Cardinal: Worth Measured By How Great We Love

ROME, (Zenit.org). — The value of each of us will be determined by love, said the archpriest of St. Peter’s Basilica to a gathering of young people in Rome. Cardinal Angelo Comastri said this during a Mass at the San Lorenzo International Center. The center, which celebrated its 25th anniversary March 13, was inaugurated by Pope John Paul II in 1983 and houses the first cross of the World Youth Days.

The cardinal commented on the passage of the Gospel of Mark in which a scribe asks Jesus, which is the greatest commandment. “Like the scribe did,” he said, “so this afternoon we also ask Jesus, ‘Which is the first commandment? What matters most to God?’”

“In God’s eyes we are worth as much as we love. This is a revolution. The world uses other valuation criteria. In God’s eyes there is only one value: love.” Cardinal Comastri added: “At the end of our lives, we will all be put in the scale of charity, and each one will be worth as much as they loved.

“But why does only charity matter?”

“The answer,” said the 64-year-old cardinal, “is once again the Christian revolution: Because God is love. If you are in love, you have God with you, and if you have God with you, you are already in heaven. If, however, you are missing God, you don’t have anything.”

Referring to the passage about the sinful woman who washes Jesus’ feet and dries them with her hair in the house of a well-known Pharisee, the archpriest of St. Peter’s said: “In that moment, this woman declares through her acts: I believe that you are love. I have love, I had not found it until today, but now that I’ve found you, I’ve understood that God is love.

“And Jesus told the man who had invited him: Simon, you appear to be good, but your heart is made of ice, you are worthless in God’s eyes. Instead, this woman has understood it, she has found love. And so this woman is greater than you.”

The cardinal asked the young people the following question: “We go to church, we listen to God’s word, we receive the Eucharist, but how often does charity enter into us?

“In this time of Lent, we are invited to conversion; we all need to convert in order to accept the surprising news of the Gospel: Each of us is worth as much as we love.”
God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to save us!

Jesús loves us so much that He gave Himself up for our salvation! Greater love than this, no one has, but that a man gives up His life for His friend. And Jesus said: “You are My friends if you keep My commandments.”

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I wish to send you my very best personal greetings and wishes for a very blessed and happy Holy Week and Easter celebration. I pray that the Good Lord who gave us new life through His passion, death and resurrection will continue to bless us, to watch over us and to lead us safely to eternal life in heaven.

As your Archbishop, I sincerely pray and joyfully exclaim, “May you and your loved ones enjoy a most blessed and happy Easter.”

Church Welcomes New Catholics at Easter Vigil

Tens of thousands of people from around the country will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday, on March 22, through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Called catechumens, they will be baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Communion on that day. In addition, others known as candidates and who already have a valid baptism will be admitted into full communion with the Catholic Church.

In our Archdiocese of Oklahoma City we will welcome almost 700 people into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Catechumens coming into the Church here number 266, while 426 people from parishes across the archdiocese will enter the Church as candidates.

Most of those coming into the church through the RCIA program are adults, but in some instances, children are part of both groups, usually as families enter the church together.

It is estimated that more than a million infant baptisms will take place in the U.S. during 2008. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an ancient rite that was reinstated after the Second Vatican Council and is the regular way for adults to come into the Church. According to the latest annual figures from the Official Catholic Directory, almost 64,500 adults were baptized in the church in the United States last year, and almost 93,000 came into full communion.

No New List of Deadly Sins, Bishops Say

LONDON (Zenit.org) — Reports that the Vatican has published a new list of the seven deadly sins of modern times that includes littering and economic inequality is simply not true, affirmed the episcopal conference of England and Wales.

The conference released a statement today clarifying that an interview published Sunday by L’Osservatore Romano in which he was questioned about new forms of social sins in this age of globalization.

“The story originated from an interview that Bishop Gianfranco Girotti gave to the L’Osservatore Romano in which he was questioned about new forms of social sins in this age of globalization.”

“Above all in the area of bioethics, in which we cannot fail to denounced certain violations of the fundamental rights of human nature, by way of experiments, genetic manipulation, the effects of which are difficult to prevent and control.”

“Another area, a social issue, is the issue of drug use, which debilitates the psyche and darkens the intelligence, leaving many youth outside the ecclesial circuit.”

The bishop also mentioned social inequality, “by which the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer, feeding an unsustainable social injustice,” and the “area of ecology.”
Actor to Discuss Death Penalty

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty will host its annual dinner at the Conner Center, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Avenue on April 12 at 6 p.m. The coalition is committed to the abolition of the death penalty in Oklahoma.

The keynote speaker will be Mike Farrell, who portrayed B.J. Hunnicutt in M*A*S*H. Farrell, of Death Penalty Focus, is an active and passionate opponent of the death penalty.

“I believe that no one should be executed, guilty or innocent,” he said. “There are appropriate sanctions that protect society and punish wrongdoers without forcing us to stoop to the level of the least among us at his worst moment.”

Farrell has recently authored a book, “Just Call Me Mike: A Journey to Actor and Activist,” which will be available for purchase during the reception. Farrell’s involvement stems from his belief that being a responsible citizen means being willing to see conditions improve for the ultimate benefit of all.

The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m. with music and a cash bar. A fine arts show will feature Oklahoma artists and a silent auction. For donations, contact Margaret at 842-3206 or e-mail ocadp@ocadp.org.

Tickets are $35 per person and $10 for students. All are invited. Contact Jim or Tina McLemore at 239-2454 for reservations. Tables are $280 for a table of eight and additional tables may be purchased for $250 each. For more information, contact Becky VanPool, Catholic Charities, at 523-3009.

Workshop to Focus on Creation of Parish JustFaith Ministry

OKLAHOMA CITY — An introductory workshop on how to organize a JustFaith program in parishes will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Oklahoma Conference of Churches invites you to this Saturday workshop to be held at the First Church of the Nazarene, 4400 N.W. Expressway, Oklahoma City. The church is approximately one mile west of Hefner Parkway on NW Expressway, between Portland and Meridian roads.

The workshop will introduce JustFaith, a program that empowers people of faith to develop a passion and thirst for God’s justice. “This program has been offered in a handful of our parishes and is truly a faith enrichment experience,” said Becky VanPool, Parish Outreach and Program Development Director for Catholic Charities.

Our faith invites us to some remarkable possibilities in the name of love and compassion. The vision of the Gospels and Church social teaching speaks to life-giving choices on behalf of a world that struggles to survive. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore some new possibilities for your life, your church and your heart!

ABCs of a Charitable Gift Annuity

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contractual agreement between a donor and the Catholic Foundation in which the donor transfers assets in exchange for a promise of annuity payments for life.

By donating through a Charitable Gift Annuity, you: 1) contract for a fixed payment for yourself, and 2) make a gift to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma. If you itemize deductions on your tax return, savings from the charitable deduction reduce the net cost of your gift to the Archdiocese.

Can a Charitable Gift Annuity work for you? After reviewing the chart below, contact the Catholic Foundation for additional information on the mutual benefits of donating through a Charitable Gift Annuity.

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* Deductions vary with periodic changes in the IRS Discount Rate - Assumed Rate is 4.4%.

Investing in the Future of Our Faith

THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132
405-721-4115 Office - 405-721-4114 Fax
E-mail: tcasso@catharchdioceseokc.org
Web site: www.cfork.org

OKC Parish to Celebrate Divine Mercy

OKLAHOMA CITY — Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated with a special prayer service at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The prayer service will be from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 30. In addition to praying the Chaplet and the Rosary, there will be prayers for the canonization of Father Stanley Rother, Blessed Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II.

There is a plenary indulgence available for those celebrating this Feast. In a decree dated Aug. 3, 2002, the Apostolic Penitentiary announced that in order “to ensure that the faithful would observe this day (Divine Mercy Sunday) with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence ... so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor, and after they have obtained God’s pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters.”

Those who are planning to fulfill the requirements for this indulgence, please plan to go to confession at one of the many penance services that are already scheduled throughout the archdiocese.

Jesus told St. Faustina that it was His desire that we celebrate this special feast: “The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.” (Diary of St. Faustina, 699).
Mount Raising Funds to Honor Priest

OKLAHOMA CITY — A sum of $24,135.44 is needed to be raised by May 1, to complete the campaign to name the Mount St. Mary High School football field in honor of Father Kenneth S. Fulton. In 1950, when The Sisters of Mercy made the determination that Mount St. Mary High School should become co-ed, they needed to hire a strong leader and visionary to carry out this mission. Furthermore, the Sisters, knowing that to attract boys to come to the school, The Mount had to offer athletics as part of the total school experience. Father Fulton, who at the time was a newly ordained priest and assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Church, was hired to teach freshman and sophomore religion and to become the first athletic director of the school.

As stated in the 1951 Mount St. Mary yearbook, “The riding was at times rough, Father Fulton managed to keep up the courage of our athletes and keep them in the fight.” Said Tom Swyden, Mount St. Mary’s first football coach, “In those days, we had nowhere to play. We had to use a cow barn for a dressing room and there was no money to fund the program. Without Father Fulton’s perseverance to raise donations, there may never have been an athletic program at The Mount.” Known by the local businesspeople as “The Robber with the Roman Collar,” Father Fulton was relentless in his pursuit of donations to help fund the new athletic program because he realized that young men needed sports programs and dedicated men to coach them.

Father Fulton’s time at Mount St. Mary from 1950 to 1964 was some of the most enjoyable years of his life. He built lifelong relationships and is still in close contact with many of the students from that era. Retired and residing in Tulsa, Father Fulton still refers to the classes of 1950-1954 as “His Kids.”

Helen Scholtes Wolf, class of ’54, said, “Father Fulton was more than just a teacher to us. He was a mentor, a friend and a leader that we all came to trust and to love. Now the time has come to give Father Fulton his long overdue recognition.”

When the fundraising goal is met on or before May 1, 2008, the MSM football field will be named in honor of Father Fulton at the beginning of the 2008 football season. If you would like to partner with us in honoring this great man of God in naming the field after him, please send your tax-deductible donation to Mount St. Mary High School offices and SSM and Fr. Fulton’s房产.

Obligraphy of the week:

Sr. Louise Hirner, FSM, dies at age 96

Sister Louise Hirner, FSM, died March 1 at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, Richmond Heights, Mo. She was 96 years of age.

Sister Louise was born Louise Caroline on Sept. 28, 1911, in Hannibal, Mo., the fifth of seven children born to Melchior and Angelique (Becker) Hirner. She entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1936. Sister Louise (also known as Sister Bonaventure) professed her final vows in 1942.

She earned her RN nursing certificate from St. Anthony School of Nursing, Oklahoma City, her BS in home economics from Marymount College, Salina, Kan., and her master’s in dietetics from Saint Louis University.

Sister Louise ministered at St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal, Mo., and at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, and Mount Alverno Convent, Maryville, Mo. Sister was a member of RAPT, the Renewal and Process Team who worked with both the OSF and SSM traditions through the process of the congregations’ reorganization/refounding.

Sister Louise is survived by one sister, Rose White of Livonia, Mich., and two brothers, Herman Hirner of Paris, Mo., and Paul J. Hirner of Lewiston, Mo.

Visitation for Sister Louise was held March 3 at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, Richmond Heights, Mo. A wake service was held that evening and the funeral Mass was held on March 4. The Angels Convent, with burial in Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Tribute Fund.

Mercy Provides School New Classroom

OKLAHOMA CITY — On the heels of a new playground, Oklahoma City’s Linwood Elementary now has an outdoor classroom, thanks to the Sisters of Mercy. So on beautiful Oklahoma days, students will get a chance to study science or art outside, enjoy music concerts or even plan a special class picnic.

The $15,000 covered pavilion was a gift from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas — the founders of Mercy Health Center and the Sisters of Mercy. Besides providing a place for many student activities, the pavilion will also be used by the community for neighborhood and family outings.

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“Mercy has provided many opportunities to Linwood,” said Susan Combs, Linwood’s principal. “Two years ago, Mercy built a new playground for our students, and now we have a beautiful outdoor classroom. The outreach, support and kindness Mercy provides is invaluable to our students, parents and staff. We are very thankful.”

For three years now, Mercy has partnered with Linwood. More than 50 Mercy co-workers dedicate an hour each week to tutor a Linwood Elementary student. Mercy has also provided furnishings, school supplies, neighborhood health fairs and various grants. Next on the list: a walking track that will be used both by students and the community.

“Mercy has embraced us and it makes all the difference,” said Combs. “But beyond the pavilion and playground, Mercy’s co-workers show up every week and mentor our kids, helping them with reading and math. They have served as positive role models for our children.”

With 340 students from preschool to fifth grade, 56 percent of the students are Hispanic and 94 percent receive free lunches.

“As far as Oklahoma is concerned, the Sisters have been devoted since 1854 when five Sisters of Mercy made a long trek in a covered wagon into Indian Territory to organize schools and care for children and women wherever there was need,” said Di Smalley, president and CEO of Mercy Health System of Oklahoma. “Besides providing the playground and outdoor classroom and upcoming walking track, the Mercy mentors project has been a great opportunity for our co-workers to meet the needs of our community. We love being partners with Linwood.”

Arroyo to Speak at Christ the King

OKLAHOMA CITY — Raymond Arroyo will discuss Pope Benedict XVI’s vision for the Church and the role each Catholic will play in this vision during his talk at Christ the King on April 28.

Arroyo, who interviewed Pope Benedict XVI in 2007, will also cover the pontiff’s first trip to the United States on April 15-20. The topic of Arroyo’s talk on April 29 will be Mass Communication in Evangelization and its Effect on the Catholic Church.

Arroyo is an internationally recognized, award-winning journalist, producer and bestselling author, seen each week in more than 100 million homes around the globe. Arroyo and his work have been featured on many shows including “The Today Show” and “Good Morning America.”

His writings have been published by the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Times, The Financial Times and The National Catholic Register.

Arroyo is the keynote speaker at Christ the King’s 2008 Parish Retreat. He will speak at the Church, 8005 Dorset Drive, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.

For more information, call 841-6680.

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For more information, call 841-6680.

Father Kenneth S. Fulton

or contact Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement, at (405) 631-8865, or cstiles@mountstmary.org.

Memorials may be made to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Tribute Fund, 1100 Bellevue Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63117.
Faith Community Nursing Program Set

Registration is under way for The Basic Preparation Course for Faith Community Nursing to be held May 15-17 and June 5-7 at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat Center in Guthrie. Both weekends are required to complete the course.

The Catholic Church has long followed biblical direction to heal the sick and tend to the poor, orphaned, widowed, aged and imprisoned. Parish/Faith Community Nursing is rooted in the early work of Christian deaconesses and other religious sisters who worked in hospitals and congregations promoting health from a whole person perspective. Churches have returned to this healing ministry by embracing Parish/Faith Community Nursing.

Parish/Faith Community Nursing is recognized by the American Nurses Association as a specialty practice area for registered nurses who have completed an endorsed training program.

Parish/Faith Community Nursing is an independent nursing practice, which does not involve “hands-on” health care. The nurse actively promotes wellness, wholeness and preventive health in the parish.

The curriculum for the Basic Preparation Course for Faith Community Nursing was developed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center and meets published requirements for basic faith community nurse education by the American Nurses Association. The course enables registered nurse participants to:

1. Gain an understanding of the theoretical knowledge necessary to begin practice as a parish/faith community nurse.
2. Discuss the various roles of the faith community nurse in a church.
3. Examine and nurture personal spiritual development.

Both weekends are required to complete the course. The curriculum for the Basic Preparation Course for Faith Community Nursing was developed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center and meets published requirements for basic faith community nurse education by the American Nurses Association. The course is open to registered nurses of all faith traditions.

Early bird registration is due before March 15. Payment includes lodging, board, course materials and 32 nursing CEU. $450 includes lodging; $415 is without lodging. After March 15, rates are $525 and $485, respectively. Cancellation received before May 13 will be refunded minus $50 deposit. No refund after May 13.

Contact Marilyn Seiler for registration forms at (405) 523-3006 or mseiler@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Okarche Students Participate in Contest

OKARCHE — Each year, Holy Trinity students in fourth through eighth grades participate in an Education Contest sponsored by the Catholic Daughters. This year the themes chosen were “Jesus Light of the World” and “People Who Light Up My World.” Both titles encourage imagination and freedom of thought. Certificates of award and cash prizes were awarded to students who placed first, second and third in each category. Cash prizes of $15, $10 and $8 were awarded, respectively. The first-place winners in each category were announced:

POSTER Division I — Sydney McCarthy, 1st; Mackenzie Jacobs, 2nd; and Bradley Hoskins, 3rd.
Division II — Noemi Rodriguez, 1st; Rae Grellner, 2nd; Madi Grellner, 3rd
ART Division I — Tommy Brueggen, 1st.
Division II — Rae Grellner, 1st; Madi Grellner, 2nd; Christopher Rund, 3rd.
COMPUTER Division II — Elijah Petty, 1st; Noemi Rodriguez, 2nd; Sam Grellner, 3rd.
POETRY Division I — Kenadey Grellner, 1st.
Division II — Austin Kretchmar, 1st; Madi Grellner, 2nd; John Schaefer, 3rd.
ESSAY Division I — Lucas Norris, 1st; Kenadey Grellner, 2nd; Annaliese Moffat, 3rd.
Irish Students Selected for Youth Leadership Role

OKLAHOMA CITY — Several students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School have been selected as participants in Youth Leadership Exchange (YLX), the high-school age programming arm of Leadership Oklahoma City Inc. Their programs run through the school year and meet one day a month. The classes are designed to teach participants how to be better community leaders through volunteer service. Classes include exposure to organizations that work in the community as well as lessons and practice in skills that are useful in community work. Members are selected from hundreds of applications and are as diverse as possible. This allows students to experience working with young people from a variety of backgrounds.

Youth Leadership Exchange has multiple programs. Leadership Skills is a community information program for sophomores and juniors. Students chosen for Leadership Skills include juniors Martin Kempf and Emma Land, and sophomore Tommy Labarthe.

Youth in Action is a skills-based program for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Selected was senior Lindsay Fry.

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The Youth Council of Oklahoma City is a project of the city of Oklahoma City for juniors and seniors. It educates and involves teenagers in city government. Senior Caroline Parrish was chosen as a member of this group.

McGuinness Teacher Honored

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Biology teacher Angie Reap was recently honored by the University of Central Oklahoma Chapter of Sigma Xi. At a reception, Reap was presented the 2008 Distinguished High School Science Teacher Award. She is the chairperson of the McGuinness Science Department and teaches biology and AP biology. She has more than 10 years of experience in secondary and college (graduate assistant) instruction.

Applicants are nominated by their principals or vice principals. McGuinness Vice Principal Anne Hathcoat recommended Reap. She cited her initiative and vision in ensuring research skills and scientific reasoning were infused into all levels of the science curriculum.

“Her strong convictions, as well as her commitment to academic rigor, educational excellence and student achievement, made her an outstanding candidate for this honor,” said Hathcoat.

Sigma Xi is the honor society of research scientists and engineers. It is an international, multidisciplinary society whose programs and activities promote the health of the scientific enterprise, reward excellence in scientific research and encourage a sense of companionship and cooperation among scientists in all fields.

Irish Drama Team Captures Awards

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Bishop McGuinness Drama and Debate Team placed second in sweepstakes at the Norman North Tournament. Individual awards include: Emma Rupert — first place in Humorous Interpretation; Kallen Pitts and Josh Wilson — first place in Humorous Duet; Olivia Amundsen — second place in Dramatic Interpretation; Aly Reeser — third place in Poetry; Preston Lucas — first place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Tommy Labarthe — second place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Mark Morrison — fourth place in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

The sponsor for the team is drama director Ryan Swartz. The team will be performing at the Regional Speech Tournament at Rose State College in early March.
**St. Greg’s Unveils Scholarship Program for Catholic Students**

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University has announced a national scholarship program for Catholic students. SGU, Oklahoma’s oldest institution for higher learning, is offering a $2,000 scholarship to one qualifying student from each parish and Catholic high school in the United States. All other Catholic students are eligible to receive a $1,000 scholarship.

“As a great proponent of Catholic education, I am thrilled by the generous offer St. Gregory’s University is extending to all Catholic students,” said Most Rev. Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City. “I highly endorse this proposal and urge people to look into this offer of Catholic higher education.”

In order to qualify, students must have their priest or high school counselor send a letter of recommendation to SGU. Each priest/counselor can recommend only one student for the $2,000 scholarship. There is no limit on recommendations for the $1,000 scholarship. Students must also qualify for admission to St. Gregory’s.

“Simply put, we want to provide some automatic financial assistance specifically for Catholic students who choose higher education at St. Gregory’s,” said Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., chancellor of SGU. “By offering these scholarships, we wish to make it possible for more Catholic families to choose St. Gregory’s, thus further strengthening our Catholic culture and identity of our campus community.”

Established in 1875, St. Gregory’s is grounded in the tradition of Catholic education excellence and Benedictine values. SGU was recently recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society as being among the top 10 percent of Catholic colleges in the U.S., and has been featured in such publications as Our Sunday Visitor, the National Catholic Register and the Catholic World Report.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for some of our nation’s top Catholic students to attend one of our nation’s top Catholic universities,” said SGU President David Wagie, Ph.D.

SGU lives out its Benedictine values through its programs. The school recently kicked off an innovative “Tradition and Conversation” seminar-style common core curriculum. Based on the Great Books format, the program allows students to wrestle with some of the most influential texts and ideas of the Western and Catholic intellectual traditions.

“I am convinced that St. Gregory’s University is a quality Catholic institution of higher learning, which I fully support,” Archbishop Beltran said. “I believe young people would benefit both academically and spiritually (by attending SGU).”

For more information about SGU’s new scholarship program, contact its financial aid department at 1-888-784-7347. SGU is also on the Web at www.stgregorys.edu. Letters of recommendation can be sent to St. Gregory’s University, Financial Aid Department, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee, Okla. 74804.

**SGU Program Earns Continuing Accreditation**

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University learned in February that its education program earned continuing accreditation for the maximum seven-year period from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. SGU’s continuing accreditation means it meets national and state professional standards for teacher preparation.

“Meeting these standards is reflective of the high-quality program we have at SGU,” said Suzanne Spradling, Ph.D., Director of Teacher Education at St. Gregory’s. “We get positive feedback frequently from employers around the state. They want our students.”

A seven-member team directed by the OCTP visited SGU this fall and evaluated the program on six national standards and 10 state requirements. The team, made up of members of the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education, the OCTP, the State Department of Education and other education institutions, spent five days on campus.

“They were impressed not only with our program, but also with how helpful and courteous our people were throughout the process,” Spradling said.

SGU’s education program, now nearly 10 years old, first became accredited in February 2000. The university prepares teachers in secondary math, science, social studies, English and elementary education.

“This was truly a team effort,” Spradling said. “I want to thank each of the education department faculty members who spent many long hours preparing program reviews, the institutional report and the exhibit room ... and also to the faculty, staff and education students for their time in participating in the many interviews with the accreditation team.”

For more information on SGU’s education department, contact Spradling at (405) 878-5298.

**God’s Power Over Death Brings Hope**

VATICAN CITY, (Zenit.org).—The authentic hope of humanity is the confidence that God is greater than death, says Benedict XVI.

The pope affirmed this, praying the midday Angelus with thousands gathered in St. Peter’s Square, reflecting on the resurrection of Lazarus. The Holy Father first noted that this was the “last great ‘sign’ worked by Jesus.”

“Lazarus was the living proof of Christ’s divinity and Christ is the Lord of life and death. In reality, this Gospel passage shows Jesus as true Man and true God,” he said.

The pontiff said Christ told his disciples he would “awaken” Lazarus, thus “expressing God’s view of physical death with the metaphor of sleep: God indeed sees it as sleep from which one can awaken.”

“Jesus shows an absolute power in the face of this death,” said Benedict XVI. “The death of the body is a sleep from which God can awaken one at any moment.”

Christ declared to Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, he will live; whoever lives and believes in me, will never die.” And he adds: “Do you believe this?”

The pope said, “It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us; a question that certainly overwhelms us, it overwhelms our ability to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him, as he has entrusted himself to the Father.”

The Holy Father urged the faithful to respond just as Martha did, “Yes, O Lord! We too believe, despite our doubts and our darkness; we believe in you, because you have the words of eternal life; we want to believe in you, who gives us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your kingdom of light and peace.”
Birth Choice Celebrates Saving Lives for Past 35 Years

By Elianna Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — This year, Birth Choice is celebrating 35 years of service to mothers and their unborn. The organization, founded by Barbara Chishko in 1973, began as an attempt to stop what she calls “the terrible holocaust on mothers and their unborn.” This year also marked the fifth annual Birth Choice “Life of The Party” Dinner and Auction, which was held at the Oklahoma History Center. Guests were surrounded by the museum’s stunning architecture and dined in the Devon Great Hall underneath the replica of the world-famous Winnie Mae airplane. Brian Preston presented an exciting live auction. Mike Zink served as master of ceremonies for the second year.

Donna Williams, a volunteer at Birth Choice, said it was her first time to attend and she was impressed with the event. “It was very exciting to see people so eager to bid on items and spend their money toward the worthy cause of saving lives.”

Jerry Bowser, last year’s recipient of the Celebration of Life award, said, “I thought the evening was great and the food was wonderful.”

The night also celebrated the multiple volunteers who have given of themselves over the years, helping to make Birth Choice a success. As Chishko looked out over the more than 260 in attendance, she began her speech with the words, “You beautiful people who are so close to God … You beautiful people who love life … You beautiful people who know how to give unconditionally … You beautiful people who answer God’s call ‘to help the least of my brethren.’”

One by one, dedicated volunteers and donors were asked to stand and the audience applauded their contributions to the organization.

“Birth Choice was started over 35 years ago with only a few volunteers, two folding chairs, a telephone and no money,” said Chishko. “We were so naive,” she humbly told the crowd, “but we overcame those difficult times because we believed in our philosophy that all human life comes from God. No one has the right to end it … [and] this evening is a testimony to the belief in the value and dignity of each human life.”

For the past eight years, Birth Choice presents the Celebration of Life award to one volunteer or supporter who has shown remarkable dedication to the mission of Birth Choice. This year the Celebration of Life award was given to Leitner Greiner for her undeniable support to Birth Choice.

Greiner said, “I was surprised beyond belief! So many (volunteers) do so much for the unborn and their mothers. I am truly humbled.”

Greiner’s daughter spoke on behalf of all her children and presented their mother with a bracelet containing a space for 15 birthstones, one for Greiner and her 14 grandchildren. “I’ll never take this off,” she told the crowd, and she hugged her teary-eyed daughter and the rest of her family.

The night brought in more than $65,000 to aid in the mission of Birth Choice. The success of the Birth Choice Life of The Party Dinner and Auction was due to the many hours of preparation in organizing this event. Birth Choice expressed deep gratitude to the committee which includes Jane Best, Donna Davoren, Karen Kenworthy, Julie Murray, Janis Mollman and Anita Webb. They also wish to thank the many people who donated items to the auction and the many volunteers who worked to make the auction a huge success.

If you are interested in donating to this event next year or would like to receive an invitation to the event, contact the Development Office at (405) 606-8426.

Golden Wedding Anniversary A Parish Celebration

By Ammanda McCabe
The Sooner Catholic

HARRAH — David and LaVerne McCorkle know what it takes to make a successful marriage. Not only have they been involved in the Couple-to-Couple pre-marriage classes at their parish of St. Teresa of Avila for 18 years, they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a ceremony and reception at the church.

Some of LaVerne’s tips for a good marriage include:

— Think more of the other person than yourself
— Make a “decision” to love someone and work at the relationship. “Stars in the eyes don’t last!”
— There are no “perfect” marriages. A couple has to always learn and grow together
— Marriage is never 50/50. “Sometimes you give 100 percent,” LaVerne says. “But then you might get 100 percent, too.”

The McCorkles were married at St. Teresa of Avila on Dec. 28, 1957.

They first met when LaVerne was 13 years old and helping out at her uncle’s service station when David stopped by. They later met again when LaVerne was working at the soda counter of a drugstore, and they dated for three years before marrying. The first years of marriage were hard. David was in the military and was sent to Korea. LaVerne lived with her parents during that time, and their first daughter was born while David was away. They have been making up for lost time ever since, working together at McCorkle Truck Line for over 50 years (along with two of their three daughters and all their sons-in-law!).

“It has worked well for us,” LaVerne said on living and working together. “We like what we do, and you learn to understand when to keep your mouth shut!”

They also love helping other couples just starting out in marriage. When the Couple-to-Couple classes began at St. Teresa in the late 1980s, David and LaVerne were instrumental in the success of the program. Over the years they have worked with more than 25 couples, and 12 were able to celebrate the McCorkles’ anniversary reception. “We’ve learned a lot from them,” LaVerne said. “It helped our marriage as well as theirs.” She says only one couple out of all they worked with didn’t make it, “so we have a good success rate.”

Their anniversary celebration on Jan. 4 not only involved the couples they have worked with, but their three daughters, Linda Nettleingham, Karen Manwell and Cindy Miller, their sons-in-law and grandchildren, and LaVerne’s maid of honor from her wedding, Pat Jorski.

“They filled the church,” LaVerne said. “It was a lovely night.”
New Media Possibilities Have Church Exploring Technology

By Father John Flynn, LC

ROME (Zenit.org). — It’s easy to find defects in media coverage of religion, but there is also an increasing amount of good material available. Technological changes have broken the power of old communications monopolies, opening up space for the Church and individual believers.

A few recent articles in the press examined the work of Chris Wyatt in setting up GodTube.com, a Christian alternative to Web sites offering video clips and assorted information.

“We like to think of it as Christianity on demand, 24/7, where you need it most,” Wyatt told the Christian Science Monitor in a Feb. 6 article. The site has the motto of “Broadcast Him,” referring to Jesus, in a deliberate difference to the YouTube motto of “Broadcast Yourself.”

The site was launched in August last year and according to the article, GodTube is growing rapidly, with a recent estimate giving it 1.7 million unique views in a month. According to a Nov. 1 article on the site founded by Wyatt, it already had 150,000 registered users with active profiles, and at that moment and more than 15,000 video clips posted. The clips are reviewed before being put on the site, but even so, some are controversial, containing criticisms of some churches or beliefs.

The Church is also starting to explore the possibilities of video. In Italy, Milan’s archbishop, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, is putting a series of Lenten video clips online, reported the Italian newspaper La Repubblica on Feb. 20.

The clips are posted on YouTube every Friday afternoon. According to the article, over 16,000 people viewed the first offering. As well as the Lenten messages, Cardinal Tettamanzi is also replying via a series of video clips to questions sent in via the Web page of the archdiocese.

Meanwhile, in Canada, Toronto’s Archbishop Thomas Collins also posts videos of a “Lectio Divina” series, reported the Canadian newspaper Western Catholic Reporter on Jan. 14.

The article explained that once a month, Archbishop Collins leads “Lectio Divina” at Toronto’s St. Michael Cathedral. The Toronto-based television station Salt and Light broadcasts the sessions, and then gives the recording to the archdiocese to post on its Web site. The videos are also posted on YouTube, along with other material.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, is also making good use of the latest technology, with a dedicated Web site offering podcasts and video broadcasts on a wide variety of topics.

Vatican information

The Vatican is also increasingly making use of the Internet. The main Vatican Web page is one of the most visited in the world, but perhaps fewer are familiar with the material available from a number of the Vatican congregations that have developed their own Web sites.

The Congregation for the Clergy, for example, has a site that makes available a wide range of documents. The material includes collections of speeches and texts related to the role of priests, helpful aids for the preparation of homilies, and statistics on the numbers of seminarians and clergy.

The page also allows the content of each book of the Bible to be viewed along with cross references to homilies of the Fathers and doctors of the Church, as well as the magisterium, thus enriching for users the experience of reading the sacred Scripture.

The Pontifical Council for Life and the Pontifical Council for Health and Pastoral Care also have their own Web pages, with specialized documentation, reports on their activities and congresses and links to further information.

The Web page of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace contains a wide variety of documents, speeches given by the council’s officials, along with the texts of some of the presentations given at the numerous meetings organized by the council on topical matters.

The Vatican City State also has its own dedicated page, with all sorts of material related to St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican Museums, along with useful information on Vatican offices, such as those selling stamps and coins.

Vatican Radio is not confined to the realm of short-wave transmissions, making available on its Web page a broad range of audio material ready to be downloaded by those interested in accessing the content via Internet.

Mobile motivations

Another means of communicating, already used for some time now, is through short text messages sent to mobile telephones. In Italy, a recent agreement between Vodafone and Lux Vide will see inspirational phrases by Pope John Paul II sent to cell phones, reported the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera on Feb. 7.

The project is under the supervision of Joaquin Navarro-Valls, longtime media spokesman for the late pontiff. In addition to the thoughts of John Paul II, users can also receive an image of the saint of the day, along with brief biographical details. Other services of this nature already available in Italy include the possibility of receiving the pope’s Sunday Angelus via short message service (SMS).

In Austria, meanwhile, SMS messages for mobile phones with texts of Benedict XVI are available during Lent, reported the Vienna daily Austria, Feb. 7. The quotes are taken from speeches and sermons given by the pope during a visit to Austria in September last year.

National episcopal conferences are also updating their Web pages and moving more into the multimedia world. The Web page of the Italian Episcopal Conference contains a wide variety of videos, photos and podcasts. The “Cultural Project” section of the page offers material designed to show the importance of Christianity in contemporary culture. And the “Virtual Museum” section displays a large number of photos of some of the many Christian art treasures in Italy.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has podcasts with the daily Mass readings on its Web page, as well as sections devoted to the saint of the day and a suggested daily prayer. A special Lenten resources section has an abundance of prayers, including texts for praying the Stations of the Cross, in both print and audio formats.

Lent and Easter material is also provided on the Web page of the Episcopal Conference for England and Wales. The files include music, Bible readings and reflections by some bishops.

Diocesan material

Within the United States, many dioceses offer abundant material. In a large number of cases the greater part of the content of the local Catholic weekly newspapers is available via the Internet, including the weekly columns written by the local bishop. Increasingly, the sites also have Web pages with audio and video content.

The Archdiocese of Boston has a link to the local Catholic TV, where video clips are available. Cardinal Sean O’Malley is also well-known by many for having his own blog, where his daily activities are chronicled.

The Denver diocesan site not only offers the weekly newspaper columns of Bishop Charles Chaput, but also an audio recording of his Sunday homilies at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, along with a variety of audio files of media interviews done in the past couple of years.

The video and audio section of the Web page of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has a large number of videos related to local events, as well as reflections by Cardinal Justin Rigali. There is also a section with spiritual reflections by Cardinal Rigali based on the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. With a bit of creativity and the help of modern technology, spreading the Gospel message is getting easier and closer to people’s lives.

Sooner Catholic Online

The Sooner Catholic can be found online at www.catharchdioceseokc.org, then click on Sooner Catholic. A podcast featuring Michael Scaperlanda’s recent address at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral is the latest update. Scaperlanda is a Catholic from Norman and a law professor at the University of Oklahoma. He is considered an expert in the area of immigration law.
Colorful Saint Pat’s Ball Attracts Record Turnout

OKLAHOMA CITY — Approximately 400 people attended the St. Patrick’s Day Ball on March 8 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. This was a record crowd for the ball which benefited Catholic Charities Homeless Services in downtown Oklahoma City.

“We thank everyone for attending the event and supporting Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” said Tim O’Connor, executive director. “It was a wonderful celebration honoring Lou Flanagan-Ackerman, 2008 Grand Marshal, and St. Patrick’s Day. We enjoyed the festivities, which included dinner, program, live and silent auctions, music and dancing.”

This year, a record number of corporate sponsors supported the event. In addition to the lead corporate Emerald Isle sponsor, Teleflora and Meinders Foundation, 31 businesses and individuals were Crystal sponsors and 16 businesses and individuals were Linen sponsors. Other donations included monetary, in-kind donations and auction items.

“We appreciate the generosity of so many people who volunteered their time, money and gifts to this charity event. It was a true success because of everyone’s support,” said Toby Boothe, ball chairperson.

Lou Flanagan-Ackerman was recognized at the event and served as Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Oklahoma City on March 15.
For 10 years, the Moore St. Andrew Catholic Church’s Lenten Tradition has included a Living Stations of the Cross presented by the teens of the parish. Following Mass, the teens offer a Lenten meal that they help prepare and serve. The Living Stations was a resounding success. When asked how they knew it was a successful prayer experience, the teens replied: “Because they cried ... WE cried ... we ALL prayed it.”

Assumption Catholic Church in Duncan dedicated its new annex at the parish on Feb. 27. Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass with Father Don Wolf, pastor, concelebrating. Following Mass the new construction was blessed and dedicated. Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 1808 served as Honor Guard. Left to right are Bill Havron, Marus Deasy, Archbishop Beltran, Dave Carney and Larry Akers.

Behind Father Kirk Larkin and Kathryn Conwell is the icon she painted of Saint Barbara and presented as a gift to Holy Family Parish, Lawton. A professional artist, Conwell and her husband, Tom, have been members of Holy Family Parish for years. They raised seven children. One of their daughters, Therese Underwood, said her mother worked on the icon for several years before presenting it to the parish. It hangs in the chapel and was blessed on Dec. 4, the Feast Day of Saint Barbara, which also happens to be Conwell’s birthday, her daughter said. Saint Barbara is the Patron Saint of Artillerymen, appropriate since Lawton is home to Fort Sill. In 1990, Tom Conwell was selected to the ancient order of Saint Barbara at Fort Sill. The couple has been married almost 60 years.

The 2008 Voice in the Wilderness Award was presented to Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran. Given by the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, the award is given each year to the person who most exemplifies what the OCC stands for. Archbishop Beltran received the award for his statements against the death penalty, his attendance at rallies opposing the death penalty and his speaking on behalf of Mark Fowler prior to his execution; his support of those who struggle against domestic violence and his statements in opposition to domestic violence; and his attendance at press conferences in opposition to HB 1804 (the immigration bill), his statements against unfair immigration legislation and his courageous stance in announcing that the Catholic Church would not follow the mandates of HB 1804 that were unjust and contrary to the teachings of the Church. Shirley Cox presented the award to Archbishop Beltran.

Kylie Gibbons portrays Veronica in the Living Stations.
Mass Ending A Time for Prayerful Sacred Silence

This is the last of a series on the Mass.

By Father Tom Margevicius

The Communion procession is over, the remaining Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle, the vessels are put away and the Communion music is finished.

What next?

Let’s not allow this precious moment to pass too swiftly. And for God’s sake, don’t head for the parking lot early.

After receiving holy Communion, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal invites us to observe “sacred silence.”

Earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the same: “The precious time of thanksgiving after Communion should not be neglected: besides the singing of an appropriate hymn, it can also be most helpful to remain recollected in silence.”

I once attended a St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concert directed by Bobby McFerrin, and he quipped that between movements of great symphonies, when the audience was not supposed to applaud, people were uncomfortable with the silence, so they invented the cough.

Nowadays, everyone rushes from one intense activity to another. Visual and audible noise fills every empty space: TVs drone in the background at our homes, radios in cars, iPods when we exercise and cell phones when we scamper between meetings.

It’s as though everything conspires to drown out the still, small voice of God (1 Kings 19:12).

We priests also get bombarded with a hundred thoughts: Have I preached well? Have the other ministers served admirably? What must I remember at announcements? Whom must I be sure to catch after Mass? Even if all the prayers, gestures

and symbols have been done well — the bread and wine, the prayers and songs, the processions and head bows — only one thing matters: Have we encountered the Beloved? Has he given himself to us, and how have we responded? Has it changed us? Are we ready to bring him to others?

As St. Thomas Aquinas said, “Nemo dat quod non habet” — “No one gives what she or he does not have.”

This is the point of the closing rites: Because we’ve been changed, we are sent to bring Christ to the world.

After the silence, the priest prays that the Communion we have received will make a difference in our lives. Even in Mass, the silence does not last forever: Our parish is very much a part of the world. So we make announcements — how can our Eucharistic faith be lived in our parish, our community, our world?

That’s why the priest finally calls down God’s blessing: to help us accomplish God’s will in the world. Thus we are dismissed.

“Thy Mass never ends; it must be lived.” If you recognize this phrase, you have been to a LifeTeen Mass. This movement has done a marvelous job of getting young people involved in their faith, and their energetic Masses used to say those words at the end of Eucharist.

But a few years ago, the U.S. bishops, at the Vatican’s request, told LifeTeen not to use unapproved words, but instead to use only the standard formulas. What’s the big deal?

On one hand, LifeTeen gets it right: the Eucharist must be lived, and the eternal sacrifice of Jesus Christ does not end when Mass ends.

But, on the other hand, no celebration of the Eucharist should isolate one group of Christians from another. Greater uniformity in how we celebrate Mass is not ecclesial interference but safeguards the church’s common vision. We’re all in this together: young and old, rich and poor.

Further, the Latin words for the dismissal — “Ite, missa est” — literally mean not “The Mass is ended,” but “Go, you are sent.”

The dismissal is not so much a signal that something is ending (as the English might suggest), but something is beginning: our mission in the world. If we rush out of the church doors, it should not be because we want to beat other cars out of the parking lot, but because we can’t wait to tell others about Jesus.

When the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) finally recognized Jesus in the burning Word of God and the breaking of the bread, they ran seven miles back to Jerusalem to tell the others how Jesus had changed them. The closing rites are short, so we can get to evangelizing right away. We’ve got work to do.

But not on Sunday — this is the Lord’s Day. The whole day should be a kind of divine afterglow: We spend it in holy leisure to give ample time for the Eucharist to change our families and our parish.

Even for those who have to work on Sunday, making room for Saturday evening or Sunday Mass reminds them that their lives don’t revolve around work, but work must make room for God.

The purpose of Mass is to call us out of our busy worlds for an hour or so every Sunday to worship the Father through Christ in the Spirit, so that this Spirit empowers us to bring people back to the Father through Jesus Christ, whom we have encountered in the Eucharist.

“Ite, missa est.”

Father Tom Margevicius is instructor of liturgical theology at St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in St. Paul.

Pope to Meet With Religious Leaders on Visit to U.S.

WASHINGTON — Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Jain and Hindu communities will meet with Pope Benedict XVI April 17, at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center during the April 15-20 papal visit to the United States.

The meeting will include a papal address, greetings from inter-faith leaders and the presentation of symbolic gifts by young members of each community.

Bishop William Sklba, chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, noted that the theme ‘Religions Working for Peace’ will run through the meeting, to which 200 leaders have been invited.

“The cry for peace in our world calls for religious bodies to come together,” Bishop Sklba said. “This meeting denotes the Holy Father’s belief in the need for religious bodies to stress the goal for peace which lies at the heart of all religions. It ‘exemplifies what must happen all over the world.’

The gifts symbolize the path to peace in the deepest teachings of each group. They include:

A silver menorah with seven lights. It symbolizes the perennial validity of God’s covenant of peace. Silver is frequently used in the Eastern European Jewish tradition. The menorah recalls the seven-branched lamp stand used in the temple in Jerusalem.

A small, finely crafted edition of the Qur’an, in green leather and gold leaf edging. The Qur’an is the revered word of God, proclaiming God’s message of peace. Green is the traditional Islamic color.

A metallic cube representing the Jain principles of non-violence and respect for a diversity of viewpoints as a way to peace through self-discipline and dialogue.

The sacred syllable Om on a brass incense burner. Om is the primordial sound of creation itself, by which God’s liberating peace is made known. Bronze or brass are widely used for Hindu liturgical ornaments. Incense sticks are used in ritual worship among Hindu believers.

A bronze bell cast in Korea. In various Buddhist cultures, the sound of the bell demarcates the times of meditation, which leads to inner peace and enlightenment.
Letters

Our Catholic Schools
Society tells us that we have to be tolerant of every person’s beliefs, whether or not those beliefs go against God’s law or not. Catholic Schools teach our children the godly principles that they are going to need to stand up and be kind to others, respectful to others, and caring for their fellow man. I am thankful that we have this opportunity for our kids. It is time that our elected officials see the good that a Christian-based education can do for our society and start thinking of ways to help. A voucher system would help with Christian-based education can do for our society and that our elected officials see the good that a Christian-based education can do for our society and that our elected officials see the good that a Christian-based education can do for our society.

Prayer at the Clinic
I am not a veteran clinic prayer warrior like some. My stomach actually hurts as I drove up to the clinic, praying that it would be closed every time. Something had to change in my thought process or I was going to quit. Most people have more resolve than I and God knew I needed a boost.

God knows that I always need the extra incentive and that I am truly weak. Around the anniversary of Roe vs Wade, I watched some of the EWTN specials and the number of aborted U.S. babies caught my attention, 47 million. How many of these souls are in heaven and would they intercede for us and our need as a nation to end this atrocity?

The youth that attend make up about half of the people who are at the clinic in Warr Acres every Saturday. As Father Pavone has stated, they are one of the biggest forces in the pro-life movement. He also stated that they are taking offense to the fact they were considered unhuman and unprotected in the womb.

Join us and stand to witness to the love of God for each aborted baby, parent and staff member! Warr Acres, 6112 NW 63rd St., every Saturday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., or Norman, 2453 Wilcox Drive, Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Pope John Paul II, in one of his visits to the U.S., warned us, saying, Whoz to you if you do not stop abortion.

Elaine Naugle Oklahoma City

Creativity Focus of Weekend
OKLAHOMA CITY — Women will be offered a chance to explore their inner creativity through a three-day retreat at Mount St. Mary High School. The retreat will run March 28-30 and is being hosted by Katy Gordy. The weekend will focus on exploring your personal creativity through silence, prayer and short discussions.

The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday. Attendees will view a short film pertaining to creativity before lunch and partake in discussion. After that, silence will be encouraged until the next discussion. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday and the session will close Sunday at noon.

Sections of the books “The Artist’s Way” and “The War of Art” will be read and discussed. Both books touch on the subject that through creativity and playfulness, one may become closer to God. The session will also include the subject of “overcoming resistance” to strengthen creativity. Those who are not sure what their creative talents may be are still encouraged to attend.

Women are encouraged to bring their art with them (i.e. painters should bring their own supplies, writers should bring notebook paper, etc…). A piano will be available.

There are 13 spots available and they are expected to fill quickly. The cost of the weekend is $200, which includes room and board for two full days. A massage therapist will be available on site for relaxation.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact Gordy at (405) 627-6954 or e-mail her at kgordy11@cox.net. No up-front payment is necessary. Registration holds your spot. A second retreat will be offered in October.

Across Oklahoma

Come and Experience a Fantastic Summer!
OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa is exploring the Summer Olympics and its host country, China. Each week will be devoted to experiencing the stories, famous people, arts and crafts, the gifts that the Chinese culture have shared with the world. Swimming and tutoring is also offered. Villa Teresa begins their summer program June 2 through Aug. 1 with day care offered May 19 through Aug. 8. Children must be ages 2 1/2 to fifth grade. If you are interested, call for a tour (232-4286) or come to our open house, Saturday, April 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Volunteers Needed
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store is looking for volunteers who can offer as much or as little time as possible. St. Vincent de Paul has two Thrift Store locations, N.W. 10th St. and N.W. 23rd St. in Oklahoma City. To make an appointment with the store manager, call (405) 917-9999. Volunteers are needed to drive trucks, sort items including toys, do laundry, check electronics, price items, arrange merchandise on the sales floor, wash dishes and clean merchandise. Also needed are special talents such as carpentry, plumbing and manual labor. Help with organizing volunteers is also needed as is writing thank-you notes and letters.

St. Joseph Celebrates Anniversary
NORMAN — All are invited to attend St. Joseph’s fifth anniversary of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. on March 29. A potluck dinner will follow in the parish gym.

Retreat Offered
PIEDMONT — Weaving the Fabric of Your Life, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with Karen Bullock, Benedictine Oblate. Bullock, talented in many craft mediums, will lead in inner reflection, to weave the special moments and roles of your life using the form of rag weaving. Join Karen at Red Plains Monastery, southwest of Piedmont, in the red Art Barn. All materials provided. Call 373-4739 to register. Fee: $45, includes a $15 non-refundable deposit. Bring a sack lunch.

Reardon to Perform
OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, will host Michael Reardon and Patrick Lane in a dramatic performance of the Gospel of John. The 6:30 p.m. event is free and is set for April 2. All are invited. Reardon has memorized the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as the Book of Revelation, and performs them dramatically on stage. Lane serves as director, musician and lighting artist for the production. The pair has performed more than 1,000 times in cities throughout the United States and Canada, as well as Japan, China, Europe, Israel and Jerusalem. A reception to meet the artists will follow.

An Invitation to Catholics to Come Home
OKLAHOMA CITY — If you know of a family member, friend or someone with whom you work who has drifted away from the Church, please help us by passing this invitation on to them. We want to invite them back. Beginning April 1 at 6 p.m. in the Kastner room at St. Charles Church, we will meet for five informal group discussions. We welcome Catholics who no longer attend Mass regularly, those who have issues with the Church that they would like to discuss.

Straight Talk
OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life will sponsor a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Conference, “Straight Talk,” for youth and parents. The conference will be held April 19 at the Catholic Pastoral Center and will feature Ben Atherton-Zeman, a nationally known and popular actor, comedian, feminist and husband. Zeman will present a one-man play: “Voices of Men,” to educate youth and parents about the epidemic of violence in dating. Go to www.voicesofmen.org to view clips of Ben’s work.

Break-out sessions will include technology safety and the consequences of negative use; cutting and suicide: How to Recognize, Question and Prevent, and many more subjects that are facing our teens and young adults. There will also be a panel of experts of various fields to answer questions for both youth and parents. Call the Office of Family Life, (405) 721-8944, for more information. Cost will be only $5 to cover lunch.
Inarticulate Loves: Please Father, Tell a New Story

There is a fine little poem by an American poet, Lee Yung Lee, about a relationship between a father and a son. I read it in church sometimes on Father's Day. Titled A Story, it runs like this:

Sad is the man who is asked for a story and can't come up with one. His 5-year-old son waits in his lap: "Not the same story baba! Not the same one, a new one!" The man rubs his chin and scratches his ear. In a room full of books, in a world full of stories he can recall not one. And soon he thinks this boy will give up on his father. And already the man lives far ahead.

He sees the day the boy will go away. "Don't go," he says, "hear the alligator story again. Hear the angel story one more time.

You love the spider story! You laugh at that spider. Let me tell it!"

But the boy is already packing his shirts.

He is looking for his keys.

"Are you a god," the man screams, "that I am mute before you?

Am I a god, that I should never disappoint you?"

But truly the boy is still here.

"Please, baba, a story!"

It is an emotional rather than a logical question. It is an earthily, not a heavenly one.

And it posits that a boy's supplications and a father's love add up to silence.

Lee's poem is about the inarticulateness of a father before his son. But the poem would read just as well in terms of other relationships: mother-daughter, mother-son, father-daughter or even wife-husband, or friend-friend.

One person's supplication, a child or adult, and another's love too often add up to silence and disappointment. In the end, except for rare occasions, we all end up not really finding the words we need to speak to each other in our relationships. We are all inarticulate in love, painfully so.

Daily we find ourselves sitting across from someone where the situation calls for a new story and we can only stutter. There's supplication in the other person's eyes and in the situation itself: Please, a new story, not the old one! But that supplication and our best intentions add up to silence. We are mute before each other and so we talk sports scores, shopping, neighborhood gossip, fashion, the weather, the latest TV show, anything except what would need to be spoken.

It begins already when our children sit on our laps as infants and we are unsure of what to say, though perhaps then it is easier to find words to express our love. But it gets harder as they grow up and their persons and lives become complex as they wrestle with restlessness, sexuality, and their need to separate themselves from us. Then we begin to feel unsure and we can't find the words we need to speak or we find that we cannot speak the words we like to speak.

We agree with those who lose our closeness to our children. They begin to push away the old words and we find that, if we keep speaking those words, they push us away with the words.

But their supplication doesn't go away; they need us more than ever and they need to hear certain things from us. But what? The words we find are not words that they want to hear. All that tension is ultimately a supplication: A new story, not the old one. Tell me a new story!

And the same thing happens too inside all of our close relationships. We come to critical times, a friend is sick or even worse, they are as articulate as Lee-Yung Lee, ourselves. We aren't gods. And if we allow the words that others bring us to repeat the time-worn stories, the usual bad jokes at the wedding reception, the safe banter that moves things along: "Let's talk about last night's game! Let me tell you what happened at work! Have you heard this joke?"

But we sense that, figuratively, everyone's packing to leave: "Don't go!" we say desperately, "hear the alligator story again!" But they're all still here, begging for a new story: "Please, baba, a story!"

In the Foreword to The Black Prince, Iris Murdoch writes: "I have known, for long periods, the torture of a life without self-expression." Nowhere is this torture more felt than when we stand before our loved ones.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He can be contacted through his Web site, www.ronrolheiser.com.

Our Prayer is a Prayer for Life

This past Jan. 23, many of us in the Oklahoma City area had the good fortune to attend the Sanctity of Life Mass celebrated by Archbishop Beltran at Our Lady’s Cathedral. This has become a yearly tradition. It is another effort by the Catholic Church to help young women who are expecting a child not to go through the terrible ordeal of an abortion. This is a shock they will not outlive.

We are reminded of the two wonderful young women who had the courage to carry their babies to term, which gave my wife and I the opportunity to adopt our two sons, Jimbo and Mark. We have thought of these two young ladies many times and hope that God has truly blessed their lives.

We have in this country, two forms of state-sanctioned killing — abortion and the death penalty.

It is our prayer that the young women who are anticipating the birth of their child will have the courage to carry that child to life. If they cannot care for the child themselves, let someone adopt their child and give them the opportunity to experience life with all its joy and sadness. This is our prayer.

Editor's Note: Jim Fowler has fought to end the death penalty in Oklahoma for years. His son, Mark, was executed by the state of Oklahoma for his role in the deaths of three people during a grocery store robbery. A few years later, the man convicted of killing his mother was awaiting execution on Oklahoma's death row when DNA evidence proved he was not the killer. Since then Fowler has dedicated himself to ending capital punishment in our state. He argues life without parole follows with Church teaching. Jim can be reached at ja2bear@cox.net.

By Father Ron Rolheiser

Young Catholics Called to Present Gift

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of Catholic young people will be busier than usual this Lent doing service projects, if the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has its way.

The national organization representing Catholic education at all levels has issued an invitation to Catholic elementary and high school students, children in parish religious education programs, college students and seminarians to do voluntary acts of service in honor of the pontiff’s birthday. Pope Benedict will turn 81 on April 16, the second day of his six-day visit to the United States April 15-20. The project is called “Birthday Blessings for Pope Benedict XVI: A gift of public service from U.S. Catholic youth and students.”

The project allows each student to choose how to spend his or her time volunteering. Acts of service are broadly defined as anything that helps another person or improves the environment. This may include canned food drives, visiting nursing homes, writing letters to members of the armed forces or shut-ins, raising money for a charity or cleaning up a local park.

NCEA established a Web site, http://nceanews.org to help schools, parishes and individuals learn more about the effort and to register their volunteer hours. Service projects must be completed by May 31, 2008. Through an online “pledge form,” the site will gather information about the number of participants, total hours volunteered and the kind of service provided. NCEA will release this information to the media and to diocesan education officials, so they can know how many hours were pledged by young people in that diocese. A running tally of the number of participants and the total number of hours pledged will be displayed on the project Web site.

To learn more about the “Birthday Blessings” project, call NCEA at (202) 337-6232 or go to: http://ncea-catholic.org/.
Author Provides Historic Look at Christians in Egypt


★★★★☆

When people hear about modern-day Egypt, they think that the people there are all Muslims or that a great majority are. There is in fact a good number of Christians living in modern-day Egypt. The largest group of Christians are of the Coptic Orthodox Church, whose leader is Pope Shenuda III, the Patriarch of Alexandria, and is also known as the successor of St. Mark the Evangelist. Coptic Christians are descendants of Egyptians who lived during the time of the pharaohs. As Otto Meinardus presents in this book which is the final part of a trilogy on Egyptian Christians (Two Thousand Years of Coptic Christianity (1999) and Coptic Saints and Pilgrimages (2002)), Christian monasticism has its roots in the Egyptian desert. St. Antony or Anthony the Great is considered the founder or father of monasticism, especially eremitic (hermit) monasticism; while St. Pachomius is considered the founder or father of cenobitic (community) monasticism. Christian Egypt also produced some of the great Fathers of the Church like St. Athanasius, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and others.

The Coptic Christians split from the rest of Christianity over the issue of the nature of Christ. The Coptic Church was able to continue to grow in Egypt and to expand down the Nile River into Sudan and into Ethiopia. There are other Christians in Egypt, but these groups are not as numerous as the Coptics are. These groups include the Greek Orthodox Church, the Armenian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church and others. There are also various Protestant churches in Egypt too. Meinardus examines each of these groups.

When Arab invaders for Islam came to Egypt, they defeated the local inhabitants and forced them to either to die, convert to Islam or become like second-class citizens. Rule under the Muslims for the Christians in Egypt varied from ruler to ruler. Some were stricter than others, while some were persecutors of Christians. Christians many times served in the Muslim governments. Today Christians in Egypt do not have an easy life. They are limited by the government about building new churches and other activities. Pope Shenuda III was arrested after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. The government thought Coptics had a role in the assassination. The pope was eventually released.

Meinardus has six chapters in his book. The first is on Egyptian Christianity and its pharaonic heritage. The second is on Christians living in a Muslim country in the middle ages. The third is on the various churches in Egypt. The fourth is on various Christian agencies, social and ecumenical organizations. The fifth chapter is on Christian feasts in Egypt. The sixth is on the various leaders of the churches. The seventh is on multicultural and ecumenical spirituality in Egypt. There are three maps of the Coptic Church’s dioceses. There are endnotes, a bibliography and an index. There are no illustrations.

This book might be considered by some on the exotic side since it is about Christians in Egypt and especially about the Coptic Church. This book is recommended to those interested in the study of the various churches or who are interested in Egypt.

Meinardus is also author of Egyptian Christianity (2002), Monks and Monasteries of the Egyptian Desert (1989), The Holy Family in Egypt (1987) and of other books.

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

Freedom Found When We Truly Let God

Letting go and letting God is more challenging and more difficult than it sounds. Letting go seems so difficult when we are in the moment; experiencing hurt, anger, anxiety, fear, inadequacy and shame; worrying unnecessarily; having unreasonable expectations; being resentful; and insisting on things being our way.

When we are hurt and angry, we have probably taken something or someone personally. We can let go of that person or thing by realizing it is not about us and experience peace knowing that God loves us no matter what.

When we feel anxious and fearful, we can wonder what’s the worse thing that can happen, think it through and, if appropriate, let go. Oftentimes our fears are about what others will think of us and, frankly, it’s none of our business what they think of us. Our job is to be loving of ourselves and of others and to be close with God.

When we feel shame, inadequacies and/or humiliations, we can notice and observe what has happened and what we are thinking that are contributing to these feelings. We can let go by realizing these shaming feelings are the result of erroneous beliefs about ourselves we gained in childhood and adolescent years, and have nothing to do with what is now.

We worry about others even though we are powerless over them. We experience hurt and anger, even though what was done or said is not about us but about them. We experience shame and humiliation, even though we are exactly the persons God wants us to be.

We try to take care of others when they are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves. We attempt to control others and get others to do what we think is best, when they have the right to discover their own reality and what is best for themselves. The list goes on and on.

Other areas of letting go include: letting go of the need to give them advice, tell them what to do and protect them (except for young children); letting go of the need for financial success (if it comes, we can enjoy it); letting go of the need for affirmations, validations, honors and recognitions (if those occur, that’s nice); letting go of expectations, (preferences are preferable); letting go of needing things to be the way we want; letting go of resentments, (forgiveness helps) etc.

However, letting go is very difficult for we have been hanging on all these years. We have been reacting and responding to life this way since we were children and/or adolescents. Many of these attitudes, beliefs and behaviors may have worked for us as children but are not working for us today as loving adults.

It may be time to find the willingness to honestly explore and let go of old attitudes and beliefs that are causing us pain and frustrations. We can do so slowly and gently, taking baby steps, realizing we can’t do it all at once. Letting go and letting God can become a way of life. “The Language of Letting Go,” a daily reading book by Melody Beattie, may be helpful. Also, journaling, praying, meditating, attending 12 step support groups are helpful in letting go.

As we slowly let go and let God, we experience a new freedom and a new happiness; we discover a new and loving relationship with ourselves and with the Holy Spirit within; we begin to better understand and accept ourselves; we discover a yearning to live a life more focused on Jesus Christ’s call for us, and God the Father will smile up at us.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Joe Froehle has many years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by e-mail at jfroehle@wusbell.net.

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Buenas Noticias...

...Una Santísima Pascua

¡Sí, amó Dios al mundo! Le dio al Hijo Único, para que quien cree en él se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna!

¡Dios no envió al Hijo al mundo, sino para que se salve el mundo a él! No hay amor más grande que dar la vida por sus amigos. Y Jesús dijo: “Si ustedes me aman, guardarán mis mandamientos”.

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de Cristo, les deseo con mi mayor afecto una santísima y feliz Semana Santa y celebración Pascual. Estoy contento de adivinar que muchos de nosotros y nosotros quienes están con nuestros seres queridos disfrutaron una santísima y feliz Pascua!

Con el tema de crecer, vivir y compartir en la Fe

Padre Frank DeSiano dio una magistral predica en San Eugenio

Por Mauro Yanes
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Nuestra comunidad Católica en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City ha tenido innumerables bendiciones, entre ellas se cuentan las visitas de los sacerdotes de la parroquia San Eugenio. El Padre Frank DeSiano, quien viene de Nueva York para enseñar sus enseñanzas sobre la concordancia entre Dios y las personas, ha visitado nuestra parroquia.

Por Mauro Yanes
Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — La tolerancia es un cuestionamiento en los últimos días en Oklahoma. Han surgido personas y gruupos que tratan de enfrentar a la racismo y la discriminación en nuestra comunidad. Esto demuestra, en ocasiones, en manifestaciones, encuentros, entre otros, que existe una naturaleza de las personas que destruyen a las personas y comunidades. Debido a esto, se establece una brecha difícil de superar entre quienes piensan de una sola manera, si no para aquéllos que están por fines de su pensamiento único. La Iglesia Católica nos llama a unión y la paz.

Ahora en la Semana Santa, debemos hacer un acto de conciencia y de reflexión para nuestra presencia y la convivencia que mantener con los demás cristianos. La tolerancia de nuestro próximo, más que necesidad de imposición, sobre el otro, condones a muchas personas que pueden ser en situaciones indiscriminadas. En tiempo de Dios, Hagamos la paz y busquemos la reconciliación.
Felices ponen su fe en acción

Renovación Carismática fundamentada en la obra del Espíritu Santo

Ahogarse y adoración a nuestro Señor fueron momentos de intensa emoción.

Carismáticos saben que lo nuclear es un poderoso método de evangelización.

Por Mauro Yanes
Sooner Catholic

ADA — No hay duda que la Renovación Carismática en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City está permitiendo ampliar y desarrollar nuevo la profundidad del corazón donde Dios vive. Y, con ella, el asombro de las conversiones personales, el surgir de la oración, la lectura inmediatamente de la Biblia y la liberación al lado de la alianza.

Al respecto, el coordinador de la Renovación Carismática Arquidiocesana, el señor Andrés Martínez nos dijo: “La gente ha respondido y bastante parroquias se han incorporado en el movimiento de Renovación Carismática. El Espíritu Santo se está moviendo y la Iglesia se está renovando continuamente, la gente se siente motivada, porque hay más alegría, más gozo, más crecimiento y formación. La Iglesia nos está formando para ser buenos servidores de Cristo. La Iglesia de Cristo está viva”.

Como Andrés Martínez, hay una comunidad que está motivada y quiere saber más de Dios. Por tal motivo, Sra. Rosario Martínez, quien es la Directora del Ministerio Hispánico de la Arquidiócesis, nos envió un mensaje para seguir emocionados con el crecimiento del Movimiento Carismático: “El Señor es grande con nosotros, ven gan y entreguemos a Dios y sanen sus vidas”. El apoyo de los sacerdotes al movimiento de Renovación Carismática ha sido magnífico. Así lo dijo el Padre Parshall Head, párroco de la Iglesia San José en Ada, quien dijo: “Esto es más formación y educación de la iglesia en este movimiento”.

Finalmente, Dios nos invita a vivir y a anunciar al mundo con palabras y obras el Evangelio de Jesucristo, el movimiento de Renovación Carismática es una oportunidad que nos brinda para decir que no tenemos miedo y que estamos aquí por obra y gracia del Espíritu Santo para hacer el bien.

Posando con un miembro de Dios una nueva vida.

San Rosario Martínez, Andrés Martínez y el Padre Russell Head.

Dios los bendijo a todos presentes
Accountant
Archdiocesan Business Office is seeking a degreed accountant, Great Plains Software experience a plus. Interested candidates can fax a letter of interest, resume and references to Davis Johnson at (405) 709-2711 or by mail to P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

Individual Program Coordinator
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has an immediate opening for an Individual Program Coordinator. This position is from Wednesday through Friday and weekends. Responsible for the well-being of several residential clients. College graduate is preferred. Two to four years experience in working with clients with developmental disabilities is ideal. We pay competitive wages, provide training and have a paid time-off program. To apply, call John Isenegger at 263-4656, fax résumé to 263-4563 or apply in person at the Center of Family Love at 635 Texas, Okarche 73762. EOE

Direct Care Technicians
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for Direct Care Technicians. This position is from Wednesday through Friday and weekends. Work with people with developmental disabilities and get a great sense of satisfaction. College graduate is preferred. Two to four years experience in working with clients with developmental disabilities is ideal. We pay competitive wages, provide training and have a paid time-off program. To apply, call John Isenegger at 263-4656, fax résumé to 263-4563 or apply in person at the Center of Family Love at 635 Texas, Okarche 73762. EOE

Youth Ministry Coordinator
Holy Spirit Church in Mustang, a friendly, growing parish, seeks a full-time, mature, experienced, practicing Catholic to be youth coordinator for all youth. BHE for grades 9-12, Coordinator of Confirmation program and Whole Community Catechesis team member. Bachelor’s degree in theology or religious education, or CMD certification or desire to obtain same required. Mail request for application, references and letter of interest to Father Jim, Holy Spirit Church, P.O. Box 246, Mustang, Okla. 73064.

Early Childhood Teacher
Villa Teresa School in Oklahoma City has an opening for the 2008-2009 school year for a kindergarten teacher. Candidates must have a bachelor’s degree in early childhood or child development. Send resumes to Villa Teresa School, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City 73103, or call Sister Veronica Higgins for an interview, 232-4286.

Elementary School Principal
St. James School in Oklahoma City is seeking a principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader for the school. St. James has pre-K through eighth grade. St. James enrolls approximately 190 students. Applicant must: 1) be a practicing Catholic; 2) have a master’s degree in educational administration or a related field or be working toward such a degree; 3) have a minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a Catholic school. Salary is based on qualifications and experience. Position available June 1, 2008. For an application, contact Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202, or contact mdubey@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Elementary School Principal
St. Mary’s School in Ponca City is seeking a principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader for the school. St. Mary’s has pre-school through eighth grade. St. Mary’s enrolls approximately 150 students. Applicant must: 1) be a practicing Catholic; 2) have a master’s degree in educational administration or a related field or be working toward such a degree; 3) have a minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a Catholic school. Salary is based on qualifications and experience. Position available June 1, 2008. For an application, contact Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202, or contact mdubey@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Teacher Needed
Volunteer English teacher needed for the Father Rother Parochial School in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Room and board provided. For more information, contact Father Tony Taylor at (405) 517-2203.

Maintenance Employee
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is looking for a Maintenance Department employee. Responsibilities include keeping the grounds of several buildings in good repair. A high school degree is required, preferably in a building trade. Minimum of a year’s experience is preferred. Interested candidates should send their resume to L.D. McGowin, Maintenance Director, 801 NW 50th, Oklahoma City 73118. Any questions may be directed to 842-6638 Ext. 241.

Financial Aid Director
St. Gregory’s University has an immediate opening for the position of Financial Aid Director. Position is responsible for managing all federal, state and institutional student aid programs; supervising loan programs; and supervising, training and evaluating financial aid personnel. Bachelor’s degree required, with advanced degree desired. Minimum two years experience in financial aid work at the college level. Excellent organizational, management, interpersonal and communication skills required. Send cover letter, resume and references to St. Gregory’s University, Human Resources Director, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, 74804, or e-mail hr@stgregorys.edu. EOE

Assistant Professor, Political Science
St. Gregory’s University, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts college, is seeking qualified applicants to serve as Director of Campus Ministry. Responsibilities include oversight of a comprehensive campus ministry program (as articulated in the USCCB’s Empowered By The Spirit), coordination of student liturgies, implementation of ongoing catechetical and faith formation activities, coordination of service and mission trip opportunities for students, and direction of fall and spring retreats. The Director of Campus Ministry also serves as consultant/supervisor for the Buckley Center for Working Adults. Applications should be sent to the following address, with a letter discussing the candidate’s potential contributions to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to hr@stgregorys.edu or mail to Dr. Denise Shannon, Director of Campus Ministry, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee 74804.

Adjunct Faculty
The College for Working Adults at St. Gregory’s University on the Shawnee campus has openings for adjunct faculty at the undergraduate and graduate level: General Education, Business and Business Law, Computer Science, Professional Development and Psychology. A master’s degree is required, preference given to those candidates with experience teaching adults. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and transcripts to hr@stgregorys.edu or mail to Dr. Denise Shannon, Director of Campus Ministry, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee 74804.

Director of Campus Ministry
St. Gregory’s University, a small Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts college, is seeking qualified applicants to serve as Director of Campus Ministry. Responsibilities include oversight of a comprehensive campus ministry program (as articulated in the USCCB’s Empowered By The Spirit), coordination of student liturgies, implementation of ongoing catechetical and faith formation activities, coordination of service and mission trip opportunities for students, and direction of fall and spring retreats. The Director of Campus Ministry also serves as consultant/supervisor for the Buckley Center for Working Adults. Applications should be sent to the following address, with a letter discussing the candidate’s potential contributions to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send a cover letter, vita and references to hr@stgregorys.edu or mail to Dr. Denise Shannon, Director of Campus Ministry, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee 74804.

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Summer/Fall Courses Offered by Pastoral Ministry Program

The Pastoral Ministry program of the Archdiocese is designed specifically to respond to this call of Vatican II. Theology and ministry courses are offered during spring, summer and fall semesters for the education and formation of persons for ministry in the Church. Courses may be taken for college credit (with the possibility of a BA in Pastoral Ministry from Newman University or an Archdiocesan diploma) or may be audited for personal enrichment or continuing education.

Classes ordinarily meet for 15 weeks, evenings or Saturday mornings, for 3 hours/session. Minimum of 10 students required for a course to be offered.

Tuition and Costs:
For credit, 3 hour course, $160 plus textbooks.
Personal enrichment: $90 plus textbooks.
Graduates of our programs, continuing education [no credit given]: $75 plus textbooks.

SUMMER 2008 SCHEDULE

Electives
THEO 4883 Formation and Methodology for Catechists. Monday evenings, June 2-July 21, 6 to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, Peggy Dooley. This course offers students a closer look at what it means to be a catechist.

THEO 4883 History of the Papacy Tuesday evenings, June 2-July 22, 6 to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, John Braniff. This course will explore the rich history, tradition and role of the Papacy.

FALL 2008 SCHEDULE
Core Courses
THEO 1003 Old Testament Literature. Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC, Jim Williams. A study of the law, prophets, historical books and wisdom literature of the Old Testament using analytical methods of contemporary scholarship.

THEO 3053 Sacrament; Theology. Thursday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC, Peggy Dooley. A consideration of the Church community as Sacrament — sign and cause — of Christ in the world today. Prerequisites: Theology of Church and New Testament.

THEO 4053 Creeds and Faith. Tuesday evenings, 7 to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC, John Warren. A study of the Catholic community’s endeavors to adequately articulate and systematize its beliefs through the centuries. Prerequisites: Ordaingly taken as the last course in the program, or after at least 5 core courses.

Electives
THEO 2003 Introduction to Doctrine. Thursday evenings, 7 to 10 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena, Pauls Valley, John Warren. This course examines the elements which comprise a Catholic-Christian vision of God, world and self. This course serves as an introduction to the Pastoral Ministry program.

THEO 4883 Later American Catholicism. Wednesday evenings, 7 to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, Mike Chavez. This course will examine developments in the Catholic Church in the United States since the Second Vatican Council.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION COURSES
Information on courses in Spiritual Direction is available from Benedictine Ministries, (405) 373-4739. When offered, these courses may be taken for college credit through the Pastoral Ministry program.

THE CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY STUDIES PROGRAM
Information on a series of courses that promote leadership development for ministry with adolescents is available from the Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Office, (405) 721-9229. These courses may be taken for college credit through the Pastoral Ministry program.
Faith on Exhibit
Heritage Room Offers Oklahoma Catholics Opportunity
To View Up Close People and Ministries That Have Helped
Plant and Grow Our Faith Over the Past 100 Years

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic schools looking for an educational and inspiring end-of-the-year outing for students might consider the Heritage Room at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Parish groups might also want to make sure the Heritage Room is on their list of pilgrimage sites.

The Heritage Room was developed as a part of the Centennial Celebration of the Archdiocese in 2005. It’s located inside the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7501 Northwest Expressway. The exhibits are changed each January, bringing a new focus to the heritage and leadership of the Catholic Church that has existed for more than 100 years in Oklahoma. Jim Weinmann, who helps coordinate the Heritage Room for the Archdiocese, said even if a Catholic has toured the Heritage Room once, a repeat visit is necessary since exhibits have been changed out and new ones added.

The first bishop of Oklahoma, Bishop Theopile Meerschaert, was featured in the Heritage Room in 2005. Bishop Clement Kelley was featured in 2006 and Bishop Eugene McGuinness was featured in 2007. In 2008, the exhibit dedicated to an Oklahoma bishop is focused on Bishop Victor Reed. This is fitting since the book “The Road to Renewal,” which focuses on Bishop Reed, was released late last year.

The Heritage Room will continue to display items related to Father Stanley Rother. The Oklahoma priest was shot to death in Guatemala in 1981 and last year his Cause for Canonization was approved by the Vatican.

Weinmann said the exhibit dedicated to Father Rother shows photos and mementos kept by his parents, as well as some of the hats he wore around the Okarche family farm, while working there prior to entering the priesthood. There are several items in the exhibit that came from Father Rother’s ordination Mass in 1963.

Another exhibit features the incredible works of art created by the late Father John Walch, while another exhibit is dedicated to the remarkable life of the late Father Victor Van De Walle. Father Van, as he was known, served as chaplain in three national armies: Belgium, British and American. He even served as a spy for the Belgian underground during World War II.

Mount Saint Mary High School, the Sisters of Benedict and the Red Plains Monastery are also featured in the Heritage Room as is Saint Joseph Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City’s first Catholic Church built in 1889.

Weinmann said groups are welcome to visit the Heritage Room during the week. “If they like, they can arrange to attend Mass at 11:30 here at the Pastoral Center and have lunch with us.” He said tours are appropriate for third grade and up.

To arrange a tour of the Heritage Room, contact Jeanine McFall at 721-5651.