ADF Weekend is February 2-3

Adults, Teens Gather for Sanctity of Life Mass
Page 6

St. Gregory’s Monk Takes Vows
Page 10

YEAR of FAITH
A Year of Believing
Praying
Studying
Giving
Serving
Truth and Tolerance

In a homily delivered in the presence of the College of Cardinals prior to the 2005 conclave which elected him as Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger spoke of the threats which the new pope, whoever he might be, would have to confront. Among the many challenges the Church faces at the beginning of the 21st century, Cardinal Ratzinger observed, is what he called “the dictatorship of relativism.”

Relativism is the philosophical principle that denies any objective truth, that is, any truth that is true for everyone. Its corollary denies that there are universally valid moral norms. There are only subjective opinions: “What is true for you is not necessarily true for me.” Given these principles, we can easily envision the train wreck that is waiting just around the bend.

In fact, the human mind is ordered so that we naturally seek truth and are capable of grasping truth once we discover it.

In one form or another, relativism has been around for a long time. Jesus testified before Pontius Pilate that he had come to bear witness to the truth. Pilate could only respond, “What is truth?” (Jn. 18:37-38). Relativism is an assault on the very foundations of human society and discourse. If there is no objective truth, what happens to honesty and integrity? What is to be the principle and foundation governing our human relations and human action? Sadly, it is raw power that usually fills this vacuum.

By referring to the contemporary form of this philosophical error as the “dictatorship of relativism,” Cardinal Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) underlined its power and aggressive nature. Relativism is a danger in both religious and secular cultures. When divorced from truth, the truth that can be grasped not only by faith but also through reason, religion runs the risk of being hijacked by various forms of extremism and fundamentalism. An irrational religious faith and fervor can quickly turn to violence in pursuit of its goals, as the world has witnessed all too often, even in our own day.

But this relativist principle is also at the heart of secular culture in countries like our own. Indeed it is often adopted with a quasi-religious fervor. In the secular form of relativism, tolerance has trumped truth. Lacking a foundation in truth, tolerance of each person’s subjective opinions and behaviors becomes the ultimate norm and principle of moral conduct. Nowadays it is perhaps the ultimate insult to accuse someone of being intolerant. And it would be very intolerant (so the argument goes) to say that same sex unions, human cloning, abortion, pornography, exploitation of the vulnerable or any other affront to natural law or religious truth is wrong! Indeed, we do owe respect to each person and ought to tolerate their right to hold their own ideas and opinions. But that does not absolve us from the duty to evaluate and the truth of those opinions and moral quality of the actions that flow from them.

Commenting on secular culture which has largely adopted a relativist creed, Pope Benedict XVI said, “in such a society the light of truth is missing; indeed, it is considered dangerous and ‘authoritarian’ to speak of truth.” I can envision a time in the not too distant future when it will be considered “hate speech” to publicly uphold and defend the Church’s teaching on marriage. Ironically, the so-called tolerance which secular relativism embraces as its only absolute value becomes highly intolerant toward any assertion based on faith that the truth can be known with certainty.

Tolerance is indeed a virtue. Divorced from the truth, however, blind ideological tolerance becomes one of the most aggressively intolerant and corrosive forces in society.

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

**January 27 — Confirmation, Christ the King Church, Oklahoma City, 12:15 p.m.**
**January 27 — Mass and Dinner with students at St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center, Norman, 5 p.m.**
**January 28 - January 29 — Clergy Study Days at Catholic Pastoral Center**
**January 29 — Mass at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.**
**January 30 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, St. Joseph School, Enid, 10 a.m.**
**January 31 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, Christ the King School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.**
**February 1 — Blessing of Ultrasound Machine, Birth Choice South Oklahoma City, 11 a.m.**
**February 2 — Mass for Oklahoma Catholic Student Conference, Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp, 5 p.m.**
**February 4- February 6 — National Catholic Bioethics Center Workshop for Bishops, Dallas, Texas**
**February 7 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, Bishop John Carroll School, Oklahoma City, 8:30 a.m.**
**February 7 — Good Leaders Good Shepherds Graduation Ceremony, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12:30 p.m.**
**February 7 — Personnel Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.**
**February 8 — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Dinner and Auction, 6 p.m.**
**February 9 — TET Mass and Celebration, St. Andrew Dung-Lac Church, Oklahoma City, 10 a.m.**
**February 10 — TET Mass and Celebration, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 11:45 a.m.**
Year of Faith

A Year of Believing, Praying, Studying

Goal: $3.2 million - first increase in eight years.
Challenge: Each parish or mission to increase participation by 10% of donors for 2012.
Direct Mailing: Letter and brochure to all parishioners for whom we have a correct current address.

Comments from the Executive Director

By Tom Maxwell
Executive Director ADF Appeal

As Catholics, we are called to fulfill our Baptismal Commitment: to love our Faith to its fullest and to spread God's love by our words and deeds motivated by our love of God. “Faith is a gift from God. He has bestowed that gift upon us. In our baptism, He invited us to become members of His family. He adopted us as His sons and daughters.” — (Msgr. David Rosage, Week 51 of “Speak Lord Your Servant is Listening”). Appropriately, in this “Year of Faith,” we have based our theme of 2013’s Appeal on Faith and a few of those components of faith that relate to spreading God’s love by our words and deeds.

This appeal is about more than just money. Maybe the most important purpose may be to use it as a vehicle for us to recognize our own value as an instrument of God, which allows us to unite with others to make a real difference in the lives, millions of lives, through the educational, pastoral and religious programs supported by this appeal. However, just as valuable, it provides an opportunity to slow down our lives and evaluate just where we stand in our faith and our relationship and love of God — both of which should always be in a state of growth.

Faith is our personal encounter with God. It is easy for us to say we believe in God or that we love God, but to what level of belief or love would we find ourselves?

Believing in God does not automatically mean we really, deeply love God. An old saying goes something to the effect — to know someone is to love them. This year’s theme leads us in a path to know and to love God and to serve Him.

Believing - Who, what, why and how.

Praying - Talking to God, listening to Him through the Holy Spirit, and being open to accept His inspiration.

Studying - Learning about God from His words and history through Scripture and other holy books. As we learn, we can feel ourselves grow in personal closeness to the Almighty and we begin to follow the path planned for each of us — growing in love for Him and trusting in His love for us — accepting this gift and surrendering our will to His.

Sharing - His love, ourselves, our talents and our resources.

Serving - Giving our time and, with our resources, becoming an answer to a prayer from those in need of God's love and help.

If we truly believe and have faith in God, then we desire to talk to Him and hear from Him as we pray — listening for a response coming through the Holy Spirit. We also use Scripture to hear His words and use Scripture to talk (pray) to Him. And then, there are also His words from that voiceless voice within us between the lines of prayer or readings and in our silent solitude. Psalm (37:7 RSU). “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.”

Studying the Scriptures, we learn and grow in understanding, knowledge and love for Him as we come to know of His love for us and His generosity to us. His freely-given love fills us with joy and happiness, which is exactly what He wishes for us. Overwhelmed by our feelings, this love and generosity burst forth in sharing and giving of ourselves in service to others. The deeper that our faith and love of God is, we come to a point of total surrender to God's will and move to the task of completing the mission for which He gave us life, for which all that we have, we have from Him, for that reason. We become who God wants us to be — overcoming our urge to be who we are and have been. Then we might be able to answer these questions:

- How deep is my relationship with God?
- Who am I?
- Why do I believe what it is I believe?
- Why am I where I am with God?
- Why do I have all that I have?
- What am I to do with the talents I have?
- Who does God wish me to become?
- What does God wish me to do with His love and gifts?
- What is God’s plan for my life?

Faith and love leads us to trust in God, helping us to overcome our anxiety and fear. Why is it that we will give our trust so willingly to someone else but not just as willingly to God?

We place our trust in humans who are capable of making mistakes, relying on their experience, knowledge and skills that could have serious damaging consequences. Then how can we protest when God begins to work on us. Or also, we have a scarcity mentality wanting what we don’t have — hoarding, hiding or shielding what we do have. A Billy Graham quote states, “God has given us two hands — one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; We are channels made for sharing.”

The more we hold onto what we have, the less we can receive. We have to let go, to share our bounty, to trust in God and receive even more blessings. (Matthew 6:32-33).

“Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first His kingship over you, His way of holiness and all these things will be given you besides.” Pope John Paul II wrote, “Charity does not hesitate for it is the expression of our faith.” Expanding on this thought we could say, our work of faith is a sincere desire to love and serve one another. Mother Teresa has said, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” Giving is not a calculated exercise in generosity — giving is a result of faith, love and trust in God. Jesus said, “You will know them by their deeds.” (Matthew 7:11).

What have we done lately for others, for the community, for the parish, for God? There are many ways to return to God, His gifts. This Archdiocesan Development Fund Appeal is but one way to share ourselves. Uniting our gifts with others multiplies their results and their effectiveness, making a real difference in thousands of lives. Each of us is a unique individual only we can make that special contribution to God’s mission.


“We know our gift is the correct amount.
When we do not find ourselves making excuses for its size;
When we know in our hearts it is sacrificial;
When we are completely honest with God and ourselves;

(Author unknown)

Go break to the needy, Sweet Charity's Bread.
"For Giving is Living... the Angel had said.
"But must I keep giving again and again?"
"Oh no," said the Angel, chilling me through.
"Just give til the Master stops giving to you!"
Here Are a Few of the Ministries theADF Supports

Youth and Young Adult Office

The Youth and Young Adult Office is working in collaboration with the Diocese of Tulsa and the Catholic campus ministers to continue the Catholic Conference for College Students in the state of Oklahoma. It will be hosted at Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp in February. We are beginning plans for hosting the 2014 Region 10 Youth Conference in our Archdiocese for high school students. This conference draws 2,000 students from Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The theme for the 2013 Summer Camp is “Faith Is Our Rock” relating to the Year of Faith and highlighting how we need a foundation of faith in our lives to answer God’s call.

Hispanic Ministries

True Disciplehood in the Archdiocese

I love playing with words and all their parts. Prefixes, suffixes and root words are an invitation to learn and play. Take the suffix “hood,” according to one dictionary, among its primary meaning you find state, condition or quality. Words that have this ending are many, for example, priesthood, sainthood, sisterhood, are just a few. Each one of these words refers to the state, condition or quality of being a priest, saint or sister. The suffix “ship” has the same effect but for some reason I enjoy this combination a bit more.

Now let’s talk about Disciplehood, the state, condition or quality of being a disciple. Our Disciplehood begins in Jesus Christ from the day of our baptism and it means a whole lot more than being a follower of Christ. Disciplehood also means to marvelous in leading, others to Christ too, and that can be very challenging!

When we lead, or assist in leading, others to Christ we are responding to our universal call to be missionaries and we are performing a great act of love. May we never forget that we begin to Proclaim Christ with our Love! Especially when these acts of love are made to those in most need or have unique challenges.

Throughout the East territory of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, we have almost a quarter of a million Hispanic brothers and sisters hungry for the Good News of Jesus Christ! How does our baptismal Disciplehood motivate us in assisting the Archdiocese in satisfactorily satiating that hunger and faithfully responding to our missionary mandate of sharing Christ with others?

Soon there will be a school for our Hispanic brothers and sisters to learn their faith more fully and prepare for ministry within the wider Catholic community in Oklahoma. We will need to assist many students with scholarships and cost of books. This is an opportunity for true Disciplehood!

Soon there will be more missionary priests arriving to assist the Archdiocese in ministering to the growing number of Hispanic Catholics. We will need to assist in covering the additional costs involved in bringing in these missionaries that will be serving in some of our poorest communities. This is also an opportunity for true Disciplehood.

We currently have a Spanish radio program called Chispitas de Luz. This program offers music and reflections on each Sunday’s biblical readings. What a wonderful opportunity to assist others in bringing the Gospel through the airwaves to the Latino community. This is also an opportunity for true Disciplehood.

The Office of Hispanic Ministry, which assists the Archbishop and many other priests and groups with their ministry to the Hispanic community, also prepares the Spanish pages of the Sooner Catholic. Keeping this office functioning is also an opportunity for true Disciplehood.

Assisting the Archdiocesan Development Fund with generous donations is one form of true Disciplehood. Thanks to those funds, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City can also continue to bring Christ in many ways to those that are truly hungry to meet their Savior and Lord. May God bless in a special way those that live out their Disciplehood, the state, condition or quality of being true disciples, through their generous gifts of love.
Workshop Targets Pornography

EDMOND — Janene has an infectious smile. It shines on the soccer field or when she plays piano. But when this 12-year-old honor roll student’s grades began to slide, her mom began to dig for answers and discovered her daughter immersed in Internet pornography.

Therapist Richard Blankenship (who changed Janene’s name for this story) treated Janene for three months to help her escape what had become a secret addiction. Janene’s story ranks concern, but even more alarming is the increase exposure kids have with Internet pornography and its impact on them.

Blankenship said many parents are in denial, believing their child or teen would never access content online that is inappropriate, especially pornography. But in today’s sexualized culture, kids are being exposed to constant lures and suggestions that make them curious at an ever-younger age, he said.

“5-year-old was brought to treatment with me after changing $700 worth of pornography to the family credit card,” said Blankenship, a day director of Cornerstone Professional Counseling Center in Atlanta.

The boy had been accessing free pornography online without his parents’ knowledge for three months before he noticed a link where he could use a credit card. About 93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls will be exposed to Internet pornography and most will deal with it on their own.

That can lead to a lifetime of problems. Dr. Peter Kleponis encourages parents to educate themselves on the dangers of pornography, how to protect young children from it and to train teens to reject it. Dr. Kleponis is a nationally renowned Catholic therapist who specializes in pornography addiction recovery. Through his Fighting Porn In Our Culture … and Winning! conference series, Dr. Kleponis trains Catholics on how to win the battle against pornography.

To protect their kids and intervene when needed, parents need a plan for media use.

“Parents have a difficult job, because technology is constantly changing,” said Ryan Foley, an Internet Safety Consultant with Covenant Eyes. “But if parents create a plan, consistently apply it, and talk about these issues with their kids, it can have a major impact on their kids’ lives.”

How to Protect Your Family Online Parent Workshop, provided by experts at Covenant Eyes, will take place on Feb. 17 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For questions and to RSVP contact St. John’s at (405) 340-0691.

Catholic Women Essay Contest OKLAHOMA CITY — The Central Region Council of Catholic Women (CRCCW) will again sponsor an essay contest for Catholic students in seventh and eighth grades who are enrolled in a Catholic grade school or in religious education classes in their parish. Only churches that are an affiliate of the Central Region Council of Catholic Women are eligible to participate in this contest.

The topic this year is “Why am I a Catholic?” Respond in one typed, double-spaced and unedited by parents or teachers. Prizes will be awarded to the top three essays at our April meeting. First prize is $100, second prize is $75, and third prize is $50.

Essays must be mailed before March 22, 2013, to Carol Wotichek, 9908 Ashley Place, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120.

For questions or more information, contact Carol Wotichek at (405) 751-8533, or e-mail cwotichek@att.net.

Father Larry Lenten Mission EDMOND — Beginning Feb. 18, Father Larry Richards will begin a four-day Lenten Mission at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Each mission will be for two hours beginning at 7 p.m.

The first night will be about “Prayer.” The second night, Feb. 19, 7 to 9 p.m., will be about “The Passion — What more could he do for you?”, followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation. The fourth night, Feb. 21, 7 to 9 p.m., will be an “Adoration and Healing.”

Father Larry Richards is the founder and president of The Reason for our Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to “spreading the Good News” by educating others about Jesus Christ.

For more information, go to www.theReasonForOurHope.org.

Across Oklahoma

Birth Choice 40th Anniversary OKLAHOMA CITY — In March, Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc. will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The Life of the Party Gala and Fundraiser will be held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in the Sam Noble Event Room. This year’s guest speakers will be former clients along with their parents’ knowledge for three months before he noticed a link where he could access free pornography. Dr. Peter Kleponis encourages parents to educate themselves on the dangers of pornography, how to protect young children from it and to train teens to reject it. Dr. Kleponis is a nationally renowned Catholic therapist who specializes in pornography addiction recovery. Through his Fighting Porn In Our Culture … and Winning! conference series, Dr. Kleponis trains Catholics on how to win the battle against pornography.

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Father Larry’s first book, “Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You To Be” was published by Ignatius Press in October of 2009, and was the No.1 best-seller by Ignatius Press in 2010. In “Be a Man!” he recounts his struggles to learn true manhood, and as well as the inspiring stories of others he has served in his decades as a priest.

Irish Benefit Dinner OKLAHOMA CITY — The 27th annual Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Benefit Dinner Auction, “Rockin’ It Old School,” is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. The vintage rock and roll themed evening includes dinner, silent and live auctions with over 100 items and entertainment. There will be a raffle drawing for a $10,000 cash prize. Reservation tickets are $100 per person and raffle tickets are $30 each. Reservations are required and seating will be limited.

Proceeds benefit the Bishop McGuinness Endowment Fund and capital projects. For more information, invitations or raffle tickets, contact Patricia Hudack at 842-6683 Ext. 239, or phudack@bmcnhs.org, or visit our website at www.charlesbmc.org.

Help for Hurting Marriages Help for hurting marriages is coming to Oklahoma again in 2013. The Retrouvaille program provides help for marriages. Retrouvaille is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way.

A program in Tulsa will start with a weekend on Feb. 8-10. For confidential information about or to RSVP for this weekend, go to www.helpyourmarriage.com, or call (918) 695-7010.

The second of the four programs planned for 2013 will be held in Oklahoma City the weekend of April 12-14. For more information, go to the website at www.helpyourmarriage.com, or call (405) 443-3541.

The remaining 2013 weekend dates are Tulsa, Sept. 20-22, and Oklahoma City, Nov. 8-10.

Holy Innocents Open House Set for Feb. 10 WARR ACRE — The opening of the new Holy Innocents Foundation and Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 20 feet to the abortion clinic in Oklahoma City, will soon be here. We hope to begin operations in late February. There will be great need for adorers before our Precious Lord in the Holy Eucharist 24/7. If you are interested in filling the hours, and praying for all life issues, not just abortion, but also for the evil of our day, please contact Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199, or tami.mahl@biblenet.org. An open house for the Foundation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. at 6114 N.W. 63rd in Warr Acres. All are welcome.
Archbishop’s Sanctity of Life Mass Draws Teens, Adults in Celebration of All Life

By Ray Dyer

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 600 Catholics, many of them teens, created a standing-room-only atmosphere as the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City mourned the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that made abortion on demand the law of the land. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley presided at the Eucharistic Celebration at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for the Jan. 16 Sanctity of Life Mass.

About a dozen priests, including Father John Metzinger, Rector at Our Lady’s, con-celebrated. Following Mass, the teens gathered inside the nearby Connor Center where they were treated to pizza and a discussion led by Father Rick Stanberry.

At the same time, about 100 adults stayed inside the Cathedral to hear Archbishop Coakley expound further on the Sanctity of Life message he delivered during his homily.

The Archbishop said every human life has dignity, value and a destiny that comes from God. He called the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision a “terrible lie,” and said the struggle to overturn it would not go away because “what we’re dealing with is an unspeakable evil.”

Archbishop Coakley said Catholics cannot pick and choose which pro-life issue they will or won’t support.

“Our respect for human life covers the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception, throughout life and to natural death, the Archbishop said. These life issues include abortion, the death penalty, support for immigrants, the aged, the ill, the impoverished and all other areas involving human life. He said all pro-life issues do not carry the same weight, but all are important.

The Archbishop said he has been criticized for being a “mouthpiece” for the Republican Party when he speaks against abortion and has been accused of being a “mouthpiece” for the Democratic Party when he speaks in support of immigrants. He said being Catholic and pro-life “goes beyond” the Red state, Blue state divide that has created a polarizing political climate in the United States.

“Our mission is to evangelize. Not only others, but also to evangelize our culture.”

He challenged Catholics to “think critically” and to pray in order that we might “appropriate” a well-formed identity that conforms to the “mind of Christ, the heart of Christ.” The Archbishop said before every “key decision” made by Jesus, He could be found at prayer.

“Our mission is to evangelize. Not only others, but also to evangelize our culture,” Archbishop Coakley said. He said we do this when we live out our faith in our families, our relationships and in public.

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life, Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Catholic Charities teamed to help coordinate the Sanctity of Life Mass and the special presentations.

Top, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley presides over the Sanctity of Life Mass. (Photo by Cara Koenig).

At right, youth from Epiphany of Our Lord Church gather for a group photo following the Sanctity of Life Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. (Photo by Ray Dyer)

Alabama Supreme Court Issues Decision Recognizing Unborn as Children

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) — An Alabama Supreme Court decision recognizing the unborn as persons deserving of legal protections could have significant implications in ending abortion in the United States, say pro-life advocates.

“The Alabama Supreme Court has dealt a massive blow to the constitutional fraud of Roe v. Wade by recognizing that the pre-born child is a person,” said Personhood USA legal analyst Guadulberto Garcia Jones, J.D., in a statement.

On Jan. 11, the Alabama high court ruled that unborn children are protected by the state’s chemical endangerment law.

The case involved two women who placed their unborn children at risk through the use of illegal drugs during pregnancy. One of the women acknowledged that she had smoked meth three days before her son was born prematurely. The child died 19 minutes later of “acute methamphetamine intoxication.”

Under Alabama law, it is a crime to chemically endanger a child by exposing him or her to a controlled substance. The women’s attorneys argued that the chemical endangerment law does not apply to unborn children.

However, the court disagreed, observing that “the only major area in which unborn children are denied legal protection is abortion, and that denial is only because of the dictates of Roe.”

The court noted that 40 states and the District of Columbia “permit recovery of damages for the wrongful death of an unborn child when post-viability injuries to that child cause its death before birth.”

The ruling cited a South Carolina case in which a court arrived at a similar ruling, determining that “it would be absurd to recognize the viable fetus as a person for purposes of homicide laws and wrongful death statutes but not for purposes of statutes prescribing child abuse.”

It also agreed with the appeals court that pointed out, “Not only have the courts of this State interpreted the term ‘child’ to include a viable fetus in other contexts, the dictionary definition of the term ‘child’ explicitly includes an unborn person or a fetus.”

The Supreme Court emphasized that in upholding legal protection for the unborn, it was being consistent “with the widespread legal recognition that unborn children are persons with rights that should be protected by law.” It also noted that its decision is in keeping with the state constitution’s Declaration of Rights, which proclaims that “all men are equally free and independent; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange applauded the decision.

“The Court has ratified our argument that the public policy of our state is to protect life, both born and unborn,” he said in a statement.

“It is a tremendous victory that the Alabama Supreme Court has affirmed the value of all life, including those of unborn children whose lives are among the most vulnerable of all.”
Scholarship Established to Honor Rev. Monahan

A new Scholarship Fund has been established at the Catholic Foundation to honor the memory of Rev. David Monahan by Joan O'Neill, a former Sooner Catholic newspaper staff colleague. The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to be a perpetual endowment fund to provide high school scholarships in the name of Rev. David Monahan to Catholic student(s) from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and/or Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. Father Monahan died Oct. 28, 2010, after serving 57 years as a priest in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He served as principal of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School from 1963 until 1971 when he was appointed Superintendent of Catholic Schools. He served as Superintendant of Catholic Schools until 1974. Father Monahan is probably best known across the Archdiocese for his work as founder and chair of The Sooner Catholic, where he served for 20 years (1974 to 1994). Following the death of Rev. Stanley Rother at the Archdiocesan mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, in 1981, Father Monahan published “The Shepherd Cannot Run,” a compilation of letters from Father Rother to friends and family. In 1994, Father Monahan took a sabbatical to research and draft a biography of Father Rother. This work became a passion for Father Monahan, who founded a personal story of Father Rother to be a great inspiration.

The Scholarship Award will be in the form of tuition assistance. The student must be enrolled in a journalism class at the school during the year he/she receives the Scholarship Award and must have distinguished himself/herself in academics and leadership. A selection committee appointed by the Foundation will determine the annual recipient(s). The Scholarship Foundation will determine annually if there is sufficient income and growth of the Fund to warrant a Scholarship Award and to confirm the amount of the award. If it is determined that there is not sufficient earnings and growth to award a scholarship, any income and growth will be added to the Fund in order for it to continue to grow and provide scholarships in future years. When only one award is granted, the recipient will alternate between the two high schools. When multiple awards are given, equal distribution will be applied taking into consideration scholarships granted the previous year.

If you are interested in making a donation to build this endowment fund and help to grow the number and amount of scholarships awarded, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

Economics Lesson Becomes Donation to Breast Cancer Awareness, Research

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Principal David Morton told the student body at Bishop John Carroll School that his late wife, Nancy, loved to dance. Morton was at the school on Jan. 18 to accept a donation made in his wife’s memory.

Julie Hagen’s fourth-grade class has raised money through a classroom project and decided it should go to help in the fight against breast cancer, the disease that claimed Morton’s wife.

“I want you all to know that my wife loved to dance,” Morton said.

“In fact, she loved to dance so much she volunteered every week to come to this very gym and teach people how to dance.

“Now I want all of you to stand up and show me your best dance moves.”

The students obliged and along with the Irish principled, wiggled and twisted for a few moments that brought smiles and laughter to the entire gym.

Hagen’s students participated in an economics project created by her in which business economics came to life. The class of 25 students broke into nine separate businesses, called the “Fourth Grade Stores.” Throughout the project, students discovered how to create a product line, price items, advertising and marketing, customer service skills, and the joy of charitable giving.

Each store came up with a name and product line. Guided by Hagen, the students were challenged to price their items so they would make a profit, yet not price their goods too high for the student body to afford. The target range for each item was between $1 and $5. Important points to consider were the target market, which were boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 14, as well as parents who might want to shop for miscellaneous Christmas gifts.

After deciding upon their product line and naming their stores, a contest was held among the class to design a flier to advertise. Students voted for the flier which most clearly stated the purpose, times and dates and the products for sale, as well as the fact that the money would be used toward breast cancer. The flier had to be clearly written, creative, and of a size small enough to put on a 4-by-6-inch card. When completed, students attached a mint candy to the cards and passed them out to each class. In another marketing ploy, students designed colorful poster board signs with their store names and products, and each group had the opportunity to go into another classroom and advertise their store.

During the two days of the sale, students set up their stores in the gym, and while Christmas music played in the background, the rest of the student body took turns shopping. Principal Connie Diotte, parents and other school staff enjoyed purchasing from the variety of items, which ranged from duct tape flowers to homemade cupcakes, cookies and fudge. Some other items were hand-crafted jewelry, candy-cane Christmas tree ornaments and peanut butter and bird seed feeders. In all, the nine stores had almost 50 items to choose from.

The students voted to donate their profit to a charity. They decided to help support breast cancer awareness and research. Hagen had set the goal at $500, but the Fourth Grade Stores earned more than $1,000.

Students decided to donate $500 to a scholarship fund created at McGuinness in memory of Nancy Morton. The other $500 would be donated to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in support of breast cancer research. Kelley McGuire accepted the donation for the OMRF.

Colorado Civil Union Bill Could Endanger Catholic Child Services

DENVER, Colo. (CNA) — A proposed Colorado civil unions bill has dropped provisions that protect agencies from being forced to place children with same-sex and unmarried opposite-sex couples, a change that could put at risk Catholic Charities’ adoption and foster care services in the state.

Jennifer Kraska, executive director of the Colorado Catholic Conference, told CNA Jan. 16 there have been “significant” changes to the bill from last year’s version, which failed to pass.

“If the legislation passes this year, it would violate Catholic teaching, he said, “We probably would cease the operation of our adoption programs.”

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CRS Rice Bowl Project Asks for Donations to Help Poor and Needy Across the World

By Brianna Joyce
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — During the season of Lent, the Church calls Catholics in a special way to fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl project seeks to incorporate all three, making your Lenten experience more spiritually fruitful, while helping the poor and needy suffering across the world.

In the past your parish has probably distributed the cardboard containers for Operation Rice Bowl. With a new name and a simplified logo, CRS Rice Bowl asks for your help this year, proclaiming “For Lent, For Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives.”

On Jan. 8, the Catholic Pastoral Center welcomed Carla Aguilar from the Southwest Regional office of CRS. Members of parishes listened attentively to her presentation on the countries that CRS Rice Bowl will assist this year.

During each week of Lent, a different community receives the help of CRS, beginning with the small West African country of Burkina Faso. There, CRS contributions will help farmers to increase their harvest. Other weeks focus on helping the sick, educating children and providing clean water. In a short film shown at the presentation, farmers voiced their deep gratitude for the help that American Catholics have given them.

CRS provides a rich selection of materials to enhance the Rice Bowl experience. Spiritual Guides that come with your Rice Bowl suggest that you donate the dollar value of your Lenten fasts and sacrifices. Supplemental materials for educators suggest prayers and discussions about family life and human dignity for students of all ages. All the materials are available in Spanish.

Here are a few facts about the participation in the CRS Rice Bowl within our Archdiocese. Of the money given, 75 percent will go to help the countries listed in the program, and 25 percent will stay in the Archdiocese to help local hunger efforts. In the past the Archdiocese has donated to Oklahoma soup kitchens, free clinics, and St. Vincent de Paul Societies. Archbishop Coakley designates these funds, and this year he has sent out letters to pastors voicing his support for CRS Rice Bowl.

You can learn more about this worthwhile project online at www.crsricebowl.org. Also, expect to hear announcements from your pastors about CRS Rice Bowl in the coming months, and please prayerfully consider giving to CRS Rice Bowl this Lent.

Registrations can be submitted on the conference website using PayPal, or by mailing in a registration form available on the website or in parish offices. Special room rates are available at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn by calling (405) 942-1400. Reservations should be made by Feb. 15.

Oklahoma Catholic Women to Hold Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Catholic women and teens are invited to spend a day of reflection, healing and renewal at the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference in March.

Registration is now open for the seventh annual conference which will be held on Saturday, March 2 at the Meridian Conference Center at 1-40 and Meridian.

The conference will include a morning Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley. Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated during the day. A number of vendors will be on hand offering a variety of materials.

Four general sessions and two new breakout sessions for teens, featuring nationally and locally known speakers, have been scheduled.

Through Feb. 15, the registration fee is $50 — $30 for students — and includes a box lunch and drink. After Feb. 15, the registration fee is $60, and will be accepted as space permits.

 Registrations can be submitted on the conference website using PayPal, or by mailing in a registration form available on the website or in parish offices. Special room rates are available at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn by calling (405) 942-1400. Reservations should be made by Feb. 15.

Oklahoma Health Care Directive

In 2006, Oklahoma adopted a uniform Advance Directive for Health Care that incorporates a Living Will, an Appointment of a Health Care Proxy and an Anatomical Gift Directive. It can be executed by anyone over the age of 18 and must be witnessed by at least two other impartial persons.

The Directive goes into effect when your doctor or attending physician determines that you are no longer able to make decisions regarding your medical treatment and you either have a terminal condition, you are persistently unconscious or you have an end-stage condition. If you don’t have a Health Care Directive or your current directive is older than 2006, you should consider executing such a document and communicating your desires to your family and loved ones.

While Catholics believe that each of us has the right to make decisions about our health care and medical treatment, we also believe that life is a gift of a loving God and must be respected throughout the natural life of a person.

As Christian stewards, we should cherish and tend all of our gifts from God in a responsible and accountable manner. Preparing an estate plan for the orderly transfer of our property should include a Health Care Directive. With guidance from your pastor on this important decision, consult your attorney for more information about the Oklahoma Health Care Directive.

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4115 • www.cfook.org • bsemtnr@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans
Archbishop, Bishop Slattery Tour Center of Family Love
Okarche Home for Developmentally Disabled Seeking Support from Church

By Ray Dyer
Sooner Catholic

OKARCHE — Jim O’Brien said he was “extremely encouraged” following a recent tour of the Center of Family Love by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop Edward J. Slattery. The two visited the home for developmentally challenged adults on Jan. 18.

“They asked us to prepare a detailed game plan to present to them,” said O’Brien, executive director for CFL.

O’Brien said Archbishop Coakley of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Bishop Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa asked for another meeting with CFL officials once that report is prepared. The two will then consider how to proceed with possibly offering support for the Center of Family Love, first created through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus in Oklahoma.

O’Brien said while Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Slattery gave no formal promises of financial support, they both expressed approval and appreciation for the caring and compassionate ministry provided by the CFL.

Rhonda Hardin, assistant CFL director, led O’Brien said the CFL board is seeking support from the Church in Oklahoma in an effort to continue renovations and improvements at the complex that first opened in 1981. Those plans received a big boost a few days before Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Slattery arrived when the Tulsa-based Mabee Foundation approved a $440,000 challenge grant for the Center of Family Love.

O’Brien said the Mabee challenge grant gives CFL one year to raise matching funds. He said chairman Bob Dolan will convene his CFL fundraising committee on Feb. 6 and he expects “an aggressive” plan will be developed from this gathering.

“I have no doubt we will meet the challenge,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien said Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Slattery expressed their desire to see the Center of Family Love offer Mass on site when possible and as with other Catholic institutions, they encouraged the Faith to be made highly visible.

“We’ve already added it to our board of directors agenda to discuss how better to do this,” O’Brien said.

Social Ministry Outreach Seeks High School Juniors, Seniors for Fellowship, Help With Catholic Charities Resettlement Program

Are you a young adult who is wondering how to live your faith in a more enriching way? Have you questioned what you have to offer that God could use to help others? If so, you might be interested in being part of a team of high school juniors and seniors who are looking into what it is to live out the Gospel message in a deeper way.

The group is called Social Ministry Outreach and a small group of participants sojourn together reflecting on our place in this world. The Social Ministry group will meet on Tuesday evenings at Catholic Charities at 7 p.m. Through various activities that will include discussion, pilgrimage, presentations and hands-on experience, participants will reflect on what it is to live justly today.

The group will have biweekly activities with other youth in Oklahoma City who are part of the Catholic Charities Resettlement Program.

While interacting with these refugees, during games and activities, we will hear the stories about their journeys that brought them out of their distant nations as refugees and settled them in Oklahoma.

Participation is limited to five to 12 juniors or seniors. The program will begin early in February, so please contact Becky VanPool by phone at 523-3003, or email bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org for more information or to receive an application.

The Social Ministry Outreach group will also be facilitated by Marka Acton, St. Monica Parish, and Sister Veronica Higgins.
Brother Now a Member of Shawnee Monastic Community

By Emily Kindiger
For the Sooner Catholic

SHAWNEE — Brother Simeon Spitz made his Solemn Monastic Profession during the Jan. 6 Epiphany Mass at St. Gregory’s Abbey. He is now a full member of the monastic community in Shawnee.

St. Gregory’s Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen said this profession will instate Spitz’s “final lifelong commitment” to the Order of Saint Benedict (O.S.B.) and to the abbey.

“This journey began for the Oklahoman after his graduation from St. Gregory’s University when he was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He spent two years at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, but discerned that he was called to a monastic life at St. Greg’s, thus starting a new journey, he said.

The young monk started on his path to joining the O.S.B. as a Postulant for six months, then became a Novice for one year before taking his temporary vows.

The Solemn Monastic Profession is the final step in becoming a Capitular, a full member of the monastic community, Abbot Stasyszen said. He said all O.S.B. monks take three vows which include obedience, stability (a commitment to their community) and “conversion of life,” which translated from the original Latin text conversatio morum, roughly means a commitment to poverty, celibacy and the life of prayer — the monk will “continue to be open to God’s grace” throughout his life, he said.

This Solemn Monastic Profession “is a very solemn ceremony” and is “a consecration of lifelong service,” Abbot Stasyszen said.

In his homily, Abbot Stasyszen explained how Brother Simeon’s journey was similar to that taken by the Magi in the person of Jesus Christ. “My brothers and sisters, the Magi of the gospel represent the Order of Saint Benedict (O.S.B.) and to the abbey,” Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen said.

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“Today is an appropriate and beautiful day on which Brother Simeon makes his Solemn Monastic Profession. Like the Magi and so many others throughout history, Brother Simeon has been touched by the Spirit of God, and he has made a long journey to seek Truth, Wisdom, Beauty and the fullness of Life itself. He has found the culmination of his journey in Jesus Christ, and his path in life will never be the same as it once was.”

Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen

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Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen

meaning and truth in our lives, and we will find the culmination of our journey in the same place they did — before Jesus.

“Given this, today is an appropriate and beautiful day on which Brother Simeon makes his Solemn Monastic Profession. Like the Magi and so many others throughout history, Brother Simeon has been touched by the Spirit of God, and he has made a long journey to seek Truth, Wisdom, Beauty and the fullness of Life itself. He has found the culmination of his journey in Jesus Christ, and his path in life will never be the same as it once was.”

St. Gregory’s Abbey is lucky to have this “gifted young man,” and Abbot Stasyszen said he knows Brother Simeon will fulfill his vows and serve Oklahoma well.

Obituary

Sister Mary Clotilda Toelle

Sister Mary Clotilda Toelle died peacefully at Sisters of Mercy Convent on Jan. 4, 2013.

Sister’s 100th birthday was on June 27, 2012. She happily related that she was baptized the next day she was born. The family moved from Dardenne Prairie, Mo., to Sulphur when she was 4 years of age.

They later moved to the rural community of Canute.

Sister Clotilda entered the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1928, and made her perpetual profession of vows on Aug 15, 1934. She enjoyed her early education at Mount St. Mary’s High School, Oklahoma City. There she enjoyed the students, the community life of the Sisters, and always participated in celebrations, prayer and noted events.

Sister obtained her teacher’s certificate in Oklahoma and a B.A. in history at Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kan., and a M.A. in social studies at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

Her multiple missions of Oklahoma City included St. Joseph, John Carroll, St. Francis, Sacred Heart, Mount St. Mary’s, and Bishop McGuinness. Other missions included St. Joseph’s, Elk City, St. Mary’s, Konawa, St. Agnes, Ardmore, and St. Benedict’s, Shawnee, as well as Trinity High, Hutchison, Kan., and St. Joseph’s, Slaton, Texas.

Her joy-filled spirit embraced so many students throughout her career. Many parents and students followed Sister throughout her lifetime and to her last days. Her life was devoted to prayer and dedication as a joyful Sister of Mercy. Sister will be remembered as a good religious, hardworking teacher, and friend of the poor.

Celebrants at her funeral Mass were Rev. Marvin Leven, Rev. Thomas Boyer andDeacon Paul Lewis. Sister’s interment was at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery, Oklahoma City.
St. Philip Neri
School Auction
Set for Feb. 9

This is an evening of fun, food, drink and dancing, all while raising money to benefit St. Philip Neri School. Please join us for a fun evening as we celebrate the 14th annual SPN Mardi Gras.

For ticket information or to make a tax-deductible donation to St. Philip Neri, contact the school office at 737-4496. You can also go to our website at www.stphilinerischool.com, and click on the Mardi Gras link for more details.

A New Evangelization Living Points Memo
Because Talking Points on Jesus Christ Aren’t Enough, Especially During Lent

Living Points are properly motivated, succinct, momentary, faith-filled and Christ-centered charitable actions, which repeatedly occur in our daily lives, and which serve as persuasive visual support and proof that the faith we profess in Jesus Christ, as our one and only Lord and Savior, is true.

As disciples, committed to the New Evangelization, we must follow the old and trustworthy adage that “actions speak louder than words.” Even in his infancy, Jesus himself, all his words throughout His three years of public ministry pale in comparison to the Living Points of His actions on Good Friday and especially what He did three days later.

Living Points help to persuade, convince and transform us and society in ways that words only begin to. Words sometimes fail us, words sometimes aren’t enough and many people are linguistically or verbally challenged. But it’s an undeniable fact that many people with no voice can and do proclaim to others the Good News of Jesus Christ with their lives in ways that put the rest of us to shame.

Living Points, the myriad of loving acts of love and kindness, born out of our loving relationship with the Lord, will always be the necessary prelude and foundation to any potential verbal expression of our faith in Jesus Christ because actions will always speak louder than words and the Lenten season is an excellent time to be vociferous about Jesus.

Living Points are so essential that if there is a contradiction between our proclamation of Jesus Christ and the way we lead our lives, we become irrelevant and unbelievable witnesses and disciples that become excuses for others to not follow, or much less believe in, Jesus Christ. Supposed evangelizers that are addicted to sin and superficial lives hurt themselves, others and the mission of the Church. They need to re-embrace the path of reconciliation with the Lord and the community and after an adequate time of healing, then, and only then, begin to evangelize others once again. The best evangelizers will always be those that take their call to holiness seriously.

Living Points can become seeds of faith that we sow in our homes and community and after an adequate time of penance goes a long way in making our daily Living Points much more fruitful.

Living Points are our starting points, then, in the spirit of the New Evangelization, with the TV off and maybe even a bit more charitable with those less fortunate. During the upcoming 40 Days, let’s place the emphasis of our lives in a bit more Christ-like sacrificial love and maybe a bit less fun, comfort and pleasure. A little bit of penance goes a long way in making our daily Living Points much more fruitful.

By Pedro A. Moreno, OPL
Archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry
Verdad y Tolerancia

En una homilía pronunciada en presencia del Colegio Cardenalicio antes del cónclave de 2005, el cardenal Joseph Ratzinger habló de la amenaza que el nuevo Papa, quienquiera que fuese, tendría que enfrentar. Entre los muchos desafíos que enfrenta la Iglesia al comienzo del siglo XXI, el cardenal Ratzinger observó, lo que él llamó “la dictadura del relativismo”.

El relativismo es el principio filosófico que niega cualquier verdad objetiva, es decir, cualquier verdad que es verdad para todos. Su corolario niega que existan normas morales universalmente válidas. Sólo hay opiniones subjetivas: “Lo que es verdad para tú no lo es necesariamente verdad para mí.” Teniendo en cuenta estos principios del relativismo, ¿podemos fácilmente imaginarnos la malizia e inevitable situación que nos estaría esperando a la vuelta de la esquina?

De hecho, la mente humana está ordenada de manera que busquemos naturalmente la verdad y seamos capaces de captar la verdad una vez que la descubramos.

De una forma o a otra, el relativismo ha existido por mucho tiempo. Jesús dio testimonio ante Pentico Pilato, que Él había venido para dar testimonio de la verdad. Pilato sólo pudo responder: “¿Y qué es la verdad?” (Jn. 18:37-38). El relativismo es un asalto a los fundamentos mismos de la sociedad y a la comunicación humana. Si no existe una verdad, ¿qué ocurre con la honestidad y la integridad? “¿Cuál ha de ser el principio y el fundamento que rige nuestras relaciones y acciones humanas?” Tristemente, es la crudeza del poder que usa las fuerzas del pecado y la traición. Al referirse a la forma contemporánea de este error filosófico como la “dictadura del relativismo,” el Cardenal Ratzinger (Benedicto XVI) destacó su fuerza y naturaleza agravada.

El relativismo se manifiesta como tanto en la cultura religiosa como en la secular. Cuando se divierte de la verdad, la verdad que puede ser comprendida sólo por la fe sino también a través de la razón, la verdad corre el riesgo de ser ocultada por diversas maneras de extremismo y fundamentalismo. Y fe y fervor religioso irracional puede rápidamente hacer uso de la violencia en búsqueda de sus objetivos, como el mundo ha presenciado con la violencia en búsqueda de sus objetivos, como el mundo ha presenciado.

Un Memorando de la Nueva Evangelización sobre los Signos de Vida

Por Pedro A. Moreno, OP

Director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Signos de Vida son actos caritativos, debidamente motivados, sencillos y de propósito, que expresan por sí mismos amor y bondad. Son “semillas de fe” que sembramos en la tierra de nuestras almas, que con el tiempo puedan convertirse en árboles fructíferos. Los Signos de Vida son expresiones de la fe que profesamos en Jesucristo, expresión visual y convincente de la certeza de nuestra fe. Son invisibles en la fe cotidiana, y que sirven como apoyo en las ocasiones que se producen en nuestra vida para que otros puedan ser más conscientes de la presencia de Jesús en nuestro mundo secularizado y relativista.

Por su parte, el cardenal Joseph Ratzinger habló de las amenazas que el nuevo Papa, quienquiera que fuese, tendría que enfrentar. Entre los muchos desafíos que enfrenta la Iglesia al comienzo del siglo XXI, el cardenal Ratzinger observó, lo que él llamó “la dictadura del relativismo.”

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Un Memorando de la Nueva Evangelización sobre los Signos de Vida

Fue Hablar sobre Jesucristo no basta, Especialmente Durante la Cuaresma

Un poco de penitencia nos puede adelantar por el camino donde nuestros Signos de Vida diaria sean mucho más fructíferos.

Signos de Vida son nuestros puntos de partida, entonces, en la espiral de la Nueva Evangelización, con la televisión apagada, y tal vez con una buena taza de café caliente, tengamos una alegre y pacífica conversación sobre cómo, a pesar de los dolores y sufrimientos que van tomando de la mano con nuestras cruces diarias, no podemos negar el hecho de que todos estamos siendo constantemente amados, perdonados y bendecidos por nuestro misericordioso Salvador, Jesucristo. Él es la fuente de los Signos de Vida y hasta aquí el memorando.

Recogiendo lo dicho en el artículo anterior y siguiendo la metodología que he venido desarrollando, propongo que el lector tenga una secuencia ordenada, concluyamos respecto al pensamiento protestante, que es el lógico de los grupos cristianos no católicos, sino solo y únicamente por la fe. Y el principio protestante de la fe y las obras sostenidas por la Biblia. Pero como veremos, estos hermanos protestantes, no se puedan bautizar niños. Eso no se dice por ninguna parte. Habla de una forma muy amplia y objetiva. "El que no renace del agua y del Espíritu, no puede entrar en el Reino de los cielos." (Juan 3, 5). Pero no dice una oportunidad para ejercer un Verdadero Discipulado! Pronto habrá más sacerdotes misioneros que llegan para ayudar a la Arquidiócesis en el ministerio con el creciente número de católicos hispanos. Tendremos que ayudar a cubrir los gastos adicionales causados por la llegada de estos misioneros que irán a servir en algunas de nuestras comunidades más pobres. ¡Esta es también una oportunidad para ejercer un Verdadero Discipulado! Actualmente tenemos un programa de radio católico, en español, llamado Chispitas de Luz. Este programa ofrece música y reflexiones sobre las lecturas bíblicas de cada domingo. ¡Qué maravillosa oportunidad de ayudar a otros en el Evangelio a través de las ondas radiales a la comunidad latina. ¡Esta es también una oportunidad para ejercer un Verdadero Discipulado! La Oficina del Ministerio Hispano, que ayuda al Arzobispo y muchos otros sacerdotes y grupos con el ministerio a la comunidad hispana, también prepara las páginas en español del Stooner Catholic. ¡Esta es también una oportunidad para ejercer un Verdadero Discipulado! Asistir al Fondo de Desarrollo de la Arquidiócesis, ADF por sus siglas en inglés, con generosas donaciones es también una forma para ejercer un Verdadero Discipulado! Gracias al Fondo de Desarrollo de la Arquidiócesis, ADF por sus siglas en inglés, ayudamos a llevar a Cristo de muchas maneras a las personas que real-mentemente están hambrientas de Nuestro Salvador y Señor. No bautizan niños, en los episco-palianos bautizan niños; pero los bautistanos no, los anabaptistas tampoco. Todos ellos son protestantes, pero no tienen la Tradición y el magisterio pontificio para interpretar correctamente la Biblia, caen en enormes contradicciones. Concluimos entonces que aquí el principio de sola es- critura se cae, sola la Biblia no es suficiente ni única vía de inter- pretación. Ahora un poco de sentido común. Si los padres de familia se preocupan por la salud de los niños por eso los vacunan, les dan medicina, los llevan al médico. Si se preocupan por su educación, los matricularan en la escuela, les darán los libros, les ayudan hacer las tareas. Precisamente porque no tienen uso de razón y no entienden lo que puede ser mejor para sus vidas los niños. Por eso los bautizan.
Make Each Day, Each Moment Alone, a Celebration of Life

I couldn’t dream of starting my day without prayer and reading and meditating on Sacred Scripture. For me, life would have no meaning without making that first connection with Almighty God. By connecting with God in prayer, we affirm our gratitude for Him giving us life as well as the talents and gifts with which we have been blessed. After praying by myself and later with a prayer partner, I like to listen via my computer to “Moments of Reparation” on WDIO 810 A.M. (a radio station near Pittsburgh, Pa.).

This spiritual block of time equips me to cope with the realities that make up the rest of my day. Prayer and time in Scripture and reflections help me lift my concerns and worries, giving them to Jesus.

Each morning I pledge to unite my sufferings with the holy sacrifice of the Masses throughout the world. This prayer concludes with “especially those in most need of Thy Mercy.”

Whether I recall these words throughout the day, I believe God will honor my prayer intentions. He honors it, each time I accept the humiliation of my dependency on others. He honors it each time I offer my time in my wheelchair for souls in Purgatory.

These simple acts of faith help me to celebrate the life I have been given. These acts of faith allow me to live life with joy, even though at times that is not always easy.

I am not a person who feels comfortable being alone. Yet, through God’s grace I have come to appreciate my time alone. It is a time I don’t have to bend to someone’s whims or hear in their voice or their gestures that I am an obligation to them or worse, a burden.

The time I have alone has become special for me. For in these hours, both early morning and late night, God the Father assures me He is grateful my parents were co-creators in giving me life. For that wonderful gift and the people who have been there for me, thank you one and all!

To God be the Glory.

By Bill Zalot

Bishop Says ‘Evil Overcome’ as Aurora Theater Reopens

AURORA, Colo. (CNAWTN News) — At the reopening of the Aurora Theater where a gunman took 12 lives last July, Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver said the darkness of evil cannot overcome the light and beauty of Christ.

“Seeing the beautiful helps put behind you the darkness, the evil, the horror of what occurred here. Opening yourself up to beauty, to receiving beauty, is a way of really pushing out the darkness that can be there,” he told CNA shortly after the Jan. 17 event.

“When the sunrise comes up, there’s a real beauty and goodness there, that warms your heart and fills you with a certain peace and joy, to see the sun rising after the darkness of night.”

“Christ is the light of the world,” he added. “He identifies himself as the light of the world, and ‘Aurora’s’ means dawning, light ... we cannot let evil have the final word, and good always triumphs over evil.”

The archbishop attended the reopening to offer a closing prayer at the event. Some 5,000 people attended the reopening, including victims and their families, first responders and local hospital employees and volunteers.

On July 20, James Holmes, 25, entered the theater dressed in black tactical assault gear. He threw a pair of tear gas canisters into the cinema before indiscriminately opening fire on moviegoers. Holmes was arrested out-side the cinema when he surrendered to police. He had murdered 12 people and wounded 58 more.

“God calls us to pursue together what is true, what is good, and what is beautiful. The way of peace means coming together in love,” Archbishop Aquila said.

Confusions About “Equality” and “Discrimination”

The Supreme Court’s decision to hear arguments about the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California’s Proposition 8 guarantees that the debate over marriage will be at the forefront of American public life for the foreseeable future. DOMA defines marriage as the legal union of one man and one woman for purposes of federal law (it says nothing about what states may or may not define as “marriage”). Prop 8 was a voter-initiated correction of the California Supreme Court’s interpretation of that state’s constitution as containing a “right” to same-sex “marriage.”

Irrespective of whether the U.S. Supreme Court takes a narrow approach to each case or tries to find a “right” to same-sex “marriage” in the U.S. Constitution that would be binding on all the states, the marriage debate will continue. Indeed, if the Court pre-empts the political process, the marriage debate will likely intensify, just as the right-to-life argument intensifies after Roe v. Wade eliminated the abortion laws of every state, 40 years ago this month.

The key to the confusion, then, is to try and clarify some of the issues here.

Laws authorizing same-sex “marriage” have been successfully promoted as the equivalent of civil rights laws that ban racial discrimination. Indeed, that’s a large part of the power of the “marriage equality” movement: it has battered onto the one available public moral reference point for Getting It Right in 21st-century American politics — the civil rights movement of the 1950s and early 1960s. For almost two centuries, equality before the law had been denied to Americans of African descent; that blatant injustice was challenged by a movement of moral persuasion and legal maneuver; the movement was ultimately vindicated by a change of hearts, minds and statutes. If then, on matters of race, why not? Because every marriage policy in every polity known to history draws boundaries, excluding some types of relationships from “marriage.” Parents can’t marry their children. Brothers and sisters can’t marry. People beneath a certain age can’t marry. People who are already married can’t marry.

In other words, governments, whether autocratic, aristocratic, monarchial or democratic, have always “discriminated” — i.e., made distinctions — in their marriage laws. And in that sense, there is no “equality” issue in the law similar to the equality that racial minorities rightly sought and won, in the civil rights movement.

If marriage law is always going to involve distinctions, the moral (and legal/constitutional) question is whether the distinction inflicts a “dis- crimination” that is arbitrary or invidious. Or does the distinction inherit in the very nature of marriage and serve a genuine public good?

In 21st-century post-modern culture, it’s hard to make an argument from the “nature” of anything. Try this, though. When the Nov. 2, 2012, issue of Entertainment Weekly refers to Lincoln screenwriter Tony Kushner as “the husband of Entertainment Weekly columnist Mark Harris,” aren’t you jarred? Doesn’t something seem, not just unfamiliar, but mistaken? Do you have the same instinctive reaction — Something’s afoot here — when reading a London Daily Mail headline from last Oct. 23: “Ellen DeGeneres receives comedy award as her gorgeous wife Portia De Rossi looks on?”

For millennia, governments have legally recognized the nature of “marriage” as the stable union of a man and a woman, both because that’s what it is and for good public policy reasons, including the well-known benefits to children and the preservation of family life. Does that recognition involve distinctions? Yes. Does it result in injustice? No.

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.

By George Weigel

By Bill Zalot

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper bows his head during a prayer at a remembrance and reopening ceremony at the remodeled Century Aurora 16 Theater in Colorado. Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila spoke and gave the closing prayer at the mass shooting site that claimed the lives of 12 and injured 58 others. (CNS photo/Ed Sengstaken, pool via Reuters)
Safe Environment Coordinator
The Archdiocese is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator. The Safe Environment Coordinator is a member of a team of Archdiocesan professionals who are charged with developing and implementing the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program. The position is part time (approximately 18 hours per week). Applicants should have in-depth experience in child protec-

services, education and/or behavioral sciences. Job duties include planning and implementing training sessions and workshops for Archdiocesan personnel and assisting parishes with their Safe Environment Programs. If interested, please send a complete Archdiocesan Application (available on the Archdiocesan website) and resume to Tish Eason, Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

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Calvary Catholic Church in Nichols Hills, is seeking part-time child-care workers for the parish nursery. If you have a nurturing spirit and like interacting with people, especially children, we would like to hear from you. Flexible hours, wonderful environment, supportive staff. Perfect for college students and retirees. For more information, contact Jenni Butch at (405) 843-4766, or jenni@ckokc.org.

Health Care Openings
Nonprofit organization Center of Family Love has employment opportunities for an Assistant Director of Nursing, Certified Dietary Manager and Direct Care Staff (paid training offered for Direct Care positions). If interested, email resumes to HR@cflinc.org or apply in person between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at 635 W. Texas Ave. in Okaiche, Okla.

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9 Woodward Informational Session on Faith Community Nursing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. St. Peter Church Kennedy Hall, 2020 Oklahoma Avenue, Woodward. RSVP by Feb. 1. For more information or to register, call Debra Boeckman at (580) 484-2544 or dbboeckman@yahoo.com.

10 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 2001 SW 29th St. For more information, call the church at (405) 685-4806.

For a full calendar and up-to-date jobs box, visit soonercatholic.org or use this QR Code with your smart phone.
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