During this time of year, parishes around the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are preparing to offer Thanksgiving dinners to embrace their communities and offer a warm meal and fellowship.

"Not all needs are obvious when you look at a person," Biruta Harris said. "There can be someone who feels very alone and down. You don’t know what’s going on in someone’s life. People wondering how they can pay the electric bill can be dressed beautifully."

Harris, a parishioner of Saint John the Baptist in Edmond, is a 15-year veteran on the Edmond Community Thanksgiving Dinner planning committee, an ecumenical non-profit comprised of Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, nondenominational and others. Together, they seek the common goal of organizing, preparing, and serving one of the state’s largest community dinners.

Rotating annually, Saint John the Baptist is the host church for this year’s free dinner. Founded in 1981 by a Presbyterian family, the Edmond Community Thanksgiving Dinner’s mission is to “Extend God’s love to all His...

"O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have, I may request humbly from those who do." – St. Thomas Aquinas

continued on page 5
The harvest is plentiful

I began my observance of All Saints Day recently by celebrating Mass for all Saints Catholic School in Norman. To be honest, I wouldn’t miss it! Each year, the fourth-grade students at All Saints prepare to observe their patron festival by choosing a saint, learning about that saint and dressing like that saint for Mass.

The liturgical process is something to behold! As you might imagine there were sets from every walk of life: there were bishops such as Saint Augustine; there were priestesses such as Blessed Marguerite Bourgeoys; there were religious sisters such as St. Therese of Lisieux and even a saint (Saint Francis of Assisi). There were married persons (Mary and Joseph) and even a deacon (Saint Francis of Assisi). There were married persons (Mary and Joseph) and even a deacon (Saint Francis of Assisi). There were married persons (Mary and Joseph) and even a deacon (Saint Francis of Assisi). There were married persons (Mary and Joseph) and even a deacon (Saint Francis of Assisi).

A few weeks ago, I celebrated the annual Mary Anniversary Mass, honoring couples who have been married 25, 40 or 50 or more years. It’s a way to affirm the importance of sacramental marriage in the life of the Church. Marriage is a holy vocation.

In November 13, I had the privilege of ordaining 23 men to the permanent diaconate. They and their wives had completed a four-year formation process. These men and women trained for ministry in parishes across the archdiocese. They have benefited by the encouragement of their families and parishes and the support of this process. I thank God for our deacons.

This year, we are particularly blessed to have 18 young men in seminary at various stages of formation. God willing, these are our future priests. They will be your pastors and confidants. They will witness your weddings and bring the sacraments of healing when you are ill or in distress. They will accompany you along the journey of your lives from womb to tomb. There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord is calling many more young men to hear and respond to the Lord’s call to priesthood. I am confident that the heroines and heroes of Blessed St. Thérèse of Lisieux will be a great encouragement to many young men who are looking for a personal and professional life of service to others.

To others. Our seminarians need our support, just as those whom God is calling to seminary need our encouragement.

The harvest is plentiful. It is clear to me how rich God is blessing our archdiocese. Please join me in encouraging more laity to help gather God’s harvest.

Our annual Seminarians Appeal will be coming your way very soon. Please remember to pray for our seminarians. Please look around and encourage other young men whom the Lord may be calling to serve as his priests and co-workers in gathering the harvest!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support of our seminarians. Blessed St. Thérèse Roffey, pray for us!

Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events can be found online at www.sooner.org.

To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail suggestions to SoonerCatholic@archokc.org.

On Nov. 18-19, parishes will take up the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. CCHD was founded by the U.S. bishops in 1987. Every year, parishes are invited to contribute to the CCHD collection on the Sunday before or after the annual national observance of All Saints Day.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

By Dana Attackine

The Sooner Catholic

Kate Barnard was called from God to help people, no matter the cost.

Born to Irish-Catholic parents on May 23, 1875, in Geneva, Neb., Catherine Ann “Kate” Barnard was eventually called to Oklahoma by her father. There was a need. Her mother had died when Barnard was an infant. Barnard attended, and would later teach, at Saint Joseph parish school in downtown Oklahoma City.

She devoted her adult life to seeking and obtaining justice for other people. She tackled child labor laws, unemployment, work hours and conditions, compulsory education, prison reform, mental health issues, and business and industry regulation.

Barnard was elected, and served two terms, as Commissioner of Charities and Corrections in 1907, making her the first woman to win a statewide elected office in the United States. Her victory came with out any votes from white men, who were not allowed to vote in Oklahoma until 1918.

During her tenure, the 5,000 Indian orphans were stealing farmland, and the land was at stake. Kate Barnard was a champion of Indian rights, who led to a federal investigation by the Oklahoma Legislature of the Department of Indian Affairs. The federal government resume jurisdiction over the legal holding of land for tribal Indians.

In 1911, Barnard and J.H. Stolper, a special prosecutor, worked on and won 107 cases across 25 counties.

She was one of the first women to stand up in the U.S. Congress. Barnard’s 1913-1914 crusade led to the Allotment Act. Many Indians lost their land with this act. Barnard soon would disappear from public life and focus on her health issues. She died in February 1930 at age 54.

Barnard soon would disappear from public life and focus on her health issues. She died in February 1930 at age 54.

Today, a statue of Barnard sits in the state Capitol. This community corrective center bears her name.

In Dec. 10, 1972, issue of Orbit magazine, Barnard’s will stated, “I gave my soul to God. I bequeath the example of my public life to the youth of the world. I pray you to emulate me in dedicating your own lives to securing justice for the poor of your generation, as I did mine.”

Dana Attackine is managing editor of the Sooner Catholic.
Oklahoma City deacon receives Bar Association award

Deacon San Nguyen of Oklahoma City received the Liberty Bell Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association at its 113th annual meeting Nov. 1-3 in Tulsa.

Deacon Nguyen, who immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 1975, received the award for assisting members of the Vietnamese community and others in obtaining legal representation. He earned a law degree in Vietnam and a master’s degree at Oklahoma City University.

“I thank God for blessing me in many ways in which I cannot repay Him,” Deacon Nguyen said.

For 21 years, he worked in prison ministry for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, helping prisoners obtain legal representation before retiring in 2012.

Deacon Nguyen served as a deacon at several parishes, including Corpus Christi and St. Joseph Old Cathedral in Oklahoma City. In 2016, he published, “A Book on U.S. Applicable Law.”

“The Liberty Bell Award is given to a nonlawyer for promoting the legal profession. Deacon Nguyen is among 22 award winners being recognized for their achievements that distinguish them as role models within the legal community. They have made profound contributions to their communities and with unmatched commitment, and deserve to be honored,” said Linda Thomas, Oklahoma Bar Association president.

Cristo Rey OKC work study partners finalize plans to employ students

Several of Oklahoma City’s largest and most visible companies have finalized agreements to employ students at Cristo Rey OKC during the 2018-2019 school year.

The companies include Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, BancFirst, Mercy Hospital, Grace Living Centers, Lopez Foods, Latino Community Development Agency and United Way of Central Oklahoma. Additionally, Judy and Tom Love have sponsored Cristo Rey students at the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Liana and Dave Lopez, along with Bank of Oklahoma, have also underwritten the student jobs at United Way. Each one of these jobs will give a child valuable work experience, a great education and a wonderful opportunity.

School administrators continue to finalize contracts with more than 20 other Oklahoma companies and non-profits that have declared their intent to employ Cristo Rey OKC students.

Cristo Rey OKC will welcome its first class in full 2018. Go online to www.cristoreyokc.org.

Sr. Barbara Joseph’s pantry calls everyone to show mercy

Sister Barbara Joseph’s Food Pantry has established a project called, Call to Mercy, that teaches Catholic school students about the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Project staff works with each school to promote and teach the Corporal Works of Mercy in a way that engages students. The project is sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of St. Therese and is funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The staff has taken the Call to Mercy project to nine Catholic schools so far, helping students unite their efforts through service and leadership.

The project inspired students to raise money and purchase a burial plot at Resurrection Cemetery that they dedicated to a homeless person who did not have any resources for burial.

At St. James Catholic School, students hosted a canned food drive that raised more than 4,000 cans for Sister Barbara’s food pantry. They also raised more than $620 during Lent by giving money they would have used for toys and games, donating it to help the homeless.

Sister Barbara Joseph gave the students the above notes to remind them of the Corporal Works of Mercy: The CCHD grant money covered supplies, printing, travel expenses and supplies for school leaders.

The goal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is to stop root causes of poverty through education of Catholic social teaching, awareness and action.

To support projects like Call to Mercy, please consider a gift to the archdiocese-wide collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development on Nov. 18-19.

For more information, contact Bedey Van Pool, CCHD director for the archdiocese, at bvanpool@csasokc.org.

The archdiocese’s American Indian Catholic Outreach Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Spiritual Center presents

Sacredness of the Human Body

When: 7 p.m. Nov. 28
Where: Fifth floor Tower Room, Benedictine Hall
St. Gregory’s University
1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee

The archdiocese’s American Indian Catholic Outreach and Family Life Office participated in a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event in August.

The Octoberfest celebration on Oct. 25 at the Benedictine Hall at St. Gregory’s University included information on the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and a presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The event also featured information on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The presenter is Anthony Ojeda. Light refreshments served.

Questions can be asked in English and Spanish.

Free Thanksgiving dinner

Bison • Nov. 19, 11 a.m. — 1 p.m., St. Joseph

“The dinner encourages people to be more charitable, more giving. It’s what I call practical Christianity. Instead of talking about kindness and helping others – that is the theory – here is a way to do it,” Elissa Treadway is a freelance writer for the Sooners Catholic.
The heart needs its reasons

Some years ago, I attended a gala dinner for a Catholic church in Dublin that was having a fundraising event. As I walked around the room, I found myself in conversation with one of the more senior church officials, who was holding a large sum of money. I asked him how he had come to be supporting the church on that particular event. He replied, "Do you want to know what I would say if I were all of you? I mean, look at all the things we take for granted, and who never failed to declare the first article of the Creed. "We believe in one God." Certainly, the man had never doubted seriously the content of the Creed.

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth, and God has placed in us, not only the natural power that was something like "The Force" – what the Greeks call "the Logos." But, he was not able to grasp by naked reason the fulness of truth that God also was personal. For man to know about God's inner life, God had to pull back the veil and "reveal" it. God did exactly that with Abraham and the Jewish patriarchs and prophets – confirming what we knew or had deduced by reason, and going well beyond it to what reason would never have suspected. Ultimately, God's personal nature was manifested in Jesus.

When Saint John the Evangelist testified to in John 1:14:
"And the Word ('Logos' in Greek) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The time is more than ripe for a rediscovery of the contribution that Aristotle and his metaphysics – the Philosophy of Being itself. How helpful it would have been to have had access to these indispensable tools of philosophy?

Bishop McGuinness gift to fund scholarships

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School recently received a transformative gift from Raymond and Eleanor Smiley of Ginex, Ohio. The gift of more than $250,000 will be used to establish the Smiley Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide need-based scholarships to students wishing to attend Bishop McGuinness.

As a Catholic community of faith, Bishop McGuinness strives to provide a Catholic education to every student with no regard to socio-economic status. Due to the rising cost of living, scholarship needs are increasing. More than 25 percent of current students receive scholarships today.

The Smiley family is known for its generosity and support of educational causes. Three of the Smiley’s grandchildren graduated from Bishop McGuinness – Benjamin Thom- as ’91; Matthew Smiley ’92; and Nicole Smiley ’93. The Smiley’s generosity will further the mission of the school.

The funds will be used to launch a new program, TellEspanol, that will greatly impact the students of archdiocese of archdiocese of archdiocese as well as the students.

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

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Catholic Services responds to cry of poor worldwide
By Marty Denzer
Catholic News

JEFFERSON CITY - Where people are poor and hungry, victims of hurricanes, typhoons, landslides or earthquakes, war or explosions, the Catholic Church is there to help. CRS Vice-President Joan Beahanreth presented on Catholic Relief Services at the MCCC Assembly and explained to her audience how each was called to bring God’s love into the world, respond to suffering and protect the environment. As Saint John Paul II wrote in “Memo Nola- tum Domine,” his 2004 apostolic letter on the Year of the Exarchat, “Can we not make this Year of the Exarchat an occasion for communities to commit to responding with fraternal solicitude to one of the many forms of poverty present in our world? The tragedy of hunger that plagues hundreds of millions of human beings, the diseases that afflict developing countries, the loneliness of the elderly, the hardships faced by the unemployed, the struggles of immigrants. These are evils present – albeit to a different degree – even in areas of immense wealth. We cannot delude ourselves by our mutual love and our concern for those in need we will be recog- nized as true followers of Christ.”

Catholic Relief Services was started in 1943 to help the European countries ravaged by the world war and its refugees recover. In the 1950s, CRS expanded its services to Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Later, the agency began to seek ways to help people of de- veloping countries break the cycle of poverty, including agri- cultural initiatives, health education, community banks and clean water projects, all ensuring that the people participate in their development. It takes more than bricks and mor- ton to rebuild a society. CRS strives to foster a sense of global solidarity within the U.S. Catholic community. On Sept. 27, just a month ago, Pope Fran- cis launched Share the Journey, a global cam- paign of loving the most vulnerable people in the world, migrants and refugees. The campaign is supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, CRS, Catholic Charities USA and the Caritas International network. CRS suggests getting involved through prayer, volunteering with refugees and migrants, advocating with elected off- ficials through email, letters or personal visits, and reaching out to spread the word through social media.

To learn more about the campaign, go online to www. sharejourney.org.

Oklahoma Catholic Foundation awards 2017 education grants

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma awards grants annually in support of education-related projects to parishes, schools and religious education programs throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In addition to program materials, many grant requests focus on computers and technology as a means of engaging more students in the education process. “The Catholic Foundation has been awarding educational grants for nearly 50 years. This year, 57 parishes and schools received grants that total $99,746,” said Alan Aneshansley, president of the Catholic Foundation. “It is the continued total $99,746,” said Alan Aneshansley, president of the Catholic Foundation. “It is the continued...
Finding joy in thankfulness, gratitude

By J.E. Helm
The Sooner Catholic

Finding a book about Thanksgiving that really should be a thanksgiving giving thanks – is not easy. Most of the books available are children’s books and not too many coloring books. One gem of a book, however, is “The Way of Gratitude: Readings for a Joyful Life.” This is a beautiful book, inside and out. The book is actually a collection of short writings interspersed with poems, prayers and short quotations. Featured are works by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Denise Levertov, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, J.K. Rowling, e.e. cummings and many more. It is not easy to find a book of this kind that is not easy. The editors, Michael Lench, James T. Keane and Doris Goodough, have divided the writings into two sections. Part 1 is “The Meaning of Gratitude,” and Part 2 is “The Practice of Gratitude.”

In the introduction, the editors explain that “Thankfulness, appreciation, gratitude – these are modes of being as rich and tangible to us as...” This is one of the most important points of the whole book: gratitude comes first, joy follows.

We experience being joyful after we have brought ourselves to being grateful. This “joy is deeper than happiness,” Father James Martin, S.J., says “Joy is a happiness in God.” David Brooks comes forward to tell us that “people with dispositional gratitude ... are thankful practically all of the time.” Bishop Michael Nah Thang teaches that “If you live in awareness, it is easy to see miracles everywhere.”

The chapters are delightfully interspersed with poems. Several pages of the book are titled “Thank You!” and include two or three short comments by various writers. Radio host Garrison Keillor writes, “Thank you, God, for this good life and forgive us if we do not love it enough.”

With appetites aroused for this beautiful virtue of thankfulness, readers move on to Part 2, “The Practice of Gratitude.” Bennett’s title are lines from Shakespeare: “I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks.”

The first entry in Part 2 features lines by poet e.e. cummings: “I thank you God for this most amazing! day: for the leaping greedy spirits of trees / and a blue dream true of sky, and for everything Wise / which is the ground of infinite which is yes. In this section of the book, several authors present how to leave a legacy of gratitude.

Kelli Wheeler gives us five steps “to kick start your gratitude practice.” The ideas are drawn from the book Grateful Dead: The Art of Calcutta, and the second step is “Let it be you to you without leaving better happier.”

A young girl writes to J.K. Rowling to thank her for writing the Harry Potter books. Second Flowers is a 16-year-old girl whose drug-addicted parents were murdered and who found happiness and friendship in the character of Harry Potter.

In a second selection by Father Martin, he explains the emphasis Ignatius of Loyola places on holy gratitude. By being grateful at day’s end for “the surprising gifts that come our way on the pavement in the middle of a blank midwinter’s day,” we “learn to relish” or “savor” life’s moments, and this “savoring is an antiseptic to our increasingly rushed lives.”

Another page of “Thank You!” gives us Irving Berlin singing, “Get not churlish, get no banks. Still I’d like to express my thanks – I got the sun in the mornin’ and the moon at night.” Later we hear Bob Hope’s familiar refrain, “Thanks for the memory.”

Anne Lamott writes about why saying grace is a part of the Thanksgiving Day tradition. Raised in an atheist household, she and her two brothers “grew up to be middle-age believers” and so “now someone of my family table always ends up saying grace. “We’re in it for the price,” she writes, “the quiet thanks for food and for our blessings. This food didn’t just magically appear: Some-...”

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“In the midst of the writer’s "praises," is the experience of gratitude. What is it that is unique about the feeling of gratitude, and why is it important in our lives?

One of the most important aspects of gratitude is its ability to bring joy. When we are grateful, we can experience a sense of happiness and fulfillment. This is because gratitude allows us to focus on the positive aspects of our lives and the people around us.

The practice of gratitude is also important for our mental and emotional health. Studies have shown that people who practice gratitude have lower levels of stress and anxiety, and they tend to be more resilient in the face of challenges.

However, the practice of gratitude can be challenging, especially when we are faced with difficult situations. This is where books like “The Way of Gratitude” can be helpful. By reading these writings, we can learn to cultivate a sense of gratitude in our daily lives.

In conclusion, the practice of gratitude is a powerful tool for bringing joy and happiness into our lives. By focusing on the positive aspects of our lives and the people around us, we can experience a sense of gratitude and fulfillment. This is why books like “The Way of Gratitude” are valuable resources for anyone looking to cultivate a sense of gratitude in their lives.
La cosecha es abundante

Alguna vez has conocido a alguien de Estridón con ascendencia ibérica?
Eusebio vino de allí y los amantes de las Escrituras le agradecen su servicio

Líderes religiosos instan gobierno a extender protección a inmigrantes

Al ver sus dones para el lenguaje y su amor por las Escrituras, el Papa Pedro le puso a Eusebio que comenzara una revisión de la Biblia en latín. Gesner, el que ya no solo la Iglesia fue bendecida con la traducción de la Biblia conocida como la Vulgata, sino que también recibimos de él un monumento cultural de lo que luego se convertiría en la Biblia en numerosas lenguas, en numerosas lenguas.

La procesión litúrgica es algo para contem-Plar! Como se imaginarán, hubo santos de otros países. A mediados de septiembre de este año, el Papa Francisco le hizo a la Iglesia una homilía especial, llamada "La misión de la Iglesia en el siglo XXI". Among the leaders listening to the Pope's homily were Cathedral Bishops from across the world, including those from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Spain.

Líderes religiosos instan gobierno a extender protección a inmigrantes

Comercializado mi observación de las fiestas de Eusebio en el Vaticano, para que los que no están al día puedan entender lo que está sucediendo.

Pedro A. Moran, O.F.M.
Director, Oficina de Ministerio Hispano

Fin de semana
Comencemos el estudio de las pautas que determinan el éxito de nuestras relaciones, comenzando con una reflexión sobre el poder de la escucha activa.

Algunas de las razones por las que dejan de escuchar son:
- No valoran el tiempo que el otro pone en hablar.
- No quieren escuchar lo que el otro tiene que decir.
- No comprenden lo que el otro está diciendo.

En resumen, la escucha activa es una habilidad valiosa que puede transformar nuestras relaciones personales, profesionales y empíricas. En esta lección, aprenderemos cómo mejorar nuestra escucha activa y cómo aplicarla en nuestras vidas cotidianas.

Reflejo de aprendizaje
- ¿Qué te ha parecido este concepto de escucha activa?
- ¿Has tenido alguna experiencia en la que hayas utilizado la escucha activa?
- ¿Crees que puedes mejorar en esta área a través de la práctica constante?

Para más informes, consulta:
- Escucha Activa: Una Habilidades de Vida por Robert K. Greenleaf
- Escucha Activa: Una Habilidades de Vida por Robert K. Greenleaf
- Escucha Activa: Una Habilidades de Vida por Robert K. Greenleaf
Blessed Stanley of Ohio: A Model for All Discipleship

Blessed Stanley Rother was a model of discipleship. He lived his life with wholehearted commitment to God, his contemporaries, and God's plan for each of us. He could not keep it to himself. He was compelled to share the message of God's love with others.

Blessed Stanley spent his life reaching out to his neighbors in Oklahoma, serving the poor, and spreading the message of God's love. He founded parishes and schools, helped found the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic College Students, and served on the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic University Students.

Blessed Stanley's life is a model for all discipleship. We can learn much from his example. His life is a testament to the potential God endowed in us if we respond to God's call.

Blessed Stanley's life is a reminder to us that we are called to be God's instruments on earth. We are called to spread the message of God's love and bring others closer to God.

Blessed Stanley's life is a reminder to us that we are called to be witnesses to God's love. We are called to share the message of God's love with others.

Blessed Stanley's life is a reminder to us that we are called to be missionaries. We are called to spread the message of God's love to others.

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I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently. – Jeremiah 3:15

The beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother on September 23rd was an extraordinary day for every Catholic in Oklahoma. It was particularly meaningful for priests and those considering priesthood throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Father Rother graduated from Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and was ordained a priest in 1963. After five years serving the people of Oklahoma, he accepted the call to serve as a missionary in Guatemala in 1968. During this time, Father Rother’s formation as a priest was made possible by gifts from parishioners who wanted to invest in his future. Please help the next generation of men who will dedicate their lives in service to the Church.

GOD IS CALLING MEN YOU KNOW. WILL YOU HELP THEM ANSWER HIM?