Oklahoma iconographer brings blessed beauty to art

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

In the middle of Janet Elizabeth Jaime’s living room in northwest Oklahoma City, a slab of white birch meticulously transforms into a light-filled 8-foot icon of Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

The Oklahoma iconographer was commissioned this year by Archbishop Coakley to create the icon in honor of the Church’s newest saint. Archbishop Coakley recently blessed the icon during a dedication Mass at the new Saint Teresa of Calcutta Chapel at Catholic Charities in midtown Oklahoma City, where the icon now hangs.

“Saint Teresa of Calcutta is the ideal patron for the mission of extending Christ’s love and compassion to all, especially the most abandoned and overlooked. This is the mission Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City pursues each and every day. The icon of Mother Teresa will be a visible reminder of the privilege we have of serving the poorest of the poor.”

Each icon created by Jaime requires three months to complete with the artist working several hours a day, seven days a week. The process uses egg tempera, a technique used in the Byzantine era, and powder ground from natural rocks, minerals and plants instead of paint.

Once the birch wood is sanded and prepped with a special glue, calcium carbonate and marble dust, Jaime uses a mixture that includes egg yolk and vinegar to mix the colors. The rocks are ground to a powder form and include pigments of burnt bone, azurite, French ochre and sinkor.

“No mineral is a crystal and light. It sits there in its natural state and it just sticks to the board,” Jaime said.

Within, and across, the lines drawn of the figure, Jaime brushes on the darker, duller colors first, then builds with the lighter colors layer by layer. The gold is applied using the complex process of water gilding.

“‘It’s quite a process, and very time consuming. You start with the dark and work toward the light. The whole point is light. The light is inside the figure rather than how the light hits the figure,’ Jaime said.

“Every icon is an image of Christ in the saint and that’s what you’re trying to show.”

Each icon typically requires 20 layers of color before Jaime is satisfied with its presentation. After three coats of linseed oil varnish, the icon is dried and framed.

“Our icons tell the story of the Incarnation of Christ — that God became man. They tell us that we can become one with God and reflect the uncreated light of Christ.”

Jaime, who was raised in the Baptist church in Ponca City, began her work as an iconographer after starting her career as an oil and gas draftsman during the Oklahoma oil boom. She and her husband, Reggie, joined the Greek Orthodox Church in the 1990s and she became intrigued with the technique and spirituality of icons.

“We are each uniquely blessed with gifts from God. My gift is iconography,” she said. “When we offer our gifts to God, we are really just returning what was given to us. In iconography, our materials are taken from the earth to create, with our hands, and image to be venerated; an icon created as an act of devotion and prayer to God.”

Jaime’s next work for the archdiocese is an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The finished icon of Saint Teresa can be viewed at the Catholic Charities chapel where Mass is celebrated every Friday at 11 a.m.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

When times are tough, rant at God, don’t run from trouble, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Don’t respond to grief or anguish with pills, alcohol or avoidance, Pope Francis said in a morning homily.

“Some people might ‘take a sleeping pill,’ avoid facing the situation or ‘have two, three, four shots’ of something strong to drink; but that ‘doesn’t help,’” he said.

So then, what should people do when they go through “these dark moments because of a family tragedy, an illness, something that brings me down?” he asked.

“In times of hopeless, spiritual
In little more than a month, American citizens will be going to the polls to elect local, state, and national leaders, and to weigh in on many questions that will help shape our society for years to come. The right to vote is a precious thing. It is a privilege that we cannot take for granted. Even more than a privilege, however, voting is a moral responsibility for those who are eligible to vote.

Admittedly, like many other people, I am more than ready for the campaign season and Election Day to be behind us. It has been deeply disturbing. The quality of candidates that we voters have to choose from for certain offices is far less than we might have hoped and certainly far from consistent with many of the historic values and aspirations of this great nation. For Catholics who take seriously their public responsibilities and seek to integrate their deeply held religious beliefs with their civic duties, we are faced with a more difficult discernment than in any election in recent memory. At the top of each ticket, we are faced with deeply flawed candidates. (That shouldn’t come as a great surprise, however, since all of us are flawed and sinful human beings.) Some Catholics who I have spoken with are so disheartened by our choice of candidates for president that they are considering staying home on Election Day.

So, what are we to do? All of us ought to begin by praying for our nation and for the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit as voters prepare to cast their ballots. We ought to recall the teachings of our bishops and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which remind us that responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.

Speaking of participation in political and public life is the Catechism urges us, “It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. … As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1913-1915). So again, what are we to do? Deep dissatisfaction with the candidates at the top of the ticket should not be used as justification to stay home on Election Day. There are many other important races and questions that we have an opportunity and moral obligation to weigh in on as we seek to advance the common good of our nation, state and local communities.

There are some issues that must be given first consideration because they are of fundamental importance, among them is the protection of human life and dignity. A Catholic cannot in good conscience, for example, vote to expand legal protection for abortion. Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Neb., made this point at our recent Red Mass by citing Saint Teresa of Calcutta who said, “Roe v. Wade has deformed a great nation. The so-called right to abortion has pitted mothers against their children and women against men. It has sown violence and discord at the heart of the most intimate human relationships. It has aggravated the derogation of the father’s role in an increasingly fatherless society. It has portrayed the greatest of gifts – a child – as a competitor, an intrusion and an inconvenience. … Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being’s entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent, on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign.”

As Election Day approaches, we have to do our homework. We have to look past the heated rhetoric and slogans to discern whether there is a candidate in each race who can advance the common good, protect life, and advance human dignity in its many manifestations. When there are such candidates, we should feel free to vote for them, in spite of party affiliations. In some races we may discover that there is not a candidate that we can in good conscience support and choose to abstain from voting in that particular race.

In choosing among flawed candidates, we ought never to fall into the trap of thinking we must choose the lesser of two evils. We may never choose evil. However, we can choose a candidate who with reasonable probability will be most likely do some good and limit the amount of harm done. This is true especially concerning those foundational issues such as protecting the right to life, strengthening the family and preserving conscience rights and religious liberty.

As a matter of conscience we have to carefully weigh and discern all of these matters in order to choose candidates or decide where we stand on issues in ways most likely to advance the common good of our nation. We may, in fact, make different prudential judgments on some issues and arrive at different conclusions. This is certainly true, for example, when considering to the best ways to promote racial equality, create jobs and economic opportunities, protect creation, or achieve educational or criminal justice reform.

There is much at stake on Nov. 8. I urge you to pray, to study the candidates and issues, and then to vote. May Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States, pray for us!

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Oct. 2 – Mass for Oasis Retreat, 11 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center
Oct. 2 – Archbishop’s picnic for priests, deacons, religious, CPC staff and board members, 5 p.m., CPC
Oct. 4 – St. Ann Retirement Center board meeting, 8 a.m., CPC
Oct. 4 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 4 – Rosary procession, 4:30 p.m., St. James, OKC
Oct. 6 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 7 – Fall School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. John Nepomuk School, Yukon
Oct. 8 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Helen, Frederick
Oct. 9 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Okarche
Oct. 11 – Department directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Oct. 11 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 11 – Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Oct. 12 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., St. Mary, Guthrie
Vietnamese martyr, Paul Le-Bao-Tinh. Here is the portion of the episcopal letter that I am referring to: "It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love."

"In this context, I would like to quote a passage from a letter written by Le-Bao-Tinh that illustrates this transformation of suffering through the power of hope springing from faith. "I, Paul, in chains for the name of Christ, wish to relate to you the trials besetting me daily, in order that you may be inflamed with love for God and join with me in my praises, for his mercy is forever. The prison here is a true image of everlasting hell: to cruel tortures of every kind – shackles, iron chains, manacles – are added hatred, vengeance, calumnies, obscene speech, quarrels, evil acts, swearing, curses, as well as anguish and grief.

But, the God who once freed the three children from the fiery furnace is with me always; he has delivered me from these tribulations and made them sweet, for his mercy is forever. In the midst of these tortures, which usually terrify others, I am, by the grace of God, full of joy and gladness, because I am not alone – Christ is with me. How am I to bear with the spectacle, as each day I see emperors, mandarins, and their retinue blaspheming your holy name, O Lord, who are enthroned above the Cherubim and Seraphim? Behold, the pagans have trodden your Cross underfoot! Where is your glory? As I see all this, I would, in the ardent love I have for you, prefer to be torn limb from limb and to die as a witness to your love. O Lord, show your power, save me, sustain me, that in my infirmity your power may be shown and may be glorified before the nations ... Beloved brothers and sisters need some- thing that you may be united. In the midst of this transformation requires the proclamation of God's love, and assuring them that this love is a never ending constant in all of our lives. Prisoners need to hear this again and again, and when they do, their faith and hope is rekindled and their suffering begins to be transformed.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter "Spe Salvi" speaks to us this transformation and also shares with us the writings of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley confirms inmates at the Oklahoma County Jail in Dec. 2015. Photo archives of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

By Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Director of Hispanic Ministry

Those imprisoned are in danger of losing their faith and their hope. By reaching out to them in loving prison ministry we aren’t just practicing a Corporal Work of Mercy, we also are helping them hold on to the merciful and loving Christ. He can help them transform their pain and suffering through the faith and hope we witness to them when we visit.

The path to this transformation requires the proclamation of God’s love, and assuring them that this love is a never ending constant in all of our lives. Prisoners need to hear this again and again, and when they do, their faith and hope is rekindled and their suffering begins to be transformed.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter “Spe Salvi” speaks to us about this transformation and also shares with us the writings of the Vietnamese martyr, Paul Le-Bao-Tinh. Here is the portion of the episcopal letter that I am referring to: "It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love."

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I was in prison and you visited me

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25, 35-36, 40)

I write these things to you in order that your faith and mine may be united. In the midst of this storm I cast my anchor towards the throne of God, the anchor that is the lively hope in my heart.

This is a letter from "hell." It lays bare all the horror of a concentration camp where to the torments inflicted by tyrants upon their victims is added the outbreak of evil in the victims themselves such that they become further instruments of their persecutors' cruelty. This is indeed a letter from hell, but it also reveals the truth of the Psalm text: “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I sink to the nether world, you are present there ... If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light’ – for you darkness itself is not dark, and night shines as the day; darkness and light are the same.”

Pope Benedict ends this section of his encyclical by reminding us that: Christ descended into “hell” and is therefore close to those cast into it, transforming their darkness into light. Suffering and torment is still terrible and unbearable. Yet, the star of hope has risen – the anchor of the heart reaches the very throne of God. Instead of evil being unleashed within man, the light shines victorious: suffering – being becomes, despite everything, a hymn of praise.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to consider signing up for prison ministry in the archdiocese. Many incarcerat- ed brothers and sisters need someone from the community to remind them that our merciful and loving Christ is with them and will never abandon them. Not now, not ever.

After celebrating more than 50 years of joyful service to God, Rev. Lowell L. Stieferman died on Sept. 19, in Perry to Leo and Pauline (Beier) Stieferman. He attended elementary school at Saint Joseph Catholic School in Perry before entering high school at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Bethany. After three years, Father Stieferman entered Saint John the Baptist Home Mission Seminary in Little Rock. He was ordained to the priesthood at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City on May 25, 1963.

Father Stieferman’s first assignment was as associate pastor of Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City. He also served as associate pastor of Saints Peter and Paul in Tulsa and as administrator of Saint Jude in Tulsa. Father Stieferman served as pastor at Saint Peter in Guymon and missions in Mooreland and Shattuck; Saint John the Baptist, Edmond; Saint Francis Xavier, Enid; Corpus Christi, Oklahoma City; Saint Francis of Assisi, Newkirk; Epiphany of the Lord, Oklahoma City; and Saint Paul the Apostle, Del City. Father Stieferman retired from active ministry in 2010.

In addition to parish ministry Father Stieferman served as director of the permanent diaconate program, chairman of the archdiocesan personnel board, director of vocations, regional vicar (several regions), and defender of the bond for the archdiocesan tribunal. He also served on the pre-cana team (for more than 30 years), the seminary board, the board of evangelization, the priest ministry team, and as a priest team delegate to the Black Catholic Congress.

Even with all the ways he contributed to the archdiocese, he always remained humble, likening himself to Ananias, one of his favorite Biblical characters. He used the story of Ananias to remind those who knew him that each of us has a part to play in the great Body of Christ. Father Stieferman was a kind and gentle pastor and friend to all he met.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Rd. in Oklahoma City on Sept. 24 with interment at Saint Rose of Lima Cemetery in Perry.

Memorial donations may be made to the Stieferman Seminarian Burse, c/o the Archdiocesan Business Office, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73121.

Rev. Lowell L. Stieferman

Fr. Stieferman’s funeral was held at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Oklahoma City. Photo Carra Roesig.
Contagious Faith

A total shift of mentality

Shortly after I began my work here in Oklahoma City, I asked a colleague in another archdiocese for his “take” on the practical realities involved in bringing about the new evangelization. The phrase he chose was almost breathtaking: “This is going to require a total shift of mentality.”

The longer I am involved in the process, the more it has become clear that his assessment was correct. I’d like to suggest a few of the polarities around which this mentality shift revolves.

The first mentality shift is from a predominantly communalistic mentality to one that is equally personalistic in its orientation. “Personalistic” doesn’t mean individualistic, it simply means that no one is an anonymous cog in the ecclesial machinery. God knows me, personally. He loves me, personally. He wants to be loved by me, personally. He offers salvation to me, personally, and I must make a personal decision to accept and receive all of that.

When I do, I become obsessed with the desire for others to receive this love as well. People sometimes express reservations about the personal aspect of our faith, as if it implies that we go into a figurative “phone booth” to be alone with Jesus. It doesn’t really work that way.

The intimacy of one’s personal relationship with the Lord compels one to seek this same good for others. As Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “The love of Christ compels me. … He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. … And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

The second mentality shift is from an ecclesiocentric mentality to a Christocentric ecclesiology. The Church’s mission is to magnify Jesus, to make Jesus known and loved – to magnify Jesus, to make Jesus the chief cornerstone, the author and perfector of our faith. Nothing the Church has to say makes sense unless we know Jesus.

All the Church’s authority derives from Jesus. If people are unconvinced of who Jesus was, they will not be able to receive the teaching of the Church. Another way of putting it is that if Christology is eclipsed by ecclesiology, then the Church risks being understood in primarily sociological terms rather than supernatural terms. Ask yourself, are you convinced of Christ’s divinity? Why or why not? And, what are the implications of his divinity for the Church? And for you personally?

A third mentality shift is that the new evangelization is primarily targeted toward baptized Catholics, the people in the pews – not toward Protestants or pagans. Saint John Paul II pointed out that our “challenge frequently consists not so much in baptizing new converts as in enabling those already baptized to be converted to Christ and his Gospel.”

This calls for serious attention to be given to a catechumenal style of formation for Catholic adults, which enables them to make a conscious decision to place Jesus Christ at the center of their lives. The discipleship process that many parishes have undertaken is an excellent method for building this into parish life. However, in order to work, such a process requires dedicated leadership similar to what is enabling those already baptized to be converted to Christ and his Gospel.

Sooner Catholic

If we can make this shift to a personalistic and Christocentric understanding of the Church, with programs that are truly ordered to the process of conversion, we will be well on our way to realizing the new springtime in the Church that is promised by the new evangelization.

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Speaking of “deplorables” 

You’d think presidential candidates would have learned that shooting from the lip in front of deep-pocket donors is asking for trouble. Mitt Romney’s ill-advised comment about the “47 percent” of us who are “dependent on government” helped sink his candidacy in an otherwise winnable election. Barack Obama’s snark about folks clinging to their guns and Bibles because they can’t handle post-modernity got a mulligan from a star-stuck press corps; but among those paying attention, that elitist smackdown put the final nail in the coffin of Obama the uniﬁer, the trope Obama had exploited since his ﬁrst appearance on the national stage at the 2004 Democratic convention.

Now, we have Hillary Clinton, speaking to a group of LGBT activists and donors and going off-message with a rant about those Americans who fall into her “basket of deplorables”: racists, sexists, homophobes, Islamophobes, whatever. The national media quickly consigned all that to the rear-view mirror.

But, let me suggest that what was dismissed as an atypical, off-message gaffe was in fact an expression of Mrs. Clinton’s true sentiments – just as Donald Trump’s boorish crack about Senator John McCain being a loser for having been a POW spoke volumes about his fitness for the presidency (or indeed for village dog-catchers). So, on the chance that Mrs. Clinton is elected POTUS (or indeed for village dog-catchers), the trope Obama had exploited since his ﬁrst appearance on the national stage at the 2004 Democratic convention.

What’s coming is an administration in which the U.S. Agency for International Development, which dispenses billions of dollars of foreign aid, will continue to condition aid on recipient nations bowing to the LGBT agenda – thus making enemies for America in traditional societies and cultures that will learn to equate “democracy” with libertarian bullying.

What’s coming is an administration that privileges identity-politics in everything from Cabinet appointments to ambassadorships.

What’s coming is an administration that will regard any effort to restore order to homicide-ridden inner-urban communities as “racist,” thus condemning more and more innocent African-Americans to violent, random death.

What’s coming is an administration that looks down its nose at those portrayed with un sparing clarity and deep compassion be considered ... well, deplorable. And, thus will likely be deplored, in any number of ways.

But, while we’re on the subject of deplorability, let me go equal-opportunity here and say that I think it utterly deplorable that Mrs. Clinton’s principal opponent, Mr. Donald Trump, continues to praise Vladimir Putin – and is joined in doing so by bears of little brain who’ve doubled-down on Trump’s queer notion that the Russian president is a strong leader who gets things done.

Well. What the ex-KGB hand, Putin, has gotten done is this: he’s erected a kleptocratic quasi-dicatorship on top of a crumbling civil society while murdering his political opponents, invading his neighbors, backstopping Syria’s murderous Bashar al-Assad, and conducting a fantastic propaganda campaign throughout the world (supported, sadly, by the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church): all of which is aimed at reversing the verdict of recent history, rebuilding Stalin’s empire in a new guise, and deconstructing the West.

Anyone who doesn’t recognize this aggression as just that, a reversion to the Cold War, is deplorably ill-informed or deplorably gullible. Anyone who thinks Putin’s accomplishment admirable is morally obtuse and, well, deplorable.

The Republic is in deep trouble.

Bishop of Lincoln honors legal profession at Red Mass

U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks as Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton listens during their ﬁrst presidential debate Sept. 27 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters.

“...The Christian vision of political life says that government must take into account the meaning and the role of the family, and the community, and the Church. When we lose that vision, we lose our sense of life’s dignity, of man’s innate worth, of the purpose of life, in goodness, and virtue, and eternal salvation.” – Bishop James Conley, Diocese of Lincoln, Neb.

Lawyers, judges, law professors and students attended the Red Mass on Sept. 24, celebrated by Archbishop Coakley and Bishop James Conley. Photos Cara Koenig.
“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me”

Knights fill helmets to support Center of Family Love

By Charles Albert  
For the Sooner Catholic

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy and following Archbishop Coakley’s call to go make disciples, the Knights of Columbus have been ignited into action to help the Center of Family Love in Okarche.

The Knights founded the center in 1981 to help people with intellectual disabilities who are unable to provide for themselves. With recent cutbacks in state funding, the Center of Family Love is under tremendous financial strain to stay open.

To help alleviate the financial strain, parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa are participating in Knights-on-Bikes. During the program, they will speak to various parishes and ask for help for God’s children with physical and developmental disabilities. Knights will be at the doors of each exit at the end of Masses for “Fill the Helmet for the Center of Family Love!” All funds go directly to the Center of Family Love.

“It is through donations, great and small, that this care and service has been sustained, and we look forward to bringing more awareness and support to their mission,” said Mark Cearley, Oklahoma vice president of Knights-on-Bikes.

“The Knights-on-Bikes is an auxiliary organization and offers a chance for Knights to combine their passion for the KofC and their hobby of riding motorcycles for a great cause.”

Rick Miller, district marshal, also mentioned, “that spouses find it a great way for travel, to visit with other spouses from other councils, and be a part of a fantastic cause.”

With service as a part of its fundamental belief, the Center of Family Love does not charge the residents or their families for the care they provide. The Knights-on-Bikes wholeheartedly embrace this service, and over the years have looked for ways to help the mission.

“This outreach project by the Knights-on-Bikes is a strong witness of faith,” said Debbie Espinosa, executive director of the Center of Family Love. “There is never a doubt of their loyalty to our organization and we are so grateful for their work.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

For more information about “Fill the Helmet for the Center of Family Love,” contact Larry Morgan, president of Knights-on-Bikes, at (405) 445-8553, KofC_larrymorgan@outlook.com; or Mark Cearley, vice-president, at (918) 835-8110, knightsonbikesokla@cox.net.

Knights join Abbey in honoring victims of abortion

The Knights of Columbus, the monastic community of St. Gregory’s Abbey and the faithful observed a Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children on Sept. 10. The remains of unborn children were interred in the cemetery of St. Gregory’s. Fr. Price Oswalt celebrated Mass and blessed the remains. Photos courtesy of Br. George Hubl, O.S.B.
Maronite mission celebrates Lebanese culture in Oklahoma

By Olivia Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

Hundreds of Oklahomans celebrated Lebanese culture Sept. 24 at the 5th annual Lebanese Heritage and Food Festival at Our Lady of Lebanon in Norman. The mission uses the festival to share their culture and raise funds for the parish.

The rain held off allowing patrons to eat and enjoy the entertainment. Entertainment ranged from a Dabke, a Lebanese folk dance circle, to local bands Mike Hosty and Boyd Street Brass.

Food prepared by parish members was available to purchase—silky, homemade hummus, falafel and tabouli, kafta, which is spiced ground beef with herbs and kibbeh, and fried croquette stuffed with bulgur, meat and onions. Lebanese coffee, beer and wine were offered along with water and soda.

The funds raised from the raffle went to the church with the top prize winner receiving a Caribbean cruise. Inside the church was a bake sale and an opportunity to learn about Christians in the Middle East with a lecture by Bishop Elias Sleman.

Other parts of the festival included a kid’s area with face painting, moon bounce and games, and a vendor booth that sold Christian jewelry, souvenirs emblazoned with the Lebanese flag, and beaded skirts for dancing.

The festival also featured a Lebanon information center with travel information and Lebanese trivia. Did you know that the first law school was built in Lebanon’s capital, Beirut? Or that Beirut was destroyed and rebuilt so many times it’s called “The Phoenix?”

Our Lady of Lebanon is a Maronite Catholic mission. For more information, go online to www.maroniteok.org.

Charbel Silhy and Julie Chagouri lead a traditional Lebanese dance. Photo Theresa Bragg.
Ger i Hough named 2016 Religious Educator of the Year

Over the past 12 years, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. At the Catechetical Congress held at the Catholic Pastoral Center Sept. 24, the foundation awarded the 2016 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Educator of the Year Award to Geri Hough, RCIA director, confirmation teacher and former volunteer director of Religious Education at Saint Mary in Clinton.

Geri has volunteered in her parish for more than 30 years. When she moved to Clinton from Wichita, she immediately volunteered to teach religious education classes and take on the role of religious education program at her new parish.

Under her leadership, the program has increased to more than 26 children; expanding those numbers more than 30 teachers and aides. Geri earned her master’s degree in pastoral ministry through the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis and works as a full-time librarian at Clinton High School.

Her nominator said, “Although retiring this year and transitioning into her role as RE director, Geri remains an active volunteer with both RCIA and marriage preparation programs. Her welcoming attitude and love for her kids has never wavered and Saint Mary’s is proud to have such a fine program under her leadership, offering a solid Catholic education for the youth in Western Oklahoma.”

The two other finalists for the 2016 Religious Educator of the Year Award were Roger Haraughty, third grade catechist at Saint James the Greater in Oklahoma City, and Ale Colmenares-Jimenez, second grade catechist at Saint Catherine of Siena in Pauls Valley.

Finalist Roger Haraughty has been involved in religious education at Saint James for more than 20 years. He has a wonderful rapport with his students, a wonderful sense of humor and enjoys joking with his kids. Outside of the classroom, Haraughty helps the parish cook Lenten meals, runs booths at the parish festival and helps with enrollment. Ann Ward, the parish RE director said Roger is “a priceless asset to our religious education program.

Finalist Ale Colmenares-Jimenez has devoted herself to the parish and the community of Saint Catherine of Siena in Pauls Valley.

Michael Chavez named 2016 Catholic School Educator of the Year

At the annual Teacher’s Fall Institute held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation awarded its 2016 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Michael Chavez, theology and business law teacher at Bishop McGuinness Catholic School.

Chavez came to Bishop McGuinness in 1994 from a successful law practice to “give back to his Catholic community” as an educator of theology. His love of learning and passion for theology is evident in his meticulous preparation, research and constant reading. His classes are engaging and informative with a distinct emphasis on the teachings of the Church.

His students acknowledge his distinct teaching style and are appreciative of his high standard of academic excellence. He has brought to his students a passion for learning, a wealth of knowledge and an increased understanding of their faith that has enhanced their spiritual life. Chavez is highly regarded among his peers and administration at McGuinness for his professional and personal integrity, enormous credibility and positive influence on others. Outside the school, Chavez has been a pastoral minister, teaching catechists throughout the archdiocese.

His nominator said, “Mr. Chavez has shared his exceptional teaching gifts with many types of students both young and old over the years and has been a model for us at McGuinness for encouraging the development of the whole person … to love and serve God. He has made a tremendous positive impact as a true Catholic educator.”

Each year, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma supports educational programs within the archdiocese, including the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award and the Religious Educator of the Year Award.

The other finalists were Leroy Cantrell, technology and business teacher at Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School, and Breannaлизmore, physical education teacher at All Saints Catholic School. The award winner receives $500 and his school receives a $5,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in his honor at his school. The two other finalists receive $500.

Finalist Leroy Cantrell started his 21st year at The Mount this fall. He has led the school in technology education, and has served as a basketball coach, a finance teacher, a tennis coach, a class sponsor, the National Honor Society sponsor and one of the lead actors in their annual Faculty Follies performances.

His nominator said “Mr. Cantrell believes in sharing his spirit of Mercy for the sake of teaching our students about the value of “giving back.” This man lovingly and willingly continues to mentor, guide and influence our students. When you meet Leroy Cantrell, not only will you see and hear the spirit of God’s love and laughter, but you’ll absolutely feel the spirit of God’s grace upon this man who is answering the call to serve.”

Finalist Breanna Sizemore is the physical education teacher at All Saints Catholic School in Norman. Prior to 13 years at All Saints, Sizemore taught at Villa Teresa and Saint John Nepomuk. In addition to her duties as a physical education teacher, Sizemore has led the archdiocese in instituting the Lifelines program for suicide awareness and responsiveness. She has trained the All Saints’ staff in first aid and CPR after becoming a certified trainer.

Her nominator said, “Mrs. Sizemore is an outstanding educator who would never believe that she, herself, is deserving of such an award, but her dedication to our school, our students, our staff and the school community knows no bounds, and that makes her the perfect nominee for the Educator of the Year Award.”

In presenting the awards, Catholic Foundation President Manny Sanchez said, “What a wonderful group of finalists this year! They all are excellent examples of what Catholic teachers should be – living examples of teachers as Jesus taught. They are dedicated role models for their students and we congratulate them as they receive this honor.”
The Sooners Catholic interviewed Adriana Garza, the new principal of Sacred Heart School in Oklahoma City.

What is the best thing about your school?
The best thing about Sacred Heart Catholic School is its people. People as in students, parents, teachers, staff and priests. At Sacred Heart, you feel at home. It is a large family in which we all work and learn together. We know each other and care for one another. It is a wonderful community.

What is your favorite thing to do when not at school?
I love to spend time with my family; talking about our day, joking around or just being with them makes my day. Going for a walk after a long day is just perfect as is sitting at a peaceful place to read a good book. I also love watching old TV shows and movies.

How does faith play a role in your work?
My faith plays a role in everything I do. For a long time, I tried having total control of my life without considering my faith an important part of the equation. Needless to say, my life was not easy or enjoyable. I learned to put God above everything: my work, my marriage, my family and my relationships. Since then, things just tend to fall into place. Life is not easier, but I see a purpose for it. It reminds me of a quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta, “God has not called me to be successful; he has called me to be faithful.”

Grant from Catholic Foundation results in new equipment for STEM class

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has received a $2,500 grant from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma for a STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) project. Grant funds went toward the purchase of a Zortrax 3D printer, a 3D scanner and color filaments.

The new equipment allowed STEM teacher Lauren Smith to address a design problem that local car dealer Rick Jones was having with a broken, discontinued car part. Jones, a 1972 Bishop McGuinness graduate, reached out to the STEM class. He sent the broken part to his alma mater and will complete locally. The students used the 3D scanner to create the object based on the drawings.

The STEM I curriculum focuses on engineering challenges, 3D design and printing, programming and robotics. Two first-year STEM classes completed prototyping through bridge building. Four robotics teams have been formed and will complete locally. In its second year, the BMCHS STEM program also has expanded to include a STEM II class where the students focus on a year-long project-based design. Smith said the new equipment provided by the CFO grant was instrumental to the success of our three STEM classes.
Grace Urbanski helps parents teach children to pray

By J.E. Helm
For the Sooner Catholic

Grace Urbanski has written a guide for parents titled simply, “Pray with Me.” Subtitled “Seven Simple Ways to Pray with Your Children,” the book has seven chapters, each one of which offers a simple, straightforward idea about how to develop your child’s prayer life.

In her introduction, Urbanski defines prayer as “a personal encounter with Jesus prompted by the Holy Spirit” and states that “so many different kinds of prayer exist, so many different ways to encounter God.” Her book, she says, “explores seven different kinds of prayer,” each of which is adapted to use by and with children.

Ch. 1 is “Praying Spontaneously.” This type of prayer, she explains, is where we “share with God what’s on our heart.” Urbanski quotes Scripture, the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and various writers. She tells us, for example, that St. Teresa of Avila said prayer is “a close sharing between friends.” Saint Paul urged us to “pray without ceasing,” and Saint Therese of Lisieux wrote that “for me, prayer is a surge of the heart.” Urbanski is a skillful writer. Her chapters have some intriguing captions, like “One Cannot Get What One Does Not Have (Maybe),” and she has many real-life and personal experiences that make her book highly readable. Her son was bullied at school; he came home with “a rotten banana squished into every crevice” of his school bag. (They prayed about this, and things eventually worked out well.) When she became pregnant with her fifth child, and her oldest was just 7, she was exhausted. She writes, “I hunted sleep like a starving hyena scans a herd for pitiful stragglers.”

Ch. 2 is “Praying from Memory,” and here she presents ideas about the Rosary, “the mother of all memorizations,” and Scripture passages that refer to “prescribed prayers.” Memorization, she says, “allows children to carry prayers with them everywhere.” Ch. 3 is “Praying with Scripture,” and here Urbanski says that “reading Scripture with the whole family welcomes Jesus into our home.” She maintains that “children can feel as comfortable talking with Jesus as they do the Very Hungry Caterpillar,” a children’s book they know and love. In a more scholarly mode, she presents Lectio Divina for the whole family, including the children.

“Praying with Song” is Ch. 4, and this one is an easy idea to use with children. A counterpoint is Ch. 5, “Praying with Silence,” and while this one may seem difficult since “childhood is not associated with silence,” she has some very good ideas about making silent prayer effective in the family setting as a way of fostering silent prayer as lifelong practice.

Ch. 6 is “Praying with Reflection,” and again Urbanski is introducing a concept that has potential for long-term development. She believes children, amazingly enough, think and reflect about the events in their daily lives, and reflective prayer can follow naturally enough from this. She recommends “The Examen,” a review of the day’s events and a reflection on what took place. Reflection, she says, helps us pay attention to how God works for us and through every moment of the day.

Ch. 7 is “Praying with the Apostle of Prayer.” The Apostle, Urbanski explains, “are believers, of any age, who trust that God accepts our offerings and transforms them into grace for others.” The Jesuit priest who first presented this idea to his novices in 1844 advised them to “offer everything you are doing each day in union with the Heart of Our Lord for what he wishes.” Children, Urbanski believes, respond to this idea readily.

An especially nice feature of this book is that following each chapter, there are “Questions” for review and reflection that help the reader make the topic of each chapter personal and realistically applicable. She asks, for example, “What were your experiences of music making when you were young?” and “Have you ever felt a Bible passage speaking directly to your circumstances, directly to your heart?”

“Pray with Me” is a lovely little book (just 139 pages) that any parent or grandparent or godparent or aunt or uncle or close friend can use to bring the children in their lives closer to God in a loving, trusting and personal relationship, and so this book is as highly recommended as it is enjoyable.
St. Gregory’s Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents “The Tempest”

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Saint Gregory’s University announced the upcoming production of “The Tempest” by William Shakespeare, premiering Thursday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m. in the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center.

“Our hope is that even audiences who are new to Shakespeare will find the show exciting and easy to understand. I think viewers will experience the continuing relevance of Shakespeare’s work in contemporary society,” said David Coley, director of theatre at SGU.

“The Tempest” is Shakespeare’s classic tale of magic, redemption, and loss. Prospero, marooned on an island since being unseated from power by his brother, Antonio, is offered the perfect chance at revenge when his brother and co-conspirators are shipwrecked on that same island. This unique production is set in the 1950s on a South Pacific island in the age of nuclear testing, and will incorporate dance to help tell this powerful story.

Christopher Robinson, an SGU theatre alumnus, and community member Victor Tolman, will join students in this production.

Dominic Reyna, a senior theatre major from Midwest City, plays the lead role of Prospero.

Additional performances:
Oct. 7 – 8 p.m.
Oct. 8 – 8 p.m.
Oct. 9 – 3 p.m.

Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for students and $5 for children. They can be purchased at the box office in the theatre lobby one hour prior to each performance.

For more information, contact Jessica Van Oort at (405) 878-5178 or jvanoort@stgregorys.edu.

Oct. 28 – Spirit and Sole Dance Ensemble, SGU’s resident company, will present an evening of varied styles of dance choreographed by faculty and students. This year’s full production, “Once Upon a Stage,” will be Oct. 26 through Oct. 30. The dance pieces explore the theme of fairy tales from different perspectives, from the serious to the humorous.

All performances will be held at the Sarkeys Performing Arts Center on the SGU Shawnee campus. More information, as well as advance tickets, available at www.stgregorys.edu.

Father Tad Pacholczyk National Catholic Bioethics Center

Making Sense of Bioethics

I recently was talking to a Mas- sachusetts family with a 21-year-old son on the autism spectrum. Because of the Asperger syndrome and obsessive compulsive disorder that affected him since childhood, he is only about 13 or 14 in his understanding and behaviors.

Jimmy (not his real name) has been in and out of mental institutions and recently had to be placed into a group home because his single mom could no longer manage him at home.

Things took an unexpected turn as Jimmy prepared to celebrate his 21st birthday. One day at the group home started him pushing him to visit the strip club in a nearby town now that he was “going to be an adult.” Always guileless, and never hesitant to talk openly about whatever was going on around him, Jimmy blurted out to his grandmother that the group home just went to visit the strip club. This must have been a lamentable instance of outright degradation, misrepresenting and wrongfully offering transportation to the strip club not only for their residents, but for residents of the other group homes run by the same company in nearby towns.

The staff member said that Jimmy was now 21 and the group home had to let him do what he wanted. A second phone call to the staff supervisor resulted in the group home had no choice but to cater to Jimmy’s wishes; he was within his legal rights now that he was 21; they would drive others at the home to the strip club, etc.

Finally, the grandmother called the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, which had contracted with the company running the group home, and spoke to the woman in charge of Jimmy’s case. She noted that Jimmy’s case. She noted that Jimmy’s grandmother, are finding themselves in the unenviable position of being ignored on certain issues by those entrusted with the care of institutionalized residents, apparently determined to bypass the guardian’s will whenever specific sexual agendas or views about “rights” need to be duly imposed.

Good parents never drive their children to strip clubs, and neither should any institution entrusted with a protective parental role; on the contrary, such institutions should erect appropriate boundaries and limits on harmful behaviors, so their residents can grow and flourish, contribute positively to society, and perhaps one day become good and mature moral agents themselves.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
El día de las elecciones se acerca: ¿qué vamos a hacer?

En poco más de un mes los ciudadanos de este país irán a las urnas para elegir a los líderes nacionales, estatales y locales y opinarán sobre muchas preguntas que ayudará a dar forma a nuestra sociedad por los próximos años. El derecho al voto es una cosa preciosa. Es un privilegio que nunca podemos dar por sentado. Incluso más que un privilegio, sin embargo, el voto es una responsabilidad moral para aquellos que son elegibles para votar.

Es cierto que, como muchas otras personas, estoy más que listo para que culmine el día de elecciones. También está invitado a ponerse días por la vida, 40 días de oración de noviembre, usted está invitado este país irán a las urnas para elegir a los líderes de esta importante comunidad. Si los que he hablado están tan desanimados por lo que los votantes tienen que elegir, todos somos seres humanos y debería ser una gran sorpresa ya que todos somos seres humanos imperfectos y pecadores. Algunos católicos con los que he hablado están tan desanimados por nuestra selección de candidatos a la presidencia que están considerando quedarse en casa el día de elecciones.

¿Entonces, qué vamos a hacer? Todos debemos comenzar por oran por nuestra nación y para que la luz del Espíritu Santo nos guíe y prepare como votantes para emitir nuevot voto. Debemos recordar las enseñanzas de nuestros obispos y el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica que nos ordenan que la ciudadanía responsable es una virtud y la participación en la vida política es una obligación moral. Hablándo de participación en la vida política y pública del Catecismo nos insta: “Es necesario que todos participen, cada uno según el lugar que ocupa y el papel que desempeña, en promover el bien común en nuestra nación. En breve puede que, de hecho, hagamos diferentes cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones, tenemos que estudiar. Tenemos que mirar más allá de la retórica climatizada y consignas para discernir si hay candidatos que puedan promover el bien común, proteger la vida y avanzar la dignidad humana en sus múltiples manifestaciones. Cuando hay este tipo de candidatos deben sentirse libres de votar por ellos, a pesar de las afiliaciones de partido. En algunas competencias políticas podemos descubrir que no hay un candidato que podamos apoyar en buena conciencia y optamos por abstenernos de votar en esa competencia política en particular.

En el elecciones ya quede atrás. Ha sido muy desencorajador ver lo que nos enfrentamos en promover el bien común de nuestra nación. Hay algunas elecciones en las que el voto es una responsabilidad moral. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa.

No hay mucho en juego el 8 de noviembre. In- en Ministerios de Salud parroquiales, temo a que oren, estudien los candidatos y sus plataformas, y luego a votar. Que María bajo el título de su Inmaculada Concepción, Patrona de los Estados Unidos, ¡ruegue por nosotros!

Las preguntas que se deben hacer para el voto, por ejemplo, votar para ampliar la protección legal para el aborto. El Arzobispo James Conley de Lin- coln, Nebraska, enfatizó este punto en nuestra reciente Misa Roja citando a Santa Teresa de Calcuta, quien dijo, “Roe v. Wade ha deformado una gran nación. El llamado derecho al aborto ha enfrentado a las madres contra sus hijos y las mujeres contra los hombres. Ha sembrado violencia y discordia en el seno de las relaciones humanas más íntimas. Se ha agrava- vado la derogación del papel del padre en una sociedad cada vez más huérfana. Ha retrasado el mayor de los regalos — un niño — como un competidor, una intrusión y un inconveniente. Los derechos humanos no son un privilegio conferido por el gobierno. Ellos son el derecho de todo ser humano, en virtud de su humanidad. El derecho a la vida no depende, y no debe ser declarada contingente, al placer de todo ser humano, al placer de cualquier otra persona, ni siquiera un padre o un soberano.”

A medida que se acerca el Día de las Elec- ciones, tenemos que estudiar. Tenemos que mirar más allá de la retórica climatizada y consignas para discernir si hay candidatos que puedan promover el bien común, proteger la vida y avanzar la dignidad humana en sus múltiples manifestaciones. Cuando hay este tipo de candidatos deben sentirse libres de votar por ellos, a pesar de las afiliaciones de partido. En algunas competencias políticas podemos descubrir que no hay un candidato que podamos apoyar en buena conciencia y optamos por abstenernos de votar en esa competencia política en particular.

Hay muchas y variadas ofertas de formación, como la protección del derecho a la vida, el fortalecimiento de la familia, y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa. Como una cuestión de conciencia tenemos que cuidadosamente discernir todas estas cuestiones con el fin de elegir a los candidatos que decidir dónde nos encontramos en cuestiones y la preservación de los derechos de conciencia y la libertad religiosa.
El Papa Benedicto XVI, en su encíclica “Spe Salvi” nos habla de sufrimiento y de cómo la fe y la esperanza se reavive y su formación del sufrimiento mediante la fuerza de la esperanza que proviene de la fe. "Yo, Pablo, encarcelado por el nombre de Cristo, os quiero explicar las tribulaciones en que me veo sumergido cada día, para que, enfervorizados en el amor de Dios, alebéis conmigo al Señor, porque es eterna su misericordia. Esta cárcel es un verdadero infierno: a los crueldades suplicios de toda clase, como son gritos, cadenas de hierro y ataduras, hay que añadir el odio, las venganzas, las calamidades, palabras inecesantes, peleas, actos perversos, juramentos injustos y violencias, y finalmente, angustias y tristeza.

Pero Dios, que en otro tiempo libró a los tres jóvenes del horno de fuego, está siempre conmigo y me libra de las tribulaciones y las convierte en dulzura, porque es eterna su misericordia. En medio de estos tormentos, que aterrorizarían a cualquiera, por la gracia de Dios estoy lleno de gozo y alegría, porque no estoy solo, sino que Cristo está conmigo. ... ¿Cómo resistir este espectáculo, viendo cada día cómo los emperadores, los mandarines y sus cortesanos blasfeman tu santo nombre, Señor, que te sientas sobre los querubines y serafines? ¡Mira, tu cruz es pisoteada por los paganos! ¿Dónde está tu gloria? Al ver todo esto, prefiero, encendido en tu amor, morir descuartizado, en testimonio de tu amor. Muestra, Señor, tu poder, sálvame y dame tu apoyo, para que la fuerza se manifieste en mi debilidad y sea glorificada ante los gentiles. ... Queridos hermanos al escuchar todo esto, llenos de alegría, tenéis que dar gracias incesantes a Dios, de quien procede todo bien; bendecid conmigo al Señor, porque es eterna su misericordia. La misión de Sagrado Corazón: ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta hacer cuando no estás en la escuela? Me encanta pasar tiempo con mi familia; hablando sobre nuestro día, bromeando o simplemente estar con ellos me trae felicidad a mi día. Salir a caminar después de un largo día es perfecto al igual que pasarla descansando en un lugar tranquilo donde pueda leer un buen libro. También me gusta ver programas viejos de televisión y películas.

La misión de Sagrado Corazón: Para capacitar a nuestros estudiantes a seguir y alcanzar excelencia académica y la responsabilidad personal como auténticos testigos de Jesucristo.
Attention Christ the King alumni

Christ the King School is searching for all CK Knights and for alumni news! The school would like to include alumni news in the annual school newsletter this fall. E-mail information and pictures to alumni@ckskool.com. The newsletter will be posted under the "Alumni" link at www.ckskool.com/groups/4984/alumni/home. Also, keep the database up-to-date by e-mailing address and e-mail updates.

Fr. William Janocha and Fr. Daniel Grover will lead a pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, and Lourdes, from Nov. 7-17, 2017. Cost $3,099 pp, including airfare from Oklahoma City, four-star hotels, most meals. Sites include Lisbon, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca, Avila, Madrid, and Lourdes. In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three small children in a field in Fatima. Join in to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this apparition. One of the pilgrimage sites of Santiago de Compostela, with the burial place of St. James, see the shrine to St. Teresa of Avila, and the Grotto of the Apparition of Our Lady to Bernadette in Lourdes. $400 deposit required. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha, (580) 395-2148, cvjanocha@canokla.net.

Fr. Jim Goins to celebrate jubilee with pilgrimage

Join Fr. Jim Goins to celebrate his silver jubilee by walking the Way of St. James through coastal Portugal and Spain May 28-June 9, 2017. Limited to 25 pilgrims. Valencia, Pontevedra, El Parque Natural de Ria Barosa, Rua de Fransis Padron, Santiago de Compostela and more. Cost is $4,399 pp dbl. occ., includes meals, roundtrip air from OKC, luggage transfers, hotels, guides, all admissions. Mass daily, support/chase van available and luxury motor coach for sightseeing and transfer to and from trail start/end locations each day. $300 pp deposit. Contact (405) 293-2003, mroewe@ucintours.com.

Are you listening?

Fall has arrived and at Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, we are approaching the Fall Radiothon, Oct. 25-26.

We are continuing with an initiative called the Parish Challenge that we began last spring to get parishes across the state involved in Catholic radio. Tune in and listen to your station on Tuesday, Oct. 25, as we announce the Parish Challenge participants for the Fall Radiothon. This is one way you can find out what your parish has pledged and what the parish match is.

Don’t hear your parish named as a “Challenge” participant? Your parish has already completed its challenge in the spring? Not to worry. You still can help by becoming a monthly donor.

When you donate, share with the OCBN family in a few words why you give or what Catholic radio means to you. Your encouraging words will be meaningful to the current Parish Challenge partners as well, so we might read some of these comments on the air.

Don’t know how to reach us or where to listen? You can call toll-free at (800) 891-8589. To listen online, go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com.

Listen on your radio throughout the day at the following stations: Oklahoma City 97.3 FM Tulsa 94.9 FM Lawton 88.3 FM Prague 88.3 FM Shawnee 107.1 FM Bristow 105.7 FM Broken Arrow 102.9 FM Antlers 90.3 FM Elk City 100.7 FM

...And now Edmond at 100.9 FM and Ringwood near Enid at 104.9 FM.

Briefs

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St. Monica Women’s Retreat

Featuring speaker and musician Anne Trufant, the St. Monica Women’s Retreat will be Friday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 15. Cost $20, scholarships available. Registration deadline Oct. 10. To register, e-mail Kaelie at stmonica@kakelie.com. Include name, telephone number and e-mail address. Mail registration fee to St. Monica Catholic Church, Attn: Kaelie Zehrung, 2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond 73012.

Ireland pilgrimage


40 Days for Life ORC

Join in days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Stand and peacefully pray in the public right-of-way outside South Winds women’s center 1240 S.W. 44 (Corner of Blackwelder Avenue and S.W. 44). Contact Deanne Gribble at (206) 498-6791. www.40daysforlife.org/oklahomacity.

40 Days for Life Norman

Join in prayer Sept. 28 until Nov. 6 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily outside the Norman abortion center at 2453 Wilcox Drive. Contact Connie at (405) 294-1041.

St. John Nepomuk craft fair

St. John Nepomuk Altar Society’s Annual Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. Seasonal, jewelry, unique handmade items and a raffle for a handmade quilt. Cost $15 per attendee, lunch and two breaks included. Contact Michael Zink at Michael-the-j@cox.net.

Children’s fall festival

St. Paul the Apostle is having a fall festival on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 3901 S. Sunnylane Rd., Del City. Festivities open 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free admission; tickets for games $.25 each or a pack of 25 for $5.

Oblate Day at St. Gregory’s

Benedictine Oblates are lay persons who associate themselves with a Benedictine monastic community to share in their search for God. Oblates strive to incorporate Benedictine values and spirituality into their everyday lives, incorporating the Divine Office and reflection on Scripture as they are able. They do not live in a religious community or take vows. The Abbey hosts special days of prayer and reflection for Oblates twice a year. The next Oblate Day is Oct. 23. Contact (405) 878-5490.

Anniversary Mass

Archbishop Coakley invites married couples to celebrate their anniversary in the spring to get parishes across the state involved in Catholic radio. Tune in and listen to your station on Tuesday, Oct. 25, as we announce the Parish Challenge participants for the Fall Radiothon. This is one way you can find out what your parish has pledged and what the parish match is.

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Don’t know how to reach us or where to listen? You can call toll-free at (800) 891-8589. To listen online, go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com.

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October

4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

4 Join Archbishop Coakley and Pastor Walter B. Hoye II from Issues4Life Foundation on Oct. 4, beginning at 5 p.m. at St. James the Greater Church, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., and prayerfully process near the new abortion facility in OKC. All are welcome.

6 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.

7 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the CPC. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass at 7 p.m.

Materials about First Friday Devotion and consecrating family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus available after Mass.

8 The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica meet from Noon to 2:30 p.m. in the school building, Rm. A/B, at St. Charles Borromeo. Contact Judith Martin at (405) 635-5665, jmmartinob@yahoo.com.

9 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 3901 S.W. 29, OKC. Call (405) 685-4806.

11 Feast of St. John XXIII.

11 Catholic War Veterans will meet in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt at (405) 235-4566.

12 Catholic War Veterans USA Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 meet at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Recreation Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact Ken at (405) 739-0036, OklaPost168@cox.net.

13 St. Ann’s Ministry for Pregnancy and Infant Loss will meet 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at St. John’s Raphael House in Edmond. Everyone is welcome, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. Contact Marilyn Seiler (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parish-nurse@stjohn-catholic.org.

14 Featuring musician Anne Trufant, the St. Monica Women’s Retreat will be Oct. 14 and 15. Cost $20; scholarships available. Deadline to register Oct. 10. E-mail Kailee at stmonicakz@gmail.com.

14 Bingo at St. Joseph, Norman. Dinner served 6:15 p.m. Games begin 7 p.m. with second session at 8:30 p.m.

15 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meetings following. Contact Karen Banks at (405) 396-9086.

15 St. John Nepomuk Altar Society’s Annual Craft Fair will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon.

15 The Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus meets at Little Flower Church, OKC, from Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Jobs Box

Managing editor – Sooner Catholic newspaper
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a managing editor for its newspaper, the Sooner Catholic. The full-time position is responsible for management of freelance writers, bulletin communication, e-newsletters, issue design and layout, and invoicing. Bachelor’s degree required; experience with InDesign, Adobe Suite and layout preferred. Bilingual a plus. Send resume to Nancy Largent at nlargent@archokc.org. Applications available at the Catholic Pastoral Center. SGU admissions office coordinator
The office coordinator oversees the daily organizational tasks of the admissions office and supervises student workers. Apply at www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

See more at www.archokc.org/jobs-box.
Edmond Knight named treasurer of international organization

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By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

Ron Schwarz of Edmond has risen to a major leadership position with the Knights of Columbus and its 1.9 million members worldwide.

In August, Schwarz, 58, was named treasurer of the lay group during the group’s international convention in Toronto. That meeting drew dozens of clergy and was broadcast on EWTN.

The Knights, headquartered in New Haven, Conn., promote the Catholic faith and are engaged in a variety of charities, locally and internationally. In addition, the organization is a $100 billion life insurance company, covering members and their families. It is one of the larger insurers in North America.

Providing financially for families was part of the vision of Knights founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, in 1882. The insurance arm of the Knights allows the group to donate millions to charitable causes.

Originally from Okarche, Schwarz first joined the Knights in 1977 at age 18. He has held nearly every office on the local level, including grand knight of his parish home council at Saint Monica in Edmond. A little more than 10 years ago, he started serving in various leadership roles of the Oklahoma Council of the Knights of Columbus, a group with about 7,000 members. His involvement there, including two years as state deputy, 2013-2015, led to trips to the supreme office.

This year, he was approached by the supreme knight, Carl Anderson, about becoming treasurer. Unlike officers on the local and state level, this post is a full-time job. Schwarz was working for the Benham architectural firm in Oklahoma City. He moved to New Haven in September.

“I’ve had a pretty quick rise with the Knights,” he said. “I’m excited about this opportunity. This is a great organization.”

It’s also something of a milestone for Oklahoma, according to Richard Schulte.

To his knowledge, no Oklahoma knight has risen to this kind of a leadership position with the supreme office. Schulte has been an Oklahoma leader with the group for decades, including establishing the Edmond Knights of Columbus in 1973.

“This is a great honor for not only Ron, but for the State of Oklahoma,” Schulte said. “Ron has been involved at the supreme level and they recognized his abilities.”

Schwarz earned an accounting degree at the University of Central Oklahoma and is a certified public accountant.

The new treasurer said the Knights are involved in a myriad of outreach programs.

Most recently the group pushed to have the American government declare a state of genocide against the terrorist organization ISIS for that group’s treatment of Christians in Syria and Iraq.

“We’ve also been involved in the relief effort for flooding in Louisiana,” Schwarz said.

In 2013, Schwarz and the Knights also were part of assistance to those who suffered losses during the tornado damage in Moore.

The Knights, Schwarz said, is expanding its membership with new councils internationally in places such as Ukraine, France, Poland and South Korea.

Schwarz and wife Janette have two daughters, Jenna Garcia, 31, and Kristen Schwarz, 27.

The new treasurer has been busy since moving to New Haven and believes the future is bright for the Knights.

“Younger men are interested in the knights and our expansion continues,” he said.

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.