The words of Blessed Mother Theresa are often used to inspire the numerous volunteers and staff members who make the vision of Birth Choice possible, said Barbara Chishko, director of Birth Choice. At the time of the annual Mother’s Day collection, which supports the ministry of Birth Choice, Oklahoma Catholics can reflect on the lives this inspiring program has affected.

A young mother walks into two abortion clinics before stumbling into the south Oklahoma City Birth Choice office. She walked through the doors at Birth Choice looking for an abortion, and what she found was the support she needed to decide to keep her unborn child. Even though “Mary” was already a mother of an older child, after looking at the picture of her baby’s beating heart on the ultrasound monitor, her perspective changed. At that moment, she realized she had actual human life inside her, and abortion was no longer an option.

This is one of the hundreds of stories that can be told about how Birth Choice helped a mother in the midst of crisis choose life.

In her 35 years at Birth Choice, Chishko has accumulated story after story she can tell, just like this. Year after year, day after day, mothers in crises walk through the doors at Birth Choice, desperately seeking help, and usually fall into the comforting arms of a Birth Choice volunteer or staff member.

A lot has changed over the last 35 years for Birth Choice, including technology. Chishko said their new ultrasound program is one of the best things that has ever happened for Birth Choice. “In the past, it was just us trying to convince women it was human life,” Chishko said. “But now with the ultrasound program, when we say ‘Don’t you want to verify your pregnancy?’ And they see the baby and that it’s life, they say, ‘I can’t do this. I can’t not have this baby.’” The new ultrasound program is one of many crucial services in place, designed to help struggling mothers. Without funding, these programs would not be possible.

Every year a special collection is taken up on Mother’s Day, benefiting the multiple programs that make Birth Choice effective. “The collection comes at a much-needed time,” said Chishko. “The summer months are typically lean months for Birth Choice and we always struggle financially.” But it’s the Mother’s Day collection, she said, that always seems to propel them.

When Birth Choice first opened its doors 35 years ago, it operated with a budget of $100 to $200 a month. Admitting they were naïve when founders started the organization in 1973, Chishko said they were able to overcome difficult times because they believed in their philosophy — that all human life comes from God and no one has the right to end it.

To date, Birth Choice has an annual budget of more than $500,000 a year. Birth Choice is able to meet this budget because of the countless people in Oklahoma who give their time and money to the organization’s cause.

“...but people need to search in their hearts and pray as to what they need to give.”

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**A Prayer for Life**

*Oklahoma Catholics Help Support Birth Choice With Annual Collection*

“The greatest gift of God, one would think, is the gift of life. The greatest sin of humans, it would seem, would be to return that gift, ungrateful and unopened.” — Mother Theresa

By Eilana Tedrow

*For the Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The words of Blessed Mother Theresa are often used to inspire the numerous volunteers and staff members who make the vision of Birth Choice possible, said Barbara Chishko, director of Birth Choice. At the time of the annual Mother’s Day collection, which supports the ministry of Birth Choice, Oklahoma Catholics can reflect on the lives this inspiring program has affected.

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To date, Birth Choice has an annual budget of more than $500,000 a year. Birth Choice is able to meet this budget because of the countless people in Oklahoma who give their time and money to the organization’s cause.

“It’s all in God’s hands,” Chishko said. “Oklahoma has very giving people,” she said, “…but people need to search in their hearts and pray as to what they need to give.”
The Good News

Today we observe one of the great celebrations of the year, Mother’s Day. Today, we are all reminded of the beautiful role that God entrusted to the woman who gave us life. Our mother, by cooperating in the creative plan of God, truly gives us life.

Today, every one of us, young or old, should give praise and thanks to God for our mother, whether she is living or deceased.

On the first Christian Pentecost, Jesus sent His Holy Spirit upon the Apostles as He had promised. This descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Church was the beginning of a continuing “mission” or sending of God’s people.

Just recently, we received the news that Pope Benedict XVI was sending one of our own priests, Bishop-elect Anthony Taylor, to the Diocese of Little Rock so that he may begin the ministry of shepherd among the people of Arkansas.

In this issue of the Sooner Catholic, on Page 3, directly across from this article, is a listing of some priests assignments or reassigments. These priests are being sent across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for priestly service among God’s people.

For the three young men to be ordained on May 30, Joseph Schwarz, Christopher Tran and James Wickersham, this will be their first priestly assignment. They are being sent as priests for the very first time. For the three priests who have just arrived from the Diocese of Nellore in India, this will be their first priestly assignment in Oklahoma. For the other priests who are currently in an assignment, they too are being sent to continue their priestly service elsewhere in our Archdiocese.

While it is customary for priests to be sent on assignment, the fact is that all Catholic people are currently on assignment. The Feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate annually, reminds us that we have all been sent. Pentecost is much more than an historical recollection of the first Christian Pentecost. It is a reality of our Catholic faith.

When we were baptized and confirmed, God was sending all of us to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Go out into the whole world, He said, and share this message of faith, hope and love with others.

For many decades now, the Church has further emphasized the heart of our Catholic faith as reaching out — going out — and sharing with others. Popes Paul VI and John Paul II as well as our current pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI, energetically challenge us to live and proclaim the Good News. The reality of Pentecost continues. The Holy Spirit is sent upon us. He lives with us. He inspires us. He empowers us.

The Holy Spirit of God is sent to us by Jesus because Jesus alone is Lord and Savior. Let us joyfully accept the assignment that the Lord has given us. Let us live, work and pray together that all our Catholic communities will joyfully, faithfully and enthusiastically live and share this Catholic faith.

Mother’s Day

To all mothers in this Archdiocese, I extend my very best personal congratulations and best wishes. You will be remembered today in my prayers and Masses. I ask Almighty God to bless each of you in a very special way. May the Good Lord watch over you and your children all the days of your lives on this earth and lead you to everlasting life in heaven. A very happy and blessed Mother’s Day to you.

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We Are Sent!

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Seminary Burses

Seminary Burses

A $300 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by the parishioners of St. Joseph Old Cathedral, OKC.

A $300 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by the parishioners of St. Mark Church, Norman.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond.

A $100 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by the Court Santa Maria No. 81 of the Catholic Daughters.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cabulski.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by the parishioners of St. Francis Chapel, Tinker AFB.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by the Catholic Community of Vance Air Force Base.

Father Joseph Beltran
Seminary Burse
$76,368.16

Father Stephen Bird
Seminary Burse
$10,000.00

Father Denis Blackledge
Seminary Burse
$8,336.95

Father Wade Darnall
Seminary Burse
$5,545.00

Father Bernard J. Havlik
Seminary Burse
$26,610.01

Father James A. Kastner
Seminary Burse
$9,919.99

Bishop Stephen A. Leven
Seminary Burse
$59,627.73

Father John A. Petuskey
Seminary Burse
$11,849.99

Father Clement E. Pribil
Seminary Burse
$5,251.42

Father Stanley Rother
Seminary Burse
$177,576.99

Archbishop Charles Salatka
Seminary Burse
$185,945.00

Father Gerald Ucker
Seminary Burse
$8,570.00

Totals as of 3/31/2008
PRIESTS ASSIGNMENTS
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Effective June 17, 2008

Pastors
Reverend Joseph H. Arledge, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
Reverend Joseph M. Irwin, Assumption Church, Duncan; Immaculate Conception Church, Marlow; San Jose Church, Ryan; Saint Patrick Church, Walters; Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Waurika
Reverend Prabhakar Kalivela, Saint Anthony Church, Okeene; Saint Ann Church, Fairview; Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Seiling
Reverend Joseph Sundar Pudota, Prince of Peace Church, Altus; Saint Helen Church, Frederick
Reverend Philip M. Seeton, Saint Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City
Reverend Adrian Vorderlandwehr, OSB, Sacred Heart Church, Konowa, Saint Mary Church, Wanette
Reverend Donald J. Wolf, Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee; Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLoud

Administrator
Reverend Lucas Raj Pinapati, Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLoud
Also, ministry at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center

Co-Administrator
Reverend Arul Sundar Pudota, Holy Trinity Church, Okarche

Associate Pastors
Reverend Balaswamy Konka, Saint Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City, and hospital ministry
Reverend Chinnapreddy Konkala, Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee; Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLoud
Reverend Joseph P. Schwarz, Saint Mary Church, Ponca City
Reverend Christopher H. Tran, Assumption Church, Duncan; Immaculate Conception Church, Marlow; San Jose Church, Ryan; Saint Patrick Church, Walters; Saint Thomas Aquinas Church, Waurika
Reverend James A. Wickersham, Saint Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City

Retirement
Reverend Paul H. Gallatin

Change of Parish Status
Saint Helen Church, Frederick, becomes a mission of Prince of Peace Church, Altus
Saint Patrick Church, Walters, becomes a mission of Assumption Church, Duncan
Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Rush Springs, to be closed
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grandfield, to be closed
Saint Cecelia Church, Maud, to be closed
Saint Joseph Church, Wewoka, designated Chapel
Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLoud, becomes a mission of Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May the grace and love of Almighty God be upon you always. May you come to know, love and serve God here on earth and rejoice with Him forever in heaven!

For more than a century, the monks of Saint Gregory's Abbey have faithfully served many areas across Oklahoma but especially the churches of Pottawatomie and Seminole counties. As you already know, due to a shortage of personnel and in order to emphasize their monastic charism, the abbey will no longer be responsible for parishes with one exception, Sacred Heart Church in Konawa. Because of its historical connection to the original monastery, Sacred Heart Church will remain a parish of the Benedictine Monks of Saint Gregory's Abbey. Saint Mary Church, Wanette, which lies in southern Pottawatomie County, will be served as a mission of Sacred Heart Church.

In recent years, we have experienced a declining number of priests serving in our Archdiocese. On many occasions, I have informed you through the Sooner Catholic and in visits around the Archdiocese about this situation.

Because of the withdrawal of the monks of Saint Gregory's Abbey from the other parishes in Pottawatomie County, I regret to inform you that changes of assignment and structure are now necessary. I have discussed these changes with our Presbyteral Council and am now confirming the following changes in your area:

1. Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee, as a parish, will encompass all of Pottawatomie County except the extreme southern part of the county.

2. Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLoud, will be a mission of Saint Benedict Church with a priest administrator in residence.

3. Immaculate Conception Church, Seminole, continues to include all of Seminole County.

4. Saint Cecelia Church, Maud, will be closed.

5. Saint Joseph Church, Wewoka, designated Chapel.

6. As stated above, Sacred Heart Church, Konawa, remains under the care of Saint Gregory's Abbey along with its mission of Saint Mary Church, Wanette.

These changes are necessary in order to best serve you, the people of Pottawatomie and Seminole counties. These changes will take effect on Tuesday, June 17, 2008.

Although I am not happy about these changes, I find them necessary in order to best serve you, the people of this area, as I simply have no other available priests to send at this time.

While the number of ordained priests has declined, we continue to pray that God will call more young men to respond to His invitation to become available priests to send at this time.

May the grace and love of Almighty God be upon you always. May you come to know, love and serve God here on earth and rejoice with Him forever in heaven.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Lourita D. Eason
Chancellor Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
To The Parishioners of Saint Helen Church, Frederick  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grandfield  
Saint Patrick Church, Walters

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May the grace and love of Almighty God be upon you always. May you come to know, love and serve God here on earth and rejoice with Him forever in heaven!

In recent years, we have experienced a declining number of priests serving in our Archdiocese. On many occasions, I have informed you through the Sooner Catholic and in visits around the Archdiocese about this situation. More recently I had instructed the priests of all the vicariates to recommend changes if there was one less priest in the region. At this time, I regret to inform you that this is now a reality.

By means of this letter, I am informing you that effective Tuesday, June 17, 2008, your pastor will be reassigned and I do not have another priest to send to your parish. I have discussed this with our Presbyteral Council and am now confirming the following changes in your area that will become effective on June 17.

Saint Helen Church, Frederick, becomes a mission of Prince of Peace Church, Altus

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grandfield, to be closed

Saint Patrick Church, Walters, becomes a mission of Assumption Church, Duncan

Although I am not happy about these changes, I find them necessary in order to best serve you, the people of this area, as I simply have no other available priest to send at this time.

While the number of ordained priests has declined, we continue to pray that God will call more young men to respond to His invitation to become priests. Let us also remember to pray for all priests that they will faithfully and enthusiastically serve you and all of God’s people. On my part, I assure you of my support and my prayers.

May God bless you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran  
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Irish Teacher Recognized As Tops Among Oklahoma Media Advisers

OKLAHOMA CITY — McGuinness Catholic High School newspaper and yearbook adviser Kelly Matteson received the Lois A. Thomas Award of Distinguished Merit in Journalism. The award recognizes Matteson as the Teacher of the Year in High School Media Advising. She received the award at the Oklahoma Scholastic Media’s all-day gathering held in April at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Scholastic Media is the oldest high school media association in the United States.

The award is named in honor of Putnam City High School journalism adviser Lois Thomas, who retired in the early 1980s. Thomas was very innovative in teaching scholastic journalism to her students. The award has been presented to a scholastic media adviser every year since 1982. It celebrates the talent, dedication and desire of journalism educators who teach and guide students through the production of high school newspapers and yearbooks.

Matteson was nominated by Bishop McGuinness Principal David Morton. She has been with the school for six years and currently teaches yearbook, newspaper, photography and advanced photography.

Jamye Allred, representative of Sam’s Club in Oklahoma City, (left) presented a Wal-Mart Foundation $1,500 grant to Catholic Charities. The donation will benefit the St. Patrick’s Day Ball fundraiser, which raises money for the homeless. Accepting the check is Toby Boothe, chairman of the St. Patrick’s Day Ball.

Kelly Matteson
Registration Under Way for FCNA Summer Conference

Planting Seeds: Building Faith Community Nursing and Health Ministry Development will be the theme of a summer conference for nurses, health professionals, clergy, and anyone interested in gaining skills in developing or expanding a caring ministry in their faith community.

The conference will be held July 30 at Mercy Conference Center in Oklahoma City and is co-sponsored by Faith Community Nurses Association (FCNA) and Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing Resource Center, Marilyn Seiler, Faith Community Nursing resource coordinator, has announced.

Topics include identifying funding for health ministry programs; creating rituals conducive to the healing process; establishing safety education programs for youth; ministering to seniors and homebound; exploring a nurse’s role in a congregation; and a panel discussion on current and potential health ministry programs within a congregation.

“This conference will provide the opportunity for participants to network, build relationships with nurses and clergy interested in Faith Community Nursing, and learn how to develop and fund health programs for youth, adults and senior citizens in churches,” Seiler said. She said the purpose of the conference is to increase awareness of Faith Community Nursing in Oklahoma, provide tools to enhance ministry of caring in a congregation, and open doors to networking among clergy, nurses and community services.

Advance discount registration for the one-day conference is due May 30. Cost is $30 for FCNA members before May 30, and $45 after May 30. Non-member fees are $60 before May 30 and $75 after May 30. Students, clergy and health ministers fees are $25 before May 30 and $35 after May 30. Registration is free (before May 30) for recent RN graduates since January, 2008. After May 30, RN graduates cost is $25.

For registration information, contact Marilyn Seiler, Faith Community Nursing Resource Center, at Catholic Charities, (405) 523-3006, e-mail mseiler@catholiccharitiesok.org or go to the Web site: www.fcnaok.org for registration forms and brochure.

Annual Golf Classic Benefiting Catholic Education Set for June 9

The seventh annual Catholic Foundation Golf Classic benefiting Catholic Education is planned for Monday, June 9 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

The Golf Classic, which returns all of its proceeds to the Catholic Schools Endowment, features the Archbishop’s Traveling Trophy for display at the winning team’s home parish. Scheduled for a shotgun start at 12 noon, the tournament offers a wine and cheese party for spouses of participants at 3:30 p.m. and an awards dinner and silent auction immediately following tournament play. Skills contests and a chance to win a 2008 Pontiac Solstice for a hole-in-one courtesy of Rick Jones Buick-GMC-Pontiac are just a few of the extras planned for this year’s Golf Classic.

“The Catholic Foundation Golf Classic provides a way of supporting Catholic Education, while playing one of Oklahoma City’s most prestigious and difficult golf courses,” added Tom Casso, Catholic Foundation executive director. “The Golf Classic is the only special event hosted by the Catholic Foundation, and has shown a steady increase in participants and contributions to the Catholic Schools Endowment.”

Brochures and registration forms are available in your parish office or on the Catholic Foundation Web site at www.cfook.org by selecting the Annual Golf Classic option on the home page. For additional information concerning the tournament, contact Toby Boothe at (405) 721-4115.

Catholic Charities Briefs

Adoption Seminar Set for May 17

Catholic Charities extends an invitation to anyone interested in learning more about adoption to register for a free seminar sponsored by Oklahoma Adoption Coalition and Hope Ministries. The seminar is set for Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Crosspointe Church, 2601 24th Ave. SE in Norman. Sessions on foster care, domestic adoption, international adoption, legal issues and other topics will be offered. To register, go to www.oklahomaadoptioncoalition.org. Catholic Charities can also be contacted about adoption at (405) 523-3012.

Faith Community Nurse Basic Preparation Course Set

Registration is under way for “The Basic Preparation Course for Faith Community Nursing” to be held May 15-17 and June 5-7 at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat Center in Guthrie. Both weekends are required to complete the course.

The course is open to registered nurses of all faith traditions. Early bird registration is due before March 15. Payment includes lodging, board, course materials and 32 nursing CEU. $450 includes lodging; $415 is without lodging. After March 15, rates are $525 and $485, respectively. Cancellation received before May 13 will be refunded minus $50 deposit. No refund after May 13. Contact Marilyn Seiler for registration forms at (405) 523-3006 or mseiler@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Celebrating Nurses Event on May 13

The week of May has traditionally been marked as a time to honor the nurses in our community.

On Tuesday, May 13, Mercy Health Center and Catholic Charities will sponsor an evening of appreciation for our many nurses. Mass will be celebrated beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway. Reservations are required by calling Catholic Charities Parish Outreach, Donna Bullock, 523-3009. Seating is limited.

The Catholic Foundation

Lower Gift Annuity Rates

At its April 3, 2008, meeting, the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) announced lower Gift Annuity Rates effective July 1, 2008. Charitable Gift Annuities are one of the easiest life income gifts for a donor to utilize.

And if you are considering a gift to your parish, school or the Archdiocese through a Charitable Gift Annuity, the time to act is now. The previously published, highly competitive Gift Annuity Rates from the Catholic Foundation will soon expire.

Through the use of a Charitable Gift Annuity, a donor can transfer cash or other assets to a charitable organization in exchange for the charity’s obligation to make fixed annuity payments for life — and realize immediate tax benefits for the gift.

For more information on Planned Giving contact: The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans
The Knights of Columbus were needed now as much as anytime, Costanzo said.

“Last year we estimated $143 billion was donated to charities and another 68 million man-hours,” he said. “We figure the work would equate to $1.3 billion.”

In Oklahoma, there are about 7,000 Catholic men, 18 and older, involved in many charitable activities and giving support to parishes and clergy. The state is organized into dozens of councils, which in turn send delegates to the convention.

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“In Oklahoma, there are about 7,000 Catholic men, 18 and older, involved in many charitable activities and giving support to parishes and clergy. The state is organized into dozens of councils, which in turn send delegates to the convention.

The Knights are needed now as much as anytime, Costanzo said.

“The church is under attack, but this is an exciting time to be a Knight,” he said. “We have thousands of people who attended a reception at the White House for Pope Benedict and called the event “absolutely fantastic.” It was the first time the Fourth Degree Honor Guard of the Knights had an official role at the White House.

Costanzo was also moved by the pope’s celebration of Mass at Yankee Stadium in New York City. Hundreds of Knights were present, including Oklahoma State Deputy Paul Weigl and his wife, Barbara.

The Supreme officer said progress was being made in obtaining sainthood for Knights founder, Father Michael J. McGivney. Last year Father McGivney was venerated in a decree by Pope Benedict. Father McGivney founded the Knights in 1882 in New Haven, Ct.

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Archbishop Beltran and Bishop Slattery with Knights of Columbus officials in Tulsa during the state convention.

Archbishop Beltran, who celebrated Mass with Bishop Slattery, honored the Order and noted progress made in the sainthood cause for Oklahoma missionary Father Stanley Rother, martyred in Guatemala in 1981. He urged Knights to continue working for the church.

“You have been active working even before Oklahoma was a state,” he said.

The crowd warmly received his news of five pending ordinations, three priests this month as well as Bishop-elect Taylor and a St. Gregory’s ordination in the fall.

State deputy Weigl thanked both Archbishop Beltran and Bishop Slattery for their unwavering and enthusiastic support over the years.

In other convention news:

- Vocations recruitment was given attention by Wayne Rziba of the Tulsa Diocese. He urged councils to “adopt a seminarian” and “put a face on vocations.” He asked all to bring “Christ to young people and give witness as parents and grandparents.” He cited figures showing the average seminarian costs $22,000 to $23,000 annually.

- Another special project for the Knights since the early 1980s has been the Center of Family Love in Okarche, which serves the needs of developmentally disabled adults. Its director, Jim O’Brien, said gains continued to be made with the center’s finances, in part to generous donations from Knights. He explained a capital improvement campaign has been put on hold until the center can educate more in Oklahoma about the mission and work the center does. He thanked Knights for coming to the assistance of 15 center employees who lost homes and personal belongings last summer in flooding.

- Both Bishop Slattery and Archbishop Beltran received checks from Weigl for $1,529.87. The checks are for vocations.

- Re-elected for a second year were state officers. The slate includes Paul Weigl, Oklahoma City, state deputy; David Roewe, Guthrie, secretary; Dan Hogan, Bartlesville, treasurer; Ron Schwarz, Edmond, advocate; and Robert Melko, Broken Arrow, warden.

- Brother Knights, who died since last year’s convention, were prayerfully remembered during the Memorial Mass.

- St. Gregory’s president, Dr. David Wagie, made his second presentation to a state Knights convention. He outlined many of the building and expansion plans he had for the Catholic university in Shawnee. He urged Knights to come out and support St. Gregory’s sports teams. Another special reason for his trip was to receive scholarship pledges from various councils. Knights scholarship chairman Paul Martin said $31,000 was donated last year. Again, Knights lined up to give checks to Wagie and St. Gregory’s.

- Rachel Langford of Plano, Texas, was honored with the Knights Al Wheeler scholarship of $1,000. She has a 4.0 GPA. The outstanding junior student is Dominique Martinez of Oklahoma City with a 3.76 GPA. Both students attend St. Gregory’s.

- The Knights of Columbus were able to recruit at least one new member during the convention as Dr. Wagie officially and proudly filled out his membership form.
Knights Honor Those Who Reach Out to Others in Love

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

The annual awards presented by the Knights of Columbus gives a close look at the giving nature of many people and groups. For many, it’s refreshing to realize people’s capacity to love and give back to others.

The 103rd annual convention of the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus, held in Tulsa April 26-28, once again covered a great deal of business for the fraternal Catholic men’s organization. At the same time, participants got a chance to marvel at some of the deeds accomplished by others.

A case in point is George and Lynette Finger of Lawton. They’re the recipients of the Bernie Fonza Civic Award.

Married for 44 years, their list of accomplishments and charitable endeavors would fill up most newspaper pages. In a two-page report, past leader of the Oklahoma Knights, Jose Jimenez, outlined some of what they had done to achieve the honor. It included:

Driving a van for children with cerebral palsy.
Camp Fire leader.
Helping a local food bank to feed the homeless.
Visiting nursing homes.
Sponsoring a 15-year-old girl in India and a 6-year-old girl in Guatemala with monetary donations through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. They also sponsored a mom of four and a vet, 82, with a monthly basket of food from a local grocery store.
They helped to make new cottages at home at Fort Sill. Usually, at their own expense, they purchased 1,000 cookies and provided rosaries, chaplets, crucifixes, Bibles and saint prayer cards.

George is a Knight and a past Grand Knight of Council 11909 of Lawton.
Their nomination for the award was on recommendation by four parish priests, their Grand Knight and three former Grand Knights.

“I just wanted to say that it is very blessed to give,” George told the convention banquet crowd at Tulsa’s Radisson Hotel.

And this is just one of the awards — noting the charitable service of those involved with the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus.

Hundreds of Knights and guests at the annual banquet were also inspired by some of the following awards and stories as well.

David Ankle of St. Rose of Lima and Council 1053, Perry, was named “Knight of the Year.” He’s been in the order for more than 30 years and held most of the offices. He was called a strong role model, setting “a constant and worthy example as an ideal Catholic Knight to his family, council and fellow Knights.”

The “Family of the Year” went to Mark and Linda Kringlen of Nicoma Park and Council 1053 of Perry.

Mark and Linda Kringlen of Nicoma Park and Our Lady of Fatima Council was named “Family of the Year” for the Oklahoma State Council of the Knights of Columbus. They received the award April 26 at the Radisson Hotel in Tulsa during the Knights 103rd annual convention. On hand were, from left, Tulsa Diocese Bishop Edward Slattery, Archbishop Eusebius Beltran, Linda and Mark Kringlen, Knights State Deputy Paul Weigl, Knights Chaplain Father Jim Caldwell and Barbara Weigl.

The Knights also recognized the efforts of some of the Councils and their activities. Those awards went to the following:

Church Activity Award won by Council 962 of Muskogee. The men donated their time to help build a center that would serve a Council Hall and meeting place to bring groups together. It was estimated the men’s work saved the parish $50,000. More than half of the council worked on the center, according to Grand Knight Alan Zbatvetel.

Norman Council 12819 was the winner of the Community Activity Award.
They donated more than 500 hours labor in helping clear debris and limbs during last December’s ice storm.

The Council Activity Award is held this year by Council 5759 of Oklahoma City. Louis Gutierrez of the Knights said the men in the council recognized that one of the ill brothers had trouble using steps that led to his home. The council built a ramp to accommodate a walker or wheelchair.

The Family Activity Award was won by Council 1053 of Perry. The council hosted a Christmas dinner at the church. In addition to providing great fellowship, it raised funds for the Religious Education program, according to Nick Beckham of the council.

Finally, the Youth Activity Award went to Council 5396. They put on a safety seminar — featuring police and medical rescue personnel discussing car safety. Child safety seats and proper installation were also discussed.

These were only the winners of the various categories as dozens of entries were submitted — proving that charity remains one of the strongest tenets of the Knights of Columbus.
Archdiocese Partners With Institute in Support of RCIA

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host a four-day institute this summer in partnership with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. “The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus” will run from Thursday, July 31 to Sunday, Aug. 3. All meetings will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Father Stephen Bird, archdiocesan director of Worship and Spiritual Life, said the institute will be invaluable for parish personnel who work in the ministry of RCIA.

“Because of the turnover in personnel, most RCIA leaders and team members have not received comprehensive training about the Rite,” Father Bird wrote in a letter to fellow priests. “This is a great opportunity to help our team members.”

Institute leaders are among North America’s most experienced pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians. Presenters will include:

CLARE COLELLA is the director of Adult Initiation and Adult Confirmation Formation for Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, San Bernardino, Calif. She is a consultant for the San Bernardino Diocesan Office of Worship and serves as an adult Christian initiation resource for the Diocese. Clare is a longtime Forum Team member and former member of Forum’s board of directors. Clare has authored several articles and contributed to books on adult initiation ministry and parish ministry, and has recently co-authored a resource on reconciliation for Small Faith Communities.

NANCY DUNKERLEY is co-founder of Spiritual Ministries Institute, a nonprofit organization promoting ecumenical Christian formation for spiritual directors and other spiritual growth ministries.

She coordinates a network of spiritual directors in the Texas-Arkansas region. A popular retreat leader and speaker, Nancy has many years of experience with catechumenal ministry at parish and diocesan levels.

EDWARD KOHARCHIK, CSP, is a priest with the Congregation of St. Paul (Paulist Fathers) and currently is a campus minister at the University of Texas in Austin. He also has served as a parish director of liturgy and music in the diocese of Galveston-Houston, where he has been a clinician for various diocesan events as well.

VICTOR J. REYES is a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and presently serves as administrator of Our Lady of LaSalette Parish in Canton, Ga. He has extensive experience in initiation ministries at both the parish and diocesan levels and currently serves on the Atlanta Forum on the Catechumenate.

Victor has served as instructor of liturgy and homiletics for ministry formation programs and has traveled widely facilitating workshops, directing retreats and preaching parish renewals. He is also an active consultant in the areas of Christian Initiation, Liturgical Formation, Multicultural Ministry and Leadership Development.

For more information or to register, go to www.naforum.org. The North American Forum on the Catechumenate can be reached at 202-884-9758 or by e-mail at info@naforum.org

Young Adult Retreat Planned in June

Have you ever wondered what that would point you in the right direction?

Almost daily we struggle to figure out, prioritize, discern and/or make sense of the myriad of life choices that confront us. All the while, we keep wondering: “What am I supposed to do with my life?” Unfortunately, none of us came into this world with a “Guide with my life?” Unfortunately, none of us came into this world with a “Guide to Your Life” instruction booklet. But, what if there was a way for you to discover the answers to these questions? What would you give to acquire the knowledge, skills and tools that would reveal God’s plan for your life?

On June 27-29, you can join other single Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 45, for a “Life Awareness” retreat. Dynamic presentations, group discussions and prayer comprise a schedule full of opportunities for you to learn the steps and skills necessary to discover the “right path” for your life.

Many people hope for a sign from God and often wonder why He never seems to answer their prayers. The truth is that God is calling each of us to be the person He created us to be; to live the life that we were made to live. A Life Awareness retreat is designed to help you learn how to listen, hear and follow the plan that God has for you, whatever that may be … married, ordained, religious or single. In particular, anyone who wants to learn about the rewards and obligations of serving the Church as a priest or religious should attend. Life Awareness is your chance to learn how you will “know” the answer to your future.

The retreat begins on Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Catholic Newman Center on the campus of the University of Tulsa and concludes Sunday following a closing Mass and lunch. All conference activities and meals will occur in the Newman Center facilities. Participants will remain on the campus in housing provided by the University of Tulsa. Due to the generosity of the Serra Club of Tulsa, there is no charge for attending the retreat. However, in order to adequately plan for meals and housing, participants are asked to register for the event by June 17. Registration forms can be obtained from parish offices or from the diocesan Office of Vocations.

This is the 12th year for the Serra Club of Tulsa to sponsor the Life Awareness Retreat. The Serra Club of Tulsa wants you to have the opportunity to listen for God’s call, to go forward with confidence into your vocation, whether it is the single life, married life, priesthood or religious life. Their hope is that by spending just one weekend to focus on your future, you may see more clearly where you are going.

To register or for more information, contact Hugh Eidt, Serra Club Director of the Life Awareness Program, at (918) 492-1156, or Wayne Rzih at (918) 744-0023 Ext. 18, or wayne.rzih@dioceseoftulsa.org, in the Office of Vocation for the Diocese of Tulsa.

Catholic Family Conference June 7

The Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference is coming to Oklahoma City on June 7. With the theme “As the Family Goes … so Goes the Whole World,” the conference offers something for every member of the family, with speakers, Catholic vendors and programs for all age groups.

Speakers include Father Bernie Gorges, a spiritual director and priest for the Diocese of Wichita. He is a founder of the Catholic youth program Totus Tuus, which has the goal of helping young people grow in the understanding of Jesus Christ, and thus strengthen their faith. Father Gorges will address the role of fathers in raising children.

Stephanie Wood is the coordinator of NextWave Faithful, a young adult division of Family Life Center International, and hosts “NextWave Live,” the first worldwide radio show for young adults. Stephanie will run a seven-steps small group curriculum for young people to grow in the Catholic faith.

Another speaker will be Phil Lenahan, author of “Seven Steps to Becoming Financially Free,” and will speak about being good stewards of God’s financial gifts to us. Visit his Web site at www.dads.org/stephaniewood.asp.

On June 7, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Bishop Kevin Vann will lead the conference opening. Bishop Vann will be joined by other diocesan and national speakers. The conference will include presentations, dynamic discussions, and group discussions.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.okcatholicfamily.com or call (405) 255-4343.

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**Legislation Opposed**

**English Only Problems Exposed by Catholic Charities Official**

Richard Klinge offers a number of reasons Catholics and Oklahomans should oppose legislation that calls for voters to decide whether English should be the only language our state government uses in support of residents. The director of Parish Outreach, Education, Advocacy and Legal Services for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Klinge said SB 163 is short-sighted and mean-spirited and will inflict harm on many who are good contributors to our society. Below are Klinge’s arguments against the proposed legislation.

* There has not been any meaningful study of the legal, human or economic impact of the current version of SB 163. The original version of SB 163 sent to the House last year only dealt with Open Meetings issues. Thus the Senate has not had any hearings on this version of SB 163. Why, before voting, especially on submission of a constitutional amendment, would the Senate rush to judgment and not conduct a thorough study of legal, human and economic impact of English only on the citizens and the economy of the state of Oklahoma.

* Unlike HB 1804 which was clearly directed at undocumented foreign citizens, SB 163 will also directly and adversely affect both U.S. citizens and other persons lawfully present in the United States who need help with English.

* The demographic studies show that people of all races have been generally successful, given time, in their efforts to become conversant in English. Why would we want to adopt a policy that makes that stated goal of assimilation harder rather than easier?

* The exception in SB 163 for public health and safety will cause confusion and put the lives of citizens at risk. Many of Oklahoma’s rural hospitals are owned and operated by political subdivisions. Many of those political subdivisions employ the physicians and professional staff which provide care and treatment for their patients. Clear communication and informed consent are critical to providing medical services. Currently translators are used as necessary to assist in this process. This exception will cause providers dealing with patients with limited English skills to be at risk for malpractice or at least confused about when and how they can use translators. If, as in the case of health and safety issues, the exceptions are broader than the prohibition, why have the prohibition in the first place?

* Federal law requires that when federal funds are involved that (subject to the tests set forth in those laws, regulations and/or executive orders) persons with limited English skills must be provided assistance. What law will our law enforcement agencies follow?

* SB 163 apparently says it is OK to use languages other than English to bring business to the state, but we cannot use those same languages to help citizens or others who lawfully live within this state. If we can speak in the native tongue of business persons who come to the state to bring us money and material goods, why cannot we use those same language skills to assist our own citizens?

* The culture and the languages of our tribes is a foundational element of our state and that those cultures and languages should always be protected. However, I agree that other cultures, including without limitation the Hispanic culture, is also a vital part of this great state, and the language of those other cultures should be equally protected and recognized.

* Mr. Terrill’s comments this past weekend in the Norman Transcript lend credence to the argument that SB 163 is really a bill that is all about politics and political advantage. He says that “politics is different than governing” and that everyone expects some “political grandstanding or trying to catch the other party in (a) bad mode.” Although he tries to distinguish the political and substantive impact of SB 163, his efforts were disingenuous at best.

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**Catholic Charities Open House**

Catholic Charities held an open house on April 24 for the public to tour the facility and learn more about the programs and services of the agency. Staff members gave tours of the building and answered questions. Volunteers were also recognized during a brief program.

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**Debi Wagner, Catholic Charities volunteer coordinator, recognizes one of Catholic Charities volunteers, Debbie Story, during the Catholic Charities open house. During the volunteer recognition program, Story was named Volunteer of the Month for dedicating her time and talents to the agency.**

**Getting ready to take a tour of the building are, from left, DeeAnn Ellis, Pam Doyle, Chad Green, Lee Acres (CC staff member), and Randy Webb.**

**Guests at Catholic Charities open house, Sahar Owais and Cindy Owais, left, are welcomed by Monica Palmer, Catholic Charities counselor. Palmer gave them a tour of the building.**
Benedictine Sisters to Celebrate 40 Years of Ministry in Oklahoma

PIEDMONT — The Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Monastery will celebrate 40 years of service to the Church and people of Oklahoma this summer as well as significant anniversaries of three faithful members.

Sisters Eunice Ballmann and Roberta Schachle are celebrating 60 years of fidelity in Benedictine life in 2008, while Sister Elena Hernandez celebrates 50 years.

To celebrate this occasion and honor these Sisters, a Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. June 21 at Epiphany Parish with Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran presiding. Concelebrants will be Abbot Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, Rev. Price Grimes and Rev. John Feehily. A reception will follow in Bryce Hall.

Red Plains Monastery, a foundation from St. Joseph’s Monastery, Tulsa, was established in 1968 and took up permanent residency in Oklahoma City in 1974 shortly after the Oklahoma Diocese was divided into two Episcopal Sees.

The Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Monastery are a monastic community of women who seek God according to the Rule of Saint Benedict as they live a Gospel-centered life. Called to a balance of work and prayer, they give witness to this harmony through a life of prayer, study, celebration and service. Throughout these 40 years the Sisters have extended hospitality to people of all faiths and walks of life.

From their founding, the Sisters served as counselors, teachers, pastoral ministers, in religious education and in health care. Since 1981 their ministry has focused on various spirituality ministries serving hundreds through Retreat In Daily Life, directed and private retreats, spiritual direction, spirituality workshops both at the monastery and at Catholic parishes and churches of other faith denominations. A five-year program for training those discerning a call to spiritual direction has also been offered. Individuals and groups have been introduced to the practice of Lectio Divina. The experience of Taize prayer is offered the third Sunday of each month in the monastery chapel. Labyrinth and centering prayer experiences are also offered at the monastery.

Benedictine Peace House was established in 1980 and became a gathering place for an ecumenical peace community engaging in education and advocacy on issues of peace and justice. Today, the Peace House continues on its own.

Several Sisters are artists, whose work includes pottery, gourds, portraits and greeting cards.

One may keep updated on the life of the Sisters and the activities taking place at the monastery by going to their Web site: www.redplainsmonastery.org.

For 2008, the Sisters are also featured in the Heritage Room at the Catholic Pastoral Center.
I have met many priests and like all humans, they are a diverse group with special gifts and talents, but the priest I am writing about is truly special — Father Anthony Taylor. I have had the privilege of working for him as principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School for the past five years. I have come to know his ways, and witness the good works he performs as he carries God’s message of faith, hope and love to all he encounters. And in this way, I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with him.

He gives of himself unselfishly, his energy to serve seemingly inexhaustible. Perhaps this is because of the well of patience and understanding God has granted him in the time he spends in daily prayer. He shows himself to be a true example of a shepherd to his flock.

Father Taylor is an extraordinary leader. He exemplifies leadership in so many ways, and sets a good example for people to follow. He understands the importance of being a servant leader — one who serves his people even as he leads them. He also is one who sees that the role of a leader is not only to determine the direction, but the importance of heading in that direction in the first place! And while he is focused on the important “big picture,” he is attentive to the details that make such a picture come into focus.

Another great leadership quality that he demonstrates is the will to choose to do the right thing without worrying about the consequences. His personal examples of living, both in words and actions, teach us to be more faithful and kinder Christians. He is courageous and places his trust in God for guidance, and it is obvious that Jesus is his role model.

People are drawn to Father Taylor because he is kind, good-natured, funny, generous, and is always quick with a smile. Whenever your path crosses his, you always feel he is genuinely happy to see you. I remember so many times when his presence and participation was unexpected by the students and faculty, yet so appreciated by all of us. He played on the faculty basketball team vs. the eighth-grade class, he came to our staff Christmas party dressed in his pajamas (which was the theme of the party), he went on field trips with different classes, ate lunch in the school cafeteria with the faculty several times a week, and even let me borrow his shirt and collar so I could dress up as Father Taylor for the school carnival.

As a member of his staff, whenever I needed things from him, his response has always been “Sure!” — and I always knew he meant it and would do it. He has a habit of saying “Yes” to God and service — but it is a habit he is happy to have. He is supportive and recognizes the gifts and talents of his employees and has valued and appreciated the work that we do.

But for me personally, he has given so much that I will always treasure and remember. He has given me his support. Father Taylor has been such a fine example of how to love and serve God and others. He always provided a good sounding board for me, but allowed me to make the final decision. And even when we disagreed on an issue or two, I always felt safe to voice my opinion, was listened to, and was respected for doing so. I will be forever thankful for the safe and nurturing work environment he provided. He has been a wonderful mentor with his constant encouragement and good words of advice.

One of the best things that I have learned to do from Father Taylor is to pray the serenity prayer, and while I admit I have not yet fully mastered the sentiment in it, I know that I have come a long way because of his example.

I knew a priest named Father Taylor, but now I am proud to say that I now know him as Bishop Taylor. The Catholic Church has been strengthened and enriched by his appointment to bishop. My daily prayer for Father Taylor since the first day I learned he would be the pastor of Sacred Heart will continue — that God keep him happy, healthy, safe and faithful, and may He grant him wisdom and continued joy of vocation. Congratulations, Bishop Taylor, from a thankful principal. In His continued love and peace.

Joana Camacho, Principal
Sacred Heart Catholic School

Thank You Bishop Taylor!

Students and faculty from Sacred Heart School pray for Bishop-elect Anthony Taylor during a going-away party held in his honor on May 2.

Sacred Heart Bids Farewell to Beloved Bishop-Elect Taylor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sacred Heart church and school threw a going-away party for Bishop-elect Anthony Taylor the evening of May 2. Bishop-elect Taylor and his mother and father, Basil and Rachel Taylor, were treated to homemade Mexican food, singing, and beautiful tributes from priests, parish personnel and parishioners. Bishop-elect Taylor has been named bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark. He will be consecrated a bishop in a ceremony in Little Rock on June 5.
Yard Sales Help Students Make Way to Sydney

“We will set out in our hearts on a pilgrimage towards the world encounter with young people that will take place in Sydney in July 2008.”

— His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

By Eliana Tedrow
For the Sooner Catholic

Norman — Six students and two chaperones from St. Thomas More Parish and the Catholic Student Association (CSA) at the University of Oklahoma came one step closer toward their pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia, this July.

This marked the 16th year of parishioners and students donating their time and “junk” to account for one of the students’ biggest fundraisers of the year. An array of items from exercise equipment to clothes and furniture were sold to locals, totaling more than $1,800 in support for the students trying to make their way to World Youth Day.

The students at OU have been working over two years to raise money for their upcoming pilgrimage, and the yard sale put them one step closer to the biggest event Australia has ever hosted, including the 2000 Olympics.

“It has been a big undertaking,” said Heather Moore, a senior at OU and three-year coordinator of the annual yard sale. Pulling from a variety of sources, the students have raised money for the Sydney trip through matching funds by local restaurants and other fundraisers, including their annual gala.

“The goal of Campus Ministry,” said Erin Cleto, campus minister, “is to engage the faculty, students and staff in a dialogue between faith and academics ... we do this through service, catechetical programs and spiritual formation. The annual yard sale is one of the major fundraising events supporting this program.”

“We have a lot of things going on next year,” said Jennifer Grover, publicity and development peer minister. Upcoming events include an “awakening” retreat, a really big Chi-Rho retreat at the college level, missionary work in the Gulf Coast, as well as sending students to the Ukraine to teach English at the Catholic university there.

College students interested in joining the Catholic Student Association at OU or for more information on upcoming events through St. Thomas More Parish should contact Erin Cleto at (405) 321.0990 or visit www.st-muou.org.

Eagle Scout Earned

Michael Johnson, 16, is a member of Troop 179 chartered from St. Charles Borromeo Church. Michael’s project included designing and building benches for the outside waiting area of the St. Charles-Catherine McCauley Free Health Clinic, as well as landscaping three garden beds and the area around the clinic. Michael has earned 23 merit badges and has served his troop as historian, assistant patrol leader and patrol leader. He has earned the religious awards of Ad Altaire Dei, Arrow of Light, Parvulei Dei and Light of Christ. In addition, he was elected to Order of the Arrow. Michael is a sophomore at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is a member of the basketball and baseball teams, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Spanish Club. He was elected vice president of the Leadership II class and is an altar server at St. Charles Borromeo. Michael said that he chose this as his project because he had attended St. Charles School for nine years and wanted to do something to benefit St. Charles as well as those needing medical assistance.

ADF Tops Goal in Pledges

Oklahoma Catholics have responded quickly and generously to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal commonly referred to as the ADF. Thomas Maxwell, executive director of the ADF, said more than $3 million has been pledged.

The original goal was $3 million. At press time for this issue of Sooner Catholic, pledges totaled $3,025,514.42, Maxwell reported. Funds already collected total $1,602,174.87.

Donors to date total 10,160.

Mail to: ADF P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123

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Students from Kingfisher’s Sts. Peter and Paul School participated in the OKC Memorial Marathon. The event coincided perfectly with Catholic Social Justice Teachings, which the students have been studying heavily this spring. Students in grades 1-6 participated in the kids marathon and grades 7-8 participated in the 5K. Pictured from left are Principal Kim Kroener, Brody Morkes, Logan Mills, Jared McCallum, Kaleb Kroener, Colton York, Cade Strickland and Dacey Beauchamp; second row, Baylor Graves, Kaleb Kroener, Jeff Pennington, Madison York, Brandt Broderick, Tyler Borelli, Emily Garrett and Jenna Macy; third row, Leah Friesen, Grant Borelli, Graves, Kaleb Kroener, Colton York, Cade Strickland and Dacey Beauchamp; second row, Baylor Graves, Kaleb Kroener, Jeff Pennington, Madison York, Brandt Broderick, Tyler Borelli, Emily Garrett and Jenna Macy; third row, Leah Friesen, Grant Borelli, Mason York, Blake Ruhl, Tracey Rader, Trey Borelli, Kaci Pennington, Kinsey Mueggenborg, Jackie Bollenbach, Katelyn Mueggenborg, Albany Hightower and Emily Lewis; fourth row, Ethan Morkes and Lara Kostka. The following students participated but are not in the photo: Logan Hightower, Antonio Rodriguez, Sydney McCauley, Tyler Kippenberger, Macey McAlexander, Kody Bollenbach, Anna Marie Farris, Braden Farris, Abigail Boyd, Emmy Jo Boyd and Sean Borelli.

Strengthening the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City easy with your pledge! Please completed and mail to:

Mail to: ADF P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123

ARCHDIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mail to: ADF P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123

Mail to: ADF P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Mail to: ADF P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73123

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OU Student Helps Build Pro-Life Campus Organization

By Eileen Dugan
For the Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — When the Lord wants something, He is not adverse to bringing people from the ends of the earth to accomplish His work. Just look at how He brought Annalou Porter to Oklahoma via the Philippines and California in order to start a right-to-life organization at the University of Oklahoma.

Porter is president of the new OU Right-to-Life Association, which she helped start last September. She hopes that this organization will bring awareness about the dignity of human life and will promote pro-life activism on the OU campus.

Campus membership in the group has grown steadily since last fall. Currently, it stands at 20 active members. Most are undergraduates. “I couldn’t and probably wouldn’t be doing this if it weren’t for the Holy Spirit guiding me and working through me. I feel that is the ultimate reason why I do what I do and why I am driven to do so,” Porter said.

A junior at OU majoring in nursing, Porter moved to Oklahoma from California four years ago. Her father moved her family to the Sooner state after Porter’s high school graduation when he bought a business here. She attended Oklahoma City Community College before transferring to OU.

OU’s right-to-life organization came about because Porter, who is the peer minister for Justice and Service at Saint Thomas More University Parish, realized that “having an active right-to-life group on the university campus was necessary and greatly needed.”

To help realize this goal, OU’s Right-to-Life Association brought Tony Lauinger, the state chairman of “Oklahomans for Life,” to town to speak at OU’s Student Union. Lauinger’s talk was on “What it means to be pro-life.” About 20 OU students and people from the community attended.

The president of the OU Right-to-Life Association was born in Manila in the Philippines where she lived until she was 6 years old. Then she moved with her family to North Hollywood in southern California in Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley.

After she graduates from college, Porter plans to work as a registered nurse and “pursue my education further in medical ethics and possibly medicine (med school). It has always been my desire to serve others as a medical professional,” she said.

Besides studying to be a nurse and running the right-to-life organization at OU, Porter also serves as a peer minister at Saint Thomas More University Parish. As she explains it, “a peer minister is a leader in Catholic campus ministry who belongs to a peer ministry team in the parish.” Peer ministers facilitate and organize activities with the campus ministers and serve as a resource to the students for their spiritual development.

Her job as the Justice and Service peer minister is to “organize opportunities for campus community service within campus ministry, as well as bring awareness about social-justice issues and the Church’s teaching on them,” she said. It was to fulfill some of these responsibilities as a peer minister that Porter decided to start the OU Right-to-Life Association.

The importance of the right-to-life had “really hit home” for Porter when her teenage sister found herself pregnant. Catholic teaching on the subject was well-known in this family steeped in pro-life activism: even the smallest or weakest among us is made in the image and likeness of God, and, therefore, all life is sacred from conception to natural death.

It was hard, but Porter’s sister gave life to her baby and continues to raise her. Abortion had never been an option. “Our family crisis very soon became the greatest blessing I could have imagined,” Porter said. She is her little niece’s godmother, and the whole family now delights in little Aliana’s giggles and smiles.

When Porter completes her term as peer minister, she will return home to Oklahoma City and to her home parish of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church. Last year, during her sophomore year at OU, Porter had worked at Epiphany as a teacher assistant with the First Communion class. Last summer, she had helped out with the parish’s vacation Bible school. In California she had also worked as part of her parish’s Confirmation leadership team. But what she is doing now at Saint Thomas More University Parish is quite different from the church jobs she has held previously. Peer ministering at OU is helping Porter grow spiritually. “Being around the college students and being able to share my faith with my peers is a significant difference that I feel is a great contribution to my spiritual development,” she said.

She said her plate is full, but the rewards are too important to pass up. “I enjoy doing all of it, so although it is stressful, it has been so fulfilling for me. It’s been the best job I’ve ever had!”

Porter acknowledges that prayer, the Eucharist, Adoration, meditation and spiritual reading also help to strengthen her spiritually, enabling her to fulfill her many commitments.

She urges OU students to join the OU Right-to-Life Association, to help “spread love and compassion, to take care of the most vulnerable and innocent of the human family, which we are called to do, and to be active disciples of Christ!”

Porter thinks the association should have connections with other pro-life activists. A network of pro-life groups could serve as a support system one for the other. To foster the development of such a system, Porter hopes other pro-life groups will contact OU’s right-to-life organization with “any resources that they can offer.”

To learn more about OU’s Right-to-Life Student Association, click on its Web site at www.stmou.org/students. To join their pro-life support network, e-mail them at ourtl@yahoo.com.

Across Oklahoma

Refugee Department Needs Twin Beds

Refugee Department of Catholic Charities is in need of 30 twin size bed mattresses and box springs and twin size bedding for refugees arriving this month. Bed frames are also needed, especially twin size frames. If pickup is needed, call 523-3002 to arrange for a time. Tax donation forms are available.

Archbishop to Celebrate Mass

OKLAHOMA CITY — Memorial Day Mass May 26 at Resurrection Cemetery, with Archbishop Beltran at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend this Mass as we remember the deceased on this national holiday.

Memorial Day Mass

Annual Memorial Day Mass May 26 at St. Patrick Cemetery at 10 a.m., located one-half mile west of Council Road on Sorghum Mill Road. A potluck luncheon will follow. Bring lawn chairs along with a covered dish. In case of stormy weather, Mass and luncheon will be moved to St. Monica Church at 2001 N. Western, Edmond.

Parish to Celebrate Anniversary

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Eugene’s Parish is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The theme is “Memorable Past, A Glorious Future.” Some activities include:

May 30 — Dinner for founding members and special guests
May 31 — Parish picnic
June 1 — 10 a.m. outdoor Mass and brunch
June 2 — Feast of Pope St. Eugene, 4 p.m. Mass concelebrated by Archbishop Beltran

Ordination Set

Justin Nolan, the son of Robert and Tricia Nolan of St. Mary’s Parish in Guthrie, will be ordained a Catholic priest for the order of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in Lincoln, Neb., on May 30. The ordination will be televised live via EWTN at 10 a.m. On June 8 at 4 p.m. at St. Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, Father Nolan will celebrate his First Solemn High Mass in Oklahoma. It will be celebrated according to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. Any who would like to attend is welcome.

Prayer Day for the Retired

OKLAHOMA CITY — The next Prayer Day for the Retired will be Wednesday, May 14. Sister Benedicrita Boland, OSB, will facilitate the day. Her topic will be “Life’s Luminous Moments” in which she will reflect on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. The fee for the day is $7, which includes lunch. To pre-register, call 721-5651 Ext. 158.

Safe Place Training in Harrah

HARRAH — Safe Place Faith Community (a response to the Bishops Document, “When I Call for Help”) next training date is May 30 at St. Teresa’s Parish in Harrah. All churches are invited. This training educates volunteers and church personnel about domestic violence. Training will be provided by the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Attorney General’s Special Victims Unit. Registration is required. Fee of $6 includes lunch, snacks and materials. Call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or e-mail cindynewby50@yahoo.com for more information.
One of the more jarring transitions in the liturgical year is the rapid switch from the beautiful pastoral exhortations of the First Letter of Peter, which the Office of Readings prescribes for Easter Week, to the high drama of the Book of Revelation, read during the next four weeks of the Easter season. I was particularly struck this year by a passage from the sixth chapter of St. John's vision:

“When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the spirits of those who had been martyred because of the witness they bore to the word of God. They cried out at the top of their voices, ‘How long will it be, O Master, holy and true, before you judge our cause and avenge our blood among the inhabitants of the earth?’ Each of the martyrs was given a white robe, and they were told to be patient a little while longer until the quota was filled of their fellow servants and brothers to be slain, as they had been.”

No Christian community in the 20th century had to exercise such heroic patience amidst martyrdom as the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. Bitterly persecuted by Stalin and his NKVD henchmen, the Greek Catholics of Ukraine — Byzantine in liturgical and theological practice and sensibility while in full communion with the bishop of Rome — became the world’s largest outlawed religious community, forced to worship and catechize underground for decades. That the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church survived the Soviet Union was a miracle of heroism, empowered by grace.

Throughout these difficult years, the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine was blessed by two remarkable leaders: Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, a man of culture and vision and a pioneer ecumenist, and Cardinal Iosyf Slipyi, who survived years in the Gulag to become the model for “Pope Kyril I” in The Shoes of the Fisherman. Both Sheptytsky and Slipyi dreamed of building a Catholic university in Ukraine. Now, under the current head of the Greek Catholic Church, the equally remarkable Cardinal Lubomir Huser, that dream is becoming a vibrant reality. And the Greek Catholics of Ukraine are becoming a cultural force to be reckoned with in one of the world’s most strategically important countries.

The Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv is led by a Ukrainian-American, Father Besnyo Gudziak, who brings to his work a Harvard doctorate in church history, indefatigable energy, organizational skill and spiritual vision. I am a suspect witness in the case of Father Gudziak, as we’ve been friends for years. But I will risk special pleading by saying publicly what I’ve said privately: If I had to name the 50 Catholics whose present work is most important for the future of the world Church, Father Gudziak’s name would easily make the cut. What he has built in a decade in Lviv, starting from scratch, is breathtaking.

Lviv is a university town, home to some 100,000 students. Only 1 percent of those students attend UCU, but they generate half the public discussion in town. Books published by the UCU press win prestigious awards; UCU’s theology department broke through the secularist bias in post-communist Ukraine and got theology recognized as an academic discipline. Of the university’s 500 graduates to date, almost 40 percent have gone on to graduate studies, and all but one of those students has come back to Ukraine. UCU forms its students for a mission: building the free and virtuous society from under the rubble of communism. And the students respond.

During the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution in defense of Ukrainian democracy, UCU students were among leaders of nonviolent protests against a stolen election that threatened to undo the gains of the post-communist period; they were also leaders in seeking reconciliation and cooperation with Orthodox and secular students. If Ukraine has thus far escaped reincorporation into a Russian imperial system, UCU can claim some measure of the credit — and that’s good both for Ukraine and for the world.

You can learn more about this remarkable enterprise, and how to share in its work, by contacting the Chicago-based Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation: www.ucef.org.

George Weigel is a 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.

Human Nature Finds it Difficult to Love Innocence, Goodness

There is a popular theme within Christian apologetics that goes something like this: Christianity is the most hated of all religions and that is a citation of proof of its truth. The logic works this way: If we are so unfairly hated, we must be doing something right. Truth and innocence draw hatred. Jesus was hated, and so are we!

We need to be careful with that because, among other things, today, thanks to certain radical fundamentalists claiming to be Muslim, Islam is probably the most hated of all religions, and hated not because of what is true and best inside of it. Not only innocence and truth draw hatred. Being hated is not always a good sign or an indication that you (alone among the unfaithful) are holding to the real truth. It may be that you have made a vow of alienation rather than of love. Both eventually make you hated.

Being hated is only a criterion of verifying the truth if you have made a vow of love. Jesus wasn’t trying to be divisive and unpopular, he was trying to speak his truth in ways that precisely didn’t alienate and didn’t provoke hatred. But that isn’t always possible. He was trying to love others, purely and in the truth, but it eventually made him an object of hatred. That isn’t surprising.

There is a certain proclivity within human nature to hate innocence and goodness. We see this illustrated in many books and movies. Notice how in so many stories that depict the struggle between good and evil, invariably, the bad will eventually train its sights on and fixate on what is its opposite, innocence and goodness. In most every dramatic epic, eventually the guns of the bad guys will end up trained upon the most innocent and loving person in town. It’s the saint who invariably bears the brunt of wound and hurt inside of a community. It is the saint who eventually is the scapegoat. It happened to Jesus. It happens to all goodness; by its stripes we are healed. Why?

Because such is the anatomy of hatred. Hatred is a perverse form of love, love’s grief. It’s what love becomes when, because of wound and circumstance, it cannot be warm and reciprocal. Rolfo May once famously stated that hatred is not the opposite of love. Indifference is. Hatred might instead be described as cold, wounded, frustrated and grieving love, love gone sour. You can conjure up a powerful hatred for someone unless at some level you first love him or her. When love is wounded and frustrated, the need to be warm and cleansing, but also be bitter and cold. Cold grief. Hatred with its jealousy, bitterness, murderous feelings.

That’s part of the anatomy of love and that’s why love can so quickly turn into hatred and why most murders are domestic. When love breaks down, what follows is rarely indifference (a parting in good friendship). What follows is often hatred, bitterness, coldness. Affairs mostly grow sour, not indifferent, and the same is, sadly, true of love in almost all its aspects.

What to be learned from this? That hatred needs to be understood, whether it’s at a personal level or at the level of whole civilizations hating each other. Hatred is not the opposite of love. It is a perverse form of love, cold grief, bitter dissatisfaction, that needs not to be met in kind, with a reciprocal form of coldness, but with warmth and forgiveness, tough as these are in the face of their opposite.

One of the great moral struggles of our lives lies precisely in this. When people hate us, what spontaneous feelings rise within us? Feelings of coldness and anger, along with the wish, secret and not-so-secret, that their lives will go badly and that, in the ensuing misery, they will be forced to see their error and have to swallow against their will the fact that they are wrong, particularly about us. Hatred wants the other to choke on his or her own error.

But none of that will be productive for those who hate us, or for ourselves. Only if good things begin to happen in the lives of those who hate us, only if they feel the warmth of love and blessing, can their hearts let go of their bitterness, jealousy and hatred that’s there. Hearts don’t thaw out inside of bitterness and jealousy. They break. It’s not when people are bitter that they admit the error of their ways and the unfairness of their hatred. Hearts begin to see how wrong their hatred is only when the very object of their jealousy and hatred is itself strong enough to not give back in kind, but instead to absorb the hatred for what it is, wounded, love gone cold when it would want to be warm.

Leo Tolstoy once said: “There is only one way to put an end to evil, and that is to do good for evil.”

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He can be contacted through his Web site, www.ronrolheiser.com.
Fire in the Clinic Argument Loses Heat With Dose of Reality

One argument that is often made to justify destroying human embryos begins like this:

Suppose there is a fire in a fertility clinic. You are the only adult present, and there is a newborn baby and a tank of liquid nitrogen with 5,000 frozen embryos in the clinic. You can save only one of them before the place burns down — which would you choose?

Only the most passionate and radical extremist, so the argument goes, would save the container with the embryos instead of the newborn baby. This seems to demonstrate what advocates of embryonic stem cell research have been saying all along, namely, that everybody makes a moral distinction between embryos and children, and that killing embryos cannot be on the same moral level as killing children. Embryo destruction, they conclude, poses no real moral problem if they are killed for research to benefit others.

Yet it is clear that this argument fails to justify what it proposes.

We can see this by modifying the storyline slightly. Imagine three beautiful baby sisters who were just born, lying together and sleeping in the same hospital bed. The father of these girls is in the waiting room down the hall. In another bed next to the girls is their mother, unconscious and recuperating from surgery. The father is the only person in the hospital ward, when suddenly a massive fire flares up. He runs down the hallway to rescue his family, but he can only choose one bed to roll out of the ward before the fire completely engulfs the room and makes it impossible to rescue anyone else. If he chooses to rescue his wife, rather than his three daughters, does that mean there is a moral distinction between his daughters and his wife? Does that in any way imply that he would accept the idea of his daughters being experimented on by researchers or sacrificed for science?

Certainly not. Such a conclusion would never follow from his action. The fact that he chose to save his wife would not indicate that he valued his three daughters any less than his wife, or that he viewed them as being “less human” than his wife. It might rather indicate that because he had spent a lot of time with his wife over the years, he was more emotionally attached to her, knew the sound of her voice, and on a first emotional level responded to his lifelong friendship with her. It says nothing about how valuable his daughters really are, even to their own dad. For the case of the embryos who might get left behind, the same is true: rescuing the infant says nothing about the embryos’ intrinsic worth and dignity, because the rescuer may first be reacting to what is most familiar to him, namely, the newborn baby.

As a priest and bioethicist, I often am asked the awkward question of what parents should do with their “leftover” embryos following in vitro fertilization. Parental anguish and guilt are almost palpable in our conversations as they struggle to figure out a way to free their own children trapped in these frozen orphanages. Having personally met a number of such parents, I am convinced that some of them, if they had to “face the fire,” might well choose their own embryos over some body else’s newborn. The “family connection” runs deep, and I have even spoken with men who responded that for the case of their three daughters vs. their wife, they would stay in the clinic trying to save the whole family, even if it meant they would all end up perishing in the flames.

When it comes to a flash decision, then, as the fire rages in the clinic, this experimental case might the essential question of what our moral obligations really are toward the human embryo. Instead, we are facing a hopelessly artificial and improbable triage situation, which can never be a legitimate basis for determining or deducing moral principles. In a frightening and difficult moment, it involves making second and third decisions, rather than engaging in calm, principled moral reasoning. As we proceed to make that awful decision, we may instinctively sense how the newborn baby is already moving along a path toward becoming an adult member of society.

Saving the newborn thus contributes to a reasonably certain future outcome — whereas saving the embryos does not raise such practical certainty about their future or their ultimate fate. Some embryos from the tank might end up being implanted into their mother’s womb, but still die or undergo “selective reduction;” some might be destroyed because they are deemed “unfit” by clinic operators; others might be handed over to researchers for embryo-destructive experiments; many might still remain in the deep freeze indefinitely. If I were to grab the newborn out of the fire, that action says nothing meaningful about my thoughts on the moral value of human embryos trapped in the freezer, but speaks more to a snap judgment about foreseeable outcomes in a crisis or triage situation.

This scenario reminds us that making complex moral decisions under duress is not easy and will necessarily depend on many factors — the particular circumstances, familial relations, perceived likely outcomes, and other emotional details of the case. It also reminds us how the process of reaching correct ethical judgment is not ultimately dependent on dreaming up exasperating and unrealistic scenarios as the justification for those conclusions. The case of the fire in the clinic does remind us, nevertheless, that embryos are unfamiliar to us, so that we may react differently to them than we would to a fully formed baby. But it should also serve to remind us how embryos are not supposed to be familiar to us, and are not supposed to be in freezers in the first place, but only in the safe harbor of their mother’s womb. This classic argumentative example of the clinic fire ultimately fails to engage the serious question of the inestimable worth of each embryonic human, by a kind of sidestep maneuver that draws us into an emotional response based on what may be most familiar to us in a moment of crisis. In our world today, the clinic is not on fire, and we do not need to make a Solomonian choice between saving embryonic humans and those who are older. We ought to rather work toward building a society that safeguards them both.

Rev. Tadeusz Pucholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

Support Sought for African Priests

Father Aloysius Lyimo, known to some as the dancing priest, returned recently to the Apostles of Jesus headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, for reassignment. Father Lyimo was the Superior for the missionary priests who serve the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. During his nearly five years in the Archdiocese, Father Lyimo served as chaplain to Mercy Hospital, as well as several other hospitals in the Oklahoma City area. He had long-term prison ministries. Father Lyimo traveled extensively to parishes throughout the Archdiocese on behalf of vacationing or ill pastors. Most recently, Father Lyimo was chaplain to St. Anne’s retirement center in Oklahoma City. Filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of God, Father Lyimo became well-known and greatly loved by those he served.

Once in Kenya, Father Lyimo was permitted to visit his family in Tanzania, whom he had not seen since 2001. While in Tanzania, he contracted malaria and was briefly hospitalized. Upon release from the hospital, Father Lyimo traveled to his new assignment near Nanyuki, Kenya, where he is responsible for 25 seminarians. He reports that political unrest in Kenya results in daily hunger for him and his seminarians. Even water has to be purchased. Ralph and Cathie Morgan (St. Eugene Parish, Oklahoma City) are leading an effort to support the Apostles of Jesus. Prayers are needed. Anyone who would like to help is encouraged to contact the Morgans at cmorganphdzingway.com or (405) 755-0528.

Shea to Speak at Oklahoma Shrine

PRAGUE — The National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is proud to continue its Quarterly Speakers Bureau. The bureau will bring nationally known speakers to the community of Prague in an effort to promote better understanding of the Catholic Faith. Its second quarter speaker is Mark Shea.

Shea brings a unique prospective to the Catholic Faith as a self-described “double jump convert.” Shea came to Christian Faith in college through the influence of Evangelical friends. He continued his search for the fullness of truth which he found in the Catholic Church. Shea is an in demand speaker, blogger and radio and TV personality. He is the author of three books: “This Is My Body,” “By What Authority: An Evangelical Discovers Catholic Tradition” and “Making Senses Out of Scripture.” His forthcoming book is about the Blessed Virgin Mary in Catholic thought. You can find Shea on the Internet at either www.markshea.blogspot.com or www.mark-shea.com.

Shea will be making four presentations on May 31. His topics will include “101 Reasons Not To Be Catholic,” “Making Senses Out of Scripture,” “Behold Your Mother” and “This Is My Body.” The day begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 4 p.m. There is no cost for this event; a free will offering will be taken up to defer costs. Lunch will be provided at no additional charge. Housing accommodations and meal needs, pre-registration is required.

You may contact Rhonda Bartos or Father Shane Tharp at shrine_opg@hotmail.com or by phone at (405) 567-3080.
Buenas Noticias...

...Día de las Madres

Hoy conmemoramos una de las grandes celebraciones del año. Hoy es el día de las madres. Hoy recordamos el hermoso plan que Dios le encendió a la madre que nos dio la vida.

Nuestra madre, con la cooperación del plan creador, realmente nos dio vida. A todas las madres en esta Arquidiócesis, les estoy diciendo más sinceras felicitaciones y mis mejores deseos. Ustedes serán recordadas hoy en todas mis oraciones y en mis pensamientos.

Lo pido a Dios Todopoderoso que las bendiga a cada una de ustedes de una manera muy especial.

Que el Bendecido Señor les proteja a ustedes y a sus hijos todos los días que vivan sobre esta tierra y les guíe y alance vida eterna en el cielo.

Que tengan un santo día de las madres.

Más Buenas Noticias...

...Somos enviados

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de Cristo:

En el primer día del Centenario de Jesús envió a Su Espíritu Santo entre los Apóstoles tal como Él lo había prometido. El descenso del Espíritu Santo entre los Apóstoles fue el comienzo de la continuación de la "misión" o el anuncio de su envío al pueblo de Dios. Hace poco, recibimos la noticia que el Papa Benedicto XVI envió a uno de nuestros sacerdotes, el Obispo electo Anthony Taylor, a la Diócesis de Little Rock para comenzar el ministerio pastoral en el pueblo de Arkansas.

En la edición de este diario, en la página tres, hay una lista de las nuevas asignaciones o reasignaciones de nuestros sacerdotes.

Estos nuevos sacerdotes han sido enviados a la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma para su servicio pastoral en el pueblo de Dios. Para los tres nuevos sacerdotes que van a ser ordenados el 30 de mayo, Joseph Schwartz, Christopher Tan y James Wilcoxson, tendrán su primera asignación en su ordenación. Todos van a ser ordenados como sacerdotes por primera vez. Para los tres sacerdotes que han venido de la Diócesis de Nueva York, será su primera asignación en Oklahoma. Para el instante de los sacerdotes que actualmente tienen sus asignaciones, ellos también están enviados a continuar sus servicios en diferentes partes de nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Aunque es una costumbre para los sacerdotes, ser enviados a nuevas asignaciones, el hecho de que todo el pueblo Católico esté en una realidad de nuestra Fe Católica.

Vayan por el mundo entero y compartan este mensaje de Fe, esperanza y amor con los demás. Por muchas décadas, la Iglesia ha enseñado que el corazón de nuestra Fe Católica está en el almanaque, la búsqueda y el compartir con los demás. Los fieles, Pablo VI y Juan Pablo II, compartieron la realidad de nuestro Pueblo y el Pueblo Católico y nosotros, los fieles, compartimos la realidad de nuestra Fe Católica.

Habrá un congreso para reunir a los jóvenes el 31 mayo en el Centro Pastoral

En Cristo la juventud encontrará la respuesta a sus inquietudes

Por Mauro Yanes

OKLAHOMA CITY — Nuestros jóvenes católicos en Oklahoma no escapan del denominado 'problema juvenil' en la sociedad actual. Desafortunadamente cada vez más jóvenes, obligados a permanecer en el acoso escolar, caca, el abuso, las peleas de pandillas y la solidad como agravantes del desarrollo de nuestra juventud.

La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City a través de su Oficina del Ministerio de la Juventud está haciendo esfuerzos para llevar a nuestra juventud una experiencia de esperanza en Cristo, reafirmandose que es el verdadero futuro de la Iglesia del mañana.

Frente a esto, la Oficina del Ministerio de la Juventud quiere invitar a los jóvenes a un congreso que tendrá como invitado especial a nuestro joven católico William Fortillo, quien viene desde la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles para hablar de su experiencia en la pastoral juvenil. El joven Fortillo quiere compartir con nuestros jóvenes su experiencia en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

El joven Fortillo se encuentra en una situación manifiesta, lo que ha permitido ver la vida con los ojos de Cristo. Por tal motivo se ha ofrecido a ayudar a la Iglesia en su proceso de evangelización y servir a los jóvenes del flagelo de la violencia. Esta experiencia de Fortillo es un ejemplo que podemos compartir con nuestros jóvenes en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

La jornada promete ser muy emocionante y también divertida, porque no se puede negar que aprende de Dios da alegría y gozo. Ante esta llamada a seguir a Jesucristo, el Ministerio de la Juventud quiere recordarles a nuestros jóvenes que ellos tiene que proclamar y testimoniar su propia fe, amor y compromiso con Cristo, de la misma forma que el joven Fortillo.

El encuentro de nuestra Fe Católica, contribuye a nuestro crecimiento personal. Por lo tanto, crecer espiritualmente nos permite ser más fieles para afrontar los problemas de la sociedad actual.

El encuentro para jóvenes está planeado para que comience a las ocho de la mañana y termine a las cuatro de la tarde. Para mayor información, pueden comunicarse con la Oficina del Ministerio de la Juventud de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma (405) 728-3061.
Feligreses homenajearon al Obispo electo Anthony Taylor

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sentimientos encontrados de alegria y tristeza fueron las emociones vividas en la caza de despedida que organizaron los feligreses de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en homenaje al Obispo electo Anthony Taylor. Más de mil personas se congregaron el pasado 2 de mayo en las áreas del gimnasio de la parroquia Sagrado Corazón para darle un adiós.

El Obispo electo Anthony Taylor fue párroco del Sagrado Corazón hasta que el Papa Benedicto XVI lo seleccionó recientemente como el séptimo Obispo de la Diócesis de Little Rock.

En esta celebración, los hispanos católicos, al mejor estilo de la tía, se congregaron, rezando y cantando, en un ambiente emotivo y triste.

El Obispo electo Anthony Taylor fue presentado por el P. Benedicto XVI como el nuevo Obispo de la Diócesis de Oklahoma City. En cada rincón de la parroquia se dieron las expresiones de alegría y profundo agradecimiento hacia el nuevo Obispo electo Anthony Taylor.

El servicio sagrado de Anthony Taylor lo hizo de corazón y conmovió a todos, quienes lo describieron como un sacerdote bendito. El momento fue un testimonio de la bondad de Dios y de su amor al prójimo.

El Obispo electo Anthony Taylor dijo que estaríamos cerca siempre y unidos en la fe.
 Swimming Instructor  
Villa Teresa School, located at 1216 Classen Drive, is in need of a swimming instructor for the summer program that starts June 2. Applicants must be certified as lifeguard and water safety instructor. Please call Sister Veronica at 232-7926.

Part-time Business Manager  
St. Thomas More University Parish in Norman is seeking a part-time business manager to coordinate the functions and operations of the parish office and its ministries. Hours are flexible with the possibility of full-time in the future. Send resume and letter of application to Office Manager Position, St. Thomas More Parish, 100 E. Stinson St., Norman, Okla. 73072. Arrange to have two letters of recommendation sent to the same address. For information, contact Gloria Olivero at 321-0690 or e-mail glory@stm-ou.org.

Groundskeeper Needed  
National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague has an opening for a groundskeeper/facilities maintenance person. Responsibilities include: maintain the Shrine grounds including trees, shrubs, grass, sidewalks, parking lots; snow removal; painting; general handyman and other duties as needed. Must be physically able to lift at least 60 pounds and willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions. Some weekend and evening hours may be required. Salary commensurate with experience. To apply, send resume to National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, P.O. Box 488, Prague, Okla. 74864, or e-mail: shrine.opf@hotmail.com.

Middle School Math and Computer Teacher  
St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City is currently seeking a math and computer teacher for the middle school with state certification for school year 2008-09. Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Bette Novak at (405) 732-7823 or e-mail to bnovak@spok.org.

Teacher Openings  
St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. A position is available for a full-time middle school level homeroom teacher who is qualified/certified to teach a combination of science, social studies and possibly religion for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Applicants for this position must be certified in the state of Oklahoma. Another position is available for a part-time art teacher for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Call the school office at (405) 354-2509 for an application or send a copy of your current Oklahoma teaching certificate and resume to Diane Floyd, St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Okla. 73099.

School Secretary  
St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting applications for a full-time school secretary. We are in need of an energetic individual who can begin employment by July 1, 2008. The desired applicant should have a working knowledge of basic office procedures and computer system(s). He or she should also possess excellent bookkeeping, organizational and people/public relations skills. Call the school office at (405) 354-2509 for an application or send a copy of your current resume to Diane Floyd, St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Okla. 73099.

Teacher Openings  
Sacred Heart School in El Reno is accepting applications for a fifth grade and pre-kindergarten teacher. Must have a bachelor's degree in elementary/early childhood education and an Oklahoma teachers certificate. Send resumes to 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax (405) 262-3818. Contact Shannon Statton at 262-2284 for more information.

High School Coach Openings  
Mount St. Mary High School, Oklahoma City, is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following coaching positions: head volleyball coach, assistant volleyball coach, assistant girls basketball coach, assistant football coach and head track coach for the 2008-2009 school year. Teaching fields are: advanced science, social studies (full time and part time), math (full time), art (part time), and girls physical education (part time). Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegrri at (405) 631-9209 or e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Third/Fourth-Grade Teacher  
Sts. Peter and Paul School in Kingfisher is seeking a middle school teacher with math certification for a classroom with combined grades for the 2008-2009 school year. Applicants must have state certification. Send resumes to Kim Kroener, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School, 309 S. Main, Kingfisher, Okla. 73750, or call 375-4616 to set up an interview.

Cafeteria Manager  
Sacred Heart Catholic School, Oklahoma City, has an opening for a cafeteria manager for the 2008-09 school year. SHCS is a PK through eighth-grade school with 165 students. Manager is responsible for menu planning, ordering, preparing and serving breakfasts and lunches. Food service license is required. Experience working with the federal lunch program is preferred. The position has excellent pay and benefits. Call Joana Camacho at (405) 634-5673 for an application. SHCS is located at 2700 S. Shartel.

Early Childhood Teacher  
Villa Teresa School in Oklahoma City has an opening for the 2008-2009 school year for 2 1/2-year-olds. Applicants must have an associate's degree in early childhood or child development. Send resumes to Villa Teresa School, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City 73103, or call Sister Veronica Higgins for an interview at 222-4286.

Part-Time Music Teacher  
Bishop John Carroll is seeking a dynamic part-time music teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Applicant must be enthusiastic and willing to motivate students to do their personal best and have the ability to work with the director of music at the Cathedral for school Mass. Liturgy planning and basic liturgical skills are helpful. Call Connie Diotte at (405) 525-0856 or fax resume to (405) 523-3053.

Teacher Openings  
Sooner Catholic • May 11, 2008

Teacher Needed  
Volunteer English teacher needed for the Father Rother Parochial School in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Room and board provided. For more information, contact Father Tony Taylor at (405) 517-2303.

Teacher Sought  
Sacred Heart School in El Reno is seeking a pre-kindergarten teacher. Applicants must have a license or certification in Early Childhood. Submit resumes to Principal Shannon Statton, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to (405) 262-3818.

Provost  
St. Gregory’s University invites nominations and applications for the position of provost. This executive level position is the chief academic and student oversight officer under the direction of the president, and is the administrator of academic affairs, student life, intercollegiate athletics and enrollment management. The successful candidate will provide visionary leadership in these areas, prepare and oversee budgets, ensure athletic program compliance with NAIA regulations, oversee the academic programs offered by the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults, and ensure the academic integrity of all programs and adherence to the university’s academic policies, regulations and procedures. The provost supervises the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College for Working Adults, the registrar, the library director, the director of the Student Exploration Center, athletic director and the admissions director. St. Gregory’s University, located in Shawnee, was founded in 1875 by Benedictine monks. A doctorate degree is required in a discipline represented among our academic programs and an academic background sufficient for tenure. This individual must be a practicing Catholic with knowledge of Benedictine spirituality. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience. Electronic applications are preferred, and should include a cover letter and résumé. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position has been filled. Nominations, expressions of interest or requests for the complete position specifications may be sent directly to the university: Shingi Goto, Executive Vice President, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, sngoto@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5435.

Women’s Basketball Coach  
St. Gregory’s University, a Catholic Benedictine university which competes in the SAC of the NAIA, seeks a women’s basketball coach. Qualified candidates will have thorough knowledge of coaching basketball and experience in recruiting, fundraising, scheduling and summer camps. Evidence of successful coaching experience, ability to work with culturally diverse population, excellent communications skills required. A bachelor’s degree is required, master’s degree preferred. Send cover letter, résumé and three references to Human Resources, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804 or hr@stgregorys.edu.

For a full and up-to-date job listing, go to catharchdioceseokc.org and click on Jobs Box.
Conference to Focus on Challenges, Abuses Faced by Refugees, Migrants

WASHINGTON — Registration for this year’s National Migration Conference is already under way. The conference is scheduled for July 28-31 in Washington and is co-sponsored by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS).

With the theme, Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice, the conference will focus on the challenges and abuses faced by refugees, immigrants, migrants, trafficking victims and other persons on the move in the United States and throughout the world. Its goal is to increase public awareness on migration questions and to educate public policy-makers and those interested in related public policy issues. The conference also aims to develop and strengthen dioceses’ and parishes’ capacity to welcome and provide hospitality to newcomers and their families.

Speakers for this year’s conference include Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles; Edwidge Danticat, Haitian refugee and author, whose books include Breath, Eyes, Memory and Brother, I’m Dying; U.S. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), a longtime advocate for global human rights and assistance to victims of human trafficking; Immaculee Ilibagiza, Rwandan genocide survivor and author of Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust; and Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, Ph.D., renowned migration expert and university professor on globalization and education at the Steinhardt School of Education of the New York University.

The conference will address an array of issues, including global migration trends, identifying and supporting survivors of traumatic events, immigration law and crimes, detention issues, employment issues, ethnic information on new refugee populations and family-based immigration.

Ambassador Johnny Young, executive director of MRS, commented on the timeliness of the conference.

“The timing of The National Migration Conference is particularly important given that it falls in an election year that will usher in a new presidential administration. We have a real opportunity through this conference to begin shaping the debate on issues related to migration for the next four years.”

“Given the current urgency of issues related to immigration, refugees and trafficking victims, the National Migration Conference provides a forum that will examine in-depth the injustices and shortcomings in the current legal and political system. It will also promote a faith perspective that calls on all Americans to welcome the immigrant and the refugee into our communities and into our churches,” Young said.

Donald Kerwin, executive director of CLINIC, highlighted the opportunities for immigration practitioners, advocates and service providers to network, share experiences and receive substantive training that enhances their ability to serve immigrants. It also can educate the general public interested in learning about the complexity of immigration issues.

“The workshops and plenary sessions are unique opportunities in which participants can hear from and interact with legal experts, advocates, government officials and policymakers who play an important role in shaping the laws and policies that impact immigrants and refugees,” said Kerwin.

More information can be found on the National Migration Conference Web site, http://nationalmigrationconference.org, or by contacting Izzy Menchero of CLINIC at 202-635-5825 or imenchero@cliniclegal.org, and Jim Kuh of MRS at 202-541-3220 or jkuh@usccb.org.
It’s really important that we pass along the memories of the family...That we stay connected to people, as well as just the photographs themselves.”

– Carol Webster

Woman Builds Family Memories With Works of Art

By Eilana Tedrow
For the Sooner Catholic

NORMAN — While most of us have boxes of family photos stored away in closets with the dates and names of people printed on the backs, Carol Webster is taking it one step further. With her unique appreciation of telling the family story through pictures, this Oklahoma native and member of St. Mark’s Parish in Norman is letting her family stories out of the closet and helping other Oklahomans do the same.

Owner of “Recollect Studios” in Norman, Webster said the concept is simple. She takes two or three family photographs, along with a specific story you want to tell, adds some “artistic enhancements” to further convey your family’s story — and the finished outcome is a “digital montage” (a combination of photos, background images and words) that tell a “visual story” of your family or a specific family member. The finished portraits are printed on archival paper using fade-resistant inks and come ready for framing.

The end result, Webster said, is to personalize your own “recollection” of family stories — stories that might otherwise be lost as members of your family die. By combining photographs, memories and a touch of creativity, Webster creates a visual story of your family that can be passed down through generations.

“Most people are stunned when they see the final outcome,” she said.

Kate Scipione, Webster’s daughter, has witnessed firsthand the impact her mother’s visual storytelling can have on people. “It brings up a lot of emotion in people,” Kate said. “It’s like you need to have some tie to people and the memories. She [her mother] is able to put it in such a way that it’s accessible to everyone and can be tailored to each person.”

Attributing her deep appreciation of family storytelling to her mother, Estella Roberts Patterson, and her Oklahoma heritage, Webster said she hopes to pass on a “visual family legacy,” one that will not be lost when the box of photographs are gone.

Her form of visual storytelling is working. Webster’s first piece, “The Women Before Me,” has won the attention of the art community as well as local awards. Her work has been featured in Cloth, Paper, Scissors magazine and received an award from the “Art As Life” show through the Troy and Dollie Smith Cancer Center at Integris Baptist in Oklahoma City.

Her award-winning piece features rows and columns of different women who lived before her in her family. “They are all different photographs of the same women at different stages of their lives,” Webster said. The first row starts with a picture of her grandmother on her mother’s side before she passed away, and continues back down the row to when her grandmother was a young lady. The other photos are comprised of her aunts, great-aunt, her mother — all of the women Webster wanted her daughter to know. These were the types of women who came before her and she wanted her daughter to have a sense of herself.

When Webster presented her daughter with “The Women Before Me” piece, Kate said she was surprised by the impact it had on her. “To be honest, she said, “I didn’t even recognize most of the women in there. The pictures were just faces. The people might have been familiar, but I didn’t know who they were.” But then she thought, “Wow, these women were real people, not just photographs,” and by seeing part of her family’s history laid out like that, it helped her put it all together.

Kate admits she is a visual person so having a face to go along with her mother’s stories will make them last a lifetime. She says her mother’s way of telling their family story has been an effective tool.

To view Webster’s work, go to www.recollectstudio.com, contact her at (405) 229-4357, or by e-mail at carol@recollectstudios.com.