November is the month dedicated to prayers for vocations. Each year, the archdiocese promotes the annual Seminarian Education Appeal to the faithful, asking for financial support for the formation of future priests. Currently, 18 seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City attend several different seminaries across the U.S. and in Rome.

Father John Paul Lewis, the director of seminarians at the archdiocese, explained the goal of the appeal. “Seminarians are the future of the Church. We need to support their education to form them as future priests. Without the priests we won’t have the Eucharist, and without the Eucharist we won’t have the Church,” Father Lewis said.

He encouraged Catholics to support the archdiocese in this effort, “As the archdiocese we want to make sure that seminarians for the past nine years, reflected on the importance of the celebration and the archbishop’s attendance.

“We are celebrating this historic

continued on page 3

continued on page 5

continued on page 10

God is calling men you know. Will you help them answer Him?
Honoring the saints and remembering the dead

Saintliness is not a prize for good behavior. Saintliness, or rather, holiness, is something deeper—something even more profound than proper and moral conduct. In scripture, the saints are referred to as “the holy ones,” which often is also a reference to the members of a local church.

Theologically, a saint is one chosen by God for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A saint is someone transformed and transfigured by the love for God and the power of the Holy Spirit. When God dwells within us, unconquered by our pride or self-centeredness, we become saints.

Among the great treasures of the Church, one of the most inspiring is in its liturgy of holy men and women who we profess to be in heaven, surrounding the throne of God. These are the intercessors to whom we turn for aid: Mary, the mother of God; Saint Joseph; Saint Anthony; Saint Therese of Lisieux; Blessed Stanley Rother and thousands of others. As members of the Church on earth, we are especially close to the hearts of these saints and their works. They intercede for us and help us persevere in the way of discipleship that leads to heaven.

In addition to the holy list of those who have been declared saints, there is a greater number, an uncountable number, whose love for God has carried them into the heavenly realm.

No doubt many of these souls appeared quite ordinary during their earthly lives, the sort of believers you and I meet at Mass or during other daily activities. Remembering this is an important spiritual exercise because it reminds us that it is possible, by the grace of God, to overcome sin and hope for heaven. By the virtue of our baptism, we all are called to be saints.

Such is the joyous hope of All Saints Day. The feast is a celebration of the power of God’s mercy. Those souls who seek and find those who knock will enter.

Before his death, Jesus assured his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for us, so we can be assured that our true home in awaiting us among the saints in heaven.

The day after the Church celebrates the victory of all saints on Nov. 1, we turn to the souls still struggling in purgatory during the Commemoration of All Souls on Nov. 2.

It is our firm belief that, after physical death, wounded souls stained by the effects of sin will still hope for purification. God does not wish that.

Sooner Catholic

Perry church celebrates 100 years

It was a very special thing for us, our parish, and we have done all we can, and we all come from a rural community, so having someone like the archbishop come, that opened our eyes to how strong our parish is, and the archbishop was very complementary to how beautiful it is,” Lynch said. The Mass was followed by an outdoor banquet. It was catered by Click’s Steakhouse in Pawnee, and delivered to the parishioners by members of the Perry High School Leadership program.

The parish recognized history and celebrated everything that made it great. “I thought it was great. It was wonderful to have so many people, who came from out-of-town, people who grew up in the church and moved away, who came back,” Lynch said.

Nov. 6 – USCBB Committee on Divine Worship, virtual meeting, Noon

Nov. 7 – Mass, 3 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center

Nov. 7 – Archdiocesan Review Board, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 10 – Archbishop’s Staley event, 7:30 p.m., St. Albert Bellarmine Catholic Church, Omaha, Neb.

Nov. 9 – Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 11 – USCBB Committee on Priorities and Plans, 8 a.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 12 – USCBB Committee on Religious Education, 1 p.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 13-16 – USCBB General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 19 – Native American Mass, 3 p.m., Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, OKC

Put Out Into the Deep

Honor the saints and remember the dead

Saintliness is not a prize for good behavior. Saintliness, or rather, holiness, is something deeper—something even more profound than proper and moral conduct.

In scripture, the saints are referred to as “the holy ones,” which often is also a reference to the members of a local church.

Theologically, a saint is one chosen by God for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A saint is someone transformed and transfigured by the love for God and the power of the Holy Spirit. When God dwells within us, unconquered by our pride or self-centeredness, we become saints.

Among the great treasures of the Church, one of the most inspiring is in its liturgy of holy men and women who we profess to be in heaven, surrounding the throne of God. These are the intercessors to whom we turn for aid: Mary, the mother of God; Saint Joseph; Saint Anthony; Saint Therese of Lisieux; Blessed Stanley Rother and thousands of others. As members of the Church on earth, we are especially close to the hearts of these saints and their works. They intercede for us and help us persevere in the way of discipleship that leads to heaven.

In addition to the holy list of those who have been declared saints, there is a greater number, an uncountable number, whose love for God has carried them into the heavenly realm.

No doubt many of these souls appeared quite ordinary during their earthly lives, the sort of believers you and I meet at Mass or during other daily activities. Remembering this is an important spiritual exercise because it reminds us that it is possible, by the grace of God, to overcome sin and hope for heaven. By the virtue of our baptism, we all are called to be saints.

Such is the joyous hope of All Saints Day. The feast is a celebration of the power of God’s mercy. Those souls who seek and find those who knock will enter.

Before his death, Jesus assured his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for us, so we can be assured that our true home in awaiting us among the saints in heaven.

The day after the Church celebrates the victory of all saints on Nov. 1, we turn to the souls still struggling in purgatory during the Commemoration of All Souls on Nov. 2.

It is our firm belief that, after physical death, wounded souls stained by the effects of sin will still hope for purification. God does not wish that.

Sooner Catholic

Perry church celebrates 100 years

It was a very special thing for us, our parish, and we have done all we can, and we all come from a rural community, so having someone like the archbishop come, that opened our eyes to how strong our parish is, and the archbishop was very complementary to how beautiful it is,” Lynch said. The Mass was followed by an outdoor banquet. It was catered by Click’s Steakhouse in Pawnee, and delivered to the parishioners by members of the Perry High School Leadership program.

The parish recognized history and celebrated everything that made it great. “I thought it was great. It was wonderful to have so many people, who came from out-of-town, people who grew up in the church and moved away, who came back,” Lynch said.

Nov. 6 – USCBB Committee on Divine Worship, virtual meeting, Noon

Nov. 7 – Mass, 3 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center

Nov. 7 – Archdiocesan Review Board, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 10 – Archbishop’s Staley event, 7:30 p.m., St. Albert Bellarmine Catholic Church, Omaha, Neb.

Nov. 9 – Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 11 – USCBB Committee on Priorities and Plans, 8 a.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 12 – USCBB Committee on Religious Education, 1 p.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 13-16 – USCBB General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 19 – Native American Mass, 3 p.m., Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, OKC

Put Out Into the Deep

Honor the saints and remember the dead

Saintliness is not a prize for good behavior. Saintliness, or rather, holiness, is something deeper—something even more profound than proper and moral conduct.

In scripture, the saints are referred to as “the holy ones,” which often is also a reference to the members of a local church.

Theologically, a saint is one chosen by God for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A saint is someone transformed and transfigured by the love for God and the power of the Holy Spirit. When God dwells within us, unconquered by our pride or self-centeredness, we become saints.

Among the great treasures of the Church, one of the most inspiring is in its liturgy of holy men and women who we profess to be in heaven, surrounding the throne of God. These are the intercessors to whom we turn for aid: Mary, the mother of God; Saint Joseph; Saint Anthony; Saint Therese of Lisieux; Blessed Stanley Rother and thousands of others. As members of the Church on earth, we are especially close to the hearts of these saints and their works. They intercede for us and help us persevere in the way of discipleship that leads to heaven.

In addition to the holy list of those who have been declared saints, there is a greater number, an uncountable number, whose love for God has carried them into the heavenly realm.

No doubt many of these souls appeared quite ordinary during their earthly lives, the sort of believers you and I meet at Mass or during other daily activities. Remembering this is an important spiritual exercise because it reminds us that it is possible, by the grace of God, to overcome sin and hope for heaven. By the virtue of our baptism, we all are called to be saints.

Such is the joyous hope of All Saints Day. The feast is a celebration of the power of God’s mercy. Those souls who seek and find those who knock will enter.

Before his death, Jesus assured his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for us, so we can be assured that our true home in awaiting us among the saints in heaven.

The day after the Church celebrates the victory of all saints on Nov. 1, we turn to the souls still struggling in purgatory during the Commemoration of All Souls on Nov. 2.

It is our firm belief that, after physical death, wounded souls stained by the effects of sin will still hope for purification. God does not wish that.

Sooner Catholic

Perry church celebrates 100 years

It was a very special thing for us, our parish, and we have done all we can, and we all come from a rural community, so having someone like the archbishop come, that opened our eyes to how strong our parish is, and the archbishop was very complementary to how beautiful it is,” Lynch said. The Mass was followed by an outdoor banquet. It was catered by Click’s Steakhouse in Pawnee, and delivered to the parishioners by members of the Perry High School Leadership program.

The parish recognized history and celebrated everything that made it great. “I thought it was great. It was wonderful to have so many people, who came from out-of-town, people who grew up in the church and moved away, who came back,” Lynch said.

Nov. 6 – USCBB Committee on Divine Worship, virtual meeting, Noon

Nov. 7 – Mass, 3 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center

Nov. 7 – Archdiocesan Review Board, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 10 – Archbishop’s Staley event, 7:30 p.m., St. Albert Bellarmine Catholic Church, Omaha, Neb.

Nov. 9 – Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC

Nov. 11 – USCBB Committee on Priorities and Plans, 8 a.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 12 – USCBB Committee on Religious Education, 1 p.m., Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 13-16 – USCBB General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 19 – Native American Mass, 3 p.m., Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, OKC
A t this time of year when Santa ghosts of gobbling approach your doorstep lingering for far too long to the already obscene amount of candy, it might be the moment to share a few ghost stories.

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, now the Catholic Pastoral Center, was dedicated in May 1959, thanks to the hard work and tenacious will of Bishop Eugene McQuinn. The bishop died in 1957, before he could see the fruits of his labor completed. Serving as a high school and two-year college seminary, it closed in 1967, leaving a very large complex without a purpose. It went on to become the Center for Christian Renewal and was rented to various groups until 1984, when the archdiocesan offices were moved from a building on Classics Boulevard.

Since 1984, countless groups and numerous employees have traversed the hallways. More than once, couples attending overnight programs have inquired as to the possibility of the building being haunted. There was usually no initial cause for concern, just a feeling of presence that was not of this world and showers turning on by themselves.

Several kitchen workers throughout the years have reported encounters with two “ghosts” in particular, that were encountered, floating beings with faces that could not be seen. One worker described one of the alleged otherworldly guests as having thin fingers. Others spoke of shadows on the wall and an eerie feeling of not being alone when there was no one else in the building.

Several inexplicable slamming and lights that were turned off suddenly coming back on also rose the hair on the neck, especially since there was not an electrical problem. The problem was examination of one of the glowlamps.

A man responsible for locking the building at night, before today’s heightened security and technology, Vincenutti across the architecture celebrated the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul on Sept. 27 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City. Fr. Robert Wood celebrated Mass and Deacon Deacon Sylvester Deacon Sells is the spiritual director for the Archdiocesan Council of St. Vincent de Paul.

In this flurry, he stated that “as Vincenutti we are called to strive to make God known on a daily basis to the people in our community that we are in need. Vincenutti brings the love of Christ to the poor and the outcast.”

The Mass was followed by a pot-luck dinner in the parish Family Life Center. The young adult group at St. Philip Neri provided assistance for the dinner.

The evening ended with an annual commitment ceremony led by Jim Rupp, president of the Archdiocesan Council, and Deacon Sells. Photos provided.
Becoming a Missionaries of Charity sister: “It was a decision” 
Based on interviews with Sister Mary Joseph, M.C., and Sister Mary Prema, M.C.

By Linda Schaefer
For the Sooner Catholic
mrothersofcharicity.com

When I boarded my flight to Kolkata, India, in January 2023, it was reminiscent of a similar journey I had taken in August 1995. However, this time I was aware of many aspects of the saint's legacy, and it has been in this past year that I can truly say that I have a much deeper understanding of what it means to be a Missionaries of Charity sister, first through my interview with Sister Mary Joseph, M.C., and then with Sister Prema, M.C., who served as superior for 13 years. As Sister Prema, M.C., told me in August, “It was a decision.”

That decision was in each of the sisters had devoted herself completely and for all to Jesus Christ.

This new journey began for me after being diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2022. Following my treatments, I immediately flew to Kolkata, India, and was given permission to interview Sister Joseph, M.C., Then, in August 2023 I was diagnosed once again, this time with a more aggressive breast cancer in the other breast. The news came after I traveled to Poland in July, knowing the likely outcome. When I met with Sister Prema, M.C., at the home in Warsaw, I could feel my fear and her response was perfect, “What a privilege!”

She said, “It forms you into who God wants you to be.” It was this perfect timing in coming face-to-face with Sister Prema, M.C., that I was given the courage for the journey ahead.

Sister Mary Joseph, M.C.

When I arrived in Kolkata, India, in August 1995, I did not know if Saint Teresa of Kolkata was even in the city. Before easy access to the internet, I went in faith through the chaotic streets of the city, knowing in my heart that Saint Teresa of Kolkata had called me. Within minutes of entering the mother house, I was guided to a hallway where Saint Teresa of Kolkata was greeting an Indian family. Moments after, I was at her feet, the ones I had looked at so long when she was speaking at Sacred Heart Church in Atlanta on June 14, 1995. When I asked her permission to document the work she said, “I don’t need photographers, I need journalists.” A few weeks later, we had a personal conversation, she invited me to join the order. I was agasth by the invitation, not knowing anything about becoming a nun. It wasn’t until all these years later, that her invitation had a deeper significance.

In January 2023, when I entered the motherhouse for the 6 a.m. Holy Mass, I was again at an intersection. It was with the hope of having an interview with Sister Joseph M.C., but knowing full well, it was entirely in God’s hands. I met with Sister Joseph M.C., after the Mass and was immediately humbled by her grace, and knowledge and kindness. In that infamous hallway where I had met with Saint Teresa of Kolkata, I handed Sister Joseph, M.C., my prepared written request for an interview. She responded, “I will pray about this Linda and then come back to you at this time.” That evening after the hour of adoration, she granted me the interview for the following morning.

Our nearly two-hour conversation took place in the lady’s（it confessed）small room of the mother house. When we entered the room, I could feel the presence of Saint Teresa of Kolkata and the strength of sisters who had passed through these doors. There was a familiarity in the room that gave me a sense of complete peace and surrender.

Sister Joseph, M.C., told me by describing her childhood. She grew up in Kerala, one of six siblings to a poor family, but as she described, “not the poorest of the poor.” Her father had a small shop and sold produce and school supplies. “One thing I remember very clearly in the depth of my faith is, "Each evening, the family prayed the rosary. "My father would encourage us to kneel as we prayed because he was a man who knew it was God who was sustaining us." Despite her structured prayer life, Sister Joseph M.C. told me her faith was shallow. “You need faith in the depth of your heart to know there is an invisible reality in which you are living.”

continued from page 6

Sister Mary Prema, M.C.

“I decided to formalize my vocation, but how do I personally have an unquenchable thirst for God? The well from where I can draw the living faith is the living God, which Saint Teresa of Kolkata meant everything to her. It was such a joy for mother Joseph M.C., who always dreamed of being placed in South American homes, but Saint Teresa of Kolkata kept her in Rome and the siblings continued to attend meetings between Saint John Paul II and Saint Teresa of Kolkata. “It was such a joy for mother Mary Prema, M.C., and I think for the Holy Father as well. He used to place his hand on her shoulder and kept blessing her.”

In terms of other public personas, Saint Teresa of Kolkata accepted the adulation as the will of God. The events themselves were not important to her but everyone said everything to her. “Jesus, it was Jesus at the front. She had a mission to bring souls to Jesus. I asked Sister Joseph M.C., what Saint Teresa of Kolkata’s secret was, “She made God’s love tangible, visible through her life and God formed through her the darkness to be very small so that I knew that it is who is using me. She was terrified afraid of taking the place of Jesus.”

On taking her vows, “My first vows were in 1983, and those were also my final vows. In the sense I was determined. It was not probation - it was for life. I had to confirm what I already had given to the Lord. I had an experience in prayer that I was bargaining with the Lord. I give you some of my life. He was not happy with that one. I then said, for life, I will give myself completely to you. Then she was completely satisfied.”

Two days after our meeting Sister Prema, M.C., is now the rector of the order for Eastern Europe, left for Hungary where much of the work is based on serving the gypsy communities. Several sisters have accompanied me to several homes in Poland. We also visited the a Nepoldancer monastery founded by the martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Of note, Saint Maximilian Kolbe quoted the phrase, “Love until it hurts,” a message which Saint Teresa of Kolkata embraced in her own ministry.

Sister Joseph, M.C., the archivist for the Missionaries of Charity, who is presently giving workshops for the sisters in the U.S., gave me a list of some of Saint Teresa of Kolkata’s favorite books. It is in one that I find the perfect description of Saint Teresa of Kolkata and her legacy found. In an essay, De Jager, S.J. writes in “The Lord is My Joy,” “Authentically pure, an ideal for all who saw and heard her from the inside out. She used the power of her soul to give herself entirely to God, left self to live God. These are the joys of her spirituality. I believe it is what Sister Joseph, M.C., meant by the horizontal and vertical way of allowing Jesus to be in the hearts of others.”

“My heart was restless to find what God wants from me.” After finishing her studies in Ger-

November 5, 2023    7

Sooner Catholic

November 5, 2023

Sooner Catholic

November 5, 2023

Sooner Catholic
Archbishop Coakley celebrated the annual Anniversary Mass on Oct. 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 40, 50+) in the calendar year 2023 were specifically recognized. Photos Theresa Bragg/Sooner Catholic.

The Central Region Council of Catholic Women’s Women of Achievement Mass and luncheon was celebrated on Oct. 14 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Women of Achievement

The Central Region Council of Catholic Women’s Women of Achievement Mass and luncheon was celebrated on Oct. 14 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Entertaining Angels

A Workshop on Catholic Hospitality

Radical Hospitality is perhaps one of the most important tools for evangelization. From the moment they enter your parish or home, people should experience the welcoming presence of Christ. This hands-on workshop provides preparation for welcoming others in the name of Jesus Christ in your parishes and homes. You will leave each class with “what to say,” even during brief interactions.

The Entertaining Angels workshop consists of four sessions and a break for lunch, including exercises which will allow time to practice the techniques learned.

$30 PER PERSON

To Register Visit ArchOKC.org/Angels

November 10, 2023

3 p.m.

ST. ANDREW PARISH - 800 NW 5TH ST
MOORE, OK 73160

BLESSED STANLEY ROTH SHRINE
PO BOX 197
OKLAHOMA CITY

SHERI WOHLFERT

ST. ANDREW PARISH - 800 NW 5TH ST
MOORE, OK 73160
Seminarists thankful for generous support

Continued from Page 1

people who were so poor and simple yet so joyful and happy. I couldn't quite comprehend this exalted happiness. The parish priest explained it to me, 'They have Jesus, what else do they need?’ His words struck me, 'They have Jesus, what else do they need?'” Nguyen said.

He elaborated on his realization that a priest has a special role to give the joy and love of Christ to all humanity on earth through the Eucharist, and this is how he wants to give his life to people of God in Oklahoma.

“I sometimes get home sick in seminary being far away from home. Receiving a letter or a package from parishioners is such a great reminder that they love us, remember us and support us with their prayers. I want them to know that I’m praying for them each and every day. As they invest in us – seminarians, they invest in the future of the archdiocese, and we look forward to serving them as priests, God willing,” Nguyen said.

Deacon Stephen Jones from Saint Monica Catholic Church in Oklaho- ma City is in his first theology year at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Maryland.

“I have received a tremendous support from my family, people of archdiocese, my parish and other parishes I’ve served at during the summer assignment, Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond and Saint Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. I am so thankful for all their love, prayers, encouragement, and help,” Nguyen said.

His discernment to priesthood was sparked during his mission trip to Peru with Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

“The parish asked all of us – mission- aries to attend the daily Mass with the local community. I was astounded to see raised in Oklahoma, and so I have been able to bring such a unique perspective to Rome,” Deacon Jones said. “Likewise, I will be able to bring a universal perspec- tive back to Oklahoma. It is very special to be so close to the Holy Father.”

He thanked the faithful of the archdi- cese for their support by saying, “God will abundantly support the generosity that the people of God have shown to all of the seminarians of the archdiocese.”

Boyd added, “Thank you so much for the great gift of your fi- nancial support of my studies. It frees me from fears and bur- dens and enables me to focus totally on the Lord and following his voice as I study to- wards priesthood.”

Nguyen seconded, “The archdiocese’s support for my sem- inary studies means worlds to me. Words can’t describe how thankful I am.”

Father John Paul Lewis offered words of gratitude to the faithful of the archdiocese.

“Young people are the most important investment in the future of our Church. I want to thank you for your continued support and generous contributions during the

Interview with Archbishop Coakley about the grace of priestly vocation

By Jad Zilkoowski

n May 21, Archbishop Coakley celebrated his 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination, and 12 years of service as the archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Arch- bishop Coakley shared advice and encour- age-ment to current seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood.

How did the Lord lead you to the priest- hood?

“It was primarily love and support of my family that prepared me to realize that God was calling me to become his priest. I was blessed to be raised in a good Catholic family and the environment of faith, which I often took for granted in my early years. The Lord used many people in my life to draw me to himself, and they challenged me to appreci- ate my Catholic faith and identity more deep- ly. Also, moments of crises were important points in my vocational discerning. During a semester abroad in Ireland as a college student, two of my friends drowned. Kilometers away from my family, I sought counsel and spiritual support from the local parish priest, Father O’Connell, who was the first one to teach me the meaning of spiritual father- hood. The seed of my vocation was sown in my heart through this priest during a time of suffering, pain and grief after the loss of my friends.

What was the anchor keeping you firm in mind when discerning the call to priesthood?

“It was the constant love and support of my family that prepared me to realize that God was calling me to become his priest. I was blessed to be raised in a good Catholic family and the environment of faith, which I often took for granted in my early years. The Lord used many people in my life to draw me to himself, and they challenged me to appreci- ate my Catholic faith and identity more deep- ly. Also, moments of crises were important points in my vocational discerning. During a semester abroad in Ireland as a college student, two of my friends drowned. Kilometers away from my family, I sought counsel and spiritual support from the local parish priest, Father O’Connell, who was the first one to teach me the meaning of spiritual father- hood. The seed of my vocation was sown in my heart through this priest during a time of suffering, pain and grief after the loss of my friends.

What are the three most important things for young men to keep in mind when discerning the call to priesthood?

First, make prayer a regular habit as part of your life in simple ways and concrete ways. Develop a habit of prayer which might include a morning offering, grace before meals, examination of conscience, the rosary and spending time with scripture, especially the readings from Mass. We need a simple but firm foundation to build upon. Second, choose your friendships carefully. Make sure that your relationships are healthy and holy and lead you to Christ and help foster a vir- tuous life. Third, find a spiritual director and spiritual companions. We don’t walk alone in faith; we need the support of fellow believers.

Explain the importance of priestly voca- tion for the mission of the Church.

We can’t overstate the importance of priest- hood. Each priest is an icon of Jesus – the Good Shepherd – who continues his saving work and mission through the ministry of his priests who, nourish and lead us through the sacraments and who accompany us through
God is calling men you know. Will you help them answer Him?

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Seminarian Education Fund 2023 | Join Online: archokc.org/seminarianfund • Join by Phone: 405-709-2745

Please consider becoming a member of the Living Faith Society. Your monthly gift can be drafted directly from your checking account or a credit card. As a Living Faith Society member, you will receive the Living Faith Devotional booklet four times a year with updates on how your gifts are allowing future priests to strengthen their faith and grow into passionate, faithful leaders. Please call or enroll online.

continued from page 11

their pastoral care. The priest receives the offerings of all the baptized and brings them to the Cross at Mass. The priesthood is absolutely essential for the continuation of the mission of Christ in its fullness.

How can seminarians gain a deeper appreciation of their priestly calling?

By getting to know better the Heart of Jesus and allowing the Lord to know and love them. This is exactly what priestly vocation is rooted in – allowing oneself to be known, loved and chosen by the Lord. A call to priesthood as a special grace to those he chooses and calls to fulfill the mission of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Orders. God doesn’t choose the qualified, but he qualifies those he chooses to serve in his Church, as Saint Teresa of Calcuta once said.

What are your words of encouragement to the current and prospective seminarians?

After 40 years, I can’t imagine a greater gift that the Lord could have given me. There have been struggles and challenges, it hasn’t always been easy to be a priest, the Church has gone through many trials over these years, people’s perceptions and my own perspective about priesthood have changed over time also, but I can honestly say that next to my Baptism, the priesthood is the greatest blessing the Lord has bestowed upon me. I encourage any young man who thinks he might be called, to be generous with the Lord in answering his call. Listen to the Lord and recognize his voice! The Lord is never outdone in his generosity. If we are generous with him, he will be infinitely generous with us.

Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.


St. Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee held their annual Granny’s Attic sale, Oct. 7-8. Volunteers helped work this ministry for their church. Photo provided.

Parishioners from St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Gypsum gathered to pray the Rosary on Oct. 14. Photo provided.

Members of Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton celebrated Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. Photo provided.

College students with SWOSU Catholic Campus Ministry in Weatherford stayed for adoration after a Thursday evening student Mass. Parishioners at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Weatherford engaged in Eucharistic adoration, with praise and worship music, the second of Monday of the month in the evening. Photos provided.

Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton conducted the annual blessing of pets in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi. Photos provided.

Pr. John Paul Lewis, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 7. Photo provided.

A women’s mini retreat, “Planted in the house of the Lord; Growing into divine life” was held on Aug. 25 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City. The speaker for the event was Fr. Zak Boazman. Mass for the event was celebrated by Fr. Damian Akoye. Photos provided.

Adelina, a Girl Scouts Cadette, recently completed her Silver Award project. She painted the saints, angels and, with the help of her parents, brother and Boy Scouts Troop 4008, cleaned up the garden area at St. Ann Catholic Church in Elgin. Fr. Roy Narisetti approved her project and Fr. Linh Bui continued the support. Photos provided.

Adelina, a Girl Scouts Cadette, recently completed her Silver Award project. She painted the saints, angels and, with the help of her parents, brother and Boy Scouts Troop 4008, cleaned up the garden area at St. Ann Catholic Church in Elgin. Fr. Roy Narisetti approved her project and Fr. Linh Bui continued the support. Photos provided.

Fr. John Paul Lewis, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 7. Photo provided.
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a third-grade teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Teaching experience required. Bachelor’s degree in accounting, finance, business administration, or related field required. Will work with teacher to develop lesson plans and support students. Send resume and a copy of a teaching certificate to Principal Ted Guild at mclark@willowpregnancy.org. Send your application packet at archokc.org/careers.

Science teacher - OKC

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a middle school science teacher. This position involves teaching science to all students of the middle school. Interested candidates should contact Principal Todd Gugel at mr.gugel@archokc.org.

Calisteer worker - OKC

Bishop McGuinness Catholic School has a position available for the fall semester. Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Send resumes to Laura Scott at 405-842-6656.

Music director – Del City

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Del City is seeking a choir director/pianist for the fall semester. Send your letter of interest and resume to mclark@willowpregnancy.org.

Director of advancement - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of advancement to manage the annual fund, providing assistance to departments, manage the capital campaign, work with the executive leadership to develop strategic plans, and maintain grant records. Send cover letter and resume to Bruce Baldwin at mbaldwin@archokc.org.

Coordinator of youth ministry - OKC

St. Joseph the Baptists Catholic Church in Edmond is seeking a full-time coordinator of youth ministry for the fall semester. Send cover letter and resume to bhales@mountmary.org.

Teacher’s aide - Edmond

St. Mary’s Catholic School in Edmond is seeking a middle school teacher’s aide for the 2023-24 school year. Bachelor’s degree preferred. Send cover letter and resume to Monica Palmer at mpmmlr@csoc.org.

Financial grant compliance officer - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma is seeking a financial grant compliance officer to manage grants administration, provide support to clergy, independently manages the daily operations of the Grants Administration Manager, and provide executive level administrative support with general administrative duties. Salary negotiable. Contact adennis@stjohn-catholic.org.

Residential support specialist - OKC

Wheelchair Support is seeking a residential support specialist for its community of residents with disabilities. The community is a supported living arrangement for adults with disabilities who wish to live in a home setting. A Bachelor’s degree in social work or a related field is preferred. Send your letter of interest and resume to Wheelchair Support in Oklahoma City at mclark@willowpregnancy.org.
Honrando a los santos y recordando a los difuntos

La canonización no es un premio a la buena conducta. La santidad, o mejor dicho, ser santo, es algo más profundo – algo más profundo que una conducta moral apropiada. En la Sagrada Escritura, se refiere a los santos como alguien transformado por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es que habite en él por Dios para el amor Santo y consumar el Espíritu del Espíritu Santo. Un santo es que habite en él por Dios para el amor Santo y consumar el Espíritu del Espíritu Santo.

Teológicamente, un santo es alguien elegido por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es alguien transformado por el poder del Espíritu Santo y consumado por el amor a Dios. Cuando Dios habita en nosotros, sin que se sienta nuestro orgullo egoísta, nos santificamos. Entre los grandes teólogos de la Iglesia, uno de los más inspiradores es su lista, canónica, de los santos del Cielo. Además de la lista conocida de los que han sido declarados santos, hay un número mayor, incontable, de aquellos cuyo amor a Dios les ha sido declarado por la Iglesia. Uno de los santos más cercanos a nuestra experiencia es la figura de María, la madre de Jesús. María, la madre de Dios, san José; san Antonio; santa Teresa de Lisieux; beatito Blasícar Rodríguez y miles más. Como miembros de la Iglesia Peregrina, estamos especialmente cerca de los santos de estos santos y beatos. Ellos interceden por nosotros, y nos piden que perseveremos en el camino del discipulado que conduce al Cielo. Por favor llame a: 405-709-2745

Dios está llamando a hombres que conoces ¿Les ayudarás a responderle?

La canonización no es un premio a la buena conducta. La santidad, o mejor dicho, ser santo, es algo más profundo – algo más profundo que una conducta moral apropiada. En la Sagrada Escritura, se refiere a los santos como alguien transformado por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es que habite en él por Dios para el amor Santo y consumar el Espíritu del Espíritu Santo.

Teológicamente, un santo es alguien elegido por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es alguien transformado por el poder del Espíritu Santo y consumado por el amor a Dios. Cuando Dios habita en nosotros, sin que se sienta nuestro orgullo egoísta, nos santificamos. Entre los grandes teólogos de la Iglesia, uno de los más inspiradores es su lista, canónica, de los santos del Cielo. Además de la lista conocida de los que han sido declarados santos, hay un número mayor, incontable, de aquellos cuyo amor a Dios les ha sido declarado por la Iglesia. Uno de los santos más cercanos a nuestra experiencia es la figura de María, la madre de Jesús. María, la madre de Dios, san José; san Antonio; santa Teresa de Lisieux; beatito Blasícar Rodríguez y miles más. Como miembros de la Iglesia Peregrina, estamos especialmente cerca de los santos de estos santos y beatos. Ellos interceden por nosotros, y nos piden que perseveremos en el camino del discipulado que conduce al Cielo. Por favor llame a: 405-709-2745

Dios está llamando a hombres que conoces ¿Les ayudarás a responderle?

La canonización no es un premio a la buena conducta. La santidad, o mejor dicho, ser santo, es algo más profundo – algo más profundo que una conducta moral apropiada. En la Sagrada Escritura, se refiere a los santos como alguien transformado por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es que habite en él por Dios para el amor Santo y consumar el Espíritu del Espíritu Santo.

Teológicamente, un santo es alguien elegido por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es alguien transformado por el poder del Espíritu Santo y consumado por el amor a Dios. Cuando Dios habita en nosotros, sin que se sienta nuestro orgullo egoísta, nos santificamos. Entre los grandes teólogos de la Iglesia, uno de los más inspiradores es su lista, canónica, de los santos del Cielo. Además de la lista conocida de los que han sido declarados santos, hay un número mayor, incontable, de aquellos cuyo amor a Dios les ha sido declarado por la Iglesia. Uno de los santos más cercanos a nuestra experiencia es la figura de María, la madre de Jesús. María, la madre de Dios, san José; san Antonio; santa Teresa de Lisieux; beatito Blasícar Rodríguez y miles más. Como miembros de la Iglesia Peregrina, estamos especialmente cerca de los santos de estos santos y beatos. Ellos interceden por nosotros, y nos piden que perseveremos en el camino del discipulado que conduce al Cielo. Por favor llame a: 405-709-2745

Dios está llamando a hombres que conoces ¿Les ayudarás a responderle?

La canonización no es un premio a la buena conducta. La santidad, o mejor dicho, ser santo, es algo más profundo – algo más profundo que una conducta moral apropiada. En la Sagrada Escritura, se refiere a los santos como alguien transformado por Dios para habitar en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es que habite en él por Dios para el amor Santo y consumar el Espíritu del Espíritu Santo.

Teología...
Shrine tour
The Central Region Council of Catholic Women invite everyone to join them on a tour of the St. Stanley Rother Shrine at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 10. Parking and entrance meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Pāgán Center. There will be free time at 11:30 a.m. until the 12:15 p.m. Mass in the chapel. Lunch at a local restaurant at 1 p.m. RSVP to Linda Tucker at (405) 659-4885.

Linda Tucker at (405) 659-4885.
Mass in the chapel. Lunch at a Center. There will be free time at
meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Pilgrim to join them on a tour of the Bl.
via the link at monksok.org or call W. MacArthur St., Shawnee.
11 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 ed by Sr. Barbara Joseph Foley,
Day of Reflection
Church Ladies Auxiliary in Nor-
Craft fair
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic

Day of Reflection
Day of Reflection, “The Eucha-

Danneb River Cruise
St. Stanley Rother Shrine and Dr. Marcelino D’Ambrosio on a Danube River Cruise pilgrimage Oct. 20-30, 2024, that includes Munich, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, and plus an optional ex-
Shrine volunteers
The number of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine greatly depends on volunteers who are willing to contribute their time, skills, en-
thusiasm and passion to evangelize in a way similar to Bl. Stanley Rother. Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities. Visit roth-
erstore.com/volunteer.

Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Adoration will take place every Thursday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, from Noon to 3:50 p.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Past-

School bus route
Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche has a bus route with stops at the Catholic Pastoral Center and Colony Pointe on the Northeast Expwy in Okla-

Become a seminarian pen-pal
The seminarians for the Archdi-

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City. Contact (405) 760-3886, 3900 S.E. 29, Del.

The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Hungary.

Entertaining Angels” work-

Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Ala-

Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Ala-

Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Ala-

30th-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Open House, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., 2801 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City. Any-
one interested in deepening prayer life with community support, call William Ginn, (405) 737-2024.
**ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR**

Please use this calendar to pray for the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Day of the Month</th>
<th>2nd Day</th>
<th>3rd Day</th>
<th>4th Day</th>
<th>5th Day</th>
<th>6th Day</th>
<th>7th Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon Stephen Jones</td>
<td>Michael Mullman</td>
<td>Jonah Buchanan</td>
<td>John Gein</td>
<td>Joseph Allen</td>
<td>Max Harrold</td>
<td>Rendon Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology IV</td>
<td>Theology III</td>
<td>Theology III</td>
<td>Theology II</td>
<td>Theology II</td>
<td>Theology I</td>
<td>Theology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontifical North American College, Rome</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver</td>
<td>Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmisburg</td>
<td>Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmisburg</td>
<td>Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmisburg</td>
<td>Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmisburg</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Monica, Edmond</td>
<td>St. Thomas More, Norman</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Edmond</td>
<td>Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Edmond</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Edmond</td>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi, OKC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th Day</th>
<th>9th Day</th>
<th>10th Day</th>
<th>11th Day</th>
<th>12th Day</th>
<th>13th Day</th>
<th>14th Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Ronea</td>
<td>Robert Beals</td>
<td>Henry Nguyen</td>
<td>Patrick Owen</td>
<td>Grant Cárdenas</td>
<td>Zachary Bowman</td>
<td>Nathaniel Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology I</td>
<td>Theology I</td>
<td>Pre-Theology I</td>
<td>Pre-Theology I</td>
<td>Pre-Theology I</td>
<td>Pre-Theology I</td>
<td>College Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver</td>
<td>Conception Seminary College, St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis Xavier, Enid</td>
<td>Blessed Sacrament, Lawton</td>
<td>Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul</td>
<td>Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler</td>
<td>Holy Name, Chickasha</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Edmond</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, Edmond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15th Day</th>
<th>16th Day</th>
<th>17th Day</th>
<th>18th Day</th>
<th>19th Day</th>
<th>20th Day</th>
<th>21st Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propaedeutic Year</td>
<td>Propaedeutic Year</td>
<td>Pre-Theology Year</td>
<td>Pre-Theology Year</td>
<td>Archdiocesan Vocations Coordinator</td>
<td>Architects of Oklahoma City</td>
<td>Director of Seminarians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22nd Day</th>
<th>23rd Day</th>
<th>24th Day</th>
<th>25th Day</th>
<th>26th Day</th>
<th>27th Day</th>
<th>28th Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocations Events Coordinator</td>
<td>Archbishop of Oklahoma City</td>
<td>Vicar General</td>
<td>Vicar for Priests</td>
<td>Vicar, Diocese of Northern</td>
<td>Vicar, Diocese of Northern</td>
<td>Vicar, Diocese of Central North</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29th Day</th>
<th>30th Day</th>
<th>31st Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon, Central South</td>
<td>Deacon, Southwest</td>
<td>Deacon, Southwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**2023 BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER VOCATION PRAYER**

Blessed Stanley Francis Rother, by your generous response to God’s call in your life, your ordinary love was made extraordinary by God’s grace, drawing many people closer to his loving heart by your priesthood. As you gave your life completely and totally for the Lord and His Church, so intercede for the people of Oklahoma, that many young people may respond as you did to the call of the Lord to serve Him as priests and consecrated religious.

If God sees fit to call one of our own family to this vocation, obtain for us from him the grace to encourage and support a generous response in our son, daughter, brother, or sister. Help us to know God’s will for our lives and to give of ourselves as you did, without counting the cost, expecting nothing in return. May we, like you, live our lives as true disciples of the Lord, following in his steps and loving God and our neighbor as He calls us. Amen.

**BLESSD STANLEY FRANCIS ROTHER, PRIEST, MISSIONARY, AND MARTYR, PRAY FOR US.**