dr. in Norman. Guest speakers are Fr. Donald Willard, High- er Kylen and Dan and Stephanie Burke. Tickets online by $25. Contact okcmen.org.

Faith community nurses’ conference
The 16th annual Faith Communi- ties Nurses’ Conference, titled “Nurs- es in Ministry: A Pathway to Ethics, Gifts and Resources Through the Faith Community and Beyond” is 8 a.m. and in person March 2-3. Register at forms.gle/PPI5FyVomVg98Pt. PCNA OK is a sponsor of the profession of continuing nursing education by the Kansas Association of Faith Community Nurses. This course is approved for 6.25 contact hours available for APRN, RN, LPN, or LMHT relicensure.

Awakens
A high school youth leadership retreat, Awakens, is March 13-17 at Our Lady of Lourdes Retreat Center, 2610 Retreat Center Dr., Shawnee. Cost $221 pp. before Feb. 1. Visit retreatcenterok.org or call (405) 280-0390.

Encounter with God’s Call
Encounter with God’s Call Encounter with God’s Call is accepted every year. Fr. John Herrera, OFM, at (405) 443-3554, Fri. 1-9 p.m. Feb. 24 – 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at 7501 Northwest Expressway. Contact Tony Harrillson at (405) 341-2199.

Calendar
This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to soonercatholic.org.

January
29 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
31 Feast of St. John Bosco
February
2 The Presentation of the Lord
2 World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
3 Feast of St. Blaise
4 Lay Missionaries of Charity provide an explanation through prayer and the charism of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Meeting on the first Saturday of the month at St. Ann for Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m., adoration and the Rosary. Visit campolog.org/awaken.
5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6 Third Order (Lay Dominicans) meeting, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., St. Monica Catholic Church, 14th Street and Walker, room No. 105, for any Catho- lic layperson drawn to reli- gious life, vesicles, and true vocation. Call Fr. John Herrera, OFM, at (405) 313-6611.
7 Feast of St. Paul Miki and Companions
8 National Marriage Week begins.
9 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita
10 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

February
16367
10:30 p.m., National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 Northeast 63 St. in Oklahoma City. Visit okcowboysok.org.
11 Sanctify Women’s Development Center in Oklahoma City and in Norman. Visit Sanctify.com. Donations can be made online at okcowboysok.org.
12 Oklahoma City Blvd., OKC.
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March
1 St. Pat’s Day Bash
2 National Catholic Women’s Conference is March 4 at Embassy Suites, 2501 Conference
3 Catholic Charities of the Arch- diocese of Oklahoma City
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31 Catholic Charities of the Arch- diocese of Oklahoma City

April
1 Good Friday
2 Easter Vigil
3 Easter Sunday
4 Easter Monday
5 Easter Tuesday
6 Easter Wednesday
7 Easter Thursday
8 Easter Friday
9 Easter Saturday
10 Easter Sunday
11 Easter Monday
12 Easter Tuesday
13 Easter Wednesday
14 Easter Thursday
15 Easter Friday
16 Easter Saturday
17 Easter Sunday
18 Easter Monday
19 Easter Tuesday
20 Easter Wednesday
21 Easter Thursday
22 Easter Friday
23 Easter Saturday
24 Easter Sunday
25 Easter Monday
26 Easter Tuesday
27 Easter Wednesday
28 Easter Thursday
29 Easter Friday
30 Easter Saturday
1 May Day
2 Workers Day
3 Memorial Day
4 Father’s Day
5 Independence Day
6 Labor Day
7 Columbus Day
8 Halloween
9 Thanksgiving
10 Christmas
11 New Year’s Day

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Sooner Catholic
January 29, 2023
Following vespers, Blessed Stanley’s casket will be available for public veneration until 5 a.m. Feb. 13 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. It is the same church where he was ordained a priest in 1963.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Security and an honor guard will be on site.

“This is the last time the public will have access to his casket, so I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to venerate Oklahoma’s future saint,” Archbishop Coakley said. “During the vigil, I ask the faithful to pray for Blessed Stanley’s canonization and to ask for his intercession since a verified miracle will be necessary for his canonization.”

Blessed Stanley is currently interred at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery where he was buried in 1981. As required by the Vatican, Blessed Stanley’s body was exhumed and inspected prior to his beatification in 2017 in downtown Oklahoma City. Archbishop Coakley, Archbishop Emeritus Beltran and Blessed Stanley’s brother, sister and sister-in-law were present. His heart is enshrined in Saint James the Apostle Catholic Church in Santiago Atitlan.

Following the vigil, Blessed Stanley will be moved to his final resting place in the chapel of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine at S.E. 89 and I-35 in Oklahoma City. Along with the shrine church, the shrine will include a 6,000-square-foot museum and pilgrim center to welcome visitors and a replica of Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City with statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego. Masses will be held every day at the shrine in English and Spanish, and confession will be available.

The museum will showcase the life, witness and martyrdom of Blessed Stanley from his childhood in Okarche to his work as a missionary priest in Guatemala and his murder on July 28, 1981. Blessed Stanley is the first recognized martyr from the United States and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified.

For more information, visit rothershrine.org/vespers-vigil. To learn more about Blessed Stanley, visit stanleyrother.org. Diane Clay is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.