Mark Twain once said, “an American has not seen the United States until he has seen Mardi Gras in New Orleans.” But, while some use Mardi Gras as an opportunity to overindulge, this misrepresentation can overshadow the deep spiritual roots of this Catholic holiday.

Mardi Gras, French for “Fat Tuesday,” is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. Fat Tuesday was a day marked by eating richer, fatter foods. In other parts of the world, the week leading up to Mardi Gras is referred to as “Shrovetide.” The word “Shrovetide” is the English version of “Carnival,” Latin for “to take away the flesh.”

“To shrink,” meant to hear confessions and to absolve. People used to confess their sins and their confessor would “shrive” him or her, in what they should do for their penance, preparing the way for a time of renewal during the Lenten season.

To entice the faithful to participate in an act of contrition, plays and masquerades were performed that depicted either the Passion of our Lord or the final judgment. The last day of Shrovetide is known as “Shrove Tuesday,” a day the faithful used to consider what wrongs they had done and in what areas of their life they needed to ask God for help.

Shrove Tuesday is marked in many parts of the world by eating pancakes. Pancakes were a way to use up fat in the home – eggs, milk and sugar – before fasting during the Lenten season. Other parts of the world mark the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday by celebrating Mardi Gras, and gorging before a season of fasting.

“We can think of Lent as a time to eradicate evil or cultivate virtue, a time to pull up weeds or to plant good seeds,” Venerable Fulton Sheen said.

“Which is better is clear, for the Christian ideal is always positive rather than negative. A person is great not by the ferocity of his hatred of evil, but by the intensity of his love for God. Asceticism and mortification are not the ends of a Christian life; they are only the means. The end is charity. Penance merely makes an opening in our ego in which the Light of God can pour. As we deflate ourselves, God fills us. And, it is God’s arrival that is the important event.”

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Do all things for the glory of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

You are a blessing to the Church in central and western Oklahoma. A strong and dynamic community and a strong personal faith commitment all contribute to a strong Archdiocese. Your support of the 2018 Annual Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Annual Catholic Appeal can make the Church stronger as we journey together as missionary disciples. This year’s appeal theme is “Do All Things for the Glory of God.” In making a financial commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal, you express your faith in God’s providence—confidence that God will provide the means to continue the work of the Church in this region. Your generosity enriches the glory of God.

 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

By Diane Clay

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has announced the hiring of former St. Gregory’s University President Michael Scaperlanda as the diocese’s new chancellor.

Scaperlanda, 65, Scaperlanda fills a position held by Father John Byrne who worked 15 years at the Archdiocese fully updated office before leaving for other opportunities. Prior to the Byrne, Lucilla Denison Eason served as chancellor for more than 13 years.

Scaperlanda’s vast leadership experience, his passion for the Catholic faith and his demonstrated long commitment to excellence will be tremendous assets for the archdiocese, our parishes and families,” said the Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

As chancellor, Scaperlanda will serve as a principal leader in the diocesan curia. He will serve as the principal advisor to the bishop and will be the top advisor on legal matters and interpretation of laws, rules and regulations.

“I am excited by this opportunity to work alongside Archbishop Coakley, a dynamic archdiocese staff, priests, deacons, religious men and women, and lay persons as together we answer the Holy Father’s call to be missionary disciples,” Scaperlanda said. “The Holy Spirit is clearly moving to do a new thing here in Oklahoma and I am humbled by this call to use my skills and experience to serve the Archdiocese as chancellor.”

Scaperlanda most recently served as president of St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee.

He has worked at the University of Oklahoma in various academic and administrative capacities since the practice of law in 1989, becoming the dean of the College of Law in 1995.

A nationally known scholar in immigration law and in Catholic legal theory, Scaperlanda’s books include “Immigration Law: A Primer” and “Reimagining Self-Guided Truth: Catholic Perspectives on American Law.”

He co-authored “The Journey A Guide for the Modern Pilgrim” with his wife, Maria. In Scaperlanda, the award-winning author of the biography on Blessed Stanley Rother.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

By Patrick Downes

Attorney General General Absolution

HONOLULU – Honolulu Bishop J. Mark Gantley said the first time he had ever heard of the rite. The absolution of sins given to a group of people at one time is allowed only in grave circumstances such as situations of grave danger or imminent death or for soldiers going into battle when private confessions are logistically impossible.

“When I read about it, I immediately thought ‘involuntary pensé’ in such an event,” the bishop said.

Bishop Gantley continued the liturgy that accompanies the rite.

The group already knew some of the people who were to be absolved. After the initial warning, the emergency group dean of the diocese formation program, had showed the group an image of the threat message that Father Gantley was sharing with the group.

Some thought the bishop was “hard to accept. He was wearing a black t-shirt, stepped forward to say he would give everyone the rite. He decided to forgive the student and skip the liturgy that accompanies the rite.

“We thought, ‘Let’s get this thing done,’” Bishop Silva said.

After giving a brief introduction about what he was doing, he said the words of absolution over the group.

That’s when Bishop Silva, who was advising the student, turned to the group and said: “We are committed to the safety of all of you. We will forgive you now and forever.”

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Calendar names new chancellor

In addition to his service at St. Gregory’s, Scaperlanda serves as a scholar-participant in the Blessed Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute of Oklahoma City and Norman, and teaches as an adjunct professor at the National School of the Arts Institute for high school teachers. He is a past president of the Oklahoma Conference to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Oklahoma Bar Association’s Legal Ethics Committee.

A graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, Scaperlanda was also a member of the Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and practiced law for four years in Dallas, D.C., and Austin prior to joining the faculty at University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1997. He is a native of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa in 1972.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

Alert prompts Hawaii bishop to give general absolution

Attorney General General Absolution

HONOLULU – Honolulu Bishop J. Mark Gantley said the first time he had ever heard of the rite. The absolution of sins given to a group of people at one time is allowed only in grave circumstances such as situations of grave danger or imminent death, or for soldiers going into battle when private confessions are logistically impossible.

“When I read about it, I immediately thought ‘involuntary pensé’ in such an event,” the bishop said.

Bishop Gantley continued the liturgy that accompanies the rite.

The group already knew some of the people who were to be absolved. After the initial warning, the emergency group dean of the diocese formation program, had showed the group an image of the threat message that Father Gantley was sharing with the group.

Some thought the bishop was “hard to accept. He was wearing a black t-shirt, stepped forward to say he would give everyone the rite. He decided to forgive the student and skip the liturgy that accompanies the rite.

“We thought, ‘Let’s get this thing done,’” Bishop Silva said.

After giving a brief introduction about what he was doing, he said the words of absolution over the group.

That’s when Bishop Silva, who was advising the student, turned to the group and said: “We are committed to the safety of all of you. We will forgive you now and forever.”

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Calendar names new chancellor

In addition to his service at St. Gregory’s, Scaperlanda serves as a scholar-participant in the Blessed Stanley Rother Hispanic Cultural Institute of Oklahoma City and Norman, and teaches as an adjunct professor at the National School of the Arts Institute for high school teachers. He is a past president of the Oklahoma Conference to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Oklahoma Bar Association’s Legal Ethics Committee.

A graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, Scaperlanda was also a member of the Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and practiced law for four years in Dallas, D.C., and Austin prior to joining the faculty at University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1997. He is a native of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa in 1972.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.
Bringing the Church to the spiritually curious

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

By spreading the word about the Saint Paul Street Evangelization program, Randy Grasse seeks to “listen, learn, help, proclaim and invite” people to draw closer to Christ and his Church. Grasse recently spoke about “10 Great Ways to Be an Evangelist” to parishes and community members at Blessed Sacrament in Lawton.

“Most Catholics are sacramentalized, but not evangelized,” said Grasse, senior regional missionary.

Grasse was invited to Lawton by Kurt Lichtenstein, the Lawton teacher and leader for the Saint Paul Street Evangelization.

Grasse works with people who are non-confrontational, people who wish to talk and share with others about their faith, people who wish to find out more about the Church and its teachings, people who have had a positive experience with the Church and wish to share this with others.

A prayer life with Christ that includes mental prayer, Lectio Divina, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is vital. “The Catholic evangelist cannot preach grace and live sin,” he said. “You can’t give what you don’t have.”

Another key aspect of the life of the evangelist is to pray for others in their need and let the love of Jesus comfort them. Grasse advises that when you talk to someone who needs prayers instead of responding, “I will pray for you and your intention,” why not also say, “Let’s pray together now for your intention.”

Grasse says that one must talk to others about their experiences, people who have no faith at all. People from other faiths or people who have never been to Church and what great joy you will have. People from other faiths or people who have no faith at all.

CFO college scholarship applications being accepted

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year. All forms and required information must be submitted to the foundation office no later than Thursday, April 5. Due to Holy Week, pastorection forms must be submitted by Friday, March 16. Obtain an application from a pastor, the diocesan website, or download online at cfook.org. Each year, the foundation awards college scholarships to about 90 students from throughout the archdiocese. Scholarship recipients are determined based on financial need, academic achievement and service to Church and community. The recipient must be a full-time student and a permanent resident of the archdiocese. Scholarships are renewed for four years of undergraduate study as long as the student maintains a cumulative grade point average. In addition to scholarships awarded from the Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund, special scholarships are awarded to students through several named funds at the foundation.

Bob Little Pastoral Scholarships (for pastoral music majors)

C.F.O. board member Wendell Grissom presents a foundation scholarship to Darby Heard, a member of St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, to attend Eastern Central University. Photos provided.

Contiguous Faith

On Jan. 25, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. His is the only “personal” conversion that has a place on the liturgical calendar. It is all the more interesting on this day in 1966 that our new saint Pope John XXIII decided to announce his plans for the Second Vatican Council. Was this merely incidental, or could it have been by design?

As the council itself recedes further into history, few people remain who remember the precise context of the decision by the council itself or the storm path that lay ahead.

As various facets within the Church begin to light up, the council should be interpreted and implemented, one could be forgiven for wondering if the whole thing was a good idea at all. After all, the Church was running just fine before the council.

Or was it?

 Pope John had been pope for a scant three months when he announced the need for a council. It is useful to ask, what provoked in him the sense that such an event was needed? There is a definitely placed hand in the text of the announcement speech that suggests the shadows of his discourse.

He mentions that, upon becoming bishop of Rome, the cardinal vicar had “acquainted” him “with the utility of such an event.” He went on to say: “It is a sad speculation to think that the council itself or the stormy path that lay ahead could have been by design.”

I may be reading too much into the text, but you’ve ever heard the expression “dissolved with faint praise,” you may get a sense of the delicacy with which the pope indicated what he was bitternessing him. (And, of course, he had a broad perspective, given that he had held several diplomatic offices for the Church around the world, including France, which had fallen into apostrophe.)

He went on to say: “It is in a sad spectacle when combined with the abuse and the abuse of the liberty of others by those who, not knowing the open heavens and new star-life in Christ the Son of God . . . turns his search entirely to the pursuit of as-called earthly goods, under the inspiration of him whom the Gospel calls the Prince of Darkness and whom Jesus Himself in His last discourse after the supper called the prince of this world.”

This Prince of Darkness organizes the contradiction of and the alliance against truth and welfare, the nefarious in no position that accentuates the division between those called by the genius of Saint Augustine the two cities, and he keeps ever active the effort to confuse to deceive, if possible, also the elect and bring them to ruin.”

The “elect” in this context means “baptized Catholics.” Their situation was, from the pope’s perspective, increasingly precarious. The problem was “conversion.” And, the solution was 1959.

Fast forward a few months hence, when the bishops were invited to submit their suggestions to the commission that was preparing the council. One American bishop suggested that the council consider the question of whether there may be life in outer space. Perhaps more attention to recent events, a 38-year-old bishop from Poland suggested an evaluation of what had recently happened on planet Earth. In view of all the dimensions of human life that had produced two world wars, Auschwitz and the Gulag, “you may get a sense of a better alternative? Was there such thing as a new kind of ‘humanism’ that could set the world straight?”

Bishop Karol Wojtyla’s essay made several suggestions that influenced the agenda for the Second Vatican Council, many of which have been seminal realities in Church today. In his essay, he wrote that the council was an opportunity for renewal of Christian pastoralism by “articulating what it means for the human person to be in a personal relationship with a personal God, to share by means of grace in the intimate life of the Holy Trinity.”

“Besides these observations, the young bishop noted that there was a great need to clarify the Church’s position in relation to ecumenism, the laity, and the mission of those who were being trained for the priesthood and religious life, from his perspective were already in crisis. Pope Paul VI, he said all of that in 1959. If we are ever tempted to look with rose-colored glasses upon the Church’s created before the Council, these considerations offer a more discerning lens.

Fast forward years later, that bishop became Pope John Paul II, whose express mission was to renew the face of the Church. He, like the pope who inaugurated the council, had a deep concern for the state of conversion young people today. In fact, it’s fair to say that the personal concern of the baptized has become the defining preoccupation of the Church in our age — as perhaps it should be, in every age.
The greatest communicator and his greatest revelation

God can’t stop communicating with us!

True loving communication brings people closer to each other and is life-giving. Especially when what is being communicated is good news. Honest communication of unadulterated truth is an act of goodness that brings lovers of truth closer together, even when the news itself might not be good and might even bring us to tears.

The first dictionary definition of communication states: “a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behavior.”

In its simplest form, communication has at least four parts: transmitter, message, common channel and receiver. The message, sent in an act of love. It is meant to be personal and true. In this way, it is an act of goodness that brings lovers of truth, combined with the exploitation of ignorance, wants us to get to know him better so we can become aware of how much he loves us and so we can grow in our love for him.

The true, loving and never-ending, communication of God, as described by the Catechism: 52 “God, who ‘dwells in unapproachable light,’ wants to communicate his own divine life to the men he freely created, to adapt them as his sons in his only-begotten Son. By revealing himself, God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity. 53 “The divine plan of Revelation is realized simultaneously by deeds and words that are bound up with each other, shed light on each other and are a specific divine pedagogy: God communicates himself to man gradually.”

The greatest communicator, God, lovingly has gifted us with his greatest revelation, Jesus Christ, his Word! God has transmitted his Incarnate Word to us.

God has said everything in his Word, and while other letters, private revelations or apparitions, writings from saints, declaration of popes or bishops, or all of them together, may help us better understand God’s Word, they will never equal, complete or surpass what God already has revealed in his Word, our loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days, He has spoken to us by a Son. Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father’s one, perfect and unsurpassable Word.

In Him, He has said everything. There will be no other word than this one.”

66 “The Christian economy, therefore, since it is the new and definitive covenant, will never pass away, and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries.”

The true, loving and never-ending, communication of God, as described by the Catechism: “Do all things for the Glory of God.” We all strive to live out our vocation as Blessed Stanley Rother did by doing everything in our lives for the glory of the Lord. By financially supporting the ministries and services funded by the ACA, we help to extend God’s love to many, many others.

As you review the mailing from Archbishop Coakley, please note the ministries and services funded by the appeal, including the ones that directly support the work of your parish.

Please prayerfully consider a pledge based on your means and circumstances.

“it makes you feel closer to God when you’re here.”

– Olivia, 13, camper at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp

“Mass is nice because Father, I really understand what he says. We talk about the Bible and how we can live in light of Jesus and his disciples.”

– Vianney, 12, camper at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp

“Do all things for the Glory of God”

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

From the Archives …

A photo series from George Pizzagalli, archdiocesan archivist

Father Urban de Hasque was ordained at Louvain in Belgium in 1900 and brought to Oklahoma by Bishop Meerchaert. He would become an important part of the bishop’s administration. Shown here in his chapel’s uniform while serving in World War I, de Hasque was chaplain of the diocese during the famous sacramental wine case where prohibition laws of Oklahoma would not allow the importation of wine to celebrate Mass. The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Church. In 1925, he returned to Belgium after conflicts with the new bishop, Francis Kelley. He later resumed his ministry in the state in the early 1930s. De Hasque was also the historian of the diocese as he recorded histories of all the parishes in Oklahoma and published them in his church bulletin while pastor at Perry.© architectonics, LLC

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

2018 Annual Catholic Appeal

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Annual Catholic Appeal 2018

In January, many parish families have received a letter from Archbishop Coakley asking you to make a pledge to the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal. We ask you to respond generously.

The appeal supports Archdiocesan ministries and services including those that are a great help to our parishes. For example, appeal funds support the education and formation of priests to serve in our parishes. This year, the theme of the appeal is “Do all things for the Glory of God.” We all strive to live out our vocation as Blessed Stanley Rother did by doing everything in our lives for the glory of the Lord. By financially supporting the ministries and services funded by the ACA, we help to extend God’s love to many, many others.

As you review the mailing from Archbishop Coakley, please note the ministries and services funded by the appeal, including the ones that directly support the work of your parish.

Please prayerfully consider a pledge based on your means and circumstances.

“it makes you feel closer to God when you’re here.”

– Olivia, 13, camper at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp

“Mass is nice because Father, I really understand what he says. We talk about the Bible and how we can live in light of Jesus and his disciples.”

– Vianney, 12, camper at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp

“Do all things for the Glory of God”

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES

From the Archives …

A photo series from George Pizzagalli, archdiocesan archivist

Father Urban de Hasque was ordained at Louvain in Belgium in 1900 and brought to Oklahoma by Bishop Meerchaert. He would become an important part of the bishop’s administration. Shown here in his chapel’s uniform while serving in World War I, de Hasque was chaplain of the diocese during the famous sacramental wine case where prohibition laws of Oklahoma would not allow the importation of wine to celebrate Mass. The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Church. In 1925, he returned to Belgium after conflicts with the new bishop, Francis Kelley. He later resumed his ministry in the state in the early 1930s. De Hasque was also the historian of the diocese as he recorded histories of all the parishes in Oklahoma and published them in his church bulletin while pastor at Perry.
Annual Catholic Appeal 2018

Working together, the people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City initiate and strengthen numerous ministries throughout central and western Oklahoma. Whether archdiocesan or parish-based, these efforts are an important part of our shared call to discipleship. The Annual Catholic Appeal is our chance to better understand the work of the Church in our area and to give generously to support this work, so God’s light may shine brightly through us.

Funds raised in the Annual Catholic Appeal will provide for the:

Blessed Stanley Rother Institute for Leadership Development

Together we must raise up leaders at every level for effective ministry, teaching, and formation, including: parish directors of religious education, parish workers, Catholic school teachers and principals, youth ministers, deacons, RICA coordinators and team members, discipleship leaders, etc. Funding in this area will support the launch of the new Blessed Stanley Rother Institute for Leadership Development in early 2018. The Institute will provide skills and certificate training at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels for evangelization and catechetical training.

Children’s Evangelization and Catholic Schools

Raising up the next generation and providing them the deep formation needed to be confident, young disciples is at the heart of our mission as Catholics. Weekly efforts reach more than 15,000 children and youth in 83 parish and mission religious education programs. Training and resources are also provided for 2,150 parish catechists to minister to young people and adults. Twenty-two Catholic schools serve about 5,000 students in the archdiocese.

Evangelización de los Niños y Escuelas Católicas

Cree a la próxima generación y proporcione la formación profunda necesaria para convertirse en jóvenes discípulos en los centros de nuestra misión como católicos. Los esfuerzos semanales llegan a más de 15.000 niños y jóvenes en 83 programas de educación religiosa parroquial y misión. También se brindan capacitación y recursos para 2,150 catequistas parroquiales para servir a jóvenes y adultos. 22 escuelas católicas sirven a más de 5,000 estudiantes en toda la Arquidiócesis.

Vocations and Seminarians

In the past five years, 10 men have been ordained to serve as priests in parishes of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and another 18 are currently studying in seminary. Supporting those considering priestly and religious life, especially in a culture that is often skeptical or even hostile, is critical for the future.

Vocaciones y seminaristas

En los últimos 5 años, 10 hombres han sido ordenados para servir como sacerdotes en las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y otros 18 están estudiando en el seminario actualmente. Apoyar aquellos que consideren el sacerdocio y la vida religiosa, especialmente en una cultura a menudo escéptica o incluso hosil, es importante para el futuro.

Guatemala and Local Hispanic Ministry

Since 1964, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has had a special relationship with Santiago Atitlán village and Saint James the Apostle Church where Blessed Stanley Rother served the local people from 1968 to 1981. In addition, parishes throughout central and western Oklahoma work to meet the needs of the growing and vibrant Hispanic population.

Guatemala y Ministerio Hispano Local

Desde 1964, la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ha tenido una relación especial con el pueblo de Santiago Atitlán y la Iglesia de Santiago Apóstol, donde el Beato Stanley Rother sirvió a la población local entre 1968-1981. Además, las parroquias de todo el centro y oeste de Oklahoma trabajan para satisfacer las necesidades de la creciente y vibrante población hispana.

Marriage and Family Life

The institution of the family is the building block of society, and no other institution is under greater attack in modern times. Ministry funding supports marriage prep and marriage enrichment for couples, mentoring and personal support, revitalizing family life, building a culture of discipleship in families supporting single-parent families, respect life activities, and building up teams for this kind of support in every parish throughout the archdiocese.

Clergy Formation and Support

Ecumenical cooperation doesn’t end at ordination. Priests serve best when they use the gifts God gave them. Funding supports continuing academic studies, retreats and a summer gathering of all priests in our archdiocese. It also supports training and formation for our growing diocesan program: 38 men are currently in formation.

Matrimonio y Vida Familiar

La institución de la familia es el componente básico de la sociedad, y ninguna otra institución está bajo mayor ataque en los tiempos modernos. Los fondos del ministerio apoyan la preparación matrimonial y renacimiento matrimonial para parejas, orientación y apoyo personal, revitalización de la vida familiar, respetar las actividades de la vida, construcción de una cultura de discipulado en las familias, apoyo a familias monoparentales y formación de equipos para este tipo de apoyo en cada parroquia en toda la Arquidiócesis.

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Do All Things FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

PLEASE VISIT ARCHOKC.ORG/APPEAL TO MAKE YOUR ONLINE GIFT
ACA 2017 parishes reach goals

Below are the parishes that raised more than 100 percent of their 2017 ACA Goal:

- Saint Thomas More University Parish, Norman
- Saint Thomas Apostle, Seiling
- Saint Robert Bellarmine, Jones
- Saint Richard, Carnegie
- Saint Philip Neri, Midwest City
- Saint Monica, Edmond
- Saint Mark the Evangelist, Norman
- Saint Louis, Stroud
- Saint Helen, Frederick
- Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Oklahoma City
- Sacred Heart, El Reno
- Our Lady of Victory, Purcell
- Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sterling
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hollis
- Holy Cross, Mustang
- Epiphany of the Lord, Oklahoma City
- Our Lady of St. Joseph, Midwest City
- Our Lady of St. Anne, Mustang
- Saint Francis of Assisi, Oklahoma City
- Saint Francis of Assisi, Newkirk
- Saint Helen, Hadley
- Saint John the Baptist, Edmond
- Saint Joseph, Bixen
- Saint Joseph, University City
- Saint Michael, Edmond
- Saint Louis, Stroud
- Saint Mark the Evangelist, Norman
- Saint Monica, Edmond
- Saint Philip Nexi, Midwest City
- Saint Richard, Carnegie
- Saint Robert Bellarmine, Jones
- Saint Thomas Apostle, Seiling
- Saint Thomas More University Parish, Norman

For something like 11 years, Saint Monica prayed for the conversion of her son, Augustine. Unfortunately, she kept no diary, and so others think up fictions for us of her thoughts and prayers for the then-unbaptized son who was eventually baptized by Saint Augustine of Hippo, a revered theologian and doctor of the Catholic Church.

We do have now is the story of a woman who prayed for her atheist husband and recorded her thoughts in two journals and several other written works that span the years 8896 to her death in 1914.

Her husband found the diaries after her death and was so moved by what he read of his wife’s faith and love for him that he returned to the Catholic Church. He went on to join the Dominican order in 1919 and was ordained a priest in 1923. In 1917, he had published her writings and went on to share his testimony throughout Europe until his death in 1956.

We can learn of this beautiful story in “The Secret Diary of Elizabeth Lesueur: The Woman Whose Goodness Changed Her Husband from Atheist to Priest.”

The book begins with “In Memoriam,” written by her husband Felix. Here are 40 biographical pages in which we learn that when he married Elizabeth, he had promised not to interfere with her practice of the Catholic faith. Both Elizabeth and Felix had been baptized and raised as Catholics, but he had grown away from the faith and became, in his own words, “profoundly anti-religious.”

He writes that after their marriage, “I set myself to attack her faith, to deprive her of it, and may God pardon me – I nearly succeeded.”

Lesueur read and studied the great works of the Church: saints Jerome, Thomas Aquinas, Francis de Sales and Teresa of Avila. She read the New Testament daily, and in her diaries makes frequent mention of the Gospel as well as the Psalms. She writes, “I want my soul and my life to be so filled with [the Gospel] that both will be a living practicing of it.”

She was especially struck by the fact that “the first Apostles” had an “evangelical flame” that allowed them to bring souls to Christ.

She writes that in this “work that should belong to every Christian: the moral and material salvation of his brothers.”

Like Saint Monica, Elizabeth Lesueur was devoted to the poor and most minute details of extending to them her material and spiritual charity. She writes of her desire to be “in joyful” in her “visits to the poor.” Also like Saint Monica, she began to pray in earnest for Felix’s conversion.

She wanted so much to live and share a faith-filled life with family and friends. She writes, “to live a life of work and activity, in an atmosphere of faith, with all the midst of dear affections and friendship – that is my dream.”

That was her life. Instead, she confides in her diary that “I found myself in an atmosphere of irony, criticism and indifference.” There were “those who have betrayed my confidence and made me suffer.” She writes of “certain people’s hostility.” She had the “bitter suffering of an evening spent in hearing my faith and spiritual things mocked, attacked and ridiculed.”

She became convinced that only prayer and example can affect a change in people, especially in “those whom I love more than all.” She writes that “not in quarrelling or in lecturing...can I make them know what God is to the human soul” but “by becoming more Christian, I bear witness to Him whose humble servant I am.”

She resolves to “receive Communions almost frequently when it can be done without troubling or disguising an almost holy life.”

Elizabeth also suffered physically. She barely describes this in her diary which she lost to suffering in silence. Felix writes that “Elizabeth’s whole life was one long illness. Ever since her infancy, she had suffered from a low liver complaint, which became her perpetual and increasing affliction.”

She embraced her suffering. She writes minimally of two painful months of “almost...continual physical suffering.” The accepts this and writes that “to condemn seems to be my true vocation.” Felix writes that she had an “unyielding chair” that she directed the greatest number of souls.” He refers to “a terrible malady” which a footnote tells us was the widespread cancer which “for ten months consumed her Calvary until the end, when, on May 3, 1914.

Felix with her soul illuminated by the Holy Spirit, Elisabeth writes that “Suffering creates life; it transforms all it touches, all it strikes.”

In the end, she saw clearly that “Whoever seeks the truth will find God” and writes that “one single soul can change the whole moral atmosphere surrounding it by its solitary suffering.”

These beautiful words so inspired Felix that “her love and example called me back to God,” writing, “Suffering.”

This woman’s devotion to her husband’s conversion is a model for all of us today who have experienced the falling away from faith of friends and family members. Because of all this, the cause for her canonization was opened, and she remains today a declared Saint of God.

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Hacer todas las cosas para la gloria de Dios

La verdad más profunda

El mejor comunicador y su mayor salvación

Dios no puede dejar de comunicarse con nosotros!

Juntos en Ti

Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

El Círculo del Apostolado

La verdadera comunicación amorosa pro-

duce un acercamiento entre el Dios y su

y a nuestra subdivisiónfrágil, la gloria del

Dios. Ahora, es posible saber mucho sobre

Dios solo si uno creía en el amor incondicional y

nuestra razón natural. Dios nos ha dejado

la vida. La verdadera manera de ver todo es al

Dios, el mejor comunicador, con mucho

amor

Continuado en la página 12

indígenas a mantener sus cultur-

españoles, luego mudaron a la región

sur de Chile las comunidades mapu-

científica sepa lo que quiere que

sus pueblos llegará a entender.

El Papa Francisco salió a la mañana

antes de que terminaran sus apariciones

cuatro días antes de que

mas la opresión de Abusos Sexuales

Dios y los unos a los otros.

De pequeñas, detalles e información irrelevante o

verdades, combinadas con la explotación de la

resultará algo que aún hoy no se sabe, algo que

apariciones, escritos de santos, declaración

tras otras cartas, revelaciones privadas o

mencionar de nuestra fe, nada que
cuatro días antes de que

Dios y los unos a los otros.

apariciones, escritos de santos, declaración

tras otras cartas, revelaciones privadas o

mencionar de nuestra fe, nada que
cuatro días antes de que

Dios y los unos a los otros.

apariciones, escritos de santos, declaración

tras otras cartas, revelaciones privadas o

mencionar de nuestra fe, nada que
Archdiocesan ordination Italy pilgrimage
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City invites you on a pilgrimage to Italy Sept. 21-29 to Italy with Fr. Brian Reimer for the discernment of candidates to the priesthood.

Grace that Reigns - Wichita
The Spiritual Life Center in Wichita welcomes Bishop Emeriti Ronald Gilmore of the Dodge City Diocese and Jacqueline Lab of Grace that Reigns USA for a re-awakening of Hearts Together, Feb. 9-11. Participants will learn practical ways to respond to God’s presence, to experience God through scripture, stories and testimonies. Call (316) 482-9100, www:stonewalltrip.com for weekend $190 for single; $150 pp for double. Include $75 for meals. Call (316) 744-0167 or visit www.SLCWichita.org.

Lenten Mission - Edmond

School of Lector
The next session of St. Joseph Monastery’s School of Lector, Feb. 21-24. Contact lectio@stjo monastery.org. Limited overnight accommodations available. Visit www.stjosephmonastery.org/retreats.

Silent retreat on creativity
The retreat is a weekend where people can develop creativity, work on a project, discern their path or just rest and get clearer to God. Begins 9 a.m. March 2; ends noon March 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway. Katie Gordy will facilitate, provide homilies and meals and give three talks on the role of creativity in our spiritual life. Men and women welcome. Contact Katie at (405) 627-6654, kgordy123@igmail.com.

Green Tie Gala
The Green Tie Gala will be Feb. 24 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.W. 63, OKC. Visit GreenTieGala.org. Celebrate and support the development of students from Catholic Charities’homeless service programs: Holy Family Housing and the Women’s Development Center.

Retrouvaille
Retrouvaille (pronounced reverse-v-ray) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages, providing tools to help get marriages back on track. To register and begin with a workshop session Feb. 3-22, contact (405) 443-3541, skiret- trouvaille@msn.com, or go to online www.retrouvailleusa.org.

Archdiocesan ordination Italy pilgrimage
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City invites you on a pilgrimage to Italy Sept. 21-29 to Italy with Fr. Brian Reimer for the discernment of candidates to the priesthood.

Grace that Reigns - Wichita
The Spiritual Life Center in Wichita welcomes Bishop Emeriti Ronald Gilmore of the Dodge City Diocese and Jacqueline Lab of Grace that Reigns USA for a re-awakening of Hearts Together, Feb. 9-11. Participants will learn practical ways to respond to God’s presence, to experience God through scripture, stories and testimonies. Call (316) 482-9100, www:stonewalltrip.com for weekend $190 for single; $150 pp for double. Include $75 for meals. Call (316) 744-0167 or visit www.SLCWichita.org.

Lenten Mission - Edmond

School of Lector
The next session of St. Joseph Monastery’s School of Lector, Feb. 21-24. Contact lectio@stjo monastery.org. Limited overnight accommodations available. Visit www.stjosephmonastery.org/retreats.

Silent retreat on creativity
The retreat is a weekend where people can develop creativity, work on a project, discern their path or just rest and get clearer to God. Begins 9 a.m. March 2; ends noon March 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway. Katie Gordy will facilitate, provide homilies and meals and give three talks on the role of creativity in our spiritual life. Men and women welcome. Contact Katie at (405) 627-6654, kgordy123@igmail.com.

Green Tie Gala
The Green Tie Gala will be Feb. 24 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.W. 63, OKC. Visit GreenTieGala.org. Celebrate and support the development of students from Catholic Charities’homeless service programs: Holy Family Housing and the Women’s Development Center.

Retrouvaille
Retrouvaille (pronounced reverse-v-ray) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages, providing tools to help get marriages back on track. To register and begin with a workshop session Feb. 3-22, contact (405) 443-3541, skiret- trouvaille@msn.com, or go to online www.retrouvailleusa.org.

Are you listening?
Catholic radio in Oklahoma is about to crow more than two years’ worth of effort to launch two stations of Spanish-speaking listeners.

Our efforts remain focused in the Oklahoma City area where we can serve a large concentration of listeners. In mind that our business model is experimental and non-commercial FM stations can still include business supporters. There are, however, more restrictions on how the stations can be supported. In 2018, two stations are poised to begin broadcating in Spanish in the Oklahoma City area. Here are some of the highlights that have gotten us to this point.

KHDJ 99.3 will broadcast from a tower on the southwest side of Oklahoma City. It has a range of 10 to 15 miles from approximate Council Road. It has been on the air for more than a year, but not in Spanish. While we secured money for the equipment to make this station fully operational, the station was powered by a gas-fueled generator that had to be refueled every 24 hours! This responsibility was accomplished by the determination of OCBN President Jeff Finell and fellow board member, Fred Pope. Fortunately, the required wired and electrical box have been installed. A contractor is looking up the streaming feed to get the Spanish language program on the air.

KLUG 97.7 is located in De City at Saint Paul the Apostle. The DeCity Planning Commission approved the application for construction of a radio tower. Finell and Pope wanted no time and gathered six volunteers to assemble the radio tower into sections on Jan. 8. By the time you read this, God willing, the foundation will be dug, the concrete poured and De City will have approved the building permits.

A blessing of the station and升学nunciation Mass will be March 3 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and what you are will-

derness Nursing Home, parishioners. The prayers have been instrumental in this endeavor. Please continue this support. To celebrate with us, we have timed our monthly motions for the date on your local Catholic radio station.

By Sally Cronn Nash
Lenten Organ Recital Series
St. Francis of Assisi’s 3rd annual Lenten Organ Recital Series begins at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 and continues each Sunday until March 18. Recitals are free and open to the public. Feb. 25: Rebecca to Veil, organist at First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater; March 4: Sam Backman, director of music and organ at Assumption Catholic Church, Duncan; March 11: Casey Cartwell, director of music and organ at Trinity Episcopal, Tulsa; March 18: Alvez Backlund IV, director of music and organ at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Prayer in the Four Directions
The second annual celebration of the Four Directions retreat by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s American Indian Catholic Outreach and Saint Karen Tekakwitha Spiritual Communion begins March 3 at Our Lady of the Lake Lodge, Guthrie. The theme is “Being a Missionary Where You Are.” Registration fee is $10 by Feb. 17. Made possible by a grant to pay for Deacon Roy Callison, Mad: to Deacon Roy Callison, 632 North Kiick Road, Guthrie, 73044.

St. Anthony’s 2nd annual Prayer for premar-


care of construction of a radio tower. Finell and Pope waited no time and gathered six vol-


counts to assemble the radio tower into sections on Jan. 8. By the time you read this, God will-


diplause of the station and升学nunciation Mass will be March 3 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and what you are will-


cerly that had to be refueled every 24 hours! This responsibility was accomplished by the determination of OCBN President Jeff Finell and fellow board member, Fred Pope. Fortunately, the required wired and electrical box have been installed. A contractor is looking up the streaming feed to get the Spanish language program on the air.

KLUG 97.7 is located in De City at Saint Paul the Apostle. The DeCity Planning Commission approved the application for construction of a radio tower. Finell and Pope wanted no time and gathered six volunteers to assemble the radio tower into sections on Jan. 8. By the time you read this, God willing, the foundation will be dug, the concrete poured and De City will have approved the building permits.

A blessing of the station and升学nunciation Mass will be March 3 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and what you are will-
My Pledge:
$300  $250  $100  $75  $25  Other $______________

Please accept my pledge to help fund ministries in the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal throughout central and western Oklahoma.

Enclosed is my check payable to: Annual Catholic Appeal

• Pledge Online: archokc.org/appeal
• Pledge by Phone: 405-709-2745

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________ _ _ 
Phone: __________________________________________________________ _ _
Email: _____________________________________________________________
Parish: ____________________________________________________________

Please complete and cut out this form, place it in an envelope with your pledge, affix first-class postage, and mail it to: Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Annual Catholic Appeal, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Please charge my credit card $_____________ for _______ months until my pledge of $_____________ is paid in full.

Mastercard  Visa  AmEx  Discover

Account # __________________________________________________________________________
3-Digit Sec. Code: __ __ __  Exp. __ __ / __ __

I understand that my credit card will be charged on the 10th of each month.

Signature ________________________________________ Date _________________