Officials Probe Early Morning Fire at Mount St. Mary

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mount St. Mary High School escaped serious damage when a fire erupted inside the school early on March 11. And while fire officials continue to investigate the cause of the fire, video taken from a security camera shows an unidentified person in the area where the fire started at approximately the time it broke out.

Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement at the Mount, said the video has been turned over to the proper authorities. He said to his knowledge, school officials have no other information concerning the origin of the fire.

Stiles was alerted to the fire by Sister Betty Elmer, who lives at the Mount in an apartment on the third floor. Several Sisters of Mercy from St. Louis were also staying overnight at the Mount. The nuns were at the school for a board meeting held the night before.

“Sister Betty and the other Sisters were able to get out unhurt,” Stiles said. He said his phone rang at about 4:45 a.m.

“It’s never good news when you get a call at that time,” said Stiles. He immediately called Mount Principal Talita DeNegri and both arrived at the school shortly after 5 a.m.

DeNegri said by the time she arrived, the Oklahoma City Fire Department had crews on the scene and the fire was under control.

“The Oklahoma City firemen were so helpful and so professional,” DeNegri said. They had everything contained in no time. They were just wonderful to work with.”

Stiles said the fire apparently started in the first floor, which is actually the basement. Early reports that it started in a second floor science lab were incorrect, he said.

School was canceled until after spring break, but Stiles said classes would resume as normal on March 23.

“We’ll make a few adjustments, but the education process will move forward,” Stiles said. He said the fire would serve to pull the Mount community even closer together.

“All I can say is faith triumphs over any adversity,” Stiles said. “We will prevail, we will be stronger. This institution is strong, it’s resolute and it’s unified.”

The fire broke out in the north end of the north wing of the school that was built in the 1960s. The original building was constructed in 1903. It was not damaged. Most of the damage was limited to one room, although smoke and water did damage some adjacent rooms. Stiles said the room most heavily damaged was one used by the Student Council. He said “extensive renovation” will be needed to that area.
The Good News

...“Our Citizenship is in Heaven”

The above quotation from Saint Paul’s letter to Philomen clearly identifies the human person and our purpose here on this earth. We are creatures of God, uniquely fashioned in His own Image and Likeness. We are on this earth only temporarily. We are pilgrims on a journey of life. We are “rooted” in God and intended to return to Him to share His life forever.

Because of sin, the pilgrimage of life now entails suffering and sadness. We are weakened and thus we often fall into sin again. But God in His goodness and love has sent His Son Jesus to save us. He continues to forgive us. Yet, as long as we are still pilgrims on earth, we must live by faith and not by sight. For this reason, Jesus gave us the Church and through His Church, He continues to forgive us, to lead us, to guide us. Nonetheless, it is often difficult, even a struggle. But we are confident that with God’s help, we can overcome sin and temptation and walk safely on our journey to life everlasting because “our citizenship is indeed in heaven.”

Precisely because we are a people of faith and we do believe and trust in Jesus, we do not panic when bad things happen to us. We do not react negatively to our brothers and sisters who may have injured us. Neither do we withdraw from or abandon or reject those whom we may have judged unfairly or misunderstood. Rather, in faith and with love, we turn to the Lord, knowing that He will help us. But we must try. We must seek reconciliation. We must do the best we can while we trust in God.

Let me give you one concrete example and explain the efforts we are undertaking with God’s help and the guidance of our holy Catholic Church to resolve a current difficult question.

In recent days, I have had numerous conversations regarding a movement based on the Industrial Areas Foundations (IAF). These were calls, letters or personal talks with many of you who support the IAF and many of you who condemn the IAF. Some of you have asked for my approval and support of the local IAF movement while others requested that I ban it from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

(For those of you who do not know of the IAF, it is basically a network organizing institution to unite on a particular project to benefit a specific group. In the past, IAF was rightly accused of using bad tactics and force to meet its goals. Thus, the negative reaction to it from many sides.)

During the past 30 years, interfaith groups have been formed in many dioceses and have withstood the test of time. My brother bishops have found some of them to be effective instruments for the Church’s mission. I believe this is so because members of the Catholic Church with their vibrancy of faith and sustained by the sacramental life of the Church have given leadership and inspiration to these organizations.

Our present secular society does not seek truth nor does it engender faith. The current political climate does not uphold the dignity and worth of the human person. Only those who profess faith themselves can share faith with others. Only those who believe in God can restore a true respect for the intrinsic dignity of human beings.

In these difficult, confusing and contradictory days, every Catholic person must become an authentic Christian witness who will inspire others and help form right consciences. Only when we bring others to acknowledge that God is good and gracious and that our citizenship is in heaven, will we really make this world a better place in which to live — albeit only temporary. We must never forget that our true citizenship is in heaven.

Now, to get back to our example, a number of Catholic parishes have expressed an interest in the IAF community organization. These are good and faithful Catholic people who see a possibility to fulfill their responsibility to others. There are other good and faithful Catholic people who see collaboration with the IAF movement as a mistake, an evil, a potential threat to our Church. And so, the question is — what should we do — join or withdraw?

In view of the controversial nature of this situation, I invite all Catholics from all sides to join with me in prayer. At this stage, I will neither recommend parishes to join nor will I ask the others to withdraw. But I do ask all to pray for God’s guidance so that we might discern God’s Will and have the wisdom to make the proper decisions, guided by truth and reality and not by allegations or speculations.

In addition, I urge all interested people on both sides to do a new study of Pope Benedict’s encyclical letter Deus Caritas Est. In particular, the 12 sections, No. 28 to No. 39 inclusive, need to be studied, understood and applied to our current situation. A self-study is a good start but I will also see that a more formal presentation will be offered by the Archdiocese.

In the coming weeks and months, I and the Priests Council will monitor this matter so that we can be more objective and more accurate in our judgment. Just like Saint Paul and his early Christian members, we face tempests and storms daily but we never lose hope because our true citizenship is in heaven.
Urgent Pro-life Issue! Help Protect Federal Conscience Rule

Oklahoma Catholics Urged To Voice Opposition To Obama Proposal

On Feb. 27, the Obama administration announced that it intends to remove a conscience protection rule ("Conscience Rule") for the Department of Health and Human Services.

That Conscience Rule is one part of the range of legal protections for health-care workers — for doctors, nurses and others — who have objections in conscience to being involved in abortion and other killing procedures that are against how they live their faith in God.

In a statement by Cardinal Francis George on March 16, Archbishop of Chicago and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ("USCCB"), the USCCB urged that we voice our objection to the removal of the Conscience Rule. In part, he stated as follows:

"As Catholic bishops and American citizens, we are deeply concerned that such an action on the government's part would be the first step in moving our country from democracy to despotism. Respect for personal conscience and freedom of religion as such ensures our basic freedom from government oppression. No government should come between an individual person and God — that's what America is supposed to be about. This is the true common ground for us as Americans. We therefore need legal protection for freedom of conscience and of religion — including freedom for religious health-care institutions to be true to themselves.

"Conscientious objection against many actions is a part of our life. We have a conscientious objection against war for those who cannot fight, even though it's good to defend your country. We have a conscientious objection for doctors against being involved in administering the death penalty. Why shouldn't our government and our legal system permit conscientious objection to a morally bad action, the killing of babies in their mother's womb? People understand what really happens in an abortion and in related procedures — a living member of the human family is killed — that's what it's all about — and no one should be forced by the government to act as though he or she were blind to this reality."

"The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. The belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. The Conscience Rule protects people from being forced to take actions which are in opposition to how they live their faith in God!

Action requested: Immediately e-mail or write to the Office of Public Health and Science, DHHS and voice your opposition to any changes in the Conscience Rule.

THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDS APRIL 9, 2009!

You can go to the USCCB Web site for a pre-formatted response. It can be found at http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection/; click on "Express Your Concern for Conscience Protection!" HHS will make available for public viewing any comment and the information contained therein.

Additional ways to voice your concerns are as follows:

Comments may be submitted electronically on the Web site www.Regulations.gov. (by entering 0991-AB49 in the search box) or via e-mail to proposedrescission@hhs.gov. Attachments may be in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or Excel, but Microsoft Word is preferred.

By mail, one original and two copies of written comments may be sent to Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: Rescission Proposal Comments, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Room 716G, Washington, DC 20201.

Forward this e-mail to others who are concerned about (i) protecting the Conscience Rule and (ii) government actions which force persons to perform acts which are in opposition to how they live their faith in God.

Publish this in your church bulletins and encourage your congregations to voice their opposition to changes in the Conscience Rule!

Remember — THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDS APRIL 9, 2009!

Catholic Golf Tourney to Boost Endowment

Over the past seven years, the Catholic Foundation has contributed all proceeds from its annual Golf Classic to the Catholic Schools Endowment — which was originally developed by Archbishop Beltran to cap the rising cost of Catholic School tuitions in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

On Monday, June 8, the Catholic Foundation will again bring together Catholic men and women united in an effort to keep the cost of a Catholic education affordable. The 2009 Golf Classic will be hosted by Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City with a 10 a.m. registration/lunch and noon shotgun start.

Currently, the cost of Catholic School tuitions paid by families total in excess of $18 million annually and the cost will typically increase by an average of 4 percent each year to keep pace with rising inflation. The increase alone will add an estimated $700,000 of additional cost during the 2009-2010 school year. With average grade school tuitions of $3,000 per student and high school tuitions approaching $7,000 per student, it won't be long before the cost of a Catholic education will be unrealistic for some.

Since 2002, the Catholic Schools Endowment has been championed by the Catholic Foundation through the annual Golf Classic tournament and other emphasis. Since that time, heightened awareness has led to many gifts through annual giving, bequests, and the assignment of undesignated receipts to the endowment.

The 2009 Golf Classic will again feature the Archbishop's Traveling Trophy for the winning team, numerous contest holes and a chance to win a 2009 Pontiac Solstice sports car for a hole-in-one courtesy of Rick Jones Pontiac-Buick-GMC. Tournament play is immediately followed by an awards banquet and silent auction.

To participate in the 2009 Catholic Foundation Golf Classic or learn more about the Catholic Schools Endowment, contact the Catholic Foundation at (405) 721-4115 or tcasso@catharchdioceseokc.org. Golf tournament registration forms are also available through your parish office.

Parish Plans Divine Mercy Celebration

OKLAHOMA CITY — Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The church is located at 1901 N.W. 18th. The church will be open after the Spanish Mass is over about 2:30. Please plan to go to one of the many penance services that are offered before Easter or within eight days after the Feast, as Confession will not be offered. For information, call 306-0413.

"Be apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary." — John Paul II to the Marians, June 22, 1993
Logic Promoting Embryonic Research Not Supported by Science or Faith

When President Obama rescinded former President Bush’s limit on the federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research March 9, he argued that the government’s position in such matters should be determined by scientific facts and not ideology.

Unfortunately, the president’s decision does exactly the opposite. President Obama’s decision ignores the scientific facts which demonstrate that life begins at conception and panders instead to an ideology that denigrates the value of every human being by allowing the human life of the embryo to be destroyed in order to harvest stem cells for scientific research.

For this reason, embryonic stem-cell research is immoral. It can never be an acceptable practice to sacrifice one human life for the potential benefit of another, and let me emphasize here that we are only speaking of potential benefits at this point. Human embryonic stem-cell research assigns different values to different human beings. Some it designates as people — with rights and values, while other human beings are treated as if they were things, pieces of property with neither intrinsic rights nor human dignity.

God did not create different levels of human existence and we will never back away from the truth that every human life demands the unconditional respect that is morally due the human being in his bodily and spiritual totality.

But it must also be said that embryonic stem-cell research is unnecessary since there are numerous ethical alternatives which exist for stem-cell research and these do not require the destruction of human life.

These ethical alternatives involve “adult stem cells” or “tissue stem cells,” present in many, perhaps most of the organs in the human body. Research using these stem cells has already shown much greater promise than any current non-federally funded research on embryonic cells; in fact, current clinical applications of adult stem cells already include treatments for cancer, arthritis, lupus, and have successfully been used to make new corneas, thus making good on the potential that embryonic stem cells only promise.

Given that research involving adult stem cells has shown itself to be scientifically more successful than research using embryonic stem cells, it makes eminent scientific and moral good sense to argue that our federal tax dollars should be used to fund only stem-cell research projects which do not require the immoral and unnecessary destruction of human life. Now, however, because of the president’s ideological decision, funding will be diverted from research in areas that we know works to research in areas we can only hope will work. And that’s a bad decision for all Americans.

**Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery**
Bishop of Tulsa

For inquiries: Communications Office Diocese of Tulsa, 1-918-307-4955, msgr.pat.brankin@dioceseoftulsa.org

1 “It is about ensuring that scientific data is never distorted or concealed to serve a political agenda — and that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology.”

2 Pope John Paul II’s instruction on bioethics Domoll Viti (“The Gift of Life”), 1-1

3 Dr. David Prentice, professor of life sciences at Indiana State University and an adjunct professor of medical and molecular genetics at the Indiana University School of Medicine, quoted in an interview conducted by Kathryn Jean Lopez of the newsweekly “National Review.”

Yukon Students Pay Tribute to Father Stanley Rother

YUKON — Students of St. John Nepomuk Catholic School belonging to Rother House recently took a field trip to Okarche, birthplace of Father Stanley Rother. The group of middle school students visited with Deacon Max Schwarz at Holy Trinity Church in Okarche, who gave them a tour and showed them some of the precious antiques belonging to the parish as well as mementoes from Father Rother. The students then took a trip to the cemetery to visit and pray at the grave of Father Rother.

Before leaving for their trip, the group posed for a photo under the new street sign at St. John School. The members of Rother House purchased the naming rights for the street adjacent to the school at the auction in the fall. They decided on “Father Rother’s Way” to commemorate his life dedicated to God as well as his current journey to sainthood.
SGU Students to Build Houses

SHAWNEE — Five students from St. Gregory’s University will be among a group traveling to Lafayette, La., for their spring break to build houses with Habitat for Humanity. The volunteers are participants of Collegiate Challenge, a Habitat for Humanity program that provides year-round opportunities for youth to use their vacations to help build homes.

During the week of March 15-21, the St. Gregory’s group — including students Simon Camarillo, Vickie Horn, Gennifer McHargue, Sean O’Brien and Jannett Rizcallah — will help build simple, decent and affordable homes with families in need. This will be the fifth Collegiate Challenge trip for SGU’s campus minister, Diane Willis.

“Habitat is such a rewarding experience for everyone involved,” Willis said. “The builders see it as service to others, making a difference in others’ lives. The home builders see it as such a blessing.”

Others making the trip with the SGU group include Oklahoma State University student Beth Willis and high school students Shelby Herandy and Emily Ranallo from St. John’s Parish in McAlester.

This spring break marks the 20th anniversary of the Collegiate Challenge program, and more than 12,000 students will travel to 200 locations across the United States to build houses through the program. Throughout its 20-year history, more than 166,000 students have participated in Collegiate Challenge, raising more than $15.5 million. This year alone, Collegiate Challenge participants will contribute $1.8 million.

“Who chooses to volunteer and build houses with Habitat for Humanity during their spring break are making a powerful statement about the role they want to play in helping families move into affordable housing,” said Desiree Adaway, Habitat’s senior director of Volunteer Mobilization. “We are grateful that for the past 20 years, youth have united to eliminate poverty housing across the United States through the Collegiate Challenge program.”

Collegiate Challenge is one of the many Habitat for Humanity youth programs designed to capture the energy and hope of young people worldwide to involve them as leaders in the work of Habitat for Humanity.

King Scholarship Made Available

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University recently announced that the Rev. Kenneth King Scholarship is available for the 2009-10 school year. The scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of Rev. Kenneth King, who served several rural Catholic parishes in eastern Oklahoma. It provides a $2,000 scholarship for a student attending SGU’s campus in Shawnee.

The scholarship requires a grade point average of 3.0 or greater, and graduating seniors from Oklahoma rural high schools are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students from the area served by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tulsa.

Applications for the Rev. Kenneth King Scholarship are available on the Web at www.occf.org or from the financial aid office at SGU. Awards are paid from the fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and disbursed to the student’s bursar account at SGU. The application deadline is May 1.

Kenneth King attended Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater, St. Gregory’s Seminary in Norwood, Ohio, and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. King was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on May 25, 1957, and served in the Tulsa Diocese, including parishes in Poteau, Talihina, McCurtain, Stigler, Pocola, Bixby, Stillwater, McAlester, Wilburton, Hominy and Cleveland. He retired from the Grove Parish in 1997.

For more information, please visit www.occf.org, or contact the SGU financial aid department at 1-888-784-7347 or finaid@stgregorys.edu.

Abbey to Host Men’s Retreat

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s Abbey is sponsoring a Monastic Experience Retreat for single Catholic men, ages 18-40.

Easter and the Christian Vocation: April 8-11. Participants in this retreat are able to join with the monks in the observance of the center of the life of the Church: The Easter Triduum. This retreat will be an opportunity for participants to come to a deeper understanding of this core celebration of our faith, while at the same time joining the monastic community in its daily life of prayer and work.

The retreat begins on the evening of Wednesday, April 8, and ends after lunch on Saturday, April 11. Because of schedules, however, participants may arrive on Thursday, April 9, and remain in the monastery for the Easter Vigil.

Monastic Experience Retreats provide an opportunity for single Catholic men, age 18-40, to grow in their relationship with God and to learn more about our Catholic faith heritage.

Participants share in the daily prayer and work of the Benedictine community at St. Gregory’s Abbey, and in this way can gain a new appreciation of monastic life in the Church and world. There is no cost for the retreats, but registration is required as space is limited. Recommendation from one’s pastor or university campus minister may be required.

For more information, contact Father Charles Buckley, O.S.B., at (405) 878-5462 or e-mail vocations@stgregorys.edu.

Exhibit Displayed at Saint Greg’s

SHAWNEE — Nationally recognized photojournalist, author and East Central University faculty member Linda Schaefer will join two of her students at St. Gregory’s University on March 24 as they share their experiences from a class titled “Passage to India.” The event, which is free and open to the public, is set for 7 p.m. inside the Rockwood Center’s Shawnee Community Room.

Schaefer, a former editor and photographer, fashion photographer in New York, and crime scene photographer, has had her work donated to St. Gregory’s. A selection of Schaefer’s work from her time with Mother Teresa will also be on display, free of charge, through March 27 in the SGU Library.

On the night of the 24th, the author will give an informal talk about her experiences working as a volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity and her personal journey with one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century.

Her book, Come and See, is available for purchase in the SGU Library and will be available the night of the program. Schaefer will autograph the books both before and after the program. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to St. Gregory’s.

Schaefer, who has been the Martin Luther King Jr. family photographer, fashion photographer in New York, and crime scene photographer for the NYPD, has had her work published in Time, Newsweek, LA Times, NY Times, Stern, Parade and The Catholic Digest.
Catholic Educator Gives 45 Years to Teaching Ministry

By Cara Koenig
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Barbara Burrows is a shining example of the word commitment. After 45 years of teaching in our Catholic schools, she will be retiring at the end of this school year.

“It will be strange not having a key to the door,” said Burrows after 43 years of teaching at Sacred Heart Elementary in Oklahoma City. Sacred Heart has been a home to Burrows her whole life, it is her home parish as well as her alma mater. “My first two years of teaching were at St. Patrick’s School, but my pastor, Monsignor Luecke, asked why I was not teaching at Sacred Heart,” said Burrows. When a teaching spot opened, she moved back home.

Burrows is the current kindergarten teacher and has taught every grade level except fourth in her tenure. “The best thing about teaching kindergarten is their zest for life, their love of everything. They are so open,” said Burrows, “but there is good in all the grades I have taught.

“What have I learned as a teacher is that everyone has a gift to bring to the world. It is so interesting to discover what everyone’s gifts are. As a teacher you learn to use those gifts to help the student learn and become good people,” said Burrows. And along the way, “hopefully I have taught them that I love them and want the best for them. I want to instill in them a love of learning and to be the best they can be.”

Those who know and who have worked with this veteran teacher know what her experience and dedication bring to the classroom.

“Barbara Burrows is one of our teachers who is totally committed to Catholic education,” said Sister Catherine Powers, CND, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese. “She understands its goals and purposes and has contributed for 45 years to helping our school system reach its goals. We are so grateful to Barbara for her years of service and want her to know that she will be greatly missed.”

Burrows’ dedication to teaching and to her students goes above and beyond. In 1992 she received a degree in English as a Second Language (ESL) to better teach her students. Many of the students at Sacred Heart are Hispanic and English was not the first language in their homes. By learning Spanish, she was better able to communicate and teach. “Once I had the degree, I started to volunteer with adults to teach English and to help them get their citizenship,” said Burrows.

She said teaching for 45 years was not in her original plan.

“Barbara Burrows is one of our diocesan teachers who is totally committed to Catholic education,” said Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Archbishop Beltran and Cris Carter congratulate Barbara Burrows on her 45-year commitment to Catholic education.

Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Superintendent of Education, seated left, recently led a group of Catholic School principals on an annual retreat. The group held the retreat at the Subiaco Catholic School in Arkansas. Photo/Courtesy

Students to Host Natural Law Talk

NORMAN — J. Budziszewski, professor of government and philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, will present a lecture titled “Natural Law and the Constitution” at 7:30 p.m. April 2 in Classroom 1 of the OU Law Center. The Andrew Coats Hall of the College of Law is immediately south of Timberdell Road in central Norman.

Dr. Budziszewski will discuss the fact that the founders of the American republic knowingly committed themselves to a set of principles that implicitly condemned practices in which some were deeply involved, namely slavery. Does this indicate a belief in natural law? Does natural law have anything to do with our foundational documents or with law and government generally?

He is the author of 10 books and is also the author of an online column about politics and philosophy.

Dr. Budziszewski’s visit to OU is sponsored by the Catholic Students Association of OU and St. Thomas More University Parish. He is the 2009 True Family Lecturer.

By Cara Koenig
The Sooner Catholic

“Natural Law and the Constitution” at OU Law Center. The Andrew Coats Hall of the College of Law is immediately south of Timberdell Road in central Norman.

Dr. J. Budziszewski

Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Superintendent of Education, seated left, recently led a group of Catholic School principals on an annual retreat. The group held the retreat at the Subiaco Catholic School in Arkansas. Photo/Courtesy

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Letters

I enjoyed very much reading Mary Beth Bonacci’s article titled “Touted Vaccine Turns Out to Cause Great Harm to Girls” published in the March 8 issue of the Sooner Catholic.

She covers a very serious problem concerning a vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted microorganism that can cause cervical cancer. She goes into a detailed report of the serious side effects that have afflicted numerous young girls (some of them only 11 years of age) who were innoculated with this vaccine.

Mary Beth Bonacci can approach with straightforward and yet modest language a variety of subjects relevant to the young. Her articles often deal with sensitive problems faced by young people confronting the sexual pressures they encounter in our present society.

Our Catholic newspaper carried her column for a number of years under the title “Hey YOUth!” which, although addressed to the younger generation, was also very useful to parents, grandparents and teachers involved in the raising, counseling and educating the young using the principles of Catholic morality.

I sincerely hope that the Sooner Catholic will see fit to reinstate Mary Beth Bonacci’s column as a permanent feature. I am sure that I was not the only reader that missed her writings.

Raoul Carubelli
Christ the King Parish
Oklahoma City

No Parole Saves Money

Studies show that the death penalty creates more violence and is just too expensive. Most Oklahomans do not realize that when a person receives the death penalty, their case automatically goes into an appeal process that generally takes several years and is very expensive.

Rather than put the person on death row, sentence them to life without parole. There is no costly appeals process. To put the guilty person in prison for the rest of their life saves the taxpayers of Oklahoma millions of dollars.

Think of all the good things we could do with those dollars. Build better schools, more teachers for our children, build better roads and bridges. This takes us out of the business of killing. It would seem that there is more “rightness” in this approach and would be more in keeping with God’s wishes to “forgive those who trespass against us.”

There is more “rightness” in this.

Jim and Ann Fowler
St. Charles
Oklahoma City

Across Oklahoma

A Call for Help

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities needs donations to help with the resettlement of international refugees. There are 30 apartments to set up. All kinds of household items are needed: bed frames, kitchen tables, chairs, couches, pots and pans, kitchen and bathroom items. Donations can be picked up by calling 523-3002.

Free Health Care Available to Uninsured

EDMOND — The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond opened Feb. 14 and is serving the health-care needs of the uninsured of that community. Health care is free on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon. Visits are by appointment only and can be made by calling an answering service at 513-4357. Calls are returned within 24 hours. Office volunteers consist of physicians, nurses and English-Spanish translators. For more information, visit goodsamaritanofedmond.com.

Enrollment is Now Open

ENID — Open enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year at St. Joseph School is now open to the public. St. Joseph has pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Call the school office for more information at (580) 242-4449.

Marriage Workshop

OKLAHOMA CITY — Forever, For Real, marriage workshop will be held March 28 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The Office of Family Life is partnering with the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative to present a workshop using the PREP model that is designed to help in such areas as speaker and listener technique, problem-solving, ground rules for handling conflict and other pertinent issues that can aid in honing our communication skills. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with registration and continues until 3:30. There is no cost. For more information or to register, call Lisa at (405) 709-2709 or Kristin at (405) 848-2171 or you may visit ForeverForReal.com and register online.

Birth Choice Auction March 28

OKLAHOMA CITY — Birth Choice Annual Life of the Party Gala Event will be held March 28. The evening will include dinner, auction and dancing at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Some of the auction items are a weekend getaway at Grand Lake, Las Vegas trip, gourmet dinners and fine jewelry items. For more information or to make reservations, contact Development Director Jan O’Neill at 606-8426 by or e-mail joneill@birthchoice.org.

On Death and Dying

OKLAHOMA CITY — “Embracing Our Journey Home: The Christian Perspective of Death and Dying” is designed to look at the mystery of death and dying in a variety of ways. The presentation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, March 30 on the Spirituality of Suffering given by Mary Diane Steltenkamp, RN, MAPM. Steltenkamp is the coordinator of Faith Community Nursing at Catholic Charities. This series is sponsored by Office of Family Life, Catholic Charities, Faith Community Nursing and Church of the Epiphany of the Lord. For additional information, contact the Office of Family Life at 721-5651.

Youth Fest 2009

EDMOND — All high school youth are invited to the Youth Fest at St. John the Baptist April 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. The MC will be Chris Padgett with music by Adam Bitter’s Praise and Worship Band with special guest speaker, Father Tom Elliott. The event is free. Sign up with your parish youth minister.

Open House

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa Catholic School will host an open house on April 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. The year-round program serves families with children ages 2 1/2 to fourth grade. The summer program engages students in discovering various aspects of creation as well as arts and crafts, swimming and P.E. Students past, present and future are invited to attend the open house.

Stepping into Marriage with Children

OKLAHOMA CITY — 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. Stepping into Marriage with Children is a one-day workshop to help with communication, step-family structures, former spouses, conflict, sexuality and spirituality. This workshop is set for April 18 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.
Knights Celebrate 109th Anniversary With Awards at Annual Dinner

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Chief Justice Kane Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus this year is celebrating the 109th anniversary of its founding. At its annual dinner, the assembly awarded Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State University, the Chief Justice Matthew J. Kane Award for outstanding public service. Also honored was Sir Knight Richard Schulte with the Excalibur Award for lifetime achievement in the Knights of Columbus. Father Marvin Leven was also recognized for his 50 years of ministry in the priesthood.

Burns Hargis gives Father Leven an Aggies sweat shirt because, as Father Leven says, “I’m an Oklahoma Aggie!,” having graduated from OSU when it was Oklahoma A and M. Photos by Cara Koenig

St. Pat’s Party Offers Irish Support

Knights of Columbus Council 1038 held its 10th annual St. Patrick’s Day party at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School on Saturday, March 14. Proceeds from the party will be used to help purchase bleachers for the auxiliary gymnasium at the high school.

Irish dancers and bagpipe players entertained at the St. Patrick’s Day party.
Saint Pat’s Annual Ball Tops $100,000 for Homeless

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 350 people attended the 2009 St. Patrick’s Grand Marshal Ball on March 7 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. The event helps raise funds for Catholic Charities’ homeless services.

Stanley Hupfeld, president and chief executive officer of Integris Health, was named grand marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade held March 14. More than $110,000 was raised through sponsorships, donations and a silent auction. Toby Boothe chaired the event.

Money raised from the event will help Catholic Charities expand its outreach to women who are living in shelters when it begins its sanctuary program in April. As a collaborative effort with local emergency shelters, the Sanctuary Project at Our Lady of Guadalupe Women’s Development Center will help poor women who are living in shelters with social and educational programs which will build self-confidence and sufficiency.

Tim O’Connor, the executive director of Catholic Charities, said the event will go a long way in helping create a positive atmosphere for many of the homeless in Oklahoma City. “Working with faith-based partners, we plan to develop sufficient resources in Oklahoma City that will answer the question, what is Oklahoma City’s Faith response to our sisters and brothers who are homeless?”

Hupfeld commended the Catholic Church for its legacy of ministry to the poorest and most defenseless persons in society. He expressed his hope that Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City would persist in its plans and efforts to develop a much-needed resource center for women to help them overcome poverty and homelessness.

Catholic Charities would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to this event, with a special thanks to the following sponsors:

Emerald Isle Level ($10,000) — Chesapeake Energy Corporation; Integris Health; Teleflora; and The Meinders Foundation.

Gold Level — SSM Health Care of Oklahoma.

Crystal Level — Bank of Oklahoma; Randy and Connie Calvert; The Chickasaw Nation; Cox Communications; Dolese Bros. Co.; Everest Brothers; First American Bank; Tom Goldsworthy; Grace Living Centers; Irish Realty Corporation; Kelley & Kelley, P.C.; Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores Inc.; Mass Architects Inc.; Mercy Health Center; MidFirst Bank; Michael and Patricia Milligan; OGE Energy Corp.; The Oklahoman; RoseRock Bank and Union Bank; and Kevin and Patty Trosper.

Linen Level — Ackerman McQueen; BancFirst; The Bank of Union – El Reno; Harrison-Orr Air Conditioning L.L.C.; Harrison Levy FLRP; Carl and Anita Milam; Oklahoma City University; The Reserve Petroleum Company; Jeannette and Richard Sias; W & W Steel; and Matt Wilson Custom Homes & Pool.


Lou and Ray Ackerman celebrate at the ball. Lou Ackerman served as last year’s parade grand marshal.

Sister Stephanie Sanchez, Sister Patricia Ann Miller, Sister Mary Frances Coker and Beverly Sanchez attended the ball. The Carmelite Sisters donated a dinner at their convent as a silent auction item.
Prelate: Respect and Candor Are Musts for Catholics in U.S.A.

TORONTO, CANADA (CNA) — Canadians packed St. Basil’s Church in Toronto recently to hear Archbishop Charles Chaput speak about how Catholics should live out their faith in the public square. He warned that in the U.S., Catholics need to act on their faith and be on guard against “a spirit of adulation bordering on servility” that exists toward the Obama administration.

The public lecture by Archbishop Chaput took place on the campus of the University of Toronto at St. Basil’s Church and was attended by an overflow crowd of more than 700 people.

After giving a sketch of the basic principles in his New York Times bestseller “Render Unto Caesar,” the archbishop offered his insights on the need for an honest assessment of the situation of the Church in the public square.

“I like clarity, and there’s a reason why,” began the archbishop.

“I think modern life, including life in the Church, suffers from a phony unwillingness to offend that poses as prudence and good manners, but too often turns out to be cowardice. Human beings owe each other respect and appropriate courtesy. But we also owe each other the truth — which means candor.” — Archbishop Charles Chaput

Yet this will be “very hard for Catholics in the United States,” Chaput warned.

According to the archbishop, the political situation for Catholics is difficult to discern because a “spirit of adulation bordering on servility” already exists among some of the same Democratic-friendly Catholic writers, scholars, editors and activists who once accused pro-lifers of being too cozy with Republicans. It turns out that Caesar is an equal opportunity employer.

Looking ahead to the coming months and years, Chaput offered four “simple things” to remember.

“First,” he said, “all political leaders draw their authority from God. We owe no leader any submission or cooperation in the pursuit of grave evil.”

“In fact, we have the duty to change bad laws and resist grave evil in our public life, both by our words and our non-violent actions. The truest respect we can show to civil authority is the witness of our Catholic faith and our moral convictions, without excuses or apologies.”

In a reference to the messianic treatment that Barack Obama received from some Americans during the presidential primaries, Archbishop Chaput delivered his second point: “In democracies, we elect public servants, not messiahs.”

Noting that Obama actually trailed in the weeks just before the election, the Denver archbishop said that this places some of today’s talk about a “new American mandate” in perspective.

The third point to focus on when the beliefs of Catholics are challenged is that “it doesn’t matter what we claim to believe if we’re unwilling to act on our beliefs,” Chaput counseled.

“The fourth and final thing to remember, and there’s no easy way to say it,” remarked Archbishop Chaput, is that the “Church in the United States has done a poor job of forming the faith and conscience of Catholics for more than 40 years.”

“And now we’re harvesting the results — in the public square, in our families and in the confusion of our personal lives. I could name many good people and programs that seem to disprove what I just said. But I could name many more that do prove it, and some of them work in Washington.”

American Catholics need to realize that many in the current generation haven’t just been “assimilated” into the American culture, but have in fact been “absorbed and bleached and digested by it,” Archbishop Chaput asserted.

“If this realization doesn’t happen, the coming generations will continue on the same path and “a real Catholic presence in American life will continue to weaken and disappear,” said Chaput.

Citing the example of “unhappy, self-described Catholics who complain that abortion is too much of a litmus test,” he stated, “We can’t claim to be ‘Catholic’ and ‘pro-choice’ at the same time without owning the responsibility for where the choice leads — to a dead unborn child.”

The archbishop also addressed the “abortion reduction” argument being made by some in politics.

“We can’t talk piously about programs to reduce the abortion body count without also working vigorously to change the laws that make the killing possible. If we’re Catholic, then we believe in the sanctity of developing human life. And if we don’t really believe in the humanity of the unborn child from the moment life begins, then we should stop lying to ourselves and others, and even to God, by claiming we’re something we’re not.”

“Catholic social teaching goes well beyond abortion,” Chaput noted. “In America we have many urgent issues that beg for our attention, from immigration reform to health care to poverty to homelessness.”

Winding his talk down, the archbishop of Denver remarked on the misunderstanding of the word “hope.”

“For Christians,” he explained, “hope is a virtue, not an emotional crutch or a political slogan. Virtus, the Latin root of virtue, means strength or courage. Real hope is unsentimental. It has nothing to do with the cheesy optimism of election campaigns. Hope assumes and demands a spine in believers. And that’s why — at least for a Christian — hope sustains us when the real answer to the problems or hard choices in life is ‘No, we can’t,’ instead of ‘Yes, we can.’”

The full text of the archbishop’s speech can be found here: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/document.php?n=790.
Alcoholism Requires Great Love, Honesty From All Affected

By Joe Froehle

Alcoholism is an insidious disease that is truly cunning, baffling and powerful. It is a disease that affects 10 percent of those who drink in our society. Stop drinking, DUIs, high liver enzymes, confrontations by others, job problems, desires not to drink but continued drinking, affairs, abusing a child, changing from scotch to wine, legal problems, drinking only at night, the list goes on and on.

Examples of such problems include: fights, arguments, thinking that life would be better without alcohol, anger and rage, shameful and embarrassing behaviors, broken relationships, injuries, verbal abuse, car wrecks, unsuccessful attempts to stop drinking, DUIs, high liver enzymes, confrontations by others, job problems, desires not to drink but continued drinking, affairs, abusing a child, changing from scotch to wine, legal problems, drinking only at night, the list goes on and on.

But for those who are willing to consider the possibility of their being alcoholic, help is only a phone call away: St. John’s Counseling Center, 359-8539, Chance to Change, 840-9000, Alcoholics Anonymous, 524-1100, Alanon, 767-9071, as well as many other helpful agencies listed under “alcoholism” in the yellow pages.

St. John’s Counseling Center provides addiction counseling for alcoholics and families and Chance to Change has a powerful six-session free education series on addiction on Monday evenings. Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon are the 12-step roads to recovery for alcoholics and family members of alcoholics, respectively. Detox and treatment centers are available for those more severely affected by the disease of alcoholism.

My hope is that if you might be affected by the disease of alcoholism, that you may find the willingness to make a phone call. That phone call may be the first step toward a new freedom and a new happiness that is indescribably wonderful. And remember, God is with you when making that phone call.

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

Lenten Journey Provides Opportunity to See How Far We Can Go

By Bill Zalot

Lenten Journey and how much we can see through a gentle heart that He can show the world His mercy.

St. Therese reminds us, “We are the eyes through which Christ shows compassion to the world.” It is not so much what we say, but what we do that can and will lead others to Christ and His Church.

Remember Ash Wednesday and why we wore those blessed ashes on our foreheads. Look forward to Easter and Christ’s death and Resurrection. In doing so we can see how far we have come on our Lenten journey and how much further we have to go.

Editor’s Note: Bill Zalot is a freelance writer who lives in Levittown, Pa. Although afflicted with spastic cerebral palsy, he writes extensively for Catholic publications. His columns will appear in The Sooner Catholic from time to time. Zalot can be reached at billzalot@comcast.net.
La recuperación comienza con el perdón

Abril es el mes destinado a la concienciación y prevención del abuso sexual

Por María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda

En un punto culminante de “The Shack”, una novela de superventa del periódico The New York Times, Mackenzie, el protagonista, discute con Dios acerca de la imposibilidad de perdonar al hombre que mató a su hija menor.

Dios simplemente le responde: “Mi gracia es la única forma en que el perdón verdadero es realmente posible. No dejes que el enfado, el dolor y la pérdida que sientes te impidan perdonarlo y quitar las manos de su cuello”.

“Nunca podremos perdonar por nosotros mismos”, afirma de acuerdo con lo anterior el Obispo Gregory M. Aymond de Austin, Texas, “Siempre es Dios quien mueve nuestro corazón para que podamos perdonar”.

Pero perdonar no es lo mismo que olvidar.

La frase “perdona y olvida”, observa el Obispo Aymond, es “muy ingenua, imprudente e inexacta. Significa pretender que algo nunca sucedió”, afirma. “La gente dice a menudo que Dios borra nuestro pecado. Pero borrar significa pretender que nunca existió. Dios recuerda nuestros pecados y nos perdonará de forma amorosa”. De la misma manera, “Dios nos llama a recordar los pecados de otros y a perdonarlos con amor”.

El perdón no excusa el mal ni deja impune al acusado.

“Todos los actos tienen consecuencias y Dios nos llama a corregir el mal que hemos hecho, ya sea en esta vida o en la siguiente. El perdón no significa que no los hagamos responsables”.

“Cuando herimos a otra persona, la justicia requiere que reparemos el daño cometido”, señala el Obispo Aymond, ex-presidente del Comité de Obispos para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes.

Para perdonar a alguien verdaderamente, dijo, uno debe enfrentarse al daño profundo, al enojo, y a la realidad de sus acciones, y poner esa pena profunda ante Dios. Y pedir a Dios que sane lo que está roto y, finalmente, por el bien de uno mismo y de la otra persona, puede elegir dejar marchar el dolor y perdonar.

Pero dado que “Dios no sólo opera en nosotros directamente, mediante la oración, sino también a través de los otros”, añade el Obispo Aymond, buscar ayuda profesional es algo fundamental. “El perdón quiere decir realmente “No me gusta lo que me sucedió. No fue justo. Me han herido profundamente, pero estoy dispuesto a no volver a la venganza”.

El perdón es vital para que perdona. “Toma mucha energía aterrarse al conciliar, vivir con ese nivel de enfado y depresión”, afirma el Obispo Aymond. “Le da a la otra persona demasiado poder, mucho más del que juzgamos merecerán”.

El perdón permite afirmar al que perdonaba: “Soy una persona valiosa y no te voy a permitir tener más poder sobre mí”. Es una forma de poner las acciones de esa otra persona en perspectiva.

Según el Obispo Aymond, las diferentes etapas del dolor emocional para las personas moribundas descritas por la doctora Elizabeth Kübler-Ross pueden aplicarse también de manera acertada al perdón en los casos de abuso sexual.

“El abuso sexual mata una parte del espíritu de una persona que nunca llega a recuperarse del todo. En este sentido, se ha producido una muerte, la muerte de la inocencia de la pureza, de ver al otro como una persona bonificada”.

Por tanto, es importante el no forzar a alguien a perdonar hasta que estén listos, afirma el Obispo Aymond. “Es importante que pase por las fases de negación, enojo y negociación, y que sean capaces de identificar esos sentimientos. Ciertamente, esto incluye momentos de depresión y, eventualmente, resignación. Todos esos son sentimientos muy naturales y comprensibles. A menos que pasemos por ellos, probablemente nunca llegaremos al perdón”.

A aquellos que afirman que algunas cosas simplemente no tienen perdón, el Obispo Aymond les responde: “Pienso que Jesús no estaría de acuerdo con eso. Jesús me perdonó, nunca ha abandonado, y me pide que perdone a otros. Perdonar puede llevar meses, años o toda una vida. Pero no creo que haya nada imperdonable. El perdón siempre es posible, y es algo que Dios nos llama a tratar de aceptar”.

Ultimamente, “el simple deseo de perdonar ya es perdón”, subraya el Obispo Aymond. “El perdón suele, en realidad, en el mismo momento en que la persona le dice a Dios: “Todavía me duele. Todavía siento deseos de venganza. Pero me gustaría perdonar”. Piensan que esa, en sí misma, ya es perdón”.

Oración para sanar víctimas de abuso

Dios de amor infinito,
siembra bondad divina,
siempre fuerte,
siempre presente, siempre justo.
Tu diste a tu único Hijo
para salvarnos por la sangre de su cruz.
Jesús Bueno, pastor de paz,
llena de tu propio sufrimiento
el dolor de todos quienes han sido heridos
en cuerpo, mente y espíritu
por aquellos quienes traicionaron
la confianza en ellos.
Oye nuestro llanto mientras sufrimos
por el daño causado a nuestros hermanos y hermanas.
Influye sabiduría en nuestras oraciones.
Alivia nuestras corazoncitas intranquilos con la esperanza.
Vereda los espíritus ambivalentes con fe.
Muéstranos el camino hacia la Justicia y la entereza.
Danos la luz de la verdad y sabiduría con tu misericordia.
Espíritu Santo, consolador de corazones,
cura las heridas de tu pueblo
y rescatamos de nuestra dispersión.
Damos valentía y sabiduría, humildad y gracia
para que así actuemos con justicia
y encontramos paz en ti.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo, Nuestro Señor. Amén.
**El Padre Roberto Carrasco nos trajo un mensaje renovador dese México**

Preparándonos para la gran fiesta de la Pascua en nuestra Arquidiócesis

Por Mauro Yanez  
*Sooner Catholic*

DUNCAN — Actualmente nos estamos preparando para la venida de la Semana Santa, cada uno de nosotros está siguiendo las reglas de nuestra doctrina Católica para lograr un verdadero encuentro de Pascua con nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Cristo murió crucificado por nosotros. Él nos dio un ejemplo de amor, sacrificio y sobre todo de salvación. Resucitó al tercer día de su muerte para darnos nueva vida con una subsistencia llena de esperanza en nuestro Creador.

Estamos viviendo tiempos muy difíciles, no solamente en lo económico sino en la pérdida de valores morales que trascienden desde lo más inadvertido hasta lo más notable.

Las minorías y los inmigrantes en Oklahoma están siendo acosados, perseguidos, intimidados y despreciados por personas que no aceptan a Dios en sus corazones y que creen que tienen la razón. Trazo error y de interpretación de la realidad cristiana. Dios nos enseña que al mal se le combate con amor y paz. Quienes creemos fervientemente en la Palabra de Dios jamás caeremos en la tentación y provocación de crear un ambiente adverso lleno de odio, Dios nos enseña amar a nuestro prójimo y perdonar a quienes nos ofenden. Se ha desatado una ola de odio y no denunciarlo es ser cómplice de quienes están obrando el mal. El racismo está en su plenitud en Oklahoma. También, iremos a tratar de ignorar tan dolorosa realidad de lo que pasa en una cobardía y traición al pueblo de Dios. Por eso ahora más que nunca, los católicos debemos estar más unidos y cumplir con las disposiciones del Evangelio y nuestro Catecismo. Debemos obrar el bien, debemos arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados y confiar en Dios. Hace pocos días el padre Roberto Carrasco nos trajo un mensaje desde México para todo el pueblo hispano de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

El Padre Carrasco nos recordó las ocasiones en que Jesús le habló a sus discípulos sobre la venida del Espíritu Santo, la traición que recibiría sobre su resurrección y el poder que el Espíritu Santo les daría a los discípulos para predicar el Evangelio en todo el mundo.

El Padre Carrasco dijo: “El Espíritu que ayudó a los creyentes en la Iglesia primitiva puede ayudar a los creyentes hoy si confían en el poder del Espíritu Santo mientras sirven a Dios”.

El Padre Carrasco nos pidió que confiemos en la obra del Espíritu Santo, porque será éste quien convencerá a las personas malas de la necesidad de poner a Cristo en el centro de sus vidas y desempolverse de hacer el mal. El Padre Carrasco mencionó que hay personas que no quieren cambiar porque tienen pretextos para no creer verdaderamente en Jesucristo y que estas personas más bien conquistan las cosas que son contrarias a la luz de Cristo.

Asimismo, destacó que las personas que obran el mal pretenden darle valor económico a la vida humana y que debemos estar claros que el verdadero valor de nuestra vida es la Sangre de Cristo. Finalmente, el Padre Carrasco recordó que rezaremos mucho a Dios y confiaremos en el Espíritu Santo para que nos siga iluminado y aprendamos a encontrar la posibilidad real de una convivencia pacífica y constructiva entre el pueblo de Dios.
Jobs Box

Teaching Positions 2009-2010

Villa Teresa Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions in the summer and fall 2009-2010 school year. For the summer, we need a water safety instructor for the swimming program. For fall, positions for fourth grade and an additional second grade are needed. A long-term substitute is also needed for first grade for the first nine weeks of school next fall. Please call the school office (223-4286) for an interview and send resume to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City 73103.

St. Philip Neri School Seeking a Principal
St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City is seeking a principal for the 2009-2010 school year. St. Philip Neri, a school of approximately 220 students, enrolls pre-K (3-year-olds) through eighth grade. The school is accredited by the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic School Accreditation Association, which is recognized by the state of Oklahoma. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic with at least three years of teaching experience, preferably in a Catholic school. Applicant should have a master's degree in educational administration or a related field. The position is available August 1, 2009, but the interview process will begin as soon as possible. An application may be obtained from Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202 or e-mail inquiries to mubey@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Elementary Principal Position Available
Holy Trinity Catholic School is a 3-year-old to eighth-grade school located in Okarche. Holy Trinity enrolls around 90 students with a professional staff of 15, and is fully accredited by the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic School Accreditation Association, which is recognized by the state of Oklahoma. Candidates 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. Excellent communication skills and enthusiasm for developing and maintaining a top grade academic and religious-oriented school are a must. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic and hold a master’s degree in educational administration or related field and a minimum of three years educational experience. Position is available for the 2009-2010 school year. An application may be obtained from Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202 or e-mail mubey@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Center of Family Love Openings
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: LPNs - Full-time shifts available. DCTs - Certified is great, if not, we will train. Shifts available are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Dietary aide - Help prepare meals following recipes and menus. Full-time hours available. Housekeeper and laundry aide - Full-time days available, must be able to lift 25 pounds. Maintenance worker - Painting, drywall and general mechanical experience preferred. Full-time hours available. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cfclin.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche 73762. EOE

Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society Oklahoma Archdiocesan Council Board has a part-time position open for an executive director. Understands, interprets and applies rules/policies of the society. Coordinate and manage the day-to-day operation. Assist the board in performance of their various roles. Serve as a mentor and monitor for conference presidents to ensure the maintenance of effective local organizations consistent with the Rules of the Society. Is an active member of their Catholic Parish. Possess excellent verbal, written and computer skills. Mail your resume to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3031 NW 23rd St., OKC 73107, or e-mail stvincentokc@gmail.com.

Teaching Positions 2009-2010
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2009-2010 school year. SHCS is a PK4 through eighth-grade school. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Long-Term Substitute
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for two long-term substitutes for maternity leaves. The first is for a middle school language arts teacher, certification required. The second position is for a part-time music teacher, certification not required. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Volunteers
The Good Samaritan Health Clinic needs volunteer physicians, nurses, dieticians, social workers, Spanish translators and receptionists from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays beginning Feb. 14. Volunteering will be less than once per month. The application process and other clinic information is on the clinic Web site, good-samaritanofedmond.com. The state of Oklahoma has the largest rate of uninsured residents in the nation and about 8,000 to 21,000 live in Edmond.

Assistant Professor (English)
St. Gregory’s University, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts community with over 130 years of educational excellence, seeks qualified and enthusiastic applicants for a full-time, tenure-track position in English, beginning August 2009. Ph.D. in English (by August of 2009) is required. A specialization in English composition/rhetoric and/or secondary English education is highly desirable. We are committed to excellence in undergraduate teaching and the ideal candidate will demonstrate that value. The successful candidate will teach English Composition I and II (a common core requirement) and upper-level English courses (including young adult literature, children’s literature and teaching writing/literature). Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation to the attention of Father Robert A. Busch, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts and Sciences. Application materials may be sent electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu or via mail service to Human Resources Department, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Dean of Enrollment Management
St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee invites applicants for the position of Dean of Enrollment Management. Position responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, analysis and general supervision of all programs related to the recruiting and retaining of undergraduate students. Involves developing and implementing the university’s strategic enrollment and marketing plan and recruiting goals for the College of Arts and Sciences. This position manages the budget for the office and supervises the admissions counselors and office support staff. In addition, this position will coordinate and support the contracted recruitment companies. Applicants must possess an understanding of and willingness to support the St. Gregory’s University Catholic and Benedictine mission. Master’s degree is required. Experience as an admissions counselor and a minimum of two years experience in the director's or assistant position is preferred. Electronic résumés are preferred, and should include a letter of application describing experience, qualifications, vision and record of achieving/exceeding enrollment goals at one’s recent institution. Shingi Goto, Executive Vice President, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, sngoto@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5435.
Benedictines Will Host Retreat This Summer in Dallas

The 12th annual interdenominational Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at the Catholic Conference Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 24 to Sunday, June 28, 2009.

This retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C. Participants will live at the conference center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. Call 214-339-8483 or e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com for more information.

The retreat will be led by two nationally known religious figures. The Very Rev. Robert Hale, O.S.B.Cam, is a Roman Catholic Camaldolese Benedictine monk. He was superior for 12 years of New Camaldoli Monastery in Big Sur, Calif., where he became a monk in 1959. He has a Ph.D. in theology from Fordham University. He has taught theology at Sant’Anselmo University in Rome, and at The Jesuit School of Theology of The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He is the author of Canterbury and Rome: Sister Churches; Christ and the Universe (a book on Teilhard de Chardin); and Love on the Mountain: The Chronicle Journal of a Camaldolese Monk. This will be Father Robert’s sixth time as a leader of the Dallas retreat.

Brother Abraham Newsom, O.S.B., a Texas native, is a monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey (Episcopal) in Three Rivers, Mich. He was the co-editor of Singing God’s Praises: The First Sixty Years, a history of St. Gregory’s Abbey, and has had articles published in various media, including Veil and Cowl: Writings from the World of Monks and Nuns and St. Gregory’s own Abbey Letter. He has led various Benedictine quiet days, retreats and classes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the Midwest and New England, and is returning for the fourth time as a leader of the Dallas retreat.

Both Father Robert and Brother Abraham will give presentations on Benedictine values and their applications to life today. They will also offer spiritual direction for those who wish it.

This interdenominational retreat is open to anyone interested in learning Benedictine spirituality.
**St. Patrick’s Day Parade**

Oklahoma Catholics were well represented March 14 when the annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade rolled through the streets of downtown Oklahoma City. Beautiful spring-like weather greeted the parade which featured close to 70 entries. Clockwise, Father Charles Murphy played the part of St. Patrick much to the delight of young and old. Sister Susan Clark, CST, watches the parade go by from a seat on the reviewing stand, while marchers representing the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul make their way in the parade. Green was the overwhelming color of the day as is evidenced by these green-clad marchers. Photos/Rex Hogan