A Century of Service
Catholic Charities Celebrates With Worship, Laughter and Memories
OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities celebrated 100 years of serving the people of God in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in early November with a week of worship, prayer, laughter and memories, all while looking to the future with great hope and trust.

The celebration kicked off on Sunday, Nov. 4 with a Centennial Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. Principal concelebrants were Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran, Right Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., Abbot of Saint Gregory's Abbey, Father William Novak, V.G., and Father John Metzinger, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help where the Mass was celebrated.

"I've said before, we serve everyone, not because they are Catholic, but because they are human beings," Coakley said. "We serve them in the name of Jesus Christ.

"For one hundred years now, the people of this Archdiocese have shared in Jesus' own mission. In as simple an act as feeding, washing, weeping, celebrating, listening, traveling, teaching, learning, working, growing, visiting, especially the sick, the elderly, the infirm, and those on the margins of society. Just as Jesus did."

Cardinal Roger Mahony

Papal Nuncio — Division Undermines Religious Freedom, is a Tragedy for Both Believer, Society
SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNA/EWTN News) — Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano has told the University of Notre Dame that there is a concrete "menace" to religious liberty in the United States that is advancing in part because some influential Catholic public figures and university professors are allied with those opposed to Church teaching.

"Evidence is emerging which demonstrates that the threat to religious freedom is not solely a concern for non-democratic and totalitarian regimes," he said. "Unfortunately, it is surfacing with greater regularity in what many consider the great democracies of the world."

The apostolic nuncio, who serves as the Pope's diplomatic representative to the United States, said this is a "tragedy" for both the believer and democratic society.

Archbishop Vigano's Nov. 4 speech keynoted the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life conference. He discussed martyrdom, persecution and religious freedom, with a particular focus on the United States.

He cited Catholics' duties to be disciples of Christ, not elements of a
November and the Four Last Things

During the month of November the liturgy of the Church and popular devotion turn our attention to what are traditionally called the Four Last Things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. This is no morbid fascination. Rather it is a sober reminder of the transitory nature of this world and a bold summons to Christian hope. We began the month commemorating the saints in glory on All Saints Day on Nov. 1, we observed the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), and later in the month, on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we will celebrate the triumphant Solemnity of Christ the King.

Though we may not like to think about these ultimate realities, they are inescapable for each of us. They remind us of the eternal destiny that God has prepared for us in Christ and the eternal consequences of turning our back on God’s love. St. John of the Cross wrote, “In the evening of our life, we shall be judged on our love. Perfect love will make possible our immediate entrance into heaven. Imperfect love will require purification. A total lack of love will mean eternal separation from God.

God has made us for heaven where we will discover the perfect fulfillment of all human longing in supreme and eternal happiness. We cannot even begin to imagine the joy God has prepared for us in heaven. The Bible uses images such as a wedding banquet and the Father’s house to help us get a glimpse of the happiness of heaven. In heaven we know that we will enjoy perfect communion in love with the most Holy Trinity and all of the angels and saints. Jesus Christ has won this victory for us by his death and his Resurrection from the dead.

At the other end of the spectrum is the frightful rejection of love which is hell. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “the chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God” (CCC 1035), who alone is our supreme and ultimate fulfillment. In choosing to persist in sin, those who are condemned to hell have freely rejected God’s love and his call to repentance. “God predestines sin, those who are condemned to hell have freely rejected God’s love and his call to repentance.” (CCC 1035), who alone is our Supreme and Ultimate fulfillment. In choosing to persist in sin, those who are condemned to hell have freely rejected God’s love and his call to repentance.

In the Communion of Saints we are united with fellow believers on earth, with the suffering souls in Purgatory as well as the blessed in heaven. In this wonderful communion of life and love, we are able to assist and be assisted by the prayers and good works of one another. The Church is always mindful of the duty to assist those in Purgatory, especially through the Eucharist. We remember the faithful departed in the Eucharistic Prayer of every Mass. But we also have the opportunity to request that Masses be offered for the deceased. It is a beautiful practice and an act of charity to have Masses offered, especially for our departed loved ones.

As an expression of the mystery of the Communion of Saints, the Church also permits us to obtain indulgences and apply them in charity toward the souls in Purgatory. Though it is our Christian duty to be always mindful of the faithful departed, the month of November is an opportune time. On All Souls Day we come to the aid of our deceased brothers and sisters by special remembrances at Masses as well as by other local and often colorful ethnic customs. In many cultures it is the day set aside to visit the graves of deceased family members. By visiting those hallowed places we honor the dead and by our prayers we assist them as they await the fulfillment of their hope, that is, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

God has made us for heaven where we will discover the perfect fulfillment of all human longing in supreme and eternal happiness. We cannot even begin to imagine the joy God has prepared for us in heaven.

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

A $50 donation was made to the Father Joseph Boltran Seminary Burse by an anonymous donor.

Seminary Burses

A $100 donation was made to the Father Kirk Larkin Seminary Burse by Joan Maxchin.

A $50 donation was made to the Father Kirk Larkin Seminary Burse by an anonymous donor.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Joseph Boltran Seminary Burse by Our Lady’s Cathedral.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

November 18 — Marriage Anniversary Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3 p.m.

November 20 — Installation Mass of Bishop James Conley, Diocese of Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

November 27 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, Sacred Heart School, El Reno, 8:30 a.m.

November 27 — Shared Vision Listening Session for Clergy, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.

November 28 — Mutually Shared Vision - Envisioning Team Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.

November 29 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Edmond, 8:30 a.m.

November 29 — Catholic Charities Board Meeting, Catholic Charities Offices, 11:30 a.m.

November 29 — Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.

November 29 — 50th Anniversary Mass, St. Andrew Church, Moore, 6:30 p.m.


December 1 — Feast St. Mary Dinner and Auction, 6 p.m.

December 2 — Vincent DePaul Society Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, 5 p.m.

Most Reverend

Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop of Oklahoma City

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Archbishop Finishes Listening Sessions

Archdiocese still needs parishioners’ input

From Archbishop Coakley and the Envisioning Team...

The Listening Sessions are now complete. Just because you missed your chance to attend a meeting doesn’t mean you can’t give your input. Archbishop Coakley still wants to hear from you! Your input and the inclusion of your thoughts are important to the success of our Archdiocese’s future.

You can give your input by following a few simple steps. Go online to www.archokc.org, look for the Listening Sessions form, complete your answers to the three questions and submit it per the instructions on the website.

If you don’t have Internet access, please answer those three questions and mail them to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Attn: Rosemary Lewis, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

What do you most appreciate about the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City?

What is your vision for the Archdiocese in the next five years?

What three priorities should the Archdiocese name and fulfill for more effective ministry and pastoral care within the next two years?

All responses must be received by Nov. 30, 2012. If you have any questions, contact Rosemary Lewis at (405) 709-2759. Thank you for taking the time to help make a difference in the future of our Archdiocese!

Archbishop Lori praised the support from Catholics across the state who took part in the Listening Sessions. His team of bishops, priests, religious and laypeople were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support.

The Catholic Church not only opposes the legalization of same-sex marriage, it also teaches that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful.

Bishop Richard J. Malone, who is administrator of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, said in a statement he was deeply disappointed in the outcome in his state.

“I am deeply disappointed that a majority of Maine voters have redefined marriage from what we have understood it to be for millennia by civilization and religion around the world,” said the bishop, who was in August installed to head the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. He thanked “the Catholic faithful who did not abandon Catholic teachings on the nature of marriage.”

Maine’s voters agreed to repeal the same-sex marriage ban by a vote of 53 percent, or 369,319 votes, to 47 percent against, or 333,024 votes. In efforts to persuade voters to oppose legalizing the marriages, the bishops of Washington had issued video statements and a pastoral statement opposing the referendum.

Washington voters approved the referendum by 52 percent, or 1,104,322 votes, with 48 percent, or 1,020,812 votes, against it. In Minnesota, the result was 51.2 percent against, or 1,020,812 votes, against it.

In Minnesota, voters rejected a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as only a union between a man and woman.

The Maryland Catholic Conference, which advocates for public policy on behalf of the state’s bishops, joined the Maryland Marriage Alliance in efforts to overturn the law.

Archbishop Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis wrote in a column in the archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, that the church’s effort to support God’s unchanging plan for marriage is not a campaign against anyone but rather a positive effort to promote the truth about marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

Contributing to this report were Maria Wiering in Baltimore.
Pope Sends President Telegram with Prayer for Freedom, Justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on his re-election, saying that he prayed the ideals of freedom and justice that guided America’s founders might continue to flourish.

The Vatican did not make public the full text of the Pope’s telegram to Obama, which was sent via Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Nov. 7.

“In the message, the Holy Father sent his best wishes to the president for his new term and assured him of his prayers that God might assist him in his very great responsibility before the country and the international community,” the Vatican said in a statement.

The Pope also told Obama he was praying that “the ideals of liberty and justice that guided the founders of the United States of America might continue to shine” as the nation goes forward, the statement said.

In remarks to reporters, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, voiced hopes that Obama would also promote “a culture of life and religious freedom.

“Is it the hope of everyone that President Obama ‘respond to the expectations’ of the American people and ‘serve law and justice for the well-being and growth of every person, by respecting essential human and spiritual values and by promoting the culture of life and religious freedom, which have always been so precious in the tradition of the American people and their culture,’” the priest said.

- U.S. Catholic bishops have been at odds with Obama over his support for legalized abortion and his administration’s plan to require that the private health insurance plans of most Catholic institutions cover surgical sterilization procedures and artificial birth control, which are forbidden by the church’s moral teaching.

The role of president of the United States is ‘an immense responsibility not just for the great nation, but for the whole world, given the United States role on the world stage,’ Father Lombardi said, expressing hopes that the president would be able to “find the best ways to promote the material and spiritual well-being of all and effectively promote integral human development, justice and peace in the world.”

**Obama Re-election Creates a Crisis for Catholic Church**

President Obama’s re-election and the prospect of a second Obama administration, freed from the constraints imposed by the necessity of running for re-election, have created a crisis for the Catholic Church in the United States. In the thought-world and the Church in the United States, the re-election of a vice president has led to a crisis for the integrity of the Church.

The crisis is not limited to the Church in America; it affects the Church in any nation where the Church is forced to act as agents of government. The crisis is not limited to the Church in America; it affects the Church in any nation where the Church is forced to act as agents of government. The Church is forced to act as agents of government in most nations where the Church is forced to act as agents of government.

Many thoughtful young priests are discussing this dramatic option among themselves, it’s time for the rest of the Church join the conversation.

Yet another threat to the integrity of the Church comes from the re-election of a vice president of the United States who has declared “transgender discrimination” to be “the civil rights issue of our time,” who has openly celebrated the abortion license, who has grossly misrepresented the Church’s teaching on the life issue, and who is, in any way, an ecclesiastical embarrassment.

Some Catholic members of the House and Senate who may not vote against truth knew by moral reason, but then have the gall to justify their irresponsibility by a faux commitment to “pluralism” at worse, by recourse to what they are pleased to call “social justice.”

Thus pastors and bishops must continue to explain why the life issue is “social justice issue,” and indeed priority “social justice issue.” And some effective way must be found to make clear, publicly, that men and women like Vice President Joe Biden and Rep. Nancy Pelosi are living an auto-defined Catholicism so heedlessly that their communion with the Catholic Church is severely damaged. Absent such clarity, ill-catechized Catholic voters will continue to misunderstand both the nature of discipleship and the responsibilities of citizenship.

As for the opportunity embodied in this crisis, it is nothing less than to be the Church of the New Evangelization, full-throttle. Shall we, then, institutional maintenance Catholicism is utterly incapable of meeting the challenges that will now come at the Catholic Church from the most aggressively secular administration in American history. Only a robustly, unapologetically evangelical Catholicism, one-nationally proposing and nobly living the truths about the human condition, the Church teaches, will see us through the next four years. Radically converted Christian disciples, not one-hour-a-week Catholics whipped by an ever more toxic culture, are what this hour of crisis, in both senses of the term, demands.

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s columns are distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.
Diaconate Service

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley thanked and congratulated Archdiocesan Deacons who are celebrating ordination anniversaries. Pictured with the archbishop are retirees Joe Forgue, Joe Dubey, Ray LeChance and Lucio Nieto (pictured above). The Diaconate Class of 1992, pictured at left, was recognized for 20 years of diaconal service and included Tony Crispo, Roy Ellison, Richard Robinson and John Warren. The Class of 2002 recognized for 10 years of diaconal service is pictured below and included Paul Albert, Bart Brachions, Richard Boh, Bill Gooden, Robert Heskamp, Anthony Lo, Paul Lewis, Sherman “Mac” McFayden, Norm Meyers, Sang Ninh, John Pigott, John Tongue, Roy Wallace and James Warnke.

Diaconate Service

Don’t Let Dec. 31 Sneak Up on You

With this year’s challenges and accomplishments still fresh in your mind, now is a good time to review and update your estate plans. To help you in this process, here is a checklist of estate planning actions for you to go over as the end of the year nears:

- Review your current will and trusts. Should these documents be updated because of major changes in your life, such as births or deaths, or moves, etc?
- Take inventory and make a written record of the contents of any safe-deposit box. Give a copy to a trusted family member.
- Review the beneficiary designations for your life insurance and retirement plans to make sure your beneficiary isn’t someone who is now deceased.
- Make sure your durable power of attorney for health care and living will are current.
- Be sure you are comfortable with the guardian named in your will for minor children or disabled loved ones under your care.
- Finish charitable contributions by Dec. 31.

As you think about special holiday gifts for family and friends, remember that making charitable gifts to the Catholic Foundation in their honor can be a heartwarming experience that also offers you tax benefits.

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4115 www.cfook.org bsemtner@archdioceseokc.org

CORNERSTONE

CFO Estate Planning Course ‘Big’ Success

Drawing on the success of last year’s program, the 2012 Estate Planning Course offered by the Catholic Foundation for attorneys, accountants, financial planners and trust officers was a big success.

Registrations totaled 142 for the event, which was held at the Catholic Pastoral Center with a mix of Catholic and non-Catholic professionals in attendance.

The purpose of the course is not only to offer continuing education in the area of estate planning, but also to familiarize area professionals about the works of the Catholic Foundation in charitable planned giving.

This year’s presenter was Charles D. “Skip” Fox IV from the law firm of McGuireWoods, from Charlottesville, Va. Fox presented topics that included recent developments in the estate, gift, generation-skipping tax and fiduciary income tax fields; tax and non-tax issues in closely held business succession planning; asset protection planning; and top 10 ethical challenges facing estate planners.

This course was approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission of Oklahoma for a maximum of 4.00 credit hours, of which 1.00 hour is credit covering ethics. This course was also approved by the Certified Financial Planners Board for 4.00 credit hours of continuing education. Attendance certificates were available for accountants to also use toward CPA continuing education credit.
Annual Retirement Fund Collection Set for Dec. 8-9

The 25th annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up Dec. 8-9, 2012, in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C., and offers financial support for the day-to-day care of over 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Last year, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City contributed $114,795.35 to the collection. In 2012, the Benedictine Fathers and Carmelite Sisters of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus received financial assistance. Religious who serve or have served in the archdiocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may also benefit from RFR.

The collection was initiated in 1988 by Catholic Bishops of the United States. Proceeds are distributed to eligible religious communities to help underwrite retirement and health-care expenses. Nearly 95 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

Contributions to the 2011 appeal totaled $272.4 million, enabling NRRO to distribute $212 million in financial assistance to 403 religious communities. Another $29.2 million was disbursed to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to support ongoing education in retirement and elder-care delivery. Since the collection began, American Catholics have donated over $871 million to support senior religious.

“Words cannot express our gratitude,” said NRRO Executive Director and Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader. “We are humbled by the generous and prayerful support that so many people share with our elderly religious each year.”

Despite the unparalleled generosity to the collection, religious communities continue to face significant challenges in meeting the high costs of care. Last year’s distributions amounted to approximately $967 per eligible religious. Yet the average annual cost of care for a senior religious stands at $37,200 per person, while skilled care can exceed $56,000. In 2011 alone, the total cost of care for women and men religious was over $1 billion.

Religious communities are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the care and support of their elderly members. Traditionally, senior religious worked for small stipends and any surplus income was often reinvested in community ministries. As a result, many religious communities now lack adequate savings for retirement and elder care. Annual distributions from RFR offer religious communities supplemental retirement funding and help to furnish various necessities, such as prescription medications and nursing care.

Funds Help Elder Religious

In 1988, Catholic Bishops of the United States launched the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), formerly the Tri-Conference Retirement Office, was established to coordinate the annual collection and to distribute the proceeds of this collection to religious communities in need.

The crisis in retirement funding can be attributed to insufficient retirement savings, rising health-care costs and declining income. Traditionally, religious worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. A result, a majority of religious communities now lack adequate savings for retirement. At the same time, the cost of care continues to increase. Care costs have exceeded $1 billion annually for each of the last three years.

Younger religious’ income now supports a large portion of elder religious’ expenses. In the coming years, however, this will no longer be the case as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry. By 2022, religious past age 70 will outnumber those under age 70 by roughly four to one.

In addition to sponsoring the annual appeal, the National Religious Retirement Office offers assessment tools, educational programming, services and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs. The office also coordinates an extensive network of volunteer consultants, including experts in elder care and financial planning, to help religious communities plan for the ongoing care of senior members.

The NRRO is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For more information, visit www.retiredreligious.org.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

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KIOP 88.3 Schedule:
24 hours/day

Sunday Mass at noon from St. Mark Church in Norman on KTLR

Go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com for the current schedule of programs.
What Am I Supposed to Do With This Thing?

In 1799, Pierre-François Bouchard discovered an unimportant-looking stone while on an archeological dig in Egypt. This stone, discovered near the town of Rosetta in the Nile Delta, revealed the key for deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics. The stone sat in plain view for at least a thousand years before the right person saw its real value.

Most Catholics have two “Rosettes Stones” in their homes, stones that hold the keys to a richer, more profound life in Christ. Sadly, many people don’t know how to translate the contents in order to possess these riches. These two “stones” are the Holy Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Happily, many Catholics actively and fruitfully engage in Bible study. The Catechism is a different matter.

When I discuss studying the Catechism, most people sound like extras from a Godzilla movie, running in terror from this intimidating green tombstone-size book. I’m here to tell you that you have nothing to fear from the Catechism. Once you understand how it’s constructed, studying it is a snap. Here’s how.

First, let’s deal with the elephant in the room. When the Holy See published the Catechism in 1992, the reception was cool to say the least. Many commentators looked at the text and said, “This is a reference book for clergy and educators.” In essence, the message was the average Catholic didn’t need a Catechism, much less read it. Interestingly, though, Blessed John Paul II, in his letter of promulgation, made a different observation. He wrote, “… I ask the whole Church’s pastors and the faithful to possess these contents in order to know how to translate the teachings of the Church’s doctrine into everyday life. sweater faith and life. To see the Faith, with our best efforts, as something that is more profound, more important, more essential, that is to live the moral life, as authentic disciples. Lastly, we experience the life to come through the life of prayer, which, of course, binds the other three together. Each main part is divided into various sections and chapters. At the end of each chapter, the Catechism reviews what was discussed in the “In Brief” section. The “In Brief” section can provide reinforcement and give a tool for memory of what you have read. Each main paragraph is headed with a black, bold-faced number. These paragraph numbers are the same in every edition of the Catechism. When you look up something in the Catechism, you are looking for this paragraph number and not the page number. The next thing you will notice is a series of numbers printed in lighter print in the margin of the page. These point to relevant cross-references for the paragraph. These cross-references are one of the most unique features of the Catechism. They allow the reader to immediately draw a connection between disparate parts of the overall presentation. Also, the Catechism includes footnotes providing the source of the quotations in the text. Perhaps a little test drive will make this clearer.

Pull down your Catechism and open it to Paragraph 678. Remember you’re looking for the number in the bold-faced print, not the page number. You found the correct paragraph if you are reading about Jesus as judge of the living and the dead. Look in the margin and you will see the following italicized number: 1470. Turn to Paragraph 1470 and you will see that the Sacrament of Penance relates to the final judgment by Christ. Go back to Paragraph 678 and you will see footnotes numbered 581–585. The footnotes show that the Catechism draws from the Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, and other papal and church documents.

Unlike any other topic we learn about, the Faith stands apart in one key respect. When we engage the Faith, with our best efforts, in the spirit of loving desire, we don’t encounter something, we encounter Someone. We encounter the person of Jesus Christ, sent by the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church serves as a sure norm for our Faith and a trustworthy guide in our search.

Holy Family Parishioners Begin Year of Faith with Food, Family

LAWTON — The Year of Faith got off to a great start for Holy Family Catholic Church. A group consisting of parents and children named “Ecceleolae” — Latin for “Little Church,” met at the St. Andrew’s Hall on November 18 to kick off the Year of Faith. The group chanted Compline, a night prayer, in the chapel and Father Philip Seeton blessed the baptismal candles for the families to be used at home.

The continuation of the little church at home is encouraged by the church in ways that exemplify faith in action and not just words. Daily family prayer, celebration of patron saints and feast days and demonstrating love and affection among family members are encouraged as examples.

Father Seeton encouraged families to create an altar at home with images of the Holy Family and crucifix, but more importantly, to pray together as a family.


Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei for the Induction of the Year of Faith.
The celebration continued on Wednesday, Nov. 7 when Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, celebrated Mass at Saint Eugene Catholic School. The Mass was celebrated in Spanish. Later that day, Cardinal Mahony met with the student body at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. A lively discussion was held between the cardinal and several McGuinness students, mostly over the issue of immigration.

It was the issue of immigration that Cardinal Mahony touched on again later that evening when he addressed several hundred gathered for a Contemplative Accompaniment Dinner at the Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley introduced Cardinal Mahony. The following is a portion of his comments. To read the full text, visit the Skoner Catholic website.

In our own day, the word “charity” sometimes has negative connotations. People are sometimes referred to as “charity cases.” We give “charitable contributions” from our surplus. What we have no further use for we pass on to “charitable organizations” or “to charity.” But in our Catholic tradition, “charity” is a rich and multi-faceted term. It is in strong words. Charity is a virtue. As such it is an action, an activity. As a theological virtue, charity is a human activity made possible by God’s gift. But it is also a human action. Charity is self-sacrificing love, the love that pours itself forth in concrete actions which come to the aid of others, with a heart full of love. In its need. It is not a love that grows of its own accord, but a love that grows from deep roots in the helper. It is the love that is seen, touched and heard in Christ the Servant, especially the suffering Servant who cries, “I thirst” (John 19:28) from the cross. And it is the Church as a whole, not just that number, which is called to share in the mystery of Christ the Servant through direct service of those in need, both in the Church and beyond.

The nuncio said it is “essential” to pray for those who are suffering, whether they are family members or non-family members. A prayer is offered to the people of God in Christ the King.

The issues that the Catholic bishops have identified in this mandate are “very real” and “press the question of the living vitality of Catholicism in the United States,” Archbishop Vigano said.

The nuncio also discussed public school curriculum that required young students to be taught how to achieve “normal” social relations as “natural and wholesome.”

Civil authorities rejected parents’ requests for a curriculum that required young students to be taught how to achieve “normal” social relations as “natural and wholesome.”

Cities in various regions of the country have “praised the martyrs past and present who have been kicked out of social service programs because they would not institute policies that would not compromise on “the principles of faith.”

Archbishop Vigano affirmed.

In all of these instances, we see that the faithful persist in their fidelity to the Church and to Christ and to Holy Father, even when persecuted, and the Church has gained strength when persecuted,” the nuncio said.

Religious liberty is a human, civil and natural right that is not and cannot be taken away. The state, he said, adding “religious freedom is the exercise of conscience to accept the truth Church without compromisions.”

Archbishop Vigano said that many Catholic Charities agencies in states that do not have the competence to remove, Archbishop Vigano confirmed.
McGuinness Students Make Sanctuary a Home

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic
OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness senior Shelby McMillin never heard of the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center before last summer. That’s when she and other senior students visited the center while searching for a 2013 senior class service project.

“This place just seemed like it needed fixing up as compared to other places,” McMillin said. The students raised the money to remodel a building on Sanctuary grounds and they also built a play area for children.

The Sanctuary is located on SW 11th on the site of the former Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. It is run by Catholic Charities Outreach and its purpose is to provide social services to homeless and at-risk women and their children. These services include resource referral such as day care and Early Head Start, vocational and employment development, solution-focused advocacy and self-awareness group sessions.

The McGuinness students not only tackled the playground and some minor building maintenance issues, they also did lawn work. They then pulled together to throw a Halloween party for the women and their children who have found their way to the Sanctuary.

Lisa Chamberlain, assistant director at the Sanctuary, said about 45 women are served there on a daily basis. She said the McGuinness senior project helps the Sanctuary with what it is most need—a place for the clients’ children.

“We didn’t have a sufficient area for the kids and this is going to mean a lot,” Chamberlain said. “The ladies have already seen the new picnic area and they think it’s wonderful. The homeless are misunderstood and there’s often a stigma attached.”

The work provided by the Irish seniors has helped transform not only the appearance of the Sanctuary, it has also meant much to those who seek help there.

“Those kids are bridging the gap,” Chamberlain said. “The women believe these young people are blessing them without even knowing them. I can’t wait to see how these young people come out as adults because their hearts are in the right place.”

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Catholic Relief Services Asks for Help in Assisting Syrian People

As violence in Syria spirals into civil war, civilians are caught in the middle. Thousands have fled to neighboring countries. Syrian families are asking for help as they struggle to survive. Catholic Relief Services and our church partners are reaching out to Syrian families in need providing hope and assistance with housing, food, medical care and meeting other basic necessities.

Syrians fleeing their homes into neighboring Jordan and Lebanon say they represent pieces of something that might never again be whole. Noujad, a grandmother in her 60s, never expected to find herself in this situation. "How can it be that my husband was killed and my son was kidnapped? The heart of a mother is very sensitive. When her son gets sick, a mother can’t sleep in the night. My son is missing, and I can’t sleep in the night. We had no idea we would be leaving Syria this way. For my husband, may he rest in peace. I hope he is in heaven now. I only ask that God protect my son. " Noujad and her family are receiving assistance in their temporary shelter from church staff.

Your actions are needed now!

You can help refugees like Noujad and her family by raising your voice today. Email Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (U.S.Stategov/app/answers/list) today to let her know how concerned you are about the humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries. Urge her to work for peace and to increase U.S. support and assistance for Syrian refugees.

Above, Bishop McGuinness senior girls sort toys for the nursery at the Women’s Sanctuary. From left are Carlee Reeser, Shelby McMillin, Olivia Schick and Hannah Speziale. At right, Bishop McGuinness senior boys pose around a picnic table they built for the Women’s Sanctuary.
By Ray Dyer

EDMOND — Several hundred youth gathered at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Nov. 3 for Youth Fest 2012. The event featured Father John Gerth as the keynote speaker and the music from Adam Ritter’s Praise and Worship Band. Above right is Shelley Morefield, youth fest organizer, and Matt Allen. Matt is a St. John’s parishioner who has battled brain cancer for the past three years. He told the youth about his journey of faith and his conversations with God during his five brain surgeries. Father Ray Ackerman, pastor at St. John’s, greeted the teens and challenged them to live their faith.

Nancy Housh was nominated for the 2012 National Youth Ministry Award Nod due to her 23 years as director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. She actually hadn’t planned to attend this year, but those plans have obviously changed. Flexibility is another quality youth directors develop.

Housh’s ‘Significant Contributions’ Recognized with National Youth Ministry Award Nod

Proven by Aimee Ryan, LCSW, with Catholic Charities. It’s easy to feel isolated during the holiday season when you’ve lost a loved one. Everyone else seems so happy when you feel so sad. Many of the things that are considered symbolic of the holidays can act as triggers for additional sadness and overwhelming grief.

The session will focus on those symbols and explore different ways to handle the most painful memories and traditions and identify additional ways to find meaning and celebrate healing.

The session will be held at the Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, with video-conferencing at St. Peter in Woodward, St. Francis Xavier in Enid, Prince of Peace in Altus and St. Mary in Clinton.

Please call or email with number attending and location where attending: Becky Van Pool, Parish Outreach and Program Development, (405) 523-3009, 800-375-8514, bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org, or Cecilia Grimes, Pastoral Ministry Office, (405) 721-4208, 800-721-5651 Ext. 131, cgrimes@archokc.org.

Managing the Holiday Blues (Presentation in English)

Friday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m., presented by Nubia Fiesel, LPC candidate with Catholic Charities. This session will provide overall information on the stressors that the Hispanic community can experience during the holiday season. This session will address how feelings of sadness, stress, loneliness, and culture differences affect the Hispanic community during the holidays. The presentation will also convey ideas on how to take better care of ourselves and how to build new traditions and good memories for the future.

The session will be held at the Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, with video-conferencing at St. Peter in Woodward, St. Francis Xavier in Enid, Prince of Peace in Altus and St. Mary in Clinton.

Mejorando los sentimientos de depresión, estrés, y soledad en estas Navidades

Viermes, Noviembre 30, 8:00pm, presentado por Nubia Fiesel, LPC candidato. Esta sesión proveerá información sobre los sentimientos de depresión, estrés, y soledad que las familias hispanas pueden sentir en la temporada de fiestas navideñas.

La presentación también se enfocará en ideas sobre cómo cuidarse a uno mismo, disminuir los sentimientos de estrés, tristeza, y soledad, al igual que como construir nuevas tradiciones para usted y su familia.

La sesión se llevará a cabo en el Centro Pastoral, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC, con conferencia de video en St. Peter in Woodward, St. Francis Xavier in Enid, Prince of Peace in Altus, and St. Mary in Clinton.
Noviembre y las Postrimerías

Durante el mes de noviembre, la liturgia de la Iglesia y la devoción popular dirigen nuestra atención a lo que tradicionalmente se llamaba las Postrimerías (Novembrinas): muerte, juicio, celda e infierno. Esto no es una fascinación mirdita. Más bien es un sobre recordatorio de la naturaleza transitoria de este mundo y un aviso enérgico a la esperanza cristiana. Consideramos el mes celebrando los santos en gloria el día de Todos los Santos. El 2 de noviembre se observa la Conmemoración de todos los Fieles Difuntos (Día de las Animas Benéficas) y más tarde en el mes, el último domingo del año litúrgico, celebramos la Santísima Trinidad. Como nos recuerden el destino eterno, nos unimos a los que han dejado este mundo y respetamos su sacrificio. El 2 de noviembre, el día de Todos los Santos, es una ocasión para reflexionar sobre nuestra esperanza en la vida eterna. El Mes de Noviembre nos invita a recordar la esencia de nuestra esperanza y a recordar a los que han ido antes de nosotros en la esperanza de encontrarlos en la gloria de la vida eterna.
Por Michelle Martin

**Catholic News Service**

La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ha publicado un catálogo de actividades en el marco de la celebración nacional del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica durante el próximo mes de noviembre.

La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, en un comunicado, anunció que durante el mes de noviembre se llevarán a cabo varias actividades relacionadas con el Catecismo, incluyendo conferencias, talleres y lecturas de pasajes específicos del documento.

La Arquidiócesis también ha lanzado un catálogo de actividades en línea que incluye información detallada sobre cada evento y cómo participar.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica es un texto esencial para la formación religiosa de los católicos en Estados Unidos y es considerado un libro esencial para la preparación para la sacerdocio y el matrimonio.

La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City invita a toda la comunidad a participar en estas actividades y a profundizar en el estudio del Catecismo.
Conference Advocates Mercy, Help for Immigrants

By Michelle Martin
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — The threat most of immigrants in the United States violates the biblical and ethical norms that God requires of his people, according to speakers at a Nov. 2 conference on the ethics of immigration held at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

"An Ethical Perspective on the Accompaniment of Immigrants: A Faith Response" was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education, Catholic universities, religious communities and the Catholic Conference of Illinois.

The conference was set against a backdrop of roughly 400,000 deportations each year, at a time when fewer undocumented immigrants are crossing the border into the United States. What’s more, most deportees are criminals, and their deportation causes massive suffering for their families and children, many of whom are U.S. citizens.

Bishop John D’Arcy of Lafayette, Ind., associate general secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, said it is immoral to deport people with the intent of removing their children from their homes.

"The ethical perspective of the faith response is that the act of deporting families is constitutively immoral," he said.

Jared L. Lander, assistant professor of social work at the University of Chicago, said that the reality is that deporting all immigrants is not feasible.

"We should be talking about deporting those who have committed crimes, not deporting those who travel for religious reasons or for family reasons," he said.

A panel presentation centered on the current state of immigration, with speakers outlining the difficulties of dealing with the problem and the need for change at both the local and national levels.

"A comprehensive plan would mean more than deporting the undocumented," said Fr. Francis J. Callahan, director of the Immigration Task Force at the University of Notre Dame.

"A comprehensive plan would mean recognizing the fact that people are human beings who deserve respect and compassion," he said.

The conference also discussed the importance of education and awareness in addressing the issue of immigration.

"It is crucial that we educate ourselves and others about the reality of immigration," said Mary Cahill, executive director of the Center for Migration Policy.

"We must understand that immigration is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach," she said.

The conference concluded with a call to action, urging attendees to take steps to support immigrants and advocate for policies that promote fairness and justice.

Jobs Box

Safe Environment Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator to work in the Archdiocese’s Safe Environment Programs consistent with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter). The position is part-time, requiring approximately 18 hours per week. The position is available to work from home and includes competitive compensation.

Position responsibilities may include:

- Preparing presentations and conducting trainings on child safety
- Providing support and resources to parishes, schools, and other Catholic entities
- Working with local and national organizations to promote safe environments
- Collaborating with other Archdiocesan professionals to implement Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs

Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in a related field
- Strong communication skills
- Experience in child protection or related field
- Familiarity with Catholic principles and teachings

For more information, please contact Mary Cahill at 405-596-6500 or mcahill@archok.org.

Holiday Meal on Tap at Parish

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bring the whole family to an evening of holiday hilarity as Sister’s Christmas Catechism: “Mystery of the Magi's Gold” comes to Christ the King Catholic Church on Sunday, Dec. 2. The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 5 p.m. in the school gym, located at 2507 E. Main St., and conclude with a musical performance at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $85 per person. For more information, contact Jayne Clark at 405-242-4511, or jayneclark@archok.org.

Parish to Host Advent Mission

CCHICKASHA — Mother Arnold will lead the Advent Parish Mission at Holy Name Parish on Saturday, Dec. 1. The theme of the mission will be “Catholic Myth-Busting: Defending the Faith Against Common Errors and Misconceptions.”

Arnold is a lay Roman Catholic speaker and EWTN television personality who has produced dozens of Catholic audio and video presentations that have been distributed worldwide.

Arnold’s combination of historical knowledge and entertaining style will leave attendees with a like perspective got him involved. “You’ve heard this, you’ve heard that, and you’re just thinking ‘what the heck?”

The event is free, although a donation will be appreciated and lunch will be provided. To pre-register to ensure there is sufficient food, contact the parish at holynameoffice@archok.org or call 405-707-204-6066.
JOE DUBROV at 830-8688.
19 Catherine of Siena
Performance. Bishop John Carroll School will be hosting Catherine of Siena, A Woman for Our Times, in the Connor Center. Tickets are $40 for advance and $50 at the door. For tickets, contact Carolyn Waldine at (405) 850-5887, or createlive@diocese-
oklahoma.com. Seating is limited. This is an adult event.
24 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance from 7 to 11 p.m., with mixer and mingle from 7 to 8 p.m. Snacks are welcome. For further information, contact Al Froys at 618-5980.
25 Bingo at St. James Church, 44th and South McKinley Avenue. Food and beverages will be served at 6:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games are $10. A Magnavox 37-inch flat-screen TV will be given away and all players get an entry into the drawing.
20 Mount Coffee with the
Principal. 8:45 a.m. Learn more about MSM. Call the school for more information, (405) 624-9885.
50th Anniversary Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 800 N.W. 5th St. More Archbishop Paul Cooley will celebrate the Mass at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
20 Chapel of the Divine Mercy.
Due to Thanksgiving, Chaplet with Adoration from 7 to 8 p.m., at St. Joseph Old Cathedral, 407 N.W. 4th St., Oklahoma City.

Development Director
Christ the King Catholic School and Church is seeking an Advancement/Development Director. This position reports directly to the school principal and pastor. The director is responsible for design, implementation and management of the development program. This is to be achieved through coordination and relationships with school administration, the Parent Teacher Organization, alumni, parishioners and greater community. More details about the position may be found at http://www.ckokc.org/development.

Interested parties should submit a resume and letter of interest to Karen Carter, Principal, Christ the King Catholic School, 1905 E. Kingfisher Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120.

Fiancée/Organist Needed
Holy Spirit, Mustang. We are in search of a pianist/organist with knowledge of the Roman Catholic liturgy to provide musical accompaniment at Saturday evening Mass in English at 5 p.m., Sunday Masses in English at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish. In addition, this person is to conduct their practice in English on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and in Spanish on Thursday evenings at the same time. For further information and discussion of salary, please contact Father Jim Greiner at 376-9435.

Part-Time Child-Care Jobs
Christ the King Catholic Church, located in Nichols Hills, is seeking part-time child-care workers for the parish nursery. If you have a nurturing spirit and genuinely like interacting with people, especially children, we would like to have you join us. Flexible hours, wonderful environment, supportive staff. Perfect for college students and retirees. For more information, please contact Jenni Bath at (405) 843-4786, or jennis@okc.edu.
SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University has revealed renovation plans for earthquake-damaged Benedictine Hall.

In a ceremony that took place Nov. 3 as part of the university’s homecoming celebration, St. Gregory’s President Greg Main announced the school has secured the $4.7 million needed for the first phase of Benedictine Hall’s centennial restoration and expects the project to begin around the first of the year.

The university also revealed the architectural renderings depicting what Benedictine Hall will look like following restoration. Improvements include weatherproofing and waterproofing the building, repairing brick work and tuckpointing, replacing the roof and windows and rebuilding the four iconic turrets that were lost to the 5.6 magnitude earthquake that occurred on Nov. 5, 2011.

More than 3,200 benefactors provided $2.6 million for the restoration. The balance of the funds needed will come from state and federal tax credits due to Benedictine Hall’s status as a National Historic Landmark and the university’s intention to restore the building’s historic character.

St. Gregory’s also has outlined plans for a second phase of construction that includes restoring Benedictine Hall’s main lobby and renovating student and staff lounges and offices. The university expects to raise an additional $950,000 for this phase of restoration.

“We are ready to move forward,” Main said of the project. “The can-do spirit and good humor our campus community displayed in the days following the earthquake set us on the right course, and together we converted a crisis into a turning point.

“Benedictine Hall will be 100 years old in 2015. We hope to have this project completed in time for its centennial celebration.”

Located at 1900 W. MacArthur St., St. Gregory’s was founded in 1875 and is home to a community of students, educators and monks dedicated to lifelong learning and faith development. Further information regarding SGU can be found at www.stgregorys.edu.