Pope Francis has transferred Bishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger from the Diocese of Salina to the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz. The Holy See made the announcement earlier this month in Rome.

"I congratulate Bishop Weisenburger on his appointment as the next bishop of the Diocese of Tucson. I will be praying for him as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities, and for the Diocese of Salina, who will have to say farewell to their beloved bishop and prepare to welcome a new shepherd," Archbishop Coakley said.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, sixth bishop of Tucson, submitted his resignation in accord with Church law upon reaching his 75th birthday. Weisenburger’s appointment continued on page 3

About five years ago, Brian Cornish, a Baptist minister with a master’s degree in divinity, started to explore questions about the origins of the Christian faith. His journey would include much research and would culminate with him resigning his job and joining the Catholic Church at Easter 2017.

Cornish, with his wife Kristen and five children, are now members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. He is employed as the maintenance technician at Saint Mary Catholic School in Lawton and also serves as the youth director at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Father Phil Seeton, pastor at Holy Family, said he believes the parish is blessed to have Cornish as the youth director.

"Brian brings new and fresh ideas to youth ministry. Often we Catholics lag behind non-Catholics in methods and expressions of youth ministry."

Prior to moving back to Lawton to be near family, Cornish was living in Beaumont, Texas, had begun doctoral studies and was enjoying his 13th year in Baptist ministry.

Cornish was brought up in a very active Baptist family in Lawton. His dad is a lifelong Baptist minister. His only contact with Catholics as a youth was on the softball fields in Lawton. He recalls the Catholic teams “crossed themselves when batting.”

Cornish thought, “That isn’t going to help them in softball.” Reaction to Cornish’s conversion from family and friends ranged from shock to anger to sadness. His father is supportive, though remaining firm in his own Baptist commitments.

What motivated Cornish’s conversion to Catholicism was extensive research into early Church history and the writings of Catholic converts such as Christian Smith, Francis Beckwith and Scott Hahn.

Cornish concluded that Protestantism, although having many positive points, had deviated from the faith handed down from the days of the earliest Apostles. He goes so far to say, “If you believe the Holy Spirit blessed the Apostles and the early Church, it doesn’t make sense that the Holy Spirit would withdraw his guidance until Protestantism came along 1,500 years later.”

Cornish is aware of the faith crisis facing the youth of most Catholic families in society.

“It is not just a Catholic issue but a Christianity problem, across every denomination. Children will follow the example of their parents; Christ must be the most important part of a parent’s life in order to serve as an example for each child in this society.”

Cornish and his wife acknowledge God’s faithful provision and are grateful for the love and support shown by their RCIA class during their transition.

Father Brian Buettner, pastor at Blessed Sacrament, said, “Brian Cornish is a man of deep faith and conviction in the Lord. It has been great to welcome Brian, Kristen and their children to our parish. Their family came to us just after entering the Catholic Church and it has been great to see their enthusiasm continue to grow and slowly spread throughout the parish.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Bishop Weisenburger appointed seventh bishop of Tucson

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Go Make Disciples: Sustaining the vision

This has been an exhilarating time for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In the past four years, we have been part of the joyful radiant of the recent beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother.

Consequently, we now have a new Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis. The second goal has been a lot more challenging. As we worked toward that goal, we became increasingly convinced that there was a need for significant and organizational changes to facilitate our renewed focus on mission within the Archdiocese.

Over time, we have grown in height and understanding of what needs to be done. The past two years has seen a tremendous reorganization effort within the chancery. This has resulted in re-aligning various departments to create a closer collaboration for mission. This physically re-arranged our work spaces to encourage collaboration among kindred departments.

We have now completed the second year of this project and anticipate that the final stage of this process will be concluded by the end of this year. Many of those adults will go on to serve in their parishes and diocesan offices and others come to a deeper experience of their faith.

As we reflect on these past few years, I am thankful so many who have welcomed, embraced, and even celebrated the vision of “Go Make Disciples.” Their passion for Christ and their desire to share the Spirit, have been a driving force behind the implementation and realization of the goals outlined in my letter.

At this mark this four-year anniversary, I would like to provide an update in the next year and to provide hope for the future. The need and importance of Evangelization and Catechesis will be re-engaging as a process very similar to what we did before — listening, learning, analyzing, prioritizing, planning, and working. We will assess our progress on all of these goals, re-evaluating what needs to be done to finish what we started, and directing us toward the mission moving forward.

Last year I provided an update on our effort to build a Catholic in Oklahoma in the Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us.

Find more news on the website

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

The Catholic Faith Conference: Beyond the Pew,” is Jan. 19-20, 2018, at the Wichita retreat center. The event features nationally recognized Catholic speaker Jon Leonetti, keynote speaker is Theodore Papadopoulos. Space is limited to the first 150 registrants. Contact the Spiritual Life Center at (316) 744-0167 or go online to archwichita.org.

Archbishop Oakley’s Calendar

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

Oct. 15 - Mass and presentation of Blessed Stanley Rother relic, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity, Owasso.
Oct. 15 - Anniversary Mass, 5 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC.
Oct. 17 - Preclinical meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center.
Oct. 17 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC.
Oct. 17 - Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC.
Oct. 18 - School Mass and classroom visits, 9:15 a.m., Holy Family School, OKC.
Oct. 18 - Blessing of new parish hall, 6 p.m., Sacred Heart, Alvah.
Oct. 19 - School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., St. Eugene, OKC.
Oct. 19 - Assembly of Catholic Professors luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Downtown Petroleum Club, CPC.
Oct. 20 - Annual meeting of the Eucharistic Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, OKC.
Oct. 23-26 - Annual Priest Retreat, Spiritual Life Center.
Oct. 27 - School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., Sacred Heart School, OKC.
Oct. 27 - Opening prayer and welcome for Encantos, 6 p.m., CPC.
Oct. 29 - Ordination, Clear Creek Monastery, Hulbert.

Ardmore St. Mary welcomes four new deacons in November

Four parishioners of Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore are part of a new deacon class of 22 men who will be ordained Nov. 3. The four men have spent their careers in very different occupations, but all served people in that capacity. He would offer to the Church, assist people in their spiritual needs, and be a shepherd of souls along his own faith journey, and draw people to Christ through living and sharing the faith.

Archbishops Okley’s letter.

The overall vision that “Go Make Disciples” articulates is that this priority area aims to move us from maintenance to mission by formating and realizing the goals outlined in my letter.

The second priority area articulated in “Go Make Disciples” is “faith formation.” The vision for this priority area is that we would be somewhat studied due to the transitions and the restructuring of the process. The new Secretarial structure of Evangelization and Catechesis will pick up these goals in an effort to complete them as well.

I look forward to sharing more with you about this in the coming year. It is an interesting and exciting time to be a Catholic in Oklahoma in Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

The enormous turnout for the Beatification Mass, which was attended by an estimated 20,000 people, and the large crowd of more than 1,000 who worked for Matthew Kirk’s Dynamic Catholic are certain signs of a vibrant faith community in Oklahoma.

Finally, the third priority we articulated is “Hispano-Catholic Ministry.” This priority area has been an exhilarating time for Catholics in our own Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We’re still basking in the Church in any way possible. He would like to have that same something at the University of Oklahoma and do some overcrowding that many of our parishes serving Spanish-speaking populations.

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Archdiocese announces new archdiocesan school advisory council

By Ted King
The Sooner Catholic

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City recently announced the creation of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Council. After an 18-month planning process, the council was created by Pope Francis in 2016 to provide advice and direction to school leaders around the archdiocese.

The council will provide advice to Archbishop Coakley and Superintendent Diane Floyd on strategic planning, marketing, and governance to help sustain, grow and strengthen the schools in the archdiocese.

The council is made up of members from various parishes and schools in the archdiocese. Coakley serves as chairman.

By Judy Brinkley
The Sooner Catholic

Matthew Kelly preaches “Passion and Purpose”

Matthew Kelly’s “Passion and Purpose” event drew about 4,500 people to downtown Oklahoma City to deliver a message of.discernment, purpose, starting new habits and gaining personal clarity. Singer-songwriter Eliot Morris provided inspirational Christian music between sessions.

“I heard Matthew about 12 years ago and I’ve really been impressed with his message. I think this is going to be a wonderful event and I’m looking forward to my first session’s celebration. He provides a great summons to discipleship, an active engagement in the Church and a sense of mission, which is what we have been lacking as a whole church,” commented Coakley.

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Oklahoma City. NEWSPAPER

OK 73123.
Would you be ready? 

In this parish? 

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma offers estate planning continuing education course

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma is presenting a continuing education course, "Estate Planning 2017," that will be held on Friday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. 

The course is geared toward attorneys, accountants, financial planners and trust officers. The cost for the course is $50 in advance and $75 the day of the course.

The presenting sponsor for the course is The First National Bank of Oklahoma. 

For more information or to register, contact (405) 721-4115 or jbohan@archokc.org. Register online at www.archokc.org.
Okarche teacher wins honor

By Ted King

Okarche native Kimberly Frisby is the 2017 Kingfisher County Teacher of the Year. She was given that honor by listeners of KNID radio station in Enid and was presented with flowers and a gift card, which she gave to Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche.

Frisby, who has a dual certification/degree in elementary and early childhood education from Oklahoma State University, was a first and second grade teacher at Holy Trinity for 27 years. She is a cousin of Blessed Stanley Rother and of Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg.

This isn’t Frisby’s first honor. She was honored by Walmart/Sam’s Club for her work in the classroom as 2007 Teacher of the Year. She credits that honor to one of the parents of her students who wrote an essay nominating her.

“God puts things in front of us for a reason,” she said. She said her former students come up to her in town and say, “We miss you! We love you! I wish you were our teacher for every grade!” Frisby said, “They make it all worthwhile.”

Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Google donates laptops to Cristo Rey OKC

Students participating in Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School’s Corporate Work Study Program will each be outfitted with a MacBook laptop, courtesy of a generous donation from Google.

The company donated 150 refurbished laptops, enough for every student in Cristo Rey OKC’s freshman class, as part of its Google Goodware program that supports nonprofits.

“Cristo Rey’s Corporate Work Study Program is providing students with valuable work skills and putting them on a path to success,” said Andrew Silvestri, Google’s regional head of community affairs. “We are grateful to be able to support their education with technology that will enable them to hone the skills they need to succeed both in school and in their future careers.”

Cristo Rey OKC President Renee Porter said the school is thrilled to have Google’s support.

“Our mission is to provide a world-class education to students who otherwise would not be able to receive one,” Porter said. “That would not be possible without corporate partners like Google who share that vision and commitment to educating a new generation of motivated, highly-skilled Oklahomans. We are extremely grateful for their support and for the investment they are making in our students.”

To apply to Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School, go online to CristoReyOKC.org.

Each year, teachers and staff members are honored for service to Catholic schools. Pictured are those teachers and staff members with five years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and 25 years of service in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Also receiving service awards, but not pictured, are Teresa Stotler from St. Philip Neri Catholic School for 30 years of service and Jeanne Menens from St. John Nepomuk Catholic School for 35 years of service.
Archdiocese receives stewardship recognition

The 55th annual International Catholic Stewardship Conference was held in Kansas City, Mo., in late September.

Each year, dioceses across the country submit materials from annual appeals and stewardship reports for review.

Out of 57 entries, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City won first place in two separate categories — Annual Appeal and Total Stewardship.

The 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal is on track to reach its goal of $11.5 million to help fund diocese-wide ministries that impact all parish communities.

The Total Stewardship Effort recognizes parishes that excel in their efforts to help parishes to more fully utilize their talents, time and money for their faith.

Very Rev. Andrew Kenkelinger, chair of the Archdiocesan Appeal Board, and Fr. Peter de Keraty, photo provided, said Father de Keraty, executive director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the archdiocese, oversaw the Stewardship Challenge over the Labor Day weekend.

The challenge was designed to help to systematically increase support for archdiocesan and parish missions and to fund new initiatives.

“For those of our peers in the field is a testament to the love of God we have shared and the dedication for the Sutton Catholic,”

Director of parishes

St. John Nepomuk, Yukon, is seeking a full-time director of parishes.

The position provides organizational direction of the archdiocesan parish ministry to be part of the Stewardship and Development team.

The position is responsible for managing di-

Communication

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for a communications coordinator to be part of the Stewardship and Development team.

The position is responsible for managing di-


tial and media communications campaigns related to the implementation of the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign undertaken by the archdiocese.

The position will also be expanded to support the implementation of a $5 million comprehensive capital fundraising campaign that will be implemented in 10 church communities.

The successful candi-

date will be highly trained, have excellent written, verbal and social media communications skills. Familiarity with social media platforms is required. Send inquiries and resumes to niegten@archokc.org.

Director of marriage and family life

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of marriage and family life ministry.

The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan marriage and family life efforts, with oversight of marriage preparation programs.

Various parish services to families, and coordination and relationship development.

Previous experience in leading and development team.

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Para más información, visite www.archokc.org/safeenvironment.
“Sally, I’m too old for this,” a friend of mine remarked after filling out a document to volunteer. Then, at another meeting, a volunteer said, “Maybe I was too hasty in volunteering - May be God is telling me I do not belong in this organization.”

Let’s get the age excuse out of the way. Your relationship with God usually plays a role in your ability to do your will. Let’s get the age excuse out of the way. Your relationship with God usually plays a role in your ability to do your will. Let’s get the age excuse out of the way. Your relationship with God usually plays a role in your ability to do your will. Let’s get the age excuse out of the way. Your relationship with God usually plays a role in your ability to do your will.
Pope recognizes martyrdom of Franciscans killed in Guatemala

**By Junno Arocho Esteves**

**Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of nine men and women, including a Franciscan priest who championed the land rights of farmers in Guatemala.

During an Oct. 10 audience with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the pope recognized the martyrdom of Italian Father Tullio Merluzzo, a Franciscan priest who died alongside Luis Obdulio Arroyo Navarro, a Guatemalan layman who belonged to the Third Order of Saint Francis.

A recognition of martyrdom means the two can be beatified, a step toward sainthood, without a miracle attributed to their intercession.

Born in Vicenza, Italy, in 1929, Father Merluzzo was ordained in 1953 by Cardinal Giuseppe Roncalli, the future Saint John XXIII. Seven years after his ordination, Father Merluzzo was sent to the Guatemalan department of Izabal, where he helped run several schools and hospitals as well as served as pastor in several parishes.

Many priests and religious in Guatemala became targets during the country’s 1960-1996 civil war as government forces cracked down on leftist rebels supported by the rural poor.

Father Merluzzo sought to help poor farmers regain property they were forced to abandon. However, this angered the local military, which accused the priest of collaborating with rebel forces and threatened his life.

His superiors, fearing for his life, relocated the priest to another parish, in Quiriguá. However, he was ambushed and murdered along with Arroyo Navarro after returning from an evening catechism class July 1, 1981.

Father Merluzzo and Arroyo Navarro’s deaths occurred several weeks before the martyrdom of Blessed Stanley Rother of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the first martyr born in the United States. Beatiﬁed Sept. 23, Blessed Rother was gunned down July 28, 1981, in the rectory of his church in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala.

The pope also signed decrees acknowledging the heroic virtues of four men and three women, including Brazilian Father Donizetti Taveres de Lima, who was known for his holiness and service to the poor and the sick, and Polish Sister Elizabeth Rose Czacka.

Despite losing her sight at the age of 22, Sister Czacka founded the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross and dedicated her life to helping the visually impaired.

If the pope also recognizes a miracle attributed to their intercession, they would be beatified. Another miracle is needed for canonization.

The other decrees approved by Pope Francis Oct. 10 recognized the heroic virtues of:

-- Ukrainian Capuchin Father Seraphim Kaszuba, 1910-1977;
-- Spanish Father Magín Morera Feixas, 1908-1984, former superior general of the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph;
-- Spanish Sister Maria Lorenza Longo, founder of the Capuchin Poor Clares. She also founded the Hospital for the Incurables in Naples, Italy. She was born in Spain in 1463 and died in Naples in 1539;
-- Francesco Paolo Gravina, 1800-1854, an Italian prince who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent.

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**Puerto Rico hurricane recovery**

Archbishop Beltran during Vespers on Sept. 7 at St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Sara Ocasio, who was affected by Hurricane Maria, washes clothes in a river Oct. 9 near her home in the Trujillo Alto municipality outside San Juan, Puerto Rico. Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Maria tore through the Caribbean, Puerto Rico remains with little clean water, little electric power and almost no telecommunications. CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters.

To help, go online to www.archokc.org/online-giving and click on Special Collections. 100 percent of funds raised go to disaster relief.