REVEREND ANTHONY B. TAYLOR
7TH BISHOP OF LITTLE ROCK

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province of Oklahoma City, is pleased and honored to announce the fact that one of our priests, Reverend Anthony B. Taylor, has been selected and appointed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock.

The official announcement was made in the Vatican on Thursday, April 10 at noon. Simultaneous announcements were released in Washington, D.C., where it was 6 a.m., and in Oklahoma City and Little Rock at 5 a.m. Immediately thereafter, Archbishop Beltran and Bishop-Elect Taylor drove to Little Rock for a press conference, which was held at 2 p.m. at Saint John Catholic Center, Morris Hall. They returned to Oklahoma City for a press conference scheduled in Conners Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady at 9:30 a.m. Friday.

The Diocese of Little Rock, along with the Diocese of Tulsa and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, comprise the ecclesiastical province of Oklahoma City. Most Reverend Peter J. Sartain, the previous bishop of Little Rock, was transferred to the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois in June 2006. Therefore, the Diocese of Little Rock has been without a bishop for almost two years. During this time, the diocese was ably shepherded by Monsignor Gaston Hebert, who had been elected administrator by the Priest Consultors of the Diocese of Little Rock.

On Wednesday, June 4, there will be a Vespers and Reception into the Diocese. This ceremony will be held at Christ the King Church in Little Rock.

Bishop Taylor will be ordained to the episcopacy in Little Rock on Thursday, June 5, at 2 p.m. Most Reverend Pietro Sambi, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and the personal representative of Pope Benedict XVI, will be present for the ordination. Archbishop Beltran will be the principal consecrator and he will be joined by other bishops concelebrating the Ordination Mass which will take place in the Little Rock Convention Center.
The Good News

The announcement of Bishop Taylor's appointment on the front page of this paper brings great honor to the Church of this Archdiocese. The fact that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has selected one of our own priests, recognizes that Bishop Taylor is a talented, energetic and faithful priest. It is also a tribute to the community of people of this Archdiocese for we are all one in Christ. Therefore, on behalf of the entire Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, I extend our sincere congratulations to you, Bishop Anthony Taylor.

I also wish to congratulate Bishop Taylor's parents, Basil and Rachel Taylor. As the Church clearly states, parents are the first and most important teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Your prayers, your efforts and your guidance enabled your son, Anthony, to become a good and faithful priest. Now the Church recognizes this and calls him to greater duty and responsibility as a bishop. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and thank you for your son, the bishop-elect of Little Rock.

Over the more than 100-year history of the Church in Oklahoma, many priests and bishops have served here. However, it has been a long time since an Oklahoma priest has been called and ordained a bishop. In fact, it goes all the way back to 1972. At that time, Reverend John Sullivan, who was then vicar of the Tulsa area, was appointed bishop of Grand Island, Neb. This means that Bishop Taylor is the first priest of Oklahoma called to be a bishop in 36 years! He is also the very first priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to become a bishop.

Bishop Taylor was ordained a priest by Most Reverend Charles A. Salatka on Aug. 2, 1980, at Saint Mary Church in Ponca City. His very first assignment was as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City. He remained there for two years. Over the next 26 years, he served numerous parishes in the Archdiocese and held many positions and ministries of service. In addition, he had earned a doctorate in Biblical Theology from Fordham University.

Bishop Taylor's last two pastorates are especially interesting. In September of 1995, he was appointed the first pastor of the newly established parish of Saint Monica in Edmond. In the short period of 10 years, he not only solidly organized the parish but also spearheaded the construction of the parish hall and the large, beautiful parish church. Because of an urgent need for a pastor fluent in Spanish, Bishop Taylor was transferred from Saint Monica Church, Edmond, to Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City in May 2003. There he served both effectively and enthusiastically while continuing his role as Vicar for Ministries for the Archdiocese until his appointment by Pope Benedict XVI.

It is interesting to note that in his first and last parish assignments in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, both were at Sacred Heart Church!

In addition, he has accomplished so much in his other duties and areas of priestly service. For example, after I received permission from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to begin the difficult and lengthy process for the cause of the beatification and canonization of Reverend Stanley Rother, I needed someone to organize the procedure, conduct many, many interviews and prepare the Acts of the case for the next step. Therefore, I appointed Bishop Taylor to be the Episcopal delegate. In the short time since I appointed him to head up this Tribunal, he has already accomplished a monumental number of the interviews and other tasks required and has the process well under way.

The announcement of Bishop Taylor's selection by Pope Benedict XVI to be a bishop comes as no surprise to any of us who know him. He has been a good and faithful priest. He is effective in whatever responsibility is entrusted to him. He has a pastoral approach and will be an exceptional shepherd of God's people. We will greatly miss him here in Oklahoma but are thankful to have had his priestly ministry the past 28 years. Truly our loss is the universal Catholic Church's gain. Bishop Taylor, you have our love, our support and our prayers. Congratulations and God bless you.

On behalf of the entire Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, I extend our sincere congratulations to you, Bishop Anthony Taylor.

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Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
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Visit us online through the Archdiocesan Web Page at www.catharchdioceseokc.org.

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A $300 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burs by Mrs. Virginia Naifeh.

A $95 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary in honor of Clara Schwarz's 95th birthday.

A $25 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burs by an anonymous donor.

A $1,000 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burs by the Catholic Community of Fort Sill.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burs by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cebulski.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Clement Pribil Seminary Burs by an anonymous donor.

Seminary Burses

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WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate Mass with tens of thousands of people in Washington and New York during his apostolic visit to the United States, April 15-20.

In Washington, the Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, April 17, at 10 a.m., at Nationals Park, which is expected to accommodate 46,000 people. In tune with the season of Easter and Pentecost, the readings will speak about hope and the Holy Spirit. There will be readings in English and Spanish, and the general intercessions, also known as Prayers of the Faithful, will include petitions in the Igbo, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog languages as well.

The music program for the Mass will reflect a variety of musical styles, from traditional Latin and English hymns to other modern rhythms in several languages. Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo and American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves are expected to sing at the Mass along with four different choirs totaling 570 members from across the Archdiocese of Washington.

Father Mark Kneustot, coordinator of liturgy for the Mass, said their objective has been to make the Mass as “participatory as possible, showcasing the archdiocese and its diversity from a parish perspective.”

Approximately 250 bishops and over 1,200 priests have already signed up to concelebrate with the pope. Special red vestments have been ordered for the main celebrants. Three hundred members of the clergy, including bishops, priests and deacons, will distribute Communion. The chalice to be used by the Holy Father is being handcrafted in Spain.

New York’s Yankee Stadium will accommodate approximately 57,000 participants for the Mass on Sunday, April 20, the last day of Pope Benedict’s visit. Mass is set to start at 2:30 p.m. It will have an especially celebratory tone as it commemorates the bi-centennial anniversary of the foundation of four U.S. dioceses, including Boston, Louisville, Philadelphia and, the host, the Archdiocese of New York, as well as the 200th anniversary of Baltimore’s designation as the first U.S. archdiocese. These dioceses as well as those immediately neighboring the Big Apple will have the largest representation at the Mass.

The readings for the Mass will be those corresponding to the Fifth Sunday of Easter. They will be proclaimed in English and Spanish and the Prayer of the Faithful will be offered in several languages. More than 550 priests and clergy will distribute Communion at Yankee Stadium. They will be guided to their posts by volunteer “Communion guides” from the Holy Name Society of the New York City fire and police departments, the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of Malta and the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

The New York Archdiocese has ordered 500 new ciboria engraved to commemorate the occasion. They will be used at the stadium for the distribution of Communion and given to each parish of the archdiocese afterwards for their use and as a memento.

The priests of the archdiocese will wear the vestments from the Mass with Pope John Paul II at Central Park in 1995. Special vestments are being ordered for the main concelebrants. The clergy from the four other dioceses celebrating bi-centennials also will wear their own special vestments.

Monsignor Les Ivers, pastor of St. Frances de Chantal Parish in the Bronx and coordinator of the Mass at Yankee Stadium, praised the work of producer Stig Edgren of California, who is producing the event as well as the events with the young people at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers and at Ground Zero. “He did a superb job for us in 1995 at Central Park and we invited him back,” said Msgr. Ivers, who in 1995 was the overall coordinator for the pope’s visit to New York.

In spite of all the logistical challenges and all the choreography involved in celebrating Mass at a baseball stadium, Msgr. Ivers expressed hope that both those physically present at the stadium and the ones following the events on television will be able to feel a sense of participating at a worshipping event filled with the reverence that surrounds any Mass, but especially those in which the Holy Father is present.

Papal Mass Celebrations Will Reflect Diversity of Faith in U.S.

Obituary

Father Ernest A. Flusche, Longtime Educator, Dies in Enid at Age 79

Reverend Ernest A. Flusche, age 79, in residence at Saint Francis Xavier in Enid, died Monday, April 7, 2008, at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Enid. Father Flusche was born to Albert and Josephine (Hennessey) Flusche on July 3, 1928, in Muskogee County. Father Flusche was ordained at Holy Family Cathedral on May 1, 1954, in Tulsa. His first assignment was as associate pastor, Saint Francis Xavier Church, Enid, from May 1954 to June 1956, followed by graduate work at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he earned his doctorate in Philosophy of Education. In 1959, Father Flusche was named the pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Norman. Father Flusche was assigned pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Del City in 1964, where he was the founding pastor of the present church. He was assigned pastor of Christ the King Parish, Nichols Hills, from 1968 to 1978. Father Flusche was the pastor of St. Mary Church, Ponce City, from 1978 to 1990, and St. Mary Church, Ardmore, from 1990 to 1994. From 1994 to 2000, Father Flusche was the pastor of St. Joseph Church, Norman. In 2000 he retired to his first assignment, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church of Enid, where he remained active in ministry.

Always a scholar, Father Flusche did post-doctoral studies at Oklahoma City University, the University of Oklahoma, Newman University, Georgetown University, the International University of Menendez Pelayo in Santander, Spain, the North American College in Rome, and Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University. Father Flusche taught and guest lectured at Trinity College, Catholic University of America, St. Gregory’s University, Newman University and Oklahoma City University. Father Flusche’s love of education, especially religious education, was evident in his efforts to establish the Office of Religious Education in the USA in 1961, service as vicar of Christian Education (1973–1979) and service on many other Archdiocesan boards and committees related to religious education. Father Flusche served as superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa from 1959–1968. From 1962–1964, he served as superintendent of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City. On April 6, 2004, Flusche was honored by A c h i e v e m e n t s: Eusebius J. Beltran and the Archdiocesan Council of Priests with the Father Stanley Rother “Good and Faithful Shepherd Award.”

F a t h e r Flusche is survived by six sisters, Marie Barnes and husband, Robert, Loretta Bogie and Eileen Williams and husband, Bob, all of Oklahoma City, Mildred Hren and husband, John of Indianapolis, Ind., Annette Snyder of Oracle, Ariz., and Doris Atkinson and husband, Richard of Pittsburg, Kan., and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Fred, Jim, Bernard and Francis, and two sisters, Lillian Pickens and Dorothy Pickard.

Father Flusche was a kind and gentle soul who touched many lives with his compassion. He was a voracious reader, gourmet cook, master gardener and world traveler. Father Flusche especially enjoyed his travels to Europe, as well as visiting the wine country in California. He loved to prepare fantastic meals to share with family and friends. His interest in gardening had a big impact on all the parishes that he served as he always left them landscaped beautifully. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

A Vigil was held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 2008, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Enid. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, April 11, 2008, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, with internment at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Norman. Arrangements were by Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home, Enid.

Father Flusche’s family wishes to thank the staff of St. Mary’s Hospital for their kind and compassionate care of Father during the last week of his life. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Joseph’s Early Childhood Development Program, Norman, for the benefit of underprivileged children.

Condolences may be made online at www.andersonburriss.com.
Catholics Reach Out to Help State CASA Effort

By Ammanda McCabe
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — 14-year-old Aaron has been in and out of foster care since he was 6. Both his parents are in prison, and he has been diagnosed with ADHD and bipolar disorder. Tabitha has been living in homeless shelters since she was 14 months old. Megan and her sisters are living in a group home, but hope to find a loving home of their own soon. These are just a few of the many children CASA has helped since 1978, children caught in the “revolving door” of family members and case workers. And there are so many more like them, waiting for the help of caring volunteers who are willing to advocate for the small person who has no voice in the system.

In November 2007, 8,141 children were taken into the foster care system in Oklahoma. More than 2,000 children came from Oklahoma County alone. Oklahoma County leads the state in abuse and neglect cases reported annually. These children need help to find a safe, permanent home, and CASA is a program that sets out to do just that.

The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program was begun in Seattle, Wash., in 1976, by Judge David Soukup. At that time, more than 500,000 children were in foster care, and Soukup was looking for ways to ensure that each child’s best interests could be presented in court. He began to recruit and train community volunteers, and this became an active program on Jan. 1, 1977. CASA is now in every state and the Virgin Islands, with more than 72,000 volunteers and 950 programs. Norman and Tulsa became the first Oklahoma CASA programs in 1984, with Oklahoma City following in 1987. Currently there are 24 active programs in the state.

A CASA volunteer’s duties include conducting an individual investigation into each case assigned to them, seeking out information and insuring the child has a safe and home-like placement; making recommendations to the court; facilitating and mediating between all parties in the case; and monitoring the progress of the parents and child, as well as reporting on that progress to the judge. As an officer of the court, the CASA volunteer is given access to all records relating to the participants in the case, and the authority to make home visits and conduct interviews.

Ultimately, CASA’s role is “to decrease the amount of disruption in a child’s life and to help ensure that a child has a stable and permanent home.” (from the CASA Program Overview).

Many Catholic parishioners in Oklahoma are involved in the CASA program. Wanda Jones, a parishioner at Christ the King Catholic Church, has worked with CASA since early 2005, and is now also on the board as an associate member representing the volunteers. She came to the program after her husband died. She was working part time and looking for the right volunteer opportunity when her daughter, a detective with the Child Abuse Division in Tulsa, told her about CASA. She has had six cases so far, all with positive outcomes for the children, and she works with the Canadian County division, though she has since moved to Oklahoma City.

Jones was impressed with the high level of training provided to volunteers, and the supportive nature of the case judges and other volunteers. “We are speaking for the child,” she said, “telling the judge what the child would do if they could.”

The cases are very confidential; some of Jones’ friends don’t even know she is a volunteer. “It’s not party conversation material,” she said, though she can share that her longest case lasted about a year and a half. The mother was mentally challenged and involved in drugs, and the child was taken into care soon after birth. The case was very complex, with many family members involved, but the child was happily adopted by an aunt.

“Seeing that the children have been served, their voices heard,” is the most rewarding part of the job, Jones said. The CASA volunteer offers a measure of stability to a child who has none in their life.

She strongly encourages anyone who is interested to volunteer, as so many children need help and support.

Michele Minietta, a parishioner at Epiphany of the Lord and an assistant general counsel for the Department of Corrections, has only been a CASA volunteer for a short time. She took her first case three weeks ago, but has felt called to work with children ever since a law school class on juvenile law. She says it was a tragedy that was the catalyst sending her to CASA.

“Eleven years ago, I shared in experiencing the birth and death of a beautiful, presumably healthy baby girl,” she said. “Then I learned I had passed the bar exam, just days apart. The events felt like a smash on the head reminding me to follow my passion, working with children. I promised myself then that I would somehow find a way to not only honor Emily’s brief existence, but also to follow my heart.”

While new to the program, Minietta has already seen the changes even seemingly small actions can bring. When she gave a plastic egg filled with candy to one child, “you would have thought it was a pricey new toy! I received a big hug from a child I had briefly met twice, and walked away with a new perspective of humility along with an appreciation for the impact that little things can have. While case workers have dozens of children, and judges have just minutes to address their situations, a CASA volunteer is able to focus on one family, and I am amazed at how much one person can do with even minimal spare time.”

She also urges anyone with an interest to volunteer. “It stunned me to learn how many children are involved in the system,” she said, “and how few people are available to assist with individual cases. It’s heartbreaking that children rotate through case workers, attorneys, therapists, even caretakers during the lifetime of their cases. CASA offers one stable and consistent person to a child who lives with uncertainty and fear.”

And CASA is always looking for interested volunteers. They hope to help an additional 100,000 people over the next two years, though they need many more volunteers to do that. Spanish-speaking volunteers are particularly needed. To apply, you must be 21, able to pass a background check and a rigorous interview. No formal education in social work, law or psychology is required, and training is provided. The time commitment is usually three to five hours a week. For more information, call Alex Corbitt at 713-6607, or go to the CASA Web site at www.okcountyccasa.com.

“While few of us can work miracles, most of us can offer the stability we often take for granted. It may not seem like much, but I can only pray that it somehow makes a difference,” said Minietta.

Doctor Honored for CASA Support

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dr. Margaret Sorensen is a chiropractor and parishioner at Epiphany Catholic Church. She has been a CASA volunteer for more than 10 years. On April 1, she received the Rena Ellis Lifetime Achievement Award in a ceremony at the Oklahoma Historical Center marking CASA’s 20th year.

In those 10 years, she has seen many cases.

“I learn something horribly new each time,” she said. Drugs, illness and abuse are typical. “Children get lost in the system every day.” Yet she has also seen the enormous difference a concerned CASA volunteer, someone who stays with the child throughout their case and beyond, can make. She has seen families come back together, and children find loving and safe homes.

Dr. Sorensen credits her Catholic faith with giving her the fortitude to do this work for so long. Many of her patients are Catholic Sisters, and they pray for her and urge her to never give up.

“God has given me strength,” Sorensen said, and added that she always wears a visible cross on her cases.

“Children need people to care for them,” she said, “to be a spokesperson for them.”
School Names New Principal

OKLAHOMA CITY — The School Advisory Council of Christ the King Catholic School recently welcomed Karen Carter to the school. Carter became the new principal of Christ the King School effective April 1. She has spent more than 19 years in Catholic education including serving as principal of Rosary School and for the past few years working in the diocese of Wichita, Kan.

“Catholic education is important as it teaches the whole child focusing not only on academics but also spiritual growth as well,” said Carter. “I am delighted to be returning to Oklahoma City and excited to become a part of the school and church community of Christ the King.”

“We are so fortunate Karen Carter has accepted this position,” said Cris Carter, associate superintendent of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “I have worked with her in the past and am very impressed with her skills as a school administrator. I am grateful she will be joining us in April, which will help to ensure a smooth transition and ease the preparation for the coming school year.”

Christ the King Catholic School is affiliated with Christ the King Church, a member of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The school was founded in 1949. Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

Catholic Charities Office in OKC Plans Open House for April 24

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, will host an Open House on Thursday, April 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Blvd.

“We hope that anyone in the community interested in learning more about the agency’s services and opportunities available will attend,” said Tim O’Connor, executive director. Staff from all departments will be present to answer questions and provide agency tours.

A volunteer recognition will be held at approximately 5:15. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information about the Open House or to RSVP, call Debi Wagner, Catholic Charities Volunteer Office, at 523-3009.

Catholic Charities is a nonprofit organization serving people of all faiths, races and socio-economic backgrounds. Social services are offered to children, families and individuals in central and western Oklahoma. The agency, in collaboration with local churches, communities and public and private organizations, works to serve those facing poverty, social problems and disaster, and to promote dignity of life through advocacy.

Choosing the Right Planning Alternatives

Strange as it may seem, some recent studies have shown that younger persons in their 40s and 50s are more likely to consider including charities in their estate plans than older persons — primarily due to the ease in availability of useful Planned Giving information at their disposal at an earlier age.

To assist Catholics of all ages in their estate planning decisions, the Catholic Foundation includes Planned Giving Content and the GiftTree® Interactive Gift Calculator as part of its Web site subject matter. Through a simple-to-use three-step process, virtually anyone can explore the goals and benefits of numerous gift planning tools, research specifics through the Quick Link to a Gifting Tool and contact the Catholic Foundation for additional information and assistance with their estate planning questions. Each Gifting Tool option includes related links which provide gift illustrations, complete gift descriptions and gift examples at a minimum for the interested user.

Whether a simple bequest or a more complex trust instrument, let the Catholic Foundation assist you in learning the basis of the various Planned Giving options available for you. Visit the Catholic Foundation Web site at www.cfook.org and discover the reciprocal benefits of Planned Giving today.
Mount Dedicates New Fitness Center

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 160 students, family, friends and stakeholders of Mount St. Mary High School gathered April 1 for the dedication ceremony of the new state-of-the-art Mollman Fitness Center. The center is named for Matt and Janis Streets Mollman, 1978 MSM graduates. Theirs was the lead investment and the catalyst that initiated this project.

"Matt and I were presented with a need and we felt called to make a difference by investing in the lives and the programs for the students of Mount St. Mary High School," said Janis.

The fitness center, located on the second level of the Mount St. Mary gymnasium, is loaded with the finest line of exercise and fitness equipment. The Mount built a partnership with Hammer Strength and Life Fitness, whose clients include the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, the University of Notre Dame and the Dallas Cowboys. The center is stocked with Olympic lifting platforms and power racks, selectorized weight machines, athletic performance equipment, core training accessories, and cardiovascular training equipment that includes a treadmill, a cross trainer and an exercise bike. In addition, students have access to a state-of-the-art stereo system and a 50-inch plasma flat screen television. "We wanted to provide our students with a world-class facility that not only could train our athletes at a high level, but that had the versatility and equipment that would meet the needs of our entire Mount community. I am thrilled with the end result of this project," said Talita DeNegri, Mount St. Mary principal.

Fundraising for the project, led by Chris Stiles, Mount St. Mary High School Director of Advancement, began in late December of last year and was completed by the beginning of March. Key shareholders in Mount St. Mary High School stepped forward, and more than $135,000 was raised to finance the center. The makeover of the 3,000-square-foot facility, led by Randy Swyden, '76, and his team at Jamars & Long, began March 3 and was completed in three weeks. Remodel items included an open exposed painted ceiling, diamond tread plate wall covering, painting, full-length wall mirrors and installation of new flooring. Swyden, whose father, Tom, was Mount St. Mary's first football coach in 1951, was pleased with the outcome.

"My promise was to finish on time, to be under budget, and to do a job that everyone would be proud of," he said. "Being an alum, I only want the very best for Mount St. Mary High School."

Matt Mollman said helping bring this project to reality seemed like the natural thing to do.

"God has blessed our family in many ways, and Mount St. Mary High School means a lot to me and Janis," he said. "Three generations of the Mollman family have already graduated from The Mount, and we wanted the tradition to live on for our children, grandchildren and future generations. We wanted this project to make a significant impact on the school today, and be something that could be a stepping stone for even bigger things in the future. Most importantly, we want this fitness center to be better than advertised."


Mount St. Mary's first football coach in 1951, was Matt Mollman, said helping bring this project to reality seemed like the natural thing to do.

Obituary

Sister Angelina Murphy Dies at Age 96 in San Antonio

Sister Angelina Murphy, 96, a Sister of Divine Providence, entered eternal life on Monday, March 31, 2008.

She was born in Lawton on June 6, 1911, and became a Sister of Divine Providence at 21 years of age. Sister Angelina began her ministerial life at St. Joseph’s School in San Antonio, Texas, in 1932.

In the years that followed, she taught in various schools throughout Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. While living in Oklahoma, she ministered at St. Joseph’s School in Enid (1950-52), Holy Family School in Tulsa (1958-60), Bishop Kelley High School (1960-65), and Cameron State University in Lawton (1965-1983). Sister Angelina was an accomplished writer of several biographies, numerous plays, poems, articles and operettas. She was instrumental in having Go Tell It in the Streets published, an autobiography by the late Bishop Steven A. Leven. She enjoyed research, and was instrumental in writing historical data for the Congregation of Divine Providence.

In 2003, she retired to Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center in San Antonio. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Angelina Murphy; siblings, Mary Murphy, Margaret Murphy Wagner, Catherine Murphy Bishop, Rose Murphy, James Murphy and John Murphy.

The memorial Mass was held Saturday, April 5 in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207-4619.
EDMOND — St. Monica Catholic Church hosted the annual Women of Achievement Banquet on March 29. Some 22 members, representing the 22 affiliations that belong to the Central Region Council of Catholic Women, were honored for their achievements.

Mass celebrated by Archbishop Eusebio Beltran began the day with a luncheon following. Father Timothy Luschen, pastor of St. Monica, introduced the clergy present. Patti Keeler, Central Region president, welcomed everyone and presented Archbishop Beltran as guest speaker. The archbishop thanked the Central Region women for all they do for the Works of Peace and Works of Reconciliation, and locally for supporting his special projects each year. This year the women are raising funds to provide new prayer cards to further the canonization effort of Father Stanley Rother. Chances are being sold to win a homemade quilt (which will be raffled off at the convention), and angels and Madonna vases. Archbishop Beltran also gave an update and thanked the women for supporting Sister Sponsa Beltran and the rehabilitation center in Liberia, Africa, she founded. He gave a special thanks to Pearl Sullens for her devotion to Sister Sponsa, and for being a strong advocate for her cause in the Oklahoma archdiocese.

Pamela Kennedy, president of the ACCW (Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women), invited all women to attend the Leadership Conference on May 16 and the Biennial Convention in May 17, both to be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center. She also invited each woman to become an individual member of the NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women), which is the umbrella under which the ACCW and the Central, North and South Councils, along with their affiliates, work to support. NCCW was founded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1920.

Special guests attending the awards luncheon were Shirley Strickland, ACCW first vice president, and Barbara Wann, South Region president. Brenda Arambula, immediate past president, chaired the event and read the introductions for each woman as she came forward to receive her medal of Our Lady of Good Counsel (our patron saint), which had been blessed by the archbishop.

Special thanks to Jeanne Ferguson and Kathy Treece, who coordinated the Mass and luncheon, Ada Wiewel, Kathy Ward (the photographer), Chris Thomas, the Knights of Columbus, MOMS, youth volunteers from several schools and parishes who served, and to St. Monica and St. John the Baptist for working together to host the event, and the numerous others who did their part to help us honor these worthy women of faith and good works.

The 2008 Women of Achievement are: Dianna Bewley (St. John the Baptist); Marie Sparks (Our Lady of Fatima); Linda Hinton (St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral); Reba Bennett, (Church of the Holy Spirit); Lila Dilis (Catholic Women’s Activity Club); Dottie Matty (St. Charles Borromeo); Patti Keeler (St. Eugene); Kelly Trice, (St. Teresa of Avila); Ann Allen (St. Patrick); Linda Hock (St. Philip Neri); Janet Hatcher (St. Monica).

Also, Vickie Lofgren; (Epiphany of The Lord); Susan Hogan (St. Francis of Assisi); Marie Dennison (Corpus Christi); Janis Mollman (St. James the Greater); Jerry Watkins (St. Joseph, Union City); Sandi Miles (Our Lady of Sorrows); Mary Bojarski (St. Mark the Evangelist); Lori Cotter (Cathedral of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help); Malinda DuBois (St. John Nepomuk); Liz Gilmore (St. Thomas More); Mary Mutcheck (St. Joseph, Norman).

A collection raised $170 for Water for Life, one of several projects the organization supports through Catholic Relief Services.

To find out more about NCCW, visit their Web site at NCCW.org. To find out more about us or how to join the Central Region Council of Catholic Women, call Patti Keeler, president, at 749-0894.

### Across Oklahoma

**Mission in Kingfisher**

KINGFISHER — Sts. Peter and Paul Parish will host a Parish Mission presented by Father Daniel McCaffrey. Father McCaffrey will lead a discussion on “Exploring the Core of the Catholic Faith.” The mission will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 13-16. All sessions will be held in the church and child care will be available.

**Lauinger to Speak at OU**

NORMAN — Tony Lauinger, chairman of Oklahomans for Life Inc., will be speaking at the University of Oklahoma on Tuesday, April 22. The presentation will start at 7 p.m. in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the second floor in the Frontier Room. This event is being sponsored by the Right to Life Student Association. For more information, email akporter@ou.edu or call (405) 321-0990 Ext. 205.

**St. James Sets Bingo**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and S. McKinley Ave., will be held April 24. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10. Door prizes and special recognition for all players born in April. All bingo players get an entry for a HDTV flat screen television to be given away in October.

**Saint Charles Auction Set**

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Charles Borromeo is hosting its third annual school auction at 6 p.m. April 26. This year’s theme is “Boot Scoot and Bid” featuring a country and western setting and will include dinner, full bar, wine and beer, live, silent and dessert auctions. Money raised by this year’s auction will be used to fund several school projects including the purchase of new SMART boards, carpeting and new school books for the children. Individual reservations are $40 per person and there are also several sponsorship opportunities available. Reservation forms are available on the school Web site at www.scb-school.org or you can contact reservations chairman Sam Warden at samjhayhawk@cox.net or 850-8181. The school is also seeking donated items for the silent and live auctions. If you wish to donate any item large or small, contact acquisitions chairman Tim Schoelen at tschoelen@sbcglobal.net or call 496-6648.

**Yard Sale to Benefit Ministry**

NORMAN — St. Thomas More University Parish will hold its 16th annual yard sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 26 at the corner of Jenkins and Stinson on the east side of the church. A wide variety of items donated by parishioners including furniture, appliances, yard and exercise equipment, clothing and many miscellaneous items will be on sale. All proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit the Campus Ministry Program at St. Thomas More and the World Youth Day Pilgrims. The goal of Campus Ministry is to engage the faculty, students and staff in a dialogue between faith and academics. We do this through service, catechetical programs and spiritual formation. The annual yard sale is one of the major fundraising events supporting this program.
‘English Only’ Impact Seen as Negative for Oklahoma

By Richard Klinge

Federal law requires that when federal funds are involved that (subject to the tests set forth in those laws, regulations and/or executive orders) persons with limited English skills must be provided assistance. As an example, Executive Order 13166 addresses this issue; but the amendment seems to imply that Oklahoma is going to ignore this executive order. However, I know that the Oklahoma City Police Department has interaction with the federal government to make sure that it is in compliance with said executive order. If this amendment is enacted, how is the police department to determine which law to follow? Again, when the exceptions are broader than the prohibition, why have the prohibition in the first place?

One of the exceptions of the amendment is that it is OK to promote trade and business.

So, apparently it is OK to use languages other than English to bring business to the state; but we cannot use those same languages to help citizens or others who lawfully live within this state. Without even considering the social justice teachings of any religious body, on a human level that simply makes no sense. I guess what this exception means is that we can ask people to do business with the state; but when they come here we cannot talk to them unless they speak English. On the other hand, if we can speak in the native tongue of business persons who come to the state to bring us money and material goods, why can’t we use those same language skills to assist our own citizens?

I agree that the culture and the languages of our tribes is a foundational element of our state and that those cultures and languages should absolutely be protected. However, I equally agree that other cultures, including without limitation the Hispanic culture, is also a vital part of this state. I hope that any assimilation process does not destroy or impair the continuation of any culture within our society. Does the exception granted the tribes, create any equal protection issues?

In December 2006, a Justice Department lawyer working on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency stated: “One thing we know for sure is that state and local authorities simply cannot be responsive in an emergency if they do not have access to individuals competent to provide language assistance in the languages spoken in their jurisdiction.”

If the amendment is adopted, when that next flood, ice storm or tornado impacts our state, how will our state and local responders be able to adequately help the people who are affected? Again, when the exceptions are broader than the prohibition, why have the prohibition in the first place?

Article 2, Section 22 of our state Constitution gives broad and unequivocal protection to freedom of speech. It does not limit the language in which that speech may be made. This amendment potentially and directly affects the rights of free speech granted under the Oklahoma Constitution. Has this been reviewed with the attorney general’s office?

The amendment allows for suit for violation of the amendment. Federal law allows suits for violations of federal law in this area. With the lack of clarity in this amendment about when the exceptions apply, why do we want to expose both the state, its agencies and political subdivisions and their employees to unnecessary and costly litigation?

Can the Speaker declare Sine Die at the end of a legislative session? I think that is part of the official business of the state and I do not think that such term is in English. If you allow the Speaker to use another language, why cannot other persons representing the great state of Oklahoma do the same?
Catholics Should Phone Governor Urging Support for Pro-Life Bill

Tony Launer of Oklahomans for Life Inc. is asking fellow Catholics to please call Gov. Brad Henry urging support for the pro-life bill, SB 1878.

The pro-life bill, if signed into law, will help pregnant women, unborn children, pro-life health-care professionals and persons with disabilities.

Please urge the governor to sign the bill into law. Gov. Henry's office phone number is (405) 521-2342.

SB 1878 has five parts:
1) Protecting health care professionals’ freedom of conscience and right to refuse to participate in the taking of an innocent human life;
2) Regulating the use of the dangerous chemical abortion pill RU-486, used when the unborn child is about 2 months old;
3) Ensuring that a mother’s consent to an abortion is truly voluntary, and safeguarding against coerced abortions;
4) Providing a woman an ultrasound of her unborn child which she may view prior to undergoing an abortion; and
5) Fostering respect for children with disabilities by disallowing wrongful-life lawsuits which claim that a baby would have been better off being aborted.

Thank you very much for speaking up for the defenseless unborn child.

Arroyo to Interview President

Ironton, AL (EWTN) — Raymond Arroyo, lead anchor for EWTN Global Catholic Network, has obtained an exclusive interview with U.S. President George Bush. The interview will air on the eve of Pope Benedict’s April 15-20 visit to the U.S. and is expected to cover U.S. relations with the Holy See, the papal visit, Iraq, and much more.

The special, which will be televised from EWTN’s new studio at the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., will air at 8 p.m. Friday, April 11 on “The World Over.”

EWTN Global Catholic Network, in its 27th year, is available in nearly 150 million television households in 140 countries and territories. With its direct broadcast satellite television and radio services, AM & FM radio networks, worldwide short-wave radio station, Internet Web site www.ewtn.com and publishing arm, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world.

Archdiocese to Participate in Effort to Help Bring End to Child Abuse

WASHINGTON — Catholic dioceses nationwide will promote Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. Plans call for raising awareness through special prayers during Sunday Masses, diocesan and parish lectures, and other educational activities.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Office of Family Life will host a workshop on April 19 dedicated to Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention. A number of other issues impacting youth will be included in the workshop discussion, including the consequences of the negative use of technology, cutting and suicide: how to recognize, question and prevent.

The workshop will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

Child Abuse Awareness is a major initiative of the Catholic Church in the United States. As a result, an estimated 1.6 million persons have undergone background checks; 1.8 million priests, deacons, candidates for ordination, educators, employees and volunteers have gone through safe environment programs; and approximately 6 million children in parish school and religious education programs have received age-appropriate instruction in this area.

Some, such as the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Grand Island, Neb., are joining their efforts with the Blue Ribbon Campaign of the National Exchange Club Foundation, which promotes the blue ribbon as a national symbol of child abuse awareness. The foundation produces materials for public awareness.

“We can never rest when it comes to protecting children and teenagers,” said Bishop Gregory Aymond, committee chairman.

“The prevalence of child abuse in our society calls for vigilance of parents, pastors, teachers, indeed, all responsible adults. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action.”

Some dioceses are printing “Did You Know” announcements developed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for weekly parish bulletins. One announcement highlights the prevalence of child abuse in society and reports that “an estimated 9.6 percent of all schoolchildren will be molested by an educator or an employee of a school between kindergarten and 12th grade.” The information comes from professor David Finkelhor’s article, “Current Information on the Scope and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse.”

The resource materials sent to dioceses were developed by the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and underwritten by the Catholic Communication Campaign, which is supported by a collection taken up annually in parishes to support church media efforts. The related material is available at http://usccb.org/ocyp/april_cap_month.shtml.

Congress Praised for Bipartisan Effort to Fight AIDS

Good news from Washington, D.C., is rare enough that any victory for statesmanship and common sense should receive attention. The approval of a bill to reauthorize PEPFAR (the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) by the House of Representatives on April 2 is a good example.

In February I wrote a column expressing alarm about some features of a draft bill. Population control advocates had rewritten the program to promote family planning and “reproductive health” as a priority in fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa and other developing nations. I wrote then: “A program for preventing the next generation of Africans from getting AIDS could become a program for preventing the next generation of Africans.”

However, objections by Catholics and others raised awareness in Congress about this ideological takeover, and wiser heads prevailed. The final bill reported by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the product of negotiations among the White House and Republicans and Democrats on the committee, preserves many lifesaving and morally sound features that made this program so effective in its first five years. The bipartisan nature of this bill is reflected in the lopsided House vote to approve it, 308 to 116.

Abstinence and fidelity are recognized as important prevention methods in the House bill; protection for Catholic and other agencies with conscience objections to some methods is retained and strengthened; and some new features, such as provisions for nutrition assistance and better training of health-care workers, are most welcome. All references to the misleading code word “reproductive health” are gone.

The House bill now mentions family planning only to say that HIV services should be available to clients of “family planning programs supported by the U.S. government.” This compromise language is very different from earlier language urging PEPFAR to promote family planning services to people who want HIV/AIDS assistance. And the phrase “supported by the U.S. government” means that the AIDS program will link with programs that violate U.S. policies against abortion as family planning or the coercion of women. An amendment to delete this important phrase, supported by family planning groups, was not allowed a vote on the House floor. A parallel reauthorization bill in the Senate also does not mention “family planning” at all.

Some problems and disagreements remain. For example, the original program’s allocation of 33 percent of prevention funds for abstinence programs has been replaced by a much weaker and vaguer provision that cries out for clarification.

One sign of hope is a floor speech by Foreign Affairs committee chairman Howard Berman before the House vote. He praised members of both parties on his committee for their efforts, and said each had learned from the other: Republicans were persuaded of the need for a well-funded program to combat AIDS in the Third World, and Democrats were persuaded that abstinence programs and faith-based organizations are important part of the solution. If those insights are fully reflected in the final legislation, we will have a renewed and expanded humanitarian program for the suffering people of Africa that President Bush and Congress can be proud of.

Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops pro-life activities.
Father Price Oswalt, associate pastor at Epiphany Church in Oklahoma City, led a group of 39 to a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Easter. For 10 days the group walked and prayed in those places that Jesus lived, suffered and arose from the dead. Those from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who made the pilgrimage included Rita Galier of Oklahoma City; Virginia Schwartz of Oklahoma City; Patricia Robinson of Sperry; Anna Hill of Antlers; Nora and George Leal of Newcastle; Romona Cashes of Oklahoma City; Dasie Weisenburger of El Reno; Barbara Regier of Lawton; Judy Coppedge of Newcastle; Lucille Nelson of Oklahoma City; Maurice Ruder of Yukon; John Schwarz of Yukon; John and Matthew Mallory of Oklahoma City; and Billy Hill of Antlers.

Father Oswalt talks with the Holy Land pilgrims inside the cave of the Shepherds in the Shepherds Field in Bethlehem.

Members of the group from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City pause for a photo.

Deacon George Leal during the procession on Palm Sunday.

Father Oswalt at the Jordan River.

Father Oswalt gives Holy Communion during Mass celebrated at Cana during the pilgrimage.
Rally Brings Catholic Youth to Saint Greg’s

SHAWNEE — Mike Patin had the more than 300 young Catholics gathered at Saint Gregory’s University rolling in the aisles with laughter one moment and near tears a bit later as he took them on a whirlwind journey of what it's like to want God with all your heart, but at the same time struggle with the complexities this world can pound a person with. Considered one of the top Catholic youth speakers, Patin lived up to the billing at the Archdiocesan Youth Rally. He told the youth about the mistakes people make as they grow from innocent children into adults. One big mistake he said is, “As we get older, we trade our joy for looking cool.”

More than 30 parishes from across the archdiocese sent youth groups to the all-day rally on April 5. The theme of the rally was “God is my GPS” and Saint Greg’s President Dr. David Wagie welcomed the teens, telling them the doors are open to them at the state’s only Catholic university. The dozen members of the youth group from Saint Peter Church in Guymon were involved in a collision on their way to Shawnee. The van they were riding in collided with a motorcyclist in Woodward. No serious injuries were reported and they said they were happy to get back on the road and to be making the 600-mile round trip to be part of the rally. Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass with the young Catholics and the rally ended later that evening with dinner and a dance.

Mike Patin delivered an unforgettable message to the Catholic youth who attended the rally at Saint Gregory’s University.

These youth from Saint Peter Church in Guymon made a 600-mile round trip to attend the youth rally.

Blythe Gentry, left, and Allison Lauderdale, both of Saint Peter Church in Woodward, offer an opening prayer to begin the Catholic Youth Rally at Saint Gregory’s University. Sooner Catholic Photos/Ray Dyer
Letters

Speaker a Concern

I am concerned about the support offered by Catholic Charities and the Conner Center of the Cathedral to Mike Farrell, the keynote speaker at the annual dinner of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical Evangelium Vitae, wrote that the moral conditions for an execution in our days "are very rare, if not practically nonexistent." Those words should encourage all Catholics to support the elimination of the death penalty from the surface of the earth. And I have no doubts, that is the motivating factor of the Oklahoma Catholic Church's enthusiastic allegiance to the coalition to abolish the death penalty.

Farrell is certainly "an active and passionate opponent to the death penalty" (Sooner Catholic - March 16, 2008), and the Oklahoma Coalition has selected him as their keynote speaker: movie star, author, celebrity, etc. Good for them!

But he is also a strong defender of "a termination of a pregnancy is a question that ought to be left up to a woman and her doctor."

Pope Benedict XVI calls abortion "Today's Gravest Injustice."

It appears to me that there is a serious dichotomy here, that could be easily solved: Quit Catholic advertisement for Farrell and have the annual dinner and his speech out of Catholic property. I have shared my concerns and suggested solutions with high hierarchy of Catholic Charities and the Oklahoma Coalition. I even offered to pay for the renting of a different meeting site. Their consistent response was: "Too late, now, and we did not know his position on abortion," and their immediate question to me, "What is your position on the death penalty?"

I wonder if any of the Catholic supporters thought about asking Farrell his position on abortion.

Pablo A. Pinzon, MD, FACOG
Oklahoma City

Church Won't Suffer

The coalition to abolish the death penalty is just that — a coalition of diverse groups coming together for the purpose of abolishing the death penalty. Coalition members have divergent views on many social issues. Some of the member's views on issues such as abortion are not the same as the view of the Catholic Church. That is no reason to exclude them from an organization dedicated to the abolition of the death penalty.

It follows that a speaker who is an ardent opponent of the death penalty should not be excluded as a speaker because he may not conform to the views of the church on every social issue. It would be a very small coalition indeed if the only member and speakers allowed to speak had to be practicing Catholics. The death penalty would never be abolished in Oklahoma.

Mike Farrell is a decent man who will limit his remarks to the profound evil that is the death penalty. The Catholic Church will not suffer harm by hosting the coalition dinner with Mike Farrell as a speaker.

Jim Rowan
Oklahoma City

From Start to Finish

I read with interest the article about prayerful sacred silence at Mass. I would like to respectfully suggest that this silence be extended to the time before and after Mass as well. In the past few years I have found the level of noise from unnecessary and loud conversations to have increased to the point that the distraction makes it very difficult to pray. Recently, this has carried over into the Celebration of Mass as well. Reverence for the Presence of Christ in the tabernacle and respect for fellow worshippers is not unreasonable. With all the noise in our world today with TV, radio, ipods, cell phones and the like, prayerful sacred silence is truly a blessing we should all desire.

Andi Baratta
Oklahoma City

Church Can Lead

Bishop Girotti, a Vatican official on penitence, listed the social sins of our time.

In his statement, he commented on the social inequality which occurs as the "rich get richer and the poor get poorer." Yes, I agree that rich people should be good stewards of their wealth.

Now, the Holy Father has an opportunity to send a powerful and inspiring message to the world. The Vatican could begin by selling its jewels and gold and giving the proceeds to the poor. Next, the pope's summer palace could also be sold. When I asked the Holy Father, I want to be reminded of Jesus, not of royalty.

If the church hierarchy would embrace the simple, frugal lifestyle of Jesus, St. Francis and Mother Teresa, many rich people might be inspired to follow that example.

Jeanne Ellinger
Weatherford

A Letter to ESPN

It is a huge puzzle to understand Dana Jacobson's use of rude, degrading language in reference to Jesus Christ and the small concern of ESPN by her expressed sentiments. (Reference Jan. 11 celebrity roast)

Behold the irony: Having been the framer of many such unique expressions as Turn the Other Cheek, As you would want others do unto you, do you even think of teaching the good, Render evil for evil, Remember the poor and needy, Feed the hungry; clothe the naked; care for the sick; visit those in prison, Love your neighbor as yourself — such words seem strange coming out of the mouth of one whose name is so often attached to cliches of the vulgar and profane and sometimes with purposeful disdain.

Others need NOT accept him as I do; but the logic that stirs between my ears evokes my own wondering, why doesn't the fact alone that his name throughout history has caused untold numbers to give vast amounts of wealth and personal energy toward the relief of those afflicted in poverty and disease and otherwise suffering from inhuman conditions — why, if for no other reason, would not any fair-minded person at least accord him the honor of respect? And it is not only some few such instances buried in the history of human relations that can be cited; his name still inspires such acts among imperfect people as can be authenticated by the records of independent sources such as Charity Navigator, for example.

That his name and proclamations have been a source of hope to so many, who without him would have no hope at all, should further associate his character with true nobility. Opposition to the wicked slave trade felt his inspiration and in the last century, the same prompted some (albeit too few) of the more privileged classes under Nazi rule to risk their own lives to hide persons who would be stamped out only for reasons of their heritage. For two millennia, hope has dwelt in the hearts of many whose bodies have been broken and ravaged with crippling and life-ending affictions, enabling their last breath to be drawn in peace while fully expecting something so much better in a more glorious reality.

Nothing could be said that would cut some people more to their core than to denigrate their cherished friend whom they truly believe accepted a brutal death in order to reconcile a sinful humanity with the Divine. I am one who believes that way. No argument is offered with skeptics who voice the opinion that Christ is not well-served by some who claim his name. Undoubtedly, hypocrites can be found; some use his name selfishly to feed their own bellies; some try to remake him in their own image, artificially putting him on a serpentine path. Indeed, many of us deserve any castigation that comes our way. Even so, my open question is: Why dishonor the name of Christ, why does he deserve it?

A question also arises for those of us who claim him by devotion: How can we appropriately and effectively discourage his defamation? It is not that I think he so much needs my poor help, but why should we withhold giving it any more than we would shirk from defending the honor of any other worthy friend. It is realized my own insignificance can do little, but I would gladly support someone who might do more. I am, therefore, sending financial contributions to the American Family Association and to Catholic League, hopeful the money will be used exclusively toward implementing ways to persuade those inclined to punish the name of Christ to practice more civility and better judgment.

Henry J. Chesney
Shawnee

Mercy Home Health Honored

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mercy Home Health was recently recognized by the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality (OFMQ) as one of the top two Oklahoma agencies providing quality home health care. In addition, Mercy Home Health ranks in the top 10 percent of home health agencies in the nation.

“This OFMQ Quality Excellence Award honors the fact that Mercy has met and exceeded the goals set out by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS),” said Renee Heiney, director of Mercy’s Care Management and Mercy At Home. “What this means is that only 18 percent of Mercy’s patients who receive home health care have to be rehospitalized. The CMS national standard goal is for less than 23 percent of home health care patients to be rehospitalized and we exceed that goal. We are the gold standard in home health care because we provide excellent care to our patients at home.”

Since 1983, Mercy has provided home health care to Oklahomans. For patients, it means that instead of having to be hospitalized for longer stays, they are able to recuperate at home with the help of home health nurses, physicians, therapists, certified home health aides, social workers and chaplains.
Only if we adore something beyond ourselves will we stop adoring ourselves.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said as much when we wrote that we reach moral maturity on the day that we really only have one choice in life: Genuflect before something higher or begin to self-destruct.

Simone Weil agreed: Despite being a fierce defender of independence and private conscience, she maintained that the deep desire that the soul has within the human soul is the need to be obedient to something beyond ourselves. Without this, she states, we inflate and grow silly, even to ourselves.

We know the truth of this through experience. We feel within ourselves a constant, congenital press toward a healthy self-abnegation and the adoration of something higher than ourselves. We only feel good about ourselves when we don’t put ourselves at the center of the world and we only feel right about what we are doing when we are giving our lives away, when we put our self-love to death, our lives are not about ourselves.

From this, we see that we are built for altruism and, ultimately, for martyrdom. Within the secret of life lies a great paradox: We only feel good about ourselves when we are dying to ourselves and giving life away.

We understand this, for instance, in the truth of the axiom: I defy you to show me a selfish person who is really happy! But there is more to this. In the spirituality of the early Christians, it wasn’t just a question of being dead, it was also a question of dying, really dying. They believed that we are intended for martyrdom, that dying as a martyr was the normal way that a Christian was intended to end his or her life. To live out discipleship fully was to die physically as a martyr. That is one of the reasons why the early apostolic community had some problems with the Apostle John, who, unlike the other apostles, did not die a martyr’s death. The belief remained that the ideal way to end one’s life was through a martyr’s death. The only thing that changed was how that martyrdom was now conceived. A rich spirituality developed within which martyrdom began to be conceived more metaphorically, as giving out one’s blood, drop by drop, through selflessness, through sacrificial one’s hopes and dreams for others, through giving away one’s life through duty, through letting oneself be constantly called out of one’s personal agenda to respond to the needs of others, and therefore be some form of spiritual crucifixion of celibacy.

We would be happier if we understood this. When we try to live as if our lives are about ourselves, we either end up too full of ourselves or too empty of everything else, inflated or depressed. Put simply, we either end up dying in selflessness on one hill or we end up full of ourselves and self-hated on some other hill! There’s no neutral space between. The early Christians, with their spirituality of martyrdom, understood this. Only one thing can save us from infantile grandiosity, dangerous self-righteousness, bitterness, the need to have our cake and eat it too, and the desire to leave a mark, to be immortal. Underpinning all of these is the desire to take love and meaning to their ultimate, altruistic end, death in sacrifice for others.

This is the deep instinctual pattern written into the soul itself that makes us more mature when we are giving away our life through duty, and is the fire of love that is burning within us. We sometimes feel it, but we think it is silly, we don’t get it. We make it into something else, a self-sacrifice, an act of mercy, a self-sacrifice, an act of something high. We have a love without a fire, a love without a crucifixion.

Lawler presents the case that the cardinal archbishops should have done more to oppose or stop liberal Catholic clerics and liberal Catholic politicians from openly aligning liberty or power with church and state. He argues that the cardinal archbishops should have done more to oppose or stop the failure of the archbishops of Boston in correcting liberal Catholics. His book is a wake-up call about what can happen if those who oppose Church teachings or authority, be they liberal or conservative, are allowed to promote their causes without Church authority speaking out against them.

Lawler is a conservative Catholic who is loyal to the Church. He is a native of Boston and was an editor of the Boston Archdiocese’s newspaper, The Pilot. He was the editor of the Internet magazine, Catholic World Report. He is the current editor of the Internet magazine, Catholic World News. His writings have appeared in many newspapers around the world. He is the author of five books on political and religious topics.

The Faithful Departed is an interesting examination of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church and the history of the Archdiocese of Boston. One problem with this book is that it has many typos, missing words, and added words. The proofreader should have done a better job. Other than that, this book is recommended to those interested in Catholic Church history in the United States and the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church in the United States, and liberalism coming to power. This book may be opposed by some liberal Catholics and some may become angry over the cover-up in the abuse scandal.

Brother Benet Extion is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian there and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications.
By shaping Vatican II’s teaching on Church-and-state, Father John Courtney Murray, SJ, helped turn Catholicism into the world’s foremost institutional advocate of religious freedom. John F. Kennedy put Catholics into play at the highest level of our national politics. Fulton J. Sheen gave Catholicism an engaging public face on radio and television for decades. Then came the Merton phenomenon. Merton’s books have sold in the millions. If by “publicly influential,” however, we mean a Catholic whose ideas changed the way Americans think, who reshaped our politics and our public policy, and whose influence seems likely to endure, then William F. Buckley Jr., who died this past March at the age of 82, must be the one.

The most telling thing about Bill Buckley, the man, is that so many people thought of him as a friend. Underneath those faux-High Anglican tones and that disheveled, preppie look was a genuine democrat (if his shade will pardon the term): a man who treated junior staffers and unheard-of authors with an openness and cordiality rarely found in world-famous figures. He was “Bill” the first time you met him, and “Bill” he remained. There was a lot of little boy — and a lot of rebel — in him; both traits help account for his infectious enthusiasm, his joie de vivre and his democratic personal instincts. Above all — or, perhaps better, beneath it all — Bill Buckley was a Catholic gentleman whose faith had taught him how to treat others, including those with whom he disagreed.

The obituaries stressed his remarkable productivity as author, editor, columnist, lecturer and television personality, to which he added the skills of an accomplished musician and sailor. He was not without ego, but he could turn his humor on himself. Running for mayor of New York, he was asked what he would do if elected. “Demand a recount,” was the immediate riposte. His first book, ‘ Zweig: The Life and Death of an Intellec
tual,’ was released by the American education
tional establishment of 1951 as the reactionary ramblings of an intellec
tual pup who hadn’t been house
tored; today, GAMAY, as Bill some
times called it, stands as an eerily pre
ci
tent preview of the intellectual and moral implosion that’s taken place in elite American higher education over the past 40 years. His best novel, Stained Glass, was a
terpening exploration of the moral dilemmas of statecraft.

He was not politically infallible, and he probably shared Barry Goldwater’s regret at having critic
cized, on constitutional grounds, federally mandated desegregation. No one who ever knew the man, however, could imagine him a bigot. His tolerance and civility extended far beyond the sphere of his personal relationships, however. Analysts credit Buckley with creating the “fusion” conservatism that, via National Review, brought the social/cultural conservatives, the pro-market conservatives, and the anti-communist/national security conserva
tives into one politically potent tent, thus making possible the Reagan Revolution. Which is true enough. But Bill’s even greater public service was to purge the con
servative movement of the anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, and isolationism that had infected the fever swamps of the American Right in the FDR period and beyond. There was no room for bigotry in Bill Buckley’s big tent.

In 1949, Lionel Trilling, the Columbia literary critic who embodied the pragmatic, results-oriented liberalism of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, deplored those American conserva
tives who do not “express themselves in ideas but only in actions or in irritable gestures which seek to resemble ideas.” Bill Buckley changed all that, by his own intellec
tual efforts and sparking personal

ability, as well as by his nurturing the thought, the writing and the careers of countless others. If, as Barack Obama conceded in one of his more candid moments, the conservative world has for years been the center of ideas in American politics, a lot of the credit for creating a true in
tellectual marketplace in our public

life must go to Bill Buckley.

He once told his son, Christopher, that the active life was an antidote to melancholy. Now beyond the reach of melancholia, may he rest in peace.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.
Eighth-grade students at All Saints School in Norman each year present a Living Stations of the Cross to mark Holy Week. In this, the Fourth Station, Jesus meets Mary, his mother. Jake Jackson portrays Jesus while Katie Lenhart plays the part of Mary. Photos/Theresa Bragg.

In the Sixth Station, Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. MacKay Whalen portrays Veronica.

In the 12th Station, Jesus dies on the cross, depicted by Trevor Grose.

The Bishop McGuinness basketball team gathers around Principal David Morten for prayer immediately after winning its third straight Class 4A state basketball title.

BLACKWELL — The Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph’s Parish celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with their annual fish fry. The event was held in memory of Bill Johnson, a fellow Knight who died last year and who was one of the biggest suppliers of fish to the event. Knights pictured are, from left, Andy Angle, Bob Shouse, Steve Lanie, Frank Moreland, Mark Cordell, Alex Robles, Jim Stone, Trevor Vowell and Grand Knight Jim McKain.

Artist Joseph Wright of Oklahoma City created this metal brazier for St. Joseph Old Cathedral. The brazier was used by Father Bruce Natsuhara during the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Sister Susan Clark, CST, the pastoral associate and DRE at St. Joseph, called Wright a talented artist. He has been working in metal art for more than a dozen years. Wright can be reached at 434-987-6529.
Comunidad Latinoamericana en Oklahoma

Elegido por el Papa Benedicto XVI
Reverendo Anthony Taylor Séptimo Obispo de Little Rock

Muy Reverendo Eusebio Elizondo, Arzobispo Metropolitano de la Provincia de Oklahoma City se complació y tomó el honor de anunciar que uno de nuestros sacerdotes, el Padre Anthony B. Taylor, ha sido seleccionado y designado por su Santidad el Papa Benedicto XVI como el Séptimo Obispo de la Diócesis de Little Rock.

El anuncio oficial se hizo en el Vaticano el 10 de abril, a las doce del mediodía, y simultáneamente anunciado en Washington, D.C. a las seis de la mañana y en las ciudades de Oklahoma City y Little Rock a las cinco de la mañana. Inmediatamente después de este anuncio, el Arzobispo Elizondo y el Obispo elegido Taylor se dirigieron a Little Rock, para una conferencia de prensa a la cual se asistió a las dos de la tarde en el salón Monserrate del Centro Cívico San Juan. Ellos regresaron a Oklahoma City para una conferencia de prensa que fue impartida en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro el viernes 11 de abril a las nueve de la mañana.

La Diócesis de Little Rock junto con la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y la Diócesis de Tulsa forman la Provincia Eclesiástica de Oklahoma City. Muy Reverendo Peter J. Sartain, quien fue el anterior Obispo de Little Rock, fue trasladado a la Diócesis de Joliet en Illinois al pasado junio del año 2006.

Por lo tanto, la Diócesis de Little Rock ha estado sin obispo por más de dos años.

Durante este tiempo, la diócesis estuvo bajo la conducción pastoral de Monsenor Gustav Robert, quien ha sido elegido el administrador por los consultores de la Diócesis de Little Rock.

El número 4 de junio habrá una Misa de Inauguración y una recepción en la Diócesis. Esta ceremonia se celebrará en la Iglesia Cristo Rey en Little Rock.

El Obispo Taylor será ordenado en el episcopado de Little Rock el jueves 2 de junio a la hora de la tarde. El Muy Reverendo Pietro Sambi, Nuncio Apostólico de los Estados Unidos y representante del Papa Benedicto XVI estará presente en la ordenación.

El Arzobispo Elizondo será el principal consejador y junto a otros Obispos condecorarán la Misa de Ordenación, la cual tendrá lugar en el Centro de Convenciones de Little Rock.

Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de Cristo:

El anuncio de la designación del Obispo Taylor en la página frontal de este periódico trae consigo un honor a la Iglesia de esta Arquidiócesis.

El hecho de que nuestro Santo Padre Benedicto XVI haya seleccionado a uno de nuestros sacerdotes, reconoce que el Obispo Taylor es un hombre de virtud, espiritualidad y dedicación. Esto significa que también es un testimonio al pueblo de esta Arquidiócesis porque somos unos en Cristo.

Por lo tanto, en nombre de toda la comunidad católica de esta diócesis, extendemos un sincero felicitación a usted, Obispo Anthony Taylor.

También deseamos felicitar a los padres del Obispo Taylor, a Basil y Paquita Taylor. Tal como la Iglesia lo proclama, los padres son los primeros y más importantes maestros de sus hijos en el camino de la fe. Sus enseñanzas, sus ejemplos y su orientación, permiten que, su hijo, Anthony, se convierta en un sacerdote.

Ahora la Iglesia reconoce a este joven y llama a él a ejercer la gran tarea y responsabilidad que se requiere como Obispo. Felicitaciones al nuevo Obispo y a la señora Taylor y a su hijo, el Obispo elegido Little Rock.

En mareas de años de historia en la iglesia de Oklahoma han servido muchos sacerdotes y obispos. Sin embargo, hace mucho tiempo que un sacerdote de Oklahoma no había sido llamado a ser obispo.

En nombre de toda la comunidad católica de esta Arquidiócesis, extendemos una sincera felicitación a usted, Obispo Anthony Taylor.

...El Obispo elegido

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...El Obispo elegido

Tres veces, el 3 de junio de 2002 fue designado el primer Obispo de Little Rock, el asesorado por el Papa Benedicto XVI, el 2 de agosto del año 1999, en la Iglesia Santa María de la ciudad de Oklahoma City.

Se convirtió en el Obispo el 1 de febrero del año 2002.

Por más de veinte años, el Obispo Taylor ha servido en numerosas parroquias en la Arquidiócesis, ocupando muchas posiciones y ejerciendo varios ministerios de servicio.

Además, él ha obtenido un Doctorado en Teología Bíblica en la Universidad de Fordham.

El Obispo Taylor ha tenido dos sobresalientes e interesantes misiones desde el año 2003, debido a la urgente necesidad de un obispo que hablara con su propia lengua, el Obispo Taylor fue trasladado a la parroquia de la Sagrada Familia en Oklahoma City. Allí trabajó con entusiasmo y dedicación, en el campo de la Arquidiócesis hasta su designación hecha por el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Los arzobispos que presentan al Obispo elegido por la iglesia como sucesor, el Obispo Taylor ha realizado muchas misiones en otras áreas de servicio pastoral.

Por ejemplo, después de haber recibido permiso de la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos, comenzó una minuciosa y larga tareas en el proceso para la beatificación y canonización del padre Stanley Rother.

Yo estaba en la ciudad de Oklahoma y aquí recuerdo que muchas almas y otras obras que se requieren para que el proceso termine para sus Cardenas.

El anuncio del estado de Florida por el Obispo Benedicto XVI no ha traído consigo alguna para quienes lo conocemos. El Obispo Taylor ha sido un buen y fiel servidor.

El Obispo Taylor se hace presente en cualquier área de la Diócesis, los arzobispos que presentan a sus sucesores.

Nosotros, en nuestras parroquias en Oklahoma, pretendemos que el Obispo Benedicto XVI pueda presentar al Obispo Taylor como sucesor en la Diócesis de Little Rock.

En nombre de toda la comunidad católica de esta Arquidiócesis, extendemos una sincera felicitación a usted, Obispo Anthony Taylor.
Principios evangélicos y la doctrina social de la Iglesia prevalecerán siempre

Con exclusión no se ejerce plenamente una vida digna

Por Mauro Yam es
Sonora Catholic

NORMAN — Nuestra Oklahoma requiere una sociedad más justa, fraterna y solidaria para su desarrollo. Para alcanzar esto y un mejor porvenir se debe mantener una actitud de escucha. El pueblo con alegria y generosidad, pero sobre todo con encomio. Mantener la alegría y harmonía se hace imperativo para poder organizar eficientemente nuestro trabajo en beneficio de los más necesitados. Ahora más que nunca tenemos que impulsar el compromiso de solidaridad con nuestros hermanos sin importar su color, raza, nacionalidad, clase social o discapacidad. Debemos buscar puntos de conexión con quienes nos observan y no ceder en la tentación de las provocaciones y el odio.

Ultimamente se ha notado una disminución en la cantidad de leyes en el estado de Oklahoma que buscan el mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de los ciudadanos. La nueva propuesta de "English Only" no contribuye a fortalecer la cooperación y solidaridad entre los habitantes de Oklahoma.

Además, a Oklahoma presen- ta un noto con la ley anti-immigrante HB1684. Dicha ley no ha sido más problemáticas para las inmigrantes en nuestro estado. Debemos luchar por la legalización y la igualdad para todos los ciudadanos de nuestro estado a la fuerza, impulsando pensamientos y obligaciones con un claro mensaje de adecuación, sonrientemente se está conservando la dignidad humana de las personas.

Una mirada hacia Dios

Concientización sobre el Autismo destacada en el mes de abril

Por Mauro Yam es
Sonora Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — El pasado dos de abril se celebra el Día Mundial de Concienciación sobre el Autismo. Esta fecha fue instituida por la Organización de Naciones Unidas. Muchas personas saben poco lo que es el autismo, sin embargo, cabe destacar que el autismo no es una enfermedad sino un trastorno del desarrollo de los individuos que aparece a temprana edad. El autismo afecta al habla, las destrezas sociales y el comportamiento de los niños. La severidad de los síntomas varía ampliamente, los niños que tienen problemas en estas áreas son niños que tienen un trastorno de espectro autista. Según fuentes expertas, el autismo afecta a alrededor de uno de cada 150 niños en los Estados Unidos. El número de niños afectados por el autismo ha aumentado en el último año.

Antiguamente, el autismo se confundía con el trastorno mental del desarrollo en los individuos. Sin embargo, el autismo se identifica como una condición de salud que puede afectar a la familia y a grados extremos y severos en el mundo, pero no lo es, como tampoco se lo es al final de la familia. Más bien se debe ser útil como un enemigo con Dios, donde se continúa la obra. La gran mayoría de estos niños se asocian a Dios porque creen sinceramente que el trabajo no es un plan que hizo en su camino y muchas familias lo cumplen más arduas en el y por lo que lo hace.

El autismo no solamente requiere apoyo de la familia sino de la comunidad entera. Por eso se hace imprescindible la concientización del autismo para una mejor comprensión, respeto, inclusión, apoyo y tolerancia. El alivio espiritual de las familias con personas autistas se encuentra en la oración, y en la fe.

Misas Papales reflejan diversidad y celebran varios bicentenarios

WASHINGTON — El Papa Benedicto XVI celebrará misas con miles de personas en Washington y Nueva York durante su visita a Argentina. Las llamadas "ellos" serán proclamadas en inglés y en español y la enseñanza de los Alcazares incluirá también personajes en escena, vistas máximas y labores entre otras lenguas.

El programa musical de la misa refleja una variedad de estilos musicales, desde el latín o tradiciones tradicionales en inglés a otros ritmos modernos en varias lenguas. El tenor español Pascual Domínguez y la mezzosoprano estadounidense Denise Graves cantan en diferentes partes de la misa junto a cuatro otros cantores que agrupan en total a 170 miembros de orquesta de toda la Archidiócesis de Washington.

El padre Mark Knortz, ocupado de liturgia para esta misa explicó que el objetivo de esta misa es dar a conocer que la misa se va a proclamar en varios idiomas y que la oración de los fieles incluirá también personajes en escena, vistas máximas y labores entre otras lenguas.

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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 would begin June 2 and go through Aug. 1. For more information or to apply, call 751-7115 Ext. 118 or e-mail aliddiard@steugenosis.

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 Olivero at 321-0990, or glory@stmoou.org.

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 handyman; and other duties as needed. Must be physically able to lift at least 60 pounds and willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Some weekend and evening hours 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: xbrine_ip@xpmail.com.

Center of Family Love Openings
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: Individual Program Coordinator — Wednesday through Friday and on weekends. Responsible for the well-being of several residential clients. Direct Care Technicians — Wednesday through Friday and on weekends. Habilitation Specialists — Wednesday through Friday and on weekends. College graduate is preferred. Two to four years experience in working with clients with developmental disabilities is ideal. Competitive wages, training and a paid time-off program. To apply, call John Isenegger at 263-4658, preferred. Two to four years experience in working with clients with developmental disabilities is ideal. Send resume to 635 Texas, Okarche, Okla. fax résumé to 263-4563 or apply in person at the program. To apply, call John Isenegger at 263-4658, preferred. Two to four years experience in working through Friday and on weekends. College graduate is preferred. Bachelor's degree in theology or religious education, or an educational administration or a related field is required. Send resume, references and letter of interest to Father Jim, Holy Spirit Church, P.O. Box 1154, Mustang, a friendly, growing parish, seeks a full-time, mature and experienced principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader for the school. The principal will be expected to work 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 mdubey@catarchdioceseokc.org.

Teacher Needed
Volunteer English teacher needed for the Father Rother Parochial School in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. Room and board provided. For more information, contact Father Tony Taylor at (405) 517-2303.

Teacher Sought
Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is seeking a pre-kindergarten teacher. Applicants must have a license or certification in Early Childhood. Submit resumes to Principal Stutton, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to (405) 262-3818.

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 and verifying reconciliations on a monthly basis 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 in accounting or finance strongly preferred, 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 references to St. Gregory's University, Human Resources Director, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee 74804, or e-mail hr@stgregorys.edu. EOE

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 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.

Financial Aid Director
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; ABD 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 is desirable. Knowledge of Catholic social teaching, willingness to facilitate Tradition and Conversation seminars. Candidates must be 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 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.

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

For additional job listings and updated job listings, go to catharchdioceseokc.org and click on Job Box.
Using Plants to Fuel the Future May Not Be the Best Answer

By Robert Gronski
NCRLC Poicy Coordinator

The fuel of the future is looking like amber waves of grain and fermentable sugars. In this era of “peak oil,” industry and governments are looking at converted plant matter to fuel our machines. The current generation of “biofuels” like corn ethanol and soy diesel competes with our daily human diet. Will the future find a sustainable balance of food and fuel production?

Agrofuels, as another name for biofuels, are combustible fuels made from organic material: living plants. Besides corn, plants like wheat, sugar cane, sugar beets, palm oil and cassava are used for ethanol production. Palm oil can also be used for biodiesel, along with sunflowers, canola, vegetable oils and animal fat.

Over the past few years the demand for agrofuels has skyrocketed, resulting in industrial-size refineries requiring vast amounts of biomass stock and water. It takes up to 6 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of ethanol. The distillation process also takes large quantities of fossil fuels to cook the starches and boil off the ethanol. Refineries are becoming more efficient, but inputs will continue to be significant. So are agrofuels worth it?

Challenges and implications

In the U.S., per capita consumption of fossil fuels is more than five times the global average. Americans hold onto a standard of living that is dependent on industrial growth and cheap fossil fuels. Agrofuels are touted as the solution to the most pressing problems facing industrial society: dependence on foreign oil supplies, rising energy prices and harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Agrofuels are promoted as sustainable, renewable and capable of increasing U.S. energy security while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A second look at this agrofuels euphoria tends to reveal some consequential problems. If agrofuel production is pursued along the lines of an industrial model like we now have for fossil fuels, then what will be the impacts on the environment, farmers and food prices?

Converting all of the arable land of the United States into agrofuel production can only begin to replace what the U.S. demands in daily fossil fuel use. Given natural resource limits, industrial societies must first reduce energy consumption and create energy efficiencies. Agrofuels can still be part of the promised solution, but only if such production provides a net energy gain, benefits the environment, competes economically, and produces in reasonable quantities — all without reducing food supplies.

Questions are also raised about who truly benefits. Farmers are currently receiving higher prices, but primary beneficiaries seem to be the large corporations: agri-business giants like ADM and Cargill, and oil companies like BP, Chevron and Shell. They are the ones grabbing increasing market shares in bioenergy production.

Notwithstanding these extrinsic questions of agrofuel production and who wins or loses, the more intrinsic question — food versus fuel — keeps coming back. When energy crops become more profitable than food crops, does this mean that making ethanol from food is a crime against humanity, as some advocates for food rights claim?

Agrofuel advocates counter that the next generation of ethanol production — cellulose — will resolve these concerns. Cellulosic ethanol is derived from grasses, crop residue, trees, woody debris and other plant material, most of which do not currently compete with food crops for fertile crop land. The quest for clean and renewable energy — such as solar, wind, geothermal and biogas digesters — can include agrofuels if we face the complexities of competing demands. The most basic human need is to receive this day our daily bread; after that, we can work to repair our broken connections with one another and creation. The type of economy and technology created by us to do that is at a crossroads: The old energy must be replaced by a new energy. Therefore, we need an “ethos of sustainability” for a new energy era:

* Reclaim an understanding of the carrying capacity of our planet.
* Learn again the qualities of conservation and efficiencies.
* Accept limits of consumption in the name of our children and future generations.
* Consider both renewability and sustainability. This kind of agricultural system will protect the integrity of ecosystems and allow time for natural resources to regenerate.
* Ensure that sustainable agrofuel production means farmers and rural communities thrive.
* Envision the natural balance between local food systems and sustainable energy: Just as fossil fuels made possible a global industrial economy, if only fleeting; agrofuels will make possible sustainable economies within communities everywhere around the world.

We just need to slow down and accept smaller portions of the world’s bounty. In the approachable distance, there is a crossroads of necessity and sufficiency, as long as the common good points the way.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Francis said as followers of Christ, we are called to preach the Gospel constantly and if necessary to use words. As Catholics we are called to live our faith in all we do. To help with this, a very important program known as Faith In Action will be offered to Oklahoma Catholics who feel called to help build a more just and loving society.

Faith In Action — a Parish Social Ministry regional training program, will feature speakers from across the United States who will share knowledge on how to develop, support and expand parish social ministries. The training is open to anyone who wants to fully live their baptismal call.

The workshop will be held May 2-4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The cost is $95, which includes two and a half days of training, receptions and meals. Lodging is available at the Pastoral Center and reservations can be made by calling Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3009.

“Speakers include Jack Jezreel, the founder of JustFaith Ministries; Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of Network, a public policy and advocacy organization; Father Clarence Williams, director of Racial Equality and Diversity Initiatives; and Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA,” said Becky VanPool, director of Parish Outreach and Program Development for Catholic Charities. “Topics include ‘What Does it Mean to be a Parish?’ and ‘Working Together in Multicultural Settings’.”

VanPool said the Parish Social Ministry regional trainings are an opportunity for parishioners, parish staff, social justice committee members, pastors, deacons, pastoral associates, pastoral council members, DREs and youth ministers to gain practical hands-on experience and to share best practices in a convening rooted in prayer and community. It will be a valuable experience, she said.

To register, contact Parish Outreach and Program Development of Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3009 or popd@catholiccharitiesok.org. The workshop brochure can be accessed at www.catholiccharitiesok.org.

The training is sponsored by Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Registration Form

Name: ________________________________

Name (for name tag): __________________________

Address: ________________________________

City, State, Zip: ________________________________

Home Phone Number: ________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________

Parish/Org (including city): ________________________________

(Arch)Diocese: ________________________________

Special Needs (please specify): ________________________________

Registration fees: $95
(includes Friday evening reception, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast)
Registration deadline: April 18
Please mail registration form with check payable to: Catholic Charities
Attention: Parish Outreach Department
1501 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106