WASHINGTON — The U.S. Catholic Bishops have launched a pastoral strategy addressing critical life, marriage and religious liberty concerns. The five-part strategy or call to prayer was approved by the bishops in November and is set to begin after Christmas. The overall focus is to invite Catholics to pray for rebuilding a culture favorable to life and marriage and for increased protections of religious liberty.

Campaign components include monthly Eucharistic holy hours in cathedrals and parishes, daily family rosary, special Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses, fasting and abstinence on Fridays, and the second observance of a Fortnight for Freedom.

The call to prayer is prompted by the rapid social movements and policy changes currently under way, such as the mandate by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that coerces employers, including heads of religious agencies, to pay for sterilizations, abortion-inducing drugs and contraceptives, as well as increased efforts to redefine marriage.

“The pastoral strategy is essentially a call and encouragement to prayer and sacrifice — it’s meant to be simple,” said Archbishop

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Grant Program Gives Gift of Catholic Educational Opportunities to Families Throughout Archdiocese

By Ray Dyer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kim and Christopher Miller take their Catholic faith very seriously. They are just as serious about passing that faith on to their six children. For this reason they are extremely grateful for the generosity that has allowed their children to attend Catholic schools.

That generosity flows from the fact others throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma also take their Catholic faith very seriously.

Four of the Miller’s six children are enrolled at Saint Charles Borromeo. They are there because two of their older children received Catholic School Opportunity Scholarships provided by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

Peter is the eldest of the Miller children at 10. His sister, Miryam, is 9, while Andrew is 7 and Gabriel is 5. They all

continued on Page 5
So What’s Wrong With Contraception?

When the controversy first erupted over the HHS mandate, I joined my fellow bishops in stating our fundamental objection to this unjust mandate, I joined my fellow bishops in stating our fundamental objection to this unjust mandate. Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

December 16 — Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City 10 a.m.
December 18 — Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
December 18 — Mass and Dinner, St. Ann’s Nursing Home, 4:30 p.m.
December 19 — Priests Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
December 19 — 26th Anniversary Mass for Father Robert Ward, St. Mary Church, Guthrie, 6 p.m.
December 20 — School Mass and Classroom Visits, St Eugene School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.
December 20 — Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, 10 a.m.
December 21 — Mass at Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
December 24 (Christmas Eve) — Midnight Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 12 midnight
December 25 (Christmas Day) — Mass at St. Anne’s Nursing Home, 11 a.m.
December 27 — Mass and Christmas Gathering with Seminarians, 6 p.m.
January 2 — Retreat
January 3 — Deacon Advisory Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar:

The widespread dissent and disregard of this teaching contributed to the explosion of pornography as a multibillion-dollar industry. It prepared the way for the Supreme Court of the United States to prepare to rule on whether marriage will even continue to be recognized and protected as a unique union between one man and one woman.

The year 1968 was tumultuous year. It was a time of war, civil unrest and social ferment around the world. On July 25 of that year, Pope Paul VI published his prophetic encyclical Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life). Best known for upholding the Church’s content moral teaching on the licitness of contraception, Pope Paul VI reminded Catholics and all people of good will that something as sacred as the transmission of human life cannot be cut from its meetings without grave consequences for individuals, for marriages and families and for society. Human life and married love are sacred and ought to be revered and protected.

The means which preserve this due respect for the dignity of human sexual love are rooted in God’s plan for marriage. The conjugal act (sexual love between spouses) has a meaning which comes from the Creator. It is ordained in our bodies which God created as male and female. As a sign of the covenant between spouses, every conjugal act ought to be both unitive (a true act of mutual self-giving) and procreative (open to the transmission of life). In other words, every marital act has both a love-giving and life-giving dimension. To separate these two prevents the marital act from realizing its divine intended purpose. Contraception does precisely that. To engage in sexual activity outside of marriage, or with members of the same sex, or for selfish purposes, or while interfering with the natural fruitfulness of the act by contraception is a rejection of God’s intended meaning and purpose. It is sinful.

The widespread dissent and disregard of this teaching following the publication of Humanae Vitae were symptomatic. The secular mentality says that human beings, rather than God, are the measure of all things. Right and wrong are determined on the basis of what is practical rather than what is true. This world view values results over reasons. This radical secular humanism has affected even many in the Church. Many Catholics have sought to accommodate Church teaching to the wisdom of the world. This attempted compromise is a capitulation to evil. It eliminates the necessary tension that will always exist between the spirit of the Gospel and the spirit of the world. The result is a “contraceptive mentality” which wrests control and dominion from God and plies it in the hands of men and women. This mentality is anti-gospel and anti-faith. With this mentality the salt loses its savor — (Mt 5:13).

Pope Paul VI was prophetic in recognizing the grave consequences that would follow if Catholics and others failed to consider where the acceptance of artificial birth control would lead society. A contraceptive mentality would lead inevitably, he said, “toward episcopal insubordination and the general lowering of morality.” It would be disastrous for marriage and families and would lead to loss of respect for women, “to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of physical enjoyment, and no longer as her man’s respected and beloved companion.” He saw the danger of contraceptives being employed as a tool of government in imposing its will over its people. Who would say that those prophetic words have not been fully realized even beyond what was imagined in 1968?

Many family problems and social evils can be linked to this widespread contraceptive mentality which separates sexual love from its proper context in the divine plan for marriage.

A priceless gift is also available through the scientifically-proven methods of Natural Family Planning. NFP is a benefit to married couples because they can use it to help them either to achieve or to avoid pregnancy. Even Planned Parenthood acknowledges that when used correctly, NFP is 95 to 99 percent effective in avoiding pregnancy. Natural Family Planning methods are healthy, reliable, teachable and noninvasive means of family planning which enable couples to cooperate with God and one another in spacing pregnancies in a way which actually strengthens their relationship. It involves shared decision-making and shared responsibility. It fosters communication and self-discipline. Couples who use NFP regularly seldom divorce. It builds rather than undermines marriage! Contrast these facts to the harm Pope Paul foresees coming in the wake of widespread acceptance of contraception. So what’s wrong with contraception? A law is judged by its fruits.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.
With Listening Sessions Complete, Process Now Moves to Discernment of Creating Priorities for Archdiocese

The completion of the eighth and final Listening Session for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City marked the halfway mark for the Mutually Shared Vision process led by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley.

“We have received many very valuable insights and recommendations. Now we are challenged to distill this information and prayerfully discern our key priority areas that will help advance the mutually shared vision that we are developing with input from across the Archdiocese,” explained Archbishop Coakley.

“I am grateful for all who have participated in one of the sessions or who submitted their responses after going to our website to download the questions,” he added, noting that the Vision will become the guide for the Archdiocese and will include three pastoral priorities for the next 18 to 24 months. “We will continue to provide updates as the process unfolds over the course of the next several months.”

“What I have enjoyed most in this process is the opportunity to work with people from around the Archdiocese,” noted Father Joseph M. Irwin, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Edmond and a member of the Envisioning Leadership Team for the Archdiocese.

“The people on the team have a great love for the Church and our Catholic faith. I enjoy their humor, hard work and insights on the needs of the people,” added Father Irwin. “Even more than offer us direction, my hope is that this vision and direction will be fruitful.”

Because sometimes a vision is put forth but never accomplished, leadership in that final leg of the process is critical, Father Irwin explained. “With this process it feels like there will be renewal and change that will be truly fruitful. I appreciate the Archbishop’s leadership in all of this.”

The final portion of the process is Direction and Implementation, where the Envisioning Team will establish SMART goals that will help achieve the three identified archdiocesan priorities to make sure the priorities are addressed, as well as name individuals (not necessarily on the team) to shepherd these to completion.

The Envisioning Leadership Team reviewing the data consists of a group of priests, deacons, religious and lay persons from throughout the Archdiocese. The team is being led and aided in the process by two consultants from the Catholic Leadership Institute located at http://www.catholicleaders.org — an apostolate dedicated to the development of Catholic leaders in service to the mission of the Church. They have developed the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds program for priests, as well as a program for the laity called Tending the Talents, and an outstanding series of ongoing formation seminars for bishops.

“The process will bring clarity of focus to what is needed by the Church in the Archdiocese,” he said, adding that a favorite aspect of the process so far has been the Listening Sessions, “where we get an opportunity to hear the written and spoken comments from around the Archdiocese. We have also been blessed with the Envisioning Team that the Archbishop has assembled. Those team members are all motivated to do what is best for the people of the Archdiocese.”


This process is the opportunity to distill all the insights and recommendations from the Listening Sessions and to focus on what is truly needed by the Church in the Archdiocese.

Cardinal — Being ‘Neutral’ Toward Religion Hurts Religious Freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Most modern democracies have ended up hurting religious freedom in their effort to be “neutral” toward their citizens’ diverse beliefs, said Cardinal Angelo Scola.

Under the guise of “objectivity” and respecting diversity, many governments are really upholding a culture that is deaf to God and hostile to the church’s legitimate place in the public square, he said.

The cardinal-archbishop of Milan, a prominent theologian, made his comments Dec. 6 during a prayer service on the eve of the feast of St. Ambrose, a fourth-century doctor of the church and patron saint of the city. The Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, published a large part of the speech. Religious freedom was born with the Edict of Milan, Cardinal Scola said. The edict, whose 1,700th anniversary will be marked next year, was a proclamation of tolerance of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. The proclamation introduced, for the first time in history, the cardinal said, the idea of “religious liberty and secularity of the state,” which are “two critical aspects of the good organization of the political realm.”

St. Ambrose called on Christians to respect civil authority, which, in turn, had to safeguard the personal and social freedoms of its people so that both governments and citizens would be cooperating for the common good, he said.

The separation of religion and state progressively has lost a healthy balance, the cardinal said, with several democratic questionings if not outright eliminating its core “anthropological framework” that recognized the religious dimension.
� December 16, 2012 Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Prayer is always encouraged when reaching out to inactive Catholics to invite them to return to the Church, but there are other ways to help gently open their hearts.

“When someone sees how your faith impacts your life, that is an authentic invitation,” said Judy Reilly. “We need to live our faith in our lives. It’s how we evangelize and it’s how we are evangelized.”

Reilly is the coordinator for “Catholics Returning Home” at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church. Epiphany is teaming up again with Christ the King Church, as well as Edmond’s Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church to promote the upcoming sessions of “Catholics Returning Home.”

Catholics Returning Home is described as a ministry of “compassion and reconciliation.” The focus is to reach out to Catholics who for whatever reason are no longer taking part in the Mass or any other aspect of the Church. Many people who have found their way back to their Catholic faith through Catholics Returning Home have been away for years, some as many as 25 or 30, said Connie Fox Moore, coordinator of the ministry at Saint John the Baptist.

Reilly of Epiphany, Moore of Saint John’s and Linda Giachino of Christ the King are passionate about promoting Catholics Returning Home. The new sessions will begin Jan. 7 and 8 at the parishes. Sessions last for six weeks and meet once a week. The evening sessions last for about 90 minutes, and child care can be provided if it is requested.

Moore has firsthand knowledge of Catholics Returning Home. She was away from the Church for several years after a divorce. The program helped her find her way back to the faith she loves.

Actually it was Saint Benedict’s in Shawnee that brought Catholics Returning Home to the attention of the three women who saw the need in their own parishes.

The Shawnee parish had been offering Catholics Returning Home for several years and put Moore, Reilly and Giachino in touch with the founder of the ministry, Sally Mews of Wadsworth, Ill.

Catholics Returning Home is one of 12 model programs listed in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) directory, “A Time to Listen ... A Time to Heal.” The program is used in the archdioceses of Atlanta, Chicago, Des Moines, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Milwaukee, as well as others.

The motto of Catholics Returning Home is “To err on the side of compassion.” It’s that compassion that drives Reilly, Moore and Giachino; they’ve seen the healing that comes to individuals as well as families when people find their way back to the faith.

“We had one participant in the program who was so happy to have returned to the Church,” Giachino said. The woman had been away from her faith for decades. She returned with the help of Catholics Returning Home.

“She had told all her family and friends how happy she was to be back in the Church,” Giachino said. The woman was finally at peace after years of discontent. She took part in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

“Two days later she suffered a stroke and died. It impacted the entire class of those taking part in Catholics Returning Home with her,” Giachino said.

And that’s another important factor that helps people, joining in a class with others who for whatever reason have been away from the Church.

“It helps to walk with someone who understands what you are going through,” Moore said.

With inactive Catholics being the second largest faith group in the nation, behind only practicing Catholics, there is no shortage of people to walk with on the journey of Catholics Returning Home.

Reilly — Live Life of Faith to Bring Catholics Back Home

By Ray Dyer
Sooner Catholic

Catholics Returning Home

Informal Listening Sessions & Update of Catholic Faith Sessions Begin Soon

For More Information Call 834-0765

You Can Always Come Home

Catholics Returning Home
Saint John the Baptist
900 S. Littler Ave., Edmond
Phone 834-0765

Church of the Epiphany of the Lord
7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City
Phone 722-2110

Christ the King Church
8005 Dorset Drive, Oklahoma City
Phone 496-0033

Above, Linda Giachino, Connie Fox Moore and Judy Reilly. Far left is a display at St. John’s in Edmond in which people put the name of the loved one they are praying for on the fish as part of the Catholics Returning Home ministry. (Photo at left, courtesy.)
Scholarship continued from Page 1

attend Saint Charles, from fourth grade to preschool. John, the 2-year-old, and baby Paul, three months, are home with mom. Christopher is employed at Wiley Post Airport as a line service technician. It’s a good job, but having four children in Catholic schools would be next to impossible if it wasn’t for the scholarships.

The Miller family may be the perfect example of why the grant program was named the Catholic School Opportunity Scholarships Fund, said Burney Semtner, Catholic Foundation executive director.

The Catholic Foundation administers the Opportunity Scholarship program for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The program seeks donations for need-based scholarships awarded to Catholic students to attend Catholic schools within the Archdiocese, Semtner said. The primary purpose of the program is to allow as many students as possible to attend Catholic schools with tuition assistance to Catholic families with the greatest need. In 2012, the program awarded 30 scholarships from the funds it received in 2011. The scholarships were distributed to benefactors at all 21 Catholic elementary and high schools in the Archdiocese.

Semtner said in 2011, the Oklahoma Legislature passed the Equal Opportunity Scholarship Act that provides for 59 percent income tax credits to be given for donations to a scholarship-granting organization. A married couple filing jointly can give up to $2,000 and qualify for the income tax credit, while gifts from corporations up to $100,000 will qualify for this tax credit. The Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund is the vehicle that makes tax-deferred contributions eligible for the state tax credit. Up to 75 percent of each donation can be earmarked to scholarships for a specific Catholic school.

“I am really pleased that we are able to offer these scholarships to assist families in providing a Catholic education for their children in the Archdiocese,” Archbishop Paul S. Cordileone said. “This is an important work of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.”

Semtner said the largest contribution to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund so far has been a $10,000 corporate gift. He said contributions have more than doubled in just the second year of the program.

Todd Gungoll, principal at Saint Charles Borromeo where the Miller children attend, said tuition for a parishioner is $3,350 for the first child and $2,500 for each additional child.

No doubt the tuition is a steep climb for many families, but with the state spending vastly double that amount in per pupil cost for public education, Oklahoma leaders already recognized the tax credit program was a winner for government coffers as well.

Kim Miller knows the real winners are the parents who sincerely want a Catholic education for their children, but struggle desperately to meet the tuition demands.

“We do our best to trust in God,” she said. “It’s important to us that our children are there. They get to attend Mass more than on Sunday. This scholarship makes Catholic education possible for us.”

A convert to Catholicism and a product of public education, Kim Miller praised the teachers and staff at Saint Charles where she said “were teaching as their calling. It’s obvious they love teaching children as a ministry. They really do strive to teach children to be Christ-like, it’s not just something the children read in a book.”

She pointed to the school adapting families for Christmas and the students pitching in to help make Christmas special for children who are less fortunate. Or how the students work to help the parish food pantry.

The mother of six laughs when she says just because her children attend Catholic school, they’re not ready for cannibalism.

“Oh, they can be ornery, no doubt,” she said. “But I can see where they are being exposed more than just at home to what it means to be compassionate and caring toward others. It’s sinking in Saint Charles takes faith formation and education very seriously.”

One aspect Kim Miller said she and her husband stress to their children is the need to give back. They have explained to the older two that because of the generosity of others, they are able to attend Catholic schools.

“We realize and we want our children to recognize what has been given to them,” she said. “That way whenever Andrew grows up and becomes a doctor, he can give back. They all can give back.”

Prayer continued from Page 1

Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the bishops Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage. “It’s not meant to be another program but rather part of a movement for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty, which engages the New Evangelization and can be incorporated into the Year of Faith. Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty are not only foundational to Catholic social teaching but also fundamental to the good of society,” he said.

Details of the strategy follow:

- Starting with the Sunday after Christmas (Feast of the Holy Family) and continuing on or near the last Sunday of every month through Christ the King Sunday, November 2013, cathedrals and parishes are encouraged to hold a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty

- Families and individuals are encouraged to pray a daily Rosary, especially for the preservation of Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty in the nation.

At Sunday and daily Masses, it is encouraged that the Prayers of the Faithful include specific intentions for respect for all human life from conception to natural death, the strengthening of marriage and family life, and the preservation of religious liberty at all levels of government, both at home and abroad.

- Abstinence from meat and fasting on Fridays are encouraged for the intention of the protection of Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty, recognizing the importance of spiritual and bodily sacrifice in the life of the Church.

The celebration of a second Fortnight for Freedom at the end of June and the beginning of July 2013 is being planned. This Fortnight would emphasize faith and marriage in a particular way in the face of the potential Supreme Court rulings during this time.

The Fortnight would also emphasize the need for conscience protection in light of the Aug. 1, 2013, deadline for religious organizations to comply with the IRS mandate, as well as religious freedom concerns in other areas, such as immigration, adoption and humanitarian services.

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A website with several resources is available at www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty.

“With the challenges this country is facing, it is hoped that this call to prayer and penance will help build awareness among the faithful as well as spiritual stamina and courage for effective witness. We also hope that it will encourage solidarity with all people who are standing for the precious gifts of life, marriage and religious liberty.”

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone
As this year of 2012 comes to an end, it is important that everyone in this Archdiocese offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all those families and individuals who have responded to God’s love through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by accepting their “Mission to Serve.” They have given their time, talents and resources to support the work of the Church — to serve God’s family both in their parish and their community. The value of their time and talents is incalculable. To some degree, giving of their resources can be recognized. During the 2012 Appeal, almost 9,500 donors pledged $3,780,579.00 in support of the pastoral ministries, apostolates and offices of the Archdiocese.

Payments on those pledges have reached $2,878,279.00 on our goal of $3 million. With three weeks remaining before the end of the year, reaching our goal is very possible. Pray that happens.

Just a reminder to all those making final payments on their pledges or even making an initial or additional donation, to receive credit for 2012 tax purposes, envelopes must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31.

On behalf of all those directly benefiting from the proceeds of the Appeal 2012, special prayers of thanksgiving will be offered for those serving God with their love to us all in so many ways.

Thank you,
Tom Maxwell
Executive Director ADF Appeal

Mount St. Mary’s Students
Work to Give a Merry Christmas
to Those in Need

OKLAHOMA CITY — Members of the Mount St. Mary Spanish National Honor Society and the Spanish Club delivered gifts of toys to be distributed Dec. 15 at the Latino Community Development Agency’s Christmas Party for Hispanic Youth. Many of the children and youth served by the agency are impoverished and struggling, with families that cannot provide gifts at Christmas. MSM students donated more than 60 gifts this year, and it was the fifth year for MSM students to participate in the program. Additionally, several MSM students will serve as volunteers at the agency party, which is scheduled to be held on the campus of Oklahoma City Community College.

(Photos courtesy)

Mount St. Mary’s Students
Work to Give a Merry Christmas
to Those in Need

ADF’s Mission to Serve Nears Goal as Year End Approaches

As this year of 2012 comes to an end, it is important that everyone in this Archdiocese offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all those families and individuals who have responded to God’s love through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by accepting their “Mission to Serve.” They have given their time, talents and resources to support the work of the Church — to serve God’s family both in their parish and their community. The value of their time and talents is incalculable. To some degree, giving of their resources can be recognized. During the 2012 Appeal, almost 9,500 donors pledged $3,780,579.00 in support of the pastoral ministries, apostolates and offices of the Archdiocese.

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Tom Maxwell
Executive Director ADF Appeal

Give a Catholic School Scholarship
– Get a Tax Credit

What could be easier?

With an Oklahoma state income tax credit obtained by a gift to the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund, For every $5 you give, you’ll get up to $5 state tax credit (up to a $1,000 gift for individual tax payers, up to $2,000 gift for married couples filing jointly, and up to $3,000 for corporations). Tax Credit will begin in the tax year 2013 (includes gifts made in 2011, 2012, 2013. It’s simple—the more you give, the more you save. The numbers will vary, but here’s an example for someone in the 25 percent federal tax bracket:

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The advantage's for you:

Net Cost to the Donor $750

SAVINGS OF $250

1. Complete tax return for the year.
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Fill out the following information:

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City, State, Zip: ___________________
School District: __________________
School Address: __________________
Amount of Gift: __________________
Date of Gift: _____________________
Gifts must be postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2013 for the Gift to be considered for the Tax Credit.

Below is the information required to complete the form:

- Name of School
- Amount of Gift
- Date of Gift
- School Address

Mail to:
Diocese of Oklahoma City
Office of Catholic Schools
1100 NE 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73110

2013 Deadlines for the Sooner Catholic

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In his homily celebrating Mass for the 50th anniversary of Saint Andrew’s Church, Archbishop Paul Coakley praised the faith community for being “the kind of parish the Second Vatican Council envisioned.”

Established in 1962, Saint Andrew’s has grown into a vibrant Catholic community that has fostered a number of vocations, including five priestly vocations, with another parishioner currently in seminary. Concelebrating Mass was Father Jack Feehily, current pastor at Saint Andrew’s, as well as Father George Pupius, former pastor. Loraine Stewart has been a member of the parish since Bishop Victor Reed named Father John M. Joyce as the first pastor there in 1962. She said at the time, less than 50 families gathered for Mass. Today, more than 900 families call Saint Andrew’s their home parish.

The parish continues to grow as a new Youth Center and chapel are being constructed adjacent to the main church complex. More than a dozen priests from throughout the Archdiocese took part in the Eucharistic Celebration, held on Nov. 29, the eve of the Feast of Saint Andrew. St. Andrew’s Holds 50th Anniversary Celebration
“I hate Christmas.”

That was a line from Father Francis I had heard him say at least a dozen times a season since I met him 30 years ago. Frank was in his late 70s then, his hair turned wilder and wilder as each year in the middle. But the pale hair brought out the freckles of his blue eyes, giving him a quality of a good start. Bob had a way of walking with just quick whisk and just enough insecurity below his head to have to have to have to have to have.

“Was when the decorations go up. Private and bishop have been found guilty from the pulpit for hundreds of years about their people not doing what they were told on Christmas. The story is that like a charged moment time and place telescope the current of the diocese. Frank had always been a major current in the Church. If you ask me, Christmas isn’t anything but Frank.”

Frank said, “Tell your mom you’re not alone. You have the support of the community.”

He was pulling his sword free from the scabbard vertically and horizontally. Frank had brought me in to be no end. I was currently standing in his living room. “Tell her, of course I’ll go see him. Tomorrow is Christmas Eve so the jail may be hard to get to. But I’ll go down tomorrow morning and make sure Father knows we’re thinking of him. Ask her, ‘Have you got your holly paid for this month?’”

Frank was getting wind up. At least his blood wasStart downloading to a neutral observer and decided to break the spell. “Go get your scabbard. When it rains, it pours.”

The only thing bishops ought to be worrying about when they rushed in to see what Santa Claus put into the box is they’re anxious they don’t get giddy like they did when they were kids. If you ask me, Christmas isn’t anything about the kids. It’s about the families you mentioned. You’re not all by your-self. Padre, can you help? What can we do? We’re afraid there’s no one else to turn to.”

“Next year’s big question is going to be if you’re going to tell them? Will you go to see my dad?”

Inez, it’s important that you don’t worry. Say goodbyes. Frank came back and sat down in front of what seemed to be the mark of being a neutral observer and decided to break the spell. “Go get your scabbard. When it rains, it pours.”

Becky VanPool, Parish Outreach for Community Nursing, contact Mary Diane Burton, Covenant Community Church, Tulsa; Patricia Brown, St. John’s Episcopal, Bartlesville; Inez Scurlock, Parish Ministry, St. John’s, Oklahoma City; Mary Keller, All Souls, Oklahoma City; Mary Vanpool, Parish Outreach for Community Nursing, contact Mary Diane Burton, Covenant Community Church, Tulsa; Patricia Brown, St. John’s Episcopal, Bartlesville; Inez Scurlock, Parish Ministry, St. John’s, Oklahoma City; Mary Keller, All Souls, Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Becky VanPool, Parish Outreach for Catholic Charities, at 523-5203, or bevanzvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

The Mass will be celebrated by Reverend Paul Costin, Archbishop of Oklahoma City. The priests will be invited to join the 1973 Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Programs to discuss the Catholic social teaching about the dignity of human life will follow. Following Mass, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.”

We've managed to domesticate the children’s holiday, and since it has become focused on the commercial, we've lost the meaning of the whole mystery of the Incarnation. Once humanity knows God is with us, once humanity knows that this event is they’re anxious they don’t get giddy like they did when they were kids. If you ask me, Christmas isn’t anything about the kids. It’s about the families you mentioned. You’re not all by your-self. Padre, can you help? What can we do? We’re afraid there’s no one else to turn to.”

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Mount Saint Mary School Celebrates Magic of Giving

OKLAHOMA CITY — Nearly 400 people gathered for Magic at The Mount to celebrate and embrace the mission of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School. The event was held Dec. 1 in the newly completed Devon Rotunda in downtown Oklahoma City.

More than $180,000 was raised during the evening.

Items that were purchased during the live auction included a dinner with Archbishop Coakley to be held at Stella Modern Italian Cuisine, suites for a Thunder game and suites for a St. Louis Cardinals game.

“It always amazes me how our constituents go through the process from being a recipient to being a giver,” said Chris Stiles, director of Advancement at MSM. “Many of our attendees were alumni or Mount St. Mary parents. They understand and embrace what The Mount stands for and they welcome the opportunity to support this school.”

The highlight of the evening was a Dutch Auction that sold 27 brick pillars at $2,500 each and numerous wrought iron panels that will complete the final phase of the school’s three-year perimeter fence project.

The Devon Rotunda served as an incredible backdrop to a spectacular evening,” said Principal Talita DeNegri. “It amazes me how this event over the years has grown from 40 attendees in our school auditorium to nearly 400 friends in a breathtaking venue. Most importantly, I am grateful to all the volunteers who selflessly give of their time and talents and to our families and friends whose giving spirit will benefit Mount St. Mary for years to come.”

A special thank you to all of the school’s corporate partners who helped sponsor this event. These partners include Biscone & Biscone, Attorneys; Michael Brooks-Jimenez, Attorneys & Counselors at Law; CareSource; Diamond Dee-Lite; Durham Supply, Inc.; Farm Bureau Insurance, Mark Wolf, Agent; Forest Building Materials; Krapff Reynolds Construction; Lieber Mechanical, LLC; Mercedes Benz; Mercy Health Center; and Ward & Glass, Attorneys at Law.

Mount Saint Mary School Celebrates Magic of Giving

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Leadership Class wrapped up its latest student-led service projects called “Food for Fashion” and “Rocket Olympics.”

The Food for Fashion week raised over 1,800 items and brought awareness about the Regional Food Bank mission. The students have developed some projects that have had a significant impact on the entire school. Some of the favorites: one group was able to coordinate it so that everyone in the entire school (all students, teachers and staff) wrote a thank you note to anyone in the school.

Other projects have included “Pros vs. Joes,” a student-teacher basketball competition; a group placed inspirational quotes on every single locker in the school; and a group coordinated a school-wide “Rocket Time Olympics” in which Rocket Time classes competed against each other in outside games.

MSM Students Wrap Up Recent Service Projects in Style

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The Food for Fashion week raised over 1,800 items and brought awareness about the Regional Food Bank mission. Rocket Olympics was a school-wide event that got students involved in fun games and provided the ability for all grade levels to interact.

The goal of the leadership class activities is to promote school spirit, a community atmosphere and find a way to serve the entire student body or an under-served group. The class is a semester-long class and is offered every semester at The Mount.

Over the past several years, the students have developed some projects that have had a significant impact on the entire school. Some of the favorites: one group was able to coordinate it so that everyone in the entire school (all students, teachers and staff) wrote a thank you note to anyone in the school.

The group members also wrote many letters themselves so that every single student in the school received a card. They called it the “Great Thanks” project.

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By Rex Hogan

For the Sooner Catholic

NORWICH — In 2003, Donna Keller, then president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 12108, St. Mark’s Catholic Church, came up with the idea of a service project — to make quilts for children.

The project has grown considerably in the past nine years.

“We have a quilting ministry that makes baby quilts, patriot quilts for the VA Center, lap quilts and catheter bags for dialysis patients, and at Christmas we make over 100 Christmas stockings and stuff them with goodies for the Mary Abbott House and Ally’s House,” said Barbara Meyer, St. Mark’s Ladies Auxiliary historian.

This year, the auxiliary will sew between 400 and 500 quilts.

“It’s a wonderful ministry,” said Carmen Castillo, who heads the auxiliary quilting ministry.

Nancy DeGroote, auxiliary president, said the ministry has grown over the past several years as “word has gotten around Norman what we do.”

The Mary Abbott House in Norman provides a safe environment for children who have been victims of sexual and physical abuse and neglect.

Ally’s House is a nonprofit organization in Oklahoma designed to aid children with cancer.

The St. Mark’s Auxiliary has about 20 members, DeGroote said. They meet once a month. Several members take fabric home to work on. And the ministry has grown beyond the auxiliary, it’s now a parish project.

“The fabric is donated,” DeGroote said. “Once a year the Knights of Columbus have a big garage sale and they let us keep all the stuffed animals that we put in the stockings.”

Castillo said if any stockings are left over, they go to a children’s hospice service.

DeGroote said the best part of the ministry, besides the fellowship, is seeing the look on the faces of those who receive the quilts and stockings.

“It’s very satisfying. It’s a warm feeling,” she said.

Sacred Heart Students Give Gift of Milk to Peruvian People

EL RENO — Sacred Heart Catholic School students raised money last school year to help purchase a cow for the people helped by Father Joe Uhen’s ministry in Peru.

During a mission trip to the country in August, Kelly Dyer-Fry, editor of The Oklahoman, represented the Sacred Heart students and picked out and purchased the cow for them to present to Father Uhen.

Fry recently spoke to students at Sacred Heart, showing them a video of the cow, named Cardinal, and introducing them to some of the children and families their efforts will help support. She said milk from the cow will help nourish hospice patients aided by the ministry there.

Assisted by her nephews who attend Sacred Heart, Fry handed out beaded bracelets made by Peruvian children as gifts to the Sacred Heart students. She told them she too attended Sacred Heart and one of their teachers, Lois Jeffrey, also taught her.

Relief Services Rice Bowl to Help Reduce Hunger at Home, Overseas

You’re invited to come and learn about the new Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl.

An open house will be held in the Catholic Pastoral Center Conference Center Foyer from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 2013. There will be a presentation at 2:30 p.m. on how you can help reduce hunger for millions of low-income people in the United States and overseas by your participation in the CRS Rice Bowl program during Lent.

Enjoy Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, pick up some free resources and sign up for door prizes.

For more information, contact Marlene Redlich at marlene@archokc.org, or call (405) 709-2734.
El Papa Pablo VI fue profético al reconocer las graves consecuencias que se derivan de las anticonceptivos y otros no tuvieron en cuenta a donde llevaría a la sociedad la aceptación del control artificial de la natalidad. La moralidad anticonceptiva conduciría inevitablemente, dijo, "hacia la inutilización de la mujer y a la degradación general de la moralidad". "Será denostado para el matrimonio y la familia y dará lugar a la pérdida de respeto por las mujeres," dijo, "hasta el punto de considerarlas como simples instrumentos de gineco y no como la respetada y amada compañera del hombre." Vio el peligro de los anticonceptivos que se emplearan como una herramienta de gobierno para imponer su voluntad sobre sus pueblos. ¿Quién diría que estas palabras proféticas no se han cumplido plenamente, incluso más allá de lo imaginado en 1968? Muchas de las problemáticas familiares y los males sociales se pueden vincular a esta mentalidad generalizada de anticonceptivo que separa al ser sexual por parte de su propio contexto en el plan divino para el matrimonio. Como consecuencia de la mentalidad anticonceptiva los divorcios, el sexto prometido, la infidelidad conjugal, la actividad homossexual y la aborto son cada día más comunes. Y aunque sean tan trágicas, muchas de estas problemáticas son mucho más amplias y profundas. El 25 de julio de ese año el Papa Pablo VI les recordó a los católicos y a la respetada y amada compañera del hombre. Hoy el Papa Francisco, el Papa de los Estados Unidos está determinando si el matrimonio aún sigue siendo reconocido y protegido como una unión exclusiva entre un hombre y una mujer.

Por más impopular que pueda ser en algunos sectores, y en verdad difícil, la Iglesia no puede cambiar su enseñanza sobre la immoralidad de la anticoncepción artificial. La Iglesia no cree la ley moral, sino que se establece mediante el derecho de Dios sobre sus hijos y el mandato del gobierno es su desprecio por los derechos de la conciencia y las religiones. Liberado del control del gobierno, el Papa saldrá de su silencio. "Hoy en día es de especial importancia aclarar las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre la anticoncepción. Cuando la anticoncepción se utiliza como el amor sexual entre esposos, "hasta el punto de considerarla como simples instrumentos de gineco y no como la respetada y amada compañera del hombre."

...
### ¿Sufre usted de TDA-FC?

**Por Pedro A. Moreno, OP**

**Director de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City**

La Nueva Evangelización es el remolino principal para atracar a esta terrible y contagiosa enfermedad del alma conocida como TDA-FC. En épocas pasadas hubiéramos tenido de tiberón del alma o una azucena pereza espiritual. Algunos escritores espiritualistas incluían todos referir a lo que ahora llamamos TDA-FC como la lucha contra la mediocridad, pero no importa como le llame a esta horrible enfermedad el hecho es que la TDA-FC se frecuenta entre muchas católicas hoy.

**TDA-FC se Trasforma por Dificil de Atención - Fe Católica**

Y he aquí algunas de las señales de deterioro que pueden estar presentes cuando se está enfermo de esta enfermedad.

- **A menudo cometo pecados** de varias tipos por descuido y fácilmente evitables.
- **A menudo tengo dificultades** para mantener la atencion acerca de la centralidad de Jesucristo en mi propia vida por un tiempo significativo.
- **A menudo tengo dificultades** para concentrarme en conversaciones personales con Dios, la oración? ¿Dificultades para terminar la oración y la meditación de la Palabra de Dios? ¿A menudo extravío o tengo dificultades para encontrar las cosas? ¿A menudo tengo dificultades para encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de estas bendiciones? ¿Qué parroquia, misa o sacerdote puede ser un ujier, lector o un miembro del coro? ¿A menudo extravío o tengo dificultades para encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de esta enfermedad? ¿Qué parroquia, misa o sacerdote puede ser un ujier, lector o un miembro del coro? ¿A menudo tengo dificultades para encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de esta enfermedad?

- **Tengo problemas para terminar** los actos de caridad y misericordia que ya he iniciado?
- **A menudo tengo dificultades** para organizar mi vida espiritual? ¿Dificultades con el permiso de ver televisión o diario? ¿Tengo tiempo para recorrer el terreno de la oración espiritual en el medio del mundo?" que tenga acceso a un dispositivo móvil o teléfono inteligente, el día

- **El Papa App** también enviará alertas de y vinculos a los principales historias provenientes de las agencias noticias del Vaticano, dijo Gustavo Entrena, fundador y principal ejecutivo operativo de la firma española IAC, que desarrolló la aplicación gratuita.

- **Un techo con todo lo que el papa haga o dice,** entregado a dispositivos móviles y los usuarios de la aplicación "podrán ver al papa en vivo cada vez que habló," el día antes reportarse durante una conferencia de prensa del 3 de diciembre en el Vaticano. La aplicación debe estar disponible el 10 de diciembre para el iPhone y el iPod, mientras que una versión para Android está programada para salir en enero, el día

- **La mayoría de los pecados esenciales logran ver al papa en vivo durante las transmisiones en vivo sobre los eventos de Navidad y Pascua en el Vaticano, el día

- **Y me pregunta:** "¿Y si el papa pudiera llegar a nuestras manos, las manos de todo persona en el mundo? que tenga acceso a un dispositivo móvil o teléfono inteligente, el día

- **Tendremos transmitido directamente al teléfono móvil todo lo que el papa diga, por ejemplo, en Ángeles dominical, las charlas de las audiencias generales de los misa y otros eventos importantes, el día

- **Los usuarios también pueden usar las últimas fechas de la papa, así como buscar en los medios arqueológicos y todos estos vienen compartir en la internet, el año

- **El Vaticano comenzará a ofrecer transmisiones en vivo de eventos papales en su repertorio de video Silverlight y a través de su portal de noticias, novena, en el 2011.**

- **El nuevo ‘Papa App’ alertará a los usuarios cuando un evento esté por comenzar y el dispositivo móvil recibirá la señal en vivo directamente desde el Centro Televé en el Vaticano,** el día

- **La aplicación también durará a los usuarios imágenes en vivo desde cualquier de las catedrales de internet del Vaticano.** Dos cámaras están en la catedral de Basílica de San Pedro, una mirando la Plaza de San Pedro y la otra la oficina del gobernador del Vaticano. Otra está situada alta, mirando a la basílica y los apartamentos papales, desde la catedral, tal vez a las Horas Santas. Quizás pueda promover el resorte en la de la basílica, pero ¿cuál es el ritual o cuál es el acto? Y diría a ser derruido a nuestra Señora de Fátima, a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, o a nuestra Señora de Lourdes, o a Inmaculada Concepción de María, o a Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo o incluso a nuestra aparición de la de que estaba encadenado tanto? Tal vez vaya a ser dedicada a San José o San Antonio o San Ignacio o a Santa Catalina, a Santa Teresa o a Santa Ana. ¿Llamese en blanco, no la puede llegar a ser tan rápidamente complicado, y una perdida de tiempo y energía, si al final no estamos más convertidos, somos más Santos, o estamos más cercanos a Jesucristo que cuando comenzamos.

- **Aquí está una sencilla prueba para ver si usted sufre de TDA-FC en cualquier grado. Sólo diga lo que es la ortografía de oración: ‘Jesucristo, ¡Te necesito!’” que tenga acceso a un dispositivo móvil o teléfono inteligente, el día

- **Esta oración le parece difícil o le incomoda a usted? No le escoja lo suficientemente católica? Si ha contestado que si a alguna de sus preguntas, usted podría estar sufriendo de TDA-FC.**

- **Así que a todos mis compañeros de viaje a la hora de este viejo del Amén, los que se hayan cansado en su lector de libros electrónico puede hacer que un término jugando fidalgos. ¿Olí sólo soy?»**

- **Curiosamente nuestro corazón parecería en el que podemos encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de TDA-FC.**

- **Puede ser una de estas cosas cuando aquellos que quieren simplemente no está allí.**

- **¿Qué parroquia, misa o sacerdote puede ser un ujier, lector o un miembro del coro? ¿A menudo tengo dificultades para encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de esta enfermedad?**

- **¿Qué parroquia, misa o sacerdote puede ser un ujier, lector o un miembro del coro? ¿A menudo tengo dificultades para encontrar a Jesucristo, el remedio de esta enfermedad?**

- **Padre y pueden llegar a ocupar la mayor parte de nuestro tiempo y atención. Algunos ejemplos de esto en la vida de la Iglesia son:**

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- **Corazón, tal vez a la Divina Misericordia, tal vez a la Divina Misericordia, tal vez a la Divina...**
Do You Suffer from CF-ADD?

This Illness Can Lead to Premature, and Eternal, Death in Catholics!

By Pedro Moreno
Director of Hispanic Ministry

The New Evangelization is the primary remedy for this onslaught of CF-ADD, and other wide-spread diseases of the soul known as ADD. In ages past we would speak of the weakness of the soul or spiritual lukewarmness. Some spiritual writers might even refer to what we now call CF-ADD as the struggle with mediocrity, but whatever you call this horrid illness, the fact remains that CF-ADD is prevalent among many Catholics today.

CF-ADD is Catholic Faith Attention Deficit Disorder and here some are the symptoms of impairment that can be present when suffering from this illness. Just ask yourself, do you:

- Often commit careless and easily avoidable sins of various types?
- Often have difficulty keeping attention on the centrality of Jesus Christ in your own life for a significant amount of time?
- Often have difficulty concentrating on your personal conversations with God, prayer?
- Have trouble finishing acts of charity and mercy that have already been started?
- Often have difficulty organizing and attention. Examples of this in various theological points of view and the bells and the smells or the secondary aspects of our faith, not necessarily the primary remedy.

A CF-ADD diagnosis is contingent upon the symptoms of impairment presenting themselves in two or more settings (e.g., at church, school, work and at home). There must also be clear evidence of significantly impairing beliefs in order to end up taking up most of our time and attention. Examples of this in Church life are:

- The Parish Priest’s or a priest’s favorite? Where do I feel truly loved and come into my heart once again. Amen. Did this prayer seem awkward or uncomfortable to you? Did you think it could be a catechist or a member of the choir. Maybe I’ll spend my time in classrooms, maybe the Sacred Heart, maybe Divine Mercy, maybe Holy Hour. Maybe I can promote the rosary or the chaplet, but which chaplet or which rosary? Will I be devoted to Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, the Immaculate Heart, Our Lady of Mount Carmel or maybe even see that now apparition I have been hearing so much about? Maybe I’ll be devoted to St. Joseph, St. Francis X. St. Dominic or St. Ignatius or St. Catherine of Siena or St. Therese of the Child Jesus. If all the blame: This can become so ridiculously complicated, and a waste of time and energy if at the end we’ve not any more converted, holier or closer to Jesus Christ than when we started.

Here is a simple test to see if you suffer from CF-ADD to any degree.

Just say the following prayer: “Jesus Christ, You are my Lord and my Savior! I love you! Please forgive me and come into my heart once again. Amen.” Did this prayer seem awkward or uncomfortable to you? Did you think that it could be a waste of time and energy, a catechist or a member of the choir. Maybe I’ll spend my time in classrooms, maybe the Sacred Heart, maybe Divine Mercy, maybe Holy Hour. Maybe I can promote the rosary or the chaplet, but which chaplet or which rosary? Will I be devoted to Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, the Immaculate Heart, Our Lady of Mount Carmel or maybe even see that now apparition I have been hearing so much about? Maybe I’ll be devoted to St. Joseph, St. Francis X. St. Dominic or St. Ignatius or St. Catherine of Siena or St. Therese of the Child Jesus. If all the blame: This can become so ridiculously complicated, and a waste of time and energy if at the end we’ve not any more converted, holier or closer to Jesus Christ than when we started.

So to all my fellow travelers along this journey of the Year of Faith, let us all that with me struggle with varying degrees of CF-ADD, let us all share some time during this special season to concentrate on our personal work with Jesus Christ. Let’s open our hearts to Him and let’s invite Him to make a home there because if He is not in every manger, and not in our hearts, we will have lost not only the true meaning of the season but worst yet, we will have lost the power of the love that our hearts and lives. Let’s keep Christ in Christmas and at the center of our daily existence.

Across Oklahoma

Birth Choice Grant Finalist, Help Needed

OKLAHOMA CITY — Birth Choice of Oklahoma has been chosen as one of the finalists for “THE POWER OF A DREAM” grant sponsored by SandRidge Energy.

Birth Choice Coordinator says: “We are thrilled to receive this grant to support our health care services and pregnancy resource centers.

OKLAHOMA Catholic College Student Conference

OLOG — The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference will be held Feb. 13 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. Participants are invited to gather with college students from all over the state to answer the call of the New Evangelization.

Participants will get the tools they need to explain, defend and spread their Catholic Faith.

Speakers will include Archbishop Joseph E. Coakley, Bishop Dennis J. Slattery, Bob Rice and Peter Keough.

Registration is $25 and includes the conference, food and two nights lodging at the camp. To register, see your campus minister or call (405) 721-5651 Ext. 115.

Students Support Bedlam Food Drive

EDMOND — The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School National Junior Honor Society recently sponsored the annual Bedlam Food Drive benefiting the Samaritan House at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Students brought canned goods or made monetary donations representing either OU or OSU. Although OU won the food drive, the real winner was the Samaritan House with a donation of 9,397 items.

Many Catholic organizations are engaged in various service projects throughout the Oklahoma City area.

St. Elizabeth Ann students with food they collected for their annual Bedlam Food Drive.
Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 1125, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

25 Christmas Holy Day of Obligation
27-28 Mountain Basketball Clinic
Grades 1-4, 1 to 3 p.m.
Coach Andy Fisher at (405) 464-2097, or email afisher@archokc.org.

**January**

1 Solemnity of Mary Holy Day of Obligation
4 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass
at the Cathedral Pastoral Center
Exposition at 5:10 p.m. Mass at 7 p.m.
Office of Family Life, (405) 721-6844.

**Jobs**

Executive Director
The Center of Family Love is seeking an experienced executive director to manage vocational, residential and intermediate care facilities based in Oklahoma. Nonprofit experience and long-term care experience are preferred. Operational management and budgeting experience are also necessary. The Center seeks someone who will further advance the mission of CFC. Interested parties may email resumes to HR@cflinc.org for consideration.

Organist
St. Philip Neri Church is in search of an organist. The position also requires some piano. You will be required to play for two Sunday Masses, 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Holy Days Masses, funerals, weddings and other services. The position requires the organist to accompany the choir in Wednesday rehearsals (7 to 8:30 p.m.).

A knowledge of Catholic liturgy is preferred, but not required. The position will be available Jan. 9, 2013. If you are interested, contact Bernadette Jones at bernadette@ms.com.

Director of Music
Holy Family Church in Lawton is looking for a Director of Music. The person will report to and work with the pastor and will be responsible for the following: serving as the principal musician, organist/pianist and choir director; planning, directing, rehearsing and performing music for the weekend Masses, Holy Day Masses, funerals, weddings and other services. Ministry also includes recruiting, supervising and providing musical coaching and vocal training for choir members and cantors. Position requires a solid understanding of authentic Catholic Liturgy, bachelor’s degree in music/preferred, some formal liturgical education and experience in their discipline, and Spanish as a plus. Send resume to bshutodka-2008@yahoo.com.

Special Education Teacher
Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time teacher to teach children ages 3-9 with autistic spectrum disorders in an LSW school program. Must hold a standard Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in special education and either elementary education or early childhood education. Preference for a candidate who has completed training in Applied Behavior Analysis and experience teaching children with autism. Submit Archdiocesan application, found at www.archdiocese.org, along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Dr. Ora Carten, 13404 N Meridian Ave, OKC, OK 73120.

8 Catholic War Veterans will meet in the community room of St. Anne’s Retirement Center at 7 p.m. Contact Father Ed Price Oweh at (405) 567-3404.

9 Catholic War Veterans USA.
Monthly meeting at 7 p.m. to the Sunnylane Family Reception Room at 2900 NE 28th St., Del City. Kean at (405) 739-0636 or by email at OkhPost168@cox.net.

12 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 125 at the Pastoral Center. Jenny Franne, (405) 721-6832, or email jfianne@cox.net.

13 Charismatic Healing Mass.
5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 3191 S.W. 26th St., Oklahoma City.

**December 16, 2012**

15 Sooner Catholic

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HARRAH — All are invited to attend a special event at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. to hear about the on-campus ministry being carried out by Anna Brzozowski.

A 2007 valedictorian of Harrah High School and 2012 summa cum laude graduate of Texas State University, Brzozowski chose to put professional career plans aside to serve two years in a mission project with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

FOCUS strives to impact the faith lives of college students through on-campus outreach. Her assignment as a FOCUS missionary took her to the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. Brzozowski chose to put professional career plans aside to serve two years in a mission project with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). FOCUS strives to impact the faith lives of college students through on-campus outreach.

Her assignment as a FOCUS missionary took her to the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. Brzozowski chose to put her career aside for the time being in order to serve others and bring people to know Christ. Her message emphasizes encouraging youth to find and follow vocations in service to Christ.

Brzozowski receives no salary for her work, but receives support from families from St. Teresa's during her two-year FOCUS commitment. FOCUS was begun in 1998 at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., by Curtis Martin and his wife, Michaelann, after they recognized the dire need for a Catholic campus outreach to students.

The Martins were inspired by Pope John Paul II's call to a "New Evangelization." Later that year, Martin had the rare opportunity to meet Pope John Paul II and express to him the hope and vision he had for FOCUS. The Pope listened carefully and simply told Curtis, "Be soldiers." Since then, FOCUS has forged ahead in the battlefield of the United States. In just 14 years since its launch, FOCUS has grown from four missionaries serving one campus to more than 300 missionaries serving 74 campuses in 30 states across the nation. FOCUS missionaries encourage young men and women to develop and invest in their relationships with Jesus and to go out and share the Good News to transform the culture for Christ.

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocese annual celebration to honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held on Sunday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. at Corpus Christi Church. Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

A Multicultural Tribute will follow Mass at 12:15 p.m. The tribute will include performances by Yumare Mexican Folkoric Dancers from Little Flower and Sacred Heart Parishes, Corpus Christi youth dancers and the Corpus Christi choir. A presentation of the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. King will be given by Kelsey Territt and Ashley Bullage, Bishop McGuiness students.

"The event, which is organized each year by Corpus Christi Parish and Catholic Charities, celebrates Dr. King's work and invites the community to join in solidarity with those who are in need, and working for ways to improve their lives," said Becky VanPool, director of Catholic Charities Parish Outreach and Program Development.

"Dr. King challenged society to 'lift the load of poverty,' and we are challenged to pray and work for all those who are poor and marginalized," VanPool said. "By improving their lives, we improve our lives as well."

For additional information, contact VanPool at Catholic Charities at 524-2003.

A woman holds a portrait of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Oct. 16 dedication of a memorial to Rev. King in Washington. The memorial commemorates the life and work of the late civil rights leader. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has set this year's annual celebration of Dr. King for Jan. 20. (CNS photo/Yuri Gripas, Reuters)