SALINA, Kan. — In front of more than 1,200 people at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and before countless others watching live on television and the Internet, Bishop Edward Weisenburger was ordained May 1 as the 11th shepherd of the Diocese of Salina.

The overflow cathedral crowd watched a lengthy procession of more than two dozen archbishops and bishops and more than 150 priests, permanent deacons and seminarians as the rite of ordination began.

Afterward, the new bishop offered his gratitude to the papal nuncio, his fellow bishops and priests, and his family, then spoke to his new flock at large.

“The truth is I owe you, and most especially the people of the Diocese of Salina, more than just the emotion of gratitude,” he said. “I actually owe you a life well-lived, poured out in service as your brother in Christ, your spiritual father, your shepherd, your bishop — a life lived out in such a way that it points to Christ, reflects Christ and calls us all to an ever deeper union with Christ.

“It is a huge task, and I tremble before it,” he acknowledged. “I know my limitations and weaknesses all too well. Were it not for my trust and hope in the divine assistance of the Holy Spirit, I would be too shaken to even try.”

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., ordained the new bishop and was joined by co-consecrators from Bishop Weisenburger’s home Archdiocese of Oklahoma City — Archbishop Paul Coakley, the most recent bishop of Salina, and Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran.

All of the visiting bishops and archbishops laid hands on the new prelate as the congregation sang “Come, Creator Spirit.”

The ceremony, which ran 2 1/2 hours, was televised live on EWTN and Catholic TV and streamed live, affording far more people the chance to watch than those able to secure a ticket.

Afterward, at a public reception, Bishop Weisenburger greeted a seemingly endless line of well-wishers for about 90 minutes before leaving for a celebratory dinner with fellow bishops, family, diocesan priests and other guests.

Archbishop Carl Maria Viganò, the papal nuncio to the United States, read the apostolic mandate from Pope Benedict XVI appointing the new bishop and offered his remarks on behalf of the Holy Father.

“I bring warm greetings to each of you and thank Msgr. Edward Weisenburger for generously answering God’s call,” he said.

Archbishop Viganò, who was named nuncio in October, is responsible for vetting candidates to become bishops and is a key figure in the process of appointing new bishops in the United States.

By Doug Weller
The Register

See more coverage of Bishop Weisenburger’s Ordination on Page 5
Our First Liberty

In the United States and indeed in many parts of the world, our first and most cherished liberty, that is, religious liberty, is under attack. Evidence is plentiful.

The recent HHS mandate is the proverbial straw that broke the camel’s back. This federal mandate will require all employers, including those Catholic employers whose teaching the government does not deem “religious enough,” to provide insurance plans for employees that cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. Admittedly, even among Catholics the topic of contraception is controversial. Leaving the important pastoral challenge of making a more compelling case for the Church’s teaching on contraception for another moment, let me say that our concern with this mandate is not primarily about contraception.

Archbishop William Lori sums up the situation, saying, “This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by public funding. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.” This is about religious liberty and the freedom of conscience.

Other examples of this growing assault on religious liberty in the United States can be cited:

— Catholic foster care and adoption services in several dioceses have been forced to close. Why? Their licenses were revoked because as Catholic charitable agencies, faithful to their religious identity, they refused to place children with same-sex or unmarried cohabiting couples.

— The USCBB Migration and Refugee Services, which for years has provided excellent services to victims of human trafficking has now been excluded from providing humanitarian services through a government contract. Why? Because MRS does not provide abortion and contraceptive services, services which are clearly in violation of our Catholic teaching. The terms of the contract were changed to exclude this Catholic agency; even though no other agency has a comparable record of competence to care for these vulnerable individuals and families.

— Several states have recently passed immigration laws forbidding what the government calls “harboring” undocumented immigrants, and what the Church recognizes as a duty of Christian charity to provide pastoral care of those same immigrants. The law makes it a crime for the Church to offer pastoral services to undocumented immigrants, and what the Church regards as a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law. How significant that a Baptist preacher and an American civil rights hero would cite Catholic tradition in making a defense for his actions in the face of injustice!

If we are facing the prospect of unjust laws today, then we Catholics, in solidarity with our fellow citizens, must have the courage, like Dr. King, to resist them. It is not even a matter of conscientious objection to a just law. An unjust law is no law at all. We cannot obey it. We must seek its repeal.

At this crucial time what we need is an engaged, well-informed and articulate Catholic laity with the conviction and courage necessary to counter the dominant culture of secularism that wishes to exclude the Church’s participation in the public debate about the future of American society.

For more information and resources and to follow these developments closely, visit our archdiocesan website at www.archokc.org and click on the USCBB link.

“Put Out Into the Deep” Lk 5:4

May 13 — Mass, St. Michael Church, Meeker, 9 a.m.
May 13 — Confirmation, St. Vincent DePaul Church, McAlester, 11 a.m.
May 15 — Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
May 15 — Resurrection Cemetery Annual Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2:30 p.m.
May 15 — Graduation, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 7:30 p.m.
May 16 — Priests Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
May 16 — Confirmation, St. Peter Church, Woodward, 7 p.m.
May 17 — St. Gregory’s University Board Meeting, Shawnee, 12:30 p.m.
May 18 — Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Board Meeting, St. Eugene Church, 1 p.m.
May 18 — Confirmation, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
May 19 — Mount St. Mary High School Graduation, St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman, 2 p.m.
May 19 — Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
May 20 — Pastoral Ministry Program Graduation, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
May 21-May 23 — National Association of Catholic Chalanas Board Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
May 24 — Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 10 a.m.
May 25 — Jubilee Mass at St. Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, 11 a.m.
May 26 — Confirmation, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
May 27 — Confirmation, St. Joseph Church, Union City, 9 a.m.
PTO Sets Final Event

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa PTO is hosting one final event for the children and staff at Villa Teresa School. There will be three raffles, 48-inch RCA TV, $1,000 landscape package and a weekend in Bricktown with hotel stay, Redhawks suite tickets, food and more! Please look for students selling raffle tickets at Mass the weekend of May 12-13. Proceeds go to the dedicated teachers and staff who have served so well. For some this will be their last job before an early retirement and we want them to know their work is appreciated. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20. For more information, call the school or Lisa Strange at 943-3190 Ext. 100, or Ami Bax at 918-906-5358. Raffle drawing is at 7:30 on May 18. All are welcome to attend from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. with auction, food and family fun.

Bingo at St. James May 24

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and South McKinley Avenue, will be held May 24. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10. Door prizes and special recognition for all players born in May; A Magnavox 37-inch flat screen TV will be given away in June and all players get an entry into the drawing.

Holy Angels Church Carnival

OKLAHOMA CITY — Holy Angels Church, 317 N. Blackwelder, will be holding its annual carnival May 26-27 with games, inflatables and face-painting for the kids, live bands and lots of food. There will be enchiladas, tacos, fried bananas, hot dogs and ice cream. All are welcome, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 26 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 27.

Irish to Host Baseball Camp

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness will host a Summer Baseball Camp from Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, June 1. There is a morning camp for ages 12 to 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and afternoon session for ages 8 to 11 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is $75. For more information, call Bryan Wade at 408-2851 or go to the website, www.BMCHS.org.

Memorial Day Mass Set

EDMOND — Come join family and friends for the Memorial Day Mass and Potluck May 28 at St. Patrick Cemetery, located at 234th Street between County and County Line Road, next to St. Damien’s Church. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Bring a covered dish and lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at St. Monica Church in Edmond. For more information or questions, call Kathy Haskett Miller at (405) 946-4588.

Healing Help From Abortion

OKLAHOMA CITY — Are you suffering from an abortion, or know someone who is? You are not alone. Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ at a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat June 1-3, 2012. The retreat offers a profound opportunity, with a team of trained companions, therapists and clergy, to experience God’s love, forgiveness and compassion. Participation is strictly confidential. The retreat is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life.

For more information, call (405) 623-3844 or email rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com. The cost is $75 for meals, a private room and all retreat materials. Payment plans and financial assistance are available. For a description of the retreat and a complete list of other retreat dates and locations, call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME, or visit the international website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Grant Received

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness High School has been awarded a $20,000 grant to be used to purchase and install sound equipment and acoustic sound panels for a new lecture hall.

The McGuinness lecture hall is part of the Phase IV construction project, which began in December 2011. The project calls for renovation and expansion of the northwest corner of the school.

It will also provide five additional classrooms to accommodate a growing student population. The lecture hall will seat 80 people and provide an atmosphere similar to collegiate lecture hall experiences. The space can also be used for presentations, performances and meetings. The project is scheduled for completion in August 2012.

Grant principal David Morton said he is grateful to the Kirkpatrick Foundation for its continued support of the school and its mission.

Parish Offers Summer Program

OKLAHOMA CITY — Epiphany Children’s Day Out is pre-enrolling now for our new summer program as well as our fall program. The summer program is offered from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays (June 19-July 26). Registration is $20, supply fee is $21, daily fee is $22. This program is for children who are now 6 months (by June 1, 2012) to age 5.

This program gives young children an opportunity to learn how to play with other children, to be away from their parents and begin to find security in their own resources in a fun Christian learning environment. Drop-ins are welcomed upon prior telephone request.

Our fall program will begin on Sept. 4.

Call Stephanie Stovall 722-0051 or e-mail resecretary@epiphanyokc.com.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

KTLR FM 94.1
KTLR 890 AM

FM 94.1 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station sign-off at dusk.

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

Go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com for the current schedule of programs.

May 26 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 27. Lots of food. There will be enchiladas, 26-27 with games, inflatables and face-
Technology Brings Catholic High School to Lawton

By Traci Chapman
For the Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — St. Mary's Catholic School hasn't had a high school graduating class since 1966. Now, thanks to technology mixed with vision and faith, Principal Paolo Dulcamara is hoping to change that.

“In 1966 the Catholic high school closed and the middle school also closed, but that reopened in 2004,” Dulcamara said recently. “We’ve always struggled because of numbers.”

Dulcamara said he was frustrated in his school’s inability to offer a Catholic education all the way through high school. He would see child after child who attended St. Mary’s elementary school head off to other institutions following the eighth grade.

“You can understand it — people say, ‘Why start my child at St. Mary’s when my child can’t finish school at St. Mary’s?’” and if they’re going to have to go to public high school, it’s best to acclimate them in middle school,” he said.

That’s where technology came in, Dulcamara said. While a traditional high school could be a challenge because of attendance, virtual learning could be a real possibility. The principal started doing his own homework, and he hit upon a program that could offer an accredited Catholic education at a fraction of traditional school costs.

CSK12 Virtual is the only online study program for Catholic schools that Dulcamara knows of in the country. Offering a full range of classes, the program will make it possible for St. Mary’s to open its high school doors once again.

“It’s the best of both worlds — the best of both digital education combined with a Catholic education,” Dulcamara said. “With this we have the capacity to have a 40-person high school with room to grow.”

Just because the curriculum is digital doesn’t mean students won’t come to classes, Dulcamara said. The school is going to remodel one room this summer in order to accommodate high schoolers, and supervisors will be on hand to help and monitor students.

“We already have six students who have put in their intent to return forms, with two others waiting and another who might relocate because of a possible job change for a parent,” Dulcamara said. “I think once the word gets around about this, we should see more interest.”

More than one subject will be taught at any given time in the virtual classroom, Dulcamara said. A 12th-grader could be studying German, while a 10th-grader could be taking physics, with both seated in the same classroom. A variety of electives will also be offered, with more on the way, he said, and students will have access to teachers — and other students — from around the country.

With virtual content, you can get the best teachers that there are — not confined to any geographical area,” Dulcamara said. “It has unlimited possibilities.”

Although St. Mary’s is the first Catholic school in Oklahoma to go virtual, others have had substantial success, Dulcamara said. The principal visited St. Andrew’s School in Coral Springs, Fla., over spring break. Seeing that operation — and hearing about others — convinced Dulcamara a Catholic high school education was not a thing of the past.

“There’s no reason Catholic education can’t grow,” he said. “While there are Catholic schools closing across the country, we’re opening — and I don’t think we’ll be the last.”

Saint Mary’s Middle Schoolers Make Pilgrimage to Prague

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

PRAGUE — It was Father Price Oswalt, pastor at St. Wenceslaus Church and Rector of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague who started it. It was the middle school students at St. Mary’s Catholic School in Lawton who finished it.

Paolo Dulcamara, St. Mary’s principal, said he attended a talk some time ago in which Father Oswalt addressed the principals of Oklahoma Catholic schools.

“He talked about the Shrine,” Dulcamara remembered, and how a visit to the Shrine could be a pilgrimage. “I thought it was a good idea. I mentioned it to Robert Quinnett, our Director of Campus Ministry,” Dulcamara said. “He said he was trying to come up with a retreat for the kids. The next thing I know he told me he had contracted a bus service, and was raising funds for a middle school student trip to Prague.”

As the students got ready to board the bus, Father Joe Ross, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, gave the blessing for pilgrims.

During the ride to Prague, Quinnett led the students in Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours and the students watched a video on the life of Pope John Paul II.

The students later wrote about what the trip meant to them.

“The Infant Child of Prague means hope, strength, peace, healing and happiness. It is a way of knowing that we are never alone, even in the darkest times because we have a king of all kings, Jesus Christ,” said Zaria Worthington.

“I felt as if Mary and Jesus were with me. You can feel the energy,” said Alexis Taylor.

“I think that it’s important to honor the Infant Jesus and to practice good virtues just like He did, like being humble, for example. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords was humble enough to come down from heaven to earth, not as a king, but as a regular child. And when He was on earth, He didn’t demand much. He was born in a stable fit for animals and He didn’t go around in a big, huge boat like a king would when He was teaching about God,” said Carlos Dulcamara.

“There’s no reason Catholic education can’t grow,” he said. “While there are Catholic schools closing across the country, we’re opening — and I don’t think we’ll be the last.”
‘Real Life Found in Communion With God and One Another’

SALINA — The evening before his ordination, Bishop-elect Edward Weisenburger joined fellow priests, bishops and the faithful for a prayer service at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The vespers traditionally have been a more private gathering, but parishioners across the diocese were afforded the opportunity to attend because seating in the cathedral for the ordination the next day would be limited.

In his homily, Bishop-elect Weisenburger reflected on the Scripture reading recounting St. Paul’s words to new believers that their love of Christ would be central to their lives.

“That was not a bad thing; the law was God’s great gift to the Jewish people,” he said. Their effort to be faithful to the law was part of their “deep desire to know a perfect unity with God.”

“But there was still a nagging sense that their daily efforts toward perfection could not mend the rupture with God,” Bishop-elect Weisenburger said. “Then the Creator sent his only son to heal forever the rupture between God and his people.”

The law, he said, “was replaced by a relationship of profound love. Never again would Paul need to be motivated by anything but a love for God.”

That same love for Christ is reflected in the 125-year history of the Diocese of Salina, he noted. The faithful built churches, communities and the body of Christ.

“We see the efforts of these people compelled by their love of Christ. People were nourished by a rich sacramental life but also a prayer life. It’s a noble history, and we feel overwhelming gratitude,” the bishop-elect said.

“But it is foolish to look only back in time,” he added. “The future is equally filled with promise. God calls each of us to be nothing less than prophetic,” he said.

The faithful, much like St. Paul and all the great saints, look “a little foolish” when they reject what motivates the world in order to love Christ.

“True followers stand up and say, ‘No, this is not true; this is a lie.’ The truth which God calls us to — each of us must give ourselves over more and more every day as a prophetic witness of Christ, that real life is found in communion with God and one another,” he said.

“We can ask, in the face of such overwhelming odds, what could possibly motivate us to speak the truth and endure the hardships?” Bishop-elect Weisenburger asked. “St. Paul showed us by how he lived. It’s love, the love of Christ that compels us.”

For more on Bishop Weisenburger’s Ordination, go to www.archokc.org.
McGuinness Girls, Students From Good Shepherd
Learn About Soccer, Life, Working With One Another

By Robert Medley
For the Sooner Catholic

Chloe Hoods like you were very surprised as she stood still on the sideline of the grassy field at Senior Night for the Bishop McGuinness High School soccer teams.

The parents and fans rooted at Pribil Stadium in Oklahoma City Wednesday, and didn’t want to go. But with the help of their parents, Chloe and her mom, Tina, Chloe, 6, began to take steps toward adulthood. Then she picked up her pride to stand with the rest of the kick girls wore the national anthem and the opening prayer. Chloe and the other girls stood with other children who represented the Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, a school for students with autism.

It was easy to say, “hey you have to go.” It is easy to say no harm behind you are or how hard the faceless and how many of them in the way. Parents of children with autism are overwhelmed sometimes with a mixture of grief, anger and pain, suffice it with lack of deep support. But there is hope. There is joy in celebrating the differences and the blessings of those who can be accepted as they are. There are also many stories and testimonies of people overcoming autism and learning how to function in life. People with autism don’t just learn to function without help.

My son, Rob, 6, was diagnosed with autism at age 2. When he was almost 6, he approached a ball inside the toy room and with a yell, took a strike at it with his bat. With perfect form it was. Like a typical child all the sudden he was, hitting the top side of his foot in the sweet spot of the ball, he painted down as the ball went 8 yards into the living room. “You are there, are you there,” she yelled. In the living room, Chloe had burst out into tears. Autistic children do not let things like that go unnoticed.

Parents need support that helps them take long for plenty of other parents like me and children like Rob. I played for a soccer team before dinner in the yard one night. At dinner my wife, Michi Blurted out; “Kickstart.” I had not told her I’d prayed for a name for the project. Nor did I tell her about the prayer like me and children like Rob. I prayed for a name before dinner in the yard one night. At dinner my wife, Michi Blurted out, “Kickstart.” I had not told her I’d prayed for a name for the project. Nor did I tell her about the prayer afterburner. She contributed it. The same week.

On the 2012 soccer season is the fall of 2012, I voiced for more than 30 children with autism to show up for the beginning of the Kickstart Soccer League Oklahoma City.

Twenty years ago I had a 10-year-old who I could have found 30 children with autism just in two weeks writing a story in The Oklahoman about the weekend in Edmond, Oklahoma City and other places nearby with autistic parents or friends who needed support and love when they had a play or a communication problem on a daily basis. I couldn’t say I had always dealt with it of all that was at home and surrounded me. I was usually the only one who could do that. The down to see my child on a team behind a uniform, though, would not be lost for parents that have children to kickstart. Sometimes parents were upset about scores after a team put up a team team last time before getting into the crowd, or getting out of it.

It is so easy to see the hate, the impossible, the things that just can be done to forget that faith in about things values, like the future.

Dealt with In 50’s of the things the child can’t do you play in a game sports team, drive a car. But he isn’t. He had kicked. Sometimes with all the love and respect that anyone of them learn to steer away from sports or athletics, “I didn’t want to have a learning experience for me as well. They have taught me how unique an athlete is and that others see the difficulties of all of my hard work and understanding when it sometimes seems like too much with us.

It is so easy to see each other as all the sudden together, to play soccer at Nico Davis in the fall, collected in her time spent helping children with autism.

It has formed my own blend to bring them together to help the kids ever the last few years. I think that I have learned more from them than they could ever learn from me. To see them progress over time one of the most moving experiences I have been involved in. It was so easy to help bring them together. “Right now, they cry more and their smiles brought joy to everyone’s hearts. It was one of the best blessings that God has allowed me to take part in.”

Robert Medley Jr. is a reporter at The Oklahoman, whose son, Rob, 6, is a student at the Good Shepherd Catholic School.

For more information on Bishop McGuinness girls soccer team, visit www.bishopmcguinness.com/Kickstart.

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St. Greg’s Students Lend a Hand in New Orleans

SHAWNEE — Seventeen students and staff representing St. Gregory’s University spent their spring breaks helping needy children in New Orleans. The volunteers were participating in the renovation of the Dodwell House, a community center that provides outreach to at-risk children in the area.

The group put in more than 200 hours of work, which consisted of rebuilding a wheelchair ramp, improving the landscaping, renovating a ceiling and cleaning. Students and staff also tutored children in reading and math, shared meals with them, and took them home in the evenings.

“It was an eye-opening experience for the whole group,” said Amelia Patterson, SGU’s student activities director. “It was really nice to see our students come together to help rebuild a community in need.”

The group included students Cortney Reynaga, Graciela Rojas, Abby Pollart, Gini Krieg, Tawnni Powell-McCarthy, Gabriela Weigel, Louie Apodaca, Leathem Spitz, Vincent Carrasco, Rebecca Bodman, Jessina Stangl, Akane Kai, Sachiko Isomura and Heather Anderson. Staff members Patterson, James Press and Elizabeth Nematpour also made the trip.

In addition to time spent volunteering, the group also attended a “Healing Mass” for those still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and toured the Lower Ninth Ward, one of the areas hardest hit by the storm.

“The experience I had in New Orleans made me better appreciate what I have back home,” Reynaga said. “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help.

Groups from SGU have made community service trips during spring break before, including stops in Lafayette, La., and Huntsville, Ala., in recent years. Patterson said planning for next year’s trip will begin soon.

Association Gives Catholic Kids Avenue for Sports

By Brittany Riesenbgerg
For the Sooner Catholic

Every school year, hundreds of kids from the Catholic Grade School Athletic Association (CGSAA) fill soccer fields, school gyms and the track.

The CGSAA is a nonprofit organization that sponsors athletic programs for member schools. It exists to organize and promote the development of respectful, faith-filled athletes through participation in interscholastic sports. The goals of the CGSAA are to integrate an athlete’s experience with the teaching of Christian values, to enhance an athlete’s knowledge of the game, and to promote an attitude of respect and sportsmanship as individuals and team members.

Currently, 14 schools are a part of the association: All Saints Catholic School, Christ the King Catholic School, Rosary Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, St. Charles Catholic School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, St. Eugene Catholic School, St. James Catholic School, St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, St. Philip Nerri Catholic School and Villa Teresa Catholic School. St. John’s Episcopal School, Trinity Episcopal School and Westminster School have also been, historically, longtime members of the CGSAA. Each school has the opportunity to participate in volleyball, soccer, basketball and track.

The CGSAA started in 1951 by C.K. Glover, A.J. Cavanough, Father Phil Donohoe, Monsignor R. Vander Grinden and Benny Luetskemeyer. Bishop Eugene McGuinness and Catholic High School Principal Father David Monahan helped ensure the association’s early success. Before 1951 there were sports in the Diocese of Oklahoma only at the high school level, but the Catholic high school sports were not part of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA). Catholic high schools across the state had their own league and played each other. Since the CGSAA’s inception, thousands of youth have reaped the benefits of Catholic grade school and middle school athletics.

The current generation of athletes is the third generation in some families to participate in the CGSAA.

Every year, the CGSAA hosts the Catholic schools state basketball tournament in Oklahoma City. The tournament is named after C.K. Glover, who spent over 50 years on the board of the organization. The tournament promotes Christian fellowship by bringing Catholic children and families together from Catholic schools in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Okarche, Kingfisher, Lawton, Ponca City, Norman and other locations throughout the state to compete in both girls and boys basketball.

Gary Savely, CGSAA Commissioner of Basketball Officials and longtime CGSAA board member and supporter, shared his thoughts on the state tournament: “The state tournament weekend is something the kids look forward to all season as a chance to compete for the state championship, which is presented for grades sixth, seventh and eighth. The camaraderie and enthusiasm that weekend for basketball is something participants never forget.”

This year, the organization added a new opportunity for kindergarten through third-grade students. A basketball developmental league was started this past December. The goal of this league is to expose the younger students to basketball and allow them the opportunity to compete against one another in a Christian environment. This league also works to develop the skills of athletes heading into the more competitive years. This program will also help develop new coaches.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the CGSAA, please contact Michael Milligan at jmillig1@hotmail.com. Brittany Riesenbgerg is a graduate student at the University of Notre Dame. She is pursuing her master's in Education Administration.
**Lecture Focuses on Faith of World Famous Authors**

By Annmarie Sceapleranda  
*For the Sooner Catholic*

NORMAN — Recently, Carol Zaleski gave the annual True Family Lecture on the Faith and Reason of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and the Inklings at the Bell Courtroom at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Zaleski, professor of World Religions at the University of Oklahoma, said that Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and the Inklings together make up a long line of True Family lecturers that includes Alasdair MacIntyre, George Weigel, J.B. Buddziszewski and Avery Crumley Dulle, S.J., as well as last year’s Robert Elsberg, a friend of Dr. Zaleski’s.

The True Family Lecture was established by the late Robert G. Herbert True for the OU Catholic Student Group and St. Thomas More Parish to host a speaker with appropriate views about the world whole. This year’s lecture on the beloved authors of The Lord of the Rings and The Chronicles of Narnia brought in an audience of 175 faculty and students.

After law professor Drew Kershens’ introduction of Dr. Zaleski, she began with a literary portrait of her guest speaker. She said that Lewis and Tolkien were author of “The Chronicles of Narnia,” whose booming voice would be heard in the halls of Magdalen College, Oxford, as well as many other places of medieval and Renaissance poetry. His lectures would transport his audience to medieval and Renaissance worlds of man as part of a unified vision of the universe.

For Lewis, the key difference between the medieval and the modern conception of the universe was, she said, “his idea of the universe as a whole.” This vision was a unified vision of the universe that they have and we lack.”

Though Tolkien did not have a lot of compatible and overt Catholicism, Tolkien wrote his friend, Robert Murray, S.J., “Lord of the Rings” is a fundamentally religious and Catholic book.

Tolkien and Lewis, Zaleski continued, were really war writers, though they were not classed as such. Tolkien began his mythology in the trenches of World War I, where all but one of his close friends died. He told the tale of the hobbit Frodo Baggin’s commitment to his children and began his legacy, The Lord of the Rings, as the sequel to The Hobbit.

Tolkien and Lewis met in 1926, and the two became friends and shared a vision of the universe. This close relationship carried over to their profession, as Lewis and Tolkien were not so much “loose association of people” as “a loose association of people,” Zaleski made clear, they saw themselves as “as a loose association of unpolished men, who liked long walks and tobacco.”

Dr. Zaleski’s project, Dr. Zaleski elucidated, is what John Paul II called the evangelization of culture: to recover what might be discarded. With their “fundamental view as a loose association of people,” Zaleski made clear, they saw themselves as “as a loose association of unpolished men, who liked long walks and tobacco.”

The goal of the project, Dr. Zaleski elucidated, is what John Paul II called the evangelization of culture: to recover what might be discarded. With their “fundamental view as a loose association of people,” Zaleski made clear, they saw themselves as “as a loose association of unpolished men, who liked long walks and tobacco.”

Fantasy stories, Dr. Zaleski continued, “answer desire for recovery, escape and consolation. The arresting strangeness overcomes the dull haze of familiarity. Fantasy refreshes your vision and helps you to see real things.”

Other authors, such as Germaine Greer, saw Lewis and Tolkien’s work as “juvenile trash” and failed to object to the fantasy genre. Dr. Zaleski pointed out that other literary critics are seen as serious. “Fantasy is not what gives offense,” she said, “It’s the happy ending.”

Lewis and Tolkien, war writers who both lost their mothers at young ages, were not just sunny optimists, Zaleski continued. They understood that loss is real, but their tragic views of the world were optimistic and hopeful. Their works had the “extraordinary aspect in temptation, sacrifice and unlooked for redemption.” In other words, their works contained an echo of the Gospel and served as “preparation for the Gospel.” In their works, they continued, the virtues of innocence and charity prevail.

The centrality of the virtues and human flourishing in living the moral life is another difference between the modern and medieval worlds, Zaleski expanded. Since Kant, the virtues, including custom, honor and chivalry have been seen as extra-moral. In contrast, Tolkien and Lewis saw a role for virtue as connected to the person becoming more himself and blossoming.

Before ending the evening with a robust question and answer period, Dr. Zaleski addressed the charge from his audience that Lewis and Tolkien desired a nostalgic regression to the past.

“Would you call Aquinas a nostalgiast Aristotelian?” she asked. “Would you call the renaissance a nostalgic one?”

Zaleski’s response: “No, their works are Tolkien and Lewis nostalgic. Theirs is not a reaction but a revitalization of culture.”

**District Names New President**

PURCELL — Kevin Clagg knew what was expected of him when he was elected recently as the president of the South Central District Council of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of St. Vincent de Paul.

Clagg, a member of Purcell’s Our Lady of Victory Church, had worked with the South Central District Council of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of St. Vincent de Paul board for six years. He succeeds Ed Marsom of St. Mark Church, Norman, who served as district president for the last six years.

“We have a good organization and we get a lot of help from the parish, who provide us with the volunteers and direction to do this,” Clagg said.

The district consists of 97 members of St. Andrew’s in Moore, Our Lady of Victory in Purcell and St. Joseph, St. Mark and St. Thomas More of Norman.

“We don’t have a thrift store, we have a storage building. When volunteers hear of a need, then we make a list district items to families,” Clagg said.

Since 2006, the South Central District Council of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of St. Vincent de Paul reports it has provided help to 52,236 people, with $1,325,000 in rent, utilities and other assistance. In addition, it has provided cars, furniture and other household items with an estimated value of $148,978.

Scout Earns Gold Award

Katie Cooley was recently awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn.

Katie is the daughter of Jack and Mary Cooley of Midwest City. She is a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School where she is a varsity softball player, a member-at-large in the Fine Arts Club, member-at-large in the Camino Club, member of Big Sis Little Sis and Clancy clubs. She has been a Girl Scout for 12 years.

For her Gold Award project, she chose to help support the Holy Family Home, a Catholic Charities-sponsored home in Midwest City that cares for pregnant teenage girls. Katie’s Gold Award project focused on the home’s need for supplies. She and her mom, with the help of friends, Rachel Williams, Cassie Fluit and Skilar Aleman, completed 20 handmade baby blankets, which the girls can use, and an additional donation of 10 blankets from the Mid-Del Stitching Sisters. Katie set up several donation drives using the “wish list” provided by Holy Family Home. She received support from Girl Scout Troop 70, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church and St. Matthew’s Methodist Church. These groups generously donated baby clothes and various supplies including bottles, diapers, books, gift cards, baby food and personal care items for the girls and the home.

Katie Cooley

Cooley

Kevin Clagg
La maternidad, una lección de amor

Anne McGuire

Un vistazo reciente a la maternidad me ayudó a comprender una vez más que estoy llamada a la profundidad y riqueza de un amor que transforma mi vida. Esta semana, hablé con mi amiga, Amy, quien acaba de dar a luz a su primer hijo, un pequeño bebé llamado Joseph. Durante nuestra conversación, compartió su experiencia sobre la maternidad. Reflexionó sobre sus palabras en el contexto de otras experiencias de vida desesperadas en mi conciencia de lo que significa amar.

En su carta a las familias, el Beato Juan Pablo II nos dice que “el amor hace que el hombre se realice mediante la entrega sincera de sí mismo.” Aprendemos que significa amar mediante la gentileza y las circunstancias de nuestra vida, como lo comprobé en la experiencia de Amy como madre joven. Ella ya ha descubierto la profunda entrega de sí que exige la maternidad, desde el costo físico de dar a luz hasta la entrega absoluta de su tiempo.

Esta conversación me impactó más que cualquier experiencia anterior a mí. Al reflexionar sobre la maternidad con Amy, comprobé en la experiencia de Amy precisamente el origen de su belleza: por la presencia de Dios working within it will endure. Christ and has the power and strength of God working within it will endure. However, a love which is rooted in self-sacrifice required of car

Outside Looking In: Motherhood’s Lesson in Love

Anne McGuire

USCCB

Un vistazo reciente a la maternidad me ayudó a comprender una vez más que estoy llamada a la profundidad y riqueza de un amor que transforma mi vida. Esta semana, hablé con mi amiga, Amy, quien acaba de dar a luz a su primer hijo, un pequeño bebé llamado Joseph. Durante nuestra conversación, compartió su experiencia sobre la maternidad. Reflexionó sobre sus palabras en el contexto de otras experiencias de vida desesperadas en mi conciencia de lo que significa amar.

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The Catholic Foundation
CORNERSTONE

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Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Bishops Ask Legislators to Protect the Poor

WASHINGTON—Congress should assess every budget proposal to determine whether it reflects the shared responsibility of the government and other institutions to protect human life and dignity, especially of the most vulnerable, said the bishop who chairs the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in a May 8 letter to the House of Representatives.

“The Catholic bishops of the United States recognize the serious deficits our country faces, and we acknowledge that Congress must make difficult choices to allocate burdens and sacrifices and balance resources and needs,” wrote Bishop Stephen E. Blair of Stockton, California, as the House prepared to vote on a reconciliation package for the 2013 budget. “However, deficit reduction and fiscal responsibility efforts must perversely determine the needs of poor and vulnerable people. The proposed cuts to programs in the budget reconciliation fail this basic moral test.”

Anne McGuire is a staff assistant for the USCCB’s Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. To learn more about the bishops’ activities on conscience protection, visit www.usccb.org/conscience.

Outside Looking In: Motherhood’s Lesson in Love

Anne McGuire

USCCB

A recent glimpse into motherhood caused me to realize anew that I am called to the depths and richness of love which transforms my life. Earlier this week, I spoke with my close friend, Amy, who just gave birth to her first child, a little boy named Joseph. During our conversation, she shared her experience of motherhood. Reflecting on her words in the context of other life experiences stirs in me a greater awareness of what it means to love, the invitation to plunge into the depths of love, and the impact of this invitation on my life.

In his Letter to Families, Blessed John Paul II tells us that “love causes me to realize anew that I am called to the depths and richness of love which transforms my life.” Earlier this week, I spoke with my close friend, Amy, who just gave birth to her first child, a little boy named Joseph. During our conversation, she shared her experience of motherhood. Reflecting on her words in the context of other life experiences stirs in me a greater awareness of what it means to love, the invitation to plunge into the depths of love, and the impact of this invitation on my life.

As we concluded our conversation, I was struck by the difference between motherhood and motherhood … make it

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School Openings  St. Mary’s Catholic School in Lawton is seeking persons of faith who have completed or are in the process of completing their Catholic education. The school will have the following openings for next year: Parent / part-time Degree and certification are preferred for teaching positions. All applicants please submit resume and copies of needed certifications for teaching positions, submit transcripts to Paolo J. Dulcamara, 611 SW 'A' St., Oklahoma City. For more information, contact an Archdiocesan education office at www.soonercatholic.org or email questions to shrineofinfantjesus.com. The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Francis of Mary Magdalene. Lots of time for prayer, reflection and prayerful, enriching retreat agenda. Franciscan conventions are offered at St. Joseph’s Retreat Center in Dalhart, and Beatitude and Jerusalem hotel. Mass on boat on Sea of Galilee. Pilgrimage visits to sites of Christ’s life in Israel. $500 pp deposit - deposit deadline May 30. Breakfast and dinner each day. Tips included. With RT flights from OKC: $3,942 pp; “Land Only” price is $2,241 pp. For more information, (405) 642-8139 or 877-669-9387.

JOBS

St. Mary’s Catholic School in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, is seeking a part-time Board Certified Religious Education teacher. We have a Catholic education. The school will raise awareness and support of the Gospel values of faith, hope and love. Please send a resume and proof of teaching certificate to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

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

Parish Business Manager  Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist in Edmond has an opening for Parish Business Manager. Extensive experience is required in the areas of responsibility that include finance, property management, personnel management and development, and business affairs. Please seek a person with a college degree, strong financial, problem-solving, planning, facility management and people skills. Proficient computer knowledge skills, including accounting software applications, Microsoft Office and facility management is required. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the scope of responsibility and experience required. We are presently accepting applications and resumes. Immediate opening is available. Contact: Search Committee, Box 510, Edmond. Okla. 73083, (405-340-0691).

Parish Secretary  Holy Name Parish is seeking a parish secretary, will use organization skills, interpersonal skills and computer expertise to respond to the needs of the parishioners and to act as a liaison between parish staff and parishioners in order that all in the parish can easily access the ministries and facilities the parish provides. The role description, explaining this part-time position of 20 hours a week and the necessary qualifications, is available at the parish office during regular business hours. Interested applicants should contact the parish office at (405) 244-6068. Submit resume and references by May 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education St. Anthony Parish in Dalhart, Texas, a parish of 400 families in the rural community of Dalhart (Diocese of Amarillo) is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Education. This person will direct and coordinate all religious education in the parish, including elementary, junior high, high school and adult education. A charism for working with a variety of ages is a must. While good programs have been in place, we are eager for someone with good ideas and the vision and energy to implement them. Youth and education facilities have been built in the past year. Bachelor's degree is required. Education and/or experience in catechesis or youth ministry is preferred as well as bilingual (English-Spanish) abilities. Salary will be according to education and experience. Benefits are included. Submit cover letter, resume and references prior to May 30 to Father Scott Raef, Pastor, P.O. Box 1029, Dalhart Texas 79022. Visit our parish website at www.stanthony- dalhart.org, or email questions to scottraef@gmail.com.

More Calendar  www.soonercatholic.org

Calendar

MAY

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

17 TAP INTO FAITH! This month’s topic: The Holy Mass: What’s That Guy Doing Up There? Speaker: Father Stephen Hamilton, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Okarche. Details: Contact Father Hamilton at 341-2199, or lmoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.

19 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at Little Flower Church, OKC, from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Sheila Whalen-Guthrie, Principal, 502 E. Warner, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

19 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of St. Francis of Mary Magdalene. Lots of time for prayer, reflection and prayerful, enriching retreat agenda. Franciscan conventions are offered at St. Joseph’s Retreat Center in Dalhart, and Beatitude and Jerusalem hotel. Mass on boat on Sea of Galilee. Pilgrimage visits to sites of Christ’s life in Israel. $500 pp deposit - deposit deadline May 30. Breakfast and dinner each day. Tips included. With RT flights from OKC: $3,942 pp; “Land Only” price is $2,241 pp. For more information, (405) 642-8139 or 877-669-9387.

20 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Frazer hosts a retreat at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Desbrow at 830-8688.

20 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass begins at 11 a.m. at The Catholic Parish of St. Therese in Kingfisher. The Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

20 Single's dance at St. Charles Borromeo Church from 7 to 11 p.m. Contact Al at 631-0763 for more information. St. Charles is located at 5024 N. Grove Ave., Oklahoma City.

20 Parish Business Manager  Catholic Parish of St. John the Baptist in Edmond has an opening for Parish Business Manager. Extensive experience is required in the areas of responsibility that include finance, property management, personnel management and development, and business affairs. Please seek a person with a college degree, strong financial, problem-solving, planning, facility management and people skills. Proficient computer knowledge skills, including accounting software applications, Microsoft Office and facility management is required. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the scope of responsibility and experience required. We are presently accepting applications and resumes. Immediate opening is available. Contact: Search Committee, Box 510, Edmond. Okla. 73083, (405-340-0691).

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28 Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery with Archbishop Coakley at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.


More Calendar  www.soonercatholic.org
GUYMON — Tim O’Connor stood in the middle of a packed meeting room inside the Holiday Inn Express and thanked the community for allowing Catholic Charities to be a part of their community.

“You give us such a wonderful gift by allowing us to serve,” O’Connor told the more than 50 people who turned out on a Saturday afternoon to celebrate the work done by Catholic Charities in this Panhandle community of 14,000.

“As we serve, we learn so much more,” said O’Connor, who recently announced he will retire as executive director of Catholic Charities early next year. “We are the true beneficiaries.”

O’Connor traveled to Guymon with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. They were here to celebrate the new home for Catholic Charities in the community.

Julian Gonzalez directs the Catholic Charities office in the Guymon area. She was able to secure an office building that will give the organization more room and a greater “main street” presence in the community. Actually, the new office is located on Main Street, 904 N. Main to be exact.

Archbishop Coakley and O’Connor were greeted by Father Michael Wheelahan, pastor at Saint Peter Church, as well as several nuns and the local Methodist minister.

The Archbishop said that while Catholic Charities is operated by the Church, it does so for the good of all.

“Our faith compels us to serve everyone,” the Archbishop said. He said the Catholic faith and the ministry of Catholic Charities calls us to “be the loving presence of Christ.”

After blessing the new office, Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass at Saint Peter with Father Wheelahan concelebrating. He also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation that evening at St. Peter Church.

Family Story One Testimony of Catholic Charities’ Work

GUYMON — It did not take long for the stories to pour forth that demonstrate the great good being delivered by Catholic Charities in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

As Julian Gonzalez spoke to a crowd of supporters inside the Holiday Inn Express, a young woman and boy came into the room. Gonzalez, who directs Catholic Charities in the Guymon office, introduced them.

The two were from a family of Burmese immigrants who had moved with their mother and father and five other siblings to Guymon. The father had landed a job with Seaboard. But soon after arriving he became ill. It was learned he was dying from cancer.

The mother of the family was distraught. She does not speak English and here she was in a strange new land with children and her husband dying.

Gonzalez said one evening as the couple lay in bed, the woman in tears, her dying husband comforted her.

“He told her not to worry, Catholic Charities and the government will take care of you,” Gonzalez said.

The young Burmese woman who came with her brother to the Catholic Charities reception gave Gonzalez a big hug. Her father had told their mother the truth.