Pope ‘Deeply Saddened’ by Japanese Disaster

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed his solidarity with the dead and their families in Japan, as the Japanese Church makes quick plans for relief efforts following a deadly earthquake and tsunami.

On March 11, an 9.0-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Japan and a lengthy series of aftershocks sent enormous waves up to two miles inland in some low-lying areas, uprooting houses and obliterating entire towns.

Experts are comparing the power of these tidal waves to those that struck southeast Asia in 2004 and took more than 200,000 lives.

According to a report from CNN, Italy’s National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology calculated that the Japanese earthquake was so strong, the planet shifted on its axis by nearly 4 inches.

Initial estimates put the number of dead after the disaster at more than 10,000 with the final number expected to rise.

Father Daisuke Narui, executive director of Caritas Japan, told the Vatican’s Fides news agency on March 12 that the Church’s focus for continued on Page 7

Sooner Catholic
Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Volume 37, Number 6 * March 20, 2011

Rite of Election

A 70-year-old man is greeted by Archbishop Coakley at the Rite of Election. Some 609 people from across the Archdiocese took part in the rite celebrated March 12 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Photo/Cara Koenig

Sunday Mass Now Being Broadcast on KTLR

Oklahoma Catholic Radio, KTLR, will now be broadcast- ing Sunday Mass from noon to 1 p.m. on 890 AM and 94.1 FM. Many individuals in our area cannot attend Mass every Sunday for various reasons.

Motivated by the need, Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting has been working with Tyler Media to offer all of Oklahoma’s Catholics more access to the celebration of the Mass.

Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting president Jeff Finnell called this “a great moment” for Catholic radio in Oklahoma. “Thank you to Tyler Media for helping us to bring Mass on Sunday.”
The Church is clearly more than meets the eye. Though having a visible hierarchical structure, established by Christ upon the foundation of the apostles, the Church is also a mystery, that is, a sign and instrument of the unity that God intends for the human family. As such, the Church is a people gathered together into the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to share in the very holiness of God, who is love. Though human sinfulness and the many harmful divisions which disfigure the Body of Christ too often fail to manifest this deep truth to the world, the Church is essentially a communion of love. The Church is holy. She belongs to the Jesus Christ, the Word of God who alone is holy, who became man, shed his blood and gave his life to sanctify and redeem her and make her his bride. This intimate communion of the Church with the Holy One is beautifully expressed in the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ (cf Eph 5:22).

At the dawn of the third Christian millennium, Pope John Paul II wrote in Novo Millennio Ineunte, “Holiness, a message that convinces without the need for words, is the living reflection of the face of Christ.” (NKI8) Holy men and women offer the most credible form of testimony to the truth of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church. Though we are often painfully aware of the weakness and sinfulness of the Church’s members, her essential holiness remains one of the Church’s principal and defining marks. As we profess in the Creed: “I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.” God calls us to become saints. Like the wise steward who “brought from his storehouse both the old and the new, the Church is also a phatic presentation of this universal call to holiness. Like the wise steward in the Gospel parable (Mt 13:52) who brings from his storehouse both the old and the new, the Council Fathers represented a Gospel truth that has been present from the beginning, though frequently overlooked. Chapter 5 of Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) is wholly dedicated to this foundational truth, that all Christians, in virtue of our baptism, are called to holiness. This cardinal teaching is not merely a spiritual veneer, but the very foundation of the Christian life, of all pastoral planning and pastoral work.

One of the greatest single contributions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) was its clear and emphatic presentation of this universal call to holiness. The Church is holy. She belongs to the Jesus Christ, the Word of God who alone is holy, who became man, shed his blood and gave his life to sanctify and redeem her and make her his bride. This intimate communion of the Church with the Holy One is beautifully expressed in the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ (cf Eph 5:22).

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Relic of Saint Damien to Visit Oklahoma City April 5

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocese of Oklahoma will host the relic of St. Damien of Molokai at the Catholic Pastoral Center on April 5. The relics are scheduled to be at the CPC, 7510 NW Expressway, for the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, Emeritus, will celebrate Mass. All priests of the Archdiocese are invited to concelebrate.

Following Mass, the relic will be on display for veneration beginning at 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. There will be a 15-minute prayer service at the start of every hour, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. After the 4 p.m. prayer service, the relic will move to Tulsa.

Everyone in the Archdiocese is welcome to the Mass and veneration.

St. Damien was a missionary priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He served in Hawaii from 1864 to 1889, working for the last 16 years with the quarantined Hansen’s patients, more commonly known as lepers.

For the 16 years he served the lepers he was pastor, doctor and advocate for the conditions of his people. In his time there he built two orphanages and improved the water and food supplies and housing.

St. Damien eventually contracted leprosy himself and refused treatment because it would cause him to have to leave his people. Pope Benedict XVI declared him a saint on Oct. 11, 2009. He is considered a “martyr of charity” and is the ninth person who lived and worked and died in the United States to be named a Catholic saint. St. Damien’s feast day is May 10.


Prayer to St. Damien

Damien, brother on the journey, happy and generous missionary, who loved the Gospel more than your own life.
Who for love of Jesus left your family, your homeland, your security and your dreams.
Teach us to give our lives with a joy like yours, to be in solidarity with the outcasts of the world, to celebrate and contemplate the Eucharist as the source of our own commitment.
Help us to love to the very end and, in the strength of the Spirit, to persevere in compassion for the poor and forgotten so that we might be good disciples of Jesus and Mary.
Amen.

Mount Alumni To Host Officer Peery Benefit

OKLAHOMA CITY — A benefit auction will be held April 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum to benefit 1995 Mount St. Mary alumnus and Oklahoma City Police Officer Chad Peery. On Feb. 15, Chad was off-duty and enjoying a basketball game with his father at a local establishment when he was asked by restaurant staff members to assist with the removal of three disorderly patrons.

During the course of events, the three males attacked and severely beat Officer Peery, causing paralysis. Alumni of Mount St. Mary High School, St. James Catholic Church and many friends will host the event, including a tasting from numerous restaurants, dancing and both a silent and live auction. All proceeds will go to Peery, his wife and four children who are facing a significant financial and emotional burden.

For more information about how to donate, visit www.officerchadpeery.com.
During college, Archbishop Paul Coakley walked. He memorized poetry and star-gazed. He learned calligraphy, read Dante, and studied abroad in rural Ireland along with classmate James Conley now the Auxiliary Bishop of Denver. Archbishop Cookley and Bishop Conley's study-abroad classmates included two other priests and three men who are now monks at Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery: Seriatian Matthew Sharpe, Brother Joseph Morris, who runs the farm, and Father Ricks Baels, who runs Clear Creek's shop.

While this might sound like the education that one would receive in the Middle Ages, in fact it was at the University of Kansas in the early 1970's. This was an experiment in tradition. The program was the joint venture of professors John Senior, Dennis Quinn and Frank Nelch, who conceived of the program as an "experiment in tradition" in a time when traditional ways of life had been newly traded for suburbanization and corresponding conceptions of cultural and technological "progress."

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The professors were scholars, very witty. What they said the spirit of the times provided fertile ground in which the program blossomed. That generation of students, made up mostly of middle-class products of the post World War II era, having lived a fairly affluent and easy existence, was not so anxious about getting a job, but was looking for answers. For those young people it would be heaven or hell — nothing mediocrities in between.

Bishop Conley affirmed this. "The culture at KU allowed the program to flourish. The program started in '70 and it was as radical, avant-garde. An 'experiment in tradition' seemed edgy. They might not have been able to pull it off if times were not so crazy. Students were really searching for something Amidst a lot of destruction and bad times. They saw war, Watergate, looked and said, 'There must be more to life than this.' The Integrated Humanities Program offered something that really struck a chord with students."

The difference between the professors of the humanities program and other professors, Brother Philip said, was great. "Most professors were more or less afraid of the students, especially when some student would stand up in class and accuse his or her teacher of being a 'fascist' or some other such unlikely thing. The Humanities Program professors shocked me by the fact that they displayed no fear, but rather an impressive boldness in telling the students — quite frankly — how ignorant they were and how much on the wrong track they were, before showing them the right one. This was done through discussions about great literary classics, such as the Odyssey."

Dan Kuhn, now a farmer in the Diocese of Salina, agreed that much of the appeal of the program lay in the professors. "They were very appealing to students. The classes were fun to go to. The professors were scholars, very witty. What they talked about resonated with students. What is truth? Love? What does it mean to be human? What is good? What does it mean to do with my life? What is the best thing to do with my life?"

It was out of these questions, which so deeply resonated with students, that so many religious vocations arose. "There wasn't really a directed attention to finding one's calling. The three professors, two were Catholic and one converted along the way, were themselves a bit astonished when people showed interest in religious life. The allure was to get people to look seriously at questions, and this did led them to look seriously on their own vocation. Bishop Conley said of the program that helped lead him to his own priestly vocation. It is this strength of this experience that Archbishop Paul Cookley brings with him to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Bishop Conley affirms that his friend "continues to read and study and will bring that to Oklahoma City. He brings such a depth of wisdom and experience to the Archdiocese."

Bishop Conley spoke highly of his friend, Archbishop Cookley in general. "He's wonderful. He's a real man of the Church and of God."
State Again on Wrong Immigration Path

By Father Don Wolf
St. Benedict, Shawnee

There’s another round of anti-immigrant legislation making its way through the Oklahoma Legislature this season. I spoke recently with Richard Rings, the director of the Office of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services at Catholic Charities, who warned me about the upcoming debates. “It’s going to be a tough political season on immigration,” he said.

The previous time there was such talk House Bill 1804 was the product. It was this bill, as you remember, that prompted the Archbishop and the Council of Priests to sign the Pledge of Resistance because the legislation came close to criminalizing the work we did in parishes. Roughly 40 similar bills are being proposed? Life has gotten tougher for all of us.

And the justification for them is a mixture of tortured reasoning and ignorance. In fact, much of it is fabricated from urban legends and unreasoned fear. It is astounding to me that we can pass laws in our state based on so little information and such unreasonable anxiety. I have spent more than 30 years working with Mexican immigrants, both legal and illegal. I am not an expert on every aspect of their lives and concerns, but I am no neo-phyletist either. As I have heard our lawmakers talking about the anxieties they want to address, it has become clear to me that we did in parishes. Roughly 40 similar bills are being proposed? Life has gotten tougher for all of us.

We are a political people as a people of faith. It is our responsibility to respond as citizen and exercise our power as those who have the fullest possible stake in our system. We often reserve the admonition that we should “stay out of politics.” The notion is that a group of people in a parish has no business being involved in the diverse and difficult world of political action. The Church does stay away from endorsing particular candidates, that’s too difficult and the common image of the American dream. In the television programming of the ’50s and ’60s, there was almost no acknowledgment of anything other than being perfectly white and perfectly American. In Hollywood’s America there were no Jews, Catholics or Pentecostals. Certainly there were only a few blacks and almost no one with an accent that we did in parishes. Roughly 40 similar bills are being proposed? Life has gotten tougher for all of us.

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And immigration is an area in which we are to be especially sensitive. There are three principle reasons that we are to be especially sensitive. There are three principle reasons that we are especially sensitive. The first is obvious, we have always been and continue to be an immigrant Church. Since the early days of our presence in the United States, we Catholics have been the place where immigrants gather. In the earliest days we were the Church of the Germans. Later we became overwhelmingly Irish. After that there were the Italians. Following them came the Poles and Slovaks and the Sicilians, followed by, in our day and time, the Mexicans and the Vietnamese.

There were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country. In each case there were outcries and concerns that these people were taking over the country.

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Pope: Sin Calls for ‘Spiritual Combat,’ Not Denial

VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) — Although many people reject the notion of sin, it is a reality of life, said Pope Benedict XVI at Sunday’s Angelus. He encouraged believers to join Christ in “spiritual combat” during Lent.

Despite a steady rain, thousands of pilgrims were present in St. Peter’s Square to pray the Angelus with the Pope on March 13, the first Sunday of Lent. A group of motorcyclists greeted the Pope on March 13, the first Sunday of

The 40 days of Lent constitute a time of spiritual preparation for Easter, of following Jesus to the “elimination of his mission of salvation” in his death on the cross, said the Pope.

Lent and the cross exist “because evil exists,” he said. And although many do not accept the term “sin” for offering a religious vision of the world and humanity, sin is “the profound cause of every evil,” he explained.

“In fact,” said the Pope, “it is true, if God is eliminated from the horizons of the world, one can no longer speak of sin.”

He compared humanity’s sense of sin to a shadow that only exists in the presence of the sun, and disappears when the sun is hidden.

Pope: Sin Calls for ‘Spiritual Combat,’ Not Denial

And the most serious and most profound slavery is precisely that of sin.
For this, God sent his son to the world: to liberate men from the dominion of Satan, ‘origin and cause of every sin’.

― pope benedict XVI

“...the eclipse of God brings with it necessarily the eclipse of sin.”

Therefore the sense of sin — which is different from the ‘sense of guilt’ as psychology understands it — is acquired, rediscovering the sense of God.

The Pope said that King David’s Psalm 51, a prayer of repentance written after he committed both adultery and homicide, expresses this sense.

“Against you only have I sinned,” David tells God.

God’s attitude is one of opposing the evil while aspiring the sinner, said the Pope. “God does not tolerate evil, because he is love, justice and fidelity — and precisely for this he does not want the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live.”

He observed that God’s saving intervention in human history has been evident from the time of the ancient Jews’ liberation from slavery in Egypt. “God is determined to liberate his children from slavery,” he reflected, “to guide them to freedom.”

“And the most serious and most profound slavery is precisely that of sin. For this, God sent his son to the world: to liberate men from the dominion of Satan, ‘origin and cause of every sin’.”

“He sent him in our mortal flesh so that he might become a victim of expiation, dying for us on the cross.”

“Against this plan of definitive and universal salvation, the devil is opposed with all his strength, as demonstrated particularly in the Gospel of the temptation of Jesus in the desert, which is proclaimed every year on the first Sunday of Lent,” said the Pope.

“In fact, entering into this liturgical time means aligning oneself with Christ every time against sin — facing, both as individuals and the Church, the spiritual combat against the spirit of evil.”

Pope Benedict invoked the assistance of Mary so that Lent might be “rich with the fruits of conversion.” He asked for special prayer for himself and members of the Human Curia as they begin their Lenten exercises.

Carmelite theologian and professor, Father Francois-Marie Lethel, is leading the March 13-19 exercises this year on the theme “The Light of Christ in the Heart of the Church — John Paul II and the Theology of the Saints.”

After the Angelus prayer, the Pope remembered the victims of the earthquake and consequent tsunami this week in Japan. He encouraged those working in emergency zones and asked the faithful to join him in praying for the victims.
March 20, 2011 * Sooner Catholic

Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio to Give Lenten Mission

EDMOND — All are invited to come hear Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio, noted author and speaker, on successive evenings this Lenten season. The Evangelization Board at St. John the Baptist Parish is offering a Lenten Mission on three consecutive evenings: March 21, 22 and 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. These talks are geared toward improving our understanding of our Catholic faith, getting more out of the Mass, and recognizing the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church is located at 9th and Boulevard in Edmond. Follow the outdoor signs to the entrance of the church. Child care will be provided.

You are invited to these talks for an opportunity to grow in your Catholic faith and enhance your experience of this Lenten season. For more information about the Lenten Mission, call Deacon Gary Peterson at 340-0691 Ext. 110, or the Parish Office at 340-0691.

Pallium Pilgrimage To Rome

Archbishop of Oklahoma City

June 27 ~ July 4, 2011

The pallium is a white woolen band worn over the shoulders and is bestowed upon new metropolitan archbishops by the Holy Father on June 29 at St. Peter’s Basilica. The pallium symbolizes authority and expresses the special bond between the archbishops and the Roman pontiff.

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Pope Saddened

continued from Page 1

the moment is on the most vulnerable.”

Cortinas and the local Church are collecting information on affected areas to plan their response efforts, he said. He was particularly concerned about the city of Sendai, hit hard by a wall of sea water, because he had not yet been in contact with the Cortinas director there.

On a national level, the charitable association started the solidarity campaign in all Japanese churches on March 13, with Masses being dedicated to the memory of the victims. Bishop Marcellinus Doji Tani of Saitama, one of the areas struck by the tsunami, told Fides that Catholics “will respond to the tragedy of the earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan, with prayer and solidarity.”

Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone transmitted the Pope’s condolences and prayers for the Japanese people in a March 14 telegram to the president of Japan’s Catholic bishops, Archbishop Leo Ikenaga of Osaka.

“Deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic effects of the major earthquake and consequent tsunami which have struck Japan’s northeastern coastal regions, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI assures all who have been afflicted of his close

ness at this difficult time.”

“His prayer for those who have died, and upon their grieving families and friends he invokes divine blessings of strength and consolation,” wrote Cardinal Bertone.

“The Holy Father also expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those providing rescue, relief and support to the victims of this disaster.”

For his part, Father Narui of Caritas told Fides that the “painful event” could also be an opportunity to share the Gospel values of fraternity, building common good and recognizing human dignity.

“If, with our work and our witness,” he concluded, “we can communicate that, then from this evil will come good.”

From Page 1
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) using Montessori hands-on method is focused on the Bible, Mass and Sacraments. Presently, Mother Teresa’s Sisters of Charity are implementing the program not only to teach children but also in the formation of their own Sisters.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, several parishes and schools have adopted CGS, among them Saint Mary’s in Guthrie, Saint Joseph’s Old Cathedral and Christ the King in Oklahoma City. Saint Eugene’s Parish is in the preparation stages of adopting CGS.

Christ the King Parish and School have a combined enrollment of 150 children in their Level I for ages 3-6 and Level II for ages 6-9. The parish and school adopted CGS in the fall of 2010.

Montessori learning is hands-on. At Christ the King, CGS gives children lessons that include The Found Coin, The Good Samaritan, The City of Jerusalem, The Cenacle (The Last Supper), the Women at the Tomb and the Books of the Bible.

Children ages 3-6 work with The Found Coin and through this they learn, like the woman in the parable, that God never stops searching for us and He rejoices when we are found. The lost coin was precious to the woman. In Biblical times, the coins were a woman’s dowry, like her life insurance. They were sometimes sewn into a woman’s clothing. She would know if it was missing. The parable is presented as preparation for Reconciliation, where God seeks us and reunites us to Himself. The parable parallels the parable of the Found Sheep, where the Good Shepherd finds the lost sheep on his shoulders and carries it home. The sheep and the coin cannot find their way home by their own strength, it is by God’s.

The older children also work with The Good Samaritan, in this they learn that the Samaritans and the Jews did not like each other. It was not always safe for the Jews to travel through Samaria. The Samaritan was moved with compassion when he saw the wounded man. It is sometimes hard to help someone you don’t like. Jesus helps us, His love knows no boundaries.

The 3- to 6-year-old children are involved with lessons such as The City of Jerusalem, which focuses on Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem. Another lesson involves The Last Supper, which another focuses on the Women at the Tomb. Another lesson teaches about the books of the Bible. In this, children learn the Bible is one book made of many books that are set in a particular order to recount the history of the Kingdom of God. Some books, children learn, have many pages, some books have two or three pages. The length of the book is represented in its height, in this lesson. Isaiah is the tallest. The greatest number of letters were written by Saint Paul; they are listed on the cover. This precious book has had a lengthy formation. The Bible was written by hand on animal hide before the inventions of paper and the printing press. Data shows, children learn, God’s Word has lovingly been cared for with respect through the ages. The children can take out books, they can work with the mute chart and labels and they can fill out their own charts.

A Hands-on Approach to Centuries-Old Teachings Spreading Across Archdiocese

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training

Formation Training is taking place for those interested in receiving certification in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd religious education program (Level 1). This course will give you the background formation as well as the skills needed to create a Montessori environment, an atrium, and make presentations that enable the child to draw nearer to God.

St. Eugene Catholic Church is sponsoring the trainer, Marilee Quinn, who has been working with children in an atrium for more than 20 years. Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive, is hosting the formation training. Level 1 (Part 1) training sessions will be June 16-19 and July 7-10, 2011. Level 1 (Part 2) training sessions will be June 14-17 and June 28-July 1, 2012. Both parts should be attended in order to receive certification.

Registration/tuition for the training sessions is $125. A deposit of $50 is due by March 31. The balance is due by the first day of class. Please request a registration form by e-mailing Christie Ardoin at csardoin@cox.net, or by calling (405) 842-2323.
During the 1990s, scientists discovered two gene mutations in the BRCA family of genes which significantly increase a woman’s chances of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Consequently, as noted in a recent Los Angeles Times article by Anna Gorman, “Many oncologists recommend that women with the mutations consider having their ovaries, fallopian tubes and breasts removed prophylactically (as a precautionary measure) to reduce risk.”

Yet controversy swirls regarding this recommendation. Prophylactic surgery of this kind has been termed “surprising” and “extreme,” and some question whether it is, in fact, justifiable, given that the organs appear to be healthy (no cancer is detectable), and there is a limited probability that the disease may one day appear. Some medical professionals instead encourage frequent monitoring and screening of patients with the BRCA mutations, so that if cancer appears, and as so it appears, aggressive surgery could then be pursued.

On one side, then, are those who stress the personal and spiritual growth by developing their individual organ or a part of the other are those who stress that an “Principle of Integrity”), while on the other is the difficulty is thus ethically justifiable and reasonable in certain cases.

Nevertheless, even the scientist who discovered the BRCA mutation, Mary-Claire King, Ph.D., has acknowledged the incredible challenge raised by her discovery: “It is a very difficult thing to recommend prophylactic oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries) when it is healthy woman you are talking about. It is a radical thing to consider in a female age. When it comes to a bilateral mastectomy (removal of both breasts), the difficulty is only compounded. As another researcher observed, “In Western society at least, there is no organ as connected to femininity, sensuality, sexuality, adulthood and motherhood as the breast.”

Anna German, the LA Times staff writer who tested positive for the BRCA mutation and ended up opting to have her ovaries removed, described how she could not quite bring herself to have her breasts removed as well, even though her mother, grandmother and aunt had all died at an early age from cancer. “I was still getting used to the idea of losing my ovaries. I had always viewed a preventive mastectomy as a drastic measure. It seemed I was risking losing nearly everything — at least physically — that defined me as a woman.”

The real cost of this kind of surgery is incalculable. The personal and spiritual growth by developing their prayer life, social skills, independence and respect for others. Contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 405-721-9220 for more information.

Gospel Choir to Perform

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Young Black and Gifted Gospel Choir of Grinnell College will minister in Oklahoma City on Sunday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m., following Living Stations of the Cross in the Atrium on April 1. The concert will begin at 8 a.m., they will sing at Mass at Epiphany Church, 7336 W. Britton Road. At 11 a.m., they will provide a Lenten concert at Christ the King Parish, 13501 S. Western, Oklahoma City on Sunday, March 18. They will present a sacred music concert at Epiphany. Composed of members from Iowa to South Africa, the choir has a 30-plus-year history of ministry and has performed throughout the United States.

McGuinness 25th Annual Auction

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness 25th annual auction dinner and dance, “We Are Family,” will be held at the McCarthy Gymnasium on the Bishop McGuinness campus. The evening includes a dinner, dance music, live and silent auctions and a raffle drawing. Theme dress is encouraged. Reservations are required, you can purchase your auction tickets online at www.bmchs.org. For more information, contact Patricia Hudakos at 405-468-1309 ext. 230 or phudakos@bmchs.org.

Lenten Concert

OKLAHOMA CITY — Michael James Mette will perform a Lenten concert at Christ the King Parish in the Atrium on April 1. The concert will begin at 8 p.m., following Living Stations of the Cross in the church at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Patricia Hudakos at 405-468-1309 ext. 230 or phudakos@bmchs.org.

Farewell to Villa Teresa Moore

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa Moore School will be closing in May 2011. We are Family. The closing event will be held at the McCarthy Gymnasium on the Bishop McGuinness campus. The evening includes a dinner, dance music, live and silent auctions and a raffle drawing. Theme dress is encouraged. Reservations are required, you can purchase your auction tickets online at www.bmchs.org. For more information, contact Patricia Hudakos at 405-468-1309 ext. 230 or phudakos@bmchs.org.

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OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness High School has offered a personal finance class for seniors for the past several years, but instructor Todd Farris, BMCHS Practical Studies Department chair, has taken the class to a new level.

"I find it very interesting that until recently you could not graduate high school without knowing what an amoeba was, how to solve a quadratic equation, or without the knowledge of how to diagram a sentence," said Farris.

"However, you could exit high school successfully without basic personal financial knowledge."

The Oklahoma Legislature mandated three years ago that high school curriculum include a personal finance course. But Farris and McGuinness were years ahead of that mandate.

"I'm proud to say that Bishop McGuinness is one of the first high schools in the state offering a contained, senior level, personal finance program as a semester course required for graduation," Farris said.

Six years ago it was an elective with an initial class of just 24 McGuinness students. The course evolved over the next few years to become one of the largest elective courses at the school.

There currently are 90 students enrolled in the personal finance class. Farris estimates about 500 students have taken the course since it was first offered.

"There definitely is a need for students to take a personal finance course," Farris said.

In the course, students discuss and learn about having a checking and savings account and the use of debt and credit cards. Farris said first-year college students are "bombarded" with offers from credit card companies and the temptation to overspend is an easy mistake to make.

"There's a lot of snakes out there and it's easy to get bitten," he said.

"There's an opportunity to learn from mistakes others have made."

National Finalists Announced

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced that four seniors from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School have been named finalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Lilian Flannigan, daughter of James and Kelly Flannigan of Edmond; Grace Johnson, daughter of Laura Johnson of Oklahoma City; Valerie Kastens, daughter of Dr. Donald Kastens and Dr. Teressa Folger Kastens, both of Oklahoma City; and Parker Klingenberg, son of Kenneth and Gaile Klingenberg of Oklahoma City.

To become a finalist, students must have an outstanding high school academic record, be endorsed and recommended by their school principal and submit SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance. In addition, the student and school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's self-descriptive essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community activities. Out of the 16,000 finalists, the process of selecting 8,200 Merit Scholarship winners is now in progress. Announcements of Merit Scholar designees will be made later this spring and summer.

Irish Learn Financial Fitness

A group of students huddle around Dr. Guiseppe Caccioppoli following his presentation during the Oklahoma Catholic Student Conference at St. Gregory's University. The title of Caccioppoli's presentation was "Saintly Devotion and Other Vital Elements of a Life of Holiness." (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

Jeremy Stanbury performs a scene during his one-man drama, "Lolek," at Surkeys Performing Arts Center. The play, which is based on the young adult story of Pope John Paul II, was part of the Oklahoma Catholic Student Conference (OCSC) at St. Gregory's University. The three-day event attracted approximately 50 college students from across the state. In addition to the play, OCSC featured five guest speakers and offered Mass, confession and adoration. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

Saint Greg's Hosts Students
College Attending: Conception Seminary

fully I will know more soon.

bishop Coakley was installed, so hope-

We have been waiting until Arch-

made until the Archbishop tells me

somewhat unclear at the moment.

thankful for this scholarship.

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helps us to be able to see things from

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Leadership Program and Beta Alpha

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parish, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities,

you donate. Gifts can be made to benefit your

them. You pay no capital gains tax on the securities

transfer, no matter what you originally paid for

market value of the securities on the date of

donor’s tax return in most cases. The Catholic

can generate an income tax deduction on the

appreciated securities to the Catholic

Did you know that a gift of stocks, bonds or other

valuable securities to the Catholic Foundation

can create an income tax deduction on the

donor’s tax return in most cases. The Catholic

Foundation can turn around and sell your

securities and use the proceeds for its endowments

or programs as you, the donor, wish. You receive

credit for your gift at the Catholic Foundation and

an immediate income tax deduction for the fair

market value of the securities on the date of
transfer, no matter what you originally paid for
them. You pay no capital gains tax on the securities

you donate. Gifts can be made to benefit your

parish, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities,
vocations and parish retirement, or a myriad of

Archdiocesan ministries. And you can have the

satisfaction of making a significant gift now or

funding a life-income gift that benefits the Catholic

Church upon your death. Remember, your gift is

an investment in the future of our faith.

For more information or planned giving contact

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4315  www.cfofok.org
bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans
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were not always easy, but there was no notion that anyone had a problem with the demands or the presumptions of being American. I heard it best from a couple who spoke with me a few weeks ago at St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral in downtown Oklahoma City. He and she were both Ukrainians. “We grew up learning not to speak the language of our parents. They thought it was low-class to teach our kids anything but English,” he said. Where did they learn it from? That’s the question.

Immigrants and immigration formed almost no part of the image of American life from the heyday of American identity.

And yet it was present everywhere. I knew old men in my hometown who barely spoke English, they were Czech or Bohemian. The man who went fishing with my grandfather and who was the local expert on repairing windmills and well pumps had been a sailor in the Austrian-Hungarian Navy. My great-grandfather’s mother and her brothers and sisters all spoke German, as did my mother and her siblings. Half of the kids I knew went to school with kids of Mexican origin, and some of them had parents who couldn’t speak English at all. The organist at Immaculate Conception, my home parish in Oklahoma City, had been a member of the Dutch resistance movement in World War II. Everyone was a Catholic. We all shared this one identity although we spoke different languages and came from different countries. I didn’t see this reality on TV but I lived it every day as a child. We were surrounded by the reality of immigration every day as part of the tapestry of Church life even in the “white belt” culture of the ’50s and ’60s.

So when debate begins to heat up about immigrants, our ears have to perk up, we are to be faithful to our own past. We own it to the men and women who built the Church in Oklahoma to be responsible for our own history and to remain in solidarity with them and their reality, to take time to do this. It is as partly because we enter into the streams of our culture, which does not tolerate much variance from its official story. And the story is that while we may be different from one another and come from a variety of places, we leave all differences at the door. After a while it’s almost impossible to remember that the new people we see, who seem so different, look just like we used to. We’re so used to saying we’re all the same that real differences seems intolerable. And partly we don’t know what to do or how to act around those who are not just like we are eight now. So we ignore them or, worse, go after them.

About 10 years ago we had a family reunion at my mother’s house. That was a gathering of my mother, her mother’s family, the ones who emigrated from Germany most recently. I’ve still have cousins in Germany whom we visit — about five years ago the reunion included a group of them who came to participate — this coming April a group of family members is going back to visit them. After Mass we were standing around in the side of the church. We were talking about my parish in Duncan and its missions. I mentioned that Duncan was about 60 percent Mexican and the missions to the south, Waurika and Ryan, were virtually 100 percent Mexican. Someone said: “Those Mexicans are all right except they just don’t want to learn English.” But we were standing at a church surrounded by stained glass windows, most of which has an inscription at the bottom saying, “Gaudelum ven...” “Gaudelum for Domitio...” Yeah, those Mexicans. The census thing in the world is to forget.

I don’t know of a single church in Oklahoma in which there are stained glass windows in Spanish. Of course, the Germans came to Oklahoma because the government was giving away free land; they ended up sharing wealth and prosperity to celebrate and share. Mexicans have had no such luck and no such offer of state welfare. The German luxuriance in their rugged independence and their hard work, as if they had earned everything they have. Mexicans are known for their communal bonds and are often described as lazy. It’s easy to forget where we came from and what’s true.

And so what is it absolutely important for us to remember the threats of the immigrant in our midst. If we don’t pay attention, if we don’t stand up and speak out of our own experience and our own history, if we don’t allow the current of the prevailing culture to carry away our sensibilities and our emotions, then we are living a lie. And the Church founded by Christ will not prosper built on lies.

The second reason we are impacted to be attuned to those concerns is that the Bible tells us that if we are really a vanguard of our own history, that is to say, we must prompt us to pay attention even more intently. The Scriptures say, in Deuteronomy 24:17 and 27:19 that Israel shall defend the orphan and the alien because they too were once aliens in the land. Understand the implication the Lord spoke from exile because they were themselves immigrants and aliens, as they treat them is how they would want to be treated.

It is instructive, given the four expressed at the state Legislature, to consider what the Israelites faced as aliens in the land. In Exodus the author describes what went on in Egypt when they became anxious about the Hebrews in their country. First of all, a Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. Joseph had saved the country as administrator and ruler. As part of his time he ordered his brothers and their families to cross the border to come and live in Egypt and share in the prosperity he helped to adjudicate. These families stayed and prospered over time and Joseph became only a memory. But the Egyptians looked around and decided there were too many of these Hebrews they said to one another; “If there is a war, they are likely to join our enemies.” Notice this was an invested threat; there was no notion on the part of the Hebrews that they would turn against the people with whom they lived. This fear was only in the minds of Egyptian politicians. It didn’t exist in fact among the people they were concerned about.

So they enacted laws that enslaved the Hebrew people. Out of fear they turned them from prosperous participants to embittered slaves. The result? The people became more numerous. If you want to grow faster than the surrounding population, impoverish them! This appears to be what the author of Exodus, writing about an event from 5,000 years ago, knows that finally social policy and had low produces pain and unin- tended consequences. That’s when things turn deadly. Out of the fear of these increasing numbers, Pharaoh decided to put all of the Hebrew male children to death. Written in between the lines is the hint from the author that if the Hebrews had not been willing to join the enemies of Egypt, before, in case there was a war, they certainly would have by then. He produced an invested threat, which produced faulty policies, which resulted in pain and suffering, which produced more fear, which resulted in dead children and ethnic rage.

It is important for us the line the infection ofSolidanes that our own remrant immigration debate recirculates.

God rescues people from slavery every day. Our chance is whether we’re going to be Pharaoh’s or whether we’re going to be Moses. The current legislative debate is designed to make the people it affects miserable. It has no more to do with their misery and social policy based on the immigration of foreigners, especially women and children, including children who are citizens, is a policy only Pharaoh’s could be proud of. Several years ago when I was first ordained, I stood outside of the parish church waiting for the people at the 10 p.m. English Mass to leave. The choir for the 12 p.m. Spanish Mass was arriving. Next to me was a young Mexican. ‘Why do the Hebrews have to pay attention even more intently. The technical word for it is: “Satanism.”

Sooner Catholic

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Immigration

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selves. We are citizens; they are non-citizens. We can make the difference where we are. Only we can make peace and hope share the same ground. Only we can have a chance to create a new world. And only we have access to change our hearts and minds. We are citizens; they are non-citizens. We can make the difference where we are.

Lenten Retreat to Focus on Marriage

LAWTON — Holy Family Catholic Church is hosting a Lenten Marriage Retreat — Creating Great Marriages and Marriage Ministry — from Friday, April 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Featured speaker is Dr. Paul Kleponis. He is a licensed clinical therapist and a nationally certified counselor. Kleponis has extensive experience in marriage counseling and in the marital education programs of the Institute of Marital Healing. He also participates in evaluation and training seminars for multiple marriage education programs. Kleponis has a Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Kleponis is a member of the Catholic Medical Association. Tickets are $25 per couple and child care is available. To register and for more information, call Teresa Cara at 580-704-2272.
Call upon the energies of The Holy Spirit provided through God’s love...
OKLAHOMA CITY — David Egan was honored as Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and was recognized at the recent Green Tie Gala. Held March 12 at the Skirvin Hotel, the Green Tie Gala is a major fundraiser supporting Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Egan, director of operations for Cattlemen’s Steak House, has been involved with projects in support of the Women’s Sanctuary Development Center, a ministry of Catholic Charities.

“The Women’s Sanctuary has become a model neighbor in the Stockyards area,” said Egan. When accepting his honor at the gala, he said he was accepting it in the name of his mentor and uncle, the late Father David Monahan, “without whom he would not be getting this award.”

Amy Hampton, one of the case managers from Sanctuary, provided a brief overview of how the ministry supports women. Last year the ministry served 406 women and children. Ninety percent of individuals that came to Sanctuary participated in case management, which helps them in a number of areas, including jobs and housing.

“The money you help raise tonight will keep Sanctuary open and helping people for another year,” said Hampton.

Below, silent and live auction bidding goes on throughout the night at the Green Tie Gala. At right, David Egan receives his Grand Marshal sash he will wear in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Far right, Amy Hampton, case manager at Sanctuary, thanks everyone who was in attendance for their support of Sanctuary and gave a general overview of how last year’s Green Tie Gala helped the women and children that come to Sanctuary. Photos by Cara Koenig.