The Solemnity of Corpus Christi at Saint Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee was celebrated this year by giving a prayerful startup to the parish Eucharistic Revival as recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

During the upcoming year (June 11, 2023 – July 17, 2024) parishes in the United States are advised to reinvigorate the devotion to the Eucharist through an active engagement of the faithful in discussions, community events and celebrations of the Holy Mass. The purpose is to lead the communities of believers and each individual parishioner to a deeper encounter with the Lord by receiving Christ’s abundant graces from his Eucharistic sacred mystery.

Father Joseph Schwarz celebrated Mass, which was followed by the procession with the Blessed Sacrament and blessing.

Walking in the Eucharistic procession, with songs of adoration to Christ hidden in the Blessed Sacrament, numerous parishioners shared their appreciation for this experience, and the realization that Christ always walks ahead and leads his sheep in safety.

Father Damian Okoye has spent the past couple of decades as a priest. Raised in a devout Catholic family, and influenced by his parish priest where he attended Mass, he felt a calling to the priesthood from an early age. He is now undertaking a new missionary role, serving as parochial vicar at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City and Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk, and has quickly made an impact on the community in that role, along with seminarian Max Marcott, who himself is studying for the priesthood.

“I was born a Catholic,” Father Okoye said. “When I was very young, I was inspired by my parents. They were very religious.” He was also inspired by his parish priest, Father Lazarus Iwezue.

“I had an interest in the priesthood, and he was my model,” Father Okoye said.

Moving between parishes is not uncommon in the Church, but moving between parishes in foreign countries, and even continents, is less common. Father Okoye is from Nigeria, Africa. He was most recently pastor of Stella Maris Catholic Church in Abayi, part of the Diocese of Aba.

The term “Catholic” means “universal,” and parishes across the world have the same Liturgy, but there are many differences between African and American Masses.

For one, they have more music. "We have the same liturgy, but Nigerian Catholics are very religious, they stay longer in the church, and in our liturgy, we beat drums and dance," he said. "The homilies, at times, are longer."

Father Okoye had been to the United States several times, but...
God mend thine every flaw

Catholics were a very small minority in the American colonies at the time of the American Revolution. Of the two million British colonists, only 2 percent were Catholic. Most of the Catholic population was settled in the colony of Maryland (Mary's Land, founded by Catholics).

During the colonial period, there was widespread anti-Catholic suspicion and a determined resistance to Catholic immigration to America. The historian Arthur Schlesinger once noted that prejudice against Catholics was the most entrenched bias in American history.

Nevertheless, Catholics supported the cause for American liberty enthusiastically. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, was arguably the wealthiest man in the colony.

He risked his life and fortune for liberty and independence from Britain. When he died in 1832, he was the last surviving signatory of the Declaration of Independence.

Catholics have proven loyal and ever willing to sacrifice for our shared freedoms. Large numbers of Irish and German Catholics migrated to America during the 19th and 20th centuries, helping to shape American culture and politics.

The hardships we faced never dimmed the bright promise America offered for Catholics. Precisely because patriotism is a civic and Christian virtue, it should never fail to acknowledge our country’s flaws.

Instead, our struggles and shortcomings must strengthen our resolve to build a nation where all people of every faith and race may find a common home and promote authentic liberty and justice for all.

Our diocesan archives are filled with stories of the men of the parish defending the Church and archdiocesan property.

May the mutual love and affection of all families be a sign of Christian life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

July 9 – Mass and Installation of New Pastor, 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond

Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

By Jed Zielkevics

The Sooner Catholic

Heart in the Blessed Sacrament as much as she could.

Christ’s desire for the Feast of Corpus Christi was revealed also through his private revelations to Saint Julian of León (1492-1520), a mystic, with a message to honor his real presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Lord made known to the saint that faith in his real presence will diminish in the course of time to the point that a feast day will be necessary to remind people that the Eucharist is his body, blood, soul and divinity.

The message about the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist was emphasized by the Lord himself as he spoke to Saint Margaret Mary, “Please look at this heart which has loved mankind so much, consumed itself for love of man, and yet is so little loved in return, yet with each a terrible thirst to be loved in this Most Blessed Sacrament.”

Jesus asked to be adored in the Blessed Sacrament the same way as he asked the disciples in the garden of Gethsemane. “Could you not watch one hour with me?” (Matt. 26:40)

Saint Peter Julian Eymard stressed that the Eucharistic adoration of Jesus’ Sacred Heart is the end of all devotions. “Find the Sacred Heart where it is, living, all-good and all-merciful, in the Eucharist. Unfortunately, that divine and loving heart is not known and loved, even by many devout people, who play at any number of little devotions, good in themselves, but neglect the one devotion which ought to be the life and the end of all the others: the heart of Jesus that gave us Calvary and the Eucharist.”

The saint recognized that the well-being of societies depends on the adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist. He used to highlight the importance of the Eucharist for all nations around the world, as he stated, “The spread of the Eucharistic Christ is necessary for the salvation of society. The Eucharist is the presence of the individual Christian, but of nations as well. We know well that all our failures or degeneracies in accord-ance with its worship of the divine Eucharist. It is the life and measure of its faith, charity and virtue. The Eucharist is not only for personal piety; it is essential to social life, for it is the very life of the world.”

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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July 9 – Mass and Installation of New Pastor, 9 a.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond

The cheering will continue for the following events on the website.

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

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

That a culture of dialogue, listening and mutual respect prevail among all people. We pray to Lord, hear our prayer.

Archbishop Coakley’s


The Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project will help to better understand the history and experience of native students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools.

Learn more at archokc.org/native-schools-project.

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Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hinton celebrated its parish festival on June 18, after the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Parishioners provided food for sale, games and activities. Attendees enjoyed nice weather, played games, danced and socialized. Photos provided.

The Sooner Catholic

Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

The parish festival for Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Mt. St. Mary Bedre Shrine was held June 18 at the shrine in Oklahoma City. Parishioners and visitors enjoyed music, dancing and food. Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

The Sooner Catholic

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Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

The Sooner Catholic
Fr. Rick Stansbery receives 2023 RISE award

Very Reverend Fr. Rick Stansbery, rector of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, received the 2023 RISE award in Memory of Mother Maria Mejia on May 25, during Bishop John Caroll Catholic School’s 8th grade graduation Mass. He received this honor for his outstanding contributions and leadership, including two successive trips to the Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza, also known as the Refugio of Hope (RISE), in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. At RISE, a safe haven for orphaned, abandoned and endangered children, Father Rick’s unwavering dedication left a lasting impact. Through his tireless efforts and generous fundraising initiatives, he significantly bolstered the organization’s resources. As a result, RISE was able to provide essential support, including Catholic education and psychological and behavioral assistance to the children in need.

Fr. Rick’s service, leadership and commitment to being a missionary disciple earned him the 2023 RISE award. This accolade serves as a token of the children shelter’s heartfelt appreciation for his invaluable contribution to the children’s treatment and their brighter future.

The Sooner Catholic
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Interim Editor
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Visit us online at soonercatholic.org
Visit the archives website at archokc.org

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From the Archives …

The city of Newkirk was founded the day after the Cherokee Strip opened on Sept. 16, 1893, and has been renamed three times. It was first referred to as Lamareaux, then changed to Santa Fe. The Santa Fe Railroad was not pleased so it became Newkirk to distinguish it from a stop on the line a few miles away known as Kirk.

Saint Francis of Assisi Church was founded shortly after the town came into being. As was the norm at the time, the first Mass was offered in a store front until a store building was purchased in nearby Cress and moved to Newkirk by mules and a steam engine supplied by parishioners, finally settling at 8th and Magnolia. This was the temporary church until a church was built on South Main Street in 1898. Bishop Meerschaert dedicated the edifice on Aug. 24, 1898.

In the beginning, it was a mission of Blackwell but became a parish in 1906. The first resident pastor, Father Reeklen, was determined to bring Catholic education to the children of the parish. Renting a two-story house, he brought his sister to help teach the children. She continued until the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood arrived. They were followed by the Benedictine Sisters of Guadalupe and finally the Carmelites of Villa Teresa.

The parish continued to grow and its vibrant sacramental life inspired, according to a 1955 publication, eight vocations to priesthood and religious life. Perhaps the most famous of those vocations was Bishop Stephen Loven. Born in 1905, he was educated abroad and was a gifted preacher and teacher. His vision about the unique expansion project of street preaching, excessive talent seldom unnoticed as he became the first Oklahoma priest to be consecrated a bishop being appointed auxiliary Bishop of Saint Antonio in 1955. The Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa was at the time part of the San Antonio province, so he was well known. He would later be appointed Bishop of San Angelo, Texas, in 1969. Remembered fondly for his intellect and kindness toward the people he served.

It soon became apparent that a new church was necessary, and one was completed in 1953 with the dedication on Feb. 3. With a capacity of 400 people, it remains the parish church today.

The 50th jubilee publication of the diocese that contained histories of parishes said it best: “It seems improbable in the light of modern methods that mules will ever be pressed into service by parishioners bent on building a parish. However, that same spirit of willing effort and ingenuity, shown in the first Newkirk church remains unchanged as is shown by the hearty cooperation of all the congregation when the need of the church is concerned.”

Order of Malta Oklahoma City region participates in Lourdes pilgrimage

Members of the Oklahoma City region joined more than 7,000 knights, ladies and volunteers from 45 countries to participate in the annual international Order of Malta Lourdes Pilgrimage, taking thousands of sick and wheelchair-bound pilgrims.

Led by Father Peter de Keraty, master, knights and dames learned firsthand what belonging to the Order of Malta really means—service and fellowship. Dressed in distinctive uniforms and ministering to the sick and disabled (referred to as “Malades” in French), the members of the order are part of an international community of faith and service.

For Peter de Keraty, hospitalization of the Oklahoma City region, this was his first time making the pilgrimage since being invested as a Knight in 2011.

“The Lourdes Pilgrimage experience was a highlight of my time in the Order of Malta. Experiencing the love of Our Blessed Mother in the suffering of the sick in our care was deeply moving,” de Keraty said. “It was a great privilege to escort and pray alongside people from all over the world who came to Lourdes. There is a tangible and profound peace that I hope to carry with me.”

Carolyn Synovitz, from Altus, was part of the medical team of doctors and nurses on the pilgrimage who monitored and provided treatment as needed for the malades throughout the trip.

“The Lourdes Pilgrimage experience has been a profound and transformative journey for me as I continue to work with malades and physicians,” Dr. Synovitz said. “Witnessing the immense love of Mary manifested through the trials of the sick under our care was an incredibly moving experience. It was a humbling honor to accompany and pray alongside individuals from various corners of the world who sought solace and healing in Lourdes.”

Other pilgrims from the Oklahoma City region were Gov. Frank Keating, KM, and his wife Cathy; their son Chip Keating and his wife Leslie; and Jason Zimdars, KM.

The Oklahoma City region was officially recognized in the United States by the Order of Malta Federal Association in 2020. Started by Peter de Keraty, KM, and Gov. Frank Keating, the order is now comprised of about 30 physicians, has certified another 7,000 unexplained cures. Many of the sick are not only physically poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virgin Mary was on 18 occasions to Bernadette Soubirous, a very poor, 14-year-old girl. The first of the apparitions took place on Feb. 11 and the last on Sept. 12, 1917. The last apparition of the Virg...
Southwest Oklahoma priests recognized for their service

Kendra Mann

Kendra Mann is the coordinator of the youth, young adult and campus ministry. The office helps provide opportunities for young people to encounter the Lord in new ways through programs and opportunities around the archdiocese. In her spare time, she enjoys drinking a good cup of coffee, running where the weather is nice and learning new languages. One of her interesting hobbies is that she learned Ancient Greek to start her path to conversion to Catholicism.

By Jolene Schonchin

The Sooner Catholic

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chapter No. 2166, Saint Jude, hosted their annual priest appreciation dinner on June 14 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. The chapter is made up of women from both Holy Family Catholic Church and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

Being recognized at the dinner were Father Thomas Nollapappi and Father John Paul Lewis of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton and Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Walters, Father Phil Sexton of Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton, Father Royanna Nastettii of Saint Ann Catholic Church in Elgin, Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Apache and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sterling, Father Vic Lung of Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko, Saint Richard Catholic Church in Carnegie and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Ringwood. Also honored were the priests of Fort Sill, Father Felix Kamai, Father Eliaam Muli and Pastor Archdiocesan Igbege.

Together, the men represent most of Southwest Oklahoma’s Catholic churches and missions. The honorees were treated to an array of homemade foods from the Catholic Daughters Chapter. Arlene Schonchin of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church prayed the Lord’s Prayer and the Hail Mary prayer in Native American Sign Language.

This year’s theme was “The Beautiful Hands of a Priest,” inspired by a poem. Catholic Daughters of the Americas member Lisa Pastrelli made the priests cake in the theme.

The purpose of the Priest Appreciation Dinner is to bring together and honor the priests and deacons of the churches who do so much for our Catholic communities. They do not get to punch out for the day it a whole like many of us do. They pray for our families, administer the holy sacraments and sometimes sacrifice their personal time and time with their families to help those in spiritual need, Jolene Schonchin, regent of the Saint Jude Chapter, said. “This is our way of saying, ‘Thank you,’ and you are appreciated.”

Also in attendance were deacons from the churches and seminarians: Jonah Beckhman.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Safe Environment training course available Aug. 1

Safe Environment protocols were put into place after the creation in 2002 of the USCCB’s Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

In accordance with the charter, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City created policies and protocols for all churches and schools that addressed precautions for preventing child abuse, training to recognize and report child abuse and how to report suspected or known abuse. Over the years, the program has grown to include important topics such as human trafficking, technology safety, and suicide prevention.

The protocol in the archdiocese and Oklahoma State law have all adults complete mandatory training and background checks and initial training course.

Q: How often is training required?
A: Annual training is required for safe environment.

Q: When does my training expire?
A: All current training in the system will expire on July 31. The new training course will be available Aug. 1. All existing users are required to complete the new training course before Aug. 31.

Q: What happens if I do not complete my training?
A: Every user in the system is different, but we estimate one hour is needed to complete the background check and initial training course.

Q: How long does the training course take to complete?
A: A: 15 minutes.

Q: What happens if I have forgotten my username or password?
A: All users are required to complete the new training course before Aug, 31 to continue as an active volunteer. If training is not completed, users will be suspended in the Safe Environment system and will not be eligible to volunteer. Suspended users may contact their local safe environment facilitator if they wish to become active volunteers again. They will be required to complete all safe environment protocol before becoming eligible to volunteer.

Q: Where can I find the list of priests in the archdiocese with substantiated allegations of abuse of a minor?
A: The list can be found along with the comprehensive report at archokc.org/clergyabuse.

Q: Where do I find more information?

REMEMBER

The next training course will be available on August 1, and the training will need to be completed by August 30.

All users in the Safe & Sacred training portal will expire on July 31.
During his homily, Father Schwarz portrayed the extraordinary beauty of the Eucharistic mystery highlighting that the Eucharist is ‘the’ way God chose to move to his people and draw everyone to himself.

“We should be looking forward to the Eucharist to love Christ in the way he himself desired for us,” Father Schwarz said.

He explained that the Eucharist is the summit, the mountaintop experience, during which God offers all graces needed to live earthly life as a Christian in union with him as well as graces for eternal life.

“If we had a real appreciation of the miracle happening during each Holy Eucharist, we wouldn’t miss one single Mass,” Father Schwarz said.

Father Schwarz encouraged the parishioners to open their hearts to Christ in the Eucharist, to cherish him, honor him and love him unreservedly.

The Mass, procession and benediction were succeeded by a community activity guided by Father Schwarz and geared toward a deeper understanding and meditation on the Eucharist. Everyone was invited to contribute their thoughts about the personal meaning of the Eucharist by answering the leading question posted on writing boards in the parish hall: “What does the Eucharist mean to my life?”

Various responses reflecting parishioners’ deep spiritual devotion and attachment to the Eucharist were posted: “Hope for eternal life;” “Greatest love and grace ever offered to us,” Father Schwarz said.

He explained that the Eucharist is the summit, the mountaintop experience, during which God offers all graces needed to live earthly life as a Christian in union with him as well as graces for eternal life.

“Words don’t suffice …” and “if we were to see the Eucharistic Christ filled the writing space quickened for us,” Father Schwarz said.

“What does the Eucharist mean to your life?”

Eucharistic Procession on June 11.

Parishioners at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon held a Eucharistic Procession on June 11, Corpus Christi Sunday, at St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond. Photo David Munn.

The new scholarship luncheon honors dedicated students

The Catholic Foundation honored these students who have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to their Catholic faith.

Scholarship luncheon honors dedicated students

Teresa of Avila received a Saint Teresa of Avila Scholarship.

The Catholic Foundation awarded scholarships to eight new recipients during a luncheon on June 9 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Following Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cokyldity, scholarship winners and their families had lunch and heard from keynote speaker Alex Sanchez, director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Sanchez previously spent four years as director of campus ministry at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman.

Sanchez reflected on two main reasons why students may lose their faith in college. One reason being a lack of relationships that keep a person connected to the Church. He encouraged students to pray for friends and said God would provide.

The second reason he cited is being a faith that lacks any meaning. He explained the importance of studying the Catholic faith to deal with difficult questions in life.

Archbishop Cokyldity echoed sentiments and encouraged the students to seize the opportunity to be all that God has created them to be. This year the Foundation awarded $78,420 in scholarships to 21 students. The new scholarship winners were:

- Emma Bannister of Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon
- Nicole Herzog of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac Catholic Church in Yukon, who each received a Bobby Dean Little Scholarship.
- Kevin Ngo and Rachel Ngo of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac Catholic Church, who each received a P. B. Munn.

Photos provided.

Parishioners at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon held a Eucharistic Procession on June 11. Photos provided.

Scholarship luncheon honors dedicated students

Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Photos Jad Ziolkowska/Sooner Catholic.
St. Mary Catholic Church, Clinton. Photo provided.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City. Photo provided.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Norman. Photo provided.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, Oklahoma City. Photo provided.

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Norman. Photo provided.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Chickasha and St. Peter Catholic Church, Lindsay. Photo provided.
Middle school students place in speech tournament

Forty-six middle school students honed their public speaking and acting skills by competing in the April 29 Middle School Speech Tournament hosted by Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Speech and Debate.

The competition drew students from five schools: Belle Isle Middle School, Rosary Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Oklahoma City, Saint Eugene Catholic School and Saint Mary Catholic School, Ponca City.

“Each high school students serve as judges at the tournament, giving critiques and encouragement to help the students improve themselves,” Young said. “Our students compete at the regional, state and national level, so this is their chance to switch roles and be in the judge’s seat, which they love doing,” Young said.

In addition to developing confidence in public speaking, Young explained the speech tournament offered the middle school students a chance to further develop their creativity, expand their imaginations and give them a voice to persuade and motivate audiences.

“We are hopeful that more schools will get involved and provide this opportunity for their students,” Young said. “Public speaking is one of the top fears for many people, so being involved in this helps alleviate this fear and improves their communication skills. Plus, it benefits them for any career they seek in the future,” Young said.

The finalists received a certificate, and the first-place winners received a certificate and a ribbon. The top three in each category are available.

Speech/Oratory - 5th and 6th grade
Andrea Contreras (Sacred Heart): 1st place
Charlie Woddle (Rosary): 2nd place
Coco Vaughn (Rosary): 3rd place

Speech/Oratory - 7th and 8th grade
Pierce Carey (Rosary): 1st place
Sarah Elder (Saint Eugene): 2nd place
Logan Riege (Rosary): 3rd place

Monologue - 5th and 6th grade
Michelle Rodman (Rosary): 1st place
Chase Doty (Belle Isle): 2nd place
Lilli Allen (Rosary): 3rd place

Monologue - 7th and 8th grade
Mary Crook (Rosary): 1st place
Kendyl Guadalupe (Rosary): 2nd place
Claire Keller (Belle Isle): 3rd place

Duet - 5th and 6th grade
Adalyn Xavier and Emma Hernandez (Rosary): 1st place
Kelan Carcas and Poliana Torres (Rosary): 2nd place

Duet - 7th and 8th grade
Shawn Petree and Romeo Basteria (Rosary): 1st place

ACCW announces 2023 scholarship recipient

The Oklahoma City Archbishop-Council of Catholic Women recently announced the winner of their $500 scholarship: Emma Bannister of Saint John Neumann Catholic Church in Yukon. Bannister is a 2023 graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, the Latin National Honor Society and was awarded the Latin Academic Award.

In her parish life, she served on the Youth Advisory Council for four years and served as president. She is a parish cantor/singer, altar server, and member of the school Camino Council. She is also a parish council member.

Her goal is to teach, either at a school, or as a parish religious education director. She is also considering a double major in English.

She is the daughter of Daniel and Julia Bannister of Yukon.

Emma Bannister

![Photo provided.](image-url)

The competition drew students from five schools: Belle Isle Middle School, Rosary Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Oklahoma City, Saint Eugene Catholic School and Saint Mary Catholic School, Ponca City.
Director of communications - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of communications to represent the archdiocese, archbishop and chaplains to the media by crafting communications, social media, public relations and marketing strategies. Supervise communications support staff, oversee the budget and will build and maintain positive relationships. Must have experience in communications, journalism and/or marketing experience, be a practicing Catholic in good standing, be available to work evenings and weekends, and possess excellent interpersonal skills in verbal and written communication.

Send letter of interest and resume to
Dr. George C. Kilpatrick,
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
501 N. Hudson Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Director of development - OKC

The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a director of development to be responsible for all aspects of development, including major gifts and capital campaigns, special events, donor events, database management, planned giving, endowment fund raising and granting. Form a collaborative working relationship with past leadership, parish leaders, solicitation liaison, special events, donor events, database program, planned giving, endowment fund raising and reporting. Send resume to
Brooke Kinnon at
bkinnon@archokc.org.

Disaster case manager - Norman

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a temporary disaster case manager to counsel and assist disaster survivors in identifying and integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery, manage and report on cases by integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery, manage and report on cases by integrating with other staff and community resources.

Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.

Disaster case manager - Shawnee

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a temporary disaster case manager to counsel and assist disaster survivors in identifying and integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery, manage and report on cases by integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery.

Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.

Development grants coordinator - Oklahoma City

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a development grants coordinator to be responsible for assisting in the development of parish and donordatabase, coordination of campaigns, special events, donor events, database management, planned giving, endowment fund raising and granting. Must have experience raising one or more forms of services; interview clients experiencing disaster impact to finances, employment, food, housing, physical and mental health, and other needs; and assign resources and other organizations to clients’ needs. Contact the disaster case manager once hired. Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.

Education director - Oklahoma City

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an education director to counsel and assist those in need with school supplies and educational needs and resources for school aged children. This position is a temporary position and will be in place until June 2023. Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.

Disaster case manager - Norman

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a temporary disaster case manager to counsel and assist disaster survivors in identifying and integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery, manage and report on cases by integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery.

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Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.

Disaster case manager - Stillwater

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a temporary disaster case manager to counsel and assist disaster survivors in identifying and integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery, manage and report on cases by integrating with other staff and community resources, provide support during times of crisis for disaster recovery.

Send resume and cover letter to
Kellin Young at kyogson@archokc.org.
Que Dios enmiente cada una de sus imperfecciones

En el tiempo de la Revolución Americana los católicos eran una minoría muy pequeña en las colonias americanas. De los dos millones de colonos británicos, sólo 2% eran católicos. La mayor parte de la población católica se asentó en la colonia de Maryland (traducida como Tierra de María), fundada por católicos. Durante el periodo colonial, existía una de- sconfianza anticolonia extendida y una firme resistencia a la inmigración católica hacia el norte (traducida como “tierra de María”, fundada por católicos). Proporcionó una resistencia firme a la inmigración católica hacia el norte y su fortaleza y santidad en un mundo que saludaba con desprecio. Se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que manifestarás en la colonia de Maryland (traducida como “tierra de María”, fundada por católicos). Proporcionó una resistencia firme a la inmigración católica hacia el norte y su fortaleza y santidad en un mundo que saludaba con desprecio. Se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que manifestarás.

Durante el período colonial, existía una desconfianza anticolonia extendida y una firme resistencia a la inmigración católica hacia el norte y su fortaleza y santidad en un mundo que saludaba con desprecio. Se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que se expresa correctamente, es una virtud que manifestarás.

Los protocolos de Ambiente Seguro se implementaron tras la creación en el 2002 de la Carta para el Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB). De acuerdo con la Carta, la Archidiócesis de Oklahoma City creó políti- cas y protocolos para todas las iglesias y escuelas que abordaron las preguntas para prevenir los abusos a menos- res, la capacitación para reconocer los abusos a niños y adultos vulnerables, y cómo informar a la sicia- los abusos conocidos o sospechosos. A la archidiócesis, el programa ha crecido hasta incluir temas importantes como el tráfico de personas, la seguridad sexual y la prevención del suicidio. El protocolo de Ambiente Seguro y la ley del estado de Oklahoma han hecho que todos los adultos sean denunciadores obligatorios de abu- so conocidos o sospechosos. De ahí que se ha hablado de un niño o de un adulto vulnerable en un entorno eclesiástico, escolar, familiar, deportivo, o de cualquier otro tipo, debe llamar inmediatamente al Departamento de Servicios Humanos del estado o a las auto- ridades. Si la sospecha de abuso involucra a personal o voluntarios de la Iglesia, póngase en contacto con la línea directa de abusos de la Archidiócesis en el (405) 729-5878 para hablar con un consejor calificado. Es importante que se mantengan las preguntas frecuentes relacionadas con el programa de Ambiente Seguro en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, prevu- das para continuar con el foro de formación Safe and Sacred. El protocolo de Ambiente Seguro y la ley del estado de Oklahoma han hecho que todos los adultos sean denunciadores obligatorios de abuso conocidos o sospechosos. De ahí que se habla de un niño o de un adulto vulnerable en un entorno eclesiástico, escolar, familiar, deportivo, o de cualquier otro tipo, debe llamar inmediatamente al Departamento de Servicios Humanos del estado o a las autoridades. Si la sospecha de abuso involucra a personal o voluntarios de la Iglesia, póngase en contacto con la línea directa de abusos de la Archidiócesis en el (405) 729-5878 para hablar con un consejor calificado. La lista se puede encontrar junto con el programa de Ambiente Seguro en la arquidiócesis en archokc.org.

¿Qué ocurre si no termino mi formación en ambientes seguros a tiempo? R: Todos los usuarios deben terminar el curso de formación antes del 31 de agosto. Si no terminan la formación, los usuarios serán suspendidos en el sistema de Ambiente Seguro. Tras completar la comprensión de los antecedentes, el usuario deberá completar su formación anual. R: Cada usuario del sistema es diferente, pero estimamos que no terminarán su formación anual. R: Si ha olvidado su nombre de usuario o contraseña, puede ponerse en contacto con su facilitador local de ambiente seguro si desea volver a ser voluntario. De lo contrario, se le pedirá que complete todos los protocolos del ambiente seguro antes de poder volver a ser voluntario. Los protocolos de Ambiente Seguro se implementaron tras la creación en el 2002 de la Carta para el Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB). De acuerdo con la Carta, la Archidiócesis de Oklahoma City creó políticas y protocolos para todas las iglesias y escuelas que abordaron las preguntas para prevenir los abusos a menores, la capacitación para reconocer los abusos a niños y adultos vulnerables, y cómo informar a la sicia- los abusos conocidos o sospechosos. A la archidiócesis, el programa ha crecido hasta incluir temas importantes como el tráfico de personas, la seguridad sexual y la prevención del suicidio. El protocolo de Ambiente Seguro y la ley del estado de Oklahoma han hecho que todos los adultos sean denunciadores obligatorios de abuso conocidos o sospechosos. De ahí que se habla de un niño o de un adulto vulnerable en un entorno eclesiástico, escolar, familiar, deportivo, o de cualquier otro tipo, debe llamar inmediatamente al Departamento de Servicios Humanos del estado o a las autoridades. Si la sospecha de abuso involucra a personal o voluntarios de la Iglesia, póngase en contacto con la línea directa de abusos de la Archidiócesis en el (405) 729-5878 para hablar con un consejor calificado. La lista se puede encontrar junto con el programa de Ambiente Seguro en la arquidiócesis en archokc.org.

El presente curso de formación está disponible el 1 de agosto y deberá completarse antes del 31 de julio. R: Cada usuario del sistema es diferente, pero estimamos que no terminarán su formación anual. R: Si ha olvidado su nombre de usuario o contraseña, puede ponerse en contacto con su facilitador local de ambiente seguro si desea volver a ser voluntario. De lo contrario, se le pedirá que complete todos los protocolos del ambiente seguro antes de poder volver a ser voluntario.

El presente curso de formación está disponible el 1 de agosto y deberá completarse antes del 31 de julio. R: Cada usuario del sistema es diferente, pero estimamos que no terminarán su formación anual. R: Si ha olvidado su nombre de usuario o contraseña, puede ponerse en contacto con su facilitador local de ambiente seguro si desea volver a ser voluntario. De lo contrario, se le pedirá que complete todos los protocolos del ambiente seguro antes de poder volver a ser voluntario.
Franciscan jubilarians ministered in Oklahoma

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia 2023 Jubilee Celebration was held the weekend of June 3–4. Jubilarians celebrating 50 and 70 years of religious profession gathered at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Aston, Penn., for a weekend of recollecting memories and celebrating both the past years and the years to come.

Congregational leadership hosted a special dinner for all the jubilarians at Assisi House, a retirement residence in Aston. Jubilarians and guests gathered in Our Lady of Angels Chapel for a jubilee liturgy. Father Cyeran Fox, OFM Cap., presided over the liturgy during which the jubilarians renewed their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience — vows which they first professed 70 or 50 years ago. Following the liturgy both jubilarians and their guests gathered for a luncheon at Our Lady of Angels Convent.

Collectively, these jubilarians represent 618 years of service in 15 dioceses throughout the United States.

One of this year’s diamond jubilarians celebrating 70 years of religious profession ministered a jubilee liturgy. Father Cyeran Fox, OFM Cap., presided over the liturgy during which the jubilarians renewed their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Their previous ministry in Oklahoma was in convent ministry at Our Lady of Victory Convent.
From then until June 18, Archbishop Coakley celebrated 40 confirmation Masses, driving more than 4,000 miles.

This year included special confirmation celebrations at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, which opened in February.

On March 26, the shrine hosted the confirmation class from Blessed Stanley Rother’s home parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche.

On April 23, students and families from seven parishes – Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Saint Gregory Catholic Church in Enid, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hollis, Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Moore, Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Perry, and Saint Philip Neri Catholic in Midwest City – filled the shrine to overflowing for confirmation.

The same happened on May 7, when the shrine welcomed the confirmation classes for 12 parishes and missions – Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sulphur and Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Ada, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hobart, Saint Andrew Dung Lac Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Chandler, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Reno and Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Union City, Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore, Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City and Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Jones, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Konawa.

The archbishop used these special occasions to remind the youth that they first received the gift of the Holy Spirit at their baptism. But through confirmation, “we take on a greater responsibility for our own faith,” he said. “You came here as disciples ... but you leave here as missionary disciples, as witnesses to Jesus Christ.”

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