VATICAN CITY (CNA/EWTN News) — Communion with Jesus leads us to the definitive Jerusalem, said the pope at Palm Sunday Mass.

“Being Christian is a path, or better: a pilgrimage, a walk together with Jesus Christ,” underlined the Holy Father at Palm Sunday Mass on an extraordinary spring morning in Rome. He said it is in this communion on the path toward Jerusalem that we find our way to the “new City of God.”

Tens of thousands of people were in St. Peter’s Square to have their palms and olive branches blessed and to join in the celebration of the Mass, marking not only the start of Holy Week but also the 25th World Youth Day.

During his homily, the Holy Father emphasized that being Christian means “considering the way of Jesus Christ as the just way for being men — as that way that leads to the goal, to a fully realized and true humanity.”

As Jesus walked up to Jerusalem, so we too walk up toward Heaven, “the new City of God,” said the Holy Father. It is Jesus who leads us toward the heavens, toward “what is great, pure, he leads us towards the healthy air of the heights: towards the life according to the truth; towards courage that does not let itself be intimidated by the chattering of the dominant opinions; towards the patience that supports and sustains others.”

He leads us to assist the abandoned and suffering, to be faithful and to kindness continued to Page 6
The Good News

. . . May You Enjoy A Blessed Easter!

The awesome liturgical rites of the Triduum usher us into the Alleluias of Easter. Yes, the Lord is truly risen. He is alive. He is among us!

To all the people of this Archdiocese, I extend my very best personal wishes that the true joy of Easter may be in your hearts and souls, your bodies and minds. Easter brings new life and consequently, hope and optimism. God has not and He will not abandon us. Despite our own sins and failures, despite our lack of faith and trust, despite our doubts and anxieties, the Lord is truly with us.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been redeemed. For that redemption to take effect in us and result in eternal peace and joy, requires our personal response as free creatures. God never forces us. He calls, He invites and He waits for our response.

The Lenten and Easter liturgies should have led us to a firm realization that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and our Savior. He is calling us to share in His life so that, like Him, we can have life everlasting. This is the faith each of us must have. Saint Augustine tells us that faith is the first thing that joins us to God. If we wish to approach God (or respond to God), we must begin by believing. By recognizing and believing in Almighty God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and their Holy Spirit, we are on the right track because Jesus tells us He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He leads us to our heavenly Father and He sends His Holy Spirit upon us to confirm all that He has revealed.

The Catholic faith we possess is indeed a gift from God. It is a gift to be cherished and nurtured. A gift to lead us safely on our journey of life on this earth to eternal life with God in heaven. The full celebration of the Easter season which we are now observing is an opportune moment to express our gratitude to God for this gift of Catholic faith.

During the Easter season, we commemorate and remember the specific interaction of Jesus with His Apostles. In fear and doubt, they had abandoned Jesus when He was arrested. They ran away and hid. Peter even denied Him. But when the women came and informed them that Jesus had risen from the dead, still doubting but now confronted with the Truth, their faith and trust were rekindled.

Also, when Jesus ascended to heaven before their very eyes, they were so moved that again they withdrew to await the coming of the Holy Spirit Jesus had promised them.

Like the Apostles, we are ordinary human beings. And like them, we are called by Jesus to believe in Him — that He is the eternal Son of God and our Lord and Savior.

Therefore, the liturgical celebrations of this Easter season should serve us as a time of renewed faith and hope, a time when we begin to understand more clearly who we really are. That we are created in the Image and Likeness of God is no small thing. This is the essence of our being. The fact of who we are identifies us and outlines our purpose on earth and our true goal in life.

The Catholic Church, established by Jesus, has as its reason for existence to bring us to Christ. Therefore, the Church shares with us all that Jesus taught, all that He revealed. Through the ministry of the sacraments we are reborn, forgiven and saved in Jesus. This is the great message of Easter. This is the blessing I seek for you and your loves ones and all the people of this Archdiocese, that we might have life and have it more abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Happy Easter.

To all the people of this Archdiocese, I extend my very best personal wishes that the true joy of Easter may be in your hearts and souls, your bodies and minds.

Seminary Burses

**Father Joseph Beltran**

Seminary Burse

A $200 donation was made by Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Cebulski.

A $100 donation was made by an anonymous donor.

A $150 donation was made by Paul and Rosemary Lewis in honor of Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger, VG.

**Father Stanley Rother**

Seminary Burse

A $500 donation was made by John and Denise Ziegler in honor of Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger, VG.

A $25 donation was made in honor of Martin and Irene Parizek’s 60th wedding anniversary.

**Archbishop Beltran**

A $10 donation was made in memory of Helen Mueggenborg.

A $300 donation was made by Christ the King Church.

A $150 donation was made by the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference.

A $50 donation was made by Charles Erickson in honor of Mary Tinker.

A $200 donation was made by Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Cebulski.

A $10 donation was made in memory of Helen Mueggenborg.

A $300 donation was made by Christ the King Church.

A $150 donation was made by the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference.

A $50 donation was made by Charles Erickson in honor of Mary Tinker.
What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Also known as “The Feast of Mercy,” Divine Mercy Sunday marks the Second Sunday of Easter (also the “Octave Day” of Easter) and the fulfillment of one of our Lord’s most imperative requests made to the Polish mystic, St. Faustina Kowalska, in a series of revelations in the 1930s. The Lord’s will with regard to the feast day’s establishment was already made known in His first revelation to the saint, which she recorded in her now-famous Diary. In all, there were 14 revelations concerning the desired feast.

“The Feast of Mercy,” He said, “emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.” (Diary 699).

But why did Jesus want Divine Mercy Sunday to be held in such high regard by His people?

In short, the main reason Jesus wanted this feast to be established is that He wanted to “throw a lifeline,” so to speak, to souls who are perishing, souls who are drowning in sin and despair. That lifeline is this feast, with all the tremendous promises of graces and benefits that Jesus attached to it.

What are those promises and graces and how must we prepare for this feast?

This is how we are to prepare:

- Go to confession, preferably during the Lenten season.
- Receive Holy Communion on the feast day.

continued to Page 12

Death Penalty Opponents Set Dinner for April 17

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty will hold its annual dinner at the Conner Center, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Avenue, at 6 p.m. April 17. The coalition is committed to the abolition of the death penalty in Oklahoma.

The keynote speaker will be Larry Hellman, Dean of the Oklahoma City University Law School, who will discuss the problem of wrongful convictions and the goals of OCU LAWS Innocence Project. A special viewing of a speech by best-selling author John Grisham, author of “The Innocent Man,” the 2006 nonfiction best seller that focused on the case of Oklahoman Ron Williamson, will also be featured.

The OCU Drama Department will also present scenes from “Exonerated,” a collection of stories of former death row prisoners who were released from prison after their convictions were reversed. The play briefly tells in narrative fashion each person’s story of what she or he was falsely accused of, how she or he was wrongly convicted, and his or her eventual exoneration.

“We invite those who believe in the words of Albert Camus, ‘It is the duty of thinking people not to be on the side of the executioner,’ to join us for the evening,” said Jim Rowan, chairman of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Tickets are $40 with a student rate of $15. Tickets can be ordered online at okcadp.org or by calling 239-2454. Reservations should be made by April 9. Tables of eight guests are available for reservation.

Father Frank Wrigley Dies in OKC at 88

Rev. Franklin Wrigley, 88, died March 23, 2010, in Oklahoma City. Father Wrigley was born Sept. 12, 1921, in Clearfield, Pa., the fifth of six boys born to Herman Lloyd and Florence Regina Delaney Wrigley. He attended St. Bernard Parish School in Akron, Ohio. Even as a small child Father Wrigley wished to be a priest. He began his initial studies for the priesthood with the Society of the Divine Order at St. Paul’s, Epworth, Iowa. In 1945, a recurring illness ended his dream of foreign service and at the urging of his Oklahoma cousin, Monsignor John Mason Connor, under the auspices of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, he continued his studies at Glennon College and Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis. Father Wrigley was ordained March 15, 1952, in Akron, Ohio, at his home parish.

Father Wrigley's first assignment was St. Francis Parish, Tulsa. In 1955 he became the pastor of Christ the King Parish (now St. Cecilia Parish) in Claremore. He was the first pastor for St. Mark Parish in Pryor. Father Wrigley served in many parishes throughout Oklahoma during his 50-plus years of ministry, including Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Chandler, St. Joseph Church and St. Thomas More Church, Norman, St. Peter Church in Woodward and missions, St. Paul Church, Del City, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City, St. Mary Church, Medford, and St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City. During his career, Father Wrigley also served the Diocese of Calgary and the Archdiocese of Anchorage while on sabbatical, experiences he enjoyed very much.

In 1959, the Most Reverend Victor Joseph Reed appointed Father Wrigley as spiritual director and teacher at St. Francis Seminary in Oklahoma City where he taught history and Latin until 1965. During his tenure there, Father Wrigley obtained an M.A. in European history from the University of Oklahoma.

Father Wrigley was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Robert, George, Richard and Harry.

Father Wrigley is survived by his brother, William of Akron, Ohio; several nieces and nephews and many good friends who will miss his kindness and wit.

His friends and family wish to express gratitude to George Rigazzi, who gave Father Wrigley much support and care during his final illness.

Funeral Mass was held Thursday, March 25 at the Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel, Oklahoma City. Interment followed immediately at Resurrection Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were under direction of Smith and Kernke Funeral Home, Oklahoma City.

In lieu of flowers, Father Wrigley requested that donations be made to the Catholic Relief Services, 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, Md. 21201-3413.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholics in Oklahoma are invited to join Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran in celebration of his 50th anniversary as a priest.

The celebration will take place May 15 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp (OLOG). The camp is located on Oklahoma-Lincoln County Line Road, 3 1/2 miles north of state Highway 66.

On the day of the celebration, the camp will open at 9 a.m. with Mass scheduled at 11 a.m. The celebration will continue until 5 p.m. when the camp will close.

Following Mass, volunteers will be cooking hot dogs and handing out sandwiches, pop, water and chips while children are invited to play on moonwalks and other inflatable bouncing contraptions that will be set up around the beautiful camp OLOG.

A massive tent will provide shelter for Mass and following the Eucharistic celebration, it will be transformed for entertainment.

The various cultures that make up the Catholic faith of Oklahoma will provide entertainment throughout the day including music and dance. Included will be colorful Vietnamese and Hispanic liturgical performers, as well as African-American and American Indian.

Archbishop Beltran was ordained to the priesthood on May 14, 1960. He served as a priest in Atlanta, Ga., and was active in the civil rights movement that took place during this period. In 1965 he took part in the march through Selma, Ala., made famous by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Feb. 28, 1978, Pope Paul VI appointed Father Beltran to serve as Bishop of Tulsa where he remained until Nov. 24, 1992. On that day, Pope John Paul II elevated him to Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

Over the years, Archbishop Beltran has been a strong proponent of Catholic teaching. He is unwavering in his commitment to the sanctity of life. Under his leadership, a number of housing developments intended to serve the poor and elderly have been built in the archdiocese. Archbishop Beltran has also been a staunch supporter of Catholic schools and in 2000, he led the campaign to build Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp where the May 15 celebration will take place.

In lieu of gifts, the Archbishop can be honored with a donation to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund or Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp Endowment Fund at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. The donation can be made online at www.cfook.org or by calling Barney Semtner at (405) 721-4115.

PONCA CITY — Allyson Brewer Helm, principal of St. Mary’s Catholic School, is shown with the sixth-grade class during Read Across America Week. During the week all of the students contributed pom-poms to Helm’s vest and hat for each reading goal they met. At the end of the week the students read enough to contribute 984 pom-poms. Helms wore the vest and hat all day and in the afternoon visited the classrooms to deliver cookies.
Bishops Issue Abuse Statement

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Bishops on March 30 voiced concern for victims of child sexual abuse by clerics and praised Pope Benedict XVI for leadership in dealing with the sin and crime of child sexual abuse.

“We know from our experience how Pope Benedict is deeply concerned for those who have been harmed by sexual abuse and how he has strengthened the Church’s response to victims and supported our efforts to deal with perpetrators,” the bishops said. “We continue to intensify our efforts to provide safe environments for children in our parishes and schools. Further, we work with others in our communities to address the prevalence of sexual abuse in the larger society.”

The bishops’ comments came in a statement issued by the Executive Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Cardinal Francis George, OMI, of Chicago, president; Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, vice president; Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, treasurer; Bishop George Murry, SJ, of Youngstown, Ohio, secretary; and Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., elected member.

The complete statement follows.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of the United States, we, the members of the Executive Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, write both to express our deep concern for those harmed by the crime and sin of sexual abuse by clergy and to express our profound gratitude for the assistance that Pope Benedict XVI has given us in our efforts to respond to victims, deal with perpetrators and to create safe environments for children. The recent emergence of more reports of sexual abuse by clergy saddens and angers the Church and causes us shame. If there is anywhere that children should be safe, it should be in their homes and

continued to Page 10

Mount Students Hold Pro-Life Rally

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School held a pro-life assembly that was led by Republican state Sen. Todd Lamb. The assembly was organized by Mount St. Mary junior TJ Krug, who has been an active proponent of the pro-life movement within the hallways of Mount St. Mary. “We had an excellent opportunity to bring our school community into a partnership with state government to take action for those who cannot fight for themselves. Senator Lamb’s heart and values match up with what we stand for here at The Mount,” said Krug.

Lamb has been the author of some of the nation’s most significant pro-life legislation including requiring abortionists to provide ultrasound images to their patients, as well as the nation’s first law prohibiting abortion for the purpose of gender selection.

“It is a great responsibility of the government to protect those who cannot protect themselves,” said Lamb. Lamb was also impressed with Mount St. Mary. “It was a blessing to start my week with the Rockets as they worshiped, prayed and showed their commitment to the pro-life movement.”

continued to Page 13

Woman Describes Egg Donor Experience

By Patti Colston

For The Sooner Catholic

I was flying home from vacation and picked up a magazine. I read an article about a woman who was an egg donor. I remember thinking what a noble thing to do and how wonderful it would be to help a couple longing for children.

After I returned home from vacation, I was still thinking about the article so I looked in the phone book. I called Dr. Reshef’s office and they made me an appointment. I immediately liked the doctor as we sat in his office and I explained how I had learned about egg donation. He explained that through a process, my eggs would be donated to a couple and the husband’s sperm would fertilize the eggs and they would be implanted in the wife. We discussed things like my family and my education. I was a college student at the time. I filled out some paperwork with personal information like marital status, children, health information and education history. I then went through some medical exams, blood work and a psychological evaluation. I then received a phone call from the doctor’s nurse saying the tests came back fine and we would proceed. The doctor told me about a couple who had been unable to have children. He said the wife was a professional person and her husband was a little older. I believe he said she was about 5-foot-6 with blonde hair and blue eyes and that it seemed like a good fit. I felt good about being able to make a difference and I felt a fond feeling toward the couple.

I started the medication which was not easy. I had to give myself shots in the stomach every day for about three weeks I believe. There were other medications as well but I do not know exactly what they were.
In Brief

Wine Event to Help Women’s Sanctuary

OKLAHOMA CITY — The second annual wine event benefiting Sanctuary Women’s Development Center will be held Tuesday, April 27 at Cattlemen's Special Event Center, 1325 S. Agnew. This year's event will feature two of Napa Valley’s finest women of wine, Kelly Duckhorn McElearney — Ehlers Estate, and Paula Kornell — Oakville Ranch.

The event runs from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will feature fabulous wine, great boot-shuffling music and mouth-watering food! A silent auction will be held during the event, closing with one fabulous live auction package to Napa Valley, Calif.

Tickets are $40 per person and can be purchased online at StockyardsCity.org. Participants must be 21 to attend. If you have questions or would like an alternative form of payment, contact Valerie Blankenbiller at Cattlemen's, (405) 947-1484 Ext. 2, or Jane Moon at Catholic Charities, (405) 523-3000.

Thirty dollars from each ticket can be considered a tax-deductible contribution to Sanctuary Women's Development Center.

Vocations Office Sets Trip to Seminary

The Vocations Office is sponsoring the annual “Come and See Weekend” to Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. This is an opportunity for young men to visit the seminary and experience the daily life of a seminarian.

There are 11 seminarians studying for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at Conception Seminary College at this time. Christopher Brashears, Linh Bui, Tim Ruckel and Matt Thomas are Theologians. Daniel Grover, Cris Deloera, John Lewis, Andrew Horn, Blake Jezioro, Jared Ortega and Josh Zakrzewicz are Collegians.

The bus will depart on Saturday, April 17 at 8:30 a.m. from the Catholic Pastoral Center and return Monday, April 19 at approximately 5 p.m. The bus will make additional pickup stops as requested with prior arrangements. If you are a young man 15 years or older and are interested in attending the “Come and See Weekend,” please reserve your spot on the bus by contacting the Vocations Office at (405) 721-9351 or e-mail vocations@catharchdioceseokc.org.

Final Taize Prayer Set

After offering monthly Taize Prayer for seven years, the Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Spirituality Center will be hosting their final service on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us for this evening of singing, readings and quiet reflection. Please call (405) 373-4565 if you plan to attend.

St. Charles School Auction April 24

Mark your calendar. The St. Charles Catholic School Annual Auction is Saturday, April 24. Come and join us for a great evening of food, live music, dancing and a great auction. Your support will help make the auction a success.

Tickets are available by calling Karl and Alice Filer, 720-7015.

This will be Principal Sine’s farewell auction, let’s make it count! Tickets are limited so please buy yours today. The auction also needs your help with donations for the auction. Please call Karl and Alice Filer if you can help.

Knights To Host 11th Annual Italian Dinner

Knights of Columbus Council 10822 at St. Eugene’s in Oklahoma City is hosting its 11th annual homemade Italian sausage and pasta dinner on Saturday, April 10 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the gym. The sausage is made by council members using Brother Knight Jim Corsoro’s secret family recipe, and it is fabulous. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for children ages 6-12. Takeout will be available. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Proceeds will benefit the parish’s medical mission to Guatemala and the new church fund. For more information, contact Steve Chastain at 755-1052.

Beginning Experience Dates Are Announced

This is a ministry to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce or death. Beginning Experience is carried out by a trained team of volunteers done at special weekend gatherings which encourage participants to share their need and deal with the natural process of grief and loneliness.

July 9-10, 2010 — Oct 15-17, 2010

Communion With Jesus

continued from Page 1

that is unfailing even when met with ingratitude, said the pope. “He leads us towards love ... towards God.”

We walk and we are also carried, added the pope. Jesus “pulls and sustains us” when we accept that we cannot do it alone. “The humility of ‘being with’ is essential for the ascent,” Benedict XVI said that another part of the “ascent” is the Cross. As “great results cannot be achieved without renunciation and hard exercise ... [likewise] the way towards life, towards the realization of our humanity is tied to the communion with Him who went up to the height of God by way of the Cross.”

The Cross, he explained, is “the expression of what love means: only he who loses himself, finds himself.”

Summarizing, Pope Benedict XVI said that the story of Christ asks us to “reawaken” to the longing for God and for being truly men, so that we enter into communion with the Church and Jesus Christ to reach the path to Heaven and live the Word of God in faith, hope and love.

“In this way,” said the pontiff, “we are on the path towards the definitive Jerusalem and already from then on, in a way, we find ourselves there, in communion with all the Saints of God.”
Gift to Foundation Pays Dividends For Years to Come

Grants given by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma today are but some of many good works that can be traced to good people who invested in the future of their faith years ago. One example is Margaret Martin. Martin gave her former residence to the Catholic Foundation in 1977. Martin was the wife of John Frank Martin (former mayor of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma state legislator) and daughter of Judge Thomas Doyle (a power in early Oklahoma politics). The Martin-Doyle house at 136 N.W. 18th Street in Oklahoma City was the scene of many visits by bishops and Oklahoma political leaders. Martin had the vision to see that her good work would help to build the faith in Oklahoma. Likewise, a gift or bequest of your residence or other property to the foundation would allow you to invest in the future of the Catholic faith for many years to come.

Pastoral Ministry Masters
Class Forms for August

Since the Second Vatican Council, opportunities for lay women and men to serve in church roles have increased. These roles call for education and formation. The Archdiocese has addressed these formation needs through degree programs offered through distance learning.

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry is a degree offered through the Aquinas Ministry Formation Program in Oklahoma City. This program has as its purpose to prepare women and men for leadership roles in a variety of pastoral ministries in the local church. Offered since 1992, the Masters program has graduated three cohorts of students, and will graduate a fourth in May 2010. Graduates minister in a variety of settings, including parishes, schools and hospitals, as well as other kinds of service agencies.

The Masters program is now forming Cohort 5, to begin in August 2010. The program offers a broad overview of the theory and skills needed for effective pastoral ministry. The program is designed to engage and complement the unique gifts of experienced pastoral ministers as well as those who seek, for their own enrichment, graduate level theological and ministerial formation in the Catholic tradition. As a collaborative initiative between Aquinas Institute and the diocese, the goals, structure and implementation of the MAPM degree will reflect both the unique pastoral needs of the local church as well as the standard requirements for graduate-level, accredited theological education for ministry in the church.

The MAPM degree is a 48 credit-hour program consisting of 15 courses in academic theology and ministry, a three-month experience of supervised practice of ministry (field education), and four credit hours in spiritual and personal formation that runs concurrent with the academic portion of the degree program. The MAPM degree is designed to offer the student an integrated experience of academic theology, field education and spiritual formation for ministry. In the spirit of the Dominican tradition, moreover, the individual components of the program come together in the context of continued to Page 10

The Catholic Foundation
CORNERSTONE

Wills

Bequests, made through your Will, are the most frequently-made Planned Gifts. 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 a Catholic parish, school or other charitable organization through a Bequest, is your final Investment in the Future of Our Faith. A well-planned Will allows you to both make your wishes known and make a difference. For more information on Planned Giving, contact:
OKLAHOMA CITY — The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) will honor Father Richard “Rick” Stansberry of Christ the King as the national “Distinguished Pastor.” The award, presented by the NCEA Department of Elementary Schools, will be presented Tuesday at the national convention. The honor goes to one pastor in each of its four regions who has given outstanding support to Catholic elementary education.

Father Stansberry is only the third pastor to receive this honor since the award’s inception in 2007.

Sister Catherine Powers, Archdiocesan Superintendent of Education, said Father Stansberry was selected based on his ability to provide spiritual guidance to school communities, high recommendations from administrators and nearly two decades of service to Catholic Education, almost all of it entirely in elementary education, to name a few of his remarkable contributions.

“I am overwhelmed at the awesome dedication of our principals and teachers in our schools (and) I have been blessed to work with wonderful principals such as Joe Sine, Monty Allen, Karen Lynn and Karen Carter,” said Father Stansberry. “Each of these people have taught me far more about the importance of Catholic Education than any other source. They and the teachers are the real heroes as were the thousands of sisters, brothers and priests who worked so hard for decades,” he said.

Father Stansberry will receive the award in Minneapolis, Minn., at the annual NCEA convention and awards banquet. Sister Catherine Powers, Cris Carter, associate superintendent, and several Archdiocesan principals will also attend the convention and awards banquet.

The NCEA acknowledges that in honoring one outstanding pastor, it also honors the many pastors who give their support to Catholic elementary schools throughout the United States.

“Father Stansberry certainly is one of our many pastors who strongly support Catholic education in the Archdiocese,” said Sister Catherine.

Father Stansberry said Catholic education is about more than what a child learns from a book or in a classroom.

“I feel that Catholic Education benefits the student far beyond the classroom. They learn a code of ethics and faith that provide a solid foundation for Christian living … Of course, the number one teacher of the faith is the family. However, increasingly, many students find that the Catholic school is the place where they learn the most about their faith,” Father said. “The world is an ever-expanding font of information and the foundations from Catholic schools can give our young people a wonderful tool to sort out the good from the bad.”

Father Stansberry admits the importance of maintaining a strong presence in the school. Among a host of duties, he makes time to teach at least one class. “I just remember what the Archbishop said to me — when the kids see you in the school, they know that you care.”

Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Archdiocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, led a retreat of archdiocesan principals to Subiaco Monastery in Arkansas. The retreat was held Feb. 24-26 and Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock visited with the principals and celebrated Mass for them. Bishop Taylor formerly served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
11-year-old is Passionate Cantor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Aaron Stewart came into the Catholic Church in 2007 at age 9. The same year he began attending St. Eugene Catholic School as a fourth-grader.

This same year his mother accepted the position as music director at St. Eugene. Although Aaron had been singing all his young life, he said he never wanted to cantor, as that would be too nerve-racking. Within a year, the young musician was indeed cantoring at school Mass and doing solo work at special occasions. In the fall of 2009, Aaron had the opportunity to cantor at a weekend Mass, and has continued to do so frequently ever since. Oftentimes on Sunday nights, Aaron will cantor the entire Mass.

In mid-February, when Catholic teachers from across the archdiocese gathered at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Aaron was able to sing an original Ave Maria that was composed for him in 2009. Accompanying Aaron were two gifted sisters, Carlysta and Kaitlyn Tran. A violin duet part had been composed specifically for the special Mass.

Although Aaron just turned 11 in January, he is a sixth-grader at St. Eugene Catholic School. He is a great supporter of the many musicians in the Faith Builders Choir that he is a part of, directed by his mother, Cindy St. Peter. The choir is a group of 30 children from the school and parish who sing at every school Mass and often at weekend Mass. Many other children in the choir are training to cantor. Each child works on becoming a cantor and soloist.

Aaron said he loves to sing, play his drums, especially at school Mass, and also loves public speaking. Aaron said he wants to be a pediatric surgeon when he grows up. He hopes to inspire other youth to cantor and lead the assembly with their talents.

Aaron is a member of the National Pastoral Musicians Association, and will be attending the NPM Conference in Detroit in July as a youth ambassador. He wants to attend Mount St. Mary’s High School.

“I feel like I am with God when I sing for God,” said Aaron.

Catholics Come To Aid of Vandalized Villa Teresa

By Rex Hogan  
For The Sooner Catholic

MOORE — When Villa Teresa Principal Sister Veronica Higgins got a phone call in the morning hours of March 15, she could hardly believe what she was hearing. The call was from the maintenance man at the Villa Teresa School on South Western. The school teaches 3- to 5-year-old students.

“They hit us again and it’s much worse,” David Smith told Sister Veronica.

Smith was talking about vandals who had attacked the school twice that weekend. The school has been broken into six times since December and each time the destruction was worse than the previous time.

“You’re kind of in disbelief that someone would do something so destructive. There was a feeling of isolation,” Sister Veronica said.

The ordeal was more than destruction. When Villa Teresa workers discovered the break-in on Saturday, March 14, they telephoned the Oklahoma City Police Department. Police said they couldn’t come out.

Sister Veronica got on the phone.

“I said, ‘You need to get here’ because I can’t handle this,” she said. Officers came to the school.

There was another problem.

“What’s sad is we filled out reports and I think what happened is, they just got filed away and nothing was really done. The police officers who came Monday morning knew nothing about the sequence of events here,” Sister Veronica said. “I told them that this was only going to get worse, that the next time they’re going to burn the building down,” she said.

The destruction at the school that weekend was devastating. Two classrooms were demolished. Vandals spread paint over classrooms, destroyed toys and school supplies. Excrement was found in the outside play area.

The vandals took steel fence posts and hurled them like javelins through the school’s swimming pool cover, obscenities and racial slurs were written on walls, acid from the swimming pool area was spread around the school including on a water fountain.

The vandals stuffed bricks “and everything you can think of” down the school’s sewer system,

continued to Page 14
Executive Order Won’t Stand, Columnist Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA). — Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker has denied that President Obama’s executive order purports to extend the Hyde Amendment restrictions to these dollars, she added, “Regardless of Obama’s stated intentions, he can’t actually do this without an act of Congress.”

Although defenders of the bill say abortions aren’t performed at CHCs, under the new law they can, Parker argued.

“There’s nothing to stop them,” she said, explaining that statute requires them to provide all required primary health care services, including those related to “obstetrics or gynecology that are furnished by physicians.”

“Federal courts long have held that when a statute requires provision of health services under such broad categories, then the statute must be construed to include abortion unless it explicitly excludes it. Voila.”

“Prediction: Abortions will be performed at CHCs, you can bet your foreclosed mortgage on that,” her Washington Post column concluded. “There was always a will by this administration, and now there’s a way.”

Habitat Gets Support From Students

On Wednesday, March 24, the Mount St. Mary senior class, staff and teachers spent their senior service day at Habitat for Humanity’s Hope Crossing Addition. Each class at Mount St. Mary participates in service days throughout the year. The Mount’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity is mutually beneficial — Habitat needs help serving the housing needs of Oklahomans and Mount St. Mary students have the opportunity to serve and give back to their community. The students were hard at work starting at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning. Together, the students constructed all of the walls in the first floor of the house they were assigned to in Hope Crossing.

“It is great to be in a school environment where serving is encouraged. I really enjoyed my time with Habitat for Humanity today. I feel like our senior class really bonded through the experience,” said Leigha Pierce, MSM senior and student council co-president.

Bishops

continued from Page 5 in the Church.

We know from our experience how Pope Benedict is deeply concerned for those who have been harmed by sexual abuse and how he has strengthened the Church’s response to victims and supported our efforts to deal with perpetrators. We continue to intensify our efforts to provide safe environments for children in our parishes and schools. Further, we work with others in our communities to address the prevalence of sexual abuse in the larger society.

One of the most touching moments of the Holy Father’s visit to the United States in 2008 was his private conversation with victims/survivors at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington. Pope Benedict heard firsthand how sexual abuse has devastated lives. The Holy Father spoke with each person and provided everyone time to speak freely to him. They shared their painful experiences and he listened, often clasping their hands and responding tenderly and reassuringly.

With the support of both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, we bishops have made a vigorous commitment to do everything in our power to prevent abuse from happening to children. We live out this commitment through the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which calls us to respond with compassion to victims/survivors, to work diligently to screen those working with children and young people in the Church, to provide child abuse awareness and prevention education, to report suspected abuse to civil law enforcement, and to account for our efforts to protect children and youth through an external annual national audit.

As we accompany Christ in His passion and death during this Holy Week, we stand with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in prayer for the victims of sexual abuse, for the entire Church and for the world.

While President Obama’s executive order purports to extend the Hyde Amendment restrictions to these dollars, she added, “Regardless of Obama’s stated intentions, he can’t actually do this without an act of Congress.”

Pastoral

continued from Page 7 community, and specifically, that of the student cohort of learners who matriculate together through the total degree program process. The cohort experience serves as an integrating feature of the various components of the MAPM degree.

The MAPM degree is an experience using blended learning. Students meet online throughout each course, and face-to-face eight times each year (twice during each 11-week course). The degree program is completed in four years. Classroom sessions are held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, which offers classroom space, lodging and meal service.

The application process for MAPM is now under way. For more information, call or e-mail the Pastoral Ministry Office, (405) 721-4208, or dkooire@catharchdiocese-okc.org.

Materials are available electronically or by postal mail. Information and application materials can also be found at www.ai.edu, Programs of Study, Interdisciplinary Programs, Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.
The Catholic Difference

Almsgiving, All $300 Billion of It

By George Weigel

Almsgiving, along with fasting and intensified prayer, is one of the three traditional Lenten practices enjoined on all Catholics by ancient tradition. So it might seem an odd moment to reflect briefly on just how much almsgiving Americans already do. But perhaps a review of some remarkable data will spur those who are already in the game to do better in our charitable giving — and encourage those who aren’t yet giving to do so.

A few months back, my friend, Adam Meyerson, president of the Philanthropy Roundtable, gave a lecture on “The Generosity of America” at Michigan’s Hillsdale College (itself entirely supported by tuition and philanthropy, as it accepts no government money whatsoever). Adam began by noting that the media generally notice Americans’ charitable donations only in the wake of disasters; it was widely remarked, for example, that some $6 billion had been given to disaster relief in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Yet, admirable as that giving was, Americans routinely give about $6 billion to charity every week. Meyerson noted: “Last year (2009), Americans gave $300 billion to charity. To put this into perspective, that is almost twice as much as we spent on consumer electronics equipment — equipment including cell phones, iPods, and DVD players. Americans gave three times as much to charity last year as we spent on gambling and 10 times as much as we spent on professional sports.”

All of which makes us, Meyerson concluded, “the most charitable country in the world. There is no other country that comes close.” The interesting question is, why?

The first reason why has to do with American piety. Secularism may have made serious inroads into American high culture and American public life, but we are not yet Europe or Canada, and it tells in our giving: “Americans who attend church or synagogue or another form of worship once a week give three times as much to charity as a percentage of their income as do those who rarely attend religious services.” And while it is true that $100 billion of that annual $300 billion in charitable giving goes to religious institutions, two-thirds of it goes to other forms of charitable activity, usually secular in character. Moreover, Meyerson, noted, regular worshippers “also give more to secular charities than do those who never or rarely attend religious services.”

Secularism’s claim to a deeper compassion for those in need are put into serious question by this data.

Americans are also not — yet — infected with the European tendency to look toward government for the resolution of all their problems. As Meyerson put it, Americans “respect the freedom and the ability of individuals, and associations of individuals, to make a difference. Americans don’t wait for government or the local nobleman to solve our problems; we find solutions ourselves.” And we help support those who are finding those solutions through charitable giving.

The culture of philanthropy that has traditionally been a part of wealth-creation in America is another facet of this striking picture of generosity, from Andrew Carnegie’s libraries to James J. Hill’s donation of the Catholic seminary in St. Paul to the Gates Foundation’s work to eradicate malaria. That this extraordinary generosity — and its micro-cosmic counterparts in the giving that ordinary Americans do — is facilitated by tax laws that make charitable giving economically beneficial to the donors simply suggests that, for once, there’s a part of the tax code of which we can be proud.

This Lent, however, Catholics still have reason for some examination of conscience on their almsgiving. We’re traditionally far behind our Protestant brethren in the percentage of our income we give back to God; and, one expects, we’re also a bit behind the curve on giving to secular charities, too. The “one-third, one-third, one-third rule” still applies in too many Catholic parishes: one-third of a parish’s families carry the bulk of the parish’s financial burden, one-third do a little, and one-third do nothing. That can, and should, change, even in economically difficult times.

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

Life of Charles Carroll Detailed in Book


Charles Carroll of Carrollton was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence and he was the last one to die. Charles was born the bastard son of Charles Carroll of Annapolis, Md. His father later recognized him as his son when he married his mother. The Carrolls were one of the wealthiest families in the American colonies, but because they were Catholics, they were limited by anti-Catholic laws in Maryland. Charles Carroll was sent to France and England to receive his education. He studied at the Jesuit St. Omer School where he learned Latin, Greek and many other things. He later went to England to study law. After finishing his studies he returned to Maryland and became involved in politics. Unfortunately he was limited by anti-Catholic laws which did not recognize him as a citizen, which disenfranchised him from voting, holding any office and other things that citizens could do. These laws, though, did not keep Charles Carroll from speaking out or writing against injustices or encouraging other tactics to remove corruption. In the 1760s, Carroll had recognized that the American colonies needed to be independent from the British Empire, that the mother country was not treating them as equals, but as slaves or servants.

In the 1770s he wrote in local newspapers anonymously against British local corruption in Maryland, although most figured out that it was he who was writing these columns. Over time he became influential in Maryland and American politics even though he was not allowed to vote or hold public office due to the anti-Catholic laws. Bradley Birzer’s book covers much of what Carroll wrote and did during his political life. The book is not a biography on the whole life of Carroll. He covers his early life more than he does his later life after he left politics in 1800 when he still had 32 years to live. So it is not a complete biography, it is more of a political biography of Carroll. Still the book is great since Birzer reclaims Carroll’s place in history by making him known again. History has forgotten what Carroll had done for Maryland and for the United States. He had great influence on how the Senate of Maryland was created and how the continued on Page 14
Mercy Sunday

continued from Page 3

As to the special graces and promises, Christ told St. Faustina:

“I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.” (Diary, 1109).

“Whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.” (Diary, 300).

“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.” (Diary, 699).

When did Divine Mercy Sunday become an official feast day for the universal Church?

Pope John Paul II made the surprise announcement of this change in his homily at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. There, he declared: “It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called ‘Divine Mercy Sunday.’”

What is the significance of the image of The Divine Mercy?

The image of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, is to have a special place of honor on the Feast of Mercy, a visual reminder of all that Jesus did for us through His Passion, death and Resurrection ... and a reminder, too, of what He asks of us in return — to trust Him and be merciful to others: “I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.” (Diary, 341).

But what does the image “mean”?

The Image of The Divine Mercy represents the risen Christ. These two rays signify the Sacraments of Mercy (Baptism and Penance or Reconciliation), and the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the blood of souls, carrying life-sustaining food for our spiritual journey. The water points to the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance, in that through these Sacraments, our souls are washed clean.

We know how Pope John Paul II felt about the message of Divine Mercy. But what does his successor think about it?

With unmistakable clarity, Pope Benedict XVI underscores the words of his predecessor. He has said, “Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message.”

Who are the Marianists?

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have been, since 1941, the authentic promoters of The Divine Mercy message and devotion. Their apostolic center is located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II gave the Marian Congregation a special mandate: “Be Apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.”

Learn more about the Shrine, including its Golden Jubilee celebration, at thedivinemercy.org/shrine.

Byzantine Mass to Be Celebrated in Norman

NORMAN — When most of us think of the Church, we think of one way of being “Church.” We are familiar with the Roman Catholic Church and her way of worshipping and expressing the Christian faith. But the Roman Catholic Church (while the largest and most well known) is only one of the 21 “families” that make up the wholeness of the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

The other 21 families of the Catholic Church embrace and express cultural, theological, spiritual and social understandings which differ from the Roman Church. The word “Catholic” comes from the Greek word “kataholos,” which can be translated as “of the whole,” “all embracing” or “universal.” The 21 “other” Catholic churches are true churches, and like the Roman Church, trace their beginnings to the apostles of Jesus Christ. Tradition tells us that St. James, the brother of the Lord, was the first bishop of the church in Jerusalem. Sts. Peter and Paul first planted a church in Antioch before planting a church in Rome. St. Mark the Evangelist preached the Gospel and began a church in Alexandria in Egypt. The church that still exists today in Iraq and Iran trace their founding to Sts. Addai (St. Jude Thaddeus) and his disciple St. Man. The churches of India claim St. Thomas as their founder. An ancient tradition says that St. Andrew preached in the area where the city of Constantinople (modern Istanbul, Turkey) was later founded. These places became mission centers; from them the Christian faith spread and the many “families” of the Catholic churches were established.

On April 11 and May 16 at 6 p.m., the Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated in St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman.

St. Mark the Evangelist Church is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road in Norman. Refreshments with questions and answers will follow the Liturgy. For more information, call Father Phil Seeton at (405) 789-2595 or Chris Thomas at (405) 306-5187 or e-mail Chris at thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net.

Campaign Begins to Build Church in Mustang

MUSTANG — For nearly 27 years, Holy Spirit Parish has served Catholic communities in Mustang, Yukon, Tuttle, Oklahoma City, Blanchard and El Reno. Since Holy Spirit’s inception in 1983, the congregation has grown to more than 430 parish families. Because the parish lacks a permanent church, all Masses have been held in Holy Spirit’s Family Center.

This February, Holy Spirit began a new chapter in its history by launching the “Honoring Our Past ... Building Our Future” capital campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise $1 million toward construction of the parish’s first permanent church.

More than 30 volunteers are currently working to secure pledges for this campaign. The project is supported by Archbishop Beltran and is being managed by the Steier Group, a fundraising and development firm based in Omaha, Neb.

Despite being only a few weeks into the fundraising campaign, the “Honoring Our Past ... Building Our Future” effort has already seen tremendous success, raising more than $750,000 to date. Father James Greiner, pastor of Holy Spirit, is confident that the campaign goal will be met in the next few weeks.

“It’s inspiring to see that, even though we’re not in the best of economic times, people are still giving to support construction of our parish’s first church.”

John Lippe, campaign general chair said, “We have communicated the goals to our parish family, and the people have responded with enthusiasm and generosity.”

Questions about the campaign can be referred to Matt Vuorela, campaign manager, at mvuorela@steiergroup.com, or you can reach Holy Spirit Parish by telephone at (405) 376-9435.

As to the special graces and promises, Christ told St. Faustina:

“I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy.” (Diary, 1109).

“This is what is the significance of the image of The Divine Mercy?

The image of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, is to have a special place of honor on the Feast of Mercy, a visual reminder of all that Jesus did for us through His Passion, death and Resurrection ... and a reminder, too, of what He asks of us in return — to trust Him and be merciful to others: “I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.” (Diary, 341).

But what does the image “mean”?

The Image of The Divine Mercy represents the risen Christ. These two rays signify the Sacraments of Mercy (Baptism and Penance or Reconciliation), and the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the blood of souls, carrying life-sustaining food for our spiritual journey. The water points to the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance, in that through these Sacraments, our souls are washed clean.

We know how Pope John Paul II felt about the message of Divine Mercy. But what does his successor think about it?

With unmistakable clarity, Pope Benedict XVI underscores the words of his predecessor.

He has said, “Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message.”

Who are the Marianists?

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have been, since 1941, the authentic promoters of The Divine Mercy message and devotion. Their apostolic center is located at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II gave the Marian Congregation a special mandate: “Be Apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.”

Learn more about the Shrine, including its Golden Jubilee celebration, at thedivinemercy.org/shrine.
Egg Donor

continued from Page 5

My hormones were going crazy. I felt like maybe I was going a little crazy. I remember sitting in the bathtub one night and just sobbing. I remember sending little messages back and forth to the family through the nurse. I remember her commenting that the couple and I seemed to have a special relationship, and that it was not the norm. The day of surgery is a little foggy for me. I know we signed some paperwork and then checked in for surgery. Either just before or just after surgery, the husband came into my waiting room and handed me an envelope with $1,500. I had never met the couple before and knew I would never see him again. I tried to get a good look at him but it happened so fast. He told me how much he and his wife appreciated what I was doing for them. I knew they had a lot of anticipation and hopes. I really hoped they would be able to have children and I believed they would. After surgery, I remember the doctor being very excited about my producing 10 eggs which he retrieved.

At my follow-up appointment, I asked if the wife was pregnant. The nurse said no, that they had implanted five eggs (I believe) and that she had miscarried all of them. I felt disappointed and asked would they implant the remaining eggs. The nurse said no, and she seemed uncomfortable as she turned and quickly left the office. I didn't understand and assumed she wasn't supposed to be discussing this information with me.

I remember in conversation with the doctor and with the psychologist there being an emphasis on my having no rights to the children, which I understood and agreed to. I never had a thought that there would be remaining embryos. That thought never entered my mind at all. The day of surgery, I signed some paperwork along with my husband that had a paragraph once again about having no rights to the children and then there was a paragraph that seemed confusing to me and seemed to be written to persons going through in vitro-fertilization (which I wasn't) about remaining embryos possibly being frozen. I don't remember if I asked questions but I remember being concerned about what that meant. We had just a short time to sign the paperwork and get over to the surgery center. I wish I had more information beforehand and I wish I had more confidence to really question what that meant. This was a three-month-long process and I had done a lot up to that point ... many appointments, exams, lots of medication and everything was leading up to that moment. I suppose I could have backed out then but there was so much riding on this very moment and there had been so much preparation physically as well as the hopes of the couple to consider. I went ahead and signed the paperwork quickly and went to be prepped for surgery.

I now understand that life begins at conception and I have great distress not knowing if my children are frozen or if they have been researched on. I have continued to have issues with my ovaries since this process. They have not functioned properly since and I have had two surgeries. I need to have a hysterectomy and will schedule one for this summer. It is very unfortunate to have these medical issues but even more unfortunate to have struggled with the guilt, frustration and grief over my children. I always wanted another child but didn't have one. I think the conflicting feelings and confusion that followed inhibited me from allowing myself the privilege of having another child.

The reality has been extremely difficult for me and I would like other women to be aware of this truth before making the decision I made to be an egg donor. I think women deserve to make a fully informed decision with all the facts.

Irish Host German Exchange Students For Three Weeks

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is hosting 18 German exchange students for a three-week visit. The students arrived the last week of March. This is the third GAPP exchange that will occur between Bishop McGuinness and a Neuburg, Germany, high school.

The German American Partnership Program or GAPP, is a non-profit high school exchange between schools in Germany and the United States, sponsored by the Cultural Institute of the Federal Republic of Germany. There are general guidelines for the program, but it is the individual teacher and the participating students that make the trip happen. The program alternates with each school visiting every other year.

Hosting students in this year's GAPP are Casey Barth, Collin Douglas, Cassie Fluit, Toni Grajeda, Steven Grossmann, Sally Harper, Eric Hughes, Paige Kennedy, Bryan King, Brady LeDonne, Randy Moore, Ryan Quick, Gillian Ressler, Ashton Slate, Stuart Symes, Delano Usiukiewicz, Erin Wolf, Brennah and Devin Murphy. Coordinating and making arrangements for the stay is Bishop McGuinness German teacher Frau Bolding.

The program allows students and families to experience life in another culture. Students attend class with their American counterpart and participate in their day-to-day activities. There will be special events and excursions that detail the customs, traditions and languages of our culture. Students will be able to compare and contrast the differences and similarities.
Jobs Box

Youth-Young Adult Minister

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic youth-young adult minister. Full-time position with benefits. Send or drop by an application together with curricula vitae and references to “Youth Minister Search Committee,” St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N.W. 18th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106.

Part-Time Teachers Aide

Western in Oklahoma City has an opening for a part-time teachers aide. Early childhood experience is a plus but not required. Please contact Ann Grover at 691-7737 for more information.

Teacher Openings

Villa Teresa Catholic School has an opening in the Learning Center for 3-year-olds. The applicant must have an early childhood certification. This position is a 12-month commitment. Please send resume to Sister Veronica Higgins and call for an interview (232-4286).

Elementary School Principal

St. Charles Borromeo School, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade Catholic parish school in Oklahoma City, seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as an academic leader. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic and have a good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Candidate must hold a master’s degree in education administration or related field, and a minimum of five years educational experience. Candidate for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long-range goals for the school. Position effective July 1, 2010. An application may be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123, or call (405) 721-4202. Applications must be submitted by March 22, 2010.

Part-Time Organist Needed

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church is in need of an organist to play for our 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 300 in the singing of hymns, psalms and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 Ext. 129 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. - SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three-manual organ.

LPN/RN Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: LPN/RN - Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrator’s license a plus. Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Villa Teresa

continued from Page 9

Sister Veronica said. Furniture, toys and yard statutes were broken or carried off.

The cost to repair the swimming pool probably will be around $5,000, Sister Veronica said.

But there’s a bright side to the story. The local media wrote and broadcast stories about the vandalism at Villa Teresa. The story even made it to CNN.

The publicity about the problems at Villa Teresa has generated offers of assistance from not only the Oklahoma City area, but from across the country. The school has received money from individuals from Virginia, California, Houston and Texas. Sister Veronica said the donations will be close “to paying for our deductible.”

Volunteers from across Oklahoma City and from El Reno came to the school to help clean up the mess. A man from South Carolina who owns a security business telephoned Sister Veronica and offered to install security equipment at the school. Sister Veronica told him the school had just completed installing security equipment to the back of the school. He said he was sending a business associate from Houston to Oklahoma City to inspect the school’s equipment.

An Oklahoma City police officer who attends St. Andrews in Moore has promised to keep an eye on the school during his evening shift.

A school supply company donated boxes of supplies. Parents of Villa Teresa students at the school on Classen brought toys to the school.

Finally, investigators believe they have identified the two teenage males captured on the school’s surveillance camera.

“In 21 years we've never had anything happen here before,” Sister Veronica said. “I hope they don’t come back. It’s so hard walking in not knowing what to expect. I am very much grateful for the help people offered the school after the reports of the break-ins became public. There were some people who didn’t even know Villa Teresa on Western even existed. They came to help not even knowing what we would ask them to do. We're grateful for that willingness,” Sister Veronica said.

Carroll

continued from Page 11

U.S. Senate was created too. He was also well-received by some of the bigger names of the founders like John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and others. He was also a major influence on Alexis de Tocqueville in his writing of democracy in America. He also was influential in making Catholicism better received by the rest of the American society. He always was a loyal Catholic and was proud to be a Catholic. His education and his Catholicism influenced him a lot in his daily life and in his politics. He served in the Continental Congress, the Maryland Senate and Assembly, and was one of the two first U.S. senators from Maryland.

Birzer provides in the appendix two of Carroll’s writings that helped to make him known. There are no illustrations. There are endnotes, a bibliography and an index. The book is titled “American Cicero” because of Carroll’s love of Latin and Greek classics. He used what he learned from them in his writings and in his reasoning.

Birzer provides many quotes from Carroll and others and leaves the grammar and spelling as they were in Carroll’s day, which requires common sense to recognize the modern words. The book is a great read and provides insights into Carroll’s mind and his politics. It is highly recommended to those interested in the founders, the American Revolution, U.S. Catholic history, and Maryland.

Bradley J. Birzer holds the Russell Amos Kirk Chair in History at Hillsdale College. He is the author or editor of four previous books.

Brother Benet Exton, O.S.B., St. Gregory's University, Shawnee.
Calendar

APRIL

4 Easter-Holy Day of Obligation

6 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

6 Welcome Back Catholics at St. Charles will be 6 to 7 p.m. for five Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 and May 4 in the Kastner Room at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Bring your questions about the Chruch.

8 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

8 Welcome Back Catholics at St. Benedict Parish in Shawnee will host a series of sessions to assist Roman Catholics who are curious about practicing their faith again. For more information, call Gail or Clyde at (405) 878-6746. The first session is April 8 at 7 p.m.

10 Stepping Into Marriage with Children. Too often we assume that second marriages need little to no preparation, but 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce. This seems to be due, in part, to unanticipated problems and miscommunications. The issues highlighted in this program are communication, step-family structures, former spouses, conflict, sexuality and spirituality.

10 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osbok@ionet.net.

10 Birth Choice Gala dinner and auction at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma Golf and Country Club. Guest speaker will be the producer of the movie Bella, Leo Severino. Tickets are available for $100 a plate. Corporate sponsorship is also available. If you would like to attend, contact Jan O’Neill at 606-8426.

11 Divine Mercy Sunday

11 Feast of the Divine Mercy. Join us at St. John the Baptist Church in Edmond at 3 p.m. at 9th and Boulevard. There will be an hour of Eucharist Adoration, with the Chaplet and the Rosary said aloud. The Feast of Divine Mercy gives us the opportunity to gain complete forgiveness of sins and the punishment due them, a plenary indulgence, and an Apostolic Blessing. For more information, call Warren at 715-0776.

11 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office, (405) 685-4806.

11 The Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come. St. Mark is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Refreshments with questions and answers will follow the Liturgy. For more information, call Father Phil Seeton at (405) 789-2595.

13 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 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

14 Catholic War Veterans USA. The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

16 God’s Music is Silence Retreat with Katie Gordy at Mount St. Mary Retreat Center. The retreat starts April 16 at 9 a.m. and runs through April 18 at noon. For more information or to register, call Katie at (405) 627-6954.

16 Christ the King Annual Auction, “A Royal Affair,” April 16 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Atrium. For more information, contact Matt at 650-6674.

17 Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of Novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the Novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. At St. Wenceslaus Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH99/377. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

17 MEDITATION RETREAT, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Pat Ahern, Oblate. Meditation teaches us to be aware of the Grace of the Present Moment and to live it fully. Place: Library at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register. Fee: $40 ($10 deposit). Bring a sack lunch.

18 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH99/377. (405) 567-3080 or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

18 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

18 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 Dibrow at 830-8688.

18 After offering monthly Taize Prayer for seven years, the Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Spirituality Center will be hosting their final service on Sunday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us for this evening of singing, readings and quiet reflection. Please call (405) 373-4565 if you plan to attend.
Catholic War Vets Pay Tribute to Father Rother

DEL CITY — March proved to be a busy month for Del City’s Catholic War Veterans of Oklahoma Memorial Post 168. This new post of only five months represented the Catholic War Veterans USA at the March 11 National Prayer Luncheon held at Tinker AFB. Following the luncheon, Commander Bob Lambert and other post officers met with guest speaker, Chaplain (Rear Adm.) Robert F. Burt, 24th Chief of Navy Chaplains.

“The Prayer Luncheon was spiritually uplifting and tended to show that the combined efforts of all branches of the military, under God, assures our nation the perpetuation of freedom,” said Commander Lambert.

On March 12, the post sent a delegation to the funeral of Army Sgt. Vincent L. Owens, 21, killed in Afghanistan. Sgt Owens’ funeral was held in Spiro, followed by burial with full military honors in the Fort Smith National Cemetery.

On Monday, March 22, the Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 of the Catholic War Veterans had the honored distinction of hosting His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph W. Estabrook, D.D., of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA on a special tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Bishop Estabrook retired as a U.S. Navy chaplain in 2004 with the rank of captain. He is currently Vicar of Evangelization and Vocations for the Archdiocese for the Military Services in Washington, D.C.

On March 27, the Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 of the Catholic War Veterans conducted a pilgrimage to Okarche, in commemoration of the 75th birthday of its patron, Servant of God, Father Stanley F. Rother, who was martyred in Guatemala on July 28, 1981.

The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 meets monthly on the second Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 SE 29th St., Del City. For more information, contact Lambert at (405) 672-7728 or via e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.