Feast of Our Lady To Be Celebrated December 12

A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is the title given to the Virgin Mary after appearing, according to legend, to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, an Aztec convert to Catholicism, in the village of Guadalupe (the present-day Gustavo A. Madero, D.F.) near Mexico City in 1531. According to the accounts, Juan Diego was walking between his village and Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City), where the Catholic mission was headquartered, on Dec. 12, 1531. Along the way, in the village of Guadalupe, the Virgin Mary appeared, speaking to him in his native Nahuatl language. She told him to build a church at the site, but when Juan Diego spoke to the Spanish bishop, the bishop did not believe him, asking for a miraculous sign. The Virgin told Juan Diego to gather flowers from a hill, even though it was winter, when no plants bloom. He found Spanish roses and presented these to the bishop. When the roses fell from his tilma (a kind of apron), an icon of the Virgin remained imprinted on the cloth.

Archdiocese Gains Monsignor

On Nov. 25, Archbishop Beltran announced that his Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, had bestowed the title Prelate of Honor to His Holiness upon the Archdiocesan Vicar General Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger. The Investiture Ceremony for Monsignor Weisenburger will take place in Oklahoma City at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday, Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

“I am very humbled by this unexpected honor,” Monsignor Weisenburger said. “I pray that the kindness I have been shown will renew and deepen the love I hold for my priestly ministry and the people I am privileged to serve. I am very sincerely grateful to Archbishop Beltran for having submitted my name to our Holy Father. I likewise am grateful to the people of our Archdiocese and especially the parishes where I have served. Their faith and goodness is the encouragement that keeps me faithful to my vocation. And lastly I am especially grateful to my brother priests. Their friendship and fraternity is my greatest blessing.”
The Good News

... Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

Homily, Feast of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac
November 21, 2009

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
Each year I come to your parish for a celebration in honor of your patron, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac. His feast day is actually on Nov. 24, but we usually observe it on the weekend before or after the 24th. This year's celebration, therefore, coincides with the great feast of Christ the King.

While the Church only designated a specific date for the feast of Christ the King in the last century, the fact of Christ's Kingship has never been doubted. The Old Testament frequently spoke of the coming Messiah ushering in a new kingdom. Jesus Himself promised His faithful followers a place in His kingdom. At His condemnation to death, Pilate placed a written sign on the Cross which read: “Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.” The early Church constantly referred to Jesus as the King in the last century, the fact of Christ's Kingship.

It is this Jesus Christ the King whom Saint Andrew Dung-Lac recognized as the eternal Son of God and the Lord of all. Saint Andrew became a priest because he heard the call of Christ the King. As a priest, he shared in the ministry and mission of Jesus. Saint Andrew Dung-Lac constantly spoke of the Kingdom of God and instructed people in the beliefs and teachings of our Catholic faith. Then, when challenged because of his teaching and ministry as a priest, he remained faithful. Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions did not fear death. Rather, they endured great suffering and torture and were killed for their faith. They said and they believed there was a better life waiting for them after death. They knew that they would receive an everlasting life in the kingdom of God which is heaven.

In 1988 Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions whose loyalty to Christ the King had been established.

Like Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, our patron of this parish, you and I are totally dependent upon Christ the King. He and He alone is Lord and Savior. There is no other who can bring us into the Kingdom of God. Only Jesus, the Christ, Who is the Son of God and King of Kings can give us eternal life. This is God's plan for us. Yes, God so loves the world that He sent His Son Jesus to save us. Jesus came and revealed that He is the Christ, the eternal Son of God, the King of Kings!

Since the Kingdom of God is our final destiny, the Church completes the liturgical year with this feast of Christ the King which we observe tonight. Like Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, you and I are called to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus. Therefore, we must continue to learn more and more about our Catholic faith. We must recognize the sacraments as special gifts from God and therefore celebrate them with faith and devotion. We are specially reminded to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly.

Young people who are planning to be married must make proper preparations through prayer and study. Those who are already married must work hard to maintain a happy and stable relationship. Marriage is a sacrament. It is sacred.

Parents should arrange for the baptism of their babies and for first reconciliation and first Holy Communion for their little children. Children must be taught how good and gracious God is and how we must keep in touch with Him through prayer and devotion.

How fortunate we all are to have the example of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions to help us on our pilgrimage of faith. May our celebration of the feast of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and the feast of Christ the King help us all to become good and holy and faithful and happy people now on this earth and someday in heaven. Amen.

The Good News

Seminary Burses

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<th>Father Joseph Beltran</th>
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<td>Father Stephen Bird</td>
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<td>Father Denis Blackledge</td>
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<td>Bishop Stephen A. Leven</td>
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<td>Father Gerald Ucker</td>
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How fortunate we all are to have the example of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions to help us on our pilgrimage of faith.
Benefit Raises More Than $40,000 for Homeless Pantry

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Priceless would be the word to describe the look on Sister Barbara Joseph Foley’s face when she was handed a check by Father Edward J. Weisenburger. Father Weisenburger, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, presented Sister Barbara Joseph with a check for $42,000 as part of the celebration honoring her for her work with the homeless of Oklahoma City.

The $42,000 gift was the high-light of the dinner celebration held Nov. 12 inside a packed Connor Center on the campus of the Cathedral. The event focused attention on Sister Barbara Joseph’s efforts to care for the homeless. The Carmelite nun is founder of Sister BJ’s Pantry, a ministry close to downtown Oklahoma City that provides food, clothing and a warm smile for the street people of the state’s largest city.

“We’re starting a new program with the vision to take homeless people off the street two at a time, just like Noah’s Ark,” Sister Barbara Joseph said. She said her vision is to buy a house where — two at a time — homeless people can have safe living conditions.

Marjory Feighney, business manager at the Cathedral, said donations for the Nov. 12 dinner in honor of Sister Barbara Joseph came from across Oklahoma.

“It didn’t just come from us,” Feighney said. “Donations came from Duncan, Fairview, Tulsa, Ponca City, from all over the state.

“And that’s not all. Donations are still coming in. We think it will total about $50,000 when it all comes in. That’s money that comes from faith,” Feighney said.

Sister BJ opened her pantry at 819 NW 4th St. on March 3, 2006.

She got the idea of helping the homeless through her association with Rick Swyden, the founder of Hot Dogs for the Homeless. Swyden delivers a hot dog lunch to about 200 homeless people each Sunday in downtown Oklahoma City.

“I went out with him for 18 months every Sunday and that’s how I got started,” Sister Barbara Joseph said.

She raised the money to lease the small building and she, along with volunteers, transformed the building into a welcoming center for the homeless. A flower garden was planted and picnic tables were installed as was a beautiful statue of the Mother of God holding Christ.

Sister BJ’s Pantry opens at 6:30 a.m. each Friday and Saturday and serves some 600 people each day. There are approximately 35 volunteers who donate their time to the pantry.

The homeless receive hot coffee, pastries, homemade cookies and sack lunches. The pantry also has a second building where the homeless can pick out clothing, including underwear, socks, shirts, pants, shoes, coats and blankets. There is a washer and dryer which clients can use.

The pantry also operates a van that travels where the homeless are when outside temperatures reach 20 degrees or below. The St. Therese emergency vehicle runs from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The vehicle is equipped with thermal blankets, long johns and dry clothes, a microwave to heat hot chocolate and soup, and phones to call ambulances should a person need more care. The van also runs during the summer when temperatures reach dangerous levels.

Sister BJ said the recent donations will go a long way to making the home a reality. She hopes to have it ready next year.

“We’ll have to raise more. It will all happen in God’s time. It will happen when it is supposed to happen,” she said.
Knights Council Honors Two Students With Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Salatka Assembly 2044 recently gave out two scholarships for recent high school graduates. This annual scholarship is open to seniors in the parishes of St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, Sacred Heart in El Reno and Holy Spirit in Mustang. Here is an excerpt from the brunch honoring our 2009 recipients:

Our first scholarship recipient is Paige Willett. Paige attends Holy Spirit in Mustang and is currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma. Paige's DRE director had this to say about Paige. “During her high school years, she was involved with the parish youth program, participated in a 10-day mission trip, did volunteer work at Sister Barbara Joseph's needy pantry in downtown Oklahoma City. She also participated in our parish senior high retreat in May. Paige is also a reader and commentator during our parish Masses. Paige is a faith-filled young woman.”

In her essay she wrote, “Service in the armed forces is certainly one form of patriotism, and protects the core values our country was founded on, which continue to be the same ones we live by today. Many of those values are connected closely with the basic values of Christianity, and preserving or practicing them is considered patriotic.”

Our second scholarship recipient is Liz Tomichen. Liz attends St. John Nepomuk in Yukon and is currently a freshman at the University of Oklahoma. Liz’s DRE director had this to say about her. “Liz attended St. John Nepomuk School for three years. She has volunteered for four years at our vacation Bible school, for the past year has taught first-grade RE classes and is an altar server during Mass. She was also involved in Honor Society, Spanish Club, Mentoring Program and Leadership Program at Yukon High School. She has also been a volunteer at Integris Medical Center, Bethany Library and Yukon Manna Pantry. She has strong religious values and is very active at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church.

In her essay she wrote, “In our society, it is not always easy to stand for our beliefs. The Catholic Church is so rooted in tradition. We believe in following the laws of Jesus by keeping the sanctity of marriage and maintaining our bodies as a temple for God. Slowly, as we take pride in our faith, we can share it with others, and one day, they will come to see how much happier you can be when following God's will instead of your own.”

McGuinness Again Answers Call to Support Food Drive

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students once again participated in the Students Against Hunger Canned Food Drive. The annual food drive, sponsored by the Oklahoma City Regional Food Bank, provides food to Oklahoma families that are in need of help and assistance. Bishop McGuinness has been involved in the Harvest Food Drive since 1987.

“Always willing to reach just a little higher, McGuinness students shattered their previous record of 59,000 pounds of food by collecting 70,128 pounds of canned goods,” said Principal David Morton. “The 70,128 pounds collected this year will provide 54,000 meals for those families in need. The annual schoolwide project truly represents our commitment to help others.”

The theme for this year's drive was “Candemonium.” The food drive runs for two weeks, with canned goods being collected the entire time. Cans are stored in various locations throughout the school. When the Food Bank trucks show up, McGuinness students have perfected the process of hauling the canned goods from inside the school to the front of the building. Moving dollies and push carts do the hard work. Students form assembly lines to move the cans into large containers that will be loaded on the trucks by Food Bank employees.

“The food drive is an opportunity for the whole school community to come together to challenge one of the major issues that faces Oklahomans,” said Morton. “The right for basic resources such as food is an issue of human dignity which the school recognizes and seeks to raise awareness for the cause. The food drive is an event that is truly embraced by the school community and it is very rewarding for the faculty and parents to see the students put their efforts into such a worthy cause.”
OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop John Carroll School and the Cathedral Parish are pleased to announce the annual Christmas tree lot officially opened on Nov. 28.

This tradition dates to 1960, when a group of men led by Hugh Maguire, Rollie Mueller, Bob Sine and Dan Venard pulled together to try to match some of the contributions by the women’s organizations in the parish. Dr. Maguire defined this group as initially a “ragtag outfit” compared to the altar society, but they organized an event that lives on today 50 years later.

All four were Bishop John Carroll dads, a pattern that still describes the tree lot committee. That first year they purchased $900 worth of trees with personal contributions.

The core group remained involved through the 1980s and since then the lot has been organized by John Wilkinson, Phil Maguire and Dan Heinen, and more recently Richard Cudjo, Mark Stranczek and Roger Brown.

“I enjoy seeing the same faces year after year, and it’s always great meeting new customers,” said Bentley Edmonds, a 17-year veteran. “For me it’s just part of Christmas.”

Hours are weekdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The tree lot is located at NW 31st and Western (west of Western).

Stop by for a cup of hot chocolate, a Christmas tree and holiday cheer!

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Billings Ovulation Method has been around for decades, but the first ever Billings Ovulation Center in the United States is about to open its doors right here in Oklahoma City.

St. Anthony Hospital is proud to be the home of this groundbreaking first. The Billings Ovulation Center will be located in Dr. Mary Martin’s office on the fifth floor of the Professional Office Building at St. Anthony Hospital.

While the Billings Ovulation Method has long been practiced by women trying to avoid conception, recently it has become even more widely used for women trying to conceive. This method is so accurate that it is changing the way many experts look at fertility. The Billings Ovulation Method is a far less expensive and more natural approach to infertility than invasive procedures. Oftentimes it is found to be more successful than these pricey procedures also.

The Billings Ovulation Center will be open to patients, physicians, nurses and others who are interested in learning about this method. Martin has traveled the globe researching this method. After spending much time in Australia and the United States studying the Billings Ovulation Method and using it in her practice, she will now offer this education at the first ever Billings Ovulation Center in the United States.

Volunteers Sought for Food Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. at two locations to help deliver Christmas dinner groceries to 400 households needing emergency food assistance for the holiday.

The annual St. Charles Borromeo holiday food delivery program will be held at the Dorothy Day Center on State Street (one block south of NW 50th and one block east of Grove). The regular monthly Catholic Worker grocery delivery day is moved to OKC First Church of the Nazarene for the month of December (4400 NW Expressway between Meridian and 63rd). The time commitment is about two hours.
Recipe for Ending Poverty: Think, Then Act
Scholar Laments the Lack of Reflection in Tackling Issue

ROME (Zenit.org) — The recipe for alleviating poverty is not a secret, and yet much of the work being done to help the world’s poor is misdirected, according to one expert on the matter.

Samuel Gregg, director of research at the Acton Institute, said this to ZENIT when he was discussing a conference on "Free Enterprise, Poverty and the Financial Crisis." The conference will be hosted Thursday by the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

Gregg observed there is plenty of talk about global poverty and yet, he said, it is "striking how much of the conversation is very unreflective."

"For decades, for example, we’ve been told that foreign aid and other forms of redistribution is the answer to poverty," he explained. "Yet the evidence is rather conclusive that this is not true and these methods don’t produce systemic change. [...] Another problem is that a great deal of development economics is underpinned by deeply materialistic ideologies and deformed anthropologies of man. But we know that diminishing poverty is only partly an economic and material question. It has moral, spiritual, legal, cultural and institutional dimensions.

"The irony, of course, is that we already know the secrets to poverty alleviation. One of the most important of these is that you can’t alleviate poverty without creating wealth in the first place and we know that wealth-creation will happen in some cultural and institutional settings but not in others."

Stepping up
In this regard, the scholar contended that business, commerce and entrepreneurs have indispensable roles to play: "Not only through being generous, but also by focusing upon what they know how to do -- which is to create wealth -- and by alerting others to the conditions that enable business to create wealth, employment and better living standards for all."

But Catholics, too, he said, are key to the discussion.

Gregg noted that the Church’s universality gives it a particular richness in addressing the theme: "It can bring together people from very different backgrounds, experiences and nationalities, and yet discuss a complex issue like poverty from the standpoint of a shared and rich vision of the human person."

Furthermore, he proposed, "Catholics can often bring an understanding of certain key elements to poverty-alleviation that is often richer than, for example, ideas articulated by convinced secularists. If you’re a true materialist, then it’s very hard to speak about commerce and entrepreneurship in more than utilitarian terms. Ultimately, utilitarianism -- whatever its form -- is an incoherent philosophical position."

"And in this vein, Gregg contended the main obstacles to poverty alleviation are not foremost economic."

"At the root of flawed economic systems are flawed visions of the human person, which in turn translate into cultures and institutions that help perpetuate poverty," he said. "If you think that the primary key to change is to change economic structures, then you’re not that different from Karl Marx when it comes to how you believe societal development occurs -- and Marx was terribly wrong about almost everything."

There are economic factors, he acknowledged, such as "protectionist policies, collectivist economic structures, punitive taxation levels, as well as an absence of incentives for people to be entrepreneurial and competitive."

But he suggested that "perhaps the most important contribution that Catholics can make to the poverty-alleviation debate is to focus attention upon the extra-economic causes of poverty."

One step in this direction is examining proposals "from the standpoint of what faith and reason tell us to be the truth about human beings," the scholar proposed.

"I can think of few better methods for identifying policies that are likely to fail," he said. "A policy that downplays the reality of human sin, for example, is likely to embody utopian tendencies. A policy that ignores the fact that the greatest human resources is man himself and his gift of reason is likely to focus excessively on redistribution issues, or, even worse, embrace the anti-human population-control ideology that the Catholic Church has fought so valiantly against."

Houston to Host Liturgical Conference

Houston, Texas — From the beginning, we have been a Church blessed by diversity with the influences of language and culture woven into the fabric of our communal faith life. From Jan. 13-16, 2010, the Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week will explore the theme, Many Cultures: One Church at Study Week will explore the theme, Many Cultures: One Church at Houston will deliver the keynote address at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. Also delivering addresses to the conference participants will be Rev. Ed Foley, Capuchin; Dr. Richard McCarron; Sister Catherine Vincie, RSHM; Brother Rufino Zaragoza, OFM; and Rev. Juan Sosa, president of the Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia.

Among the 72 workshop offerings for all liturgical ministers are a two-day clergy track and workshops of interest to catechists, teachers and youth ministers. Thirty-six of these workshops will be offered on Saturday, of which 18 will be delivered in Spanish.

Nearly 50 exhibitors will present an abundance of good and services for parishes and individual Catholics. These include Catholic bookstores, Catholic publishers, religious goods suppliers, architects, liturgical consultants and designers, artists and artisans, universities and retreat centers.

Conference early registration is $130 through Dec. 11, after which it will rise to $150. Single day registration is also available. Hotel accommodations are in the Hilton of the Americas adjoining the conference center. The conference brochure and secure registration is available online at www.swlc.org. Information for exhibitors is also online. For more information, e-mail studyweek@swlc.org.

On the Net:
For more information on the Acton Institute Conference: www.acton.org/events/rome_free ENTERPRISE_CONFERENCE.php

Reception to Honor Lepak

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dr. Louie Lepak will be honored with a retirement reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Blvd. Lepak has served as director for Saint Joseph Counseling Service for years.
Oklahoma Priest Offers Catholic Perspective on Business Ethics

“The duty of the Catholic person is to have a well-formed conscience, so that they can make good ethical decisions. The definition of a conscience is that, in all that we say and do, humanity is obliged to follow faithfully what they know to be right and just.” — CCC 1778

By Eliana Tedrow
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — It may seem like a contradiction: Business and Ethics. In a culture that stresses getting ahead at any cost (i.e. reality TV shows, steroids in athletics, tearing down political opponents to win) — is there still a place for faith-driven, ethical decision-making in corporate America?

The answer was sought out by the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium, an organization established in 2003 by local business leaders, that strives to establish Oklahoma as a state known for high personal and corporate ethical standards.

“Even though we are a non-sectarian organization, God truly propelled us forward,” said Shannon Warren, one of six original founders. “Back in late 2003, six of us thought it would be a good idea to have an informal forum to have discussions about ethical issues we were encountering in the workplace. From there, we kept surging in number every month until we grew, primarily by word of mouth, to nearly 700 members by the end of September 2009.”

On Nov. 4 nearly 300 Oklahoma business leaders convened to discuss the importance of ethical decision-making in the workplace. Among these: a rabbi, a Protestant minister; a Muslim leader; a Buddhist academic and a Catholic priest unanimously stressed to the crowd, “Although we appear very different in faiths, there are guiding principles on which we all agree. These are basic guiding principles that each of us, no matter what faith we are, carry to work with us every day.”

In what otherwise appear to be totally separate faiths, a fundamental belief in “The Golden Rule” can be found in most religions. Each of these religions have a version of “Do unto others” and carry this philosophy to work.

However, in a world that doesn’t uphold the Golden Rule, can we still live it? Especially at work?

Father Rick Stansberry of Christ the King represented the Catholic perspective. For Catholics, he explained, our Catechism lists the “Formation of Conscience” (CCC 1778), The Ten Commandments, Corporal Works of Mercy and Holy Scripture as references for ethical decision-making.

For instance,” Father Stansberry said, “if a Catholic were to help with an abortion, that person would be held responsible … We, as Catholics, believe that God created us as free human beings; however, all of our actions have consequences. We must always remember what St. Thomas says, ‘The end does not always justify the means.’

“The Golden Rule is hard,” Father Stansberry said, “but it should guide us.” In the workplace, an ethical person recognizes that “winning” is not the overriding goal.

Each religious leader agreed — not everything that is lawful is acceptable. For instance, in many religions, although drinking is legal by the state, it is considered wrong to drink. If you declare bankruptcy, for instance, you still owe people money. It may be lawful to invest in stocks; however, if you invest in stocks that promote pornography or alcohol, even if they make you money, that may not be the ethical thing to do.

According to the rabbi, there is no separation from the holy, the sacred and the mundane. There should be a sanctity to society — we are all under a covenant. We are ultimately servants of God, not of servants.

The Protestant minister agreed.

“Commerce should be about living and making the world a better place — not taking advantage of other people and getting as much as you can, especially at the cost of going against what is ethical.”

Guthrie Students Recognized for Top Scores

GUTHRIE — Five of St. Mary’s eighth-grade students are recognized for scoring in the top 6 percent of students nationally who took the ACT Explorer test.

The following students scored at or above the 94th percentile in each of the following core content areas: Joseph Poirier, son of Mary and Michael, for English, reading and science; Mariah Smalley, daughter of Jane and Steve, for reading; Maxwell Staudt, son of Mickey and David, for English, reading and science; Emma Wilson, daughter of Tammy and Kent, for reading and science; and Caitlin Bradley, daughter of Brian and Pam, for science.

The content of the EXPLORE tests is closely tied to that of the achievement tests in the ACT, which is broadly used for college entrance and placement decisions. It is also consistent with the content of ACT’s PLAN® program for grade 10.

EXPLORE, PLAN and the ACT can be used in combination to focus on meeting academic standards across the entire secondary school core program of studies.
On Nov. 24, our Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of 117 Vietnamese martyrs canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988. The date Nov. 24, 2009, is very important for the Vietnamese Catholics because it was chosen for the opening ceremony for the Jubilee Year (Holy Year) of the Vietnamese Catholic Church. Through Pope Benedict XVI’s blessing, this Holy Year began on this day and it will end on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2011 at the National Marian Shrine of Lavang.

This “Holy Year” formally marks the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the first two dioceses of North and South Vietnam (1659-2009) and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnamese Catholic Church as a hierarchy. Cardinals from Rome, the United States, France, Vietnam as well as archbishops, bishops, priests, religious and about 120,000 Vietnamese Catholics gathered at the church of So Kien for the inaugural Mass. So Kien Church was a place where Catholicism in Vietnam began and it also is a place where relics of many Vietnamese martyrs are kept.

Looking back on the historical journey of the Vietnamese Catholic Church, we discover that the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ was first proclaimed in Vietnam at the end of the 15th century through the early venturesome missionaries. However, the regular and systematic evangelization was actually begun in 1627, mostly through Jesuit priests from Spain, France and Portugal. In less than 30 years, they were able to baptize about 200,000 into the Catholic Faith.

During the period of 261 years (1625-1886), 53 edicts of persecution of Christians were signed by the Trinh, the Nguyen Lords and the kings of the Nguyen dynasty. Within more than 200 years, there were approximately 130,000 Christians being victimized by these persecutions which were widely spread throughout the country. During these persecutions, Our Lady of Lavang took a very important role in encouraging these Christians to endure their sufferings to testify to the Lord. Among an estimated 130,000 Christians who died for their faith, 117 martyrs, including 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spanish Dominicans and 10 French members of the Paris Foreign Missions Society, were canonized by Pope John Paul II in spite of strong protests by the Vietnamese communist government.

In explaining the meaning behind the Holy Year of the Vietnamese Catholic Church, Cardinal Jean Baptiste Man Minh Pham, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saigon, president of the Holy Jubilee Committee said: “In this Jubilee Year, as the People of God, we want to remember the grace that God has given us over many centuries. We want to thank Him and thank the missionary martyrs who gave their lives for the birth and growth of our Church.”

Archbishop Beltran has designated the following Churches as pilgrimage sites for the Vietnamese Catholic community during the Jubilee Year that began Nov. 24, 2009, and concludes on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2011. Vietnamese Catholics are encouraged to visit the various churches and pray during the course of this Holy Year.

- The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 North Lake, Oklahoma City
- Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City
- Saint Philip Neri, 1107 Felix Place, Midwest City
- Saint John Nepomuk, 600 South Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon
- Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, 307 NW 4th Street, Oklahoma City
- Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, 3000 SW 55th Street, Oklahoma City
continue to ask God to bring justice to their homeland. He said the government of Vietnam continues to oppress the Catholic faith.

“Priests are still beaten for celebrating Mass,” Father Nguyen said. “This is why the Holy Year is so very important for our Vietnamese community.”

An artist rendering of the shrine to Our Lady of Lavang being built at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Holy Year

Parishioners at Saint Andrew Dung-Lac participate in the celebration of Mass.


Giáo Hội Công Giáo Việt Nam của chúng ta mừng Năm Thánh này đã cảm ta ơn Chúa vì muốn ơn lành đã ban Giáo Hội Việt Nam của chúng ta trong 350 năm qua, và cũng mừng Hằng Giáo Phạm Công Giáo Việt Nam được thành lập 50 năm. Nhiều Đức Hồng Y từ Rôma, Hoa Kỳ và Pháp đã đến Việt Nam đồng tế Thánh Lễ Khai Mạc với Đức Hồng Y, Tổng Giám Mục, Giám mục và linh mục Việt Nam, cùng với sự tham dự của hàng ngàn tu sĩ nam nữ và trên 120,000 giáo dân, từ khắp vươn các giáo phận trên toàn quốc, đặc biệt là các giáo phận miền Bắc, gần hơn với Nhà thờ Thánh Киern, nơi cử hành Thánh Lễ Khai mạc. Nhà thờ Thánh Kiern là nhà thờ Chính Thống tien khởi của Giáo Hội Công Giáo Việt Nam, và cũng là nơi đặt giờ rất nhiều di tích của Các Thánh Tử Đạo Việt Nam.

Nhin lại lịch sử của Giáo Hội Công Giáo Việt Nam, chúng ta thấy Tin Mừng của Đức Giáo Kiêo được rao giảng trên quê hương của chúng ta vào khoảng cuối thế kỷ XV. Tuy nhiên, cho đến năm 1627, công cuộc truyền giáo qua một thời gian dài đã bắt đầu qua các Cha Động Tận dân từ Tây Ban Nha, Pháp và Bồ Đào Nha, cùng với sự công tác của một số các đồng tu khác. Chưa đầy 30 năm, các người đã rửa tội cho khoảng 200,000 người gia nhập Đạo Công Giáo.

Trong vòng 261 năm (1625-1888) đã có khoảng 53 sắc lãnh cảm đạo được ban hành qua Chủ Tịch chủ Nguyễn và các vua Nhà Nguyễn. Chỉ cho trọng vọng hơn 200 năm, có khoảng 130,000 vị anh hùng tự đao đã hy sinh quên mình làm nhân chung cho Chúa Kiêo trên Quê Hương Việt Nam. Đức Me đã hiện ra rất nhiều lần lánh tại Lavang để an ủi, nâng đỡ và ban ơn cho đoàn con cái của Me trong những thời kỳ đao Chúa bị bách hại nỗi nhiệt. Trong số khoảng 130,000 vị anh hùng tự đao, 117 vị gồm: 96 vị Việt Nam, 11 vị Tây Ban Nha, 10 vị Pháp, đã được Đức Thánh Cha Gioan Phaolô II phong Thánh, mặc dù gặp phải sự chung đón nane từ phía Chính Phủ Công Sản Việt Nam.


The young faces of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac.
Tonkawa Parish Ends Centennial With Eucharistic Celebration

TONKAWA — Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass at Saint Joseph Catholic Church of Tonkawa on Nov. 22. The Eucharistic Celebration closed the year-long centennial celebration.

The Centennial Year commemorated the dedication of the first church building by Most Rev. Theophile Meerschaert, first Catholic bishop of Oklahoma, on May 3, 1909. The building, purchased from the Methodist Church in the early 1900s is now a private residence.

At the closing Mass, Father Larok-Obwona Martin, the 30th priest to serve the parish, concelebrated with Archbishop Beltran. Deacons Bart Brashears and Francisco Estrada, who serve the Tonkawa and Blackwell parishes, assisted.

Major activities during the anniversary year included a Centennial Mass offered May 3, 2009, by Father Martin. Concelebrating with him were Fathers Richard Beckman and John Michalicka of Ponca City. Assisting with Mass were Deacons Bart Brashears and Francisco Estrada. A Centennial Choir sang parts of the Mass in Latin and traditional hymns in English. Before the dismissal of the congregation, Father Michalicka presented a resolution signed by Oklahoma Rep. Dale DeWitt congratulating the parish on its anniversary.

Following Mass, a dinner for current and former parishioners and special guests was served in the Parish Hall. Virla Smithheisler, the oldest member of the parish, cut the parish centennial cake decorated with an icing picture of the present church building, constructed in 1925 at the corner of North Avenue and Tenth Street.

An open house Oct. 4 welcomed guests to tour the present church, which features the original triptych altarpiece, painted in late Renaissance style above the original altar and depicting the Holy Family, the Crucifixion and the Women at the Tomb of the Risen Christ. Stained glass windows show Biblical scenes and various canonized saints. In honor of the Centennial, the sanctuary was repainted to restore the ceiling and walls to the original colors of blue and cream, and new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary and the nave aisle.

Parishioners stationed throughout the church explained various elements of the building and answered visitors’ questions. A souvenir booklet with vintage photographs gave highlights of the parish history, and an exhibit of memorabilia assembled by Mary Lou Fath, a descendant of one of the original parish families was on view in the Parish Hall.

A commemorative ceramic ornament depicting a figure of Saint Joseph, a detail from the stained glass window over the church entrance, was designed by Tonkawa artist Audrey Schmitz and made available for purchase.

Other events during the year included recognition of the Centennial First Communion Class and of the Centennial Confirmation Class. Evan Glasgow and Carli Pendleton received the Holy Eucharist at Mass April 26. Archbishop Beltran conferred the sacrament of Confirmation upon Cherokee Combrink, Zane Glasgow and Wesley Simpson during the Confirmation Mass May 6. The first communicants and the confirmands were honored at receptions in the Parish Hall following the respective Masses.

Helen Caughlin chaired the Centennial Celebration Committee under the direction of Father Martin. Subcommittee members were Bob Steichen and Marjilea Smithheisler, music and liturgy; Helen Caughlin and Lori Evans, Confirmation; Marjilea Smithheisler, Helen Delmenhorst and Margaret Steichen, history, publicity and correspondence; Joyce Lenzen, open house; Lori Evans, church grounds; Melinda Glasgow, church decorations and ornament; and Dawn Huff, Reta Swords, Myrna Fith, Anne Evans, Joyce Lenzen and Mary Richards, dinners and receptions. Joe Caughlin chaired the Parish Council.

Parishioner Virla Smithheisler was given the honor of cutting the centennial cake.
Advent: A Time to Consider Great Love and Faith of Grandparents

Do Catholics think about St. Anne during Advent? I don’t know the answer to questions like that as I have only been Catholic a few years. I’m thinking about St. Anne this year. If you are about to be a grandmother for the first time — like I am — St. Anne just might be on your mind this December as well.

I’d never heard the names of Mary’s parents until I became Catholic. As an Evangelical Protestant, we kept it simple. What do we know about Mary’s parents from Sacred Scripture? Nothing. And so, we left it at that. We assumed that the lineage of Mary had been lost over the centuries. We didn’t realize that the Church had always known the names of her mother and father. According to Church Tradition, Mary’s mother was named Anne and her father was Joachim.

I find it interesting to think of Our Lord’s grandmother during Advent. I simply cannot imagine what it was like for Anne to say goodbye to her pregnant daughter and watch as the couple left Nazareth and headed down the road for Bethlehem. Anne must have known that the birth would come before she would see her daughter again. She must have treasured those final days and hours, carefully preparing her daughter for childbirth and the care of the umbilical cord, the technique for swaddling the newborn, and the finer points of nursing.

She must have sent her daughter off with a mother’s blessing: may your labor be quick and easy. She must have been overcome with longing, when she placed her hand on her daughter’s swollen belly and felt the Messiah kick. She must have felt all these things — if she was like me. If she was like every first-time grandmother.

I wonder, too, what it was like after the census. When the Holy Family realized they would not be returning to Nazareth anytime soon, did they send word to the grandparents that their grandson had been safely born? Did they tell someone who was traveling back to Nazareth to inform Anne and Joachim of the change in their plans? That they were going to Egypt? That they couldn’t come back for a very long time?

Did the messenger tell the grandparents in Nazareth that God had another plan for the little Holy Family? And did Anne cry at the news? Did she long to see her daughter one more time? Did she ache to hold the grandson who would save her people?

Sometime during this month, God willing, I will see my daughter again. She might be resting in a hospital bed, watching her little boy as he sleeps in the bassinet nearby. Maybe she will be holding him when I walk through the door. Maybe she will be feeding him.

I pray that I will be a wise grandmother. A good grandmother. Precisely the kind of grandmother this little boy will need. As we count these final days of Advent, anticipating the arrival of our Infant King, I will be thinking of the Holy Family, but I will also be contemplating the grandparents back in Nazareth, who kissed their daughter goodbye over 2,000 years ago — and gave their precious girl and her unborn child to a world that needed them both desperately.

Book Delves Into Faith of Royal Family

Robert Hutchinson has written another wonderful book. This one is on the noble Howard family of England during the reign of the Tudors. This family was involved in the government of England because they were a high-ranking family with royal blood which got some into trouble. The early dukes at times became too proud of their blood line and were seen as competitors with the king or queen who were jealous of their prerogatives. This was because the Howards might have had a better claim to the throne than did the Tudors since they had Plantagenet connections. Some of the Dukes of Norfolk ran afoul of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I and were executed for treason. Hutchinson describes all the intrigues and excitement this family got into. One of the Howards, Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, died in the Tower of London after having become a Catholic and was canonized a saint in 1970 by Pope Paul VI. The Howard family continued to have Catholic leanings which got some into trouble with the government. This is where the book ends with the advent of the reign of the Stuarts and the Howard family surviving the Tudors.

Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including the Sooner Catholic.

Mount Student Chosen for Arts Program

Rebecca “Nikki” Craig, a senior at Mount St. Mary High School, has been chosen for “SuperStars: Entertainment Leaders of Tomorrow” by the Ann Lacy School of American Dance and Arts Management at Oklahoma City University.

This career development program is designed to be a gateway for high school juniors and seniors into the exciting entertainment industry and college experience. Nikki, an avid drama student, will be working in conjunction with professional faculty members and OCU’s official student organization, Students of Arts Management (SAM). The mission of SAM is to create opportunities to further the education of those dedicated to the pursuit of careers in the management of arts and entertainment while encouraging scholarship, professionalism and intellectual development.

Nikki, as a part of this elite student team, will be invited to have hands-on experience in planning, organizing and executing exclusive SuperStars events. She will also gain firsthand knowledge of what happens behind the scenes of production, as well as have the opportunity to assist in the development of red carpet-inspired Tribute to the Stars Banquet at the end of the year.

Nikki, the daughter of David and Staci Craig, plans to study acting and English literature. Her ultimate goal is to attend Cambridge, and being a member of SuperStars will help advance this dream.
...Que la paz y el amor del Señor esté entre nosotros

Homilía en conmemoración del trigésimo aniversario (30 años) de los Cursillos en el día de la "La Presentación de la Santísima Virgen María".

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Que la paz y el amor del Señor esté entre nosotros. Que la gracia de Dios en este día tan especial reciba sobre ustedes. Hoy estoy muy complacido de darles la bienvenida a nuestro Centro Pastoral Católico a todos ustedes.

Deseo felicitar a los cursillistas, quienes a lo largo de la Arquidiócesis están celebrando su trigésimo aniversario en su ministerio y servicio. El entusiasmo que ustedes presentan cuando practican nuestra fe Católica es un ejemplo y una bendición para todo nuestro pueblo. Les agradezco desde lo más profundo de mi corazón su dedicación y les aseguro mis continuas oraciones y apoyo.

Hoy honramos junto con toda la Iglesia: "La Presentación de la Santísima Virgen María". María, la Madre de Dios, mantiene un único lugar en la historia de la humanidad. Ella no apareció de la nada inesperadamente. Ella era parte del plan de Dios para todos los tiempos. En el Viejo Testamento, Dios reveló el plan de salvación para la humanidad. Dios llamó a ciertos profetas y maestros para que comunicaran la Presencia y el plan de Dios. En lo que iba a pasar antes de la venida de Cristo, las Sagradas Escrituras nos ofrecen una clara iluminada figura de una mujer, la Madre de nuestro Redentor. Esta mujer es la Santísima Virgen María, a quien la Iglesia proclama con la alegría de Israel, la noble Hija de Sión. Hoy celebramos la Presentación de la Santísima Virgen María, estamos recordando las diferentes maneras en que ella respondió al amoroso plan de Dios.

Así entonces, la Santísima Virgen María nos da un gran ejemplo y una iniciativa por su sincera obediencia a la ley y al amor que tiene desde lo más profundo de su corazón para la aceptación de la Voluntad de Dios. La Virgen María vivió con humildad y con pobreza por nuestro Señor. La Virgen María nos enseña que todas aquellas personas que pongan su esperanza en Dios, encontrarán y recibirán la salvación.

Santa María Virgen no solamente dio a luz a Jesús Cristo, por lo tanto la Madre De Dios, es también nuestra Madre. Jesús compartió su madre con todos nosotros, desde la cruz cuando Jesús le dijo a San Juan: "Ahi, tienes a tu madre".

Por ende, en la Santísima Virgen María, tenemos un modelo, una intercesora y una adorada madre a quien debemos respetar y guardar mucha devoción. Así como nos reunimos aquí, reconocemos que desde el momento que María dio a luz en Belén a Jesucristo hasta los actuales momentos, la Santísima Virgen María continúa trayéndonos a Jesús y nos guía hacia a Cristo. El rol de la Santísima Virgen María es un ejemplo y sus oraciones nos permiten que nos aproximemos a su hijo Cristo Jesús con confianza y sinceridad. De esta manera nos aseguramos que Cristo nos escuchará y nos salvará. Nuestra fe Católica, la cual es un gran regalo de Dios, reconoce la promesa de la Santísima Virgen María en el plan de salvación que Dios nos ha revelado.

Por lo tanto, la Iglesia nos anima a que desarrollemos una amorosa devoción hacia nuestra madre celestial. No hay mejor guía en el peregrinaje de fe sobre esta tierra para obtener la vida eterna que la Santísima Virgen María.

De hecho, como un pueblo Católico que somos, estamos instruidos por la Palabra de Dios en la Biblia, también estamos nutridos por los sacramentos de Dios y estamos guiados por la Santísima Virgen María, a quien nosotros humildemente le rogamos: "Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruego por nosotros los pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén".

Papa Benedicto XVI concede título honorífico de Monseñor al Presbítero Edward Weisenburger
Celebra su trigésimo aniversario: ¡De Colores!
Movimiento de Cursillos de Cristiandad en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — El pasado 21 de noviembre, con la celebración de la Misa de la Presentación de la Virgen María, la cual fue oficiada por el Arzobispo Eusébio Beltrán en el Centro Pastoral, los colaboradores del movimiento de Cursillos de Cristiandad dieron inicio a la celebración de su trigésimo aniversario de iniciación en Oklahoma. Estos Cursillos de Cristiandad fueron traídos en 1979 a la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, por parte sacerdotes y laicos, quienes liderados por el Espíritu Santo, han estado promoviendo desde hace treinta años la palabra del Señor. Se dice que nada en la vida se alcanza sin sacrificios, por eso quienes han participado en estos cursillos dan luego su testimonio de sus vidas mediante la celebración de una Ultreya.

La palabra Ultreya, viene del antiguo idioma español y quiere decir: ¡Adelante! Aunque haya un gran sacrificio en cada momento de la vida para alcanzar la paz de Cristo, somos invitados a seguir adelante en la madurez de nuestra fe. Hombres y mujeres que colaboran, participan y viven los Cursillos de Cristiandad, en el día de la Presentación de la Virgen nos envían un mensaje para que tomemos la vida del currista, en el camino de Dios de una forma agradable, simpática que inste al anhelo de cercanía y expresión de buenos deseos para nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

El 13 de diciembre
Obra de Caridad para nuestros niños

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — "Vivimos momentos muy difíciles y le pedimos a la Virgen de Guadalupe su intercesión para aliviar las necesidades de los más necesitados, especialmente pedimos por el bienestar de nuestros niños". Así lo afirmó Nancy Galván, quien invita a las familias hispanas para que asistan a la entrega de juguetes de la Navidad del Barrio, que se efectuará en el salón "Imperial Banquet Hall", el cual está ubicado en el 4701 Shields Blvd.

La fiesta de Navidad será bendecida por el Padre Chapman y comenzará a las dos de la tarde.

Los niños que se portan bien, realizan un esfuerzo personal y son recompensados con una obra comunitaria para reencontrarnos con Cristo.
Assistant Executive Director

The Center of Family Love, a non-profit organization serving adults with intellectual disabilities for over 28 years in Okarche, is looking for an assistant executive director. The assistant executive director will assist in establishing and directing the overall operations of the total agency. This includes the internal coordination between the group homes, ICFs/MR, and vocational programs, and the external coordination with the community, other agencies and the board of trustees. Also assist in the coordination of all departments to insure compliance with established standards. Assist the executive director in promoting public relations and overall fundraising activities in coordination with the governing body. Requirements include a bachelor’s degree in a related field with several years of experience. Extensive business and management experience preferred. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Part-Time Executive Director

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

Executive Director

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

Computer Teacher

St. Eugene Catholic School has an immediate opening for a computer teacher for first through eighth grade. The teacher needs to be a certified teacher with knowledge in educational software, Microsoft Office and basic computer hardware. If interested, send resumes to SWilliams@steugeneschool.org.

Substitute Teachers

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for substitute teachers. Interested applicants should call 634-5673 for an application.

Part-Time Teachers

Catholic Schools in the Oklahoma City area are in need of part-time teachers who are certified in the state of Oklahoma, and are interested in working with Title I students. Title I is a federal program designed to assist students who reside in economically disadvantaged areas and are in need of tutoring in reading and/or math. Most positions require a commitment of two to three hours a day, two to three times a week. Through the Oklahoma City Public School District we are able to pay $17.50 an hour. If you are interested in working with children in need of reading or math assistance, contact Associate Superintendent Cris Carter at 721-4202 or e-mail ecart@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Adjunct Faculty Openings

The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory’s University has adjunct faculty openings on all campus locations in Tulsa, Shawnee and OKC at the undergraduate level for courses in Environmental Studies and Accounting Control Systems. Candidates for undergraduate courses are required to hold a minimum of a master’s degree in the preferred subject, doctoral degrees preferred, and related business and industry experience. Adjunct faculty openings at the graduate level requires a doctorate in Health Care Management/Health Care Administration or a doctorate in Management/Business with an area of specialization in Health Care Management. Candidates for graduate courses are required to hold a Ph.D. in the preferred subject and related business and industry experience. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to hr@stgregorys.edu.

Director of Religious Education

Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced Director of Religious Education. The director is responsible for overseeing the K-12 religious education for students not attending Catholic school, coordinating the RCIA program, Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession. The director also will be responsible for developing and coordinating a strong adult education program for the parish. The applicant should be well versed in Catholic doctrine, work well with a variety of people and have strong initiative. Candidates should possess a degree in religion or theology, preferably a master’s degree. Resumes should be sent to Father Rick Stansberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156, or e-mail to kelly@ckokc.org.

LPN/RN Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: LPN/RN - Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrators license a plus! Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills! To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has an immediate opening for Accounts Receivable/Payable Clerk – Responsible for resident billing and the accepting of payments and will also process vendor bills/payments. Must be a team player and able to multi-task. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Parish Offers Hymnals

LAWTON — Holy Family Parish has replaced hymnals and altar servers albs. Any parish in need of several hundred Ritual song books or 30-plus altar server albs, all in fair/good condition, please contact Fred Krieger, Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 580-536-6351.
DECEMBER

6 Second Sunday of Advent

8 Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary — Holy Day of Obligation

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

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

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

10 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73192.

11-12 24-Hour Advent Retreat for Women at the Mount. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for supper and ends the 12th at 4:30 p.m. Joanne Forgue will be the facilitator. The cost is $55. For more information or to register, call Sister Betty at 634-1968.

12 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osbokc@ionet.net.

13 Third Sunday of Advent

OKC Parishes Plan Celebrations for Feast Day of Our Lady

The Feast Day for Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12. Several Oklahoma City area parishes have planned special events to celebrate the Feast Day.

At Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City

December 11
5 a.m. - Spanish Mass
8 p.m. - Living Rosary
9 p.m. - Holy Hour
10:30 p.m. - Apparitions

December 12
12 a.m. - Mañanitas with Mariachi in gymnasium and church
1 a.m. - Spanish Mass
2 a.m. - Chocolate and Mexican bread
2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Procession from Holy Angels to Sacred Heart, Music
7 p.m. - Bilingual Mass
8:30 p.m. - St. Juan Diego and Our Lady contest

At St. Joseph Old Cathedral in Oklahoma City

December 12
Las Mañanitas at 5 a.m.
Mass at 6 a.m.
Breakfast at 7 a.m.
Apparitions at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

At St. Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City

December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:
Mañanitas at 5:30 a.m.
Holy Mass at 6:30 a.m. followed by breakfast fiesta with Mariachis and Matachines.

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

18 Mount St. Mary home basketball game vs. CHA varsity girls, 6:30 p.m. Varsity boys 8 p.m.

19 Catholic Singles Dance at Saint Charles Borromeo Church, 5024 N. Grove Avenue, starting at 7 p.m. Admission is $6 For more information, e-mail deejaye1942@cox.net.

19 St. Mary School’s Holiday Market is set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Holiday Market invites handmade artisans to come be a part of this event. We also welcome small business owners and community groups to the market. Application submission deadline is Dec. 16. St. Mary School is located at the corner of Warner Avenue and Oak in Guthrie. Booth space is available for $25 per booth (approximately 10x10 foot space), tables are available $10 each. Please mail application and check (payable to St. Mary’s School) to Attn: Pam Bradley, 502 E. Warner Ave., Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone 282-2071, fax 282-2924, e-mail bbradley7@cox.net.

20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

20 Taize Prayer, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont, Okla. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

20 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Dishrow at 830-8688.

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

25 Christmas — Holy Day of Obligation
Parish Builds On 60 Years

By Cara Koenig
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King Church and School is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. But instead of celebrating only among themselves, it was decided the parish and school would give back to the community.

“I am a big advocate of Habitat for Humanity and have always wanted to build a house,” said Father Rick Stansberry, pastor at Christ the King. “As a parish we have been talking about building a house for a few years and it was decided the anniversary year would be the best time.”

The project would be called “Home for the Holidays” with the goal of finishing the house in time for a family to move in before Christmas. Parishioners began building the house Oct. 24 and are ahead of schedule. The expected completion date was set at Dec. 5 with a dedication and blessing on Dec 12.

“This has been a big positive for the parish,” said Father Stansberry. “We had more volunteers than we could use and the $70,000 that needed to be raised to build the house came in very quickly as well.”

More than 200 people from 16 years old and up have worked on the house.

Father Stansberry said the Habitat for Humanity officials said Christ the King was the first Catholic parish to build a house from start to finish. After such a great experience, Father Stansberry said he hopes the parish will choose to build a Habitat house every other year.

The parish celebrated its actual anniversary on Nov 22, the Feast Day of Christ the King. Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. with the choir singing Mozart’s coronation Mass. Later that day an organ recital was offered by Edwin Day, the music director for the parish. A dinner at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club concluded the day with more than 450 in attendance.

The event attracted Christ the King teachers, both past and present, as well as Father Joseph Ross, the only living prior pastor. Also attending were a dozen founding members of the parish, as well as hundreds of current parishioners. The Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award was announced, going to Tulsa’s Monsignor Dorney, who will be at the parish Jan. 24, 2010, to receive the award. It was also announced at the dinner that the Little Red School House Preschool would be incorporated into Christ the King School next year.

The Little Red School House is owned by a parishioner and teaches ages 3 through 5 years old. “Christ the King School has not had a preschool program until this year partly because of space and partly because the Little Red is a feeder into us,” said Father Stansberry. He said “80 percent” of the children at the school enroll in Christ the King and most of the teachers are parishioners.

“Karen Carter, the school principal, and I have been working on this process and some things are still being worked out but they will be part of Christ the King,” Father said.