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Bishops Say HHS Change Not Acceptable

WASHINGTON (2/10/2012) — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have issued the following statement Feb. 10: The Catholic bishops have long supported access to life-affirming health care for all, and the conscience rights of everyone involved in the complex process of providing that health care. That is why we raised two serious objections to the “preventive services” regulation issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in August 2011.

First, we objected to the rule forcing private health plans — nationwide, by the stroke of a bureaucrat’s pen — to cover sterilization and contraception, including drugs that may cause abortion. All the other mandated “preventive services” prevent disease, and pregnancy is not a disease. Moreover, forcing plans to cover abortifacients violates existing federal conscience laws. Therefore, we called for the rescission of the mandate altogether.

Second, we explained that the mandate would impose a burden of unprecedented reach and severity on the consciences of those who consider such “services” immoral: insurers forced to write policies including this coverage; employers and schools forced to sponsor and subsidize the coverage; and individual employees and students forced to pay premiums for the coverage. We therefore urged HHS, if it insisted on keeping the mandate, to provide a conscience exemption for all of these stakeholders — not just the extremely small subset of “religious employers” that HHS proposed to exempt initially.
A New Address in the Digital World: www.archokc.org

The phenomenon of globalisation is making the world a much smaller place for all of us. The process has accelerated exponentially through the development of digital technology and social media. In the world of Facebook, Twitter and Web 2.0, our ability to connect with others and share information instantly has taken a quantum leap forward.

Not since the invention of the printing press has human ingenuity developed a tool with such potential to affect the way we communicate. It is up to us to determine responsibly how we will use such a powerful tool. What will we communicate?

Digital technology offers us a tremendous tool for evangelization. In our time the Holy Spirit working through the Church is calling for a New Evangelization, a renewal of faith. The New Evangelization is not about technology. But it does not spurn technology. In fact, it challenges us to make use of all of the resources at our disposal to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to call people to faith and membership in his Church.

I have been eager to put this new technology and its remarkable potential to the service of the Church's mission more effectively. With this issue of the Sooner Catholic we are unveiling a new archdiocesan website, which will be our new presence in the digital world. After several months of preparation it is now online at www.archokc.org. Visit today, and visit often!

We will continue to publish the Sooner Catholic as a biweekly newspaper. As a matter of fact, we have several enhancements on the horizon for the print edition of the Sooner Catholic also!

But a lot can happen in the two weeks between issues of the Sooner Catholic. The website can fill that gap by posting timely information and new developments. Since our last issue for example, one of our own priests, Msgr. Edward J. Weisenburger, has been appointed as the 11th Bishop of Salina. News continues to break daily on the recent HHS mandate that poses such a grave challenge to the conscience rights and the religious freedom of Catholics and members of other churches. In other words, the news breaks quickly and events unfold rapidly. We want you to feel confident to click on www.archokc.org in order to find the latest updates on events affecting the Church in the Archdiocese, in your parish and around the world. We have developed this website as both a service to the archdiocesan family as well as a tool for evangelization and catechesis. Please take time to explore it and return frequently. Stay connected. We will be adding features as they develop.

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

February 19 - Confirmation, St. Mary Church, Guthrie, 10:30 a.m.
February 20 - Mass, 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma, St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral, 4 p.m. (followed by Reception and Program at Oklahoma City National Memorial)
February 21 - Archdiocesan Department Head Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
February 21 - Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
February 21 - Archdiocesan Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
February 22 - Ash Wednesday Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 6 p.m.
February 23 - Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
February 23 - Archdiocesan Personnel Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
February 24 - Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Board Meeting, St. Mark the Evangelist, Norman, 1 p.m.
February 25 - Diocesan Advisory Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.
February 25 - Confirmation, St. Teresa of Avila Church, Harrah, 4 p.m.
February 26 - Rites of Election, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, (2, 4:30, 7 p.m.)
February 28 - Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
February 29 - Mass and classroom visits, St. Mary School, Ponca City, 8:20 a.m.
March 4 - Confirmation, St. Ann Church, Elgin, 8:30 a.m.
March 4 - Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sterling, 11:30 a.m.

Put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch. Luke 5:4

Archbishop Coakley
Archdiocese Introduces New User-Friendly Website

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholics in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are now able, at anytime, with a click of the computer mouse, to access current information about the Church in the Archdiocese.

Welcome to the new website of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City: www.archokc.org.

The website was created by Solutio, a firm based in Wichita, Kan. Solutio specializes in website development and content management for Catholic entities. Archbishop Paul C. Coakley recommended the firm to the Archdiocesan Technology Committee after having worked with Solutio while serving as Bishop of Salina.

Members of the committee began working with Solutio last summer. Sister Diane Koorie, RSM, one of the committee members, describes the new website as “informative, colorful, attractive, up to date and user-friendly.”

The website is designed to be user-friendly for both the readers as well as those charged with making sure the information on the site is fresh and up to date. A key feature of the new site is that Archdiocesan offices now have its own unique page. Information from the offices can now be fresh and timely because offices directors and personnel can update it with ease.

That does not mean Catholic won’t be able to find traditional Church information on the new site. All of that and more will be available on the new site. Features of the new website will allow Catholics to more easily access news coming from the Church, as well as hear the Church is reacting to events both locally and beyond. News in our world and in our Church can break at a moment’s notice and the faithful need to be able to gather accurate information.

This new website is intended to make that process more effective.

“We will continue to publish the Sooner Catholic,” Archbishop Coakley writes in his column, found on Page 2 of this issue. “But a lot can happen in the two weeks between issues of the Sooner Catholic,” he said. “The website can fill that gap by posting timely information and new developments.”

One of those developments will be the addition of more video coverage of events that take place in the Archdiocese. This increased video capability will make it possible for all Catholics to experience events such as the Chrism Mass or the Sanctity of Life Mass. Video will allow important messages from the Archbishop, or breaking news such as the recent announcement of Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger’s appointment as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Salina to be viewed as well as read.

The new site is much more interactive, with users now being able to do such things as online giving, registering for programs and completing reports. Also, signing up for $20 feeds which allow users to receive electronic updates whenever changes are made or breaking news occurs, as well as accessing the Archdiocesan Facebook page and Twitter account are possible.

Cara Keoning, a member of the Technology Committee, describes the new site as a great step forward in communications, an exciting step but not an end product. “The future of information is technology based,” Keoning said. “With the New Evangelization, we must reach out with the most up-to-date tools.”

Pope Names Monsignor to Head Diocese of Salina

OKLAHOMA CITY — The selection of Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Salina, Kan., was called a “triumphant affirmation” of his “outstanding priestly ministry” by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. The Archbishop made the statement during a press conference at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Feb. 8, two days after Bishop-elect Weisenburger learned that Pope Benedict XVI had named him to the position.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger will be ordained as Bishop of the Diocese of Salina on May 1.

Archbishop Coakley served as Bishop of Salina before being named to his current position. Archbishop Coakley recommended the firm for Catholic entities. Archbishop S.J.刺伯特林, Archbishop Emeritus Beltran and Bishop-elect Weisenburger.

Pope Benedict named Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger, a native of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, to the Diocese of Salina to be viewed as the diocese.

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HHS Change Not Acceptable

Today, the president has done two things.

First, he has decided to retain HHS’ nationwide mandate of insurance coverage of sterilization and contraception, including some abortifacients. This is both un-supported in the law and remains a grave moral concern. We cannot fail to reiterate this, even as so many would focus exclusively on the question of religious liberty.

Second, the president has announced some changes in how that mandate will be administered, which is still unclear in its details. As far as we can tell at this point, the change appears to have the following basic contours.

It would still mandate that all insurers must include coverage for the objectionable services in all the policies they would write. At this point, it would appear that self-insuring religious employers, and religious insurance companies, are not exempt from this mandate.

It would allow nonprofit, religious employers to declare that they do not offer such coverage. But the employee and insurer may separately agree to add the objectionable coverage, that coverage is still provided as a part of the objecting employer’s plan, financed in the same way as the rest of the coverage offered by the objecting employer. This, too, raises serious moral concerns.

We just received information about this proposal for the first time this morning; we were not consulted in advance. Some information we have in writing is still sealed. We will, of course, continue to pursue the greatest conscience protection we can secure from the Executive Branch. But stepping away from the particulars, we note that today’s proposal continues to involve needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions, and to threaten government coercion of religious people and groups to violate their most deeply held convictions. In a nation dedicated to religious liberty as its first and founding principle, we should not be limiting, negotiating within these parameters. The only complete solution to this religious liberty problem is for HHS to rescind the mandate of those objectionable services.

We will therefore continue — with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency — our efforts to correct this problem through the other branches of government. For example, we renew our call on Congress to pass, and the administration to sign, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. And we renew our call to the Catholic faithful, and to all our fellow Americans, to join together in this effort to protect religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all.

Six More Things Everyone Should Know About the HHS Mandate

1. The rule that created the uproar has not changed at all, but was finalized as is. Friday evening, HHS issued regulations describing the intention to develop more regulations that would apply the mandate differently to “non-exempt, nonprofit religious employers” — the charities, schools and hospitals that are still left out of the “religious employer” exemption. These policies will be developed over a one-year delay in enforcement, so if they turn out badly, their impact will not be felt until August 2013, well after the election.

2. The rule leaves open the possibility that even exempt “religious employers” will be forced to cover sterilization. In its August 2011 comments, USCCB warned that the narrow “religious employer” exemption appeared to provide no relief from the sterilization mandate — only the contraception mandate — and specifically sought clarification. (We also noted that a sterilization mandate exists in only one state, Vermont.) HHS provided no clarification, so the rule remains under the unchanged final rule.

3. The new “accommodation” is not a current rule, but a promise that comes due beyond the point of public accountability. Also on Friday evening, HHS issued regulations describing the intention to develop more regulations that would apply the mandate differently to “non-exempt, nonprofit religious organizations” — the charities, schools and hospitals that are still left out of the “religious employer” exemption. These policies will be developed over a one-year delay in enforcement, so if they turn out badly, their impact will not be felt until August 2013, well after the election.

4. Even if the promise of “accommodation” are fulfilled, only nonprofit religious charities, schools and hospitals will still be forced to violate their beliefs. If an employee of one of these second-class charities, religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or sterilization, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer’s insurance plan. There can be no additional cost to that employee, and the coverage is not a separate policy. By process of elimination, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who object in conscience.

5. The “accommodation” does not even purport to help objecting insurers, for-profit religious employers, secular employers or individuals. In its August 2013 comments, and many times since, USCCB identified all the stakeholders in the process whose religious freedom is threatened — all employers, insurers and individuals, not just religious employers. Friday’s actions emphasize that all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both nonprofit and religious may qualify for the “accommodation.”

6. Beware of claims, especially by partisans, that the bishops are partisan. The bishops and their staff read regulations before evaluating them. The bishops did not pick this fight in an election year — others did. Bishops form their positions based on principles — here, religious liberty for all, and the life and dignity of every human person — not polls, personalities or political parties. Bishops are duty-bound to proclaim these principles, in and out of season.
Catholic Doctors Call Mandate Government Intrusion

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Whether they are just starting out or nearing the end of their careers, Catholics who want to practice medicine in conformity with their church's teachings worry about how a new federal regulation requiring health plans to cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge will affect their work.

Although the requirement will not directly impact physicians, some say it represents a governmental intrusion into health care that could grow in the future.

Dr. Anna Nolte, a family physician with the National Gianna Center for Women's Health and Fertility in New York, thinks the mandate represents "such a dramatic violation of clearly defined civil rights" that it is bound to be overturned in court.

But, she said, "If Congress goes to pass an act that provides an exemption for the groups affected by this, and the courts in some in comprehensible way allow (the mandate) to stand, then Catholic health care will have to make a decision to practice civil disobedience."

Dr. Kim Hardey, an obstetrician and gynecologist in Lafayette, La., said he hopes the decision by the Obama administration to not allow religious organizations, is part of implementing the Affordable Care Act of 2010, which sets up new preventative health care required for women, especially in the areas of gynecology, infertility treatment and natural family planning, at those centers.

"I am not at the point in my career where I have experienced any discrimination because of her pro-life beliefs, Smith said. "We are kind of insulated in medical school. But then you get out and you say, 'Wow, all these policies could really affect my practice.'"

After assisting in the delivery of about 6,000 babies over the past 29 years, Hardey has the real-world experience that Smith lacks. He believes that some in Washington would like to drive gynecologists, or OB-GYNs, who won't perform abortions out of business.

"A large number of people would have access to our services, if we would let the mandate go as is," he said.

She adds: "I do not have to practice in a hospital that is against my core beliefs, but I do have to love all patients, and I have to be able to serve them by providing all family planning options be offered in the hospital."
Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — By a 2-1 vote, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the California ban on same-sex marriage, saying it violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law.

The majority opinion, issued Feb. 7, said that the state, which had given homosexual couples the right to marry, could not revoke that right.

The National Organization of Marriage Education Fund, in a statement issued by its director, Brian S. Brown, accused the judge of “finding a ‘right’ to same-sex marriage in the United States Constitution.”

“All this sets up an all-or-nothing showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Brown, who asked for contributions to help fund a possible Supreme Court challenge to the lower court’s ruling.

An estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages had been performed in California before 52 percent of the state’s voters in 2008 approved Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriages in the state.

ProtectMarriage, which put Proposition 8 on the ballot and fought in court to uphold it, can appeal the decision, either to the full 9th Circuit or directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the appeals panel said no same-sex marriages can be performed.

The appellate court majority said it did not answer the question of “whether under the Constitution same-sex couples may ever be denied the right to marry,” calling it “an important and highly controversial question.”

“The majority opinion, permits communities to enact most laws they believe to be desirable, it requires that they have at least a legitimate reason for the passage of a law that treats different classes of people differently,” said the majority decision, written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt. “There was no such reason that Proposition 8 could have been enacted.”

“Proposition 8 served no purpose, and had no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California,” it added.

All Proposition 8 did, the court said, was to strip same-sex couples of “the right to obtain and use the designation of ‘marriage’ to describe their relationships. Nothing more, nothing less. Proposition 8 therefore could not have been enacted to advance California’s interests in child rearing or responsible procreation, for it had no effect on the rights of same-sex couples to raise children or on the probative practices of other couples. Nor did Proposition 8 have any effect on religious freedom or in parents’ rights to control their children’s education.”

The 9th Circuit issued its opinion in an appeal filed by supporters of traditional marriage, after now-retired U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled the voter-approved initiative was unconstitutional under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The group challenged Walker’s ruling in the case, because the judge, who is gay, did not disclose his sexual orientation or reveal that he had a longtime romantic partner until after he had retired from the court.

The 9th Circuit panel said it found no evidence Walker was biased.

The three-judge panel’s decision is on hold at least until the appellate passes for ProtectMarriage to file an appeal, meaning no same-sex marriages would be conducted in California in the near future.

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence from meat is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Voluntary abstinence from meat on the procreative practices of other couples is permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs.

Eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Bishops Respond on Prop 8

WASHINGTON — Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, joined the bishops of California in denouncing the Feb. 7 decision of a federal court rejecting the constitutionality of Proposition 8, a voter-approved initiative in California that recognizes marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

“Today’s court ruling is a grave injustice, ignoring the reality that marriage is the union of one man and one woman,” Cardinal-designate Dolan said. “The Constitution of the United States most assuredly does not forbid the protection of the perennial meaning of marriage, one of the cornerstones of society. The people of California deserve better. Our nation deserves better. Marriage deserves better.”

The majority opinion, issued Feb. 7, said that the state, which had given homosexual couples the right to marry, could not revoke that right.

The National Organization of Marriage Education Fund, in a statement issued by its director, Brian S. Brown, accused the judge of “finding a ‘right’ to same-sex marriage in the United States Constitution.”

“All this sets up an all-or-nothing showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Brown, who asked for contributions to help fund a possible Supreme Court challenge to the lower court’s ruling.

An estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages had been performed in California before 52 percent of the state’s voters in 2008 approved Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriages in the state.

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In the meantime, the appeals panel said no same-sex marriages can be performed.

The appellate court majority said it did not answer the question of “whether under the Constitution same-sex couples may ever be denied the right to marry,” calling it “an important and highly controversial question.”

“The majority opinion, permits communities to enact most laws they believe to be desirable, it requires that they have at least a legitimate reason for the passage of a law that treats different classes of people differently,” said the majority decision, written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt. “There was no such reason that Proposition 8 could have been enacted.”

“Proposition 8 served no purpose, and had no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California,” it added.

All Proposition 8 did, the court said, was to strip same-sex couples of “the right to obtain and use the designation of ‘marriage’ to describe their relationships. Nothing more, nothing less. Proposition 8 therefore could not have been enacted to advance California’s interests in child rearing or responsible procreation, for it had no effect on the rights of same-sex couples to raise children or on the probative practices of other couples. Nor did Proposition 8 have any effect on religious freedom or in parents’ rights to control their children’s education.”

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The 9th Circuit panel said it found no evidence Walker was biased.

The three-judge panel’s decision is on hold at least until the appellate passes for ProtectMarriage to file an appeal, meaning no same-sex marriages would be conducted in California in the near future.
Diocese of Salina

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19, 1987, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City by The Most Rev. Charles A. Salatka, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

On June 14, 1985, he was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Okarche. On June 19, 2002, he was installed as Rector of the Cathedral where he was ordained to the priesthood, three months before he was given the title of Reverend Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI.


Bishop-elect Weisenburger said he intends to move slowly in his role as Bishop of Salina. He said he plans to get to "know the people and the places" of the Diocese that includes 86 parishes and roughly 50,000 Catholics.

"It takes all of us working together to be the Body of Christ," the bishop-elect said.

The Diocese of Salina is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Bishop-elect Weisenburger is celebrating his 25th year in priestly ministry. He quoted the late Father Gerald Ucker who said, "If I had 1,000 lives to live, I would want to live them all as a priest."

"Priesthood has been a wild, roller-coaster experience, never dull," Bishop-elect Weisenburger said. "I've always viewed priesthood as an incredible privilege, one undeserved in my case. But I finally had to accept that God oftentimes chooses the frail, the ordinary and the weak and does some pretty good work of His own through them.

"Since childhood, priests have always been my heroes and I cannot imagine having done anything else with my life. In fact, I recommend it to any young man who may be listening.

At a reception following the press conference, Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran offered a toast to the bishop-elect. He said Bishop-elect Weisenburger could expect to serve many years in his new ministry. "Look at me, " the Archbishop Emeritus joked.

Bishop-elect Weisenburger is the second Oklahoma City priest to be selected by Pope Benedict to serve as a bishop in the past four years. In 2008, Father Anthony Taylor was named Bishop of Little Rock, Ark.
Office to Host Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Office of Family Life will host the nearest conference for the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers on Feb. 27-29 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Registration begins at 3 p.m. and Opening Activity will begin at 5 p.m. Edward Mechmann from the Archdiocese of New York, Office of Family Life/Respect Life will be the guest speaker. His presentation topics will include Public Policy — Culture Changes, Moral Principles and Current Family Concerns.

Spanish Breakout Session: The Human Person According to John Paul II will be given by Lucy Cardenas, Chancellor from the Diocese of Laredo. The conference is not limited to Family Life, Diocesan or parish ministers. Anyone working with or interested in strengthening family life will benefit. Call the Office of Family Life for more information and registration fees, (405) 709-2709.

Date for Cathedral Penance Rite

OKLAHOMA CITY — The date for the English Penance Rite at the Cathedral is Feb. 29 at 6 p.m.

Lenten Mission to Feature Father Richard Fragomeni

OKLAHOMA CITY — Author and speaker Father Richard Fragomeni will present the Lenten Mission “Living Stones” March 5-7 at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Rd.

Father Fragomeni will preside at the 5 p.m. Mass on March 3 and hear confessions prior to Mass. “The Stages of Life and Models of Service” will be the topic for the morning sessions March 5-7. The morning sessions will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. each day and be followed by 30-minute teaching sessions. The evening sessions will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. each day and be followed by 30-minute teaching sessions. The evening session topic is “Building the Foundation of God’s Temple” as the topic of the Monday evening session. Tuesday’s topic is “Stones: Polished and Renewed,” and Wednesday’s topic is “Tending Forth to Build the Kingdom of God.”

Lenten Mission at the Cathedral Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will host a Lenten Parish Mission “Living Stones” March 5-7 at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Rd.

Father Fragomeni will preside at the 5 p.m. Mass on March 3 and hear confessions prior to Mass. “The Stages of Life and Models of Service” will be the topic for the morning sessions March 5-7. The morning sessions will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. each day and be followed by 30-minute teaching sessions. The evening sessions will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. each day and be followed by 30-minute teaching sessions. The evening session topic is “Building the Foundation of God’s Temple” as the topic of the Monday evening session. Tuesday’s topic is “Stones: Polished and Renewed,” and Wednesday’s topic is “Tending Forth to Build the Kingdom of God.”

Panorama of German Literature

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop John Carroll Catholic School took the overall School Honors at the 2012 Bishop McGuinness Science Fair in Oklahoma City. This was the first time Bishop John Carroll has sponsored a science fair.

There were six first-place winners of their category. They were Chris Osler for Animal Sciences, Ryan Mosi for Behavioral Sciences, Charlotte Edmonds for Chemistry, Lena Do for Medicine and Transportation; and Madeline Fresonke, third-place Energy Management; Thomas Martinez, second-place Transportation; and Reina Ruffin, third-place Energy Management.

Here he is escorted in the Catholic School during the pilgrimage to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. The pilgrimage included visits to Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden, Wroclaw, Auschwitz, Zakopane, Wieliczka, Krakow and Warsaw. The pilgrimage will take place Sept. 3-15, 2012. Pilgrims will be escorted by Father Peter Jandaczek, Pastor of Assumption Catholic Church in Duncan. The cost is $3,995 and includes the following: air transfers, museum tours, three meals per day, and taxes. For more information, please contact Father Peter Jandaczek, (580) 255-0590 Ext. 11, or PAT Tours, 1-800-388-0988.

School Wins Fair

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop John Carroll Catholic School has won the overall. We accredit it to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff, the enhancements in our science curriculum from the Notre Dame ACE program, and the support of our parents dedication of our students and staff, the enhancements in our science curriculum from the Notre Dame ACE program, and the support of our parents.
Catholics Converge on Capitol for Pro-Life Rose Day

OKLAHOMA CITY — Abby Johnson was the featured speaker at the annual Rose Day event. Rose Day is celebrated each year at the state Capitol. Thousands of pro-life supporters converged on the Capitol to hand roses to elected lawmakers and request that they vote pro-life.

Hundreds of Catholics were involved in the effort, joining with Baptists and others who support pro-life efforts. Rose Day was celebrated Feb. 8. Archbishop Paul Coakley delivered the opening prayer.

On this day, Johnson told an overflow audience that her experience working for Planned Parenthood caused her to turn from being an abortion supporter to a staunch advocate for the protection of life.

Johnson said that for eight years she was the director of a Planned Parenthood clinic.

"Then God stepped into my life," Johnson said. "I was asked to watch an ultrasound procedure.

"What I saw was a 13-week-old boy struggle and fight for his life and try to protect himself in his mother's womb. What I saw was a child who was in panic. The place that had been safe and secure for him had become the most dangerous place for him to be," Johnson said.

Johnson said the mother undergoing the abortion was "sedated" during the procedure.

"This happens 4,000 times a day in this country," Johnson said. "She said it must stop.

The Rose Day crowd was so large it filled the House chamber and the Senate chamber.

House Speaker Kris Steele, R-Shawnee, said the rally was the time to celebrate life and encourage state lawmakers to adopt laws that protect the unborn.

Gov. Mary Fallin said those who participate in Rose Day, “do make a difference.

"When I came to the state Capitol in 1996, it was not popular to be pro-life," Fallin said. "You have made the difference. Look at all the state legislators today who said they are pro-life.”

"I'm very happy and pleased and how appropriate to have those of you, our friends, in the Catholic Church show up for all of us today," Fallin said, making reference to the recent controversy created by President Obama’s insistence that faith-based entities provide contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs to employees.

Archbishop Coakley’s Opening Prayer

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness,
But aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength to know your will,
To make it our own,
And to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power,
For you are God,
Sharing the glory of the Father and the Son.
You desire justice for all:
Enable us to uphold the rights of others,
Especially the most vulnerable and, chief among these, the unborn.
Do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
Or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love, and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name,
May we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions
May be pleasing to you,
And earn the reward
Promised to good and faithful servants.
You live and reign with the Father and the Son, One God, forever and ever.
Catholic Foundation’s Named Funds Accomplish Philanthropic Goals of Many Catholic Donors

The Catholic Foundation was established to seek and receive endowed and capital gifts for the benefit of the Catholic Church in Central and Western Oklahoma. It also is charged with investing and managing those funds so that periodic distributions can benefit specific programs and causes within the Archdiocese, schools and organizations throughout the Archdiocese. In all cases, the wishes are executed as the donation agreement requires. Since the Catholic Foundation was established, more than 400 donors have given gifts to benefit their parish or a specific Catholic School. Some others have given gifts that establish scholarships for Catholic students across the Archdiocese, and others have acted as advisors in a donor-advised fund that provides flexibility in their giving wishes from year to year. In all cases, the donors have given with an open heart, with a sense of stewardship and in keeping with the generosity of their Bequest, and have given back the gifts that God entrusted to them. The endowed spirit enables the donors to ensure that the gift continues to give year-in and year-out. The Catholic Foundation saluted the spirit of giving by highlighting a few of the Named Fund donors who were recently featured in its Annual Report:

- **The Carl T. Benke Family Memorial Fund at the Catholic Foundation**
  - Mrs. Benke and her children saw the Catholic school in Lawton as an example of Catholic stewardship through support to their parish and Catholic education. The Scholarship Fund was created to honor the memory of “Betsy” Lawrence and assists in Catholic ministry in the Enid area and North Central Oklahoma. The Catholic Foundation. This Donor Advised Fund provides support for Catholic causes and organizations.

- **The Amelia P. Davis and Elizabeth J. Davis Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund**
  - Created in honor of the late Mrs. Davis. Dr. Lawrence was active in the community and assisted in Catholic ministry in the Edmond area. She endowed her scholarship fund through a direct gift.

- **The Carl T. Benke Family Scholarship Fund**
  - The Carl T. Benke Family Memorial Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

- **The Edward McCarthy Scholarship Fund**
  - Ed followed his father in a professional career in outdoor advertising and was a long time supporter of Bishop McGuinness High School. Ed believed that Catholic education was an important part of his faith, many students at McGuinness will benefit from the Ed McCarthy Scholarships annually with this endowed Fund at the Catholic Foundation.

- **The Bob Little Pastoral Music Scholarship Fund**
  - Bob Little taught music at Minneola, Kansas, Edmond, Il Reno and Hinton schools. He was the Music and Religious Education Director at St. John the Baptist Church in Edmond and for many years was the Pastoral Music Director at St. Rose of Lima Church in Owatonna. In 2012, Bob established his legacy that will benefit the Catholic church in rural and western Oklahoma for years to come. Bob established the Bob Little Pastoral Music Scholarship Fund to award scholarships to students pursuing a college degree in pastoral ministry. Since then, he has awarded annual scholarships to deserving Catholic students throughout the Archdiocese. Bob passed away on September 18, 2011 and his legacy will continue far into the future.

- **The Bob Aneshansley Scholarship Fund**
  - The Bob Aneshansley Scholarship Fund was established upon Mrs. Aneshansley’s death in 2011 and his legacy will continue far into the future.

- **The The Carl T. Benke Family Memorial Fund at the Catholic Foundation**
  - Mrs. Aneshansley and her children saw the Catholic school in Clinton as important to C.W. and Frances Aneshansley. Raising four children in Clinton, the Aneshansleys worked hard to see that their children in Clinton get the advantage of a college education. The Scholarship Fund that was established upon Mrs. Aneshansley’s death in 2011 and his legacy will continue far into the future.

- **The Amelia P. Davis and Elizabeth J. Davis Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund**
  - Sherri McLaughlin was always thoughtful and cared for others. Likewise, in establishing a legacy at the Catholic Foundation, Sherri desired to help others. She wanted an endowment fund at the Foundation to be used for missionary and seminarian purposes, in memory of the work of Father Stanley Rother.Mother. After her death in June 2011, the Fund was established to provide financial support to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in an Endowment Fund that would honor Father Stanley Rother’s memory through support for his Seminary Burs, expenses of priests from Guatemala, or program expenses for churches, schools or hospitals in Guatemala, as determined annually by the Archbishop of Oklahoma City. (Photo includes Michael & Sharon Trojan).
St. Philip Neri TeamCaptures Future City Title

MIDWEST CITY — St. Philip Neri Middle School students Sofia Figueroa, Adrianna Limon and Morgan Montgomery earned a trip to Washington, D.C., this month.

The trip isn’t exactly free. The seventh- and eighth-grade students attending the Midwest City school will have to do some work once they arrive in the nation’s capital.

Sofia, Adrianna and Morgan, along with two teachers, will represent St. Philip Neri School — and Oklahoma — in the National Engineers Week Foundation “Future City Competition.”

St. Philip Neri defeated 16 other state middle schools last month in the Oklahoma competition and will take their “Team Perpetuity” project to Washington to compete against 36 other regional middle school teams.

Monica Schmidlkofer, St. Philip science teacher, and Sue Hawkings, the school’s math teacher, will accompany the students.

Schmidlkofer said winning the engineering contest is not new for the school.

“We’ve won it five of the last seven years. One year we got fourth place in the national competition,” Schmidlkofer said.

The 11-member St. Philip team worked on their “Future City” projects for several months.

John Alexin, a retired engineer and a member of the St. Philip Neri Parish, volunteered to advise on the project and gave them some valuable advice.

The students had picked an abandoned copper mine in Utah to build their environmentally friendly, underground city.

“John pointed out there are environmental problems with a copper mine. So the kids switched to an abandoned gold mine in Australia,” Schmidlkofer said.

The city, ready for occupancy in 2222, is an environmentally friendly geothermal system, where residents live under a high-tech dome.

Residents ride in magnetic trains and elevators, and there are moving sidewalks. Just about everything in the city is recyclable. Solid waste is turned into concrete. Heat from incinerated waste generates electricity.

The students had to build a scale model of the city. These students took explaining the city to the judges and then answered questions.

National winners are given a trip to the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. The second- and third-place teams earn scholarships for their schools’ technology programs.

Parish Honors Sister Barbara Joseph’s Ministry to Homeless

By Steve Gust

FOR THE SOONER CATHOLIC

EDMOND — A mission which helps the homeless was this year’s recipient of the Good Samaritan Award during the annual dinner held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Several nonprofits, donating hundreds of hours of volunteer help to Edmond, were each thanked for their work.

Three of the agencies were singled out for special recognition and cash prizes.

Sister B.J.’s Pantry — an outreach to homeless in Oklahoma City, came away with the top prize and a check for $2,000.

Sister Barbara Joseph started the ministry years ago and has plans to expand — with housing as well as a program to teach job skills.

Other winners include the Edmond HOPE Center and Edmond Mobile Meals.

Both of those groups received checks of $500 each.

Josh Moore of Turning Point Ministries — last year’s winner — urged the 40 or 50 present to also focus on their individual mission as well as to trust in God to take care of their needs.

“The big winner of this year’s Samaritan Award is Sister Barbara Joseph, who runs Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City. It ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. 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With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless. With Sister B.J.’s Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, it ministers to the homeless.
We've all heard about the troubles of at-risk youth — but few have experienced it firsthand like Kathryn Pickens.

When Pickens, Mount '07, graduated from the University of Tulsa in May 2011, she decided to spend a year as part of a volunteer program in the United States. She chose a Chicago-based program called Mercy Works. The Catholic-based program offers a place for at-risk youth to find support and guidance while learning to make positive decisions.

Pickens works at the location with at-risk boys who live on campus. "The boys that I work with are awesome. They have really good hearts, and while there are definitely some heartbreaking stories, they are growing out of that," Pickens said.

I'm very lucky to be a part of it," Pickens said.

She said that while the boys continue to improve, it doesn't mean that her job is easy. Volunteers help the boys with all the basic life skills to help them succeed in life. They also focus on working through anxiety problems.

The Boys Home has 13 volunteers who live on campus. They have weekly goals, which range from not using any electricity to having one trash bag for all of them. These challenges work to instill the goals of simple living in the volunteers.

Despite the hard work, Pickens said she would definitely recommend that Mount graduates consider working in such a program.

"The Mount gave me the opportunity to start my volunteer work, and now I can give back to the community in a great way. You grow so much during this type of experiences and learn huge lessons about yourself and life in general," Pickens said.
Helping Disadvantaged a Bigger Concern Than Debate

By Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Whether the rich-poor divide in the United States is a demographic statistic or a political talking point is irrelevant to the agencies that are simply trying to make sure the people on the poor side of the equation have a roof over their head and food on the table.

They’re too busy trying to figure out how to feed more people with less money.

The growing gap between rich and poor in the United States is a key theme of “our country where a shrinking number of people do really well while a growing number of Americans barely get by, or we can notice an economy where people get a fair shot, and everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules of set,” he added.

“People are definitely noticing the gap between rich and poor and considering it a problem, according to pollsters.

Two-thirds of a sampling of Americans told the Pew Research Center in December that there are strong or very strong conflicts between rich and poor in this country, up from 47 percent who said that two years ago.

More than twice as many people describe the conflict as “very strong” as did so in July 2009, said the Pew study released Jan. 11.

And another survey released Feb. 2 that was conducted by Public Religion Research Institute for Religion News Service found that the gap between rich and poor was cited by voters it polled as the third most critical issue facing the country. Just under half, (49 percent) cited the gap as important, behind “jobs and unemployment,” cited by 85 percent, and the federal deficit, cited by 69 percent of the 1,405 voters polled.

But out in the parish food pantries and social service agencies where people in need seek help, the question is not “Is the rich-poor gap a political issue?” or even “Is the gap getting bigger?” It’s simple: “How do we take care of the people on the poor side of the line?”

Candy Hill, senior vice president for social policy and government affairs for Catholic Charities USA, said that although there are signs the economy is improving, many people are seeking basic support from church agencies.

“Demand hasn’t leveled off yet,” she said.

Ed Wnorowski, executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Louisville, Ky., said the number of calls to a regional clearinghouse for social services nearly doubled between 2008 and 2009, from 3,719 to 6,255. The figure has remained well above 6,000 the following two years.

At the same time, donations to the society have been flat, meaning the same amount of money and donated goods has had to stretch further, Wnorowski said. St. Vincent de Paul doesn’t track such statistics at the regional level, but Wnorowski had some anecdotes to reflect changes in what kind of people have recently joined the ranks of the needy.

For example, “among my large group of friends in their 30s, I know more than a dozen people who are unemployed,” he said. That includes one man who previously had a six-figure income who has been out of work for going on three years.

Linda Romine, communications director for the Louisville organization, said the director of a St. Vincent de Paul conference at one of the city’s most affluent parishes reported helping more upper middle-class and “solidly middle-class families in economic crisis.

The parish helps with mortgage payments and utility bills, Romine said in an email exchange with Catholic News Service. “They’re proud and embarrassed to ask for assistance, but they are in desperate situations.” She gave examples of one family hit by a medical crisis that left the husband disabled and unable to work, and another family headed by a small-business owner whose company failed.

Wnorowski said the charity’s main effort to be sure it can meet the need has involved raising the profile of St. Vincent de Paul and its work, both to be sure people in need know it’s there and to attract donations.

Agency-owned thrift stores around the region provide its main source of income.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, has for five years been consciously trying to change its sources of funding, said Heather Reynolds, executive director.

Seeing a trend for decreased government funding of social services, the agency’s board looked at how to offset that while helping clients get out of poverty permanently, she told CNS.

For instance, they turned a translation and interpretation service through Catholic Charities into a competitive business. The agency had long offered such services at below-market prices, Reynolds said. But it was turned into a profit-generating business, providing translators to hospitals, courts and other agencies, while paying a living wage to the translators — all clients of Catholic Charities.

“We’ve gotten many clients out of poverty,” Reynolds said.

Another small business started by Catholic Charities is Worn, which employs refugee women — most from Burma (Myanmar) and Bhutan — to knit scarves. The scarves are sold through local boutiques, at “scarf parties” and via the website www.wornforpeace.com, at prices ranging from $59 to $118.

“Our 2011 goal was to sell 500 scarves,” Reynolds said. “We sold just under 1,500.” The 20 knitters who make them are paid a piece rate that allows a woman who makes six scarves a week — about 18 hours of work — to pay a month’s rent from her earnings, she explained.

As a result of such new directions, the agency’s budget has gone from $9 million, 80 percent of which came from government funding, six years ago to $19.5 million, 53 percent of which comes from government funding, Reynolds said.

“Our government funding has not decreased but we have been focused on advancement and getting people out of poverty,” she said.
Vanderbilt Students Protest Inclusion Mandate

By Theresa Laurence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Students at Vanderbilt University packed a town hall meeting on campus to protest a school nondiscrimination policy they say is being applied unfairly and is a threat to religious liberty. The policy requires that membership as well as leadership positions in any student organizations registered with the university be open to all, which means religious organizations also must open their leadership positions to anyone, regardless of beliefs. For more than two months, Vanderbilt Catholic, the campus ministry program, and other student religious organizations on campus were hoping the university would not apply the policy to their groups’ leadership spots.

But university administrators were on hand at the Jan. 31 town hall meeting to reiterate that they would not back down from enforcing it. The meeting followed a Jan. 20 letter from Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos that made Vanderbilt’s position clear: “The university does not seek to limit anyone’s freedom to practice his or her religion. We do, however, require all Vanderbilt registered student organizations to observe our nondiscrimination policy.” Zeppos stated, “That means membership in registered student organizations is open to everyone and that everyone, if desired, has the opportunity to seek leadership positions.”

Vanderbilt Catholic chaplain Father John Sims Baker rejects the claim that “all” Vanderbilt registered student organizations are bound by the nondiscrimination policy. “There are literally dozens of student organizations that are exempt. All fraternities and sororities are discriminatory in leadership and membership. They don’t let just anyone join,” he said. “The policy is unfairly applied to religious groups.”

Despite protests from students, as well as from outside Christian legal counselors and Nashville Bishop David R. Choby, among others, Vanderbilt University decided not to make any exceptions for religious student organizations.

In November, Bishop Choby wrote to Chancellor Zeppos, asking the university to “not apply Vanderbilt’s laudatory nondiscrimination policy in the unfortunate manner.”

Vanderbilt Catholic recently submitted a new constitution to Vanderbilt administrators to seek annual re-approval for their organization. Pluribus student organizations in good standing are allowed use of the Vanderbilt name, funding from the Interfaith Council, space on the web server, and worship time in the on-campus Benton Chapel.

Vanderbilt Catholic’s one-page constitution doesn’t explicitly state that organizations with leadership positions must be practicing Catholics, but “it makes our mission very clear,” Father Baker said.

If Vanderbilt Catholic’s constitution were not approved for some reason, Father Baker said, it would not spell the end for the thriving Catholic campus ministry program.

The organization’s headquarters, the Prassco House, is located across the grounds of the Cathedral of the Incarnation and is owned by the Diocese of Nashville. Vanderbilt Catholic also would continue to have ready access to Mass at the cathedral.

Father Baker doesn’t worry too much about Vanderbilt Catholic being hijacked by outsiders, but, he said, “There is a possibility for some to hijack your mission to try and take over its run for president, for a publicity stunt, and it could be very disruptive,” he said.

But for now, Vanderbilt Catholic’s mission and regular slate of activities is going ahead as scheduled.

“We’re just going forward… working on the sanctity of souls,” Father Baker said.

Archbishop Protests Censorship of Letter Opposing HHS Mandate

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A directive from the U.S. Army chief of chaplains that a letter opposing the Obama administration’s contraceptive mandate not be read from the pulpit by Catholic military chaplains violated First Amendment rights of free speech and free exercise of religion, according to the head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio spoke with Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh about the church of chaplains’ response to the archbishop’s Jan. 26 letter and the two “agreed that it was a mistake to stop supporting the reading of the archbishop’s letter,” according to a statement released by the military archdiocese to Catholic News Service Feb. 6.

The two also agreed to McHugh’s suggestion that one line, which read, “‘Our voice is not at odds with the voice of the medical community and is in harmony with the voice of the circle of conscience in health care to whom we minister,’ be removed from the letter because of the concern that it could potentially be misunderstood as a call to civil disobedience,” the statement added.

The letter had been issued as part of a nationwide campaign by U.S. bishops protesting the Department of Health and Human Services requirement that all health plans — even those covering employees of Catholic schools, hospitals and charitable institutions — cover contraceptives, including some that can cause abortions, and sterilization free of charge.

The archbishop said he and the Archdiocese “stand firm in the belief, based on legal precedent, that such a directive from the Army constituted a violation of his constitutionally-protected right of free speech and the free exercise of religion, as well as those some rights of all military chaplains and their congregants.”

The office of the Army chief of chaplains did not immediately respond to a CNS request for comment about the incident. The military and public did and there was no objection to the letter from the other branches of military service.
Lenten Fasting Easy Compared to Starvation

Kinshasha, Democratic Republic of the Congo — “Today the big children will eat, Cynthia, 15, and Gueller, 13. Tomorrow, it will be the turn of the little ones, Benedette, Josiane and Monasse, 3, 6, and 9. Of course, the small ones will fuss. Yes, sure, they ask for food, but we don’t have any,” said their mother, Ghislaine Bereba, a police officer who earns $50 a month. “There will have been nothing more. At night they will be weak,” she said. “Surely they complain. But there is nothing we can do.” — Front Pages, New York Times, January 3, 2012

I remembered this disturbing article I had read as I began to think about how I would help prepare my parish for Lent. It was painful.

Imagine if you were this parent having to decide which of your children will eat today and which will fast tomorrow, no matter how much they cry and complain. Imagine your feelings of hopelessness. There is nothing you can do.

Lent is on us. Yes, we Americans Catholics will fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but I doubt many of us will be weak on those nights. Our well-fed bodies can easily pass a few hours without food. In fact, for many of us eating so much is a challenge, which must wait until tomorrow, no matter how many we积攒. How high we went on the scale of appetites. That is why it is so hard for us to get our arms around what happens to so much of the world’s population every single day.

There are over 1 billion people in the world today who do not know whether they will eat on any given day. It is the first time in the history of the human race that such a number of people are food insecure. Another 2 billion are just a step ahead, and any disaster or stroke of bad luck could push them into the food deprived category easily. A poor crop due to lack of rain or pest infestation could mean a year of hunger. An ethnic, tribal or other civil conflict, which happen often in the poorest countries, could send them fleeing for their lives away from their homes, leaving them vulnerable refugees in strange lands. So many people are living on the margins.

Three billion people. That is now almost half of our planet. So many families are making decisions as to which child eats today and which must wait until tomorrow.

Can we begin to see Lent as a way for us to somehow be in solidarity with those who are hungry? Can the fasting and other penitential practices spur us to action for those who have so little through no fault of their own? Can our Lent be a season when we actually reach out to share some of what we have with them so they do not have to make such terrible choices of which chil- dren will eat on a given day?

New EWTN Show Line-Up Starting in March

Living Right With Dr. Ray: Psychologist and radio host Dr. Ray Guarendi blends his deep professional experience and insight with Catholic perspectives and humor in this new one-hour talk show covering issues pertinent to families, children and seniors. Aire 1 p.m. ET, Mondays, 5:30 p.m. ET, Thursdays and 10 p.m. ET, Saturdays.

Mary’s Dewry Presents: Meet the Tudor and Elizabethan priests and other Roman Catholics who refused to attend the services of the Church of England and who were determined to keep the faith there alive — even in the face of torture, persecution and death. Aire 2:30 p.m. ET, Mondays and 3:30 a.m. ET, Fridays.

Savoring Our Faith: Father Leo Patalinghug uses the kitchen as his pulpit to preach the Catholic faith, while preparing flavorful dishes for the whole family. Aire 8:30 p.m. ET, Sundays, 6 p.m. ET, Wednesdays and 4:15 p.m. ET, Saturdays.

Christianity: Cathedrals: With Father Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries he will illuminated by the spiritual and artis- tic treasures of this global Church that claims more than 1 billion of the world’s people. Aire 9 p.m. ET, Sundays, 10:30 p.m. ET, Wednesdays and 4:15 p.m. ET, Saturdays.

Cat Chat: The Cat Chat Family teaches kids the most important lessons on the Catholic faith with catchy songs, silly jokes, action-packed adventures of the family cat, Moses. Aire 4:45 p.m. ET, Mondays.

The Catholic Epistle: Join Dr. Timothy O’Donnell, STD, president of Christendom College, as he examines the place of the Catholic epistles in the New Testament Canon and their witness to the apostolic teaching. Aire 5:30 p.m. ET, Sundays and 3 a.m. ET, Saturdays.

Fathers for Good: On location in Makati City, Philippines, Father Francis Gerardi and Frank Paulini discuss the universal challenges faced by fathers and their families around the world. Aire 3:30 a.m. ET, Tuesdays and 6:30 p.m. ET, Saturdays.

The Way of the Cross for Kids: In this animated special for children, Christine, Eva, Joseph and Enrique follow the 14 Stations of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Aire 4 p.m. ET, Fridays.

Both Servant and Free: Father Brian Mullady, O.P., S.T.D., presents an in-depth study of the moral doctrine of the Church with regard to conscience, freedom, love and the formation of one’s moral maturity, offering solutions to contemporary moral problems. Aire 2:30 a.m. ET, Fridays and 4 p.m. ET, Saturdays.

Diamonds from Daniel: Frances Hogan leads a meditation on passages from the Book of Daniel, and relates the issues of meaning during the time in which they were written. Aire 3:30 a.m. ET, Wednesdays and 1:30 p.m. ET, Thursdays.

Genesis to Jesus: Dr. Scott Hahn and co-host Robert Corrigan present the Old and New Testament present God’s salvific actions through the persons of Jesus Christ. Aire 9 p.m. ET, Mondays and 2 a.m. ET, Thursdays.

For I was hungry you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... Matthew 25:35-40

Jesus gives us our final exam answers in the gospel quote by telling us how we will be judged at the end of our lives. It will not be how much we accumulated, how high we went on the scale of appetites, how high we went on the job ladder or any other category. It will simply be things like feeding the hungry.

As we begin Lent, there is a handy reminder given to us by Catholic Belief Services, called the Rice Bowl, which helps us do what Jesus asks his disciples to do, namely feed others who are hungry. The Rice Bowl is a small carton you fill with rice. The bowl is the idea that from the beginning of Lent you put it on the dining table, or wherever you can see it daily, to remind you that your Lenten sacrifices can literally put food into peoples’ mouths and save lives. Rice Bowl funds, through many CRS programs, feed the poor of the world. A portion of the funds are also used for the hungry in your dis- trict.

Take the time this Lent to share a little some- thing every day in your Rice Bowl. It will amaze you how much you can give without really realizing it. And maybe, just maybe, because of you some parent will not have to choose which child will eat today and which won’t.

Father David Garcia is the Senior Adviser for Clergy Outreach for Catholic Relief Services. In this role, Father Garcia helps lead the agency’s efforts to develop and strengthen relationships with clergy leaders in the United States and promote solidarity with the poor and vulnerable in the developing world.

For more information, go to www.catholicreliefservices.org
Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.
19 January

St. Teresa of Jesus
Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel and
19
com.
3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus-
Thorpe Blvd. in Prague, (405) 567-
St. Wenceslaus Church at 304 Jim
Infant Jesus of Prague is located at
Sacrament. National Shrine of the
and Adoration of the Blessed
Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus,
Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of
the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m.
blessing of the sick and blessing of
begins at 11 a.m. and includes

19 February

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 Little Flower
Church, OKC, from 12 p.m. to 4:30
p.m. For more information, call
Katherine Payne at (405) 210-4826
or Betty Sharp at (405) 408-4275.
19
The Secular Franciscan Order of
St. Francis Fraternity meets at
11 a.m. and includes
mass.

19 March

Penance Service, Sacred Heart
Parish, Oklahoma City, at 7 p.m.
2 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30
a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie
Divise, Midwest City To confirm that
Mass will be held that day and for
directions, contact HFMH at 741-
7419.
2 First Friday Sacred Heart
Mass at the Catholic-Franciscan
Center. Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation avail-
able before Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m.
For more information, call the Office
of Family Life at (405) 724-9644 or
Dane Grum at (405) 524-6252.
3 The Lay Missionaries of
Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order
of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta,
meets at St. John the Baptist Catholic
Parish, Edmond, first and third
Saturday of each month beginning
with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the
chapels. For more information, call
Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199, or
lmmmoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.
4 The Secular Franciscan Order
of St. Claire Fraternity meets at
11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821
Eddie Divise, Midwest City To confirm
that Mass will be held that day and for
directions, contact HFMH at 741-
7419.
4 The Lay Missionaries of
Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order
of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta,
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Toni Harrelson at (405) 341-2199, or
lmmmoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.
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11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821
Eddie Divise, Midwest City To confirm
that Mass will be held that day and for
directions, contact HFMH at 741-
7419.
6 The Cathedral of Our Lady
of Perpetual Help will host a
Lenten Parish Mission on March
4-6. Rev. Jim Guiney will present The
Passion Narrative of John in Connor
Center, 3300 Lake Avenue, OKC.
March 4 from 5 to 7 p.m.
March 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
March 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
5 Bishop McGuinness Catholic
High School registration dates for
incoming freshmen, O-Z, is from
6 to 8 p.m. For more information,
contact Amy Hanson at shannonb-
Bmchs.org or 842-6638 Ext. 225.
6 Penance Service, St. John the
Baptist Parish, Edmond, at 6:30
p.m.
6 Penance Service, St. Francis
Xavier Parish, Enid, at 7 p.m.
7 Penance Service, St. Patrick
Parish, OKC, at 8 p.m.

Jobs Box

Part-Time DRE
St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Del
City has a position open for a part-time
DRE beginning July 1, 2012. The classes for
Pre-K through 12 meet at 10 a.m. to 11
a.m. (between Sunday Masses). The R.E.
Building includes eight classrooms and a
spacious office. The enrollment is about 100
students. Present DRE is moving out of
state. Contact the Parish Office (677-4873)
for an application or to talk with the pastor, Father Maurus Jaeb, O.S.B.

Behavioral Intervenionists
Good Shepherd Catholic School at
Merry is in need of several Behavioral
Interventionists. A behavioral interven-
tionist is an individual who works one-on-
one with children with disabilities to
provide academic and behavioral support
for children on the autistic spectrum. The
position is part time and hours are nego-
tiable. The school is in session from
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
If you are a very patient person and
experienced/interested in working with
children with disabilities, please contact Dr.
Denna Reaves, Principal, at (405) 752-2284.
The school is located at 13404 N. Meridian,
Oklahoma City.

Field Agent
The Knights of Columbus is seeking a
field agent for a career opportunity
representing our insurance program in the
Norman-Lawton area. This professional
position offers the chance to make an above
average income, a career path into manage-
ment if desired, paid advanced education
and generous bonus opportunities. We offer
a complete benefits package with this full-
time position. Works in an assigned and
customizable marketing area to sell and service
our insurance and retirement products.
Perform needs analysis for assigned
members and recommends appropriate
products to meet those needs. Develops
positive relationships with the local
councils to help recruit new members.
In order to qualify, one must be eligible
for membership in the Knights of
Columbus. For more information, please
email resume to Kevin Ficuccia, FICF,
General Agent, at Kevin.Ficuccia@kcfc.org,
or call (405) 514-7660.
Error Made Into Teaching Moment by Lawton Principal

St. Mary's Principal Paolo Dulcamara turned a spelling mistake into a beautiful teaching moment. After the unveiling of the Ten Commandments monument at St. Mary's School, it was noticed that a word was misspelled. Dulcamara brought it to the attention of the monument creator, who was very apologetic for the error. The artist promised he would correct the misspelling and make it so that no sign of the mistake would ever be visible.

Here’s how Principal Dulcamara addressed the issue:

“It is only God’s law that is perfect, and we mortal creatures make mistakes. It is noteworthy that the misspelled word was ‘adultery,’ so this is seen in the Prophets as a sign of man’s infidelity to God. We must always seek to be faithful to God’s Law and in loving Him Who first loved us. However, we fall and we sin, but just as the monument will be repaired without even a mark to show there was a mistake, so too through the forgiving and saving grace of Jesus, we too are healed of our mistakes and sins, thus being made a new creature in Christ.

“I was sad that a mistake was made but I am thankful that just as it can be fixed, so too no matter how much we think our sins are as if engraved in stone, we can be made whole through the Sacrament of Confession and the saving power of Jesus.”
LAWTON — To say the Catholic faith is alive and well in this city of 107,000 should probably be considered an understatement. Consider what took place here on Feb. 3.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley came to Lawton to bless the newly installed monument of the Ten Commandments at St. Mary’s School. Later that evening he administered the sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Family Parish to 14 young people. Sandwiched between the monument blessing and the Confirmation was a major announcement about St. Mary Catholic School and another blessing, this time for a radio tower that will expand Catholic radio to southwest Oklahoma.

Following the blessing of the Ten Commandments, Archbishop Coakley stood next to Father Joseph Ross of Blessed Sacrament Church as St. Mary’s Principal Paolo Dulcamara announced a dramatic development that would be coming to the school.

Dulcamara, speaking to St. Mary’s students, a number of parents and parishioners, said the school had just received permission from the Archbishop and Sister Catherine Powers, CND, superintendent of Catholic Education, to launch a virtual high school at St. Mary’s.

Applause and cheers broke out as Dulcamara made the announcement. Dulcamara said St. Mary’s has not offered Catholic education for high school students in more than 40 years. St. Mary’s will partner with the Archdiocese of Miami, Fla., to offer the Internet high school to students. Already, five students have indicated a desire to be enrolled at St. Mary’s, and Dulcamara said he expects that number to grow. Students will take classes via the Internet and, as Dulcamara said, they will “obtain a full Catholic high school education.” He called the course offerings “a complete Catholic curriculum.”

St. Mary’s is the fourth school in the United States to partner with the Archdiocese of Miami. Dioceses in Colorado, Michigan and Florida all have a school that is now offering Catholic education to high school students via the Internet.

Dulcamara said the high school is being started with only $8,000. Actually there would be no start-up cost, but the principal said some computer desks for older students will be needed as well as some other minor changes. High school students at St. Mary’s will pay tuition of $2,400, Dulcamara said.

Earlier, Archbishop Coakley prayed over the granite Ten Commandments monument that rests next to St. Mary’s. The monument was created by Lawton’s Chris Elledge. The monument was erected as part of the effort by Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Bolin to place the Ten Commandments at every Catholic school in the Archdiocese. The effort is supported by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

Dulcamara credited generous and faithful supporters with making the monument a reality.

Following the Ten Commandments blessing, Archbishop Coakley joined a caravan that traveled about seven miles south of Lawton to a field where a radio tower has been erected. The tower will carry the signal produced by Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting on Annunciation Radio of Oklahoma.

Annunciation Radio can be heard on KTLR 890 AM and KTLR 94.1 FM. In Lawton and southwest Oklahoma, station KDOW carries Annunciation Radio signal at 88.3 FM.