

Celebrating 150 years of the mission of the Church in Oklahoma



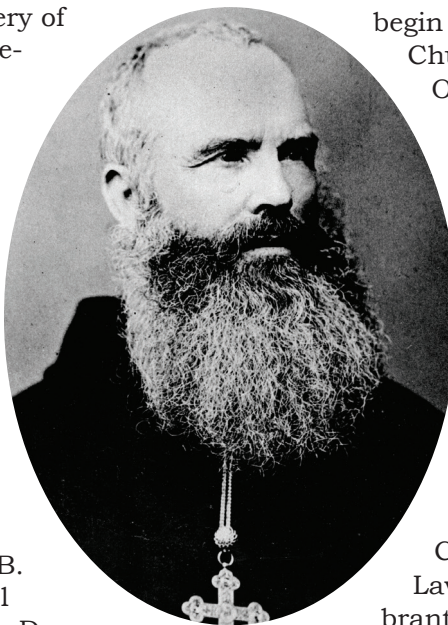
(Above) Bishop Meershaert at Sacred Heart Abbey for the Blessing of Abbot Thomas Duperou, O.S.B., Nov. 11, 1896. (Below) Fr. Isidore Robot, O.S.B. was a monk of the French Benedictine monastery of Our Lady of La Pierre-qui-Vire. Photos St. Gregory's Abbey archives.

By Seán Collins

On an October day in 1875, two intrepid monks from the French Benedictine monastery of Our Lady of La Pierre-qui-Vire set foot for the first time in the mission territory that had been entrusted to them by the Church.

The date was Oct. 12, and Father Isidore Robot, O.S.B., and Brother Dominic Lambert, O.S.B., finally arrived at a destiny and mission that was long in the making – a destiny and mission that would evolve into Saint Gregory's Abbey, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa.

"Oct. 12, 1875, is a shared beginning for Catholic life in Oklahoma," said Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B. "We are grateful that Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City and Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa are joining the monks of Saint Gregory's to celebrate this important milestone in the life of the Church here."



A number of events are planned in the months ahead, beginning in October 2025 and continuing through June 2027. The monastic community will observe the actual date of the arrival of the founding monks on Sunday, Oct. 12. The celebration will

begin with Mass at 10 a.m. in the Abbey Church. Most Reverend Jonathan Licari, O.S.B., abbot president of the American Cassinese Congregation of Monasteries, will preside the Mass and will be joined by numerous other Benedictine abbots, representatives of other monasteries, Oblates and friends of Saint Gregory's Abbey.

A Solemn Mass will then be celebrated at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13 at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. His Eminence Christophe Cardinal Pierre, Papal Nuncio to the United States, is scheduled to preside at the Mass with Archbishop Coakley, Bishop Konderla and Abbot Lawrence serving as principal concelebrants.

continued on page 10

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Remembering St. Teresa of Calcutta

The world knew her as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. As a young student priest in Rome, I had the unexpected privilege of meeting her when I celebrated Mass for her sisters at a soup kitchen they operated near the Colosseum. She already was a global celebrity.

What struck me about that chance encounter in the sacristy was her small stature, her profound humility and radiant smile.

As we approach the anniversary of the death and feast day of Saint Teresa of Calcutta on Sept. 5, it offers us an opportunity to pause and reflect on her life and commitment to the poorest of the poor.

While it has been 28 years since her death, her legacy is very much alive. Recalling her witness is a gift to all of us, just as she was a gift to all whom she encountered and to whom she ministered.

During her lifetime, she had one of the most recognizable faces in the world. Most can recall pictures of her wrinkled face and her kind smile framed by her blue and white sari.

Whether she was holding a child in Gaza, addressing the United Nations in New York or cradling an AIDS patient in Moscow, she encapsulated the fullest measure of compassion and humanity for everyone.

She was a media celebrity (though not in the style of Hollywood), but she also had the charisma to enliven any setting. Holding the hand of Princess Diana, talking to Nelson Mandela or standing next to President Clinton, Mother Teresa shone among them as the true public star. All of us knew her to be extraordinary in almost every way.

Mother Teresa was able to redefine the religious imagination of the world as she spent herself serving the poorest of the poor. From the first notable media attention she received through the reporting of Malcolm Muggeridge on the BBC, to the media blitz that accompanied her death, she was the face of compassion for all humanity.

During a time in which the reputations of many well-known religious figures in the world were tarnished by scandals, destructive ideologies or hypocrisy, she was celebrated as genuine and humble. Nearly everyone sensed a goodness that radiated from her. In fact, it was a goodness almost impossible not to be attracted to.

There are three aspects of her ministry we should keep in mind as her feast day approaches.

The first of these was her ability to see behind the veil of first appearances. While this might seem less important than her work feeding the hungry or rescuing the impoverished, it goes to the heart of her unique ability.

Constantly, she insisted that by attending to the needs of the poorest of the world, she saw and ministered to Jesus Christ himself.

She was repeating only what Jesus taught in Matthew 25, but her capacity to see beyond the misery made her ministry powerfully effective. She didn't just provide for the material needs of others; she could see in each person a measure of dignity and the truth of an identity that prompted her actions. Her actions were in response to what she saw. She wasn't simply fulfilling an obligation.

In a world in which we're often oppressed by the demands of what we ought to do, she taught us

to see first what was true. Once truth was in place, the world looked different. Charity looked different and personal, and hopeful.

Secondly, she satisfied the hunger for God in the hearts of many. Because of the complicated history of our times, speaking about religion often is reduced to taking sides or defending the past. Those discussions don't satisfy our hunger for an authentic encounter with God.

Saint Augustine wrote that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. Mother Teresa was someone who understood the great hunger of our age and assured those most famished by it: God speaks by way of the heart. She invited others into ministries of compassionate caring, actions carrying with them meanings beyond the frontiers of labels and loyalties.

She was never afraid to stand on the firm foundation of doctrine and belief. She never hesitated when asked about the origin of her vision or the deepest roots of her vocation as a sister.

Mother was not hesitant to call people to honest faithfulness to God. But, she did so by invitation.

“Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that we can satisfy our longings as she did, by finding Jesus in the side streets and forgotten alleys of our lives. When we do, we’ll find what she found: a life transformed.”

Serve them and God will be found.

Her powerful invitation was to be on the journey by action: following Mother Teresa was to do, not just to say.

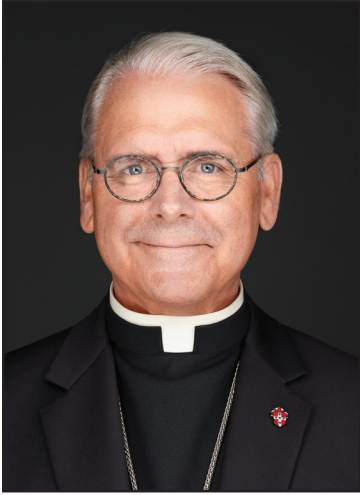
Thirdly, she was authentic. The world tires of image and persona, of reputation and hype. Each of these attributes are manipulated so often they become meaningless. Mother Teresa communicated a life with almost no distance between the image and reality; she was the symbol she became. Embracing her example was to embrace the authenticity of a true servant.

This was powerfully attractive to many. We long for what is real, and we hunger for everything substantial. Mother Teresa was what she was said to be, and when the world found out, it couldn't get enough of her.

In the chapel at Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, which is dedicated to Saint Teresa of Calcutta, the words that Mother Teresa put in every chapel of her order are emblazoned on the wall: “I Thirst.”

This statement greets all who come to pray there. These words, spoken by Jesus on the cross, express the invitation to serve Jesus who suffers, and all those who suffer as he did. Reaching up to the cross to touch the suffering Christ is the legacy of Mother Teresa. But, it also describes all of us, who thirst to serve others as we grow in our humanity.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us that we can satisfy our longings as she did, by finding Jesus in the side streets and forgotten alleys of our lives. When we do, we'll find what she found: a life transformed.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

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

✔ **For healing and peace** among peoples who are divided due to ethnicity, race or creed. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✔ **St. Thomas More** Catholic Church is hosting The Crimson Gala 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 3 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 2501 Conference Dr. in Norman. The gala is in support of campus ministry at the University of Oklahoma. Visit stm-ou.org.

✔ **The Three Hearts** pilgrimage to Clear Creek Abbey is Oct. 9-11. For more information about the two-day, 35-mile walk visit threeheartspilgrimage.org.

✔ **The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**, the Diocese of Tulsa and Springs in the Desert will present Cherished: A retreat for those in a season of infertility on Oct. 24-25 at the Church of St. Benedict, 2200 W. Ithica St. in Broken Arrow. Cost: \$200 couples; \$150 individuals. Visit springsinthedesert.org/oklahoma.



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Lord,
thank you for the gift of work and the ability to provide for ourselves and others. Bless all those who labor, especially those who struggle to find work or face difficult working conditions. May we all find dignity and meaning in our labor, and may our work bring us closer to you.
Amen.

Discipleship Conference echoes theme of hope

The third annual Discipleship Conference, held Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, welcomed more than 1,000 attendees from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for a day of formation, fellowship and faith-filled encouragement. The event offered a dynamic opportunity for Catholics of all backgrounds to grow as disciples and be equipped to become disciple-makers in their parishes and communities.

Centered around the theme of hope – aligned with the Church's current Jubilee Year of Hope – the conference featured inspiring talks, sacramental celebrations and joyful community-building.

Three major takeaways defined the experience:

1. Hope-filled teaching rooted in the Gospel

Speakers delivered rich and relevant messages to a packed audience. Heather Khym opened hearts with her talk, “Encountering Christ in the Gospels,” while Karlo Broussard, D.Phil. explored the “Splendor of the Catholic Faith.” Roxane Salonen offered guidance on “When Loved Ones Leave the Church,” providing a compassionate and hopeful perspective. The day culminated in a stirring keynote by Father Dave Pivonka, who charged attendees to embrace “Mission and the Holy Spirit” with renewed zeal.

2. A living witness to the Sacramental Life

The sacraments were at the

heart of the conference. Archbishop Paul Coakley celebrated daily Mass, anchoring the event in the Eucharist. Throughout the day, nearly one-third of attendees took part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and many spent quiet moments in Eucharistic Adoration, encountering Christ in profound and personal ways.

3. A joyful gathering of the Church in Oklahoma

From youth to seniors, and attendees of every background, the convention center was filled with the joy of the Catholic faith. Breakout rooms buzzed with lively discussions, the public space was filled with mission-driven ministries and vendors, and attendees captured moments of fun at the Pope Leo cut-out photo booth. The joy of discipleship was contagious – and unmistakable.

In an unlikely pairing of events, the convention center also hosted an Oklahoma Tattoo Convention two floors below. Some of their attendees wandered curiously into the discipleship event, where they were met by smiling volunteers and warm invitations to explore. One of these interactions was later described as a “Divine appointment,” a reminder that the joy of a disciple is often the most powerful invitation to faith.

“During the Discipleship Conference, I had a powerful and unexpected encounter with a gentleman who had clearly come from the tattoo convention happening two floors below,” said Erika Mar-



The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Discipleship Conference was held on Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center. The conference featured Fr. Dave Pivonka, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville; Tim Glemkowski, executive director of Amazing Parish and the National Eucharistic Congress; and Heather Khym, a well-known Catholic podcaster and friend of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

tinez, a conference volunteer and the archdiocesan coordinator of Hispanic ministries. “He wandered into our event space, and I greeted him with a smile. Curious, he asked what kind of event this was. I shared that it was a Catholic conference focused on discipleship and told him he was more than welcome to look around.

“He paused and quietly said, ‘I was baptized Catholic, but I haven’t been to church in a very long time.’ Then he added, almost to himself, ‘I don’t even know why I came up here.’ I looked at him and simply said, ‘Maybe the Lord has something here for you.’”

“I handed him a welcome bag and offered to accompany him into the main ballroom, where Father Dave Pivonka was about to give the final keynote. As we entered, the music began and he just stopped. ‘Wow,’ he whispered, visibly moved. He stayed for a while, taking it all in.

“I didn’t get his name, but I truly believe the Lord led him to us that day. I’m grateful I was there to welcome him. I pray that whatever seeds were planted in that moment will take root in his heart and that he will be open to the Lord’s gentle invitation to come home.”



Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- Sept. 2** – St. Ann Retirement Center Board meeting, 8 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Sept. 2** – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Sept. 2** – Jubilarian Dinner, 6 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City
- Sept. 4** – Catholic Charities annual Mass and meeting, 9:30 a.m., St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Midwest City
- Sept. 4** – Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine Board meeting, 3 p.m.
- Sept. 5-7** – Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Investiture, San Antonio, Texas
- Sept. 8-10** – USCCB Administrative Committee meeting, Washington, DC
- Sept. 11** – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. James the Greater Catholic School, OKC
- Sept. 11** – Senior Staff meeting, 11 a.m., CPC
- Sept. 12** – Mount St. Mary’s Seminary Board virtual executive committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 12** – Groundbreaking, 1 p.m., Calvary Cemetery
- Sept. 12** – UCO Broncho Bash, 6 p.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond
- Sept. 13** – Archbishop’s Medical Mass, 5 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
- Sept. 14** – 100th Anniversary Mass and celebration, 10 a.m., Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Chickasha
- Sept. 14** – Young Adult Mass and Cookout, 3 p.m., CPC



Go Make Disciples

Text GMD to 84576

To receive encouragement, resources, and information on upcoming events.

STAY
CONNECTED



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Paul S. Coakley**

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Seminarians shine at Catholic Foundation dinner

By Owen Canfield

One by one, emcee Father Jerome Krug called onto the stage the 25 young men who are discerning the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. With each new name, the applause grew from the large crowd at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Museum.

The introductions capped the evening at the annual Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education, hosted by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. The dinner raised about \$350,000 for the Saint John Vianney Endowment at the foundation, which helps defray costs of seminarians' education and formation.

Archbishop Paul Coakley noted that today's culture "is often marked by noise, distraction and discouragement."

"But amid all that, we are witnessing something profoundly hopeful. God is still calling," he said. "And thank God, young men are still answering."

The dinner included remarks from the two newest priests in the archdiocese, Father Jonah Beckham and Father John Grim. Each was ordained June 28.

Father Beckham, who grew up at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond, choked up, and had many in the audience in tears, as he spoke about anointing a gravely ill woman on the second day of his priesthood.

"Her sister told me that before she entered the hospital that she



The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Archbishop's Dinner for Seminarian Education was held on Aug. 7 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. *Photo Chris Porter.*

wanted to become Catholic, but that night she went into a coma," Father Beckham said.

The sick woman's name was Susan Thomas – "a name I'll never forget."

"I put my hand on her shoulder and said, 'Susan, if you can hear me, your sins have been forgiven,' and she flatlined immediately."

"She spent her last 30 seconds, one minute, as a Catholic and in God's grace. And that is what priests are able to do."

Father Grim, the first priest to be ordained from Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Chandler, said his favorite heroes from a young age were saints.

As a child, he told his mother he wanted to be a saint when he grew up. Her response: "Well, we are all

called to be saints."

"I was filled with childlike delight!" he said. "My mom not only supported my desire to be like my heroes and affirmed that it was possible, she affirmed that God was calling me to become a saint."

The dinner also included a fun and spirited, Jeopardy-style game show called "Are you smarter than a seminarian?" Two teams of seminarians competed against the three priests from the Office of Vocations, with the winners (the Vocations office clergy) receiving a bobblehead of Archbishop Coakley.

The dinner will return to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2026. The event is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 6.

An Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon was held Aug. 21 at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker was Bishop James Conley from the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska. The next luncheon is Nov. 6 with guest speaker Andreas Widmer. Visit cfook.org/acp. *Photos Rosalinda Rivera/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.*



Deacon 'Bob' retiring in Ardmore

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

After serving the parish for nearly 10 years, a long and winding path for Deacon Bob Highsmith and his family has resulted in his retirement from Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore.

"Deacon Bob is a great man, very intelligent, and willing to share his knowledge with those who wish to learn about our faith," said Deacon Juan Jimenez, who also serves at Saint Mary. "He is fun to work with. I will miss him very much."

"I know that he needs to spend time with his wife and family. I thank God for calling Deacon Bob to serve his Church."

Deacon Highsmith and his wife Patricia were converts to Catholicism. During their conversion, they received support and prayers from their three children.

Deacon Highsmith was born in Pensacola, Florida, but landed in a variety of places as his dad was in the Air Force, requiring much family relocation. Before becoming a deacon, he worked as an attorney

in Oklahoma, serving as a district attorney for eight years. He then worked in private practice, before becoming an associate district judge for 24 years.

His training as an attorney boosted his skill as a homilist. Father Kevin Ratterman, pastor of Saint Mary, said Deacon Highsmith's unique ability to connect church history, biblical history and science made his homilies quite relevant.

Deacon Highsmith credits his wife, Patty, for giving him much support on a journey to the Church together.

"We converted to Catholicism after attending Mass in Tishomingo and Ardmore," he said. "After attending for some time, I asked Patty and she said, 'I think we are supposed to be here.'"

Once in the Church, Deacon Highsmith moved toward becoming a deacon.

"It has helped me to grow in my faith in my spiritual maturity," he said. "I am a better man for it. My wife and I have shared this experience. If my service was of value, I hope by God's grace, it helped



Dcn. Bob Highsmith. *Photo provided.*

the parish. It has certainly been a blessing for us."

Said Father Ratterman, "Deacon Bob did a fantastic service during my six years as pastor at Saint Mary. He brought such a huge spectrum of knowledge, lifetime experience and wonderful under-

standing to our parish. He was a tremendous asset. Deacon Bob brought that knowledge and skills to many outstanding and large RCIA classes over the years. We are going to miss his him."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Deacon Formation Class of 2030



Thirty-one men and their wives from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City gathered on Aug. 15-16 at the Catholic Pastoral Center for the first weekend of deacon formation for the Class of 2030. This weekend of prayer, orientation and instruction began a five-year period of discernment and training for men who aspire to become permanent deacons. The archdiocese currently has 88 active deacons and 22 retired deacons, along with 20 candidates preparing for ordination in November. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*



“Make Straight the Way”

hosted by Dcn. Larry Sousa

Conversations with people who are making a difference in Oklahoma.

Sept. 2 and 3: George Rigazzi, former archivist, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Sept. 9 and 10: Pam Foreman, chaplain, Mercy Hospitals, Oklahoma City. Hosted by Sally Crowe Nash.

Sept. 16 and 17: David Harrison, discipleship director, Gospel Of Life Disciples + Dwellings

Sept. 23 and 24: Bishop Daniel Henry Mueggenborg, bishop, Diocese of Reno, Nevada.

Sept. 30 and Oct. 1: Fr. Cristobal DeLoera, pastor, St. Peter Catholic Church, Woodward.

“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.

Edmond Knights receive top award

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council 6477 has received the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award for local councils.

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities. Councils that attain Star Council status and achieve 200 percent of their gain goal will receive the Double Star Council Award. Councils that achieve 300 percent of their gain goal will receive the Triple Star Council Award.

Recognition for Council 6477 included the following:

Membership – Father McGivney Award

This award recognizes excellence

in a council's membership growth. Council 6477 achieved 353% growth, gaining 53 new members in the fraternal year, achieving the recognition of Triple Star Council. In addition to these new members, Council 6477 received 20 transfers of members from other councils, most from becoming members of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church.

Promotion of Fraternal Insurance Benefits – Founders Award

The Founders' Award recognizes excellence in the promotion of Knights of Columbus insurance and fraternal benefits. All councils must host/promote at least two Fraternal Benefit Events during the fraternal year, with a minimum of 14 participants throughout the year. Throughout the fraternal year, Council 6477 participated in several Fraternal Benefit Nights working closely

with field agent Max Yardley and the Kevin Pierce Insurance Agency with the Knights of Columbus.

Sponsorship of Faith Formation Programs – Columbian Award

This award recognizes excellence in a council's programming and charitable outreach. To earn this award, the council was charged to conduct and report programs in each of the four “Faith in Action” program categories – Faith, Family, Community and Life – for a total of 16 program credits, with four in each category.

To learn more about Council 6477, contact Jack Goodson, membership director at (405) 312-5008, jagoodson@aol.com or George Majoue, grand knight, at (805) 478-5200, gimajoue@gmail.com.



**Knights of Columbus
St. John Nepomuk Council 6478
Annual Golf Tournament**

September 13th, 2025
Surrey Hills Golf Club
Registration online at
YukonKofC.org
or call 405-805-6262

Proceeds will support Knights projects and the Center of Family Love



**Annual Catechetical
Immersion**

Calling all parish catechists into the deep!

Come sit at the feet of Christ and be nourished in order to form those entrusted to your care. The annual Catechetical Immersion serves to form our catechists to resound the gospel through the halls of our parishes.

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lunch Provided
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
801 N.W. 50 St, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

For more information: Andrea Hernandez (405) 720-2759

Center of Family Love hosting Casino Royale Night

The Center of Family Love will host an evening of entertainment, fine dining and philanthropy at its Casino Royale Night, set for Oct. 9 at River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa.

The event is built on entertainment, designed to enhance the lives of those with intellectual and physical disabilities. Center of Family Love provides these services at no cost to residents or their families, with 92 cents on every dollar going directly into programming and developmental support.

The evening will feature a gourmet steak dinner, followed by live music, games and an exclusive live auction featuring high-value items and unique experiences. In addition, guests can enter to win a chance at raffles.

For those looking to turn the

evening into a weekend getaway, River Spirit Casino Resort is also offering discounted room rates to guests of the event.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Center of Family Love, an Oklahoma nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free housing, healthcare, vocational training and job placement for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The night begins with cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Charlie Red will provide live music.

Tickets are \$250 per person, with sponsorship opportunities available for those looking to make an even greater impact.

To purchase tickets, visit centeroffamilylove.org/casino or call Kim Kuehn at (405) 263-4658, Ext. 1009.



CENTER OF FAMILY LOVE PRESENTS

CASINO ROYALE NIGHT

OCTOBER 9

DOORS OPEN: 5:30
COCKTAILS: 6:00
DINNER: 7:00

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TULSA, OK 74137



FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

ANNUAL
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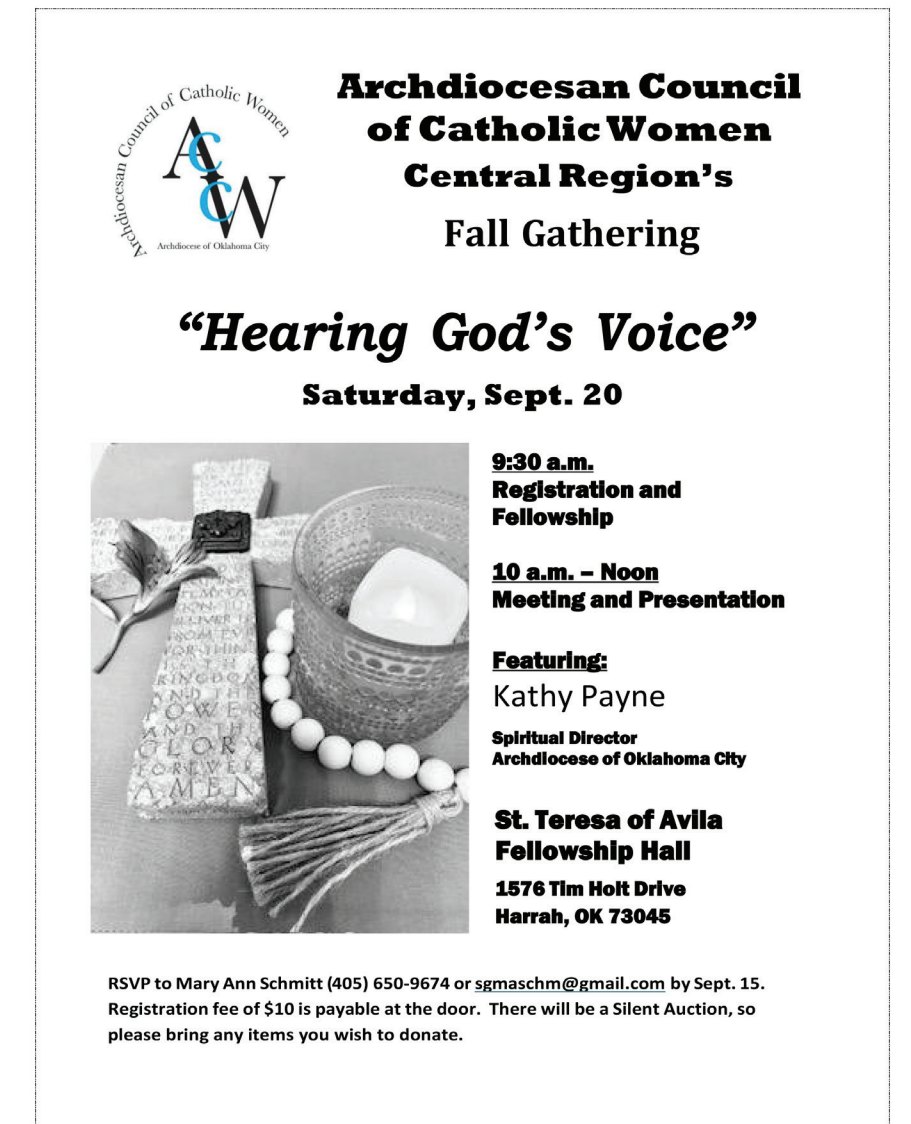
WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
WHERE: ST. JOHN PAUL II DWELLING
4113 S Eastern Ave
Moore, OK 73160

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship as we raise funds to support our sacred mission: Caring for the dying with compassion and faith as they journey home to God.

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Dolores Person
Ministry Operations Director
dolores@gospeloflifedisciples.org

Gospel of Life
Disciples + Dwellings



**Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
Central Region's
Fall Gathering**

“Hearing God's Voice”
Saturday, Sept. 20

9:30 a.m.
Registration and Fellowship

10 a.m. – Noon
Meeting and Presentation

Featuring:
Kathy Payne
Spiritual Director
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

St. Teresa of Avila Fellowship Hall
1576 Tim Holt Drive
Harrah, OK 73045

RSVP to Mary Ann Schmitt (405) 650-9674 or sgmaschm@gmail.com by Sept. 15. Registration fee of \$10 is payable at the door. There will be a Silent Auction, so please bring any items you wish to donate.



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**Sept. 11, 18, 25
6:30-8:30 p.m.**
Cost: \$50

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Light refreshments provided

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HOPE RENEWED

FR. KENNETH SCHMIDT

Ken Schmidt is a cofounder of Trauma Recovery Associates, which hosts trauma recovery groups in the local jail, probation program, domestic violence shelter, and for the community at large. He has trained mental health professionals and spiritual caregivers around the globe.

13 SEPT. 2025

9 a.m - 12:30 p.m

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

3214 N. Lake Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

For more information contact
Lisa Carrasco: (405) 709-2709
Lcarrasco@archokc.org



A way to ease your tax burden

csfok.org 405-709-2700

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

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

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



Experts share 6 ways to help prevent suicide ahead of Suicide Prevention Month

By Katie Yoder
OSV News

(OSV News) – Everyday people, including Catholics and their churches, can help prevent suicide and save lives, according to experts on the issue.

Ahead of National Suicide Prevention Month in September, ministry leaders and crisis experts are listing practical steps that individuals, families and churches can take to help prevent suicide. For many of them, this issue is also a personal one: They have experienced losing a loved one who died by suicide.

In the United States, nearly 50,000 people died by suicide in 2023, which amounts to about one person every 11 minutes, according to numbers listed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The government agency reports that many more think about or attempt suicide.

An estimated 12.8 million adults seriously considered suicide, 3.7 million planned a suicide attempt and 1.5 million attempted suicide in 2022. The numbers are rising: suicide rates increased roughly 36% between 2000 and 2022.

In the hopes of saving more lives, four experts shared their advice. Their comments also come before November, when the pope's prayer intention is for the prevention of suicide. Here are their recommendations:

1. Take mental health as seriously as physical health.

These experts emphasized the importance of mental health. "If you're thinking of suicide, treat that the same way you would

if you were having chest pains or maybe tingling in your arms," said Deacon Ed Shoener, president of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, a lay association dedicated to helping people with mental illness and their families. "You'd call someone and have it checked out; you're worried about maybe a heart attack or a stroke.

"Similarly, if you're having thoughts of suicide, don't feel ashamed, just be concerned and make it a point to talk to your doctor, or if you know a therapist, but talk to someone about it. It's a warning sign that you need to examine and see if there's something more to it than just passing thoughts or having a bad day."

2. Know the warning signs.

Learning the warning signs for suicide can help, according to experts like Wendy Martinez Farmer, vice president of 988 strategy, quality improvement and clinical standards at Vibrant Emotional Health. Her nonprofit runs 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988 Lifeline), which provides 24/7 call, text and chat access to crisis counselors who can help people facing a suicidal crisis or any kind of emotional distress, she said.

In comments emailed to OSV News, Martinez Farmer listed signs that "may help determine if an individual is at risk for suicide, especially if the behavior is new, has increased, or seems related to a painful event, loss or change."

Those are:

- * "Talking about wanting to die or to harm themselves."
- * "Looking for a way to harm themselves, like searching online or buying a gun."

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

- * "Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live."
- * "Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain."
- * "Talking about being a burden to others."
- * "Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs."
- * "Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly."
- * "Sleeping too little or too much."
- * "Withdrawing or isolating themselves."
- * "Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge."
- * "Extreme mood swings."

3. If you suspect someone is thinking about suicide, talk to them about it.

These experts encouraged people to reach out to those who may be considering suicide.

"If you think someone is suicidal or thinking of that, don't be afraid to ask them," Deacon Shoener said. "One, it signals that you're open and willing to talk about mental health and matters such as that – and it also says you're there, ready to help them in case they are actively suicidal."

For families or church leaders who see warning signs, Martinez Farmer provided tips for interacting with those who are struggling, including:

- * "Be direct. Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide."
- * "Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings."
- * "Be nonjudgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or whether feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture on the value of life, as individuals in suicidal crisis are often experiencing the impact of serious mental illness and may not be in a place where this kind of discussion is helpful."
- * "Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support."
- * "Don't dare them to do it."
- * "Don't act shocked. This will put distance between you."
- * "Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek support."
- * "Offer hope that alternatives are available, but do not offer glib reassurance."

Elizabeth Leon, director of family support at Red Bird Ministries, a Catholic grief support ministry that runs a suicide loss program called "Remember," recommended practicing what to say. In emailed comments, she suggested phrases such as, "I am concerned that you

are so unhappy. Are you thinking about suicide?" and "Are you safe? Do you feel safe to be alone right now?"

"Many people with suicidal thoughts will not ask for help, so having the courage to reach out to them is critical," said Leon, whose father-in-law and close friend's teenager died by suicide. "Many well-meaning family and friends may minimize or deny concerns about fearing that someone may be suicidal, but we must have courage to have the hard conversation out of love."

She shared additional tips to keep in mind when speaking with someone who may be considering suicide, including:

- * "Understand that asking someone about suicide does NOT make it more likely that they will desire to make a suicide attempt."
- * "It is likely that your concern for the other person comes from a place of care and compassion and a desire for the person to be safe and to not feel alone. This can be vital to a person having suicidal thoughts because they already feel unnoticed and unimportant."
- * "Get comfortable with the term 'suicide' and be direct in talking to someone about your concerns."
- * "Practice prevention with these three simple phrases that I learned after a teen died by suicide in our community: Moments pass. You matter. Please stay."
- * "Remember there is no one 'typical' person that is at risk for suicide. People of all ages and stages can be at risk and may or may not show typical warning signs."

4. Don't be afraid to take action.

Sometimes action is needed, experts said. "If someone expresses struggle with suicidal ideation, listen nonjudgmentally and stay with them until they find help," said Marian Sister Kathryn Maney, director of Red Bird Ministries' program "Remember."

If loved ones are exhibiting warning signs, Martinez Farmer also suggested, "Take action. Remove means, like weapons or pills."

5. Know the resources available for you and them.

These experts wanted people to know they are not alone. Among other resources, Sister Kathryn and Martinez Farmer recommended 988 Lifeline, which helps

continued from page 8

millions of people every year. Martinez Farmer said they also provide crisis support for people who are worried about a loved one or parishioner.

For her part, Leon spoke about received training from QPR Institute, which is dedicated to saving lives and reducing suicidal behaviors with suicide prevention training. Their protocol is to "Question, Persuade and Refer."

"After you ask someone about suicide, be ready to listen non-judgmentally and to give them your full attention," Leon said. "Have a plan of where to refer them if you are able to persuade them to get additional help."

6. Encourage your church to make a difference.

Churches, the experts said, can make a difference with this issue.

"Religious communities can be places of solace, where people turn for guidance through difficult times," Martinez Farmer said. "Both the clergy and congregants can play a role in building a culture where everyone feels safe, seen, and supported by leading with compassion, listening with care, serving one another, and fostering belonging."

"A supportive church community can help someone realize that they don't have to deal with challenges on their own. Having a group of people who encourage help-seeking and support is one of the most important aspects of suicide prevention."

Sister Kathryn, whose biological sister died by suicide, said parishes can offer assistance through her "Remember" program, which calls itself the first-ever Catholic support group model for those grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. She listed more ways churches can play a role:

- * "Be aware of local, faithful Catholic mental health professionals and services."

* "Provide parishioners with information regarding mental health awareness."

* "Key parish staff members should know/be trained in what to do when a suicidal parishioner seeks help."

* "Pray for those who struggle with mental illness and their families."

* "There are also programs like the Saint Benedict Labre Guild for families who are carrying the cross of mental illness."

For his part, Deacon Shoener said Catholics should "think about starting some kind of a mental health ministry in the parish where people can openly talk about their mental health challenges and know that they're welcomed by a loving parish community that understands."

His own group provides resources for parishes and dioceses to start ministries.

"The simple thing would be simply to pray for people who are suicidal, put that into the intercessory prayers on occasion ... that say something to the effect that, 'We pray today for people who are suicidal and entertaining thoughts of suicide, that that they will find the help and care that they need.'

"A simple prayer like that goes a long way towards sending the message to people that the church and their parish community understands and wants to help."

– An extra note for those grieving loved ones –

Deacon Shoener shared an additional message for family and friends grieving loved ones and who may feel guilt for not being able to prevent their suicides.

"We will never know this side of heaven why our loved ones died by suicide," said the deacon, whose daughter died by suicide. "Because suicide is an irrational act."

"Many people who die by suicide actually think they're helping their loved ones, that they're doing the best thing, that it's the right thing to do. Suicide makes no sense. So

IN MEMORY OF THOSE LOST TO SUICIDE

9th Annual Mass of Remembrance

Friday, September 12, 2025
at 6 PM

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
1901 NW 18th St, OKC, OK 73106

Officiant: Rev. John Paul Lewis

For people of all faiths who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide, as well as those wishing to provide support.

A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

For more information, visit stfrancisokc.com or call (405) 528-0485.

LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE:   @StFrancisOKC




it's hard to try to figure it out and to place blame on yourself for your loved one's death."

Deacon Shoener wrote a prayer for those whose loved ones have died by suicide: "Prayer after Suicide," published in the "The Notre Dame Book of Prayer" from Ave Maria Press.

And he wants people to know:

"Don't feel guilty. Be assured that your loved ones fell under the arms of a merciful and loving and understanding Christ," he said. "And pray for your loved one and pray to your loved one. There's always hope."

Katie Yoder writes for OSV News from the Washington area.




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Hope is a FREE chat service providing encouragement and strategies on how to manage everyday stress and anxiety using Chatbot technology.


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- Hope offers proven technology to offer custom mental health help when and where you need it. She is used by over 13 million users world wide.

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Questions? E-mail counseling@ccaokc.org

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Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, and Oct. 28.
Consecration day Nov. 1

Registration:



Cost for book Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. D. Calloway, MIC: \$15

For More Information:
405 414 0043
drlangetts@gmail.com



ARCHBISHOP PAUL S. COAKLEY'S
Red Mass
For Legal Professionals


Thursday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m.
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
3214 N. Lake Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Judges and law professors are invited to robe and take part in the entrance procession.

Reception to follow in Connor Center

GUEST SPEAKER
MARTIN NUSSBAUM
Partner, First and Fourteenth, PLLC

Scan to RSVP




Celebrating 150 years of the mission of the Church in Oklahoma

continued from page 1

A history of God's providential love

A particular set of historic, political and ecclesial circumstances came together in the establishment of the Catholic Church in what was at the time was Indian Territory.

The desire and request for the sacramental life of the Church came from Native American People who had been forcibly removed from their ancestral lands to land that the U.S. government had set aside as their new homeland. A good number of these Indian people were faithful Catholics, especially among the Potawatomi and Osage nations.

They desired the sacraments and hoped that their children might also have access to Catholic education and schools. Unfortunately, the missionary priests who had ministered to them were not able to accompany them to their new home, and there was no established jurisdiction of the Church to meet their needs.

Father Isidore and Brother Dominic had come to the United States from France to establish a monastery with missionary vision. First arriving in New Orleans, Bishop Napoleon Perche did not have a role for him in his diocese. As they looked for another location they heard from Father Maurice Gaillard, S.J., a Jesuit missionary serving among the Potawatomi in Kansas. In a letter he urged the Benedictines to consider ministering to the "abandoned Indians, especially the Potawatomi."

While visiting Paris, Bishop Perche encountered the head of Catholic Foreign Missions, Father Bernard Moreau. Having first rejected the monks when he met them in New Orleans, he now recommended that Indian Territory be established as a prefecture and be entrusted to the care of the two Benedictines who were looking for a home. This is what ultimately happened.

No longer responsible for a vast territory that had

been under his care, Bishop Edward Fitzgerald of Little Rock summoned Father Isidore and Brother Dominic to give them the news that they now were entrusted with the mission of "Western Arkansas," more formally known as Indian Territory.

Father Isidore and Brother Dominic arrived at Atoka, Indian Territory, on Oct. 12, 1875, where they found the only Catholic church built in the territory. Saint Patrick Catholic Church and rectory were not fully constructed and there was a \$300 debt to pay. From that base, they made four excursions around Indian Territory to find the best location for their monastery.

They traveled more than 1,100 miles, visiting Catholics among the Citizen Potawatomi, Osage, Muscogee/Creek, Sac and Fox, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and tribes being confined to reservations around Fort Sill.

In the end, they decided to accept a generous offer from Chief Peter Pomaketak of the Citizen Potawatomi in the central part of the territory. The largely Catholic and French-speaking Citizen Potawatomi Nation thus became instrumental in the establishment of the Catholic Church in what now is Oklahoma.

They would be joined by other monks from France, and later, by the Religious Sisters of Mercy who first came to Sacred Heart, Benedictine Sisters who established their Motherhouse in Guthrie, and Franciscan Sisters who eventually served at Saint Patrick Indian Mission in Anadarko.

All of these dedicated religious sisters were indispensable partners in ministry throughout the territory. Together, they built schools and missions – nurtured by hospitality, hard work, Divine Providence and the faithfulness of the people who made up Catholic communities then – as now.

What began in rejection, has flourished by the grace of God.

For details on the Sesquicentennial observances, visit monksok.org for more information.



(Left) The Sisters of Mercy operated a school of girls at Sacred Heart. They also educated western author Tony Hillerman and his brother Barney. St. Patrick Catholic Church in Atoka.

(Below) St. Patrick Catholic Church in Atoka. It was the first Catholic Church in the territory. Fr. Isidore Robot, O.S.B. and Br. Dominic Lambert, O.S.B. arrived at Atoka, Indian Territory, on Oct. 12, 1875.

Photos St. Gregory's Abbey archives.



Sesquicentennial: first of two

This is the first of two stories leading up to the October celebration of the sesquicentennial – 150 years – of the Catholic Church in Oklahoma. In addition, the archdiocese communications department is working on a commemorative, high-quality magazine to celebrate this time of the Church in Oklahoma, to be distributed this fall. We are also offering a limited number of advertising opportunities. For inquiries, please reach out to John Helsley, jhelsley@archokc.org.



The Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School community welcomed Archbishop Coakley, newly ordained and new-to-Cristo Rey OKC Fr. Jonah Beckham, and former chaplain Fr. Zac Boazman back to campus on Aug. 22. Archbishop Coakley blessed the new school year and the school's new chapel. The celebration marked the start of a year filled with faith, fellowship and growth. "We are excited for all that God has in store for our students this year, especially in his physical presence in our new chapel," said Interim President Kelsey Herman. "Beginning the year with the archbishop's blessing reminds us of the strength of our community and our mission in the Church." *Photos Owen Canfield (above) and Cristo Rey OKC yearbook staff.*



Helping You Find

Peace, Power, and Passion
After Your Divorce

Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. Developed and hosted by Rose Sweet, *Surviving Divorce* features experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Ph.D., Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Fr. Steve Porter, S.T.L., Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., and Christopher West. It also includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families. They courageously share their stories with heart, humor, and wisdom. As they witness to their pain and the healing power of Christ in their lives, participants will laugh, cry, and identify with their journeys from heartache to healing.

For Men and Women Seeking Healing from Divorce

Surviving Divorce will help you:

- Work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce.
- Find personal healing and hope.
- Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for you.
- Gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share your experiences.
- Navigate new concerns like custody, court hearings, and finances.

Dates/Times/Location
September 3, 10, 17, 24
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
November 5, 12, 19
December 3
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
St. Eugene Conference Rooms

Registration
Scan to Register ->
<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=bb1132b1-b3af-44cf-98fa-7a8859820c70>

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40 DAYS FOR LIFE
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

PRESENTS
Abby Johnson

Abby, initially a Planned Parenthood employee who believed she was helping women, experienced a profound change of heart after witnessing an ultrasound-guided abortion, leading her to share her story in the book and film "Unplanned." She is the author of several books, including "The Walls Are Still Talking" and "Fierce Mercy." She is the CEO of two successful pro-life non-profits and hosts her own podcast, "Politely Rude." One of Abby's ministries, And Then There Were None, has helped almost 700 abortion workers leave the abortion industry and come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sept. 29 | 6 - 8 p.m.

FINGER SANDWICHES, SNACKS, DESSERTS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Great Hall
900 S. Littler Ave.,
Edmond, OK 73034

Contact Mike Hurney (918) 625-7619 for any questions.

Catholic Foundation
OF OKLAHOMA



Photos provided.



The Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School Draft Day was held on July 30 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. All students found out where they will be working for the 2025-26 school year. *Photos Molly Mullins/Sooner Catholic.*



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Beyond THE Braid

As children return to the classroom, let us remember that some Native American students grow their hair long as part of their culture. Many tribes have different beliefs on how long hair is sacred and many of the Native American students with long hair are boys, who are sometimes bullied or mistaken for girls.

While not everyone knows or understands the significance of long hair among Native Americans, this can be an opportunity to teach and share a different culture. One of the ways to show respect is to not touch a student's hair.

We pray for all students, from all cultures. May they continue to learn and grow, in their school studies, in their faith and in their traditional Native American ways.

AMERICAN INDIAN CATHOLIC OUTREACH
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Book review: ‘Leo XIV: portrait of the first American pope’

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

Matthew Bunson is the author of 56 books. He had written biographies on Pope Leo's two predecessors, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, the main reason I chose to read his book on our new pope instead of one of the several others that have been published on Pope Leo.

Bunson is the vice president and editorial director of EWTN News. He has a good reputation as a Catholic author and journalist.

The author provides an introduction to the election of Pope Leo and the situation of the Catholic Church at this time and a history of what has led up to the Church of today. His biography of Pope Leo is divided into three parts:

1. Pope Leo's early life and as an Augustinian friar.

2. Pope Leo's time in Peru as a missionary priest and then as a bishop.

3. Pope Leo's involvement in Church affairs and his election.

Bunson provides biographical material with commentary of what was historically going on in the Church and where Pope Leo was at the time. He quotes Pope Leo and others throughout the book and provides endnotes.

This book is lively and moves along at a good pace. There are no maps, but there is one black and white illustration of the pope's coat of arms which has a description with it.

Bunson gives a short history of the Augustinian

ian friars of which Pope Leo is a member and he provides a biography of some famous Augustinian saints, like Saint Augustine of Hippo, his mother, Saint Monica, Saint Thomas of Villanova, and some others of the order. It was reported that the pectoral cross he wore at his appearance on the loggia of Saint Peter's has relics of these saints.

The author discusses Pope Leo's ethnicity and his genealogy. Pope Leo's background is a racial and national mix which is not uncommon in American society. Pope Leo's family was not wealthy in southern Chicago. His family was devout Catholic, one involved in their local parish activities.

The author notes that the pope's home parish church is not being used anymore, following a consolidation with others since Catholics decreased in numbers in that area.

Bunson points out that Pope Leo has an interesting life experience of his early days and his religious life to that of being a missionary in Peru. His short time in the curial position he held before he was elected gives him some world knowledge that will be of benefit to him as his pontificate continues. His pontificate could be a long one, since he turns 70 on Sept. 14.

Bunson also points out that the pope is returning to some things that Pope Benedict and his predecessor did, which Pope Francis did

not like doing, such as wearing the red mozetta and the stole. At this writing I have noticed Pope Leo has not had his coat of arms embroidered onto his white sash.

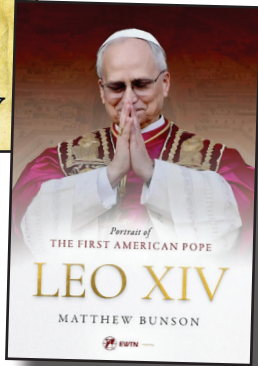
Pope Leo, as he has said, chose the name "Leo" to hearken back to Pope Leo XIII and "Rerum Novarum," which is his encyclical on social justice. Leo XIV wants to emphasize the Church's social teachings and other teachings of the Church. What this new Leonine papacy will be is anyone's guess, but it has started off with a bang.

This book is highly recommended to those looking for an exciting and a quick and reliable introduction into Pope Leo XIV and what is in his background and what we can expect in the future from him.

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

■ Bunson, Matthew.
"Leo XIV: portrait of the first American pope." Irondale, Alabama: EWTN Publishing, Inc., 2025. 137 pages.
ISBN978-1-68278-437-2

Book Review



Jobs Box

Human resources generalist - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a human resources generalist with specific emphasis on benefit administration, recruiting and staffing. Will be responsible for oversight and administration of the archdiocese employee benefits, as well as the 403b and teacher retirement plans. Assist with ongoing recruitment and onboarding processes, and provide guidance with policy review and employment law compliance to all archdiocese locations. Must have a minimum of five years' experience in human resources with extensive knowledge and background in benefit administration. A bachelor's degree in human resources, business administration or a related field preferred. Must be practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Customer service, public speaking, project management and basic accounting knowledge strongly preferred. To submit cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Director of music ministries - OKC

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church is seeking a full-time director of music ministries. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of music ministry, including developing and administering a multifaceted, prayerful liturgy and music program. Specific job responsibilities

include, but are not limited to selecting, planning, and practicing hymn accompaniments for all liturgies, including weekend Masses, holy days, parish events, weddings, funerals, and sacramental rites. Work to develop a children's choir, including recruiting members and coordinating rehearsals. Bachelor's degree in music or similar area of study, with five years of choral experience in a pastoral setting. Ability to play both piano and organ as well as experience as a skilled music director. Must be an active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, possess an ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations. Bilingual in English and Spanish preferred. Send cover letter and resume to info@stcharlesokc.org.

Director of religious education, formation - OKC

St. Eugene Catholic Church is seeking a full-time director of religious education and formation to oversee and coordinate all religious education programs, develop and support catechetical staff and volunteers, plan sacramental preparation, collaborate closely with parish clergy and staff to support parish-wide initiatives and maintain accurate records and ensure compliance with diocesan guidelines. Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred; higher education in theology, religious education or related field preferred; experience

in Catholic religious education or pastoral ministry preferred; strong computer and organizational skills; must be a team player with excellent communication and leadership skills; practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Send cover letter and resume to manager@steugenes.org.

Director of music - Norman

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Norman is seeking a full-time director of music. Must be proficient in organ, skilled in conducting liturgical choirs, and experienced in planning Catholic liturgical rites. Competitive salary. Send resume to jirwin@stjosephsokc.org.

Office manager - OKC

St. Joseph Old Cathedral is seeking a detail-oriented, personable office manager to oversee daily church operations and support. Responsibilities include managing the church calendar, communications, membership records, and coordinating events and volunteers. Organization, proficiency with office software, ability to work independently, and commitment to confidentiality are essential to this role. Contact office@sjcokc.org.

Child care workers - OKC

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is seeking two child care workers in the Kid's Club 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 3. Must be over 18 and have

completed Safe Environment training. Contact Dcn. John Harned at deaconjohn@stfrancisokc.com.

Accountant - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an accountant to assist the finance director in executing the financial plan and accounting practices of Catholic Charities. This includes recording financial transactions in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures, ensuring compliance with department internal controls, evaluating financial and reporting questions and issues as they arise, and communicating financial results and expectations with the directors. Bachelor's degree in accounting, CPA preferred; three plus years' experience in accounting, financial reporting, accounts payable, payroll, accounts receivable. Non-profit experience preferred. Send cover letter and resume to ncurran@ccaokc.org.

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@sjnokc.org.

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

Making Sense of Bioethics

A gift, but with an expiration date

Diagnosed in 1995 with the most aggressive form of brain cancer, known as glioblastoma multiforme, and given only a few months life expectancy, Ben Williams, a professor of psychology at the University of California San Diego, summed up his experience this way:

"When I was diagnosed with brain cancer, I knew almost nothing about the disease, other than it was one of the worst medical diagnoses you can get. ... I hadn't even heard of a glioblastoma at that point. I was told it was the worst kind of tumor you could have, and that nobody survived it. ... For the first several months, most of my thinking was: 'I'm going to die — how am I going to deal with it?'"

"I thought a lot about death. When you receive a diagnosis that everyone tells you is terminal, that no one survives it, it's impossible not to become depressed by that information. I look at pictures from that period of time, and clearly I was depressed. It wasn't until I began doing research that said there was a possibility, that there are things that you can do that would be helpful, that I began to think, 'Well, this is worth at least making the fight.'"

The bewildering experience of receiving an adverse diagnosis reminds us how personal our physical health is. In a certain sense, nothing could be more intimate or immediate. As we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we

struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, it can seem that our bodily health is the highest good there is, the summum bonum, almost an "absolute" good.

Declining health can trigger feelings of sadness and depression as we sense our life slipping through our fingers, and sometimes can lead to dark temptations like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. We may fall prey to oft-repeated cultural cliches such as: "I'm free to do what I want with my life and health," or even, "My life is no longer worth living."

Life and health are clearly very important goods. They are instrumental goods, enabling us to pursue and partake of other important goods, like interpersonal and familial relationships, employment, recreation, etc. Health and well-being are also "goals" worthy of energetic pursuit to the extent that we have some control over a limited set of variables like exercise and nutrition that affect our health.

While it is good to take steps to improve our health, we are not "entitled" to good health, nor is it a "right" we can lay claim to. We have not originally conferred the state of life or health upon ourselves but have received it gratuitously from the Giver of all gifts — a gift with an earthly expiration date. Our health and well-being, marked by fragility, are transient and contingent, and therefore not "absolute goods."

Health challenges, of course, are part of almost every person's life journey. We may struggle not only with physical maladies, but also with mental limitations like ADHD, obsessive compulsive disorders, depression or any number of other agonizing mental conditions that constrict our well-being and livelihood.

As we age and face an expanding list of ailments and infirmities, new opportunities for growth and transformation arise. Contending with weakness and sickness, for example, draws us into connection with other people, as we come to depend on them for assistance.

When we face a worsening health situation, we should earnestly pursue several goals: first, to take responsible steps to restore our health, including doctor visits, medications, surgeries, or other reasonable interventions; second, to seek to reflect more deeply, and in spiritual terms, on the meaning of our health burdens; and third, to work to accept our situation without fear, desperation, or irresponsible actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Coming to accept our situation, with all its ups and downs, helps us begin preparing for our earthly end, death itself, prompting us to take up core questions about life's meaning, the survival of the soul, life after death and even the resurrection of the body.

The afflictions we struggle



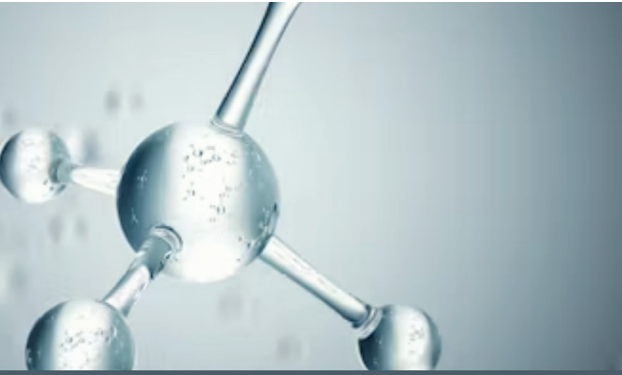

Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic Bioethics Center

against can lead us actively to surrender and accept where we are, even as we turn to the One who sees all things and knows the specifics of our situation better than we do.

When our lives are marked by good health, vigor and strength, we may hesitate to engage these kinds of core questions in any meaningful way. We tend to look past important transcendental priorities and focus on immediate temporal matters.

Health, then, is an instrumental good, but so is sickness. Both can serve to point us towards higher, more spiritual goods. At some point, we may even be able to see our ailments as a blessing and a gift from the One who better sees the big picture of our life's journey.


Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as senior ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See nbccenter.org and fathertad.com.



ANNUAL LECTURE FAITH AND SCIENCE

This year, we will be joined by Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, one of the nation's leading bioethicists, who will be speaking on:

Transgenderism



Sept. 12
7-9 p.m.
Connor Center
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City

Cost: \$5
Light refreshments provided

altuminstitute.org/discipleship/colloquium
For more information call or e-mail at: (405) 720-2759 afaire@archokc.org



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



Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Recordando a santa Teresa de Calcuta

El mundo la conoció como la madre Teresa de Calcuta. Cuando yo era un joven seminarista en Roma, tuve el inesperado privilegio de conocerla cuando celebré una Misa para sus hermanas en un comedor social que ellas dirigían cerca del Coliseo. Ella ya era una celebridad mundial.

Lo que me impactó de ese encuentro casual en la sacristía fue su pequeña estatura, su profunda humildad y su sonrisa radiante.

Al acercarnos al aniversario de la muerte y festividad de santa Teresa de Calcuta el 5 de septiembre, nos brinda la oportunidad de hacer una pausa y reflexionar sobre su vida y su compromiso con los más pobres entre los pobres.

Aunque han pasado 28 años desde su fallecimiento, su legado sigue muy vivo. Recordar su testimonio es un don para todos nosotros, al igual que ella fue un don para todos aquellos con quienes se reunió y a quienes sirvió.

Durante su vida, tuvo uno de los rostros más reconocibles del mundo. La mayoría recuerda imágenes de su rostro arrugado y su amable sonrisa enmarcada por su sari azul y blanco.

Ya fuera cargando a un niño en Gaza, hablando ante las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York o atendiendo a un paciente con SIDA en Moscú, ella personificaba la compasión y la humanidad más absolutas hacia todos.

Ella era una celebridad para la prensa (aunque no al estilo Hollywoodense), pero sí tenía el carisma necesario para hacer brillar cualquier escenario. Tomada de la mano de la princesa Diana, hablando con Nelson Mandela o junto al presidente Clinton, la madre Teresa brillaba entre ellos como una verdadera estrella pública. Todos sabíamos que era extraordinaria en casi todos los aspectos.

La madre Teresa fue capaz de redefinir la imaginación religiosa del mundo al dedicarse

por completo a servir a los más pobres entre los pobres. Desde su primera aparición destacada en los medios de comunicación, gracias al reportaje de Malcolm Muggeridge en la BBC, hasta la avalancha mediática que acompañó su fallecimiento, ella fue el rostro de la compasión para toda la humanidad.

En una época en la que la reputación de muchas figuras religiosas conocidas en todo el mundo se vio empañada por escándalos, ideologías destructivas o la hipocresía, ella fue aclamada por su autenticidad y humildad. Casi todo el mundo percibía la bondad que irradiaba. De hecho, era una bondad a la que era casi imposible no sentirse atraído.

Hay tres aspectos de su ministerio que debemos tener en cuenta a medida que se aproxima su festividad.

“Santa Teresa de Calcuta nos recuerda que podemos satisfacer nuestros anhelos como ella lo hizo, al encontrar a Jesús en las calles apartadas y los callejones olvidados de nuestras vidas. Cuando lo hagamos, encontraremos lo que ella encontró: una vida transformada”.

El primero de ellos era su capacidad para ver más allá de la primera impresión. Aunque esto podría parecer menos importante que su labor de alimentar a los hambrientos o rescatar a los empobrecidos, es precisamente lo que constituye el centro de su capacidad única.

En todo momento, ella insistía en que al atender las necesidades de los más pobres del mundo, veía y servía al mismísimo Jesucristo.

Ella solo repetía lo que Jesús enseñó en Mateo 25, pero su capacidad para ver más allá de la miseria

hizo que su ministerio fuera tremendamente eficaz. No solo cubría las necesidades materiales de los demás; sino que veía en cada persona una dignidad y una identidad auténticas que la impulsaban a actuar. Sus acciones respondían a lo que veía. No se limitaba a cumplir con una simple obligación.

En un mundo en el que solemos sentirnos oprimidos por las exigencias de lo que debemos hacer, ella nos enseñó a ver primero lo que era verdadero. Una vez que la verdad quedó establecida, el mundo se mostró diferente. La caridad se percibió de manera diferente, más personal y esperanzadora.

El segundo aspecto: ella saciaba el hambre de Dios en los corazones de

muchos. Debido a la complicada historia de nuestros tiempos, con frecuencia el hablar de religión se reduce a tomar partido o defender el pasado. Esas conversaciones no satisfacen nuestro anhelo de un encuentro auténtico con Dios.

San Agustín escribió que nuestros corazones están inquietos hasta que descansen en Dios. La madre Teresa era alguien que comprendía la gran hambre de nuestra época y se lo aseguraba a los más hambrientos: Dios habla a través del corazón. Ella invitó a otros a participar en ministerios de cuidado compasivo, acciones que implicaban significados más allá de las fronteras de las etiquetas y las filiaciones.

Nunca tuvo miedo de mantenerse firme en los fundamentos de la doctrina y las creencias. Nunca dudó cuando le preguntaban sobre el origen de su visión o las raíces más profundas de su vocación como hermana.

Madre Teresa no dudaba en llamar a las personas a la fidelidad honesta a Dios. Pero lo hacía mediante una invitación. Al invitar continuamente a las personas a encontrar la presencia de Dios en medio de las necesidades de los demás, ella saciaba el hambre de sentido del mundo.

Ella insistía en que Dios no es una proposición ni una idea. Más bien Dios se revela en medio de los más necesitados en el mundo. Si les sirves, encontrarás a Dios.

Su poderosa invitación era participar en el viaje mediante la acción: seguir a la madre Teresa era actuar, no solo hablar.

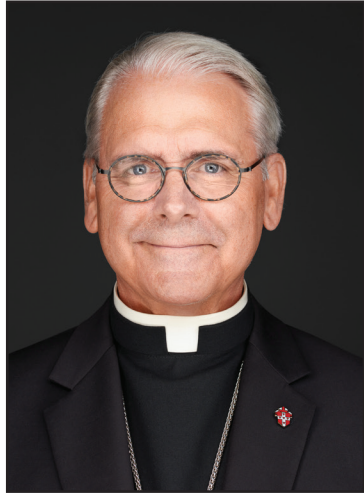
Tercer aspecto: ella era auténtica. El mundo se cansa de la imagen y la personalidad, de la reputación y la publicidad exagerada. Cada uno de estos atributos son manipulados con tanta frecuencia que pierden su significado. La madre Teresa transmitió una vida en la que apenas había espacio entre la imagen y la realidad; ella era el símbolo en el que se había convertido. Asumir su ejemplo era asumir la autenticidad de una verdadera servidora.

Esto resultó muy atractivo para muchos. Anhelamos lo que es real y ansiamos todo lo que es sustancial. La madre Teresa era tal y como se decía, y cuando el mundo la descubrió, no se cansó de ella.

En la capilla de Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, la cual está dedicada a santa Teresa de Calcuta, están inscritas en la pared las palabras que la madre Teresa puso en cada capilla de su orden: “Tengo sed”.

Esta frase da la bienvenida a todos los que vienen a orar allí. Estas palabras, pronunciadas por Jesús en la Cruz, expresan la invitación a servir a Jesús que sufre, y a todos los que sufren como Él sufrió. Alcanzar la Cruz para tocar al Cristo doliente es el legado de la madre Teresa. Pero también nos describe a todos nosotros, que estamos sedientos de servir a los demás a medida que crecemos en nuestra humanidad.

Santa Teresa de Calcuta nos recuerda que podemos satisfacer nuestros anhelos como ella lo hizo, al encontrar a Jesús en las calles apartadas y los callejones olvidados de nuestras vidas. Cuando lo hagamos, encontraremos lo que ella encontró: una vida transformada.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

La Conferencia de Discipulado se hace eco del tema de la esperanza

La tercera Conferencia anual de Discipulado, celebrada el 9 de agosto en el Centro de Convenciones de Oklahoma City, acogió a más de 1000 asistentes de toda la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City para una jornada de formación, compañerismo y aliento lleno de fe. El evento ofreció una oportunidad dinámica para que católicos de todos los orígenes crecieran como discípulos y se equiparan para convertirse en formadores de discípulos en sus parroquias y comunidades.

Centrada en el tema de la esperanza, en consonancia con el actual Año Jubilar de la Esperanza de la Iglesia, la conferencia contó con charlas inspiradoras, celebraciones sacramentales y una alegre construcción de comunidad.

Tres conclusiones principales definieron la experiencia:

1. Enseñanzas llenas de esperanza basadas en el Evangelio.

Los ponentes transmitieron mensajes ricos y relevantes a un público numeroso. Heather Khym abrió los corazones con su charla “Encontrar a Cristo en los Evangelios”, mientras que Karlo Broussard, doctor en Filosofía, exploró el “Esplendor de la fe católica”. Roxane Salonen ofreció orientación sobre “Cuando los seres queridos abandonan la Iglesia”, proporcionando una perspectiva compasiva y esperanzadora. El día culminó con una emotiva ponencia del padre Dave Pivonka, quien animó a los asistentes a abrazar “La misión y el Espíritu Santo” con renovado entusiasmo.

2. Un testimonio vivo de la vida sacramental

Los sacramentos fueron el centro

de la conferencia. El arzobispo Paul Coakley celebró la misa diaria, centrando el evento en la Eucaristía. A lo largo del día, casi un tercio de los asistentes participó en el sacramento de la reconciliación, y muchos pasaron momentos de tranquilidad en la adoración eucarística, encontrándose con Cristo de manera profunda y personal.

3. Una alegre reunión de la Iglesia en Oklahoma.

Desde jóvenes hasta personas mayores, y asistentes de todos los orígenes, el centro de convenciones se llenó de la alegría de la fe católica. Las salas de reuniones bullían con animadas discusiones, el espacio público se llenó de ministerios y vendedores impulsados por la misión, y los asistentes capturaron momentos de diversión en el fotomatón con la silueta del Papa León. La alegría del discipulado era contagiosa e inconfundible.

En una coincidencia poco probable, el centro de convenciones también acogió una convención de tatuajes de Oklahoma dos pisos más abajo. Algunos de sus asistentes se acercaron con curiosidad al evento de discipulado, donde fueron recibidos por voluntarios sonrientes y cálidas invitaciones a explorar. Una de estas interacciones fue descrita más tarde como una “cita divina”, un recordatorio de que la alegría de un discípulo es a menudo la invitación más poderosa a la fe.

“Durante la Conferencia de Discipulado, tuve un encuentro impactante e inesperado con un señor que claramente venía de la convención de tatuajes que se



La Conferencia de Discipulado de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se celebró el 9 de agosto en el Centro de Convenciones de Oklahoma City. La conferencia contó con la participación del padre Dave Pivonka, presidente de la Universidad Franciscana de Steubenville; Tim Glemkowski, director ejecutivo de Amazing Parish y del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional; y Heather Khym, una conocida podcaster católica y amiga de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Fotos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

celebraba dos pisos más abajo”, dijo Erika Martínez, voluntaria de la conferencia y coordinadora arquidiocesana de los ministerios hispanos. “Entró en nuestro espacio para eventos y yo lo saludé con una sonrisa. Curioso, me preguntó qué tipo de evento era. Le expliqué que se trataba de una conferencia católica centrada en el discipulado y le dije que era más que bienvenido a echar un vistazo.

“Hizo una pausa y dijo en voz baja: “Me bautizaron como católico, pero hace mucho tiempo que no voy a la iglesia”. Luego añadió, casi para sí mismo: “Ni siquiera sé por qué he venido aquí”. Lo miré y le dije simplemente: “Quizás el Señor tenga algo para ti aquí”.



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Sábado, 6 de Septiembre
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Almuerzo Incluido

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
801 NW 50 St., Oklahoma City, OK 73118



REGÍSTRASE






Vayan y Hagan Discípulos

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Briefs

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.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance

A St. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance will be held Sept. 6 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 47943 Abbey Rd. in Konawa. Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Gourd dance is 3-5:30 p.m. Supper is at 6 p.m. and grand entry is at 7 p.m.

Mass of Remembrance

A Mass of Remembrance in memory of people lost to suicide will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 12 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1891 N.W. 18 St. in Oklahoma City. Contact stfrancisokc.com or (405) 528-0485.

Broncho Bash

The fifth annual Broncho Bash is 6:30 -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.

Come and see

The Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are hosting a Come and See weekend retreat for single young women between the ages 18-35 Sept. 12-14 and Oct. 17-19 at the IHM

Motherhouse, 3550 N. 167 St. W in Colwich, Kansas. Visit sistersihmofwichita.org. Contact Sr. Marie Therese at (316) 722-9316; vocations@sistersihmofwichita.org.

Hope Renewed

The archdiocesan marriage and family life and safe environment offices present Hope Renewed with Fr. Kenneth Schmidt 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Fr. Schmidt, cofounder of Trauma Recovery Associates, hosts trauma recovery groups in the local jail, probation program, domestic violence shelter, and for the community. All pastors, deacons, safe environment facilitators, parish secretaries, ministry leaders and educators are invited. Contact Lisa Carrasco at (405) 709-2709 or lcarrasco@archokc.org.

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.

Golf tournament

The Knights of Columbus St John Nepomuk Council 6748 will host its annual golf tournament on Sept. 13 at Surrey Hills Golf Club, 11340 Surrey Hills Blvd. in Yukon. Register at yukonkofc.org or (405) 805-6262. Proceeds will support Knights projects and the Center of Family Love.

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 rachelles_goldsboro@sbcglobal.net, (405) 350-7559.

Mass for Medical Professionals

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, 3214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. Visit archokc.org/medicalmass.

Archbishop’s young adult cookout

Archbishop Coakley’s cookout for young adults will begin with Sunday Mass at 3 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Cathedral Arts Series

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help presents a choral vespers and prelude recital at 5 p.m. Sept. 14 at 3214 N Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. The choir will sing works by Thomas Attwood Walmisley and Anton Bruckner. The prelude recital will be played by Joseph Ripka, canon musician at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, Oklahoma City. A reception will follow in Monsignor Connor Center. Everyone is welcome. Find more recitals at cathedralokc.org/arts.

Alpha

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond is presenting Alpha, a weekly journey exploring the Christian faith at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays beginning Sept. 18. There will be free dinner, childcare and a weekly video presentation followed by discussion. Visit alphausa.org/about.

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.

ACCW fall gathering

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Central Region’s fall gathering “Hearing God’s Voice” is 9:30 a.m. – noon Sept. 20 at the St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church fellowship hall, 1576 Tim Holt Dr. in Harrah. Registration fee of \$10 is payable at the door. Donations for the silent auction are welcome. RSVP by Sept. 15 to Mary Ann Schmitt at (405) 650-9674 or sgmaschm@gmail.com.

Organ recital series

The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church fall organ recital series will feature a performance at 3 p.m. on Sept. 21 with Chris Evatt, director of music and organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Edmond; a choir and organ recital in celebration of the parish’s centennial anniversary at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24; and a performance at 3 p.m. on Nov. 16 by Stephen Wurst, organist at McFarlin United Methodist in Norman. A wine and cheese reception will follow all recitals. St. Francis of Assisi is located at 1901 NW 18 St. in Oklahoma City.

Opening night

The Bl. Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute of St. Joseph Catholic Church will have the opening night for the fall semester at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Metter Room of the parish center, 421 East Acres St. in Norman. Spanish language and cultural studies classes will be offered 7 - 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Register on opening night or on Facebook at bit.ly/BSRHCI-Fall2025. Enrollment ends Sept. 30. Tuition is \$50 per semester. Contact the parish office at (405) 321-8080 and/or e-mail Ignacio Ruiz, Jr. at rother-hispanicinstitute@gmail.com. Visit facebook.com/BSRHCI.

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.

August

31 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

September

1 Labor Day - CPC closed.

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

5 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 p.m.; reconciliation prior to Mass. Call (405) 721-8944, (405) 820-7255.

6 Catechetical Immersion, 8:30 a.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 801 N.W. 50 St. in Oklahoma City. Visit altuminstitute.org/event/971.

6 Unbound Freedom in Christ retreat, 8:30 a.m., Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive, in Oklahoma City. Visit ckokc.org/unbound-prayer-ministry.

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

6 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.

6 St. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance Mass, 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 47943 Abbey Rd., Konawa. Gourd dance 3-5:30 p.m.; Supper 6 p.m.; grand entry 7 p.m.

7 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 3. Interested individuals can join. Contact Bill Full, OFS minister, at billfull1@att.net.

7 Third Order (Lay) Dominicans meeting, 3 p.m. - 5 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 or Cesar Vallejos (405) 706-6271.

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

10 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.

12 Broncho Bash, 6 p.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave., Edmond.

12 Mass of Remembrance in memory of people lost to suicide, 6 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1891 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.

13 National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

13 Day of Reflection, “Modern Day Holiness,” 8:30 a.m., St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee.

13 Knights of Columbus St John Nepomuk Council 6748 golf tournament, Surrey Hills Golf Club, 11340 Surrey Hills Blvd., Yukon.

13 St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church arts and crafts show, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon.

13 Hope Renewed with Fr. Kenneth Schmidt, 9 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City.

13 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.

13 Mass for Medical Professionals, 5 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City.



Young Adult and Campus Ministries Office

The Young Adult and Campus Ministries office holds a variety of events to get OKC young adults and college students involved with their community.

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Fall 2025 Organ Recital Series

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Followed by a wine and cheese reception.

Sunday, Sept. 21
at 3 PM

Chris Evatt
Director of Music &
Organist at Holy
Trinity Lutheran,
Edmond

Friday, Oct. 24
at 7pm

**St. Francis
Choir & Organ
Recital**

Sunday, Nov. 16
at 3pm

Stephen Wurst
Organist at McFarlin
United Methodist,
Norman



ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 NW 18th St., Oklahoma City, OK • 405-528-0485 • stfrancisokc.com

Is there more to life than this?
Honest and open conversations - everyone is welcome.



What: A weekly journey exploring the Christian faith
When: Thursdays at 6:30pm beginning September 18
Where: St. John the Baptist - 9th & Boulevard in Edmond
Why: To feed your body and your spirit

Free Dinner, Free Childcare, Video Presentation





Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass and blessed the newly renovated rectory on Aug. 10 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hobart. *Photos provided.*



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




NATIVE AMERICAN MASS

Nov. 23 | 3 p.m.

**Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine
700 S.E. 89 St., Oklahoma City**

Join Archbishop Paul S. Coakley as he celebrates a Native American Mass sponsored by the American Indian Catholic Outreach.



AMERICAN INDIAN CATHOLIC OUTREACH
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

