

Pope Leo: Intelligence is seeking life's true meaning, not having reams of data

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

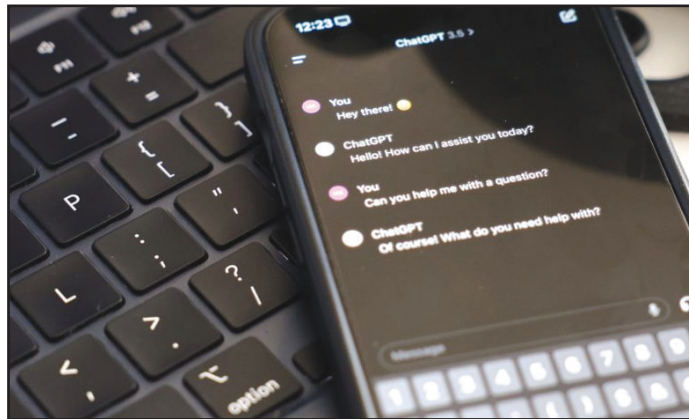
VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Access to vast amounts of data and information is not the same thing as having intelligence, which is uniquely human and requires being open to truth, goodness and the real meaning of life, Pope Leo XIV told AI experts and executives.

“Authentic wisdom has more to do with recognizing the true meaning of life than with the availability of data,” he said in a written message released by the Vatican June 20.

“Acknowledging and respecting what is uniquely characteristic of the human person is essential to the discussion of any adequate ethical framework for the governance of AI.”

The message, written in English, was addressed to people attending the second annual Rome conference on AI, Ethics and the Future of Corporate Governance being held in Rome and at the Vatican June 19-20.

The conference “brings together executives from leading AI companies as well as large enterprises using AI with policymakers, scholars, ethicists and lawyers to consider in a holistic way the challenges facing the ethics and governance of AI, both for companies developing this revolutionary technology as well as the enterprises incorporating AI into their



The ChatGPT app is seen on a phone placed atop a keyboard in this photo taken in Rome March 8. CNS photo/Lola Gomez.

businesses,” according to the event’s website.

Speakers included representatives from top AI-tech firms such as Google, IBM, Anthropic, Palantir Technologies, Cohere and AI21 Labs. Speakers from the Vatican included: Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, the substitute for general affairs in the Vatican Secretariat of State; Archbishop Carlo Maria Polvani, secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education; Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, retired president of the Pontifical Academy for Life; and Franciscan

continued on page 13



Rita Johnson was named Religious Educator of the Year at the 2025 Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Awards Luncheon. Photo provided.

Scholarship, grant winners honored

Rita Johnson named Religious Educator of the Year

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma held its 2025 Awards Luncheon on June 6 to salute students, parishes and donors across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The event at the Catholic Pastoral Center began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Coakley and

continued on page 8

‘Faith in Action’ steadily moving toward goal

[archokc.org/
acagift](http://archokc.org/acagift)

Across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 7,377 families have come together in support of the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal, Faith in Action. Thanks to their generosity, \$3 million has been raised toward the \$4.5 million goal, leaving \$1.5 million needed to fully fund the ministries that serve thousands each year.

One ministry supported by the appeal is the Office of Marriage and Family Life, which plays a vital role in forming and strengthening Catholic families throughout the archdiocese.

This year, the office has served 32 families, including engaged and married couples, couples facing infertility or miscarriage and women seeking to better understand their reproductive health.

Because of ongoing support, these services are offered regardless of religious background or ability to pay.

This year, the office expanded

its outreach with several new and growing initiatives. The popular Luncheons for Life are now held quarterly, doubling attendance and enriching the experience with local speakers and formation opportunities. A new semi-annual Natural Family Planning Instructor Gathering was also launched, providing ongoing education and fellowship for instructors, clergy and medical professionals.

Additionally, new bilingual instructors and medical professionals are discerning advanced fertility care training, helping ensure that these vital services are accessible across cultures and languages.

To learn more about services offered through the Office of Marriage and Family Life, contact Director Carrie Harkey at charkey@archokc.org.

To make your gift to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal and help us reach our goal, visit archokc.org/acagift.

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in
Action*

2025 ACA GOAL \$4.5M

\$3M COLLECTED



67% TO GOAL



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ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Commending growth, success in Catholic schools

Summer has arrived and students and staff in our archdiocesan Catholic schools are taking a much-needed and much-deserved break, given the success of the just-concluded school year.

I want to commend our students, faculty, administrators and school pastors on their work this year and for the many accomplishments they have achieved in our 18 schools across the archdiocese.

It is not a secret; Catholic schools are thriving in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City! It has been a joy to witness! Students are praying, serving, learning, achieving and performing in a variety of ways and at admirable levels.

Baptisms, First Reconciliations, First Holy Communion and Confirmations were special events for many of our students and their families this past school year. Each will remember and look fondly upon these special days and hopefully remember the unending love that God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – has for each of them. May they remember their importance to the world, and to body of Christ, his Church.

Students and their families took up the invitation to encounter Christ, form a relationship, and bring him to the world, making disciples. It was wonderful to see the number of students going above and beyond what was required to serve others in their community as well as the outpouring of support for the students from families, volunteers and community businesses.

This is the evangelizing mission of the Church, and by extension our schools. They are taking it to heart.

In all, 326 of our Catholic high school graduates are now heading off to seminary, the military, workforce or to college, all well-formed for the next stage of their life. The sheer number of college scholarships received, including those by our national merit finalists and semi-finalists, is a testament to the hard work of the students, their

parents and dedicated teachers.

Achievements in sports, robotics, drama, speech, music and art illustrate the well-rounded nature of the curriculum and our students' success in mastering it.

At each of our 15 elementary schools, 256 eighth-grade students graduated from parish schools with many of those moving on to a Catholic high school.

Talent abounds in the lower grades and was demonstrated through archdiocesan level competition in the spelling bee, National History Day and The Fine Arts Expo, where art, music, speech and drama were showcased for the community. This is

just a bit of the good news, as each school has its own site-based achievements to add to this list.

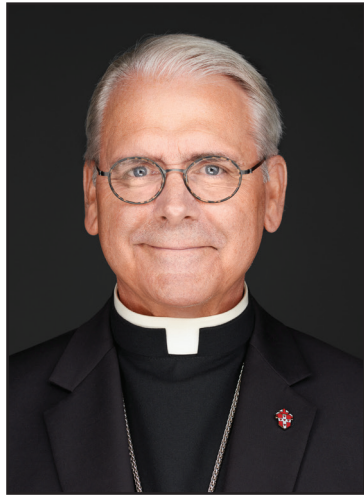
It has been a year of strong growth. Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are more affordable than for any family seeking a Catholic education for their child. More than 300 students came into archdiocesan schools for the first time this past year.

Due to school choice efforts of the state legislature over the past few years – including the Parental Choice Tax Credit, the Catholic

School Opportunity Fund and the Lindsay Nicole Henry Scholarship – opportunities to fund Catholic education continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of families.

Next year promises to see even more new faces in our schools and we look forward to welcoming them.

May God continue to bless all associated with Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City: the students and their families and the administration, faculty, staff and volunteers who serve with them. The future of the Church and Catholic education in Oklahoma indeed appears to be bright!



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

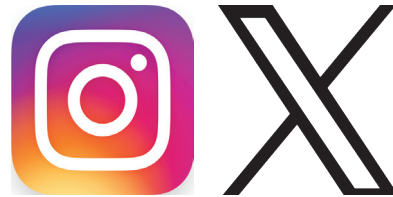
Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on soonercatholic.org.

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

✓ **For migrants and refugees**. May they find a true Christian welcome from us. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ **Oklahoma Catholic Radio** is seeking volunteers to help with several support aspects of the non-profit ministry. Anyone considering an opportunity to join in their outreach to “Go make disciples” of Jesus Christ, can contact info@okcr.org; (405) 255-7348. Visit okcr.org.

✓ **Holy Spirit** Catholic Church in Mustang will host its annual Altar Society craft fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the church, 1100 N. Sara Rd. in Mustang. Vendor applications are now being accepted. holyspiritmustang.org/craft-fair-form.



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

*Loving God,
we thank you for the gift
of summertime, the days of
light, warmth and leisure.
Thank you for the beauty that
surrounds us everywhere we
look. As we open our eyes
and ears to the landscape
of nature and people, open
our hearts to receive all as
gifts. Warm our souls with the
awareness of your presence.
Let all the gifts we enjoy this
summer deepen our aware-
ness of your love so that we
may share this with others
and enjoy a summertime of
re-creation.
Amen.*

Archbishop Coakley's statement on the execution of John Hanson

Less than a week after we held the Oklahoma March for Life leading to the capitol to proclaim the sanctity of every human life, the state has again carried out an intentional killing with the Thursday execution of John Fitzgerald Hanson. This is the second execution carried out this year in Oklahoma.

In the aftermath of heinous crimes the victims of violence and their loved ones deserve our compassion and support – spiritual, pas-

toral and personal. We must pray for healing for those families and assist them to heal from their often unimaginable grief whenever possible.

Execution of the perpetrator, however, cannot heal those terrible wounds. The pain and loss of one death cannot be offset by another violent death. The death penalty remains an inhumane method of punishment. It is opposed to the respect we ought to cherish for human life in our

society as we pursue authentic justice for all.

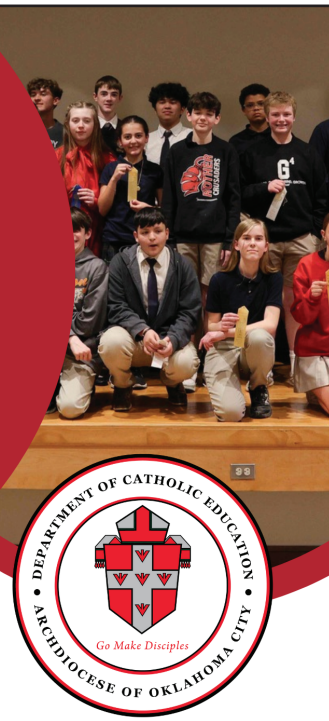
I encourage all to pray and come together in advocating for an end to the death penalty in our state and nationwide. Let us work to create a society that prioritizes life and justice, and for alternatives to capital punishment that uphold the dignity of all human beings.

Please join me in praying for the victim, Mary Bowles, and her family, as well as John Hanson and his family.



The Oklahoma March for Life was held June 7 from St. Joseph Old Cathedral to the Oklahoma State Capitol. Speakers included Archbishop Coakley, Oklahoma State Speaker of the House Kyle Hilbert, March for Life National Program Director Erin Getz and Sen. James Lankford. The Master of Ceremonies was Paul Abner, Oklahoma Faith Leaders. Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass prior to the march. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

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archokc.org/schools

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

June 29 – Confirmation, 11 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Purcell
June 30 - July 13 – Camino de Santiago de Compostela



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

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The Knights of Columbus at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk recently celebrated its 70th anniversary as a council, featuring multiple generations as members. *Photo Everett Brazil, III/Sooner Catholic.*

Newkirk Knights keep going strong

By **Everett Brazil, III**
The Sooner Catholic

Seventy years can seem like a lifetime, a well-spent life, spent raising kids and helping with grandkids, preparing a new generation of family.

At the parish level, 70 years can represent community, an opportunity to make a difference in not only the parish, but for those who live outside the church. So it is with the Knights of Columbus at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk, celebrating a 70th anniversary, a period that's seen not only as celebrating a thriving membership, but ways to carry out new work in Newkirk

and the larger Kay County.

The Saint Francis of Assisi Knights Council was formed May 19, 1955, with 36 charter members under Father J.L. Walch. Today, the number remains strong with more than 40 members. And they remain committed to carrying on a theme of service.

"As a rural parish," said Deacon Bill Horinek, "we have continued to enable our parish family to remain vibrant and active in the church through social functions in our day-to-day parish life."

A favorite parish event is the turkey bingo and chili fundraiser, which brings out not only parishioners from Saint Francis of Assisi, but also Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City, as well as

community supporters outside the Catholic Church. The program is held in the church gym ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, with a "bingo" securing a family a turkey.

The organization also has a big program in its 40 Cans for Lent drive, which sees non-perishable food items donated across Kay County.

"Typically, we gather 400-500 pounds of food," Horinek said. "This year, a portion is going to go to New Emergency Resources Agency (NERA), Ponca City and a portion will go to local food pantries in cooperation with several churches."

The work of the Knights stretches outside the parish and into other organizations, not just NERA, but also Living Hope Pregnancy Center in Ponca City. In a way, it comes full circle as many of the founding council members and their families were those who were agricultural producers, families who made their livings in the landfill. Families with members still today, including the Schiebers, Vaps and Horineks.

"A lot of our council members were farmers, and we still have a few farmers today," Curtis Vap said. "Nine of our current members are sons of charter members."

The goal of the Saint Francis of Assisi Knights is to support the parish behind the scenes, supporting parish activities any way it can.

"We support the social and Liturgical life of the parish," Horinek said, "and we promote families within the parish community, and through our work we help support the clergy."

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



Archbishop Coakley, Fr. Joseph Arledge and parishioners from St. Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City gathered on June 10 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the church. *Photo Felix Pinto.*

St. Patrick Catholic Church celebrates 75 years

On the evening of Tuesday, June 10 – exactly 75 years from the first Mass celebrated at Saint Patrick Catholic Parish inside Saint Ann's Home for the Aged – clergy, parishioners, former parish school students, special guests and friends gathered to celebrate a milestone anniversary at Saint Patrick Catholic Church.

The festivities featured a "Walk Down Memory Lane" photo exhibit of the construction progress of the "Church that the People Built," while attendees enjoyed a wine and cheese social. More than 100 photos were available for viewing, including a black and white photo of the first Mass in the completed church.

Archbishop Coakley celebrated a 75th Anniversary Mass, along with concelebrant Father Joseph H. Arledge, pastor of Saint Patrick.

Special guests included Masters of Ceremony Father Stephen Bird and Father Rodrigo Serna; additional concelebrating priests Father Joseph Irwin, Father Cristobal de Loera and Father Raul Sanchez; and assisting Deacon Duane Fischer, Deacon Dennis Frazier and Deacon Fernando Marin.

Prelude music featured Brad Kenna on the bagpipe playing "The Little Spree" and "The Highland Cathedral." The processional hymn "The Church's One Foundation" set the tone for the Holy Mass.

Immediately following Mass, participants gathered around the Saint Patrick statue at the church entrance for a commemorative photo before processing to a catered reception in the parish hall.

About Saint Patrick Catholic Church

Saint Patrick Catholic Church began in Northwest Oklahoma City on June 10, 1950, fulfilling the vision of Bishop Eugene McGuinness. The first Mass was celebrated by the first parish pastor, Father Michael McNamee, in

what is now called Trinity Gardens (formerly Saint Ann's Home for the Aged), located west of the church property.

Beginning with 120 families and a priority to construct a school, Father McNamee successfully raised the funds to break ground in January 1951. The Saint Patrick Parish Grade School soon opened in September 1952, serving first-through-eighth grades with an enrollment of 200 students. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, were the first teachers to teach the students in the new school.

By 1955, a growing parish of 550 families and a new school under then-pastor Monsignor Kanaly, readied plans to build a new church. The new church needed to be practical, liturgically in keeping with the "mind of the church," and a work of art. These tenets of design guided the plans for a modern church within a church. Built almost entirely by the parishioners numbering in the hundreds, who worked day, night and weekends over more than a two-year span, the new church was dedicated on Sept. 23, 1962.

The modern cathedral, which was designed by architect Robert Lawton Jones of the Tulsa firm Murray Jones Murray and engineer Felix Candela, was awarded the Cardinal Lercaro Gold Medal in 1962, by the North American Liturgical Conference as the outstanding Catholic church.

built in the country over a three-year period. Among other honors was one of four equal awards given by the National Council of Churches and the Church Architectural Guild of America in 1963.

The church's design elements have won numerous awards since it was built.

The church also was listed among the "Top Five Favorite Sites for Oklahoma City Architecture at its Finest," featured in Oklahoma Today



A celebration was held on June 10 for the 75th anniversary of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. *Photos Fran Kozakowski/Sooner Catholic.*

in 2000, and was featured in The Oklahoman as one of the "Ten Architecturally Significant Religious Buildings in Oklahoma City" by Oklahoma City metro architects in 2002.

The Saint Patrick parish is a culturally diverse parish serving the needs of many including Anglo, Asian, African and Hispanic families. English, Spanish and bilingual Masses are a celebrated part of special events and certain Holy Days within the Saint Patrick Catholic Church community.

For more information, visit the website, saintpatrickokc.org or follow on Facebook.



Archdiocese names four new principals

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City welcomes four principals to new positions for the 2025-26 school year.

At Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche, Keri Rother moves from interim principal into the full-time position. Rother arrives with 26 years of experience in education. She and her husband, Patrick, live in Okarche and farm the Rother homestead.

Joseph Jarroush steps in as principal at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Enid. His leadership is shaped by a broad professional background that includes service

in Catholic and public education, nonprofit operations and community-based ministry. Jarroush previously served as director of campus ministry at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and as a district-level administrator and counselor for Union City Public Schools. He and his wife, Ashley, are raising eight children, each of whom has attended Catholic schools within the archdiocese.

Deana Ellis is the new principal at Bishop John Carroll Catholic School. She brings 20 years of experience in education; most recently five years at Horizon Intermediate School in the Mus-



Keri Rother



Joseph Jarroush



Deana Ellis



Lauren Peña

tang Public School District – two as assistant principal and the past three as the head principal. Ellis and her husband Joe Ellis have three children.

At All Saints Catholic School, Lauren Peña moves into the principal position, having served as an

educator in the archdiocese the past six years, following 11 years in public schools. She served as a teacher and later the director of instructional technology at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. Peña and her husband Matt have two children.



The University of Oklahoma Campus Ministry at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman wrapped up its most successful school year yet, setting attendance and student involvement records. Photos provided.



Members of the Young at Heart and the Infant of Prague Guild of St. James the Greater Catholic Church recently visited the Jubilee Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Photo provided.

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Program for teachers is ‘a true gift’

By Owen Canfield

Exposure to a new way of teaching has proven invaluable for Mary Cross, a pre-kindergarten teacher at All Saints Catholic School in Norman.

Cross is part of a cohort of teachers and staff from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa who are enrolled in the Catholic Educator Formation and Credential program. The 18-month program is administered by the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education.

“ICLE has given me the ability to teach to the whole child – mind, body and spirit,” Cross said. The program “encourages me to nurture not just the students’ cognitive skills, but also their moral, social and spiritual growth.”

Mary Thibodeau, who will teach Latin in the 2025-26 school year at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City, said “wholeness” has been one of the major takeaways from the program.

“It is the wholeness that leads to holiness,” Thibodeau said. “We don’t teach math or English or PE. We don’t teach first-graders or middle schoolers. What we teach

are students. We teach students who may come to us as early as 3 years old but will someday be adults. We are teaching the whole person, not just one subject for the day.”

A goal of the coursework is to help teachers move from a secular view of education to one deeply committed to Catholicism. The program also provides tools to help teachers improve lesson planning and time management.

“ICLE has shown me a world rich in art, music, literature and beauty that I can now share with my students,” said Margaret Acevedo, who teaches Spanish and religion at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Tulsa. “I feel confident taking on my new role as a second-grade teacher thanks to ICLE and am looking forward to sharing my newfound knowledge with them.”

Emily Ginn, a first-year teacher at Saint Mary Catholic School in Ponca City, said the program provided a much-needed foundation and practical skills she could apply in her classroom. Among the fruits: a considerable increase in her fourth-grade students’ desire to read.

“I watched their reading stamina grow steadily through the year, knowing it was a direct result of



Cohort members listened to a lesson during a recent seminar at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Photo provided.

what I learned through the ICLE program,” Ginn said.

“Through mentorship, real classroom feedback and shared experiences, I’ve become a more confident, capable teacher. This program is a true gift -- not just to me, but to every student I will ever teach.”

A third cohort is scheduled to

begin in July. The program is paid for by gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal and from benefactors in both dioceses. Donations to help fund the third cohort may be made at www.cfook.org/givecefc.

Owen Canfield is associate director of Catholic schools development at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.



Archbishop's Dinner

Supporting the Saint John Vianney Endowment for Seminarian Education

Aug. 7 at 6 p.m.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Your support helps form the next generation of priests who will serve the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.



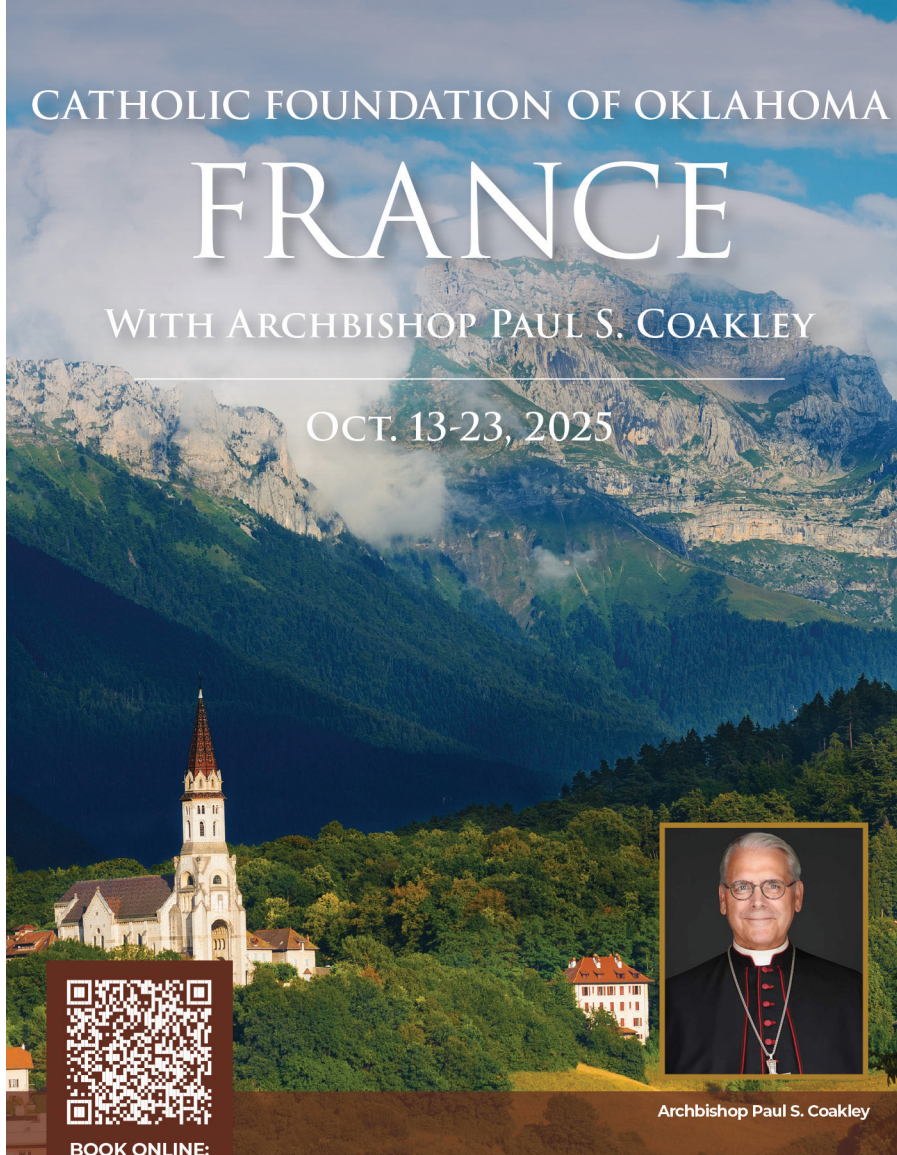
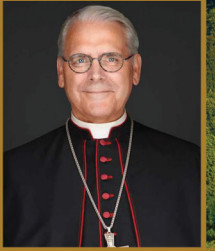
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continued from page 1

included the announcement of the foundation's Religious Educator of the Year. The winner was Rita Johnson, who teaches kindergarten and pre-K bible school at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City.

The other finalists were Laura Howells, who teaches religious education to kindergarteners at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, and Kristine Moreno, OCIA instructor for teens and sixth graders at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Clinton.

College scholarships comprise \$76,280 of the \$723,000 the Catholic Foundation awarded in grants and scholarships this year. The scholarships are funded through donor-created endowments.

New scholarship recipients for 2025-26 are: Cooper Bartlett, Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Elk City; Jackson Bichsel, Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City; Emma Bowman, Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City; Marcos de la Torre Sanchez, San Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio Catholic Church in Laverne; Colton Estes, Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Elk City; Jessin Hardin, Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Hennessy; Charlotte Kennedy, Saint Mary Catholic Church in Guthrie;



Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma scholarship recipients for 2025-26 were honored by Archbishop Coakley on June 6 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. *Photo provided.*

Gabriel Lewer, Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Enid; Max Pinon, Saint Peter Catholic Church in Woodward; Maggie Stroman, Saint Monica Catholic Church in Edmond; Rodman Villanueva, Saint Mary Catholic Church in Clinton; Adam Williams, Saint Peter Catholic Church in Woodward.

Other Catholic Foundation grants awarded this year include \$84,500 for Catholic school educators pursuing advanced degrees or certifications; \$189,234 in education grants to 14 schools and the archdiocese's Department of Catholic Education; \$148,615 to improve facilities at 13 parishes; \$181,920

in Parish Life Grants at 30 parishes, and \$42,500 for five ministries' pro-life efforts.

The Catholic Foundation's mission is to procure and build endowments to support parishes, schools and other ministries of the archdiocese. To learn more, visit www.cfook.org.



The Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women announced the winner of its \$500 scholarship, Marina Harris of Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. Harris is a senior at Epic Charter School, a member of both the NJHS and National Honor Society. She plans to study environmental science at the University of Oklahoma. She is a cantor at Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church, volunteers at church breakfasts and is an adult volunteer in BSA Troop 9173. L to R: Marinka Coven (Marina Harris's grandmother), Marina Harris, Victoria Stringer, JoAnn Landol and Bettie Cooper, SRCCW officers. *Photo provided.*



The winners of the 2025 junior high school essay contest, presented by the Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Central Region, with a theme of pilgrimage: Kardin Nguyen, All Saints Catholic School, Molly Blahnik, All Saints Catholic School, and Sophia Bass, Bishop John Carroll Catholic School. All tied for first place and were presented with a certificate and a \$100 prize. *Photo provided.*

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Does April 15 get you down? Reduce your tax burden next year by giving to the Catholic Schools Opportunity Fund this year.

Gifts to the program defray tuition costs for children attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

A two-year pledge gets donors a 75% state income tax credit each year. The max credit is \$2,000 for couples and \$1,000 for individuals. Qualified businesses can receive a much larger tax credit.



Exploring faith and culture: A traveling adventure for students

The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine received a recent grant from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma to launch a new traveling exhibit entitled "Journey of Faith and Culture," designed to educate junior high students about the life and legacy of Blessed Stanley Rother and the Tz'utujil culture.

The interactive exhibit will have a full curriculum designed by Lisa McLaughlin, a retired assistant superintendent of Western Heights with more than 35 years experience in education.

"I am excited to be a part of helping students see a real-life example of someone who made a significant impact, motivating them to pursue their own paths of service and faith," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin is currently a volunteer at the shrine.

One feature of the travelling

exhibition is the exploration of the Tz'utujil garments, which are all hand woven. Students will be able to touch, see and examine the intricate details of the outfits donated by Roger and Vicky Berger of Arizona.

"The exhibit also highlights how faith can be a driving force for positive change which can lead to meaningful and impactful actions," said Deacon Rob Blakeley, director of pilgrimage at the shrine. "This encourages students to think about how they can use their faith to have influence in their own communities."

The "Journey of Faith and Culture" exhibition will travel to various schools across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City from February 2026 through 2028.

For more information about the exhibition or to schedule it at a school, contact Blakeley at (405) 438-0315.



(L to R) Steve Winkler, board president for Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Christi Jeffreys, director of development for the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine and Dcn. Rob Blakely, director of pilgrimage at the shrine accepted the parish life grant award. More than \$723,000 in funds were distributed during the annual awards luncheon on June 6. *Photo provided.*



The Gospel of Life Disciples led a prayer pilgrimage on May 25 from the GOLD dwelling in Moore to the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City. May 25 is the anniversary of the ordination of Bl. Stanley Rother. The pilgrimage was in petition for holy vocations to priesthood, consecrated life and marriage. Pilgrims paused at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Moore, then attended Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Mass at the shrine. *Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.*



Director's Touch

Fr. Bird retiring from Divine Worship office, leaving his mark on archdiocese's major events

By John Helsley
The Sooner Catholic

In another life, Father Stephen Bird might have been a Broadway director, utilizing a keen eye for great artistic endeavors and a skill for guiding elaborate productions. And he does carry a passion for the arts, particularly the stage.

The Good Lord, however, had a different plan for Father Bird's talents – beyond the priesthood – one that led to a 46-year term leading the Secretariat of Divine Worship, even before the office officially existed. The curtain closes on this extended run July 1 when Father Bird retires from the post, leaving decades of behind-the-scenes orchestration of the liturgy and music and more that has marked the many significant events of the archdiocese.

"Father Bird's service as director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship for all of these years has been exemplary," Archbishop Paul Coakley said. "He has an amazing care for the important details that are so important in the sacred liturgy."

Father Bird remains pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, as he retires only from a secondary role that leaned into his strengths, which then-Archbishop Charles Salatka recognized in the late '70s before he handpicked Father Bird for a new position in 1979.

The job has developed and grown at times through the years, and many have aided Father Bird along the way, yet he has served as the point man for providing the details for ordinations of priests and deacons, for priest funerals, for the installation of three archbishops. And he's coordinated major events, like the annual Chrism Mass, the beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, the Jubilee Year Celebration in 2000 and the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Oklahoma in 2005 – both held at the Myriad/Cox Convention Center – and the dedication of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, among others.

"Father Bird's commitment to excellence sometimes disappears into the background because it has been practiced for so long," said Father Don Wolf, rector of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. "We get used to it and imagine every celebration and every liturgical moment is well-planned, quietly executed and easily performed, since they all are. But we forget it is not so."

"Father Bird has always been successful working with all those involved in the celebrations of the archdiocese, both clergy and lay. He has never faltered in his insis-

tence on excellence and preparation."

So, what does a director of divine worship do? It's not just in the details; *it is the details.*

Fans of Broadway easily relate to the stars and offer standing ovations to cheer their performances. Dame Judi Dench. Julie Andrews. Idina Menzel. James Earl Jones. Sir Ian McKellen. Jonathan Groff. Masters of the craft through the ages.

Yet it's the director's unseen guidance and handling of the details that makes a performance truly rise.

So it is with an ordination or a special celebration or in accommodating a crowd of more than 20,000 as well as bishops from across the U.S. and beyond for the beatification of the first American-born martyr.

For important events and Masses in the archdiocese, large and small, the director plays the lead role in the effective planning, coordinating and execution of all aspects of liturgical celebrations. Working in coordination with the archbishop, they ensure that worship services are meaningful,

"Father Bird's service as director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship for all of these years has been exemplary."

Archbishop Paul Coakley

engaging and in accordance with Catholic tradition. That includes overseeing music, vestments, the liturgical environment and the training of liturgical ministers, as well as written worship materials like programs.

Father Bird likens it to the performer spinning plates atop a pole, like the guy in the old variety shows, hustling from pole to pole, making sure no plates fall.

"That's kind of the way I describe my life," he said, "trying to keep it all straight in my head. But I've enjoyed it. I like details."

And he's a master of the details.

"Father Bird has a great love for the Church and its liturgy," said Michael Scott, an administrative assistant who works closely with Father Bird in the Secretariat for Divine Worship. "His commitment runs deep. He creates meaningful worship experiences, especially the times that the whole archdiocese comes together."

Said Father Zak Boazman, who will be stepping into Father Bird's seat as director: "Over the past four years, I have witnessed Father Bird's unwavering commitment and dedication to his role, as he has consistently taken every decision with the utmost seriousness, as if it were his first day. His meticulous attention to detail

and his ability to recognize and compliment people when needed have been truly inspiring."

Father Bird's inspiration began at an early age in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where he jumped into the elementary school chorus. And his love for song and performance only grew, even as his family moved to Oklahoma and he attended Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, and on to seminary and into his priesthood, where Archbishop Salatka eventually recognized Father Bird's talents and plugged him into a director role that took the place of a commission.

Now he's providing the inspiration, through careful planning and music and atmosphere and liturgy.

"Two celebrations are uppermost in my mind," said Archbishop Coakley, "since my arrival in the archdiocese 14 years ago: the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother and the dedication of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine."

"I participate in liturgies around the

country and I would say that ours are equal to any. I credit Father Bird with establishing a culture within our archdiocese in which reverent, beautiful and prayerful liturgies are not the exception, but the norm."

The director's touch.

"It's something I love, I still love," Father Bird said. "But I also know it's time to let somebody else take it on."

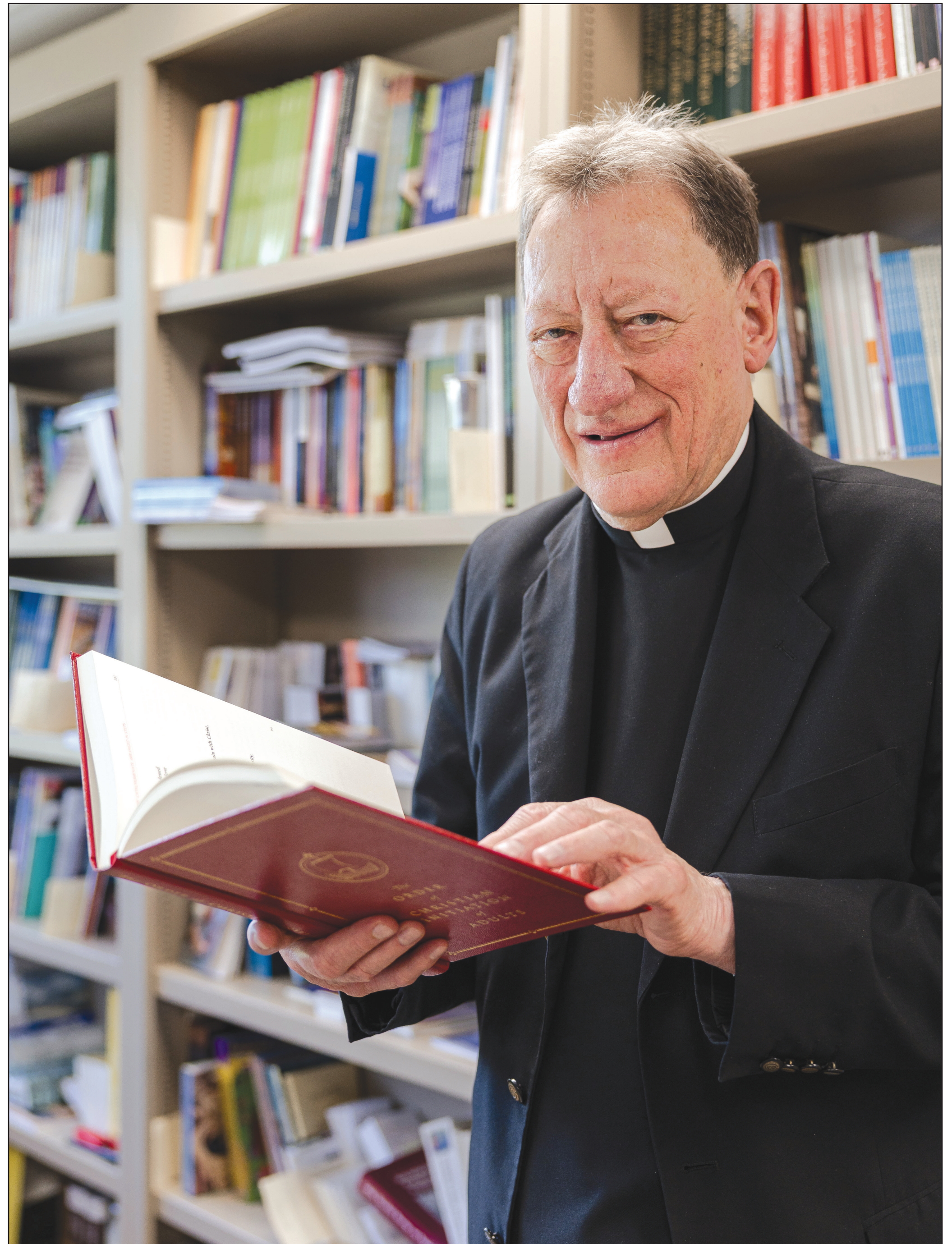
So what's next?

There will be time for Father Bird's other passion, attending plays locally and in New York City when time allows. And he may yet have a production or two still to pull off, beginning with a capital campaign at Epiphany – his other full-time job.

The parish turns 50 next summer, cause for celebration. And planning. And directing.

"You know, our tentative project title is 50/50, celebrating the past 50 and empowering the church for the next 50, preparing it for the next generation of people," said Father Bird, who will coincidentally be celebrating his 50th anniversary in the priesthood. "So that in itself can be a big thing to do, something challenging."

John Helsley is editor of the Sooner Catholic.





Parishioners at Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton celebrated the church's 123rd birthday with receptions after each Mass on June 8 at the parish hall. The receptions were hosted by the Bl. Sacrament Thrift Shop, the Ladies Altar Society, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Catholic Daughters Chapter of St. Jude No. 2166. *Photos Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic.*



Pope Leo: Intelligence is seeking life's true meaning, not having reams of data

continued from page 1

Father Paolo Benanti, a member of the U.N. AI committee and a professor of moral theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.

In his message, Pope Leo said their presence "attests to the urgent need for serious reflection and ongoing discussion on the inherently ethical dimension of AI, as well as its responsible governance."

"Together with its extraordinary potential to benefit the human family, the rapid development of AI also raises deeper questions concerning the proper use of such technology in generating a more authentically just and human global society," he wrote.

He reiterated Pope Francis' definition of AI platforms as "tools," which, he said, reflect "the human intelligence that crafted them and draw much of their ethical force from the intentions of the individuals that wield them."

While "in some cases, AI has been used in positive and indeed noble ways to promote greater equality," he wrote, "there is likewise the possibility of its misuse for selfish gain at the expense of others, or worse, to foment conflict and aggression."

The Catholic Church wishes to contribute to "these pressing questions by stressing above

all the need to weigh the ramifications of AI in light of the 'integral development of the human person and society,'" he wrote. That means the material, intellectual and spiritual well-being of the human person must be considered, human dignity must be safeguarded, and the cultural and spiritual riches and diversity of the world's peoples must be respected.

"Acknowledging and respecting what is uniquely characteristic of the human person is essential to the discussion of any adequate ethical framework for the governance of AI."

Pope Leo XIV

"Ultimately, the benefits or risks of AI must be evaluated precisely according to this superior ethical criterion," he wrote.

"AI, especially Generative AI, has opened new horizons on many different levels, including enhancing research in healthcare and scientific discovery, but also raises troubling questions on its possible repercussions on humanity's openness to truth and beauty, on our distinctive

ability to grasp and process reality."

He underlined concerns about the possible consequences of AI use on the intellectual and neurological development of children and young people.

"Our youth must be helped, and not hindered, in their journey towards maturity and true responsibility," he wrote.

Never before have people had "such quick access to the amount of information now available through AI," he wrote.

"But again, access to data – however extensive – must not be confused with intelligence, which necessarily 'involves the person's openness to the ultimate questions of life and reflects an orientation toward the True and the Good,'" he wrote, citing the Vatican document titled "Antiqua et Nova (ancient and new): Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence," approved by Pope Francis in January.

Pope Leo told participants he hoped the conference would also consider how AI fits in with helping young people connect with older generations and "integrate truth into their moral and spiritual life, thus informing their mature decisions and opening the path towards a world of greater solidarity and unity."

"The task set before you is not easy, but it is one of vital importance," he wrote, thanking them for their efforts.



Confirmation, St. Mary Catholic Church, Ponca City



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk recognized Tornyynn Smykil, center, during Senior Sunday, May 18. The High School graduation was held May 16. Also pictured are brother Mason Smykil, Annalaura Rowe, Gracynn and Bryten and parents Ryan and Shannon Smykil. *Photo Everett Brazil, III/Sooner Catholic*



First Holy Communion, Christ the King Catholic Church, Oklahoma City



First Holy Communion, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Mangum



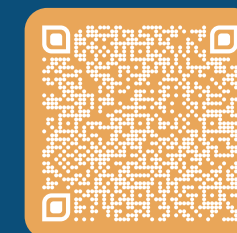
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Jobs Box

Theology, social studies, Spanish teachers - OKC

Bishop John Carroll Catholic School is seeking a middle school theology and social studies teacher and a Spanish teacher from PreK-eighth grade. Contact Principal Helen Treacy at (405) 525-0956.

Business teacher - OKC

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a business teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. This position may be part-time or full-time depending on the candidate's availability and experience. The ideal candidate will hold a bachelor's degree in business, finance, marketing or a related field (required), demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and the values of Catholic education, be prepared to teach courses such as business law, personal finance and entrepreneurship, and create a dynamic and engaging classroom environment. Send a cover letter, resume and three professional references to Principal Laura Cain, Ed.D, at lcain@mountstmary.org.

Drama/theater teacher - OKC

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a creative and dedicated part-time drama/theater teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Must hold a bachelor's degree in performing arts, theater or a related field (required),

be prepared to teach courses such as play production, stagecraft, and musical theater, demonstrate a passion for the performing arts and a commitment to student growth, and support the mission and values of Catholic education. Send a cover letter, resume and three professional references to Principal Laura Cain, Ed.D, at lcain@mountstmary.org.

Pregnancy services social worker - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a pregnancy services social worker to be responsible for case management support for the pregnancy services program. Interviews, counsels and aids birthparents; secures and evaluates applicable related information; refers clients to community resources and other organizations. Master's degree in social work; fluent in English and Spanish preferred. Two-year experience in case management or community action. An alternate combination of education and experience may be considered. Send cover letter and resume to Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

Director of religious education, formation - OKC

St. Eugene Catholic Church is seeking a full-time director of religious education and formation to oversee and coordinate all religious

education programs, develop and support catechetical staff and volunteers, plan sacramental preparation, collaborate closely with parish clergy and staff to support parish-wide initiatives and maintain accurate records and ensure compliance with diocesan guidelines. Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred; higher education in theology, religious education or related field preferred; experience in Catholic religious education or pastoral ministry preferred; strong computer and organizational skills; must be a team player with excellent communication and leadership skills; practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Send cover letter and resume to manager@steugenes.org.

Custodian, maintenance technician - OKC

St. Eugene Catholic Church is seeking a full-time custodian and maintenance technician to maintain the cleanliness, safety and overall upkeep of the brand-new early childhood facility. Prior custodial and/or maintenance experience (in school or childcare settings a plus); Safe Environment Certification (or willingness to obtain upon hire); ability to work independently with minimal supervision; strong problem-solving skills and common sense; physically able to lift, bend, carry, and perform repetitive tasks; excellent

work ethic and pride in keeping a building clean and functioning. Competitive pay; health and retirement benefits. E-mail resume and brief introduction to manager@steugenes.org. Include "Custodian and Maintenance Technician Application" in the subject line.

Preneed sales representative - OKC

Resurrection and Calvary Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a preneed sales representative who is sympathetic and comfortable navigating conversations around death and bereavement. High school diploma or equivalent required; some college or college degree preferred; good at multi-tasking; strong sales experience in the cemetery industry is required; valid driver's license. Bilingual preferred. Generous retirement and insurance benefits, including health and dental at no cost. A background check and Safe Environment training will be required. Experience working for a Catholic diocese is strongly preferred. Technical computer skills in Microsoft 365 and family of apps. Must be an active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic Church. Contact Brandon Seid at bseid@rescemokc.org.

To see more job openings, go online to archokc.org/jobs-box.

Kara Rother named chief nursing officer for Mercy in Oklahoma City

Kara Rother, a local nurse and health care executive with 18 years of experience, is Mercy's new top nurse in Oklahoma City.

Rother will lead 1,700 Mercy nurses in the Oklahoma City metro beginning July 21.

"It's the honor of my career to be entrusted to work with a team of such dedicated and compassionate nurses," said Rother. "I'm excited to work in a city I love serving patients who are my neighbors. Whether it's in our hospital or our clinics, Mercy nurses serve so many families here in Oklahoma City. Providing them with the best possible care is what motivates us."

Born in Okarche into the Eischen family of the bar and fried chicken fame, Rother is married with three sons. Through marriage she's also related to Blessed Stanley Rother.



Kara Rother



Parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine held a Eucharistic Procession on May 24. Parishioners walked from Historic Sacred Heart Catholic Church to the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. After the pilgrimage, there was adoration then Mass was celebrated at the shrine. Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.



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"LITTLE GIRL, I SAY TO YOU, ARISE!" - MARK 5:41

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SAVE THE DATE

SECOND FESTIVAL DE MATACHINES

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

SEPT. 27, 2025

ARCHOKC.ORG/MATACHINES

8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

8 BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER SHRINE
700 S.E. 89 ST., OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73149

QUESTIONS? CALL CONNIE DIAZ,
(405) 728-3561, CJACKSON@ARCHOKC.ORG
ANDREA FRAIRE, (405) 720-2759,
AFRAIRE@ARCHOKC.ORG

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Felicitación por el crecimiento y el éxito de nuestras escuelas católicas

El verano llegó y los estudiantes y el personal de nuestras escuelas católicas de la arquidiócesis se están tomando un descanso muy necesario, y además muy merecido, dado el éxito del ciclo escolar que acaba de concluir.

Quiero felicitar a nuestros estudiantes, profesores, administradores y directores por su trabajo este año y por los muchos logros que han conseguido en nuestras 18 escuelas de la arquidiócesis.

No es un secreto; las escuelas católicas están destacando en la arquidiócesis de la Ciudad de Oklahoma. ¡Y es una alegría presenciarlo! Los estudiantes rezan, sirven, aprenden, obtienen resultados y actúan de diversas maneras y a niveles admirables.

Los bautismos, las primeras confesiones, las primeras comuniones y las confirmaciones fueron eventos inolvidables y especiales para muchos de nuestros estudiantes y sus familias este año. Cada uno recordará y contemplará con cariño estos días especiales y ojalá recuerden el amor especial que Dios – Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo – tiene por cada uno de ellos. Además de recordar su importancia para el mundo y para el cuerpo de Cristo, su Iglesia.

Los estudiantes y sus familias aceptaron la invitación de encontrarse con Cristo, establecer una relación con Él y presentarlo al mundo, haciendo discípulos. Fue maravilloso ver el número de estudiantes que fueron más allá de lo requerido para servir a los demás en su comunidad, así como la gran muestra de apoyo a los estudiantes por parte de las familias, los voluntarios y las empresas de la comunidad.

Esta es la misión evangelizadora de la Iglesia y en consecuencia de nuestras escuelas. Se lo están tomando muy en serio.

En total, 326 de nuestros graduados de la escuela preparatoria católica se encaminan en

estos momentos al seminario, al ejército o a la universidad, todos ellos bien formados para la siguiente etapa de su vida. El gran número de becas universitarias recibidas, incluidas las de nuestros finalistas y semifinalistas del Mérito Nacional de este año, es un testimonio del arduo trabajo tanto de los estudiantes como de sus profesores. Los logros en deportes, robótica

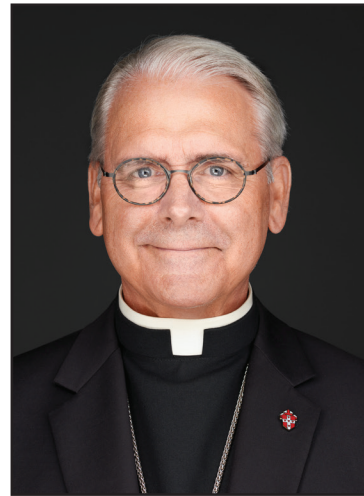
católica. El talento también abunda en los niveles primarios y se demostró a través de la participación a nivel arquidiocesano en el Concurso de Ortografía, el Día Nacional de la Historia y la Exposición de Bellas Artes, donde el arte, la música, la oratoria y el teatro se presentaron a la comunidad. Y esto es sólo una parte de las buenas noticias, ya que cada escuela tiene sus propios logros por añadir a esta lista.

También ha sido un año de gran crecimiento. Ahora más que nunca las escuelas católicas en la arquidiócesis de la Ciudad de Oklahoma están más accesibles para cualquier familia que busque una educación católica para su hijo. En el último ciclo escolar, más de 300 estudiantes ingresaron por primera vez en las escuelas de la arquidiócesis.

Gracias a los esfuerzos de los legisladores en materia de elección de escuela en los últimos años, incluidos el Crédito Fiscal para la Elección de los Padres, el Fondo de Oportunidades para Escuelas Católicas y la Beca Lindsay Nicole Henry, las oportunidades de financiar la educación católica siguen creciendo y ampliándose para satisfacer las necesidades de las familias. El año que viene promete tener aún más

caras nuevas en nuestras escuelas y esperamos poder darles la bienvenida!

Que Dios siga bendiciendo a todos los que colaboran con las escuelas católicas de la arquidiócesis de la Ciudad de Oklahoma: los estudiantes y sus familias, la administración, el profesorado, el personal y los voluntarios que prestan sus servicios con ellos. El futuro de la Iglesia y de la educación católica en Oklahoma parece ir por buen camino.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

UNIRSE A LAS
ESCUELAS
CATÓLICAS DE LA
ARQUIDIOCESIS DE
OKLAHOMA CITY



archokc.org/schools

ca, teatro, oratoria, música y arte ilustran la naturaleza polifacética del plan de estudios y el éxito de nuestros estudiantes a la hora de realizarlos.

Cada una de nuestras 15 escuelas también puede enumerar muchos logros para el año, ya que 256 estudiantes de octavo grado se graduaron de las escuelas parroquiales con una mayoría que procedían del área metropolitana y que entraron a una escuela prepara-



Celebración del Primer Aniversario del Capítulo de Adoración Nocturna en Holy Name of Jesus – Chickasha. El pasado 31 de mayo, la comunidad de Holy Name of Jesus en Chickasha celebró con alegría el primer aniversario del establecimiento del Capítulo de Adoración Nocturna. Fue un día lleno de adoración, crecimiento espiritual y fraternidad, en el que miembros de diversos grupos y movimientos se congregaron y apoyaron para celebrar y dar gracias por la presencia real de Jesús en la Santa Eucaristía. El párroco, Padre Michael Weelahan, expresó su profunda alegría por la presencia de este movimiento en su parroquia, destacando cómo fomenta y fortalece el amor hacia Jesús Eucaristía, cultivando una comunidad más fervorosa y unida en la fe. *Fotos proporcionadas.*



La Conferencia sobre Discipulado regresa por cuarto año

Durante los últimos tres años, la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ha organizado la Conferencia de Discipulado, que ha atraído a más de 1200 católicos de Oklahoma y otras partes del mundo. Este evento de un día completo une a clérigos y laicos, inspirándolos y capacitándolos para profundizar su relación con Jesús y compartir la Buena Nueva con los demás. La conferencia de este año es especialmente significativa, ya que coincide con el Año Jubilar de la Esperanza. Como aconseja San Pedro en 1 Pedro 3:15: “estén siempre dispuestos a dar razón de su esperanza”, la Conferencia de Discipulado 2025 busca empoderar a los participantes para que hagan precisamente eso.

Una vez más, la Conferencia de Discipulado se complace en dar la bienvenida a oradores inspiradores de ámbitos locales, nacionales e internacionales para ofrecer charlas significativas y prácticas tanto en inglés como en español. El programa de este año incluye al P. Dave Pivonka, presidente de la Universidad Franciscana de Steubenville; Tim Glemkowski, director ejecutivo de Amazing Parish y del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional; y Heather Khym, reconocida podcaster católica y querida amiga de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Las sesiones abordarán temas interesantes, como la vida de oración de un discípulo, maneras efectivas de dialogar sobre la fe

“estén siempre dispuestos a dar razón de su esperanza”, - 1 Pedro 3:15

católica con personas no católicas y consejos sobre cómo reaccionar cuando un ser querido deja la Iglesia Católica.

La Conferencia de Discipulado 2025, que se celebrará en el Centro de Convenciones de Oklahoma City el sábado 9 de agosto, es una gran oportunidad para que los católicos se reúnan para celebrar nuestra fe y apoyarnos mutuamente en la misión de ser discípulos que hacen discípulos. Obtenga más información sobre el evento e inscribese en okdisciple.org.



Moises Cisneros
Saint James the
Greater Catholic
Church, Oklahoma
City

¿Cómo sirves como discípulo en tu parroquia?

Además de ser feligrés, también ocupo los cargos de Director de Jóvenes y Catequista, a través de los cuales dirijo todos los aspectos de nuestro Ministerio Juvenil y facilito clases de Confirmación para estudiantes de secundaria.

¿Qué es lo que estás esperando experimentar en la Conferencia de Discipulado 2025?

Cada año la Conferencia de Dis-



El Arzobispo Coakley habló en la Conferencia Arquidiocesana de Discipulado 2024 en Oklahoma City. Foto Avery Holt/Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

cipulado se encarga de traernos a oradores y predicadores de muy alto calibre. Este año estoy muy emocionado de poder escuchar las perspectivas, testimonios y enseñanzas de estos gigantes espirituales.



Michelle Pico-Rodriguez
Saint Joseph
Catholic Church,
Norman

¿Qué te gustaría que todo el mundo sepa de Jesucristo?

Para mí es importante decirle a cada persona que Jesús además de dar su vida por nosotros,

además de ser amor y misericordia, él VIVE en nosotros. Dios Padre nos crea con un deseo de El mismo en nuestros corazones y al ser bautizados somos adoptados y vive mas intensamente en cada uno de nosotros por medio del Espíritu Santo para que demos de ese vivir con una sonrisa y alegría.

¿Por qué reanimarías a otras personas a asistir este año a la conferencia?

La verdad animo a muchos a que asistan a la conferencia porque nos despierta esa alegría de saber que Dios vive en nosotros y nos proporciona instrumentos (por medio de las charlas) de como mantenerlo vivo, especialmente en momentos difíciles.

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TARIFA ANTICIPADA DE \$50
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INSCRIPCIÓN DE
\$40.00 HASTA EL
9 DE JULIO

Estén siempre dispuestos a dar razón... de su esperanza. 1 Pedro 3:15

2025 CONFERENCIA DE DISCIPULADO

Sábado 9 de Agosto
Centro de Convenciones de OKC

Marque sus calendarios para asistir a la Conferencia de Discipulado de 2025 en el Centro de Convenciones de Oklahoma City. Este evento de un día completo ofrecerá conferencias magistrales a cargo de oradores, el P. Javier Olivera Ravasi, las Siervas de los Corazones Traspasados de Jesús y María y Iván Díaz, inspiradoras sesiones de trabajo, liturgias, exhibiciones y música que celebran nuestra fe católica.

Este evento lo inspirará, lo equipará y lo alentará a crecer en su relación con Jesucristo y a compartir las Buenas Noticias con el mundo que necesita desesperadamente escucharlas. Visita okdisciple.org para más información.

escanea aquí para más información

CONFERENCIA DE DISCIPULADO
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Sábado 9 de Agosto
Centro de Convenciones de OKC
Un día para equipar e inspirar al clero, a los equipos ministeriales y a los feligreses a ser discípulos que hagan discípulos.

CONFERENCIA DE DISCIPULADO
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

ESCANEAR AQUÍ

PARA VISITAR

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Briefs

Men’s Evening of Recollection

A Men’s Evening of Recollection offered by the Prelature of Opus Dei is 6:30 p.m. July 10 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Meerschaeert House second floor, 1901 N.W. 18 St. in Oklahoma City.

Art of Dating

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City presents “Art of Dating,” 10 a.m.-1 p.m. July 12 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 210 S. 7 St. in Chickasha. People ages 18-35 can register at archokc.org/art-of-dating.

Reds, Whites & Brews

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host the 16th annual Reds, Whites & Brews 6-10 p.m. July 24 at the OKC Farmers Public Market, 311 S. Klein Ave. in Oklahoma City. Proceeds support Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman, helping women and children experiencing homelessness. catholiccharitiesokc.org.

New museum collection

There will be an opening of a new collection at the Bl. Stanley Rother Museum on July 26. The collection, Maya of de Guatemala, features legendary Guatemalan artist Carmen Lind Pettersen. Her watercolors display the garments of the Tz’utujil people such as sashes and huipiles telling the story of the people’s resilience and creativity. The museum is located at 700 S.E. 89 St. in Oklahoma City.

Kolbe Prison Ministries

The 10th annual Kolbe Prison Ministries National Conference

is July 26 at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 8033 Baringer Rd. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Visit kolbeprisonministries.org.

Quo Vadis Days

Men ages 15-30 years old are invited to Quo Vadis Days July 27-30 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, 890488 S. 3290 Rd. in Wellston. Register for this discernment retreat at archokc.campbrainregistration.com.

Talitha Koum

Women ages 15-30 are invited to Talitha Koum July 30-Aug. 1 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, 890488 S. 3290 Rd. in Wellston. Register for this discernment retreat at archokc.campbrainregistration.com.

Monastic Encounter Weekends

St. Gregory’s Abbey vocation director Fr. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B. invites single Catholic men ages 18-45 to a Monastic Encounter Weekend Aug. 1-3 or Oct. 17-19. Participants will share in the liturgical prayer, lectio divina, common work and communal life of the abbey and live as a monk. While these encounters are primarily intended for those discerning a religious vocation, they are of spiritual benefit to anyone yearning to know God’s still, small voice amidst life’s chaos. To register or for more information about discerning a vocation at St. Gregory’s Abbey, e-mail vocations@monksok.org, visit monksok.org, or call Fr. Simeon at (405) 878-5456.

Archbishop’s Dinner for Seminarian Education

The annual Archbishop’s Dinner for Seminarian Education is 6

p.m. Aug. 7 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.E. 63 St. in Oklahoma City. Visit cfook.org/dinner.

Retrouvaille

No marriage is beyond hope. Whether couples are bored, angry, frustrated, not communicating well or in a state of hopelessness, Retrouvaille can help. The next Retrouvaille weekend is Aug. 8-10. Register at TroyLovetteRausch@HelpOurMarriage.org or (405) 885-0667. Visit HelpOurMarriage.org.

Quinceañera

Quinceañera courts and parents of Quinceañera are invited to a retreat 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Aug. 23 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Connor Center, 3300 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Cost: \$100 per family; \$50 per person. Contact Erika Martinez at (405) 709-2806 or Andrea Hernandez at (405) 720-2759. Visit archokc.org/eventos.

Knights of Columbus retreat

The St. Eugene Knights of Columbus retreat is 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Aug. 30 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Open to all Catholics. Cost \$30 includes lunch and refreshments. Seating limited. Mail checks made out to K of C Council 10822, 14616 Collingwood Kane, Edmond, OK 73013. Contact Michael Zink at (405) 314-4120; michael-the-j@att.net.

Craft fair - Yukon

St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon is having its annual arts and crafts show 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 13. There will be Indian tacos and drinks to pur-

chase. People interested in booth registration can contact Rachelle Goldsboro at rachelle.goldsboro@sbcglobal.net, (405) 350-7559.

Taste 2025

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine presents Taste 2025 at 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at 700 S.E. 89 in Oklahoma City. Enjoy Norahua Mexican Folkloric Dancers, Mexican fare, Mezcal tasting and live music. Call (405) 438-0310 for sponsorship information. This event is for guests 21 and over.

Tulsa Catholic Women’s Conference

The Tulsa Catholic Women’s Conference is Sept. 26-27 at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. Guests include Sr. Josephine Garrett, Lisa Cotter, Kate Capato and Jill Simons. Cost \$79. Register at tulsa catholicwomen.com.

Festival de Matachines

The Office of Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host the second Festival de Matachines from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, 700 S.E. 89 St. in Oklahoma City. All Matachines groups are invited and can register at archokc.org/matachines. A panel of qualified judges will choose the best dances. The best dances will be awarded according to the established criteria. First place: \$1,000. Second place: \$500. Third Place: \$300. Contact Connie Diaz at (405) 728-3561, cjackson@archokc.org or Andrea Fraire at (405) 720-2759, afraire@archokc.org.

To see more briefs, go online to archokc.org/briefs.

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 sooneratholic.org.

June		5	Feast of St. Anthony Zaccaria.	(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.	18 St., Oklahoma City.	
29	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.	5	Feast of St. Elizabeth of Portugal.	6	9	Feast of St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions.
30	Thirteenth week in Ordinary Time.	5	The Lay Missionaries of Charity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.		9	Catholic War Veterans USA Post No. 168 meeting, 5 p.m., Sunnyslane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Mass at 6:15 p.m. Contact Ronald Sandhop, CWV Post 168 Adjutant, (405) 640-0450, resandhop@gmail.com.
30	Feast of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church.					
July						
1	Feast of St. Junipero Serra.	5	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.	8	11	Feast of St. Benedict.
1	Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.				12	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.
3	Feast of St. Thomas.	6	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.			
4	Independence Day - CPC closed.	6	The Secular Franciscan Order			

Society of St. Vincent de Paul welcomes donations



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a group of lay Catholic volunteers from all walks of life. Inspired by Gospel values, they work to assist those in need through loving and compassionate person-to-person service in neighborhoods and communities.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to help those affected by disasters throughout Okla-

homa. The Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City recognized the need to develop a disaster fund to continue to assist neighbors in need in Oklahoma. The society recently aided Oklahomans in the Guthrie, Little Axe, Shawnee and Weatherford areas who were devastated by wildfires, high winds, flooding and tornados.

The society asks people to, “Help Us Help Others,” through a donation

to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City Disaster Fund. Donations can be made online at SVDPOKC.org or by check payable to the Archdiocesan Council of OKC Disaster Fund: ADCOKC-SVDP, PO Box 694, Nicoma Park, OK 73066.

The Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City, Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit (EIN: 73-1304120)



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- are bored, angry, or frustrated in your marriage
- are in a state of hopelessness
- are separated or divorced

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Upcoming Oklahoma Weekend August 8-10



for more information or to register contact Troy and Lovette Rausch

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Discipleship Conference returning for fourth year

For the past three years, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has organized the Discipleship Conference, attracting more than 1,200 Catholics from Oklahoma and beyond.

This full-day event unites clergy and laity, inspiring and equipping them to deepen their relationship with Jesus and share the Good News with others. This year's conference, set for Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, is significant as it aligns with the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As Saint Peter advises in 1 Peter 3:15 to "always be ready to give ... a reason for your hope." The 2025 Discipleship Conference aims to empower participants to do just that.

The conference will feature speakers from local, national and international levels to deliver meaningful and practical talks in both English and Spanish. This year's lineup includes: Father Dave Pivonka, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville; Tim Glemkowski, executive director of Amazing Parish and the National Eucharistic Congress; and Heather Khym, a well-known Catholic podcaster and friend of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The sessions will cover important topics, including a disciple's prayer life, effective ways to discuss the Catholic faith with

"Always be ready to give ... a reason for your hope." - 1 Peter 3:15

non-Catholics, and guidance on how to respond when loved ones leave the Catholic Church.

The conference offers an opportunity for Catholics to gather in celebration of faith and to support each other in the mission to be disciples who make disciples. Learn more about the event and register at okdisciple.org.



Father Joseph Irwin
Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Norman

What does being a Catholic priest mean to you?

Being a priest is a great privilege and gift from God. It means I have the opportunity every day to offer my life, prayers and service to God and His people. Priesthood is what God has called me to and what brings me the most peace and joy.

Why should people attend the 2025 Discipleship Conference?

You should come to the Discipleship Conference to learn more about your Catholic Faith, to grow in fellowship with other Catholic leaders and to encounter the Divine Love of God.



Archbishop Coakley spoke at the 2024 Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference in Oklahoma City. Photo Avery Holt/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.



Deacon Thai and Tina Pham
Saint Andrew Catholic Church, Moore

What would you like the world to know about Jesus Christ?

Christ?

Jesus Christ is our savior, our friend, and our hope in a falling world. Jesus loves us more than we deserve, but he came into this broken world so that we may have life and have it more abundantly now and the world to come.

Why would you encourage others to attend?

It's a great way to spend your Saturday. You get to experience your faith in action, to listen to amazing and inspiring speakers and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It's a great conference to bring your entire family with you.



Sally Reisenberg
Christ the King Catholic Church, Oklahoma City

What does it mean to me, to be a Catholic?

As a convert, being Catholic is more than living the faith and practices but the very core of who

Christ made me to be and how I am called to serve him.

What was your most inspiring or impactful experience at the Discipleship Conference?

There is an energy of excitement and joy among the people at the Discipleship Conference. Catholics attending are on fire with their faith and I leave knowing I am not alone on this journey.



Barbara Hale
Saint Monica Catholic Church, Edmond

Why should someone attend the 2025 Discipleship Conference?

The quality of this event from the organizers to the venue, to the vendors and exhibitors to the wonderfully appointed speakers themselves were all first-rate and fill you with such enthusiasm and humble gratitude to be a part of Christ's Church united in Christ as we travel this pilgrimage together! The Spirit-led talks and the contagious zeal that abounds as the family of God here in Oklahoma is powerfully tangible and inspiring and is what I am most looking forward to experiencing at the upcoming 2025 Conference!

okdisciple.org
\$40 REGISTRATION

Always be ready to give ... a reason for your hope. - 1 Peter 3:15

2025 DISCIPLESHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025
OKC Convention Center

Mark your calendars to attend the 2025 Discipleship Conference at the Oklahoma City Convention Center. This full-day event will offer keynotes by national speakers, inspiring breakout sessions, liturgies, exhibits, and music that celebrate our Catholic faith.

This event will inspire, equip, and encourage you to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and to share the Good News with a world that desperately needs to hear it. Visit okdisciple.org to learn more.

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

Tim Glemkowski

Heather Khym

Scan Here for More Speakers

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