Bishops Pray at Grave of Father Rother

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop Gonzalo Villa of Solola, Guatemala, visited the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City recently. During his stay, the bishop prayed at the Okarche gravesite of Father Stanley Rother. Father Rother, as Oklahoma Catholics know, was shot to death on July 28, 1981, in the rectory at Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. His cause is being promoted for sainthood and Bishop Villa believes the Church will one day declare the slain priest a saint.

Bishop Villa asked Oklahoma Catholics to continue to pray for the people of Guatemala. He said many improvements have been made in the Central American country since the time Father Rother ministered there. Education is now more prevalent and the “rate of illiteracy” is not as high.

“Most did not attend school 30 years ago,” said Bishop Villa, who has served as the shepherd of the Church in the Diocese of Solola for two years. “Today, most are receiving education, especially young women who years ago would have never gone to school.”

Bishop Solola said “globalization has arrived in Guatemala” and with it has come a wave of cell phones. He said young children carry cell phones, as well as those living in the remote areas of the country.

While the bishop welcomes the advances made in education, he is not happy with another development, crime has also seen a sharp upturn. Bishop Villa blames organized crime for much of the escalation. He said drugs and corruption within the government are spurring much of the increase in criminal activity.

“The rule of law is virtually nonexistent,” he said. “The bishop said the government only prosecutes maybe two of every 100 homicides.” He said often vigilantes take the law into their own hands, dispensing a style of justice not seen in this country. Since cattle rustlers were hanged on the spot, no questions asked.

“The vigilantes in Guatemala don’t hang the suspected criminals,” the bishop said. “They burn them.”

Born in Spain, Bishop Villa, now 55, moved with his family to Guatemala when he was 8 years old. He never met Father Rother, but he said the spirit of the Oklahoma priest continues to remind the Guatemalan people that good overcomes evil and we are all called to persevere in our journey toward holiness. While in Oklahoma, the bishop wrote an article for the largest newspaper in Guatemala. The article was about Father Rother and how he worked very hard to overcome obstacles in his life.

Father Rother was told he was not capable of becoming a priest, Bishop Villa said, recalling how the Oklahoma priest was removed from one seminary because of his failure to master Latin. Today, his cause continued on page 3
Several days ago, Pope Benedict XVI canonized the 19th century missionary to the lepers. Over the last century, most Catholic people read or heard the amazing heroic story of Saint Damien. He was a Belgian-born priest who served the ostracized lepers who were banished to live on Molokai in Hawaii. Saint Damien eventually contracted leprosy himself but continued to serve the leper colony until his death at the age of 49. We who read his story were convinced that he was indeed a saint in heaven. Now we are assured so by the Church.

Several years ago, we here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City began the long and tedious process for the canonization of one of our own missionary priests, Rev. Stanley Rother of Okarche. Father Rother served as a missionary priest in the village of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala. On July 28, 1981, Father Rother was killed in the parish house next to the church of Santiago Atitlan. Those of us who knew Father Rother or even later read his story are also convinced that he was martyred for the faith and is therefore in heaven. We have begun the difficult canonization process because we believe and pray that if it is God’s Will, Father Rother shall be proclaimed by the Universal Church as a martyr and saint.

Saint Damien and Father Rother were two ordinary young men who, because of their faith and dedication, gave up their lives for God’s people. Their lives and their deaths were never vain or futile. Each of them loved God first and foremost and their neighbor as themselves. Each of them made daily humble efforts to fulfill God’s Will by serving God’s people.

Next Sunday, Nov. 1, we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. We will commemorate not only all the great men and women, young and old, who have been recognized by the Church as saints in heaven, but indeed all the people who are actually in heaven with God. Being in heaven in the constant Presence of God is not a foreign concept to our human nature. Sanctity is the original universal vocation for all people. We were created by God in His image and likeness so that we could receive His love and love Him in return. Then, someday after completing our pilgrimage on this earth, we would rejoice with God in heaven forever.

What makes sanctity look irrelevant or not attainable or even undesirable is sin. Sin is disobedience to God, turning away from God or rejecting God’s plan for the human family. God created us out of love to receive His love and love Him in return. Love must be free. It can never be forced or imposed on anyone. To love God, to rejoice in His presence forever, is the plan of God for all of us. But He never forces us. He lovingly calls and invites and waits for our free response of love.

Not only did God create us in His own image and likeness to live with Him forever as saints, but He also redeemed us when, by sin, we rejected His plan. Moreover, in the New Covenant, He gave us a visible Church to guide and lead us with a sacramental system which He empowers. Thus, each of us has been baptized, which means that we have been sanctified. In baptism our sins were washed away. We were reborn and filled with the Grace of God.

Following our baptism, through the use and practice of the other sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we are forgiven, healed, nurtured and strengthened to continue our pilgrimage of life on this earth to life everlasting in heaven. We are created by God to become saints. We are called by God to sanctity. We enjoy the fullness and perfection of our human nature only when we enter the eternal kingdom of God to rejoice with Him forever. We must live as saints of God on this earth now so as to be prepared to be saints in heaven forever.

We must live as saints of God on this earth now so as to be prepared to be saints in heaven forever.

ADF Support Continues to Drive Ministries

Through eight months, 10,543 families and individuals have pledged $3,074,435 to support the ministries and apostolic of this Archdiocese. Payments on pledges have steadily risen to $2,591,565 with a little over two months remaining for this year's appeal. It is critical that donors remain dedicated to the fulfillment of their promises to God and His church to support the work and mission to help His family. It is truly amazing how generous are the 30 to 35 percent of the families who give so much of themselves in support of their parish and the Archdiocese.

With nearly 40 thousand families in this Archdiocese, it is apparent that there are many who haven’t yet realized or accepted the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show their love for God by returning their gifts from Him (out of His love for them) to the support of this activities for building His family.

It is never too late, for us, to realize that God’s love is there for the taking. We just have to open our hearts and He will fill it to overflowing. Then that love will guide us on how to return to Him, His love and His gifts.
Obituary

Father Donald Moore Dies Oct. 7

Rev. Donald C. Moore, a Roman Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, died Oct. 7, 2009, in Oklahoma City. Father Moore was born Oct. 29, 1937, in Enid, and graduated from Watonga High School. He attended Oklahoma A&M (OSU) and St. John’s Seminary, Little Rock, Ark. Father Moore was ordained on May 23, 1965, at St. Gregory’s Abbey Church in Shawnee.

Father Moore served many parishes in the Diocese of Oklahoma and Tulsa and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City during his 30 years of active ministry as well as serving as chaplain for area hospitals and St. Ann Nursing Home where he was much beloved. Assignments included associate pastor, St. Francis Xavier Church, Enid; Church of St. Mary, Ponca City; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Tulsa; and pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Mangum; Prince of Peace Church, Altus; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Okeene; and St. Mary Church, Clinton, and St. Patrick Church, Oklahoma City.

Father Moore was preceded in death by his father, Roland Moore, and his mother, Cyrilla Moore Reber.

He is survived by his sister, Carole Ann Moore Dunn, and his nieces, Ronda Dunn Bizzell and Cathy Dunn Ray; a nephew, Donnie Dunn; and grand-nieces and grand-nephews, Kolby Bizzell, Kirby Bizzell Hood, Christopher Dunn, Brittany Dunn, Taylor Ray and Ty Ray.

A Vigil for the Deceased was held Oct. 10 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Watonga. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Catholic Pastoral Center Oct. 12, with interment in the Chapel at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Catholic Charities, Watonga Municipal Hospital or St. Ann’s Nursing Home.

Bishops Pray

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is being promoted for sainthood.
“He never gave up,” said the bishop.

Bishop Villa said the majority of the priests serving in Guatemala are native-born and the story of Father Rother inspired many of them to follow him to the priesthood. He said the good news is many priests are young and bring great energy to the faith. The flip side to this is the young priests are inexperienced and often make mistakes. “But the youth gives us great hope,” he said.

More than 1 million Guatemalans are now living in the United States, many in New York City, said Bishop Villa. He said the migrants are hard workers and have made a great economic impact in Guatemala by sending money back home, even remote rural villages are experiencing the influx of cash. While the money is flowing from the United States into the Guatemalan countryside, the strain of not having husbands and fathers at home is causing great hardships for families. The bishop said many young people are growing up without a father and this is causing great strain, even for those families with strong bonds.

“It’s very difficult,” Bishop Villa said. “Many men return after a few years away, but then many do not. They have fallen to temptation and have started new families in the United States.”

Bishop Villa said the Church and people of Guatemala are grateful for the support shown by the Catholic people of Oklahoma. He said the money donated is being put to good use.

“In Guatemala we can educate a seminarian for $1,500 a year,” he said. Ordaining more Catholic priests, the bishop said, will bring more hope and faith to the people of Guatemala. And with that faith and hope, the country will find a way to continue even in the face of great difficulties, just as Father Stanley Rother did years ago.

Obituary

Benedictine Priest, Fr. Daniel Suellentrop Dies at Age 83

SHAWNEE — Rev. Daniel Mark Suellentrop, O.S.B., monk of St. Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, entered eternal life on Oct. 12, 2009. He was 83 years old.

He was born Feb. 3, 1926, to John and Cathryn Neuholt Suellentrop in Colwich, Kan., where he attended elementary school. He attended St. Gregory’s High School in Shawnee, graduating in 1943. After two years of college at Conception Seminary in Missouri, he entered the novitiate of St. Gregory’s Abbey in 1945. He made first vows as a monk on Feb. 25, 1946, solemn vows on July 11, 1949, and was ordained a priest on April 7, 1951.

He studied philosophy and theology at St. Gregory’s Abbey. Father Daniel received an M.A. in guidance and counseling from Fordham University and studied school administration at New York University and the University of Oklahoma.

Father Daniel played many roles at St. Gregory’s High School. He coached basketball and baseball, was a dorm prefect, taught a variety of courses including mathematics, geography and religion, and served as the high school principal. Later he was supervisor of a college dorm. During those years he assisted in parishes on weekends. Later in life he served on the board of directors of St. Gregory’s University. He was inducted into the St. Gregory’s University Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his achievements as a student-athlete and coach.

In addition to service at St. Gregory’s, he served as pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Sulphur; St. Mary’s Church, Wanette; St. Patrick’s Mission and Holy Family Parish in Anadarko; St. Benedict Parish, Shawnee; and of the Nat’l Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Wenceslaus in Prague. In 1967, Father Daniel entered the Chaplain’s Core of the U.S. Army. His assignments took him to bases in six states and four posts overseas. He served 20 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

Eventually, declining health limited his activity and he returned to the monastery, maintaining contact with students, parishioners and colleagues from his many years of experience.

Father Daniel is survived by the monks of St. Gregory’s Abbey; a brother, John F. Suellentrop and his wife, Marijean; a sister Mary Blick; sisters-in-law, Kathryn Suellentrop and Joyce Suellentrop; brother-in-law, Tom Medill; and many nieces and nephews.

The monastic community wishes to thank the Abbey Healthcare Staff and the administration and staff of St. Ann Assisted Living and St. Ann Nursing Home in Oklahoma City for the attentive care they gave to Father Daniel in recent years.

A vigil of prayer for Father Daniel was celebrated Oct. 15 at St. Gregory’s Abbey Church, Shawnee. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 15 in the Abbey Church. Interment followed in the St. Gregory’s Abbey Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the building fund at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, or the scholarship fund of St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804.
Oklahoma Ministry Has Been Operating Since 1912

Catholic Charities Has Deep Roots in Adoption Efforts

By Jennifer Mullins
For the Sooner Catholic

(The birth mother’s name has been changed to protect her privacy.)

OKLAHOMA CITY — In 1912, the groundwork for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was laid with the founding of St. Joseph’s Orphanage. In 1927, Catholic Charities expanded its services to include adoption, foster care and pregnancy counseling. Since that time, Catholic Charities has helped place hundreds of children in loving homes.

One of their most memorable adoptions involves three generations of adoptees, brought together by God and placed in forever homes through the services of Catholic Charities.

Roper and Amy, unable to have children of their own, looked to adoption to help create their family. They discussed all the options and decided they didn’t want to travel around the world going through a long, drawn-out adoption or put in applications at multiple places, forcing the issue. “I spent a lot of time praying. I thought, if we’re supposed to have children, He will make it easy. We chose to adopt through Catholic Charities because I was adopted through them as a baby,” said Amy.

Roper and Amy and another couple. Sabra called Roger and Amy and told them there was a prospective adoptive family. They agreed. Meanwhile, on the other side of town, a young girl named Jessica discovered she was pregnant just two months before she was scheduled to start college. “I was scared and nervous and didn’t know what to do. I didn’t know if I wanted to stay with the birth father or not. It was a really difficult time,” recalls Jessica.

Jessica came to Catholic Charities with her mother to discuss her options. “I was adopted through Catholic Charities and had a good experience with it, so I came to see what my choices were. Catholic Charities is a great agency for women who are confused or find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy. They won’t try to push adoption on you, they tell you all of the options. It is a great agency for women in need,” said Jessica.

Christmas Program Needs Support

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities will again sponsor its Adopt-a-Family Program to help families enjoy presents and gifts at Christmas.

The program was created to assist families with their Christmas celebration. Last year, volunteers and sponsors allowed Catholic Charities to provide Christmas presents to 286 families. This year, the goal is to provide presents for 350 families.

With the help of generous sponsors and volunteers, Christmas blessings will be shared with families throughout Oklahoma City.

Assistance needed:

Sponsors for families: Sponsors come in many shapes and sizes. They can be individuals, families, small businesses or large corporations. Many sponsors find the experience so fulfilling that they participate in the program year after year. Please call 523-3026 to find out more about sponsorship.

Volunteers: Catholic Charities needs volunteers beginning Oct. 12, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to assist with mailings, phones, databases, and other various tasks in order to prepare for the program.

Volunteers: Volunteers needed during the third week of December 2009 for drop-off and pickup days. Tasks include recording sponsor and family information and assisting them with paperwork. Carry or cart gifts and place in appropriate locations or the family’s vehicle. Shifts are approximately three hours between 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Call Cassie Neahrming, volunteer coordinator, at 526-2308 if interested in volunteering.

Parishes Work to Assist Immigrants

OKLAHOMA CITY — Have you ever experienced being a stranger in a foreign land — leaving your family to make a better living to help support them? Can you imagine the isolation and loneliness that you feel when you don’t speak the language and can’t be home to share your life? “Caminando Hacia La Luz” or “Walking Toward the Light” is a program that offers hospitality, spirituality and companionship to those who are “strangers in a foreign land.”

This outreach ministry meets monthly with Hispanic parishioners from Sacred Heart, Holy Angels and Saint Eugene parishes. “The purpose is to work with them and help them adjust and deal with alcohol and drug abuse problems,” said Joel de Loera Jr., program coordinator. Participants share issues they are facing in their lives and elder participants help facilitate and host the gatherings.

The birth father and his family opposed adoption from the beginning, and because his family was of American Indian descent, the rules for adoption were mandated by the much stricter guidelines of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which specifies that the child’s tribe and family will have an opportunity to be involved in any decisions affecting services for the Indian child.

In order for Jessica to place her child for adoption, one or both of the adoptive parents had to be of American Indian descent. Together with Sabra Ruminar, adoption coordinator of Catholic Charities, she went through all of the prospective parent files searching for a good match.

Two sets of adoption applicants met the requirements, Roger and Amy and another couple. Sabra called Roger and Amy and told them there was a prospective match and asked if they would consider the adoption. They agreed.

“When I saw Roger and Amy’s picture in the book, I was a little concerned about their age, because they were a bit older than what I had in mind. Plus, the other family had another child, and because I was an only child, I wanted my child to have a sibling. However, when I found out I was having twins, I knew that I wanted to bless Roger and Amy with the babies. I liked their religious background, I knew they were financially secure and

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Saints Go Against the Grain By Living Out Gospel Values

VATICAN CITY (Zenit.org) — A saint is one who doesn’t put themselves at the center, but rather chooses to go against the grain and live according to the Gospel, says Benedict XVI.

The pope said this during the canonization Mass of five blessed — a bishop, two priests, a religious brother and a religious sister — held in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Among the five canonized was Father Damien De Veuster, the first Hawaiian saint.

The pontiff began the homily by asking the question posed to Christ by a rich young man in Sunday’s Gospel: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“The Divine Master looks at him with love,” the Holy Father continues, “and proposes the qualitative leap, he calls him to the heroism of sanctity, he asks him to abandon everything and follow him: ‘Sell what you own and give the money to the poor ... then come, follow me!'”

“This is the Christian vocation that flows from a proposal of love by the Lord, and that can be realized only thanks to our loving reply,” he said. “Jesus invites his disciples to the total giving of their lives, without calculation or personal gain, with unfailing trust in God.”

“The saints welcome this demanding invitation and set about following the crucified and risen Christ with humble docility. Their perfection, in the logic of a faith that is humanly incomprehensible at times, consists in no longer placing themselves at the center, but choosing to go against the flow and live according to the Gospel.”

Benedict XVI then commented on each one of the new saints. A request had been made at the beginning of Mass that the faithful refrain from applauding after he read the name of each saint.

**Archbishop Zygmunt Szscesny Felinsk** (1822-1895), archbishop of Warsaw and founder of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Family of Mary, “was a great witness of faith and pastoral charity in very difficult times for the nation and for the Church in Poland,” said Benedict XVI.

“As the Archbishop of Warsaw, he encouraged everyone toward an interior renewal,” the pope said. “Prior to the insurrection of January 1863 against the Russian annexation, he warned the people against the futile shedding of blood.

“However, when the uprising occurred and was put down, he courageously defended the oppressed. Under the rule of the Russian Czar, he spent 20 years in exile in Jaroslaw in Siberia, without being able to ever return to his diocese.”

“Today may his dedication to God and to men, full of trust and of love, become a shining example for all the Church,” the Holy Father added.

The pope said Spanish Dominican Father Francisco Coll (1812-1875), founder of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “eagerly dedicated himself to [the] proclamation [of the Gospel], faithfully accomplishing his vocation in the Order of Preachers, in which he worked.”

Francis Coll “reached the hearts of others because he transmitted what he himself lived with passion, that which burned in his heart: the love of Christ, his devotion to Him.”

**Jozef De Veuster** (1840-1889), of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, “left his home in Flanders to proclaim the Gospel on the other side of the world, the Hawaiian Islands,” the pontiff recounted. “His missionary activity, which gave him so much joy, reaches its summit in charity.

“Not without fear and repugnance, he chose to go to the Island of Molokai to serve the lepers who were there, abandoned by all; thus he exposed himself to the disease they suffered from. He felt at home with them. The Servant of the Word thus became a suffering servant, a leper with lepers, during the last four years of his life.”

“We recall, faced with this noble figure, that charity makes unity,” Benedict XVI continued. “It gives birth to it and makes it desirable. In following St. Paul, St. Damien leads us to choose the good battle, not those that lead to division, but those that gather together.

“He invites us to open our eyes to the lepers that disfigure the humanity of our brothers and today still calls, more than for our generosity, for the charity of our serving presence.”

**Brother Rafael Arnáiz** (1911-1938), who was 27 when he died as an oblate of the Trappists of Saint Isidore de Duenas, “was from a well-to-do family, as he said himself, with a ‘slightly dreamy spirit.’”

“He said yes to the proposal to follow Jesus, in an immediate and decisive way, without limits or conditions,” the pope continued. “Thus he set out on his path, which from the moment in the monastery when he realized that he ‘did not know how to pray’ led him in just a few years to the summit of spiritual life, where he describes with great simplicity and naturalness in many writings.

“Brother Rafael, still close to us, continues to offer, through his example and his works, a fascinating journey, especially for young persons who are not satisfied easily, but who aspire to the full truth, the most inexpressible joy, reached for the love of God.”

**Blessed Marie de la Croix Jugan** (1792-1879), founder of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is “like a beacon to guide our societies which must always rediscover the place and unique contribution of this period of life,” the pope said.

“Jeanne lived the mystery of love by peacefully accepting darkness and divesting herself of all material possessions until her death,” he continued. “Her charism is always relevant, while so many aged persons suffer different types of poverty and solitude, sometimes even abandoned by their families.

“The spirit of hospitality and fraternal love, founded on limitless trust in Providence, which Jeanne Jugan drew from the Beatitudes, illuminated her whole existence.

“Let us give thanks to the Lord for the gift of sanctity that today shines in the Church with a singular beauty,” the pontiff concluded. “While I salute each of you affectionately [...] I would like to invite all of you to let yourselves be drawn by the shining example of these saints, to allow yourselves to be guided by their teachings, so that our whole existence can become a hymn of praise to the love of God.”
SGU Plans Box City to Help Raise Funds for Homeless

SHAWNEE — Residents in the Shawnee area are encouraged to give up their warm beds on Oct. 30 and sleep in a cardboard box — all to raise awareness for homelessness. The event, “Night in a Box,” is hosted by St. Gregory’s University and will be located on the campus “Mound” in front of Benedictine Hall.

Event participants will stay in cardboard boxes from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m.

The cost is $10 for students, $15 for individuals, $20 for student organizations and $25 for community organizations and groups. All of the money raised will go to Shawnee Rescue Mission/Labor of Love Charities.

“I just thought it would be a neat idea — something fun that St. Gregory’s students and the Shawnee community could do together,” said event coordinator and SGU student Karen Hynes. “What makes it really awesome is working with Shawnee Rescue Mission/Labor of Love to raise awareness not only of homelessness in general, but specifically the homeless in Shawnee — the people that Shawnee Rescue Mission and Labor of Love are working with one-on-one.

St. Gregory’s Alum to Discuss Immigration Story

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory's University alumnus David “Jeff” Ngaruri Kenney will discuss his book, “Asylum Denied,” on Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. inside the Shawnee Community Room. The event, part of SGU’s Speakers Series, is free and open to the public.

The book, told by Kenney and his lawyer, Philip G. Schrag from Kenney’s own perspective, tells of his near-murder, imprisonment and torture in Kenya, his remarkable escape to the United States, and the obstacle course of ordeals and proceedings he faced as U.S. government agencies sought to deport him to Kenya.

Kenney said his book brings to life the human costs associated with our immigration laws and suggests reforms that are desperately needed to help victims of human rights violations.

“Asylum Denied is a living testimony that truth and fairness has nothing to do with the U.S. asylum administrative process,” Kenney said. “It’s a game of chance where luck determines the outcome of each applicant’s case. By the time I learned this, I was already out of luck.”

Kenney’s book was published in 2008 by the University of California Press. The book received a human rights award from the Gustavus Meyers Center of Boston College. This year, it was adopted as a required reading for incoming law students and as a teaching text for legal clinical programs by law schools across the nation. Those schools include New York University, Georgetown University, Fordham University, Hofstra University, and most recently, the University of Tulsa.

Luncheon to Focus on Ethics in Business World

At a luncheon to be held on 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 4, the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium will explore beliefs held by Catholics and Buddhists. The intent of the program is to create dialogue between members of different religious groups as well as offer practical suggestions for managing ethical conflicts in the workplace.

Keynote speakers include Andrew Tevington, noted Oklahoman columnist and author of Our Ethics, Father Rick Stansberry of Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, and John Cougher, a Zen Buddhist and Dharma instructor. Additionally, Jian-Mao Shi, abess of the Buddha Mind Monastery, will show the group how meditation can help one quell negative emotions that can sometimes lead to conflict.

Attendance for the luncheon is $30 per person and reservations can be made online at www.okethics.org or by calling 889-0498 or 858-2233.
WASHINGTON — Spokespersons for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voiced disappointment in the Senate Finance Committee vote to approve its health care reform bill without first fixing problematic provisions.

On Oct. 8, the bishops chairing the USCCB committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Pro-Life Activities and Migration, wrote to Congress that the bishops would have no choice but to oppose a final health care bill that fails to address key concerns and noted:

Policies against abortion funding and in support of conscience rights must be in the bill.

Health care should be affordable and available to the poor and vulnerable.

The needs of legal immigrants and their families should be met.

Kathy Saile, director of the USCCB Office of Domestic Social Development, said: “We remain hopeful that problematic provisions in the bills, particularly the Senate Finance Committee bill, can be worked out. But time is running short and if the provisions are not fixed, the bishops have been clear that they will have no choice but to oppose a final bill. The stated purpose of pursuing health care reform was to provide those without health care coverage access to quality and affordable health care. There is real doubt that this bill will achieve that goal.”

Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said, “No current health care bill approved by committee is consistent with longstanding and widely supported federal policies on abortion and conscience rights. Contrary to recent misleading comments from some sources, this and other health care reform bills appropriate their own funds outside the scope of the annual Labor/HHS appropriations bills, and so are not covered by the Hyde amendment that prevents those bills from funding abortion coverage. This legislation needs its own provision against such funding.”

Kevin Appleby, USCCB Director of Migration and Refugee Policy, said, “If the goal of health care reform is to reduce significantly the number of uninsured, the Senate bill falls well short. As passed out of the Finance Committee, millions of legal immigrants and their families would be left outside the system, dependent on emergency rooms for their primary care.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has advocated for health care reform for decades. The bishops wrote in their Oct. 8 letter that “Catholic moral tradition teaches that health care is a basic human right, essential to protecting human life and dignity. Much-needed reform of our health care system must be pursued in ways that serve the life and dignity of all, never in ways that undermine or violate these fundamental values. We will work tirelessly to remedy these central problems and help pass real reform that clearly protects the life, dignity and health of all.”

The full text of the letter can be found online at www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/2009-10-08-health-care-letter-congress.pdf.

Across Oklahoma

Parish Dinner Nov. 1
NICOINA PARK — Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, N.E. 23rd and Meyer Circle, will celebrate its 38th annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner on Nov. 1. Start your Christmas shopping early. Booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A turkey dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner is $6 for adults and $3 for children.

Mission to be Hosted
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Charles Borromeo, 5024 N. Grove (NW 50th between MacArthur and Meridian), will host its Parish Mission and 40 Hours Devotion led by Father Jim Goin Nov. 2-4. The mission will begin each evening at 6:30. Three days of continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8 a.m. on Nov. 2 and continues until 6 p.m. Nov. 4. The Church will be open all day and night for prayer. During this time of retreat and prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours will be prayed every day at 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Call (405) 789-2595 for more information or visit our Web site at www.stcharlesokc.com.

Marriage Issues Targeted
OKLAHOMA CITY — Nov. 7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, the Office of Family Life will host Stepping in to Marriage With Children. Too often we assume that second marriages need little to no preparation, but 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce. This seems to be due, in part, to unanticipated problems and miscommunications. The issues highlighted in this program are: communication, step-family structures, former spouses, conflict, sexuality and spirituality. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

School Auction Set
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Eugene Catholic Church and School will host its 2009 Gala Event, “A Night at the Oscars.” The fundraiser will be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at the downtown Oklahoma City Coca-Cola Events Center. Along with dinner and entertainment, the night will include two silent auctions, a dessert auction and a live auction. Tickets are $50 per person, or a premium table for eight is $600 and includes wine, a server and express checkout. For tickets and for more information, call 751-0067.

Crafts Festival Nov. 14
MUSTANG — Holy Spirit Catholic Church’s 22nd annual Altar Society Crafts Festival will feature a variety of local artists and crafters offering unique handmade items for sale. The event will also include raffles, door prizes, a silent auction, a delicious brisket lunch and baked goods. The event will be at the Church located at 1100 N. Sara Road on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, contact Roxy Kostuck at (405) 924-9003 or rkostuck@cox.net.

Dinner Nov. 15
NORMAN — St. Joseph Catholic Church is celebrating its 87th annual Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The dinner will be served in the Parish Hall. Tickets are $8 for adults, $3.50 for children 5 to 10 years, children under 5 years of age eat free. Tickets are available at the parish office at 421 E. Acres, Norman. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Anniversary to be Celebrated
OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King Catholic Church and School will celebrate its 60th anniversary Nov. 22 with a 10 a.m. Mass commemorating the anniversary. The Mass will feature Mozart’s “Coronation Mass.” The day’s celebration will continue at 4 p.m. with an organ recital by Edwin Day, Christ the King music director. The celebration will culminate in a Diamond Jubilee Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, 7000 NW Grand Boulevard in Nichols Hills. The dinner costs $35 and is open to the public. Place your reservations by calling (405) 242-4511 or by visiting www.ckokc.org. Checks may be mailed to Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City 73156.
My Being Proclaims

Annual Workshop Held at Corpus Christi Church

Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City hosted its annual My Being Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord music seminar recently. Dozens of Catholics from throughout the Archdiocese took part in the three-day seminar. The event culminated with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Beltran.

Above, Valeria Foster directs the choir composed of workshop participants with Kenneth Louis accompanying on the piano. At right, Yakini Wilson takes part in one of the liturgical dances at Mass.

Pet Blessing in Union City

Deacon Lloyd Menz, above, blesses a horse owned by Bailey and Wyatt Kappus during the pet blessing on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi at St. Joseph Church in Union City. At right, Josh and Caleb Straka hold their pet turtles to be blessed. Photos provided.
Saint Mary’s Parish Celebrates Groundbreaking

CLINTON — Saint Mary Catholic Church paid tribute to its founders and the many cultures that have helped it grow as a thriving parish on Oct. 7 when ground was broken for a new parish hall. The date held great significance as Saint Mary’s first opened its doors on Oct. 7, 1944.

Father Rex Arnold, pastor, led a prayer service and Rosary, prior to the groundbreaking ceremony. Children and adults were presented at the entrance of the church with the Vatican flag, while others carried flags and banners celebrating the Blessed Virgin as well as the various cultures and heritages that have formed to create Saint Mary's.

Father Arnold recited a history outlining the significance of Oct. 7, going all the way back to the year 1571 when Catholics battled invading Muslim Turks in the Battle of LaPonto.

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock sent a congratulatory letter to the parishioners. Then Father Taylor celebrated the first Mass in Spanish at Saint Mary’s on Nov. 9, 1980.

The new parish hall will be built by Joe D. Hall of Elk City. It was designed by Mass Architects of Oklahoma City and will cost $1.2 million. The hall will include seating for 250, a kitchen, room for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and office, an office for the parish nurse, storage space, a nursery and coffee bar. The new gathering space will connect to the church and will be entered through a 40-foot stone bell tower. This area includes overflow seating space with a drop-down projector and screen.

Catholic women from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City traveled to Florida for a national gathering of the ACCW. Making the trip from Oklahoma were Kay Keith, Pearl Sullens, Mary Ann Holman, Patty Summerhauser, Karen Painter, Pam Kennedy and Monsignor Gier.

Artworks to be Featured at CPC

Werner Ritter of Frankfurt, Germany, will be present during the exhibition of his “Color Lithography of Christian Symbols” Nov. 10-15. The display will be in exhibition in the Conference Center of the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The artist was inspired by the works of great masters to create new access, with contemporary techniques and modern elements of style to timeless messages of faith of their pictures. Visitors to the exhibition will see masterpieces not only by their artistic aspects, but will engage themselves with the unchanging religious content, with the message of faith.

Exhibit times are:
Nov. 10, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Nov. 11-14, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Nov. 15, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Saint Greg’s Taps David Marker for Interim President

SHAWNEE — Nikki Cook, chair of St. Gregory’s University’s board of directors, announced that Dr. David Marker has been named interim president. The action came at the board’s Oct. 15 meeting. Marker will take office on Nov. 1.

Marker comes to this role with an extensive background of leadership in higher education. He began his academic career on the faculty of Hope College in Holland, Mich., and served there as associate dean for Academic Affairs and Provost. He was appointed president of Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, in 1984, serving in the position until 1993. He then served as president of Des Moines University from 1993 to 1996. He has also served as interim president at several colleges: Morningside College 1998 to 1999 and a recently completed term at Pacific Oaks College. He has also served as interim chief academic officer at Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii; Maryville University of St. Louis, Mo.; and Assumption College, Worcester, Mass.

Dr. Ron Faulk, faculty representative on the selection team, said Marker’s experience will allow him to assess the climate and needs at St. Gregory’s and soon be ready to move forward.

Marker’s academic background is in physics, mathematics, and computer science. He has a bachelor’s degree in physics and mathematics from Grinnell College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Pennsylvania State University.

About his new role at St. Gregory’s, Marker says, “It is a deep honor for me to be invited to take on the leadership of St. Gregory’s University at this time in its life and work. Never has Catholic education in the Benedictine tradition been more needed or more important than it is in an age when we have lost so many of our moral and ethical anchors.”

Film Offers Look at Inspirational Catholic Basketball Coach

By Hosea M. Rupprecht, FSP

“It’s not about basketball. My job is to help you become men.” Thus spoke Coach Dru Joyce II to his stellar team at the beginning of senior year at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio. He knew these kids had a dream. They wanted to win a national championship. He knew they had the talent and discipline to do it. Now he knew what he had to do to help them.

More Than A Game, a new documentary by filmmaker Kristopher Belman, tells the amazing story of five friends, more like brothers, really, and the coach whose memorable run to the 2003 high school basketball national championship made history. One of the five, a kid who loved basketball since he received a Little Tikes hoop and ball for Christmas at age 3, would go on to be drafted to the NBA right out of high school. His name: LeBron James.

But the story did not begin with James. It began with Dru Joyce III, known as “Little Dru,” and his dream. Dru’s dad, Coach Dru Joyce II, knew nothing about coaching but learned everything he could to help his son’s dream come true. So he gathered together a bunch of fifth-grade kids from the neighborhood who looked liked they enjoyed basketball. Sian Cotton, Willie McGee and LeBron James (Romeo Travis would join the “family” in high school) joined Little Dru and his dad on a journey of courage, failure, veracity and brotherly love that began in a Salvation Army gym with a linoleum floor.

Filmmaker Belman does a masterful job at weaving this poignant story together using interviews, home video footage, news coverage and photos. Talking about the film, Coach Dru said, “The whole experience is very humbling. What we hope people take from this is that their dreams can come true. For us, it happened through basketball. I truly believe that God gives each of us a dream. Whatever it is for you, pursue it.”

Go to www.morethanagame-movie.com to learn more.

Interview with Coach Dru Joyce II

Sister Hosea Rupprecht: What did you think of the film?

Coach Dru Joyce II: The whole experience was very humbling. To see what you lived in front of you on the screen is very humbling. I think Kris did a great job of keeping the integrity and the spirit of what we were living intact.

HR: What did you find that rang true with your experience?

DJ: During the whole thing, we were just living our lives. We never imagined that any of this could happen. What we hope that people take from this is that their dreams can come true. I truly believe that God gives each of us a dream. Whatever it is for you, pursue it. Through the good times and bad times, keep chasing after it. You can realize that dream. For us it happened through basketball. The boys had a dream to win a national championship. My son, Dru and Romeo Travis went on to play college basketball, and are now playing professionally in Europe. Willie McGee ended up playing football in college but wanted to be a coach. Now he’s on my coaching staff at St. Vincent-St. Mary’s. Keith Dambrot realized his dream of getting back into college coaching. Kristopher Belman, the director, always wanted to make a film. Whatever it is in life, we hope that people continue to follow their dreams.

HR: The film wasn’t overly explicit about the role of faith in your life, but I sensed that it’s something important to you. Can you tell me a little about that?

DJ: My faith is who I am; it’s part of everything I do. It was always a part of what we’ve done. Being given the opportunity to coach these guys was a sacred thing. To be able to be an example, to pour your life into a young mind, it’s a ministry.

HR: Did you give the kids any advice about life that you feel they’ve taken to heart over the years?

DJ: Ask me that in about 10 years and we’ll see where we are! But, yes, we talked about character. I shared quotes from pastors with them like, “Talent is God-given, be thankful,” “Fame is man-given, be humble,” and “It’s discipline, not desire, that determines your destiny.” And they all had discipline. For LeBron, every decision he makes has an impact on other people. All of them are still working at honing their craft. So they wouldn’t have to listen to me all the time, I would bring people in, another pastor, and they would have Bible studies. I put them around other men of character. We believe we are continuing to impact lives.

HR: We wanted to do it from a Christian perspective. The kids were watching everything that we did. “How does Coach Dru deal with his wife? How does Coach Dru deal with the waitress who messed up his order? How does Coach Dru deal with the officials at the game?” All those things were important, and we were careful to be who we are, not phony, but I had to ask myself if I am that person of character. Am I going to walk the walk or just talk the talk? It’s difficult but it’s required of us. And that’s OK.

HR: What would you say to people in the faith community about your experience with LeBron James and the rest of the group?

DJ: Your faith is who you are; you can’t compartmentalize. You can’t pick it up and put it down. Christ taught us a way of life and his teaching is how to live daily. It’s not a coat you put on and take off. It has to be from your core. And we try to follow that. Does that mean we sin less? No. But do we get backup? Yes. Don’t be concerned about failures, the past is behind us, the future is in front of us, but we have to master the present moment because that’s where Christ is, in the present moment.

Sister Hosea Rupprecht, FSP, is a Daughter of St. Paul and an associate at the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City.
I recently experienced difficulty in reaching out to a friend who was struggling with a personal matter. I noticed that the potential barrier to my offering help was a fear of embarrassing myself, fear of rejection and/or fear of what he might think of me. These fears could have prevented me from doing the right thing, from being helpful and from doing God’s will. However, with God’s help, I moved through the fear, reached out and offered my support. This has resulted in many blessings and a deeper friendship for both him and myself.

It is normal for us to sometimes experience fear in resisting doing what’s right, whether it is asking for help, apologizing, being vulnerable in sharing feelings, forgiving someone, saying “I love you,” telling someone you made a mistake, etc. Most often it is fear that is getting in the way; fear of what others will think of us, fear of embarrassing ourselves, fear of losing something we have or not getting what we want, fear of financial insecurity, the list goes on.

Most of these fears are irrational. We have all struggled with these or similar fears in doing the right thing. It’s part of being human. Here are a couple of ideas to help empower ourselves in these struggles.

The first idea is to notice and acknowledge that fear is potentially blocking us and attempt to identify what we are afraid of. Some fears are rational and exist to protect us from physical harm. However, the great majority of fears are irrational, exist to protect our egos and are the source of pride. Most fears developed in our childhood and adolescent years and are irrational. As President Roosevelt said, “The only thing to fear is fear itself.”

We can cope with fear by knowing that God is with us, has unconditional love for us and will comfort and support us through whatever life has to offer. God wants us to live lives focused on His will for us and is there to guide us when we open our hearts to Him. He is also there with compassion and understanding and forgives us when we ignore His will.

We have all overcome fear and have done God’s will when we have offered help and support even though we were afraid of rejection; have apologized and/or made amends when it was embarrassing to do so; have forgiven someone who has deeply offended us and we wanted revenge; have compassionately listened to someone when we wanted them to be understanding of us; have provided financial support even though we were concerned about our own finances, etc.

Many of us have confronted and overcome these and similar fears in very difficult circumstances, just as those men overcame fear in charging onto Omaha beach 65 years ago. It would be good for each of us to reflect on three to five occasions in the past when we overcame similar fears and to anchor those occasions within our spirits by meditating on and then journaling about those occasions.

You can reflect and meditate on these occasions by allowing yourself to become quiet and relaxed in a comfortable chair and in quiet and serene surroundings. You might listen to some calm, meditative music, light a candle and/or burn some incense. Take three minutes to breathe in deeply, hold each breath, and slowly exhale five times. Then allow your mind to wander into your past to recall occasions when you struggled, overcame fears and carried out God’s will.

Consider those times when you overcame fear of rejection and asked if you could help or asked if someone would like to talk about it; when you overcame fear of embarrassing yourself and offered to carry an elderly lady’s groceries or you voluntarily mowed someone’s yard; or a time when you overcame your pride and you sincerely appropriately apologized; or you offered to fix a flat tire when you weren’t certain you knew how; or you took a friend to the doctor or visited a sick relative even though you had a myriad of things to do, etc.

These are vivid examples of overcoming fear and reaching out to others with care and compassion. These actions are evidence of God’s presence in the goodness that exists within each of us. Reflecting on and being aware of God’s presence within our actions in the past can empower us to carry out His will in the present and in the future. We can be so grateful for this awareness. Peace to you and your families!

Joe Froehle has many years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or e-mail at jfroehle@swbell.net.

God Can Help Us Overcome Fears That Paralyze Us From Doing Good


Anne Hendershott explores the issue of Catholic identity at Catholic colleges and universities in the United States. She has researched what Catholic identity is for Catholic colleges and universities and how this identity has been dropped or barely acknowledged. When Catholic colleges were first founded, they had no trouble being identified as such. Harvard, Yale and other Protestant colleges and universities were proud of their religious identity, but soon gave into secular influences and began to drop their religious identity. Some Catholic professors and administrators wanted to be just like their secular colleagues at these once religious colleges, so they began working to reduce or drop any sign or notion of their colleges’ Catholic identity, thus the title of this book, Status Envy.

There are over 200 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States, the most in any country in the world. According to Hendershott and others, many of these have dropped or lost their Catholic identity. Pope John Paul II in 1990 with his Apostolic Constitution Ex Cordes Ecclesiae required Catholic colleges to remain loyal to their Catholic identity in order to be truly considered Catholic. Ex Cordes Ecclesiae required the local bishop to be involved and accountable to by the college and all professors who taught theology at a Catholic college are to have a mandate or mandate from the local bishop. Many theology professors and other faculty and administrators opposed this and would not abide by this requirement. Some colleges and bishops have ignored the pope’s requirements.

Hendershott also discusses other issues that defy Catholic colleges’ Catholic identity. Hendershott explores how presidents of Catholic colleges and universities have not been loyal to the Church and have not been supportive of their college’s Catholic identity.

Hendershott has a chapter on colleges that live up to their Catholic identity. This would seem to be a very short list.

Anne Hendershott discusses other issues that run contrary to a college’s Catholic identity. She includes endnotes at the end of each chapter and an index. The general reader will not enjoy this book. This is not a diatribe, but a careful examination of the situation in Catholic colleges.

Anne Hendershott is a professor of urban affairs at The King’s College in New York City. This book is highly recommended to those interested in the issue of Catholic identity at Catholic colleges and universities.

Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian there and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including Sooner Catholic.
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Hace pocos días, el Papa Benedicto XVI canonizó al gran misionero de los leprosos del siglo XIX, San Damián, quien fue un sacerdote que nació en Bélgica y sirvió a los leprosos exiliados que fueron destinados a vivir en la población de la isla de Molokai que está ubicada en Hawai. San Damián eventualmente contrajo lepra pero continuó sirviendo en la colonia leprosa hasta su muerte a la edad de cuarenta y nueve años. Nosotros los que leíamos esta historia, estábamos convencidos de que él era un santo en el cielo. Ahora la Iglesia nos lo asegura.

Hace varios años, nosotros aquí en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City comenzamos un largo y tedioso proceso de canonización de uno de uno de nuestros sacerdotes, quien cumplió una gran misión, ese sacerdote fue Stanley Rother, oriundo del pueblo de Okarche.

El Padre Rother sirvió como sacerdote misionero en la aldea de Santiago Atitlán en Guatemala.

El 28 de julio de 1981, el Padre Rother fue asesinado en la casa parroquial que colindaba con la Iglesia de Santiago Atitlán. Aquellas quienes conocimos al Padre Rother o aún, quienes después han leído su historia, están también convencidos de que fue un mártir por su fe y que por lo tanto está en el cielo. Nosotros hemos empezado el difícil proceso de canonización porque creemos y rezamos para que su canonización sea la voluntad de Dios y de esta manera el Padre Rother sea proclamado por la Iglesia Universal como un mártir y santo.

San Damián y el Padre Rother fueron dos hombres jóvenes que tenían una vida simple y común. San Damián y el Padre Rother con su fe y dedicación, dieron sus vidas por el pueblo de Dios. Sus vidas y sus muertes no fueron en inválida o en vano. Cada uno de ellos, demostraron amar y servir a Dios primero y sobre todas las cosas, también manifestaron amor al prójimo. Cada uno de ellos hizo esfuerzos en cada día de sus vidas para hacer cumplir la voluntad de Dios, mediante el servicio y dedicación al pueblo de Dios.

El próximo domingo primero de noviembre, celebraremos la Fiesta de Todos los Santos. Conmemoraremos no sólo todos los grandes hombres y mujeres, jóvenes y viejos, quienes han sido reconocidos por la Iglesia como santos en el cielo, sino de hecho, todas las personas quienes están actualmente en el cielo con Dios.

Estar en el cielo con la Presencia constante de Dios no es un concepto ajeno a nuestra naturaleza humana. La santidad es la vocación original y universal para todas las personas. Nosotros fuimos creados por Dios a su Imagen y Semejanza para que de esta manera pudiésemos recibir su amor y amar a Dios en reciprocidad. De esta forma, algún día, después de completar nuestro peregrinaje en esta tierra, nos regocijaremos con Dios en el cielo eternamente.

Lo que hace ver la santidad como algo irrellevante, inalcanzable o hasta indeseable es el pecado. El pecado es desobediencia a Dios, darle la espalda o rechazar el plan de Dios para la humanidad. Dios nos ha creado con amor para poder recibir su amor y amarlo a Él en reciprocidad. El amor debe ser libre. Nunca debe ser impuesto o forzado en nadie. Amar a Dios y regocijarnos en su presencia eternamente, es el plan que Dios tiene para cada uno de nosotros.

Dios nunca nos obliga. Dios amarnos amarnos nos llama a seguir el camino de la santidad. Dios nos invita y espera que nuestra respuesta sea libre y con amor.

Dios no sólo nos creó a su imagen y semejanza para vivir con Él para siempre como santos, sino que nos redime del pecado, nosotros rechazamos su plan cuando pecamos. Es más, en el Nuevo Testamento, Dios nos da una Iglesia visible para que nos oriente en el peregrinaje de nuestras vidas con un sistema sacramental, el cual Dios autoriza. Al recibir el sacramento del bautismo, Dios nos da la el regalo de seguir la santidad y obtenerla si seguimos su plan. Lo que quiere decir que cada uno de nosotros podemos ser santificados.

En el bautismo nuestros pecados desaparecen, renacemos y nos nutrimos de la Gracia de Dios.

Seguidamente de nuestro bautismo, a través del uso y la práctica de los otros sacramentos, especialmente del Santísimo Sacramento de la Eucaristía, somos perdonados, santados, nutridos y fortalecidos para continuar nuestro peregrinaje de vida en esta tierra hasta llegar a la vida eterna en el cielo.

Hemos sido creados por Dios para convertirnos en santos. Hemos sido llamados por Dios a la santidad. Nosotros disfrutamos de la perfección inmensurable de nuestra naturaleza humana, sólo cuando entramos en el Reino Eterno de Dios para regocijarnos con Él para siempre. Que absoluta tragedia sería ganar el mundo y sufrir la pérdida de nuestras almas inmortales. Por esto, deberíamos oír y responder siempre a la invitación que Jesús nos hace para que vivamos como santos ahora y por siempre.

Una razón liberada del cientísmo y del relativismo, pide Cardenal italiano Ruini

VATICANO (ZENIT) — Si la humanidad "quiere ir adelante, si quiere afrontar seriamente los grandes problemas que tiene delante, debe tener una razón más amplia, una razón liberada del cientísmo y del relativismo", Así lo señaló el Cardenal Camillo Ruini, anterior presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Italiana, en una entrevista emitida por Radio Vaticana y explicó que la invitación que ha realizado Benedicto XVI de "ampliar los espacios de la racionalidad" apunta a la misma humanidad, aunque también, en un sentido más concreto, "indica a la Iglesia el camino de un auténtica evangelización" de Occidente.

"Para la razón teórica, se trata de no limitar la razón humana en sentido propio, la razón capaz de verdad, a las ciencias empíricas, según una tendencia difundida en el mundo científico y cultural de hoy".

Añadió, "se trata de superar lo que Benedicto XVI llama "la dictadura del relativismo", comprendiendo que también en el ámbito práctico, en el ámbito moral, la razón humana es capaz de lidiar con la realidad, con la objetividad, y no sólo con los deseos y las tendencias del sujeto".

El Cardenal Ruini está comprometido con la presencia de la Iglesia en la cultura como presidente del proyecto cultural de la Conferencia Episcopal Italiana.

En la entrevista, afirmó que actualmente constata "una cierta desproporción entre la capacidad de presencia que los católicos tienen en el campo social y en particular en el campo curativo, y una cierta debilidad de su presencia en la cultura".
Celebrado el mes de la Hispanidad
Contamos con una historia santa, de fe, de esperanza y de caridad

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — El mes de la Hispanidad no pasó por desapercibido en el territorio de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, en muchas parroquias se hicieron diferentes actividades. Sin embargo, destacó mucho la actividad que celebraron los feligreses de la parroquia de San José, el pasado domingo 18 de octubre.

El reconocimiento de nuestra identidad nos permite entender que tenemos que ir más allá de la corriente negativa que existe en algunos sectores de la sociedad, especialmente las tendencias que son distorsionadas por algunos medios de comunicación, escuelas y universidades públicas que difunden la leyenda negra y sencillamente están repitiendo una opinión desfavorable y generalizada sobre nuestra hispanidad, la cual es infundada y manipulada hacia el lado del mal. Ese grupo de intereses oscuros, solamente se interesan en explotar el desacuerdo y se olvidan contar los logros cotidianos de nuestra comunidad hispana alrededor del mundo.

Para entender que es la Hispanidad, primero hay que expresar el amor de Dios y ver que cuando se guía la vida a la luz del Evangelio, sencillamente se exaltan la solidaridad y bendiciones que tenemos en nuestro pueblo hispánico. La cultura hispánica no se puede enseñar ni entender sin Cristo. Los hispanos compartimos el sínizro amor de Dios con nuestro prójimo a través de nuestra cultura y fe. Los hispanos nos caracterizamos por no ser personas de albergar complejos, que llevan al odio, al resentimiento y a la retribución. Sencillamente porque aprendemos con nuestra Santa Iglesia Católica y sus Apostolados, que nuestras acciones y expresiones de vida deben ser purificadas mediante el ejemplo de una vida digna que está en la búsqueda de nuestra santidad. Esa purificación solamente la encontramos cuando seguimos y respeta mos nuestra doctrina y especialmente los Santos Sacramentos, a los que les debemos obediencia y respeto.

Somos un pueblo con una fe coherente y con una convicción de que Dios tiene para cada uno de nosotros un plan para nuestra salvación. Demostrar nuestra Hispanidad es dar ejemplo del amor de Dios que es fruto de una conversión sincera.

Hoy más que nunca, bajo la voluntad de Dios Todopoderoso, estamos convidados a entender que para defender nuestra fe y cultura, lo debemos hacer con el amor de Dios y con la clara convicción de hay personas que quieren distorsionar la historia y descalificar la moral de nuestro pueblo hispánico.
CFO Seeking Executive Director

The Catholic Foundation is taking applications for its executive director position. Successful candidate shall serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation and is responsible for the administration, operation and management of the affairs of the foundation. Position involves planning and implementation of development strategies, including donor solicitation and the managing of capital campaigns, planned giving and endowment programs, knowledgeable communication skills with financial managers, direct mail, public relations and special events. It also involves the oversight of the scholarship and grant allocations on an annual basis, preparing an annual operating budget and preparation of appropriate monthly and annual reports. Requirements are a bachelor’s degree in a related field or equivalent combination of education and experience inclusive of development and charitable funding. Successful candidate would need a knowledge of estate planning, tax considerations and various gifting instruments, and familiarity with the Archdiocesan giving community. Candidate would need to be an active member of a parish and in good standing with the Catholic Church. Other skills would be strong organizational and computer skills in Microsoft Office and donor database software, self-starter, goal-oriented, a willingness to travel and establish appointments convenient to prospects.

Send cover letter, resume and salary history to David Johnson, Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123-0380, (405) 721-7115.

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Monday through
Friday starting at
1 p.m.
28 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. All are welcome.

29 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

30 Halloween Carnival at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The gymnasium and the entire school at 5000 N. Grove will be turned into a wonderful, safe and family friendly environment, complete with games and fun for all ages. There is no admission to the carnival, and game tickets are available at the door. Cost is 4 per $1. Most games require two-four tickets.

Calendar

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

1 All Saints Day
1 Harvest Dinner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Calumet from 5 to 7 p.m.
1 38th Annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Nicoma Park. Booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a delicious turkey dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner is $6 for adults and $3 for children. Our Lady of Fatima is located at N.E. 23rd and Meyer Circle, Nicoma Park. For more information call 769-2490.
2 7 p.m All Souls Mass at Resurrection Cemetery Chapel with Archbishop Beltran celebrating.
6 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFHM at 741-7419.
6 First Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.
6 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.
7 Quilters Bazaar at St. Gregory’s Parish Hall in Enid from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for $5. St. Gregory’s is located at 1924 W. Willow.
7 Stepping Into Marriage with Children. Too often we assume that second marriages need little to no preparation, but 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce. For more information or to register, call Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

7 Finding God Everywhere, An Ignatian Retreat, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with Melissa Anna Letts, OSB. A silent Ignatian Retreat will help you discover how God is re-vealed in your daily life. Bring your Bible and a journal. Place: Lucy’s Retreat House at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register by Nov. 4. Fee: $25, bring a sack lunch.

9 “Embracing Our Journey Home: The Christian Perspective of Death and Dying” is designed to look at the mystery of death and dying. Each presentation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. Next topic is The Road to the Father’s House: The Last Four Things. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651.

Catholic Charities Adoption

continued from page 4 could give the kids a good life, and I connected with Amy because she, like me, was adopted through Catholic Charities,” said Jessica.

Sabra contacted Roger and Amy with the news that the birth mother had chosen them. She explained the situation, telling them it was twins who needed to go to a family with Indian blood. “It was a shocker. I had turned it over to God saying Thy will be done, and this was a big sign that this was supposed to happen. It didn’t take us long to say yes,” remembers Amy with a smile.

Amy and Roger met with Jessica to formalize adoption plans. “From the moment she found out she was pregnant, she did everything she could to take care of the babies and keep them as healthy as possible,” said Amy. “She even let us record our voices and would hold the recorder to her belly so the babies could hear our voices.”

When Jessica went into labor, Amy and Roger were at the hospital to support her and the newborns. When the babies were 5 weeks old, they were able to bring the twins, a boy and a girl, home with them.

“I don’t feel like I missed out on giving birth to a child. Most people anticipate getting pregnant, then have nine months to get ready. When you go through the adoption process, it’s much faster and you don’t get a lot of preparation time. We had a lot of friends give us things and Catholic Charities gifted us with a large bag of baby clothes. We cleared out a room, got the bassinettes and borrowed a lot of things,” said Amy.

Unfortunately, the adoption did not proceed at the expected pace. With the birth father and his family fighting for custody and the strict considerations of the Indian Child Welfare Act, Amy, Roger and Jessica spent the next four years in court fighting for the right of Amy and Roger to adopt the twins.

For Jessica, who had already gone through the heart-wrenching process of giving up her children for adoption, it was especially hard to remain vigilant that the babies go to a good home.

“It was really stressful, a lot of emotional ups and downs. There were times I was really depressed, I just had to take it one day at time,” she said.

“Jessica was incredibly tenacious and determined to see that the children were placed in good, loving homes. I think that’s what made us fight so hard for these children, we wanted to support her very difficult decision. We were prepared to give up everything to make sure they had a better life despite the financial and mental strain. My stretch marks aren’t physical, but internally I have lots of stretch marks,” said Amy of the long and arduous adoption process.

On March 10, 2008, the adoption was finally complete. Today, the children are 5 and enrolled in kindergarten, and are fully aware of the circumstances surrounding their birth.

“We’ve been very open with them about adoption. We tell them, ‘God chose you, and God chose us to be your mommy and daddy.’ We’re ready to answer any questions they have, openly and honestly. To tell them what a gift it is to be adopted,” said Amy.

Jessica has since gone on to complete her degree and is working on a master’s degree in psychology. She works full time for a Youth and Family Services organization helping at-risk teens. “I felt that with my experience, going through pregnancy and adoption at a young age, I could be helpful to others in similar situations.”

She has also used Catholic Charities Post Adoption Services to find and connect with her own birth mother. Her adoptive parents were very supportive of her decision and she enjoys established relationships with her half siblings and birth mother.

“Finding my birth mother has helped me to form a new identity for myself, one that combines my biological family with my adoptive family. It strengthened my relationship with my parents and helped me realize how appreciative I am to them for the way they raised me,” said Jessica.
Helper to the Homeless: Dinner to Honor Sister Barbara Joseph

*Carmelite Nun Founded Downtown OKC Pantry to Serve Those in Need*

Sister BJ’s Pantry was named after its visionary, Sister Barbara Joseph Foley, and opened March 3, 2006. The pantry currently serves more than 600 men, women and children a week. Anyone in need is welcome. Pantry patrons include people who are without shelter and many who are struggling with poverty and loneliness. Some are struggling with addictions or with mental illness. Most have suffered degradation through their lifestyle or through experiences with community or family. People do not have to sign their names when coming to the pantry. There is no application, surveyor registration to complete in order to participate in the life of community at the pantry. Jesus Christ says He has “come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” That abundant life is for everyone. It is the hope of Sister Barbara Joseph and her fellow workers that all who come to the pantry experience the God-given dignity and value in being human, created in the image and likeness of God.

On Nov. 12, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will host a banquet to honor Sister Barbara Joseph Foley and Sr. BJ’s Pantry for the Homeless. Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jari Askins will be the keynote speaker and a simple dinner will be offered.

In a letter seeking support for the event, Marjory Feighny said the “goal of the evening, while honoring Sister, is to help insure the continued success of her programs.”

The Cathedral has nominated Sister Barbara Joseph for an award given by CNN, the Cable News Network. “Each year CNN searches the globe for people whose “selflessness, dedication and achievement inspire and motivate others as well as make a difference for those served,” Feighny said in the letter.

“Sister Barbara Joseph Foley once avoided the sight of “the homeless” on the streets near her convent located at 1300 N. Villa,” Feighny’s letter continued. “But in 2003, while helping a friend with an informal outreach to the homeless, she quickly realized that the homeless needed much more than food. She began to look for the first time into their weathered faces and to imagine their suffering and indignity. Their plight reminded her of what Christ himself must have endured 20 centuries ago. As one by one they began to open up and share their stories, Sister BJ realized that the street people of Oklahoma City had captured her heart.”

The pantry and garden was the beginning. Like before, personal work with the people showed Sister the needs extended beyond this initial care.

The pantry has expanded its services and with support, those services can be continued.

Please complete the form below and return it to Our Lady’s Cathedral, 3214 N. Lake Ave., OKC 73118-5645. Questions: 405-525-2349.

**Sister BJ’s Pantry Banquet November 12, 2009**

I am honored to help Sister Barbara Joseph and the pantry.

**Angel Underwriters**

— $500 Includes dinner and reserved seats for two
— $1,000 Includes dinner and reserved seats for four
— $2,500 Includes dinner and reserved table for eight

**Saintly Supporters**

— $65 Includes a place dinner and for one person - (general seating)
— I am unable to attend the banquet, but am offering a donation to help further this ministry.

Checks may be made payable to Our Lady’s Cathedral.

Name__________________________________________

Address________________________________________

Phone__________________________________________

Email__________________________________________

Visa/MC/AMEX Card #_________________________ Exp Date_______

Pantry In Need of Winter Clothing

**Urgent Call for Jeans, Sneakers and Winter Jackets**

BJJ’s Pantry is still very low on clothes and supplies. BJJ’s is in need of jeans, especially sizes 32-36 for men. Winter clothing is now being accepted. All food is being accepted, especially Vienna sausages, applesauce cups, granola bars and individually wrapped snacks.