Go Make Disciples

Perry church celebrates 100 years

By Everett Brazil, III The Sooner Catholic

There was a festive spirit at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Perry on Oct. 15. The

church was packed with parishioners and their families, as well as families who once called the church home – those who made the pilgrimage back to the parish to celebrate. They were recognizing the 100-year anniversary of the

church, and 130 years as a Catholic congregation in Perry.

Officiating the Mass was Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, who marveled and remarked at the church's beauty.

Father Bala Raju Pudota, pas-

tor of the church for the past nine years, reflected on the importance of the celebration and the archbishop's attendance.

"We are celebrating this historic

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Priests and chaplains serve military members, veterans

> Veterans Day is Nov. 11

By Charles Albert The Sooner Catholic

Various priests, psychologists and therapists often discuss the pressures of today's society on individuals. Issues such as inflation, immigration, problems in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, PTSD among veterans and declining church attendance among the young are just a few examples of societal concerns.

One group of individuals who must navigate both societal and military issues are military chaplains. In particular, Catholic chaplains face the challenging task of balancing military requirements,

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By Jad Ziolkowska The Sooner Catholic

ovember 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

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GOD IS CALLING MEN YOU KNOW. WILL YOU HELP THEM ANSWER HIM?





Seminarian Education Fund 2023 | Give Online: archokc.org/seminarianfund | Give by Phone: 405-709-2745

Sooner Catholic November 5, 2023 3 Sooner Catholic 2 November 5, 2023

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Honoring the saints and remembering the dead

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

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 consumed by the love for God and the power of the Holy Spirit. When God dwells within us, unopposed by our pride or self-centeredness, we become saintly.

Among the great treasures of the Church, one of the most inspiring, is its list, or canon, 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 blesseds. They intercede for us and help us persevere in the way of discipleship that leads to heaven.

In addition to the known list of those who have been declared saints, there is a greater number, an uncountable number, whose love

of 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

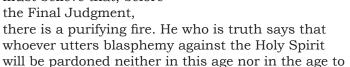
Such is the joyous hope of All Saints Day. The feast is a celebration of the power of God's mercy. Those souls who seek will find and those who knock will

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

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 venial sin may still hope for purification by God. This purgation of sin is the seminal idea behind the Catholic teaching on purgatory.

As Pope Gregory the Great explained, "As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment,



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

ers in the age to come." The souls in purgatory need the prayers of the Church. On All Souls Day, the Church gathers to celebrate Mass and offer prayers for its sons and daughters who have died but have not yet reached heaven. Though they died in friendship with God, that is, in a "state of grace," the souls in purgatory struggle, as we often do, to let go of the things of earth. Perhaps they

come. From this sentence we understand that certain

offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain oth-

struggle to forgive. Whatever binds them, we know that we must not allow the year to close without offering prayers for them. In fact, many parishes gather the names of the deceased and intensify prayers for the dead even beyond

All Souls Day. The entire month of November is an appropriate time for our prayerful remembrance of the faithful departed.

There is an ancient devotion I encourage for All Souls Day, or anytime in November. Visit a cemetery and pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary for your deceased family members and friends. When you have finished, ask the Lord to hear your prayer on behalf of a forgotten soul. Go on to pray another decade of your rosary for those souls. Perhaps you will one day meet the soul in heaven and be thanked for your prayers. It is, after all, one of the spiritual works of mercy to pray for the dead.

Both All Saints Day and All Souls Day are an affirmation of the bonds of faith, hope and charity that unite us. Both are an affirmation of the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ over the power of the grave.

How often does Our Lord greet his disciples with the admonition, "Be not afraid?" The Church contemplates the reality of physical death but does so without fear. As Saint Paul once wrote, "We must not be like those without hope." The dead in Christ will rise. Persevere in your faith and the day shall dawn when you will take your place among the saints.

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

"After this I looked, and behold, a great mul-

titude which no man could number, from every

nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues,

standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their

hands, crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation be-

longs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to

the Lamb!" -Revelation 7:9

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

Nov. 6 - USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, virtual meeting, Noon

Nov. 7 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center

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

Nov. 8 - Bl. Stanley Rother event, 7 p.m., St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, Omaha, Neb.

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

Nov. 11 - USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans, 8 a.m., Baltimore, Md. Nov. 12 - USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, 1 p.m., Baltimore, Md.

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

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



soonercatholic.org.

For an end to war, violence and hatred in the dle East. May God's peace Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ Join the Serra Club of Oklahoma City - The Serra Club of Oklahoma City is a group of lay women and men who promote and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the archdiocese. The group meets at 11 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Catholic Charities, 1232 N. Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City, with Mass in the St. Teresa of Calcutta chapel, a light lunch and a guest speaker in the Chickasaw meeting room. All are welcome to attend or become a member. Learn more, and watch recordings of previous speakers, at serraokc.org.



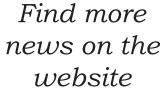


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Oklahoma City Arquidiócesis de

God our Father, you made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will. Send workers into your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on

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

world, especially in the Midprevail. We pray to the Lord.





Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Perry held a special celebration Mass Sunday, Oct. 15. They celebrated the Centennial of their church building and 130 years as a Catholic community in Perry, having been established in 1893. Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass, followed by a catered banquet. Photos Everett Brazil, III/ Sooner Catholic

Perry church celebrates 100 years

continued from page 1

event to show our gratitude to God," Father Pudota said. "It was a great honor that he (Archbishop Coakley) gave his time. He came here to pray for the community and offer the 100-year Mass. It was a blessing for the community."

Celebrating 100 years of the current church and 130 years of the whole community too several years to plan. Four years ago, the church sat down to begin planning the momentous occasion, starting with the parish council, which includes Lerin Lynch, Elise Bolay and Carol Dvorak.

"The parish council is our governing body of our church. At our meetings, we talk about finances, things coming up, events that we're holding," Lynch said. "We act as a voice to this parish."

They put together a team of committees, each with a separate role in planning the event, which included communications and decorations committees. There were also many church repairs that needed to be dealt with.

"The whole idea started about four years ago, and the window restorations, where we restored all the stained glass, took place between 2019 and 2020," Lynch said. "In 2022, we re-

stored our roof. We got the carpet cleaned and that was the first time the carpet was cleaned in at least five years."

All the candleholders were cleaned and refurbished, and the backdrop behind the altar was

"Our candleholders were all powder-coated

held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"We had about 45 – 50 people show up, so it was a great turnout," Lynch said. "There was a lot of memorabilia, old church photos, old photos of the classrooms."

Prior to the Mass, parish children recited the Rosary, and the Mass began at 10:30 a.m.,

celebrated by Archbishop Coakley.

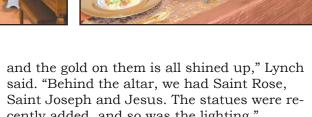
"That was a very special thing for us, our parish. We have 40 families, and they all come from a rural community, so having someone like the archbishop, that opened our eyes to how strong our parish is, and the archbishop was very complementary to how

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 its

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

Everett Brazil, III is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



said. "Behind the altar, we had Saint Rose, Saint Joseph and Jesus. The statues were recently added, and so was the lighting."

With all preparations in place, it was time to celebrate the anniversary of the parish, and centennial of the church. The excitement began Saturday night with the school reunion. It was



Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley

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Vincentians across the archdiocese celebrated the feast day of St. Vincent DePaul on Sept. 27 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City. Fr. Robert Wood celebrated Mass and Deacon Javier Solis gave the homily. Deacon Solis is the spiritual director for the Archdiocesan Council of St. Vincent DePaul.

In this homily, he stated that "as Vincentians we are called to strive to make God known on a daily basis to the people in our communities who are in need. Vincentians bring the love of Christ to the people that we serve."

The Mass was followed by a potluck 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 Ray, president of the Archdiocesan Council, and Deacon Solis. *Photos provided*.

From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

t this time of year when faux ghosts and goblins approach your doorstep longing for an addition to an 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 McGuinness. 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 Classen Boulevard.

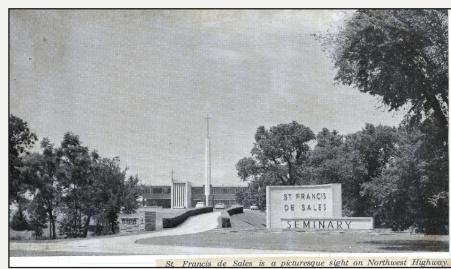
Since 1984, countless groups and numerous employees have traversed the hallways. More than once, couples attending overnight programs have inquired as to the possibility of the building being haunted. There was usually no initial cause for concern, just feeling a presence that was not of this world ...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

Several kitchen workers throughout the years have reported encounters with two "ghosts" in particular, that were shrouded, 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.

Doors inexplicably 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 found upon

examination of one of the phenomena.

A man responsible for locking the building at night, before today's heightened security and technolog-



St. Francis de Sales Seminary

ical advances, recalled bringing his son with him and regaling him with ghost stories, which he promptly rejected. Just then, the lights that had been turned off down the hallway suddenly turned on. Feeling the dad was playing a joke, he told him to stop and all at once the doors in the long hallway slammed shut. Not surprisingly, that was the last time he accompanied his father.

The convent behind the kitchen, which originally housed sisters who maintained the kitchen, has, in the last 10 years, been the home of a few remaining sisters. An incident with one sister was vivid in her memory. Awaking from her sleep, a person that appeared to be in a habit was standing by her bed. Not being of her order, she questioned the visitor as to why she was there, and she then disappeared. The sister said she felt no fear and that it was a benign presence.

As far as the classic "someone died here" theory goes, it does not appear that anyone has died while living in or visiting the building. However, that has not been proven beyond reproach.

Whether you believe in ghosts or not, there seems to be an irresistible urge to imagine the possibility in the human psyche. From hearing the first "who stole my golden arm" story by the campfire at age 10, to hearing the experiences of others in advancing years, there is still something fun about a well-told ghost story.

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

Direct taxes to Catholic schools

By Owen Canfield

The year is winding down quickly, and soon many will be gathering the necessary documents for tax returns. Did you know there is an easy way to ease state income tax liability while helping children attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City?

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program is a true "win-win." Through the program, donors may redirect a portion of their Oklahoma state

income taxes to benefit children attending Catholic schools.

For those who make a two-year pledge, 75% of the gift is eligible to be returned as a state income tax credit. Note: This isn't a tax deduction, it's a tax credit – a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state tax liability.

Couples can receive a credit up to \$2,000 each year; for single filers, the maximum credit is \$1,000 per year.

The program is especially beneficial to qualified business owners, who can receive a state income

credit of up to \$100,000 per year. During 2022, individuals and

businesses gave \$2 million to the Tax Credit Scholarship program. In return, they received about \$1.5 million back in credits. Those gifts are making a Catholic school education possible for 568

Owen Canfield

possible for 568 students in the archdiocese – 12% of all students enrolled.

The Parental Choice Tax Credit,

approved this year by the Legislature, will help many families afford a Catholic school education. But the need for assistance will remain. The Tax Credit Scholarship program is vital to helping meet that need.

people to redirect their state tax dollars to help Catholic schools. What a wonderful opportunity. People considering making a gift

Simply put, this program allows

People considering making a gif by year's end, can visit tcsok.org or call (405) 709-2700.

Owen Canfield is director of the Tax Credit Scholarship program.

Priests and chaplains serve military members, veterans

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government regulations and maintaining their fidelity to the Church. For instance, at Fort Sill, located just several dozen meters from a Blessed Sacrament chapel, there is also a dedicated space for atheists and Wiccans to gather.

Currently, the chaplain's office at Fort Sill has three men dedicated to serving the active military personnel, staff and some retired military members in the City of Lawton. They include Senior Catholic Chaplain, Father Felix Kumai, as well as two Associate Catholic Chaplains, Father Killian Muli and Father Azubuike Igwegbe.

"Unlike many churches today, his Masses are filled with young people. They cannot wait to spend an hour with God. It gives them some sense of peace and hope," Father Kumai said.
"Some veterans residing in the community

prefer attending Mass on the base, feeling more at home there than in the churches in Lawton." the case. He was raised Catholic but drifted away from the faith before finding his way

Joshua Carter, a 21-year retired military veteran living in Lawton, attends Mass twice a month at Fort Sill and ushers on the remaining Sundays at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. Carter understands why veterans choose to return to Fort Sill for Mass and why so many young people attend Mass there.

"The chaplains are some of the finest men I have ever met. They are top notch. I rediscovered my faith while stationed in Okinawa in 2015 and the Catholic chaplains were there for me to guide me back with patience, compassion and love. The chaplains were outstanding through trying times and a source of strength anytime while I was in Japan, Taiwan, Korea or the Philippines," Carter said.

Sergeant Everett Limberg is currently on active duty with the Army and attends daily Mass at Fort Sill. However, this wasn't always the case. He was raised Catholic but drifted away from the faith before finding his way back. With five years of service under his belt, Limberg discovered the same beauty in the liturgy of the Mass, even when it was in a foreign language during his time in places like South Korea.

"I owe much of my Catholic faith to the foundation to my grandmother, she was my best friend," Limberg said.

He went on to express his appreciation for the chaplains, saying, "One, in particular, has been a profound inspiration in my life. They are truly the best. I can't imagine where I'd be without them."

Father Igwegbe, who has been a chaplain since February, mentioned, "Young people were yearning for Christ, and I felt compelled to answer their call."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Archbishop Coakley celebrated the Red Mass for legal professionals on Oct. 26 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. The Mass was dedicated to invoking God's blessing on all those entrusted with the administration of justice and to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit while carrying out their responsibilities. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic*.





















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.



Saint Teresa of Kolkata and Sister Nirmala (who was second superior general) in pew of Sacred Heart Atlanta June 14, 1995. *Photos Linda Schaefer*

That decision was one in which each of the sisters has devoted herself completely and for

life 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 confided my fear to her 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 later, I was at her feet, the ones I had looked at for 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 volunteers." A few weeks later, in a personal conversation, she invited me to join the order. I was aghast 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 moth-

er house 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 MC., but knowing full well, that it was entirely in God's hands. I met with Sister Joseph, M.C., after the Mass and was immediately humbled by her graciousness and kind attention. 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 this evening." That evening after the hour of adoration, she granted following morning.

Our nearly two-hour conversation took place in the dimly lit confessional room of the mother house. When I entered

the room, I could feel the presence of Saint Teresa of Kolkata and the stream of sisters who had passed through these doors. There was a sanctity in the room that gave me a sense of complete peace and surrender.

Sister Mary Joseph, M.C., first began by describing her childhood. She grew up in Kerala, one of six children to a poor family, but as she described, "not the poorest of the poor." Her father had a small shop and sold pencils and school supplies. "One thing I remember very

By Linda SchaeferFor the Sooner Catholic
motherteresaofcalcutta.com

Then I boarded my flight to Kolkata, India, in January 2023, it was reminiscent of a similar journey I had taken in August 1995, but little did I know then that Saint Teresa of Kolkata's influence would be with me up until today. Over the past 30 years, I have documented many aspects of the saint's legacy, but 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., the newly elected superior general of the order and then most recently in Poland interviewing Sister M. Prema, M.C., who served as superior general for 13 years. As Sister Prema, M.C., told me in August, "It was a decision.



Sr. Mary Joseph, M.C., in Kolkata, India, January 2023.

clearly is the deep faith of my father." 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 to whom you

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turn." It wasn't until she understood her own weaknesses and deep vulnerabilities that she turned her life over to Jesus. In my interview with Sister Joseph, M.C., I felt that I was being given a lesson on spirituality. She was extremely open about her own spiritual path, from being a young girl who did not take her faith that seriously, to a nun whose only vocation in life was in giving herself completely to Jesus in service through the Missionaries of Charity.

The journey in becoming a Missionaries of Charity sister began with Sister Joseph when she was 18 years old and a day when Saint

Teresa of Kolkata was visiting a community of professed sisters in the state of Kerala, India. "I heard she was a living saint, and I was expecting to see a smiling Saint Teresa of Kolkata, but instead, she was very sick." She sat at the table and made the sign of the cross. Sister Joseph was given the duty of placing silverware and dishes on the table for Saint Teresa of Kolkata. In her excitement and nervousness, she dropped the drawer of spoons, which spilled out over the floor. While the other girls were giggling, Sister Joseph, M.C., managed to complete her duties. Then, to her surprise, Saint Teresa of Kolkata looked at her sideways and said, "Sister are you in the presence of God?" In retrospect Sister Joseph, M.C., reflected on that moment, "She was giving me the fundamentals of religious life. Whenever I would be preoccupied, hurt by someone, wondering, I would always have that question behind me. Are you in the presence of God?"

Upon entering the Missionaries of Charity, Sister Joseph, M.C., was sent to Australia to work with the Aborigines. It was there that she took her first vows to the order. "The primary aspect of a vocation is a relationship with the living God, which Saint Teresa of Kolkata was so clear to emphasize constantly. It's not the work we do. It's a call to follow the invisible. I don't see him with my eyes, but I know I am in his presence, always. That presence sustains me."

The sisters were not aware of mother's journey through the dark night of the soul. However, her faith in the living God was never shaken, "She did not receive consolation, but she was like the giving tree spreading joy to others because she was so connected with the living source. When you choose to be connected without receiving anything for yourself, you become, I believe a much more transparent instrument for others."

Sister Joseph, M.C., eventually became a counselor for Sister Prema, M.C., in Kolkata, India. Today, as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity today, her spirituality as leader of the worldwide charity is very clear. As she gazed up at the crucifix she said, "I must have this vertical dimension. If not, I see that even the love for the poor fails over the years. The well from where I can draw the living faith

of God, who is the source of all goodness, never dries up." of Kolkata was present for Sister Prema's first and second vows to the order in in 1983 and

Sister Mary Prema, M.C.

My first morning in Warsaw, I took an Uber from my Airbnb to the home where I was scheduled to meet with Sister Prema, M.C. I was a little nervous since I had only met her once in Kolkata, India when she was superior general for the order. However, when she called me into a visitor's room, her welcoming smile put me immediately at ease.

Born into a strongly devout Catholic family in Westphalia, Germany, Sister Prema, M.C., attended Catholic schools and as she put it, Teresa of Kolkata. "It was such a joy for mother, and I think for the Holy Father as well. He used to place his hand on her head and kept blessing her." In terms of her public persona, Saint Teresa of Kolkata accepted the adulation as the will of God. The events themselves were not important to her but everyone meant everything to her. "Jesus, it was Jesus at the front. She had a mission to bring souls to Jesus." I asked Sister Prema, M.C., what Saint Teresa of Kolkata's secret was, "She made God's love tangible, visible through her being and God formed her through the darkness to be very small and to know that it is God who is using me ... she was terribly afraid of taking the place of Jesus." On taking her vows, "My first vows were in 1983, and those

and second vows to the order in in 1983 and 1989. She was 34 years old when she took her

Sister Prema, M.C., said she always dreamed

of being placed in South American homes, but

Saint Teresa of Kolkata kept her in Rome and

over the years had the opportunity to attend

meetings between Saint John Paul II and Saint

final vows.

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. This confirmed 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 he was satisfied."

Two days after our meeting Sister Prema, M.C., who is now the regional director of the order for Eastern Europe, left for Hungary where much of the work is focused on serving the gypsy communities. Several sisters kindly accompanied me to several homes in Poland. We also visited the Niepokalanow monastery founded by the martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Of note, Saint Maximilian Kolbe coined the phrase, "Love until it hurts," a message Saint Teresa of Kolkata embraced in her own ministry.

Sister Sefapano, 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 her sisters. Paul De Jaegher, S.J., writes in "The Lord is My Joy," "Authentically pure and holy joy begins above all when a soul has given herself entirely to God, left self to live in God. These are the joys of union." I believe it is what Sister Joseph, M.C., meant by the horizontal and vertical way of allowing Jesus to abide in our hearts and our souls. Why do I personally have an unquenchable thirst to be with the sisters? I believe it is because when I walk through the doors of their homes, I know I am going to have an encounter with



Sr. Mary Prema, M.C., in Warsaw, Poland, August 2023.

the gospel values."

"My heart was restless to find what God wants

from me." After finishing her studies in Ger-

many, she went to England as a teacher for

special needs children. She also encountered

was drawn to their devotion, "... their way of

being very radical and practical about living

The natural evolution of her faith to be "in

the shoes of charity," ultimately led her to the

Missionaries of Charity. She joined the "Come

and See" program in Essen, Germany, when

potential sisters enter a Missionaries of Char-

ity community to discern their vocation. After

six months in Germany, Sister Prema, M.C.,

and novitiate. It was there that Saint Teresa

was sent to Rome, Italy, for the postulancy

the lay-concentrated Focolarini movement and









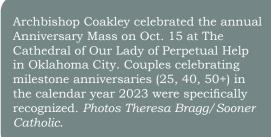














































The Central Region Council of Catholic Women's
Women of Achievement Mass and luncheon
was celebrated on Oct. 14 at St. Joseph
Catholic Church in Norman.

Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.



















Seminarians thankful for generous support

Above: Seminarians

at Holy Hour for Fr.

Rodrigo Serna. Photo

Chris Porter/Sooner

Right: Seminarian

Henry Nguyen with

a group of students

SEEK conference.

from OU at the 2023

Photo by Aiden Dodd.

Catholic.

continued from page 1

don't have to go into debt when studying toward priesthood but can focus all their time and energy on the Lord to become holy and reverent future priests who will devoutly and wholeheartedly serve the Church and the faithful in Oklahoma parishes."

Seminarians expressed their deep appreciation for contin-

ued charitable support from parishes across Oklahoma.

Nathaniel Boyd from Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, currently a senior at Conception Seminary in Missouri said, "A priest is not his own, but he is the people's. I'm studying to be a shepherd of souls for the archdiocese, to give back to people of God even more than what they gave to me and be there for them and with them, especially in the moments when they need a priest most."

He shared his words of gratitude to all who helped him discern his

vocation, "According to my mom, I was speaking about priesthood already when I was 3 years old ... In my high school years, I dreamed of becoming either a priest or a medical doctor."

It was the support of his parents, parishioners and Father Brian Buettner, the director of vocations for the archdiocese, who helped him realize that priesthood is the perfect path God chose for him to serve people in Oklahoma.

Boyd said he enjoys his experience in the seminary, "I like reading, playing racket ball but most of all I love singing to the Lord ... we have a true fraternity with my fellow seminarian brothers united in the same deep desire to grow in love for

the Lord and for each other, and to be formed to become devoted priests of God and his people."

Henry Nguyen from Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma 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 own parish and two other parishes I served at during the summer assignment, Saint John the Baptist Catholic

Church in Edmond and Saint Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. I'm 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 pastor asked all of us - missionaries 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 this unique perspective to Rome," Deacon Jones said. "Likewise, I will be able to bring a universal perspective back to Oklahoma. It is very special to be so close to the Holy Father."

He thanked the faithful of the archdiocese 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 financial support of my studies. It frees me from fears and burdens and enables me to focus totally on the Lord and following his voice as I study towards priesthood."

Nguyen seconded, "The archdiocese's support for my seminary 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.

"Your donation for seminarians is an important investment in the future of the Church! ... I want to

say thank you for your continued support and generous contributions during the

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 my heart and I started to discern my life vocation," Nguyen said.

He elaborated on his realization that a priest has a special

people who were so poor and simple yet

Dcn. Stephen Jones and Pope Francis in Rome. Photo provided.

tion 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.

"Sometimes we get homesick 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 at St. 7. Saint Monica Catholic Church in provide Edmond has been selected by the archdiocese to study at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He is in his last year of formation (Theology 4) and was ordained as a transitional deacon on Sept. 28. He is anticipating his ordination to priesthood in June.

"The most special part about being a seminarian in Rome is to be immersed in the heart of the Church. I was born and



Seminarian Nathaniel Boyd with a group of students at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman. *Photo provided*

appeal this year," Father Lewis said.

To make a gift or learn more about the Seminarian Education Fund, visit archokc.org/seminarianappeal.

Contact information for seminarians can be found at archokc.org/penpal.

Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Archbishop Coakley visited with a parishioner at the 2022 Red Mass. Photo Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic.

"Be not afraid! Listen to the Lord and recognize his voice!"

Interview with Archbishop Coakley about the grace of priestly vocation

By Jad Ziolkowska The Sooner Catholic

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. Archbishop Coakley shared advice and encouragement to current seminarians and young men discerning the priesthood.

How did the Lord lead you to the priesthood?

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 appreciate my Catholic faith and identity more deeply. Also, moments of crises were important points in my vocational discernment. During a semester abroad in Ireland as a college student, two of my friends drowned. Miles 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 fatherhood. 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 during the years of your priestly discernment and seminary?

Grateful remembrance of God's faithfulness which always gave me a sense of wonder

and gratitude for God's presence and closeness. Recounting God's blessings and the great things he has done in my life, being able to look back and recognize God's care and kindness, having the perspective that the Lord has always proved his faithfulness in the past and knowing that he will do it again, realizing that God has a plan and if he placed a desire in my heart, he will nurture it and bring it to fruition – these were crucial elements to strengthen my confidence in his love and fidelity and to remain faithful in good as well as in challenging times.

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 and a 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 virtuous 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 vocation for the mission of the Church.

We can't overstate the importance of priesthood. 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 heal us through the sacraments and who accompany us through

continued on page 12

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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 is 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 Calcutta once said.

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

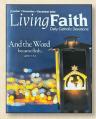
After 40 years, I can't imagine a greater gift that the Lord could have given me. There have been struggles and challenges, it hasn't always been easy to be a priest, the Church has gone through many trials over these years, people's perceptions and my own perspective about priesthood have changed over 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. I want to repeat after my great hero, Pope Saint John Paul II, "Be not afraid!"

Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

GOD IS CALLING MEN YOU KNOW. WILL YOU HELP THEM ANSWER HIM?





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.

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









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



Granny's Attic sale, Oct. 7-8. Volunteers helped work this gathered to pray the Rosary on Oct. 14. *Photo provided*. ministry for their church. Photo provided.



St. Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee held their annual Parishioners from St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Guymon



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



A women's mini retreat, "Planted in the house of the Lord; Growing into divine life" was held on Aug. 26 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.



















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.

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*.



Jobs Box

Mail room/administrative support - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time mail room/administrative support person for processing and distributing mail, including collecting daily mail from the post office, processing outgoing mail with correct postage and delivering to the post office on a daily basis. Maintaining an organized inventory of office supplies and submitting orders when needed, providing assistance to departments with general administrative tasks. At least one year of office/ administrative experience and a valid Oklahoma driver's license. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Office manager - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an office manager to provide executive level administrative support to the Secretariat for Clergy and Consecrated Life. This position is self-directed, operates under minimal supervision and independently manages the daily aspects of the office, including budget, annual events and seminarian application processes, as well as meetings and appointments for the vicar for priests, vocations director and director of the permanent diaconate. Seasonal and recurring work requirements include organizing and coordinating annual clergy events. Provide support to clergy, seminarians, prospective seminarians, deacon candidates, parishes and archdiocesan offices. Assist with website design and maintenance, social media, and practical application of technology, strong planning and organizational skills At least three years of office experience, including event planning; proficiency with computers and Microsoft Office programs. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Director of communications

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of communications to represent the archdiocese, archbishop and chancery to the media by crafting communications, social media, public relations and marketing strategies. Supervise communications support staff, oversee the budget, conferences, respond to media inquiries and credential press for major events. Serve as editor of the diocesan newspaper. Bachelor's degree in communications or related field, at least five years of public relations, journalism and/ or marketing experience, and be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Background check and safe environment training required. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Administrative support - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma

City is seeking administrative support for the offices of youth, young adult and campus ministry and the Bl. Stanley Rother Institute. Will maintain calendar of events for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, update and confirm registration status; work with accounts payable files and ensure proper and timely invoicing and payments and coordinate and distribute marketing and communication needs. At least three years of office experience and proficiency with computers and Microsoft Office programs. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@ archokc.org.

Director of Immigration Legal Services - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of immigration legal services to establish and provide effective management and oversight for all operational and strategic services and programs. Juris doctorate degree; admitted to and licensed by the state bar of Oklahoma or of another state(s), which license must be maintained in good standing at all times or accreditation as a Department of Justice representative for no less than five years in good standing at all times. A minimum of five years of experience in providing family-based immigration legal services under the INA and related statutes, rules and regulations. No less than three years of experience in supervision, management or coordination of professional and/ or clerical staff involved in the providing of legal services under the INA and related statutes, rules and regulations. Send cover letter and resume to Monica Palmer at mpalmer@ccaokc.org

Bilingual attorney - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a bilingual attorney to be responsible for assessing individuals' eligibility for immigration relief and representing individuals before USCIS and the immigration court. Must be a member in good standing of the bar of any state. (Oklahoma State Bar preferred); fluent in the reading, writing and speaking of Spanish; One to two years of immigration law experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate. Send cover letter and resume to Monica Palmer at mpalmer@ccaokc.org.

Financial grant compliance

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a financial grant compliance officer to manage grants administration operations, grantee contract requirements and performance; draft grant and other contracts; maintain grant records; monitor and report on grant strategy budgets; and ensure compliance with orga-

nizational and federal/state rules and regulations. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, economics, or other suitable field of study is required; three plus years' experience in accounting, financial reporting, accounts payable, payroll, accounts receivable; experience with grant administration preferred; non- profit experience preferred; excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods. Proficient in Microsoft Office and other computer applications. Send cover letter and resume to Dcn. Dave Ashton at dashton@ccaokc.org.

Residential support specialist -

Willow Pregnancy Support is seeking an evening and/or weekend residential support specialist to assure the well-being and safety of residents ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations and home functions with minimum interruptions and in optimum condition. This is an overnight position with staff accommodations. High school diploma; must pass OSBI background check; valid driver's license with good driving record for insurability and must agree to random drug testing. Send cover letter and resume to Melissa Clark at mclark@willowpregnancy.org.

Director of advancement - OKC

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a dedicated and experienced director of advancement to lead and drive the school's fundraising, donor engagement and campaign efforts. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in fundraising, donor relationship management, and campaign execution. The director will play a crucial role in advancing the school's mission by cultivating meaningful relationships, securing funding and fostering a culture of philanthropy within the school community. While this position will have an office at Mount St. Mary, applicants should anticipate significant time outside the office attending events and meeting with donors. This position reports directly to the school president. Send cover letter and resume to Brooke Basler, executive assistant, at bbasler@mountstmary.org.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is seeking a middle school teacher's aide for the 2023-2024 school year. Must possess the heart of a Catholic educator, to serve in the spirit of Christ and bear witness to young people in all that they do. Must be enthusiastic, creative and eager to engage students in the learning process. Send resume and cover letter to principal Nicole De Longe at ndelonge@seasok.org.

Third-grade teacher - OKC

Sacred Heart Catholic School in

Oklahoma City is seeking a thirdgrade teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Teaching experience required. Bachelor's degree in education and Oklahoma teacher certification preferred but not required. Will work with teacher through the certification process. Send resume and a copy of teaching certificate to Principal Tera Albert at principal@sacredheartokc. org. Download the teacher application packet at archokc.org/

Science teacher - OKC

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a middle school science teacher. Send resume and cover letter to Principal Todd Gungoll at mr.gungoll@scbokc.org.

Cafeteria worker - OKC

Bishop McGuinness Catholic School has a part time position available in the cafeteria. Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays. Contact Laura Scott at (405) 842-6656.

Music director - Del City

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Del City is seeking a choir director/pianist position for three weekend Masses, funerals and Holy Days. Working knowledge of the Catholic Mass and "Breaking Bread" collection is helpful. Must enjoy working with small, diverse groups of singers (one group per Mass), select music for each Mass and have a vision for Easter and Christmas celebrations. Salary negotiable. Contact the parish office during the morning hours at (405) 677 4873 or by e-mail at stpaulch@coxinet.net.

Coordinator of youth ministry -Edmond

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond is seeking a fulltime coordinator of youth ministry to establish a robust post-confirmation middle school youth ministry in the parish and school and build on the small faith group communities in the high school youth ministry program. Must be an active and intentional disciple-maker who will form young people in their Catholic identity through peer relationships; recognize, support and equip parents as the primary witnesses of the faith. Must be an experienced and engaging public speaker; have excellent organizational and leadership skills; ability to be flexible in high-paced environments; able to recruit, form and shepherd adult and youth leaders. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university required. Degree in theology, religious education or related field preferred. Send cover letter and resume to adennis@stjohn-catholic.org.

To see more job openings, go on*line to archokc.org/jobs-box.*

Genetic Privacy: Should law enforcement have access to a newborn's blood?

Many parents and concerned citizens would probably be surprised to learn that their children's blood samples are being accessed by law enforcement agencies without their knowledge or consent.

In 2021, the State Police of New Jersey sought access to a blood sample from the Newborn Screening Laboratory, a sample belonging to a child who had been screened nine years earlier as a newborn. They wanted to perform DNA analysis so they could try to connect the child's father to a crime committed nearly 25 years earlier.

Filed away for a long time, these original paper medical forms, with spots of dried blood on them, contain the DNA of newborns. By obtaining the child's bloodspot sample without a warrant, the State Police were able to maneuver around the requirement to establish probable cause before seeking a warrant for a mouth swab from the suspect. The DNA results obtained from the child's blood were used to submit an affidavit of probable cause, and a warrant was then issued for a mouth swab from the father. Following the analysis of his swabbed DNA, he was criminally charged.

Every baby born in New Jersey and most other states as well — is required by law to be tested for a number of diseases and disorders, often within 48 hours of birth, as part of a newborn screening program. By pricking the heel of the

baby, hospitals and medical facilities collect blood samples from virtually all newborns in the U.S. Many states retain the dried blood samples after the initial testing has been completed. Upwards of four million newborns are tested annually.

The goal is to identify a range of conditions and diseases in newborn babies, in the hope of reducing their severity through early treatment. One of the most notable success stories involves a condition called phenylketonuria (PKU). When babies with PKU eat foods containing phenylalanine — an essential amino acid found in many common foods — they can suffer permanent brain damage. Before standardized newborn blood screening, families discovered that their child had the condition only after the child developed brain damage. With the advent of newborn screening for PKU in the 1960s, families could be told whether their child had the condition right after birth. They could then use a special diet to prevent permanent brain damage from occurring.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy and commendable project of trying to improve health outcomes for newborns, these blood spot samples are often collected without getting informed consent from a newborn baby's parents, and in some states, the samples may be retained and stored afterwards, even for decades. Many parents are unaware not only of the existence of the screening program but also that blood was drawn from their newborn. It can come as a shock to discover that their family's genetic privacy may have been violated when law enforcement receives access to their child's stored blood sample without their knowledge or consent and without a warrant.

When it comes to the ethics of blood testing programs, parents are entitled to full transparency, including complete and accurate information about why their baby's blood is being drawn. Those states that retain and store samples after the completion of immediate testing also have an ethical duty to inform parents of this practice and be sure that parents have an opportunity to provide informed consent not only for the immediate testing of their newborn, but for any subsequent uses of the blood sample, including possible future scrutiny of the sample by law enforcement, or by biomedical researchers.

The fact that our DNA and our genetic code contains important personal information about us means that our individual "bio-informatics" should not be used or brokered by others without our awareness and consent. Medical confidentiality should be reasonably safeguarded as part of initiatives like the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program. Legislative mandates requiring such newborn screening should thus allow parents to opt out, not only of the testing itself in the face of seri-



Father Tad Pacholczyk National Catholic Bioethics Center

ous reasons, but also of long-term storage and subsequent uses of their newborn's biological samples, including by law enforcement.

Informed consent is also becoming important in the face of an ever-growing number of direct-to-consumer genetic testing options, like 23andMe and Ancestry.com. Compa nies should assure that customers can retain real control over their data. Genetic privacy is a subset of medical privacy, and even those who upload their DNA data to genetic genealogy databases should have the opportunity to provide consent for retention of their data and for disclosure of these data to any third

Informed consent serves as an essential bioethical principle in biomedicine today by providing a concrete safeguard for the dignity of those receiving medical treatments, or otherwise involved in human medical experimentation or research. It should not be contravened without due process and substantial

Book Review: "Katharine Drexel and the sisters who shared her vision"

By Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B. The Sooner Catholic

Saint Katharine Drexel visited Oklahoma twice: in 1902 and in 1905. In October 1902, besides visiting Purcell and other places in Oklahoma, she visited Sacred Heart Abbey and College, which had been rebuilt after the 1901 fire that destroyed most of the buildings. She probably came to inspect what she had helped to fund for the rebuilding of Sacred Heart.

She funded Saint Patrick's Mission in Anadarko, which the Benedictine monks and Franciscan sisters operated. She funded several Native American and African American schools and helped parishes here in Oklahoma. She helped build the first school in Langston, which was staffed by Benedictine sisters from Guthrie, with a Benedictine monk as pastor. This little history just shows how much of an impact Saint Katharine had with the Church here in Oklahoma and its various endeavors.

This book, by Margaret McGuinness, presents the story of Saint Katharine and those who entered the order she founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People (the original title). She was one of the richest women in the United States. She and her sisters had inherited a large fortune from their father. The three sisters were generous in giving money for worthy causes. They zeroed in on what they saw as a need for the education of Native Americans and African Americans. McGuinness presents a survey of

this. Saint Katharine was left alone to fulfill this ministry after the deaths of her sisters. She asked Pope Leo XIII to send workers to help Native Americans

and African Americans. He asked her to do that which she took to mean to establish an order that did this specific work.

Other women joined her in this task and helped staff schools and parishes in the Western U.S. and in the Southern U.S. They did not have too much help from the bishops as a group. The local bishops who needed their help were grateful for their help.

Saint Katharine, though, was very demanding in how her money was spent and required certain conditions to be met and that there be reports to her on how the money was spent, especially if they wanted or needed her continued help. She was an oddity in the Catholic Church in the United States, as a woman and a religious, she held a lot of power, which her money gave her. She and her order did a lot of good for many people.

McGuinness presents an overview of Saint Katharine and what her sisters did during her life and after her death, which changed things for the sisters who did not have a lot of money as they did while the saint lived. At her death, her inheritance stopped being given to the sisters because of Saint Katharine's father's will. The money went to other charities. This made

it hard for the sisters to continue funding various ministries, which included Xavier University in Louisiana. The Sisters recently had to sell their large motherhouse in Bensalem, Penn., which had the saint's remains. The moth-

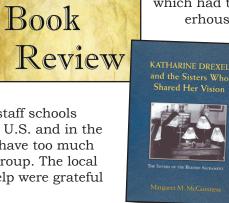
erhouse was sold, and Saint Katharine

was moved to Sts. Peter and Paul's Cathedral in Philadelphia. According to the 2022 Catholic Directory, there were 67 members of the congregation. The Sisters still work in various places. Saint Katharine and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have a great legacy in the Church of the United States and here in

This is a great book which includes black and white illustrations, endnotes and a bibliography. McGuinness posed that more research into Saint Katharine and her sisters, like research into the topics of race and how they lived with this issue. This book is highly recommended to those who are interested in American Catholic Church history, religious women, African American education and Native American history. Oklahoma is barely reference in this book, but still, she had a major financial impact on the Church here.

Oklahoma.

Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B., Saint Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



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Lánzate a lo más Profundo

"Vi una muchedumbre tan grande, que nadie po-

dia contarla. Eran individuos de todas las naciones

y razas, de todos los pueblos y lenguas. Todos es-

taban de pie, delante del trono y del Cordero; iban

vestidos con una tunica blanca y llevaban palmas

en las manos y exclamaban con voz poderosa: ¡La

salvación viene de nuestro Dios, que está sentado

en el trono, y del Cordero!" -Apocalipsis 7,9

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 aún más profundo que una conducta moral apropiada. En la Sagrada Escritura, se refiere a los santos como "los consagrados", que también se usa para referirse a los miembros de una parroquia local.

Teológicamente, un santo es alguien elegido

por Dios para que habite en él el Espíritu Santo. Un santo es alguien transformado por el poder del Espíritu Santo y consumido por el amor a Dios. Cuando Dios habita en nosotros, sin que se oponga nues-

tro orgullo o egocentrismo, nos santificamos. Entre los grandes tesoros de la Iglesia, uno de los más inspiradores es su lista, canónica, de hombres y mujeres santos que profesamos que están en el Cielo, rodeando el trono de Dios. Estos son los intercesores a quienes acudimos en busca de ayuda: María, la madre de Dios; san José; san Antonio; santa Teresa de Lisieux, beato Stanley Rother y miles más. Como miembros de la Iglesia peregrina, estamos especialmente cerca de los corazones de estos santos y beatos. Ellos interceden por nosotros, y nos piden que perseveremos en el camino del discipulado que conduce al Cielo. Además de la lista conocida de los que han

sido declarados santos, hay un número mayor, incontable, de aquellos cuyo amor a Dios los ha transportado a los reinos celestiales. Sin duda, muchas de estas almas parecían bastante comunes durante sus vidas terrenales, el tipo de creyentes con los que usted y yo nos topamos en la Misa o en nuestras actividades cotidianas. Conmemorar a esta enorme muchedumbre es

> un importante ejercicio espiritual, porque nos recuerda que es posible por la gracia de Dios. vencer el pecado y

llegar al Cielo. En virtud de nuestro bautismo, todos estamos llamados a ser santos.

Tal es la alegre esperanza del Día de los Fieles Difuntos. Esta solemnidad es una celebración del poder de la misericordia de Dios. Las almas que busquen encontrarán y las que llamen entrarán. Antes de su Muerte, Jesús les aseguró a sus discípulos que iba a preparar un lugar para nosotros, por lo que se sabe es nuestro verdadero hogar que nos espera entre los santos del Cielo.

Inmediatamente después de que la Iglesia celebra la victoria de todos los santos el 1 de noviembre, dirige su corazón a las almas que aún luchan en el purgatorio durante la

Conmemoración de Todos los Fieles Difuntos el 2 de noviembre. Creemos firmemente que, después de la muerte física, las almas heridas por el pecado y manchadas por los pecados veniales pueden esperar aún la purificación de Dios. Esta purificación del pecado es el eje central de la doctrina Católica

sobre el purgatorio. Como lo explicó el papa Gregorio Magno: "Respecto a ciertas faltas ligeras, es necesario creer que, antes del juicio, existe un fuego purificador, según lo que

afirma Aquel que es la Verdad, al decir que, si alguno ha pronunciado una blasfemia contra el Espíritu Santo, esto no le será perdonado ni en este siglo, ni en el venidero.

En esta frase podemos entender que algunas faltas pueden ser perdonadas en este mundo y algunas en el otro".

Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Las almas del purgatorio necesitan las oraciones de la Iglesia. En el Día de los Fieles Difuntos, la Iglesia se reúne para celebrar la Misa y ofrecer oraciones por sus hijos e hijas que han fallecido y aún no han llegado a la casa del Padre. Aunque murieron en amistad con Dios, es decir, en "estado de gracia", tal vez las almas del purgatorio luchan, como solemos hacerlo nosotros, por desprenderse de cosas terrenales. Tal vez les cuesta perdonar.

Sea lo que sea lo que los ata, sabemos que no debemos permitir que el año concluya sin ofrecer oraciones por ellos. De hecho, muchas parroquias registran los nombres de los difuntos e intensifican las oraciones por ellos incluso después del Día de los Fieles Difuntos. Todo el mes de noviembre es un tiempo apropiado para recordar en la oración a los fieles difuntos.

Hay una antigua devoción que recomiendo para el Día de los Fieles Difuntos, o en cualquier momento de noviembre. Con el rosario en la mano, visita un cementerio y reza los Misterios Dolorosos por tus familiares y amigos difuntos. Cuando hayas terminado, pide al Señor que escuche tu oración en favor de alguna pobre alma olvidada, un alma sin amigos creyentes ni familiares que recen por ella. Sigue rezando otra decena de tu rosario por esa alma. Quizás un día te encuentres con esa alma en el Cielo y te agradezca tus oraciones. Al fin y al cabo, rezar por los difuntos es una de las obras de misericordia espirituales.

Tanto el Día de Todos los Santos como el Día de los Fieles Difuntos son una afirmación de los lazos de fe, esperanza y caridad que nos unen. Ambas son una afirmación de la victoria final de Jesucristo sobre el poder del sepulcro. ¿Cuántas veces saluda nuestro Señor a sus discípulos con la expresión: "No tengan miedo"? La Iglesia contempla la realidad de la muerte física, pero lo hace sin miedo. Como escribió una vez san Pablo: "No seamos como los demás, que no tienen esperanza". Los que han fallecido en Cristo resucitarán. Persevera en tu fe y llegará el día en que ocuparás tu lugar entre los santos.



to Hispanics in the U.S. presentado por Luis Soto. Fotos proporcionadas.



El 30 de septiembre se celebró la primera reunión de ambiente y convivencia de los diferentes líderes de la Adoración Nocturna USA. Fue un día de alegría y gratitud por lo que Jesús sacramentado está haciendo en la Arquidiócesis y en la comunidad a través del Movimiento de Adoración Eucarística. Fotos proporcionadas.















IGLESIA CATÓLICA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO 1100 N SARA RD, MUSTANG, OK 73064

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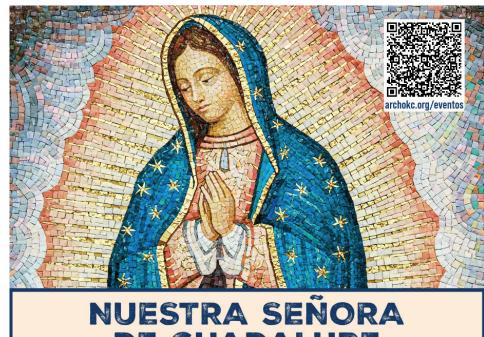
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9:00 AM-3:00PM

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- *** * ***



DE GUADALUPE SU HISTORIA

9 de diciembre 💗 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Registro: \$10

Holy Spirit Catholic Church 1100 N. Sara Road

Mustang, OK 73064

Muchas personas han escuchado hablar de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, pero pocas conocen la profundidad de su historia. Luis Soto profundizara en esta gran historia y la importancia de su

aparición a un indígena llamado Juan Diego, así como el milagro de su imagen. PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN COMUNÍQUESE CON ERIKA MARTINEZ. EMARTINEZ@ARCHOKC.ORG. (405) 709-2806 O ERIKA FRAIRE, EFRAIRE@ARCHOKC.ORG, (405) 438-0294



ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE OKLAHOMA CITY

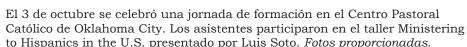
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Briefs

Sooner Catholic

Shrine tour

The Central Region Council of Catholic Women invite everyone to join them on a tour of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 10. Participants will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Pilgrim 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.

Entertaining Angels

A full-day workshop on Christian hospitality, "Entertaining Angels," is 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Moore. Sheri Wohlfert, a 2023 Discipleship Conference presenter, will lead the workshop that provides preparation for receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ into parishes and homes. To learn more or register, visit archokc.org/angels.

Craft fair

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Ladies Auxiliary in Norman is hosting their annual craft fair on Nov. 11.

Day of Reflection

Day of Reflection, "The Eucharist and Works of Mercy" presented by Sr. Barbara Joseph Foley, C.S.T. is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 11 at St. Gregory's Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreats@monksok.org, via the link at monksok.org or call

(405) 878-5656. Cost \$30 prepaid or \$35 at the door. Lunch included.

MSM open house

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School open house is 1-3 p.m. on Nov. 12. For more information, visit mountstmary.org.

Native American Mass

Archbishop Coakley will celebrate a Native American Mass at 3 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, 700 S.E. 89 St. in Oklahoma City. The Mass is sponsored by the American Indian Catholic Outreach office.

Magic at The Mount Gala

The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Magic at The Mount Gala is Feb. 10, 2024. For more information, visit mountstmary.

National Eucharistic Congress

Join Archbishop Coakley and other members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, Ind. Visit archokc.org/nec2024.

Danube River Cruise

Join Fr. Rick Stansberry and Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio on a Danube River Cruise pilgrimage Oct. 20-30, 2024, that includes Munich, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest, plus an optional extension to Krakow. Visit selectinternationaltours.com

Contact (800) 842-4842; iane@ select-intl.com.

Read Archbishop Coakley's new pastoral letter

Archbishop Coakley's new pastoral letter, "On the Unity of the Body and Soul: Accompanying Those Experiencing Gender Dysphoria," is available for reading at archokc.org/pastoral-letters.

Oklahoma Catholic Native **Schools Project**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory's Abbey began the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to better understand the history and experiences of Native American students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. Visit archokc.org/ oknativeschoolsproject. To contribute documents, photographs or an oral history to the project, e-mail info@oknativeschoolsproject.org.

shop

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum and gift shop are open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Learn about the life of Bl. Stanley, attend daily Mass, experience the beauty of the church and purchase devotional items and memorabilia in the gift shop. Located at 700 S.E. 89 in Oklahoma City. Learn more at rothershrine.org. Visit the Rother store online at rotherstore.com.

Shrine volunteers

The success of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine greatly depends on volunteers who are willing to contribute their time, skills, enthusiasm and passion to evangelize in a way similar to Bl. Stanley Rother. Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities. Visit rothershrine.org/volunteer.

Eucharistic Adoration

place every Thursday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, from Noon to 3:50 p.m. in the St. Francis de will conclude with benediction.

School bus route

Okarche has a bus route with stops at the Catholic Pastoral Center and Colony Pointe on the Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Contact jjenkins@ Rother shrine, museum and gift holytrinityok.org or call (580) 471-8140 for more information.

Become a seminarian pen-pal

The seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are away from home for months at a time during their formation. While at seminary, they would like to hear from people back home in Oklahoma! To become a Seminarian Pen Pal, go online to archokc.org/ penpal to find their addresses and write a note.

Eucharistic Adoration will take Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. The period of adoration

Holy Trinity Catholic School in

Br. Albert George Kuntemeier

Albert George Kuntemeier, of the Marianist Residence Community, San Antonio, Texas, died Oct. 13, in San Antonio, at before embarkthe age of 92 after 75 years of religious profession.

Brother Al was born on Oct. 21, 1930, in Saint Louis, Missouri. He was one of four children in the family of Arthur and Regina (Peterman) Kuntemeier. He attended Saint Paul the Apostle school and went on to Northside Catholic High School, where he first encountered the Brothers of Mary. He studied at Northside for just one year.

On Aug. 1, 1945, Al, who was remained there for four years. not quite 15, entered the Mary- In autumn 1981, Brother Al, hurst postulate in Saint Louis. now entering his fourth decade He professed perpetual vows on of ministry, began serving at July 19, 1953.

degree in business administra- tinued at Nolan as a teacher, tion from Marquette University senior guidance counselor, in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1962. He then spent a year in reli-

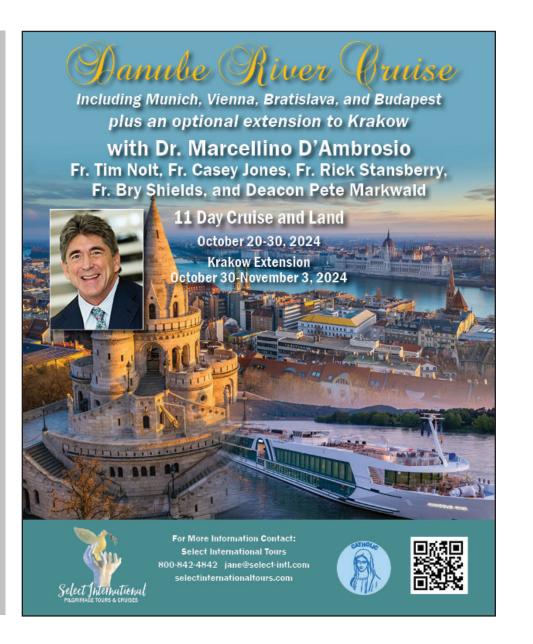
gious studies as a "second novitiate," ing on seven years as vocation director for the Saint Louis Province. Brother Al was admitted to Notre Dame



Br. Albert Kuntemeier

and earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling in

Brother Al began ministry at Bishop McGuiness High School in Oklahoma City in 1976. He Nolan Catholic High School in Brother Al earned a master's Fort Worth, Texas. He conand coach of soccer and tennis until 2014.



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.

November

- Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- Daylight Saving Time Ends.
- Turkey dinner, 11 a.m. 1 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 315 S. Main, Kingfisher.
- The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Central Oklahoma meets at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at St. Eugene Catholic Church in meeting room 3. Interested individuals can join. Contact Bill Full, OFS minister, at billfull1@att.net.
- 5 Third Order (Lay) Dominicans meeting, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., St. Monica Catholic Church, Edmond (St. Ambrose building room No. 115, for any Catholic layperson drawn to religious life. Call David Lassiter (405) 924-6661 or Cesar Vallejos (405) 706-6271.
- Catholic War Veterans USA the Oklahoma Memorial Post No. 168 meeting, 7 p.m., Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact (405) 760-3886, OklaPost168@cox.net.

- **9** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica.
- **10** Feast of St. Leo the Great.
- **10** Tour of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, 10:30 a.m., with the Central Region Council of **16** Feast of St. Gertrude. Catholic Women.
- 11 Feast of St. Martin of Tours.
- **11** Veterans Day.
- 11 "Entertaining Angels" workshop, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., St. Andrew Catholic Church,
- **11** Day of Reflection, 8:30 a.m. -3 p.m., St. Gregory's Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee.
- Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
- 11 Craft fair, St Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, 3939 W. Tecumseh Rd., Norman.
- **12** Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- 12 Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Open House, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., 2801 S. Shartel

- Ave., Oklahoma City.
- **13** Feast of St. Frances Xavier
- **15** Feast of St. Albert the Great.
- **16** Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland.
- **17** Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.
- **17** Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague begins.
- **18** Feast of St. Rose Philippine
- **18** The Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles.
- **18** Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Ala-

- meda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
- **18** Lay Missionaries of Charity provides 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. On the third Saturday of the month the meeting is at Holy Innocents' conference room. Contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199, (405) 694-1291.
- 18 The Oklahoma City Community of Secular Carmelites meeting, Little Flower Catholic Church, 1125 S. Walker Ave., Oklahoma City. Anyone interested in deepening prayer life with community support, call William Ginn, (405) 737-2024.







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20 Sooner Catholic *November 5, 2023*



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY DAILY PRAYER CALENDAR

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

Ist Day of the Month



Deacon Stephen Jones Theology IV Pontifical North American College, Rome St. Monica, Edmond

2nd Day



Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver St. Thomas More, Norman

3rd Day



Theology III Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg St. John the Baptist, Edmond

4th Day



Theology III Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg
Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler

5th Day



Theology II Pontifical North American College, Rome St. John the Baptist, Edmond

6th Day



Theology I Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg St. James, OKC Parish/GOLD

13th Day





Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver St. Francis of Assisi, OKC

14th Day

8th Day

9th Day



Theology I Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver St. Francis Xavier, Enid

Robert Blaschke Theology I Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg Blessed Sacrament, Lawton

10th Day



Henry Nguyen Theology I Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg St. Francis of Assisi, OKC

11th Day



Pre-Theology II Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg St. Mary, Ardmore

12th Day



Grant Carro Pre-Theology II Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg St. John the Baptist, Edmond

Zachary Berntsen Pre-Theology II Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver Holy Name, Chickasha



College Senior Conception Seminary College, St. Paul St. John the Baptist, Edmond

15th Day



Andrew Nguyen Propaedeutic Year Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC

16th Day



Elijah Sharpe Propaedeutic Year Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul St. John the Baptist,

17th Day



Propaedeutic Year Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul St. Monica, Edmond

18th Day



Isaias Carbaial Propaedeutic Year Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul St. Peter, Woodward

19th Day



Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley Oklahoma City

26th Day

20th Day





21st Day

Rev. John Paul Lewis

22nd Day



Vocations Events

23rd Day



Most Rev. Eusebius J. Beltran Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City

24th Day



Very Rev. William Novak, V.G.

25th Day



Rev. Joseph Irwin **Vicar for Priests**



Very Rev. Daniel G. Grover Dean, Northwest



Very Rev. Carson J. Krittenbrink



Stephen J. Bird Dean, Central North

29th Day



Timothý M. Fuller Dean, Central South

30th Day



Philip M. Seeton Dean, Southwest



Kevin J. Řatterman Dean, Southeast







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.

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