The Advent Wreath

The origins of the advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. By the Middle Ages, Christians used wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath. The wreath itself is usually made of pine or cedar sprigs which are drawn into a circle symbolizing God’s eternity. Affixed to the wreath are four candles — three purple and one rose or pink, which are lit one on each of the four Sundays. The rose candle anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice (Latin, Gaudete). For this reason the Third Sunday is also called Gaudete Sunday, and rose-colored vestments are often used. Sometimes a fifth white candle is placed in the center of the circle and is lit on Christmas Eve. The wreath has always been a sign of glory and victory while the light from the candles, gradually increasing every week, symbolically dispels the darkness. As the candles burn, they visibly mark the passing of time until Christmas Day.
The Good News

Homily, Ordination of Deacons
Cathedral of Our Lady
November 6, 2009

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is with great joy that I welcome all of you here to Our Lady’s Cathedral for this ordination ceremony of permanent deacons.

The history of the diaconate begins in the New Testament Scripture. The Apostles (The Twelve), impelled by a crisis, called together the early Church community and said: “Select seven reputable men to assist us.” When the seven were selected, they brought them before the Apostles who prayed over them and imposed hands on them. Thus the Order of Deacon was established.

Here tonight, the archdiocesan community and the staff of our diaconate program bring me not just seven men of good repute — but 12! How blessed are we, the Church of this Archdiocese. How grateful we all should be to Almighty God.

How good and gracious God is to gather us here together tonight for this sacred rite of ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Let us rejoice, give Him thanks and praise Him forever!

As I look out over this crowded cathedral, I cannot help but thank God for the great blessings He bestows on the Church of our Archdiocese. Therefore, I congratulate you, 12 chosen men of faith, for having heard and followed God’s call to become deacons. Also, I congratulate you, the wives of these candidates. During the course of your husband’s preparation for the diaconate, I have come to know you better. I realize that your inspiration, encouragement and support enabled your work to persuade the Senate to follow the example of the House and include these critical safeguards in their version of health care reform legislation. We also thank the members of the House who took this courageous and principled step to oppose measures that would force Americans to pay for the destruction of unborn children, and the Democratic leadership for allowing the representatives to vote on this amendment that protects the common good.

In the national discussion on how to provide the best kind of health care, we bishops do not claim or present ourselves as experts on health care policy. We are not prepared to assess every provision of legislation as complex as this proposal. However, health care legislation, with all of its political, technical and economic aspects, is about human beings and hence has serious moral dimensions. Our focus is on the reality of families with children, the poor and the elderly, the mother carrying a child in her womb, those with limited or no means of access to doctors. Our Catholic commitment to health care picks up the pieces of our failing system in our emergency rooms, clinics, parishes and communities. All this undergirds our commitment that our nation’s health care system needs reform which protects human life and dignity and serves the poor and vulnerable: as a moral imperative and an urgent national priority.

We remain deeply concerned about the debate that now moves to the Senate, especially as it will affect the poor and vulnerable, and those at the beginning and end of life. We will continue to insist that health care reform legislation must protect conscience rights. We support measures to make health care more affordable for low-income people and the uninsured. We remain deeply concerned that immigrants be treated fairly and not lose the health care coverage that they now have. We will continue to raise our voices in public and in prayer; we ask our people to join us in making the moral case for genuine health care reform that protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all.

Sincerely,
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
President

I challenge you to be men of prayer, men of zeal, men of integrity. This you shall do by humble, faithful service which recognizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the only valid foundation for ministry in the Church.

continued on page 3
Homily

continued from page 2
husband to come to this moment of ordination. Thank you and God bless you.

To the parents, the children and other relatives of these deacon candidates and to their pastors, I say “thank you” for your roles of support and prayer.

Before we proceed with the ordination ceremony then, let us reflect on the Gospel which you yourselves selected for this ordination Mass.

While Jesus frequently used words to teach, He also taught by action and example. Instead of a long dissertation on the power of God, He restored to life Lazarus who had died, the widow’s son who had died and the centurion’s daughter who had also died. He showed compassion for the 5,000 people who gathered on the Mount of Beatitude to hear Him. When told that the people were hungry, He blessed the few loaves of bread and fish and fed everyone with more left over than He began with! When challenged because He forgave the sins of the paralytic, Jesus reached down, took his arm and raised him up healed.

It is no wonder, therefore, that when Jesus wanted to teach His Apostles about true service and ministry, He used actions and examples as well as words. Earlier and very clearly, He had said: “I have come to serve and not to be served.” In tonight’s Gospel, after washing the feet of His Apostles, He asks: “Do you realize what I have done for you?” He reminds them that while He is their Teacher and indeed their Master, which they acknowledged by calling Him Teacher and Master, He still reached out humbly and washed their feet. Jesus then said: “I have given you a model to follow so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, Amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the One Who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.”

The diaconate, from its very inception, has always been identified as a service of ministry. Not a service of gain or honor but a service of charity and love. It is a ministry that flows from the love of God or, as Saint Paul says: “The love of Christ drives us on.” This love of Christ urges us and fills us with zeal, for indeed the one who truly loves God also loves his neighbor.

A man, responding to the Call of Christ and of the Church to become a deacon, must be a man of service. His service must be humbly and zealously performed. If anyone ever lacks this humility and zeal, it will be evident that love and charity have been extinguished in his heart. The humble, zealous man desires and strives to make God better known, loved and served.

Tonight, you 12 men come here humbly and with zeal. Compelled by the love of God and the support of your families and the Church of this Archdiocese, you offer yourselves as ministers of service. I will accept your offer of service and pray over you, impose my hands upon you and ordain you deacons of the Church. But I must also remind you that the diaconate is not an end in itself. The diaconate does not magically transform you. Just as in the beginning of the Church, the Apostles sought reputable men to assist them in ministry and service, so do I tonight. And, like Apostles, in calling you to service, I challenge you to be men of prayer, men of zeal, men of integrity. This you shall do by humble, faithful service which recognizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the only valid foundation for ministry in the Church. May every single one of you walk safely and securely on your pilgrimage of faith to life everlasting in heaven.

In that mutual assurance of faith, we can now proceed with your ordination.

May God bless you always.

A Brief Look at the Main Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

From the USCCB Web site

The Church’s social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar and episcopal documents. This tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight key themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society — in economics and politics, in law and policy — directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that “if you want peace, work for justice.” The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God’s Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

This summary should only be a starting point. For a copy of the complete text of Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions (No. 5-281) and other social teaching documents, call 1-800-235-8722.
Dozens Offer Prayers for Success of New Church to Be Built in Oklahoma County

Father Howard Remski led about 75 people into a field in far northwest Oklahoma County on a cloudless Oklahoma day and blessed the 10 acres that will be home to a new Latin Community Church.

The yet to be named church will be built adjacent to the old Saint Patrick's Cemetery on Sorghum Mill Road, between Council and County Lind Road. The church, to be built by Clear Creek Construction of Oklahoma City, will measure 8,200 square feet. A 1,200-square-foot rectory will also be built on the land, as will a parish hall.

With Father Robert Ferguson con-celebrating, Father Remski celebrated a Latin Mass in the cemetery prior to the groundbreaking. Following Mass, the priests led the congregation through rough pastureland to the site for the new church.

Archbishop Beltran will name the new church, Father Remski told the parishioners. The Latin community has been celebrating Mass in Bethany. Construction on the new church is scheduled to be complete by mid-April.

Retirement Center to Expand Room For Activities

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Ann Retirement Center broke ground Nov. 6 on an expansion of the activities room. The expansion will triple the current space for activities, adding a movie theater and a dance floor. The new addition will be just to the north of the main entrance. Construction is expected to be complete by March of 2010.

Vendors Sought For School Market

GUTHRIE — St. Mary's School Holiday Market is set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 19. The Holiday Market invites handmade artisans in many categories: jewelry, clothing, pottery, fine art, toys, bath and beauty, candles, paper goods, woodworking and more to come be a part of this event. We love all things handmade, and we look forward to seeing your work! We also welcome small-business owners and community groups to the market.

Application submission deadline is Dec. 16. St. Mary's School is located at the corner of Warner Avenue and Oak. Booth space is available for $25 per booth (approximately 10x10 foot space), tables are available for $10 each. Please mail application and check (payable to St. Mary’s School) to St. Mary’s School, Attn: Pam Bradley, 502 E. Warner Ave., Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone 282-2071, fax 282-2924, e-mail bbradley7@cox.net.
Annual Mount Event Tops $70,000 to Benefit Students

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 300 parents, alumni, faculty, board of trustees, corporate sponsors and friends gathered together for the annual Magic at The Mount, a dinner and auction that raises money to advance the mission of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. This year’s event was held at the new Embassy Suites in Norman.

The event included impressive items generously donated by various members of The Mount family that were available at both the silent and live auction. The evening was highlighted by a Dutch auction raising approximately $7,000 that will assist the band and drama programs at the school. This year’s Magic at The Mount generated more than $70,000 in net profits that will benefit the students at Mount St. Mary.

“Our goal this year was to continue the tradition of providing our constituents with a world-class event. Not only were we able to provide them with a special evening, but we worked diligently to cut costs while still increasing revenues,” said Tonya Averyt, Mount St. Mary Director of Special Events. “This strategy increased our profits by $20,000 over last year’s auction. I especially want to thank our committed and dedicated volunteer committee who went above and beyond the call of duty to make the evening special.” The committee was chaired by Brian and Theresa Bigham (’72) Smith. Other key persons included David and Kim Pickens, Dede Bennett, Kim Rice (’85) McKee, Charlotte Chadderdon and Caroline Jeffreys.

“Having this year’s auction at the new Embassy Suites created an air of excitement and electricity,” said Mount Principal Talita DeNegri. “Our guests were eager to support The Mount, and the generosity in the room helped us to exceed our expectations. I am extremely proud of our Mount community — parents, students, alumni and corporate sponsors. It was a great evening to showcase our school mission and our school family.”

Enid Parish Describes Great Impact Made by CFO Grant

The Catholic Foundation Grant Program provides funds for different programs in churches and schools of the Archdiocese each year through the awarding of a grant. This year we had 44 applications competing for $70,000. Below is the story of one of our recent winners of a 2010 grant and how they are using their gift.

In receiving the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Grant called “Sunday Software” at St. Gregory’s in Enid, we feel we can impact the youth of our parish by more fully engaging them in the study of the Bible. The expected outcome of the project is more knowledge of the Bible by our youth and a renewed and revitalized interest in attending Religious Education classes on Sunday. It has been said that the use of computers in the religious education of our children is like the lesson of Pentecost. That is, we must speak the language of the hearer. We have to teach God’s Word in a way that engages the children and we feel technology is one very significant way to do that.

Our computer classroom at St. Gregory’s is part of a rotation model that emphasizes multi-dimensional learning for children rather than the traditional classroom model. In this model the children study a Bible lesson or doctrine lesson using a variety of media (art, storytelling, cooking, games, theater and computer) over several weeks by moving to a different classroom. As examples, the storytelling classroom is painted with the story of the Sermon on the Mount and the children sit on pillows at a low table for their instruction. The art room is called a Marketplace and is decorated with a scene from Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and so on.

This grant will help to fund the ever-expanding, ever-exciting and ever-expensive software for our computer lab called MYSPACE@GOD.COM. The purchased CDs will enable our kids to delve into Bible stories from the Creation to Christmas Story to the Passion. We are excited about the use of technology to help build the faith foundation of our youth and thank the Catholic Foundation for this opportunity.

Allison Aholt
DRE, St. Gregory’s in Enid
Mooreland’s Sacred Heart Church Celebrates Construction of New Hall

MOORELAND — Sacred Heart Mission Church celebrated completion of a new building to serve as their parish hall. The event included a dinner and shower for the new building on Oct. 24.

The 14-month project created a beautiful building measuring 30 feet by 60 feet. The construction budget was set at $80,000 and donations came from Catholics as well as non-Catholics in the Mooreland area, as well as supporters located throughout the U.S. The drive began in April of 2008 and by the July 4 holiday that year, the funds were in place.

The dedication for the new building came on June 27 this past summer. Archbishop Beltran blessed and dedicated the building and was assisted by Father Scott Boeckman and Father Nallapatti Thomas. Approximately 50 parishioners took part in the celebration.

“We are proud of our facility and appreciative of all who made donations, including many from sister Missions Buffalo and Shattuck and St. Peter Catholic Church in Woodward,” said Tim Schnoebelen, member of the parish hall building committee.

Schnoebelen said that Mooreland parishioners had been renting the town’s Senior Citizens Center and occasionally the fellowship hall of the local United Methodist Church for monthly potluck dinners, funeral dinners and other functions for several years.

“We just felt we needed something of our own and the entire parish responded to our request for help,” Schnoebelen said.

Numerous gift items and cash for the hall were brought in by those who attended the shower.

Catholic Charities Offers Faith Community Nursing Preparation Courses

The Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing Resource Center is offering an opportunity for registered nurses to integrate their healthcare experience and their personal faith. A Faith Community Nurse Basic Preparation Course is planned for Jan. 28-30 and Feb. 11-13 at Our Lady of the Lake in Guthrie. Participants must attend both weekends.

“This is the 12th year of offering the course for registered nurses,” said Marilyn Seiler, faculty coordinator and manager of the Faith Community Nursing Resource Center. “Many nurses gain personal and emotional satisfaction from Faith Community Nursing. Not only do they feel they have answered a calling to a ministry, but they continue to learn through their clients and their congregation.

By combining faith, knowledge, compassion and professionalism, Faith Community Nurses become a bridge between the challenges of medicine and the solidarity of their faith.”

According to Seiler, Faith Community Nurses not only improve their professional and spiritual lives, they also aid members of a church congregation in coping with various health conditions as well as answering questions they may have about their health. They provide assistance with health promotion, offer referral and advocacy, make home, hospital and nursing home visits, coordinate volunteers and assist with parishioners’ spirituality. “The overall goal of each Faith Community Nurse is to improve wellness in body, mind and spirit of congregation members and to continue the healing ministry of the church.”

Catholic Charities’ program is an educational partner with the International Parish Nurse Resource Center in St. Louis and uses the standard curriculum that was developed by that organization with a most recent revision in 2009. The course meets published requirements for basic Faith Community Nurse Education by the American Nurses Association. Catholic Charities is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is approved for 34 contact hours. Kansas State Board of Nursing provider number is SP1098-0710.

The course is open to registered nurses of all faith traditions. The course will include faculty members who are local Faith Community Nurses and community leaders with expertise in theology, ethics, legal, counseling, community resources and education. The course structure will consist of lectures, discussion, class activities and some independent study. Class highlights will include history and philosophy of Faith Community Nursing, church culture and leadership, standards of practice, documentation of practice, health promotion and self-care, suffering, grief and loss issues, ethics, spirituality of all ages, family dynamics, emotional wellness and spiritual wellness. The course will conclude with a dedication service.

“What began in the early 1990s with two part-time nurses hired by Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa,” Seiler said, “has evolved into a statewide training and resource center for more than 200 nurses representing approximately 15 denominations.” The statewide training program began in 1999 and has trained over 160 nurses.

Registration is limited to 20 participants for the course. Tuition, which includes all materials, meals and lodging for the entire course, is $650 which includes a $75 nonrefundable deposit. Registration closes Jan. 4, 2010.

If you are interested in more information, call Seiler, education coordinator, at (405) 334-1630 or e-mail mjsjuly@yahoo.com. Nurses who would like more information or churches interested in introducing this program may call (405) 523-3006 or online at www.fcnaok.org.
Saint Gregory Church Celebrates Priest’s 40th Anniversary

By Candace Krebs
For the Sooner Catholic

ENID — Father Larry Kowalski has served as priest of St. Gregory The Great Parish for 13 years, longer than any other in its history. On Nov. 1, a grateful congregation helped him celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination with a special dinner and gift presentation.

More than 200 filled the parish hall, including friends he made during earlier assignments. Out-of-town visitors David and Carol Martin of Lawton recalled that Father Kowalski officiated at their marriage in 1982. Carol Martin said what was most meaningful to her was “the way he welcomes everybody. He is open and welcoming and nonjudgmental.”

Marty Sohl, who also made the trip from Lawton, said, “I think he’s a real priest of the people. He’s the real deal. He’s always been my favorite priest of all time.”

Father Kowalski was ordained in 1969 at Blessed Sacrament Church in Lawton and served for six years as the associate pastor there. He spent a brief stint as a pastor in Alva and then taught religion at Mount St. Mary’s High School in Oklahoma City, where he was also a chaplain. He later had pastoral assignments at Sterling/Elgin/Apache, Holy Family of Lawton and Pauls Valley, before joining St. Gregory’s in June 1996.

In interviews, parishioners shared favorite highlights of what Father Kowalski has contributed to the parish. Michael Marlow noted that youth programs blossomed under his leadership. “Everything we’ve asked him about or ideas we’ve given him, he’s always had thoughtful input that made it a little better,” Marlow said, citing most recently an adopt-a-scout program that ensures opportunities are available to any child, regardless of financial means.

“Our students like religious education classes so much they bring their friends here from other churches,” Marlow added.

During his tenure, Father Kowalski helped the church start its own Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, which are thriving, and was involved with the community’s reopening of St. Joseph’s Catholic School.

One of the reflections Father Kowalski shared with the parish was that when his mother flew out from the East Coast for his ordination ceremony 40 years ago, the first thing she said when she met him at the airport was to exclaim that his sister, Pat might be pregnant. That joy for new life and the promise it represents stayed with him. Over the years, he said he has taken special pleasure in blessing infants, many still in the womb, as well as performing various youth ceremonies including baptisms and first communion, and teaching religious education classes.

Several parishioners mentioned the feeling of closeness Father Kowalski had fostered at the church. “He’s facilitated fellowship among his parishioners,” observed Brenda Sidwell. “We feel like we’re family.”

Father Kowalski attributes his emphasis on the importance of kindness, hospitality and willingness to accept God’s love to crucial experiences during his seminary training, including teaching at two inner city schools in Baltimore and spending time among the Mayan descendants who lived isolated in the mountains of Southern Mexico.

“I began then to question if all I was considering — all the fine little things about doing the Mass exactly right, dotting the Ts and crossing the Is — was the important thing about our faith, or carrying the love to these people,” he related. “It made me decide on a whole new set of values for the way our faith was to be spelled out.”

He also adopted a confessional style of preaching that relied heavily on sharing his own personal challenges and the continual need to be connected with an experience of God’s love. In particular, he often cites the time early in his career when he bottomed out as an alcoholic and how honest sharing with others helped him to achieve and maintain lasting sobriety. “I preach that way, because that’s how the sober alcoholics helped me,” he explained.

“They didn’t ask me about me, they told me about themselves, and I knew they understood. If I can show things from my life, or the life of friends of mine, that will illustrate that no matter how far down people have gone, God is there bouncing them back up, then I’m thrilled.”

His message often strikes a chord with those in the pews. “In every homily, there’s wisdom I can directly apply for use in my own life,” said parishioner Tim DeClerck.

Over the course of his priesthood, Father Kowalski began to integrate a strong teaching element into the liturgy, explaining the context and meaning of the church readings in the form of “sermonettes” given throughout the Mass. In addition, his RCIA classes have been popular with lifelong Catholics who have a thirst to learn more about their faith as well as with individuals who have never been exposed to any formal religious practice.

A native of Hazleton, Pa., with an older brother and a younger sister, Father Kowalski never misses a chance to root for his beloved Penn State football team. It’s something his parishioners kid him about.

“I’m a Penn State fan, not because of the football team,” Father Kowalski said. “We barely had winning seasons when I was there. But I got a superb education. I was in honors courses and was forced to think and ask questions. And that has helped me so much in my priesthood.”

He credits his lifelong love of learning to a nun who praised his work in seventh grade. “I zapped onto learning and have never let go,” Father Kowalski said. “I’ve given away to St. Gregory’s University easily 50 to 70 boxes of Scripture commentary. And still have some left over.”

Father Kowalski used the occasion to express great appreciation for his talented church staff over the years as well as the spiritual directors and mentors within the church who played a formative role in his life. In addition, he credited many caring friends who helped him remain sober for the last 37 of his 40 years as a priest. He gave special recognition to two mentors he had at Lawton during the last year of his seminary training: Father Bill Garthoeffner, who he credits with “stretching my mind into new areas,” and Father Dave Imming, who “showed me the beauty of preaching.”

He concluded, “I’m a priest because of candles burning on the altar.”

“I had gone to the University of Wisconsin on a fellowship, a wonderful fellowship to study under the greatest authority in the country in the field I wanted — constitutional law. Because of the fellowship, I was living in the faculty house. Four places down was the Newman Chapel. I was just a so-so Catholic at the time. I never missed weekend Mass, but that was it.”

One afternoon as he passed by, he paused to step inside the chapel and noticed that the candles were burning, signaling that a ceremony was about to begin.

He stayed for the 5 o’clock Mass, and within two weeks he was certain he had found his vocation. He transferred to St. Mary’s University and Seminary in Baltimore, and from then his desire to be a priest never left him.

He draws inspiration from the inscription on his ordination holy card: “Easter is a reality to be lived, not a victory to be celebrated.”
OKLAHOMA CITY — Mary Fahy, right, of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, takes in the works of German artist Werner Ritter. The Catholic Pastoral Center hosted an exhibit of the artist's beautiful works. The exhibit, "Aggiornamento: Faith a Treasured Gift From God" featured large format color lithography on canvas of Christian symbols. The exhibit ran from Nov. 10-15. On the final day, Robert Waldrop, music director for Church of the Epiphany, presented a piano concert. The event was made possible by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores.

Father Roberto Quant, left, visits with German artist Werner Ritter during the exhibit at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Sooner Catholic Photos/Cara Koenig.

Archbishop Beltran was greeted warmly during his visit to the pre-kindergarten class at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon. Photo/courtesy
Deacon Ordination

Dennis Fine kneels as Archbishop Beltran lays hands on him.

William Hough holds the Book of Gospels as Archbishop Beltran instructs him.

Top: Each new deacon is greeted by the archbishop, then by fellow deacons in attendance. Pictured are Terence Rice, Forest Simpson and William Thurman. Above: Tran Nguyen presents her husband, Kha, with his vestments surrounded by his classmates, William Thurman, Michael Romanka and Dan Lombardi. Photos by Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic
Thomas E. Biles

Thomas E. Biles, 65, and his wife, Anne, have a daughter, Angela Beauchamp, two sons, Steven and Michael, and five grandchildren. Thomas graduated from Cameron University and is self-employed as an auto and heavy machinery technician. At his parish, he is involved with Adult Education, serves as a Eucharistic minister, lector, Religious Education teacher and belongs to the Men's Club. Thomas is also active in the “Coming Home” program and visits the sick and shut-ins. Biles will be assigned to Saint Ann Church, Elgin.

Deacon Biles was vested by
Father Prakash Madineni and
Deacon Jerome Caplinger

Dennis D. Fine

Dennis D. Fine, 58, and his wife, Anne, have a son, Benjamin, and a daughter, Sarah. He graduated from Oklahoma State University and is an analytical chemist for Shaw Environmental at the EPA Research Laboratory. Parish ministries he is involved with are altar server formation, adult Religious Education facilitator, RCIA instructor and team member and Communion minister to the sick. He also visits Catholic inmates at the Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington. He brings the men Holy Communion once a month and helps with a Faith Sharing Meeting. Fine will be assigned to Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Ada.

Deacon Fine was vested by
Father Rusty Hewes and Deacon Michael Radosevich

William A. Hough

William A. Hough, 55, and his wife, Geri, have two sons, John and Steven, and a daughter, Pamela. Hough graduated from SWOSU and is currently involved in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry Program. At his parish he is involved with marriage preparation, Religious Education and RCIA. His areas of interest include St. Vincent DePaul Society and serving as a Communion minister to the ill. Hough will be assigned to Saint Mary Church, Clinton.

Deacon Hough was vested by
Father Rex Arnold and Deacon Pedro Maldonado

Richard L. Boothe II

Dr. Richard L. Boothe, II, 59, and his wife, Toby, have three daughters, Ashley Minnich, Brooke Henderson and Chelsea Hicks, and eight grandchildren. He graduated from the University of Arkansas and is currently serving as Chief of Staff and Chief Academic Officer at Saint Anthony Hospital. Dr. Boothe is a family physician. Parish ministries he is involved with include marriage preparation, Communion minister, lector and social ministries. He also is involved in marriage preparation classes, working with engaged and married couples. He has taught adult formation, including the topics of Medical Ethics, Sanctity of Life Issues, Sacramental Marriage and Catholic Apologetics and has served on medical missions. Booth will be assigned to Christ the King Catholic Church, OKC.

Deacon Boothe was vested by
Father Rick Stansberry and Deacon Jim Smith

Thomas O. Goldsworthy

Thomas O. Goldsworthy, 64, and his wife, Sandy, have a daughter, Michele, three sons, Jim, Mark and Chris, and nine grandchildren. He has degrees from Florida State University, Oklahoma City University and the University of Central Oklahoma. Goldsworthy has served in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a special agent in the FBI. He is currently the president and CEO of Fremont Exploration Inc. Parish ministries Goldsworthy is involved with are RCIA, Religious Education for kindergarten and preschool, wake services, Eucharist for homebound and parish commissions. He also visits the ill in the parish. Goldsworthy will be assigned to Saint Eugene Church, OKC.

Deacon Goldsworthy was vested by
Father Joseph Jacobi and Deacon Bill Bawden

Daniel M. Lombardi

Daniel M. Lombardi, 55, and his wife, Suzan, have two daughters, Machalla Holas and Niki Beck, and three grandchildren. Lombardi has a degree from Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Golden Gate University and the University of Northern Colorado. Lombardi served for 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and he is currently employed at General Electric Aviation. Parish ministries Lombardi is involved with are the youth program, Confirmation instructor/host family, marriage preparation and men’s group facilitator. His areas of interest are marriage preparation, volunteering at Sister BJ’s Pantry, and youth ministry. Lombardi will be assigned to Saint John Nepomuk Church, Yukon.

Deacon Lombardi was vested by
Father William Novak and Deacon John Teague
Kha D. Nguyen

Kha D. Nguyen, 60, and his wife, Tran, have 12 children. He is a self-employed electrician. Parish ministries Nguyen is involved with are RCIA, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and visiting the sick. His areas of interest are Religious Education and being a Vietnamese program leader. Nguyen will be assigned to Saint Andrew Dung Lac Church, OKC.

Ty V. Nguyen

Ty V. Nguyen, 64, and his wife, Anna Lap Pham, have three daughters, Tuyet-Trinh, Anh Thu and Amelia Thanh, two sons, Tin Trung and Victor, and four grandchildren. For seven years Nguyen was a prisoner in a communist concentration camp in Vietnam. In 1993, he and his family came to Oklahoma as refugees. Nguyen serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, RCIA director, and is a member of Legio Mariae of St. Andrew Dung Lac. He also visits the sick and comforts the elderly and families in need. Nguyen will be assigned to Saint Andrew Dung Lac Church, OKC.

Terrance R. Rice

Terrance R. Rice, 62, and his wife, Barbara, have a daughter, Rebecca Veiga, two sons, John and Chris, and two grandchildren. Rice has a degree in industrial arts and has a FAA commercial airplane and helicopter pilot’s license. Rice visits the sick, homebound, and those in rest homes and hospitals. He instructs Religious Education and is involved in working with youth. He also works in adult education-Bible study, as well as with prayer groups and continuing education. Rice will be assigned to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher.

Michael J. Romaka

Michael J. Romaka, 55, and his wife, Susan, have a daughter, Camille, a son, Chris, and five grandchildren. He graduated from Cameron University in Lawton and is currently in the Pastoral Ministry program. Romaka served in the U.S. Army for 24 years and teaches Army Junior ROTC at Lawton High School. Parish ministries Romaka is involved with are adult education, RCIA, Hispanic ministry and visiting the sick and homebound. He also works with the poor and underprivileged in the Lawton/Fort Sill area, including prison ministry. Romaka will be assigned to Holy Family Church, Lawton.

Forrest E. Simpson

Forrest E. Simpson, 52, and his wife, Becky, have a daughter, Kate McDaniel, and two sons, Luke and Jake. He graduated from Oklahoma State University and has been a high school and middle school math teacher for 18 years. Parish ministries Simpson is involved with are Confirmation preparation, visiting the homebound and the Stewardship committee. He also serves as a Communion minister for the homebound and works with youth. Simpson will be assigned to Saint Patrick Church, OKC.

William T. Thurman

William T. Thurman, 58, and his wife, Denise, have three daughters, Stephanie McLeod, Brandy Osterberger and Ashley Aguilar, as well as two sons, Jacob and Josh, and four grandchildren. Thurman has a degree in mechanical engineering technology and Pastoral Ministry and has been a general contractor for 29 years. Parish ministries Thurman is involved with are a lector, Communion minister and mission coordinator. He is also involved with Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, serving meals at the Salvation Army and prison ministry. Thurman will be assigned to Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee.
Buenas Noticias...

...Ordenación Diaconal

Homilía en ocasión a la Ordenación de los 12 Diáconos de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, la cual fue efectuada el 6 de noviembre del 2009 en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro.

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Con mucha alegría les doy la bienvenida a todos ustedes aquí en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro para esta ceremonia de ordenación de Diáconos.

La historia del diaconado comenzó en el Nuevo Testamento cuando los doce Apóstoles, impulsa-

dos por una crisis, llamaron juntos a la reciente comunidad Eclesiástica y dijeron: "No es justo que descuidemos el ministerio de la Palabra de Dios para ocuparnos de servir las mesas. Es preferible, hermanos, que busquen entre ustedes a siete hombres de buena fama, llenos del Espíritu Santo y de sabiduría, y nosotros los encargaremos esta tarea".

Y a una vez elegidos los siete hombres, estos fueron llevados frente a los Apóstoles quienes oraron e impusieron sus manos sobre ellos. De esta forma fue establecida la Ordenación Diaconal.

Esta noche, la comunidad Arquidiocesana y los miembros de nuestro programa de diaconado permanente me traen no sólo a siete hombres de buena reputación, sino a 12 hombres!

Que bendecidos estamos en la Iglesia de esta Arquidiócesis. Que agradecidos debemos estar con Dios Todopoderoso. Que bueno y bondadoso es Dios al reunirnos aquí en esta noche para celebrar este sagrado rito de Ordenación Diaconal.

Regocijémonos, demos el gracias a Dios y alabemoslo para siempre.

Mientras veo esta Catedral abarrotada, no puedo evitar agradecer a Dios por las grandes bendiciones otorgadas a la Iglesia de nuestra Arquidiócesis. Por lo tanto, felicito a estos doce hombres que fueron escogidos por su fe, por haber escuchado y seguido la llamada de Dios para convertirse en Diáconos.

Rev. Mons. Rubenino Bolivar
Arzobispo Metropolitano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

"Yo, en esta noche, tal como lo hicieron los Apóstoles, los llamo a servir, los desafío a ser hombres de bien, de oración, hombres de fervor, hombres de integridad".

También, deseo felicitar a las esposas de estos candidatos al diacono. Durante el curso de la preparación de sus esposos para el diacono, le pedí que conéctaran mejor. Comprendí que su inspiración, ánimo e ímpetu, posibilitó que sus esposos llegaran a este momento de ordenación. Gracias y que Dios las bendiga.

A los padres, a los hijos y demás familiares de estos candidatos al diacono, así como también a sus sacerdotes, les doy las gracias por su apoyo y oración en su desempeño.

Antes de proceder con la ceremonia de ordenación, quiero que reflexionemos con algunos aspectos de nuestro Evangelio que ustedes mismos han seleccionado para esta Misa.

Mientras Cristo frecuentemente utilizó palabras para enseñar, también enseñó con sus acciones y su ejemplo.

En lugar de una larga disertación sobre el poder de Dios, Jesús resucitó a Lázaro a los cuatro días de su muerte y sepultura, así como también a su hijo único de la viuda de Naín.

Cristo efectuó la sanación de la hija de Centurión. Jesús dio de comer a 5000 personas con sólo cinco panes y dos peces.

Jesús dio un sermón a multitudes en el Monte de las Bienaventuranzas.

Cristo sanó y perdonó los pecados de un paralítico. No hay ninguna sorpresa que Jesús quiera enseñar a sus Apóstoles todo sobre la verdad del servicio y del ministerio.

Cristo usó sus acciones y ejemplos como también sus palabras. Hace poco escuchamos que Cristo dijo: "Yo vine a servir, no a ser servido!

En el Evangelio de hoy escuchamos que Jesús después de haber lavado los pies a sus discípulos dijo: "¿Entienden lo que he hecho con ustedes? Ustedes me llaman Maestro y Senor, y dicen bien, porque lo soy. Pues si yo, el Senor y el Maestro, les ha lavado los pies, también ustedes deben lavarse los pies unos a los otros". Cristo les dio un ejemplo a sus discípulos.

El diaconado, desde su inicio, ha siempre sido identificado como un ministerio de servicio. No un servicio de ganancia o de honor, sino un servicio de caridad y amor.

El diaconado es un ministerio que se deriva del amor de Dios o como San Pablo dijo: "Me esfuerzo por correr para conquistar, habiendo sido yo también conquistado por Cristo Jesús".

Un hombre que responde a la llamada de Cristo y a la Iglesia para convertirse en Diácono, debe ser un hombre de servicio y su servicio debe ser hecho con humildad y celosamente realizado. Al no haber humildad y fervor, será evidente que el amor y la caridad están extinguidos del corazón.

El hombre humilde y ferviente de fe se esfuerza en dar a conocer lo mejor a Dios. El hombre que sirve como Diácono debe amar a Dios y servirle.

Esta noche, estos doce hombres vienen aquí con humildad y fervor. Llamados por el amor de Dios y apoyados por sus familiares y la Iglesia de esta Arquidiócesis, se están ofreciendo a sí mismos para servir en un ministerio.

Yo aceptaré su ofrecimiento de servicio y oraré por ustedes, impondré mis manos y los ordenaré como Diáconos de la Iglesia Católica. Pero antes de recordarles que el diaconado no es el único fin. El diaconado no los cambiará repentinamente.

De igual manera que al principio de la Iglesia, los Apóstoles buscaron hombres respetables para asistirles en el ministerio y servicio al pueblo de Dios.

Yo, en esta noche, tal como lo hicieron los Apóstoles, los llamo a servir, los desafío a ser hombres de bien, de oración, hombres de fervor, hombres de integridad.

Esto lo deben hacer con humildad y con un fiel compromiso. Ustedes harán su servicio reconociendo el amor de Dios y el amor al prójimo, para que de esta manera haya una única fundación válida para el ministerio.

Así entonces, ustedes pueden ir seguros y tranquilos en su peregrinaje de fe por esta vida para alcanzar vida eterna en el cielo. Con esta convicción de fe, ahora podemos proceder con su ordenación. Que Dios los bendiga ahora y siempre.
Fortaleciendo nuestra comprensión de la vida espiritual que debemos seguir
Novena Personal de Niño de Praga realizada en el Sagrado Corazón

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recientemente el Papa Benedicto XVI envió un mensaje a las familias del mundo para que sigamos con gran devoción la veneración de la imagen del Niño Jesús de Praga, conocida también como el Divino Niño, quien trae a las familias el don de la paz y la concordia.

En la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City existe el Santuario del Niño Jesús de Praga, justo en un pueblo que llama como nombre Praga a pocas millas de Oklahoma City. Una de las imágenes que se veneran en el Santuario de Praga de Oklahoma fue traída a la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón para que cientos de fieles participaran de una novena con el objetivo fundamental de orar y pedir por el cese de la violencia a nuestro prójimo por parte de personas sin escrúpulos. Cuando le oran al Divino Niño de Praga estamos pidiendo por todas las familias que están en dificultad, bien sea por la enfermedad y el dolor o por las que están en crisis, separadas o lacera-
das por la discordia y la infidelidad o por el debulque económico que ha dejado a millones de personas sin trabajo debido a una corrupción que socavó los cimientos de la sociedad en los últimos años. Como creyentes Católicos, aprendemos que el Niño Jesús de Praga, concede los favores solicitados, después de una novena de súplicas y oraciones recitadas en su honor. Además, cuando damos limosna a los pobres en su nombre honramos al Rey, al más gentil, misericordioso y poderoso de todos, a nuestro amado Dios. El Divino Niño descanse colmarnos de gracia, por lo tanto, venceremos, porque Él nos abrirá el tesoro de su bondad y amor.

Por cierto, en la historia del origen de la devoción al Niño Jesús de Praga, la congregación de Carmelitas Descalzas tuvo un desempeño muy importante. Fernando II, Emperador de Alemania, para manifestar su gratitud a Nuestro Señor por la inmensa paz alcanzada, fundó en 1620, en la ciudad de Praga, un convento de Padres Carmelitas. Para entonces, Europa estaba bajo un estado de total crisis y caos.

Tal fue el conflicto, que el monasterio Carmelita para que se protegiera de la guerra recibió una pequeña estatua de 48 centímetros, que representaba un hermoso Niño Dios, de pie, con la mano derecha levantada, en actitud de bendecir, mientras con la izquierda sostenía un globo dorado. Sin embargo, el monasterio Carmelita fue destruido por la guerra y a la estatua del Niño Jesús de Praga le fueron destruidas sus manos.

No obstante, por voluntad de Dios, el monasterio fue reconstruido y un Padre Carmelito llamado Cirilo, logró encontrar la imagen y reubicarla y desde entonces ha protegido a millones de personas de la violencia y ha traído una gran devoción alrededor del mundo. Cuando veneramos al Divino Niño de Praga, buscamos en Él la paz y la esperanza de un mundo mejor que nos proteja del odio, la violencia y la maldad.

El mensaje de esperanza del Niño de Praga nos hace reflexionar que podemos vivir momentos difíciles en la historia de nuestra humanidad, pero cuando tenemos fe en Dios, somos levantados de las cenizas y realimentados con su perdón, alegría y su amor para enramarnos a un mundo más santo. La devoción del Niño Jesús de Praga debe ser fuente de enriquecimiento espiritual.
Birth Choice ‘Miracles’ Help Expand Care for Women, Unborn

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — A little more than a year ago, the women who operate Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. admit they were more than a little nervous. Non-profits were being told the national economic turndown was going to hit them particularly hard. The Birth Choice powers-that-be were looking at having to make some very painful cuts. For an entity that deals in life and death, as does Birth Choice, protecting the bottom line takes on a whole different meaning.

But in the words of Barbara Chishko, local Birth Choice founder, “God provides, you step out in faith and He provides.”

That He did.

In April, Birth Choice held its annual banquet. A late spring snow threatened to cut into attendance, but once again, God smiled on Birth Choice and the weather cleared just before the big event. That evening Kathleen Eaton arrived from California where she formed Birth Choice chapters after having been helped by the Oklahoma City organization. Her testimony was real and from the heart. That evening, Birth Choice raised more than $262,000.

“The most we had ever raised before was about $60,000,” said Jan O’Neill, Birth Choice development director. “That evening people truly opened their hearts and their wallets.”

“God wants His babies to live,” is how Chishko explains the $200,000 jump in support.

A few months later, the women of Birth Choice received another “miracle.”

Dr. Mary Martin, an OBGYN, had moved her practice from Midwest City to Saint Anthony’s Family Medical Center. Dr. Martin is a strong supporter of Birth Choice. Through her efforts, Saint Anthony’s has established a pre-natal clinic at the Birth Choice center at 4701 S. Western.

Every Friday, Saint Anthony’s physicians volunteer their time and talent at the clinic, helping young women who are pregnant. The clinic is free to the uninsured. It opened in July and, according to Dr. Tabitha Danley, as many as eight to 10 pregnant women, as well as their unborn children, are attended to each week, and often it’s more.

“We’ve seen up to 12 to 16 in one day,” said O’Neill.

Dr. Danley called the pre-natal clinic “a true ministry” and said it has provided great support to the mothers and their unborn children. She said as word spreads, more expectant mothers are finding their way to the clinic. “There is a tremendous need,” Dr. Danley said.

Chishko said Birth Choice volunteers are praying that many more women will find their way to the new clinic.

“The clinic can take up the entire building,” Chishko said, waving her arms, offering the entire Birth Choice center. “We can move our offices out into the parking lot if we need to.”

The pre-natal clinic has given many college nursing students a look at the pro-life side of medicine. Ruth Blakely of Birth Choice said a number of these college nursing students assist regularly at the Birth Choice clinic in Oklahoma City as well as the one operated in Edmond.

Students from Oklahoma City Community College, OSU-OKC, Southern Nazarene, UCO, Langston and OU regularly help at the Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. centers as well as Rose Home, a home for unmarried pregnant women who have nowhere to turn. Many are teens who have been kicked out of their homes by non-supportive families.

“Women are told abortion will take care of everything, but you know what, women are still alone and still afraid,” said Chishko. “Abortion was supposed to take care of all the problems. It’s only made it worse.”

Chishko said Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. operates on an annual budget of $456,000. Last year more than 6,300 women were helped by the organization. Many of these women were abortion-minded when they entered, but after viewing an ultrasound of their unborn child, they chose life. The ultrasounds are provided free of charge by Birth Choice.

Chishko, Blakely and O’Neill said the service has helped save the lives of hundreds if not thousands of babies.

David Mendoza, son of Christina Mendoza, DRE at St. James the Greater, was the lucky winner of a 2010 Chevy Camero. David won the car from an online Dr. Pepper Sweepstakes. The car stickered at $29,000. He picked up his winning car from Marc Heitz Chevrolet on Oct. 23. Father Robert Wood blessed the car. Prior to the blessing, Father Wood announced to the congregation that David would be donating the car to the church for a raffle and there would be one provision — there be only one ticket in the raffle with Father Wood’s name on it! (Wishful thinking).
Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

22 **Pilgrimage Sunday,** Mass begins at 11 a.m., noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine is located at Saint Wenceslaus Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH99/377. Call (405) 567-3080 or e-mail www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

25 **Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western in OKC, every Wednesday beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. All are welcome.

29 **First Sunday of Advent**

**DECEMBER**

3 **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at Epiphany Parish in the chapel, every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Briton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

4 **Holy Family Home Mass,** 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMH at 741-7419.

4 **First Friday Adoration** at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

4 **First Friday Sacred Heart Mass** at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

5 **St. James School Annual Arts and Crafts Show.** There will be a bake sale, a raffle, a wonderful lunch and snacks to enjoy. St. James is located at 4201 S. McKinley Ave., Oklahoma City.

6 **Second Sunday of Advent**

8 **Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation**

8 **Catholic War Veterans** (of any war/conflict) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

9 **Catholic War Veterans USA.** Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

13 **Third Sunday of Advent**

17-25 **Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus.** During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday through Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

19 **Catholic Singles Dance** at Saint Charles Borromeo Church, 5024 N. Grove Ave., OKC, starting at 7 p.m. Admission is $6 with 40 percent going to the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. For more information, e-mail deejaye1942@cox.net.

20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Jobs Box

**Part-Time Executive Director**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Oklahoma Archdiocesan Council Board** has a part-time position open for an executive director. Understands, interprets and applies rules/policies of the Society. Coordinate and manage the day-to-day operation. Assist the board in performance of their various roles. Serve as a mentor and monitor for conference presidents to ensure the maintenance of effective local organizations consistent with the Rules of the Society. Is an active member of their Catholic parish. Possess excellent verbal, written and computer skills. Mail your resume to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3031 NW 23rd St., OKC 73107, or e-mail stvincentokc@gmail.com.

**Openings**

**Center of Family Love in Okarche** has openings for the following: LPN/RN — Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrators license a plus! Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills! Also an opening for an Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk. Responsible for resident billing and accepting of payments and will also process vendor bills/payments. Must be a team player and able to multi-task. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche 73762. EOE

**Part-Time Cook**

**Villa Teresa Convent** is in need of a part-time cook. Hours: 1 to 6 p.m. Duties include preparing healthy supper for 15 Sisters; assist with menu development; prepare shopping list; wash lunch dishes; and occasional other duties. If interested, contact Sister Patricia Ann at 232-7926.

**Part-Time Telephone Operator**

**Villa Teresa Convent** is in need of a part-time telephone operator. Light office duties included. Hours: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Hours are negotiable. Contact Sister Patricia Ann at 232-7926.

**Executive Director**

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is taking applications for its executive director position. Successful candidate shall serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation and is responsible for the administration, operation and management of the affairs of the Foundation. Position involves planning and implementation of development strategies, including donor solicitation and the managing of capital campaigns, planned giving and endowment programs, knowledgeable communication skills with financial managers, direct mail, public relations and special events. It also involves the oversight of the scholarship and grant allocations on an annual basis, preparing an annual operating budget and preparation of appropriate monthly and annual reports. Requirements are a bachelor’s degree in a related field or equivalent combination of education and experience inclusive of development and charitable funding. Successful candidate would need a knowledge of estate planning, tax considerations and various gifting instruments and familiarity with the Archdiocesan giving community. Candidate would need to be an active member of a parish and in good standing with the Catholic Church. Other skills would be strong organizational and computer skills in Microsoft Office and donor database software, self-starter, goal-oriented, a willingness to travel and establish appointments convenient to prospects. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to David Johnson, Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123-0380, (405) 721-4115.

For a full and updated jobs box, visit us online at catharchdioceseok.org and click on Job Listings
OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Beltran ordained 12 men to the diaconate during a Eucharistic Celebration held Nov. 6. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was filled to overflowing capacity for the ordination.

Deacon Max Schwarz, director of the Archdiocesan Diaconate Program, recommended the dozen men for ordination. Applause broke out after the archbishop accepted the recommendation and announced his intention to proceed with the ordination.

The archbishop said in his homily that God had truly blessed the Archdiocese with 12 new deacons. He challenged the men to always provide love and service to the Catholic people they will encounter.

**MORE ORDINATON COVERAGE – PAGES 9, 10 & 11**

“Tonight, you 12 men come here humbly and with zeal,” Archbishop Beltran said in his homily. “Compelled by the love of God and the support of your families and the Church of this Archdiocese, you offer yourselves as ministers of service. I will accept your offer of service and pray over you, impose my hands upon you and ordain you deacons of the Church. But I must also remind you that the diaconate is not an end in itself. The diaconate does not magically transform you. Just as in the beginning of the Church, the Apostles sought reputable men to assist them in ministry and service, so do I tonight. And, like Apostles, in calling you to service, I challenge you to be men of prayer, men of zeal, men of integrity. This you shall do by humble, faithful service which recognizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the only valid foundation for ministry in the Church. May every single one of you walk safely and securely on your pilgrimage of faith to life everlasting in heaven.”

The 12 men ordained to the diaconate completed a four-year formation program. Now that they are ordained to the Permanent Diaconate, they will be most visible to the community in their liturgical role. However, as Archbishop Beltran said, the primary call is to a ministry of service. Deacons often visit the sick in hospitals and nursing homes, and they are often involved in prison ministry.

In his liturgical and sacramental functions, a deacon is called on to baptize, witness marriages for the Church, distribute Holy Communion, take Holy Communion to the sick, officiate at wakes and funeral services, administer sacramentals and preside at prayer services.