All have wounds, only Jesus and Church can heal, says cardinal

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

PHILADELPHIA — All people carry wounds of the heart that only Jesus can heal, and his body of Christ, the Church, can be an agent of that healing.

That’s the message given by Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila during his keynote address at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia on Sept. 24.

“All wounds hurt, but wounds are more painful and hurtful when we see our family members suffering,” he told the crowd of several thousand that included many Filipino-Americans.

“The wounds that affect our families today are many, immense and deep.”

English with simultaneous translations in French, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese and American Sign Language.

Downstairs, teenagers and other youth gathered for the Youth Conference.

Diana Ramos, 17, attended the conference with her parents.

“I learned new things about how youth can get involved in many different ways,” she said. “When I get back, I’m going to get more involved in church and in our youth group. We need to get out there.”

Outside of the conference, the Oklahoma pilgrims visited the National Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel, the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal and the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, along with a tour of historical Philadelphia with the grave of Benjamin Franklin and the Liberty Bell.

The World Meeting of Families concluded on Saturday with the Festival of Families that included an unexpected and expressive speech by Pope Francis on family followed on Sunday with the Papal Mass where more than 800,000 people gathered along the parkway and into downtown Philadelphia.

“I’m really big on family. My kids are fourth generation Germans in Okarche. Pope Francis seems to be focused on the family and that drew me to him,” Rick Schweitzer said. “It’s wheat plantin’ time, but I felt this was more important.”

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.
A crisis of global proportions

One of the great humanitarian challenges of our time has been the migration and refugee crisis that has grabbed the attention of the whole world. Until recently, many of us in the United States have thought about migration primarily as an American phenomenon. Recent political debates have reminded us of the complex issues surrounding our own immigration challenges. Here's how we deal compassionately and justly with the seemingly unrelenting flow of migrants that for years have entered our country, especially through our southern border? What ought we to do with those who are already here without proper documentation? What are the causal factors that have led to this large-scale movement of people? The factors are many: these men, women and children are often escaping the crushing burden of poverty or fleeing the violence of war, gang and criminal activity.

The conditions that lead people to flee their homelands require long-term solutions. We need to have border security, of course. But, there are larger questions. What changes are needed to foster improved conditions in those countries from which people are fleeing so that these persons will not feel the need to leave their homes and families and set out on such an arduous and dangerous trek? Few people leave their homelands because they want to. Most often it is the last option remaining for these vulnerable people who are seeking safety and a secure life for themselves and their families. As Pope Francis has pointed out during his pastoral visit to the United States, these are not only policy questions for governments; they are questions that Catholics and all people of good will must address from the perspectives of faith and human dignity. These are our brothers and sisters.

More recently, we have been reminded that migration is not merely an American phenomenon but a global one. Through the graphic images disseminated by social and mainstream media, the world's attention has turned to the migration and refugee crisis in the Middle East. The rise of ISIS has caused massive displacement of persons throughout the region. The refugees and internally displaced persons are often Muslims on the wrong side of the ISIS ideology. But, they are also Christians and other religious minorities.

We have witnessed the horrifying images of Christians being crucified and beheaded at the hands of radical extremists. I have witnessed firsthand the displacement of tens of thousands of Christians and Yazidis in camps in Erbil and Dohuk during a recent visit to Iraq with Catholic Relief Services (CRS). On that same trip I met and spoke with the Archbishop of Mosul, who lives in exile after he, along with his priests and people, was forced to flee the city where one of the oldest Christian communities in the world had flourished since the 2nd century. The Middle East is in danger of losing its ancient Christian populations.

In the past few weeks, we have seen a massive flow of refugees forming a human river fleeing Syria and entering European borders. This exodus of people has raised serious human rights and humanitarian concerns. The UNHCR has noted that more than one million Syrian refugees have fled the civil war in their country and have sought safety in nearby countries. The students who have been forced to flee their homes are pursuing their education in refugee camps and host countries.

Migrants walk on the railway tracks in Bicske, Hungary, near the Austrian border. Catholic aid agencies have urged European countries to turn against migrants seeking refuge from Syria and other countries. CNS/Pablo Mahbi, Reuters.

How to help

Donate Online
www.crsespanol.org

Donate by phone
(877) 435-7277 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Donate by mail
Mail your check or money order to
Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

More information on the Respect Life Program, including resources, materials, posters, prayers and the full text of Cardinal O'Malley's statement, is available online: www.usccb.org/respectlife.
Welcoming the child

Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles watch a broadcast of Pope Francis as he celebrates Mass and the canonization of Junipero Serra in Washington Sept. 23.

Anamarie Superbahn Bidick
for the Sooner Catholic

Around us: through this attention, we enter into the mystery that it contains.

The child, to whom everything is new, concentrates deeply on small wonders, from acorns and pinecones to shadows and light.

As adults, we often become lost in our thoughts, rather than observing what is in front of us. We gloss over what we see with the idea that we already know what it is. But, what a mystery the acorn contains!

The more the adult is attentive to the child, the more her own perception of the world is enriched with wonder and awe; the adult who welcomes the child, as Jesus asks of us in Matthew 18, develops an enriched view of reality that more fully acknowledges the mystery present amidst the ordinary.

Jesus himself makes this dual meaning clear in the same passage when he says, “Amén, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

By accepting the children that God gives us, in whatever form that may be, we become more child-like in turn. We grow in humility and rest in things, in the person whose mind is able to settle on the mystery present amidst the ordinary.

The 2,000-square foot warehouse known as the Dorothy Day Center is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit among the faithful. It shows what can be accomplished, starting with just an idea.

JustFaith is a 24-week faith formation program that involves studying and praying together. In 2001, as their own response, a Saint Charles’ JustFaith group made sandwiches for the homeless.

In the past, the Dorothy Day Center served as a drop-in ministry. This year, it is much more than that; it is a home.

In other words, one thing leads to another.

Shawnee observes Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

commentary

We see this amazement as the child grows; her whole body enfolds at backyard rabbits, the long, soft branches of a willow tree, and a vast from her grandparents. The child’s way of relating to the whole world differs greatly from the adult’s; it is imbued with wonder and awe, aware of the whole world who is capable of stopping and looking. It is only through a constant and profound observation of reality that we become conscious of its many aspects, of the secrets and mysteries it contains.

As Cavalcanti says, wonder requires a profound attention to reality, manifest in the world child.

The child is so pure, so humble, so all-holy.

We praise you, Lord, Father God, who is love and mercy, who is rich in mercy and kindness. We praise you as a Father and a Guide, who are joyful, who are just, who are generous and loving. We praise you for being our Father and our Guide, who have made us your children.

The law enforcement of the Church has always been and will continue to be an instrument of God’s people.

How to help

To volunteer, go online to www.thedorothydaycenter.org.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be left in the wooden bin inside the southeast entrance of the church during parish office hours and at Mass times.

Prayers for volunteers and recipients are appreciated.

Shawnee Catholic

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, reasoned like a child; I felt like a child.

Bob Waldrop and volunteer Deitie Stone prepare food for distribution. Photo provided.

Bob Waldrop and volunteer Deitie Stone prepare food for distribution. Photo provided.

Blue Mass honors fallen officers

Prayer for the fallen officers

We pray you, Lord, Father God, that you will reward your faithful sons who gave their lives for the protection of others.

Mary, our Mother, Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us who have recourse to you.

The Blue Mass to honor the fallen and pray for the protection of police, firefighters, military personnel and their families, and all first responders was held Sept. 29 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 8th, Bill Pearl and Fr. John Metzinger, or presided. Photo: Cara Koenig.
Catholic youth drawn to passionate prayer life

A group of young adults heard from Father Simon Spitz on Saturday, Sept. 12, about how to have a passionate prayer life. Father Simon spoke with a deep resonant voice and a sense of humor. He began by discussing four reasons why Christians feel a spiritual dryness in their life. He says that’s not the Church that changes us a day-to-day basis, but us and our outlook toward it. The first reason for feeling a coldness or disconnection with the Church is sin. When we are not living the life we should, we remove ourselves from God’s love.

The second reason is distraction from God, which is very common and not conducive for the reflection required for prayer. Satisfying prayer demands devoted time and focus. The third reason that makes prayer unfulfilling is the sense of duty, and nothing more. Father Simon compares the love of a parent to our love of God. Being a parent is not solely making sure your child has food, clothes, schooling, etc. Being a parent is loving unconditionally.

We often feel entitled, like God owes us, after doing the bare minimum of “praying, paying, obeying,” he said, but we need to love above all else.

Father Simon explained that in the beginning of our life as Ronnie Christians, usually children, spiritual breakthroughs happen more easily. God rewards us like parents rewarding their child to teach them how to behave. In life, as we get older, more is expected of us. This also is true in prayer life, but we must not be discouraged. Prayer invites us to go outside of our faith. We must reach further to feel God’s presence.

The fourth reason for dryness in prayer is the exceptional “dark night of the soul” written about by Saint John of the Cross. Father Simon said if Catholics have a lack of passion about prayer, there is a lack of passion with the Church. This can limit our love for God and distance from the Church.

In life, as we get older, more is expected of us. This also is true in prayer life, but we must not be discouraged. Prayer invites us to go outside of our faith. We must reach further to feel God’s presence. Your soul can reach out to God when you really want to pray. The fourth reason for dryness in prayer is the exceptional “dark night of the soul” written about by Saint John of the Cross. Father Simon said if Catholics have a lack of passion about prayer, there is a lack of passion with the Church. This can limit our love for God and distance from the Church.

The fourth reason for dryness in prayer is the exceptional “dark night of the soul” written about by Saint John of the Cross. Father Simon said if Catholics have a lack of passion about prayer, there is a lack of passion with the Church. This can limit our love for God and distance from the Church.
Pope Francis excites, rejuvenates Catholics at Papal Mass

Hundreds of thousands join pope at outdoor Mass in Philadelphia

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

The final day of the World Meeting of Families brought hundreds of thousands of Catholics and other people of faith to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia for an outdoor Mass with Pope Francis.

The delegation from Oklahoma, which arrived more than four hours before the start of Mass, chose a spot on the parkway that was lined with flags from dozens of countries. The flag marking the location of the Oklahoma group was the flag of Guatemala, the beloved country of Servant of God Father Stanley Rother, who served the Tzutuhil people of Santiago Atitlan as a missionary from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma pilgrims talked with people around them about their home parishes, their families, Catholic schools, the score of the Eagles game and what the Pope might say. One Oklahoma pilgrim spent the time teaching a 12-year-old boy from Pennsylvania how to play a finger card game that he excitedly proclaimed he would pass to his friends.

Shortly before Mass, Pope Francis took a quick trip around the parkway on the “Popemobile,” waving and smiling, and kissing babies.

To increase the chances of the pope stopping near the Oklahoma section, pilgrims from several states (being led by a young priest) began a chant of “Let the baby through!” to encourage a family of a young child to move to make way for the baby through!” to encourage a family of a young child to move to make way for the baby

During his homily, Pope Francis stopped to the dearth of the family, to respond as part of the great family

More than 1,000 priests participated in bringing hosts to Catholics in the crowd, a process that was unexpectedly efficient. While many Catholics cried during portions of the Mass, several people began to sob as a seemingly spontaneous release of pain or sadness. Others in the crowd hugged and comforted them as they prayed.

“We renew our faith in the Lord, which invites faithful families to this encounter. It invites all those who want to share the prophecy of the covenant of man and woman, which generates life and reveals God. May the Lord help us to be sharers in the prophesy of peace, of tenderness and affection in the family. May his word help us to share in the prophetic sign of watching over our children and our grandparents with tenderness, with patience and with love,” he said.

“Our wounds will make us, if we want to, avenues of understanding, compassion, solidarity and love.” – Cardinal Luis Tagle

“It’s the way of the kingdom of God, which is very different from the kingdoms of this world...Jesus also never gives up on the wounded as intractable in his healing. He is the true Good Samaritan and excludes no one, not even those who his enemies, People of faith must emulate Jesus in this way...”

Throughout his ministry, Jesus healed the wounds of people, whether internal or external, and it’s to Jesus we must turn to heal our wounds. The Gospel gives evidence of that connection between proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing, he said.

“The good news of the reign of God is manifested in healing, caring, sustaining people, accompanying them. When God rules, wounds are attended to...”

In his humanity, Cardinal Tagle said, Jesus was wounded and made perfect. He bears those wounds on the cross. In that way, he knows our wounds and transforms them into the triumph of the cross. “Our wounds will make us, if we want to, avenues of understanding, compassion, solidarity and love.”

The Lord, through the church, the body of Christ, does all of this. Healing comes through him and is best situated in a community - the family, parish, school, group of friends - in concert with the wounded person seeking healing, he said.

Cardinal Tagle concluded his talk by giving attendees six suggestions for facilitating healing:

- Face your own wounds. This will enable you to be compassionate toward others who are wounded.
- “Don’t be afraid of the dark.” Wounded souls can be in unhappy places;
- Be ready to enter that dark world.
- Wounds are never clean. They could be bloody and raw;
- “Are you aware that the Church is a field hospital and ‘he is ready to respond in an emergency situation’?”
- Infuse the field hospital with hope. “We cannot be healers if we look desperate.”

Picture credits:
- World Meeting of Families
- Philadelphia Sept. 27. CNS photo/Paul Haring.
- Pope Francis arrives to the altar to celebrate the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.
- The Sooner Catholic October 4, 2015
- Elaine Naugle
- Greg Carroll, Arcadia Pellegrinos
- Roger and Mary Ann Pritchett
- Gonzalo Ramos and Leticia De Lora Martinez
- Diana Ramos
- Angelica Rodriguez
- Alma Romero
- Ana Romero
- Rick and Donna Schweitzer
- Edward and Patricia Sommers- hausen
- Patricia Troeger
- Sheila Walls
- Photo Sooner Catholic.
Una crisis de proporciones globales

Oklahoma City, OK 73106
1501 N Classen Blvd.

Para donar en línea, visite a

Para donar por teléfono

Para donar por correo

Para donar en línea

Para donar por teléfono

Para donar por correo

Catholic Charities
Annual Appeal
1501 N Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Un día como hoy, 25 de agosto, Jesús bendijo a su corazón en el Monte Calvario. ¿Hasta cuándo mismo tomar las vidas de miles de personas y dejar a sus familiares en dolor? ¿Hasta cuándo se olvidará de la pobreza o huyen de la escapan de la carga aplastan-

dolas desde hace siglos y de la actividad criminal. Las condiciones que llevan personas a huir de sus países de origen requieren solu-
ciones de largo plazo que garanticen que tener seguridad fronteras, no en peligro de perder su antigua
dilecas y Frankfort, en lugar de ir al exilio después de que él junto con sus

En las últimas semanas hemos visto un flujo constante de migrantes que abandonan los países de la gente que al espiar que para otras personas no vean a la

cidad de, que están siendo atendidos en Norteamérica,ativos a personas sin hogar en el culto y la represión que las necesidades de los más

Dado que esto ha estado en las noticias me

Dado que esto ha estado en las noticias me

"Es todo sobre ir a las periferias, ayuda
del mundo inspirar a la Iglesia a responder con

Cristo, el dueño de las llaves de la

Cristo, el dueño de las llaves de la

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendo perse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos también dijeron que han sido inspira-
das por la gente del mundo que está siendoperse-

Ellos tamb...
Pilgrimage opportunities

**Pilgrimage to Rome**

Fr. Jim Arnold of St. John Nepomuk, Yukon, and Fr. Scott Block of St. Joseph, Norman, will lead a pilgrimage to Rome, Nov. 15-23. The program will explore the great historical, cultural, and religious sites and monuments of Rome along with an excursion to Assisi. Mass will be celebrated each day at St. Peter’s and other moving historical sites. Contact Fr. Arnold at pilgrimage@stjohn-catholic.org. The pilgrimage is offered through Our Lady Travel Services. For daily itinerary, go online to www.travelilume.com/trc/psd.

**Cultural and Religious Sites and Pilgrimage to Rome**

Meeting will be the first Sunday of the month. Next meeting will be an aw... (#923017)

**Donations**

Donations can be made in several ways. Go to www... (#923017)

**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unflagging means of tapping the immense and inexhaustible source of God's mercy for the salvation of our souls. So... (#923017)

**St. John Nepomuk craft show**

St. John Nepomuk Altar Society will have their annual craft show on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. There will be a variety of items, including seasonal items, jewelry, unique homemade items and scissor sharpening. Contact Penny Purdy at (405) 634-3528.

**St. James Fall Festival**

St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., OKC, on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Go online to www.stjamesfallfest.com.

**Annual Rosary rally**

The Legion of Mary, Our Mother of Peace Council, will host a rosary rally on the Cathedral in OKC on Oct. 11 at 2:30 p.m.

**Purifia Faith & Ministry Formation**

Workshops for adult faith formation and ministry prospects and their family members to experience... (#923017)

**Are you listening? Please Donate!**

By Sally Crow Shaw

Pastors are invited to be part of this initiative. Next month there will be a... (#923017)

**Donations**

Donations can be made in several ways. Go to www... (#923017)

**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unflagging means of tapping the immense and inexhaustible source of God's mercy for... (#923017)

**St. John Nepomuk craft show**

St. John Nepomuk Altar Society will have their annual craft show on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon. There will be a variety of items, including seasonal items, jewelry, unique handmade items and scissor sharpening. Contact Penny Purdy at (405) 634-3528.

**St. James Fall Festival**

St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave., OKC, on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Go online to www.stjamesfallfest.com.

**Annual Rosary rally**

The Legion of Mary, Our Mother of Peace Council, will host a rosary rally on the Cathedral in OKC on Oct. 11 at 2:30 p.m.

**Purifia Faith & Ministry Formation**

Workshops for adult faith formation and ministry prospects and their family members to experience... (#923017)

**Are you listening? Please Donate!**

By Sally Crow Shaw

Pastors are invited to be part of this initiative. Next month there will be a... (#923017)

**Donations**

Donations can be made in several ways. Go to www... (#923017)

**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unflagging means of tapping the immense and inexhaustible source of God’s mercy for the salvation of our souls. So... (#923017)
By Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director of Hispanic Ministry

I would like to begin my reflection with two key quotes from the Bible:

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Mt 16, 18-19, NABRE).

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a second time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” (Jesus) said to him, “Feed my sheep” (Jn 21, 15-17 NABRE).

These quotes combine as the basis and foundation of the papacy. We all know that our Lord Jesus Christ chose a group of 12 men to follow Him, the apostles. We also know from scripture that the Lord had chosen a group of 12 smaller group or inner circle – Peter, James and John – with which the Lord had a closer friendship. Peter, a member of the inner circle, was chosen for a unique leadership position within the group of 12. He was chosen by Christ himself to be the chief shepherd, among the apostolic team of others shepherds, of this unique and messy flock of lambs and sheep, which need constant feeding and being tended to as they are led through God’s green pastures.

The visible presence of Petrine leadership established by Jesus Christ in the biblical quotes from Matthew and John offered above has a key task to do what Christ did, bring us together as one family of followers of Jesus Christ, one body of Christ’s disciples, united in love, faith and service. This visible presence of unity, the successor of Peter does not walk around in a vehicle with unique zucchetto in addition to riding a white cassock, sash and his only distinguishing marks were a white cassock, sash and zucchetto in addition to riding around in a vehicle with unique tags, SCV-1, a long way from Mt, 16, 18-19 and Jn 21, 15-17. But basically, it’s the same guy.

Friends of the Poor Walk

Families from around the archdiocese participated in the St. Vincent de Paul Society Friends of the Poor Walk at All Saints School in Norman. The one-mile walk raised money to benefit impoverished or homeless families in South Central OK, including Norman, Moore and Purcell. Father Daniel Grover, associate pastor at St. Joseph Church in Norman, gave a blessing before the event. Also participating was Sr. Veronica Higgins, C.S.T., (above) a teacher at All Saints School. Photos Chris Porter.