Easter morning was a totally new day. Easter was the newest day that has been; the freshest morning since the Lord created the world’s first light. The Catechism says, “But for us a new day has dawned: the day of Christ’s Resurrection. The seventh day completes the first creation. The eighth day begins the new creation. Thus, the work of creation culminates in the greater work of redemption. The first creation finds its meaning and its summit in the new creation in Christ, the splendor of which surpasses that of the first creation” (CCC, 349).

The dark night has passed! The sunrise breaks on the horizon! Rejoice in the grace of this new day! Alleluia!

During the week of March 20-24, parishes around the archdiocese participated in “Taste and See,” or more commonly known as the 40 Hours devotion. Throughout history, the number 40 has indicated a sacred period of time: the rain during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years and Christ fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days before beginning his public ministry. The number also remembers the 40-hour period between the death and burial of Christ and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This year, parishes were encouraged to hold 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration – either continuously or throughout the week. Some parishes held 40 hours of continuous exposition, such as Saint Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton, while some broke the 40 hours into times throughout the week, such as the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

At Saint Eugene Catholic Church, it was estimated that more than 400 people participated in adoring Christ in the Eucharist, including religious education students, confirmation students and regular parishioners.

In Lawton, at least four people remained in adoration every hour while others came and went. At the cathedral, several hundred people spent time in prayer throughout the week, including all students at Bishop John Carroll Catholic School.

Several Catholic schools continued on page 8

A young student from St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon participated in the 40 hours of adoration. Photo provided.
Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

The Easter season has concluded with the joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Lent provided an opportunity for us to reflect on our deep dependence on human beings, as children of God, and particularly on Christ. It reminds us that we are dust, formed from the clay of the earth, we have been created by God in His image and likeness. We have dignity. It also reminds us that we are fallen creatures in need of redemption and healing. It helps us recognize that because of sin we have become misshapen vessels. Throughout Lent we prepare for the joy of Easter by placing ourselves in the hands of the potter yet again that He may set things right.

As Jeremiah says, “The vessel came out wrong ... and he shaped it into another vessel, as he thought fit” (Jer. 18:1). If the season of Lent gave us an awareness of our brokenness, the Easter season will renew our joy in knowing that we can be made anew in the hands of Jesus Christ, the master potter.

One of my favorite Easter episodes is in the last chapter of the Gospel of John (21:22). The risen Jesus encounters a group of his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and Peter had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus revealed himself to them through a miraculous catch of fish. Coming ashore they found Jesus tending a charcoal fire and cooking breakfast for them. This image of a charcoal fire is only mentioned twice in the gospels. One is in John chapter 18 immediately following Jesus’ arrest in the place where Peter denied Him three times. The second is in the account of the disciples’ encoun- ter with the Risen Lord after the resurrection on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (21:22). In some sense, our Lenten journey is a walk through the first charcoal fire where we ac- knowledge the many ways we have failed in following Jesus and acknowledge our sin.

We embrace the notion of forgiveness because, just as Peter denied Him three times, we have denied Jesus many times through our sinful actions and omissions. Lent puts us around the first charcoal fire and confounds us with our sins.

Thankfully, there is the second charcoal fire that the risen Lord had ignited Himself, and where He wants us to join Him. As we gather around the Easter fire on Holy Saturday to begin the Easter celebration, we are reminded of Jesus’ invitations of love, come over me.

Jesus asked Peter three times beside the charcoal fire, “Do you love me?” This would have been a heart-rending reminder for Peter of his three denials at the first charcoal fire. This question sounds straightforward in English, but in Greek, the language in which the gospel was written, its meaning and purpose are quite significant. Jesus uses the word “agape,” which is one of the ways to express love in Greek. Agape is a particular type of love. It’s not erotic love, or even the love of friendship. It is a sacrificial love involving a total commitment.

During the Easter Vigil, we gather around the Easter fire to ponder God’s total and even sacrificial love for us. When we encounter such love, we, like Peter, are invited to deepen our commitment to go and make dis- ciples. He is waiting to love us just as we need to be loved. He awaits as he awaited Peter. His question is the same: “Do you love me?”

May the Lord give us the grace, after having gone through the fire of Lent, to respond with renewed faith and fervor to God’s love for you and me? Our answer will shape the way the potter fuses us anew during this Easter season.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Sooner Catholic

Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City and Life Action Founder Lila Rose to receive honorary degrees

Lila Rose, a renowned pro-life activist, speaker, and founder and president of Life Action, will deliver the commencement address at the Franciscan University of Steubenville’s graduation exercises May 12-13, for 795 students, the largest graduating class in Franciscan University’s history. The commencement will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, May 12, with the Baccalaureate Mass, followed by the Science Commencement at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, and the Arts Commencement at same time same day at 12:30 p.m. All events take place in Franciscan University’s Human Development released a joint statement by the dicasteries: “Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”

A Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Coakley also serves on several episcopal advisory boards, including for the Papal Equality for Education and Culture. At the Baccalaureate Mass, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City will preside and receive an honorary doctorate in Christology. Elected USCCB Conference Secretary (2021-2023), Archbishop Coakley will be honored for his strong pastoral leadership and his unique role of apostolic advocacy and defense of the dignity of the human person.

Archbishop Coakley was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in 1987. He served as the Director of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for Education and Culture.

May God bless with healing all those who have been used and misused to justify acts that would be abhorrent to Jesus Christ. We hope for more dialogue among the faithful.

Catholic scholars to promote greater and wider understand- ing of this difficult history through the USCCB and other official organiza- tions.

Miller is a Fulbright Scholar from the United Kingdom currently teaching in a sociology department and has since 2019.

Amen.
Announcing the inaugural Bishop John Carroll School Alumni of the Year award

Nominations are being sought for the inaugural Bishop John Carroll School Alumni of the Year award. Nominations should be filled out by either Catholic School alumni (aka John Carroll School), from 1950 on. Nominations should demonstrate exemplar service and commitment to the Church, Bishop John Carroll Catholic School and the community. The Bishop John Carroll School Alumni Association wants to honor alumni who have made a difference. Anyone can nominate a family member, friend, classmate or any alum who they know has made a difference. The nomination form can be found at https://rb.gy/oias.

A spring returns, the winter warmers, the smell of freshly mowed lawns, the crack of the bat, the pop of the mitt and the sweet fragrance of a new baseball out of the box point to a glorious moment in time: the coming of a new baseball season. Oklahoma has a rich tradition of excellence in the professional game, with Hall of Famers like Johnny Bench, Mickey Mantle, Carl Hubbell, Willie Stargell, the Waner brothers, Iron Man McGinnity and Negro League star, Joe Rogan. Others who hailed from the Sooner State include Bobby Murcer, Darrell Porter, Bob Johnson, Harry “The Cat” Brecheen, Alie Byrnes and, more recently, Matt Kemp and J.J. Hardy. Of course, the American Indian viceroy athlete, Jim Thorpe, himself a Catholic, spent some time with the New York Giants when not winning Olympic medals.

Many of the stars from the turn of the century through the 1930s played on town teams that were a source of entertainment and community in small towns throughout the state. Sunday afternoons were usually the time to gather and watch the local nine battle visiting teams. Sometimes the “battle” was not just on the diamond. It is believed the first organized game of baseball in the state occurred on July 4, 1882, in Krebs, when they were pitted against Sarsauca; both were winning communities and more than a bit rough and tumble. Apparently, violence broke out in the crowd and gambling was rampant and no doubt fueled by cheap beer. Since most were immigrants playing, it is safe to assume that many were Catholic. Catholic parishes also fielded teams that were competitive and sources of pride for the people they represented. In the archdiocesan archives, there are ten photographs of different teams, including the American Indian students at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko. Truly Baseball was the national pastime and quintessentially American. Immigrants gravitated toward the game to prove in some way their loyalty to the United States and the love they possessed for its strategy, nuances and sensibility. A team game that also entailed individuality (the struggle between pitcher and hitter), it symbolized the American experience.

With the new season of Major League Baseball upon us, and a myriad of new rules in place that were designed to speed up the action in a culture requiring immediate satisfaction, the brash yet leisurely pace that is baseball at its best should return.

Games will no longer take three hours to play, and we might be reminded of the legendary pitcher Bob Gibson who worked quickly. Vin Scully, the great Dodger broadcaster for 70 years, once noted that Gibson picked up like he was double parked. May he so again.

By Jed Ziolkowski
The Sooner Catholic

Blessed Alexandrina da Costa

St. Alexandrina da Costa

By Jordan Melendez
The Sooner Catholic

Eucharistic Revival

A series on Saints with special devotion to the Eucharist

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

From the Archives …

Ever Ancient, Ever New
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St. Joseph Catholic Church circa 1925.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church circa 1925.
Center of Family Love hosts annual block party for residents, community

OKARCHE - The Center of Family Love Teen Board members hosted their annual Backyard Block Party on March 25 at the Center of Family Love in Okarche. The Block Party is a celebration for the centers' residents and is an event for the whole family.

“The block party is my favorite event because I love to see the community coming together to raise money for our amazing charity, and I love the joy it brings the residents,” said CFL Teen Board President, Laney Liefeld. “I love the Center of Family Love because it is an organization dedicated to giving the very best care and opportunities to the most genuine people in the world, true NeXtGen Heroes.”

For more than 41 years, the Center of Family Love has been assisting their residents to conquer disabilities. The proceeds for the Block Party will benefit the 130 adults who call the Center of Family Love their home.

"Without the support of our community and friends we could not provide the 24-hour specialized care needed for our residents," said CEO of the Center of Family Love, Debbie Epstein. “This Block Party is an amazing outreach effort by our Teen Board members, and we are so touched by their dedication to help our residents.”

Center of Family Love’s mission is to provide quality lifetime care to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. To learn more about the organization and their role in serving others through Christ visit, centeroffamilylove.org.

Midwest City Catholic school finds new principal

Father Robert Wood, pastor of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church, is pleased to announce the hiring of Corky McMullen as the new principal of Saint Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City. McMullen must recently served as head basketball coach and teacher at Midwest City High School.

Father Wood expressed his excitement about finding a new principal for the school. “Corky’s experience at both the collegiate and high school levels will be a great benefit to our school. He is, undoubtedly, committed to Catholic education and will be a tremendous asset for our teachers, for our students’ families and for the mission of our school,” Father Wood stated. McMullen, a devout and practicing Catholic, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Houghton University in Houghton, N.Y. McMullen worked and coached for 12 years at the collegiate level prior to moving to his wife’s home state of Oklahoma. His experience includes programs at Rochester Institute of Technology, Hofstra University, Rutgers University, and Houghton University.

McMullen expressed his gratitude and excitement about serving in a new role. “I would like to thank Father Wood, Mrs. Schuler (archdiocesan Director of Catholic Education) and the search committee for selecting me to serve as principal at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School. It’s no coincidence that this opportunity was presented to me at this time. Over the past several months, there has been a stirring in my heart to serve our Lord, his Church and my family in a more intentional way. I am both grateful and honored to serve God, our parish and the teachers and students at Saint Philip Neri. Our school is part of a greater mission for the parish to assist families in forming their children to know, love and serve Christ. I am excited to be a small part of the spiritual and academic growth of our students,” McMullen said.

Students from St. Eugene Catholic School in Oklahoma City held their annual SALT Day of Service on March 31. Some students went off campus to Serve, Appreciate, Love and Teach, while others remained on campus for their day of service. Examples of where students served included St. Ann Retirement Home, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, and the search committee for selecting me to serve as principal at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School. He is, undoub-
christ the King Catholic School finds new principal

Father Rex Arnold, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church, is proud to announce Jennifer Richard, Ph.D. as the next principal of Christ the King Catholic School. Richard has served as assistant principal and junior high literature teacher for Christ the King Catholic School since 2010. Prior to her role in administration, she taught preschool at Christ the King Catholic School for nine years, and at Little Red Schoolhouse from 2007 to 2010. She is an alumna of Christ the King Catholic School (Class of 1989), is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School (Class of 1993) and has been a member of the Christ the King Catholic Church most of her life. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and communication from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She has a master’s degree in early childhood education from the University of Central Oklahoma and a doctoral degree from Swansea University (Wales, UK). Her graduate studies involved cultural preservation efforts within the Chocotoe Nation Historical Park program in southeast Oklahoma. She has worked with Oklahoma A+ Schools towards designing and implementing arts-integrated professional development opportunities for educators both here and abroad. She is looking forward to the next chapter at Christ the King Catholic School.

Richard has two children: Julia is a sophomore at the University of Tulsa, and Atticus is a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. She and her husband, Rick, can be found cheering on the Fighting Irish at cross country meets, football games and track meets. Both of her children attended Christ the King Catholic School. Her and her family are grateful for the spiritual formation, academic preparation and community support Christ the King Catholic Church has given them throughout the years.

The success of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine greatly depends on wonderful volunteers who are willing to contribute their time, skills, enthusiasm and passion to evangelize in a way similar to Blessed Stanley Rother’s style. Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities. The work done by volunteers will extend the reach to all pilgrims that enter the doors of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine.

For more information, scan the QR Code below or go to rothershrine.org/volunteer.

$35 per person

Fathers and sons must attend together.

Join us May 6.

Register at archoks.org/fathers.

register now for camp guadalupe!”

archbishop Paul coakley of Oklahoma City and live action founder lila rose to receive honorary degrees

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WEEK 2: JUNE 18-23
GRADES 5-6

WEEK 3: JUNE 25-30
GRADES 7-9

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GRADES 4-5

WEEK 5: JULY 9-14
GRADES 7-9

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Trust in Jesus is the key to eternity

Interview with Fr. Joseph Irwin about Divine Mercy

By Jad Ziolkowska
The Sooner Catholic

Divine Mercy has been a prominent devotion of Father Joseph Irwin’s priestly vocation since his early years in seminary, in his role as the vicar for priests in the archdiocese and pastor at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman.

The first Sunday after Easter was officially declared “Divine Mercy Sunday” by Saint John Paul II in 2000. As the feast day nears on April 16, Father Irwin shared his experience about the importance of this devotion and how people can trust Jesus more in their daily lives.

Learn more about the Divine Mercy devotion at thedivinemercy.org.

What makes the Divine Mercy devotion so relevant and timely for the Catholic faith?

The world is in dire need of God’s mercy. I hear multiple confessions and do lots of spiritual direction. It's clear to me that everyone is seeking greater trust in the Lord – searching for God’s forgiveness and struggling with the wounds of their life.

Recent Popes, Saint John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, all spoke about the suffering that happens when we forget God. We need to have a greater sense that God is present with us. The Divine Mercy devotion helps us with this goal to keep our minds on the Lord and the message of Divine Mercy, “Jesus, I trust in you.” I often give this simple but powerful prayer as an examination of conscience. It helps people to not only meet Jesus, but to encounter deeper his love.

Oftentimes people pray the Divine Mercy chaplet yet fail to trust Jesus, but to encounter deeper his love.

How do you preach and foster Divine Mercy in your parish?

We venerate Divine Mercy images in the main church and the perpetual adoration chapel. This helps to keep people mindful of the need for God’s mercy. Each day after Mass we pray the Divine Mercy invocations, “Jesus, I trust in you.” Parishioners pray the Divine Mercy chaplet regularly in our adoration chapel, I often incorporate the message of trust into my homilies. During the octave of Easter, we pray the Divine Mercy novena and hold a special celebration for Divine Mercy Sunday with a Holy Hour, confessions, the chaplet and a rosary. This is a bilingual celebration. And of course, we do our best to live trust by exemplifying it in our daily lives.

How can people grow in their trust in Jesus?

If we want to trust in Jesus, we need to know him and speak to him through prayer and the sacramental life, asking him frequently, “Lord, help me to trust you. Teach me and I will just receive your mercy without trying to figure it out on my own.” This surrender to God’s providence itself is an expression of trust and reliance on God.

Could you explain Divine Mercy in the context of the Eucharistic Revival?

Divine Mercy is the reality of who Jesus is. Wherever we encounter him in the Eucharist and in adoration, it’s always an encounter with his love and mercy. As we grow in trust in Jesus and his promise of salvation, we will also grow deeper in love with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Why is it important for each Catholic to actively celebrate the upcoming Divine Mercy Sunday?

God’s grace is poured out on us constantly, but particularly at the time of Christ’s Paschal Mystery. Divine Mercy Sunday celebrated at the end of the Easter octave is intimately connected with the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, the Easter Mystery. With the Divine Mercy chaplet, we pray for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16

thedivinemercy.org/celebrate/how/essentials

1. Sincerely repent of all sins.
2. Place complete trust in Jesus.
3. Go to confession, preferably before Divine Mercy Sunday.
4. Receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday or its vigil.
5. Venerate the image of the Divine Mercy (e.g. gesture of deep religious respect toward it).
6. Be merciful to people through actions, words and prayers.

How can people grow in their trust in Jesus?

If Jesus stood next to people right now, in human form, what do you think he would tell them about his Divine Mercy?

What else is there but Mercy?

St. Faustina’s prayer to be merciful

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors’ souls and come to their rescue. Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbors’ needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbors and take upon myself the more difficult and laborious tasks.

Help me, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbor, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness. My true rest is in the service of my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sorrows of my neighbor. I will refuse my heart to no one. I will be sincere even with those who, I know, will abuse my kindness. And I will lock myself up in the most merciful heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in alms. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

You Yourself command me to exercise the three degrees of mercy. The first: the act of mercy, of whatever kind. The second: the word of mercy — if I cannot carry out a work of mercy, I will assist by my words. The third: prayer — if I cannot show mercy by deeds or words, I can always do so by prayer. My prayer reaches out even there where I cannot reach out physically.

O my Jesus, transform me into yourself, for you can do all things.

(St. Faustina’s diary, 163)
Photograph of Deacon Chester Allen Bartlett Jr. and text:

Deacon Chester Allen Bartlett Jr. was born on March 24, 1942, to Florence Bell (Proffitt) Bartlett and Chester Allen Bartlett in Alice, Texas, and grew up in Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Don Woods. Deacon Chet is survived by his wife, Sue Bartlett; daughter, Suzi Bartlett; sister-in-law, Lana Murphy; niece, Timi Mitchell and her sons Geoff and Devin.

Born in Texas, he spent most of his youth in Oklahoma City. In 1960, while attending Chavez High School, he earned his certificate in civil air patrol as a cadet. He met the love of his life, Sue Murphy, while they were both working at Aeroc Commander.

The two were married at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church on March 16, 1963, in a double wedding with Mike and Lana Murphy. Sue and Deacon Chet were incredibly blessed to have their daughter Suzi in 1979 and to celebrate 60 years of wedding anniversaries together.

During their 60 years of marriage there were many adventures and trials which they faced as a couple, faithfully loving and serving one another, and God. In 1964 they moved from Oklahoma City to California. In 1965, Deacon Chet was hired at Diablo Canyon Nuclear power plant where he became a senior contro l nuclear reactor operator. He retired from that position after 30 years, in 1996.

He was a union steward with the IBEW and a member of the Elks Lodge No. 1538 for over 30 years in Sierra Madre, Calif. After retirement he enjoyed ocean fishing and for five years, he did responsible live catch fishing for the Shalna Market. It took skill to keep the fish alive so that they could be used safely for food.

Aside from his roles as a devoted husband and father, and his accomplishments, his role and work as a Deacon was one of his greatest honors and fulfillment. He was ordained on June 8, 2002, by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles. Over the course of many years they trained, earned their certificates and served as catechists for marriage preparation from 1979 to 2016. As a deacon he presided over six weddings and 158 baptisms. He took his role in service very seriously, and as his role was the pinnacle of his work and his faithful service to God, whom he loved with all his heart.

In addition to their daughter Suzi, Deacon Chet and Sue had 13 Godchildren and have been known as surrogate parents and grandparents to more people than can be counted.

His funeral was held March 30. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on March 31. Both services were at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Warr Acres, and he is buried at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations in the name of Deacon Chet to a charity he held very dear, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at Saint Charles Borromeo (stcharlesokc.org) or a charity of their choosing.

By Owen Canfield

The National Catholic Youth Conference returns to Indianapolis

T he season is here – the season of considerable heartburn for countless Oklahomans. But it’s possible to ease that discomfort next year and beyond through an Oklahoma income tax credit program.

The Tax Credit Scholarship program provides need-based scholarships to students whose families would otherwise be not able to afford tuition at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Through the TCS program, donors who make a two-year pledge receive a state income tax credit for 75 percent of the amount of their gift – a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their state tax liability.

(One-year gifts receive a 30 per-cent credit.)

The credit is capped at $1,000 per year for single filers, $2,000 per year for couples filing jointly and $100,000 for qualified businesses.

Here’s an example: Jane and Joe Smith pledge to make a gift of $2,000 this year and $2,000 in 2024. In return, they receive a $1,500 tax credit each year. As a result, they’re out-of-pocket cost is $594, but they’re making a $2,000 impact on the program each year. And, that $500 difference can be applied to their federal tax return each year as well.

The benefits of TCS are especially powerful for business entities such as LLCs, S-corps, C-corps and general partnerships. Businesses can customize their gift amount based on their tax liability, thus wiping out any state taxes they would have otherwise paid. If the business is a pass-through entity, then the tax credit on the gift can pass through to the owner’s personal tax liability.

For example, Jane and Joe Smith operate an LLC and have a personal state tax liability of $12,000, they can erase that by making a $16,000 gift through the LLC.

Donors gave about $2 million to TCS in 2022 – a tremendous year. Those gifts will help transform the lives of the young people through Catholic schooling.

Please visit taxcreditscholarship.org or email us at taxcredit@tcsok.org for more information. Schedule a school visit and prepare to be awestruck by the difference in their state tax liability.

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A background check and safe haven training are required. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

**Jobs Box**

**Cemetery grounds keeper - OKC**

Resurrection Cemetery in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced, full-time cemetery grounds crew person to provide custodial care and maintenance of the cemetery, mausoleum and columbaria. This position involves grounds maintenance and grounds keeping, loca- tion (435 E. Reno Ave.);有兴趣的求职者可以联系Shelby McPherson at smcpherson@ccaokc.com.

**Coordinator of youth education/Edmodo**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is seeking a full-time coordinator of youth evangelization to establish a robust faith formation ministry with a focus on young people in the parish and at the school. Candidates are encouraged to be a part of the McKay faith group communities in the high school. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college is required. Degree in theology, religious edu- cation or related field is preferred. Send cover letter and resume to admin@johncatholicok.org.

**Assistant coordinator of youth evangelization**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church offers a vibrant staff, a creative, problem-solving, work hard and play hard environment for a part-time assistant coordinator of youth evangelization to support the Catholic Schools. Bachelor’s degree in education or related field is preferred. Send cover letter and resume to admin@johncatholicok.org.

**Math, science teacher - OKC**

St. James Catholic School is seeking a math and science K-4 teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Bachelor’s degree in early childhood/elementary education and an Oklahoma teaching license and a position with our School. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Alicia Vance, St. James Catholic School, 306 W. S. 41, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. Interested candidates are invited to apply online to archokc.org/careers.

**Math, science teacher - OKC**

St. Mary’s Catholic School is seeking a math and science teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Bachelor’s degree in education and a teaching license is required. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Ms.逄Jin, St. Mary’s Catholic School, 306 W. S. 41, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. Interested candidates are invited to apply online to archokc.org/careers.

**Elementary teachers - El Reno**

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is seeking elementary teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. Must hold at least a bachelor’s degree in the desired subject area and have a current Oklahoma teaching license and recent teaching experience preferred. Send resume and cover letter to Sham-Non Stanton, Sacred Heart Catholic School, 306 W. S. 41, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. Interested candidates are invited to apply online to archokc.org/careers.

**Pre-K teacher - El Reno**

Sacred Heart Catholic School is hiring a Pre-K teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Bachelor’s degree in early childhood/elementary education and an Oklahoma teaching license and a position with our School. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Alicia Vance, St. James Catholic School, 306 W. S. 41, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. Interested candidates are invited to apply online to archokc.org/careers.

**Elementary teachers - Oklahoma City**

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Restaurados por el fuego

Los pies del Monte de los Olivos se encuentran el Jardín del Getsemaní Bético de los Olivos, un lugar frecuentado por Jesucristo con sus discípulos, ya antes de la Pascua. San Juan nos dice que el jardín cerca del Cedrón era el lugar de retiro preferido por el Señor. Son olivos seculares que, todavía hoy, se admiran en este jardín, junto a la Basílica Franciscana conocida también como la Basílica de la Agonia que encierra la roca de la agonia, sobre la cual — según la tradición — Jesús transcurrió la hora quizá más dolorosa de toda su pasión: aquí Él vivió esa tristeza del alma “hasta la muerte”, y esa oración intensa que le llevó a “sudar” sangre. La iglesia actual se remonta a 1919-1924 y es una obra del arquitecto italiano Antonio Barluzzi. También es conocida la iglesia de las Naciones, ya que 16 países contribuyeron a su construcción. En el subsuelo se encuentran fragmentos de mosaico de la primera basílica balearina, con diseños que fueron fielmente recuperados en el pavimento actual. Aquí en el Getsemaní se lleva a cabo otra etapa de las peregrinaciones cuarembeles de los franciscanos: una misa con participación de los cristianos locales y peregrinos en trajes tradicionales de la region. Después de haber pescado sin éxito toda la noche, Jesús se le reveló a Pedro junto a otra fogata. La pregunta suena simple en español, pero en griego, el lenguaje en el cual el evangelio fue escrito, su significado y propósito eran bastante significativos. Jesús utilizó la palabra “agape”, la cual es una de las maneras de expresar amor en griego. Pero agape es un amor particular. No es un amor erótico, ni un amor de amistad. Es un amor que requiere sacrificio, una total donación de uno mismo. En la visión Pascual, nos reunimos en torno al fuego para pescar en el amor total y sacrificio de Dios por nosotros. “¿Cómo responderemos?” Al encontrar ese amor, nosotros, al igual que Pedro, somos invitados a renovar nuestro compromiso de ir y hacer discípulos. Nos espera para amarnos como necesitamos ser amados. Nos espera como esperó a Pedro. Su pregunta será la misma: “¿me amas?”

Joven, a ti es dirigida esta invitación

El Ministerio Juvenil “Servidores de la Liturgia” de St. James te invita a formar parte de nuestras clases de formación litúrgica los lunes, en el salón grande de la parroquia

COMENZANDO EL 3 DE ABRIL

Horario: 7 pm - 9 pm
Edad: 13 - 18 años
Para más información, contacta a Mario Ramirez al (405) 761-8150

El tiempo 4:12 que nadie manoseaba su juventud, presentó en cambio, ser para los creyentes modelos en la paz, en el comportamiento, en la caridad, en la fe, en la pureza.

Afortunadamente existe una segunda oportunidad. Durante la cuaresma, responder con fervor a la pregunta: “¿me amas?” De nuestra respuesta dependerá nuestra gracia de ser amados. Nos espera como esperó a Pedro. Su pregunta será la misma: “¿me amas?”

“Cristo ha resucitado! ¡Aleluya!”

“Lánzate a lo más Profundo”

Aby Alejina

Jesús le pregunta tres veces a Pedro junto a otra fogata, “¿Crees en el fuego de la pascua para meditar nuestra más profunda identidad como seres humanos, como hijos de Dios y, particularmente, como católicos.

Nos ha recordado que somos polvo, formados del barro de la tierra, y que hemos sido creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Tenemos dignidad. Nos ha recordado que somos creaciones de Dios. Tenemos dignidad. Nos ha recordado que somos más que materias de que se tejieron los seres humanos, que somos más que materia con la cual se tejieron los cuerpos de Jesucristo, el maestro alfarero. Nos ha recordado que somos más que materias de que se tejieron los cuerpos de Jesucristo, el maestro alfarero. Un amor que requiere sacrificio, una total donación de uno mismo. En la visión Pascual, nos reunimos en torno al fuego para pescar en el amor total y sacrificio de Dios por nosotros. “¿Cómo responderemos?” Al encontrar ese amor, nosotros, al igual que Pedro, somos invitados a renovar nuestro compromiso de ir y hacer discípulos. Nos espera para amarnos como necesitamos ser amados. Nos espera como esperó a Pedro. Su pregunta será la misma: “¿me amas?”

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April 9
9 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.
10 Monday within the Octave of Easter.
11 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter.
12 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter.
13 Thursday within the Octave of Easter.
14 Friday within the Octave of Easter.
15 Saturday within the Octave of Easter.
16 Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
16 Grief to Grace retreat, April 16 – 21, in Turlock, e-mail Healing@stmgolfsponsor2023.com.
17 Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman.
21 Feast of St. Anselm.
22 Greenhouse plant sale, 8 a.m. – Noon for just until early May. St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur Blvd., Shawnee.
22 Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, petals.lang@gmail.com.

Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, through the Office of St. Gregory’s Abbey, has launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to better understand the unique experiences of Native American students in Oklahoma Catholic schools. Beginning with the URI, to 8:30 a.m. to contribute, photos of an original order, e-mail indiansmknowledgeproject@gmail.com. 

Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference The Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference is Aug. 19 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 N.W. 23rd St., Oklahoma City. To become a Discipleship Converging Roads conference participant, please pre-register by e-mailing retreats@monksok.org, via the link at tinyurl.com/stmgolfsponsor2023. The Discipleship Conference is a day of prayer and reflection: “Transformation in Christ” presented by Br. David Whalen, O.S.B. is 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. April 29 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur Blvd., Shawnee. Each pilgram will receive a raffle ticket for a LG 50-inch LED television. To see a full calendar, go to soonercatholic.org.
Bishops recall trek along Spain’s Way of St. James, say hike offers respite, time for prayer

By Kurt Jensen
Our Sunday Visitor

For Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, the greeting “Buen Camino!” (“Good path!”) is much more than friendly encouragement for a lengthy hike. He found it also was sustenance for his soul on his pilgrimages along the El Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James), the ancient network of at least 500 miles of roads and paths across Portugal, Germany, Italy, France and Belgium (some pilgrimage routes also launch in southern England) to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwest Spain.

There, according to tradition, are buried the remains of Saint James the Great, the fisherman who was the first of Jesus’ apostles to be martyred in 44 AD. Bishop Conley spoke at an online press conference to promote the one-day showing of “Santiago: The Camino Within” (Ahava Productions), a documentary-travelogue from producer Erin Burghouse. It was shown in theaters only March 28 by Fathom Events (Fathomevents.com).

Bishop Conley, who hiked a portion of it five times with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City and Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, New Mexico, always in August, found it to be a pleasant respite from the regular noise of life, particularly online distractions. “I’d say most people on the Camino don’t have a clue about its origins” he said. “Most people are doing it for whatever reason.” He called the film “so very Catholic, but in a way that’s not in your face.”

“The walk can get a bit draining,” Archbishop Coakley acknowledged, but “it opens you up” for sharing stories with other pilgrims. He called the film “a tool for enhancing our own Lenten journey.”

The pilgrimages have gone on for more than 1,000 years after relics of Saint James were first discovered, although the modern event, with hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, dates from the late 1950s when Spanish authorities began promoting it as a tourist draw, and the current interest dates only from the 1990s. Up to 300,000 have gone in a single year; like other events, it is still recovering from the worldwide COVID pandemic.

Typically, the largest amount of traffic is from April to June, then in September and October. The entire hike can take more than a month. Registered pilgrims with a credential get it stamped at stations along the way so they can get lodging in hostels. Others prefer to camp.

As with marathons, there’s a certificate of completion issued by the official Pilgrim’s Office. But not everyone receives one. Hikers have to demonstrate that the journey was undertaken for religious reasons and that the final 52 miles were done either on foot or by horseback or the last 125 miles by bicycle, and also collect enough stamps on their credential.

It is most common for hikers to take on a single route of about 200 miles, hiking 15 or so miles a day for two weeks, weather permitting. Veteran hikers take on the additional challenge of crossing the Pyrenees into Spain.

Bishop Donald J. Hying of Madison, Wisconsin, who narrates the film, said, “It has an evangelizing power to it for people who may not be religious.”

In the film, Bishop Hying says of the pilgrimage, “God has placed a homing device in our hearts so that we are born restless, never settling for less than God himself.”

The film focuses on individual hikers assessing their spiritual growth along the way, with the principal physical hazard being blistered feet.

“Perhaps there is an order and pattern to our own life that actually makes sense,” Bishop Hying concludes. “Faith is seeing the beauty of reality in the light of God’s truth.”

The best-known American drama about the pilgrimage is 2010’s “The Way,” in which Martin Sheen plays a grieving father completing the pilgrimage for his son who died en route.

In addition to the “Buen Camino!” the other traditional greeting for pilgrims is “Ultreia!” — which can be translated as “Let’s keep going” — to which the reply is “et Suseia!” In English: “Onward and upward!”

Kurt Jensen writes for OSV News from Washington.