‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’

Luke 23:34
The Good News

... ADF Progress and Potential

I wish first of all to express my sincere gratitude to the 8,061 people who have already made their 2010 ADF pledges. I am extremely grateful to you for your great generosity. Together you have pledged $2.5 million. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

To the people of our Archdiocese who have not yet made a pledge to the current ADF appeal, I earnestly ask you please, please do so now. We, the Church, need your help and your support.

The annual ADF appeal is an organized effort to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus among us. In accordance with our society and the reality of life on this earth, it does deal with money. Finances are an integral component of life on this earth. Things must be purchased, rented and paid for. We all know that and we know that this applies also to the Church as well. Thus, each year the Church of our Archdiocese asks you to be a part of this essential work, the funding of the mission of the Church. Your individual contribution, combined with the contributions of other Catholic people, provides the operating funds for the next fiscal year.

This year again our goal is $3 million. Despite rising costs, we have maintained a balanced budget. No new programs or expenses are planned. However, there are essential services that the Archdiocese must provide.

Our Catholic Pastoral Center here on the Northwest Expressway continues to be the hub for religious education and evangelization through the 46 counties of central and western Oklahoma and the Panhandle. The coordination and direction of all the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, the programs for marriage and family life, the education of our seminarians, our youth ministry and campus outreach as well as insurance and legal matters affecting all Catholic parishes, schools and institutions are handled from the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The $3 million goal for ADF is used solely for the funding of these works and ministries of our Catholic faith. The ADF is the principal source of all our support and therefore crucially important for the life of the Catholic Church here. Therefore, I again thank those who have already pledged and I sincerely seek the participation of every Catholic person. Please make your pledge to ADF today. Thank you.

ADF 2010 Gift Form

Please Print Clearly
Mr. and/or Mrs., Ms., Rev., Dr. ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Credit this donation to Parish ____________________________

Credit Card: Please Charge my __ Master Card __ Visa __ a one time charge

Account # ____________ Exp. Date (Mo./Yr.) ____________

Card Holders Name ___________________________________ (Please Print)

EFT Transaction A check must be enclosed. All transactions will be processed on the 15th of the month.

Signature ____________________________

Please indicate method of payment

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Make checks payable to the ADF
Mail to ADF, P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123
Lawmaker Continues Battle To End Commercialization of Women's Eggs

Predatory Medicine Not Needed In Oklahoma

By Rep. Rebecca Hamilton
For The Sooner Catholic

More money comes out of my paycheck for tuition than anything else. I have two kids in college and I’m proud of it. I imagine there are a lot of other parents out there in the same boat. But if that child you’re so proud of is a daughter, you might be sending her to a place where she is being asked to sell her body, her future fertility, her health and even her life for a few thousand dollars.

Every day of the school year, the University of Oklahoma’s student newspaper runs an ad offering coeds between $5,000 and $45,000 to submit their healthy young bodies to an egg harvesting facility in Dallas. It appears as if this facility is part of a national chain of egg harvesters. A reporter I know contacted this facility and was told they supply eggs to a location at 1000 Lincoln Blvd. in Oklahoma City. That’s the address of the OU Health Sciences Center.

A few weeks ago, I passed HB 3077 through the Oklahoma House of Representatives. HB 3077 would stop egg harvesters from paying our daughters to submit to egg harvesting. The bill is now in the Senate. Since then, the state medical association has unleashed its army of highly paid lobbyists with one mission: kill the bill.

HB 3077 would not stop any woman from donating her eggs. All it does is take the money out of the game. But, as a prominent egg harvester commented to the press a few days ago, “No woman in her right mind would be willing to spend seven weeks of tests, blood drawings, injections and a surgical procedure to remove eggs without being compensated.”

What he didn’t mention is that his own professional organization, The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, says that 2 percent of women who undergo infertility treatment, which uses lower doses of drugs and is thus much less dangerous than egg harvesting, “will develop severe OHSS characterized by excessive weight gain, fluid accumulation in the abdomen and chest, electrolyte abnormalities, over-concentration of the blood … blood clots, kidney failure or death. It may be medically necessary to drain fluid from the abdomen with a needle if breathing becomes difficult…”

Other medical literature, written by people who have no financial stake in this, set the complication rate at 3 percent.

If someone solicited your daughter for her bone marrow with an offer of thousands of dollars, they would be sent to prison, even though the risks to her health are much lower for bone marrow donation. Doctors can’t buy and sell kidneys or lungs. But they can and do buy and sell your daughter’s eggs.

Egg harvesting is part of a $6.5 billion business. According to the New York Times, doctors who engage in this business are some of the highest paid in the industry, often making salaries that range in the millions of dollars per year.

This is not medicine as we’ve always known it. Egg harvesting represents a new, predatory kind of medical practice where doctors who are sworn to treat illness, deliberately make well people sick. Egg harvesters pay healthy young women to submit to dangerous, painful medical procedures that do not benefit the women in any way. This is commercialized medicine that violates the trust patients place in their doctors and makes a mockery of the tenets, such as “first, do no harm,” on which most of us believe the doctor-patient relationship is supposed to be based.

All this depends on the exploitation of our daughters’ young bodies through egg harvesting. How many 20-year-olds will look at these ads and say, “That’s money for spring break! Mom and Dad will never know.”

And you may not ever know … until years later, when she has trouble having children of her own, or you get a call from a hospital that she’s in big trouble, or worse, a call from the morgue.

I don’t know about you, but I didn’t scrimp and save to send my kids to college to have them exploited to feed the coffers of commercialized medicine. When I look at my kids, I still see the precious little babies that I brought home from the hospital. I would die myself before I let someone do things like this to them.

If you feel the same way about your child, you need to call your senator. Tell him or her to ignore the army of lobbyists working to ensure the egg harvester’s profits and protect your daughter. Tell them to vote for HB 3077 and send it to the governor for his signature.

Hamilton is a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She’s a Democrat and represents south Oklahoma City.

Health Advocates: Buying Eggs Is Buying Trouble

By Jennifer Lahl, David Prentice and Mike Jeste

Dr. Eli Reshef, in a recent op-ed in The Oklahoman, tries to emotionally manipulate with stories of women who can only use donated eggs for IVF. His stories are compelling, and he may mislead some into thinking Rep. Rebecca Hamilton’s bill, HB 3077, would effectively ban egg donation in Oklahoma, but in truth, the bill only bans commercial payments. Those payments, thousands of dollars, are used as an inducement to lure young women to risk their health. Similar compelling stories abound for young women whose health has been damaged, and some dead, after being lured into egg donation by such financial incentives.

The bill does not ban donation of eggs — altruistic donation is allowed. Dr. Reshef rightly states that “No woman in her right mind would be willing to spend seven weeks of tests, blood drawings, injections and a surgical procedure to remove eggs without being compensated for her time and trouble.” One might wonder just why that might be. While he correctly identified some of the time and steps involved in egg donation, he blithely ignores the real health risks also associated with egg donation. His statement that there is “no scientific evidence” for risks to women’s health is blatantly false. Perhaps he is simply ignorant of the huge volume of published scientific papers, going back over 15 years, that warns of these risks. Those include papers in journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Human Reproduction, Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics, and Fertility and Sterility, the flagship journal of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), Dr. Reshef’s professional society. In fact, ASRM’s own guidelines for fertility doctors note that “life-threatening complications” include kidney failure, respiratory distress, hemorrhage from ovarian rupture, and blood clots.

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BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND PROVIDES HEALING

By Paul Fagiano
For The Sooner Catholic

Pain, both physical and emotional, is what I was dealing with prior to learning about Beginning Experience. The emotional pain was hidden fairly well, but co-workers were beginning to wonder if I was terminally ill since I had lost a large portion of weight which I did not need to lose. Sleep deprivation had become so common I felt as if I could not escape the reoccurring thoughts of hopelessness that accompanied the betrayal I had been victimized by. The one person I loved so very much had betrayed me and treated me like a complete stranger. I had met and faced my Judas and did not know why this occurred. The pain was so intense I did not know if I would survive or if I even wanted to survive. Through the help of medical professionals and DivorceCare, I survived and accepted my loss, yet I sought something more to help me move forward.

Growing up Catholic, including 12 years of a Catholic education, prepared me well for life’s experiences, but preparing me for the devastation associated with a failed marriage nearly destroyed me. Knowing the detachment often associated with divorce, I assumed the Catholic Church would turn away from me in my most desperate time of need. I was astonished to learn of the Beginning Experience group, which was originated by a Catholic nun for a friend of hers who was suffering the pain and devastation of divorce.

Without family and nowhere to turn, I sought answers, but there were no answers, just disbelief and despair. Keeping my faith, I prayed for some guidance and found a brief article in the St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church weekly bulletin. The article announced a Beginning Experience Weekend. The brief description identified a weekend for people who have experienced loss through the death or divorce of a spouse and who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives. Something I had been searching for, a group that could relate to the pain I had been going through. I immediately called and spoke with one of the Beginning Experience local organizers and learned that this weekend encounter was for people just like me, seeking to discover more about themselves and desiring to forgive and let go of the pain that held me so tight as if it was choking the life from me. After confirming my reservation in advance, the weekend finally arrived and I found myself driving to the Pastoral Center on Friday evening to begin an experience of uncertainty. Would this encounter be beneficial or would it simply magnify the pain I was carrying? As I entered the building I was greeted by a friendly face named Al who welcomed me to the Pastoral Center where I would be spending the entire weekend. I still did not know what to think. Did I commit myself to some sort of lockdown? What I learned was that I had found a peaceful place filled with a group of people just like me who have each experienced painful loss and also have the desire to move forward.

Thinking my first evening would be a relaxing retreat was far from the truth. After introductions, we immediately began the experience. I can’t remember when I worked so hard at healing. The large group of participants was subdivided into small groups. There were gatherings with the large group and meetings with the small group. There were also times of solitude to reflect my most interpersonal thoughts and feelings to acknowledge what I had endured in my life. The weekend concluded on Sunday afternoon with a private Mass including a special blessing for each of us. I left the weekend exhausted but fulfilled. I developed friendships that are a continuing source of support for me.

For me to be whole is to embrace the power of the Holy Spirit by appreciating what I have rather than what I have lost. To fulfill this new appreciation, I felt compelled to give back, so I have trained to assist with facilitating future BE weekend workshops. The next BE weekend will be held April 30 through May 2, 2010, at the Pastoral Center, located at 7501 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. If you or someone you know is experiencing the loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death, and have come to terms with the loss and are ready to begin to move forward, please consider contacting the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 108 for additional information. Another resource to learn more about BE can be found on the Internet at www.beginningexperience.org.

LIFE ISSUES FORUM

PROJECT RACHEL: COME BACK TO YOUR GOD OF LOVE AND MERCY

What is at the root of the culture of death? Why is it so entrenched?

In The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II offered this explanation: “The heart of the tragedy being experienced by modern man [is] the eclipse of the sense of God and of man … when the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life.” (The Gospel of Life, No. 21). This involves a “darkening of the capacity to discern God’s living and saving presence.” (Ibid.). We can stumble blindly into serious sin and remain trapped in our misery, because we fail to see how eager God is to restore a repentant heart to wholeness and peace. Many mistakenly view God as the Law Giver and Judge who condemns and rejects us along with our sins.

The priests and counselors in the Project Rachel network — the Church’s post-abortion ministry — see proof of this mistaken notion every day. They also see daily proof of the healing and joy experienced by those who’ve reconciled with God and opened their hearts to His grace and love.

For decades our culture has exalted personal freedom, subjective morality and self-interest — all of which make it difficult to accept the responsibilities and sacrifices of parenthood. When confronted with an unplanned pregnancy, then, many women and men fail to understand the full moral gravity of abortion. Often they are blind to the truth that what they have conceived is a priceless and irreplaceable child whom God has entrusted to their care. The child is seen as a barrier to their own plans and fulfillment, and abortion is seen as the “fix.”

But after the abortion, the fog of moral confusion can quickly burn off. Many mothers and fathers become overwhelmed with guilt, grief, shame and self-hatred. They may despair of ever being forgiven. Many find it impossible to forgive themselves.

To help those who have been involved in an abortion understand the heart of God, to understand the Divine Mercy proclaimed by many saints, the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has embarked on a new outreach campaign, using ads that invite these wounded souls to reconcile with God and find peace through the Project Rachel ministry. Each ad opens with desparing words commonly voiced by post-abortive women and men, and then responds with the promises offered by God’s merciful heart:

I don’t deserve to be happy. God wants to restore your happiness.

God will never forgive me for this. God’s greatest desire is to forgive.

I feel so worthless. You are precious to God.

I can’t believe I let this happen. Never let your past keep you from God.

The ads close with the invitation to “Come back to God, who is love and mercy.”

Jesus came not to judge, but to reconcile us to the Father. He knows our sins and bore them on the cross. He is the Redeemer who can make all things new, including our broken lives burdened by sin.
In Brief

New Members Sought

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Woman’s Activities Club, a group of women made up from parishes in Oklahoma City and surrounding areas, is looking for new members. We meet the second Thursday of the month from September through May at the Patio Room at Epiphany of the Lord Church at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and program. We are an affiliate of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. We pay $20 dues a year. Our mission is to support the works of the church, community and Third World countries. All Catholic ladies or non-Catholic of Catholic spouses are invited to come to one of our meetings and see what we are all about. After attending one meeting, you may become a member. Please give us a try. For more information, call Tis Bohlman at 528-7687 or Pearl Sullens at 524-3641.

Students Assist Haiti

Sister Catherine Powers, superintendent of education, said students in our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City collected $22,370 to help the quake-devastated people of Haiti. The largest amount was collected by St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, which turned in a check for $4,223. The school has an enrollment of 193 students, making the contribution $21.88 per student.

Letter of Thanks

Received For Gift

Your Excellency,

At the Holy Father’s direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of $83,397.44 which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter’s Pence offering of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for the year 2009.

His Holiness is deeply grateful for this gift, which reflects your people’s devotion to the See of Peter. He is most appreciative of the effort and sacrifice which this collection involved.

Commending you and the clergy, religious and laity of the Archdiocese to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

With personal good wishes, I remain Yours sincerely in Christ,
Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State

Oklahoma Catholics Urged to Join Census

WASHINGTON — Through the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to encourage participation in the Census 2010, in order to reach hard-to-count communities.

Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity, urged parishes and dioceses to encourage local people to participate. “It is important to get the word out because some of the populations we serve tend to normally be undercounted,” Archbishop Gomez said.

“Pastors have a responsibility to know their flock. The Church commends to bishops, priests and their many co-workers the care of all Catholics in their parishes and dioceses. The U.S. Census is a useful tool for learning about God’s people, who and where they are, and many other facts that shed light on their lives, possibilities and struggles. A Church that seeks to evangelize is characterized by outreach. The U.S. Census gives us important information to do that.”

The questionnaire is short and easy. It asks name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. The information gathered by the Census is confidential and only shared in aggregate numbers (statistics) once the surveys are completed.

Scouts Earn Rank of Eagle

MIDWEST CITY — Jonathan M. Fairchild and Stuart L. Symes of Troop 122 have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jonathan is 17 years old and attends Mount St. Mary High school and is the son of Ron and Jane Fairchild. He joined the Scouts in second grade at his home parish of St. Philip Neri and has earned 35 merit badges. He has served as librarian and senior patrol leader in his troop.

Jonathan’s project was to refurbish a bike trail at Lake Stanley Draper. While riding his bike at the lake, he noted that many of the trails around the lake were washed out and some were even dangerous to ride on. He chose one of the trails and with the help of his troop, they dug out the ruts, leveling the path and used pylons on the sides to help stop future corrosion.

Stuart is also 17 and attends Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and is the son of Roy and Belinda Symes. He too joined the Scouts in second grade at Saint Philip Neri and has earned 34 merit badges. He has served as junior patrol leader and senior patrol leader for his troop.

Stuart’s project involved helping make the seniors who receive mobile meals through Saint Philip Neri Church. He created a book of directions for the drives and painted the house numbers in reflective paint on the senior’s curbs. Both parts of the project helped make getting to and finding the houses much easier for the volunteers and emergency vehicles.

Jonathan Fairchild and Stuart Symes
Catholic Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline Nears

Each year, the Catholic Foundation awards college scholarships to an estimated 60 students from throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The scholarship recipients are determined based on academic achievement, service to church and community, and financial necessity. The recipient must be a permanent resident in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

While all scholarships are awarded regardless of the college or university chosen by the applicant — students attending a Catholic university receive triple the customary Catholic Foundation award of $1,000. Additionally, St. Gregory's University in Shawnee and Newman University in Wichita, Kan., match the Catholic Foundation Scholarships for students attending these Catholic institutions. In addition to these general undergraduate degree scholarships, there are special scholarships awarded for medical school, nursing and pastoral musician's studies.

In addition to the income from the Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund, scholarships are also awarded from the Amelia P. Davis and Elizabeth J. Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Evelyn and Kathryn Hau Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Helen R. Hall Nursing Scholarship Fund, the John E. Greenan Scholarship Fund, the P.B. Connelly Medical Scholarship Fund, the Quasebarth Family Scholarship Fund, the Mary White Clarke Scholarship Fund, the Bob Little Pastoral Musician's Scholarship Fund and the Duffy Family Scholarship Fund.

The deadline for making a scholarship application is Friday, April 16, 2010. Applications and instructions on filling out the application can be downloaded from the Catholic Foundation Web site at www.cfook.org. Applications can also be obtained from your pastor or parish religious education director, or by mail by calling the Catholic Foundation offices at (405) 721-4115.
Notre Dame Scholar to Talk on a Catholic Ethic of Political Reconciliation

NORMAN — Daniel Philpott, associate professor of Political Science and Peace Studies, Notre Dame University, will present a lecture titled “Justice After Evil: A Catholic Ethic of Political Reconciliation” on Thursday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Dick Bell Courtroom of the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. The College of Law is just south of Timberdell Road in central Norman and straight north of the OU baseball stadium. Several parking lots surrounding the College of Law are open evenings.

Dr. Philpott will discuss the meaning of peace and justice in the aftermath of civil war, genocide and dictatorships. How does a country come to resolution about these past traumatic events? The dominant approach focuses on human rights, democracy and punishment through criminal tribunals. Philpott will discuss values that are undervalued in this dominant view — values such as forgiveness, sorrow, remorse, repentance and trust. He calls these values cumulatively “Reconciliation.” He will focus on Catholic moral and social teachings, especially as articulated by Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, to discuss peace and justice in post-conflict societies.

He is the author or editor of three books since 2001 and many articles on transitional justice, religious freedom and ethics in international relations. He has been actively involved in promoting faith-based reconciliation in Kashmir and Burundi.

Dr. Philpott’s visit to OU is sponsored by the Catholic Students Association of the University of Oklahoma and St. Thomas More University Parish. He is the 2010 True Family Lecturer.
GREEN
TIE
GALA

The 2010 St. Patrick’s Grand Marshal Green Tie Gala was celebrated March 6 in downtown Oklahoma City at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. The event this year benefited Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary Women’s Development Center. In honor of the event, women at the sanctuary created handmade rosaries that were given to each guest. Grand Marshal for this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade was Tom McDaniel, president of Oklahoma City University. Pictured above is the McDaniel family: Tom and Brenda with their three boys, Lance, Randy and Mark, and his wife, Stacy, and their children, Cole, Joshua, and Meghan. Below is Martin Rouine, Consul General of Ireland visiting with Tom and Brenda McDaniel and Peggy O’Connor. At left, Amy Hampton, a case worker at Sanctuary, talks about the program. Hear what Hampton has to say about the ministry at the Web site of the Sooner Catholic, www.catharchdioceseokc.org, then click on Sooner Catholic and then on the podcast button.
The writer and producer of the hit movie “Bella” will be the keynote speaker at the Birth Choice Life of the Party gala to be held April 10 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club.

The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. Tickets are available for $100 a plate or you may reserve a table for eight at $800. Corporate sponsorship is also available.

Some of the auction items this year include a weekend getaway to Grand Lake, a trip to Sonoma Valley, gourmet dinners, romantic ride for two on a sailboat and diamond earrings.

The band “Mystery Dates” will perform at the event.

If you would like to attend The Birth Choice “Life of the Party,” please contact Development Director Jan O’Neill at 606-8426. Seating is limited.

Bella producer Leo Severino graduated from the University of Southern California Law School in 1999 and started his career as a young lawyer in one of the world’s largest law firm’s (Gibson Dunn & Crutcher) prestigious Los Angeles and London offices.

He quickly found his niche in the firm’s Latin American Corporate Transactions Department, but his heart had been set on Hollywood since his 1997 summer internship with 20th Century Fox. He stayed with the law firm for a little over two years before transitioning to entertainment law.

In 2001, he moved to the Fox Network Group where, as director of Business Affairs, he was the youngest executive in the department and worked for three years with the company handling the national programming division. A chance meeting with Eduardo Verástegui in 2004 resulted in Leo’s departure from 20th Century Fox to become a partner and producer, in charge of business affairs, for Metanoia Films.

Bella is a heartwarming story about friendship, family and our capacity for love in the face of the unexpected. It’s a story of regaining lost faith and the challenges life presents us with which help us to grow in spirit. Bella is indeed a result of such faith, and shines as a true testament of what the human spirit can accomplish. This film is a gift and is for a certainty the reward of pursing an honest dream, one of purpose, meaning and love.

“Bella can be for the pro-life movement what Uncle Tom’s Cabin was for slavery because it put out the message of life that hits home,” says Severino. Despite all odds, Bella was accepted into the Toronto Film Festival and won the festival’s Peoples Choice Award.
Student Wins Free Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus sponsor a free throw contest every year at each Catholic grade school for boys and girls ages 10 through 14. Those winners participate in a regional contest and the regional winners participate in a state contest. The state winners for each age level are compared across the United States and the highest scorer from all three contests is declared the international winner.

Ricky Bisson representing Christ the King School in Nichols Hills was the winner in the 12-and-under age bracket, making 14-of-15. He then participated at the district level held at St. John the Baptist in Edmond. Winning at that level making 22 out of 25, he participated in state competition held at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. He made 25 out of 25 attempts and won the state competition in the 12-and-under bracket.

His total scores from all three competitions was compared with all other state winners and he was declared the 12-and-under International Champion based on his total scores.

Paul Weigl of Council 12669 presents Ricky Bisson with the International Award for the 2008-2009 school year at Christ the King School.

Altendorf Receives Distinguished Alum Award

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rosary School honored Tim Altendorf as the Distinguished Alum for the 2009-2010 school year. Altendorf has been a wonderful supporter of Rosary School faculty and students for many years and was honored Jan. 24 to begin our Catholic Schools celebrations.

His support includes providing scholarships for our students, committee positions, and special events provided for our faculty and children.

His support continues to the parish, St. Francis of Assisi, as well as to Bishop McGuinness High School.

OU Academy Offering Two Week Sessions

NORMAN — High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply for a session of the OU Summer Academy of Math, Science and Engineering. The academy is directed by Dr. Richard Neal, Ph.D. The academy offers two week-long sessions providing students entering their junior or senior year in the fall with hands-on experience in the basic areas of mathematics that reinforce the study of college physics, engineering and mathematics. Areas covered include probability, logic, statistics and calculus.

The sessions will emphasize the use of extensive symbolic notation required to represent mathematical ideas. In each week-long session, students move from concrete examples to more abstract ones using hands-on methods. Students extend the notation from the concrete cases in ways to represent the more abstract ones. They will compare and contrast the use of technology for undergraduate physics, math and science students.

Twenty-five students will be accepted for each week-long session. Session 1 is July 18-24, while Session II is July 25-30.

For more information, contact Chris Elliott, OU Precollegiate Programs, (405) 325-3488 or 325-6897, celliot@ou.edu, or visit the Web page and download a brochure at http://youth.ou.edu.
Cost Called Too High, Loss Too Great

WASHINGTON — Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued the following statement on the state of health care reform:

The Catholic Bishops of the United States have long and consistently advocated for the reform of the American health care system. Their experience in health care and in Catholic parishes has acquainted them with the anguish of mothers who are unable to afford prenatal care, of families unable to ensure quality care for their children, and of those who cannot obtain insurance because of pre-existing conditions.

Throughout the discussion on health care over the last year, the bishops have advocated a bipartisan approach to solving our national health care needs. They have urged that all who are sick, injured or in need receive necessary and appropriate medical assistance, and that no one be deliberately killed through an expansion of federal funding of abortion itself or of insurance plans that cover abortion. These are the provisions of the long-standing Hyde amendment, passed annually in every federal bill appropriating funds for health care; and surveys show that this legislation reflects the will of the majority of our fellow citizens. The American people and the Catholic bishops have been promised that, in any final bill, no federal funds would be used for abortion and that the legal status quo would be respected.

However, the bishops were left disappointed and puzzled to learn that the basis for any vote on health care will be the Senate bill passed on Christmas Eve. Notwithstanding the denials and explanations of its supporters, and unlike the bill approved by the House of Representatives in November, the Senate bill deliberately excludes the language of the Hyde amendment. It expands federal funding and the role of the federal government in the provision of abortion procedures. In so doing, it forces all of us to become involved in an act that profoundly violates the conscience of many, the deliberate destruction of unwanted members of the human family still waiting to be born.

What do the bishops find so deeply disturbing about the Senate bill? The points at issue can be summarized briefly. The status quo in federal abortion policy, as reflected in the Hyde Amendment, excludes abortion from all health insurance plans receiving federal subsidies. In the Senate bill, there is the provision that only one of the proposed multi-state plans will not cover elective abortions — all other plans (including other multi-state plans) can do so, and receive federal tax credits. This means that individuals or families in complex medical circumstances will likely be forced to choose and contribute to an insurance plan that funds abortions in order to meet their particular health needs.

Further, the Senate bill authorizes and appropriates billions of dollars in new funding outside the scope of the appropriations bills covered by the Hyde amendment and similar provisions. As the bill is written, the new funds it appropriates over the next five years, for Community Health Centers for example (Sec. 10503), will be available by statute for elective abortions, even though the present regulations do conform to the Hyde Amendment. Regulations, however, can be changed at will, unless they are governed by statute.

Additionally, no provision in the Senate bill incorporates the long-standing and widely supported protection for conscience regarding abortion as found in the Hyde/Weldon amendment. Moreover, neither the House nor Senate bill contains meaningful conscience protection outside the abortion context. Any final bill, to be fair to all, must retain the accommodation of the full range of religious and moral objections in the provision of health insurance and services that are contained in current law, for both individuals and institutions.

This analysis of the flaws in the legislation is not completely shared by the leaders of the Catholic Health Association. They believe, moreover, that the defects that they do recognize can be corrected after the passage of the final bill. The bishops, however, judge that the flaws are so fundamental that they vitiate the good that the bill intends to promote. Assurances that the moral objections to the legislation can be met only after the bill is passed seem a little like asking us, in Midwestern parlance, to buy a pig in a poke.

What is tragic about this turn of events is that it needn’t have happened. The status quo that has served our national consensus and respected the consciences of all with regard to abortion is the Hyde amendment. The House courageously included an amendment applying the Hyde policy to its health care bill passed in November. Its absence in the Senate bill and the resulting impasse are not an accident. Those in the Senate who wanted to purge the Hyde amendment from this national legislation are obstructing the reform of health care.

This is not quibbling over technicalities. The deliberate omission in the Senate Bill of the necessary language that could have taken this moral question off the table and out of play leaves us still looking for a way to meet the president’s and our concern to provide health care for those millions whose primary care physician is now an emergency room doctor. As Pope Benedict told Ambassador to the Holy See Miguel H. Diaz when he presented his credentials as the U.S. government’s representative to the Holy See, there is “an indissoluble bond between an ethic of life and every other aspect of social ethics.”

Two basic principles, therefore, continue to shape the concerns of the Catholic bishops: health care means taking care of the health needs of all, across the human life span; and the expansion of health care should not involve the expansion of abortion funding and of polices forcing everyone to pay for abortions. Because these principles have not been respected, the Catholic bishops regretfully hold that this proposal must be opposed.

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Buying Eggs

Continued from Page 3

(Fert Ster 86, S178, 2006), and “fertility drugs and procedures involved in oocyte donation could increase a woman’s future health risks, including the risk of impaired fertility.” (Fert. Ster. 88, 305, 2007). Other references note similar short-term and long-term health risks. Hopefully Dr. Reshef or the egg brokers from whom he buys eggs receive completely informed consent, including this information, from egg donors.

Dr. Reshef also attempts to delude with the ridiculous comparison of egg donation with sperm or plasma donation, for which compensation is allowed. The proper comparison would be to bone marrow donation. Bone marrow donors also go through weeks of tests, blood drawings, injections and a surgical procedure to provide bone marrow. This is truly a lifesaving donation for many people with leukemias and other cancers, anemias, and now some autoimmune diseases. But bone marrow donors are not compensated. In fact, it is against federal law to provide valuable consideration for bone marrow or any other organ, with a penalty of $50,000 and/or five years imprisonment for violating this payment ban. (42 USC 274e).

Rep. Hamilton’s bill will deny no one the opportunity to mother a healthy child through IVF. But it will help prevent the exploitation of young women in Oklahoma.

Jennifer Lahl, R.N., is with the Center for Bioethics & Culture. David Prentice, Ph.D., is Senior Fellow for Life Sciences at the Family Research Council. Jesthes is Executive Director of the Oklahoma Family Policy Council.
Buenas Noticias...

Por ésto, cada año la Iglesia de nuestra Arquidiócesis nos pide ser parte de este trabajo esencial para la financiación de la misión de la iglesia Católica. Su contribución individual, combinada con las contribuciones de otras personas Católicas, provee los fondos para el funcionamiento apropiado para el próximo año fiscal. Este año, nuestra meta es de tres millones de dólares. A pesar de los elevados costos, hemos mantenido un presupuesto balanceado. No hay planificados nuevos programas o gastos. Sin embargo, hay servicios esenciales que la Arquidiócesis debe proveer al pueblo.

Nuestro Centro Pastoral Católico que está aquí en Oklahoma City, continúa siendo la sede para impulsar nuestra educación y evangelización, a través de cuarenta y seis condados de centro y oeste de Oklahoma, y así como también el noroeste de Oklahoma. La coordinación y dirección de todos los colegios o Católicos en la Arquidiócesis, los programas para los matrimonios, la vida familiar, la educación de nuestros seminaristas, nuestro ministerio para la juventud y el campamento para los jóvenes, como también los servicios y gastos legales que afectan nuestras parroquias Católicas, así como los programas e instituciones que son manejadas desde el Centro Pastoral Católico. La meta de $3 millones para el ADF es exclusivamente utilizada para financiar el trabajo de esos ministerios de nuestra fe Católica.

El ADF es nuestra fuente principal para nuestro soporte y por ésto, es crucial e importante para la vida de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Por esta razón, de nuevo le agradezco a aquellos quienes ya hicieron su compromiso de donación. Sinceramente busco que cada persona Católica participe más. Por favor haga su donativo para el ADF hoy. Muchas Gracias.

Miles de feligreses hispanos seguirán ayudando nuestro Catolicismo
Nuestro amor por nuestra Iglesia aumenta y con ésto la participación y ayuda

El grupo de Renovación Carismática traen al predicador "Panchito" desde México.

Feligreses abarrotan los reitros 03/19/10 (Fotos por Mauro Yanez/Sooner Catholic)
Abad Lawrence, Canciller de la Abadía de San Gregorio estuvo en el Sagrado Corazón
Envía un mensaje a nuestros jóvenes para que valoren la educación Católica

La Florecita muy activa en la preparación espiritual de nuestros jóvenes

Obispos Católicos urgen a la participación en el Censo del 2010

Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos
WASHINGTON — Por medio del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos se ha unido a los esfuerzos de la Oficina del Censo estadounidense para alentar a la participación de todos en el Censo 2010, en especial de aquellas comunidades tradicionalmente más difíciles de contar.

Asimismo, el Arzobispo José II. Gómez de San Antonio, presidente del Comité de Obispos para la Diversidad Cultural animó a parroquias y diócesis a alentar localmente a las personas para que participen.

"Es importante correr la voz porque algunas de las poblaciones a las que servimos normalmente tienden a no ser contadas apropiadamente", dijo el Arzobispo Gómez. "Los parroquianos tienen la responsabilidad de conocer a su rebaño. La Iglesia encomienda a obispos, sacerdotes y a sus muchos colaboradores el cuidado de todos los católicos en sus diócesis y parroquias. El Censo de Estados Unidos es una herramienta útil para aprender más sobre el pueblo de Dios, quiénes son y dónde están, y muchos otros datos que nos dan pistas sobre sus vidas, posibilidades y luchas. Una Iglesia que busca evangelizar se caracteriza su alcance comunitario. El Censo nos proporciona información importante para poder hacer eso."

"Es fácil y seguro. El cuestionario solamente tiene 10 preguntas: Nombre, Sexo, edad, raza, país de origen, relación entre los que viven en el hogar y si usted renta o es propietario. Solamente se toma 10 minutos para llenar. La información recopilada por el Censo es confidencial y sólo se comparte de forma agregada (en forma de estadísticas) una vez se ha juntado la información de todos los cuestionarios."

"Unimos a los Hispanos/Latinos asegurarse de que se hacen contar", añadió igualmente Alejandro Aguilera, subdirector para Asuntos Hispanos del Secretariado (USCCB). "Estan en juego la representación en el Congreso así como la asignación de más de $300 billones anualmente en fondos federales.

Queremos asegurarnos de que los barrios en que vivimos obtengan la parte que les corresponde. También es de vital importancia el obtener una imagen más exacta de la diversidad presente en la población estadounidense", afirmó.
Jobs Box

Part-Time Teachers Aide
Teresa Moore School located at 13501 S. Western in Oklahoma City has an opening for a part-time teachers aide. Early childhood experience is a plus but not required. Please contact Ann Grover at 691-7737 for more information.

Teacher Openings
Villa Teresa Catholic School has opening in Learning Center for 3-year-olds. The applicant must have an early childhood certification. This position is a 12-month commitment. Please send resume to Sister Veronica Higgins and call for an interview (232-4286).

Elementary School Principal
St. Charles Borromeo School, a pre-K through eighth-grade Catholic parish school in Oklahoma City, seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as an academic leader. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic and have a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Candidate must hold a master's degree in education administration or related field, and a minimum of five years educational experience. Candidate for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long-range goals for the school. Position effective July 1, 2010. An application may be obtained from Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, or call (405) 721-4202. Applications must be submitted by March 22, 2010.

Part-Time Organist Needed
St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City is in need of an organist to play for 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 p.m. for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 350 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. — SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ.

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

Registration under Way for Catholic Summer Camp
Registration is under way for Catholic Summer Camp at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp.
Any youth who has finished the third grade through the 12th grade is eligible to attend the camp and non-Catholic friends are welcome.
“At camp our emphasis is on developing faith and making new friends while having a lot of fun,” said Nancy Housh, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp provides all kinds of summer activities, including crafts, hiking, swimming (inground pool), fishing, water sports, volleyball, softball, canoeing, archery, talent show, soccer, campfires, drama and more.
Campers arrive Sunday evening between 5 and 6:30 p.m. The week ends the following Friday with checkout at 4 p.m. Cost for the camp is $250 per person and includes lodging, meals, snacks, camp T-shirt and insurance.
For more information, contact the Youth Office at (405) 721-9220 or e-mail to aguillotte@catharchdioceseokc.org, or go to www.catharchdioceseokc.org and click on the Summer Camp button.

Registration Under Way for Catholic Summer Camp

2010 Camp Registration Form

Name: 
Address: 
City, State, Zip: 
Home: Office: 
Cell: E-mail: 
Parent/Gardian: 
Parish: 
School: 
Grade (2009-2010) Age: Male/Female 
First time camper: Yes No 
Youth T-shirt Size: S M L Adult T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Please circle camp week of your choice:

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<tr>
<th>Camp</th>
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<td>Camp 1</td>
<td>June 13-18</td>
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<td>Camp 2</td>
<td>June 20-25</td>
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<td>Camp 3</td>
<td>June 27-July 2</td>
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<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>July 5-9*</td>
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Camp 6 July 18-23 7-8
Camp 7 July 25-30 9-12
Each session begins on Sunday* at 5 p.m. and ends on Friday at 5 p.m.
(*With the exception of Camp 4 due to 4th of July, starts Monday, July 5.)

Send registration and $100 deposit to: Catholic Youth & Young Adult Office, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123
(Make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City)
**Calendar**

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

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

21 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8888.

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

23 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

25 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

26 Film and Discussion Series at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This month’s movie will be Black Robe, directed by Bruce Beresford, 1991. The movie will be shown immediately following the Lenten Simple Supper. Films will be shown in their entirety with an introduction and a discussion following. Concessions and child care will be provided by the parish. For more information, please call the Religious Education Office at St. Francis, (405) 528-0485.

26 Spirituality of Imperfection Retreat, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Melissa Anna Letts, OSB. Who demands perfection? Is it God? Or is it you? Learn how to live lovingly with who you are. The effect on all your relationships may surprise you. Place: Retreat House at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: $40 ($10 deposit). Bring a sack lunch.

28 Palm Sunday

30 Chrism Mass, 6 p.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral. The yearly Mass where the Archbishop consecrates the holy oils for the coming year.

**APRIL**
1 Holy Thursday

2 Good Friday - Fast and Abstain.

2 Today you start your personal Novena, prior to and for the FEAST of Divine Mercy. Our Lord specifically requested certain prayers be recited the nine days before the Feast. Use the daily prayers given to Faustina by our Lord. For more information, call Warren at St. John’s, 715-0776.

2 1st Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

4 Easter Sunday Holy Day of Obligation

6 Welcome Back Catholics will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. for five Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4 in the Kastner Room at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Bring your questions about the Church.

8 St. Benedict Parish in Shawnee will be hosting Welcome Back Catholics, a series of sessions to assist Roman Catholics who are curious about practicing their faith again. For more information, call Gail or Clyde at (405) 878-6746. The first session is April 8 at 7 p.m.

10 Stepping Into Marriage with Children. Too often we assume that second marriages need little to no preparation, but 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce. This seems to be due, in part, to unanticipated problems and miscommunications. The issues highlighted in this program are: communication, step-family structures, former spouses, conflict, sexuality and spirituality.

10 Birth Choice Gala dinner and auction, cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Oklahoma Golf and Country Club. Guest speaker is the producer of the movie Bella, Leo Severino. Tickets are available for $100 a plate. Corporate sponsorship is also available. If you would like to attend, contact Jan O’Neill at 606-8426. Seating is limited.

**Letters**

Hamilton on Target

By authoring HB 3077, and by openly explaining it, she is positioning herself against very powerful forces in the market of human eggs. The European Union has recognized the danger of human parts trafficking and have prohibited the selling of human eggs. England allows compensation for the donor’s expenses at the daily rate established for jurors during jury duty, to a maximum of 250 English pounds. The United States is, practically, the only developed country that allows the soliciting of eggs for unlimited cash. The incredible positive advances of technology in reproduction is flirting with the dangerous concept that “if it is possible, and somebody pays for it, then it is OK.”

Pablo A. Pinzon, M.D.
Christ the King Parish
Oklahoma City

**Marriage Encounter Set for April, August Dates**

Spring brings renewed growth to all living creatures. Bring this same renewal to your marriage. Please join us for a Marriage Encounter Weekend and make the first step toward a remarkable journey with your spouse.

The weekend dates for Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Oklahoma City will be April 23-25. A second retreat is planned for Aug. 13-15.

For more information, contact Dan or Jean Forgue. Jean’s cell is (405) 760-0390, or Dan’s cell is (405) 760-0349, or you can e-mail to partspeople@att.net.
Archdiocese Hosts Head of Black-Indian Mission

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — On a cold and rainy Sunday in late February, Father Wayne Paysse knelt beside a gravesite at Fairlawn Cemetery, and placing his hand on the granite marker made the following request: “Monsignor Ketcham, you better pray for me. You know what I’m up against.”

Father Paysse was asking Father William H. Ketcham to prayerfully intercede on his behalf. Father Ketcham was the first Oklahoma priest ordained by Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, the first bishop of Oklahoma. He has been dead almost 90 years, having died in 1921 at the age of 53. But if anyone could understand the challenges facing Father Paysse, it would be Monsignor Ketcham. For 20 years, beginning in 1901, he held the same position Father Paysse holds today, executive director of the Black-Indian Mission Office of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Father Paysse came to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in February to meet with Archbishop Beltran and to learn about the people served by his office, which is based in Washington, D.C. It was his first visit to Oklahoma. He said next time he comes it will be in the summer.

“It’s cold here,” Father Paysee said with a big laugh. He admitted to making an even greater travel mistake, North Dakota in January. But as in the days when the Benedictine monks first arrived in Oklahoma, Father Paysee said a priest goes where he is led. Deacon Bill Gorden escorted Father Payse on much of his visit to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

In April of 2007, Father Paysse was named executive director of the Black-Indian Mission. The office was established in 1884 by the Bishops Council of Baltimore. Father Paysse is the seventh director of the office. Before his appointment he served as a parish priest and seminary educator in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina destroyed his parish, but not his desire to share in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The annual collection for the Black and Indian Mission is dedicated to the evangelization of black and Indian people living in the United States. It is the first and oldest national collection established by the Church in the United States, Father Paysse said. He said each year the office provides “between $8 and $12 million” in grants, with much of the money going to support evangelization programs in Catholic schools.

A native of New Orleans, Father Paysse said he spends a good majority of the year traveling to dioceses throughout the nation, meeting with bishops, as well as Catholic school leaders and especially meeting with the people served by the office he directs. Father Paysse often visits Indian reservations and inner-city Catholic schools that include predominately black enrollment.

Father Paysse said leading the Black-Indian Mission Office requires his “head bone to be connected to my heart bone.”

“A priest is called to imitate Christ,” Father Paysse said. “A priest meets the people where they are. We’re called to listen to them, their hurts and their joys, to live in the moment with them.

“We’re not social workers,” said Father Paysse. “We’re here to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. It works out because it’s God’s work. It’s not Father Payse’s work.”

Father Paysse said he was a youngster in the second grade when he first realized he wanted to become a priest. He loves the history of the Church and believes those who came before serve as great role models for Catholics in the United States. He points to a personal hero, Saint Katharine Drexel, a woman born of great wealth, but who chose to use it to help the less fortunate in the black and American Indian communities of the United States.

Saint Katharine Drexel dedicated her life to helping people understand the dignity they possess because they are created in the image and likeness of God.

Father Paysse is dedicated to continuing that pursuit.

“I love God, I love the Church and I want to do my best,” said Father Paysse. He also wants Monsignor Ketcham to continue to pray for him.