Holy Week marks the end of the Lenten cycle. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the day that commemorates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. In these final days of Lent, our preparation intensifies. We give more freely, live more simply, and pray constantly. We take time to reflect on the abundant love of God, who gave his Son to open for us the way to eternal life. We strive to follow the path of Jesus, who humbled himself to save us. In these days, it is particularly appropriate to reflect on the four Songs of the Suffering Servant. The Church has interpreted these hymns, found in the Book of the prophet Isaiah, as speaking of Jesus, who suffered for our salvation.

Isaiah 42:1-7
Isaiah 49:1-6
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Art by the late Father John Walsh
God Has a Plan for Your Life

In my previous two articles I have reflected with you on the universal call to holiness. I want to continue that reflection here. We are all called to become saints. Sanctity, or holiness, is the full flowering of the grace of our Baptism lived from the heart of the Church. Holiness is God’s life and love made perfect within us.

Like the young man who approached Jesus in the Gospel, we may wish to ask, “What must I do to become holy, that is, to inherit eternal life?” (cf. Mt. 19:16). As Jesus taught the young man, it begins with keeping the commandments, observing the law. That is foundational for everyone. But is there something more? Yes, there is. Holiness is God’s work within us, but it requires our cooperation.

Within the framework of the universal call to holiness, each baptized person receives a unique universal call to holiness, each cooperation.

Whether to follow him, or seek instead the Lord’s invitation and plan for our life; whether to accept or reject the Lord’s gift and a task. We have a choice and duties of each one’s personal circumstances by being faithful to the demands of their own vocations.

Holiness is possible for all, but we will grow in holiness by living faithfully and generously the authentic responsibilities of our own vocation, whether that involves study in the case of a student, or taking care of children and a spouse in the case of a mother or father. Holiness is pursued and realized in the midst of the ordinary relationships, challenges and duties of each one’s personal vocation.

Every vocation from God is both a gift and a task. We have a choice whether to accept or reject the Lord’s invitation and plan for our life; whether to follow him, or seek instead to make our own way. Like the rich young man who went away sad after speaking with Jesus, we may wonder, “What must I do to make my own way. Like the rich young man who went away sad after we shall inherit eternal life?” (cf. Mt. 19:22). We can refuse the gift. If we wish to be good stewards of the gift of our vocation, we need to prepare ourselves to receive this gift gratefully, to respond to God’s call generously, and then to live it faithfully and gratefully, to respond to God’s call generously, and then to live it faithfully. Practically speaking, this means that we have to truly believe that God does have a plan for our life, and then seek to discern what God’s plan may be. We have to pray for divine light and guidance. We have to seek the grace of freedom and the courage to say with Mary, “I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38).

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If we wish to be good stewards of the gift of our vocation, we need to prepare ourselves to receive this gift gratefully, to respond to God’s call generously, and then to live it faithfully and gratefully. Practically speaking, this means that we have to truly believe that God does have a plan for our life, and then seek to discern what God’s plan may be. We have to pray for divine light and guidance. We have to seek the grace of freedom and the courage to say with Mary, “I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38).

To be continued…

Seminary Burses
A $1,000 donation was made to the Father Clement Pribil Seminary Bursar by George and Nola Pribil in memory of their nephew, Father Clement Pribil.

A $100 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Bursar in honor of the clergy and staff of St. John the Baptist, Edmond, by Rosalie and Mike Skal.

A $100 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Bursar in memory of Father O’Toole from Good Shepherd Mission Church, Marietta.

Visit us online through the Archdiocesan Web Page at www.catharchdioceseokc.org.
Young Catholic Men Visit Seminary on ‘Come and See’

By Tomas Sandoval
For the Sooner Catholic

A weekend of community, a lifetime of thought. With Father Hamilton at the wheel, 10 young men representing six different parishes of the archdiocese journeyed early on Saturday morning, March 26, to Conception Seminary College in Missouri for the “Encounter with God’s Call” weekend. Once aboard the bus and upon arrival, at Conception Seminary, I was immediately filled with the sensation that I was not alone, and that my uncertainty was everyone’s uncertainty. This sense of community was built upon morning and evening prayer, adoration and daily Mass with the monks which was very cool. Current seminarians were more than willing to share their stories and delicately answer our questions about seminary life and practicality anytime during the weekend. We were able to open hearts to each other during discussions after each talk to share how we may feel called to the priesthood and to share our fears about such a journey without worrying about being judged. If there is any retreat to help you seek God’s call, the annual trip to Conception Seminary College is perfect to do so.

‘But They’re Illegal’
Throughout History, Unjust Laws Have Been Broken by Those of Faith and Conviction

By Bishop Anthony B. Taylor
Diocese of Little Rock

National borders have almost never prevented strong economic reasons for such migration — the economic principle of supply and demand. Therefore, short of taking extreme measures, our only real choice from a historical perspective is how we will manage today’s flow. Most Americans do not realize the impossible barriers placed on people who want to enter our country legally. Do you know that it is virtually impossible for Mexicans to immigrate to the United States legally unless they already have close relatives who are American citizens? Do you know that there is presently up to a 16-year wait for those family reunification visas because no more than 26,000 visas because no more than 26,000 family-sponsored visas are allotted to Mexican immigrants in any given year? Virtually all of those who want to enter our country legally are already in fact present inside the United States. There are, in fact, virtually no visas available for the more than 500,000 immigrants who enter the United States from Mexico each year. These are adjustments of status for persons who are already in the United States. Therefore, short of taking extreme measures, our only real choice from a historical perspective is how we will manage today’s flow.

Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow? Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow, whose unjust laws he defied? There is no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law. In the case of Jim Crow laws, it was the law itself that was criminal in the eyes of God, not those who destroyed it. Rather than focus on those who are forced to break the law in order to provide for the basic needs of their families, we should focus instead on fixing the broken laws themselves, broken in the sense that they do not work and cannot work because they impede rather than facilitate the exercise of the God-given rights of migrants. Rather than “amnesty,” what we should extend to the immigrants in our midst is “welcome.” There are those who worry that by remedying the present and a bad precedent for the future. This is the same argument that was lodged against those who “disrespected” the Jim Crow laws of the U.S. South. Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow, whose unjust laws he defied? There is no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law.

The word “amnesty” is not appropriate. Amnesty is forgiveness of someone who is guilty of a crime. Most undocumented immigrants come to this country in the exercise of their God-given human rights. There was no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law. In the case of Jim Crow laws, it was the law itself that was criminal in the eyes of God, not those who destroyed it. Rather than focus on those who are forced to break the law in order to provide for the basic needs of their families, we should focus instead on fixing the broken laws themselves, broken in the sense that they do not work and cannot work because they impede rather than facilitate the exercise of the God-given rights of migrants. Rather than “amnesty,” what we should extend to the immigrants in our midst is “welcome.” There are those who worry that by remedying the present and a bad precedent for the future. This is the same argument that was lodged against those who “disrespected” the Jim Crow laws of the U.S. South. Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow, whose unjust laws he defied? There is no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law. In the case of Jim Crow laws, it was the law itself that was criminal in the eyes of God, not those who destroyed it. Rather than focus on those who are forced to break the law in order to provide for the basic needs of their families, we should focus instead on fixing the broken laws themselves, broken in the sense that they do not work and cannot work because they impede rather than facilitate the exercise of the God-given rights of migrants. Rather than “amnesty,” what we should extend to the immigrants in our midst is “welcome.” There are those who worry that by remedying the present and a bad precedent for the future. This is the same argument that was lodged against those who “disrespected” the Jim Crow laws of the U.S. South. Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow, whose unjust laws he defied? There is no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law. In the case of Jim Crow laws, it was the law itself that was criminal in the eyes of God, not those who destroyed it. Rather than focus on those who are forced to break the law in order to provide for the basic needs of their families, we should focus instead on fixing the broken laws themselves, broken in the sense that they do not work and cannot work because they impede rather than facilitate the exercise of the God-given rights of migrants. Rather than “amnesty,” what we should extend to the immigrants in our midst is “welcome.” There are those who worry that by remedying the present and a bad precedent for the future. This is the same argument that was lodged against those who “disrespected” the Jim Crow laws of the U.S. South. Who did more harm to the rule of law in our country, those who enacted the Jim Crow laws or those who broke the unjust laws? How many streets do we have named after Martin Luther King Jr. and how many named after Jim Crow, whose unjust laws he defied? There is no talk of “amnesty” of those “guilty” of civil disobedience during the lunch counter sit-ins of the Civil Rights era. They were enforcing their human rights in obedience of a higher law.

The law is sacred only insofar as it is rooted in truth and justice, and only insofar as it is in the service of the common good. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson disobeyed England’s unjust laws and demanded protection for inalienable rights that came from God and not from King George III. Jesus clarified this higher law when he said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but to God what belongs to God.”
Planning for taxes is just one of many important considerations when reviewing long-range financial plans. Another concern may be the inability of one or more heirs to manage property left to them because of age, incapacity or other factors.

To address these concerns, trusts are one of the oldest and most widely used estate planning tools. A living trust is a private agreement where the distribution of assets under the terms of the trust is not subject to the publicity given to wills in probate proceedings. Since a living trust is revocable, it has no income tax consequences during your lifetime. No separate tax return is even filed and all trust income is reported under your Social Security number. You can also use trusts and other estate planning tools to arrange for special gifts that will benefit your charitable interests only after your needs and the needs of your loved ones have been met.

For more information on Planned Giving contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405)721-4115
www.cfook.org
bsmutter@catharchdioceseokc.org

Bishop John Carroll
School goes to Regional and State Science and Engineering Fair. Three middle school students, Garrett Eakers, left, John Kalk, center, and Erin Yen, right, won their division at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at OBU and will compete in Ada in February. All three competed against private and public schools, grades 7-9. We are very proud of these three young people. A special congratulations goes to Erin Yen, who took first place in state for “Family Fingerprints - Can You Tell?”
Step By Step, Man Runs Across America to Bring People to God

By Alex Lee
For the Sooner Catholic

SHAWNEE — From California to Australia and Indonesia, Jeff Grabosky is running across America to encourage people to pray and to foster a deeper relationship with God.

Grabosky is a marathon runner, Grabosky is running across America to encourage people to pray and to foster a deeper relationship with God. (Photo by Alex Lee)

Grabosky is looking forward to completing his run. He encourages people to follow his journey on his website. The prayer intentions and comments he receives on his website serve to give him motivation and foster a deeper relationship with God.

Grabosky is a Notre Dame graduate, Grabosky plans on stopping by South Bend where a prayer service has been scheduled.

Grabosky leaves his job as manager of a running store in Washington, D.C., to start training last August. He slowly built up his endurance and distance. His supplies usually include a tent, sleeping bag, clothes, water, food, medication, etc., which he updates and checks daily via his cell phone.

Grabosky started his long journey on Jan. 20 in Oceanside, Calif. He plans to run through 17 states and end his extended trek in Long Island, N.Y., sometime in May.

Grabosky recently ran through Shawnee and stayed a few days with the family of local pediatrician Dr. William Chapman, whose daughter, Angela, is married to Grabosky’s brother.

While in Shawnee, he also took time to receive some much-needed therapy on his legs.

Grabosky, 28, grew up in Holmdel, N.J., and has been a runner since an early age. The idea of praying the Rosary while running came from his mother who he said, “I pray a decade of the Rosary every time to receive some much-needed therapy on my legs.”

Grabosky is a specially designed stroller to hold his limited supplies."
OKLAHOMA CITY — Bristol Palin said she never set out to be a public speaker, an author or even a dancer. Of course, she never intended to become a teen mother, either, but life took a different course.

Palin, daughter of 2008 vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, addressed the sold-out audience inside the ballroom at the Oak Tree Golf and Country Club during the Birth Choice of Oklahoma’s Life of the Party event. The annual fundraising effort provides the lion’s share of the pro-life organization’s budget.

The evening featured the address by Palin, as well as moving and inspirational comments by Barbara Chishko, executive director of Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc., and Jerry Twombly, a business executive who supports pro-life organizations.

Julie Murray, who has worked with Birth Choice of Oklahoma Inc. for more than 15 years, was honored with the Celebration of Life Award. The award is presented annually to a person who has dedicated themselves to promoting life and supporting mothers and their unborn babies through Birth Choice.

Palin said she was proud and honored to be “a small part of this event. Birth Choice is legit,” she said. “The question isn’t should we help, but how can we help?”

“Every life deserves a chance. Babies, human beings, are created in the image of God and there is no greater resource for Birth Choice than people who care.”

Chishko has been involved in the pro-life movement since 1972. She helped found Birth Choice in 1973. She and her husband, Andrew, have been married for 46 years. They are parents to 10 children, four of whom are in heaven, and seven grandchildren.

Two Loaves of Bread

Chishko told a moving story about receiving a letter years ago from a fellow worker in the pro-life effort. She said the woman from Canada wrote that she and her husband were struggling to get by. She was a young mother and was busy raising her children and volunteering as the coordinator of the Birth Choice ministry in her community.

The woman said she and her husband were down to their last $5 to buy food for the family. She went to the store wanting to get two loaves of bread, some bologna and a gallon of milk. She realized while in the store she only had enough money for the milk and the lunch meat. The woman stopped and prayed, asking God to provide for her family.

She bought the milk and lunch meat and left the store.

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Sooner Catholic

April 17, 2011

Birth Choice

Scout Earns Gold With Support of Birth Choice

YUKON — Pro-life groups have a new friend in Emily Schneider, a ninth-grader and member of Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church and an avid member of Girl Scouts.

Schneider chose Birth Choice of El Reno and Project Gabriel at Saint Charles Borromeo as two of the organizations to help while pursuing her Gold Award, the equivalent of Eagle Scout earned by Boy Scouts. The third organization assisted by her efforts was the Gateway Pregnancy Center in Yukon.

For the past eight months, Schneider has taught teen girls and adults how to crochet so they could make baby blankets for area crisis pregnancy centers. Schneider’s goal was to acquire 50 blankets to donate to the centers. When all the blankets were counted, she had more than 150 blankets, distributed between the three pro-life groups.

“I wanted to make sure that when a girl goes to these clinics, she not only gets the needed items but also leaves with a handmade blanket for her baby,” said Schneider. “That way, she understands her community supports her decision to have her baby. Whether she keeps the baby or adopts it out, she’s receiving a blanket someone has taken a lot of time to make to show that they care.”

And blankets weren’t the only items donated to Schneider’s effort. Volunteers also donated or got others to donate receiving sets, store-bought blankets, onesies, diaper wipes, bottles and even crocheted outfits. Schneider’s mother, Becky, who also serves as leader of the Girl Scout troop, said donations are still coming in and will be taken to the centers.

“When Emily delivered her donations to each location, the directors were overwhelmed with the amount received,” Becky Schneider said. “I am amazed at how many people were willing to help out and loved this cause,” said Emily. “I hope others consider assisting these centers because they are very worth our time and support. We need to make sure girls know we support this decision.”

Emily Schneider at the Birth Choice audience.

Birth Choice Centers

Birth Choice Business Office
4701 S. Western Avenue
Oklahoma City, 73109-3833
(405) 606-8433
E-mail: birthchoice@birthchoice.org
Website: www.birthchoice.org

OKLAHOMA CITY
(405) 606-8433
4701 S. Western Avenue
Oklahoma City, 73109-3833

BETHANY
(405) 495-6919
5108 N. Rockwell Avenue
Oklahoma City, 73132-2032

EDMOND
(405) 333-2111
11A Burton Plaza
Edmond, 73013-4445

EL RENO
(405) 202-0043
400 W. London Street
El Reno, 73036-3816

LAWTON
(580) 240-1110
1111 W. Gore
Lawton, 73502-3382

NORMAN
(405) 385-9555
457 W. Gray Street
Norman, 73069-7117

Birth Choice

continued from Page 6

home carrying two loaves of bread. He had recently gone to work for a man who owned a gasoline station. A man delivering bread had pulled into the station to get gas that day and left the owner two loaves of white bread as a small token of their friendship. The owner of the station didn’t like white bread and asked his new worker if he would like to take it.

Tears came into Chishko’s eyes as she read the letter.

Her young and growing family was in a similar situation. She too was needing money for groceries, only having enough to buy milk and lunch meat. The evening before the letter arrived, her husband also walked through the front door carrying two loaves of bread. He was working as a delivery man for a potato chip company. At the end of the day there were several bags of chips left over as he made his last delivery. A man delivering bread asked if he would trade some bread for a few bags of chips.

“God was telling us he would provide,” Chishko said. “God was telling us to continue working to save His babies.”

Twombly is senior partner of BGW Development Group. He said growing up in the 1950s and ‘60s, his parents took in pregnant teens in their home in Maine.

“They were at our home in Maine. I knew I had two sisters, but I wasn’t sure which two were mine.”

Jerry Twombly speaks to the Birth Choice audience.

Scout Earns Gold With Support of Birth Choice

Emily Schneider with some of the blankets she donated to pro-life centers.

And blankets weren’t the only items donated to Schneider’s effort. Volunteers also donated or got others to donate receiving sets, store-bought blankets, onesies, diaper wipes, bottles and even crocheted outfits. Schneider’s mother, Becky, who also serves as leader of the Girl Scout troop, said donations are still coming in and will be taken to the centers.

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Birth Choice

continued from Page 6

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Jerry Twombly speaks to the Birth Choice audience.
St. Damien Pray for Us

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City first to receive the Relic of St. Damien of Molokai outside of Hawaii

Hundreds of Oklahoma Catholics celebrated Mass April 5 at the Pastoral Center and then stood in line to venerate the relic of St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Molokai.

Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran. Prayer services were held hourly following Mass. The prayer services were led by Father Robert Wood, Father Carlos Casavantes, Father M. Price Oswalt and Father Stephen Bird.

The relic was brought from the Diocese of Honolulu to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City by Father Paul C. Zaccone, SS.CC. This was the first stop for the relic that was also scheduled to visit Tulsa, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia before returning to Hawaii.

St. Damien was a Belgium-born priest who in the 1860s ministered to a colony of lepers in the Hawaiian Islands. He built churches and helped bring great hope and faith to the diseased people. He would contract leprosy and after years of suffering, Father Damien died on April 15, 1889.

At a ceremony at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Joseph de Veuster was canonized a saint on Oct. 11, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran accepts the relic of St. Damien at the start of Mass.

For more photos and full homilies, go to the Archdiocese web page, www.catharchdioceseokc.org

Virgin Davis, originally from Maui, Hawaii, places a tea leaf from her own garden and red salt under the photo of St. Damien. It is a traditional offering for good luck in Hawaii. Davis wanted to bring something of Hawaii for St. Damien in Oklahoma.

Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran venerates the relic. Photos by Cara Koenig

Damien Nolan, with help from his adoptive mother, Tricia Nolan, kisses the reliquary holding St. Damien’s relic. He is named after St. Damien. Tricia said her son was born addicted to drugs and she prayed to St. Damien to “remove him of the legacy of drug addiction” so they could raise him to be a healthy young man.

Napua Davis, originally from Maui, Hawaii, places a tea leaf from her own garden and red salt under the photo of St. Damien. It is a traditional offering for good luck in Hawaii. Davis wanted to bring something of Hawaii for St. Damien in Oklahoma.

For more photos and full homilies, go to the Archdiocese web page, www.catharchdioceseokc.org
The Tax Foundation released information that April 2, 2011, was Oklahoma’s “Tax Free Day.” As though we taxpayers were supposed to be outraged that 25 cents on each dollar earned was somehow “taken away” from us unjustly. We Catholics, however, have another perspective. Our tradition concerning support for humanity’s “common good” finds, rather, in that news, a sense of satisfaction. School, fire and safety protection, roads and public transportation, assisting those on society’s margins — all those social goods come at a quite reasonable price. To be sure, we have the civic and moral responsibility to ensure that our tax dollars really advance the truly human common good. However, to be upset about advancing the truly human common good.

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Across Oklahoma

Results of March 26-27, Archbishop Coakley asked all of the parishes/missions to have a special collection for the people of Japan. I asked the weekend of March 26-27, Archbishop Coakley asked all of the parishes/missions to have a special collection for the people of Japan. I asked the weekend of March 26-27, Archbishop Coakley asked all of the parishes/missions to have a special collection for the people of Japan. I asked the weekend of March 26-27, Archbishop Coakley asked all of the parishes/missions to have a special collection for the people of Japan. I asked.

Firewall to Villa Teresa Moore OKLAHOMA CITY — Firewall got together at Villa Teresa Moore. Villa Teresa Moore School at 15501 S. Western, Oklahoma City will be closing in May 2011. We will be hosting a farewell get-together on Saturday, April 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to come visit the school for the last time. Please call Ann Grover at 691-7319 if you have any questions.

Health Fair and Open House Set OKLAHoma CITY — Saint Ann Retirement Center is hosting a 2011 Health Fair and Open House on Wednesday, May 4 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This will take place in the Grand Theater. Bring your friends and family. Healthy snacks and drinks will be served along with wonderful entertainment. Representatives from various health-related organizations will be on hand to discuss health issues and the services they provide. Take a tour at Saint Ann’s to see our beautiful community. We will have continuous drawings for wonderful gifts donated by our vendors. For more information, please contact Richard Amend or Mary Parish at 721-0747.

Catholic Return Home OKLAHOMA CITY — SKIRNIS. — If you have been away from the Church or are drifting away from it, this is for you. If you are not receiving the sacraments, this is definitely for you. No problem too big to overcome. The six-week series begins May 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Benedict Catholic Church community room, 632 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee. For more information, call Clyde or Gail at (405) 878-6746.

Nurses To Be Celebrated MOORE — The first week of May has traditionally been marked as a time to honor the nurses in our community. On Thursday, May 12, Mercy Health Center, St. Anthony Hospital, St. Andrew Catholic Church and Catholic Charities will sponsor an evening of appreciation for nurses. Mass will be celebrated beginning at 5 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 800 NW 5th St. Moore. Dinner will follow in the parish hall. Registration is free, but reservations are required. To make a reservation, call Mercy Community Outreach at (405) 306-5285.

Deadline for registrations is Monday, May 2.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat in June

Rachel’s Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Retreat, June 3-5, 2011. Inquire for details at the confidential phone number, (405) 623-3844, or e-mail rachelsvineyard@tulsa.net.

Mount St. Mary 1971-72 Reunion

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mount St. Mary High School class of 1971 and 1972 reunion is set for Saturday, June 4, for graduates and their MSM friends. A reception will be held at the Mount in the Heritage Room from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by dinner at Bells Bistro. For more information, contact Diane McFadden Wilson at 631-8685 or DianeWilson@sunantarctica.com.
Third and Fourth Grade

Three-way tie for first place
Sam Kolar, All Saints
Hanna Newby, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Vivian Pham, St. John Nepomuk

Fourth Place — Seth Phung, St. James
Fifth Place — Sang Nguyen, Villa Teresa

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Three-way tie for first place
Charlie Kolar, All Saints
Simon Rendon, St. Joseph
Jacqueline Oh, St. Philip Neri

Fourth Place — Brian Le, Rosary
Fifth Place — Haley Beller, St. Mary Lawton

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Seven-way tie for first place
Andrew Runyon, All Saints
David Ray, All Saints
Emily Pham, Bishop John Carroll
Anna Coffey, Christ the King
David Soto, St. Mary Ponca City
Anna Kope, St. Philip Neri
Roshin Papaly, St. Philip Neri
Pope Says Christ Gives Strength to Conquer Evil Through Baptism

VATICAN CITY (CNA/ENIN News) — Pope Benedict said during Sunday’s Angelus that Christ heals men and women from spiritual blindness and gives them strength to “conquer evil” through the grace of Baptism.

On April 3, the Pope invited Catholics to reflect on the grace of the sacrament and emphasized that this week’s “Lenten Sunday is a time of rejoicing and celebration as Christians prepare for Easter.”

Pope Benedict said that an illustration of this joy can be found in the story of the blind man healed by Jesus in today’s Gospel reading from John. The blind man not only regained his physical sight but comes to believe in Christ.

“All people… due to the sin of Adam, were born blind,” but in the baptismal font we were illuminated by the grace of Christ,” he said. “This wounded humanity and destined it to the darkness of death, but in Christ shines the newness of life and the goal to which we are called.”

“In Him,” the Pope said, “reinvigorated by the Holy Spirit, we recover the strength to conquer evil and do good.”

The Pope pointed out that in the Gospel reading, those within the narrative have starkly different reactions to the miracle. The blind man himself goes through a gradual “walk of faith.” He meets Jesus who heals him, considers him a prophet, and then his spiritual “eyes” are opened to see Christ as the Son of God.

However, the Pharisees do not accept the miracle as they do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, and the once blind man’s parents are now fearful of judgement.

The Pope asked, “What attitude do we assume before Jesus?”

“Christian life,” he said, “is a continuous confrontation to Christ, the image of the new man, to reach a full communion with God. The Lord Jesus is ‘the light of the world,’ because in Him ‘shines the knowledge of the glory of God’ which continues to reveal the meaning of human existence in the complex storyline of history.”

The Pope explained that the presentation of the candle during the Rite of Baptism is a sign that helps one to understand what is happening in the sacrament.

“When we let our life be illuminated by the mystery of Christ, we experience the joy of being liberated from all that threatens its full fulfillment,” he said.

“In those days that prepare us for Easter, let us revivify in ourselves the gift received in Baptism, that flame that sometimes risks being snuffed out.”

“Let us feed it with prayer and charity toward our neighbor. To the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, we entrust the Lenten path, so that all might find Christ, Saviour of the world.”

After the Angelus prayer, the Pope remembered the sixth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II. As the faithful prepare themselves for Easter, he said, they also prepare for the last Pope’s May 1 beatification, entrusting themselves ever more to his intercession.

Sting of Criticism Can Be Lessened by Understanding of Who We Are

Most of us have taken what others do or say personally, feeling hurt, shame and anger, and reacting in hurtful and abusive ways. In essence, what we have done is applied mistaken hurtful and shameful beliefs we have about ourselves to what someone has done or said. We then react out of that hurt in an inappropriate and hurtful ways that causes more hurt, anger, etc.

Example include, when a spouse criticizes us, a child refuses to do as we say, a boss points out a better way of doing something, a co-worker doesn’t include us for lunch, a grandchild doesn’t send us a thank-you card, a friend doesn’t include us for lunch, a grandchild refuses to do as we say, etc. Our parents and those around us did not intend to give us these ideas, but with our slowly developing brains, we made these erroneous assumptions and interpretations that became a part of our belief system.

So when someone criticizes us, refuses to do as we ask, tells us a better way, is demanding, gives excessive advice, etc., those mistaken beliefs are triggered and we experience those hurtful feelings and we react.

Changing this vicious cycle is difficult because it forces us to be honest about two things first, that we have mistaken, hurtful, and shameful beliefs from our past, and second, that we do take things personally and in as doing we react in hurtful and, at times, abusive ways. If we are willing, with God’s help, the following ideas may be helpful in changing ourselves.

We can notice when we take someone or something personally and feel hurt, worthless, angry, etc., and before reacting, we can pause and take a deep breath.

We can then put ourselves in God’s goodness and loving care and remind ourselves we are good and living men and women. We then can explore what is happening and what mistaken thinking may be triggering these feelings and realize what is being said or done is probably not about us. We then can imagine how we and God within would like to respond in an adult and mature manner.

We can then respond with “t” statements such as “When you criticize me, I feel hurt and upset and I need to take a walk,” “I am upset and need to go for a drive.” I wish you were on time, it’s frustrating for me to have to wait,” “I got upset when you don’t do as I say,” etc.

Later, we can congratulate ourselves for responding to a hurtful situation in a healthier, more appropriate manner. We can take time out to care for ourselves by listening to soft music, reading a meditation book, walking in a park, praying in a chapel, watching a sunset, etc. As we do these things we can use the peace and serenity we experience to heal and nurture ourselves.

As we respond in more appropriate and loving ways and as we nurture and heal ourselves, we will be more in touch with the Holy Spirit within us.

Joe Froehle serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. He can be reached at (405) 339-8529 or by e-mail at jfroehle@swbell.net.
Electrician Sparks Life Commitment by Turning Down Abortion Clinic Job

By Dave Hrbacek

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNA)—A sign in the bathroom of Tim and Nicole Roach’s home in Faribault, Minn., reads, “Gratitude, Always Remember to Count Your Blessings.”

“I should say, ‘Anytiff, wash your hands and brush your teeth,’” joked Nicole, referring to her 9-year-old son.

The sign has come in handy recently as the family, which belongs to Divine Mercy in Farmington, continues to struggle with Tim’s unemployment, which began in July 2009 when he was laid off from his job as an electrician. And the couple had to take an even harder look at the concept of gratitude when a huge blessing unexpectedly appeared recently, then vanished in a matter of moments.

In mid-February Tim got a call from his local union with the news every laid-off worker longs to hear—a job offer.

“It couldn’t have come at a better time,” Tim acknowledged. “Tim’s unemployment benefits were about to run out. He could hardly believe what the voice on the other end was saying. No, he wasn’t really sure if there were going to be abortions there. He kind of side-stepped that, I think, to try to entice me to say yes. But I said, ‘Wait a minute. It’s a Planned Parenthood.’”

Perfect, Tim thought. Then came the bad news—he would be working on construction of a new abortion clinic. No, it isn’t. “Through this whole process, our faith has deepened,” she said. “We feel like it was a test of our faith. We chose to stand by our faith.”

Facing financial fears

And just like that, Tim went back to being unemployed with no immediate prospects—and his unemployment benefits set to run out sometime this month. Fortunately, his wife, Nicole, 37, has a full-time job as a media specialist for Akin Reed Elementary School in Farmington. Still, things are tight financially for the family, which also includes 11-year-old Adeline.

Though Tim was quick to turn down the offer—the phone conversation lasted only about a minute—Nicole was slower to embrace his decision, mainly because she works with the family budget and has

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Bishop Kelley High School Principal

Bishop Kelley High School of Tulsa invites applications for the open position of principal effective July 1, 2011. The school serves a co-ed population of 845 students with a program that educates for life. The principal is the Chief Operations Officer and as such, has the general charge of overseeing the entire educational program including curriculum and staff development. The principal reports to the president who is responsible to the Advisory Council and by extension to the Diocese. The ideal candidate should have a strong record of accomplishment as both an enthusiastic Catholic educator and administrator. Discover more about the school at www.bishopkelley.org. Address all inquiries, letters of interest and requests for application to Bishop Kelley Principal, Search Robert J. Shea, President, Bishop Kelley Consulting Services, LLC, 7601 Churchill West Suite 1116, Dallas, Texas 75251, by phone at 972-458-7755, or e-mail RobertShea@bksconsulting.com.

Kindergarten Teacher

Villa Teresa School in Oklahoma City has available a position for kindergarten teacher. If you are certified by the state of Oklahoma in Early Childhood and want to join a fantastic staff serving wonderful families, please send your resume to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103, or call 232-4286. Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time middle school math teacher for the remainder of this academic year, ending May 27, 2011. The responsibilities include, limited to, conducting ground burials, general grounds and lawn care. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Excellent benefits and training. You must be eligible a position for kindergarten teacher. If you are certified by the state of Oklahoma in Early Childhood and want to join a fantastic staff serving wonderful families, please send your resume to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103, or call 232-4286. Sacred Heart Catholic School will be hiring a janitor pending a background check for the 2011-2012 school year. Please apply in person after 3:30 p.m. or send resume to Sacred Heart School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax (405) 262-3818. Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time middle school math teacher for the remainder of this academic year, ending May 27, 2011. The responsibilities include, limited to, conducting ground burials, general grounds and lawn care. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Excellent benefits and training. You must be eligible a position for kindergarten teacher. If you are certified by the state of Oklahoma in Early Childhood and want to join a fantastic staff serving wonderful families, please send your resume to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103, or call 232-4286. Sacred Heart Catholic School will be hiring a janitor pending a background check for the 2011-2012 school year. Please apply in person after 3:30 p.m. or send resume to Sacred Heart School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036.

Math Team Needed

St. Charles Borromeo School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time middle school math teacher for the remainder of this academic year, ending May 27, 2011. The responsibilities include, assisting the eighth-grade math program. Please fax resume and certification to Todd Gospel at (405) 769-3583 or e-mail to tgs@uschool.org.

Part-Time Music Teacher

St. Charles Borromeo School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time music teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Liturgical music director duties for leading student choir and accompaniment at school Masses to be negotiated. Please fax resume and certification to Todd Gospel at (405) 769-3583 or e-mail to tgs@uschool.org.

Teacher Openings for 2011-2012

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City is seeking full-time teachers in Religion and English for the 2011-2012 school year. Please fax resume and certification to Talia De Negri at (405) 631-0509 or e-mail to tde.negri@mountsaintmary.org. Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa invites applications for the open position of principal effective July 1, 2011. The school serves a co-ed population of 845 students with a program that educates for life. The principal is the Chief Operations Officer and as such, has the general charge of overseeing the entire educational program including curriculum and staff development. The principal reports to the president who is responsible to the Advisory Council and by extension to the Diocese. The ideal candidate should have a strong record of accomplishment as both an enthusiastic Catholic educator and administrator. Discover more about the school at www.bishopkelley.org. Address all inquiries, letters of interest and requests for application to Bishop Kelley Principal, Search Robert J. Shea, President, Bishop Kelley Consulting Services, LLC, 7601 Churchill West Suite 1116, Dallas, Texas 75251, by phone at 972-458-7755, or e-mail RobertShea@bksconsulting.com.

Director of Religious Education

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic Director of Religious Education. Full-time position and benefits. Starting June 2011. Experience preferred, in religious education, theology or equivalent degree required. Application and job description available by calling the parish office at (405) 526-6146. Send application, resume and reference to "THE Search Committee," St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 NW 16th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106.

Director of Religious Education

Epiphany of the Lord Parish in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith with experience and vision to serve 1,600 families. The director will coordinate all education programs for children and adults. The director will be responsible for catechist recruitment, formation and certification, and must also collaborate with the parish leaders of youth ministry, music, and the Journey of Faith. Applicants should have a degree in theology, religious education or related area and a minimum of five years experience working in catechetical ministry (master’s degree preferred). Interested candidates should contact Patricia Keong on the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education to initiate the application process. Pk@mountstmary.org.

Director of Religious Education

Resurrection Memorial Cemetery. We ask that you arrange travel; process requisitions and maintain position also will provide support to the Deans of Arts and Science and Registrar and perform special projects as assigned. Associate degree highly desired or equivalent credentials and related experiences. Excellent organizational, interpersonal and written and communication skills required to solicit confidentiality; particularly with personnel and student matters mandatory. Send cover letter and resume to St. Gregory’s University, Human Resources Director, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, or e-mail hr@stgregorys.edu.

Five Full-Time Teachers

St. Gregory’s University, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts community (est. 1875), seeks qualified applicants for the following five full-time, tenure-track positions: English/Education, Philosophy (applied and medical ethics desirable), Biology, History and Dance. We seek faculty who are broadly trained and student-oriented. Ph.D. preferred, ABD candidates considered if doctorate near completion. Minimum of MFA in Dance. Responsibilities include teaching a range of undergraduate courses, student recruitment, professional development and university service. Applications begin August 2011 (pending final budget approval). See full job description at www.stgregorys.edu. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, which will be announced on the SGU website.

Financial Representative

The Knights of Columbus has an opening for a financial representative in the north central Oklahoma area. Ideal for a determined, energetic, high-expectation, professional, self-motivated, independent individual desiring to serve others, yet earn a better than average income. We provide top-excellent financial packages to our members and their families and will provide excellent benefits and training. You must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. If you are interested, please contact Kevin W. Pierce, General Agent, for more information or an interview at 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite B, Edmond, Okla. 73014, or (405) 514-7060, or Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

21 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, as the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (MON-SAT) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7338 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

22 Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday night from 5 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory’s Chapel, St. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with adoration to follow. Included is vespers with the monks.

23 Easter - Holy Day of Obligation

24 Catholics Returning Home, St. Charles Borromeo Parish is offering an informal discussion group for people interested in returning to the Church. The group will meet on Tuesday, April 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Ketterer Room. The remaining dates are May 3, May 10, May 17 and May 24. For more information, contact the parish office at 789-2595.

28 TAP into Faith! This month’s topic The Eucharist, with speaker, Father John Metzinger, pastor of St. Anthony’s Medical Plaza Building located at 535 NW 9th St., fourth floor, from 6 to 10 p.m. Child care will be provided at the school, 1246 Classen Drive. Admission tickets may be purchased on the PTO website at www.UTSTPO.com. Tickets are $25 per person. All proceeds benefit Villa Teresa Catholic School.

30 PGA Center of Family Love Golf Tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Club, four-person golf scramble with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Cost is $45 per person or $20 per team of four. For information or to register, call Ed Alford at (405) 314-8717.
Divine Mercy Sunday is May 1. Two parishes, Saint John in Edmond and Saint Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City will host prayer services to celebrate The Feast of Divine Mercy, established by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000.

St. John’s will be celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, from 3 to 4 p.m. During Adoration we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and we’ll venerate our Lord’s Divine Mercy Image. Please join us as we will share more prayers and information that Jesus gave to Sister Faustina.

The following describes the history of the Feast of Divine Mercy.

In the 1930s, our Lord asked a humble Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, to make known that the first Sunday after Easter was to be a feast day for the whole Catholic Church. Jesus said, "The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter (Diary 699) … I desire that priests proclaim this great mercy of Mine towards souls of sinners. Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me, the flames of mercy are burning Me - clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls." (Diary 50).

This "Feast of Divine Mercy" was obediently established on April 30, 2000, by JPII throughout the whole Church because our Lord asked for it! Our Lord further said to Faustina, "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon these souls that approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. That means that any sins confessed receive forgiveness, of course, but the temporal punishment normally connected to the sin is now removed too! How incredible! Thank you, Jesus!

Jesus further instructed that an image was to be painted and venerated because of whom it represents. What image? Why, of Jesus, as he appeared in a vision which Sister Faustina Kowalska (St. Faustina) saw in front of her on the evening of Feb. 22, 1931. She was alone in her cell in a convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Plock, Poland. Our Lord appeared in this glorious splendor of color Jesus said to her, "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this Image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My glory" (Diary 47, 48) Now our Lord knew this small peasant girl could not paint a stroke! In fact, with her limited education, she had an extremely difficult time even finding an order of nuns to accept her. She had the humblest of tasks in the convent — cooking, cleaning and gardening; yet, she obeyed Our Lord and found an artist. We now have the Divine Mercy image as a result.

But why now? Why is it that our Lord wants His Mercy so dramatically highlighted at this time in history? Well, the answer is rather dramatic, so imagine Sister Faustina’s feelings when Our Lord further said, "Speak to the world about My mercy … It is a sign for the end times, after it will come the day of justice. (Diary 848) … Souls perish, in spite of My bitter passion, I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of Mercy. If they will not adore My Mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near." (Diary 965). For more information on Divine Mercy, visit http://thedivinemercy.org/

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi will offer a special prayer service for the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, May 1 from 3 to 4 p.m. The celebration this year will be in honor of the Beatification of Pope John Paul II. St. Francis offered the first Divine Mercy prayer service in 2001. This church is located at 3811 N.W. 13th, Oklahoma City. For more information, call Theresa at (405) 816-2727. The church will open at 2:45.