Pope, as ‘grandfather,’ urges Myanmar’s young to love and serve

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

YANGON, MYANMAR – Before ending his visit to Myanmar, Pope Francis turned to the nation’s young Catholics, urging them to pursue lives of faith, hope and love. He celebrated Mass Nov. 30 in Yangon’s Saint Mary Cathedral. Thousands of young people filled the gardens surrounding the cathedral, hoping for a close-up encounter with the pope.

In his homily, Pope Francis, whose 81st birthday was less than three weeks away, said he wanted to speak to the young as a grandfather.

The Bible, he told them, “asks us to think about our place in God’s plan” and to proclaim God’s love and mercy.

“As messengers of this good news, you are ready to bring a word of hope to the church, to your own country, and to the wider world,” he said. “You are ready to bring good news to your suffering brothers and sisters who need your prayers and your solidarity, but also your enthusiasm for human rights, for justice and for the growth of that love and peace which Jesus brings.”

Pope Francis’ grandfatherly advice to them was to find a place away from the noise and distractions of modern life where they could learn to listen to God in prayer. And he encouraged them to rely on the help of the saints, who were men and women who made mistakes, but learned to trust in God’s mercy.

“You know that Jesus is full of mercy,” the pope told the young people. “So, share with him all that you hold in your hearts: your fears and your worries as well as your dreams and your hopes.

Finally, Pope Francis told them, be young and be bold.

“Do not be afraid to make a ruckus, to ask questions that make people think,” he said. “And don’t worry if sometimes you feel that you are few and far between. The Gospel always grows from small beginnings. So, make yourselves heard.”

Lighting Advent Wreaths

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles also can be used.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.org.

• To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail join@soonercatholic.org.

• Advent Day of Recollection:
  In section: Young men in high school or college, who are considering the priesthood, join together for a day of prayer and reflection, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Catholic Pastoral Center in OKC. RSVP to (405) 721-9351 or Dec. 19.

Border immersion experience puts human cost in immigration issues

By Steve Goat

Seeing first-hand the human cost of immigration has been a learning experience for Rachel Jones, Spanish teacher at Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City.

Recently, she was part of a Border Immersion Experience sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

The Border Immersion Experience was organized by Sister of Mercy Kathleen Erickson and Columbia Fr. Bob Mosher. Since 1991, Sister Kathleen has served communities on the United States-Mexico border, and since 2009, she has worked on social justice issues with the Sisters of Mercy in Omaha, Neb.

During the immersion experience, Jones visited El Paso as well as the border town Ciudad Juarez. She said the contrast between the two cities couldn’t be any more stark.

“El Paso is a beautiful city with beautiful lawns and across the bridge in the barrio is absolute poverty,” she said.

Working in the Capitol Hill area of Oklahoma City, the teacher is aware of some of the challenges of immigration, including the DACA program of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. She found out about the border immigration program in September and signed up for it, which was held in early November.

Yet, she wasn’t totally prepared for what she saw.

She was told immigration has slowed from Mexico, but increased from Honduras and El Salvador. The reasons are familiar for those who study the issue. An illegal drug trade with people in the United States leads to increased power for drug cartels. That triggers more violence, which nations already rife with corruption and poverty.

Seeking a better life for their children, Jones said, many leave their homes.

“I had seen it as a political issue, but this is a real human factor in every town,” she said.

Part of that problem is at detection centers where fathers are separated from children.

“They can’t even get legal representation because it’s been denied,” she said.

continued on page 4

Archbishop Cookley blesses new statues at Epiphany

By Judy Hilovsky

To celebrate marking 40 years as a parish Father Stephen Bird and parishioners at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in northwest Oklahoma City commissioned a set of bronze life-size statues of the Wise Men arriving to honor infant Jesus and greet Mary.

“Mary is depicted as handing Jesus to the Wise Men, symbolizing her giving him to the whole world and to each of us,” Father Bird said.

Shelley Kolman Smith, the sculptor from Puerto, Texas, was present to witness the blessing by Archbishop Cookley, who presided at the Christ the King Mass at Epiphany prior to the dedication.

After Mass, Kolman has gathered on the east side of the church in Epiphany, where the garden area, recently renovat- ed for the statues.

“Dear brothers and sisters, we have commissioned these statues because we are about to bless these holy images of our Lord Jesus Christ, his mother Mary and the sacred Wise Men who visited him in his infancy,” Archbishop Cookley said.

“Jesus, the eternal son of God, came down into the world through the Virgin Mary. After his birth, he was made known to the shepherds and the Wise Men who came from afar, revealing himself to be the King and Savior of all nations. The church recognizes Mary the model of the faith and the path of discipleship. She is a real human factor in the peoples of the world,” the archbishop said.

Proceeds benefit Epiphany. For more information, call (405) 722-2110.

Judy Hilovsky is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
What is the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma?

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma was established in 1965 by Bishop Victor Reed as a vehicle for Catholics to make specific gifts to the Catholic Church in Oklahoma. It is a support organization of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City with a mission to seek and receive gifts for the endowment and capital needs of the archdiocese, to manage those assets and to distribute the principal, earnings and growth from those assets for the needs of the Catholic Church of central and western Oklahoma.

The foundation operates with a separate board of directors in which the archbishop serves as the board chairman. Many of the donors to the foundation support the Golf Classic or the Archbishop’s Scholarship Fund each year, but others create lasting legacies through gifts to the Catholic Foundation to support one of the causes of the donor’s choice. Whether it is to benefit your parish, your Catholic school, a Catholic ministry or any 501(c) (3) organization that follows the teachings of the Catholic faith, your gift or legacy gift that establishes an endowment fund will ensure the church or non-profit organization has the resource to continue for years to come.

The Catholic Foundation provides a steady source of revenues to many Catholic ministries throughout the archdiocese year-in and year-out. Named funds in the form of scholarship funds, memorial funds or donor advised funds can be created at the Catholic Foundation with a gift as little as $5,000. Earnings from a named fund can be directed to one or multiple causes of the donor’s choice. This realization is one of the reasons for the Border Immersion Experience, according to Sister Kathleen.

“Are there so many dimensions to immigration issues in this country?” she said. “Our immigration system is broken and backlogged. We have a history of recruiting workers from other countries when we need them and then deporting them when we don’t.”

From Jones’s standpoint, she hopes the public will become more educated on immigration and, as Christians, treat the strangers as hospitable kindly fashion.

“I think the public should know that the people coming here now are families,” she said.

Sister Kathleen has spent years educating on immigration and, as Christians, treat the strangers as hospitable kindly fashion.

“Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV) encourages the people to ‘not turn away from one another’ and to ‘let there be no one who deals falsely with his neighbor’,” she said. “It’s about welcoming the stranger, respecting and loving this next of kin.”

Steve Gaut is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Beatification Mass DVDs now available!

Are you looking for a special Christmas gift present or a memento to keep sake? The DVD set of the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother is now available. Go online to http://rhostayleyother.org/shop.

Drexel Fund provides first grants to Oklahoma Catholic schools

Catholic schools have been making a difference in the lives of families in Oklahoma for more than 100 years. Today, 18 elementary schools and three high schools form a system of 22 communities of Catholic learning, educating 5,000 students each year. This year, the first Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast was held with 220 guests gathered to celebrate Catholic schools and their impact. The net proceeds of the breakfast were distributed through the Office of Catholic Schools for two new funds supporting priority needs in financially struggling communities and leadership programs for teachers and principals.

Superintendent Diane Floyd recently had the opportunity to make three surprise presentations to schools identified as the first recipients of awards from one of these funds, the Saint Katharine Drexel Fund. Encouraging that Catholic school education is important, but also a major responsibility for a single parish, the Saint Katharine Drexel Fund seeks to assist parishes that struggle financially to carry out the mission of Catholic school education. By empowering local parish communities to direct educational funds where they are most needed, the Drexel Fund seeks to ensure the system of Catholic schools in the archdiocese is financially stable for future generations.

Based on the proceeds of the breakfast, this year we could award Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City, Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno and Saint Mary Catholic School in Lawton with a gift of $5,000 each. In cooperation with the archdiocesan Secretariat for Finance, the review of financial information specific to school income as a percent of parish income assists us in determining recipient schools. The goal of the Saint Katharine Drexel Fund is to provide financial support so that the school can truly determine how funds can best be used, however there are a few guidelines that have been set forth:

- Funds should be used on capital expenditures or financial assistance, and not just general operating expenses.
- The goal is a direct benefit to students in terms of capacity.
- Representatives of schools, including, but not limited to, the pastor and principal agree to be interviewed about the receipt of the funds to be used to raise future funds as well as agree to attend the next Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast on Feb. 2.

For more information, go online to www.archok.org/stewardship/giving-opportunities/drexelfund.

Bord’r immersion continued from page 3

considered a civil matter,” Jones said. “We’re treating families apart.

This realization is one of the reasons for the Border Immersion Experience, according to Sister Kathleen.

“There are so many dimensions to immigration issues in this country,” she said. “Our immigration system is broken and backlogged. We have a history of recruiting workers from other countries when we need them and then deporting them when we don’t.”

From Jones’s standpoint, she hopes the public will become more educated on immigration and, as Christians, treat the strangers as hospitable kindly fashion.

“I think the public should know that the people coming here now are families,” she said.

Sister Kathleen has spent years counseling detained immigrant children.

“That experience has changed my life and broken my heart,” she said. “Immigration, I believe, is a spiritual challenge for the human race.”

Steve Gaut is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Contagious Faith

Time for a sexual counter-revolution

Her memorial is Christmas Day!

She’s a holy martyr often mentioned, seldom celebrated

Her memorial is Christmas Day! ...a field by which we can measure the effectiveness of the #metoo movement.

Pedro A. Moran, O.P.
Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry

Less helping, more serving

Less helping, more serving...
WASHINGTON D.C. – More than 150 youth from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City pined Archbishop Coakley at this year’s National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. The teens traveled from OKC, Harrah, Elk City, Enid, Midwest City, Edmond, Moore, Yukon, Chandler and Shawnee. The NCYC is the largest biennial gathering of Catholic teenagers in the country.

This year’s event titled “CALLED / LLAMADOS” was produced and presented by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, featuring top national Catholic speakers, performers and musicians.

This distinctly Catholic three-day conference included opportunities for spiritual growth, prayer, learning and service. Participants attended an extensive program of workshops and an interactive thematic village called “From Sea to Shining Sea.”

NCYC’s focus is to embody Pope Francis’ message through all its programming and experiences throughout the conference. Bishop Frank Caggiano, Diocese of Bridgeport, speaker and episcopal liaison to the conference, described this message from Pope Francis as “called to live authentic missionary discipleship – to grow in our personal relationship with the Lord and to be ready to go to the peripheries of society and share the good news of God’s love with those whom society has forgot.”

Prayer experiences included Mass, reconciliation and Eucharistic adoration.

The conference programming is not only tailored to youth, but also youth ministry leaders, parents, adult chaperones, coaches, scout leaders and clergy.

The NCYC program featured speakers: Chris Stefanick, Sister Miriam Heidland, BOLT, Roy Petittila, Brian Greenfield, Emily Wilson, Father Joseph Espejat, and Grammy-winning Christian recording artist TobyMac, among many others.

Bishops who attended the conference said they found renewal and encouragement in their role as bishop and their mission of accompaniment and evangelization.

Parents who attended with their children found the experience to be highly inspirational and enriching to their faith.

Michael Thiesen, NFCYM director of ministry formation, described it as “a wonderful way for parents to engage in the accompaniment model of discipleship today.”

More than $125,000 in scholarships were made available for the conference to 60 dioceses. For more information about how to participate or for volunteer opportunities, contact your local Catholic diocese or go online to www.ncyc.info.

Top, students from the archdiocese gather for a photo with Archbishop Coakley. Above, Melinda Herman with Archbishop Coakley. Below, students from the archdiocese gather for a photo in the country.

Photos provided.
Bishop McGuinness collects record amount of canned goods

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students collected a record breaking 107,780 pounds of food in the 2017 Canned Food Drive. The food drive is sponsored by the Oklahoma City Archdiocese and provides food to Oklahoma families in need of help and assistance. Bishop McGuinness has been involved in the Canned Food Drive since its inception in 1988. Faculty sponsors were Rebecca Davidson and Rochelle Dowell and student volunteers were senior Alex Gray and junior Sydney Zalinski.

The theme this year was “soup” bowl. The student committee organized various events to raise money, including the following: duck drive day, bake sales and T-shirt sales. A can sculpture contest between the classes was held.

The Food Bank arrived at the end of the drive with not one but two semi-trailers. As Food Bank staff unloaded crates of canned goods, students maneuvered forklifts to lift the crates, students and staff loaded crate after crate with canned goods and other food staples. McGuinness students collect more canned goods for the Regional Food Bank than any other school in the state, thus making McGuinness Campus Ministry a leader in community service.

Jobs Box

Director of youth and campus ministry

The archdiocese is seeking a full-time director of youth, young adult and campus ministry. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan youth evangelization and discipleship efforts, oversight of young adult and campus ministry programming and the summer youth camp program. Bachelor’s degree in theology, religious studies or a related field preferred. Previous experience in leading youth ministry on the diocesan or parish level a must. Significant background with leadership training and ministry formation highly desired. Bilingual in Spanish preferred. Send resume to director.of.youth@archokc.org.

Young adult confirmation coordinator

The archdiocese is seeking a young adult confirmation coordinator for Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. The coordinator provides oversight and administration of programming for the summer camp program. Directs and assists a team of adults and young people for the program. Send resume to director.of.youth@archokc.org.

Social counselor – OCS

Cristo Rey OKC seeks a social counselor to work closely with the principal and president/CEO to create a strong, healthy and supportive culture at Cristo Rey OKC.

Catholic cookbooks for Christmas

Catholic cookbooks for Christmas

By J.B. Helm

The Summer Catholic

Book Review

giving its recipes can be enjoyed the whole year. Cookbooks also can provide seasonal menu ideas that are surely a celebration, and some cookbooks feature food gifts as can be wrapped and packed and shipped.

The Vatican Cookbook

A wonderful gift for any Catholic family or individual - a Vatican cookbook! It is profusely illustrated with photos and features dishes as well as stunningly beautiful photographs of the Vatican and of the Swiss Guard. The history and traditions of the guard trail through recipes and photos of dishes that have been favourite of the popes and officers of the guard.

Feast Day Cookbook: The Traditional Catholic Feast Days of Many Lands

This beautiful cookbook contains over 180 recipes for over 120 feast days throughout the year. Jan. 2 is the Feast of Saint Macarius (4th century) who was a sago sugar merchant before he became a desert hermit, so directions for preparing sagous are included. As an alternative to recipes for other feasts such as Swedish Shrove Tuesday, Saint Valentine’s Day, and Lenten: Candles and Velas Leek Soup for the Feast of Saint David (March 1), which includes one of the famous dishes of Wales, is included, as well as rice, potato and egg dishes for Easter.

The Vatican Cookbook

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Youth camp coordinator

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El tiempo de Adviento nos prepara para recibir a Jesucristo, que viene en historia, misterio y gloria.

Jesús viene en historia, misterio y gloria.

El arzobispo Roberto González Nieves de San Juan, Puerto Rico.

En el norte de los Estados Unidos, una de las áreas que ha sido impactada por el huracán María ha sido Puerto Rico, territorio de Estados Unidos.

Los fondos han sido distribuidos en partes para el 25 de diciembre de 2017.

Continúa en la página 13.
Rothier Gallery

The Home of Sacred Art at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7510 SW 34. SW 18. On Dec. 10 to 12, Craig Sprent, director of music and organist from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, in Minot, will perform. On Dec. 17 in Alves Baskovskis IV, di- rector of sacred music at St. Francis of Assisi. Events are free and open to the public.

Discipleship with the Saints

A series called “Discipleship with the Saints” features presenters discussing fundamental discipleship as lived by some of the Church’s greatest saints. Dec. 11, Mary, mother of Christ. All discus- sions 7:30 p.m. at St. James, 4203 N. McKinley. OKC. Presented by the Gospel of Life Discipulate.

Suicide loss support

A new support group for people who have lost someone to suicide will begin Jan. 10 at St. Francis of Assisi parish at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Missouri Room of Good Samaritan Hospital on the parish campus just north of the church building. It will be a simple gathering in a caring, safe atmo- sphere, offering ways to cope and to mourn the loss of loved ones. Call (405) 528-0485.

FOCUS mission trips

The Fellowship of Catholic Uni- versity Students (FOCUS) will host more than 130 trips in nearly 50 countries during the 2017 – 2018 academic year. Students have traveled to 165 countries, 1200 applications due Jan. 15. Full list of trips at focuscampus.com/ missions.

Longest married couple
ton nominations

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is looking for the longest married couple in the Oklahoma City area. Visit www.okcmwe.org by Jan. 10 to nominate a couple, or e-mail the name of the couple, their wedding date, where they live and contact information for the person nominating to bluelandmagic@gmail.com; or mail to Bryan and Karen Briland, 330 S. Academy, Guthrie 73044, or call (405) 850-4274. National winners will be announced in February 2018 along with 50 state winners.

Pilgrimage to France

Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a pilgrimage to France June 18-29. Visit the incorruptible saints Bern- adette Soubirous, John Vianney, Catherine Laboure and Vincent de Paul. Visit holy sites in Sevres, Pary Le Moulin, Villefranche sur

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Briefs

By Sally Crowe Nash

My observance of Advent and the Christmas Season center around the gift of friendship this year. That’s because Catholic radio is such an important part of my life. I have been listening a lot to Father John Riccardo’s program, “Christ is the An- swer,” which airs weekdays at 11 a.m.

Father John gives me an appreciation of my human friendships within the context of my relationship with Jesus. “God created us for friend- ship,” he says. He talks about how God desires friendship with us, wants to do things with us, wants to do things for us. In fact, he says, God just wants us to be with Him, “to waste time with Him.” Our human friendships help us recognize Jesus as the expres- sion of God’s desire for our friendship.

In recent years, I have been blessed with time to cultivate new friends in my volunteer work and to renew old relationships. I see how they embrace life and give of them- selves whether it is in their tireless volunteer work or changing a tire for a stranded grandchild. An unexpected blessing has been the added dimensions to my friendship with Diane. We have been friends for more than 30 years. Yea, we enjoy shopping and coffee, and volunteering, but we possess what Father Riccardo describes as essen- tial to real friendship. We are going somewhere together; we are looking in the same direc- tion. Diane and I have been at- tracted by what we hold in common, namely, the desire to get to know God and then share Him with others. Our sharing manifests in phone calls and texts to shopping for bargains to spiritual discus- sions and more. It is through a friend like Diane that I can speak about what matters most in life with a true friend, I am to be “my best self,” what Father Riccar- do enlarges with “blessedly.”

Through this gift of friend- ship, I am recognizing how God regards me. A true friend is not blind to my character defects. She acknowledges my struggles (and is right there with me), and offers me prayers and encourage- ment. So, God, who knows my weaknesses all too well still loves me, defects and all, not for what I can do for Him. Instead, He rears in out to me to lead me from sin when I separate from Him. Through sin, we humans broke off our friendship with God. Our friendships remind us that God has offered us restoration of that relation- ship in Jesus. Jesus is the heart of friendship with God. He perfectly fulfilled God’s will to reunite with us when He became human. When we fol- low God’s will for our lives, we open ourselves to our fullest poten- tial; that “best self.”

Our best friendships then lead us to relationship with Jesus. There is no turn- ing back because Jesus is the One God sent as a man among us for our salvation. That friendship meant so much to Jesus that when We were still twelve Jesus cried for us” (Romans 5:8). In the Advent and Christ- mass seasons, that’s worth celebrating.

Pilgrimage to Italy, Sicily

Pilgrimage to Italy, Sicily, Jan. 18-25. Fri. Carl Janocha and Fr. Daniel Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato. The trip is $3,779 pp, including airfare from OKC, four-star hotels, meals and more. Sites include Palermo, Agrigento, St. Scala, Taormina, Sorrento, Pom- pium and Sicily’s most famous sites. The pilgrimage to the Eternal City of Rome, steps at many sites in Italy and Greek and Roman Architecture at the remains of some of wonderful tem- ples, amphitheaters and villas. Will ascend still-active Mt. Etna. Before reaching Rome, we will have the opportunity to visit the famous ruins of Pompeii. $450 deposit is required. Contact Fr. Carl Janocha, (405) 395-2148, cvjanocha@ kanonida.net.

Artway Class

For anyone discerning a new path in life, a step into a new vocation or becoming a better version of themselves, there is this Artway Class. Facilitated by Katie Gordy, the 10-week classes begin Jan. 30 – 3 p.m. Jan. 11 through March 15 in the Council Room in the basement of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Bailingwater available upon request at (405) 204-0598. Cost is $150. Those interested in participating or who have any questions are encouraged to contact Katie by e-mail at ktgktg1213@gmail.com or call/text (405) 672-6954.

Catholic faith conference


Since the FREE fraternal benefits program was launched in 1994, the Knights of Columbus has paid out more than $14.9 Million for Free.

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Strong net neutrality protections called critical to faith community

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Communications has urged the Trump administration to keep current net neutrality rules in place because an open internet, he said, is critical to the nation’s faith communities and how they interact with their members.

“Without open internet principles that prohibit paid prioritization, we might be forced to pay fees to ensure that our high-speed bandwidth content receives fair treatment on the internet,” said Bishop Christopher Coyne of Burlington, Vt.

“Nonprofit communities, both religious and secular, cannot afford to pay to compete with profitable commercialized content,” he said in a Nov. 28 statement.

The concept of an open internet has long been called “net neutrality,” in which internet service providers neither favor nor discriminate against internet users or websites. Neutrality means, for example, providers cannot prioritize one type of content over another, nor can they speed up, slow down or block users access to online content and services.

On Nov. 21, the current chairman of the Federal Communications Commission announced his proposal to roll back rules on neutrality put in place in 2015 by the Obama administration.

Bishop Coyne urged that the current rules remain in place.

“These protections are ‘essential to protect and enhance the ability of vulnerable communities to use advanced technology, and necessary for any organization that seeks to organize, advocate for justice or bear witness in the crowded and over-commercialized media environment.”

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement that under his plan, “the federal government will stop micromanaging the internet. Instead, the FCC would simply require internet service providers to be transparent about their practices.”

Bishop Coyne said: “Robust internet protections are vital to enable our archdioceses, dioceses and parishes, our parishes, schools and other institutions to communicate with each other and our members, to share religious and spiritual teachings, to promote activities online, and to welcome everyone – particularly younger persons – in our ministries.”

The FCC is scheduled to vote on Pai’s proposal at its monthly hearing Dec. 14. Observers predict the vote will fall along party lines. Chairman Pai is Republican as are Commissioners Brendan Carr and Michael O’Rielly. Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and Jessica Rosenworcel are Democrats.

FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2017

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

December 3

Light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath today as you pray for all priests and religious brothers and sisters in your parish.

December 4

Light the third violet candle on your Advent wreath today as you pray for all priests and religious brothers and sisters in your parish.

December 5

Have fun making a Jesse tree today! You can add to it every day until Christmas and learn about Jesus’s heritage.

December 6

Have you started Christmas shopping yet? Consider buying your gifts Fair Trade this year.

December 7

Today is the Feast of St. Nicholas, a saint known for giving gifts to the poor. How well you help the poor this Advent season?

December 8

“Without open internet principles that promote an open internet, the faith community will stop micromanaging the internet. Instead, the FCC would simply require internet service providers to be transparent about their practices.”

December 9

St. Juan Diego welcomed Our Lady of Guadalupe and did her bidding. Remember him today by praying for immigrants and newcomers to your parish or community.

December 10

“If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 Jn 1:10). Have you gone to confession this Advent?

December 11

Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe today that she may help us in “bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.”

December 12

Today’s feast of St. Lucy is marked by pageants and festivals in Sicily and various countries in Europe. Craft an Advent wreath to light the white candle tonight.

December 13

St. John of the Cross, whom we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Make a list of how you help others in your community.

December 14

Make it a family movie night tonight! Pick out your favorite Christmas movie and watch it together.

December 15

On this day, Latin Americans begin Le Procesa—reenactments of Mary’s journey to Bethlehem. Pray for the difficult journeys of migrants and refugees.

December 16

On Gaudete Sunday, we light the rose (pink) candle on the Advent wreath and watch our reflection from “the Lord is coming” to “the Lord is near.”

December 17

Start adding the “O Antiphons” into your mealtime or bedtime prayer. Only one more week until Christmas!

December 18

Take time today to light the family crib. Based on your family’s tradition, you may hole the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.

December 19

As Christmas draws nearer we wrap presents, remember the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

December 20

As we draw nearer to Christmas, take a moment to lift up in prayer the struggles faced by neighbors in your community and around the world.

December 21

Sing your Christmas tree is decorated and sing “Silent Night” as a family.

December 22

Practice sharing your faith with others by carrying the spirit of evangelization with you into the Christmas season and beyond.

December 23


NEW RADIO STATION

Oklahoma City is getting a new Catholic radio station! KHHH 99.3 FM will begin operation on Dec. 18. Several lay ministers completed training to launch the Spanish station with the Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting Network.