“Christ is victorious!”

Thousands of faithful join
Archbishop Coakley in Eucharistic celebration

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – More than 2,000 faithful flocked to Saint Francis of Assisi Church on Sept. 21 to celebrate Jesus Christ’s gift of the Eucharist during a Holy Hour, Procession and Benediction.

The church near NW 18 and Pennsylvania Avenue filled more than two hours before the celebration began as buses, vans and carloads of parishioners from Kansas, Kentucky, California, Texas, New Jersey, New York and from across Oklahoma arrived in support of the archdiocese and Oklahoma Catholics. The Diocese of Wichita alone sent five buses.

As the Holy Hour began at 3 p.m., hundreds of visitors filled the gymnasium, the parish hall and the prayer garden singing and praying in unison. Archbishop Coakley thanked all those who traveled from near and far to attend the blessed event, particularly Archbishop Belttran, Bishop Slattery of Tulsa, Bishop Kemme of Wichita, Abbot Lawrence of St. Gregory’s University and many priests, deacons and religious women and men.

“We are here to praise and to adore. We are here to give thanks for the gift of our faith and the priceless treasure of the Lord’s abiding presence with us in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. We are gathered before our Eucharistic Lord to listen to his holy Word and to spontaneously kneel with our hands to the Holy Spirit to the Son and in the gym to receive Communion without meeting our Father and Hail Mary as they walked. A Benediction concluded the celebration on the steps of St. Francis, once again with most of the participants, who could, kneeling in the parking lot. The faithful who had gathered were so moved, they began to cry and clap. Diane Clay is the editor of the Sooner Catholic and director of communications for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. For more news and photos of the Eucharistic Procession, see pages 8 and 9 or visit the Picture Gallery at www.soonercatholic.org.

Pope names panel to streamline marriage annulment process

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Before the start of an extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, the Vatican announced the formation of a special commission to reform the process of granting marriage annulments.

“The work of the commission will start as soon as possible and will have as its goal to prepare a proposal of reform of the matrimonial process, with the objective of simplifying its procedure, making it more streamlined, and safeguarding the principle of the indissolubility of marriage,” said a Vatican statement.

The new body’s work will address what Pope Francis has identified as a key challenge in the “pastoral care of marriage.”

Pope Francis related the problem of annulments to the situation of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, whose predicament he said exemplifies a general need for mercy in the church today.

According to church teaching, such Catholics may not receive Communion unless they obtain an annulment of their first, sacramental, marriage or abstain from sexual relations, living with their new partners as “brother and sister.”

A proposal to allow some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion without meeting either of those conditions, introduced by German Cardinal Walter Kasper at a meeting of the world’s cardinals in February, is expected to be one of the most discussed issues at the two-week synod on the family, which opens Oct. 5.

Pope Francis speaks as he leads an encounter with the elderly in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Sept. 28. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Eucharistic Holy Hour homily

Praised be Jesus Christ! It is my great privilege to welcome you to St. Francis of Assisi Church and to have you join this holy hour with your nearby brothers and sisters who, together with you, are offering Eucharistic adoration. Thank you for being here. Your presence is a powerful witness of faith in the midst of our city, and it is a profoundly challenging time for our community.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the participation of our Catholic parishioners from our various parishes, but also those of you who have come from near and far to join us today. I am especially grateful for the support of Brother Lawrence and the community of the Precious Blood Beltrán, Bishop Slattery of Tulsa, Bishop Kenne of Wichita, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, and diocesan and religious women and men. It is a special privilege to recognize here the many brothers and sisters who believe in and champion communities and organizations that seek to offer prayer in the face of our current reality.

We gather today in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord who is the very source of our unity and who might be, and our bond of charity. We just heard our Lord’s prayer: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” For Catholics, these words from John 6 form the very heart of our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist. How do we hear and understand these words when they are spoken and when they are sung? When we say them, do we understand what they really mean? How do we embrace the presence that is really and substantially present with us in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood? How do we allow this presence to be a city is being allowed to proceed this evening at the Civic Center Music Hall. That blasphemous and sacrilegious statement, born out of the fear of the Catholic Mass that requires for its consummation the corruption and violation of the body of Christ, is not true, it is truly false. We embrace and receive in the Holy Eucharist.

At times, Christians might lose the theological significance of these words. Satan, on the other hand, loves to corrupt these words so as to confuse the Church and, indeed, the whole world. The Eucharist has been at the heart of the current controversy in our church. The Church has been so-called “Communion in the name of Christ comes again in glory to reign forever. In the meantime, we have been joining together to bear the standard of the Cross and our share of the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his Church.” We gather here in prayer. We gather to adore, to praise and to give thanks, to beg the Lord’s mercy on our city, our nation and our world. We do so in the name of Christ, who is present and continues the task of salvation, as he taught us to pray: “Our Father, who art in heaven...”

Our faith is not meant to be, and cannot remain, contained within the walls of this beautiful church. Our Eucharistic Procession through the neighborhood beyond these walls, which will follow in a few minutes, is a reminder that there is no need for the Church to be present in the world as light, as salt and as leaven to bring hope and be bread to the world. This is our mission. Let us pray that we might embrace our mandate to live as missionary disciples in the midst of the world so that we might draw all people to Jesus Christ and to save him in his Church.

“We are not here, however, to protest... We are here to praise and to adore.”

— Pope Francis in Eucharistic Procession in Rome

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Put Out Into the Deep

Find more news on Facebook and Twitter

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

Eucharistic Holy Hour homily

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A fresh look at a valuable gift

Tony Magliano
Founder Catholic

Conversion shouldn't happen only by accident

Carole Brown
Director of New Evangelization

I recently had lunch with a priest from another diocese who was interested in the New Evangelization. Among other things, we talked about the cultural attraction rate of your young people, 70 percent of whom stop practicing and eventually to be driven by an adolescent, and 14 percent of whom maintain their Christian faith in an evangelical church, indicating that their primary Church is not the one for doing so as that they never came to know Jesus in a meaningful way as a Catholic. They desire the actual shared with me that it had only recently dawned on me that people were coming to know the Lord Jesus in a personal way a Catholic, it seemed that more often than not it was something that happened “by accident.”

While conversion is always subject to the movement of the Holy Spirit and a person’s own will, we can prioritize efforts that favor personal conversion. Eleven months ago, Archbishop Coakley published his pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples,” which puts discipleship front and center to our efforts. Many people have expressed a degree of paradigm about that expression. The word “discipleship” carries with it the lips of Catholics, does it? It is intentional discipleship, as opposed to the different from what we have always done? is there a paradigm shift? that these resources are admirably slim. There is no magic bullet approach. The indispensable re-

Catholic social teaching is unfortunately the most kept secret. But because it directly addresses the world’s most pressing social justice and peace crises, Catholic social teaching not only needs to come end of it did not discern, received, read, proclaimed, practiced in our parishes, schools, universities, and society, and society.

Five years ago, a very valuable contribution to Catholic social teaching was published by world and Pope Emeritus Bene-

“Without truth, without trust and love for who we are, discovery, recognition and social action ends up serving the greater good of the nation, but not the common good, nor the good of the community, and even the good of the person,” wrote Pope Emeritus Benedict’s insight is well on the mark.

Because the quest for love, a love that is pure and sincere, is the most important of all, and it is a natural law. The atmosphere in all places of worship, at parishes, schools, and the like, should be welcoming and encouraging of engagement in the public field of activity.

As Pope Benedict explained, the Catholic Church is the only institution that has in God, Eternal Love and Eternal Wisdom.

Benedict insists that authentic charity is something beyond the reach of humanism. Without truth, Charity de-

He emphasized “the truth of your life in society.” And added, “Social development, social action, the search for a solution to the grave socio-economic problems besetting humanity, are anchored in the Church’s love in society.”

In the Church, love has its origin in God, Eternal Love and Eternal Wisdom.

The so-called “Black Madonna” is reputed to have been “written” on Mary’s table top from her home in Nazareth by Lourdes’ Evening meal. She has been credited with numerous miraculous healings and healings of a spiritual and physical nature.

A beautiful copy of this icon has been installed at the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Oklahoma City, where Dr. Rick Boothe, a deacon at Christ the King, spoke in the church about his work with First of Way outside of Oklahoma’s three abortion clinics.

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The sisters in our community have many talents such as music, art, gardening, cooking, healing, and office work. Some have developed my own art style, a combination of photography and painting and quilling techniques on canvas. I am very grateful that God gave me the inspiration and the motivation to develop my talents, as I am able to share and give joy to others.

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My advice to young women who are discerning their vocation is to know that I live every moment by God’s grace and that I do desire to perform my duties this loving union with and for the Lord and for others, for the Church and for the world.

To watch “Profiles in Disciples-

http://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/oklahoma-city

The Sooner Catholic

www.soonercatholic.org

Fax: (405) 626-0717

Contact Shannon Goodson, (405) 626-0717 or Shannon Goodson@gmail.com

For more information, call the Office of Evangelization at (405) 626-0717 or Shannon Goodson at 626-0717.

40 Days for Life

For the Sooner Catholic

Archbishop installs 23 men as deacon candidates

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For the Sooner Catholic

40 Days for Life
By Deacon Charles Allen

The Blue Mass that took place on Sept. 29, the Feast of the Archangels, was celebrated by Rev. Bill Pruitt and concelebrated by Rev. Rex Arnold and Rev. Tom Rukel. The ceremony included a blessing of sacred vessels, given to laypeople by the pope.

First responders from a number of metro area agencies attended the event, including police departments, fire departments, and hospitals. The event was open to anyone involved in public safety, including police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

Loves receive papal award

Judy and Tom Love were presented with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici - a papal award presented by Archbishop Coakley during the 11th annual Mass featured those famous Czech pastries, and Czech national anthems. The audience thoroughly enjoyed Angrisano and responded to his message of "true friendship" and "true faith experience."

Bryan Hooper of Saint John Nepomuk Parish in Yukon was this year’s recipient. Hooper is parish Director of RCIA and Outreach Ministries, and he also is involved in men’s ministries. The day’s event concluded with Mass at noon in the Saint Francis de Sales chapel at the Pastoral Center, with Archbishop Coakley as celebrant. He is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Eucharistic celebration draws faithful

On Sept. 21, parishes, dioceses and individual people of faith from around the country united with Oklahoma City in prayer. Below are some of the events that took place to celebrate the Eucharist.

Tulsa
Bishop Slattery led a Eucharistic Holy Hour and public procession at Holy Family Cathedral at 7 p.m. on Sept. 21.

Altus
Prince of Peace Church held a Holy Hour with Benediction at 7 p.m. More than 115 people attended.

Shawnee
St. Benedict Church held a Eucharistic Procession at 3 p.m.

Midwest City
St. Philip Neri Church held an hour of prayer at 3 p.m.

Elk City
St. Matthew’s Church held a benediction and exposition following Saturday night Mass and lasting until 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Medford
St. Mary’s has held a Holy Hour with Benediction throughout September.

Moore
St. Andrew’s Church conducted a Eucharistic Holy Hour on Sept. 17, attended by more than 200 people. Parishioners also attended the Holy Hour at St. Francis.

Lawton
Holy Family Church held a Holy Hour with Benediction at 3 p.m.

El Reno
St. Katharine Drexel Assisted Living Center had a Eucharistic adoration and rosary at 3 p.m. with about 40 people in attendance.

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"Little Flowers" introduces St. Francis to children
By Anamaris Sappalvel Bidick

"The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi" (Saints Francis and Saint Gianna, 2014) by noted Franciscan theologian Dr. James A. Schreck, is a series of 20 devotional books for children illustrating the life and teachings of the Franciscan saint. The books are translated and edited by Dr. Bidick, a professor of theology at the University of Antioch in Okemos, Michigan. The books are designed to be read by parents with young children to introduce the stories of the saints in a format that is both engaging and educational. Each book contains illustrations and captions that help bring the stories to life, making them accessible for children aged four to eight years old. The series is published by Ignatius Press, a Catholic publishing house known for its high-quality and faithful editions of religious texts.

The books are part of the "Little Flowers" series, which is an important part of Catholic devotional literature. The "Little Flowers" is a collection of biographical information about saints and is used in the Catholic Church as a way to commemorate the lives and teachings of these holy figures. The "Little Flowers" series is a valuable resource for families looking to educate their children about the lives of the saints and to inspire them to live a life of faith and devotion.

St. Gregory’s announces arrival of historic Bible
By J.B. Heise

The "West Wall Post's" one of the many 2014 fundraising features in the Gospel and Acts volume of "The Saint Francis Bible: Sponsoring the Thoughts of Pope Francis." A grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Commission has made this possible. The Gospels and Acts volume of the Bible is to be released at the Benedictine Hall Centennial on Oct. 14.

The book contains the beloved Gospels and Acts of the New Testament, including seven volumes. It is a complete and authentic reproduction of the "West Wall Post's," with rich, vivid illustrations and special treatments. This edition will be available at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Ada beginning Oct. 14.

"The Saint Francis Bible" Heritage Edition series is regarded rare books, each one a highly unique edition. All seven volumes will be available for $50. The annual sale benefits the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art and the St. Gregory's Abbey and the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is very proud to offer this extraordinary exhibition to the people of Oklahoma.

The Gospels and Acts volume is beautifully illustrated and contains 25 text pieces, including full-page facsimile illuminations for each of the four gospels and several others throughout the 126 pages. Some of the more prominent elements include the genealogy of Jesus, Birth of Christ, Baptism of Christ, and the Resurrection. There are seven distinct volumes in "The Saint Francis Bible," each with its own illuminations or special treatments and character graphics. These volumes will be on display at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art from Dec. 14 to March 25.

"The Saint Francis Bible" Heritage Edition will be on display at the museum during regular museum hours. The events are free to the public and other group tours may be scheduled by contacting the museum.

St. Francis and Pope Francis: Prayer, Poverty, and Joy in Jesus

"St. Francis and Pope Francis: Prayer, Poverty, and Joy in Jesus" by Dr. Schreck, is a series of essays that explore the lives and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis, two men who share a deep commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Dr. Schreck is a professor of theology at the University of Antioch in Okemos, Michigan, and is known for his expertise in the lives of the saints and the Catholic Church.

The essays in this collection examine the lives and teachings of St. Francis and Pope Francis, who lived in different centuries but shared a common commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The essays explore the ways in which these two men have contributed to the Catholic Church and to the world, and how their teachings continue to be relevant today.

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The "West Wall Post's" one of the many 2014 fundraising features in the Gospel and Acts volume of "The Saint Francis Bible: Sponsoring the Thoughts of Pope Francis." A grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Commission has made this possible. The Gospels and Acts volume of the Bible is to be released at the Benedictine Hall Centennial on Oct. 14.

The book contains the beloved Gospels and Acts of the New Testament, including seven volumes. It is a complete and authentic reproduction of the "West Wall Post's," with rich, vivid illustrations and special treatments. This edition will be available at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Ada beginning Oct. 14.

"The Saint Francis Bible" Heritage Edition series is regarded rare books, each one a highly unique edition. All seven volumes will be available for $50. The annual sale benefits the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art and the St. Gregory's Abbey and the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is very proud to offer this extraordinary exhibition to the people of Oklahoma.

The Gospels and Acts volume is beautifully illustrated and contains 25 text pieces, including full-page facsimile illuminations for each of the four gospels and several others throughout the 126 pages. Some of the more prominent elements include the genealogy of Jesus, Birth of Christ, Baptism of Christ, and the Resurrection. There are seven distinct volumes in "The Saint Francis Bible," each with its own illuminations or special treatments and character graphics. These volumes will be on display at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art from Dec. 14 to March 25.

"The Saint Francis Bible" Heritage Edition will be on display at the museum during regular museum hours. The events are free to the public and other group tours may be scheduled by contacting the museum.

St. Francis and Pope Francis: Prayer, Poverty, and Joy in Jesus

"St. Francis and Pope Francis: Prayer, Poverty, and Joy in Jesus" by Dr. Schreck, is a series of essays that explore the lives and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis, two men who share a deep commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Dr. Schreck is a professor of theology at the University of Antioch in Okemos, Michigan, and is known for his expertise in the lives of the saints and the Catholic Church.

The essays in this collection examine the lives and teachings of St. Francis and Pope Francis, who lived in different centuries but shared a common commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The essays explore the ways in which these two men have contributed to the Catholic Church and to the world, and how their teachings continue to be relevant today.
El papa es ‘amigo y hermano’, dice cardenal

El cardenal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga.

Por Santiago Campiña

El cardenal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, arzobispo de Tegucigalpa, demanda inclusión de temas como el matrimonio, la VIH y la Adopción en un proceso de reforma de la Carta Magna de Honduras.

El cardenal Rodríguez Maradiaga.

El Alto Mando del Vaticano, liderado por el papa Francisco, ha anunciado que va a renovar el proceso de reforma de la Carta Magna de Honduras a petición del cardenal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, quien ha pedido incluir varios puntos en el proceso, como el matrimonio, la VIH y la adopción.

El cardenal Rodríguez Maradiaga.

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La reforma de la Carta Magna, demandada por el cardenal Rodríguez Maradiaga, es un proceso que ha sido enmarcado en el contexto de la crisis económica y política en Honduras. El cardenal ha sido una figura prominente en el escenario nacional y ha sido un defensor de los derechos humanos y de la justicia social.

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be no early sales. Items for sale and 13 at Villa Teresa Convent. Retirement Center. The Sisters will at St. Ann's independent living. The Villa Teresa moving sale 834-3528. Brooks Blvd. in Yukon. If you are a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. Craft show at St. John Nepomuk of exorcism over the place and to safety of the building following the received many questions about the Archbishop Coakley said. “We anticipated "From the beginning, we have at 7 p.m. in the Bishop McGuin- perform “Alice in Wonderland” com or (405) 413-3392. contact Eliana at elitedrow@gmail. each Sunday. For information, to from the parish of Fall Fest 2014 on Sunday, Oct. 12 of exorcism over the place and to safety of the building following the received many questions about the Archbishop Coakley said. “We anticipated "From the beginning, we have at 7 p.m. in the Bishop McGuin- perform “Alice in Wonderland” com or (405) 413-3392. contact Eliana at elitedrow@gmail. each Sunday. For information, to from the parish of Archdiocese of Oklahoma City (405) 263-7974. For more information, contact Nelda Hobbs at (405) 545-2743 for more information. You can also see the source of new stations in Oklahoma. We make every effort to put all your donations into the upkeep of existing stations and executing human resources projects, we are looking for a full-time human resources manager. The position will include managing by providing new human resources advice, training and development activities and applications. Requirements include a bachelor’s degree in human resources, business or related field, at least seven years of experience with at least five years in a human resources role. Must be able to work independently and use a computer in writing. For information, contact Mrs. Robyn Crowe Nash at sallycrowenash@archok.org.

Archbishop Coakley cleanses St. John Nepomuk’s Altar Society

“From the beginning, we have taken seriously the dark and dangerous spirits being involved into our community,” said Archbishop Coakley. “We anticipated this would be an opportunity for people visiting the Civic Center, and we’ve received many questions about the safety of the building following the satanic rituals. To address those concerns, we will be holding the next morning to pray for peace over the city and to pray for the prayers for cleansing.”

Craft show at St. John Nepomuc St. John Nepomuc’s Altar Soci- ety’s show will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd. in Yukon. If you are interested in participating, contact vendor, call Patsey Ryan at (405) 834-3528.

Villa Teresa moving sale Villa Teresa Convent will hold a moving sale Oct. 11 and 13 at Villa Teresa Convent. The front gate will open at 8 a.m. and close at 3 p.m. There will be no early sales. Items for sale include religious items, furniture, small appliances, vinyl records, kitchen items, table linens, glass- ware, dishes, artwork, books and more. Refreshments will be avail- able. The sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, in the school gym, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd. in Yukon. If you are interested in participating, contact vendor, call Patsey Ryan at (405) 834-3528.

Are you listening? By Marlene Stapp

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Welcome our new principals!

By Sooner Catholic Staff

This year, five archdiocesan elementary schools welcomed new principals. Read on to find out more about them.

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Cassie Herd – Saint Eugene Catholic School, Oklahoma City

Tell us a little about your family: My daughter and I live in Midwest City. She is in the kindergarten class at St. Eugene. I also have a poodle named Moony.

What is the best thing about your school? The best thing about St. Eugene is the wonderful community. The kind and supportive families and staff are always willing to help.

What are your goals for this year? My goal is to help communicate the school mission and vision through building relationships in the school community. It is also my goal to support the continued academic excellence that St. Eugene is known for.

What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not at school? I enjoy reading, running and spending time with my daughter.

Why is Catholic education important to you? Catholic education is about so much more than just education. Through Catholic education we are able to minister to the needs of our students and their families. We are able to provide a safe place to learn and grow both academically and spiritually.

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Nancy Post – Saint Mary Catholic School, Lawton

Tell us a little about your family: I grew up in Okfune and attended St. Mary’s through the seventh grade. I have four daughters, Sarah, Bridget, Kristin and Jennifer, and one son, Brian. I also have 12 grandchildren that range in age from 2 to 19.

What is the best thing about your school? When I take visitors through our school, they often comment that it is one of the best-kept secrets in Lawton.

Not only do they see the children’s smiling faces, and the artwork in our halls, but they also feel the sense of family that we have at our school.

What are your goals for this year? This year, we will be working with the parish, educators, parents and the community as we look at the services we provide, who we serve and need to serve, and how we can plan to meet future community needs and challenges. It will be an exciting year to be affiliated with St. Mary’s.

What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not at school? I enjoy music, gardening, walking, attending events with my grandkids, traveling and photography. However, being a new principal has left little down time!

Why is Catholic education important to you? As a public school teacher for the past 16 years, I have witnessed the implementation of new regulations that have become more adverse to the mention of God in the classroom, while it has been apparent to me that behavior, discipline and mental health issues in school have rapidly escalated. While a Christ-centered education is not a cure-all, it does provide our children with a foundation of faith and hope, which are so desperately needed in today’s world.

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Laura Gallagher – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Edmond

Tell us a little about your family: My husband Greg and I have been married for 21 years and we have a son, Tanner, who is an All Saints’ graduate and now a freshman at Mount Saint Mary High School. We have been members of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church since we got married.

What is the best thing about your school? There is a great spirit of service at All Saints. From the fire department’s Sister BJ’s Pantry to Birth Choice. Our teachers are guiding our students to work in our community and beyond to share their time and develop servant hearts. Our staff truly teaches as Jesus did.

What are your goals for this year? We want to draw more of the Catholic families in and around Norman to our school.

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Dana Wade – All Saints Catholic School, Norman

Tell us a little about your family: My husband Greg and I have been married for 21 years and we have a son, Tanner, who is an All Saints’ graduate and now a freshman at Mount Saint Mary High School. We have been members of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church since we got married.

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What are your goals for this year? We want to draw more of the Catholic families in and around Norman to our school.

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Brenda Tener – St. Philip Neri School, Midwest City

Tell us a little about your family: I have been married to my husband Bob for 28 years. We have three children – Mary Kate teaches at Saint Eugene’s, Whitney is a registered nurse and works in the neonatal intensive care unit at Mercy Health Center, and John is a junior at the University of New Mexico. All of our children attend St. James the Greater Catholic School as well as Mount Saint Mary High School.

I am proud to tell everyone that I am a graduate of St. Philip Neri.

What is the best thing about your school? The best thing about St. Philip Neri is the care and compassion as well as commitment and sacrifice that I see daily. I know the parents sacrifice to send their children here. I know the faculty make personal sacrifices. This is a community that cares for one another, and that care is demonstrated in the way they help each other and support each other.

What are your goals for this year? My goals are to strengthen the school. St. Philip Neri has won first place nationally in the Future City competition for several years. But, we cannot rest on our laurels. We want to continue to get better. I also want the world to know what a great school we have so they will want to send their children here.

What is your favorite thing to do when you’re not at school? I like to read fiction, especially mysteries. I walk regularly at the local park. My absolute favorite thing is to spend time with family. My husband and I are true empty nesters this year so we like to catch up with our children and their busy lives.

Why is Catholic education important to you? After some 35 years in education, both public and Catholic, I have seen firsthand the impact Catholic education can have. Catholic education is a true ministry and a tremendous source of evangelization for the Church.