Archbishop Coakley leads Middle East mission

Visits displaced families & Christian leaders in Gaza, Iraq

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

As chairman of Catholic Relief Services, Archbishop Paul Coakley led a mission trip to the Middle East this month to assess the needs of displaced Christian families and war-torn communities in Gaza and Iraq.

Archbishop Coakley along with CRS President Carolyn Woo and the CRS delegation visited locations where CRS has been working to meet the needs of men, women and children, including the pressing need for transitional housing.

They also discussed current issues and future plans with local civic and religious leaders, who are working with CRS to help maintain a sense of normalcy for the thousands of Christians displaced by Islamic extremists and for residents in Gaza, whose buildings sustained heavy damage in the recent conflict. He returned to Oklahoma City on Oct. 12.

Below are posts from Archbishop Coakley during his trip:

Oct. 6 – 10:55 a.m. CT
Leaving today on a CRS mission to Gaza and northern Iraq to support and assess the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons. Please pray for peace in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East, especially for persecuted Christians who are being driven from their homeland.

Oct. 8 – 10:14 a.m.
We spent the early part of the day in Gaza amid the terrible destruction from the recent war. In many areas the devastation is complete. CRS is assisting with numerous projects to help people of the area rebuild their lives and their livelihoods. One of the pressing needs is transitional housing for those who have lost their homes. CRS has developed the model that will be used. Children are returning to school and we visited a site where CRS is distributing school supplies to the kids. So many needs, but the people are resilient and profoundly grateful for our assistance. It was a very moving day. Concluded with a visit with Bishop Shomali at the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Oct. 8 – 11:39 p.m.
Just concluded Mass (6 a.m.) at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City. What an awesome privilege to celebrate Mass in the tomb where our Lord's body was laid in death and rose victorious in the Resurrection!

Oct. 9 – 11:02 p.m.
Sunrise over Erbil in the Kurdistan district of Iraq. We arrived at 2 a.m. ... A camp for internally displaced persons has been set up on the grounds of this parish church. Families crowd together are just beginning to stir.

Oct. 10 – 7:04 a.m.
Our CRS delegation is visiting Christian and Azidi displaced persons in Dahuk accompanied by the local bishop and the president of Caritas Iraq. Beautiful children and amazing sense of hope!

Oct. 10 – 10:04 p.m.
These are the faces of the Yazidi people who were stranded and then rescued from ISIS on Mount Sindhar in August. CRS is working to provide these and thousands of displaced

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Synod in Rome points to faith, hope, and love for renewal of marriage, family, civilization

continued on page 7

Pope Francis and prelates pray at the start of the morning session of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 9. (CNS photo/Paul Haring).

structure in which people have to bind themselves in order to somehow gain God's love. God's plan for marriage is a gift of God’s love for us,” he told Catholic News Service on the sidelines of the synod, which is meeting at the Vatican Oct. 5-19.

Synod briefers have told reporters that a recurring theme at the synod is the relationship between upholding and being faithful to God’s truth and being a church of mercy that embraces those who suffer.

Archbishop Durocher said that “tension between teaching and pastoral care disappears” when people recognize that living the teaching brings healing.

"The teaching itself is a form of pastoral care," he said.

continued on page 7
In that letter, I made a solid commitment to promoting the well-being of marriage and family life as permanent union. As the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, we pray for God’s continued grace and blessings.”

What this means is that the members of this commission will begin their study of the Cause in the next few months. After completing their thorough analysis, they will submit their own findings to the Cardinals and Archbishop, who constitute the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The members of the Congregation will conduct their own study, make their own comments and ultimately submit their recommendation to the Holy Father. Should the Holy Father determine that Father Rother died as a martyr, a decree would be issued to that effect, thus allowing for his subsequent beatification.

Beatification, the final stage prior to canonization, permits public veneration and declares that the life of the person is one of heroic virtue, is worthy of imitation among the Christian faithful.

More than 30 years have passed since Father Rother’s death. Many have prayed and labored that his heroic life might one day be lifted up as a beacon of holiness and pastoral charity for others. Now there is good reason to hope that the Church may soon acknowledge Father Stanley Rother as one of her martyrs. I am eager to share with you this news with you in order to encourage you to re-pray your prayer for his beatification and canonization. What a blessing it would be for the Church in Oklahoma and throughout America, North and South.

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, and online at www.sooneercatholic.org.

* Need to know the Saint of the Day? Daily prayers of Catholic meme-ries? Download the archdiocese’s free App stored in the App Store or Google Play.

* The Dorothy Day Center in Ada needs extra holiday volunteers for Nov. 20-22. For more info, call Toni Calvey at (405) 358-0639 or e-mail toni.calvey1900@gmail.com. Call Toni Calvey at (405) 358-0639 to volunteer for Nov. 20-22.

* Put Out Into the Deep – Magic at the Mount Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, 6 p.m., Tower Hotel, OKC

* Catholic Extension Board of Governors Meeting, Noon, via teleconference

* Presbyterian Women in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Regional Meeting, room C-1. Learn the process of becoming a Great Physician’s Aid. A search-and-rescue operation is being planned for the young miracle worker, God’s presence and humanity of the characters in the midst of this dramedy, distrust and deception to highlight the minds and motives of all his characters, some of which are so isolated in their desire to control this extreme power that they use manipulation and violence. 

Archbishop Calvey’s Coakley’s

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

Oct. 21 – Catholic Extension Board of Governors Meeting, Noon, via teleconference

Oct. 28 – School Mass and classroom visitations, 8:15 a.m., Saint Eugene School, OKC

Oct. 29 – Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities Office, OKC

Oct. 30 – Confirmation, 10:45 a.m., Sacred Heart Church, El Reno

Nov. 1 – Magic at the Mount Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction, 6 p.m., Tower Hotel, OKC

Nov. 2 – Mass, 9 a.m., Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, Oklahoma City

Book will thrill readers with unique plot, spiritual message

By Regina Lordan

“This Rising” by Robert Ovies (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2014) 307 pp., $19.95

“The Rising” has all the makings of a fast-paced novel that will thrill readers with its relatable characters, unique plot, spiritual message and rich, vibrant, distant and deception-ful ending.

Set in Detroit, the drama surrounds the unexpected story of a teacher and a young 9-year-old boy who, after whipping the bullies to death at her kitchen, changes the world forever. Moments after this quick prayer act, with the woman’s mouth still wide shut from the entanglement, and to see him start to move.

The boy’s mother and father, their parish priest and cardinal, and eventually furred journalists and despised people of all kinds, begin to ask questions that crescendo into a fierce argument. Did the young C.J. Walker really raise a woman from the dead? Was she ever dead in the first place? Can she call this her own particular religious, awakens more people from sleep, common sense? In some cases, who deserves to be resurrected? Should it be the wicked, the sick, the young crowd planet, who does a kind act of over a kind of a woman, or the weakest of the weak, the weakest of the weak, the wait the price for such a service? Who should decide who deserves a miracle? The author makes references to a 9-year-old boy.

The Rising” by Robert Ovies takes the reader inside a fast-paced novel that will thrill readers with its relatable characters, unique plot, spiritual message and rich, vibrant, distant and deception-ful ending.

“Did the young C.J. Walker really raise a woman from the dead?”

R. Marion’s mysterious gift with a simple, faith-full message and nicely crafted ending. C.J.’s mysterious gift with a simple, faith-full message and nicely crafted ending. C.J. Walker’s mysterious gift with a simple, faith-full message and nicely crafted ending.

Archbishop Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Archbishop Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City
“Rendering unto God what is God’s”

Almsgiving is ultimately a gesture of belonging and gratitude

During my first year in Mass as a teacher, I was surprised to see a collection taken up. Sages grade school children placed their dollars in the basket and passed it along, contributing a portion of their allowances to the charity of the week. The very youngest children were enthusiastic and unburdened in their giving, while the oldest were reluctant, if they gave at all. By eighth grade, money, and in the fun it proceeded, was valued more than the Biblical exhortation to give alms.

God’s for God has given us “life and breath and everything,” as the psalms say. Even our talents and ability to work are gifts of the Creator.

When we begin to look at everything in our lives with this in mind, developing a perspective of gratefulness, then the desire to give back to God springs forth. We begin to ask ourselves how we can give God everything — and do so with the enthusiasm of the young children placing their offerings in the collection basket. Though the

Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

By Sarah McCarthy
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — In the heart of the nation’s capital dedicated to one of the most revered figures in church and world history, a new exhibit pays further homage to the man who embodied the Catholic Church for more than 25 years.

“A Gift of Love: The Life of St. John Paul II” will have its inaugural opening Oct. 22, the pope’s feast day, as a permanent exhibit at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington. The 16,000-square-foot display features numerous artifacts and exhibits into the life of the late pope, including photos, graphs and footage of him as a young priest in Poland.

The executive director of the shrine, Patrick Kelly, said the opening of the exhibit lends a “major catechetical element” to the shrine.

“We’re a shrine so we’re a religious site, but we have this great exhibit, and never before have the two elements been put together, said Kelly in an interview with Catholic News Service.

A walk through the exhibit not only draws the visitor into the world and legacy of the beloved pope, but also offers a glimpse into the life of Karol Wojtyła before he became Pope John Paul. Included among religious artifacts such as traditional headdress worn by the pope is a pair of skis and tennis shoe that St. John Paul used when he was a young man.

Before it became a shrine, the building was home to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The Knights of Columbus acquired it in 2011 and converted it into a shrine to keep with the original vision of the center, Kelly said.

“We decided it is appropriate to build a shrine dedicated to this great saint who embodied so much of the traditions and institutions of the 20th century,” he said.

One of the hallmark features of the exhibit is an interactive touch-screen display that provides information on St. John Paul II’s travels while he was pope, which included visits to more than 100 countries. The display allows users to choose a specific country and learn more about the pope’s visits to that country through timelines, photographs and videos on the display.

“I think John Paul II had an authenticity that people recognized,” Kelly said. “I mean, he connected with people. People who were in a crowd of tens of thousands felt like he was speaking to them.”

Other parts of the exhibit focus on the scholarly aspects of St. John Paul II’s papacy and the works he put forth during his time as pope. Several galleries display items through original manuscripts and encyclicals penned by the pope.
Birth Choice celebrates life with annual Life Walk

By Connie Summers
For the Sooner Catholic

More than 800 people showed their appreciation and support for life at the 22nd annual Birth Choice celebration of Life Walk, which took place Oct. 5 in downtown Oklahoma City.

The warm sunny weather provided the perfect backdrop for a fun-filled day that was packed with activities for children and teenagers from face-painting to miniature pumpkin decorating. There also was free food along with live music provided by the band Zero2Flirty.

Notably, “the power of life” was fully represented at this year’s Life Walk with participants ranging in age from 5 weeks to 95 years.

Life Walk is one of the biggest fundraisers for Birth Choice of Oklahoma, Inc. The money raised at this event is used for operational expenses. These funds, “allow us to keep the doors open” said Barbara Chishko, executive director of Birth Choice.

Chishko said since Birth Choice is an independent and non-political organization, the annual Life Walk is not intended to make a political statement. It is a “joyful walk.”

“We are not walking against anything, we are walking for something.”

From their earliest beginnings, Birth Choice has assisted pregnant women with services such as free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds and counseling. Volunteers and staff are trained to offer women the support they need to choose life for their unborn child.

“Fifty percent of all pregnancies are unplanned,” explained Carrie Rosnow, who works for Birth Choice, “and of that 50 percent, 25 percent will end in abortion.”

Understanding that many women lack the everyday necessities required in order to bring a new life into the world, Birth Choice also provides support and material for pregnant women such as diapers, maternity clothing, baby clothing and in some cases access to medical care.

Those interested in volunteering with Birth Choice should call (405) 631-4477. Donations can be sent to Birth Choice, P.O. Box 94533, OKC, OK 73143.

Connie Summers is a freelancer writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Program offers women regimen to reverse RU-486 abortion in first stages

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — As soon as Rebecah Chaveste realized the first pill of the RU-486 abortion regimen at a Planned Parenthood clinic, she regretted it.

“I was scared and I was alone,” recalled Chaveste, a 20-year-old college student who lives in the Sacramento area.


Chaveste thought it was fake but called anyway and even though the website was for an organization based in San Diego, the woman at the other end of the telephone found a doctor nearby to help her.

Abortionsreversal.com is a website of Culture of Life Family Services, which has a nurse hotline.

“People are hungry and thirsty for meaning,” said Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer of Sao Paulo archdiocese and of life and escape from eternal death.

The Lamb of God is also pre-}

The Heart of the Matter

By Carole Brown
Director of New Evangelization

Why is Jesus called “the Lamb of God”? You may remember the story in Genesis 22, when God put Abraham to the test. He told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him to God as a sacrifice. Isaac, not knowing what was happening, inquired about the lamb for the sacrifice. Abraham said to him, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”

Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, God stopped him, saying, “Surely I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Abraham looked up and saw a ram, which he took and sacrificed as a burnt offering instead of his son.

This story prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. Jesus became “the Lamb of God,” who was sacrificed in our place.

The Lamb of God is also prefigured in the story of the Passover, described in Exodus 12. God was about to deliver the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The night before they escaped, he gave instructions that each family was to sacrifice a lamb, whose blood was to be put on the doorframes of their homes. That night, the angel of death would “pass over” the homes marked by the blood of the lamb, and strike their children’s firstborn. This was the only way the Jewish people could escape.

When we receive the body and blood of the Lamb of God at Mass, we are empowered to overcome our enslavement to sin, given the gift of life and escape from eternal death.

Carole Brown is director of the Archdiocese’s Office of New Evangelization.

More than 800 people showed their support for life at the 22nd annual Birth Choice Life Walk Oct. 5 in Oklahoma City.

Photo/courtesy Rebekah Chaveste.

Synod—continued from page 1

The archbishop told the synod that recognizing that breaking truth and mercy into two opposing camps is unjust.

Blockots in favor of admitting divorced and civilly married Catholics to the Eucharist are exercising mercy “because mercy is bringing people to the truth”.

And, likewise, to say that those who are looking for ways to make Communion more accessible “are not concerned with justice or with truth—that would be unjust to use that language.”

What the church is trying to do is “find what is the will of God, and that will is a will of justice and of mercy,” he said.

The previous day, Archbishop Dühring told CNS that the challenge is how bishops, religious and faithfully married couples can get that point across to everyone.

“We have a lot of work to do to find out ways of expressing God’s plan,” he said. “Is it faithfulness a gift? Is it fruitfulness in marriage a gift? Why is fidelity to one’s partner a gift? Why is reconciliation a gift? How can those teachings ‘become a way of life for people’?”

People are “hungry and thirsty for meaning,” he said, “and how can we communicate the will of God and the way and the world and Catholics the way?”

Not everyone is able to live in the way God wants and many people struggle, experience failure and “are hurt by terrible situations with families, within marriages,” he said.

Archbishop Dühring said the synod process is “an open conversation in the bishoprics, a discussion about how we agree to have to find ways” to help those in need.

The question of access to Communion for divorced and civilly married Catholics also has to be seen through the lens of accompanying people more effectively in order to bring them closer to what God offers, he said.

He said when people realize their irregular situation means they cannot receive Communion, “We have to find a way to celebrate it well. And then, the next time we meet the couple in when they show up to have their child baptized,” the archbishop said.

“This begs the question: What are we actually doing to accompany couples as they try to live out the Gospel message in their lives?”

Of life and escape from eternal death.

Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer of Sao Paulo told Vatican Radio that “the people of God are made up of saints and sinners. We don’t want to keep just the saints and kick out the sinners,” he said.

Those struggling need support and encouragement said those who “will never be able to regulate their situation” can still take part in other aspects of life in a Christian community, the cardinal said in an interview.

Not having access to Communion is a sign of “a situation of not accepting, of not being, at least in part, in a communion of faith with the church,” he said.

“Therefore, the question of Communion is not simply about seeing, ‘Yes, you can. No, you can’t,’” he said. “It truly pertains to this foundational question of accepting or not accepting the faith of the church.”

Archbishop Dühring said the challenge is to find ways to accompany those people in a way that they can still feel welcome, and, better yet, help couples build a marriage that will last.

“We have to face the fact that in most of our parishes we give a summary introduction to marriage in the marriage preparation course, a go-through-the-moves of the sacrament and try to celebrate it well. And then, the next time we see the couple in when they show up to have their child baptized,” the archbishop said.

“This begs the question: What are we actually doing to accompany couples as they try to live out the Gospel message in their lives?” This is where the challenge lies, he said.”

One idea that came from another synod member was to start formation programs for the vocation of marriage — and not just religious life — when Catholics are young.

Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Marx-}

The Lamb of God is also prefigured in the story of the Passover, described in Exodus 12. God was about to deliver the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The night before they escaped, he gave instructions that each family was to sacrifice a lamb, whose blood was to be put on the doorframes of their homes. That night, the angel of death would “pass over” the homes marked by the blood of the lamb, and strike their children’s firstborn. This was the only way the Jewish people could escape.

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Across the Archdiocese

Oct. 10 – 11:06 p.m.
In the midst of war and the threat of ISIS terror, life goes on in Kurdish Iraq. Here is a moment in a Chaldean Catholic wedding. They are praying in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke!

Oct. 11 – 5:21 a.m.
Back in Erbil to visit with the local archbishop and the Archdiocese of Mosul, who has been driven out of his archdiocese with all of his priests and people. Spent time at St. Joseph parish, which has housed hundreds of displaced Christians since Aug. 6.

Oct. 11 – 6:21 p.m.
Our final stop in Erbil gave us an opportunity to visit two impressive parish centers for displaced Christians. Our CRS/Cornus Iraq delegation along with Iraqi Church leaders had an opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of the Kurdish region of Iraq and some of his key cabinet ministers on Saturday. It has been a remarkable, but very tiring journey. We have witnessed so much human tragedy, but also much hope, heroism and resilience. This has been a difficult and very long journey. We have witnessed so much human tragedy, but also much hope, heroism and resilience. This humanitarian crisis grows beyond its current unimaginable scale unless ISIS can be stopped! Let us pray for peace in this suffering part of the world!

Diane Clay is the editor of the Sooner Catholic.

Middle East –

continued from page 1

Archbishop Coakley makes his way through the rubble in Gaza. Photo by Shareef Sarhan for Catholic Relief Services

Archbishop Coakley visits Dahuk, Iraq with the local bishop. Photo Archbishop Coakley.

A displaced Christian in Erbil. Photo by The Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Erbil (Arbil) is in northeast Iraq.

A student in Gaza. Photo Archbishop Coakley.

Catholic Charities recognized for commitment to Latinos, women

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City recently was recognized by the Latino Community Development Agency as its Community Partner of the Year 2014 at their annual LCDA luncheon.

“a tremendous honor – earned through the hard work of our Immigration Legal Services team, the work we did at Fort Sill, our Projects Justinus (Project Together) Spanish-Language immigration counseling response to the May 2013 tornadoes, our Family H.O.P.E. case managers, Sanctuary Women’s Development Center, St. Joseph’s Counseling, and more,” said Patrick Baglow, executive director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary Women’s Development Center also was recognized by the Journal Record as one of the “Programs Making a Difference” in the lives of women in Oklahoma. The recognition was part of the Journal Record’s Women of the Year annual gala. Along with the recognition, the Journal Record made a financial contribution to our Sanctuary Women’s Development Center. For information about the center, call (405) 526-2321, (800) 375-8514, e-mail lhcatholic@lcdaok.org or go online to http://catholiccharitiesok.org.

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Entries sought for Family Rosary’s 2015 “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest

National competition encourages children to express faith through art, poetry and prose

EASTON, Mass. – The call for entries has been announced for the 2015 “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest. In this national competition sponsored by Family Rosary, children participate in an inspiring faith experience as they express their faith through art, poetry and prose.

The “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest is open to students in kindergartners through 12th grade. This year’s theme “Being about the work of my Father,” focuses on obedience and faithfulness. The participants will reflect on and express how they listen to God and how they do the work that God calls them to do, there by living out the Fifth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

Children enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2015. For more information, call Holy Cross Family Ministries at (800) 299-PRAY (7729).

Holy Cross Family Ministries is sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross www.HolyCrossUSA.org.

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Mount St. Mary volleyball team claims state runner-up title

The Rockets played until the end to claim their first state title. The 2013 winners were the OSSAA state champions.

Sooner Catholic October 19, 2014

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St. Gregory’s department of visual and performing arts announces 2014-2015 season

SHAWNEE – The Department of Visual and Performing Arts at St. Gregory’s University has announced its 2014-2015 season with the first of its regular performance events, programming that begins this fall.

The St. Gregory’s theatre productions will be directed by Daniel Wade and Doug Carithers, and the dance performances will be under the direction of Angela Sigley. Both are beginning their first year at St. Gregory’s. The College’s Theatre Department is located in an intimate 141-seat theatre located in the Conventini Center, where they will be pairing the talents of faculty, students, and guest artists with the latest digital technology to maintain the highest standards of a cutting-edge, college-level program.

The St. Gregory’s theatre productions for the fall include:

“The Senior Dance Show”
March 6-7 at 8 p.m.; March 8 at 3 p.m.

“Polish Jake”
By David Ives
February 19-21 at 8 p.m.; Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.

“Behind the Mask: Fall Concert”
October 31 at 6 p.m.; Nov. 1 at 9 a.m.; Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.

“The Glass Menagerie”
By Tennessee Williams
October 16-18 at 8 p.m.; April 19-21 at 8 p.m.

“Shawners’ Lilly a ballet”
Features original music and libretto by composer Lynsey Perkins and original choreography.

This existentialist French one-act play examines the interactions at a party of five people. It creates an interrogative framework to the storyline,” Van Oort said. “We work together to tell the story. The participants play themselves, but also dancers from the local community who will work alongside dancers of varying abilities, including students, performers and community members.

Performances will feature original choreography by Jessica Von Oort, Amy Nevius, guest choreographer Angela Sigley of the Oklahoma City University School of Dance, and student choreographers. Lynsey Perkins, who is creating an original score for us, as well as the storyteller,” Van Oort said. “We strive to bring to our audiences a mixture of the lyrical and the grotesque, of the beautiful and the ugly, of the familiar and the foreign. The show plays around with national stereotypes in humorous but not mean-spirited way.”


This will be this season’s choral performance.
By Jean-Baptiste Barthe
Feb. 19-21 at 8 p.m.; Feb. 22 at 3 p.m.

“The Junior Dance Show”
March 6-7 at 8 p.m.; March 8 at 3 p.m.

“The Sacred Choral Concert”
May 10 at 7:30 p.m.

This existentialist French one-act play examines the interactions of three diamond souls in hell. Trapped together, they find that they are led to be either our other’s torturers, and that there is no escape.

“This contemporary comedy is a light-hearted but interesting look at national identity, as a young Polish man tries to take on other identities, namely Irish-ness, Jewish-ness, and American-ness in the 1920s. The show plays around with national stereotypes in humorous but not mean-spirited way.”

By Michael Belz
It is a slow for young audiences with a characters scheme and hope each other over the head with foam bats.

“No longer will you be able to escape.”

No. 22-24 at 8 p.m.; Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.

“Festival of Lessons and Carols”
Dec. 14-7:30 p.m.

This will be this season’s choral performance.
By Jean-Baptiste Barthe
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“This contemporary comedy is a light-hearted but interesting look at national identity, as a young Polish man tries to take on other identities, namely Irish-ness, Jewish-ness, and American-ness in the 1920s. The show plays around with national stereotypes in humorous but not mean-spirited way.”

By Michael Belz
It is a slow for young audiences with a characters scheme and hope each other over the head with foam bats.

“No longer will you be able to escape.”

No. 22-24 at 8 p.m.; Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.

October brings awareness to domestic violence in Oklahoma

One in four women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, according to surveys and data from the last decade. It permeates all facets of society. (CNS photo via diocesan websites)

“ar rest to see women as inherently equal with men, as mandated by our religious traditions,” the cardinal said. “We cannot ignore the reality of violence against women to flourish,” he said. “As a Church and a culture, we must take the elimination of violence against women seriously, working to ensure that women be treated with respect.”

Anamarie Scopelitis-Biddick, director of the Benedictine Hallows Center, said she believes a freelance columnator for the St. Gregory’s Catholic

By Anamarie Scopelitis-Biddick
For the St. Gregory’s Catholic

St. Gregory’s students Peta McReynolds and Demina Reyes run through a scene for the first performance of “The Glass Menagerie” on March 6-7. (Photo provided)

Oklahoma City
Nov. 19, 2013 – Aug. 28, 2014
Fr. Jarrel D. “Patrice” Wade, died Aug. 28 in St. Procopius, Yoro, Honduras, the Central American nation where he lived and worked for nearly half a century.

He was 81, a Jesuit 62 years and a priest for 48 years.

Father Wade, born in Duncan, lived in Oklahoma City and graduated from Bishop John Carroll School in 1950. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1958 and a master’s degree in Latin and a licentiate in philosophy in 1959, all three from St. Louis University. From 1958 until this year, he lived and worked in the state of Yoro, Honduras.

He is survived by two brothers, Father John Wade of Broken Arrow and Stephen Wade of Oklahoma City, and a host of family members throughout the state.

A funeral Mass was celebrat- ed Aug. 29, 2014 in El Progreso, where he was buried.

The Synod of Bishops on the family emphasizes calls for greater acceptance and appreciation of divorced and remarried Catholics, cohabiting couples and homosexuals. “It is important that people in their concrete being, to know how to support their causes to enumerate the wish to feel to fully part of the church, also on the part of those who have experienced to find themselves in the most diverse situations,” Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdő of Esztergum-Budapest, president, said Pope Francis and the synod Oct. 13.

Cardinal Erdő, who as the synod’s relator has the task of guiding the discussion and synthesizing results, gave a nearly hour-long speech that dawn on the synod’s first week of discussions.

“The Synod of Bishops is called to remember the synod’s findings, to discern the synod’s results, to give a synod’s conclusion.

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – In strikingly conclusive language, the Synod of Bishops teaching, an official midfrum report from the Synod of Bishops on the family emphasized sensitivities toward homosexuals, it calls their inclination “objectively disordered.”

The synod is not supposed to reach any constructive conclusions, but set the agenda for a larger world synod to be held Oct. 4-25, 2015.

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For more information, contact Amy Shipman, ashipman@oklaw.edu

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Los padres del Sinodo se preguntan: ¿La Iglesia debe cuidar el lenguaje que usa?

En una reunión de la Casa de Prensa de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma, el cardenal John R. Arquilla, Arzobispo de Oklahoma City, anunció que el Sínodo de los Obispos de la iglesia católica en Estados Unidos, que se reunirá del 20 al 24 de octubre, tendrá como tema principal el "Cuidado del lenguaje". "Es un tema crucial para nuestra Iglesia en todo el mundo", declaró el cardenal Arquilla.

El Sínodo de los Obispos, también conocido como el 'Sínodo Vaticano', es una reunión de los obispos de todo el mundo que se realiza cada tres años, con el objetivo de discutir temas relevantes para la Iglesia. Este año, el tema principal será el cuidado del lenguaje, que se ha convertido en un tema relevante en el contexto actual de la sociedad y la cultura.

El cardenal Arquilla explicó que el cuidado del lenguaje es esencial para transmitir mensajes claros y precisos, y para evitar el uso de palabras o expresiones que puedan ser ofensivas o ofensivas. "Es importante que nuestras palabras reflejen nuestro amor y respeto por nuestros semejantes", declaró.

"El lenguaje es una herramienta poderosa que se utiliza a menudo para expresar ideas y sentimientos. Podemos usarlo para construir o dañar relaciones, y es fundamental que lo hagamos de manera responsable", agregó.

El cardenal Arquilla también mencionó que el cuidado del lenguaje es especialmente importante en la actualidad, con la creciente presencia de las redes sociales y las redes de mensajería en línea, que a menudo se utilizan para expresar opiniones y opiniones que pueden ser ofensivas.

"Es crucial que nuestras palabras reflejen nuestra fe y nuestra fe en la fe de los demás", concluyó el cardenal Arquilla.

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October
23 The last Dinga Night for 2014 will be held at Saint James Church, 8613 and McKinley Avenue, on Sunday, November 23 at 7 p.m. The theme will be “Island Time”. For more information, contact Michael Zink (405) 314-4200.
25 St. Paul the Apostle Church is hosting its annual Children’s Fall Festival from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, November 25. The school is located at 3961 S Sunnylane Road, Del City. The event includes games, concessions and a carnival. Admission and games are free. For information, call (405) 798-2259.

Archdiocesan administrative assistant
The Archdiocesan Office of Ministries is seeking a full-time administrative assistant to work Monday through Friday, with occasional evenings and weekends. The administrative assistant provides administrative and clerical support to the Archdiocesan Office of Ministries. Duties include answering phones, data entry, correspondence, and other clerical tasks. A strong Catholic identity is required. Send letter of application, resume, and three professional references to: John Michael Harrelson, at (405) 396-9086 or Toni Banas at (405) 341-2199.

Job Box

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?
A charitable gift annuity is a contract under which the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc., in return for a transfer of cash, annuitable assets (real or personal property) or cash proceeds from a payment order, pays a fixed amount of money to one or more individuals, for their lifetime (usually annuity or quarter payments). The proceeds continue to the donor for the remainder of his/her lifetime.
The annuitant (the person who receives the payments) is taxed on the annual amount received as income. The charitable contribution is based upon the value of the property transferred. The amount of the charitable contribution is equal to the present value of the annual payments. The annuitant is taxed on the annual amount received as income. The charitable contribution is based upon the value of the property transferred. The amount of the charitable contribution is equal to the present value of the annual payments.

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Catholic radio across the archdiocese

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Sacred Heart launches free Parent University

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

A dream 12 years in the making, Sacred Heart Catholic School's new Parent University is dedicated to helping parents the tools needed to successfully guide tomorrow's Catholic leaders.

Developed by Principal Joanna Camacho and Assistant Principal Adriana Garza, the free program is designed to improve the working relationship between the school and the family.

“Our philosophy at Sacred Heart is reinforcing what the church teaches in that the parents are the primary educators of their children,” Camacho said. “We are here to support them in this most important role as parents.”

During the seven Saturday sessions to be taught this school year, the staff of Sacred Heart, along with outside speakers, will cover a variety of topics, including suicide prevention, Internet safety and study skills. The next class on Nov. 8 will feature a speaker from Integris Baptist Medical Center on the topic of general wellness and stroke prevention.

All classes are open to the public, and presented concurrently in English and Spanish. Upon the conclusion of the year-long curriculum, parents will receive a certificate of completion from their children at a graduation ceremony.

The first session on Sept. 6 was attended by 55 families. Parents listened to presentations on study skills and Acellus, an online math curricula program that can be completed at home. In addition, a tutorial was given on Sacred Heart's computerized grading system and how parents can stay up-to-date on their children’s academic progress.

Yolanda Garcia, a parent of a seventh grader at Sacred Heart, knew she needed more resources to properly parent her daughter as well as assistance with using the various computer programs. Providentially, she discovered Parent University.

"These classes have truly been a blessing for me," Garcia said. "Sometimes we think it is only the teachers' responsibility to teach our kids but it is not; it is our responsibility too. Parent University will help me continue to learn how to help our children more."

Over the years, parents have asked Camacho for an Internet safety class, so they can ensure that their children are looking at appropriate websites while on the computer. Camacho understands that limited Internet proficiency can be a serious impediment to parenting today. On Oct. 11, a representative from Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office presented a number of ways parents can keep their children safe while exploring new technology.

“The biggest challenge in parenting today is all of the peer pressure that is out there, especially from things they see on the Internet,” Camacho said. “Parents need to be able to tell their children what their family believes and not have them looking on the Internet for guidance.”

Garza thinks that this program will directly impact the overall success of Sacred Heart School. By providing parents with accurate information concerning their children, they are equipped to send well prepared students to school every day.

“We hope to see increased performance in the classroom. Because if the students are being supported at home, there is no way that it cannot have an impact academically,” Garza said.

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Educators of the Year named for 2014

For 10 years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. The award recipients receive a $500 cash award, and a $5,000 grant for his or her parish religious education department or school. The other two finalists also receive $500.

At the Catechetical Congress, recently held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, the foundation awarded the 2014 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year Award to Bryan Hooper, the Outreach Ministries Coordinator at St. John Nepomuk Church in Yukon.

Hooper is the quintessential religious educator who portrays Christ in every aspect of adult religious education. He has been instrumental in several parish educational opportunities at St. John Nepomuk and demonstrates his commitment to the Parish religious education program.

In 2013, Hooper received an undergraduate degree in pastoral ministry and is seeking his master's degree in pastoral ministry through the Aquinas Institute of Theology.

Hooper began his teaching as a catechist after completing the RCIA program and entering the Church in 2010. He is now the Parish RCIA team leader and has led more than 120 individuals into the Catholic faith. The person who nominated Hooper said he recruited him as the coordinator of Outreach Ministries at the parish to help each of the ministry leads focus on parish priorities and evangelization efforts.

Other finalists for the 2014 Religious Educator of the Year Award were Shirley Holleman, coordinator of Outreach Ministries at the parish, and Deborah Bergman, RCIA team leader and has led more than 120 individuals into the Catholic faith.

Bergman has been the kindergarten teacher at Sacred Heart School for 12 years. She is an exceptional educator and has been a member of the school faculty for 17 years.

She is passionate about teaching and providing the best for her students. She loves her vocation as a Catholic school teacher, and continues to work to learn more by attending continuing education courses. Bergman continues to integrate technology into the classroom, including the use of the Mimio interactive whiteboard technology in her lessons, and free technology resources offered by the Oklahoma City Turkey Trot last September.

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