The Holy See announced April 6 the appointment of Rev. Msgr. Daniel H. Mueggenborg, pastor of the Parish of Christ the King in the Diocese of Tulsa, as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Msgr. Mueggenborg was born in Okarche on April 15, 1962, the same hometown as Father Stanley Rother, who will be beatified on Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City. He attended Oklahoma State University where he earned a bachelor's in geology. In pursuit of his priestly vocation, he attended Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana from 1984-1985, and the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he received a bachelor's degree in sacred theology and a licentiate in biblical theology at the Gregorian University.

Mueggenborg was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Tulsa in 1989, and has served as associate pastor at Saint John Before the Latin Gate in Bartlesville and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux in Tulsa; as a teacher and chaplain at Bishop Kelley High School; parish administrator at Saint Pius X; pastor of the Church of the Madalene; pastor of Saint Clement in Bixby; and director of admissions, vice rector for administration, and vice rector for seminary life at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

In addition to these assignments, Msgr. Mueggenborg has been chaplain of the University of Tulsa Newman Center; adjunct professor at Saint Gregory's University/Pastoral Studies Institute; adjunct professor at the Gregorian University; director of clergy education; director of the Diocesan Synod; director of Pastoral Renewal; adjunct professor at the religion department at the University of Tulsa; and has served on multiple boards in the Diocese of Tulsa, including the board of governors of Catholic Charities.

He is the second priest from the Diocese of Tulsa to be appointed bishop. In 2016, Oklahoma native Msgr. Peter Wells was named archbishop and appointed Apostolic Nuncio to South Africa.

For more information, go online to https://dioceseoftulsa.org.

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“We are Easter people and ‘Alleluia’ is our song. Let us sing ‘Alleluia’ here and now in this life, even though we are oppressed by various worries, so that we may sing it one day in the world to come, when we are set free from all anxiety.”

-- Saint Augustine of Hippo --
Faithful shepherds

Each year during Holy Week, priests serving in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, like priests everywhere, gather with another and with their bishop for the Chrism Mass. It is during this solemn liturgy that the bishop blesses and consecrates the holy oils and sacred chrism that will be used during the year ahead in the celebration of the sacraments. It is during this Mass that priests reflect upon and renew their sacred priestly promises in the presence of the Church’s cornerstone, the gathered faithful.

This day is a very important day for priests. It reminds us of what an awesome gift it is to share in the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ. It brings to our attention the importance of our sacred duties and our communion with the universal Church. He has been declared a martyr of the Church. It is the first time such a distinction has been bestowed upon a native born American.

I pray that this day will continue to inspire and encourage our priests and seminarians, and that through his intercession many more young men will seek to imitate this good shepherd in responding to God’s call to the priesthood.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archbishop’s Office

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
April 18 – Presidential Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
April 18 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
April 18 – Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
April 19 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, Enid
April 20 – Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Petroleum Club, OKC
April 21 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Edmond
April 22 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary, Clinton
April 23 – Confirmation, 10 a.m., Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Duncan
April 23 – Catholic Day at the OKC Dodgers, 2 p.m., Bricktown Ballpark, OKC
April 25 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Mark the Evangelist, Norman
April 26 – Catholic Charities Annual Dinner, 6 p.m., Peace, Abilis
April 27 – Catholic Charities Board meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities office, OKC
April 27 – Blessing of new St. Andre building, 2:30 p.m., Center of Family Life, Okarche
April 29 – Knights of Columbus State Convention, Tulsa
April 30 – Confirmation, 11 a.m., St. Philip Nerzi, Midwest City
April 30 – Mystery Day, 4 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

Put Out Into the Deep

By Lake S.

Archbishop Cookley’s Calendar

Archbishop Cookley’s Office

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

By J.E. Helm

The Sooner Catholic

Beth Ledbetter of Saint Matthew in Elk City got up at 4:30 a.m. to drive to Oklahoma City for the annual Catholic Women’s Conference. She has been to all but two of the events and said she “just wouldn’t miss it.”

“We don’t often get to hear other women share their Catholic faith,” Ledbetter said. “You have friends all around the diocese, and you make new friends, too.”

The March 25 conference at the Reed Convention Center in Midwest City began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cookley. The conference was held on the Sunday of the Annunciation of the Lord, and Archbishop Cookley said the day to set the theme of his homily, the Angelus prayer.

“Jesus was a doer of the word that when he visited Ireland, he found that Angelus is preached to the very last day,” he said, “and the Angelus bells would ring three times a day making this prayer very much a part of Irish spirituality. He stressed that in the Angelus, as in the Gospel, the announcement comes first, but Mary’s fiat is just as important. “Human cooperation is essential for salvation not only with Mary, but with all of us,” he said. “We cooperate with our salvation, beginning with our Baptism.”

In addition to Mass, attendees had the opportunity for confession, and the Rosary was recited after the ladies enjoyed a box lunch. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Holy Sacrifice was taken to a room reserved for adoration.

The first speaker of the day was Bishop Nash-Marshall, chair of the Episcopal Commission on Campus Ministry at Manhattanville College in New York. Professor Nash-Marshall spoke on Joan of Arc; the saints are an example of how we can be a saint as a model for our relationship with God. Joan loved her nation fiercely, and she was determined above all else to fulfill God’s will in her life as he had made it known to her, she said.

Program vocalist Jill Stroman performed along with the well-known Carmelites, Sister Ve-
Catholic men relish spiritual fellowship at men’s conference

By Steve Gust
The Sooner Catholic

The 21st annual Catholic Men’s Conference, “In the Father’s Footsteps,” brought together hundreds of men in an effort to deepen their faith and commitment to their families.

 Held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, men were given the opportunity to listen to dynamic Catholic speakers and enjoy a spiritual fellowship. One of the founders of the conference and its director, Ray Hesfeld, said the conference welcomed more than 900 men, who filled nearly every seat of the large convention room.

The day gave participants a chance to experience spiritual fellowship and partake in the sacrament of reconciliation. The day ended with a Mass concelebrated by Archbishop Paul Coaley and Bishop David Konderla, of Tulsa.

The conference, organized by the Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men, had many volunteers, including a large contingent of the Knights of Columbus. Hesfeld, in giving the men, asked how many were Knights and hundreds of hands shot up. Hesfeld noted the spirit of friendship men share each year.

“I consider many of these guys very good friends, even though I only see them once a year,” Hesfeld said.

There were more than 200 attendees from Tulsa, and a lone man who had attended most conferences for church home on registration forms. Complementing the day were several vendors, who sold books and other religious items.

“I’ve been to this for several years and get so much out of it,” said Alan Flint of Saint Eugene in Oklahoma City.

The men came to see and hear speakers such as Gio Lloyd, a Sirius XM Catholic Channel radio host and Catholic evangelist. His presentation was entitled “Magnetic Christianity” named after a book, which quickly sold out after his speech.

He urged all the men to stay upbeat and positive, to “dust off” the Bible and read it regularly.

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The power of the Cross

Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-1890), a theologian who came to prominence in the Victorian Age - can help us check the Church of England’s post-modern 21st century, thanks to his work on the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The Risen One and empowered by the Holy Spirit, he rose from the dead, and in the face of his resurrection, Jesus was able to not only forgive the sins of the world but also to empower his followers to extend the gracious gift of salvation. For the Church all of history, especially through the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Of these five grandkids, one grandson became a Benedictine priest and later the abbot of his community. One granddaughter became a cloistered Carmelite nun. Two other grandchildren had beautiful Catholic families. And there, was Charlie; Charlie was different. Kind of sickly, bedridden for many periods of his life, there was no sense of success of some kind. He loved to learn, but because of his health challenges he didn’t have the experience of the work and many other ways; he didn’t finish his college degree.

The Catholic Choice

St. Monica begins construction on education building

St. Monica in Edmond launched construction on a new $3.2 million education building on April 16 to provide a comfortable and well designed learning environment for children, youth and adult formation. Estimated completion is December 2022.

A groundbreaking prayer service was held in the parish hall after Sunday Mass followed by the invocation of the Holy Spirit: “Blessed are you, O Lord God of all creation.”

March 22
Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club

Bischof George Weigel Ethics and Public Policy Center

Pope Benedict XVI's doctrine on the moral bonds joining the faithful to the Church all of history, especially through the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Of these five grandkids, one grandson became a Benedictine priest and later the abbot of his community. One granddaughter became a cloistered Carmelite nun. Two other grandchildren had beautiful Catholic families. And there, was Charlie; Charlie was different. Kind of sickly, bedridden for many periods of his life, there was no sense of success of some kind. He loved to learn, but because of his health challenges he didn’t have the experience of the work and many other ways; he didn’t finish his college degree.

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## Mount St. Mary Catholic High School excels at robotics

Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School teams are excelling in robotics with machine-like precision. One girls’ team, the “Rockettes,” won championships in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Another team will compete at an international championship in Houston.

Robotics competitions test students as they apply math, science and engineering concepts into a machine. Once the robot is fine-tuned, the students and the teams take it on the road to compete against other schools. The competition is generally friendly, and students can marvel at what other schools are doing.

The Rockettes recently participated in a super regional in Athens, Ga. One of their mentors, Travis Smith, said the unique academic endeavor continues to gain popularity.

“Unlike just sitting in class and taking notes, you can actually apply the principles in the form of a robot,” Smith said.

The students get help from engineers and other professionals in the technology industry. Mentors for The Mount are from Boeing, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and OKXL. Smith works at the National Weather Center at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

The faculty sponsor is Magi Whitaker, a science teacher at Mount Saint Mary. Smith said 18 students are participants in this year’s robotics program. The two-semester effort can require many extra hours of work, including during holidays.

That time is well spent, said, as the students learn how to communicate and properly apply mathematical equations to a situation.

The Rockettes, Smith said, were using a robot at the Georgia competition that wrapped up plastic balls and then fired them toward a basketball-like goal. Video of the event on YouTube shows the robot sending the balls toward the long-range goal.

Smith’s daughter, Maddie, a junior at The Mount, is one of the Rockettes.

Not only did she say she appreciates what can be learned from robotics, but she also enjoys the fun.

“I like to meet people from other schools and states,” she said.

“This also is preparing me for a job. I can learn how to act in a job interview or how to put together a business plan.”

A robotics championship isn’t a normal winner-take-all clash, she added. “Everyone is excited to learn from the other teams.”

Once she graduates, she’d like to consider a career in engineering.

Her father said the school’s other team will be competing in the April championship against 400 other teams.

“They’ll be from around the globe,” he said.

Steve VanZuilen is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

## First Oklahoma Catholic Quiz Bowl a success

Teams from parishes and home school groups from around central Oklahoma competed in the first Oklahoma Catholic Quiz Bowl at Saint Gregory’s University on Saturday, March 25.

The Quiz Bowl is sponsored by Saint Gregory’s Auxiliary, Saint Gregory’s University and the Friends of the Mission of SGU. The Quiz Bowl’s aim is to inspire participants’ knowledge of the Catholic Church and to inspire a deeper love of faith in a program of fun competition, good sportsmanship that will provide participants and visitors opportunities to deepen their faith.

A Sokol Lawrence Stasyszen opened the tournament with an invocation, and the competition began in earnest.

In the finals, The Seat of Wisdom team from Saint Damien parish in Edmund edged out The Prophets of Doom, also from Saint Damien, for first place. The Grapes of Wrath took third.

SGU President Michael Scaperlanda presided over the awards ceremony, thanking the volunteers, parishioners and families for making the quiz bowl a success. He presented $1,000 scholarships jointly sponsored by SGU and the Friends of the Mission to the top three contestants, Liliana Manuel, Haas Green and Andrew Tramp.

## Women of Achievement Mass and luncheon

The Central Region for the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women sponsored the annual Women of Achievement Mass and luncheon in recognition of Catholic women who served their parish and community in time, talent and service. The luncheon was held at St. James the Greater on March 18.

Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass and shared comments to honor the women.

The following women were honored: Elynne Hoffer, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Treva Davis, Catholic Women’s Activities Club; Linda Swirczysnski, Court Lady of Fatima #1831; Midge Wolf, Epiphany of the Lord; Zemaida McGeeey, Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler; Dorothy Taylor, St. Charles Borromeo; Robyn Daginski, St. Eugene; Charlene Gheor, St. Francis of Assisi; Margaret Potts, St. James the Greater; Cathy Euchanka, St. John Nepomuk; Rohna Dean, St. Joseph, Norman; Sandy Michaelikusa, St. Joseph, Union City; Marig Madden, St. Philip Neri, Midwest City; Rebecca Dowery, Holy Spirit, Mustang.

## Archdiocesan Spelling Bee

March 29, Catholic Pastoral Center

### Spelling Bee Winners 2017:

#### First and Second Grade
1st: Amy Hytha – Bishop John Carroll
2nd: Avery Shouse – Christ the King

#### Third and Fourth Grade
1st: Kim Doan – All Saints
2nd: Lindsey Roy – St. James
3rd: Arnabela Haden – BJCS

#### Fifth and Sixth Grade
1st: Thomas Doan – All Saints
2nd: Marc Tawk – SEAS
3rd: Claire Nguyen – St. Eugene
4th: Jackie Vasquez – Sacred Heart OKC

#### Seventh and Eighth Grade
1st: Rory Sebastian – CK
2nd: Helen Phung – BJCS
3rd: Nicholas Salea – St. Mary Lawton
4th: Peyton McCuan – CK
5th: Thomas Josey – SJC

Photos Diane Clay.
A profession of faith

Robert Cardinal Sarah’s “God or Nothing”

By J.E. Heilm

Sooner Catholic

Robert Cardinal Sarah’s “God or Nothing” is thoroughly familiar with the writings of Aristotelian and Aquinas. He is equally well-versed in the writings and teachings of Pope Francis, who in November 2014, named Cardinal Sarah as the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Cardinal Sarah is able to offer some beautiful reflections on his closely held belief when he asks his to define contemplation, faith and hope.

Some of Sarah’s responses are pithy maxims: “Reform is an ongoing necessity.” “Parents are the first educators.” “Faith does not encompass any guarantee.” “The Gospel is not a slogan.”

While he eloquently explains many of his thoughts, quoting length form a book that says to God very simply, “I have never doubted my vocation.”

Sarah quotes the original Latin (as he often does): “In nihil ab nihil quo vixit recte dicitur.” (How quietly we fail back from nothing to nothing.)

Without God, we fall from nothing to nothing.

For Robert Cardinal Sarah “it’s a life of faith in which there is a simple choice between ‘God or Nothing’.”

J.E. Heilm is a freelance writer for the Sooner

Jobs Box

Director of RE – Elk City, Sayre

St. Matthew, Elk City, and St. Mary of All Saints, Sayre, are seeking a full-time director of RE and youth ministry. The director is responsible for developing, maintaining and administering catechetical formation programs for children, youth and families. St. Matthew and St. Mary of All Saints are also seeking a practicing Catholic, active and involved in parish life; know and support the teachings of the Catholic Church; and be working toward or hold a hold a graduate level certification in theology or philosophy. Certification or degree in theology is preferred. Bilingual is plus. Send resume and letters of interest to Ms. Patricia Koenig at pkoenig@archokc.org.

Building and cemetery operations manager

St. Joseph, Norman, is seeking a building and cemetery operations manager who serves as a resource in support of the pastor and staff to fulfill parish building and cemetery needs. An essential aspect of this position is to assist the director of mission and administration in providing a welcoming environment. A working knowledge of various parish and cemetery databases preferred. Salary and benefits are commensurate with level of education and experience. Send resume, references and a cover letter to Stacy Humbert at stacy.humbert@archokc.org. resumes accepted until May 5.

Director of administration

St. Monica, Edmond, is offering a full-time position for the administration of business/finance and human resources management needs of the parish. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent in business administration and experience required. At least five years of direct personnel management experience required. Strong skills in technology, communication, budget, financials and HR required. Previous parish-based work experience preferred. Submit resume to Fr. Harmony at fharmony@archokc.org. Contact (405) 359-2700.

Youth formation coordinator

St. Monica, Edmond, is offering a part-time position for the coordination of youth formation under the direction of the youth director. Bachelor’s degree required; theology or ministry degree a plus. A bachelor’s degree in education with state teaching certification. A knowledge of materials and copy of teaching certificate to cdiectio@jccy.org. Contact at (405) 359-2700.

Senior director of mission advancement

The senior director of mission advancement directs and oversees the archdiocesan Office of Advancement’s support of agency long-term objectives, staff and all related activities. Participates in agency fundraising strategies, and development and execution of public relations, parish engagement, and volunteer coordination activities undertaken by supervised staff. Responsible for the supervision experience, a history of soliciting large gifts, and event management experience for 400 or more guests. Advanced degree, preferably in marketing/direct, and fluency in English and Spanish preferred.

Blue Ribbon Tree

Deadline: April 28

Submit your pictures for your Blue Ribbon to be in our show at the Parish Center. April 27. To take part in our show, submit your photos via email no later than April 19 with the name of the parish and the city.

Blue Sunday

During the month of April we are reminded of Jesus “Whoever receives me, receives me.” Over 1500 children annually from child abuse in the US. Nearly 20 percent were under 4 years old. A study found that as many as two-thirds of individuals in drug treatment programs reported being abused as children. Our church can make a difference. We can make a difference in the life of each and every child. It starts now! April 30 has been designated as Blue Sunday.

The archdiocesan Office of Safe Environment is encouraging parishes to do something as simple as include an intention in the prayers of the faithful for the victims of child abuse.

A photo from the Benedictine motherhouse above is a 1914 photo from the Benedictine motherhouse. He is from St. Mary of All Saints, Guthrie, arrived at Guthrie on Sept. 23, 1889. The next day, class started for six pupils with the children sitting on nail barrels. Planks on barrels served as desks. The Church in Oklahoma owes much to these interred sisters who went on to be some of the primary educators throughout the state.

Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic
Unidos. 

Al honrar a nuestros hermanos sacerdotes con el premio Padre Stanley Rother, Fi el Pastor, está recordando lo que significa ser un buen pastor en las cosas del amor y la misericordia, y seguir el ejemplo de Jesucristo, el Buen Pastor, que sentencia nuestras almas y nuestras vidas. El sacerdote es el que persigue más nuestro bien; que Dios les está haciendo en este momento de su vida. 

Fiel Pastor.

Este año este distinguido reconocimiento para el Premio Padre Stanley Rother, dotes nombran y recomiendan un digno destinatario para el Premio Padre Stanley Rother, de los Santos Oleos y el sagrado crisma que se convierten en grandes ejemplos de vida sacerdotal gracias en gran parte a la abuela. De estos cinco nietos, un nieto se convertiría en sacerdote beneficioso y más tarde abad de su comunidad. Una vista se muestran en nueva camiseta de clausuras. Otras dos nietas tuvieron familiares católicos, hasta que unas fueron criadas en nuestra casa. 

El hecho de que un día en las cosas de la historia y de sus pequeñas formas en que esto es posible. 

El sacerdote es el que persigue más nuestro bien; que Dios les está haciendo en este momento de su vida. 

A lo largo de los años, hemos desarrollado costumbres y otras formas de celebrar la vida y ministerios del Padre Stanley Rother está ahora, siendo reconocido y admira-do por la Iglesia Universal. El hecho de que un día en las cosas de la historia y de sus pequeñas formas en que esto es posible. 

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Brie...
Thousands of new Catholics welcomed by Catholic Church at Easter Vigil

WASHINGTON – A married couple in their golden years, a couple inspired by their late daughter's legacy, and a salesman who heard Jesus' call to conversion on a stranger's porch, are among the thousands who will be welcomed into the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil, April 15, in parishes across the United States. All have participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process of conversion and study in the Catholic faith for catechumens and candidates coming into full communion with the Church.

Catechumens, who have never been baptized, will receive baptism, confirmation and first Communion at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. Candidates, who have already been baptized in another Christian tradition whose baptism is recognized by the Catholic Church, will enter the Church through a profession of faith and reception of confirmation and the Eucharist.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 290 catechumens and 368 candidates will receive the sacraments.

In the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 175 catechumens and 249 candidates will receive the sacraments. Among them, Mac, 90, and Barb Harless, 85, who will join the Church this Easter after finding their parish, St. John Paul II Church in Cedar Springs, a source of prayer, peace and hope during Barb's battle with cancer.

Two years ago their daughter and sister Kennis, then 12, died suddenly. "It just turned our heads about life," Dan Cady said. He added that his family was grateful for the support it received from the staff of St. Jerome Parish in East Rochester, and from there opted to pursue RCIA. As the Cadys advance on their faith journey, Dan said he's confident his daughter is looking over them: "We would like to think it's orchestrated by her," he said.

Some of the family members will receive the sacraments this year, and others next year.

While in Orlando, Florida, Jarrid Perusse of Most Precious Blood Parish in Oviedo said he, "got saved on a porch" during a summer internship as a door-to-door salesman. He realized that God was reaching out to him, and "it was my turn to start reaching back," he said.

About 60 of the nearly 200 dioceses in the United States reported numbers for 2017 to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the largest diocese in the United States, will welcome 1,756 catechumens and 938 candidates; while the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston reports 1,667 catechumens and 708 candidates; and the Archdiocese of Washington reports 483 catechumens and 698 candidates.

In California, the Diocese of Stockton will welcome 284 candidates and 532 catechumens.

Other dioceses reporting hundreds of catechumens and candidates include: Diocese of Dallas: 945 catechumens and 1,230 candidates; Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas: 252 catechumens and 324 candidates; Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana: 187 catechumens and 208 candidates; Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah: 273 catechumens, 153 candidates; Diocese of Tyler, Texas: 120 catechumens and 270 candidates; Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina: 160 catechumens and 317 candidates; Diocese of Pittsburgh: 444 catechumens and candidates;

These numbers are based on participation in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, the final phase of the RCIA process celebrated at the beginning of Lent.

Not included are infant baptisms that according to the 2016 Official Catholic Directory (OCD) totaled 683,712 for the year 2015. The OCD also reported that there were 39,721 adult baptisms and 71,809 people received into full communion during the same year, the latest with complete statistical data.