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Benedictine Sisters Will Transition Monte Cassino Catholic School Governance to Board

TULSA — After more than a century, the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Joseph Monastery have announced that they will be transitioning the governance of Monte Cassino Catholic School to its Board of Directors — a decision made after thoughtful prayer, discernment, and consultation with the Monastic Council, Bishop David Konderla, and Monte Cassino leadership.

The news was announced publicly in a press release issued on April 2.

Founded with a deep commitment to faith, education, and service, Monte Cassino Catholic School has flourished under the Benedictine Sisters' stewardship, instilling values of prayer, work, and hospitality in generations of students. With the school thriving and well-positioned for the future, the Sisters are confident that the time is right to entrust its continued success to the Board of Directors.

"Our calling has always been to nurture Monte Cassino, ensuring that Benedictine values are woven into the fabric of every student's experience," said Sister Marie

Therese, Prioress of Saint Joseph Monastery. "We believe that mission has been fulfilled, and now, with great confidence, we pass the torch to the school's leadership, allowing us to focus more fully on our core monastic mission—prayer, work, and hospitality."

Monte Cassino will remain an independent Catholic institution firmly rooted in its Benedictine foundation. School administrators and the Sisters are working in close collaboration to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

"The Benedictine Sisters have provided strong, faithful leadership that has positioned Monte Cassino for another century of excellence," said Chris Burke, Head of Schools for Monte Cassino. "We are honored by the trust they have placed in us to carry their legacy forward. Our commitment remains steadfast—to uphold the traditions, values, and academic excellence that define a Benedictine Catholic education."

Larry Rooney, chairman of the Monte Cassino Board of Directors, emphasized the school's bright future. "The Benedictine legacy will endure, and we are deeply grateful for the Sisters' lasting impact on our school and the broader community," he said. "Their influence will forever be at the heart of Monte Cassino."

In addition to this transition, the Benedictine Sisters will be relocating from their current monastery to a new site in the Tulsa area. While the exact location is still being finalized, the move will enable the Sisters to continue their monastic way of life in an environment that supports their mission of prayer and service. Updates on the relocation will be shared as plans progress.

Reflecting on the broader significance of this transition, Bishop David Konderla of the Diocese of Tulsa expressed his appreciation for the Sisters' enduring contributions.

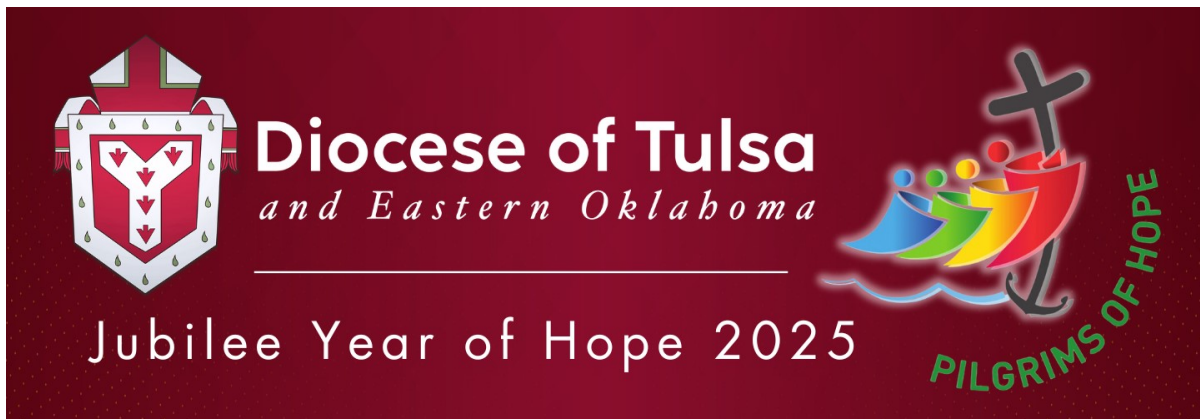
"St. Benedict is often called the Father of Western Monasticism, and the movement he inspired has profoundly shaped our culture, faith, and learning," said Bishop Konderla. "The Catholic and Benedictine heritage is deeply embedded in Monte Cassino and will continue to bear fruit for generations to come. I am proud of all the Sisters have accomplished, both at the school and within our diocese, and I look forward to supporting them as they embark on this new chapter."

The Benedictine Sisters extend their heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and prayers of all those who have been part of this remarkable journey.

Watch a video of the announcement from Sr. Marie Therese Long [here](#).



The Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Monastery



Rain Doesn't Dampen Jubilee Mass as Pilgrims Pray for Healthcare Workers, Sick, Suffering

BY JEAN YAEGER

STILLWATER — Catholic Pokes from Oklahoma State University greeted visitors to St. John Catholic Student Center in Stillwater on Saturday, the fourth stop in the Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage.

Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of pilgrims who traveled from parishes throughout the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma. College students greeted everyone and handed out stamps for the pilgrim passports. After Mass, students gave tours of the wall art and other features of the chapel, which opened two years ago along with classrooms and gathering spaces in the student center complex.

"It's all about welcoming people to a place we consider home," said student development intern Ana Cleary, an OSU senior. Ana referenced a quote from Pope Benedict XVI, who said the Church is alive, and the Church is young.

"That's very true," she said. "Here in Stillwater, you see 700 students going to Mass on Sundays. They want to be here and share the joy and hope."

The pilgrimage theme for April is prayer for healthcare workers, the sick, and the suffering. It was announced that Bishop David Konderla was feeling under the weather and could not attend as planned, so St. John Pastor Fr. Kerry Wakulich celebrated the Mass along with five other concelebrating priests. He urged all Catholics to pray for an outpouring of grace to become healers, servants, and preachers of hope.

"What do people need to hear? They need to hear Jesus loves them. Remember to preach those words, Jesus loves them," Fr. Wakulich said in his homily.

Father Wakulich ended Mass by asking God's grace upon the pilgrims. "We ask you to bless them so that they may tell of your wondrous deeds and give proof of them in their lives," he prayed.

Twelve parishes in Eastern Oklahoma have been selected to host a First Saturday pilgrimage Mass throughout 2025. The next site, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pawhuska, is scheduled for May 3. The theme will be prayers for Grandparents, Parents, Children and Grandchildren.



Photos by Daniel McCay

Holy Week in the Diocese: Tenebrae, Chrism Mass, Seven Church Pilgrimage

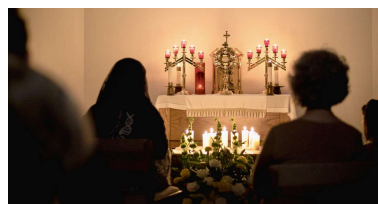
BROKEN ARROW — Multiple observances are planned around the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma during Holy Week and the leadup to Easter Sunday. Many diocesan-wide events take place at Holy Family Cathedral, but parishes will also host events.

Beginning April 13, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, at 7:30 p.m. the Cathedral will host a Tenebrae service — a somber Christian tradition commemorating Christ's suffering and death through a series of scripture readings and the gradual extinguishing of candles, culminating in darkness and silence. Additionally, the Religious Sisters of Mercy will also host Tenebrae services each morning at 6 a.m. on April 17, 18, and 19, at the Saint Francis Hospital Chapel, Yale Campus.

On Tuesday, April 15, Bishop David Konderla will celebrate The Mass of the Oils (also known as Chrism Mass) beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral. The faithful from throughout the diocese are invited. It is also one of the rare occasions when most, if not all, of the priests of the diocese will be in attendance.

On Holy Thursday, April 17, the annual Seven Church Pilgrimage will take place within the Tulsa metro from 8:30 p.m. until midnight. The faithful are encouraged to attend at any or all of the participating parishes — Holy Family Cathedral, Church of Saint Mary, Church of the Madalene, St. Philip Neri University Parish (TU), St. Francis Xavier, Christ the King, and St. Pius X — for Adoration and prayer. For more information, click [here](#).

Parishes across the diocese will hold Stations of the Cross, Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Commemoration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday as part of the Easter Triduum. For times and locations, please



check your local parish website or bulletin. An interactive listing of parishes can be found on the diocese website [here](#).



FROM TOP: Tenebrae service, oils for Chrism Mass, Seven Church Pilgrimage sites. ABOVE: Priests of the Diocese gather for the annual Mass of the Oils (aka Chrism Mass).

Programs on Healing Written by Tulsa's Sister Marysia Weber Featured on Hallow App

TULSA — Sister Marysia Weber, RSM, DO, MA, Vice President, Mission and Ministry Co-chair Ethics at [Saint Francis Health System](#), was recently delighted to learn that three short programs she wrote on healing and anointing of the sick are now featured as free content on a popular Christian website.

"It was suggested to me to contact [Hallow](#), a Christian app that has over 2 million listeners," says Sister Marysia. "I wrote three sections on healing and the anointing of the sick on behalf of [MyCatholicDoctor](#), a telehealth of which I am the chair of the board. To my surprise and delight, Hallow was interested in the 3-part series, flew out to audio record, and have put the three on their platform as a free content page for use by hospitals and patients."

Anointing of the Sick is available on Hallow and was featured on the home screen of the app the first week of April for the Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers. A representative from Hallow also notified Sr. Marysia that the app has created a Healing Category page for MyCatholicDoctor to share with hospitals and patients. That page is free content, so a paid subscription is not required. The Healing Category with Sr. Marysia's programs can be found by clicking [here](#).

Sr. Marysia is a physician certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She completed her residency and fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and has a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. For more about her professional background, click [here](#).

Sr. Marysia is a member of the [Religious Sisters of Mercy](#) of Alma, Mich., a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right dedicated to the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy. Sisters live on the Saint Francis



Hospital campus and work throughout all Saint Francis hospitals.

Movie About Life of Carlo Acutis Debuts Same Day as Canonization, April 27

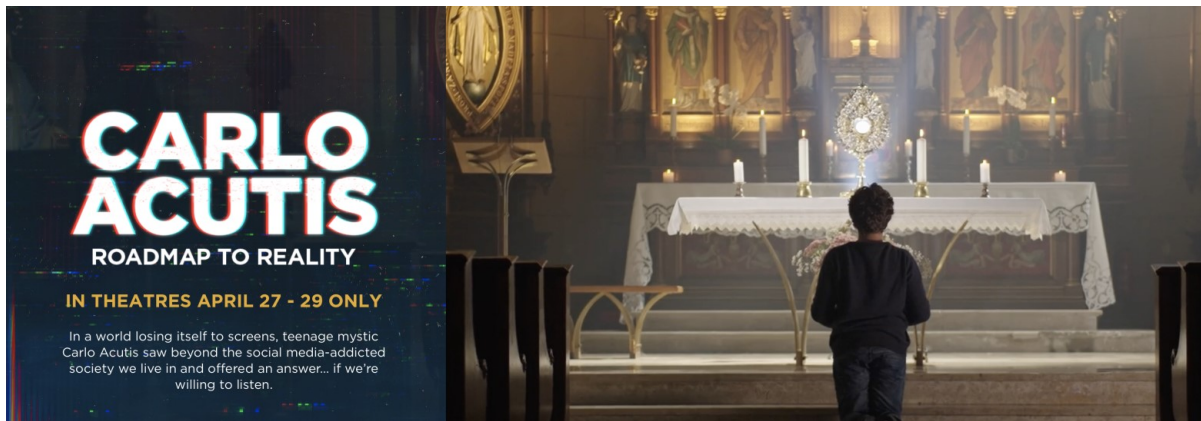
BROKEN ARROW — On Sunday, April 27, the first Millennial Saint, Carlo Acutis, will be canonized in Rome. That same day, a movie about his life, [Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality](#), will be released in theaters nationwide, including several screens in the Tulsa metro.

The film explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world. It tackles urgent technology-related questions, examining how the virtual landscape threatens our fundamental understanding of what it means to be human. The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Carlo's tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home.

"After learning more about the life of Carlo when my diocese named the chapel at our diocesan youth center after him, a family from the Diocese of Beaumont stepped forward to underwrite this film being produced by Wahl Street Productions and Castletown Media," Most Rev. David L. Toups, Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont told fellow bishops in a recent letter.

Bishop David Konderla has encouraged the promotion of the film, especially for the youth of the diocese. For three days it will be shown in 945 theaters across the United States, April 27-29. Once the first 5,000 tickets are sold, the film has been guaranteed an additional three days in theaters. Proceeds of the film will greatly benefit causes for youth, the further spread of the message of Saint Carlo, and help fund future National Eucharistic Congresses.

Parishes are encouraged to invite youth groups to showings and Holy Family Cathedral recently announced that it had bought out a theater showing for that purpose. Locations and ticket sales are available at carloacutisfilm.com.



Sharing Our Faith at Easter: What Do Catholics Believe?

By FAITH Catholic Staff

Catholics make up an astounding number of the world’s population, a whopping 1.3 billion people – that’s nearly 20% of the world! Though our numbers are great, many tend to be poorly catechized (educated) in their own faith and may not be able to succinctly explain the basic tenets of the Catholic faith beyond belief in Christ.

Our core beliefs are found in the [Nicene Creed](#).

We are the original Christian Church, which began when Jesus himself said to the Apostle Peter, “You are the rock on which I will build my church. The gates of hell will not prevail against it.” Every pope since then has been part of an unbroken line of succession since Peter, the first pope.

Early in the history of the Church, there was the belief that when Jesus said at the Last Supper, “Take this and eat – this is my body; take this and drink – this is my blood,” he was giving us the gift of his real presence – his very body and blood – in the form of bread and wine. We call this the Eucharist – a name that comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. The Catholic Mass is a Eucharistic celebration and a celebration of God’s word in Scriptures.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand

We believe that holy men and women who have come before us still pray for us and aid us. We call them saints, and many of our churches are named for them. First among the saints is Mary, a virgin who gave birth to the child Jesus, and who is honored as both the mother of God and the Church.

From the beginning of Christianity, the Catholic Church has handed on God's word to each new generation and defined what it meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Through the centuries, it is the Catholic Church that preserved the Bible, as well as many other written works, through its monasteries and libraries. It instituted the university system in order to educate.

We also believe that beauty is a sign of God's loving presence, so we have commissioned and preserved some of the world's greatest artworks. Without the sponsorship of the Church, Michelangelo would never have painted his famous Sistine Chapel nor carved the Pietà.

Today, the Church is the world's largest charitable organization; we provide a significant portion of social service needs for Americans. There are nearly 250 Catholic universities and colleges in the United States alone, and we also operate this nation's largest nonpublic school system.

We are the body of Christ on every continent who profess and express a faith in Jesus spanning two millennia.

of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

From the Editor...

We are now deep into the Lenten season and eagerly anticipating the beginning of Holy Week and beyond with so many events on the diocesan calendar.

One upcoming event worth mentioning is the annual Faith & Culture Conference, May 2-3, hosted by the Evangelization and Catechesis Department as part of Adult Faith Formation. The aim is to bring local and national educators together in fruitful dialogue to discuss the importance of the Catholic faith in shaping and restoring culture. This year's theme is Human Happiness and the Intellectual Virtues. Speakers include Dr.

Jennifer Frey, Dr. Josh Hochschild, Dr. Kent Lasnoski, Dr. Richard Meloche, and Dr. Matthew Post. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

For the most up-to-date listing of all diocesan events, click [here](#).

Also, a quick shoutout to freelance writer extraordinaire Jean Yaeger who braved Saturday morning's heavy rainstorms during her drive to cover the Jubilee Mass at St. John Catholic Student Center in Stillwater. Up until now, each of the events had been blessed with beautiful blue skies, but inclement weather was bound to happen eventually. We are blessed to have someone of Jean's talent and dedication volunteer her time and effort on behalf of the EOC and its mission to inform. Thank you, Jean!

Until next week, thanks for reading.

Chris Rush
Chief Editor

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" — Philippians 4:8

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