Benedictines, Archbishop Agree to Changes In Parish Roles

SHAWNEE — The Benedictine monks of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee will soon entrust the parishes under their care in Pottawatomie and Seminole counties to the pastoral leadership of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The Most Reverend Eusebius Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, and the Rt. Reverend Lawrence Straszyzen, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey, announced the shift in parish administration at a meeting with parish representatives held at Saint Benedict Parish in Shawnee on March 15. Archbishop Beltran hosted the meeting in order to share information with parish representatives and to answer questions regarding the immediate effects of the change.

During the meeting, Archbishop Beltran noted that “the Catholic Church is structured along geographical lines so that every Catholic person and institution is under the jurisdiction of the local bishop. This area is called a diocese or archdiocese. Through the spiritual direction of the bishop or archbishop and extended through smaller areas (parishes), the faith is transmitted, celebrated and grows. Therefore, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will be responsible for appointing pastors to the area formerly served by the Benedictine Monks of Shawnee.”

Congregations at Saint Cecilia Church in Maud, Saint Vincent de Paul Church in McLoud, Immaculate Conception Church in Seminole, Saint Benedict Church in Shawnee, Saint Joseph Church in Wewoka and Saint Mary Church in Wanette will be affected by the change in administration. St. Gregory’s Abbey will continue to provide pastoral care for Sacred Heart Parish in southern Pottawatomie County due to its historical connection with the Benedictine community and its proximity to the historical site of the original monastery complex.

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The Good News

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The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord is one of the very special celebrations of our liturgical calendar. The Pre-liturgy Office of the Conference of Catholic Bishops recently authored a beautiful article on the relevance of Catholic Bishops recently authored a beautiful article on the relevance of the Sacraments of Initiation. These three — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — are what we celebrate here tonight for they are the means whereby we are incorporated into the life of our Risen Lord. In Baptism, original sin and any personal sins we may have committed are truly and absolutely forgiven. We are adopted as God’s children and God infuses His Sanctifying Grace in us. Yes, through Baptism we are reborn and become members of the Church, members of the Body of Christ. In Confirmation, through the imposition of hands and the anointing with the Sacred Chrism, we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth who is our Advocate and who confirms us in the Christian faith and for His presence, His inspiration and His guidance.

In the Holy Eucharist, we join with Jesus in praising and worshiping the Father Jesus comes to us in a very special way by giving us His own Body and Blood. Thus He nourishes us and strengthens us for our continuing journey of faith. Remember, Jesus said: “I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” Then He said: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you cannot have life in you.” We celebrate those three Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist — for through them we first receive the new life God offers us. We also receive His pledge of support and nourishment, the inspiration and help we need to become His faithful sons and daughters.

Tonight then, after these catechumenate and candidates are baptized and confirmed, I will invite all of you to make a renewal of your baptismal promises. Following that renewal I will bless all who are present here with this Easter Holy Water to remind you of your own baptism. Thus, all of us gathered here tonight, whether baptized earlier or now, whether confirmed tonight or previously, whether a lifelong member of the Catholic Church or a newly received one, all of us can stand in the presence of God with great faith and hope and love. We stand here with that assurance of faith because our salvation is a very special gift from God. God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to save us. Jesus, by His life, death and resurrection, does indeed save us. Therefore, tonight we experience our profound joy in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. And it is specifically for this reason that I say: May you and your loved ones have a most Blessed Easter. Alleluia!!

... The Annunciation of the Lord

Mary and Women’s History Month
by Deirdre A. McQuade

For 21 years, Women’s History Month has been celebrated in March. In 2008, this observance will end on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (celebrated on March 31 instead of the traditional March 25) as a way not to conflict with Easter week. It’s fitting to end on this high note, paying tribute to the most pivotal woman in the history of humankind. Yet I wonder whether lesson plans for this awareness-raising month will raise any awareness of her!

The feast day marks a decisive moment when Mary, not yet fully understanding what the angel Gabriel was saying to her, nonetheless responded out of her love for God and said “yes” in her famous “fiat.” “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done unto me according to your will.”

The rest, as they say, is history. Not a distorted feminist “her-story” that seeks to erase references to men. Indeed, Mary’s whole mission in life is to point others to her Son, the God-Man who could never exploit us in any way, and who is the source of all reconciliation, healing and authentic love, including between the sexes. Wherever women suffer injustice, exploitation and violence, the only hope for authentic justice will come through the transforming power of Christ and those who cling to him.

How different Mary’s fiat is from the era-defining book Our Bodies, Ourselves and early slogans of the pro-abortion movement such as “It’s my body, my choice.” These slogans popularized a false philosophy: rejecting the reality that we are not our own but were made by God in His image, male and female.

Secular feminists leave God out of the feminist project. After all, they say, “if God is not involved, why bother?” These ugly slogans seek to erase references to the One who created us. Secular feminism aspires to global feminism, but God is the Creator of the Universe. For that reason the Sooner Catholic has chosen this celebration of Mary’s fiat to point others to her Son, the God-Man who could never exploit us in any way, and who is the source of all reconciliation, healing and authentic love, including between the sexes. Wherever women suffer injustice, exploitation and violence, the only hope for authentic justice will come through the transforming power of Christ and those who cling to him.
Benedictines

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Abbot Lawrence described this decision as the continuation of a process that began with the arrival of the first bishop of Oklahoma, Theophile Meerschaert, in 1891.

“This decision marks an historic turning point for our monastic community and for our role in the Archdiocese,” Abbot Lawrence said. “The establishment and staffing of parishes has been part of the calling of our monastic community since the beginning — it is one of our foundational charisms. It is also, however, a charism that has changed over the years, starting with the arrival of Bishop Meerschaert, and through continued collaboration with subsequent bishops to the present day.”

Archbishop Beltran expressed appreciation for the dedicated leadership and service provided by the monks of St. Gregory’s and stressed his ultimate responsibility for providing pastoral care for all the parishes within the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The full effect of the announced transition to archdiocesan administration will not necessarily take place immediately. To the extent possible, St. Gregory’s Abbey will continue to provide pastoral care in the area, although the ongoing responsibility for the organization of the parishes will be under the direction of archdiocesan leadership. Archbishop Beltran was not prepared to make specific announcements of parish organization or pastoral assignments at the meeting on March 15. He did, however, affirm that St. Benedict Parish will receive a new pastor.

“Since Father Maurus Jaeh, O.S.B., will be returning to St. Gregory’s to assume new responsibilities at the monastery, I will assign a priest to serve as pastor for St. Benedict Parish,” he said.

The Archdiocesan Personnel Board is currently in the process of working with Archbishop Beltran in evaluating current needs throughout the Archdiocese. Beltran said it was not a simple process, noting that in addition to meeting the needs of parish communities, the Archdiocese “must also serve the needs of various other charismatics in the Archdiocese with a decreasing number of available priests.” Pastoral assignments are normally announced in April and take effect in June.

St. Gregory’s Abbey also must adjust to a smaller number of monks. There were some 65 monks in 1996, compared to 27 monks today. Abbot Lawrence stated that “the decreased number of monks available to serve in residential ministry is certainly a factor in our need to entrust the parishes to the Archdiocese. It is not, however, the only reason. We also must listen to how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through those who are interested in monastic life today. Increased lay involvement today seems called to experience the life of prayer and work in the context of the monastery and not as pastors living away from the monastery. We need to discern our communal role in the Church through them.”

Abbot Lawrence spoke of the ongoing commitment of the Benedictine community to the Church in Oklahoma.

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Art Program Aimed at Homeless

OKLAHOMA CITY — An opportunity for homeless adults to enjoy art will become a reality this spring as a program sponsored by Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Homeless Alliance gets under way, said Kim Woods, homeless coordinator for Catholic Charities.

The pilot program, fresh start, an open visual arts studio, which Friday afternoon, will begin in April with volunteer artists and social workers to assist adults interested in learning and participating in drawing, painting and other mediums of art. The program will be offered at the WestTown Resource Center, 1279 NW 3rd St., in space provided by the Homeless Alliance.

“This program is based on a successful program — Art from the Streets, started in 1991 in Austin, Texas, for the homeless population. We are modeling our pilot program on the same principles,” Woods said. “Model programs which have provided a venue for expressive arts for homeless persons have had a positive effect on self-esteem, creative outlet, emotional therapy, connection to a peer group, life structure, skills transferable to employment, and dignity.”

For the program to be successful in Oklahoma City, involvement and participation are needed from the community, said Jennifer Gooden of the Homeless Alliance. “We are asking for volunteer artists to not necessarily teach art, but to model the behavior of a working artist.” Gooden said art supplies and donations for the studio will also be needed.

Anyone interested in helping provide art supplies or financial donations to the program or needs information may contact Jennifer Gooden, Homeless Alliance, at 632-7431, or jgooden@homlessalliance.org
Obituary

Father Larry Gatlin Dies at Age 71 in Oklahoma City

Rev. Larry Benton Gatlin, 71, died Monday, March 17 in Oklahoma City. Father Gatlin was born Nov. 22, 1936, in Hutchinson, Kan.
He is remembered as a loyal friend with a great memory and quiet wit.
Father Gatlin was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on Dec. 30, 1967, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City.
Father Gatlin graduated from Hominy High School in 1954 and received a B.A. in Letters (with distinction) from the University of Oklahoma in 1958.
He entered the General Seminar of the Episcopal Church, New York City, in 1958, and was ordained as a priest of the Episcopal Church in 1961. He served as Curate of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Norman from 1961 to 1963 and Curate of All Saint Anglican Church, Stratford Lanes, England, from 1963 to 1965. In 1965, Father Gatlin entered Pontifical Beda College, Rome, Italy. Father Gatlin also attended the Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo.

Following his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest, Father Gatlin served as associate pastor of Saint Mary Church, Tulsa (1968 to 1970) and Saint James Church, Oklahoma City (1970 to 1971).
In 1971, he became pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Buffalo, and Saint Francis Church, Beaver. He served as pastor of St. Gregory the Great, Enid, from 1972 to 1979, and as pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Norman, from 1976 to 1979.

From 1969 to 1983, Father Gatlin served as chaplain at Saint Ann’s Home, Baptist Hospital and Deaconess Hospital, Oklahoma City. Father Gatlin served as pastor of Holy Spirit Church, Mustang (1983 to 1995), Saint James Church, Oklahoma City (1995 to 2000) and Saint Joseph Church, Bison (2000 to 2003). Father Gatlin retired in 2003. Father Gatlin was a member of the Archdiocesan Seminary Board from 1969 to 1972, a member of the Worship Commission (1971 to 1977) and a member of Sundays’ chairman from 1973 to 1977. He also was director of Ecumenism/Interreligious Affairs from 1977 to 1979. Father Gatlin also was a member of the Council of Priests from 1985 to 1998. He was active in several other archdiocesan committees including the Justice and Peace Subcommittee of the Council of Priests.
Father Gatlin was pre-deceased by his father and mother, Carl N. Gatlin and Beatrice Jane Underhill Gatlin, his sister, Mrs. Audine Fryar, and brother, Dr. Carl Gatlin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Chapel of the Catholic Pastoral Center on March 19. Interment followed at Resurrection Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith and Kernek Funeral Home, 14624 N. May, Oklahoma City.

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EWTN to Provide Live Coverage of Pontif’s U.S. Visit

Irondale, AL (EWTN) — EWTN Global Catholic Network will provide live coverage of every event in Pope Benedict XVI’s historic U.S. trip, from the time his plane lands until he departs the country.

Special live coverage, airing Tuesday, April 15 through Sunday, April 20, will be provided by EWTN News Director Raymond Arroyo, who has anchored more papal events than anyone in the industry and who obtained the only English language interview in existence today with the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

As a precursor to the visit, Arroyo has obtained an exclusive interview with President George Bush in which he will discuss U.S. relations with the Holy See, the papal visit, Iraq, and much more. The special will air 8 p.m. April 11 on the “The World Over Live” on EWTN.

In addition to the live shows (details listed below), EWTN’s continuing coverage will include three specials: “Benedictus XVI: VATICAN II,” a documentary offering a close look at Cardinal Ratzinger in the period following the death of Pope John Paul II, and an analysis of what he brings to the table as the new Pope Benedict XVI. (“Airing 8 p.m. April 12; a 2 a.m. April 13, 11 p.m. April 15; and 8:30 p.m. April 20.”)

“In addition to the live shows, Arroyo will be joined in live coverage and commentary of the pope’s trip by Father Richard John Neuhaus, editor and author; Peggy Noonan, Wall Street Journal columnist, author and speechwriter for President Reagan; and Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

Live coverage will be as follows: (all times Eastern)

Tuesday, April 15, 3:30 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI arrives at Andrews Air Force Base and is greeted by President and Mrs. Bush, local dignitaries of the church and the apostolic nuncio. (Encore 8 p.m. April 15 and 4 a.m. April 16.)

Wednesday, April 16, 10 a.m.
Pope Benedict XVI is received by President and Mrs. Bush at a White House welcoming ceremony, followed by a private meeting between the president and the pope, and the dignitaries of the two states. (Encore 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. April 16.)

Wednesday, April 16, 10 a.m.
Pope Benedict XVI gathers with the bishops of the United States for a prayer service and address at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. (Encore 10:30 p.m. April 16 and 4 a.m. April 17.)

Thursday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.
Pope Benedict XVI offers Mass at the new Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. (Encore 1 p.m. April 17 and 12 a.m.)

Thursday, April 17, 4:20 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI will address hundreds of Catholic university heads and diocesan superintendents on the importance of Catholic education at the Catholic University of America. (Encore 9 p.m. April 17 and 5 a.m. April 18.)

Thursday, April 17, 6 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI will meet with representatives of various religions for a prayer service at the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. (Encore 10:30 p.m. April 17 and 6:30 a.m. April 18.)

Friday, April 18, 9:30 a.m.
 Arrival at JFK International Airport. (Encore 4:30 p.m. April 18 and 1 a.m. April 19.)

Friday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.
Pope Benedict XVI will address the United Nations, after an early morning flight to New York. (Encore 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 18 and 2 a.m. April 19.)

Friday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.
Prayer service with leaders from other Christian denominations at St. Joseph’s, founded by German Catholics, in Little Rock. (Encore 10 p.m. April 18 and 3:30 a.m. April 19.)

Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.
Mass for priests, deacons and members of religious orders at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in the heart of New York City. (Encore 1 p.m. and 11 a.m. April 20.)

Saturday, April 19, 4 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI meets with thousands of young people from around the country; the event includes a rally/prayer service and a speech from the pope. (Encore 8 p.m. April 19 and 4 a.m. April 20.)

Sunday, April 20, 9 a.m.
Pope Benedict XVI visits the former World Trade Center site, now known as Ground Zero in New York City. (Encore 11 a.m. April 20 and 1 a.m. April 21.)

Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Holy Mass at Yankee Stadium in New York, bringing his historic U.S. visit to a close. (Encore 10 p.m. April 20.)

Sunday, April 20, 7:20 p.m.
Pope Benedict XVI departs. (Encore 2:30 a.m. April 21.)

EWTN Global Catholic Network is available in more than 140 million television households in 144 countries and territories. With its direct broadcast satellite television and radio services, radio networks, worldwide short-wave radio station, Web site and publishing arm, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world.
Father Joseph Kolb Recognized With Father Rother Award

OKLAHOMA CITY — Father Joseph C. Kolb was the recipient of this year's Father Stanley Rother Faithful Shepherd Award. The Archdiocesan Council of Priests presents the award annually. Named in honor of Oklahoma priest, Father Stanley F. Rother, martyred in Guatemala in 1981, the award was presented March 18 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral during a prayer service prior to the Chrism Mass.

Introduced by Father Jack Feehily, the retired Father Kolb joked about the various awards he has received throughout his life, from the gold star he received in elementary school to the Bronze Star he received for his service in World War II. He said an award for “good conduct” was once presented to him “because I didn’t get caught.”

Archbishop Beltran congratulated Father Kolb when he was pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Altus.

Father Kolb was honored recently for his more than 30 years serving as chaplain for the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. He called the award presented to him in memory of Father Rother “a great honor.”

Father Kolb, on numerous trips to Mexico. Father Kolb, on numerous occasions, loaded a truck with all sorts of discarded goods he had collected and restored and then drove from Oklahoma to Juarez, where he distributed them to the needy, said Father Feehily. “At first I just thought he was a junk collector,” Father Feehily said, recalling one of the first times he visited Father Kolb when he was pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Altus.

“Someone somewhere became aware of this work,” Father Feehily said. “This was a project.”

Father Kolb’s work as a “human junk collector” benefits the poor in Juarez.

Arroyo to Address Parish Retreat

OKLAHOMA CITY — Raymond Arroyo, the host and creator of the Catholic Global Television Network (EWTN) international news magazine “The World Over,” will speak at a parish retreat hosted by Christ the King Church. The retreat will be held at 7 p.m. April 28-29. Arroyo is the internationally recognized and award-winning journalist, producer and best-selling author, seen each week in more than 100 million homes across the globe.

Arroyo will be covering Pope Benedict XVI’s trip to the United States April 15-20, before he comes to Oklahoma City. As the keynote speaker at the parish retreat, on April 28, he will speak about Pope Benedict’s Vision for the Church, and the role the average Catholic will play in his vision. On Tuesday evening, the 29th, he will discuss the use of mass communication in evangelization and its effect on the Catholic Church.

Christ the King Parish is located at 8005 N. Dorsett Drive in Nichols Hills. Both Arroyo’s talks and the four nights of retreat will begin at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Call 842-1481 for more information.

Edmond Parish to Host Program

EDMOND — The Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist will present a program titled “Why Catholic?” to be held from 9 a.m. to noon April 12 in the main church at 9th and Boulevard in Edmond.

This year’s program features Father Dwight Longenecker, former Anglican priest and now a Catholic priest, who will describe his journey to the Catholic Church and “12 Things to Look For to Find the True Church.”

There is no charge or pre-registration for this program. Child care will be available in the parish nursery, and hospitality, including refreshments, will be provided beginning at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call Deacon John Morris in the parish office at 340-0691, or e-mail jmorris@stjohn-catholic.org.
Creighton Students Lend Hands, Hearts to Oklahoma

By Monica Knudsen

For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Imagine this. Nine college students trudged sun, sand and revelry for Oklahoma City’s dicey weather, and a week spent in service to the poor. Sponsored by Oklahoma City’s Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Workers, Creighton University students gave up sodas and junk food, ate on $8 a day (an equivalent amount for food stamp recipients), recycled their garbage, delivered meals to homeless people, grocers to people in need, and picked up trash in public places. They also built raised garden beds, unloaded the Regional Food Bank truck and stocked shelves at the Dorothy Day Center, and visited Birth Choice, a crisis pregnancy counseling center. They slept on air mattresses in crowded conditions, shared 1/2 small bathroom, and met people who lead "purpose-driven lives," from a woman rooms, and met people who lead

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three-hour Social Justice Stations of the Cross. It was one of the coldest, wettest, windiest days of the winter as the group prayed and sang the traditional liturgy at 14 city locations: Jesus House, Catholic Charities, blighted neighborhoods, the I-40 Crosstown Freeway, the Oklahoma County Jail, City Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army Family Shelter, among others. The group was led by Bob Waldrop, founder of the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Workers House.

As the morning wore on, shoes froze and pant hems were wet. "I can’t feel my legs anymore," said one person. By the 12th Station, the students were muddy, hungry, shivering and needing a restroom. It was difficult to concentrate on the prayers. Though they could retreat to a warm van between Stations, they understood, in a small way, the physical discomforts of homelessness and the difficulty of taking care of basic needs.

At each stop, Waldrop drew parallels between the events of Christ’s passion and death and the sites of the city. He said, “We saw the ugliest aspect of life in our city.”

"We saw the ugliest aspect of life in our city.”

The weeklong service trip was much more than a boot camp experience, Waldrop said. "The point of these disciplines is not arbitrary denial, but to open windows of examination of conscience regarding the way we typically live our lives. All that we do have consequences, and sometimes those consequences are neither picturesque, nor helpful." Each evening, students also spent time in reflection and prayer.

Creighton University is a Jesuit Catholic school, founded in 1878. Today, 6700 students live on a 108-acre campus near downtown Omaha. The Spring Break Service Trips began in 1983, and are coordinated by the Creighton Center for Service and Justice. They have become an annual opportunity for stepping out of comfortable surroundings and experiencing life-changing spiritual growth. Last year, 220 students fanned out to 25 communities across the United States. St. Gregory’s University has hosted Creighton students for six years.

May those students who walked the streets of Oklahoma City and shared food and friendship with people in need, be similarly blessed.

SGU Names Joe Murgo to Post

SHAWNEE — After an eight-month nationwide search, St. Gregory’s University has selected its new vice president for institutional advancement. SGU’s executive committee of its board of directors approved earlier this month the hire of East Coast native Joe Murgo.

Murgo will lead the institutional advancement team, which consists of development, alumni relations and public relations. Mr. Murgo has a wealth of fundraising and business experience, and we are excited to have him on board at St. Gregory’s,” said SGU President David Wagie, Ph.D.

“Joe Murgo

“I look forward to working with Mr. Murgo as we continue to build our resources and complete our strategic plan in preparation for our centennial in 2013.”

Murgo has a successful history in executive fundraising and fundraising management, with extensive experience in cross-functional management, business development, sales and marketing and college teaching. Included in that experience is 30 years of senior management assignments, 27 years in fundraising, 18 years in Catholic education and 15 years as a college/university instructor.

At Father Flanagan’s Boys and Girls Town of New England, he planned and designed a multimillion-dollar capital campaign. Murgo also orchestrated a successful $68.2 million fundraising campaign as vice president for advancement at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, R.I., and its multi-state campus sites. Murgo earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Providence College in Rhode Island.

Knights Host Annual Free Throw Contest

SHAWNEE — One of the most popular events sponsored by the Knights of Columbus is the basketball free throw competition.

Nine Oklahoma Knights of Columbus districts sent their best free throw shooter to St. Gregory’s University for the State Free Throw Championship. The event was held March 8, and 64 boys and girls from throughout the state joined in the fun and excitement at the university field house. Of those competing, 30 came away with trophies for first-, second- and third-place finishes. St. Gregory’s University President Dr. David Wagie made the trophy presentations. He extended a warm welcome and thanked the state officers and Knights present for their work throughout the state and for having youth and family-oriented programs.


The Oklahoma Knights would like to thank St. Gregory’s University for being a wonderful host. Thanks also to all sponsors who supported the event; parents who supported your youth and to the St. Gregory’s University Knights Council 5354 for their rebidding assistance.
Across Oklahoma

Reardon to Perform

OKLAHOMA CITY — Micheal Reardon will perform April 2 at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, in a dramatic performance of the Gospel of John. The 7 p.m. performance is free. All are invited. Reardon has memorized the morning’s news, story ideas turning in my mind. I had prepared meticulously, ironing my suit, straightening my hair, frowning everything into submission. I had memorized the morning’s news, donning my best manic effect and applied a dab of lip gloss. I was set.

The recruiters quickly lowered my lofty expectations. The heavy hitters weren’t exactly interested. Neither were the middle-of-the-roaders. The recruiters were the middle-of-the-roaders. They weren’t exactly interested. Neither were the heavy hitters. Their lofty expectations. The heavy hitters impelled by the Gospel,” as Pope Benedict XVI put it last month.

We are thankful because we have been granted the greatest mission on earth. No matter what company name is stamped on our paychecks, we are ambassadors of Christ, “heralds im-23

Workshop Targets Healing From Abuse TULSA — A Mary's Hope Introductory Workshop to provide spiritual healing and recovery from childhood sexual abuse will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8730 E. Skelly Drive. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Diocese of Tulsa. Fee is $50, and prepaid registration is required at maryshope6@swest.net or by calling (918) 377-0283. The Association of Professional Chaplains, the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Social Workers and the University of Tulsa have approved the workshop to provide seven hours of certified education units. Contact Dr. Mary Parker at (918) 749-6935. Those wishing to visit the Mary’s Hope Web site may do so at www.maryshope.org.

We Should Not Let Our Resume Become Our Identity

I arrived at the career fair with high hopes, 20 résumés and dozens of story ideas turning in my mind. I had prepared meticulously, ironing my suit, straightening my hair, frowning everything into submission. I had memorized the morning’s news, donning my best manic effect and applied a dab of lip gloss. I was set.

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I arrived at the career fair with high hopes, 20 résumés and dozens of story ideas turning in my mind. I had prepared meticulously, ironing my suit, straightening my hair, frowning everything into submission. I had memorized the morning’s news, donning my best manic effect and applied a dab of lip gloss. I was set.

The recruiters quickly lowered my lofty expectations. The heavy hitters weren’t exactly interested. Neither were the middle-of-the-roaders. The recruiters were the middle-of-the-roaders. They weren’t exactly interested. Neither were the heavy hitters. Their lofty expectations. The heavy hitters impelled by the Gospel,” as Pope Benedict XVI put it last month.

We are thankful because we have been granted the greatest mission on earth. No matter what company name is stamped on our paychecks, we are ambassadors of Christ, “heralds im-23

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Holy Week

At the Chrism Mass on March 18, Archbishop Beltran accepts the Oil of Chrism presented by Bernie Valverde of Saint Mary Parish in Clinton. Sooner Catholic Photo/Ray Dyer

A parishioner at Saint Philip Neri Church in Midwest City has her feet washed by Father Timothy Fuller on Holy Thursday.

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

At Saint Philip Neri, Father Fuller accepts the Oil of the Sick from Wendy Mendel that was blessed at Chrism Mass.

With help from her dad, Joe Staudt, Meralyn reaches to touch the Crucifix during veneration celebrated on Good Friday at Saint Mary Church in Guthrie. Sooner Catholic Photos/Cara Koenig
Easter Vigil

Deacon Paul Lewis holds the Easter Vigil Candle for Archbishop Beltran at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. At right, Catholics light their candles.

Father Thanh Nguyen welcomes an infant with an Easter egg.

The Easter Vigil at the Cathedral included the sacraments of confirmation and baptism as new Catholics entered the Church. Sooner Catholic Photos/Cara Koenig
The Standing Box: Mom’s Lesson on Pride Not Forgotten

By Bill Zalot

The Standing Box

Mom came into my room and wheeled me into the bathroom. She sat on the edge of the tub. "I hope you got enough sleep," she said. "I need you to be rested for the game tonight." I just waved as I got on the bus. The game was against the Mets, and I was nervous. I knew that if I didn’t do well, I would be cut from the team. But I also knew that if I did well, I would be the hero of the day. I was caught in a dilemma.

It is one thing to love when you feel loved by others, and another when you feel love for yourself. When you feel love, you are grateful for the person and gifts; it is quite another when everything around you speaks of mistrust, jealousy, coldness and hatred.

It is one thing to maintain your ideals when they are shared by others, when the gospel works for you, when people work out in practice, it is quite another when it seems you are alone in some ideal and when the gospel seems far away from delivering more death than life.

It is one thing to keep your balance when the rhythms of life support it, when there is a healthy give and take to things, when life is fair, it is quite another when things are unfair, when you are unjustly criticized, when everyone else seems to have lost balance, when, like on Good Friday, it gets dark.

It is one thing to bless others when they want to receive that blessing, when they hang on to your every word, when they want to be in your company; it is quite another when their very glance speaks of loathing and when they avoid you when you come into a room.

It is one thing to forgive others when that forgiveness seems fair, when it isn’t possible to swallow the hurt, when you deal yourself that hurt, it is quite another to forgive someone when it isn’t fair, when the wound dealt you is mortal, when the life being murdered is your own.

It is one thing to give your life over to family church, community and God when you feel loved and supported by them, when they seem worth the sacrifices, when you get a good feeling by doing it; it is quite another thing when you do not feel support, when it doesn’t seem worthwhile, and when you feel no other reason for doing it except truth and principle.

These contrasts capture, in essence, what Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross. His passion was a drama of the heart, not an endurance test for his holy.

What made Jesus’ sacrifice, his handing himself over, so special?

We have, I think, focused too much on the physical aspects of the crucifixion to the detriment of what was happening more deeply, underneath. Why do I say that? Because none of the gospels emphasize the physical sufferings, nor indeed, in the fears he expresses in conversations before his death, does Jesus what the gospels and Jesus emphasizes is his moral loneliness, the fact that he was alone, betrayed, humiliated, misunderstood, an object of jealousy and crowd hostility, a stone’s throw away from everyone, that those who loved him were asleep to what was really happening, that he was unamnity-minus-one.

And this moral loneliness, mocked by those outside of it, tempted him against everything he had endured and stood for during his life and ministry. What made his sacrifice so special was not that he died a victim of violence (millions die as victims of violence and their deaths aren’t necessarily special); nor that he refused to use divine power to stop his death (as he himself taught, that would have proved nothing). What made his death so special is that, inside of all the aloneness, darkness, jealousy, misunderstanding, sick crowd hostility, coldness and murder, he held himself up, gave himself over, without bitterness, without self- pity, holding his ideals intact, gracious, respectful, forgiving, without losing his balance, his meaning or his message.

Mom, it’s a new season.
A few weeks ago, an editor of another diocesan paper sent me an e-mail that affirmed something I had already begun to suspect. About the time my husband told me he would be entering the Church, I had a growing sense that the season of writing for diocesan papers was over for me. Each time I considered a new subject matter for a possible article, I would abandon the idea and think that maybe there were no more articles in me to write. Time has proven that to be so. It seems I have come to the end of the conversion story.

This particular editor was off base in what he wrote, but God used him anyway. While I disagreed with his comments, he raised a point. I realized that I had the confirmation I needed that the writing season had ended.

If you have read my articles for any length of time, you know that I frequently mention my father. (The editor felt that I still carry baggage from this loss and that it comes up too frequently in my writing.) I have mentioned my father many times, for two reasons. First, I never know when I needed that the writing season had ended.

God Help the Irish? The History of the Irish Brigade

By Phillip Thomas Tucker

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Buenas Noticias...

...¡Alegrémonos el Señor ha resucitado!

La Resurrección del Señor, es una de las fiestas más celebradas por las iglesias en todo el mundo. Es el momento en que se celebra la victoria de Cristo sobre la muerte, y se recuerda la nueva vida que nos viene a ofrecer. Esta noche, en el Vía Crucis, se celebró la pasión y muerte de Jesús.

La Resurrección es una celebración de la victoria de Cristo sobre la muerte, y se recuerda la nueva vida que nos viene a ofrecer. Esta noche, en el Vía Crucis, se celebró la pasión y muerte de Jesús.

...La Anunciación del Señor

La Anunciación es una de las fiestas más celebradas por las iglesias en todo el mundo. Es el momento en que se celebra la visión de la Virgen María por el ángel Gabriel, y se recuerda la nueva vida que nos viene a ofrecer. Esta noche, en el Vía Crucis, se celebró la pasión y muerte de Jesús.

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Comunidad Latinoamericana en Oklahoma

Página 12

...Alegrémonos el Señor ha resucitado!

Que está tempora-

porada de Persa-

na, en un cuen-

tipo muy espe-

cial repleto de

Granada para ustedes.

A través del Babilonia parca-

nes y por convi-

tuación, en, miem-

bro de la Babilonia, miembros del 

Cuerpo de Cristo. En la 

Convivencia, mediante la sin-

gül: se acomodela de 

Espíritu Santo, se 

Es el Espíritu de 

la Verdad, el cual es nuestro 

parte y guía, nos confe-

muestra la vida Cristiana por su presencia, in-

minencia y gracia.

En el Santo Eucharistia, nos 

unimos en Cristo en sacrificio y muerte a 

Dios Padre. Cristo vino a nosotros de una manera muy especial sanctifican-

do nuestra propia vida. Cristo nos sutil y 

santifica para que nosotros conmemoremos el 

pasaje de la Pasión de Jesucristo, desde el 

viernes hasta el domingo. Y desde hombre, por la metáfora de 

que tenemos verdaderos y santos que 

nada una realidad, de la otra.
¡Hispanos Católicos y con mucho orgullo!

Una gran participación en la Vieja Catedral de San José

Por Mauro Yem en Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY - La comunidad hispana de la parroquia de la Vieja Catedral de San José ha experimentado un increíble cambio en su estancia. Esta comunidad cuenta con una misa en español todos los domingos y con varias actividades que permiten que las familias goren de su fe y se desarrollen en un ambiente lúdico, bajo el manto de Dios.

El Padre Bruno Nativhuá ha lio mucho y muchas ganas para impulser al movimiento hispano en esa parroquia. El Padre Bruno Nativhuá sostiene: “Esta comunidad de 4000 miembros cuenta con el respaldo de miles de personas, a pesar de la comunidad que se encuentra en español y ahora cuenta con mil nuevos miembros en este último año.”

El pasado 19 de marzo, los hispanos católicos de la Vieja Catedral de San José celebraron con una misa y una cena el día de San José. Este evento religioso y social se caracterizó por la diversidad encarnada entre sus fieles, quienes unidos bajo una misma fe, bendecían el alimento espiritual que solamente Dios podía ofrecer.

“Se han dado todas las facilidades a los hispanos para que sean parte de su propia casa a la Vieja Catedral de San José”, comentó el Padre Bruno, quien también pidió que todos los animadores de la parroquia, teólicos, estén activos en este día de bendición.

La fe y la devoción católica son el centro de su vida, y la parroquia está abierta al transporte público, además cuenta con restaurante y sala para reuniones.

Para más información, puedes llamar al 405-235-4235.

El Padre Bruno Nativhuá esfuerza mucho en español.

Debemos velar por la protección de la dignidad humana

La concepción cristiana de los derechos humanos debe prevalecer

Por Mauro Yem en Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos aprobada y proclamada en las Naciones Unidas el 10 de diciembre de 1948, sigue vigente todavía, tanto en un mundo judeocristiano como en el mundo musulmán.

Los Estados Unidos es un país inmerso en una batalla, de protección de los derechos humanos dentro de sus fronteras y fuera de ellas. Estados Unidos protege la libertad en todo el mundo, y con ella, a los derechos humanos. Sin embargo, llama la atenión que hay en el estado de Oklahoma, una fuerte tendencia de pocos individuos o instituciones a ignorar los estándares que establece la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos y los valores cristianos del Evangelio.

Es tiempo de recordar allá, en su mundo, que el hombre es esencial, que el hombre es el centro de la sociedad, y que el hombre es el objetivo de la sociedad. Esto significa que los problemas de los derechos humanos deben ser atendidos de manera eficaz y eficiente para el desarrollo de una sociedad justa y equitativa.

La Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos no debe ser interpretada solamente como un parámetro moral y humano, sino también como un principio de guía de la actividad religiosa, más bien, debe ser dado a los derechos humanos un verdadero valor cristiano y vigente a la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos. Fundamentado en el nombre y respeto religioso, el mandato de Dios, podemos construir una sociedad justa y un mundo para nuestras futuras generaciones.

No podemos pararnos en un estado pasivo y concentrar los ataque llos a los que está expuesta la comunidad latina en Oklahoma, por el abuso de poder de algunos.

Tampoco podemos caer en la actitud de darzo hacia los corruptos. Porque a los corruptos cayendo, nunca son imputados, sino que son imputados, y lo mismo sucede con los delitos de los que hemos mencionado. En consecuencia, deberemos lucharemos contra la corrupción.

El fundamentalismo de pocos está manteniendo la tendencia a la intolerancia y, por ello, debemos hacer un esfuerzo colectivo para contrarrestar la intolerancia.
Groundskeeper Needed

National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague has an opening for a groundskeeper/facilities maintenance person. Responsibilities include: maintain the Shrine grounds including trees, shrubs, grass, sidewalks, parking lots; snow removal; painting; general handymen and other duties as needed. Must be physically able to lift at least 50 pounds and able to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Some weekend and evenings may be required. Salary commensurate with experience. To apply, send resume to National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, P.O. Box 488, Prague, Okla. 74864 or e-mail: shrine_js@bellsouth.net.

Accountant

Archdiocesan Business Office is seeking a degreed accountant, Great Plains Software experience a plus. Instructed candidates complete our letter of interest, resume and references to David Johnson at (405) 709-2711 or by mail, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123.

Summer Camp Bus Driver Needed

St. Eugene's Summer Camp Program is looking for a part-time bus driver who is certified to drive a standard, passenger bus for up to 40 children. Copy of certification and Safe Environment a must. The position pays $10.00 per hour and go through Aug. 1. For more information or to apply, call 721-1115 Ext. 118 or e-mail alidiana@stg-staug.org.

Part-time Business Manager

St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman, is seeking a part-time business manager to coordinate the functions and operations of the parish office and its ministries. Hours are flexible with the possibility of full time. For more information, contact Gloria Olivo at 321-0990, or gloria@sttm.eu.

Part-time Music Teacher

Bishop John Jarsh is seeking a dynamic part-time music teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Applicant must be enthusiastic and willing to motivate students to do their personal best and have the ability to work with the director of music at the Cathedral for school, Liturgy planning and basic liturgy skills helpful. Contact Connie Diotto at (405) 525-0954 or fax resume to (405) 525-2003.

Elementary School Principal

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

Elementary School Principal

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

Cafeteria Manager

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Oklahoma City, has an opening for a cafeteria manager for the 2008-09 school year. SHCS is a PK to eighth-grade school with 165 students. Manager is responsible for menu planning, ordering, preparing and serving breakfasts and lunches. Food service license is required. Experience working with the federal lunch program is preferred. The position has full-time pay and benefits. Call Joana Camacho, SHCS, at (405) 634-5673 for an application. SHCS is located at 2700 S. Shartel.

Second-Grade Teacher

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Oklahoma City, has an opening for a second-grade teacher to join an exceptional school community. Applicants must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church and certified in the state of Oklahoma. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel, OKC 73109.

Part-Time Music Teacher

St. Joseph School, Oklahoma City, is seeking a full-time, mature and experienced practicing Catholic as youth coordinator. Bachelor of Arts is ideal. Competitive wages, training and a paid time-off program. To apply, call John Isenegger at (405) 721-6524 or by mail, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, call (405) 721-4202, or contact mbues@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Controller

St. Gregory’s University has an immediate opening for the position of controller. Position is responsible for maintaining, analyzing and summarizing general ledger accounts, preparing financial statements, coordinating year-end audits, overseeing payroll and employee benefit accounts, accounting for payroll liability accounts, including taxes and benefits, keeping supervisor informed of all concerns regarding budget deficits, overages, compliance issues, other duties as assigned. Bachelor’s degree in accounting or finance preferably a CPA is required. Must have at least five years relevant work experience. Must be familiar with GAAP and have a general understanding of financial aid compliance issues. Strong supervisory skills required. Excellent organizational, management, interpersonal and communication skills required. Send cover letter, resume and two references to: John W. MacArthur, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 32180, Shawnee 74804, or e-mail hr@stgregorys.edu.

Admissions Counselor

St. Gregory’s University has an immediate opening for the position of admissions counselor. Must have exceptional communication skills as well as detailed organizational skills. Job duties include extensive travel to high schools as well as junior colleges, meeting or exceeding application, admission and enrollment goals. Other duties include transcript evaluation for admission, awarding of academic scholarships, meeting with parents and potential students during campus tours, assisting parents and students with FAFSA financial aid and evaluating the financial aid packet with students and parents. Bachelor’s degree is required with prior experience preferred. Overnight trips and occasional evening work required. Send cover letter, resume and references to St. Gregory’s University, Human Resources Director, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee 74804, or e-mail hr@stgregorys.edu.

Financial Aid Director

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

Assistant Professor, Political Science

St. Gregory’s University is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time, tenure-track position in political science, beginning August 2008. Ph.D. in political science (or related field) is strongly preferred. ABIs will be considered. Teach Government of the U.S. and upper level political science electives. Ability to develop/teach courses in public administration, economics, sociology/social change/community organization of the U.S. and upper level political science. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Father Robert A. Busch, Ph.D., VP for Academic Affairs. Application materials may be sent to hr@stgregorys.edu, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee 74804.
Death Should Not Be Feared

For some reason the United States has made a demon out of death. Death is a reality that we all will face someday.

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Death is a reality that we all will face someday.
McGuinness Gymnast Lands Spot on Irish National Team

By Kelly Matteson
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, home of the Fighting Irish, is also home to nationally ranked gymnast and Olympic hopeful Rohan Sebastian. Sebastian, a junior, will represent Ireland in the Junior European Nationals in May.

Born in Ireland, Sebastian and his sister, Natayla, have dual citizenship. While researching colleges online for Natayla, Sebastian’s mother, Veronique Sebastian, passively e-mailed Irish Gymnastics to inquire about their program. Though she did mention her son was a Level 10 gymnast, the highest level in the United States, she said she did not expect the response she received from her two-line e-mail.

As a result of her e-mail, Sebastian and his parents traveled to Ireland in January where they toured facilities, met coaches and Sebastian worked out with the team.

At that time, Sebastian was invited to compete for Ireland. The Junior European Nationals, which will be held in Switzerland, will be his first international meet.

Though Sebastian’s initial reason for taking such a serious interest in gymnastics was the possibility of a college scholarship, he now dreams of the Olympics.

“The Olympics were never like a real thought,” Sebastian said. “I was always going to work as hard as I could at gymnastics. A college scholarship was more realistic. A college scholarship was the reason I guess that I did it so much in high school. But now that the Ireland thing has opened up, the Olympics are a definite shot. With the U.S., it’s never definite no matter how good you are because it’s so competitive and you have to peak at the exact time.”

Veronique Sebastian said the U.S. Men’s Gymnastics team is comprised mainly of gymnasts who are exceptional in one particular gymnastics event. She said there are few all-around gymnasts.

“Rohan is truly an all-around gymnast,” Veronique Sebastian said.

In February, Sebastian, 16, competed in Las Vegas in his first 16- to 18-year-old meet. He placed fourth all around, and he placed in all six events except pommel horse.

Sebastian placed 12th in the nation last May when he competed in the Junior Olympic Nationals, and he placed fourth in vault. At that time, he was competing in the 14- to 15-year-old age bracket.

On the advice of his coaches, Sebastian has opted to forgo competing in this year’s Junior Olympic Nationals so that he can compete in the Junior European Championships.

“I won’t ever get that opportunity again because it’s just 16- to 17-year-olds and it’s only held every two years, so the next time I’ll be too old,” Sebastian said.

By representing Ireland, Sebastian will have the chance to compete in many international gymnastics events, including next year’s World Championships.

On an average day, Sebastian trains 3 1/2 to four hours with his coach, Russian gymnast Ivan Ivanov, a two-time world champion who coaches at Bart Connor Gymnastics Academy. Despite the hours, Sebastian said this is nothing compared with his competitions’ training schedule.

“They train 36 to 40 hours a week,” Sebastian said. “School is secondary. Gymnastics is their main purpose.”

For Sebastian, academics are his primary focus. He wants to attend medical school and become a transplant surgeon like his father, Anthony.

Though balancing academics and the rigorous training schedule is a challenge, Veronique Sebastian said her son has learned to juggle both while also maintaining good grades and taking honors classes.

“Gymnastics has brought so much balance to his life,” Veronique Sebastian said.

However, both Sebastian and his mother agree that this balance could not be maintained without the help of the Bishop McGuinness staff.

Without the support of Principal David Morton and counselor Ann Bleything, who organizes his school schedule, Sebastian said, none of this would be possible.

So whether it is talent, dedication or the luck of the Irish, it all seems to be falling into place for Sebastian. As Veronique Sebastian said of her son’s opportunity to compete for Ireland: “It seems like it was meant to be.”