They’re just the tip of the iceberg, but our team thinks these resources can help make this Lent a time of growth.

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But, you’ll notice that fasting – as important as it is – is only one element of Lent. Fasting without any increase of prayer or focus on Christ is just a diet. So, in the lead-up to Lent, let’s consider some resources to help truly enter into the Passion this Lent.

**Gospel reflections**

If there’s anyone in America who knows how to break open the Scriptures, it’s Bishop Robert Barron. Every day of Lent, he’ll be sending a reflection on the day’s Gospel straight to subscribers’ inboxes. Sign up and start each day of Lent meditating on the life of Christ.

If you’re getting to daily Mass as part of your Lenten commitment, having thought about the Gospel before you get there can make the Mass even more fruitful.

**Sacred art**

If you’re an art lover (or want to become one), Lent is the perfect time to let the God of beauty speak to you through artists. Sister Wendy Becket has a new book out this year with a different painting each day of Lent and a meditation on the art. The paintings vary from the secular to the sacred, from the well-known to the more obscure, but each day’s reflection is sure to give you lots to think and pray about.

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**Rose Day honors gift of life at State Capitol**

By Eliana Tedrow

More than 1,000 pro-life supporters convened at the State Capitol Feb. 7 for the annual Rose Day. Participants delivered roses to their legislators as a symbol of support, and to encourage them to back pro-life legislation.

Students from Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School as well as other youth from around the state attended the event.

“It was great to meet a lot of the people who work behind the scenes,” said seniors Nick O’Dell and Zac Marino. They said they enjoyed getting to meet some of their pro-life legislators and are optimistic there are things that can be done to affect pro-life legislation.

Alveda King was this year’s Rose Day keynote speaker. Growing up in the civil rights movement, King, who is a pro-life advocate and niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., said the pro-life movement is a “continuation of the civil right’s struggle.”

“It is a civil right to be born. It is a human right to be born. It is a God-given right to be born,” King proclaimed.

Having two abortions herself, King said she once believed that women’s rights included the right to abort their child. She said they were fighting so hard for women’s rights that they forgot about the rights of the baby.

“Don’t be like the Romans who committed infanticide,” she cautioned. “When you value a human personality, you won’t kill anybody.”

King recalled the words of her uncle who said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Becky VanPool, director of parish outreach and program development for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said, “I think that there is hope to build a generation that understands that life is precious and that there are people willing to help and support them as they go through tough times. We need to continue the fight, continue prayers and continue the love to be able to make a difference.”

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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**For something a little different this Lent**

By Meg Hunter-Kilmer

Aleteia

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**continued on page 3**
A season of new beginnings

Each year, the Church offers us the season of Lent as a time of repentance and renewal. We reflect on our Lenten journey last week on Ash Wednesday. Though the Holy Day of Obligation, Ash Wednesday is among the most popular and well-attended of the year.

It is fitting to begin with a deepening and recognition within us. As we are signed with ashes, we are reminded of our own mortality. We come to this day and to dust we shall return.

We are called to repent and believe the Good News: God loves us. He sent his Son Jesus to suffer and die for us. He has risen from the dead and shares his new life with us. This is the heart of the Lenten observances need to have both an interior quality and an outward expression.

Many individuals, families, and parishes have their own Lenten customs. The meditations of the Cross on Fridays are a tried and true way of accompanying the Lord on the journey of his suffering and death.

Reading and praying with the scriptures, especially the liturgical readings of each day, can be a profound and rich season of grace. Some make the commitment to attend weekday Masses more frequently. Setting aside something for the poor as the fruit of our own self-denial is an important way of combining the disciplines of fasting and almsgiving.

Fasting is a way of expressing our prayer bodily while we are preparing to reflect on our own longings and desires. Our Lenten calendar includes fasting during Lent. The Lord offers us more. The true grace that we are called to for our Lenten journey helps us to express our repentance by opening our hearts both to the Lord and to our brothers and sisters, especially the poor.

We are called to reflect on the great spiritual truths of the faith during Lent: the Incarnation, the death and resurrection of Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the parhelion of the Trinity. We are invited to enter fully into the many ways we are invited to enter fully into the life of the Church and the spiritual fruits of each sacrament.

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The CRS Rice Box is a practical aid for families, classrooms and individuals to help us practice almsgiving.

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(There are even catechetical materials and a mobile app for the CRS Rice Box available at crix.org.)

Practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy can guide our Lenten practice and make it even more fruitful. Visiting the sick, the homebound or the incarcerated, volunteering to help feed the hungry or provide clothing or a loan to someone, can be a way to connect with our neighbors in need.

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. We begin the Lenten journey by being signed to dust we shall return.

During Black History Month in February, the Church honors several leaders of African descent. Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853) was born in HAITI. He was a philanthropist and founder of many Catholic charitable works. As a slave, Victorienne Françoise Toussaint was born in Haiti. She was brought from Haiti to New Orleans during the American Civil War under a popular hairstylist in 1862, which made her the most successful hair stylist and to fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as well. Prominent in the field of social work, she dedicated her life to helping the destitute and to her brothers and sisters, especially the poor.

Many of us are preARReters. We may wait until Lent is nearly over before getting started. Now is the time to prayerfully decide how the Lord is calling us to live more fully the values of the Beatitudes.

What are the sins that we need to uproot from our lives? What is our spiritual goal? What are the steps that we need to take to realize these desires? Start with these questions and formulate a simple and realistic plan.

Lent is a shared journey of faith. Let us pray for one another.

Find more news on the websites

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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A celebration of Catholic leaders during Black History Month

February 18, 2018

Sooner Catholic

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Noted Catholic author visits St. Mary in Ardmore

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

Christopher Padgett, a nationally known Catholic speaker and author, returned to Saint Mary in Ardmore in January to energize the parish confirmation class with their faith.

“Since the confirmation program covers ‘The Chosen Series’ and Padgett is a featured part of that series, by bringing him to Ardmore, it brings the series to life for the students. All 30 candidates for those there for the full day, were fully involved and really enjoyed the activities,” said Julie Hunicutt, the director of religious education.

Padgett is an extremely energetic “It’s fun” and really enjoys working with people of all ages and getting them excited about being Catholic.

His message to the confirmation class: • Ask Christ to be part of your daily life. • Have relationship goals with Jesus. • God loves you despite your sins, but work hard to stop sinning. The students described the retreat as incredible, comfortable and awesome.

“Retreat where the feeling of the Holy Spirit is so strong that it brings a group of kids together, is incredible. The connection of 30 plus people through Christ was beautiful and inspiring,” a student said.

Another student said, “Honestly this retreat was so fun, if I could do something like that every day, I would. He helped us to step out of our comfort zone, and made fun while doing it. This was an awesome experience and it is something I wish everyone could do.”

Confirmation class at Saint Mary in Ardmore.

Alumni remember lesson on racial injustice

By Elaina Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

In October, members of and alumni of St. Gregory’s High School study hall submitted a letter to Abbot Lawrence Staats, and the Student Government Association at Saint Gregory’s University, recognizing an important moment in history that took place in Shawnee more than 65 years ago.

“We thank Father Dan for preserving a place in history for what he did to help achieve racial integration in Shawnee in the school year of 1957-58,” the letter begins. The students recounted a specific incident involving Father Daniel Suellentrop, O.B.B., of Saint Gregory’s Abbey.

On weekends, students from Saint Gregory’s Seminary High School would go to the Hornbeck Theater in Shawnee. One weekend, a Saint Gregory’s High School senior who was African-American, John “Johnny” Jones, went to the theater with his friends.

The management at the theater told Johnny he could not sit with his “white” friends in the main seating area, and had to find a seat in the balcony. This act of racial injustice did not sit well with Father Suellentrop.

“He asked all of us in that study hall if we would like him to tell the manager of the Hornbeck Theater and the staff of the Hornbeck Theater the value of standing up for racial rights and dignity. This makes us proud of Saint Gregory’s High School, the Hornbeck Theater and Father Dan,” the students said.

The son of the owner of the Hornbeck Theater, Ronny Jones, was age 9 at the time of the event, and although he doesn’t recall the incident, he said his dad’s response to Father Dan’s request is not surprising.

“It sounds like him, sounds like my dad,” Ronny Jones recalled. “My dad was very active in community events and volunteered. I’m glad to have this story.” It has been more than 60 years since Father Suellentrop walked into their study hall and stood up for racial justice. Despite time, the students remember this important lesson etched upon their hearts. They said they hope students today will “breathe the air that their teachers 60 years from now.”

Tom Lucas, a student in the study hall the year of the theater incident and one of the major contributors to the letter, said Father Suellentrop’s “was a remarkable human being.”

He did a lot of things right. It just changes your life when you see something like that at such a young age.

Lucas said Father Suellentrop’s actions demonstrated the kind of fight for racial justice that is still important today.

“The | Father Dan spoke for himself and spoke for others,” he recalled. “Johnny Jones was easy going, he fit in with everybody.”

Charles Lewis, a student in the study hall who signed the letter, said Father Dan taught them several life lessons, including standing up against racial injustice and finding “the power in a group.

The letter stated Johnny Jones’s sister, Paula Jones Owen, “He did lots of things right. It’s Ok.”

“I’m glad to hear this story.”

The Sooner Catholic is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Divorced? separated? Now what?

St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond is offering a new ministry for those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken relationship.

“Surviving Divorce” is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues years later.

The program features hope and begins authentic healing. Classes begin April 7. Meet each Saturday at St. Monica, 501 N. Western Ave., from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Register online at stmonica-edmond.org/divorce-ministry or call Jeanne Timmard at (405) 474-7639.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Annual Catholic Appeal.

2018 CATHOLIC DAY
WITH THE OKLAHOMA CITY DODGERS

Sunday, April 29th at 2:05 p.m.
vs. Iowa Cubs

$3,499 IF BOOKED BY MARCH 21, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Walk the Dugout Ordination at St. Teresa Basilica
• Papal audience with Pope Francis
• Barbecue at the Raintree Country Club
• Private Tour of Rome, Arab, Sistine, and D’Avila

For information about the program featured at St. Mary, go online to www.catholicfam.org.

http://www.soonercatholic.org
Easing burdens in the Virgin Islands

Last month, I made a visit to the U.S. Virgin Islands still in the midst of recovery from hurricanes Irma and Maria. The visit was strangely disquieting. I was in a place of great natural beauty, hoping to serve people in their rebuilding efforts, and yet I found the experience highlighted the profound historic and social challenges that are unique to this place.

Bishop Herbert Beckard describes its diocese as “a very poor part of the richest country in the world.” In a press conference hosted by Catholic Extension this past December, he pointed to the double difficulty of people first having lived through two Category 5 hurricanes and second having to respond to the loss of income resulting from the absence of tourists—the industry that teaches nearly everyone on the islands. In my visit to Frederiksted on the southern tip of St. Croix, now the cholera cases facing the U.S. Virgin Islands. There was a massive cruise ship docked at the pier. This is a normal occurrence there, but during my visit, the ship was the temporary home to many relief workers trying to rebuild basic infrastructure.

Just a couple of blocks away stands St. Patrick Church, a historic building badly damaged by the storms. In another two blocks, I visited a former convent that now serves as a retreat center. The bishop dreams of turning it into a basilica; but the church remains badly damaged. Hurricanes are a regular feature of life on the islands. Many years earlier, in the wake of a hurricane that devastated St. Croix, a 17-year-old boy described “the places of almost perpetual lightning, the crash of the falling houses, and the car-pinching shrillest of the distressed.” The year after that, there were 4,000 residents “eke out a living, often in poverty. Hurricanes Lina and Maria tore down some of the distinctions between those two realities, in the middle of which stands many of the Church’s ministries, I visited Saints Joseph High School, Tiara Williams, 17, plans to study nursing next year in college. Photo: Rich Karluk/Catholic Extension.

Catholic Digital Church Conference
Digital Church Conference is scheduled for 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 26 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Cost is $39, includes breakfast and lunch. Registration and breakfast at 8 a.m. Three dynamic speakers talk about perfecting your website, expanding your social network and evangelizing online. Contact (405) 709-2745, stewardship@archokc.org.

The Future City team, teachers and engineering mentors from St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City celebrated their awards that included best essay and first place at regionals. Photo provided.

Real Life Disciples

Tim Muldownen Catholic Extension Column

A number of years ago, I was heading to Bismarck for a business trip. I ran into a friend the week before. When they heard I was going to Bismarck, their reaction was automatic, “Oh, you have to go to this little restaurant up north of the city!” It was called the MacKenzie River Pizza, Grill & Pub. At our table was a couple, we heard, “Oh you’re looking for the MacKenzie River Pizza joint?” I must have looked confused, because he quickly added, “Trust me, their pizzas are good, but their beer is amazing!” That night, I did have one of the best burgers I had ever eaten. All because of a random comment from a friend who just happened to hear that I was going to Bismarck.

Now, consider this from Pope Francis: “Every Christian is challenged, and here, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” (BS, 126). Shouldn’t sharing our faith be as natural as my friend telling me about that restaurant? And, I can tell you how many people I’ve told about MacKenzie River. Or about a great movie you’ve seen recently? How many friends do you tell about it in the next few days, especially when it’s a really good movie? Why isn’t sharing about our faith any different? Evangelization is just this, naturally telling someone about how I have experienced God’s love. He loves me, and I can’t help but share that love with others. Paul speaks to this in Corinthians 9:15-16, “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (IC Cor. 9:16).

This is at the very heart of being a disciple. Real life disciples share their faith with others—and plain and simple. They tend to spread faith everywhere they go, not because it’s a heavy burden or some laborious task, but because they are spilling over with joy.

This is why Pope Francis calls it the “Joy of the Gospel!” The more we share our faith, the more alive it becomes. Here are a few practical ways we can be more like this as disciples:

Think of short little “testimonies” about your faith—ways you have experienced God’s love or God’s activity in your life. These will be different for every person. I have found that three minutes is an ideal length to shoot for with one of these little shortening “elevator pitches.” You may only have a few minutes to share, so keep it short; perhaps you can do the rest; these are fine ap- pointments. These are little meetings that God and the Holy Spirit arrange for us, chance encounters with others. They don’t happen every day, but we can pray every day, “Lord, give me at least one today.”

Pray for the person you may encounter. Pray for the grace to recognize the moment when it happens, and pray for the right words. If you’re praying for all three of those things, the Holy Spirit will do the rest;

Practice sharing your faith with a friend or family member. It can be as easy as sharing your faith with a stranger for the first time. It’s okay to practice, get comfortable, make some tweaks to your language or tone.

Wait on God and be ready to act when He prompts you. If you pray for it, these little divine appointments will start happening. When they do, you’ve done all the work you will ever do.

For all the years I have done this, my wife is much better at it than I am. I am constantly amazed at the conversations she gets into and how these lead to talk about Jesus and our faith.

I want to invite you to think about how your faith can be more contagious. You now get more in touch with the incredible love God has shown to you, and gain a new-increasing desire to share that love with others.

Faith and a good hamburger

Jim Beckman
Director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Sooner Catholic
February 18, 2018

Hoops for Hope

Oklahoma’s four Catholic high schools in Oklahoma City and Tulsa sponsor the end-of-year hoops basketball tournament each year to benefit Catholic Charities.

Contact for more information on sponsorships or registration:
Pedro Velasco – Council of 5266 Tournament Coordinator Email: pvelasco37@yahoo.com Phone: 405-614-4585

Photos provided.
Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference March 10

While hiding from genocide in Rwanda for 95 days, anger and resentment were destroying Immaculee’s mind, body and spirit. She began to pray the Rosary as a way of drowning out the anger inside, and the evil outside the house. It was that turning point toward God and away from hate that saved Immaculee. Her book “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust” has been translated into 17 languages and has sold more than two million copies.

Donna Meckler

And Then God Gave Me a Time Out!” Donna will share her personal journey through a shattered leg, a new job and stage three breast cancer. Trusting in God, while finding humor in her situation at times, she leaned heavily on her spiritual foundation to stand up to her challenges. During her journey, she kept a journal, which she has since converted into a book “Living Like a Lady When You Have Cancer.”

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

“The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run, Fr. Stanley Rother” Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda is an award-winning journalist, author and blogger. Her book, “The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run” won the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award (best non-fiction) and received a Catholic Press Association Book Award. In 2016, Maria received the Saint Francis de Sales Award – the highest award given by the Catholic Press Association to an individual, for her “outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism.” Maria and her husband of 36 years, Michael, reside in Norman.

The Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference March 3

Blessed Stanley Rother’s example of love and faith continues to resonate, especially across his home state.

And, that example sets the theme, “Called to be Saints,” for the 22nd annual Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference.

The full-day event, scheduled for March 3 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman, features a lineup of four speakers, opportunities for reconciliation as well as a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Coakley to close the day’s activities.

The theme, “Called to be Saints,” will reflect on our recent beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother and how the aspects of his holiness can be achieved by anyone who applies the same discipline, hard work and love for Christ,” said Ray Haefele, conference director.

Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock will open the conference with a talk entitled “No Greater Love: The Story of Blessed Stanley Rother.” Taylor was ordained a priest at Saint Mary in Ponca City.

The day follows with talks by Trent Horn, Catholic apologist and regular contributor to the radio program Catholic Answers, Patrick Coffin, radio host and author; and Deacon Ralph Poyo, educator and evangelist.

The conference is 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The cost includes breakfast, lunch, beverages and afternoon snacks. There also is a father-son lunch featuring a presentation by Horn.

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts

January 18-25
Unity Prayer Service
Sunday, Jan. 21, 3-4 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Spottedly of the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference Speakers

True Family Lecture

St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman, and the University of Oklahoma Catholic Student Association present a True Family Lecture with Maureen Condic, M.D., associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

The lecture is titled “Visionaries and the Utilitarian Frontiers of Science.” Condic is especially interested in scientists “as moral agents” and how scientists and non-scientists think in ethical terms about the challenges faced on the frontiers of biomedical research.

Condic is a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, founded in 1994 by Saint John Paul II and dedicated to “study, information and formation on the principal problems of bioendicine and of law, relative to the promotion and defense of life.” She has testified before Congress on fetal pain and written extensively about the scientific determination of when human life begins.

The free lecture is at 7 p.m. Feb. 21, in the Kerr Auditorium, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman. The True Family Lecture Series was established as an endowed memorial by the family and friends of Agnes M. and G. Herbert True, members of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lawton, for more than 60 years.
God our daddy!
The profound and challenging meaning of “Abba”

I am blessed my daughters still call me Dad, and other titles that I won’t write down. Even some of my daughter’s friends call me “PaPa” Yes, being a dad, or daddy, is something we need to reflect on, especially since Jesus himself taught us that the Father is “Abba,” which means dad or daddy. “Abba” is an Aramaic term in the Greek New Testament. It is unique and untranslatable in our everyday language.

“Abba” is a familiar and intimate way to address God as “Our Father.” It customarily uses the intimate pronoun “you” throughout, even when addressing God. This is something completely new! In Judaism, no one would dare to think of speaking directly to God in such a familiar way. It would be considered disrespectful. But, we find it three times in the New Testament: Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; and Galatians 4:6. In Mark 14:36, we find Jesus speaking to “Abba” during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane. In Romans and Galatians, we find how the Holy Spirit leads us to this nontechnical, intimate way of speaking to our Heavenly Father. Therefore, we must increasingly become so throughout the journey of our Christian existence.

These moments of nuisance and frustration are an opportunity to grow closer to God. It is the fundamental reality that is undisclosed to us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and he makes us turn to God saying “Abba, Father.”

To follow Jesus’ lead, close our eyes and in our hearts yearning to God call out to him by saying “Dad, I love you!” or “Dad, I need you?” or “Abba.”

In Christ, “The Background,” Father opens by explaining just who the Pharisees were, and how they were so focused on external, legalistic things. Yet, even as they come to realize that God is not about external shows, but about the words of their filial prayer; at the same time, he gives us the Spirit by giving us the filial intimacy by spirit and life. Even when the Pharisees say, “Our Father,” the words of the Father may only give us the words of the prayer, but the Spirit imparts the words of the filial prayer.

The book’s cover states that “the Gos- pels were written for readers already familiar with the persons, places, and politics that governed events in those long past-days.” For the modern reader, many of these details would be lost, and so Father Gorman secures them for us.

In Ch. 1, “The Background,” Father opens by explaining just who the Pharisees were, who were separatists who focused on “the legal minutiae” of their faith. They were “strict keepers of the Law,” and were known for being legalistic in their approach to their faith. These moments of nuisance and frustration are an opportunity to grow closer to God. It is the fundamental reality that is undisclosed to us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and he makes us turn to God saying “Abba, Father.”

The Catechism, in paragraph 2766 also speaks to us of “Abba.”

“As in every vocal prayer, it is through the Word of God that the Holy Spirit touches the children of God to pray to their Father. Here, too, the Filial prayer only gives us the words of our filial prayer; at the same time, he gives us the Spirit by giving us the filial intimacy by spirit and life. Even when the Pharisees say, “Our Father,” the words of the Father may only give us the words of the prayer, but the Spirit imparts the words of the filial prayer. For this reason, the Filial prayer is not only a prayer to God, but also a prayer to the Holy Spirit who imparts to us the gift of prayer.”

I pray that we can all agree that our heavenly Father is the greatest dad of all.

By J.E. Helm
The Sooner Catholic

Making Christ’s Passion come to life

Patience, acceptance important for Lenten journey

A few years ago, for Lent, my husband gave up complaining. As I decided on my Lenten disciplines for this year, I reflected on that re- decision. What do we normally complain about? What spiritual benefits might follow by refraining from mental or verbal grumbling and railing?

Our complaints generally center around small issues, daily irritations, that make our days less smooth: getting cut off in traffic, the person who gets on our nerves, the dish that took twice as long as the recipe suggested, the neighbor’s porch light that shines into the bedroom of the middle of the night, the child who won’t leave her sister in the middle of the floor, again.

When we give up complaining about these irritations, we begin to grow in patience and grace. From here, we can recognize that God is present even though there are frustrations and ask him to show us what is hidden. In these moments, we can join, even in a very small way, in Christ’s suffering for us; we can offer our irritations matter how small, back as a prayer.

Saint Teresa of Avila said, “We gain more in a single day by trials that come to us from God and our neighbor than we would in 10 years of penance and other exercises we would take upon ourselves.”

These moments of irritation and frustration are an opportunity to grow closer to God. It is in these moments that we are given a small glimpse, which Saint Teresa says aids us more than a self-imposed penance.

Another Saint Teresa and doctor of the Church, Therese of Lisieux, based her little way on doing everything she could to avoid giving offense or damaging the feelings of others, or of causing her Beloved to shed any tear for her. “Our being children of God is not to be seen as a legalistic, legalistic, legalistic, legalistic, legalistic thing completely new! In This is the profound and challenging meaning of “Abba” the Catechism, in paragraph 2766 also speaks to us of “Abba.”

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I pray that we can all agree that our heavenly Father is the greatest dad of all.

Pedro A. Moreno, Secretary for Evangelization and Catechesis

A Millenial Journey in Faith

“The all saints came to realize that God can be found not only in the beauties and joys of life, but also in its problems, irritations and interruptions.”

Anamaria Scapero,
For the Sooner Catholic

LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
Sundays at 3 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
All recitals are FREE and open to the public

March 4
Organist
Director of Music and Organist at Assumption Catholic Church, Duncan

March 11
Organist
Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Tulsa

March 18
Alvez Barkoskie IV
Organist at Sooner Catholic

Confirmation class at St. Rose of Lima in Perry. Photo provided.

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Confirmation class at St. Rose of Lima in Perry. Photo provided.

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Sooner Catholic

February 18, 2018

Sooner Catholic

February 18, 2018
Una época de nuevos comienzos

Cada año, la Iglesia nos ofrece el tiempo de la Cuaresma como época de arrepentimiento y renovación. Cada año, nuestro viaje de Cuaresma pasa por los Mirtos de Ceniza. Aunque no es días de fiesta, los rituales de los Mirtos de Ceniza se encuentran tanto en las más concavitadas como en la más amplias almas de todo el año.

Primero, sobre un profundo anhelo y reconocimiento dentro de nosotros. Al recibir el signo de la cruz con ceniza, recordamos nuestra propia mortalidad. Venimos preparados para el bautismo. Estamos llamados a arrepentimos y creer en la Buena Noticia: Dios nos ama. El envío a su Hijo Jesús a sufrir y morir por nosotros. El ha resueltado de entre los muertos y comparte nuestra nueva vida con nosotros. Este acto simboliza el Evangelio. La Cuaresma remienda nuestra atención en este mensaje de salvación, esta es una buena noticia. La Cuaresma es un momento de nuestra muerte.

Holy Innocents’ Chapel perpetual adoration

Holy Innocents’ Foundation is seeking more donors for Holy Innocents’ Chapel next door to the Planned Parenthood abortion center in northwest OKC. Contact Harriette at (405) 341-2199.

Archdiocesan ordination Italian pilgrimage

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City invites you to attend the annual Lenten Organ Recital Series beginning at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 and continuing every Sunday until March 18. Organists from around the state will present 30-45 minute recitals, inaugurating organ repertoire and music for Lent. Attendance is free and open to the public. Feb. 25: Rebecca Tu Velde, organist, in Four Presbyter- ian, Stillwater; March 4: Sam Backman, director of music and organist at Trinity Episcopal, Tulsa; and March 18: Andrew Buettner for the diaconate ordination at the archdiocese-OKLA-grimages/pilgrimage-italy-diaconate -ordination-archdiocese-okla- city-center hotels (three nights in four-star accommodations available for a go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin- go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin-go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin-go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin-go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin-go-night or contact Carly Wegener at www.bmchs.org/alumni/bin-go-night).

Suicide grief support group

A support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide will meet at St. Francis in Oklahoma City on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. During February and March, the meeting will be at the Monarch House located just north of the church building. The gathering is in a quiet atmosphere to remember loved ones. (405) 528-0485.

Registration open for Catholic youth camp

The mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp is to nurture positive Catholic values in young people and to provide campers a community of faith and fun in a safe environment. We promote the personal and spiritual growth in each young person by developing their prayer life, social skills, independence, and leadership abilities.

Each session begins on Sunday with registration 5-6 p.m. and ends on Friday with pick-up 5-6 p.m. www.archokc.org/youth-and-young-adult-office/summer-camp.

Oregon Catholic Press Parish Grants Program

Since its inception in 2001, OCP has provided more than $2.6 mil- lion in support of parishes looking to enhance their worship experi- ence. Any Catholic parish within the diocese that does not already receive an OCP grant the previous year is eligible to apply. The commit- tees of an OCP grant must use the money for liturgical and/or musical purposes. Applications accepted through May 30. Visit ocp.org.

Rother Heritage Gallery

The Heritage Gallery at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc., 1100 N.W. Expressway, comes this fall. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Special tours ar- ranged by calling (405) 221-3561, Ext. 141.

Lenten Organ Recital Series

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Prayer in the Four Directions

The second annual Prayer in the Four Directions by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s American Indian Catholic Out- reach and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Spirituality Center of Oklahoma will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Lake Lodge, Guthrie. The theme is “Living in Kinship: Where You Are.” Registration fee $10. Make check payable to Messiah Lutheran Church of Oklahoma. Contact (405) 298-3255.

March 3: Feast of St. Polycarp

March 3: Feast of St. Polycarp

March 2-3: Con- tact (405) 482-3641, renoir@sbcglobal.net or go online to www.helplifesupport.org.

Churches invited to join ret- reanuins program

The 11th annual Faith Com- munity Nurses Nurses Conference will begin with a workshop sponsored by the St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church at 3 p.m. March 3 in the commons. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Bingo packages are $12 for 10 games with a $30 jackpot. Deadline March 1. Register by March 2 at david@chcok.org or call 405-523-3000, Ext. 245. Deadline March 2.

Religious education coordinator

The intern will assist in pro- motion funded groups; and developing and article writing; research; visit- ing CCHD in the archdiocese. Contact bvanpool@ccaokc.org or www.fcnaok.org.

Catholic Charities internship

The intern will assist in pro- viding CHC-CHD in the archdiocese. Tasks may include parish educa- tion, training and outreach. For Free.

Fifth grade teacher – Ponca City

A CMA or medical tech is preferred. A 403B available. Opportu- nities. For Free.

Catapult teachers needed

Provides contracted instructional services with the necessary educa- tional expertise in reading, math- ematics, writing and related areas; diagnoses learning skill deficits and delivers prescribed instructional delivery methods as determined by the supervising caseworker. A Bachelor of the necessary curriculum to coordinate efforts in providing services to students; communications and confers with parents providing information as preferred. All classroom, instruc- tional materials, prepared lessons and paid training provided. Apply online at https://sourceresources. com/jobs/xj/5314/teacher/job.

CMA or med tech aide

St. Ann Retirement Center is seeking a CMA or medical tech aide for the evening shift. Ap- plication process includes a background check and drug testing. Full-time bene- fits. A 403B available. Opportunities. Apply in person at St. Ann Retire- ment Center, 700 W. Britton Rd., OKC. (405) 721-0747.

To see more job openings, go on- line to www.sourceresources.com.

Bills

Willis

Bequests, made through your will, are the most frequently-planned gifts. More than 45 percent of donors do not make a will. Without a will, the laws of the state and the decisions of a probate court may determine how your estate is dis- tributed and who will care for your chil- dren if they are minors. A will is not only a statement of your priorities, but an expression of your lasting commitment to your Catholic faith. Through your will, you designate the final recipient of any many gifts you have given by God in His generosity. Remembering your parish, Catholic school or other Catholic ministries through a gift designated in your will ensures the future of our faith. A well-planned will can make your last will and testament take care of loved ones and leave a lasting legacy to your Church.

For more information, contact the foundation office at: Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc., P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 (405) 721-3773 www.cfookc.org

Please remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in your estate plans.

Since the FREE fraternal benefits program was launched in 1994, the Knights of Columbus has paid out more than $14.9 million to families in need.

Ranked the #1 Agency in the order in 2015 and in the U.S. in 2016.

LIFE INSURANCE    DISABILITY INSURANCE    LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

For more information, contact the foundation office at: Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc., P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 (405) 721-3773 www.cfookc.org

The Pierce Agency

Kevin Porter

(405) 700-8752

Kevin@FC2.com

Sooner Catholic

February 18, 2018

Calendar

Bills

February 18

First Sunday of Lent.

Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. St. Thomas More, 100 Stimson St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potonga.lang@ Yahoo.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.

18

Devotions

Prayer in the Four Directions

The second annual Prayer in the Four Directions by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s American Indian Catholic Outreach and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Spirituality Center of Oklahoma will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Lake Lodge, Guthrie. The theme is “Living in Kinship: Where You Are.” Registration fee $10. Make check payable to Messiah Lutheran Church of Oklahoma. Contact (405) 298-3255.

19

Bills

Presidents’ Day

19

First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament prior to 5:30 p.m.; Reconciliation available prior to 7 p.m. at CPC. Call (405) 721-8944, ext. 528-6259, or go online to www.fcnaok.org.

March 2

3: Silent retreat on creativity, March 2-4 at the CPC, 7501 W. Britton Rd., OKC.

Jobs Box

Catholic Charities internship

The intern will assist in pro- motion of CHC-CHD in the archdiocese. Tasks may include parish education, training and outreach; letter and article writing; research; visiting funded groups; and developing relationships with community organizations. O12) Volunteering with the internship will be in the summer. Apply online at www.usccb.org/ about/catholiccharities/volunteer; click on “Poverty Education,” then “CHC CHD Intern Program.”

March 2

Fifth grade teacher – Ponca City

St. Mary Catholic School has an immediate opening for a fifth grade teacher. “Contact instructor shall be certified in Oklahoma. Contact Principal Marilyn Nash at (580) 765-4387.

March 2

Catapult teachers needed

Provides contracted instructional services with the necessary educa- tional expertise in reading, mathe- matics, writing and related areas; diagnoses learning skill deficits and delivers prescribed instructional delivery methods as determined by the supervising caseworker. Contact directly with attention to the elders of your parish and the families in need.

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March 3
Presentation on Blessed Stanley Rother featured at 50th annual Convocation of Priests

Father Don Wolf, pastor of Saint Eugene in Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on Oklahoma City and cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother, will provide a special presentation on the first U.S. martyr during the National Federation of Priests’ Councils’ 50th anniversary in Chicago.

Evangelization program brings Catholics back to basics

By Judy Hilovsky
The Sooner Catholic

Inspired by success in Canada and Michigan, two Oklahoma parishes are embracing a new evangelization program that exposes Catholics to the basic elements of the Gospel and leads them to a closer relationship with Jesus.

Alpha is an 11-week series exploring the Christian faith that starts with encouragement and fellowship followed by conversation that explores the issues around faith and the basics of Christianity. The program provides an opportunity to share honest thoughts and ideas in a small group environment.

Saint Andrew in Moore embraced Alpha after being inspired by Father John Ricardo in Michigan and Father James Mallon in Nova Scotia. Saint Andrew started Alpha in 2015.

“We were making a cultural shift from maintenance to mission and knew we needed some kind of program or process that would give participants the opportunity to make a stronger connection with the very foundational elements of the Gospel, drawing them into a more personal friendship with Christ, with each other, and with the least of Christ’s brothers and sisters – the poor, the lame, the blind, the broken-hearted, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless, the infirm and all who are in bondage. As we move forward, we intend to use it as a tool to draw in doubters, unbelievers and skeptics.”

So far, Saint Andrew’s has conducted eight Alpha courses, including two youth groups who used Alpha as an introduction to Chosen. Saint Andrew’s Alpha program is approaching more than 500 participants.

Church of Epiphany of the Lord in northwest Oklahoma City started Alpha in 2017 after Archbishop Coakley’s evangelization workshop, which included a talk by Father James Mallon.

“After seeing Father Mallon’s presentation, we were inspired by the concept of renewing the Church. We were making a cultural shift from maintenance to mission and knew we needed some kind of program or process that would give participants the opportunity to make a stronger connection with the very foundational elements of the Gospel, drawing them into a more personal friendship with Christ, with each other, and with the least of Christ’s brothers and sisters – the poor, the lame, the blind, the broken-hearted, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless, the infirm and all who are in bondage. As we move forward, we intend to use it as a tool to draw in doubters, unbelievers and skeptics.”

Saint Andrew in Moore embraced Alpha after being inspired by Father John Ricardo in Michigan and Father James Mallon in Nova Scotia. Saint Andrew started Alpha in 2015. The decision was made to offer Alpha in 2017 after Archbishop Coakley’s evangelization workshop, which included a talk by Father James Mallon.

“The annual National Convocation of Priests will be April 23-26. The convocation will also include an historical panel consisting of Father Clete Kiley, Monsignor Rich Hynes, Father David Brinkmoller and Alan Szafaraniec. Plenary sessions include presentations by Sister Katarina Schuth, O.S.F., Bishop Arturo Cepeda, Father Allan Deck, S.J., and Archbishop Wilton Gregory, S.L.D. Registration and hotel information is online at www.nfpc.org under annual convocation. Contact (312) 442-9700.

Sooner Catholic.

For Epiphany, attendee feedback revealed a desire to enhance their understanding of God’s word, so the parish established small groups to help participants navigate their journey to discipleship.

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