

*Go Make Disciples*

## Elevated by God's grace

*Beckham, Grim ordained to the priesthood*

By Diane Clay  
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – On the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, John Grim and Jonah Beckham stood before Archbishop Coakley, their families and brother priests to declare their willingness to fulfill the duties of the priesthood and promise obedience to the bishop.

“What a moment we are having, and I’m not referring to the Thunder,” Archbishop Coakley said to laughter during his homily, “but that’s pretty cool, too.”



Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass on June 28 for the Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Jonah Beckham and Fr. John Grim at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

continued on page 6

## Sr. Viviana Professes Perpetual Vows

*“To be your spouse, oh Jesus, to be a Carmelite, to be a mother of souls through my union with you, should be enough ... But it’s not ... Certainly, these three privileges are the essence of my vocation: Carmelite, Spouse and Mother.” - Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus*

By Bella Gutiérrez

“Here I am, Lord, to do your holy will.” With these words June 27 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman, Sister Viviana de la Inmaculada López de Loera professed her perpetual vows of

chastity, poverty and obedience, committing herself to live her baptismal consecration following Jesus Christ.

She becomes the first Hispanic nun in Oklahoma belonging to



Archbishop Coakley and Sr. Viviana de la Inmaculada López de Loera. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

continued on page 8



Blessed Stanley Rother  
Beatified on September 23, 2017

Digital Mission Manager Avery Holt won second place for a Bl. Stanley Rother beatification anniversary video.

## Sooner Catholic, archdiocesan communications receive national media awards

The Sooner Catholic and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City office of communications received eight awards from the Catholic Media Association during the 2025 Catholic Media Conference held June 24-27 in Phoenix. Awards are from 2024 publications, graphics and videos.

Editor John Helsley won first place in the Best Personality Profile – Non-Weekly category, diocesan newspaper division, for his article “Rigazzi’s archdiocese impact long-running, far-reaching” published in the March 31, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

Digital Mission Manager Avery Holt won second place in the Best Use of Video on Social Media – Diocesan Communications category for the Blessed Stanley Rother beatification anniversary video.

Holt also won honorable mention in the Best Use of Video on Social Media – Liturgical Season

continued on page 12



**SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025**

MARIAN PROCESSION 4:30 PM  
MASS 5:00 PM  
LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, AND  
GUATEMALAN DANCERS AFTER MASS!



*Blessed Stanley Rother*  
**FEAST DAY  
CELEBRATION!**

## A weekend of faith, fun, fellowship to celebrate Bl. Stanley

*Bl. Stanley Rother's Feast Day is July 28*

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine will celebrate Blessed Stanley Rother's Feast Day on July 28, following a weekend of activities to honor the life and legacy of Blessed Stanley.

“We are thrilled to honor Blessed Stanley Rother with a weekend full of activities that reflect his spirit

of community, faith and cultural appreciation,” said Miguel Mireles, executive director of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and celebrate his enduring legacy.”

continued on page 11



Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

The meeting of heaven and earth

Deep beneath the streets of Rome, a hidden network of pathways connects past and present, offering us a glimpse into the early Christian experience. The catacombs, those underground burial sites often used by the first believers as well as others, were more than just resting places for the dead, they became sanctuaries for the living.

Amid persecution, Christians sometimes gathered in those dim corridors to worship in secret, often celebrating the Eucharist near or even over the tombs of the martyrs. In doing so, they visibly expressed the link between the Church on earth and the eternal glory of heaven.

That same link endures today. The veneration of relics is not a morbid curiosity – it is an expression of hope. As Revelation tells us, “I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the word of God” (Revelation 6:9). The saints who bore witness with their lives are still joined to us in the liturgy, which anticipates the eternal worship of heaven.

You may have grown up aware of this tradition continued in your parish church. Many older altars include a small relic of a saint embedded in a stone set beneath the altar’s surface. Even in contemporary altars, the tradition endures, though often less visible.

These relics link the altar with the firm witness of the saints and remind us that every celebration of the Mass is a communion not just with Jesus Christ, but with his faithful witnesses throughout time.

In some places, that connection is even more vivid. At the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City, one altar contains not merely a small relic, but the entire body of a saint and martyr. Just as many altars in Saint Peter’s Basilica rest above the tombs of saints, so too does this altar house the remains of a faithful priest from Okarche: Blessed Stanley Rother.

As we approach the 44th anniversary of his martyrdom this July and reflect on more than two years of the shrine’s existence, we give thanks for the enduring impact of Blessed Stanley’s life.

The shrine itself is a living testament to this impact. Every week more than 10,000 pilgrims and worshippers step onto the grounds where they are welcomed by the shrine’s dedicated staff, clergy and volunteers. Whether they come with a clear intention or simply curiosity, each person encounters something greater: the faith that animated Blessed Stanley’s life, a faith centered on the Eucharist, on

Mary’s trusting “yes,” and on the mission of love rooted in Christ.

God is doing remarkable things in Oklahoma through the witness of this local priest. His story has drawn pilgrims from across the country and around the globe, bringing with them stories of conversion, healing and renewed faith.

The shrine has become a place of convergence, hosting large celebrations, cultural festivals and conferences that unite people of all ages, languages and backgrounds in praise of God.

But, the shrine’s beauty does not exist for its own sake. It points beyond itself, drawing hearts upward, like the pilgrims who ascend Tepeyac Hill on the shrine grounds. They come not to admire beautiful statues made of bronze, but to draw closer to the Blessed Mother and Saint Juan Diego, asking for their intercession and seeking deeper intimacy with her Son.

So too, the life of Blessed Stanley Rother draws us beyond mere admiration to imitation. His story – from the fields of Okarche, through academic struggles and perseverance in seminary, to missionary service in Guatemala, and ultimately to his martyrdom – reveals a life beautifully conformed to Christ. It’s the kind of beauty that reveals truth: the truth of discipleship, of love poured out, of holiness in ordinary faithfulness.

As we prepare to celebrate his feast day on July 28, the Church in Oklahoma and beyond is invited to ask: How can I imitate Blessed Stanley’s humility, perseverance and generosity? Whether we are priests or parents, religious or lay, young or old, the call is the same: to live out our baptismal vocation with courage and joy.

May his witness continue to stir in us the desire to live the Gospel more radically, more faithfully, more beautifully. As Tertullian reminded us long ago, “The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.”

May this local seed, planted in the red soil of Oklahoma, continue to bear fruit in lives transformed by grace.

And may Blessed Stanley Rother soon be recognized by the universal Church as a saint, so that his example may inspire many more to walk the path of holiness.



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](http://soonercatholic.org).

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail [communications@archokc.org](mailto:communications@archokc.org).

✓ **For priests who** are starting new assignments. May they be blessed with a fruitful and peaceful transition in their new parishes and schools. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ **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 [tulsacatholicwomen.com](http://tulsacatholicwomen.com).

✓ **Find out about** upcoming pilgrimages to France, Italy and Guatemala at [archokc.org/pilgrimages](http://archokc.org/pilgrimages).



@archokc



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother

O God, fount of all holiness, make us each walk worthily in our vocation, through the intercession of your Saints, on whom you bestowed a great variety of graces on earth. Having graced your Church with the life of your priest and martyr, Blessed Stanley Rother, grant that by his intercession this humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone. Grant that your Church may proclaim him a saint living in your presence and interceding for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- June 30 - July 13** – Camino de Santiago de Compostela
- July 14-15** – Province meeting, Tulsa
- July 16-18** – Institute of Catholic Liberal Education Conference, Lincoln, Nebraska
- July 20** – Mass for Fr. Thanh Nguyen’s 25th Anniversary of Ordination, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- July 21-27** – Napa Institute Summer Conference, Napa, California
- July 28-31** – Acts XXIX Leadership Immersive with senior staff, Detroit, Michigan
- Aug. 3** – Mass and blessing of new Childhood Development Center, 9:30 a.m., St. Eugene Catholic Church, Oklahoma City



ARCHDIOCESE OF Oklahoma City

PASTOR



1. Reverend John D. Herrera

St. Joseph Church, Hennessey, St. Joseph Church, Bison and Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Bison



3. Reverend Alexander L. Kroll

St. Mary Church, Ponca City and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Newkirk



1. Reverend Jonah E. Beckham

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City



3. Reverend Lawrence Damian

St. James the Greater Church, Oklahoma City



5. Reverend Stephen A. Jones

St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond



7. Reverend Rodrigo Serna

St. Peter Church, Guymon, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Beaver Church of the Good Shepherd, Boise City and Sacred Heart Church, Hooker



2. Reverend Carson J. Krittenbrink

St. Teresa of Avila Church, Harrah and St. Vincent de Paul Church, McLoud



4. Reverend Lourdureddy Ponnepati

St. Patrick Church, Anadarko, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Binger and St. Richard Church, Carnegie



2. Reverend Christuraj Maddhichetty

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City



4. Reverend John M. Grim

St. Joseph Church, Norman



6. Reverend Vuong “Vic” Luong

Epiphany of the Lord Church, Oklahoma City





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Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop of Oklahoma City  
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## Retrouvaille offers help for struggling marriages

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

Many a couple enters into the Sacrament of Matrimony, hoping to share a life together, maybe raise a new generation of Catholics, until death do they part.

Some, however, may find themselves in a relationship on the edge, a marriage not quite working, with a threat of divorce seemingly on the horizon down the road. While a serious situation, the end doesn't have to be as dire as it seems.

Retrouvaille, a three-step program rooted in Catholic tradition, offers help and hope through improved communication designed to help couples reconnect and rediscover their love.

"It is not just for struggling marriages, it is also for people or marriages that want to reconnect," said Lovette Rausch, who along with her husband Troy lead Retrouvaille programs for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,

with the next workshop scheduled for August 8-10 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Troy and Lovette are the coordinators of the program, along with Father Mark Mason, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Gregory the Great Catholic churches in Enid, as well as the neighboring Saint Michael Catholic Church in Goltry.

Retrouvaille is a French term that means "reunion," which is the point of the program – assisting a couple seeking help for their marriage. It's different than traditional couples counseling.

"Counseling is a problem-solving experience," Troy said, "where Retrouvaille is a relationship building experience. Retrouvaille is designed for couples who want to improve their marriage, couples who church in the church as well as couples who want to deepen their relationship."

"Our marriage was saved by Retrouvaille in such a way that we want to help and give out to save other marriages."

According to the Retrouvaille

website, "marriage is in crisis in today's society, and it is driving a crisis of faith. Studies show that 72% of all American churches lack a substantive marriage ministry, while 74% have no ministry for newlyweds to help them through their first critical years of marriage."

Retrouvaille consists of a three-phase program, beginning with a weekend experience, followed by 12 post-weekend sessions and ongoing monthly small group enrichment meetings.

"There is a lot of work, a lot of speakers," Lovette said. "Typically, we have about 12 couples, but we can take in more than that, for sure."

Couples interested in attending the Retrouvaille event in the archdiocese must register at helpourmarriage.org. Cost for the conference weekend is \$300, which includes lodging and meals. For those who cannot attend in August, the next weekend will be Jan. 16-18.

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

**RETROUVAILLE**  
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES  
**FOR A STRONGER MARRIAGE**  
**HelpOurMarriage.org**  
This program is sponsored by the Office of  
Marriage & Family Life Ministry of the  
Archdioceses



### NO MARRIAGE IS BEYOND HOPE

Since 1977 Retrouvaille has helped heal and renew the marriages of over 100,000 couples in over 26 countries.

#### Whether you:

- have been married for many years or a short time
- are not communicating well
- are bored, angry, or frustrated in your marriage
- are in a state of hopelessness
- are separated or divorced

#### WE CAN HELP!

Troy Lovette Rausch@HelpOurMarriage.org

**Upcoming  
Oklahoma Weekend  
August 8-10**



for more information or to  
register contact Troy and  
Lovette Rausch

405-885-0667  
800.470.2230

**PROMISE TO  
PROTECT**



**PLEDGE TO  
HEAL**

To report known or suspected neglect or abuse, call the Oklahoma Department of Human Services statewide abuse hotline at **1 (800) 522-3511**. To report abuse by archdiocesan personnel or someone representing the Catholic Church, archdiocesan policies require that after reporting on the statewide abuse hotline then the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response hotline should be contacted at **(405) 720-9878**.



## Norman parish holds groundbreaking for new shrine

By **Olivia Dailey**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

On June 19, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church in Norman held a groundbreaking ceremony for its long-awaited new Mary Our Lady of Mercy Shrine.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place outside on the east side of the parish's parking lot, the location of the future shrine, with members of Our Lady of Lebanon and other Catholic parishes in attendance.

Priests and deacons from local Catholic communities participated in the ceremony, reading the Solemn Blessing of a Foundation Stone. Blessed Stanley Rother's relic was present during the blessing of the grounds. Women from the parish sang a hymn in Arabic, "Khallis Sha'baka" (translated as "Save Your People"), and prayer cards were passed out to attendees, with the architectural rendering of the shrine on one side and Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina) on the other.

Father Nabil Mouannes arrived at Our Lady of Lebanon in early 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic impacted daily life. Despite frequent struggles during that period, he never gave up on his vision for a shrine in Norman. All the planning, preparation and prayers to bring the shrine to fruition was "for the Glory of God," said Father Mouannes. From the Foundation Stone blessing, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1).

On the significance of the shrine, Father Mouannes said: "Why mercy? We are in a terrible time, wars all over, and the

whole world is in unrest. The world needs the mercy, the graces of Mary to find its peace. Peace in the soil, peace in the womb, peace in the heart, peace in the land, and healing for the wounds in the world. God chose this little community to raise up a shrine for Mother Mercy. It is continuing the message of mercy, the divine mercy."

said Father Mouannes.

Uniquely, this shrine is the first one started by Father Mouannes where Mary is not holding the Infant Jesus, but instead has her arms outstretched toward people, channeling God's mercy.

Our Lady of Lebanon embodies a spirit of family, evident in its origins and continued community involvement. This year marks its



A groundbreaking ceremony for a new shrine, Mary Our Lady of Mercy, was held on June 19 at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church in Norman. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Father Mouannes has a track record of initiating and overseeing the development of shrines, with Our Lady of Mercy his fourth such project. This shrine is designed to evoke the architectural style and spiritual essence of the original Our Lady of Mercy shrine in Lebanon.

The shrine is a pyramid structure with a large statue of Mary "exactly on the top where heaven and earth meet, they are joined,"

15th anniversary, having begun with 17 families back in 2010.

Rudy Khouri is one of the founders of Our Lady of Lebanon, president of their parish council, and the owner of La Baguette. His mother, Mantoura Khoury, was the motivation to establish a Maronite church in Norman, so she could attend Mass in her native language.

Gerard Jazzar, a member of the original parish family and an

architect, designed the shrine. A Lebanon-based artist, Toni Awad, was commissioned to create the 11.5-foot statue of Mary. Windstone Construction, the general contractor overseeing the project from excavation to delivery, had members of its team present at the groundbreaking.

"As a lifelong Normanite and Catholic, a 45-foot structure honoring the Virgin Mary, looking over OU's campus is something I couldn't be more proud to play a small part in," said Windstone's president and CEO, Joey M. Wishnuck.

Phase 1 of construction, which includes the foundation, main structure, statue and fencing, is expected to be completed in four-six months.

The shrine will contain a small chapel to celebrate and honor loved ones, as well as a columbarium for interring the remains of loved ones' while their souls live on in eternal life.

Khouri suggested including a columbarium in the shrine "to keep our faithful close to Mother Mary."

The columbarium will have many niches to house the ashes. It will be open to all Catholic faithful. For inquiries about the columbarium, contact Khouri at rudyk@labaguettes.com.

Other opportunities to be involved in the shrine's creation, including donation tiers with engraving options, are also available. Those interested in contributing can e-mail lol@maroniteok.org for more information.

*Olivia Dailey is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*



continued from page 1

More than 700 faithful filled The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on June 28 for the priesthood ordination of John and Jonah. Continuing with his homily, Archbishop Coakley celebrated the ordination as one of many wonderful blessings happening in the Catholic Church in Oklahoma.

“We have an American pope, who would have thought?” Archbishop Coakley said. “Yesterday I had the privilege of receiving perpetual vows of Sister Viviana de Loera from Saint Joseph parish in Norman. ... Just last Sunday we concluded the astonishing and very fruitful three years of Eucharistic revival from which we are already seeing many good fruits, including the nine new seminarians who have been accepted thus far for the archdiocese. “So many blessings, so many graces that the Lord is bestowing, and how grateful we are for the two men we have the privilege to lift and elevate by God’s grace and holy ordination to the altar as priests of Jesus Christ.”

Archbishop Coakley reminded them of what they face during this apostolic age in the Church, which he said requires more sacrifice than in the past, yet is the best time in history to be a priest.

“What is a priest today? Certainly, it’s not enough as it might have been in past generations for a priest to aspire to be a good churchman,” he said.

“A priest today is called to first be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. He must know the Lord Jesus. ... A priest today is called to be a witness to Jesus Christ. This is the urgent pastoral challenge. We are all aware we are living in an era of increasing indifference and even hostility toward the faith. ... So, it’s important for all of us to understand the priesthood is not a career. The priesthood is not a path to be chosen by those who are seeking a comfortable life. It’s a vocation of radical dependence, of radical poverty of spirit, radical dependence on Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.”

Following the readings read by Michael Grim, godfather of Father Grim, and Rich Johnson, friend of Father Beckham, and the Gospel proclamation by Deacon Paul Lewis, Archbishop Coakley celebrated



Very Rev. William Novak, V.G. (l) and Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., (r) abbot of Saint Gregory’s Abbey, pray for Fr. John Grim and Fr. Jonah Beckham.



Archbishop Coakley led Vespers on June 27 and celebrated Mass on June 28 for the Priesthood Ordination of Fr. Jonah Beckham and Fr. John Grim at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

the Rite of Ordination. Both men stood facing the congregation with growing smiles after being presented to archbishop by Father John Paul Lewis, director of seminarians.

The rite concluded with archbishop laying hands on the candidates’ heads followed by their brother priests, an ordination prayer recalling God’s loving plan, and investiture when the priests receive their vestments.

Vesting Father Beckham was Father Mark Mason, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Enid, and Father Ray Ackerman, former pastor of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, Father Beckham’s home parish. Vesting Father Grim was Father Christopher Brashears, pastor of Saint Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee, and Father Timothy Ruckel, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Chandler, Father Grim’s home parish.

Archbishop Coakley anointed the men’s hands with sacred chrism, and they were welcomed to the priesthood by Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., and all



priests in attendance.

On Sunday, June 29, the new priests celebrated their first Masses – the Mass of Thanksgiving – at their home parishes in Chandler and Edmond. The experience was an emotional one for both men as they experienced the overwhelming beauty of celebrating Mass for the first time, most especially during consecration of the eucharist.

“I’m sorry for getting so emotional,” Father Beckham told the congregation at the end of Mass as



Fr. Jonah Beckham is the son of Maggie and Monty Beckham.

tears rolled down his cheeks, “but this has been the best week of my life.”

For their first assignments, Father Beckham will serve as parochial vicar at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. He also will serve as chaplain for Cristo Rey Catholic High School in Oklahoma City. Father Grim will serve as parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman.

*Diane Clay is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*



Fr. John Grim blessed his parents, James and Ann, then hugged his mom.

By Joanna Borelli  
The Sooner Catholic

*Editor’s Note: The Sooner Catholic is interested in telling the stories of Catholic businesses throughout the archdiocese. To suggest a business, send an e-mail to communications@archokc.org*

Through the doors of Pirates Alley, the custom frame shop on Britton Road in Oklahoma City, Theresa Hurt awaits with warmth, a soft smile providing a welcome greeting.

She’ll likely be wearing a crucifix or a Blessed Stanley Rother medal, unafraid to share her Catholic faith with customers.

“A lot of our customers know we are Catholic,” Hurt said of the family business still going strong in its 54th year. “It seems to come about without having to say we are Catholic.

“We also have many Jewish customers. I will teach them the Saint Anthony prayer, and they will ask, ‘Don’t I have to be Catholic to pray this?’ I like spreading the word if the moment invites itself. Sometimes I call upon and pray to Saint Luke (patron Saint of artists) for the God-given talent I have nurtured through this creative outlet.”

Founded in 1970 by RJ and Alvina Henrichs – Hurt’s parents – Pirates Alley specializes in quality custom picture framing – emphasis on the quality. There are two Oklahoma City locations, with a store on NW 23rd Street, in addition to the original Britton Road location.

The business continues to thrive at a time when large chain conglomerates have invaded their territory through the decades. Established by a Catholic family remains driven by faith, the business is still operated by Alvina, who turned 93 in March, along with four of their seven children.

Hurt serves as creative consultant, a role she has been filling since 1974.

Hurt’s siblings have all found their way and expertise in varied fields, with one brother and two sisters managing the other Pirates Alley location. Hurt’s daughter and son-in-law worked in the shop for a time, as well as her granddaughter and great granddaughter. She said she’s not only blessed that the business has boasted true longevity, but that her faith has been woven throughout her daily interactions with customers.

“If someone brings in a picture of the Blessed Mother to get framed,” she said, “my first thought is how is it that the Mother of our Lord came to see me? This is a blessing this business affords me to have, and I will let the owner of the artwork or picture know this has been a blessing to me.”

Hurt’s mother and the family matriarch worked as a waitress in the evenings at a former popular steakhouse while the business

# Pirates Alley: framing good business through faith

was growing. While her parents’ faith was a quieter one that evolved through the decades, Hurt said her father, who died earlier this year, held a firm relationship with God and a special attraction to the rosary.

“Mom worked at Glen’s Hik’ry Inn in Oklahoma City in the evenings while dad was building the business, just to keep food on the table,” Hurt said. “There was a time when my parents had all the kids, and we didn’t get to church that often. They were away from the church for a while and then came back strong.

“My dad loved the rosary. He loved giving rosaries and telling people about the Catholic Church. His favorite gospel reading was Matthew 16:13-19, Luke 9:18-22: ‘But who do you say that I am?’ This was the gospel reading three days in a row after his passing, which we found so comforting. He was still a sinner in need of perfection, but he had his own way of

with him,” said Hurt. “God is the creator, and he has given me a talent to put together something beautiful, and it is truly glory to God when creating something beautiful.”

Rose Henrichs, a sibling who manages the 23rd Street location, suggests going to the store isn’t work, but something much more.

“Going to work is like going to an art gallery every day,” said Henrichs. “I’m just in awe of the art and photography brought in and the stories behind each piece. Sometimes we deal with funerals or end-of-life celebrations, and it is so touching to discuss someone’s story with the family – they really open up to us and talk.

“This is what sets us apart from other establishments. They are restricted by the corporate image, and we are more flexible. We really care.”

Henrichs reflects on a time when Oklahoma City witnessed great tragedy, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and how the family company was able to bear witness to a miracle that radiated through terror.

“The priest at the time at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral during the Oklahoma City bombing brought in a crucifix from the cathedral right after the bombing occurred,” said Henrichs. “The crucifix was made of wood from Jerusalem and was in a shadowbox frame.

“During the bombing, the glass had shattered in the frame and the velvet backing was slashed, but the crucifix remained completely untouched. I thought this was nothing short of a miracle.”

While they may not outwardly discuss their Catholic faith with customers at Pirates

faith and loved to talk to people.”

The unique name of the business is derived from a street in New Orleans, where many artists commune. With the business having close ties to the artistic community, RJ thought it was the perfect name.

With many larger, chain stores always present, it’s important to Hurt to carry on the family tradition.

“I don’t feel there is any competition with other frame shops, because what we do is so creative and unique,” said Hurt. “Other frame shops can’t come up with what we do. I can look at a piece of art and envision what it needs. We can make something look good no matter the budget and don’t feel a threat from other shops because of that creative aspect.

“When customers come in they become our family. Most of our employees have been here 30 or more years; the experience we offer is unmatched.”

One of Hurt’s self-proclaimed taglines is “let’s create beautiful together,” a saying she attributes as an inspiration from her relationship with God.

“I am working with God, I am a co-creator



Alley, there are plenty of reminders scattered throughout the store of their commitment to the Church.

“We have crucifixes hanging around the shop and a picture of Blessed Stanley Rother, as well as a fairly large picture of Pope Francis hidden in the shelves,” said Henrichs. “It appears as if a person is standing there and is always something that makes our patrons laugh.

“We follow the Golden Rule and treat everyone the same. We are a very honest company and if something is not right, we make it right.”

At the end of the day, Henrichs is committed to preserving customers’ memories through her work at the business.

“People can talk to us – the Holy Spirit connects us with people that want to be heard,” said Henrichs. “I believe we are more attuned to things like this. Our shop has been here a long time, and people can sense that this is a warm and welcoming place.

“There is always a story, and people are delighted to tell their story if you ask. The story behind it is what matters.”

*Joanna Borelli is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*





Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass for the Profession of Perpetual Vows for Sr. Viviana de la Inmaculada López de Loera on June 27 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*



continued from page 1

the Congregation of Carmelite Missionaries of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus.

The profession took place during the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley. Sister Viviana prostrated herself at the feet of the Lord in recognition of the greatness of the Father. She received the blessing and delivery of the ring sealing the alliance, presence, fidelity and love to Jesus.

In his homily, Archbishop Coakley assured that Sister Viviana's heart has been touched by God's love.

"She has responded in the same measure of love she has received from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is a great mystery that should be lifted, and today, we are happy and joyful. With the perpetual profession of her vows, we see God's love made reality," he said.

Said Sister Viviana: "This is a great commitment to God and his people. I see God's grace in me, and I recognize that he loved me first. I haven't persevered through my own strength, but through the help of many people's prayers and the company of the communion of saints."

"I ask God for the grace of final perseverance and wisdom to know how to fulfill God's will."

Sister Viviana, born in Colorado, spent her early childhood years in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and grew up in Norman. With the support of her parents, José López and María de Loera, she rose through the discernment process that began during her high school studies, when she asked God about her mission on earth. Participating in the Youth Promotion Encounter in

2015 drew her closer with growing enthusiasm to the Catholic youth group and activities at Saint Joseph, where she even participated as a catechist.

"I felt a great desire to know God, and since then, sharing him with others has become my great passion," Sister Viviana said.

Her journey led her to join the Carmelite Missionaries, and she lived her formation stages in convents located in Puebla, Mexico, and Arizona. She made her temporary vows in 2019 in Scottsdale, Arizona, and was assigned to the Saint Anne parish in Gilbert, Arizona, until 2023 when she was sent to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Cruz Azul, Hidalgo, Mexico. Her mission will continue in Arizona.

For Sister Viviana, the message for young people discerning their vocation or seeking a deeper connection with their faith is clear: be pilgrims of hope.

"I encourage you to be authentic, to be sincere with yourselves, and not let fear clip your wings. God calls us and gives us the strength to respond. I can assure you that God won't be outdone in generosity," Sister Viviana said.

Saint Teresa of Jesus said, "The more holy, the more conversable."

According to Sister Maria del Socorro Pineda, this description fits Sister Viviana perfectly.

"She is very contemplative and prayerful, very sensitive to the needs of others, welcoming everyone without distinction, and providing help to those in need in the simplest ways," Sister Maria said. "Her treatment is very close and humanitarian. She carries an angel within her that makes her appear happy on the path she has chosen as a consecrated person, and that is contagious to everyone wherever she goes."

# \$1.2 million raised at the Gift of Love Gala

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Gift of Love Gala continues to draw passion and support for the Center of Family Love.

The 12th annual Gala, held June 7 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, raised \$1.2 million, with more than 800 in attendance to champion individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Hosted by 2021's Miss Oklahoma, Ashleigh Robinson, the evening featured gourmet dining, live entertainment, inspiring resident performances and a high-spirited live auction, all aimed at supporting the Center of Family Love (CFL), which provides services at no cost to residents or families, for a lifetime. Excitement coincided amid the growth of a new career training and development center to be developed in northwest Oklahoma City.

The night was not only a celebration of the organization's continued mission but also marked a meaningful moment in CFL's history, with CEO Debbie Espinosa announcing her retirement after 13 years of leadership focused on expanding the center's reach and impact.

"After 13 years as the president and CEO of the Center of Family Love, I can honestly say it has been the honor of a lifetime," Espinosa said. "And yes, it's hard to go, but tonight I am

not saying goodbye, I am saying thank you! Because of you we are launching a bold new chapter – a one-of-a-kind facility.

"I am leaving this mission in the hands of an extraordinary leadership team and in the hearts of all of you, our faithful supporters. Together, you are going to change Oklahoma, so thank you from the bottom of my heart for

the laughter, prayers and legacy we have built together."

Stepping into the role of CEO is Shawn Dillon, who brings 20 years of experience in organizational leadership as a retired lieutenant colonel, as well as years of experience assisting within the organization.

"I'm honored to lead the Center of Family Love and continue the legacy of strong leadership set by Debbie Espinosa over the past 13 years," Dillon said. "The Center of Family Love has such a fantastic mission, and I am grateful to be a part of continuing to transform the lives of Oklahomans with intellectual and physical disabilities."

"This gala is more than a fundraiser — it's a celebration of our residents' talents and a showcase of the powerful impact we're making today and in the fu-

ture. The overwhelming success of this year's event highlights the This facility will be a game-changer, filling the critical gap between high school or home and a rewarding life filled with amazing opportunities."

For more information on the Center of Family Love, or to learn how to support its mission, visit [centeroffamilylove.org](http://centeroffamilylove.org).



The Center of Family Love 12th annual Gift of Love Gala was held on June 7 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Pictured are Archbishop Coakley, Debbie Espinosa and residents of the Center of Family Love. *Photos Mandy Davis Photography.*

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L to R - Cade, Collin, Kate, Ava, Sue, Jim and James Michael Bond. Sue is holding her book, Blessed Stanley Rother which is available in English and Spanish at the Rother Gift shop. Photo provided.

## Shrine Saints Society: Ensuring today's needs for tomorrow's blessings

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Shrine Saints Society, which began in February 2025 is an exclusive group of resolute supporters committed to preserving and enhancing the shrine and its need for funding. These donors play a crucial role in maintaining the historic beauty of the shrine and enhancing the spiritual and cultural experiences for visitors and pilgrims from all walks of life.

“With the generous contributions of 90 steadfast members, we have raised a total of nearly \$400,000 in funding,” said Christi Jeffreys, director of development for the shrine. “This remarkable support is a profound testament to the community’s dedication to sustaining the needs of the Rother Shrine.”

“I am proud as a Rother and as an Oklahoma Catholic to be a member of the Shrine Saints Society to support the shrine and advance the cause of Blessed Stanley Rother. I love the excitement the shrine has created in our community. It is a beautiful place to give glory to God and learn about the story of Blessed Stan,” said Sue Rother Bond.

### 2025 Shrine Saint Society members

Lt. Col. Dennis and Karen Altendorf  
Dr. Glenn and Arlene Ashmore  
Jane Becker  
Joan Behrens  
Richard and Molly Bernard

Mike and Cindy Bobbitt  
Dr. Jim and Susan Bond  
Richard Brantley  
Gerard Broker  
Joy Brown  
Timothy and Juanna Kay  
Byrne  
Archbishop Paul S. Coakley  
James and Vicki Connelly  
Keith and Rachel Cordes  
Carol Davito  
Nick and Nicole Dell’Osso  
Rev. Monsignor Dennis Dorney  
Mike and Nancy Eder  
Tim and Vicky Fitzgerald  
David Fitzpatrick  
Raymond and Janis Flatt  
John and Cathy Gallegos  
Tom and Irene Garrett  
Reverend James A. Greiner  
Linda Haneborg  
Connie Hanscom  
Bill and Shelly Hickman  
Jay and Carrie Hodges  
John and Susan Hogan  
Teena Hollingshead  
Chris and Cathy Hughes  
Patrick Hund  
Karl and Theresa Husmann  
Francis Kaderabek  
Janice Kalsu  
Bill and Karen Krittenbrink  
David Krittenbrink  
Dennis and Ladine Kunnanz  
Dr. Joseph LeBlanc  
Tom and Shawna Linck  
Dr. Francis and Stella Lipinsic  
Joan Maguire  
Jim and Pam Maisano  
Carl and Diane Martincich  
Dr. Philip and Mayra Martinez  
Steven and Lisa McLaughlin  
Richard and Catherine Meier  
John and Jenny Love Meyer

Donald Mileur  
Matthew and Janis Mollman  
Jane Mondt  
Ethan Moore  
Brian and Lynn Moore  
Dave Jones  
Rick and Lisa Mullins  
Marsha Nation  
Michael and Sabrina Olay  
Daniel and Patricia O’Neil  
Virginia Osgood  
Paul Otto  
Reggie and Cathy Ozeroglu  
Deacon Thomas Phan  
Todd and Martha Potter  
Dr. Jim and Monica Rauch  
Mary Ann Reherman  
Thressia Rempe  
Dave and Marlene Rosbach  
Deacon Richard and Monica Rosencrans  
Dale and Marian Rother  
Daniel and Mary Rother  
Glenn and Charlene Rother  
Marti Rother  
Mark Schwarz  
Ronald and Janette Schwarz  
Sharon Shepherd  
Joe and Barbara Kernke, Jr.  
Alan Stabb and Sharon Voskuhl  
Thomas and Patricia Strouhal  
Sand and Thuc Tran  
Lich and Thuy Vu  
Anthony Wallace  
Richard and Judith White  
Charles Wilson  
Dr. Greg and Mary Winters  
Dick Wright  
Steve and Eileen Young

To join the Shrine Saints Society or for assistance in donating, contact Director of Development Christi Jeffreys at [cjeffreys@rothershrine.org](mailto:cjeffreys@rothershrine.org) or call (405) 438-0310.

## Artistry and faith unite for new museum collection

The Blessed Stanley Rother Museum will soon house seven new prints by the renowned artist Carmen Lind Pettersen to its collection.

These prints, donated by an anonymous benefactor, are accompanied by a rare book entitled “The Maya of Guatemala: Life and Dress,” also authored by Pettersen. The book, the prints and other artifacts regarding the artist capture the life and traditional dress of the Indigenous Mayan people, enhancing the shrine’s exhibition.

“This new art exhibit will establish the largest collection of Carmen Lind Pettersen’s prints in the United States, offering our visitors and pilgrims a unique and comprehensive view of

Pettersen’s art and the cultural heritage of the Indigenous Mayan people,” said Deacon Rob Blakely, director of pilgrimage at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine.

The museum’s new addition was made possible through the support of Roger and Vicky Berger from Arizona. The Bergers are frequent travelers to Guatemala and have donated numerous items to the museum. Among their contributions are traditional garments, meticulously handwoven by local women, preserving an art form that has been passed down through generations.

The exhibition, open to the public, will open at 9 a.m. on July 26.



## TASTE 2025: food, fun and more



The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine is preparing for TASTE 2025, a celebration of the rich flavors of Mexican heritage.

An exclusive event, set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the shrine (700 S.E. 89 St., Oklahoma City), it offers a night filled with delicious food, vibrant performances and a special prize for one special winner. TASTE is open to those 21 and over.

Christi Jeffreys, director of development of the shrine, shared her excitement about the upcoming event: “TASTE 2025 is an incredible opportunity to celebrate the vibrant cultural heritage of our community while supporting the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine,” said Christi Jeffreys, director of development for the shrine.”

The evening will feature al pastor meats, marinated with chilies and garlic, served with fresh tortillas and an array of side items. Drinks will include mezcal, margaritas and Mexican beers. Entertainment will be provided by the vibrant performances of the Norahua Mexican Folkloric Dancers, set against the backdrop of the shrine.

Every ticket purchase earns an entry into a special drawing for a chance to win a Moto Compact Honda, a small moto cycle that can fold up and fit in the trunk of a car. Must be present to win.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Christi Jeffreys at (405) 889.2500 or [cjeffreys@rothershrine.org](mailto:cjeffreys@rothershrine.org).

continued from page 1

### The Schedule

#### July 26:

**9 a.m.** – New Carmen Lind Pettersen Exhibit opens to the public

A new exhibit featuring the works of Carmen Lind Pettersen, highlighting the rich cultural heritage and dress of the Mayan culture, opens to the public.

**11 a.m.** – Dr. Jim and Sue Bond - Blessed Stanley Rother Puppet Show

The theatre room will bring to life a story of Blessed Stanley Rother for all ages.

**4:30 p.m.** – Marian Procession

The procession, a time-honored tradition of devotion and prayer.

**5 p.m.** – Mass Followed by entertainment

Celebrate Mass and then join in for an evening of live music, Guatemalan dance performances and yard games for the entire family.

#### July 27:

**After 9 a.m. Mass** – Book signing with Maria Scaperlanda and Sue Rother Bond  
Meet the authors and get copies of their inspiring books on Blessed Stanley signed.



## Blessed Stanley Rother

# FEAST DAY

## WEEK SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**  
Carmen Lind Pettersen Art Exhibit 9 AM  
Puppet Show in Theatre Room 11 AM

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**  
Marian Procession 4:30 PM  
Mass at 5 PM  
Live Music, Games, and Guatemalan Dancers

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**  
Masses 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM  
Book Signing After 9 AM Mass



More Information at  
[ROTHERSHRINE.ORG/FEAST](http://ROTHERSHRINE.ORG/FEAST)



## Blessed Stanley Rother

# FEAST DAY

## CELEBRATIONS

### BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER PUPPET SHOW

**Saturday, July 26, 2025 11 AM**  
**With Dr. Jim and Sue Bond!**






continued from page 1

Diocesan and National News Organizations category for the video “Father Jerome Krug on Easter – ‘Why does the resurrection of Jesus matter?’”

Digital Mission Coordinator Rosalinda Rivera won honorable mention in the Best Use of Graphics — Art or Graphics category, diocesan newspaper division, for a Festival de Matachines graphic published in the Sept. 15, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

Freelance photographer Chris Porter won four awards in the diocesan newspaper division: first place in the Best Multiple Picture Package — Feature category for Festival de Matachines photos published in the Oct. 13, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

First place in the Best Photograph — Holy Days/Liturgical Seasons category for a photo from the live Stations of the Cross held by parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. The photo was published in the April 14, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

Second place in the Best Photo to Story — Feature category for live Stations of the Cross photos published in the April 14, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

Third place in the Best Photograph — Sacramental category for a photo of Archbishop Coakley at the Native American Mass published in the Dec. 8, 2024, Sooner Catholic.

The Sooner Catholic is the official newspaper for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and is mailed to more than 50,000 households to assist Archbishop Coakley, clergy, parishes, schools and staff to spread the Good News of the Gospel and to “Go Make Disciples!”



**First place**  
**Chris Porter**  
**Best Photograph — Holy Days/**  
**Liturgical Seasons**



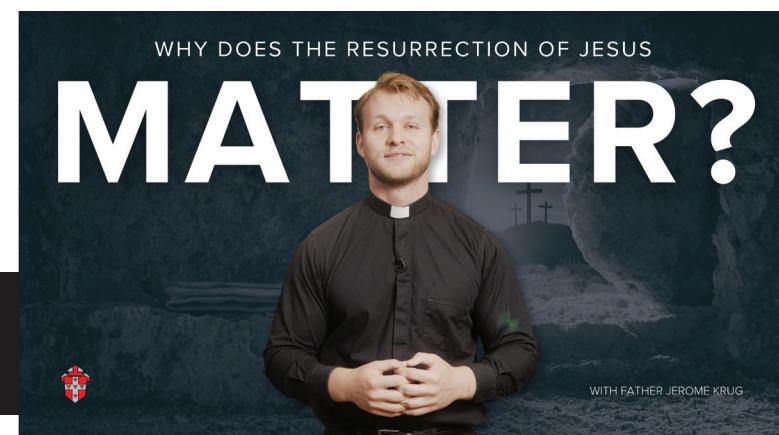
**First place**  
**Chris Porter**  
**Best Multiple Picture Package — Feature**



**Second place**  
**Chris Porter**  
**Best Photo Story — Feature**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Rosalinda Rivera**  
**Best Use of Graphics — Art**  
**or Graphics**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Avery Holt**  
**Best Use of Video on Social**  
**Media – Liturgical Season**



**First place**  
**John Helsley**  
**Best Personality Profile – Non Weekly**



Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger, Archbishop of Detroit, received his pallium from Pope Leo at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Accompanying him from Oklahoma City were Fr. Tim Luschen and Carol Davito. *Photo provided.*

Parishioners from St. Helen Catholic Church in Frederick participated in their first Corpus Christi procession. More than 100 people attended. *Photos provided.*



Seminarians Dominick Denney and Rendon Chambers were installed as acolytes on June 24 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Learn more about vocations at [okcvocations.com](http://okcvocations.com). *Photos Araceli Mingura/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.*



St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman had a parish picnic on June 8. *Photos David Long.*



# 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.



(405) 721-4115  
[www.cfook.org/dinner](http://www.cfook.org/dinner)



## Jobs Box

### Director - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director for the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, which prepares and supports local parish, school and campus leaders to be missionary disciples. The director will provide overall direction and vision for program efforts, resources, training and formation in all phases of evangelization and discipleship of young people. Provide direct leadership of all efforts for teens, supervisory leadership for young adult and campus ministry, summer youth camp and other camp programs, serve as a resource for parish leaders assisting them in the active ministry of building up and fostering vibrant ministry to young people, provide leadership and resources to parish youth ministers, and collaborate with priests, parish leaders and community organizations. Must have a good understanding of discipleship and evangelization and be able to assist parishes in deepening their understanding through consultation, formation and training. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in theology, religious education, pastoral ministry or some related field is required and at least five years of experience in youth ministry, and specifically in discipleship/mentorship; diocesan-level experience preferred. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

### Associate judge - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an associate judge to work in the Archdiocesan Tribunal. The associate judge has the primary responsibility of ensuring that the rights and responsibilities of the Church and the faithful of the archdiocese are protected in all facets of the life of the Church, including but not limited to examination and adjudication of the canonical investigation of nullity of marriages. Other responsibilities include properly instructing canonical proceedings and serving as a resource for canonical advice as it relates to reviewing marital status in the Church. Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) is required. A minimum of three years of tribunal experience is preferred. Bilingual Spanish-speaking preferred. A background check and Safe Environment training will be required. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

### Director of communications - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a full-time director of communications to oversee all aspects of communication, media relations and promotion of the shrine. Must have a desire to promote the Church's work of evangelization, and to promote knowledge of and devotion to Bl. Stanley Rother. Must have three-five years of experience in public relations, journalism or marketing; a bachelor's

degree in a related field and must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. Bilingual experience is desired but not required. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

### Gift shop associate - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a full-time gift shop associate. This position is responsible for assisting customers with item selections and completing sales transactions. Duties include, but are not limited to, customer service, sales, inventory and stocking. Will provide customer service by interacting with customers, explaining merchandise, answering questions, assisting with purchase decisions, and cleaning and restocking the gift shop and front desk area. Knowledge of POS software, cash and credit transaction processing, and inventory procedures is required. Candidate should be an active practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Bilingual in Spanish a plus. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

### Maintenance assistant - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a part-time maintenance assistant (less than 20 hours per week, primarily weekend hours) to work on the facilities, including the church, Pilgrim Center and associated grounds. Work includes general maintenance, cleaning

and groundskeeping, and daily on-site review of the buildings and grounds. Must have knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions involved in general building and maintenance work. Experience with commercial facility maintenance, construction or similar experience preferred. Background check required. To submit cover letter and resume, visit [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

### After care workers - Edmond

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is seeking after care workers for the 2025-2026 school year. Applicants must be 18 years or older. This is Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. and works with PreK3-eighth grade students. Contact Cristina Hinton to apply: [chinton@seasok.org](mailto:chinton@seasok.org).

### Substitute teachers - Edmond

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is seeking substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. Hours are based on substitute teacher's availability and the school's needs. Send a letter of interest to Jenny Lang at [jlange@seasok.org](mailto:jlange@seasok.org).

### Catholic school jobs

Applications for all open school jobs across the archdiocese can be found and submitted online at [archokc.schoolspring.com](http://archokc.schoolspring.com).

To see more job openings, go online to [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

## How about the American pope?

By Sr. Constance Veit, LSP  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Some moments in history are so singular that even many years after their occurrence we remember exactly where we were when we heard the news of their happening.

May 8, 2025, will remain one of these days for many of us.

Years from now we will recall exactly where we were when we heard the name of the first American-born pope and saw him step out onto the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica. I was at a meeting of local vocation directors when

the white smoke appeared over St. Peter's. As we ate lunch and waited for the great reveal, we

'Pope Leo is one of us but he is so much more than that!'

Sr. Constance Veit, LSP

chatted about who we thought the new pope might be.

"Whoever it is, we know it won't be an American," we all agreed.

But just a few minutes later, the red drapes parted and three figures emerged onto the loggia. "Habemus papam!" the red-clad cardinal announced. And then we heard it: Dominum ... Robertum ... Franciscum ... Cardinalem ... Prevost!

Could this really be true? Yes!

The cardinals had, in fact, just elected an American. I was happy to join the others in celebrating our new Pope but what I really wanted

to do was go off to a quiet place to ponder just what this meant.

The more I thought about it, the more I felt that the Spirit's choice of Cardinal Prevost had a profound significance for the Catholics of our country, especially young people.

I believe what we U.S. Catholics should see in Pope Leo's election as an invitation to take hold of our faith, to move beyond our zones of comfort, to reach toward the heights of holiness and strive after the same missionary zeal that has animated him.

Pope Leo is one of us but he is so much more than that!

In serving as an Augustinian missionary, Father Robert Prevost sacrificed creature comforts, proximity to family and personal security to serve in Peru during a particularly dangerous time in its history.

He rode horseback to reach his people in remote areas. In tough times he waded through flood waters to serve both their spiritual and material needs.

Those who knew him well remember him as a man who brought peace and tranquility wherever he went. According to biographer Matthew Bunson of EWTN, his fellow bishops in Peru called him the "Saint of the North."

In his book, "Portrait of the First American Pope, Leo XIV," Bunson provides helpful analysis of Pope Leo's background and self-identity.

Bunson writes, "As we can tell from his own remarks, Leo XIV considers himself more closely attached to Peru than to the United States. It is in South America where he dedicated his most intense pastoral efforts and where he has lived for nearly half of his life as a priest of Jesus Christ. Whether we call Leo the 'first American Pope' doesn't really matter, in the

end. What matters is that his first identity is in Christ and his Church."

After the conclave, Washington's Cardinal Robert McElroy commented that "the impact of him being an American was almost negligible in the deliberations of the conclave and surprisingly so."

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo added, "He's really a citizen of the entire world since he spent so much of his life, ministry, missionary work and zeal for Christ in South America."

As U.S. Catholics we shouldn't feel slighted that Pope Leo did not mention his American roots nor speak English during his first appearance before the world or that he mentioned his flock in Chiclayo but not his loved ones in Chicago.

Inspired by Pope Leo, we should feel spurred on to think beyond our own horizons.

Matthew Bunson quotes Bishop Dan Turley, a fellow American-born Augustinian and bishop emeritus in Peru, who stated that the church is, by her very essence, missionary, and without this dimension she would cease to be the Church of Christ.

Bunson concludes, "Thinking in these terms, then, the loss of Christendom and the loss of faith in the rich West are, although tragic, also an opportunity and an invitation – to remember and to recover what the church is meant to be."

May Pope Leo XIV inspire us all to recover what the church is meant to be, to embrace her missionary dimension and the person of Jesus Christ in whatever milieu we live!

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

## Book review: Understanding Pius XII and the Holocaust

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

This book on Pope Pius XII, who was pope from 1939 to 1958, focuses on what he did to help Jews and others during World War II.

"Understanding Pius XII and the Holocaust," is written for young people ages 12-18 studying World War II and the Catholic Church during the war and what it did to help others who were being persecuted by the Nazis and other fascists. The author, Phillip Campbell, is writing from a positive view of Pope Pius and countering those

who say that the pope was too silent and did not do much to help the Jews.

Campbell and other scholars are showing more and more over time that the Communist anti-Catholic lie is not true. This book is an overview of the truths about Pius XII and other Catholics who helped to save as many Jews and others as possible without making things worse. The author shows that the pope knew how to use discreet words and methods and how it was usually successful.

This shows that Pope Pius XII is worthy to be beatified and canonized by the successor of Pope

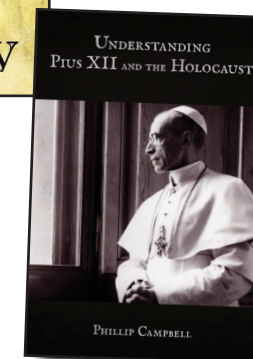
Francis, who named him Venerable and opened the Vatican Archives for the study of Pope Pius' actions.

Campbell is the author of many books for young people about Church history and history of the world. This current book has illustrations and bibliographical references. This book is highly recommended to young people, but also to adults looking for a

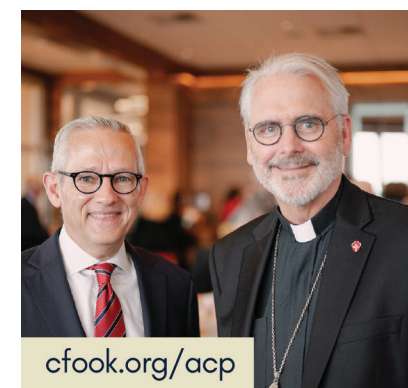
quick summary on this topic.

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

### Book Review



■ Campbell, Phillip. Understanding Pius XII and the Holocaust. Grass Lake, Michigan. Crucian Hill Press, 2024. 25 pages. ISBN 9781957206349



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*Blessed Stanley Rother*


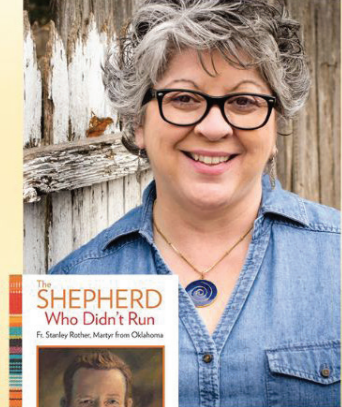
# FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

## BOOK SIGNING

Sunday, July 27, 2025 After 9 AM Mass

With Authors

**Sue Rother Bond & Maria Scaperlanda**



# MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA

Embark on a journey of faith and service as well as a pilgrimage to the site of Blessed Stanley Rother's martyrdom and an encounter with the people he served!

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[kmann@archokc.org](mailto:kmann@archokc.org)



## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

# El encuentro del Cielo y la tierra

Bajo las calles de Roma, existe una red oculta de pasadizos que conectan el pasado con el presente, y nos ofrecen una perspectiva de la experiencia de los primeros cristianos. Las catacumbas, esos lugares subterráneos de sepultura utilizados con frecuencia tanto por los primeros creyentes como por otros, fueron algo más que lugares de descanso para los muertos, se convirtieron en santuarios para los vivos.

En medio de la persecución, los cristianos se reunían a veces en esos oscuros pasadizos para rendir culto en secreto, celebrando con frecuencia la Eucaristía cerca de las tumbas de los mártires o incluso sobre ellas. Al hacerlo, expresaban visiblemente el vínculo entre la Iglesia en la tierra y la gloria eterna del Cielo.

Ese mismo vínculo permanece en la actualidad. La veneración de las reliquias no es una curiosidad morbosa, sino una expresión de fe. Como nos lo dice el Apocalipsis: “Vi debajo del altar las almas de los degollados a causa de la palabra de Dios y del testimonio que mantuvieron” (Apocalipsis 6,9). Los santos que dieron testimonio con su vida siguen unidos a nosotros en la liturgia, que anticipa el culto eterno del Cielo.

Es posible que hayas crecido conociendo esta tradición que continúa en tu parroquia. Muchos altares antiguos incluyen una pequeña reliquia de un santo incrustada en una piedra colocada bajo la superficie del altar. Incluso en los altares contemporáneos, la tradición perdura, aunque suele ser menos visible. Estas reliquias son un vínculo entre el altar y el testimonio fiel de los santos, y nos recuerdan que cada celebración de la Misa es una comunión no sólo con Cristo, sino también con sus testigos fieles a través del tiempo.

En algunos lugares, esa conexión es aún más evidente. En el santuario del beato Stanley Rother, en la Ciudad de Oklahoma City, un

altar contiene no sólo una pequeña reliquia, sino el cuerpo entero de un santo y mártir. Al igual que muchos altares de la Basílica de san Pedro descansan sobre las tumbas de santos, también este altar alberga los restos de un fiel sacerdote de Okarche, Oklahoma: El beato Stanley Rother.

A medida que nos acercamos al 44 aniversario de su martirio este mes de julio y reflexionamos sobre los más de dos años de existencia del santuario, damos gracias por el impacto permanente de la vida del beato Stanley.

El propio santuario es un testimonio palpable de este impacto. Cada día, cientos de visitantes, y cada fin de semana cerca de diez mil peregrinos y fieles, entran en el recinto donde son recibidos por el personal, el clero y los voluntarios del santuario. Tanto si vienen con una intención clara o por simple curiosidad, cada persona se encuentra con algo más grande: la fe que impulsó la vida del padre Stanley, una fe centrada en la Eucaristía, en el “sí” confiado de María y en la misión de amor fundada en Cristo.

Dios está realizando cosas extraordinarias en Oklahoma a través del testimonio de este sacerdote local. Su historia ha atraído a peregrinos de todo el país y de todo el mundo, que se llevan consigo historias de conversión, sanación y fe renovada. El santuario se ha convertido en un lugar de convergencia, que acoge grandes celebraciones, festivales culturales y conferencias que unen a personas de todas las edades, idiomas y procedencias en alabanza a Dios.

Pero la belleza del santuario no existe para sí solo, se extiende más allá de sí mismo, atrayendo los corazones a lo alto, como los peregrinos que ascienden diariamente al cerro del Tepeyac. No vienen a admirar bellas estatuas de bronce, sino a acercarse a la Virgen y a san

Juan Diego, para pedir su intercesión y buscar una intimidad más profunda con su Hijo.

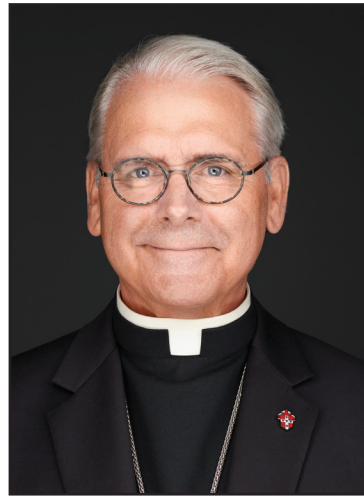
Así también, la vida del beato Stanley Rother nos atrae más allá de la mera admiración a la imitación. Su historia, desde los campos de Okarche, atravesando las dificultades académicas, la perseverancia en el seminario, hasta el servicio misionero en Guatemala y, finalmente, su martirio; revela una vida maravillosamente conforme a Cristo. Es el tipo de belleza que revela la verdad; la verdad del discipulado, del amor derramado, de la santidad en la fidelidad ordinaria.

Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar su festividad el 28 de julio, la Iglesia en Oklahoma y alrededores queda invitada a preguntarse: ¿Cómo puedo imitar la humildad, la perseverancia y la generosidad del beato Stanley? Tanto si somos sacerdotes o padres de familia, religiosos o laicos, jóvenes o mayores, el llamado es el mismo: vivir nuestra vocación bautismal con valentía y con alegría.

Que su testimonio siga suscitando en nosotros el deseo de vivir el Evangelio con más intensidad, más fidelidad, más belleza. Ya Tertuliano nos lo dijo hace mucho tiempo: “La sangre de los mártires es semilla de cristianos”.

Que esta semilla local, plantada en la tierra roja de Oklahoma, siga dando fruto en vidas transformadas por la gracia.

Y esperemos que el beato Stanley Rother sea pronto reconocido como santo por la Iglesia universal, para que su ejemplo inspire a muchos más a recorrer el camino de la santidad.



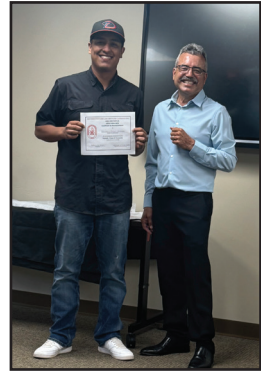
Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley



Los Talleres de Oración y Vida (TOV) continúan sembrando la semilla del Amor y del Evangelio en las vidas de los católicos de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Concluyeron esta etapa con su tradicional “Desierto”, una experiencia profunda de silencio y encuentro con Dios.

Las almas de los participantes se refrescaron en la presencia del Espíritu Santo y salieron equipadas con diversas formas de oración, aprendidas a lo largo de estos Talleres. ¡Una experiencia transformadora que fortalece la fe y renueva el compromiso cristiano!

¿Alguien está interesado en que TOV vaya a una comunidad o parroquia? Para más información comunicarse con: Paco Avelar: (405) 210-7225; Liz Díaz: (405) 738-6154. Fotos proporcionadas.



El 7 de junio concluyó un año más de formación para el Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católico (MFCC). Los matrimonios que participaron recibieron su merecido reconocimiento, agradecidos por todas las bendiciones recibidas, no solo en su vida conyugal, sino también en el corazón de toda su familia, gracias a la guía y el acompañamiento de este movimiento. Estén atentos para el próximo ciclo de reclutamiento a nuevos matrimonios. Para mayor información, llamar a Guillermo Quiñonez al (405) 990-1765 o a Pas Orozco al (405) 401-6665. Fotos proporcionadas.



### Domingo de Pentecostés: Renovación en el Espíritu Santo

El 8 de junio, en la celebración del Día de Pentecostés de la Iglesia Universal, los Talleres de Oración y Vida fueron renovados con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo. La Santa Misa fue presidida por el Padre Miguel Ayuso en la Iglesia Católica del Sagrado Corazón en Oklahoma City, donde impartió una bendición especial y envió a los participantes con el mandato de “ir y hacer discípulos”, respondiendo con alegría y compromiso a la misión encomendada por Cristo. Fue una jornada llena de gozo, fe y renovación espiritual, donde se hizo presente el fuego del Espíritu en cada corazón. Para más información sobre los Talleres de Oración y Vida (TOV), llame a Francisco Avelar (405) 210-7225 o a Liz Díaz al (405) 738-6154. Fotos proporcionadas.



El Retiro de Vocaciones Hispánicas se llevó a cabo el 14 de junio en la Iglesia Católica del Espíritu Santo en Mustang. Asistieron al retiro jóvenes adultos del Espíritu Santo, la Iglesia Católica de San Damián en Edmond, la Iglesia Católica de La Florecita en Oklahoma City y la iglesia católica de la Sagrada Familia en Lawton. El día estuvo lleno de charlas, oración y compañerismo. Fotos proporcionadas.



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8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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ANDREA FRAIRE, (405) 720-2759,  
AFRAIRE@ARCHOKC.ORG





Briefs

Discipleship Conference

The 2025 Archdiocesan Disciple-ship Conference is Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 Mick Cornett Dr. in Oklahoma City. This full-day event will offer keynotes by national speakers, inspiring breakout sessions, litur-gies, exhibits and music designed to inspire, equip and encourage people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and to share the Good News with a world that desperately needs to hear it. Visit okdisciple.org.

Catholic in Recovery

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Catholic in Recovery meetings are 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Meer-schaert House, second floor, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St. in Oklahoma City. The meetings are for individ-uals and families seeking recovery from a variety of addictions, com-pulsions and unhealthy attach-ments. For more information, visit catholicinrecovery.com or contact Kendra M. at (405) 709-2895; kmann@archokc.org.

Reds, Whites & Brews

Catholic Charities of the Archdi-ocese 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 Okla-homa City and Norman, helping women and children experiencing homelessness. catholiccharitiesokc.org.

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

St. Helen Catholic Church, 507 E. Highview Ave. in Frederick will host a Eucharistic Miracles Exhib-it by Bl. Carlos Acutis 2-5:30 p.m. on July 17, 24 and 31. Mass is celebrated at 5:30 p.m. on Thurs-days.

Bingo - OKC

The Knights of Columbus Family Bingo at Saint James the Greater Catholic Church, 4201 S. McKin-ley, is July 24. Play all games for \$10. There will be door prizes furnished by the Knights. Reason-ably priced food served at 5:45p.m. and Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. All players receive a raffle ticket for a 55-inch LED TV to be given away at the October bingo (must be present to win). All July birthdays

will be recognized and given a free additional blackout card.

Bingo - Shawnee

Knights of Columbus Council 1018 in Shawnee will host a bingo night on July 25 at the St. Ben-edict Center inside St. Benedict Catholic Church, 632 N. Kickapoo St. The event is open to the public. Admission is free. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. Food will be available for purchase at 5:45 p.m. and games will begin at 6:30 p.m. A total of 10 games will be played. Cost 10 games for \$10. Additional blackout tickets are available for \$1 each. There will be a drawing for door prizes. Proceeds will go towards financing the council’s various charitable and community proj-ects.

Bl. Stanley Rother Feast Day

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine will celebrate Bl. Stanley’s Feast Day, July 28, with activities on July 26 and 27. On July 26 a new exhibit opens at 9 a.m. the Bl. Stanley Rother Museum; at 11 a.m. is a Bl. Stanley Rother pup-pet show; at 4:30 p.m. is a Mari-an procession; at 5 p.m. is Mass followed by live music. Guatema-lan dance performances and yard games. On July 27 there will be a book signing with Maria Scaper-landa and Sue Rother Bond after the 9 a.m. Mass.

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 Sac-rament Catholic Church, 8033 Baringer Rd. in Baton Rouge, Lou-isiana. 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 July30-Aug. 1 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cath-olic 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 pri-marily intended for those dis-cerning a religious vocation, they are of spiritual benefit to anyone yearning to know God’s still, small voice amidst life’s chaos. To regis-ter or for more information about discerning a vocation at St. Greg-ory’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; (405) 885-0667; Visit HelpOurMarriage.org.

Quinceañera

Quinceañera courts and parents of Quinceañera are invited to a re-treat 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.

The Spirituality of Widowhood

The Widows of Divine Mercy at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond will be offering a program titled The Spirituality of Widowhood to bring love and comfort in Christ through their journey. They meet monthly from 9 to 10:30 am. Visit stjohncath-olic.org/events for specific dates. They are currently offering a sev-en-part teaching explaining The Widow’s Status in the Old Testa-ment. This will lead to an optional consecration of widows. The class will gather at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond in the commons, and the next meeting is from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 23. Register at stjohncatholic.org/ event-details?id=24130.

Knights of Columbus retreat

The St. Eugene Knights of Co-lumbus retreat is 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Aug. 30 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Express-way 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.

Catechetical Immersion

The Altum Institute’s Catechet-ical Immersion is set for 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 801 N.W. 50 St. in Oklahoma City. Visit altuminstitute.org/ event/971.

Unbound Freedom in Christ retreat

Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive, in Oklahoma City will host an Unbound Free-dom in Christ Retreat 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (8 a.m. Mass optional) on Sept. 6. Discover the keys to spiritual healing and freedom. Register at ckokc.org/ unbound-prayer-ministry.

Day of Reflection

Day of Reflection, “Modern Day Holiness,” presented by Fr. Peter Schults, O.S.B. is 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St. in Shaw-nee. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreats@monksok.org, via the link at monksok.org or call (405) 878-5296. Cost \$30. Lunch included.

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.

July	18	24	30
	Feast of St. Camillus de Lellis.	Catholic Charities Reds, Whites & Brews, 6-10 p.m., OKC Farmers Public Market, 311 S. Klein Ave., Oklahoma City.	Feast of St. Peter Chrysologus.
13	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	19	31
	Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Con-nie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.	Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola.
15	Feast of St. Bonaventure.	19	
	Feast of St. James.	The Lay Missionaries of Char-ity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.	August
15	Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting, 11a.m., Catholic Charities, 1232 N. Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City. Visit serraokc.org.	26	1
	Suicide grief support group, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18, Oklahoma City.	Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne.	Monastic Encounter Week-end, St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee.
15	Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.	26	1
	Feast of St. Our Lady of Mount Carmel.	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Con-nie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.	First Friday Sacred Heart Mass, 7 p.m., Catholic Pas-toral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 p.m.; reconciliation prior to Mass. Call (405) 721-8944
17	Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague begins.	27	2
	Summit, 7 p.m., The Ca-thedral of Our Lady of Per-petual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City. An evening of adoration, confes-sions, praise and worship ev-ery third Thursday of the month.	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Ala-meda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
17	Feast of St. Bridget.	28	2
	Feast of St. Sharbel Makhlûf.	Bl. Stanley Rother Feast Day.	The Lay Missionaries of Charity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.



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