We’re called to sacrificial love, OKC vocations director says

By Tina Korbe Dzurisin

The Sooner Catholic

All members of the Church — and parents, especially — have a responsibility to assist young people as they discern the particular vocational state to which the Lord calls them, two archdiocesan spokesmen said this month in advance of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

“The entire community of the faithful can and should encourage young people to think about what God may be calling them to do,” said Father William Novak, vicar general and director of seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “When one person follows the will of God, it becomes a witness to others to do the same.”

Father Stephen Hamilton, who serves the archdiocese as director of the Office of Vocations, said all vocations — whether to marriage, the priesthood or religious life — are a call to sacrificial love.

“Marriage and priesthood and religious vocations are very much intimately connected,” Father Hamilton said. “They have a lot more in common than we tend to think. We must have a clear sense that all vocations are a call to sacrifice.”

Ironically, such sacrifice is not the seed of a sterile, unfilled existence, but of the exact opposite — a fruitful, meaningful life, Father Hamilton continued.

“In fact, we find a greater fulfillment, meaning and happiness when we have to give something of ourselves, lay down our lives for others,” he said. “It’s the great evangelical truth of the Gospels, expressed so well in the prayer of Saint Francis: ‘It’s in giving that we receive.’”

We need to recapture that sense of sacrifice, expressed so well in the prayer of Saint Francis: ‘It’s in giving that we receive.’

The remarks of both priests underscore the need for people to understand marriage is the “normative” vocation — that is, the vocation of the majority of Christians — whereas the vocations to the priesthood and religious life are encouraged, respected and understood.

When couples enter marriage not simply because “I love you” leads to “I want to live with you” or “I will love you forever,” but because “I love you so much, I want to give myself to you in order to join my life andourselves but for others,” Father Novak said. “We must have a clear sense that all vocations are a call to sacrifice.”

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When couples enter marriage not simply because “I love you” leads to “I want to live with you” or “I will love you forever,” but because “I love you so much, I want to give myself to you in order to join my life and our lives together for the service of Jesus andHis Church and in the name of Christ. Living this will make a child more open to receiving a religious vocation,” Father Hamilton said.

“Parents should be as specific as possible,” Father Novak said. “It can’t be generic; it has to be vocalized that parents are supportive of the priesthood and religious life and that they would be delighted for their children to give what that is,” he said. “Allow distance for God to speak in this because it’s His call; it’s not the individual’s and it’s not mom-and-dad’s.”

When a young man does discern a call to the priesthood or when a young woman discerns a call to religious life, it ought to be an occasion for rejoicing for the family and the entire Christian community.

“Christ is the center of the life of every Christian and He teaches us to live not for ourselves but for others,” Father Novak said. “The life of a priest is at the service of the Church and in the name of Christ. Living this way brings us joy — and hope to others. Our world desperately needs this message.”

The remarks of both priests underscore the theme of this year’s World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Road to priesthood has many unique milestones

By Tina Korbe Dzurisin

The Sooner Catholic

Talk about the ultimate “trip to the altar.” For those who travel it, the road to the priesthood is just as fraught, intentional, meaningful and memorable — if not more so — than any couple’s walk down the aisle.

Yet, the contours of the priestly route are often unfamiliar, even to lifelong Catholics.

Some of the same folks who grew up filling the pews and crowding the dance floors at Catholic weddings, for example, have never attended an ordination.

For those who have a call to marriage, the script is relatively clear, even in a confused society. “Will you go out with me?” leads to “Will you marry me?” An engagement ring leads to a wedding ring.

Planning a wedding is a culturally familiar process that commonly includes appointments with the officiant, the

continued on page 7
Shaping a culture of life: What about the death penalty?

Recently I attended the Catholic Legal Theory seminar at the OU School of Law. The topic for that evening was a particular application of the Catholic Church’s teaching on the death penalty. I was very impressed by the quality of discussion among the students and their professor, Michael Scaperlanda, in considering the intricacies of this difficult issue from both a legal and ethical perspective.

Particularly humbling to learn, which have become all too common in our violent society, is inevitably stimulate conversation around the death penalty. What ought we as Catholics to make of this discussion? What guidance does the magisterium of the Church provide to help the faithful properly form our conscience on the difficult subject of the use of the death penalty?

The fifth commandment of the Decalogue affirms the sacredness of human life when it proclaims, “Thou shall not kill” (Exodus 20:13). The Catechism of the Catholic Church, following the 1995 encyclical letter of St. John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, affirms the possibility of the legitimate authority having recourse to legitimate defense, including self-defense. But it adds that this means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person” (CCC 2267).

The use of the death penalty, or capital punishment, could be legitimate under very narrowly circumscribed situations, specifically, if there is no other way to protect society. Given the means that the state has today to incapacitate offenders and protect society, the case in which the execution of the offender is truly necessary, are, in the words of Blessed John Paul II, “very rare, if not practically non-existent.” (Gospel of Life, 56)

Unfortunately in Oklahoma and other places, the use of the death penalty has become quite commonplace. It has not stemmed the rising tide of violence in those places. Given this fact and the alarming number of innocent people found to have been mistakenly sentenced to death (one is too many!), as well as the disproportionately high number of poor and minority prisoners who are on death row, we may well question whether there is any legitimate need or reasonable justification for the use of the death penalty today.

Our Church’s teaching offers a way through this confusion. For Catholics, this teaching shines the light of truth in the darkness. For society, it has value as a contribution to the moral development of society. For society, it has value as a contribution to the moral development of society. For Catholics, this teaching shines the light of truth in the darkness.

The archbishop, legislation and politics.

A $2,500 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burs to the parishioners of St. Benedict Church, Broken Arrow.

A $50 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burs to the Oklahoma Women’s Conference.

Archbishop Paul J. Coakley

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar.

April 21 — Mystagogy Mass, 4 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel
April 22 — April 23 — Visit Seminarians at St. John Vianney School of Theology, Denver
April 23 — Confirmation, St. Damian of Molokai Church, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel
April 24 — Mount St. Mary Corporate Meeting, 9 a.m., Mount St. Mary High School, Oklahoma City
April 24 — Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Mary Church, Ardmore
April 25 — Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities Offices, Oklahoma City
April 25 — Mass for Catholic Cemeteries of the West Conference, 3 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel
April 25 — Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman
April 26 — Confirmation, 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
April 27 — Confirmation, 5 p.m., Saint Joseph Church, Norman
April 28 — Confirmation, 11:15 a.m., Saint Paul the Apostle Church, Del City
April 28 — Catholic Family Day at the ballpark, 2 p.m., Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, Oklahoma City
May 1 — School Mass, 10:30 a.m., Mount St. Mary High School, Oklahoma City
May 2 — School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Saint Joseph Church, Edal
May 8 — Confirmation, 7 p.m., Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City
May 14 — Confirmation, 5 p.m., Saint Maria Church, Edmond
May 28 — Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., Saint Matthew Church, Elk City

Seminary Burses

A $2,000 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burs to the parishioners of St. Benedict Church, Broken Arrow.

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Archbishop announces official pastoral appointments

Effective July 1, 2013 (unless otherwise noted)

**In Retirement**

- **Rev. Thomas J. Boyer**
  Effective July 1, 2013

- **Rev. James A. Greiner**
  Effective January 15, 2014

- **Rev. Michael R. Vaught**
  Effective January 1, 2013

**Pastors**

- **Rev. Arokiasamy “Swamy” Andarias**
  Sacred Heart Church, Mangum; Saints Peter and Paul Church, Hobart; Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Hollis

- **Rev. Joseph H. Arledge**
  Saint Peter Church, Woodward; Saint Joseph Church, Buffalo; Sacred Heart Church, Mooreland; Holy Name Church, Shattuck

- **Rev. Rex A. Arnold**
  Saint John Nepomuk Church, Yukon

- **Rev. Benjamin Bandanadam**
  Saint Ann Church, Elgin; Mother of Sorrows Church, Apache; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sterling

- **Rev. Scott A. Boeckman**
  Saint Joseph Church, Norman

- **Rev. Joseph A. Jacobi**
  On Sabbatical (July 1, 2013 to January 14, 2014)
  Holy Spirit Church, Mustang

- **Rev. Prakash Madineni**
  Saint Teresa of Avila Church, Harrah; Saint Vincent DePaul Church, McLoud

- **Rev. Edward T. Menasco**
  Saint Frances Cabrini Church, Beaver; Church of the Good Shepherd, Boise City; Sacred Heart Church, Hooker

- **Rev. Robert T. Wood**
  Saint Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman

- **Rev. Mariyanandam "Mario" Pulugujju**
  Saint Rose of Lima Church, Perry; Sacred Heart Church, Billings

- **Rev. Raul Sanchez**
  Saint James the Greater Church, Oklahoma City

- **Rev. John J. Letourneau**
  Saint Joseph Church, Norman

- **Rev. Prakash Madineni**
  Priest from Confraternidad Operarios del Reino de Cristo (CORC)
  Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City

**Associate Pastors**

- **Rev. John Aram**
  Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee

- **Rev. Brendan J. Helbing, OSB**
  Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee; Immaculate Conception Church, Seminole; Saint Joseph Chapel, Wewoka (in residence at Immaculate Conception Church, Seminole)

- **Rev. Basil Keenan, OSB**
  Saint Peter Church, Guymon; Saint Frances Cabrini Church, Beaver; Church of the Good Shepherd, Boise City; Sacred Heart Church, Hooker

- **Rev. Daniel J. Letourneau**
  Saint Joseph Church, Norman

- **Rev. Edward T. Menasco**
  Priest from Confraternidad Operarios del Reino de Cristo (CORC)
  Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City

**Administrator**

- **Rev. James F. Chamberlain**
  Our Lady of Victory Church, Purcell; Saint Catherine of Sienna Church, Pauls Valley

**Other**

- **Rev. John R. Metzinger**
  Chaplain, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Two Priests from Confraternidad Operarios del Reino de Cristo (CORC)
Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City

Refrigerator announcements official pastoral appointments
A reformed (and re-formed) College of Cardinals

By George Weigel

The recent papal interregnum and conclave underlined the importance of reforming the College of Cardinals.

As configured on Feb. 28, 2013 (when Benedict XVI's abdication took effect), the College was a somewhat strange electoral, albeit one that produced a striking result. Almost 20 percent of its members were retired. Only eight cardinal-electors were under 65 (and half of the younger ones were American-Cardinals Burke, DiNardo, Dolan and Harvey). Neither the dean nor vice-dean of the College was eligible to vote, the dean being 85 and the vice-dean being 90; yet the 85-year-old dean presided over the daily General Congregations of cardinals that assessed the state of the world church before the conclaves were enclosed.

There were other curiosities. India had more cardinal-electors than France (5-4) or Great Britain (5.5, as they'd say in the Barclays Premier League). Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, emeritus major-archbishop of the largest of the Eastern Catholic Churches, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, missed the conclaves by two days, having turned 80 on Feb. 26; the retired president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Walter Kasper, got in under the wire, for he turned 85 days after Benedict's abdication took effect.

And while no one imagines that the College of Cardinals should "represent" the world church the way the U.S. House of Representatives "represents" the population of the United States; it did seem odd that Latin America, where more than half the world's Catholics live, sent 19 cardinal-electors into the Sistine Chapel, while Italy, where Catholic practice is not exactly robust these days among 4 percent of the global Catholic population, had 26 electors.


1) Eliminate "automatic" red hats for archdioceses where the practice of the faith is moribund. If 7 percent of the local Catholic population is attending Mass on Sunday, as is sadly the case in some ancient European sees, why should the bishop or archdiocese of that see be guaranteed membership in the College of Cardinals? Let the bishops in those dead zones show that they can re-engage Catholic ways and, then return the red hat to those hierarchs.

2) Amend the relevant apostolic constitution so that most of the "pontifical councils" in the Roman Curia become in-house research institutes, led not by cardinals, but by qualified priests, religious or laity.

3) Change the custom by which the heads of various Vatican administrative offices—the Government of Vatican City State, the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See, the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See—are automatically cardinals: a reform that would also speak to Pope Francis' strictures against clerical careerism.

4) Use the "slots" in the papal electorate made possible by these reforms to reorganize the College geographically and demographically.

I would also consider expanding the College to a maximum of 144 cardinal-electors (a nice biblical number: 12 tribes x 12 apostles), while changing the conclaves rules so that all cardinals lose their vote on retirement from daily diocesan or curial service, not when they turn 80. There is wisdom in age, but an electorate in which almost one in five returns in a pensioner is not a well-designed electorate.

Neither the dean nor the vice-dean of the College should be a cardinal-without-a-vote; it makes little sense for the man who presides over the cardinals' meetings during a papal interregnum (in which all cardinals participate, irrespective of age), or the man who would fill that leadership role in an emergency, to be someone who will not have the responsibility of casting a ballot. And once the Church cannot count on humility to impel the dean and vice-dean to return when each loses his vote, the interregnum rules should be changed.

Finally, the cardinal-electors should meet regularly—perhaps once every 18 months, for a global review of the New Evangelization—so that they can get to know each other better, and thus be a more well-informed electorate.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC. Weigel's column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: (303) 715-3215.

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Commentary

Allow the Bible to inform this important Year of Faith

By Pedro A. Morones, OP

Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry

On the morning of April 12 of this year, the Holy Father received the members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission provided over by Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

They had just finished their annual plenary assembly, which had the theme of "Inspiration and Truth in the Bible." In his address there are beautiful points from which we can learn and apply.

Sacred Scripture is the written testimony of the divine Word, the personal memory that attests to the event of revelation. However, the Word of God precedes the Bible and surpasses it. That is why the center of our faith isn't just one book, but a salvation history and above all a person, Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh.

During this Year of Faith our special devotion can be some extra time in a quiet place with an open Bible to encounter something a lot more than words on a page or great stories. Our time with the sacred Scripture is our time of grace, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit's constant presence, who guides us and teaches you to receive fully the inexhaustible richness of sacred Scripture not only through intellectual research, but in prayer and in all your life of believers, above all in this Year of Faith, so that your work contributes to make the light of sacred Scripture shine in the heart of the faithful.

Let the bishops and priests to the Church of Christ, to nourish our faith and guidance as we grow in our love of charity and justice.

Pope Francis, the Bishop of Rome, said goodbye to the members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission with a beautiful prayer.

Here is a portion of that prayer:

May the Lord Jesus Christ, Word of God Incarnate and Divine Teacher, who opened the mind and heart of his disciples to the intelligences of the Scriptures (cf Luke 24:45), always guide and sustain your activity. May the Virgin Mary, model of docility and obedience to the Word of God, teach you to receive fully the inexhaustible richness of sacred Scripture not only through intellectual research, but in prayer and in all your life of believers, above all in this Year of Faith, so that your work contributes to make the light of sacred Scripture shine in the heart of the faithful.

Amen.

By Pedro A. Morones, OP

Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, is a graduate of the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico and was professor of theology at the University of Dallas. Morones is available for training activities in the parishes of the Archdiocese. For more information contact Edith Miranda emiranda@archokc.org.
Christian credibility undermined by hypocrisy, Pope Francis says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
Rome — The credibility of Christianity is undermined by pastors and faithful who preach one thing and do another, Pope Francis said.

“One cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one’s life,” the pope said April 14 during a homily at Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major.

He was welcomed to the basilica by U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey, the archpriest, who spoke of the importance of Rome’s two patron saints — St. Peter and St. Paul — and how their memory in Rome should be a lesson to all Christians.

“Looking at what it means to worship God with all one’s heart, the pope said, too, has a very practical, concrete expression. Worshipping God is not simply a matter of prayer — although that is a big part of it — but rather it means demonstrating in one’s life that God alone is God.

“This has a consequence in our lives: We have to empty ourselves of the many small or great idols that we have and in which we take refuge, on which we oftentimes base our security,” he said.

“They are idols that we sometimes keep well hidden,” like ambition, careerism or a drive to dominate others, he said.

“This evening I would like to question: how are we living our faith in different ways, not just for the first or second generation, but also in the second- and third-generation Latinos, since each learn about the faith in different ways, not merely or primarily in words. Their lives were changed by their encounter with Christ, and it was through their actions and their words that Christianity spread.

“Some words are addressed first and foremost to those of us who are pastors. We cannot fool God’s thick unless we ourselves carry the gift of God’s love, however we would rather not go, unless we are prepared to hear witness to Christ with the gift of ourselves, unreservedly, not in a calculating way, sometimes even at the cost of our lives,” Pope Francis said.

While most Christians are called to the “middle class of holiness” of fidelity and witness in the normal business of everyday life, Pope Francis noted how in some parts of the world even average Christians suffer, are persecuted and even die for their faith in Christ.

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While most Christians are called to the “middle class of holiness” of fidelity and witness in the normal business of everyday life, Pope Francis noted how in some parts of the world even average Christians suffer, are persecuted and even die for their faith in Christ.
Walking the path to priesthood requires practical, spiritual steps

I church, the counselor, the caterer, the couturier and the florist, among others. For those who have a call to priesthood, the script is less clear, especially in a confused society that mistakes self-gratification for a joyful life and marriage for a means of self-gratification. What’s a young man who wants to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation to do? He might start by talking to Father Stephen Hamilton.

“Demystifying the process can help a young man wrestle with the call more effectively to think ‘Maybe I could do this,’” Father Hamilton says.

Father Hamilton serves as the director of the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and is especially equipped to assist those who think they might have a vocation to the priesthood.

“With no reservations, I can encourage any young person to be open to what God’s plane is,” Father Hamilton said.

“God will think of more for you than you can imagine for yourself. Is that mysterious and frightening? Yes,” he continued. “But that’s the experience of all faithful people — to step forward in faith, not knowing, but trusting in God and in His will for our lives. You will never regret seeking God’s will.”

When a would-be seminarian first contacts him, Father Hamilton schedules an initial meeting to gauge the potential applicant’s interest level. After that initial meeting, he advises the potential applicant accordingly.

“I always suggest that people who discern a vocation — whatever other prayers they pray — pray this very short and simple prayer: ‘Lord, help me want to be who you want me to be.’”

Father Hamilton said.

“So often, we have our own thoughts, ideas and plans, and we can’t see what God wants,” he added. “Tuning ourselves to God’s will, to His plans, to God’s own love for us is the common project of us all.”

If the potential applicant decides to initiate a formal application, he comes back to Father Hamilton’s office for an in-depth formal interview, meets with the archbishop and completes an extensive written application. The applicant also submits a written autobiography of his interior life (his faith life, his spirituality, his prayer life, etc.).

Other members of the Board of Vocations then interview the applicant, who also must undergo physical and psychological evaluations. The board finally meets to review the applicant’s application and make a recommendation to the archbishop as to whether to accept the applicant as a seminarian.

After the archbishop accepts an applicant, he officially becomes a seminarian, at which point his formation is overseen by Father William Novak, vicar general and director of seminarians for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Now begins yet another application process — the process to apply to one of the several seminaries that are part of the Diocese of Oklahoma City.

The Program of Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Every Roman Catholic priest must have a major in philosophy and a master’s degree in theology.

Importantly, seminarians have the freedom to leave the seminary at any time.

“Some people think that a person who enters a seminary already knows that he wants to be a priest,” Father Novak said. “That is not always true. A man who enters a seminary must be open to formation. Not everyone who goes to seminary will be ordained and there are many people who are being called but for some reason or another are not willing to discern in a place that is designed to nurture one’s true calling on life.”

Father Hamilton said he himself originally labored under that misconception. As a senior in high school, he completed the entire application process to become a seminarian, was accepted and then withdrew his application.

“At that point when I applied and then withdrew, I thought, ‘I have to know I’m going to be a priest first before I go to seminary,’” Father Hamilton relates. “A very critical shift for me was recognizing seminary is where you go to get the answer to the question. It’s not that you fill up all the paper work first, you go to seminary because it’s the right setting, the right place, the appropriate time to discern what God is asking of you.”

These seminarians who discern that they are, in fact, called to the priesthood and typically ordained transitional deacons a year before ordination to the priesthood, Father Novak said.

A seminarian is ordained a priest when he has completed all the required courses and is called by his bishop to Holy Orders.

By the time a seminarian begins to plan his ordination — the analogous step to planning a wedding — he’s devoted anywhere from six to nine years to his priestly formation, a span of time that makes even the most protracted of courtships and engagements look relatively brief.

Like a wedding, ordinations are characterized by meaningful gestures and significant material details — the most important of which is the laying on of hands.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way: “The essential rite of the sacrament of Holy Orders for all three degrees consists in the imposition of hands on the head of the ordained and in the bishop’s specific consecratory prayer asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gift proper to the ministry to which the candidate is being ordained” (1576).

Ales like a wedding, ordinations call for celebration.

“Given the importance that the ordination of a bishop, a priest or a deacon has for the life of the particular Church, its celebration calls for as many of the faithful as possible to take part,” the Catechism states (1572).

Perhaps most importantly of all, both weddings and ordinations have this in common: They are not actually the finish line, but important milestones themselves — milestones on the road we’re all traveling to sanctification.

Tina Korbe Dzurisin is the director of communications for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Attendants reflect on meaning of “Come and See” weekend

Father Stephen Hamilton of St. Monica’s in Edmund and Father Joseph Ivan of St. Francis Xavier’s in Enid led 11 young men on a trip to Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo., the weekend of April 13 to April 15, 2013. Below, two attendants reflect on their experiences.

“After spending the weekend at Conception Seminary I have been thoroughly convinced that this is the place God is calling me to be. The isolated location alone draws out a calm serenity that spares a door for the voice of God to be heard. My vocation did not come from an individual informing me that I should attend Conception Seminary, but more from the divine aura of God’s presence of love and joy radiated and expressed by the seminarians, priests and monks. The fact that every man there is inclined to fulfill the will of God moved my heart to aspire to do the same. The recognition by the seminarians of the impossibility of discerning God’s call alone has led them to a fraternal brotherhood of loyalty and a communal bond of love that cannot be matched elsewhere. That is something I would love to be part of.”

Ryan Rutkine
St. Monica’s and St. Peter & Paul Church
Hobart, Okla.

“Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Conception Seminary with 10 other young men from the archdiocese in order to experience life there and to see what the seminary is like. The seminary is a special place where the students pray and study. However, I was also surprised by the weekend experiences because that is not all they do.

The monastery and seminary grounds are spacious and there exists plenty of stuff to do. On Sunday morning, we gathered in the monastery basilica for Mass. The church was truly beautiful with unique architecture I had never seen before. The gospel of the Mass was Jesus asking Peter if he loved him. The priest gave a great homily that was very meaningful for those who are trying to find their vocations. Throughout the weekend we talked and joked. One thing I realized was that people in the seminary are very friendly and close to each other. They know each other pretty well and live together like a family. They were really nice to us and helped us see where they live and study. The library was the building that I enjoyed the most. Over the weekend we had free time for playing games and sports together. At night we had a Holy Hour talking to God in silence. The Holy Hour gave me the time to share everything of the weekend with God and it made me realize that I am lacking hours like that in my daily life. Father Hamilton and Father Ivan gave us a meaningful and useful trip to the seminary. By the hand of God, we learned a lot of things over the weekend about priests and the life of priests. I now understand more about what the call of God is.”

Phuong Nguyen
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Vocational sacrifice seed of a fruitful life

Vocations: “Vocations as a sign of hope founded in faith.”

Earlier this month, the Vatican established a major secretariat for clergy, consecrated life and vocations to help each Catholic realize that we all have a stronger culture of vocations in our own nation to help build the Kingdom of God here and now,” said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

“We need good holy priests and dedicated men and women committed to the consecrated life to help build the Kingdom of God here and now,” Archbishop Carlson said. “Therefore, we want a stronger culture of vocations in our own nation to help such Catholic realize that we all have a responsibility to invite young people to consider whether God is calling them to the priesthood or consecrated life.

The U.S. bishops’ website at the URL www.usccb.org/vocations looks resources to help holy and clear build a culture of vocations in honor and paradise. Elements include videos of priests and religious men and women giving witness to their vocations, videos of testimony, stories of seminarians, parents whose children have answered a vocation to their vocations, videos of the Eucharist, which is the pillar that holds the Church together, and as I matured, I began to know myself better and learned I had lots of energy and an eagerness to serve. I didn’t know what to do with this, but I knew God had great plans for my life. Another thing that attracted me to the priesthood was the example of many holy and committed priests who spent their lives in serving others and were joyful doing so.

1. What is your favorite subject in the seminary? My favorite subject is preaching class (homiletics).

2. Describe your typical day. My day begins with breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m. Following Morning Prayer, I have two classes. At noon, after my morning classes, we celebrate the Eucharist, which is the pillar that holds together my entire day. After the celebration of the Eucharist, I usually go to the student kitchen to cook a healthy lunch and, after lunch, I have one elective class which ends at 2:00 p.m. After my afternoon class, I go to my work-study job in the library until evening prayer at 4:00 p.m. After all my responsibilities for the day have been met, I schedule an hour and a half to go work out in the gym. This keeps my day balanced and refreshes me for the next day’s responsibilities. Finally, before I retire for the day, I read the lives of the saints.

3. Why is the Church of your favorite saint? St. Dominic Savio is my favorite saint because he was a normal high-spirited boy who at a young age prayed for long hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He is a great example for us. He once said, “I want everything to be for the glory of God.” His simplicity, docilityfulness, little in little things, helping others and obeying his superiors encourage me to continue persevering in my formation to the priesthood.

4. Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know. One thing that every Catholic should know is that God, His abundant love and He will always provide Shepherds for His Church. St. John Paul II embodied hope; Benedict XVI embodied love; Francis is living out charity.

5. Describe your relationship with Christ. My relationship with Christ can be described in simple words: personal, dynamic, living and, most importantly, joy-filled and grateful.

6. Why choose a life of sacrificial love in any vocation rather than a life of self-gratification? First of all, because it is better to give than to receive and because God has loved us first; and, most importantly, because a life of sacrificial love can only be lived out when God is the author and actor in our lives.
Women of Achievement luncheon highlights notable female contributors

By Sooner Catholic Staff

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (April 13, 2013) — The Central Region Council of Catholic Women hosted their annual Women of Achievement Luncheon Saturday April 13, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Father Charles Murphy and Father Bill Pruett celebrated Mass prior to the lunch of chicken, spinach crepes with a mushroom sauce, carrot, salad, rolls and dessert. CRECW president Patti Sullens welcomed the attendees and introduced the CRECW board members. Father Pruett, spiritual advisor for CRECW, introduced the clergy in attendance then presented each Woman of Achievement recipient with a medal of “Our Lady of Good Counsel” that had been previously blessed by Archbishop Paul Carty. The CRECW honorees a total of 17 women with the award.

Photos and brief bios of the winners are available online at www.soonercatholic.com.

Prominent Oklahomans earn prestigious Rector’s Award from Rome seminar

By Sooner Catholic Staff

The Pontifical North American College in Rome honored Karen and Ken Kenworthy of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City with the prestigious Rector’s Award at the 21st Annual Rector’s Dinner at the Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Ken Kenworthy of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. (Photographer: Christopher Brashears)

Catholic Charities celebrates 100 years at annual meeting

By Tina Kerbe Drueisen

As in its centennial year, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City served nearly 10,000 clients — a first the organization’s supporters celebrated at an annual mass and awards presentation April 11 at the architectural award-winning St. Patrick Church in Oklahoma City.

Approximately 125 people gathered to fête the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities, first at Mass and then at a reception at the adjacent Villa Leibrant, an affordable housing development for senior citizens that is sponsored by Catholic Charities.

Archbishop Paul Carty, who serves as the chairman of the board of Catholic Charities, presided at the Mass, during which he praised the efforts of the staff of Catholic Charities.

“The work of Catholic Charities is a work of justice, of mercy, of advocacy of effort on behalf of those who often have no voice of their own,” the archbishop said.

In his homily, he urged the members of the Catholic Charities community to be courageous as they go about the good works of the organization.

“It is better for us to obey God when the laws of society are at odds with divine law,” the archbishop said. “Today, we find we are often at odds with civil pressures. We might be tempted to ‘go along to get along’, but we are called to move as followers of Jesus Christ.”

After the Mass, Catholic Charities executive director Patrick Raglow introduced the winners of the dinner in seven different categories.

“In a society that spends too little time saying ‘thank you’, it’s a great day to say it,” Raglow said.

Father Ross Arnold, who received the “Clergy of the Year” award, and he greatly appreciated the recognition.

“It reminds me that I’m part of something important that’s bigger than me,” Father Arnold said.

Catholic Charities case manager assistant Norma Ramirez was overcome with emotion when Raglow announced her as the winner of the “Servant Leader” award.

“It was a total shocker,” a tearful Ramirez said. “I did not expect this. It’s really an honor Catholic Charities is all teamwork.”

Her coworkers say the award was much-deserved.

“She works so hard behind the scenes,” said Monica Palmer, Catholic Charities associate director for clinical services. “All of the employees are so happy she received the award.

Raglow also recognized Mount St. Mary and Bishop McGuinness high schools as outstanding partner organizations for their participation in the Hope for Hope basketball tournament, which raised more than $5,000 in cash contributions and $3,500 worth of donated items.

Mount St. Mary director of advancement Chris Stiles and Bishop McGuinness coach Toddle Durham accepted the plaques on behalf of their respective organizations.

“It’s just an honor to represent so many who gave for a good cause,” Stiles said. “Hope for Hope taught our students to work together and that they’re part of the larger Catholic Church.”

Durham school district.

“All we ask is that people for others,” Durham said. “The kids, faculty and staff do a lot of community service and it is a great honor for Bishop McGuinness High School to be recognized today.”

Bill Condon, general manager and vice president of Catholic Charities Outdoor Advertising, accepted the “Corporate Award” in recognition of Laman’s donations to Catholic Charities.

“Laman is proud to partner with Catholic Charities and promote their good works,” Condon said. “It’s nice to be a small part of such a great organization.”

Catholic Charities former executive director Tim O’Connor and his wife, Peggy, received the Archbishop Emeritus Eusanio J. Balsamo award.

O’Connor was humbled by the recognition, he said.

“Thank of Catholic Charities for all of us if it is not complete until we all participate in it,” O’Connor said.

Tina Kerbe Drueisen is the director of communications for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

To see WHO WON WHAT and to read more about the award winners, visit www.soonercatholic.com.

Students display orthography prowess at 2013 archdiocesan Catholic grade school spelling bee

First and second grade winners: Fifth grade winner Dr. Mary Fiedler, St. Mary, Lawton, third Lena Do, Bishop John Carroll, third Jenna Chan, Bishop John Carroll, first Thomas Dint, All Saints. Also pictured is Dr. Crtz Carter, superintendent of Catholic schools and Diane Floyd, associate superintendent.

Third and fourth grade winners: Fifth grade winner Nicholas Stahls, St. Mary, Lawton, fourth Jesse Smith, St. Mary, Lawton, third Kayla F aitch, St. Joseph, Enid, second Brennan Siiponen, Bishop John Carroll, first Anisha Paul, St. John Nepomuk. Also pictured is Dr. Crtz Carter, superintendent of Catholic schools and Diane Floyd, associate superintendent.

Five and sixth grade winners: Fifth grade winner Noland Smith, St. Joseph of the Holy Family, Lawton, fourth Allison Wright, Bishop John Carroll, third Jenna Chan, Bishop John Carroll, first Sam Keeler, All Saints. Also pictured is Diane Floyd, associate superintendent.

Archbishop Tom A. Glavas leads an assembly for women in this year’s Rector’s Award. Her coworkers say the award was much-deserved.

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**Murder trial of abortionist exposes ‘culture of death’**

By Tina Korbe Dzurisin

The Sooner Catholic

**Editor’s note: This story contains graphic details that are essential to the reporting of this case.**

Now in its sixth week, the nationally significant capital murder trial of Philadelphia abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell continues.

Gosnell, 72, faces charges of seven counts of first-degree murder and one count of third-degree murder in the deaths of seven infants and an adult patient, Karnamaya Monge, at his abortion clinic, Women’s Medical Society in Philadelphia.

A 284-page grand jury report accuses Gosnell of shockingly grisly practices at a clinic that trial observers have described as a “house of horrors” and “baby charnel house.”

“He regularly and illegally delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of pregnancy — and then murdered those newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors,” the report states.

The prosecutor alleges Gosnell murdered hundreds of babies in this way; investigators discovered documentary evidence to support seven first-degree murder charges.

According to the report, Gosnell operated in a fetid, unsanitary space in which cats were allowed to roam and symptomatic evidence to support seven legal grisly testimony against Gosnell was also presented. Evidence of third-degree murder included numerous life issues at play in the case, including the issue at the forefront of the trial: Gosnell significant attention, not of coverage by our own staff, and we intend to send a reporter for the resumption of the trial next week. Washington Post executive editor Martin Baron said April 12, “In retrospect, we should have sent a reporter sooner.”

Jake Tapper, Erin Burnett and Anderson Cooper of CNN gave the story extensive coverage April 12. Reporters at Bloomberg, NBC, The Daily Beast, and Politico, among others, also promised to give the story increased attention.

**Catholic press keeps Gosnell murder trial in public eye**

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Catholic news outlets and commentators have given the story of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell significant attention, noting that the controversial and abortive “culture of death” is the milieu in which Gosnell’s abortion “house of horrors” operated. The report states that Gosnell’s medical license was suspended. He faces a possible death sentence if convicted of the murders.

Since the trial began March 18, clinic workers — several of whom have themselves pleaded guilty to various crimes — have given additional grisly testimony against Gosnell.

Stephen Massof, a former Gosnell worker, testified to stripping the spinal cords of babies, calling it “literally a beheading. It is separating the brain from the body.”

During jury time, when Gosnell gave labes-inducing drugs to patients to speed the process, “It would turn fetuses — fetuses and blood all over the place,” Massof testified. “I felt like a fireman in hell.”

For the first month of the trial, the case garnered little media attention, prompting grassroots activists on Facebook and Twitter to decry the media “blackout” and demand increased attention to a story with significant health policy implications.

“We've forgotten what belongs on Pope Francis,” CSA Today contributor Kirsten Powers wrote in an April 11 column.

In response, several national news reporters expressed regret at the lack of attention to the case and pledged more comprehensive coverage of the remainder of the trial to come.

“We believe the story is deserving of coverage by our own staff, and we intend to send a reporter for the resumption of the trial next week,” Washington Post executive editor Martin Baron said April 12. “In retrospect, we should have sent a reporter sooner.”

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**Pope names international panel of cardinals to advise on Vatican reform**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid rising concerns about corruption and mismanagement in the central administration of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis named an international panel of cardinals to advise him on the latest reform of the Vatican bureaucracy.

The Vatican Secretariat of State announced April 13 that the pope had established the group — which includes Boston Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley and Sydney Cardinal George Pell — to “advise him in the government of the universal church and to study a plan for revising the apostolic constitution on the Roman Curia, ‘Pastor Bonus.’” “Pastor Bonus,” published in 1988, was the last major set of changes in the Roman Curia, the church’s central administration at the Vatican.

It was largely an effort at streamlining by reassigning responsibilities among various offices, rather than an extensive reform. Complaints about the shortcomings of Vatican governance increased markedly during 2012 following the “VatiLeaks” of confidential correspondence providing evidence of corruption and mismanagement in various offices of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

That affair prompted a detailed internal report, which Pope Benedict XVI designated exclusively for the eyes of his successor. The College of Cardinals extensively discussed the problems in meetings preceding the conclaves that elected Pope Francis last month.

According to the April 13 Vatican statement, the suggestion for an advisory panel on reform arose during those meetings.

Cardinal George Pell

Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley
Obituaries

Sister Cecilia Casas
Sister of Mercy died peacefully April 3, 2013, at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City. Sister was 78 years old. Sister Cecilia entered the Sisters of Mercy 57 years ago and had professed her vows for 54 years. All will remember Sister Cecilia as an inspired educator, vocations and Christian ministry. She was supportive of youth ministers on their journey. I also love to advocate for youth ministry in the parishes.

SC: What does the Youth and Young Adult Office have planned for the spring and summer?
NH: Our spring events are finished except for the archdiocesan gathering with the Redhawks on April 28. This spring we hosted the National Evangelization Team for three weeks, the State Catholic College Conference, a retreat for juniors and seniors in high school and the Scouting and Camp Fire Religious Awards Mass and reception. Our summer is occupied with a week of staff training followed by seven weeks of camp.

SC: What do you hope participants gain from Youth and Young Adult programming?
NH: I hope they gain a sense of the larger Church and the fact that God is always with them in their journey, that He is always present for us and all we have to do is to be open to Him, and that they understand the need to follow Jesus as a disciple.

SC: How can those who are interested participate in these upcoming programs?
NH: They can register for summer camp by calling (405) 721-9220 or by going to the archdiocesan website at www.archokc.org

SC: What is the most significant challenge facing young people today?
NH: There are so many but I believe it is to stay focused on their Catholic faith in light of all of the negative messages from society.

SC: How does the Youth and Young Adult Office help young people to meet that challenge?
NH: We help them by inviting the participation of the youth in retreats, summer camp, conferences and by assisting the youth coordinators in their parishes and programming.

Sister Cecilia Casas, Sister of Mercy, died peacefully April 3, 2013, at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City. Sister was 78 years old. Sister Cecilia entered the Sisters of Mercy 57 years ago and had professed her vows for 54 years. All will remember Sister Cecilia as an inspired educator, vocations and associate mentor, as well as coordinator of parish social ministry.

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Pizza con Padre

Official archdiocesan Spanish Facebook page creates vibrant online community

By Sooner Catholic Staff

When Father Scott Boeckman, pastor of St. Peter’s in Woodward, founded the Facebook page “Pizza con Padre” in October 2012, he had a simple goal in mind: He wanted to create an inviting and informative online space for Spanish-speaking Catholics in central and western Oklahoma.

With a friendly page title and a committed community manager, the new media zone immediately offered interested Catholics a non-threatening opportunity to pose questions about the faith, pick up interesting theological tidbits and confirm a nascent sense of statewide camaraderie among Spanish speakers who have Facebook and Catholicism in common.

After all, what could possibly be a less intimidating setting for faith discussions than online pizza with a priest? Since then, the page has grown to 532 followers and counting. The content is fueled by a rotating cast of contributors, including Father Boeckman, Liza Carrasco of the Office of Family Life, Nichola Fessel, Karina Soto and Tina Dzurisin of the Office of Communications. The page features multiple posts a day. “Pizza con Padre” was incorporated into the efforts of the Office of Communications April 1 and is now the official Spanish Facebook page of the Archdiocese. While the page retains its signature cover photo of a pepperoni pizza, it now also features the crest of the Archdiocese. “Pizza con Padre” is housed at www.facebook.com/pizzaconpadre.

Deacon Raymond Roy Ellison

Raymond Roy Ellison, 65, of Guthrie, Okla., passed away Thursday, March 14, 2013, at Mercy Hospital in Guthrie. Roy was born February 2, 1948, in Crescent, Okla., to Raymond and Juanita (Fry) Ellison. Roy married Susan Marie Griggs, of Guthrie, on August 28, 1968. Roy’s life was one of service. He served our nation for four years in the United States Army, including on tour of duty in Vietnam. In 1992, Roy was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He then served his home parish of St. Mary’s in Guthrie for 20 years.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary’s Church Building Fund, 411 N. Elm, Guthrie, OK 73044.

CORNERSTONE

Wills

Gifts, made through your will, are the most frequently made planned gifts. Yet 65 percent of Americans don’t have a will. Without a will, the laws of the state and the decisions of a probate court may determine how your estate is distributed and who will care for your children if they are minors. A will is not only a statement of your priorities, but an expression of your lasting commitment to our Catholic faith. Through your will, you designate the final recipients of the many gifts you have been given by God in His generosity. Remembering your parish, Catholic school or other Catholic ministries through a gift designated in your will, is your final investment in the future of our faith. A well-planned will allows you to make your wishes known, take care of loved ones and leave a lasting legacy to your church.

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 2310, Oklahoma City, OK 73122
(405) 721-1115 • www.crok.org • bsemtner@archokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans
Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Lisa B.

Formando una cultura de la vida: ¿Ya la pena de muerte?

Recientemente asistí al seminario Teología Jurídica Católica en la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de la Comunidad de Madrid, dirigido por el profesor José María Alvarado. En este encuentro, se abordó el tema de la pena de muerte, una cuestión que ha estado en el centro de diversas controversias en nuestro mundo contemporáneo.

La Biblia y el Año de la Fe

En la mañana del 12 de abril de este año, el Papa Francisco recordó una vez más la importancia de la Biblia en nuestra vida diaria. En su mensaje, expresó la idea de que la Biblia es un libro que nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras acciones y decisiones, y cómo nuestras vidas se alinean con los principios cristianos.

Durante este Año de la Fe, una de nuestras devociones especiales puede ser un poco de tiempo extra en un lugar tranquilo con una Biblia abierta para encontrar algo más que las palabras en una página o gráficos históricos. Nuestra Biblia nos enseña a través de Hechos 2:38, “abierto el libro, el Espíritu Santo se roza sobre los corazones” (CIC 2267).

Por Lise Alves

Agrida el Día Mundial de la Juventud

la asistencia esperada

Por Lise Alves

Catholic News Service
Cortes enseñanzas de Apologética Católica

Continuamos en este nuevo artículo con el tema de las dos autoridades: EL PRIMADO DE PEDRO. Hablábamos en la vez pasada sobre algunas profecías del Antiguo Testamento sobre Pedro como primogénito y cabeza de la Iglesia. Aquí, en esta sucesión de la autoridad, donde viene la autoridad del Papa? Otra metáfora que Jesús le cambió de nombre es de relevancia, cada vez que Dios cambia de nombre a alguien lo hace con un propósito. Lo que denomina a una nueva identidad, función o ministerio, tarea.

**Cuando se analiza el texto de Mt 16,18-19:** debemos notar en primer término que Jesús le cambia de nombre a Simón por Pedro(piedra), este cambio de nombre es de relevancia, cada vez que Dios cambia de nombre a alguien lo hace con un propósito. El nombre corresponde a su nueva identidad, función o ministerio, tarea.

Por lo tanto el constituye el padre de un pueblo numeroso, Génesis 17,5-8. A Sara, esposa de Abraham, le cambia el nombre por Sarah, significa princesa, esdora. Génesis 17,8. A Job, Dios le cambia el nombre por el de Israel. Génesis 32,26. Con Pedro pase algo similar. Muchas cristianos no católicos no creen que Pedro sea el pedra y para sus utiles varios argumentos. Vamos algunos: 1.- Alumbran que Jesucristo es la referencia a que la piedra era la confesión de que Jesús es el Cristo, así todo el que confiesa es el Señor estará sobre la piedra que es la fe de Pedro. No se edifican su iglesia. Este argumento no es válido no acred. Jesús habla en amor y no en griego, y en este idioma no existe tal diferencia. Los cristianos no católicos afirman con base en las citas de 1a de Pedro, que de nombre a alguien lo hace con un propósito. El nombre corresponde a su nueva identidad, función o ministerio, tarea.

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One meal can change your life: A review of "Babette's Feast"

By Brianna Osborne
The Sooner Catholic

Title: Babette's Feast
Year: 1987
Director: Gabriel Axel

One meal can change your life: A review of "Babette's Feast"
40 April 21, 2013 Sooner Catholic

In our last issue, we included a portion of an interview with Pope Francis from the book, "El Jesuita." This interview revealed that his favorite movie was "Babette's Feast" because it shows the transformation of a group of people who took down too far and didn't know what happiness was." "The sumptuous meal helps free them from their fear of love," the pope said. "Here is our own review of "Babette's Feast."

In a small Danish village, no one goes hungry. The nearby coast provides plenty of fish, the grocer keeps his shop stocked, and Christians feed the poor and sick.

Unfortunately, there is a famine in the hearts of the people. Babette's Feast" contrasts famine with feast, loneliness with love, resentment with mercy and even Puritanism with Catholicism. The film comments on how we are called to live after having a transforming experience - in this case, one life-changing meal.

Martina and Philips - named after Martin Luther and his friend Philip - live with their father, founder of a local puritan church. He teaches his congregation that all found of duty to this faith, both sisters would enjoy the feast too, letting the treasures offered in this "witch's sabbath," each villager promises that they will not mention a word about the food, agreeing 'it will be as if we never had the sense of taste.'

They do not know how prophetic those words are, for tasting Babette's feast is a wholly new experience.

The villagers sit down to the feast with a surprise guest. Ignorant of their vow to be silent, he raves about the Voie Quichot, the Cuilles en Souffraghy and the succulent fruit.

The filmmakers ensured that view- ers would enjoy the feast too, letting them see crystal goblets glisten and forks scrape and mouths slurp and sinks. Fires blaze, and letting them hear crystal goblets glisten and forks scrape and mouths slurp and sinks. The delicious meal fills their bellies and warms their hearts. By the time coffee is served, each person realizes that love is triumphant and, as the guest says, that "mercy is infinite."

Sharing that meal, the villagers come to care for one another again. Seeing this, Catholics can reflect on another life-changing meal - the Last Supper. Experienced every Sunday, this meal is not French gourmet, but the supper of the Lamb. After removing the Body and Blood of Christ, after coming to- gether at table with all the faithful, Catholics have the opportunity to forgive and love their neighbor even more heartily than those who experienced Babette's feast.

Though the film doesn't reveal much about Babette herself, it does show her dedication to and love for the art of cooking. In a gentle imitation of Christ's sacrifice, Babette gives away all she has to feed the spiritually starving villagers. As Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis has already demonstrated this same gift of self - and we hear he's also a pretty good cook.

This film won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Subtitles are available in English and Spanish. This film is appropriate for all ages. Babette's Feast" is available on DVD at the archdioce- san library at the Catholic Pastoral Center. More information is available at:

http://archokc.org/library/home/

IF YOU GO
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City library
When: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursdays
Where: The library is located on the second floor of the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7501 Northwest Expressway, between Rockwell and Council.

Why: The library has more than 17,000 items, including tapes, DVDs, journals and books - all of which are carefully curated to fortify faith and uplift the spirit.

To check out a library item: Anyone who is a member of a parish within the archdiocese may use library resources by completing a Library User Application form. Mail services is available for those who live 30 miles or more from the library. The library will pay the initial postage for materials mailed, patrons are asked to pay the return postage. For more information, call (405) 721-1910.

Briefs
St. Thomas More to host golf tournament
St. Thomas More in Norman will host its third annual golf tourna- ment Monday, April 29. Tournament proceeds help to fund campus minis- try at the University of Oklahoma.
St. Thomas More is home to more than 2,000 Catholic university stu- dents. Without funding from the tournament, Sunday Suppers - which feed any college student who comes to Sunday evening mass - wouldn't be possible.

The four-man scramble tournament is at Westwood Golf Course in Norman and begins with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. The entry fee of $85 includes green fees, range balls, goody bag and lunch provided by Occidental Cafe’s. The tournament will also feature a hole-in-one contest, white line drive contest and a raffle for an iPad 2. Raffle tickets are one for $5 or five for $20.

Business owners and other supporters may purchase corporate or individual hole sponsorships for $100 each.

More information - including registration information - is available by calling Ron Caldwell at (405) 329-7288.

St. Charles Borromeo plans Singles Dance
St. Charles will host a Singles Dance from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. April 27.

Min and mingle from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. with music beginning at 8 p.m. Snacks are welcome. More information: Call Al Frejo at 631-0763.

Private to lead deluxe tour of Spain
Father Jake Topolinski of St. Anthony of Padua in Okseon and Father Peter Jimenez of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Duncan will lead a deluxe tour of Spain from Sept. 10 to Sept. 20, 2013, departing from Oklahoma City.

The 10-day, nine-night tour costs $13,940.00 per person based on dou- ble occupancy. The cost includes round trip airline ticket, two meals daily, accommodations, taxe, and all entrance fees to museums and cultural programs.

More information is available by calling PWT Tours at 1 (800) 388- 0988, Father Peter at (580) 255-0590 or Father Jake at (580) 822-3511.

Oklahoma City to mark 18th anniversary of Murrah building bombing

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Officials and residents will mark the 18th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing with a cere- mony Friday, April 26, and the 13th annual Memorial Marathon Sunday, April 28.

After explosives at the finish line of the Boston Marathon April 15 left three people dead and more than 175 wounded, Oklahoma state offi- cials pledged increased security for the Oklahoma City marathon.

"We are working to ensure that events will go smoothly and will remain safe," Gov. Mary Fallin said, according to NewsOK.com. "The local law enforcement is taking steps to review and strengthen personnel and security protocol and protoc- ols, including additional manpower."

"I do want to make it very clear that Oklahoma should not be afraid," Fallin continued. "We can't let acts like what happened in Boston deter us from carrying on our daily activities and living our lives, because that's what terrorists want us to do - live in fear."

The head of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum also invited runners who did not complete the Boston Marathon because of the explosions to participate in the Oklahoma City marathon — and promised to pick up the tab for their entry fees.

"They can start where they finish- ed or can run the full marathon," Executive Director Kurt Watkins told the Associated Press.

Watkins said he thinks more peo- ple will be determined to run the race after what happened in Boston.

"We're going to stand up together and show how terrorism did not win," she said.
APRIL

21 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information call Jim Dobrow at (405) 810-8688.

27 Singles Dance at St. Charles on from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Mix and mingle from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Snacks are welcome. More information. Call Al Freg at 631-0763.

May

3 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information call the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8944.

4 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, meet at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the Chapel. For more information contact Tera Harrelson, Inc. at (405) 341-2199 or ocmklakokla@gmail.com.

5 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More Church in Norman in the library. All are welcome. For more information call Alice at (405) 473-7680.

5 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark in Norman.

8 Catholic War Veterans USA The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnyside Family Reception Center located at 3800 SE 28th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by email at kofc7392@yahoo.com

11 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in Room 125 at the Pastoral Center, 7550 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Jenny Fenner at (405) 721-0032 or jfenner@cox.net, or Sandy Poe at (580) 421-6554 or sandoopoem@gmail.com.

14 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information call Trey Welker at (405) 474-6192.

17 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Del City, every second Wednesday.

21 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy will be at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3800 SE 28th St. in Del City, every third Wednesday. For more information, contact Alice at (405) 473-7680.

22 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy will be at 7 p.m. with Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the Sunnyline Family Reception Center located at 3800 SE 28th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by email at kofc7392@yahoo.com

25 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy will be at 7 p.m. with Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the Sunnyline Family Reception Center located at 3800 SE 28th St. in Del City, every third Wednesday. For more information, contact Alice at (405) 473-7680.

Job Box

Pre-K Teacher Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is accepting applications for a full-time Pre-K Four Year Old Teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. Send resumes to Principal Tammy Loosle at PO Box 485, Okarche, OK 73072.

Pre-K Teacher Bishop John Carroll School in Oklahoma City, and St. John Neumann in Yukon are now taking applications for a shared music teacher. Send resume to and request application from Joy Laerkemeeyer, 680 S Garth Brooks Blvd, Yukon, OK 73099 or call (405) 354-2509 or fax (405) 354-2770.

Full-time Music Teacher Christ the King Catholic School PK-6: Call Karen Carter, Principal, at (405) 443-3909.

School Openings in Lawton St. Mary’s Catholic School, Lawton, has positions available for Elementary teaching position; Middle Language Arte, Middle School Science. Submit resume, transcript and a copy of the application (applications available on our website) to Paolo J. Didacumars, 611 SW 4th Avenue, Lawton, OK 73501. Phone: (580) 355-2884.

Youth Coordinator Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City seeks a full-time Youth Coordinator. Send resume to Fr. Richard Stanberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Part-Time Accounting Assistant The Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist in Edmond is seeking a part-time Accounting Assistant to work at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School. Submit your resume to Jennifer Duff at PO Box 510 Edmond, OK 73061 or jduff@seton-catholic.org.

For full job descriptions go to soonercatholic.org/jobs-box

For a full calendar and up-to-date jobs box, visit soonercatholic.org or use this QR Code with your smart phone.
Our Lady of Lebanon to host annual Lebanese festival

By Jocelyn Pederson

Our Lady of Lebanon will host the 2nd Annual Lebanese Heritage and Food Festival April 27 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the church located at 500 Alameda Street in Norman.

"Over the past two years, the Roman Catholic Church has really supported the events and activities at our church," Father Sami Charens, priest at Our Lady of Lebanon, said. "I'm certain they will come to this festival as well. Even Archbishop Conley came last year. We're looking forward to another fun event."

Award-winning journalist Mike Boettcher will give a talk at 5 p.m. entitled "We were reporters once, and you?" Boettcher knew crime journalist Anthony Shadid, and the pair reported about the civil war in Lebanon in the 1980s.

Eddie Abebi with Baked Band will perform modern Arabic and Middle Eastern songs and dances. OSU's Lebanese Student Association will perform traditional dances, including the dabkeh. Elias Khalil will perform Faraouz. Traditional food and crafts are also on tap, as well as a play area for children and an information booth. Those wishing to learn a few words in the Lebanese dialect of Arabic and Syriaco Aramaic -- the language of Christ -- will receive a certificate testifying their accomplishment.

Raffle tickets are on sale to win a grand prize of $1000 from La Baguette. Second prize is a 48-inch plasma TV, and third prize is an iPad mini. Tickets will be available at the door and are currently on sale from parishioners and through the church office. Sponsors include Levant Technologies, Tether Media and La Baguette.

Traditional dancers perform at last year's Lebanese festival. (Courtesy of Parker Bass Charens)

RECLAiM co-founders share story of addiction, recovery with OKC coordinators

By Sooner Catholic Staff

When Jeannie Hammann agreed to marry her husband, Bruce, she knew that he struggled with an addiction to pornography -- but she didn't know just what that would mean for their marriage.

"He's ahuhild," Jeannie says. "It strikes at the core of the heart of a spouse."

Bruce, who first encountered pornography at the age of nine, was determined to overcome the temptation it posed to him -- but determination wasn't enough. He completed 12-step and other secular programs -- and then reverted to the behaviors he desperately wanted to avoid.

For years, the couple suffered in silence -- Bruce feeling ashamed. They very easily could have extricated from the temptation to divorce. In fact, "an obsessive interest in Internet pornography" is a significant factor in 56 percent of divorces in the United States.

Eventually, Bruce, who taught science to college students for 30 years, found help from an unlikely source: intrigued by brain science, Bruce stumbled upon a new anonymous online addiction recovery program called Candeo, which harnesses mathematics based on innovative brain science to create lasting change in the brain -- and to enable addicts to overcome their addictions to unhealthy sexual behaviors.

Bruce became the third student to go through the program. It worked.

"We've been married for 38 years," Jeannie says. "To know as a spouse the difference now in our marriage from back then ... he had learned this unhealthy way of looking at intimacy and new he's got it right."

Meanwhile, the Hammanns have headed a flourishing program called Elizabeth Ministry International, which offered help to families with special childbearing needs. The ministry program had 700 chapters on six continents.

"It's not unusual, Bruce and Jeannie say, that a pornography addict would be able to maintain a double life that includes fruitful ministry. The three most common personality characteristics of a porn addict are surprising: Addicts are typically intelligent, sensitive and spiritual."

Eventually Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay approached the Hammanns to request that they expand Elizabeth Ministry to include "the backends" of childbearing -- sexuality and relationships, especially pornography, which Bishop Ricken recognized as an increasing problem.

At that point, Bruce and Jeannie shared their story with the bishop, who saw their personal experience with the issue as more reason than less to tap them to address the under-the-radar issue publicly. Bruce and Jeannie did even more than that.

They worked under the direction of the bishop and with the minds behind Candeo to create their own anonymous, online Catholic recovery program, RECLAiM Sexual Health, which combines the brain science behind Candeo with insights from Theology of the Body and Catholic spirituality.

Bruce and Jeannie Hannamn deliver their testimony at a workshop April 9.

They launched the program in 2011 -- and, since then, it has helped countless Catholic men and women to overcome their addictions.

"It's important to us because it saved our marriage," Bruce said. "It saved my life, many people when they spiral downward. This behavior end up in prison or suicide or some kind of violation of sex kind another."

Jeannie agrees.

"If you had the cure for cancer, you would want to go everywhere to give it to everyone in need."

Earlier this month, Bruce and Jeannie came to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to share their story at a Safe Environment workshop at the Catholic Pastoral Center -- an event that drew nearly 200 people.

The Hammanns hope to pilot diocesan programs that expand on the work they've done with RECLAiM so far.

The Hammanns are determined to expose a problem that is larger than most are willing to admit -- a problem that is rooted as much in socially acceptable practices as socially unacceptable practices. What would have been considered "pornography" 50 years ago is available on cable TV channels and in magazines for sale at the grocery store today.

As Bishop Ricken put it in a letter to introduce RECLAiM. "North American statistics indicate that porn makes more money than Hollywood at the box office; more than the sum of NBC's, CBS's and ABC's revenue, more than the music industry generates from record sales, and more than all major professional sports in the United States combined. It is estimated that 50 percent of Christian men and 30 percent of Christian women are addicted to pornography."

"A survey conducted among U.S. Christians revealed that 50 percent of men and 20 percent of women struggle with pornography use. Every year, millions of Christians are caught off guard and become addicted."

Bruce and Jeannie are adamant that it will take every single individual to reverse a sex-saturated culture that not only leaves adults vulnerable to addiction, but, even more importantly, leaves children vulnerable to exploitation.

"People who get caught up in this often find themselves expanding into areas they never dreamed they would, including child pornography," Jeannie said. "A large percentage of those who are perpetrators to children state that they have had porn addictions."

She emphasized that child pornography is illegal and is not the focus of RECLAiM.

"The bottom line is: It's going to take every single person to turn around the mess we have in our country today," she added. "We all have to clean up the culture; that is the battle cry we want to have."

Bruce echoes her: "When they had the first Earth Day, everybody started to rally around the idea that we have to clean up the planet. This is another major cleanup that needs to happen."