University of Notre Dame's mascot, the Leprechaun, greets children and staff at the Children's Center Oct. 26. The Fighting Irish band marched and played a special concert at the center for a crowd of several hundred people. See story on Page 11. (Photo by Traci Chapman)

Archbishop — Be Catholic Before Democrat or Republican

By Carl Bunderson and Matthew A. Rarey
Catholic News Agency

Rome, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) — As the country approaches election day, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia is encouraging Catholic voters to place their faith above their allegiance to political parties.

"I'm always encouraging our people minimally to vote, maximally to run for political office, and make sure that they're Catholic prior to being Democrat or Republican and that they put that into practice politically," he told CNA in Rome on Oct. 22.

Archbishop Chaput echoed the calls of other American bishops to have their flocks consider their faith in the voting booth.

"We do believe in the separation of church and state, but we don't believe in the separation of faith from our political life," he said.

"It's very important for Catholics to make distinctions when voting that they never support intrinsic evils like abortion, which is evil in all circumstances. That's a lot different from different economic policies" that people can reasonably disagree on, the archbishop explained.

Hurricane the Type of Storm Feared by Many on New Jersey Coast for a Long Time, Catholic Official Says

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hurricane Sandy "is a storm that people in southern New Jersey have feared for a long time because of its direct impact on the coast," an area that is highly developed and also has a significant rate of poverty, said an official of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Camden, N.J.

"Ocean City, N.J., which is in Cape May County, that was completely covered with water ... and that's a fairly large area," Kevin Hickey, executive director of Catholic Charities, told Catholic News Service Oct. 30. He said Wildwood, N.J., was similarly underwater and flooding would be a severe problem anywhere where rivers met bays or estuaries.

Access had been barred to the barrier islands — which include Atlantic City — because state and local police and fire officials were assessing the extent of power outages and flooding. Hickey said teams had been set up to establish relief services, and that two parishes had been identified by midday Oct. 30 as relief distribution sites.

Camden was one of many dioceses continued on Page 8

continued on Page 11
It is clear that the St. Paul exhorts us to offer prayers and thanksgiving for those whom God has permitted, and we have chosen, to govern our nation, our state and our community. As Election Day is now upon us, I invite all of my readers to join me in prayer for our nation, our candidates and our electorate.

Let Us Pray:

O God, our Father and Lord of all, to You we lift this prayer.

We praise and thank You for the opportunity to exercise our duty to vote as citizens of this great nation. Guide us, through the power of your Spirit, as we may vote in a manner that best reflects our living faith, our Gospel values and the teachings of our Church. May our votes advance our nation’s commitment to the vulnerable in our midst: the poor, the elderly, the sick and the immigrant.

May our votes further our commitment as a nation to the sanctity of marriage and the family, as well as to the dignity of each human life, especially of the lives of the unborn, who are the most vulnerable of all.

May our votes further our commitment as a nation to preserve religious liberty and the exercise of all of our liberties which are a grace to us from You.

May this Election Day lead us toward a more quiet and tranquil life as a nation, living each day in peace and in dignity, in justice and in freedom.

And finally Lord, may we use all that are chosen to govern our United States of America.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Amen.
Archdiocese to Offer Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is delighted to announce the opening of Cohort 5 of the Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry, which is offered in affiliation with Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis. The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree provides formation for pastoral ministers who can serve in a variety of parishes, hospital, educational, and diocesan ministries. The program is designed to engage and complement the unique gifts of experienced pastoral ministers through graduate-level theological and ministerial formation in the Catholic tradition. A unique feature of this degree program is its openness to both lay and ordained, allowing anyone desiring to become a well-prepared minister in the local Church.

The roots of our Archdiocesan Pastoral Ministry tradition are found in our Archdiocesan Mission in Peru, and with the Founding of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Oklahoma City. Today, St. Frances Cabrini is the home parish of Father Mike Wheelahan, pastor. The Franciscan priors at Guymon served St. Frances Cabrini Catholic community began in 1947 when Father Noel William, O.F.M., promised a monthly Sunday Mass if parishioners in the area could provide a place of worship. The first Mass was held on Feb. 1, 1947, in the courtroom of the Beaver County Courthouses with 27 people in attendance. Eventually, in April 1947, parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. John Buechner, purchased the Lone Star schoolhouse, built in 1907, and moved it to Beaver. It was placed on lot donated by Father John Stafford, who inherited them from his late mother, Mrs. Kate Stafford.

Confirmation and the opening Mass in April. Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran has been faithfully instrumental in helping the parish community achieve this long-awaited dream, and we hope to provide at Confirmation and the opening Mass in April.

Parish Celebrates Hard Work With New Church Groundbreaking

From left, Rodney Albert, Joe Martinez, Rick Martinez, Charles Wehrs, Jose Chavez, Cecil Martinez, Father Mike Wheelahan and Brad Jesko. The old church building stands in the background. Parishioners will continue to hold liturgy there until the new building is done.

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Election 2012 — What Voting Means

American political campaigns have never been so hypercharged. With the sole exception of George Washington's two uncontested elections, every presidential campaign has seen its share of vulgarity, ad hominem and personal disparagement. Those who imagine that "ugly politics" is the invention of today's polls and focus groups haven't read very much about the rhetorical character of the sons—Adams-Jefferson battle of 1800, the younger Adams-Jackson contest of 1824, or the Blaine-Cleveland fight of 1884, nor to mention the dubious goings-on in Illinois and Texas in 1960, or in Florida in 2000.

American presidential politics is a contact sport and while we may wish it were not — while we may wish that JFK and Barry Goldwater had set a new pattern by their pattern, aborted by the Kennedy assassinations, to rent a plane together and fly around the country, holding something akin to the Lincoln-Douglas debates — what we've experienced of late months is likely what we'll have for the foreseeable future.

But just because electioneering increasingly resembles a reality show, voters are not absolved from treating the electoral franchise as something rather different than caring a vote on "American Idol." In the Catholic understanding of these things, politics for all its tawdriness, still engages questions of right and wrong, good and bad, the noble and the base. Political judgment is prudential judgment; but prudence is a virtue, a habit of the mind and heart that, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "disposes a person to discern the good and choose the correct consequence. The voting booth isn't the confessional. But like the confessional, it should be entered after an examination of conscience, which brings us to a sort of electioneering that cannot be offered, he said.

For the vast majority of American citizens, exercising prudential judgment in politics is not a matter of framing and executing public policy, but of voting. Voting, in other words, is an exercise in moral judgment. What is to say that politics is a noble privilege, because it asks each of us to bring our best judgment to bear on matters of grave consequence. The voting booth isn't the confessional. But like the confessional, it should be entered after serious moral reflection and prayer.

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

George Weigel
By George Weigel

Pope says Faith and Hope Are Foundation of Migrants' Hope for a Better Life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Migrants usually are forced to leave their countries because of poverty, hunger or violence, but faith and hope help them face their hardships and seek a better life elsewhere, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope chose "Migrants: Pilgrimage of Faith and Hope" as the theme for the 2013 celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, and issued a message that touched on many facets of what he called a "striking phenomenon" that raises "dramatic challenges." The Vatican released the message Oct. 29 on the feast of the Spread of the Gospel on the New Evangelization, which brought church leaders from around the world.

"Faith and hope are inseparable in the hearts of many migrants, who deeply desire a better life and not infrequently try to leave behind the 'hopelessness' of an unpromising future," the pope wrote.

The pope's message was introduced in a news conference at the Vatican by Cardinal Antonio Maria Veglio and Bishop Joseph J. Rodic, respectively president and secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Refugees. Migration by its nature involves the pain of uprooting and separation from family, country and possessions, but faith and hope allow those who emigrate to face a difficult present if they believe it will lead to a better future. They are not just seeking to improve their financial social or political condition, the pope said — they hope to "encounter acceptance, solidarity and help from those in their new country who can recognize the values and resources they have to offer," he said.

St. Andrew's to Celebrate Anniversary with Mass, Gala

MOORE — As the Second Vatican Council was being convened in 1962, a new Catholic parish was established here under the patronage of St. Andrew the Apostle. Bishop Victor J. Reed named Father John M. Joyce as the first pastor for Catholic living from as far west as Tuttle to the area around Draper Lake in the east, embracing Moore and a large swath of southwest Oklahoma City.

Some 45 families gathered for Sunday Mass at Holy Child School on Western Avenue until a new Parish Activity Center for nearly 150 families was dedicated in 1965 at 800 N.W. Fifth St. With the vigorous participation of lady and religious, the parish developed rapidly under the leadership of Father Joyce and his successors — Father Daniel Jones (1969-1974), Father Ben Zolleder (1974-1984), Father George Papius (1984-1997) and Father Jack Foshy (1997-present).

From the time the permanent diocesan program was begun during the tenure of Archbishop Salzak, St. Andrew's became a vocational seedbed for many married deacons Victor Galier, Mike Harmon, Angie Walldorf, Tom Schulte, Jon Knight, Jim Barton, George Leal, Stan Knisp, James Keene and Jerome Caplinger.

The parish has also fostered priestly vocations — Scott Adams, Rusty Howes, Victor Galier (Archdiocese of Atlanta), Joe Arslidge and Billy Lewis.

Seminarian Danny Grever has completed two years of theology studies and is presently completing a pastoral year at St. Charles Borromeo.

Since the late 1990s, the church's physical campus has been greatly expanded and refurbished to provide a beautiful setting for members to grow in their lives for God and neighbor. Most recently, the church broke ground on a new Youth Center and Chapel. St. Andrew's has become well-known for its youth ministry and its year-round programs for the faith formation of adults. For many years now, it is also one of the four parishes that sponsors All Saints Catholic School.

The anniversary celebration will culminate with a special Mass and gala social event. The people of the parish would be honored to have you join them on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. when Archbishop Paul Coakley will provide at the Enchanted in the eve of the Feast of St. Andrew.

Former parishioners and friends of St. Andrew's are also invited to a wonderful dinner dance at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Magnuson Hotel and Meridian Convention Center. Tickets are $25 per person, and RSVPs are requested by Nov. 28.

For more information, contact the parish office at (405) 799-3534.
Cardinal Warns Secularization More Serious Than Elections

Chicago, Ill. (CNA/EWTN News) — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago has said that the “secularizing” of American culture is a “much larger issue” than political causes or the outcome of the presidential elections, warning against a rise of anti-religious sentiment and restating his fears of a future persecution in the United States.

“The world divorced from the God who created and redeemed it inevitably comes to a bad end. It’s on the wrong side of the only history that finally matters,” Cardinal George said in his Oct. 23 column for the Catholic New World.

Cardinal George said the 2012 political campaign has brought to the surface “anti-religious sentiment, much of it explicitly anti-Catholic, that has been growing in this country for several decades.” Secularism, he said, is just “communism’s better-scrubbed bedfellow.”

Cardinal George also touched on reports that he believes a successor to the Church has done so often in the past, “a world; the 20th century has been a world of immorality.”

Cardinal George said his predecessor, Cardinal George Mundelein, acted similarly in his 1937 criticism of Adolph Hitler, whose Nazi government had dissolved Catholic youth groups, silenced the German bishops in the media and tried to discredit the Church’s work through putting on trial priests, monks and nuns accused of immorality.

Cardinal Mundelein had warned that there is no guarantee “that the battlefront may not stretch some day into our own land.” American Catholics’ silence could mean that “we too will be fighting alone.”

While Cardinal Mundelein never saw persecution at home, Cardinal George warned against trends that follow the example of the John Lennon song “Imagine,” which imagines a world without religion.

“We don’t have to imagine such a world; the 20th century has given us horrific examples of such worlds,” Cardinal George wrote.

He denounced the violence of “the nation state gone bad” which claims an absolute power to decide questions and make laws “beyond its own competencies.”

Cardinal George closed his remarks by reminding Catholics that God “outsmarts the world, in good times and in bad.” Jesus Christ has “overcome and rescued history.”

Those who gather at his cross and by his empty tomb, no matter their nationality, are on the right side of history.

Those who lie about him and persecute or harass his followers in any age might imagine they are bringing something new to history, but they inevitably end up ringing the changes on the old human story of sin and oppression,” the cardinal concluded.

He encouraged Catholics to pray the Rosary in October so that “the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen the bishops at the Synod for the New Evangelization presently gathered at the Vatican.”

By Ray Dyer
Sooner Catholic

If you would like to give a book as a Christmas gift, you won’t do any better than “From Where I Sit.” “From Where I Sit” is a book of short stories and essays written by Bill Zalot. Zalot writes from his home in Philadelphia, Pa., but more importantly, he writes from his heart. Born some 57 years ago with spastic cerebral palsy, Zalot writes for a number of Catholic publications, from time to time his works are published in the Sooner Catholic.

I first got to know Bill years ago when he would mail a “piece,” as he calls his work, and then make a phone call to follow up, making sure I had received it. If one word could describe Bill Zalot, it would be, I believe, perseverance.

“Did you like it?” Zalot asks each time he sends a “piece.” If the answer is yes, his next question is “Why?” You’d better have a good reason for liking it, “just because” doesn’t cut it with Bill Zalot.

Mike Aquilina edited Zalot’s books. Aquilina is editor of New Covenant magazine and author of “Fathers of the Church.” This is how he describes Zalot and his works in a promotional for “From Where I Sit.”

“This books belongs to everyone who suffers with disabilities, and that means all of us.

“When you live in a wheelchair, every day is a challenge — but also an adventure. You can’t take anything for granted. You notice the details, because those details mean the difference between getting there and getting stuck.”

“Bill Zalot’s memories and stories are full of those little details, the things the rest of us never think about because we don’t have to.”

Aquilina continues, “From his unusual angle, Bill shows us our own lives afresh. In his experience, we see our own, perhaps for the first time.” Zalot is one of nine children. His book is dedicated to the memory of his mom and dad, “who were always there for me.” I am thankful to call him friend and grateful that God blessed me to know him.

Corretion

The address for the Holy Innocents Adoration and Prayer Chapel was incorrect in the Oct. 21 issue of the Sooner Catholic. The correct address is 6114 NW 63rd St.

If you would like to help support the foundation, checks can be mailed to: Holy Innocents Foundation, 6114 NW 63rd St., Warr Acres, Okla. 73122; or Holy Innocents Foundation, Box 6386, Norman, Okla. 73070.
Catholic Foundation Names Grant Recipients

The Catholic Foundation annually awards grants in support of education-related projects to parishes, schools and religious education programs throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In addition to program materials, many of the grant requests have focused on computers and technology as a means of engaging more students in the educational process.

The Catholic Foundation continues to support educational projects for parishes and schools within the Archdiocese. These grants provide extra resources that many parishes and schools would not otherwise be able to afford. This year we will award 50 grants totaling over $75,000. Many of the grants go to technology improvements in the classrooms. As a special emphasis, this year grants for STEM projects were promoted within the schools. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Youth programs at parishes are also supported by helping their students attend the Steubenville Youth Conference in the summer. The Catholic Foundation is proud to provide educational resources to students through our annual grant awards. Whether textbooks or laptops, “Investing in the Future of Our Faith” remains our goal as we educate the next generation of Catholic men and women. The 2012 grant recipients are:

Parish/School – City – Project
All Saints School – Norman – Mandeloma Project – Lego Robotics
Bishop John Carroll School – OKC – Electronic Readers and E-Books
Bishop McGuinness High School – OKC – Physics Lab Upgrade
Christ the King Church – ORC – Formation Workshop for Level II – CGS
Church of the Epiphany of the Lord – ORC – Large Flat-Screen Television and Blu-Ray DVD Player
Church of the Good Shepherd – Bixie City – Video Conferencing/Wi-Fi
Good Shepherd Church – Marietta – Retreats, Bibles, Amplifiers, U.S. Flag
Crucial
Good Shepherd School – ORC – Supplies for Teaching and Parent Communications
Holy Name Church – Chickasha – Improving Technology and Resources
Holy Name Church – Shawnee – Seeds of Faith Adult Formation
Holy Trinity School – Okarche – Parish Data Systems School Module
Mount St. Mary High School – ORC – 10 Netbooks for Science Department
Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Sterling – Projector and Screen (with installation)
Prince of Peace Church – Altus – Video Conferencing Camera
Rosary School – ORC – Class Tutor Sete
Sacred Heart Church – ORC – Two Projectors and Screens for Adult Faith Formation
Sacred Heart Church – Mooreland – Seeds of Faith Adult Formation
Sacred Heart School – ORC – Remediation and Advancement
Individualized Learning
Saint Benedict Church – Shawnese – Update Classroom Equipment
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School – Edmond – iPad Installation in Teaching
Saint Eugene Church – Weatherford – Technology for Religious Education
Saint Eugene School – ORC – Competition Buzzer System
Saint Francis Cabrini – Beaver – Classroom Audio/Visual Equipment
Saint Francis of Assisi Church – ORC – Revoced Charles Schettler Library and Resource Center Equipment
Saint Francis of Xavier Church
Enid – Summer Program – Totown
Saint Gregory University – Shawnee – Buckley Team Technology
Saint Helen – Frederick – Chairs for Religious Education Program
Saint James the Greater School – OKC – Saint Peter
Saint Joseph Church – Ada – Steubenville Youth Conference
Saint Joseph Church – Blackwell – Steubenville Youth Conference
Saint Joseph Church – Buffalo – Youth Ministry Program
Saint Joseph Church – Hennessey – Midwest Steubenville Youth Conference
Saint Joseph Church – Tuskawha – Steubenville Youth Conference
Saint Joseph Church – Union City – Echoes of Faith Plus – Catechist Certification
Saint Joseph Old Cathedral – ORC – Supplies for Bilingual RE Program/Radio and TV Advertising
Saint Mary School – Guthrie – Religious and Leadership Development
Saint Mary Church – Guthrie – Formation Workshop Level II – CGS
Sanctuary
Sacred Heart Church – OKC – Two Projectors and Screens for Adult Faith Formation
Saint Peter Church – Woodward – Catholic Heart Workcamp
St. Philip Neri School – Midwest City – Hands-on Science Equipment focused on STEM
Saint Rose of Lima – Perry – Year of Faith Education Materials
Saints Peter and Paul Church – Kingfisher – Steubenville Youth Conference
Saints Peter and Paul School – Kingfisher – New Computer Towers

Donating Your IRA to the Catholic Foundation

The tax code provision that allowed IRA owners to contribute up to $100,000 directly from their IRA to the qualified charity of their choice — without recognizing the donation as income — expired at the end of 2011. Congress has given no indication if it will be renewed.

As it existed through December 2011, the “donation rule” worked as follows: an owner of an IRA who was over 70½ could directly transfer IRA funds to the Foundation without counting the donation as income. Because IRA owners who have reached age 70½ are required to withdraw a certain amount, called a minimum distribution, from their IRA assets each year and count this as taxable income, the donation rule was attractive to donors who wished to minimize income.

Minimizing income is a goal for many IRA account owners age 70½ and older. Increased levels of income can push retirees into higher tax brackets for Social Security tax purposes, and can also make them liable for higher Medicare payments. The taxable gifts were not deductible under the pre-2012 provision, but the income-tax-deductible contribution rule was attractive to donors who wished to minimize income.

Please remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in your estate plans.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4115 • www.catharchdioceseokc.org
Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plan
Evangelization or Catechesis? Will Someone Make Up Their Mind! Which One Is It?

Some years ago, in a diocese not so far away, during a question and answer session in an Evangelization workshop, a participant stood up and with a worried look on his face asked, “Evangelization or Catechesis? Will someone make up their mind? Which one is it?”

It was obvious to those of us leading the workshop that no matter how many quotes we brought from Pope Paul VI’s Evangelization in the Modern World, or John Paul II’s Redeemer of Man or his insightful Mission of the Redeemer or even the U.S. Bishops’ Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States, no matter how many quotes and explanations of the content of these gems of Church teaching, we might still be speaking a foreign language and not explaining things well enough.

On a side note I would like to mention that on the 18th of November of this year, the USCCB document Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States will have its 20th anniversary. I think it is also important to note that this year our Bishops’ Conferences published another document on this subject, Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization. I invite all of you to add these titles to your reading list during this Year of Faith.

Now back to our topic, Evangelization or Catechesis? The misunderstanding that arises in this Evangelization versus Catechesis situation begins when we make the mistake of confusing a part, catechesis, with the whole, which is evangelization. It’s confusing a slice of the pie with the whole pie; a tree is not the whole forest.

Marie a comparison can help here. In a long-lasting intimate personal relationship between a husband and wife, we will find various stages: a) Couples usually remember, at least wives do, when and where they first met; b) Shortly, or immediately thereafter, there is the period for dating or the courtship. (Is the word courtship used anymore? I might be dating myself!) c) After this goes on for a while the decision is made and the couple is engaged and then gets married. d) As the years go by the couple continues to grow through various types of marriage enrichment programs. At each stage adjustments are made for the good of the relationship and the bonds of love nurtured and strengthened.

Regarding our own faith journey with Jesus Christ, we also go through stages in our relationship with the Lord. We refer to this relationship as our Evangelization.

The stages we go through with Christ are: a) Meet Jesus Christ for the first time and begin the process of Evangelization; b) We learn more about Jesus Christ and His teachings in Catechesis; c) We formalize, celebrate and grow in our relationship with our Lord and His Body, the Church, through this Liturgy; d) We enrich and grow in our understanding of Jesus Christ and His Church by studying theology. Throughout every stage we make necessary adjustments; this is our continued and ongoing conversion, so to say and yes to the call to holiness in and through Christ who transform us and with Him, and His Love, we transform the world. Without continued conversion, without holiness, it all falls apart. The fruit of true evangelization is sanctity, Evangelization produces happy, joyful saints, true disciples and friends of Christ.

This whole process is Evangelization and Catechesis an important part of it! But sadly we have many cases of catechesis offered to those that have never been introduced to our Living God, catechizing without evangelizing first. And we also, sadly enough, have cases of many sacramentalized Catholics that haven’t been well evangelized, catechized or both.

This could be compared to those cultures where the parents have arranged marriages for their children. They are formally and legally married but they don’t necessarily know each other or if they do, their personal knowledge of each other is not necessarily very deep and they begin to develop a more informed relationship after the wedding.

Applying this example to our life within the Church, these are the children, youth and even adults, that have received the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders, but if asked them, “Who is Jesus Christ in your life?” or if asked by anyone of our protestant brothers or sisters: “Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?” they would be confused and many times wouldn’t know what to say because of a weak or non-existent evangelization or catechetical formation.

Not knowing that as a Catholic, that has received the Sacraments of Initiation and participates regularly at Sunday Mass, a personal loving relationship with Jesus Christ began at their baptism, or not being able to describe the relationship, give witness of it to others, or live a lifestyle that reflects this relationship and commitment, is probably a sign of not being sacramentalized but not well evangelized, or even catechized.

This is why we need a New Evangelization: A reconnection and deepening of our relationship with Jesus Christ with the many catechetical truths about Him which come from Him and of which He is the center; a reminder of how our relationship with Jesus Christ is not only born but strengthened when we celebrate the sacraments in our liturgy.

Evangelization or Catechesis? Will Someone Make Up Their Mind! Which One Is It? 7

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Evangelization or Catechesis? Will Someone Make Up Their Mind! Which One Is It?
Windows Reflect Light, Beauty, Faith of Area Churches

By Emily Kindiger
For the Sooner Catholic

The refraction of light through stained glass windows leads to a creation of colored illumination in Christian images, and two area churches have invested the creations of their windows to the well-known Emil Frei Associates. St. Mark Catholic Church of Norman and St. Eugene’s of Oklahoma City recently installed stained-glass windows. St. Mark was installed in August for their chapel, and St. Eugene’s were installed late September in the church.

Father Thomas Boyer of St. Mark’s said the plan had always been to add stained glass. Emil Frei, established in 1936, has an “extreme reputation on the finest art glass in the country,” he said, and he even grew up in a church with them. “There was no other option. I think they’re the best.”

The chapel contains 10 windows on the west side for the prophet and 12 windows on the east for the apostles. Without the use of foam, each window uses symbols and gestures to identify the prophet or apostle.

Father Boyer said the theme of prophets on the west and apostles on the east combines “the Old Testament and the New Testament.” “The two are most often by the corner window illustrated with ‘the fire of the burning bush’ with the Holy Spirit above,” he said. The whole project took five years, but “I’m very happy, very satisfied.”

The stained glass has “created a whole different space” for the chapel and it is “a very beautiful, quiet place for prayer,” he said. “An intimate space.”

Father Boyer said the entire parish is grateful to Emil Frei, and they are in the initial planning process of adding stained glass to the church as well.

Saint Eugene’s pastor, Father Joseph Jacob, said eight windows were installed in their new church, one for the Holy Spirit and seven for each of the sacraments.

“We wanted to bring some color and beauty into the church, and it’s (stained glass) an ancient way to do it,” he said.

He said the church’s committee interviewed several companies but “we were impressed by the quality of work and the artist” from Emil Frei, 2006, who said the color and knowledge of history and the history of the Catholic Church impressed them, in addition to being attracted to Emil Frei’s presence in the Archdiocese.

Father Jacob said Frei saw the church’s theme and envisioned it as a flower opening to the sky with the petals enclosing each of the sacraments. He and each window contain symbols from nature and religion.

“It’s a creative way on approaching the sacraments,” he said. “The colors are just beautiful.”

He said St. Eugene started working on the project in fall 2011, and now that it’s complete, “people have been enjoying them.”

Viewers must stop and figure out which symbols correspond to which sacrament, causing them to think more deeply about their faith, he said. And like St. Mark’s, St. Eugene’s is in the process of adding more Emil Frei windows to the church.

Father Jacob said they will add three windows by March 2013 in the “apse” — behind the altar where the choir sits, and Psalms 29, 148 and 97 will be displayed. The windows will capture “the images of these Psalms,” and link them to Oklahoma with designs such as a tornado and bones.

He added that after the apse, the next project will be the installation of windows in the transept. Those will include the four mysteries of the rosary.

As light and color unite, the images on the new stained-glass windows of those two churches reveal the images and mysteries of the Catholic faith, but they also reveal beauty. “Believe me, the ways God draws us to God’s self is through beauty,” Father Jacob said. And as the colors reflect on the surfaces throughout the church, and each window contains symbols from nature and religion.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grants Awarded

Because of the generous gifts of the people of our Archdiocese to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, grants for local projects totaling $20,200 were made to six parishes and two Catholic high schools.

“These grants are made to provide financial support for the social ministries of the parishes and schools,” said Rocky VanNard, Diocesan Director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The grant to Blessed Sacrament Parish of Lawton will be used to help provide job training for homeless families. St. Mary Parish of Ardmore will use their grant to provide a safe and healthy after-school environment to support single parents and low-income families.

St. Peter of Woolard and St. Joseph of Buffallo will provide speakers that address spiritual environmental resources and information will be shared with the Hispanic community about domestic violence, human trafficking, communication and conflict resolution. The health ministry committee will also reach out to the community churches and agencies to develop a unified health network to serve the poor and marginalized in the Woodward community.

At St. Charles Borromeo and St. Eugene, formation of health ministry will be supported and Catholic Charities will provide support to address alcohol and drug abuse issues in the Hispanic community.

At Mount St. Mary High School, a grant will provide opportunities for the Hispanic community to attend citizenship classes through the Center for Opportunities, a neighborhood outreach program. A second award will give high school students a chance to work with neighborhood children to develop a robust project to address issues that challenge cornerstone citizens. By using math, science and engineering skills, these young people will enhance education skills and widen opportunities to learn.

Bishop McGuinness High School received a grant to work with Sanctuary, the resource center for homeless women and children sponsored by Catholic Charities. Improvements to the facility will give the women and children a greater sense of dignity and value as the students improve play areas. The students will gain insight as they work with those who struggle as they work to address the issues that keep them in poverty.

On Nov. 1, parishes throughout the country will take up second collections to fund the CCHD. The money from the collection is then dispersed both nationally and locally at the diocesan level for grants to groups which seek to address the root causes of poverty.

The CCHD is a program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which works to promote programs offering a hand up instead of a handout. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection in your parish this November. For more information, contact Diocesan Director of CCHD at (405) 523-5003.
South America's First Diocese Celebrates 475th Anniversary

On this day, the Diocese of Cusco, Peru, celebrates its 475th anniversary. The Diocese was established by Pope Leo X in 1538, making it the first diocese in South America. The celebration will include Masses, processions, and cultural events to commemorate this important milestone in the history of the Church in South America.

During the Oct. 11 debate, Vice President Joseph Biden looked into the camera and emphatically said, “With regard to the abortion on the Catholic Church, let me make it absolutely clear: No religious institution — Catholic or otherwise, including Catholic social services, George-town Hospital, Mercy Hospital, any hospital — none has to either refer contraception, none has to pay for con-traception, none has to be a vehicle to get contraception in any insurance policy they provide. That is a fact. That is a fact.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the next day a statement in response to Vice President Biden’s claim that said in part: “This is not a fact. The HHS (Health and Human Services) mandate contains a narrow, four-part exception for certain religious employers. That exemption was made final in February and does not extend to Catholic social services, George-town Hospital, Mercy Hospital, any hospital, or any other religious charity that offers its services to all, regard-less of the faith of those served.

“HHS has proposed an additional accommodation for religious organizations like these, which HHS itself describes as non-exempt. That proposal does not even potentially relieve those organizations from the obligation to pay for contraception and to be a vehicle to get contracep-tion. They will have to serve as a vehicle, because they will still be forced to provide their employees with health coverage, and that coverage will still have to include sterilization, contraception and abortifacients. They will have to pay for those things, because the promissary that the organizations (and their employees) are required to pay will still be applied, along with other funds, to cover the cost of those drugs and surger-ies.

“The USCCB continues to urge HHS as the strongest possible terms, actually to eliminate the various mitigations on religious freedom imposed by the mandate.”

Why would Vice President Biden look the American people in the eye and say something that is clearly not true? It is difficult to believe that the vice president does not understand the HHS mandates and what they require from religious institutions. If this were so, it certainly reflects poorly on his competency.

Of course, the only other explanation is that he purposely misled the American people. Congressman Ryan asked the vice president a very pertinent question. If the rights of institu-tions are not being threatened, then why are Catholic dioceses, hospitals and colleges suing the federal government in 14 different jurisdic-tions on this very matter?

Unfortunately, the vice president did not answer the question and the moderator of the debate failed to press him on this matter.

Just two weeks ago, President Obama, in speaking to campaign supporters at George Mason University, was bragging about the mandate. He said the following to an overwhelmingly friendly audience: “I don’t think a college student in Fairfax or Charleston or Charlottesville should have to choose between textbooks or the preventive care she needs. That’s why we passed this law. And I am proud of it. It was the right thing to do and we are going to keep it.”

I am all in favor of college students getting physicals, vaccinations and other preventive screenings. However, this administration has defined preventive health care to include abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations. For contraceptives and sterilizations to be preventive health care, then fertility and pregnancy have to be considered diseases. If this administration’s definition of preventive health care is permitted to stand, then what is the church to do if an unplanned pregnancy when the “preventive care” does not work? Logically, it must be abortion.

Recently I was at an event where I spoke about the current threats to religious liberty. Afterward, a man came up to me and said that he disagreed with what I said. I asked him: “What specifically do you disagree with?” He replied that he thought a nurse at a Catholic hospital should be able to get contraception as part of her health coverage. I said, “Then you believe that the church and her institu-tions should be coerced to provide something we believe to be immoral.”

He replied: “Well, that’s your opinion.” I replied: “It is not an opinion. It is a fact. It is true. It is something we believe to be immoral.”

The Diocese was marking its 475th anniversary celebration. The Mass closed a four-day International Marian Eucharistic Congress, the heart of the 475th anniversary celebration.

Abby Johnson was so convinced that contraception prevented abortion that she became a director of a Texas Planned Parenthood clinic. A couple years ago, Abby left Planned Parenthood because she was being pressured to increase the number of abortions at her clinic. Abby said that half of those seeking abortion at her clinic had been using contraceptives when they became pregnant.

People pray during Mass at the Cathedral of Santa Domingo in Cusco, Peru. The Diocese was marking its 475th anniversary. Cusco — gateway to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu — was the first diocese established in South America (CNS photo/Rita Grosser)
Storm

continued from Page 1

along the East Coast that followed the lead of federal, state and local governments in shutting operations as Hurricane Sandy made landfall Oct. 29 in New Jersey with stiff winds, huge rainfalls, power outages and severe flooding.

Catholic Charities USA was working with its local affiliates along the East Coast to get them necessary supplies and services once the storm passed.

“Reports from the National Weather Service make it clear that many of our agencies on the East Coast — from New York all the way down to Florida — will be feeling some impact from Hurricane Sandy and we stand ready to provide whatever support necessary to meet the needs of those affected,” said an Oct. 29 statement from Samuel Chambers, Catholic Charities USA senior vice president of disaster operations.

“Since Hurricanes Katrina, we have focused on being prepared for future disasters,” said an Oct. 29 statement from Catholic Charities USA president, Father Larry Snyder. “Not only are we early responders, but our presence in the community also puts us in a position to be able to quickly assess and provide support in the long term.”

Disaster heads advised governors and city mayors, who had declared a state of emergency in their respective jurisdictions and shut down for at least one day with the possibility of extending their shutdown longer. The Camden Diocese was closed Oct. 29 and 30.

The Archdiocese of New York closed Oct. 29, 30 due to the decision by the MTA to suspend public transportation as a result of Hurricane Sandy, and a statement on the archdiocese website. The MTA is the Metropolitan Transit Authority New York’s subway system shut down Oct. 29, and public transportation remained shuttered Oct. 30. As for the possibility of continued closing, the statement added, “We will be guided by the decisions of the governor, mayor and MTA.”

A Catholic Charities USA report on conditions in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., said many mobile phone towers went down in the high winds. Catholic Charities staff opened one shelter at a school for high school for 100 special-needs occupants.

The Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., had already decided by late morning Oct. 29 to be closed Oct. 30 as well, according to diocesan spokespersons. The Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., had already decided by late morning Oct. 29 to be closed Oct. 30 as well, according to diocesan spokespersons.

The Archdiocese of Chicago thanked Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and other governors and mayors of the tri-state area who have so far responded quickly and vigorously in serving their people where it matters most — at the local and state levels, where the common good“ has flesh and blood meaning.”

Government officials and the region’s emergency responders “have the gratitude of the whole Catholic community,” said Archbishop Chaput, adding Catholic Human Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and its programs remained working through Sandy, dubbed later as a “post-tropical storm.”

“Catholic Charities and our partners conducting special collections for disaster relief would be forwarded to Catholic Charities.”

The Archdiocese of Washington follows the closure policies of the federal government. With the federal government closing Oct. 29-30, the archdiocesan offices stayed closed as well. The Catholic University of America and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ headquarters building were also closed for the two days.

A Mass for victims of Sandy was to be celebrated at 4 p.m. Oct. 30 at Catholic University.

The U.S. Supreme Court was a rare holdout among federal entities Oct. 29, going about business as usual, but oral arguments scheduled for Oct. 30 were postponed, probably until Nov. 1.

For the Oct. 29 session, as the court heard arguments in cases about national security and international revelations of products, the courtroom was packed. And the bench was full, with not even the nine sitting justices on hand, but two extra retired Justices Sandra Day O’Connor and Japan’s Chief Justice Hiroshi Toba, both just visiting.

Contributing to this story was Patricia Report.

Fighting Irish Bring Gift of Music to Children’s Center

By Traci Chapman

For the Sooner Catholic

If music truly heals the soul, the patients and staff at The Children’s Center got a big shot in the arm, thanks to the University of Notre Dame marching band.

The Fighting Irish marched into the hearts of those at the Children’s Center with a battle with the University of Oklahoma, a football game in which there was a winner even before it was played, Deussens said.

“This means the world to our kids, so the real winner today is our kids here at the Children’s Center,” he said.

Travis Deussens, the center’s communications coordinator

A resident at Barksen’s Children’s Center enjoys a piece of the University of Notre Dame’s band, cheerleaders and Irish Guard passed by Oct. 26. The center’s residents, staff and hundreds of schoolchildren and others were treated to marching and a concert before the college’s football game against the University of Oklahoma the following day. (Photo by Traci Chapman)
Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Uniendo Nuestro Deber de Orar y Nuestro Deber de Votar

Ante todo recomiendo que se hagan peticiones, oraciones, suplicas y acciones de gracias por todos, sin distinción de personas; por los reyes y todos los gobernantes, para que podamos llevar una vida tranquila y en paz, con toda piedad y dignidad.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Estar claro que San Pablo nos enseña a ofrecer oraciones y acciones de gracias por aquellos a quienes Dios los ha permitido, y hemos elegido para gobernar nuestra Nación, nuestro Estado y nuestras comunidades. Como el día de las elecciones está ahora sobre nosotros, y a todos nos toca a todos nosotros, en la oración por nuestra Nación, nuestros candidatos y nuestros electores.

¿Porque se es amigo? atendiendo a lo que es realmente la Navidad. Podría ser la tarjeta que alude a una Navidad, por un inadecuado, sutilmente se ha cambiado a una Navidad de paz, de esperanza, de amor, y a la que nos vamos a arriesgar a traer la bendición de la Navidad a todos. Pues sabemos que la Navidad se ataca a Dios, no es amigo de Él, ni a quien Dios lo es, como lo vegamos en el Evangelio que: “El que es amigo del mal, y si no se recoge con Él por ir profundamente, es el enemigo de Dios.” Entonces, si el ateísmo es no creer en Dios, así en términos muy elementales, el enemigo que caracteriza a este planteamiento ideológico que va en contra de todo lo que hace referencia a Dios, así en términos muy elementales. Si el ateísmo no es creer en Dios, el voluntariamente se va en contra de Dios, eso no parece imposible, ya que lo que estamos haciendo es hacer justicia en el orden de Dios, que es el orden de la realidad, que es el orden de la causa y del efecto, y de la libertad y la responsabilidad.

Porque sabemos que cada día hemos de luchar por Dios, en el Amén, nuestro Señor y Padre nuestro, y en el Evangelio que: “El que es amigo del mal, y si no se recoge con Él por ir profundamente, es el enemigo de Dios.” Entonces, si el ateísmo es no creer en Dios, así en términos muy elementales, el enemigo que caracteriza a este planteamiento ideológico que va en contra de todo lo que hace referencia a Dios, así en términos muy elementales. Si el ateísmo no es creer en Dios, el voluntariamente se va en contra de Dios, eso no parece imposible, ya que lo que estamos haciendo es hacer justicia en el orden de Dios, que es el orden de la realidad, que es el orden de la causa y del efecto, y de la libertad y la responsabilidad.

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El Papa Proclama Siete Santos Nuevos

Por Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

16100 VENICE BOULEVARD — Precisamente este sábado, un día después de celebrar la Misa Dominical, el Padre Andrew Tutton, un sacerdote en el condado de Montgomery en Maryland, entregó a su parroquia un boletín que anunciaba que la Santa Ciudad de Nuestra Señora de Fátima había recibido a siete nuevos santos, que se sumarán a la lista de santos de la Iglesia Católica.

El Papa Francisco proclamó a los nuevos santos el 21 de octubre pasado en el Vaticano, durante un acto de canonización que fue transmitido en directo por la televisión y radio.

La lista de los nuevos santos incluye a Pedro para la canonización de las mujeres y los niños de la Iglesia Católica, en el momento de su muerte, y a su libro "El Señor Jesucristo y de su Iglesia mediante el estudio de la Teología. A la larga de todas las etapas hacemos los ajustes necesarios, esto se nuestro continua y progresiva conversion, le deicina al no perdido y sí se la llamada a la santidad en y a través de Cristo, que nos transforma con él y su amor, transformemos al mundo. Sin la conversión continua, sin santidad, se toman el fruto de la evangelización es la santidad. La evangelización produce santos fieles, alegrías, verdaderos discípulos y amigos de Cristo.

¿Todo este proceso es la Evangelización y la Catequesis es una parte importante de ella? Pero, lamentablemente tenemos muchos casos de catequesis que se ofrecen a aquellos que nunca han sido presentados a nuestro Amado Dios, catequizar sin un primer evangelizar. Y en el caso de los Católicos sacramentalizados que no han sido bien evangelizados, catequizados ¡o ninguna de los dos! Esto puede ser comparado con aquellos cultivos en las que los padres han arreglado el matrimonio de sus hijos, pero no saben lo que han hecho. Estos casos son causados por el hecho de que no se han tomado la decisión de evangelizar a aquellos que no conocen a Dios, a Jesucristo, y a su Iglesia mediante el estudio de la Teología. A lo largo de todas las etapas hacemos los ajustes necesarios, esto es nuestra continua y progresiva conversión, le decimos al no perdido y sí se la llamada a la santidad en y a través de Cristo, que nos transforma con él y su amor, transformamos al mundo. Sin la conversión continua, sin santidad, se toman el fruto de la evangelización es la santidad. La evangelización produce santos fieles, alegrías, verdaderos discípulos y amigos de Cristo.

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Across Oklahoma

Adoration Moved For November Only

OKLAHOMA CITY — Due to the Thanksgiving holiday for the month of November only, Divine Mercy Adoration at St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral will be Nov. 28. After that we will resume the regular schedule for the fourth Thursday of the month.

Saint Charles Women Set Bazaar

OKLAHOMA CITY — The WOMEN OF ST CHARLES Holiday Bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 and 18. The event will include vendor booths (Saturday only); crafts, crochets, quilts, handmade handbags, raffle, bake sale, face painting, balloons, fun for everyone! The bazaar will be open from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The bazaar will be held in the Saint Charles school gym, 5024 N Grove. If you are an interested vendor, please call Bonita Konop at (405) 397-8477 or via email at gladtallone@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Tradition Continues

NORMAN — St. Joseph Catholic Church is hosting its 90th annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The dinner will be served in the Parish Center gym at 422 E. Adams.

This annual event was originally started in 1920 by the Ladies Altar Society and has become a parish tradition.

The home-cooked meal consists of recipes handed down for the past 90 years. It includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry jellied salad, rolls, pie, coffee, tea and milk.

For the convenience of the elderly or handicapped, the parking area in front of the hall will be used as a drop-off and pickup point. If you have any questions or require more information, please call Joyce at 321-4852.

Curriculum Fair

A Curriculum Fair will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11 at Mount St. Mary High School.

For more information, call the school at (405) 613-9665.

Catherine Siena, A Woman of Our Times

Adrian Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, OP, will perform her one-woman show “Catherine Siena, A Woman of Our Times” on Nov. 10 in the Cenex Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Bishop John Carroll School.

The show promises to enchant, inform and inspire the audience.

The evening will begin with hors d’oeuvre, wine reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. followed by the show at 7:30. Tickets are $45 in advance and $50 at the door. For tickets, contact Carolyn Wikanas at (405) 850-5087, or csr@cwatkins.dunnandvance.com.

For sponsorship or additional information, contact Lisa Edelman at (405) 418-6679, or raffle400@ail.com.

Seating is limited. This is an adult event.

Irish Debate Team Wins National Award

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is pleased to announce the Irish speech and debate team recently received the National Forensic League 2011-12 Leading Chapter Award in the West Oklahoma District.

The award is based on student participation and is the highest honor a chapter can receive from the League. The speech and drama coach is Ryan Swarta.

Team members are Sean Alexander, Conor Bamson, Ashley Bilbup, John Mitchell Bums, Alian Hopfer, Gabrielle Jacobs, James Keaton Klapfer, Bridget McGaun, Michael Parker, Galen Nicole Paterson, Blair Terman, Kelsey Trevis and Jack Vesper, and 2012 graduate Taylor Allen, Bradley Gray, Sarah Little, Armandos Molandes, Stephanie Milligan, Kennedy Parker, Jennifer Rader and Lizzy Schrantz. Bishop McGuinness was one of 108 schools out of 3,000 NFL member schools to receive the Leading Chapter Award.

Only one school in each district receives the award each year.

The National Forensic League promotes high school speech and debate activities as a means for students to develop effective communication techniques and learn critical thinking skills. Their motto is “Training Youth for Leadership.”

Managing the Holiday Blues (Presentation in Spanish)

Managing the Holiday Blues (Spanish presentation will be held Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., offered by Nadia Fissel, LPC, candidate with Catholic Charities. This session will provide overall information on the stressors the Hispanic community can experience during the holiday season.

The session will address how feelings of sadness, stress, loneliness and culture difference affect the Hispanic community during the holidays. The presentation will also convey ideas on how to take better care of ourselves, building new traditions and good memories for the future.

The session will be held at the Pastoral Center, 701 N.W. Expressway, Oklahoma City, with video-conferencing at St. Peter in Woodward, St. Francis Xavier in Tushar, Prince of Peace in Altus, St. Mary in Clinton.

TAP into FAITH

TAP into FAITH’s December meeting will feature a Conversation with Archbishop Emeritus Baxa.

The gathering is set for 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6 at Alfredo’s Mexican Cafe in Edmond.

Interesting topic! Great company! Locally conversation about our Catholic Faith! Come out for drinks or dinner; hear an interesting talk on important Catholic issues, and meet other Catholic adults. Bring your friends. Single or married. Ages 21 to 121. 8 p.m. talk, 8:45 p.m. dinner.

Stay afterwards for fellowship.

Tap into Faith is held at Alfredo’s Mexican Cafe, located at the southwest corner of 33rd and Broadway in Edmond. For more information, call Alison Giordano at 619-9787 or Mary Lacot at 405-4105.
NOVEMBER
4 Turkey Dinner, St. Peter and Paul Parish, Kingfisher, annual turkey dinner, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., served in the Parish Hall located at 315 S. Main St. Adults are $10 and children 3-12, $5. For further information, call the church office at 375-4616.

4 Turkey Dinner and Country Store, St. Peter Parish, Annual Turkey Dinner and Country Store from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Kennedy Hall, 2020 Oklahoma Avenue in Woodward. We will also have a Country Store full of home-made goodies. Carryouts are also available.

4 Bishop McGuinness Open House for all interested and prospective students and parents on Sunday, Nov 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

4 Charitable Diocesan Centennial Mass at the Cathedral at 3 p.m. All are invited to attend the Mass and reception, 3214 N. Lakes Avenue.

4 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy at Saturday evening Mass in English at 5 p.m., \( \text{Bishop McGuinness Catholic Church} \) (Rob Blakely)

5 Catholic School. Tickets are $35 each \( \text{at St. Joseph Church in Enid. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph Catholic School.} \)

6 Thanksgiving Dinner and Bazaar, St. Teresa Church, Harrah, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 1516 N. Tim Holt Drive. The buffet will be from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. Cost for the dinner is $7 for adults, $3 for children 10 and under.

8 Thanksgiving Dinner, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Bison, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is $10 for adults, $5 for children ages 4-11.

8 Wedding Anniversary Mass. Archbishop Conley invites married couples who are celebrating milestones anniversaries (25, 50+ in calendar year 2012 to attend a special Anniversary Mass at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral, 3214 N. Lakes Avenue, Oklahoma City. It is imperative that if you plan to attend, contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 745-8944.

8 Bishop McGuinness Catholic School Placement Test. For more information, contact Amy Hansen, freshman counselor at ahansen@bmschs.org, or 842-6630 Ext. 255 to register for the test.

9 Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Placement Test. For more information, contact Amy Hansen, freshman counselor at ahansen@bmschs.org, or 842-6630 Ext. 225 to register for the test.

9 Principal, Christ the King Catholic School, 1905 SW 26th, Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 685-4006.

11 Charismatic Healing Mass. 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 3901 SW 26th, St. Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 685-4005.

11 Thanksgiving Dinner, Christ the King Church, 1905 SW 26th, St. Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 685-4008.

11 Principal’s Coffee at the Mount at 8:45. Call the school for more information, (405) 631-8865.

11 Jobs Box

Executive Director
Nonprofit Organization Center of Family Love has an opening in Oklahoma City. Prefer experience in long-term care or with developmentally disabled. If interested, please email resume to EBFellin@earthlink.net.

Development Director
Christ the King Catholic School and Church is seeking an Advancement/Development Director. 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 the greater community. More details about the position may be found at www.okcatholic.org/dep/development. Interested parties should submit a resume and letter of interest to Karen Carter, Principal, Christ the King Catholic School, 2005 ELMlnt Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120.

Fiancée/Organist Needed
Holy Spirit, Mustang, is 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. in Spanish. In addition, this person is to conduct choir practice in English on Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and in Spanish on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For further information and discussion of salary, contact Father J. Greene at 631-8865.

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. Flexible hours. For more information, contact Jenni Butch at (405) 845-4760, or jenni@ckokc.org.

Teachers Needed
Christ the King Catholic School, Mustang, is 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. in Spanish. In addition, this person is to conduct choir practice in English on Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and in Spanish on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For further information and discussion of salary, contact Father J. Greene at 631-8865.
A Special Kind of Homily
Father Axelrod Brings a New Language of Faith to St. James the Greater Parish

OKLAHOMA CITY — Father Cyril Axelrod of London, England, gave the homily at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. James the Greater Parish on Oct. 14. It’s not particularly unusual for Father Bill Pruett, pastor at St. James, to let a visiting priest offer the homily. But this was different. Father Axelrod didn’t offer a verbal homily. He presented his homily in sign language, which was then interpreted for parishioners.

Father Axelrod is a deaf/blind priest. He is the only known deaf/blind Catholic priest in the world.

“Embrace the disabled. It’s a blessing to be disabled,” Father Axelrod signed.

“Faith always has an importance to a human being because it knits the bond of trust and faithfulness between God and us. Faith cannot be seen with a human eye or heard with a human ear, it is simply the wealth of touch of God without expressing a single word but connecting with Him with a meaningful spirit.”

Disabled people and children are angels sent from God to help us all to learn valuable lessons of unconditional love, trust, hope, faith and inner peace.”

Because the disabled and the non-disabled need each other.

“On a deaf/blind person cannot see and hear, it all depends on faith, which turns what is unseen and unheard into what is seen and heard through the kindness of communication from sighted persons.”

Joan Blake, who signs for the deaf at St. James, interpreted for Father Axelrod.

Earlier in the week, Blake, with the state Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Father Axelrod participated in an international conference in Oklahoma City for individuals with vision and hearing loss.

“Father Axelrod is an author, world traveler and a very sought-after speaker,” Blake said.

Father Axelrod was born blind to Jewish parents. His parents sent him to a school for the blind run by Catholic nuns in South Africa. This is where he became familiar with the Catholic faith.

He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in South Africa in 1970.

Love Family Makes Sanctuary Donation

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Anthony Hospital Foundation has received a contribution from Tom and Judy Love and their family to renovate the St. Anthony Hospital Chapel in honor of Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran. This generous gift will create a comforting sanctuary for patients, families, staff and neighborhood residents.

Located across the main hospital lobby at the Lee Street entrance, the chapel is a place of prayer, reflection and solace for an estimated 27,000 people each year. The most noticeable improvement will be the installation of a historical stained glass window of St. Anthony. The window was originally installed in 1916 in a Kansas City hospital operated by the Sisters of St. Mary, now the sponsoring sisters of SSM Health Care. Additional chapel improvements include new furnishings, carpet, upholstery, audio-visual equipment and repairs to the pipe organ.

St. Anthony Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to support the patients, programs and mission of Oklahoma City’s St. Anthony Hospital, St. Anthony is a 686-bed tertiary care facility specializing in surgery, oncology, cardiology and behavioral medicine.

For more information about the St. Anthony Foundation, please visit its website, located at www.givetosaints.com.

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