Sooner Catholic

soonercatholic.org **August 3, 2025** archokc.org

Go Make Disciples

Pope: Summer marks time to balance busyness with rest, prayer, joy with loved ones

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Summer should be spent cultivating time with God, relaxing and caring for others, Pope Leo XIV said at Mass in a breezy hilltown during his brief summer break.

"During the summer, we have more free time in which to gather our thoughts and reflect and also to travel and spend time with each other," he said in his homily during Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Pancras Martyr in the town of Albano Laziale, southeast of Rome.

"Let us make good use of this, by leaving behind the whirlwind of commitments and worries in order to savor a few moments of peace and reflection, taking time as well to visit other places and share in the joy of seeing others, as I am doing here today," he said.

The cathedral had been named the future pope's cardinal titular church Feb. 6, and then-Cardinal Robert F. Prevost had been scheduled to take possession of it May 12, on the feast of Saint Pancras.

"But the Holy Spirit did something else," Pope Leo said, smiling, in his homily, referring to his election as pope May 8.

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Pope Leo XIV delivers his homily during Mass at the Cathedral of St. Pancras Martyr in the town of Albano Laziale, southeast of Rome, July 20. *CNS photo/Lola Gomez.*

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat

Aug. 29-31
Catholic Pastoral Center
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City

Contact:
Jacob and AnneMarie Miller okc@domesticchurchfamilies.com **domesticchurchfamilies.com**

domesticchurch
UNITED STATES

Domestic Church: strengthening faith in the home

By Joanna Borelli
The Sooner Catholic

In theory, sitting down to family dinner and opening in prayer seems easily attainable. Similarly, integrating traditional Catholic prayers into everyday life or praying the rosary frequently doesn't sound all that challenging.

Life and busy schedules, however, can betray even the modest of goals for any good Catholic.

Haley Wooten, a widowed mother to three boys under the age of 10, knows the struggle. Their schedules are demanding, with Haley attending school part-time and the boys engaged in extracurricular activities beyond their own schoolwork.

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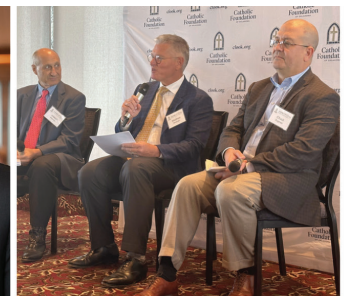
Toby Plucinski's son prayed before his meal. *Photo provided.*



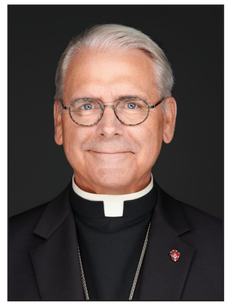
The Assembly of Catholic Professionals provides men and women a chance to gather quarterly and **make new connections, renew old ones, enjoy a wonderful lunch**, and hear from **compelling speakers.**

Catholic Foundation

ASSEMBLY of Catholic PROFESSIONALS

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Speaking of vocations …



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

On Aug. 7 we will celebrate the annual Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

It is an evening of great joy as we come together in support of the men being formed as our future priests. As we approach this festive event each year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the gift of the many vocations with which the Lord is blessing our archdiocese, and our call to go make disciples!

As we seek to build a culture of evangelization and discipleship in central and western Oklahoma, one of the signs a discipleship culture is already taking root is that men and women are giving their lives to Jesus in response to his call.

Over the past few years, we have seen a growing number of young people actively seeking to know God's will and desiring to give themselves generously in following his call to discipleship and mission.

Earlier this summer, I had the privilege of ordaining Father Jonah Beckham and Father John Grim to the priesthood. They have begun their priestly ministry in their new assignments with great joy and pastoral zeal.

I also have accepted nine new men into seminary formation for the upcoming academic year, bringing our total number of seminarians to 25. This is the largest number of seminarians we have had in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in several years, and we have more men in the early stages of applying for seminary formation next year. What a blessing!

Over the past several months, a group of women have been discerning with me the possible formation of a religious community right here in Oklahoma. This would be a huge blessing for our local Church, and it is a sign of God's faithfulness in raising up women to give themselves in a life of consecrated service. Please pray that this will bear fruit.

Just last week, our Vocations Office hosted two discernment retreats, one for men (Quo Vadis Days) and one for women (Talitha Koum). Together, more than 100 retreatants participated – young men and women who are considering a call to the priesthood or religious life, and seeking to know God's loving plan for their lives.

What is the cause of this increase in the number of young people pursuing vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life? I think there are at least three good reasons, and probably more.

First, we are concluding our national three-year process of Eucharistic Revival in which we sought to renew and deepen our love of the gift of the Eucharist, and delve more deeply into the mystery of the Mass. This has provided the occasion for many young people to fall in love with Jesus and desire to give their lives in serving him.

Second, the many evangelization initiatives in our parishes, schools, campus ministry programs and elsewhere throughout our archdiocese are drawing young people to a deepening faith and friendship with Jesus, and a desire to live as his missionary disciples.

Deeply connected to this, and an essential part of these evangelization efforts, are the prayers offered by parents, pastors, members of groups such as the Serra Club, and many, many others who pray that the Lord would draw young people close to his heart and give them the grace of knowing his will for their lives.

Third, and certainly not least, is the example and prayers of Blessed Stanley Rother, our very own priest, missionary and martyr. As the early Church writer Tertullian reminds us, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." Blessed Stanley's example of missionary zeal, love for the Lord, and care for the people entrusted to him reminds young people of the love Jesus Christ has for them, and the mission Christ gives them as his disciples. His prayers before the throne of God are certainly bearing fruit in the life of our local Church.

While it is good to rejoice and give thanks that these vocations are being born in the archdiocese, we never can rest on our laurels and become satisfied or complacent. God isn't finished yet.

We all must strive to grow in our love for Jesus in the Eucharist and instill that love in our children. We must never cease bringing the Good News of Jesus' love to those around us, living out our call as missionary disciples with confidence.

We must continue to be inspired by the example and seek the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother so that we may respond generously to the Lord as he did. If we do these things, we will continue bearing fruit and the Lord will continue sending out laborers for his harvest.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

Aug. 3 – Mass and blessing of new Childhood Development Center, 9:30 a.m., St. Eugene Catholic Church, Oklahoma City
Aug. 4 – Vespers with seminarians, 5:30 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC
Aug. 4 – Dinner with seminarians and priests of the archdiocese, 6 p.m., archbishop's residence
Aug. 5-6 – Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Washington, DC
Aug. 7 – Meet with seminarians, 10 a.m., CPC
Aug. 7 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Aug. 7 – Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education, 6 p.m., National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, OKC
Aug. 10 – Mass and blessing of newly renovated rectory, 8:30 a.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Hobart

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 the faithful** response of everyone being called by Christ to take up their crosses and follow him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ **Archbishop Coakley** will celebrate the annual Blue Mass for law enforcement officials and first responders at 5 p.m. on Sept. 27 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Visit archokc.org/bluemass.

✓ **The Holy Spirit** Catholic Church Oktoberfest is 5:30-10 p.m. Sept. 27 at 1100 N Sara Rd. in Mustang. Must be 21 years of age and older. Tickets are $50 per person until Aug. 23, then will be $55. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Visit mustangcatholic.ejoinme.org/Oktoberfest2025.

@archokc

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Gregory the Great comes to Oklahoma

Edmond couple admitted into papal order

By John Helsley
The Sooner Catholic

EDMOND – Ken and Karen Kenworthy have a special devotion to supporting Catholic education, among other things. Many other things Catholic. In many places.

The couple's repeated commitment to giving, and the impact it's created, has been recognized, now all the way to the Vatican.

The Kenworthys, parishioners at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, were recently admitted to the Papal Order of Saint Gregory the Great, a special order dating back centuries and one of five orders of knighthood of the Holy See. Ken is now a knight and Karen a dame of the order.

Archbishop Coakley nominated the Kenworthys for the honor and presented the couple with certificates and medals at their home in Edmond.

"That was a surprise to Ken and I. We had no idea that archbishop had nominated us," Karen said. "I mean, it's one of the highest papal orders there is. It's not something that you sign up for."

The honor is bestowed upon Catholic men and women, as well as certain non-Catholics, in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church, through their unusual labors, their support of the Holy See and the examples they set in their communities and their countries.

"I nominated Ken and Karen Kenworthy for membership in the Order of Saint Gregory the Great in recognition of their years of dedication and faithful service to the Church," Archbishop Coakley said. "As a knight and a dame of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great, the Kenworthys do not assume any additional duties or obligations but are being recognized for their lifelong commitment to supporting and advancing the mission of the Church, both the universal Church and our local Church.

"I am grateful to the Holy See for bestowing this honor on Ken and Karen."

The Pontifical Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great was established on Sept. 1, 1831, by Pope Gregory XVI, seven months after he was elected pope. The order's motto is Pro Deo et Principe – "For God and Ruler." It is bestowed by authority of the pope, in this case Pope Francis, following a detailed nomination process, in recognition of a person's exceptional service to the Catholic faith and the Church.

The list of those admitted to the order, now including the Kenworthys, includes ambassadors, diplomats, politicians, entrepreneurs, philosophers, theologians, artists and others. And there are some familiar names, like G.K Chesterton, Bob Hope and Rupert Murdoch.

Ken and Karen Kenworthy were recently admitted to the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great. Archbishop Coakley nominated them and presented the couple with certificates and medals at their home in Edmond. *Photo provided.*

The Kenworthys have a long history of supporting Catholic education – locally and in the Holy Land – as well as parishes and the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, pro-life causes and the poor and homeless, among other missions.

"It was just really, really kind of archbishop," Karen said. "I don't have words to express, you know, because you don't do these things for recognition. It's nice to be recognized. But you want to stay humble and maintain respect. It was very, very overwhelming."

John Helsley is the editor of the Sooner Catholic.

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.

(405) 721-4115 | www.cfook.org/dinner

ARCHBISHOP PAUL S. COAKLEY'S

Mass for Medical Professionals

Saturday, Sept. 13, 5 p.m.

The Cathedral of our Lady of Perpetual Help

3214 N. Lake Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Medical professionals are invited to wear their white coats to Mass.

Reception to follow in Connor Center

GUEST SPEAKER

REV. TADEUSZ PACHOLCZYK, PH.D.

Senior Ethicist, The National Catholic Bioethics Center

Scan to RSVP

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Volume 47, Number 13

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The Sooner Catholic
(USPS 066-910) is published biweekly except for once in January and July by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.
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Subscription rate: $35 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

2025 WINNER CM Catholic Media Awards

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.

On July 13 parishioners from St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Harrah gathered to welcome their new priest Fr. Carson Krittenbrink and help him celebrate his birthday which was a few days later. *Photos provided.*

Parish staff at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond waved goodbye to Fr. Alex Kroll as he left for his new assignment in Ponca City. Parishioners had a big farewell party for him before he left. *Photo Kasey Holt.*

Parishioners from St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City held a farewell party on June 28 for Fr. Carson Krittenbrink, now assigned to St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Harrah and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in McLoud. *Photos provided.*

Parishioners from St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City had an ice cream social in July to welcome Fr. Alex Kroll as their new pastor. *Photos provided.*

Oklahoma State Rep. Ellyn Novak Hefner, guided by Catholic Social Teaching, aims to create policies that prioritize the poor and vulnerable. *Photo provided.*

Catholic Social Teaching guides state representative

By Sally Linhart
The Sooner Catholic

As a State House Representative, Ellyn Novak Hefner is using her convictions to forge a path toward true equality, opportunity and rights for every individual.

The financial advisor, who in 2022 was elected to serve District 87 as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, advocates for her constituents, in particular, those affected by intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Hefner, a parishioner at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City and a graduate of Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School, emphasized the urgency of removing barriers to accessible health care, services and education.

"All lives are valuable, and being pro-life means all life long," she said.

Hefner's efforts to influence public policy as it relates to individuals with disabilities are connected to the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

"Most of the policy work I do with disability goes along with helping those in need," Hefner stated. "Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, I aim to create policies that prioritize the poor and vulnerable, ensuring their voices are heard in public decisions.

"One of those principles calls on individuals and society to prioritize the needs of those who are poor and vulnerable, ensuring that their needs are met and that they have opportunities to participate fully in society.

"I passed two bills that are about the dignity of work and the rights of workers. All workers have rights, including the right to a living wage and safe working conditions. More importantly, work creates an opportunity for community and friendship."

Both bills, HB3792 and HB1833, call into action the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. HB3792, the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program, allows students who have an intellectual or developmental disability to attend college programs by providing assistance with in-state tuition through Oklahoma's Promise.

> "All lives are valuable, and being pro-life means all life long."
>
> *Oklahoma State Rep. Ellyn Novak Hefner*

"With the opportunity to continue education comes the opportunity to access better jobs and better wages," Hefner said.

Hefner's belief that providing gainful employment opportunities helps foster a sense of belonging in the local community, supports the Catholic Social Teaching of Call to Family, Community and Participation.

"This is important for a good life for Oklahomans who have a disability," she said.

Her work on HB1833, establishing the Rethinking Paying Subminimal Wage to Persons with Disabilities Task Force, set in motion a plan to pay Oklahomans who have disabilities higher than sub-minimum wages; more specifically, what she calls "a wage of worth and dignity."

Hefner, whose son has a disability, has worked with determination to ensure that all are afforded every opportunity to live a productive, fulfilling life. Utilizing her experience and knowledge to help other families is a testament to her commitment to advocacy.

"Historically speaking, individuals with a disability have always received less," she said. "We have to prioritize them. What we see as a barrier to a good life, dignity and worth are the barriers I work to remove."

Hefner's efforts are driven by her desire to serve individuals with disabilities for their entire adult lives, when others are no longer able to advocate for them.

Edmond mother Stephanie Coles said Hefner's work is crucial to ensure the long-term care and wellbeing of individuals with special needs. As the parent of a child with a disability, Coles often worries about what will happen after she is gone.

"We desperately need more programs for special needs adults, who are typically cared for

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Priest appreciation dinner

The annual priest appreciation dinner, hosted by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chapter St. Jude No. 2166, was held June 19 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton, with the theme: Beacon of Light, reflecting the understanding of the parish and its clergy as sources of faith, hope and guidance for the community. *Photos Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic.*

Dory Thomas, regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chapter St. Jude No. 2166, welcomed everyone to the priest appreciation dinner.

Priests and deacons from the churches in Lawton, Ft. Sill and Elgin gathered for the priest appreciation dinner.

Fr. Phil Seeton of Holy Family Catholic Church cut the cake that symbolized the theme of the dinner, Beacon of Light.

Parishioners from St. Thomas More Catholic Church celebrated both the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ as well as the feast day of the parish's patron, St. Thomas More, with a Eucharistic procession and a picnic. *Photos provided.*

More than 1,000 youth enjoy Totus Tuus

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

Father John Paul Lewis proposes an ambitious goal for Totus Tuus, the Catholic summer youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith.

"I would love for us to get to the point where every child in Oklahoma could attend a week of Totus Tuus during the summer," said Father Lewis, pastor at Saint Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City with a long dedication to the program. "To do so, we need parishioners willing to help organize it, pastors willing to allow Totus Tuus into their parishes, and most especially, young people willing to give their summer to the Lord as missionaries, sharing their faith with young people throughout our state."

While not there – yet – in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Totus Tuus was featured in 11 parishes involving more than 1,000 youth this summer. The term "Totus Tuus" was a motto of the late Saint John Paul II, in Latin meaning "Totally Yours."

The program's foundation and what makes it popular with the youth, parents and parishes, is the following:

The Five Marks of Totus Tuus:

1. Proclamation of the Gospel: to arouse faith.
2. Explanation: examination of the reasons for beliefs.
3. Christian witness: an experience of Christian living.
4. Celebration of the Sacraments: especially Holy Eucharist and confession.
5. Active witness: participating in the missionary nature of the Catholic Church.

The Five Pillars of Totus Tuus:

1. The Eucharist.
2. Marian Devotion.
3. Catechetical Instruction.
4. Vocational Discernment.
5. Fun.

"We had a great experience with Totus Tuus this year," said Sharon Stutts, director of religious education at Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Enid. "This is our 11th year to host Totus Tuus and once again the kids thoroughly enjoyed it.

"I believe this is one of our best years yet for Totus Tuus. The team was exceptional and really captured the imagination of our younger students and the high school kids really connected with the team. I'm always amazed at how the team comes up with such creative ways to help kids not only remember what they've learned but also have a blast doing it."

At Saint Gregory the Great, they stress elements like the Mass, the Rosary, the virtues, the Beatitudes and more, in a fun interactive way. Throughout the week, the youth attend daily Mass, spend time in Adoration, and those old enough can receive the Sacrament of Confession.

Sophie, a high school senior at Saint Gregory the Great, has participated in Totus Tuus for many years, beginning the morning program as a student, serving later as a volunteer for the morning program and finally as a teen participant.

"I have attended Totus Tuus since the second grade," she said. "As a child, I loved everything about Totus Tuus. I always had so much fun with everything we did, including the songs, dances, skits, recess and especially Friday, when we had a water day.

"I recall learning about my faith, asking questions, and praying a lot. Every year, my favorite part of Totus Tuus was Eucharistic Adoration. It was a time that I felt God's tangible presence and overwhelming peace."

Father Lewis has firsthand knowledge of how important Totus Tuus is to the youth of the archdiocese. He's hosted the program at every parish he's been since his ordination, and was a Totus Tuus Missionary in 2008 and 2010.

"I have seen the impact of faith that it has on young people in my parish, and it is incredible the grace that God pours out on his children through this program," he said. "To see kids excited about the faith, eager to attend Mass, and convinced that it's possible to be holy is everything that I can want as a pastor.

"My life, and the life of many of my parishioners, have been transformed by the formation received in Totus Tuus. My desire for my young people is that they grow not just in their understanding of the faith, but in a deep love for the Lord, a desire to enter the life of the Church, and a conviction that holiness is possible for them, in the circumstances of their daily life. It will be fun and joyful, and it will be prayerful and transformative."

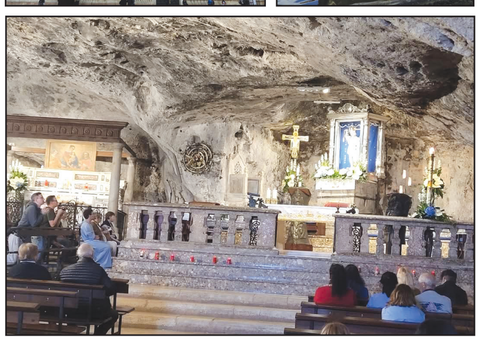
For more information about a parishes hosting Totus Tuus in 2026, people can contact their pastor or religious education coordinator. Additional information regarding the program, what it's like to be a missionary, etc. can be found online at dioceseoftulsa.org/totus-tuus. Applications for Missionaries in 2026 are being accepted.

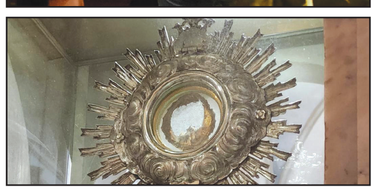
Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Parishioners from St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Enid enjoyed Totus Tuus this summer. *Photo provided.*

Celebrating the 2025 Jubilee Year

To celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Oklahoma Catholic Daughters of the Americas sponsored a May pilgrimage to Italy. Mass was celebrated daily by Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and they visited many memorable sites. *Photos provided.*





Oklahoma State Rep. Ellyn Novak Hefner. *Photo provided.*

continued from page 5

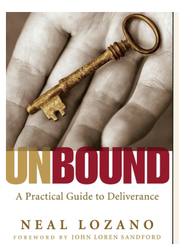
by their parents. We have to worry about what happens when both parents pass," Coles said.

Hefner's contributions to HB 1831, the Oklahoma Community Health Workers Act, helped establish a voluntary certificate program for community health workers, frontline public health workers who serve as liaisons between community members and health and social services providers.

"I loved watching her connect with families over shared experiences," said Angela Donley, former fundraising and development coordinator for Oklahoma Family Network. "She helped other parents advocate for their children, whether in a hospital, school or community setting."

Hefner is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking, a leadership training program that teaches leaders how to provide support for individuals with disabilities, along with their family members, in navigating difficult processes, advocating for themselves and addressing the disparities that often occur among individuals with disabilities. She also serves as co-chair of the Heartland Health Caucus, a non-partisan, non-profit organization spanning six states that allows key leaders to collaborate on public policy, healthcare and community.

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



EVERYONE IS FIGHTING AN INVISIBLE BATTLE...

- Are you anxious or fearful?
- Holding on to past hurts?
- Have destructive habits?
- Burdened by shame or guilt?

UNBOUND FREEDOM IN CHRIST RETREAT
Sat. Sept. 6 - 8:30 to 4:30 (8 am Mass Optional)
Christ the King Catholic Church, OKC

COME DISCOVER THE KEYS TO SPIRITUAL HEALING AND FREEDOM!

https://ckokc.org/unbound-prayer-ministry Register Here

Freedom in Christ

St. Joseph Monastery celebrates installation of new prioress

TULSA – The Benedictine Sisters of Saint Joseph Monastery in Tulsa celebrated the installation of its newly elected prioress, Sister Julia Marie Roy, O.S.B., on July 1 during a ceremony held in the monastery's Marian Chapel.

Following a process of prayerful discernment, Sister Julia Marie was elected to succeed Sister Marie Therese Long, O.S.B., as prioress at the conclusion of her six-year term.

"It has been my honor to serve as prioress to my sisters in community," said Sister Long. "I am confident that Sister Julia Marie will lead with wisdom, compassion, and deep faith as the community continues its mission of prayer, hospitality and service."

A member of the Benedictine community since 1979, Sister Julia Marie has served in various ministries, including as teacher, formation leader, and director of Mission Integration at Monte Cassino School.

"I am honored to serve as prioress during such a significant moment in the life of our community," said Sister Julia Marie. "With God's grace and the support of my sisters, I step into this role with deep gratitude. As we prepare for our relocation and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Saint Joseph Monastery, I am filled with hope and inspired by the journey of prayer, unity and faith that lies ahead."

Sr. Julia Marie Roy, O.S.B.

About Saint Joseph Monastery

The Benedictine Sisters of Saint Joseph Monastery are monastic women who seek God through prayer, community life and service. They belong to an ancient order which has been a part of the Oklahoma faith community for more than100 years and has had a presence in the Western world for more than 1500 years.

stjosephmonastery.org

First Holy Communion, St. Mary Catholic Church, Clinton

Confirmation, St. Mary Catholic Church, Clinton

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
HONOR DANCE
Honoring the Lily of the Mohawks

September 6th, 2025
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
47943 Abbey Rd, Konawa, OK 74849

Mass	Gourd Dance	Supper	Grand Entry
2:00pm	3:00-5:30pm	6:00pm	7:00pm

Emcee Carla Whiteman
Arena Director Elijah Harjo
Color Guard Seminole Nation
Head Man Dancer Michael Kidder
Head Lady Dancer Tesia Zientek
Head Drum Rowe Kishketon
Head Gourd Dancer Randy Frazier
Honor Dance Princess Myka Lenggenhager

For general questions, contact Esther Lowden at (405) 249-5246

For vendor information, contact Kendra Lowden at (580) 399-0442 or kendralowden@gmail.com

Vendors free with raffle item or donation to church. Seating not provided. Bring your powwow chair!

Milestone Anniversary Mass
Misa de Aniversario

Oct. 5, 2025 - 3 p.m.
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
3214 N Lake Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley cordially invites all couples celebrating wedding anniversaries in 2025—especially those marking milestone years such as 25, 40, 50, or more—to a special Anniversary Mass.

Register by **Sept. 19** at **archokc.org/anniversary-mass**. There will not be certificates handed out at Mass for those who do not register.

El Arzobispo Paul S. Coakley invita cordialmente a todas las parejas que celebren su aniversario de boda en 2025, especialmente aquellas que alcancen hitos importantes como los 25, 40, 50 años o más, a una misa especial de aniversario.

Inscríbase antes del **19 de Sept.** en **archokc.org/anniversary-mass**. No se entregarán certificados en la Misa a quienes no se inscriban.

Contact
Lisa Carrasco (405) 709-2709 - Lcarrasco@archokc.org or Lesli Guzman at lguzman@archokc.org

Go Make Disciples
MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Domestic Church presents retreat for married couples

By Joanna Borelli
The Sooner Catholic

When Jacob and AnneMarie Miller moved to Oklahoma City, searching for opportunities to enrich their faith, they found many opportunities for men or women.

Not many for both.

The domestic church movement fulfilled their search. And now the Millers are helping other married seekers, co-leading the Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat, scheduled for Aug. 29-31 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

"Most people have never heard of the domestic church and don't know what it entails," AnneMarie said. "This has been both on my heart and my husband's.

"We moved to the Oklahoma City area when we had been married for two years, and there were so many wonderful opportunities for men's bible studies or groups or women's bible studies, and those are so great, but I also wanted to be able to do something with my husband to nurture our marriage."

The Domestic Church is a lay movement for married couples that provides Catholic Christian community and lifelong spiritual formation through small groups and retreats.

Scheduled for Aug. 29-31 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, the retreat is $355 per couple, with financial scholarships available. The retreat includes housing and all meals, with childcare available if needed (under the age of 2).

The Domestic Church movement was founded in Poland in 1973 by Venerable Father Franciszek Blachnicki, with the close guidance and support of his friend and local bishop, Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope Saint John Paul II.

Today, there are more than 13,000 couples in Domestic Church in Poland, and nearly 5,000 more Domestic Church couples around the world.

Led by the Millers, parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, the retreat is a way for married couples of all ages and stages of life to reconnect to each other and God.

The Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat provides sacramentally married couples with an opportunity to begin their spiritual journey together, or deepen it. The retreat serves as the introduction to domestic church for those interested in beginning formation in a domestic church circle. However, the retreat can fruitfully be attended by any sacramentally married couple. The retreat includes daily Mass, talks and time for couples to encounter the Lord together.

The Millers first attended the married couple's retreat run by the domestic church in 2018, later joining ongoing formation with the domestic church. Ongoing formation is achieved through the following methods: formation for parents (offering spiritual formation through apps and resources), life of prayer (building a domestic church through regular prayer), family catechesis (engaging in intentional family faith formation), marriage formation (grow with your spouse through Catholic small-group communities), and systematic planning (draft plans for ongoing formation in a well-ordered manner).

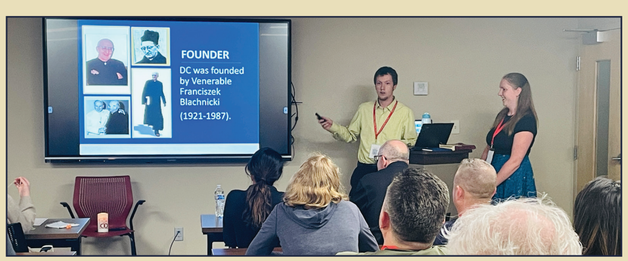
The retreat is a faith opportunity for couples to take time and relax and pray as a couple.

"Many couples haven't been on a retreat together outside of engagement retreats or marriage prep courses," said AnneMarie. "This is a peaceful way to go on a retreat during your marriage and settle in and take a deep breath and pray about God's direction for one's marriage.

"We encourage any married couple to consider coming to the retreat – no strings attached – just come and spend the weekend with your spouse, reconnecting with each other and with God and praying about what he is calling you as couple to do."

To learn more or sign up for the retreat, contact Jacob and AnneMarie Miller at okc@domesticchurchfamilies.com or visit domesticchurchfamilies.com to register.

Joanna Borelli is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Jacob and AnneMarie Miller co-led a Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat in September 2023. *Photo Nicole Hughes.*

Domestic Church:
strengthening faith in the home

continued from page 1

Still, committed to the concept of the "domestic church," Wooten recognizes the importance prayer brings to their lives, thereby enriching their faith as parishioners of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Enid.

"We pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Fatima Prayer every night at bedtime, and then each child prays a personal prayer," said Haley, mother to Elijah, 8, Ezra, 6, and Joseph, 3.

"Sometimes the personal prayer is linked to gratitude, or sometimes it's for help on a test or for a sick friend. Whatever is on their heart they bring to God in that moment with all of us there to support them."

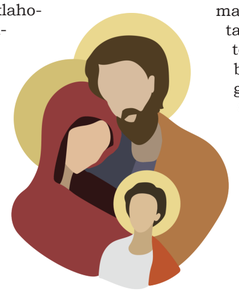
The phrase domestic church has been used to describe families since the beginning of Christianity. In his Letter to Families, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote, "The Fathers of the Church, in the Christian tradition, have spoken of the family as a 'domestic church,' a 'little church.'"

The Knights of Columbus suggest the domestic church is believing that how you live your faith in your councils, families, parishes and community has a ripple effect that changes the world.

According to the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "the family, is so to speak, the domestic church." This means that it is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek his will for us.

"My goal is to teach them to always turn to God during times of struggle but never to forget prayers of praise and thanksgiving," said Wooten. "My hope (as their mother) is if I teach them young it will be a habit and something they turn to when they are older."

Across the country and in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, many parishes are implementing domestic church programming, built around young families with the notion that this will keep their children committed to their faith.



"Saying yes to the dress is easy, but having a holy sacramental marriage is the hard part," said Deacon Val Ross of Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Churches in Enid.

"In today's society we are so distracted by everything and sometimes our marriages take the greatest toll.

"A holy, sacramental marriage is today what the world will be tomorrow. We must be very intentional with our faith. We must be very direct and put God first in our marriages and our families and everything we do because that is all that matters. Everything else is secondary. When we die it's just you and God."

One document of the Second Vatican Council describes the family as the "domestic church" because it is the first place where young, baptized Christians learn about their faith. In many viewpoints, the domestic church is the answer to every parent's hope of keeping their children in the Faith.

"As the 'primary educators' of our children, the most important instruction that is bestowed upon them is how to live as disciples of the Lord through prayer and action," Ross said. "Mothers and fathers must first seek holiness on their accord before they can lead their children down a holy path of forgiveness and redemption with the Lord."

Andrea and Toby Plucinski, also Saint Francis Xavier parishioners and parents of a 20-month-old boy, embrace the domestic church, in hope of setting a proper environment for their son to rise in the Catholic faith.

"We try to implement and weave God into all the different pieces of our life," Andrea said. "We have crucifixes, holy water and images of Jesus, Mary and the saints visible within all areas of our home. It's important to expose your children to them and name them, normalizing it.

"We routinely recite morning prayers, nighttime prayers, mealtime prayers.

When you start them young and make it part of what you do – talking to God – and pray consistently and lead by example, we believe he will grow up with a great appreciation of talking to God."

With more than 15 years of teaching experience at the preschool level (at three different Catholic schools through the course of her career), Andrea is no stranger to young children and their untapped abilities.

"Through my years of teaching, I developed an appreciation for the depth of our faith and the amazement of how young children can internalize how rich our faith is," she said. "I witnessed really beautiful things while teaching and how a group of 4-year olds can absolutely absorb way more than many assume. I have borrowed my experiences from teaching and have applied them to my parenting style."

Andrea said she and her husband have goals of further expanding their commitment to their own version of the domestic church, instilling age-old traditions of the church.

"My husband prays the rosary daily and gives our son a rosary while praying it. (He) sits and watches him pray and understands this is serious and important, treating the rosary differently than his toys.

"One of my goals is to incorporate more traditions of the Church into our home, such as feast days, exposing our son to baseline traditions that have been lost."

In many homes that are applying virtuous domestic church practices, parents blessing their children's foreheads has become a daily practice. For baptized laypersons, blessing people and objects and places in certain situations, such as the home is allowed. Some might say we are called to do so.

"We have always blessed our son on the forehead whenever we say goodbye or goodnight, and because of observing it, he started doing it too," Andrea said. "He especially loves using the holy water. He has to give everyone in the room blessings on the head and always makes sure no one is left out.

"It is so adorable to see his tiny, outstretched hand touching the top of people's heads, as they bow their heads in reverence. Even people we know who aren't religious can't help but love his blessings. Talk about evangelization by example."

Joanna Borelli is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Above: Haley Wooten and her children prayed together before bedtime.

Left: Toby Plucinski prayed the Rosary with his son. *Photos provided.*

domesticchurch
UNITED STATES

domesticchurchfamilies.com

Around the Archdiocese

The Yukon Knights of Columbus Council presented a scholarship check on June 22 to Taylor Davidson, a parishioner at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church and a graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. She is pictured with her mother, Traci Casey, brother Ian Davidson and stepfather, James Casey. Taylor is an alter server, lector and the youngest communion minister at St. John Nepomuk. *Photo provided.*

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

Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton recently held its vacation bible school. *Photos provided.*

FALL 2025 COURSES

NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

ALTUM INSTITUTE ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

THEO 3335: Covenantal Theology
This class meets on the second weekend of each month beginning on Sept. 12
Friday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Two sessions on Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Catholic Pastoral Center

THEO 4004: Anthropology of Sin and Grace
Every Tuesday, beginning Sept. 2
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
8001 N.W. 50 St., Oklahoma City

THEO 4201: Theology of Liturgy
Every Monday beginning Aug. 25
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Catholic Pastoral Center

For more information call or e-mail: afraire@archokc.org (405) 720-2759

altuminstitute.org/theology/newman

Biblical School
Escuela Biblica

The Altum Institute Biblical School is a comprehensive, four-year Catholic formation program. Designed with adult learners in mind, it provides a structures journey through the entirety of Sacred Scripture.

La Escuela Biblica del Instituto Altum es un programa integral de formación católica de cuatro años. Diseñado especialmente para adultos, ofrece un camino estructurado a través de toda la Sagrada Escritura.

Biblical School courses are offered in English over a period of 15 weeks at the parishes.

La clases de la Escuela Biblica se ofresen en español durante un periodo de 15 semananas en las parroquias

Holy Trinity - Okarche
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi - OKC
Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. John Nepomuk - Yukon
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Patrick - OKC
Jueves 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Historic Sacred Heart - OKC
Lunes 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

St. James - OKC
Viernes 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit - Mustang
Lunes 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier - Enid
Viernes 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Eugene Catholic Church
Martes 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

altuminstitute.org/catechesis

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp

Summer 2025 - high school week

campguadalupe@archokc.org

Photos Avery Holt/ Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Photo Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC RADIO
OKCR.ORG

LISTEN ONLINE
okcr.org/listen

OKLAHOMA CITY & TULSA
Oklahoma City - 97.3 FM
Tulsa - 94.9 FM

AROUND THE STATE
Broken Arrow - 102.9 FM
Clinton - 98.3 FM
Edmond - 100.9 FM
Elk City - 100.7 FM
Lawton - 88.3 FM
Ringwood - 104.9 FM
Enid - 104.9 FM
Shawnee - 107.1 FM
Woodward - 93.3 FM

SPANISH STATIONS
East OKC - 97.7 FM
West OKC - 99.3 FM

"Make Straight the Way"

hosted by Dcn. Larry Sousa

Conversations with people who are making a difference in Oklahoma.

Aug. 5 and 6: Matthew Mollman, parishioner, St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman, and CEO and founder of "Acts of Love" ministry.
Aug. 12 and 13: Becky Vanpool, domestic violence ministry. Hosted by Sally Crowe Nash.
Aug. 19 and 20: Katy Gordy, ministry to alcoholics. Hosted by Sally Crowe Nash.
Aug. 26 and 27: Sandy and Kelly, abortion. Hosted by Sally Crowe Nash.

"Make Straight the Way" broadcasts on Oklahoma Catholic Radio Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Listen online at okcr.org.

Jobs Box

Athletic director - OKC

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a part-time athletic director to serve as the primary contact for athletics with leagues, officials, coaches, student athletes, school administration, and parents while building a program focused on sportsmanship, teamwork, skill development, and competition. Primarily afternoon and evening time required with some weekends. Contact Kelsey Herman at kelsey.herman@cristoreyokc.org. Apply at cristoreyokc.org/careers.

Shuttle Driver - OKC

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking part-time shuttle drivers. Position involves transporting students to work assignments in 12-passenger shuttle vans. No CDL required. Part time and substitute positions available. Apply at cristoreyokc.org/careers. Contact Danny Herman at danny.herman@cristoreyokc.org or (405) 698-1350.

Associate judge - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an associate judge to work in the Archdiocesan Tribunal. Will have 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.

Grant program coordinator - OKC

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is seeking a grant program coordinator to manage board committees in their efforts to distribute grants from endowment and charitable funds to parishes, schools and the general Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Works with parishes, schools and other organizations and assists in the grant application and reporting process. The coordinator is the foundation's primary point of contact and support for grantees and donor advisers, and provides information to the executive director, board of directors and grants committees. Helps publicize available grants and scholarships, sets deadlines for when applications are to be received, and vets all applications with corresponding selection committees. Should be active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church, have excellent written and oral communication skills, an ability to learn new software, and enjoy interacting with others by phone and in person. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit 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.

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.

Organist - OKC

Little Flower Catholic Church is seeking an organist for the noon English Mass on Sundays. The organist will coordinate with the English music director in choosing music and coordinating the Sunday English Mass. Opportunities for playing for Holy Days is a possibility. Contact Fr. Tim Luschen at tluschen@littleflowerokc.org or (405) 235-2037.

Organist - Kingfisher

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Kingfisher is seeking an organist for Sunday mornings 10 a.m. - noon. Contact Choir Director Dennis Mueggenborg at (405) 368-0214.

Mother's Day Out teachers – Yukon

St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church is seeking Mother's Day Out teachers to work 8:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Reyne Vanderburg at rvanderburg@sjnok.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.

Intake specialist – OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an intake specialist-day services to provide direct service and support through day services at the Sanctuary for Women's Development shelter. Conducts intakes with new clients interested in case management services. High school graduation or G.E.D., associate's degree preferred; must have a valid Oklahoma driver's license and be eligible to drive company vehicles; fluency in Spanish and English preferred. Send cover letter and resume to Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

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

Several parish groups from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City attended a Steubenville Youth Conference July 11-13 in Springfield, Missouri. (Top right) Priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. *Photos provided.*

Youth and chaperones from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman.

Youth and chaperones from St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman.

Dcn. Javier Roberto "Javy" Solis

Dcn. Javier Solis

Deacon Javier Solis, age 65, of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City died on July 3, 2025, surrounded by the love of family and the faith he so generously shared.

Born Jan. 7, 1960, in Laredo, Texas, to San Juana and Benito M. Solis, "Javy" grew up in the small town of San Ygnacio, Texas. He was the eldest of six siblings and one half-brother, blessed with many aunts, uncles, cousins. Javy was preceded in death by his father, Benito M. Solis, his brother, Juan J. Solis, and his sister, Leticia "Lety" Solis.

Javy's early years were marked by friendships, school spirit and a zest for life, especially enjoying the sports program at Zapata High School. After earning his bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M-Kingsville, he worked for a short time in retail management, then spent 40 years in civil service, beginning at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.

When transferred in 2000 to Tinker AFB, a move made with reluctant hope, he discovered a new spiritual home at Saint Philip Neri. There, his faith took deeper root as Javy answered the call to serve in many ministries: teaching youth, championing social justice (advocating for immigrants and supporting life from conception to natural death), conducting retreats, offering aid to the homeless, leading as a fourth degree member and former grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, helping as a Stephen Minister and serving as the spiritual advisor for the Archdiocesan Council-Oklahoma City for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

He was also a longtime member in the Cursillo movement.

In 2013, Javy married Beth Nawotka, a Catholic school teacher in his parish. Beth blessed Javy with a new family, including three adult children and eventually five grandchildren. A new chapter followed as Javy, with Beth at his side, followed God's call into the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Throughout four years of formation, the two grew in wisdom and faith, earning theology degrees through Newman University. Javy was ordained as a deacon on Nov. 5, 2021.

His final Mass, just days before his passing, became a testament to his love: he introduced two of his grandsons, Dominic and Eli, and a newly ordained brother deacon, Dennis Caballero, who all served with him at the altar for the first time. He declared his affection for his parish family and asked for their prayers.

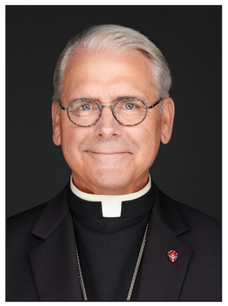
Javy is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Beth"; his mother, San Juana Solis; children Mary Nawotka (Rick Dunkerley), Ann "Annie" Lynch (James "Jamie"), Sarah "Alex" Nawotka; five grandchildren (Lynch): Dominic, Elias "Eli," Bennett, Maximilian "Max," and Therese. Also surviving are his brothers, Benito "Nuno" (Nilda) Solis, Miguel "Mikey" Solis, Armando "Mando" Solis, Ricardo "Ricky" (and mother, Cecilia Flores), Beth's siblings: Robert "Bob" Archer, Jr. (Reva), Mark Archer (Cathy), Ellen Emery (Richard), Paul Archer (Cecilia), John Archer, many tíos and tías, nieces and nephews, and many more beloved family members and friends.

A vigil service and Rosary was prayed at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church on July 10. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 11 at Saint Philip Neri.

Graveside services after Mass were at Saint Martin's Cemetery. Donations in Javy's name may be made to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Hablando de vocaciones …


Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

El 7 de agosto celebraremos en el National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum la Cena Anual del Arzobispo para la formación de seminaristas.

Es una noche de gran alegría en la que nos reunimos para apoyar a los hombres que se están formando como nuestros futuros sacerdotes. Cada año, conforme nos acercamos a este evento festivo, mi corazón se llena de gratitud por el don de las muchas vocaciones con las que el Señor está bendiciendo a nuestra arquidiócesis, y nuestro llamado para ¡ir a hacer discípulos!

Mientras intentamos edificar una cultura de evangelización y discipulado en el centro y oeste de Oklahoma, una de las señales de que la cultura del discipulado ya se está arraigando es que hombres y mujeres están entregando sus vidas a Jesús en respuesta a su llamado.

En los últimos años, hemos visto un número creciente de jóvenes que buscan activamente conocer la voluntad de Dios y desean entregarse generosamente para seguir su vocación al discipulado y a la misión.

A principios de este verano, tuve el privilegio de ordenar sacerdotes al padre Jonah Beckham y al padre John Grim, y ellos ya han comenzado su ministerio sacerdotal en sus nuevas encomiendas con gran alegría y celo pastoral.

También he aceptado a nueve nuevos seminaristas para el próximo ciclo académico, con lo que el número total de seminaristas asciende a veinticinco. Este es el mayor número de seminaristas que hemos tenido en la arquidiócesis de la Ciudad de Oklahoma en varios años, y tenemos más hombres en las primeras etapas de inscripción para la formación en el seminario para el próximo año. ¡Qué bendición!

En los últimos meses, un grupo de mujeres ha estado discerniendo conmigo la posible formación de una comunidad religiosa aquí mismo, en Oklahoma. Esto sería una gran bendición para nuestra Iglesia local, y es un signo de la fidelidad de Dios al suscitar en las mujeres una vida de entrega al servicio consagrado. Por favor, recen para que esto rinda frutos.

Justo la semana pasada, nuestra Oficina de Vocaciones organizó dos retiros de discernimiento, uno para hombres (Quo Vadis Days) y otro para mujeres (Talitha Koum). En total, más de 100 jóvenes participaron en el retiro, y están considerando la posibilidad de ser llamados al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa y buscan conocer el plan de amor de Dios para sus vidas.

¿Cuál es la causa de este aumento en el número de jóvenes que buscan una vocación al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada? Creo que al menos existen tres buenas razones, y probablemente más.

En primer lugar, estamos concluyendo nuestro proceso nacional de tres años de Reavivamiento Eucarístico, en el que intentamos renovar y profundizar nuestro amor al don de la Eucaristía, y ahondar más en el misterio de la Misa. Esto ha proporcionado la oportunidad para que muchos jóvenes se enamoren de Jesús y deseen entregar sus vidas a su servicio.

Segundo, las numerosas iniciativas de evangelización en nuestras parroquias, escuelas, programas de pastoral universitaria y en otros lugares de nuestra arquidiócesis están atrayendo a los jóvenes hacia una fe y una amistad más profundas con Jesús, resultando en un deseo de vivir más como discípulos misioneros.

Profundamente vinculadas a esto, y parte esencial de estos esfuerzos de evangelización, están las oraciones ofrecidas por padres de familia, párrocos, miembros de grupos como el Club Serra, y muchos, muchos otros que rezan para que el Señor acerque a los jóvenes a su corazón y les conceda la gracia de conocer su voluntad para sus vidas.

Por último, pero no menos importante, está el ejemplo y las oraciones del beato Stanley Rother, nuestro sacerdote, misionero y mártir. Como nos lo recuerda Tertuliano, escritor de la Iglesia primitiva: "La sangre de los mártires es semilla de cristianos". El ejemplo del beato Stanley de celo misionero, amor al Señor y cuidado de las personas que le han sido confiadas recuerda a los jóvenes el amor que Jesucristo les tiene y la misión que Cristo les confía como discípulos suyos. Ciertamente, sus oraciones ante el trono de Dios están dando fruto en la vida de nuestra Iglesia local.

Aunque es bueno alegrarse y dar gracias de que surjan estas vocaciones en nuestra arquidiócesis, nunca podemos dormirnos en los laureles y sentirnos satisfechos o complacidos. Dios no ha terminado aún.

Todos debemos esforzarnos por crecer en nuestro amor a Jesús Eucaristía e inculcar ese amor a nuestros hijos. Nunca debemos dejar de llevar la Buena Nueva del amor de Jesús a quienes nos rodean, viviendo con confianza nuestro llamado como discípulos misioneros.

Debemos continuar inspirándonos con el ejemplo del beato Stanley Rother y buscar su intercesión para que podamos responder generosamente al Señor como él lo hizo. Si hacemos estas cosas, seguiremos dando fruto y el Señor seguirá enviando obreros a su mies.

Beato Stanley Rother, ¡ruega por nosotros!

Papa León: El verano es un momento para equilibrar las ocupaciones con el descanso, la oración y la alegría con los seres queridos

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- El verano debe dedicarse a cultivar tiempo con Dios, relajarse y cuidar de los demás, dijo el Papa León XIV en una Misa celebrada en un pueblo montañés durante su breve descanso estival.

"Son días en los que tenemos más tiempo libre, tanto para el recogimiento y la meditación, como para el encuentro con los demás, los viajes y las visitas", dijo en su homilía durante la Misa del 20 de julio en la Catedral de San Pancracio Mártir en la ciudad de Albano Laziale, al sureste de Roma.

"Aprovechemos todo eso para disfrutar --saliendo del torbellino de compromisos y preocupaciones-- de algún momento de tranquilidad y recogimiento, como también para compartir, yendo a algún lugar, la alegría de vernos --como lo es para mí estar hoy aquí", dijo.

La catedral había sido nombrada iglesia titular del futuro cardenal el 6 de febrero, y el entonces cardenal Robert F. Prevost tenía previsto tomar posesión de ella el 12 de mayo, festividad de San Pancracio.

"Pero el Espíritu Santo lo predispuso de otra forma", dijo el Papa León, sonriendo, refiriéndose a su elección como papa el 8 de mayo.

La Diócesis de Albano le obsequió la misma bandeja de plata que le habían preparado como cardenal, adornada con su escudo de armas, durante una breve entrega de regalos frente a la entrada principal de la catedral. Sin embargo, "tuvimos que arreglar el escudo", le dijo el obispo Vincenzo Viva de Albano, refiriéndose a los pequeños cambios necesarios para que fuera un emblema papal.

El Santo Padre había caminado hasta la catedral desde una salida trasera de las villas y jardines papales, cerca del Observatorio Vaticano, administrado por los jesuitas, que da a la ciudad de Albano Laziale. Saludó a los cientos de personas que abarrotaban las calles y observaban la escena en las pantallas gigantes de la plaza.

Tras saludar a un grupo de residentes y estrechar la mano de los alcaldes locales, bendijo la catedral con agua bendita antes de entrar y concelebrar la Misa con el obispo, el cardenal Michael Czerny, el sacerdote estadounidense Manuel Dorantes, director administrativo del cercano Centro Laudato Si' para la Educación Superior, administrado por el Vaticano, y otros.

En su homilía, el Papa León que reflexionó sobre la lectura del Evangelio del día (Lucas 10,38-42) sobre Marta y su hermana María, dijo: "El servicio y la escucha, de hecho, son dos dimensiones gemelas de la acogida".

Sería un error, dijo, considerar el enfoque de Marta de servir a Jesús y el deseo de María de sentarse a los pies del Señor para escucharlo "como opuestas, así como hacer comparaciones de méritos entre las dos mujeres".

El Papa León XIV pronuncia su homilía durante la Misa en la Catedral de San Pancracio Mártir en la ciudad de Albano Laziale, al sureste de Roma, 20 de julio de 2025. *Foto CNS/Lola Gómez.*

"Si bien es importante que vivamos nuestra fe en las acciones concretas y en la fidelidad a nuestros deberes, según el estado y la vocación de cada uno, también es fundamental que lo hagamos partiendo de la meditación de la Palabra de Dios y de la atención a lo que el Espíritu sugiere a nuestro corazón", afirmó.

Por eso, los cristianos deben "dar espacio al silencio" y la oración, lejos del ruido y las distracciones, para que "nos pongamos ante Él y logremos unidad en nuestro interior", dijo.

"Los días de verano pueden ser un momento providencial para experimentar qué hermosa e importante es la intimidad con Dios, y cuánto puede ayudarnos también a ser más abiertos, más acogedores los unos con los otros", dijo el Papa.

"Ni el servicio ni la escucha son siempre fáciles; requieren tenacidad y capacidad de renuncia", añadió.

Se requiere mucho esfuerzo para ser buenos padres y estudiantes, y para "comprenderse cuando se tienen opiniones diferentes, perdonarse cuando uno se equivoca, ayudarse cuando uno está enfermo, sostenerse cuando uno está triste", dijo.

"Pero es sólo así, con estos esfuerzos, como es posible construir algo bueno en la vida", añadió. "Sólo así pueden nacer y crecer entre las personas relaciones auténticas y fuertes".

"Propiciemos las ocasiones para cuidarnos unos a otros, para intercambiar experiencias e ideas, para ofrecernos comprensión y consejos mutuamente; esto nos hace sentirnos amados, y todos lo necesitamos", dijo el Papa.

"Hagámoslo con valentía", añadió, "de este modo, siendo solidarios y compartiendo la fe y la vida, promoveremos una cultura de paz, ayudando también a quienes nos rodean a superar rupturas y hostilidades, y a construir comunión entre las personas, entre los pueblos y entre las religiones".

El Papa llegó a la villa papal el 6 de julio para una estancia de dos semanas, y tenía previsto regresar al Vaticano la tarde del 20 de julio. Sin embargo, tras rezar el Ángelus ante los reunidos en la plaza principal de Castel Gandolfo, el Papa anunció que regresaría a Roma "en unos días", concretamente la noche del 22 de julio.

En sus palabras antes del Ángelus, el Papa reiteró: "Necesitamos gozar de tener un poco de descanso, con el deseo de aprender más sobre el arte de la hospitalidad".

"La industria de las vacaciones quiere vendernos todo tipo de experiencias, pero quizá no lo que buscamos", afirmó. "Todo encuentro verdadero no se puede comprar, es gratuito: sea el que se tiene con Dios, como el que se tiene con los demás, o incluso con la naturaleza .

La vocación de los cristianos y de la Iglesia, dijo, es "seguir siendo una casa abierta a todos" y acoger al Señor, que llama a nuestra puerta y "que pide permiso para entrar".

Tras el Ángelus, el Papa León visitó el Observatorio Vaticano para conmemorar el aniversario del primer alunizaje, ocurrido el 20 de julio de 1969.

La oficina de prensa del Vaticano informó que observó el telescopio principal y los demás instrumentos del observatorio, construido en la década de 1930.

Briefs

Discipleship Conference

The 2025 Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference is Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 Mick Cornett Drive in Oklahoma City. This full-day event will offer keynotes by national speakers, inspiring breakout sessions, liturgies, exhibits and music designed to inspire, equip and encourage people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and to share the Good News. Visit okdisciple.org.

Catholic in Recovery

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

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 (405) 885-0667 or TroyLovetteRausch@HelpOurMarriage.org. 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.

The Spirituality of Widowhood

The Widows of Divine Mercy at Saint 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 stjohn-catholic.org/events for specific dates. They are currently offering a seven-part teaching explaining The Widow's Status in the Old Testament. This will lead to an optional consecration of widows. The class will gather at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond in the commons, and the next meeting from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 23. Register at stjohn-catholic.org/event-details?id=24130.

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.

Catechetical Immersion

The Altum Institute's Catechetical 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 Freedom 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.

Broncho Bash

Save the Date: The fifth annual Broncho Bash is 6-10 p.m. Sept. 12 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave. in Edmond. The event benefits the University of Central Oklahoma Broncho Catholic Campus Ministry. Ticket and sponsorship opportunities coming soon.

Day of Reflection

Day of Reflection, "Modern Day Holiness," presented by Fr. Peter Shults, O.S.B. is 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13 at St. Gregory's Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St. in Shawnee. 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.

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

Medical Mass

Archbishop Coakley will celebrate the annual Mass for Medical Professionals at 5 p.m. on Sept. 13 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in OKC. The guest speaker is Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. Visit archokc.org/medicalmass.

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 tulsacatholicwomen.com.

Calendar

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to soonercatholic.org.

August

3 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

3 The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Central Oklahoma meets at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at St. Eugene Catholic Church in meeting room No. 3. Interested individuals can join. Contact Bill Full, OFS minister, billfull1@att.net.

3 Third Order (Lay) Dominicans meeting, 3 p.m., St. Monica Catholic Church, Edmond (St. Ambrose building room No. 115, for any Catholic layperson drawn to religious life. Call David Lassiter (405) 924-6661; Cesar Vallejos (405) 706-6271.

4 Feast of St. John Vianney.

5 The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

5 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.

6 The Transfiguration of the Lord.

7 Feast of St. Cajetan.

7 Feast of St. Sixtus II and Companions.

7 Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education, 6 p.m., National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.E. 63 St., Oklahoma City. Visit cfook.org/dinner.

8 Feast of St. Dominic.

8 Retrouvaille weekend for marriages. HelpOurMarriage.org.

9 Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

9 Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference, Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 Mick Cornett Drive. okdisciple.org.

9 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.

10 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

11 Feast of St. Clare.

12 Feast of St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

12 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.

13 Feast of Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus.

13 Catholic War Veterans USA Post No. 168 meeting, 5 p.m., Sunnylane 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.

14 Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - CPC closed.

16 Feast of St. Stephen of Hungary.

16 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.

16 The Lay Missionaries of Charity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.

16 The Oklahoma City Community of Secular Carmelites meeting, Little Flower Catholic Church, 1125 S. Walker Ave., Oklahoma City. Anyone interested in deepening prayer life with community support, call William Ginn, (405) 737-2024.

Pope: Summer marks time to balance busyness with rest, prayer, joy with loved ones

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The Diocese of Albano still gifted him the same silver platter they had prepared for him as a cardinal, adorned with his coat of arms, during a brief presentation of gifts outside the front entrance of the cathedral. However, "we had to fix the crest," Bishop Vincenzo Viva of Albano told him, referring to the slight changes needed for it to be a papal emblem.

The pope had walked to the cathedral from a rear exit of the papal villas and gardens near the Jesuit-run Vatican Observatory, which opens onto the town of Albano Laziale. He waved to the hundreds of people lining the streets and watching on giant screens in the square.

After greeting a group of residents and shaking hands with local mayors, he blessed the cathedral with holy water before entering and concelebrating the Mass with the bishop, Cardinal Michael Czerny, U.S. Father Manuel Dorantes, administrative-management director of the nearby Vatican-run Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education, and others.

In his homily, which reflected on the day's Gospel reading (Luke 10:38-42) of Martha and her sister Mary, he said, "Service and listening are, in fact, twin dimensions of hospitality."

It would be wrong, he said, to see Martha's approach of serving Jesus and Mary's desire to sit at the Lord's feet to listen to him "as mutually exclusive or to compare the merits of the two women."

"Although it is true that we must live out our faith through concrete actions, faithfully carrying out our duties according to our state of life and vocation, it is essential that we do so only after meditating on the Word of God and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to our hearts," he said.

That is why Christians "must make room for silence" and prayer, away from noise and distractions, to "recollect ourselves before God in simplicity of heart," he said.

"Summer can be a providential time to experience the beauty and importance of our relationship with God, and how much it can help us to be more open and welcoming to others," the pope said.

"Serving and listening do not always come easily; they require hard work and the ability to make sacrifices," he said.

It takes a lot of work to be good parents and students and to "understand each other when there are disagreements, to forgive when mistakes are made, to help when someone is sick, and to comfort one another in times of sadness," he said.

"But it is precisely by making an effort that something worthwhile can be built in life," he said. "It is the only way to form and nurture strong and genuine relationships between people."

"Let us make summer an opportunity to care for others, to get to know each other and to offer advice and a listening ear, for these are expressions of love, and that is something we all need," the pope said.

"Let us do so with courage," he said, "so through solidarity and the sharing of faith and life, we will help to promote a culture of peace, helping those around us to overcome divisions and hostility and to build communion between individuals, peoples and religions."

The pope arrived at the papal villas July 6 for a two-week stay, and he was scheduled to return to the Vatican the afternoon of July 20. But after reciting the Angelus to those gathered in the main square of Castel Gandolfo, the pope said he would head back to Rome "in a few days," specifically, the evening of July 22.

In remarks before the Angelus, the pope reiterated, "We need to take time to rest and try to learn better the art of hospitality."

"The holiday industry wants to sell us all sorts of 'experiences,' but perhaps not the ones we are really looking for," he said. "Every genuine encounter is free; it cannot be bought, whether it is an encounter with God, with others or with nature."

The vocation of Christians and the church, he said, is "to be a home open to all" and to welcome the Lord, "who knocks at our door and asks our permission to enter."

After the Angelus, Pope Leo then visited the Vatican Observatory to help mark the anniversary of the first landing on the moon that took place July 20, 1969.

The Vatican press office said he looked through the main telescope and looked at the other instruments in the observatory, which was built in the 1930s.

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