Archbishop Coakley visits storm-ravaged Woodward, speaks with parishioners

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
sooner catholic.org  April 29, 2012  archokc.org

A Day to Celebrate
Saint Eugene Catholic Church Parishioners Wowed By Beauty of New Church Home and Thankful to God

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archbishop Coakley tapped to head St. John Nepomuk School
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Bishops Call for Defense of Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Bishops have issued a call to action to defend religious liberty and urged laity to work to protect the First Freedom of the Bill of Rights. They outlined their position in “Our First, Most Cherished Freedom.” The document was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), approved for publication by the USCCB Administrative Committee March 13, and published in English and Spanish April 12.


“We have been staunch defenders of religious liberty in the past. We have a solemn duty to discharge that duty today,” the bishops said in the document. “...for religious liberty is under attack, both at home and abroad.”

The document lists concerns that prompt the bishops to act now. Among concerns are:

* The Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate forcing all employers, including religious organizations, to provide and pay for coverage of employees’ contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs even when they have moral objections to them. Another concern is HHS’ defining which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty.

* Driving Catholic foster care and adoption services out of business. Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia and Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities adoption or foster care services out of business by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both — because those charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.

* Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services. Despite years of excellent performance by the USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require USCCB to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching. Religious institutions should not be disqualified from a government contract based on religious belief, and they do not lose their religious identity or religious liberty upon entering such contracts. Recently a federal court judge in Massachusetts turned religious liberty on its head when he declared that such a disqualification is required by the First Amendment — that the government violates religious liberty by allowing Catholic organizations to participate in contracts in a manner consistent with their beliefs on contraception and abortion.

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Reflections on the Ecumenical Impact of Vatican II after 50 Years

This is the homily given by Archbishop Coakley as part of an ecumenical evening prayer service on April 16 during the National Workshop on Christian Unity held in Oklahoma City.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is a joy to gather in prayer on this evening radiant in the splendor of our shared faith in Christ’s Easter victory! I am delighted to welcome you to our words of welcome to those already spoken. We are honored to have this opportunity to host the 2012 National Workshop on Christian Unity in Oklahoma City; to welcome you to our community and share with you our warm hospitality.

Fifty years ago when Pope John XXIII delivered his opening address to those assembled at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, he counted among its principal goals a commitment to work for greater unity: unity within the Catholic Church, unity among all Christians, greater unity and understanding with non-Christian religions and indeed with all men and women of goodwill. He said, “Such is the aim of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council which was already prepared for from the beginning.” (Decree on Ecumenism, 4). It is one of the instruments established by Christ through his Paschal Mystery to restore the unity of the human race, fractured by sin and division.

This vision, articulated by Blessed John XXIII and incorporated into the teaching of that great ecumenical council, provides the backdrop for this workshop as we consider the influence of Vatican II which after 50 years continues to inspire our ecumenical endeavors to this day. It is a vision which affirms that the quest for unity among Christians is not a peripheral concern, but at the heart of what it means to adhere to the Gospel and to the Church of Christ.

A good many years ago a young and newly ordained priest approached Mother Teresa of Calcutta to seek a word of counsel from her. She looked at him with deep affection and said simply, “Stay out of God’s way.” That is good counsel for all of us, especially in our ecumenical labors.

Unity is God’s gift. “Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning.” (Decree on Ecumenism, 4). It is one of the Church’s distinguishing characteristics as we will shortly profess in the Nicene Creed. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. The Church is one because of her source. As Vatican II’s Decree on Ecumenism declared: “The highest exemplar and source of this mystery is the unity, in the Trinity of Persons, of one God, the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.” (UR, 2). The Church is one, moreover, because of her founder. “The Word made flesh, the prince of peace,” who “reconciled all men to God by the blood of the cross … restoring the unity of all in one body.” (GS, 78).

The Church is one, the Decree continues, because of her source. It is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in those who believe and pervading and ruling over the entire Church, who brings about that wonderful communion of the faithful and joins them together so intimately in Christ that he is the principal of the Church’s unity.” (UR, 2). One of the second century Church Fathers, St. Clement of Alexandria, exclaimed: “What an astonishing mystery! There is one Father of the universe, one logos of the universe, and also one Holy Spirit, everywhere one and the same; and there is also one virgin become mother, and I should like to call her ‘Church’.” (Cited in Catechism of the Catholic Church, 813).

“Christ bestowed unity on his Church from the beginning.” (UR, 4). But we are painfully aware of the divisions which have hampered us from fully receiving and cultivating this gift. In every generation we have to pray and work assiduously to maintain, reinforce and perfect the unity that Christ wills for His Church. That is why Christ prayed to his Father at the hour of his Passion, and does not cease praying for the unity of his disciples, for the unity of the Church: “That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, you may also be one in us … so the world may know that you have sent me.” (Jn. 17:21). The desire stirring in our hearts tonight to recover and restore this lost unity among Christians is itself a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit.

The Decree on Ecumenism of Vatican II laid out a road map to help the Church respond to this divine summons and to cooperate with the grace, urging us toward deeper unity in truth and charity. What does that road map laid out 50 years ago look like? It might be helpful to dust it off and see how we have done with it. (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 821).

First, it reminds us that the Church herself is called to ongoing renewal. The Church herself is summoned to greater fidelity to her vocation as the bride of Christ and the sign and sacrament of unity for all mankind. We have to be faithful to our call to communion and to mission. Our divisions hinder us and make us a less than compelling witness before the world which we are sent to evangelize and to serve.

Second, we are each called to conversion of heart. We are each called to live holy lives, to strive to become the saints that God desires us to be in virtue of our Baptism into Christ. It is our unfaithfulness as members of Christ’s body that causes and hinders the divisions among us that are such a stumbling block to the world which so desperately needs what the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone can offer. We are called daily to repentance and conversion.

Third, the Council urges us to seek and to embrace opportunities for common prayer. “Change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement.” (UR, 9). It merits the same spiritual ecumenical impulse.

Fourth, the Decree on Ecumenism invites us to a greater fraternal sharing and knowledge of each other. It is harder to mistrust and vilify those whom we have come to know and understand and with whom we have shared our hopes and struggles. We discover that what we share in common as brothers and sisters in Christ is greater than what may divide us.

Fifth, the document urges ecumenical formation for all of the faithful and the Church’s ministers.

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Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

April 29 - Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Newkirk, 10 a.m.
April 30 - Prayer Service For Bishop-elect Weissenberger, Salina, Kan., 5 p.m.
May 1 - Ordination of Bishop-Elect Weissenberger, Salina, Kan., 2 p.m.
May 2 - Confirmation, Our Lady of Victory Church, Purcell, 7 p.m.
May 3 - Confirmation, Sacred Heart Church, Alva, 6 p.m.
May 4 - Confirmation, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
May 5 - Confirmation, St. Charles Borromeo Church, 5 p.m.
May 6 - Confirmation, St. Wenceslaus Church, Prague, 11 a.m.
May 8 - Departement Heads, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
May 8 - Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
May 8 - Finance Council, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
May 9 - Personnel Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
May 9 - Confirmation, St. Francis Xavier Church, Lawton, 6 p.m.
May 10 - Confirmation, Good Shepard Church, Marietta, 7 p.m.
May 11 - Confirmation, Little Flower Church, 7 p.m.
May 12 - St. Gregory's University Commencement, Shawnee, 11 a.m.
May 12 - Confirmation, Prince of Peace Church, Altus, 5 p.m.
May 13 - Mass, St. Michael Church, Meeker, 9 a.m.
May 13 - Confirmation, St. Vincent DePaul Church, McLoud, 11 a.m.
New Principal Named at Yukon’s St. John Nepomuk

YUKON — Jay Luetkemeyer, currently of Tulsa, has been selected as the new principal of St. John Nepomuk Catholic School. Luetkemeyer is replacing Diane Floyd, who has resigned her position at St. John Nepomuk to become the associate superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

“Diane has served our school well over the past eight years as she implemented new programs, increased enrollment and academic standards while modeling the principles of the Catholic Church,” said Father William Novak, pastor of St. John Nepomuk. “While we greatly appreciate her dedication to St. John and wish her all the best on her new position as the principal of our school.”

Luetkemeyer is currently the principal of Holy Family Catholic School in Tulsa, a position he has held for the past five years. Prior to moving to Tulsa in 2008, he taught middle school in Tulsa, a position he has held while modeling the principles of the Catholic Church,” said Father William Novak.

Luetkemeyer was a graduate of Christ the King Catholic School and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma State University in 2003 and a master’s of science degree from Oklahoma State University in 2008.

“Jay has more than proven his commitment to Catholic education through his work as a principal,” said Father Novak. “His Catholic faith, combined with his experience and knowledge in education make him a tremendous asset to our community as we strive to give our students strong foundations for a lifetime of confidence, faith and service.”

Luetkemeyer will assume his position as St. John Nepomuk principal on July 1, 2012.

Enrollment to St. John Nepomuk for the 2012-13 school year is currently open to the public. Classes are filling for the 2012-13 school year.

Bishops Call continued from Page 1

The bishops decry limiting religious freedom to the sanctuary.

“This is not a Catholic issue. This is not a Jewish issue. This is not an Orthodox, Mormon or Muslim issue. This is not a religious issue. It is an American issue,” they said.

The bishops highlighted religious freedom as good.

“Our obligation at home is to defend religious liberty robustly, but we cannot overlook the much greater threat that religious Eumenism, the tendency to absorb, dilute or homogenize the faith of other people, poses,” the bishops said.

The bishops noted the “greatly reduced” religious liberty in other countries, including in the law of several countries, and the increasing restrictions on religious organizations, including the right to religious education and the right of religious groups to form parishes, to own property and to have other religious freedoms.

Across Oklahoma

Performance at St. Francis

OKLAHOMA CITY — April 29 the Oklahoma Master Chorale and Orchestra presented Haydn’s “Laudamus Te.” Lord Nelson Ross, Little Organ Church, Mass 3, p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi, 1907 NW 18th St., OKC.

Catholic Home Coming

OKLAHOMA CITY — If you know of a family member, friend or someone you work with who has drifted away from the Church, please pass this invitation on to them. We want to invite them back. Join us for five informal group discussions on Tuesdays through May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kastner room. St. Charles, located at 5024 N. Grove, OKC.

Stockyards Event May 3

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Red, Whites and Boots event will be held May 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Cattlemen’s Event Center, 1309 S. Agnew. The event benefits the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center for Oklahoma City’s homeless women and children. Tickets are $40 per person with VIP admission of $65, which includes an after-event reception at one of Oklahoma City’s famous historic landmarks. For more information, call David Egan at (405) 947-1484 Ext. 7.

St. Patrick Cemetery Memorial Day Mass

EDMOND — Come join family and friends for the Memorial Day Mass and Potluck May 28 at St. Patrick Cemetery, located at 234th Street between Council and County R. A memorial Mass will be held in St. Patrick’s Church. Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. and lunch at 11 a.m. Bring a covered dish and lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at St. Monica Church in Edmond. For more information or questions, call Kathy Haskell Miller at (405) 946-4588.

Impact of Vatican II continued from Page 2

Sixth, dialogue among theologians and meetings among Christians of different churches is an important and necessary path to greater mutual respect, understanding and clarity regarding our agreements and differences as we seek to be in dialogue partners. Dialogue is hard work. It demands an unwavering commitment to truth, to honesty and integrity as we look beneath the surface of commonly held assumptions about the faith and practice of our dialogue partners.

Finally, we are invited to join in conversation with our brothers and sisters: what we call the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (i.e., feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, giving witness of justice and advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Here in Oklahoma City we experienced this in a powerful way when the Our Lady of Refuge organization has placed thousands of children and changed numerous lives. For more information about Catholic Charities adoption reunion or to reserve your space, contact Stephanie at (405) 525-3012 by May 2.

The reunion will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a special brunch and will include family-friendly activities throughout the day. Admission is free to attendees who register beforehand.

“Since our inception, Catholic Charities has placed thousands of children with loving families,” said Kirsten Lee, program director for Catholic Charities Adoption Services. “As we mark our centennial, we thought this would be a wonderful time to join forces with Catholic Charities, touched by this program for a reunion. We invite all of our past adoptees and their parents to join us for a day of fun as we celebrate the special bond created by adoption.”

One of the organization’s oldest programs, Catholic Charities Adoption Services originated in 1912 as part of St. Joseph’s Orphanage. Since then, Catholic Charities has worked to provide safe, loving homes to children throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Over the years, the organization has placed thousands of children and changed numerous lives.

For more information about Catholic Charities adoption reunion or to reserve your space, contact Stephanie at (405) 525-3012 by May 2.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

KTLR FM 94.1
KTLR 890 AM

FM 94.1 Schedule: Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - 7 a.m.

AM 890 Schedule: Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station signoff at dusk.

Sooner Catholic
Vatican Names Committee to Study Reform Issues

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- Citing “serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life,” the Vatican announced a major reform of an association of women’s religious congregations in the United States to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle will provide “review, guidance and support” to members of the work of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Vatican announced April 18. The archbishop with headquarters in Bridgeport, Conn., represents about 80 percent of the country’s 57,000 women religious.

The likelihood that other existing bishops will follow Stearns’ decision pending the appeal’s outcome also requested a stay of the federal contract, to decline to offer abortion services to foreign-born victims of human trafficking under a federal contract.

The LCWR, a Maryland-based umbrella group that claims about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women’s communities and member groups of about 80 percent of the country’s 57,000 women religious, announced April 18. The archbishop with headquarters in Bridgeport, Conn., represents about 80 percent of the country’s 57,000 women religious.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has appealed a federal judge’s ruling that the Constitution forbids religious accommodation in the delivery of services under a federal contract.

The appeal challenges the decision of District Court Judge Richard G.да年后，也没有为其他求援者提供帮助。这导致了对美国文部省的批评，称其未能充分支持求援者。
Five Christ the King Scouts Earn Rank of Eagle

Troop 120 Boy Scouts of America (Christ the King) honored their five newest Eagle Scouts at an Eagle Court of Honor on April 22.

Eric Hughes
Eric earned the Cub Scout’s highest award, the Arrow of Light, Parvuli Dei and Light of Christ. As a Boy Scout, he served as patrol quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and senior patrol leader, and earned the Order of the Arrow. For his Eagle project he built a trellis and planting box at the Community Outreach Center in Oklahoma City.

Michael Mlady
Michael earned Parvuli Dei and Light of Christ as a Cub Scout. As a Boy Scout, he served as quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, chaplain’s aide and earned the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle project he built raised vegetable gardens for the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank.

A junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Michael is a member of the Latin Club and cross country team.

Jim Bishop
As a Boy Scout, Jim served as patrol leader and assistant patrol leader.

For his Eagle project he built signs for the Martin Nature Center in Oklahoma City.

Jim is currently a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and works a part-time job.

Leo Corbett
Leo earned the Cub Scout’s highest award, the Arrow of Light. As a Boy Scout, he served as patrol quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader, and earned the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle project he built a trellis and planting box at the Regional Oklahoma Food Bank.

A junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Ransom is a member of the cross country team and serves on the Youth Services and Big Brothers/Big Sisters Teen Service Boards.

Winners, from left, Matthew Bugler, Ryan Mai-Do and Lena Do.

Essay Contest Winners Named

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Central Region Council of Catholic Women sponsored an essay contest for seventh- and eighth-grade students. Rev. Bill Pruett, CRCWW spiritual adviser, chose the title of the essay contest, “How My Catholic Faith Can Help Me Lead a Better Life.” Carol Woitchek of the essay committee announced the winners at the Central Region’s general meeting on April 17. The meeting was held at Epiphany of The Lord Church. The essays were read by the winners of the contest.

First place — Ryan Mai-Do, $100 check — student at Bishop John Carroll.
Second place — Matthew Bugler, $75 check — student at St. Philip Neri.
Third place — Lena Do, $50 check — student at Bishop John Carroll.

Mass was celebrated in the chapel by Rev. John Michalicka. Lunch was served by the ladies at Epiphany of The Lord Church, followed by the business meeting.

You can read the essays online at www.soonercatholic.org.

CFO Seeks Nominations

OKLAHOMA CITY — Over the past eight years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding catechists and religious educators in the Archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. Each year the Foundation awards the Religious Educator of the Year Award at the Catechetical Congress in September.

These exceptional award recipients are recognized for their significant contribution to the Catholic education process in Religious Education programs within their parish. Nomination forms were recently sent to pastors and directors of Religious Education, but anyone can submit a nomination form for a worthy individual. Nominees should be classroom educators or catechists in youth, confirmation, RCIA or adult education programs. The nominee cannot be a paid staff member of the parish.

Last year, Javier Solis, Youth and Confirmation Catechist at St. Philip Neri Church in Midwest City received the 2011 Religious Educator of the Year Award. Solis’ nominator commented, “All of Javier Solis’ actions reflect his devotion to the educational and spiritual development and formation of the people of our parish, regardless of age. He is a true witness to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and is totally deserving of this award.”

The finalists for the 2011 Religious Educator of the Year Award were Kathleen Maher, High School Catechist at St. Mary Church, Ardmore, and Barbara Steelman, Sacramental Catechist at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City.

The winner of the 2012 award will receive a $500 cash prize. The winner’s parish will receive a $5,000 educational grant. There will also be funds available for a reception held at the winner’s parish in his or her honor. The two finalists will receive a $250 cash prize each.

The Catholic Foundation is honored and grateful to all of the religious educators within the Archdiocese. Nominate an outstanding educator by the June 18 deadline. Nomination forms are available at www.cfook.org.

The Catholic Foundation

Charitable Gifts of Life Insurance

Why Life Insurance? Life insurance can be a particularly versatile and valuable asset to give to the Church. A gift of life insurance can allow a donor to make a more substantial contribution than would otherwise be possible. In addition, the church owning a life insurance policy has the option of accessing the policy cash value with loans of withdrawals, or holding the policy for the death benefit. The greatest advantage of a gift of life insurance is that a donor can make a substantially larger gift to the church by using life insurance than by giving any other asset. Relatively modest annual premiums mature in a substantial death benefit at the donor’s death. This is further enhanced by the income tax charitable deduction the donor receives. The donor’s gift essentially costs less. The gift of an existing policy is relatively “painless” to the donor in several respects. The transfer is simple; all that is required to complete the transfer is a change of ownership form. If giving an existing policy, the amount deductible as a charitable contribution is the lesser of donor’s basis in the policy and the policy value.

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  ■  bestrm@archdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans
‘On The Shoulders of Those Who Came Before’

Overflow Crowd Packs Into New Church For First Eucharistic Celebration

OKLAHOMA CITY — At the conclusion of the Dedication Mass for the new Saint Eugene Catholic Church, Father Joseph A. Jacobs addressed the overflow crowd that packed into the new church, saying, “Today we stand on the shoulders of those who came before.”

Close to 50 priests and deacons from across the Archdiocese took part in the Dedication Mass with Father Robert Weal serving as master of ceremonies.

“After years and years of planning, much months of building, much labor and sacrifice, today, finally in the day of solemn dedications for this new house of God,” Archbishop Coakley said in his homily. “I would like to acknowledge the skillful leadership of Father Jacobs and the tremendous team that has guided this project along. With the support of many dedicated and generous parishioners, together you have brought this church to life.”

“Today is a day of solemn dedication for this new house of God,” Archbishop Coakley said. “I would like to acknowledge the skillful leadership of Father Jacobs and the tremendous team that has guided this project along. With the support of many dedicated and generous parishioners, together you have brought this church to life.”

Parishioners gathered prior to the beginning of Mass in the former church building. Then, escorted by Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the Archbishop, priests and deacons, along with the faithful, processed outside to the front steps of the new church. There, representatives of the New Church Design Committee presented Archbishop Coakley with the construction drawings.

In Europe, some of the magnificent churches took centuries to build, but our magnificent church was built in only 18 months of construction,” Rapp said. “Many people live their entire lives and never witness the beautiful Dedication Mass of a new church.

“A gift to have a new church built in your lifetime is even more special because it is something you won’t see only once, but you will be able to come in and witness it every time you attend Mass,” she said.

Like many longtime parishioners, Corsoro had sat in the same pew for years. Upon entering the new church, she said: “This is truly a gift to have a new church built in your lifetime. I will be able to come in and witness it every time I attend Mass.”

Archbishop Coakley poured the first Eucharist in the new church. From Saint Eugene’s, the Archbishop, priests and deacons, along with the faithful, processed outside to the front steps of the new church. There, representatives of the New Church Design Committee presented Archbishop Coakley with the construction drawings.

By Kelly Matteson

For the Sooner Catholic

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Wait For New Church Well Worth It

OKLAHOMA CITY — An excited crowd of more than 1,200 parishioners and guests overflowed the new church early Saturday morning. The guests attended the Dedication Mass of a new church.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley said the new church building is a physical sign and symbol of the Church. He also deposited the relics of St. Gervasius, St. Protasius, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Dominic, St. Patrick, St. Katharine Drexel and Blessed Batolo Longo beneath the altar.

“After years and years of planning, many months of building, much labor and sacrifice, today, finally, in the day of solemn dedications for this new house of God, Archbishop Coakley said in his homily, ‘I would like to acknowledge the skillful leadership of Father Jacobs and the tremendous team that has guided this project along. With the support of many dedicated and generous parishioners, together you have brought this church to life.’

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Father Joseph Jacobs lights the altar candle.

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“After years and years of planning, many months of building, much labor and sacrifice, today, finally in the day of solemn dedications for this new house of God,” Archbishop Coakley said in his homily, “I would like to acknowledge the skillful leadership of Father Jacobs and the tremendous team that has guided this project along. With the support of many dedicated and generous parishioners, together you have brought this church to life.”

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So, why do some people think contraception prevents health problems? And why is it a "war" on women to speak up for their health and their freedom to say no to this agenda?

Supporters of the Health and Human Services (HHS) contraceptive mandate endlessly repeat these claims: Contraception is an essential preventive health-care benefit, cost is the principal barrier to access; and those who object to the mandate are “waging war on women.”

These are red herrings to distract from the Administration’s unprecedented violation of rights of conscience and religious liberty in forcing almost everyone who owns or purchases a health plan — including faithful Catholics and other most Catholic employers — to cover sterilization procedures, contraceptive and abortifacient drugs.

Quieres apoyar el mandato sobre los anticonceptivos del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS, sigla en inglés) e indefectiblemente repiten estas alegaciones: la anticoncepción es un beneficio esencial del cuidado preventivo de la salud; el costo es el principal obstáculo para su acceso; y quienes objetan el mandato están “haciendo guerra contra las mujeres”.

Esta es información engañosa para distraernos del asunto principal: La violación sin precedentes por parte de la Administración de los derechos de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) del 21 de marzo. Los cónyuges y dependientes que están bajo la póliza de seguro de sus padres! ¿Cómo obtiene una adolescente con píldoras de segunda generación.

Entonces, ¿por qué algunas personas creen que la anticoncepción previene problemas de salud? ¿Y por qué es una “guerra” contra las mujeres que deciden defender su salud, y su libertad de decir no a esta agenda?

El mandato de los anticonceptivos ¿Cuál es el impacto real?

Quienes apoyan el mandato sobre los anticonceptivos del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS, sigla en inglés) e indefectiblemente repiten estas alegaciones: la anticoncepción es un beneficio esencial del cuidado preventivo de la salud; el costo es el principal obstáculo para su acceso; y quienes objetan el mandato están “haciendo guerra contra las mujeres”.

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¿Pueden los partidarios alegar que el acceso es un problema, mientras también afirman que más de 99 por ciento de las mujeres sexualmente activas estadounidenses de entre 15 y 44 años tienen acceso a los anticonceptivos? (quiños de 44 años que contrasta con el 57 por ciento de adolescentes y casi un 50 por ciento entre las varones. 

La importancia de esta tendencia no puede exagerarse, porque un tercio de sexualmente activas teen girls will be pregnant — despite using contraception — within two years of initiating sex. And young people age 15-24 acquire close to 10 million new sexually transmitted infections each year. Many STIDs are incurable, and annual treatment costs are estimated to exceed $14 billion.

But the contraceptive mandate is not just about access to condoms and pills. Reproductive “rights” advocates hope it will help take fertility out of the control of contraceptive users (who may not always take a pill promptly or use a condom as instructed) and give control to the insurers, doctors, by switching women to dangerous “long-acting reversible contraceptives” (LARCs).

In its 1995 “Uneven and Unequal” report, the Guttmacher Institute proposed a comprehensive plan to accomplish this through health care reform:

With cost no longer a barrier, only one obstacle remains: Parents. How does a girl on her parents’ insurance get an IUD without their finding out? The Guttmacher “solution” is reflected in HHS’ March 21 “Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking”: Spouses and dependents must be included in all policies, and confidentiality and privacy between the insurer and user are mandated. Parents need never know, and the adolescent ni siquiera tiene que solicitar, pedir prestado o robar el cobijo de mamá y papá.

“Esta solución” para el embarazo no deseado es horrorosa en muchos niveles, y no el menor de estos es que este año, más efectivas pueden causar incluso mayores riesgos a la salud de las adolescentes y mujeres. La combinación de estrógeno y progesterona, utilizada en anticonceptivos tópicos, puede aumentar significativamente el riesgo de los dos cánceres más comunes en las mujeres: el cáncer de mama y el cáncer de cérvix. En un estudio de más de 100,000 mujeres que tomaban anticonceptivos tópicos, se informó un aumento del 50 por ciento en el cáncer de mama y el 60 por ciento en el cáncer de cérvix.

En general, la combinación de estrógenos e inhibidores del factor de crecimiento epidérmico puede aumentar significativamente el riesgo de los dos cánceres más comunes en las mujeres: el cáncer de mama y el cáncer de cérvix. En un estudio de más de 100,000 mujeres que tomaban anticonceptivos tópicos, se informó un aumento del 50 por ciento en el cáncer de mama y el 60 por ciento en el cáncer de cérvix.

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There are as many reasons for “converting” as there are converts. Evelyn Waugh became a Catholic with, by his own admission, “little emotion but clear conviction” — this was the truth, one ought to adhere to it. Cardinal Avery Dulles wrote that his journey into the Catholic Church began when, as an unbelieving Harvard undergraduate detached from his family’s staunch Presbyterian heritage, he was thrown into a cold rainstorm with raindrops while taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts: beauty could not be accidental, he thought, there must be a Creator.

Thomas Merton found Catholicism adsorbed into him. He couldn’t help but be attracted. Once the former Columbia free-thinker and dabbler in communism and Hinduism found his way into a “Protestant” monastery in New York, he wrote in a Jesuit manuscript about the encouragement he had received from his superior, Father Albert, who could have been a Trappist monk and became a pope. Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., writes that attacks on Catholicism — denise.bossert@Catholicism — Denise Bossert Becoming Catholic

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

We all Have Talents Because We all Come From God

We all have talents because we all come from God. My dad was a terrific doodler. He could entertain my sister and me for hours with his pad of paper and pencil. We’d turn to Mom and ask her to draw something. She always said she was not artistic, but my dad was so creative that he could make her pick up the pencil.

We would push away from the table and tell her that she was more creative than she realized. Dad believed that creativity is a gift we all possess, that it is the image of God, the ultimate Creator. Sometimes, we’re just a little too insecure to let that creativity make a public debut.

I agree with that premise. I think everyone has a creative flair, and like my mom, I’ve felt a little insecure about that at times, especially on display.

I can’t draw anything that resembles what I have in my mind, but I can write. Even when I’m not at the computer, I’m writing in my head. My rough drafts almost always start there. If it works in my head, it might make it to the keyboard. The talent, however, is not my own. Sure, I studied English, and have some diplomas to prove it. But the gift came from the Creator.

There are few things as rewarding as doing work for the gifts God has given you to do. It seems right, like bringing up the bread and wine so that God can bless it and give life to all who come to the table. Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is good to make an offering of those things human hands have made. We offer them back to God. We bless them, and does the miraculous to and through them.

When our human offers are given back to God in the Mass, God does his greatest work of all. He changes our gifts, and they become his own. Jesus himself! But the miracle doesn’t end there.

In marriage, we give him our gifts. He enters into that offering, and a new life is formed.

He goes with us into the world, and makes us salt and light and peace. No gift is too small. No gift is too great. A smile, a martyr’s last breath. You’re more creative than you think. God makes it known in our own age. And that means that you are creative. You are more creative than you think you are. You might not fit into society’s box any longer. You might have writer’s block every time you sit at the computer. But God has given you something, an aptitude for making art with your words or an instrument. The ability to make a quilt. To decorate a room. To grow a garden. To teach a child.

You are creative and when that creativity is unleashed and offered back to God, amazing things happen. Handel composes. Michelangelo paints. Tolkien writes.

Still think you aren’t creative? Ask God to show you the talent that he has entrusted you to. Invest in that talent by studying it and practicing it. Learn from those who have perfected the talent. Imitate their tenacity. And offer that talent back to God. Then, you discover one of life’s greatest joys. The joy of being used by the One who made you to be — uniquely you.

Don’t let fear get in the way of that discovery.

Sure, there will be a few critics who disagree with your creative flair. Those who bring forth the gifts and place them at the feet of Christ are sometimes ridiculed.

And so? Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord can take our gifts and even the criticism they elicit. The God of creativity is also the God of ridicule. It is all part of the package.

And so I say to you: Don’t go with the flow. Your Lord Jesus Christ. Can’t you see? Can’t you feel? Can’t you hear the whispers of the wind?

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Don’t let fear get in the way of that discovery.
Parish Business Manager

The Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist in Edmond has an opening for Parish Business Manager. Extensive experience is required in the areas of responsibility that include finance, property management, personnel management and development, and event coordination.

We seek a person with a college degree, strong financial, problem-solving, planning, facility management, and computer knowledge skills regarding accounting software applications, Microsoft Office and facility management is required.

Salary and benefit package is commensurate with the scope of responsibility and experience required. We are presently accepting applications and resumes. Immediate employment is available. Contact: Search Committee, Box 510, Edmond, Okla. 73083 (405-340-0691).

Part-time Development Director

Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy is the only known educational collaboration between an Archdiocese, hospital system and university to provide quality education to underserved populations with autism and other neurological disorders. Our goal is to provide an integrated, academic, social and spiritual home for these children (age 3-9 years) and their families compatible with their needs. We provide an academic environment of support and success through the use of the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis. Each child’s needs are addressed daily through a one-on-one and group format. We are a Behavioral Interventionist as well as a highly qualified special education teacher. We have a Treatment Coordinator who is also a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, another part-time board-certified Behavior Analyst, and a principal who directs the school. Parent trainings and updates are provided on a monthly basis.

This part-time position of Development Director is responsible for developing and implementing a fundraising program and for promoting support for the organization in the community. He/she is responsible for raising funds in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and donor’s wishes. Other responsibilities include comprehensive development implementation, administration and evaluation of the organization’s fundraising efforts, creating campaigns and programs to fund program and administration needs.

The Development Director will manage the daily fundraising activities, including gift record-keeping, and assisting with acknowledgement and recognition. This person will work with school principal, board and volunteers to raise awareness and support of the school. We are seeking a self-starter with excellent administrative, interpersonal, financial and written communication skills. Prefer successful fundraising experience including direct mail, grant-writing and personal solicitations. Preferred candidate would have degree in non-profit management or related field.

Contact Mrs. Toby Boothe at (405) 570-3917 or richard3192@cox.net, or Dr. Donna Kearns at (405) 752-2264.

Early Childhood Certified Teachers

Christ the King Catholic School is looking for two dynamic Early Childhood certified teachers for our part-time program for ages 3- and 4-year-olds. Must be state certified in Early Childhood. We also need two hard-working part-time teacher aides for our kindergarten classrooms and experience with children with special needs is required. An Archdiocese application is required. Please submit them to the main school office at 1905 Elmhurst Avenue.

High School Teaching Positions

Mount St. Mary High School is seeking certified teachers for the 2012-13 school year in the following areas: Chemistry, Biology, with Pre-AP and AP experience, Spanish with Pre-AP and AP experience, and Music with experience in instrumental, vocal and general music, with pep band and extracurricular activities. Coaching assignments are also available with these positions. Please fax résumé and certification to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209.

Full-time Teaching Position

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a certified teaching position for the 2012-2013 school year. SHCS is an extraordinary community of dedicated clergy, teachers and staff, families and students living the Gospel values of faith, hope and love. Please send a résumé and copy of teaching certificate to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., OKC 73109.

Teaching Positions

St. Mary Catholic School in Guthrie is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood, Elementary Education or Middle School subject specific certification areas. Interested individuals should be able to share their faith within an academic challenging classroom environment. Please send your resume to St. Mary Catholic School, Attention: Sheila Whalen-Guthrie, Principal, 502 E. Warren, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Teacher Openings

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno has two teaching positions open for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate. Applicants must also be committed to providing academic excellence in a Christian environment. Please send resumes to Principal Shannon Statton at 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to 405-262-3818.

Behavioral Interventionists

Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy is in need of several Behavioral Interventionists. A Behavioral Interventionist is an individual who works one-on-one with students with disabilities to provide academic and behavioral support for children on the autistic spectrum. The position is part time and hours are negotiable. The school is in session from Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). If you are a very patient person and experienced/-interested in working with children with disabilities, please contact Dr. Donna Kearns, Principal, at (405) 752-2264. The school is located at 13404 N. Meridian, OKC.

Parish Secretary

Holy Name Parish is seeking a parish secretary. The secretary will use organizational skills, interpersonal skills and computer expertise to respond to the needs of the parishioners and to act as a liaison between parish staff and parishioners in order that all in the parish can easily access the ministries and facilities the parish provides. The role description, explaining this part-time position of 20 hours a week and the necessary qualifications, is available at the parish office during regular business hours. Interested applicants should contact the parish office at (405) 244-6088. Submit resume and references by May 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

LPN, Direct Care, Residential Staff

The Center of Family Love is growing and has the parish office at Licensed Practical Nurses, Direct Care Staff and Residential Staff. Paid training is offered for the Direct Care Positions. The position is a Night (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.), overnight (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) and weekend double shifts currently available with health and welfare benefits starting the first of the month following just 90 days of employment. For consideration, apply in person at the corner of Western Avenue and Okarche, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email at HR@Belflinc.org.

Calendar

10 April 29, 2012

Sooner Catholic

APRIL

29 The Oklahoma Master Chorale and Orchestra present Haydn 2 Works, Lord Nelson Mass and Little Organ Mass, in St. Francis of Assisi, 1907 NW 18th St., OKC.

MAY

4 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMH at 741-7419.

4 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Archdiocesan Pastoral Center will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Friday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Tom Hanes, 405-214-2119, or lmccoklahoma@bseglob.net.

6 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity monthly meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More Church in Norman in the library. All are welcome to attend. We will learn how Francis lived, plan to attend one of our meetings. For more information, call Alice at (405) 473-7860.

7 Organizational meeting for Catholic Middle School Football at 7 p.m. at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School gymnium at 3001 NE 86th St., Shawnee. Practices will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Previous participation in football is not required. For more information, contact Dennis Albert at 208-2673 or David Potter at 820-7014.

8 Catholic War Veterans (of any war/conflict) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Osawl at (405) 567-3404.

8 Catholic War Veterans USA. Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 NE 23rd St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by email at OklaPost168@cox.net.

10 An Evening of Appreciation for our Nurses. Mass will be celebrated beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 900 S. Little, Edmond, Okla. Dinner will follow in the parish hall. Though the evening is free, reservations are required by calling Marilyn Seiler, 340-0691, Ext. 197, or emailing parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org. Deadline for registrations is May 6.

12 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., in Room 125 at the Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expyressway in Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Jenny Pezner, (405) 424-0043, or jennifer@cox.net, or Sandy Poe, (580) 421-6554, or email sandrapoe@ymail.com.

13 Charismatic Healing Mass 5:30 a.m. Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4966.

19 Singles dance at St. Charles Borromeo Church from 7 to 11 p.m. Contact Al at 631-0763 for more information. St. Charles is located at 5024 N. Grove Ave, OKC.

April is the month set aside to celebrate St. John the Baptist in Edmond in honor of the patron who is the namesake of our parish.

Jobs Box

A Behavioral Interventionist is an individual who works one-on-one with students with disabilities to provide academic and behavioral support for children on the autistic spectrum. The position is part time and hours are negotiable. The school is in session from Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). If you are a very patient person and experienced/-interested in working with children with disabilities, please contact Dr. Donna Kearns, Principal, at (405) 752-2264. The school is located at 13404 N. Meridian, OKC.
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Pastoral Office Funds

### Condensed Statements of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 30</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$1,448,855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
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<td>$1,715,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Notes receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
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<td>12,257,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land, buildings, and equipment</td>
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<td>43,540,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>62,486</td>
<td>63,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$138,845,213</td>
<td>$127,046,316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and other liabilities</td>
<td>$675,158</td>
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<td>Contributions payable, net of discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments managed for related parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued insurance claims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank borrowings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued pension benefit cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<td>40,616,472</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated and operating</td>
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<td>38,247,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated other comprehensive loss (324,690)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net investment in property and equipment and other</td>
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<td>43,540,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>Total net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$138,845,213</td>
<td>$127,046,316</td>
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</tbody>
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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132
405.721.5651
pcoakley@archokc.org

Office of the Archbishop
April 15, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Good stewardship of our financial resources is an important component in the stewardship way of life. As individuals, families, parishes and as an Archdiocese, we are entrusted with many gifts. The way we use these gifts expresses our faith, values and priorities as disciples and as a Church. We support what we believe in. I thank you for your financial support of your parish and the Archdiocese, especially through the annual ADF appeal and planned giving.

Transparency and accountability are necessary to inspire trust and confidence. Therefore, in the exercise of my stewardship over archdiocesan resources, I accept the responsibility to provide an annual report of our financial position. In this spirit I present this financial report for fiscal year 2011. It has been prepared by our archdiocesan business office and reviewed by independent auditors as well as by our Archdiocesan Finance Council. I offer it now for your review.

Though it certainly does not tell the whole story, this report offers a glimpse into the life of our Archdiocese. We will continue to make every effort to be good and trustworthy stewards of the financial resources necessary to support the mission and ministries of our Archdiocese, parishes and Catholic institutions.

God is the source of every blessing. All that we have, we receive as a gift. Awareness of our gifts instills gratitude and gratitude begets generosity. Your generosity in sharing God’s gifts is a hallmark of a vibrant faith. As we continue to place our gifts of time, talent and treasure at the service of others, we grow in faith even as we assist our parishes, our Archdiocese and the universal Church to fulfill our mission of evangelization and service in the world.

Thank you for your participation in this mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

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The annual audit for the archdiocese was performed by Cole and Reed, Certified Public Accountants, and reviewed by the Archdiocesan Finance Council. Any questions may be referred to the Archdiocesan Business Office at (405) 721-5651. The annual audit can be viewed in its entirety on the Business Office webpage at archokc.org/business-office/home.
Church Reaches Out to Woodward Tornado Victims

WOODWARD — Saint Peter Church was spared in the April 15 tornado that claimed six lives and destroyed dozens of homes. However, several parishioners at Saint Peter lost their homes in the storm. Others had their homes severely damaged.

Shortly after the twister ripped through the northwest Oklahoma community of 12,000, Catholic Charities had case management workers on the scene.

As Tim O’Connor, executive director, told about three dozen people who attended an April 21 gathering at Saint Peter’s Church, “The Red Cross is the first to arrive at a disaster such as this, but Catholic Charities will be the last to leave.”

O’Connor said Catholic Charities is still working with families who were victims of a tornado that struck the Piedmont area almost a year ago. He said Saint Peter’s and the Woodward community could expect the same commitment.

Archbishop Paul Coakley traveled with O’Connor to Woodward and met with victims of the tornado. Father Scott Boeckman, pastor at Saint Peter’s, and Peggy Kitchens, DRE at the parish, organized the coffee and doughnut gathering.

“Your presence here demonstrates you are supporting one another,” Archbishop Coakley told the gathering. He assured them the Church would also be with them. “Something like this affects everyone,” the Archbishop said. He said their coming together in a time of need is “evidence of their faith” and even though times are difficult, it’s that deep faith that lets them take comfort in knowing that “God is always with you.”

Following the storm, Father Boeckman was contacted by old friends from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Father Boeckman attended seminary there before being ordained in May of 2003. Two years later, New Orleans was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Support for New Orleans and the Gulf Coast poured in from across the nation, including a great deal from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Susie Veters, a representative of the Christ the Builder ministry sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, contacted Father Boeckman following the category EF3 tornado. A contingent from New Orleans is expected to travel to Woodward to help tornado victims. A date has not been set yet, Kitchens said.

In an email, Veters told Kitchens the New Orleans Christ the Builder crew wants to give back some of “the great love we received following Katrina.”

The path of the Woodward storm ran from 28th Street to 34th Street, Kitchens said. Saint Peter Church is on 20th Street, less than a mile from the twister’s path.

“People have to have this kind of support,” Keating said. “They have to have someone to talk with. If they don’t, they push everything deep inside and then their hearts turn to stone.”

The only way to soften hearts of stone is through trust, Keating said.

“The Church being here for them is such an important message of trust,” she said.

How to Help

Send checks to:
Saint Peter Church
2020 Oklahoma Ave.
Woodward, Okla. 73801
Put “Tornado” in the memo line.

To donate furniture or other items, phone 580-256-5305