

# Sooner Catholic

Serving the People of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Volume 34, Number 10 \* May 13, 2007



Photo Courtesy of Tinsley Photography

## Pro-Life Bill Gets Second Chance

### Faithful Pray as Senate Slates Override Try

By Ray Dyer  
*Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — A second attempt to override Gov. Brad Henry's veto of pro-life SB 714 was expected to take place in the Oklahoma Senate on May 9. Pro-life Catholics were praying and pushing for the success of a second vote and they weren't alone. The state's largest Baptist newspaper, The Baptist Messenger, was also calling for the Senate to override the veto. An editorial in that newspaper called on state leaders to "Err on the side of life."

Look to the Sooner Catholic website for the latest concerning Senate Bill 714. Go to [www.catharchdioceseokc.org](http://www.catharchdioceseokc.org). Then click on **The Sooner Catholic**.

Tony Lauinger, a Tulsa Catholic and executive director of Oklahomans for Life Inc., said Sen. James A. Williamson, R-Tulsa, the author of SB 714, has vowed to continue the effort to remove state taxpayer support for abortions. The measure passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives, apparently making it veto proof there. It passed

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## Leaping for Joy

### Supreme Court Ruling Big Step in Saving Innocent Lives

One of my favorite ancestors is John the Baptist, who "leapt for joy" in Elizabeth's womb when she met Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus.

Today we might imagine all babies jumping for joy over the U.S. Supreme Court decision to better protect life in the womb.

In a decision of historic consequences, the Supreme Court recently prohibited partial



**The Joyful Catholic**  
By Rick Hermann

birth abortion, a gruesome and horrifying procedure that partially delivers a living infant

and then kills it.

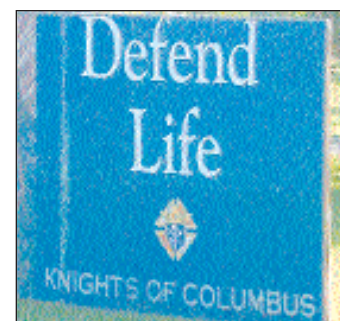
The decision is a significant victory in the ongoing battle to protect and defend the most innocent and helpless members of our human family — our unborn children.

The vote was five votes in favor versus four opposed. All votes in favor came from the justices who are Catholic, and

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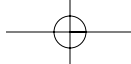
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## The Good News

**T**oday, with great joy, I greet all mothers. With a fervent request I ask Almighty God to bless each of you in a very, very special way. May God, in His goodness and love, grant you His peace and a life filled with happiness. May He guard and protect and lead you all the days of your life on this earth to life everlasting in heaven. There, may you and your children share in the Kingdom of God forever and ever!

Mother's Day is a wonderful annual reminder of the great blessing God has given each of us in the person of our own dear mothers. It is the plan of God to create human life through the ministry and the cooperation of a woman and a man. Through them God instills new life. Parents, therefore, are co-creators with God and rightly called mother or father.

While Mother's Day is a public recognition of motherhood, grateful children should remember and respond personally every day for the gift of our own mother. We realize not only how good God is who gave us our mothers, but also how good our mother is who received and accepted us as a gift from God.

I believe the failure of people to

recognize human life as a gift from God is the fundamental reason we have so much violence in our society today. It is certainly part of the reason for the practice of birth control and leads to the acceptance of abortion. Not recognizing life as a gift causes many people to react negatively toward children. Child neglect and other forms of child abuse are caused by people who have lost respect for human life. Indeed, all crimes and offenses stem from the loss of the respect for the gift of life from God.

Today, as we observe Mother's Day, we are challenged once again to examine our own attitude toward life. Do we see our own life as a gift from God? Do we regularly and sincerely thank God for the gift of life? If our mother is still living, do we frequently thank her by word and by deed? If our mother is deceased, do we remember to pray for her and even perhaps to her? Do we do all this gratefully?

A mother, by her openness to God, the giver of all life is truly a co-creator with God. A mother, by her thankful acceptance of the gift of her child reflects the goodness of God. A mother, by her dedicated care, difficult though it might be, practices

## ... Mothers

*Today, as we observe Mother's Day, we are challenged once again to examine our own attitude toward life. Do we see our own life as a gift from God?*



Archbishop Beltran

the graciousness of God. Mothers are intended to be special gifts for all of us.

Today, with great joy, therefore we do thank God for the gift of our own dear mother. Let us also thank our mother for her positive response in accepting us as a gift from God.

Congratulations to all mothers for your faithfulness to your vocation. May Almighty God in His goodness and love bless and help you and every mother today and always. Happy MOTHER'S DAY!

## Sooner Catholic

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## Seminary Burses

A \$1,000 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by the Diocese of Little Rock

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by Little Flower Parish, OKC

A \$200 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. Francis Parish, OKC

A \$500 donation was made to the **Father Joseph Beltran** Seminary Burse by St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond

A \$1,213.76 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by Knights of Columbus Charities USA Inc.

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A \$300 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse by St. Mary's Parish, Ponca City

A \$25 donation was made to the **Father Stanley Rother** Seminary Burse in memory of David Brockman by Clara Schwarz

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**Father Denis Blackledge**  
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**Archbishop Charles Salatka**  
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**Father Gerald Ucker**  
Seminary Burse  
\$8,570.00  
Totals as of 3/31/2007



# Catholic Charities to Expand Parish Nursing Program

By Eileen Dugan  
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Parish nurses are registered nurses who are specially trained to minister to a person's spiritual as well as medical needs. They are just as likely to say a prayer with their patients or offer them Holy Communion as check their pulse or take their temperature. Parish nurses serve people of all ages and offer them educational support as needed.

The parish nurse program is ecumenical in scope. In addition to Catholic churches, parish nurses can be found in many other faith communities in Oklahoma. There are parish nurses ministering in Oklahoma Southern Baptist, Lutheran, Church of Christ, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, to name a few. At present, no Oklahoma Jewish or Muslim communities employ parish nurses, although the program is open to these religions.

"The needs of the faith community plus the gifts of the parish nurse is what creates this healing ministry," said Mary Diane Steltenkamp, coordinator of Parish Nursing for Catholic Charities. "The five pillars of parish nursing are 1) Active listening, that is, walking with a person in the midst of his or her illness. 2) Providing health resources and

referrals. 3) Providing educational programs. 4) Advocating for health concerns, and 5) Coordinating volunteers to be part of the healing ministry."

A decade ago, the Board of Catholic Charities agreed to co-sponsor a parish nursing program with Saint Anthony's Hospital and Saint Patrick's Catholic Parish in Oklahoma City. Soon, Saint Patrick's was the first faith community in Oklahoma to be ministered to by a full-time parish nurse.

Villa Isenbart and Trinity Gardens, two Catholic Charities administered apartment buildings for the elderly, are located on the grounds of Saint Patrick's Church. Steltenkamp was hired to minister to anyone at Saint Patrick's needing a parish nurse's assistance, but she worked primarily with those living in the nearby housing for the elderly. She was the first paid parish nurse in Oklahoma.

Now, 10 years later, the Oklahoma parish nurse program serves thousands of persons in parishes and churches throughout the state. Some parish nurses are paid; others serve as volunteers. "In the past 10 years, over 150 registered nurses have been trained in the parish nurse ministry, addressing over 20 denominations," Steltenkamp said.

"One of the changes that has been implemented in the past few months is the name change from

Parish Nursing to Faith Community Nursing Association of Oklahoma (FCNAOK). This name change follows what has been done internationally to better describe this organization's ecumenical approach," she said.

With 10 years of success, Catholic Charities now plans to expand the parish nursing program.

"We are looking at having a statewide coordinator who will be able to set up programs in communities. We hope to establish regional resource support for the parish nursing program. The concept is to join faith communities with local medical systems to establish parish nursing programs," said Becky Van Pool. As director of Parish Outreach and Program Development for Catholic Charities, Van Pool said the "expansion of the program will help provide resources and training opportunities and will help support new and ongoing programs. We are looking at funding sources through grants and will anticipate hiring for this position by July 1 if funding is identified."

Van Pool said another goal of the statewide program "is to have a data-collection process established to give the parish nurses more resources. We want to give them more reporting systems that would allow an evaluation of the impact they are having upon their communities."

## How Parish Nursing Began in State

Although Mary Diane Steltenkamp pioneered parish nursing at Saint Patrick's Church 10 years ago, it was several more years before parish nursing began in earnest in Oklahoma. In November 1999, Catholic Charities sponsored a parish nursing course. They hired a professor from Marquette University to come to Oklahoma City and facilitate the class. Fifteen people signed up. By December 1999, several of these newly-minted parish nurses were serving in archdiocesan parishes and in other Oklahoma faith communities.

That same December, Dr. Andy

West was the dean of the Kramer School of Nursing at Oklahoma City University (OCU). She had been one of the 15 persons who took the parish nurse training in November 1999. The program provided by the professor from Marquette had impressed her. And she was not alone. The International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC) found Marquette's program so impressive, they adopted it as their international training model.

Taking advantage of this development, West traveled to Chicago to take IPNRC's facilitator course for

parish nursing. She successfully completed the course, and, enthusiastic about what she had learned, brought a parish nurse training program to Oklahoma with Catholic Charities' help.

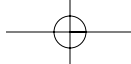
Twice each year since 2000 until her recent retirement, West facilitated parish nurse training. Steltenkamp coordinated the program for Catholic Charities while the individual nurses or their faith communities paid for the classes.

Now that Dr. West has retired, Marilyn Seiler, RN, MSN, a home-health coordinator and spiritual

director, is being groomed to continue the program. In August she will travel to Mercy Center in St. Louis, Mo., for the faculty training at the Parish Nurse Educator Conference under the auspices of the IPNRC. When she returns to the Sooner state, she will be prepared to offer the next parish nurse training scheduled for early November.

If your parish or church is interested in starting a parish nurse program, contact Mary Diane Steltenkamp at Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3009.





Governor and SB 714

# Veto Ensures Equal Suffering for Poor

*"I see a woman in the night, with a baby in her hands under an old street light, near a garbage can.*

*Now she puts the kid away and she's gone to get a hit,*

*She hates her life and what she's done to it.*

*That's one more kid that will never go to school, never get to fall in love, never get to be cool...*

*Keep on rockin' in the free world."*

— Neil Young

A lesson many of us probably learned from our parents was to never let someone bigger pick on someone smaller. "And when he comes after you, just punch him right in the nose and it will bleed and that will scare him and he'll stop." This is how my mother taught us to deal with bullies. This advice is probably why I have a small scar on my left cheek. It's barely noticeable, but I know it's there. None of my sisters or my brother has a scar from fighting, at least that I know of. They probably weren't listening to Mom. My brother does have a scar on his nose but that's because he fell on a tree stump. Unless you know it's there, it too is barely noticeable.

## Commentary

By Ray Dyer  
Editor

Maybe this early lesson from Mom is one of the reasons why I feel the way I do about abortion. It's wrong to hurt people who are smaller and weaker. Do any of us know anyone smaller or weaker than a baby living inside his mother's womb?

A couple of weeks ago Gov. Brad Henry vetoed Senate Bill 714. The legislation would have prohibited taxpayer money from being used to abort babies.

One of the reasons Gov. Henry gave for vetoing the bill was that poor women would have been treated unfairly. His logic seemed to be that it wouldn't be fair for women with money to have an abortion while women with less money couldn't.

If Gov. Henry vetoed Senate Bill 714 because in his heart he believed poor women should have the same right to have an abortion as women with money, I'm afraid he has only poured fuel on an existing problem — one that deals with scars. Not the



## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Hot line **877-HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)** or call the Office of Family Life for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at **405-721-8944**. Internet site is [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

kind of scar I have on my left cheek. I'm talking about the kind of scar carried by a person who has had their soul cut by the evil of abortion. That kind of scar cuts a lot deeper, a whole lot deeper. If you don't believe me, ask the people who operate the ministry known as Rachel's Vineyard. Rachel's Vineyard is a program that helps women and men who suffer from the scars carved into their souls by abortion. It's a ministry of responsibility, mercy, healing and forgiveness. People all across this nation and in Canada and Europe are turning to Rachel's Vineyard for help and healing. They do so because God created people to love, not to kill, especially their own children.

It's been reported Oklahoma has one of the highest rates of mental illness in these United States. What

are the root causes of mental illness? If more and more people are turning to Rachel's Vineyard for post-abortion healing, is it possible abortion might possibly play some sort of role in mental illness?

Will Gov. Brad Henry and Democratic members of the Oklahoma Senate who helped kill SB 714 provide quality mental health care to every poor woman who suffers from the scars, the overwhelming guilt and shame caused by abortion? If not, are these state leaders any different than the man who fathers a child and then walks away?

Over time, a scar of the flesh can heal so it's one day barely visible. On the other hand, an unforgiven scar on a person's soul can leave a mark for generations to come.

## Of Acorns and Embryos

# Value Lies in One's Human Potential

Many present-day bioethical arguments, although intellectually fashionable and trendy, nevertheless remain flawed in their reasoning. An impressive example of this can be seen in a recent Boston Globe article by Professor Michael Sandel, who teaches at Harvard. He begins with a reasonable analogy between acorns and embryos, but quickly confuses his terms and ultimately draws an incorrect conclusion:

"Although every oak tree was once an acorn, it does not follow that acorns are oak trees, or that I should treat the loss of an acorn eaten by a squirrel in my front yard as the same kind of loss as the death of an oak tree felled by a storm. Despite their developmental continuity, acorns and oak trees differ. So do human embryos and human beings, and in the same way. Just as acorns are potential oaks, human embryos are potential human beings."

The error in this passage can be summarized simply: Embryos are not potential human beings; rather, they are human beings with potential. Embryos are potential taxpayers, potential pianists and potential bank robbers, but the only reason they have all that remarkable potential (and so much more besides) is because of what

## Making Sense

Out of Bioethics

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.



they already are, namely, human beings.

Acorns, of course, become trees, even though an acorn is not itself a mature tree. The acorn and the mature tree, however, are both "oak," and the acorn is just a younger version of the mature tree — the two are different developmental stages of the same oak. Therefore, acorns are not potential oaks; instead, they are actual oaks with the potential to become mature trees with branches and leaves. Embryos, similarly, produce adults, even though an embryo is not itself an adult. The embryo and the adult, however, are both "beings that are human," and the embryo is just a younger version of the adult — the two, in fact, are different developmental stages of the same human being. Hence embryos are NOT potential human beings; rather, they are actual human beings with

the potential to become adults with arms, legs and checking accounts.

Do we treat the loss of an acorn eaten by a squirrel in the front yard as the same kind of loss as the death of an oak tree felled by a storm? We don't treat them the same, because in the case of the felled tree, with its large dimensions, we need a chain saw to clear the debris, while in the case of the acorn, no chain saw is required. Additionally, we are not likely to have much emotional attachment to a little acorn, while we might have strong attachments to the large tree that has been in our front yard for years. But feelings and emotional attachments don't alter the fact that the loss is the same kind in both cases — the loss of an oak — a very little oak in one case, and a very big oak in the other. Because we may become emotionally attached to a big tree, we can slip into mistakenly supposing that the acorn is not an oak. Regardless of whether we might have a personal bias or an emotional attachment to a big oak, or even a prejudice against little oaks, our prejudice cannot alter the hard biological fact that both the acorn and the mature tree are oak. Similarly, by becoming emotionally attached to grown-up

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Father Wade Darnall

**By Eileen Dugan**  
*Sooner Catholic*

MARLOW — As Mark Gilbon turned the corner, he noticed that sunlight was hitting the statue of Mary in such a way that it looked like light was radiating out from it.

"It was really beautiful," he said.

Gilbon, president of the Parish Council at Immaculate Conception Church, was looking at the statue that is part of the shrine to Mary his parish built recently. Immaculate Conception plans to dedicate this new shrine to the memory of native son, the late Father Wade Darnall. The special ceremony will take place at 7:30 a.m. May 13, a half hour before the 8 a.m. Mass. After Mass, the Knights of Columbus will provide a free breakfast for all in attendance.

"We hope that because it's Mother's Day, we'll have a good turnout to bless the statue and honor Father Darnall."

Gilbon said dedicating the statue in memory of Father Darnall seemed almost natural.

"The ladies of the church got the shrine up and rolling for Father Darnall because he was from this parish," Gilbon said. "We don't know if he ever said Mass here, but before he got ill, he used to come here often to visit his sister, and they would attend Mass here together."

"Father Wade's family came to Marlow in the '20s or '30s. Father was born here in Marlow and was raised in a house two blocks from the church where his sister, a member of our parish, still lives," he said.

## Marlow Parish to Dedicate Shrine to Native Son

Peggy Darnall, the priest's sister, added, "Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wade, our aunt and uncle, donated the land that our church is built on. The Wades didn't have any children of their own, so my brother was named 'Wade' after them."

Since the name of the parish is Immaculate Conception and the church is dedicated to Mary, when the old Immaculate Conception Church was pulled down to make way for the new one, some of the rock from the original church's foundation was put aside to build a shrine to Mary at some future date, Darnall said.

Last year, as the ladies of the parish began planning the shrine, Father Darnall died. They decided the shrine to Mary should be dedicated to him as a fitting tribute to their native son.

One of the ladies of the parish got the brick layer working on her house to build a brick archway at Immaculate Conception to shelter the statue of Mary. Flowers and shrubs were planted in front of the arch, and a concrete pad with concrete benches was built in front of the flower bed. "The shrine is a peaceful place for meditation," Gilbon said.

The parish in Marlow has also created a granite plaque that gives a short history of both Father Wade Darnall and the shrine. Inlaid into the granite is a picture of Father Darnall as a young man that resembles a tin-type photograph.

Sometime after the shrine's dedication, a base will be built in front of and to the side of the statue of Mary to hold the granite plaque.

*'We Are on the Right or Righteous Side of This Issue'*

## Death Penalty Group Honors 'Innocent Man' Attorney

**By Greg Horton**  
*For Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Conner Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was the site of the 17th annual meeting and dinner for the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty on April 28. The organization invited Bud Welch to be the keynote speaker for the evening.

Welch has been an active death penalty abolitionist and speaker since losing his 23-year-old daughter, Julie Welch, in the Murrah Building bombing. He is president of the board of directors for Murder Victims Families for Human Rights in Cambridge, Mass.

Jim Rowan, an Oklahoma City attorney and member of Our Lady, was the event organizer, and he said the coalition invited Welch to speak because "Welch reflects the real reason for abolishing the death penalty.

"Bud Welch realized that the execution of Timothy McVeigh did not restore his daughter to life," Rowan said. "The desire for revenge consumes

people in hatred and the executions do not provide a wave of gratification to the victims' families."

During his address, Welch admitted that despite his longtime opposition to capital punishment, his daughter's death caused him to be nearly consumed with anger, depression, pain and hatred.

"I longed to see Timothy McVeigh dead," he said. "Eventually, though, it occurred to me that nothing positive would arise from Timothy McVeigh's death."

Welch said he was also being faithful to his daughter's values: "She always said that executions only taught children to hate."

Welch eventually met with and formed a friendship with Bill McVeigh, Timothy McVeigh's father. Their relationship is being documented in an upcoming film.

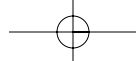
The coalition honored Oklahoma City attorney Mark Barrett with the Lifetime Abolitionist Award. Barrett's work as lead counsel on the Ron Williamson case has been chronicled in John Grisham's first work of nonfiction, "The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town."

Williamson had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to death for the 1982 rape and murder of an Ada cocktail waitress, Debra Carter. Williamson and his co-defendant, Dennis Fritz, were eventually exonerated due to DNA evidence and the hard work of The Innocence Project, a non-profit legal organization that works to overturn wrongful convictions in capital cases.

During his acceptance speech, Barrett emphasized the power of a few individuals to bring about change in the system. "Contact your legislators," Barrett said. "A few people can make a difference. The death penalty has been done away with twice in Oklahoma. None of the arguments in its favor are accurate; it has no beneficial purpose."

Bennett said he encouraged people to ask themselves a question as they go about their lives. "This is something I do myself," he said. "Ask yourself as you're making decisions about these issues if you want to come down on the side of love or hate. Many decisions are cleared up by asking that ques-

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## 'Reach Out in Faith'

# Gathering Focuses on Social Ministry

By Eileen Dugan  
*Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — A "Reach Out in Faith" workshop for the laity was held April 28 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Commission on Justice and Human Development, the daylong presentations and discussions educated parishioners on the various resources in social ministry available to their parishes. The study groups also helped participants explore volunteer opportunities in social justice.

"The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen and expand social ministry in the parishes," Becky Van Pool, director of Parish Outreach for Catholic Charities, said. "We hope we gave participants the tools to work with their pastors to lead their parishes into greater service to others in their communities."

Representatives from 15 parishes working on social-justice issues shared their ideas and programs with potential volunteers in a roundtable discussion format. Participants had the opportunity to attend three sessions on volunteer possibilities as varied as food pantries, the "Safe Place Faith Community" domestic violence program, legislative advocacy, prison outreach and Hispanic ministry. Exhibitors from the resource groups were available to give additional information.

Father Samuel Hose, pastor of Emmaus Catholic Parish in Lakeway, Texas, and Father Jim Goin, who has worked as a pastor and associate pastor in several parishes in the archdiocese, helped those in attendance to understand that working for social justice is a way to answer their Catholic baptismal call. (Read the story of the Last Judgment in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 31-46).

In his address, Father Hose spoke about the "importance of the Church's social teaching in the call of the faithful to be active participants in helping the Church to be more effective in bringing about the transformation of human society in the image of the Gospel."

Father Goin closed the workshop with words of inspiration and encouragement for the participants.

Those participating in the workshop had various reasons for attending.

Beth Pratt of Saint James Parish in Oklahoma City said she attended



Top, Liza Tierney and Lisa Marotta present at the Reach Out in Faith workshop. Below, Bervis McBride, Corpus Christi, Oklahoma City, Celine Benoit, Holy Family, Lawton, and Father Samuel Hose at a discussion table. Photos Courtesy

because she worked with Saint Vincent de Paul in her parish. "I wanted to learn more about social-ministry programs within our Church because if I'm aware of all the services available, I can help more people in our community. I also want to grow in personal faith," Pratt said.

Father Manuel Magallanes of Saint Gregory's Abbey said he attended to get information about social work in the Catholic Church and community. "I am interested in Hispanic ministry and local outreach," Father Magallanes said.

Caleb Gum, from Saint John the Baptist Parish in Edmond, wanted to learn methods to get more people involved in social ministry. He is part of a committee at Saint John's that is planning a new parish ministry in legislative advocacy. "I'm here to try and broaden that committee. We are in the education phase. We are trying

to get more people involved. We hope to advocate for social justice, immigration and health care, and we are looking for ways to engage more of the parish in these issues," Gum said.

Guy Goodine of Saint Benedict's Parish in Shawnee was one of the people explaining social ministry to workshop participants. He is the coordinator of the social service ministry at Saint Benedict's Catholic Church and was at the workshop to explain how food pantries work. "We had several people interested in setting up food pantries in their parishes," Goodine said. "They wanted to know the best way to operate a food pantry and where to get supplies."

Toni Shones, of Saint Philip Neri Parish in Midwest City, participated in the "Labor of Love" table discussion. "Labor of Love" is the coming together of youth and adults from a parish to repair the homes of

those who cannot do that for themselves," Shones explained. "Labor of Love" paints, makes repairs and cleans up the yards of the elderly, the handicapped and single moms. I'm going to take this information back to our parish as an activity to meet our calling to reach out to the poor."

Father Hose ended his address to the workshop with the words, "When we do God's work, justice prevails." Volunteering for a social-justice ministry or setting up such a ministry in one's parish are two ways of doing God's will and in the process bringing about justice.

For those needing to brush up their understanding of Catholic social teaching, a 2005 handout on the "Themes from Catholic Social Teaching" published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describes Catholic social teaching as "a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal [from the popes], conciliar (from the Church councils), and episcopal (from the bishops) documents."

The bishops handout summarizes seven key themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition, which include:

- Support "life and the dignity of the human person."
- Support and strengthen marriage and the family and a person's "right and duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good."

- Protect the right of each person "to those things required for human decency."

- Protect the "most vulnerable" in our society.

- Support "the dignity of work and the rights of workers — the economy must serve people, not the other way around."

- Practice "solidarity" with the whole human family by pursuing "justice and peace." "Pope Paul VI taught that 'if you want peace, work for justice.'"

- Show respect for God's creation by protecting "people and the planet."

To learn more about parish social ministry opportunities in the archdiocese and/or receive a free copy of the bishops handout, "Themes from Catholic Social Teaching," call Becky Van Pool at Catholic Charities, (405) 523-3009.



## Latin America Proving to Be Challenge for Church

With Pope Benedict XVI heading for Brazil in mid-May to open the fifth general meeting of CELAM, the pan-continental conference of Latin American bishops, the focus of international Catholic attention will rightly turn to one-half the world's Catholic population, its problems and its prospects.



### *The Catholic Difference*

By George Weigel

CELAM meetings have tended toward the rambunctious. The meeting in Medellin, Colombia, in 1968 was deeply influenced by the nascent liberation theology movement; the 1979 Puebla, Mexico, meeting was opened by John Paul II's trenchant critique theologies that presented Jesus as "the subversive Man from Nazareth." Reports from veteran observers of Latin American Church affairs suggest that the Medellin forces plan a comeback this year. Those same observers worry that this CELAM session has been poorly prepared, in both Latin America and Rome, and that the meeting's working document is a hodgepodge that, by trying to please everyone, risks confusing everything.

The Italian newspaper, *Il Foglio*, recently asked me what I expected from Pope Benedict's visit and the CELAM conference. Here, *Il Foglio* suggested, was an opportunity for

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Students line up for their final performance, left to right, Kassidy Rother, Cris Avila, Nate Gann, Richard Carranza, Judy Carranza, Caity Gann, Mason Bomhoff, Miguel Mojica, Tim Clark, Kalen McCarthy and Elizabeth Posey.

## Poetry 'Slam Dunk'

### Holy Trinity Students Pour Creativity Into Performance

OKARCHE — Holy Trinity School's kindergarten class, taught by Adawnya Wiewel, presented their version of a poetry slam to other classes, school staff and family throughout the day on April 30.

A poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. It puts a dual emphasis on writing and performance, encouraging poets to focus on what they're saying and how they're saying it. For Holy Trinity's poetry slam, each student memorized a different poem and prepared a poster and costume to aid in express-

ing the ideas of their poem.

The students and their poems included:

- Caity Gann, "Daddy Forgets My Name" by Bruce Lansky
- Elizabeth Posey, "Dinosaur Canary" by Brod Baggert
- Nate Gann, "I Gotta Go" by Robert Pottle
- Judy Carranza, "Chocolate Maniac" by Brod Baggert
- Richard Carranza, "I Thought I Saw A Leprechaun" by David Lawrence Price
- Tim Clark, "Fly Food" by Brod

Baggert

- Kassidy Rother, "I'm Waiting For A Rainbow" by Judy Lalli
  - Cris Avila, "My New Pet" by Bruce Lansky
  - Kalen McCarthy, "Giant Children" by Brod Baggert
  - Mason Bomhoff, "Don't Forget to Share" by Darren Sardelli
  - Miguel Mojica, "My Doggy Ate My Homework" by Dave Crawley
- Students ended the performance by presenting "Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain," a Nandi tale retold by Verna Aardema.

### *'The Christian's Final Authority: the Bible or the Church?'*

## University to Play Host to Debate

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two theological experts will debate "The Christian's Final Authority: the Bible or the Church?" during a program set for May 18 at Oklahoma City University.

Father Mitchell Pacwa, S.J., will face Dr. Eric Svendsen in the debate, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Meinders School of Business.

Father Pacwa holds a master's in art and a baccalaureate of sacred theology from the Jesuit School of

Theology of Loyola University and a doctor in philosophy in Old Testament from Vanderbilt University. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1976 and is actively engaged in teaching and lecturing.

Svendsen holds a master's in arts in New Testament Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a doctor in philosophy in New Testament from Greenwich School of Theology. He is the founder and director of New Testament Research

Ministries, a teaching ministry dedicated to biblical studies and apologetics.

Audience members can submit questions on an index card, noting at the top to which man the question is directed. Those cards can be left on the book tables in the school's foyer.

The debate is sponsored by Grace Bible Church of Oklahoma City. It's free and open to the public.

For more information, call (405) 840-2003.

### Catholic Radio

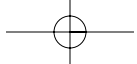


"Catholic Answers Live"

Where: KTLR 890 AM

When: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday  
3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday

Support Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, Inc.  
www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com



*Mike Jezercak and Rick Swyden, friends since their days at Mount Saint Mary High School.*

# Spotlight Finds ‘Hot Dog Man’

**By Ray Dyer**  
*Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — A few months ago, Rick Swyden didn't know if his Hot Dogs for the Homeless ministry could survive. For the past four years, Swyden, along with family members and a few faithful volunteers, have delivered hot dog lunches to the homeless who live on the streets of downtown Oklahoma City. This act of kindness takes place every Sunday afternoon, which means every Sunday morning the Swyden family kitchen somehow transforms into hot dog central. Cooking and packaging 240 hot dog lunches, complete with chips, cookies and bottled water once a week is a lot to ask of a family kitchen, not to mention family members.

Hot Dogs for the Homeless was at the proverbial crossroads — find a suitable home or else.

While exercising at a local gym, Swyden said he was approached by an Oklahoma City businessman.

“This man came up to me and asked if I was the hot dog man,” Swyden said. The man's name was Tom Morris, owner of a shopping center in northwest Oklahoma City. A fellow Catholic, Morris had heard about Swyden's ministry and its needs and wanted to help. He offered space at his shopping center and Swyden gladly accepted.



*Sarah Nawotka, 11, tells Steve Hartman, CBS Evening News reporter, why she helps with Hot Dogs for the Homeless. At right, Swyden leads volunteers in prayer before they hit the streets.*



“It's like this every time,” Swyden said. “Every time there is a need, God has delivered an answer. I am so grateful to Tom Morris.”

Shortly after moving into the new home, Swyden got another surprise. Someone from the Oklahoma Blood Institute had contacted CBS Evening News and presented Swyden's story to the network. Each Friday, CBS Evening News runs a segment called “Assignment America.” The public is asked to vote on which of three stories they would most like to see CBS Evening News develop. Swyden and Hot Dogs for the Homeless quickly jumped to the top of the vote tally.

The Sunday morning of April 15, CBS reporter Steve Hartman, along with a video crew, set up shop at the new Hot Dogs for the Homeless kitchen. They watched as the many volunteers do what they do every week, prepare to feed 240 people who live on the streets.

Hartman and his CBS crew spent the day following Swyden and his helpers through the streets of Oklahoma City as they fed people and offered words of hope.

“I think he was really touched by what he saw,” Swyden said, referring to the reaction by the New York-based reporter. “He told me he's really not a religious man, but what he saw moved him.”

You can view the “Assignment America” piece by going to the Web site for Hot Dogs for the Homeless at [www.hotdogsforthehomeless.com](http://www.hotdogsforthehomeless.com) and then clicking on the button that says videos.



# Saint Gregory's Honors Graduates

SHAWNEE — Saint Gregory's University celebrated its 92nd commencement exercise May 5 inside W.P. Wood Field House with bachelor's degrees conferred on 88 graduates. An additional 11 received associate's degrees.

"Today, we are here to celebrate a graduation — but more importantly, a commencement," SGU president Dr. Dave Wagie told the graduates. "As part of our lifelong learning, let me define the two terms. Graduation is a completion of an academic course of study, and you graduates have certainly done that to be here today. A commencement, however, is a beginning — and that is really the important thing to focus on today."

Wagie, who was named the school's 14th president in March, charged the graduates with a call to service, saying he believed a primary purpose in life is serving others.

"I think serving others is the true key to a meaningful life, and is a way for us to truly emulate the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," he said.

Wagie went on to pose three questions about the call to service, the last of which asked graduates to imagine what the future would be like 50 years from now and how they would be called to serve. He concluded with a quote from Rev. Martin Luther King: "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."

"So, to the class of 2007: May God grant you a life of purpose serving others, and the joy that comes from knowing that you have made a difference," Wagie said.

Valedictorians Carrie Renee Fischer and Keith Bland also addressed the audience. Fischer, who is from Edmond, was the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Bland, from Broken Arrow, was the valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

"For me, choosing to attend Saint Gregory's University was a road less traveled," Fischer said. "The small, tight-knit community seemed so different compared to the larger campuses I visited my senior year of high school. But as I now know, the past four years at this university have made all the difference in my life."

Bland took the podium, saying, "Congratulations graduates. You've passed the endurance test. Be proud and relish this moment."

Baccalaureate Mass was held the night before in Saint Gregory's Abbey Church. Father Robert Busch, Ph.D., SGU's vice president for academic affairs, preached the homily. The SGU Chorale, under direction of Brother Damian Whalen and music faculty member Sheryl Waters, provided music.

The following students received their degrees:

## Associate Degrees

Broken Arrow: Shannon N. Bingham  
Claremore: Deborah L. Miller  
Fort Gibson: Dorianna Pena

Owasso: Candice A. Ramsey  
Shawnee: Misako Abe  
Tulsa: Jerri D. Cherry, Elizabeth A. Fisher, Nancy E. Winn  
International: Shoko Fukushima, Aya Suzuki

## Bachelor's Degrees

Amarillo: Preston R. Snider  
Annapolis, Md.: Brendan F. Klein  
Bartlesville: Christine E. Eaton  
Bixby: Richard D. Bizzell  
Bristow: Jody P. Lakey  
Broken Arrow: Seth T. Birch, Keith D. Bland, Ryan E. Greenlee, James E. Rhue  
Catoosa: Laura A. Bender, Katrina M. Lakey  
Chickasha: Edna L. Diggs, Nicholas R. Kirksey  
Claremore: Ronald J. Helean, Patricia A. Oliver  
Collinsville: Tiffany M. Lenington, Ruth V. West  
Conway, Ark.: Justin K. Hoadley  
Dodd City, Texas: Amie T. Arfman  
Edmond: Carrie R. Fischer  
Grove: Joshua M. Shawnee  
Hot Springs, Ark.: James L. Womack  
Inola: Chris L. Havens  
Jenks: Jacqueline J. Samuels  
Katy, Texas: Joseph M. Huttenhoff  
Lubbock, Texas: Danielle J. Jennings  
Luther: Kris L. Wells  
Mannford: William Kitchingham, Emily J. Schultz  
McLoud: Cheryl R. Brewer, Jillian L. Treadway  
Mooreland: Felipe E. Solis  
New Orleans, La.: Terrell M. Theophile  
Norman: Brandon M. Niemeier  
North Andover: Justin P. Seide  
Oklahoma City: Gale Baxter, LaShanda D.

Joseph Perry: Joshua M. Wolfe  
Piedmont: Cecilia G. Hernandez  
Pilot Point, Texas: Cassandra B. Reed  
Prague: Christopher M. Davis  
Sand Springs: Evelyn J. Farmer, Kimberly J. Platt, Tammy L. Strickland  
Shawnee: Larry M. Fields, Keith W. Frederick, Sherrie R. Houck, Mary L. Johnson, Jeremiah W. Lonewolf, Jared S. Semtner, Mandy J. Skimbo  
Spokane, Wash.: Timothy P. Padden  
Spring, Texas: Christian A. Chavez, Kimberly M. Hawkins  
Stillwater: Robert F. Magallanes  
Tecumseh: Sherri M. Brown, Ken F. Thompson  
Tulsa: Byron Baxter, Randy Blattner, Annette G. Cassell, Craig G. Curry, Donna S. Orban, Michelle A. Pate, Patricia D. Silva, Earlene Stevenson, Michael P. Sullivan, Bonita K. Thompson  
International: Natsue Isobe, Alejandro Munin, Francisco R. Sube, Michihiro Takamatsu, Jose O. Trejo

## Dance Academy Opens Enrollment

SHAWNEE — Summer session enrollment has begun for the Saint Gregory's Dance Academy, a program initiated last year. The academy is slated to run on Saturdays from June 2 to Aug. 25.

Enrollment is open to students age 4 and up. Various levels of ballet, tap and jazz will be taught, depending on the age group. Classes, which are held in the university dance studio in the Fine Arts Building, will be taught by current students and alumni of the SGU Dance Program.

Sarah Zongker, SGU Dance Academy director, said the academy will be centered on dance technique and may serve as a supplement to current dance classes or as a primary dance class. She said class viewing sessions for parents will be on the last Saturday of the month, usually the last 15 minutes of class.

Tuition is \$35 a month and is due on the first Saturday of each month. There is also a yearly \$20 non-refundable registration fee with a discount of \$5 for each subsequent child. Zongker said there are no recital, theater or competition fees.

The SGU Dance Academy completed its first year of classes April 28 with a total of 25 students enrolled.

## SIFE Team Earns Honors in Contest

SHAWNEE — The Saint Greg's SIFE Team (Students In Free Enterprise) finished first runner-up at the Dallas SIFE USA Regional Competition. The event was one of 17 SIFE USA Regional Competitions being held across the United States in March and April.

As part of the competition, the Saint Gregory's University group presented a report of its yearlong community outreach projects to a panel of business leaders. The team finished runner-up in League 8, which included Kansas State University, Xavier University of Louisiana, Saint Mary's University and the University of Arizona.

"We are very happy to have placed so high in a league composed of such great universities," said team member Mayra Chavez.

## Photography Classes Scheduled for June

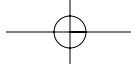
SHAWNEE — Professional Photographers of Oklahoma School will be held June 10-14 at Saint Gregory's University.

The school will offer a variety of classes, lasting from one to three days, though students can take a combination of classes. Ten classes will be offered and will run Sunday afternoon, June 10, through Thursday, June 14.

This is the fourth year the classes have been offered at Saint Gregory's University. Dormitory housing will be offered this year, but housing also will be available at America's Best Value Inn.

Registration forms and course descriptions are available online at <http://www.ppok.org/school.html>. Costs for the classes are included on the form. Deadline for registration is June 1.





*Members of Scout Troop 179 hard at work building the community organic garden at Saint Charles Borromeo. Photos Courtesy*



# Scouts Help Community **GO GREEN**

**By Monica Knudsen  
For *Sooner Catholic***

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saints Sebastian and Agnes are both patron saints for gardeners. One of them will soon be chosen as the namesake for the newly constructed community organic garden next to the Dorothy Day Center on the campus of Saint Charles Borromeo Church. The project was completed April 29, and spaces are available for planting. A formal dedication and naming will take place at a later date.

The garden is the brainchild of Justin Sine and Marcus Evans. Seventeen-year-old Sine needed an Eagle Scout project. Evans is volunteer director of Saint Charles' food assistance ministry at the Dorothy Day Center.

Evans thinks a community garden is a natural extension of Dorothy Day's philosophy of simple living and self-sufficiency for everyone, regardless

of income level. It is also a way to live out our mandate to be caretakers of creation, a duty discussed in Papal addresses and encyclicals such as *Centesimus annus* (1991, Sections 37-42).

"It is very much a part of Catholic social justice tradition," Evans said.

Sine's eight-week project included drawing up designs, writing a proposal for approval by the Scout Council, and even an emergency plan in case of an injury during construction. He raised an impressive \$1,168 for materials.

On weekends, he and his fellow Scouts from Troop 179, led by Tom McGivney, built five 16-foot-long raised beds from untreated 2x12s. They covered the ground with two to three layers of recycled cardboard, filled the garden beds with soil and fertilizer and also built a railroad tie frame around the raised beds. The gardens are low maintenance, with no weeding or tilling. They are accessible by wood chip pathways.

Anyone interested in gardening can reserve a space, regardless of income level. Evans hopes that once people see the ease of this method, they will apply it to their own back yards. He feeds a family of 10 from several identical raised beds at his suburban home, and believes that everyone can improve their nutrition with organic fresh fruits and vegetables. The environment also benefits when food is grown closer to home, and he said, "The food just tastes better."

The cost of construction for a 4 foot wide by 16 foot long bed is approximately \$80 to \$100. The wood frames last approximately 15 to 20 years.

How to distribute the produce is up to the individual gardener. You can grow whatever you wish, keep it, share it with neighbors and friends or donate some to the Dorothy Day Center. The only restriction is that it must be organically grown. For further information and to reserve a space, contact Marcus Evans at (405) 740-0697.



## Pro-Life and Proud

# Knights Gather, Reaffirm Their Support for Life

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of two stories dealing with the 102nd statewide convention held recently by the Knights of Columbus. The next story is scheduled to run in the May 27 issue of *The Sooner Catholic*.

By Steve Gust  
For *Sooner Catholic*

LAWTON — The pro-life message reverberated loudly at the 102nd state convention of the Knights of Columbus meeting held here April 27-29. For decades, state Knights, as well as the international Catholic men's lay organization, has unabashedly and enthusiastically embraced the pro-life cause of the Church. The latest convention was no exception.

Each year Knights Councils from across Oklahoma get together for a convention, which features business and social sessions. Various activities and programs are reviewed by the Order during the three-day meeting. There are also officer elections and awards handed out at the convention.

This convention saw various speakers again remind Knights of the challenges faced with pro-life issues. Perhaps the theme was set during a Memorial Mass at Holy Family Church in Lawton. Just outside of the church is a sign greeting parishioners, saying "Defend Life."

Inside Archbishop Beltran noted Knights have shown a steady allegiance to pro-life causes as well as to Pope Benedict and the clergy.

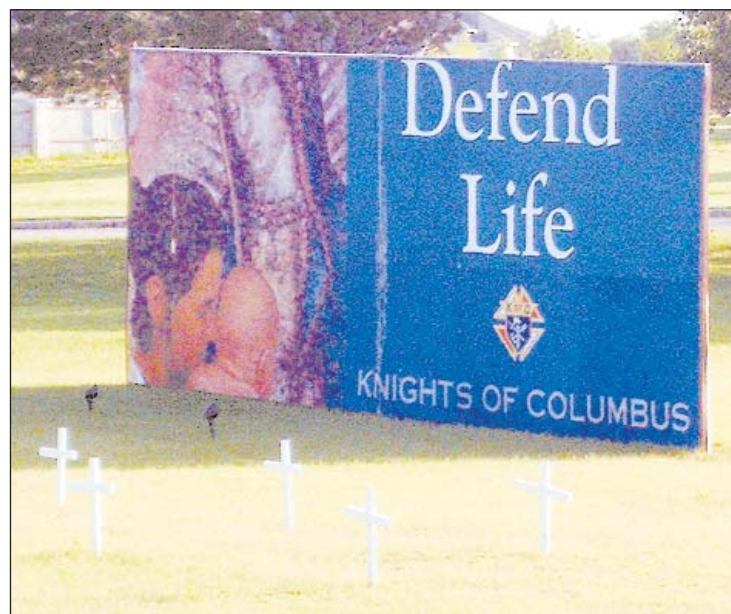
"I was proud to have issued a recent invitation to parish men to become members of the Knights and leaders in the church," Archbishop Beltran said.

During Mass, Oklahoma Knights state secretary Paul Weigl read off a list of brother Knights who have died since the last convention. Following Mass, hundreds ventured back to the Best Western in Lawton for a banquet, where other speakers discussed pro-life causes.

In a taped message before hundreds at the banquet, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson noted the Order, celebrating 125 years, was needed "now more than ever, when life and marriage are coming under attack." Knights have 1.7 million



Sister Barbara Joseph Foley, CST, is pictured with Archbishop Beltran, Father Marvin Leven and Jose Jimenez, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus. Sister Barbara Joseph was honored for her work with the homeless people of Oklahoma City. At right, the pro-life sign outside Holy Family Parish in Lawton. Photos/Steve Gust



members internationally and more than 7,000 in Oklahoma.

Present for the banquet was John Harrison, a director for the Supreme organization.

"Pro-life is swinging our way," he said. "The national press won't report it, but many polls now show more than 50 percent of the public against abortion."

Harrison also welcomed the recent Supreme Court decision upholding a ban on partial birth abortion. While that was a cause to rejoice, it was tempered by Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry's veto of a bill that provided taxpayer funding for abortion.

saw the baby's developing body, hands, face and feet. The truth, revealed in the ultrasound, couldn't be denied.

"She finally said, 'That's my baby,'" Chishko said. "We see stories like this day in and day out. We deal in life and death situations and we do it with our volunteers, who are the most remarkable men and women I know."

She also called Knights great pro-life leaders. She urged the convention attendees to continue to pray and hope America didn't become a land, like Japan. She said abortion had been legal there for 56 years and men boast on the number of abortions they've been responsible for and she said one woman reported having 32 abortions.

The Oklahoma Knights, under the leadership of State Deputy Jose Jimenez, made a donation to Birth Choice.

The group's pro-life actions have taken another tangible form as well. In 1981 the state council founded the Center of Family Love in Okarche. There about 150 developmentally disabled adults are helped. Jim O'Brien, the center's director, talked about the center and noted financial struggles faced in recent years.

"There was talk about shutting the center down," he said.

Fortunes for the center turned around and, through the first three months of this year, the center showed a profit of \$148,000. O'Brien said there is a plan over the next five to eight years to develop 10 acres in a \$10 million investment. The greenhouse at the center has reopened and clients discover the joy of growing plants, some from only a seed.

"The greenhouse doesn't make money, but has therapeutic value for the clients," O'Brien said. He urged Knights to continue to work for the center. At the end of his presentation, Jimenez presented him with a check for \$1,228. Most Knights councils this month also have had a candy drive to benefit the center.

The Knights, statewide and internationally, are huge sponsors of Special Olympics. One of the athletes, Michael Figueroa Jr., spoke briefly

Archbishop Beltran expressed dismay at the governor's veto and the subsequent override effort, which failed by one vote in the Oklahoma Senate.

"Please see what you can do to help us get that one more vote," he said.

The next morning, during breakfast, the crowd heard an inspirational report from Barbara Chishko, Birth Choice executive director. She noted one woman who was intent on having an abortion. The decision didn't appear to affect her one bit. Then the woman, at the Birth Choice clinic in Edmond, was shown an ultrasound of her child. Chishko said the woman

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**Hear  
and  
Now**



Tom Casso, executive director of The Catholic Foundation, sat down with the *Sooner Catholic* to discuss the mission of the foundation as well as the upcoming CFO Golf Classic. To hear the Internet pod cast, go to [www.catholicdioceseokc.org](http://www.catholicdioceseokc.org) and click on *Sooner Catholic*. Then click the pod cast button.

## Golf Classic Set for June 11

The sixth annual Catholic Foundation Golf Classic benefiting Catholic Education is set for June 11 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Oklahoma City.

Shotgun start at noon with wine and cheese for spouses at 3:30 p.m. and dinner after tournament play. Players could win Archbishop's Traveling Trophy or a Pontiac Solstice from Rick Jones Pontiac-Buick-GMC for a hole-in-one. Numerous other contest awards and auction items will be available.

Brochures and entry forms are available in your parish offices or by calling the Catholic Foundation at (405) 721-4115.

# Catholic Foundation Awards Scholarships

Sixty-one students from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City have been selected by the Catholic Foundation to receive \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 college scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year.

In addition, two \$1,000 medical scholarships were awarded by the Catholic Foundation through the P.B. Connelly Medical Scholarship Fund and one \$1,000 nursing scholarship was awarded through the Helen R. Hall Nursing Scholarship Fund.

### 2007-08 Catholic Foundation Scholarship Recipients

J. Guadalupe Andrade, Saint Catherine of Sienna, Pauls Valley  
Meagan Atwood, Saint Joseph, Union City  
Cristina Baker, Saint James, OKC  
Sarah Blaschke, Assumption, Duncan  
Amanda Bossa, Saint Joseph, Hennessey  
Stacey Brandhorst, Saint Eugene, Weatherford  
Sarah Brockhaus, Saint Joseph, Norman  
Greg Brown, Holy Spirit, Mustang  
Huan (Jimmy) Bui, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Daniel Crossley, Holy Trinity, Okarche  
David Crossley, Holy Trinity, Okarche  
Nicholas Crossley Holy Trinity, Okarche  
Holly Dinh, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
My Thuy Dinh, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Benjamin Do, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC

Tai Do, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Brittany Dray, Saint John the Baptist, Edmond  
Laramy Kathleen Edwards, Queen of All Saints, Sayre  
Abbey Gagnon, Sacred Heart, Alva  
David Groff, Saint Vincent de Paul, McCloud  
Michael Henderson, Saint Michael, Meeker  
Ana Camila Herrera, Sacred Heart, OKC  
Veronica Hochla, Saint Andrews, Moore  
Briaran Dean Johnson, Immaculate Conception, Seminole  
Emily Kilian, Saint Mary, Medford  
Diane Landoll, Blessed Sacrament, Lawton  
Matthew Landoll, Blessed Sacrament, Lawton  
Michelle Ruth Landoll, St Ann, Elgin  
John Lewis, Our Lady's Cathedral, OKC  
Brenda Luttrell, Saint Mark the Evangelist, Norman  
Daniel Mannas, Saint Mary, Ardmore  
Pedro Martinez, Saint Charles Borromeo, OKC  
Alan McCall, Saint Mary, Ardmore  
Adam Meier, Saint John Nepomuk, Yukon  
Shannon Meiwes, Holy Trinity, Okarche  
Susan Murray, Christ the King, OKC  
Ann Nawotka, Our Lady of Fatima, Nicoma Park  
Kaytn Beth Neal, Saint Monica, Edmond  
Erica Ngo, Saint Patrick, OKC  
Phuong Nguyen, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Tung Nguyen, Saint Andrew Dung

Lac, OKC  
Shelley Nolan, Saint Michael, OKC  
Theresa Nugent, Saint Gregory the Great, Enid  
Tahni Osterman, Epiphany, OKC  
Quy Pham, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Valerie Hong Van Pham, Saint Andrew Dung Lac, OKC  
Laura Rigazzi, Our Lady's Cathedral, OKC  
Clay Roberts, Saint Eugene, Weatherford  
Erica Ruiz, Holy Angels, OKC  
Shaytyn Sawyer, Epiphany, OKC  
Travis Schnaithman, Saint Gregory the Great, Enid  
Emily Schneberger, Saint Matthew, Elk City  
Alyson Shephard, Saint Francis of Assisi, OKC  
Stephanie Smith, Saint Joseph, Norman  
Adam Simonds-Stege, Saint Joseph, Norman  
Alexander Swartz, Saint Francis, Sulphur  
Becky Ta, Our Lady's Cathedral, OKC  
Gabriel Torres, Saint Joseph, Norman  
Ha Le Tran, Our Lady's Cathedral, OKC  
Kathryn Vculek, Saint Joseph, Bison  
Christopher Lakrazewicz, Saint Peter, Guymon  
Tesia Zientek, Saint Benedict, Shawnee  
2007-08 P. B. Connelly Medical Scholarship Recipients  
Russell D. Ingram, Saint John the Baptist, Edmond  
Jonathan Paul Mannas, Saint Mary, Ardmore

## Abolition

**continued from page 5**

question.”

Rowan said capital punishment is an issue about which reasonable people can disagree. “It’s important for those of us working for abolition to respect our opponents,” he said. “We no longer have to have a war between the states to settle matters like this. The (coalition) is working to generate grassroots support for our position, to explain to people why we’re opposed to the death penalty.”

As part of that campaign, the coalition is distributing a booklet published by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty called “Innocent and Executed: Four Chapters in the Life of America’s Death Penalty.” The booklet details four cases in which it is highly probable that innocent people were executed. Rowan emphasized that the booklet does not present conclusive proof they were innocent, but the cases are troubling.

The booklet is partially in response to a remark by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia regarding the execution of the innocent. Scalia, a Catholic, remarked that there has not been “a single case — not one — in which it is clear that a person was executed for a crime he did not commit.” While that may be true on its face, cases like Williamson’s should serve as a cautionary tale. (More information is available at [www.innocentandexecuted.org](http://www.innocentandexecuted.org).)

Rowan, who has worked on 40 capital murder cases over the course of his career, said he was pleased with the way the event went and felt it was a good time to be an abolitionist. “Death penalties are down, executions are down,” he said. “We are on the right or righteous side of this issue, and we will overcome.”

Rowan and Barrett both worked in the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System and have known each other for many years. “Mark Barrett has done something significant over the course of

his life,” Rowan said, “and we wanted to honor him for that.”

According to Rowan, about 130 people were at the meeting, but only a handful of young people. Caroline Joyce, a senior at Bishop McGuinness High School and member of Our Lady, said she thinks more teenagers and young adults would have attended if they had known about the event.

“I saw it in the church bulletin,” Joyce said, “but I don’t think many young people read the church bulletin.”

Joyce said she attended to learn more about the issue. “I don’t like killing,” she said. “I have a diverse group of friends, and we have different opinions on the subject. I came to learn more about it.”

The evening also featured a memorial to the four inmates who have been executed since last year’s meeting: John Boltz, Eric Patton, James Mallicoat and Corey Hamilton.



# Leaping

continued from page 1

the decision reflects the clear majority of the American people.

A friend of mine heard the news and exclaimed "Halleluia! Now that they've made partial birth abortion illegal, maybe they'll make all abortion illegal."

She was referring, of course, to the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court in 1973 legalizing abortion, a regrettable decision that has resulted in the deaths of over 45 million unborn children in the U.S.

To see this in perspective, abortion has resulted in more deaths than all the wars, murders, famines, crimes and plagues in the past 300 years of human history.

Predictably, those who favor death are now howling at the moon to protest this decision, as a deadly lion roars in rage when its prey is snatched from its jaws.

Make no mistake, this is a battle with fierce opposition.

A mother's womb is obviously made by God to be the ultimate safe harbor, the most sacred repository of new life. Yet a womb is still the most dangerous place to live in America. Forget the news reports about the biggest killers being smoking, heart disease or accidents; by far the biggest killer is abortion.

My heart grieves for the millions of children thus forsaken by pride, their fruitful lives cast aside, and their potential brides and grooms utterly denied.

I pray especially, as we all do, for hurting mothers and fathers who may still mourn, and hope that they find the comfort, consolation and peace of Christ, the one who offers grace, forgiveness and new life to all

who believe in him.

Surely this is the seminal issue of our time, as slavery was the greatest issue faced by a previous generation.

I predict in our lifetime we will see abortion outlawed, like slavery before it, by an enlightened Supreme Court.

Recently I saw the movie "Amazing Grace," showing how the slave trade was ended in England in the 1700s, thanks to the heroic efforts of William Wilburforce.

Someday we as a society will look back on abortion just as we remember the now-forbidden slave trade — as a distant memory of a more barbaric, less civilized time.

One of the factors that helps is ultrasound. When pregnant mothers see the familiar shape and form of their unborn children, they awaken to the wonderful and unmistakable miracle of new life hidden within.

In the meantime, a formidable battlefield stands before us, calling us to summon our heroes once more to the front. We must stride forth valiantly, with virtue and righteousness on our side, armed with faith, brimming with hope and pouring out love to vanquish the powers and principalities of darkness as Jesus did, one heart at a time.

Let us remember how Mary and Elizabeth, pregnant with Jesus and John the Baptist, followed our Lord's wise counsel: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, that you and your descendants may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19).

*Hermann is a retreat speaker and author of "The Spirit Set Me Free," a popular book of hope and healing available on Amazon.com. His e-mail is RH222@sbcglobal.net*

# Weigel

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genuine drama, as the Pope — a sharp critic of aspects of the theologies of liberation during his days as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — confronted the hangovers from that movement that are still found among many Latin American churchmen. I replied that I hoped the CELAM conference would cast its net more widely, moving beyond the left/right debates of the past 40 years to a new vision of Catholic possibility in the new demographic center of the world Church.

To that end, I hoped that three ideas would frame the discussions in Brazil.

First, Latin American Catholicism, like Latin America itself, must become the protagonist, the subject, of its own history. For more than half a millennium, Latin America has thought of itself as the

object of history-made-elsewhere: first, the history made by the colonial power of Spain and Portugal; later, the history made by the giant beyond the Rio Grande, El Norte, the United States. This instinctive self-deprecation — this sense of being on the receiving end of history, rather than the forging end — has to stop. Latin America is a diverse, rich continent of cultures formed by the unique interaction of native, Iberian, and African peoples. It is a cornucopia of natural and human resources. Yet it never seems to be able to gather itself for civilizational greatness — in part, because of this ingrained habit of thinking of itself as a victim. If Pope Benedict manages to ignite the idea that Latin Americans must take charge of their own history — which means, among other things, confronting the shadow-side of that history, including the rampant corruption and statism that

# Override

continued from page 1

in the Senate by a 32-16 vote, and would need to sustain all affirmative votes in a veto override. Any override must occur in the Senate since that is where the bill originated. Eight Democratic senators joined the 24 Republican members of the Senate in the original vote approving the measure. But after Henry's veto, Sen. Charles Laster, D-Shawnee, changed his vote allowing the veto to stand. Henry is also from Shawnee, and several years ago served as a board member for then Saint Gregory's College, now Saint Gregory's University. He no longer holds that position.

Williamson called Laster's "flip-flop" both "surprising and disappointing."

"Senator Laster's explanation for changing his vote on SB 714 involves the same arguments that were used against this bill during every previous vote, yet Sen. Laster still voted for the bill every time until today," Williamson said, following the failed override vote.

While many in the pro-life camp were pointing at Sen. Laster's flip-flop, Oklahoma Catholics may be interested to know a fellow Catholic, Sen. Joe Sweeden, D-Pawhuska, offered his own version of flip-flop voting. The veteran lawmaker supported SB 714 early in the legislative process before voting against it. He also voted to sustain the governor's veto. Sweeden declined to comment for this story. Lauinger called Sweeden's actions disappointing. Sen. Nancy Riley, D-Tulsa, had also supported SB 714 earlier in

the process before changing to a pro-abortion vote.

"If Senator Sweeden had voted to override the governor's veto of the pro-life bill instead of voting to sustain it, the Senate would have successfully overridden the pro-abortion veto," Lauinger said.

Following the veto by Henry, Archbishop Beltran sent letters to a number of state lawmakers asking them to support the sanctity of life and overturn the veto. The archbishop, along with Bishop Slattery of Tulsa, had earlier asked Henry to sign the pro-life legislation. Archbishop Beltran continued to press for an override of the veto.

Lauinger was critical of the way Henry handled the veto of SB 714. He said the governor invited doctors representing Planned Parenthood to join him at the podium in what he described as a "veto celebration." Planned Parenthood "operates the biggest chain of abortion mills in the country," Lauinger said. "Over a quarter of a million babies are killed by Planned Parenthood in their abortion clinics across the U.S. each year."

Lauinger said Henry commented at the "veto event" that he hoped there wouldn't be a "political bloodbath" over the veto.

"He didn't offer any thoughts regarding the actual bloodbath resulting from the babies being killed by the state in public institutions by taxpayer-salaried personnel," said Lauinger. He called the "loud and sustained applause" by the pro-abortion audience at the veto gathering "as sad a spectacle as I have witnessed in my lifetime."

block economic and political progress throughout the continent today — he will have done Latin America a great favor.

Second, Latin American Catholics must recognize that the gains made throughout the continent by evangelical and pentecostalist Protestantism are, in part, the result of Catholic failures — not of some dark plot from El Norte. A sober reckoning with the fact that re-evangelicalism "works" in Latin America because it instills virtues that Catholicism has found it difficult to inculcate — sobriety, respect for family, thrift, responsibility — would be a good place to start the examination of ecclesial conscience.

Third, Latin American Catholic leaders should recognize that the real enemy is not evangelicalism, but secularism. In 1992, anyone who suggested that "gay marriage" would

be an issue in Latin America would have been thought insane. Yet it's on the books in Buenos Aires and likely to come soon to parts of Mexico. In resisting the secularist tide as well its crypto-Marxist cousin, the back-to-1968 politics of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, evangelicals are the allies of the Catholic Church, not our enemies.

None of this is very original — not least because I have absorbed most of it from Latin American churchmen over the years. May the bishops and theologians who have internalized the John Paul II Revolution carry the day in Brazil with the aid of Benedict XVI, who once reminded liberation theologians enamored of "Marxist analysis" that "God wishes to be adored by people who are free."

*George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*

# Pastoral Ministry Program

The Pastoral Ministry program of the archdiocese is designed specifically to respond to the call of Vatican II to all persons to prepare themselves for service in the Church. Theology and ministry courses are offered during spring, summer and fall semesters for the education and formation of persons for ministry in the Church. Courses may be taken for college credit (with the possibility of a bachelor of arts in Pastoral Ministry from Newman University or an Archdiocesan diploma) or may be audited for personal enrichment, or for continuing education.

#### Tuition and Costs:

For credit, three-hour course, \$150 plus textbooks.

Personal enrichment: \$90 plus textbooks.

Graduates of our programs, continuing education (no credit given): \$75 plus textbooks.

## SUMMER 2007 SCHEDULE

### Elective Course

#### **THEO 4883 Formation and Methodology for Catechists**

One week intensive course, Monday, June 18 to Saturday, June 23 (noon)

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Instructor: Peggy Dooley

This course offers students a closer look at what it means to be a catechist. Emphasis will be placed on the personal and spiritual development of those called to the catechetical ministry, introduction to and exploration of the Catechetical Documents and literature, as well as practical hands-on classroom ideas and teaching methods.

(Lodging and meals available during this course, at the Pastoral Center.)

### Registration

For information or registration, please call or e-mail the Pastoral Ministry Office, 405-721-4208, 800-721-5651 Ext. 131, or [cgrimes@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:cgrimes@catharchdioceseokc.org) or [dkoorie@catharchdioceseokc.org](mailto:dkoorie@catharchdioceseokc.org).

Returning students taking courses for credit are encouraged to register for courses online at [www.newmanu.edu](http://www.newmanu.edu), via JetStream. Please also check that your general information on JetStream is current and up to date. For information on how to access your record on JetStream, please call the Pastoral Ministry Office.

Graduation: If you expect to complete the Pastoral Ministry program and/or the bachelor of arts degree by December 2007, please

notify the Pastoral Ministry Office. ADF supports this ministry.

## FALL 2007 SCHEDULE

### Core Courses

#### **Theo 1013 New Testament Literature**

Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saint Mary's School, Guthrie.

Instructor: Jim Williams

This course focuses on the literature, theology and history of the New Testament. Students will explore questions of authorship and critical methods of biblical interpretation from within the perspective of faith. Jesus' question, addressed to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" provides the theological center of New Testament studies and the grounding for Christology, Ecclesiology and Morality. Prerequisites: none

#### **THEO 2003 Theology of Church**

Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, Oklahoma City

Instructor: John Braniff

A study of the nature of the Church as it has been understood through the centuries. The course begins with the New Testament, progresses through the Fathers of the Church, examines the ecclesiology of Vatican II and concludes with a study of post-Vatican II theologies of the Church. Prerequisites: none

### Elective Courses

#### **THEO 4883 Bereavement Ministry**

Monday evenings, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saint Andrew, Moore.

Instructor: Peggy Browne

(Tentative description) — This course will provide students an opportunity to study bereavement, grief and loss from theological and pastoral perspectives. The pastoral care of individuals and families will be addressed, as well as ministering in situations of grief and loss in the parish and other settings.

#### **THEO 4883 Church History 2**

Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Instructor: Bill Gorden

This course is an introduction to the movements, life and thought of the Church covering the period from the Reformation through the present time. Particular emphasis is placed on the interaction of the social and cultural context of world history with political, intellectual and ecclesial developments.

#### **THEO 4883 Seminal Catholic Thinkers of the 20th Century: Teilhard and Rahner**

Wednesday evenings, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center.

Instructor: Vince Brady

This elective will involve students in critical reading and study of the origins, structure, methods and conclusions of two seminal theologians of the 20th century — Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Karl Rahner. Beginning with the context of their thinking, which includes the shift from a "classical" to a scientific world view, the course will consider both Teilhard's and Rahner's roots in Thomism and the Kantian critique. Discussion will include consideration of the gifts each has given to the Church of the 21st century and their limitations, as well as the practical import of their work for those in pastoral ministry.

#### **THEO 4883 Fathers of the Early Church**

Thursday evenings, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saint Joseph, Norman.

Instructor: Larry Rossow

(Tentative description) — This course will introduce students to the foundational ideas of Christian faith through a study of the Patristic or Early Church Fathers. The influence of their writings on our growth as church, as well as the contemporary influence of their ideas will be considered. Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyon, Athanasius and Augustine of Hippo are some of the fathers to be studied.

#### **THEO 4883 The Gospel of Mark - Internet-Enhanced Course/Special Requirements**

Saturdays — Aug. 25, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saint John's, Yukon. Instructor: Lee Hunt

This course begins by discussing canonical gospels as inspired by God, but written by men with human limitations. Gospel development in three stages is contrasted to the approach of fundamentalism. The Gospel of Mark is discussed in terms of who the author is, from where he wrote, to whom and when. The gospel will be studied in detail using contemporary scholarship. Prerequisite: an introductory Old Testament or New Testament course.

This course consists of both in-classroom and weekly, assigned online study and participation. Appropriate Internet access is required.

#### **THEO 4883 Canon Law for Pastoral Ministers**

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30

p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center.

Instructor: Father Rick Stansberry

This course will provide an introduction to Canon Law and a discussion of what is necessary and useful in the Church's law, especially for those engaged in parish ministry. The canons pertaining to the rights and duties of the laity, and the relationship of Canon Law to various pastoral ministries such as Liturgy, RCIA, Catechesis and Sacraments will be explored.

### Spiritual Direction Courses

Information on courses in Spiritual Direction is available from Benedictine Ministries, (405) 373-4739. These courses may be taken for credit through the Pastoral Ministry program.

#### **THEO 4001 Introduction to Spiritual Direction 1 (one-hour credit)**

First course in a two-course sequence which focuses on integration of personal spirituality with lived experience as well as awareness of the centrality of the contemplative dimension in direction, while introducing skills necessary for spiritual direction.

Prerequisite: Completion of Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius.

#### **THEO 4101 Spiritual Classics 1 (one-hour credit)**

First course in a two-course sequence with readings that span more than 1,600 years in order to provide understanding of the spiritual journey across time, culture and personalities.

Works such as those of Augustine, Hildegard of Bingen, Richard of Saint Victor, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas Merton and Thomas Kelly are among those studied. Methods of reading the variety of these spiritual classics is emphasized throughout the course. Discussion is done in light of the elements of the spiritual direction ministry.

#### **THEO 4213 Spiritual Direction Practicum 2 (three credit hours)**

Second course in a two-course sequence which continues the learning and discerning process within one's formation for the ministry of spiritual direction. Course includes instruction, supervision in spiritual direction, journaling, verbatims and peer presentation.

Prerequisites: THEO 4001, 4002, 4203.

Note: There will be no Practicum I until the fall of 2008.



# Embryos

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human beings, we can slip into mistakenly supposing that an embryo is not a human being. Yet any emotional response or prejudice we may have regarding human embryos cannot change the hard biological fact that both embryos, and the taxpayers they grow into, are human beings.

Sometimes the acorn analogy is taken one step further, in an attempt to suggest that human embryos do not become human beings until they implant into the uterus. The argument runs like this: An embryo is like an acorn that has not yet been planted in the soil. That acorn is only a potential oak tree, not an actual oak tree. It will become an actual oak tree only after it is planted and grows, and the human embryo will become a human being only after it implants into the uterus and begins to grow. While it is true that acorns don't become mature trees until after they are planted in the ground, it is false that those acorns are not "oak" until they are planted. The reason the acorn can produce a tree at all is that both are already instances of the same thing, namely "oak." The young oak grows and eventually turns into an old oak with the help of nourishment from the soil, water from the sky, and sunshine. The soil, sunshine and water permit it to grow to a more advanced stage of what it intrinsically is.

Similarly, while it is true that embryos don't become adults unless they are implanted in a uterus, it is incorrect that those embryos are not human beings unless that implantation occurs. When an embryo is not implanted, it is rendered unable to nourish itself, and it gradually starves to death. If a newborn were locked

alone in a room where it couldn't ever reach its mother's breast for nourishment, it would eventually die of starvation and dehydration. Because the baby never succeeded in attaching to its mother's breast, this does not imply that it never became a human being. It only implies that it never became an adult human being. Similarly, it would be false to say that an embryo that never attached to its mother's uterus had failed to become a human being. That embryo was clearly a human being, but one who couldn't find nourishment, and ended up dying before he or she could reach a later stage like infancy, adolescence or adulthood. The breast and the uterus are really nourishment-delivery systems for helping little human beings during the early stages of their existence — tender maternal mechanisms for sheltering and nourishing them as they grow toward more mature stages.

These examples remind us of the regrettable situation we encounter ever more frequently today, a situation where clear thinking becomes the first casualty of agenda-driven positions. As lawmakers, Hollywood figures and even well-educated intellectuals become convinced that we must harvest embryos for parts, they scramble for arguments that may seem seductive at first, but ultimately lack rigor, substance and truth.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, 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.*

# Knights

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Sunday about his competition and what it meant to him and fellow Special Olympians. "Without people like you, none of this would be possible for people like us."

Another cause which many probably consider a pro-life effort is Sister B.J.'s Pantry. Sister Barbara Joseph of St. John's in Edmond operates the center. She was recognized with the Malleck Coury Civic Award by the Knights. Her pantry is at 819 N.W. 4th in Oklahoma City and serves the homeless. She does this by providing clothes and food items. She also gives prayer and spiritual encouragement. Information can be found at [www.srbjpantry.com](http://www.srbjpantry.com) or call 820-5345.

The pro-life spiritual message of helping people came also during the season of Easter, which was also noted by clergy at the convention.

Abbot Lawrence Stasyszyn of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee put that in perspective. "Christ is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia. There is victory over death and sin."

He said Catholic higher education has a unique role to play to help form young people to be "responsible people of faith." He said St. Gregory's would soon embark on a \$20 million capital campaign for scholarships and facility updates. There has already been one donation of \$4 million.

A truly beloved member of the Order is longtime chaplain and member, Father Marvin Leven.

He also was impressed by the spiritual season.

"As Knights we say Vivat Jesus a lot," he said. "It is good to mention Jesus' name as much as possible. So Vivat Jesus or Jesus lives and Jesus does live!"



## Registration Under Way for Catholic Summer Camp

Registration is under way for the 2007 Catholic Youth Summer Camp to be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. The camp is for youth finishing the third grade through 12th grade. Seven one-week sessions are scheduled throughout

the summer. Last year more than 1,000 youth attended, said Nancy Housh, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the archdiocese. She encouraged those planning to attend to register soon because camps can fill up quickly. Cost is \$210.

### 2007 Camp Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (2006-2007) \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

First time camper: Yes No Adult T-shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Please circle camp week of your choice:

Camp 1 - June 10-15 - Grades 6-7      Camp 5 - July 8-13 - Grades 4-5

Camp 2 - June 17-22 - Grades 4-5      Camp 6 - July 15-20 - Grades 7-8

Camp 3 - June 24-29 - Grades 5-6      Camp 7 - July 22-27 - Grades 9-12

Camp 4 - July 1-6 - Grades 7-8-9

Send registration and \$100 deposit to: Catholic Youth & Young Adult Office, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123  
(Make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City)

### Saint Philip Neri School Will Hold Open House

Saint Philip Neri School will host an open house 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 17. The school is at 1121 Felix Place in Midwest City and offers K-3 to the eighth grade.

For more information, call (405) 737-4496.

Buenas Noticias...

## ...Bendita la madre que te trajo al mundo

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas de Cristo:

Hoy, con gran alegría, saludo a todas las madres. Le pido fervientemente a Dios Todopoderoso que las bendiga de una manera muy pero muy especial. Que Dios con Su bondad y amor les dé Su paz y una vida completa llena de felicidad. Le pido a Dios que las proteja y las oriente a cada una de ustedes durante todos los días sobre esta tierra, para que alcancen vida eterna en el cielo. Allí, en el cielo, ustedes y sus hijos compartirán el Reino de Dios por los siglos de los siglos.

El Día de las Madres, es un gran recordatorio que se hace todos los años en donde recordamos la gran bendición que Dios les ha dado a cada uno de nosotros por tener nuestra adorada madre. Es el plan de Dios crear vida humana a través del ministerio y la cooperación de la mujer y el hombre. A través de ellos, Dios establece vida nueva. Los padres son procreadores con Dios de una nueva vida y por ende son llamados padre y madre.

Mientras que el Día de las Madres en un día de reconocimiento

público a la madre. Los hijos personalmente deben siempre recordar y responder agradecidamente, durante todos los días de sus vidas, por el regalo que Dios nos ha dado con tener nuestra propia madre. No solamente debemos darnos cuenta que tan bueno fue Dios en darnos a nuestra

madre, también debemos reconocer que buena fue nuestra madre por recibir y aceptarnos como regalo de Dios.

Creo que la razón fundamental de tanta violencia en nuestra sociedad en los actuales momentos, se debe al hecho de que la gente falla en reconocer que la vida humana es un regalo dado por Dios. Por eso, creo que ciertamente el uso de las píldoras anticonceptivas conlleva a la aceptación del aborto. No reconocer la vida humana como regalo de Dios causa una

Hoy, con gran alegría, saludo a todas las madres. Le pido fervientemente a Dios Todopoderoso que las bendiga de una manera muy especial.



Arzobispo Beltran

reacción negativa hacia los niños. La negligencia y otras formas de abuso en contra de los niños son causadas por personas que no tienen el más mínimo respeto por el regalo de la vida humana proporcionado por Dios. Todos los crímenes que se perpetran se relacionan a la falta de respeto por la

vida, no se reconoce y acepta que la existencia humana es un regalo que viene de Dios.

Hoy, en el Día de las Madres, somos desafiados una vez más para reflexionar sobre nuestras propias actitudes hacia la vida. ¿Vemos nuestra propia vida como regalo de Dios? ¿Reconocemos y agradecemos a Dios por el regalo de la vida? Aquellos que tienen a su madre todavía viva, ¿Le agradecen a ella con palabras y acción, el regalo de la vida? Aquellos

que tenemos a nuestra madre muerta, ¿Recordamos a nuestra madre con oraciones o le oramos directamente a ella? ¿Hacemos todo esto con verdadera gratitud?

Una madre, con su apertura a Dios y con el poder creador de nuestro Señor, ofrece el regalo de la vida, convirtiéndose en nuestra procreadora.

Una madre, cuando acepta agradecidamente el regalo de su hijo, está reflejando la bondad y amor infinito de Dios. Una madre, con su dedicación, cuidado y sacrificio para el bienestar de sus hijos, practica la gentileza de Dios. Nuestras madres son un regalo especial para cada uno de nosotros.

Hoy, con gran alegría, debemos agradecer a Dios por habernos dado el regalo de tener a nuestra propia y adorada madre. Agradecemosle a nuestra madre su positiva respuesta por habernos aceptado como un regalo que viene de Dios.

Felicidades a todas las mamás por la fidelidad a su vocación. Que Dios Todopoderoso les de a cada una de ustedes Su bondad y amor. Que Dios las bendiga hoy, mañana y siempre. ¡Feliz Día de las Madres!

### También reciben presiones de los Minute Man

## La Casa Juan Diego denuncia grandes presiones del Ku Klux Klan

HOUSTON, ZENIT.org. — En su más reciente edición "Trabajador Católico de Houston", una publicación de Casa de Hospitalidad Juan Diego, entregada a socorrer y ayudar a los inmigrantes hispanos que se internan a Estados Unidos en busca de mejores oportunidades de vida, ha exigido al gobierno de ese país "una nueva y más comprensiva reforma legal para la inmigración".

Testigo directo de los problemas con los que se encuentran miles de inmigrantes ilegales que cruzan la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos cada día, la Casa de Hospitalidad Juan Diego responde a las críticas de sectores anti-inmigrantes --que la acusan de ayudar a quienes violan la ley-- asumiendo que "el problema es que casi ningún inmigrante puede calificar para ser residente o ciudadano de Estados Unidos

con la actual legislación". Esto provoca que la mayoría de los inmigrantes ilegales no acuda a las oficinas de inmigración del gobierno y, en cambio, se acija a los mecanismos de ayuda --la mayoría de la Iglesia católica-- que les puedan apoyar en su internamiento y en la defensa de sus derechos humanos. "La senda de la inmigración legal, en la práctica, está cerrada", objeta la publicación, al exhibir los costos astronómicos y las trabas legales que tendría que enfrentar un inmigrante si quisiera normalizar su residencia en el país.

"Trabajador Católico de Houston" denuncia el círculo vicioso al que están sometidos los inmigrantes ilegales, la mayor parte de ellos de origen mexicano: no se pueden legalizar y, por tanto, tienen que ofrecer su mano de obra en condiciones precarias, con menos sueldo del normal,

siendo víctimas de explotadores que funcionan al margen de la ley, pero de manera efectiva, haciendo crecer las economías de los estados del sur de Estados Unidos.

Las redadas que se están llevando a cabo en los últimos meses, antes de que pase en el Congreso de Estados Unidos una nueva Ley Migratoria, "hace imposible que los inmigrantes puedan tener algún tipo de vida estable con sus familias", dice en su editorial de primera plana la publicación.

"Estas redadas --agrega-- a menudo tienen lugar por pedido de los empleadores cuando los trabajadores tratan de organizarse para conseguir mejores salarios". El boletín de Casa de Hospitalidad Juan Diego denuncia los intentos de boicotear cualquier reforma migratoria extensa por parte de la organización xenófoba llamada

Ku Klux Klan y los actuales encargados de cazar inmigrantes que se denominan Minute Man.

De hecho, "Trabajador Católico de Houston" denuncia que "los que protestan (por la posibilidad de legalizar a los inmigrantes) han empezado a tomar a la Casa de Hospitalidad Juan Diego como blanco, trayendo carteles (en los que) acusan a los inmigrantes de ser asesinos".

En estos meses se han registrado varios incidentes racistas, protagonizados por el Ku Klux Klan y los Minute Man a las afueras de la Casa de Hospitalidad Juan Diego en la ciudad de Houston.

Esta Casa lleva ya 25 años de proporcionar un lugar seguro para los inmigrantes y es parte del Movimiento del Trabajador Católico fundado por Dorothy Day, en vías de beatificación.

## El Papa Benedicto XVI pide oraciones para su viaje pastoral a Brasil

VATICANO, ZENIT.org. — Benedicto XVI pidió oraciones para su próximo viaje pastoral a Brasil. El Santo Padre, inaugurará el 13 de mayo la

asamblea episcopal que se celebrará en el santuario mariano de Aparecida, con el tema "Discípulos y misioneros de Jesucristo para que nuestros pue-

blos en Él tengan vida. Yo soy el Camino, la Verdad y la Vida" (Juan, 14, 6). Los obispos participantes en la Conferencia, entre quienes se encon-

trarán también representantes de la Iglesia en España, Portugal, Estados Unidos y Canadá, representan a la mitad numérica de la Iglesia Católica



## El tema de inmigración no puede ser instrumento de mera represión y prejuicio racial Inaceptable odiar a nuestro prójimo por su condición legal



La Constitución de los Estados Unidos establece en su primera enmienda que el pueblo puede reunirse pacíficamente y pedir al gobierno la reparación de agravios.

Por Mauro Yanez  
*Sooner Catholic*

OKLAHOMA CITY — El odio racial y los prejuicios en contra de los inmigrantes y gente de color ponen en peligro la convivencia pacífica y el desarrollo de los habitantes de Oklahoma. La lucha contra el terrorismo y el control de la inmigración no pueden ser sustentación de una política de terrorismo de Estado sin precedente alguno. La provocación y lo absurdo de esa estrategia configuran un agravio a la razón. Inmediatamente después de las marchas efectuadas por miles de inmigrantes durante el año pasado en Oklahoma City y Tulsa, se comenzó a arquetar un proyecto de ley que ahora se vislumbra como una seria amenaza a las garantías y libertades constitucionales de miles de personas en Oklahoma. La nueva propuesta de ley que aprobó la cámara de representantes y el senado de Oklahoma y que al momento de este reportaje el gobernador no ha firmado para su ejecución, conlleva a vaticinar que todo extranjero o persona de color

es sospechoso de ser indocumentado, se pronostican persecuciones y humillaciones a inmigrantes y personas de color; se puede vaticinar una cacería de brujas en las comunidades latinas de Oklahoma.

Algunas personas, con o sin intención, han hecho una contribución a la radicalización de un discurso negativo en contra de los indocumentados que resalta matices cada vez más racistas. Ciertos medios de comunicación en el estado de Oklahoma y a nivel nacional han ayudado también a difundir ese mensaje nocivo que proyecta una maléfica imagen del inmigrante por su condición legal.

No hay duda que se percibe miedo en la comunidad de inmigrantes de Oklahoma. Esto porque las realidades para detener a los indocumentados están latentes después de testimoniar que en un año se han deportado a cientos de personas de Oklahoma.

Pero la complejidad y gravedad de los males resultantes de esa maquinaria diabólica de promoción del odio que nos circunda, hacen indispensable

reflexionar y hacer un llamado a la unidad y a la proclamación al amor por el prójimo. Incitar al odio es una apología al delito y es un pecado; se debe tener mucho cuidado con las acciones y comentarios que se hagan en cualquier momento. La única llamada que debemos hacer en las actuales circunstancias, debe ser por la paz, la justicia social, el respeto a la Iglesia Católica y a la dignidad humana.

La mejor acción ante los ojos de Dios, es ofrecer el perdón a nuestros semejantes por sus malas acciones. Ahora bien, todavía queda un ápice de respiro a la defensa de los derechos humanos en este panorama tan siniestro. En los Estados Unidos, existen tres poderes que gobiernan la democracia de este bello país. Por ende, para el perfeccionamiento y correcta convivencia de la sociedad se dictaminó que ninguna ley estatal puede estar por encima de ninguna ley federal y ninguna ley está por encima de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

El asunto de la inmigración no controlada es un problema de leyes

federales. Si la propuesta estatal, para controlar supuestamente la inmigración fuese aprobada por el gobernador de Oklahoma, entonces, quedaría la vía legal para buscar una solución imparcial en las cortes judiciales.

Los legisladores de Oklahoma no pueden hacer leyes que inciten al odio racial y religioso, además de ser una posible trasgresión a la ley es un acto inhumano.

Por lo tanto, debería hacerse esfuerzos para exigir una investigación federal por supuesta conspiración por instigar al odio racial, al odio por nacionalidad y al odio religioso. Esa instigación puede llevar a hechos violentos. Sin embargo, pese a todo esto, la esperanza de un mejor mañana debe estar centrada en Dios, quien es Todopoderoso y Omnipotente. La Iglesia Católica, es la casa de Jesucristo. En la casa de Jesús encontramos concordia y armonía a todos esos temores y amenazas que sucumben nuestra paz. Debemos orar mucho por un mejor futuro. El mal no prevalecerá nunca sobre el bien.

## Estalla el debate sobre la objeción de conciencia ante el aborto

MÉXICO, ZENIT.org. — Mediante una carta enviada a la opinión pública, el cardenal Norberto Rivera Carrera, arzobispo primado de México, condenó un error muy grande la despenalización del aborto en la capital del país, aprobada por la Asamblea Legislativa del Distrito Federal el pasado martes 24 de abril, e hizo un exhorto directo a

los médicos y personal de salud del Distrito Federal, para que ejerzan la objeción de conciencia y no participen en la realización de abortos.

Monseñor Rivera Carrera, en estos días en Roma, recordó —a través de una misiva, leída por uno de sus obispos auxiliares en una misa del en la Catedral Metropolitana de la Ciudad

de México— que toda persona "que preste alguna ayuda a la realización de este execrable asesinato se hace moralmente responsable del mismo", y advirtió que "no hay futuro para una sociedad que se atreve a atentar contra sus miembros más vulnerables". Aseguró, además, que el cambio de términos legales en la definición de aborto (inte-

rrupción del embarazo) no lo hace moralmente lícito, y ratificó la postura de la Iglesia católica en el sentido de que la vida inicia en el momento de la concepción y, por tanto, «no se puede justificar el aborto pretendiendo negar el estatuto humano del embrión». El cardenal bendijo "a cuantos desean vivir conforme a la voluntad de Dios".



**Principal Opening**

**Bishop John Carroll School** in Oklahoma City seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as academic leader. Bishop John Carroll is the parish school of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral. The school serves approximately 185 students of pre-K through grade 8. Must be a practicing Catholic who has a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Applicants should have a minimum of five years teaching experience and a master's degree in a related field of education. Applications and/or further information may be obtained from Sister Catherine Powers, Superintendent of Schools, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123 or call (405) 721-4202.

**Full Time Maintenance**

**Holy Trinity Church and School** in Okarche has a full-time opening for a custodian/maintenance person. Pay and benefits competitive. Call Holy Trinity School at (405) 263-4422 or Deacon Schwarz at (405) 263-4760.

**Summer Camp Help Needed**

**Saint Eugene Summer Camp** is looking for part-time help for its summer camp program, May 28 through Aug. 3, Monday-Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Good with children, responsible and energetic. Must be willing to complete Safe Environment Training and be at least 18 years of age. Call Angela Liddiard or Mary Beth Arwood at 751-7115 Ext. 118.

**Truck Driver/Warehouse Worker**

**St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Stores Inc. of OKC** is seeking full-time combination truck driver and warehouse worker for local thrift stores. Must be 25-65 years old, with clean driving record, no accident history during past three years. Position requires lifting furniture and warehouse duties. Hours are flexible. A background check is required. Starting salary, \$20,000 with holidays and vacation pay. Submit resumes to SVDP Thrift Store, 4515 NW 10th St., Oklahoma City 73127-5917, or e-mail svdpthriftstoresokc@cox.net

**Thrift Store Manager**

**St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Stores Inc. of OKC** is seeking full-time store managers for local stores. Applicants should have retail sales and employee management skills and enjoy interfacing with thrift store customers. A background check is required for this position. Starting salary, \$24,000 with paid holidays and vacation. Submit resumes to Thrift Store Board of Directors, c/o 1920 N. Drexel Blvd., Oklahoma City 73107, or e-mail svdpthriftstoresokc@cox.net

**Mental Retardation Specialist**

**Center of Family Love** in Okarche is looking for a qualified mental retardation specialist. The "Q" department is looking for a case manager to work in the ICF unit on campus. College degree or two years of experience in the field. Center of Family Love offers paid training, competitive pay and paid time off. Contact John Isenegger at (405) 263-4658 or fax résumés to (405) 263-4563 or come in and fill out an application. EOE

**Habitation Training Specialist**

**Center of Family Love** in Okarche is looking for a habitation training specialist for its group and assisted living units. Center of Family Love offers paid training, competitive pay and paid time off. Contact John Isenegger at (405) 263-4658 or fax résumés to (405) 263-4563 or come in and fill out an application. EOE

**Executive Director**

**The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City** is accepting resumes for a certified residential care administrator for Saint Ann Retirement Center. The position requires five years experience operating a senior living community with a proven track record. Seeking someone with excellent communication, team-building and managerial skills. Full paid benefits program. Salary is based on experience. Send resumes and personal references to David Johnson, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City 73123 or fax to (405) 721-5210.

**Part-time Reading Specialist**

**Sacred Heart OKC** has an opening for a part-time reading specialist for the 2007-2008 school year. Oklahoma teacher certification is required. Certification or endorsement in reading or special education is preferred. Send resume to Joana Camacho, Sacred Heart, 2700 S. Shartel, Oklahoma City 73109.

**Elementary Teacher Openings:**

**St. Mary's Catholic School, Guthrie**, is accepting applications for employment for the 2007-2008 school year. Candidates must be certified by the state of Oklahoma and possess a degree in early childhood or elementary education. If interested, send resume and copy of teaching certificate to Sheila Whalen-Guthrie, 502 E. Warner, Guthrie 73044, or call (405)-282-2071 for more information.

**Elementary Teacher Openings**

**Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche** is accepting applications for elementary and early childhood teachers for the 2007-08 school year. Submit resume and copy of teaching certificate to Mary Jane Wittrock, P.O.

Box 485, Okarche 73762, fax (405) 263-9753 or e-mail mjwittrock@holyltrinity-ok.org.

**Elementary Teacher Openings**

**Saint Mary's School, Ponca City**, is accepting applications for employment for the 2007-2008 school year. Openings include early childhood teacher, part-time pre-algebra/algebra teacher and part-time vocal music teacher. Early childhood certification or subject endorsements required. If interested, send resume and copy of teaching certificate to Shirley Zink at 415 S. Seventh, Ponca City 74601 or call (580) 765-4387 for more information.

**First-Grade Teacher**

**Villa Teresa Catholic School** is accepting applications for a first-grade teacher. Candidate must be certified by the state of Oklahoma and possess a degree in early childhood or elementary education. Also available is an opening for a teacher for 3-year-olds. An associate degree or CDA is required. Send resumes to Sister Veronica Higgins, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City 73103, or call for an interview, 232-4286.

**Teacher Sought**

**Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno** is accepting applications for a combined fifth- and sixth-grade teacher. Oklahoma elementary certification. Strong math skills desired. Submit applications to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, fax (405) 262-2284, Attention Shannon Statton.

**Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**

**All Saints Catholic School** in Norman is seeking a full-time pre-kindergarten teacher for the 2007-08 school year. Applicants must hold Oklahoma certification in early childhood education. Mail resumes attention to Leslie Schmitt, Principal, at 4001 36th Avenue, N.W., Norman, Okla. 73072, or fax to (405) 447-7227.

**High School Chemistry/Biology**

**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School** has an opening for a state certified chemistry/biology teacher for the 2007-08 school year. Send a resume with references to David Morton, Principal, 801 NW 50th St., Oklahoma City 73118.

**High School Coaches/Teachers**

**Mount St. Mary Catholic HS** (Oklahoma City) is accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year for assistant football coach and girls basketball coach, math, science, French and Spanish. Send resume, letter of interest, copy of teaching certificate and references to Talita DeNegri, Mount St. Mary HS, 2801 S.

Shartel, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109. Can also be faxed to (405) 631-9209. For more information, call 405-631-8865 or e-mail at tdenegri@mountstmary.org.

**Cafeteria Manager**

**Mount St. Mary High School** in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time cafeteria manager for the 2007-2008 school year. Applicant must be familiar with the DHS Commodities Distribution and U.S. Federal Food Program. For more information, contact Talita DeNegri at 631-8865.

**Refugee Job Developer**

**Catholic Charities** seeks to fill the position of job developer in the refugee department. Primary duties will be to aid refugees/asylees toward self-sufficiency via employment and financial literacy. Career assessment and employer development are essential and familiarity with the Oklahoma City area is helpful. A bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience in a related field, experience in public relations, typing and computer literacy in MS Office, excellent written and oral communication skills a must. Applicants who are bilingual in Vietnamese, Burmese, Swahili or a refugee language preferred. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd, OKC 73106 or nlargent@catholiccharities.org. EOE

**Associate Director of Mission Advancement**

**Catholic Charities** seeks an experienced nonprofit leader for associate director of mission advancement. Will increase those engaged in the mission of Catholic Charities, as demonstrated through financial support in the community. Should possess a bachelor's degree and five years experience in fund development as well as a deep commitment to Catholic Charities core mission and an ability to model those values in relationship with colleagues, partners and constituents. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., OKC 73106 or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

**Immigration Attorney**

**Catholic Charities** seeks an attorney to work with clients in the Immigration Assistance Program. Applicants must have a J.D. and be licensed to practice in the state of Oklahoma. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City 73106. EOE



## MAY

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

**17-25 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus**, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Nat'l Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Saint Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

**19 Freeing the Artist Within:** Meditation and Watercolor, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Glenda Day will lead this session. Fee: \$45, all materials provided. Mail in your check to reserve your place. Bring a sack lunch. Call 373-4739 to register. Come to the red art barn at Red Plains Monastery. Limit 15.

**19 How To Live What We Celebrate**, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our continuing celebration of Word and Eucharist is meant to impact the daily liturgy of our lives. Will share the gleanings of study, celebration and 60 years of liturgical ministry to the Church in Oklahoma. Presenter: Sister Benedicta Boland, OSB, at Red Plains Monastery, the Retreat House. Fee: Mail in \$35 to

reserve your place. Call 373-4739 to register. Bring a sack lunch.

**19 Garage/Bake Sale** at Trinity Gardens and Villa Isenbart Senior Apartments from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3825 NW 19th St. in Garvey Hall.

**20 Ascension of the Lord - Holy Day of Obligation**

**20 Pilgrimage Sunday**, 10:45 a.m. Anointing of the Sick, 11 a.m. Mass, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer of the Chaplet of the Infant Jesus and the Litany of the Infant Jesus. Nat'l Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

**20 Taize Prayer**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

**20 The community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus** - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Janet Mildfelt at (405) 848-6275 or Deacon Jim Breazile at (405) 377-9478.

**21 St. Peter's and the Catholic Churches in Northwest Oklahoma Fifth Annual Golf Tournament** at Boiling Springs Golf Club. Entry is \$50 per person. Team entries are \$200, which includes green fees and cart rental. For more information, call (580) 256-5305.

**23 BINGO** at St. James Catholic Church, 4201 S. McKinley. Food and beverages, reasonably priced, will be served at 6 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two black-outs \$10. Door prizes and special recognition for all players born in May. All bingo players get an entry for a 27-inch flat screen TV to be given away at the October Bingo.

**26 A Mandala Retreat**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to enjoy the freedom to listen to God and to create your own mandala as you share in this unique prayer style. Presenter: Sister Melissa Anna Letts, OSB, at Red Plains Monastery Art Barn. Call 373-4739 to register. Bring a sack lunch. Fee: Mail in \$35 to reserve your place.

**28 Memorial Day Mass 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.

**28 Annual Memorial Day Mass 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 the celebration of the Mass. Bring a lawn chair for seating you and your family, 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.

**30 Archdiocesan Prayer Day for the Retired.** Registration and refreshments will begin at 9:30 a.m., with our reflection starting at 10 a.m. We will attend Mass and have lunch with an opportunity to go to confession. Fee for the day is \$7, which includes lunch. To register for the Prayer Day for the Retired, call the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life at 721-5651 Ext. 158.

## JUNE

**1 First Friday Adoration** at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 8:30 a.m. Rosary School Mass there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 5:30 p.m. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th, Oklahoma City.

**1 First Friday Adoration** at Holy Name of Jesus in Chickasha. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. followed by Benediction. This is open to all. Holy Name of Jesus is located at 210 S. 7th St. in Chickasha.

## Catholic Charities Takes Campaign to Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. — Catholic Charities USA took its Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America directly to Congress recently, with a briefing on the struggles of 35 million Americans who experience hunger, testimony before a House Ways and Means subcommittee on poverty, and visits to Hill offices by local Catholic Charities agency leaders.

The concentrated daylong effort by Catholic Charities USA to focus attention on the need for action on poverty and hunger included a full-page ad in Roll Call and a virtual march on Washington in which people from around the country contacted their members of Congress.

It was the busiest single day of activity in Catholic Charities USA's Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America, which seeks to cut the U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020. The four main areas of the campaign are improving food and nutrition programs, increasing access to health care, enabling more people to get affordable housing, and promoting greater economic security for the poor and vulnerable through programs that

support work and strengthen families.

At the congressional briefing on the persistence of hunger, Catholic Charities USA called on Congress to give a higher priority to helping those living with hunger to strengthen current federal nutrition programs to help reduce hunger and poverty in America. The briefing combined policy positions with personal stories about hunger, including comments from a senior from Baltimore and a Denver grandmother who is caring for three grandchildren.

"The moral test of society is how it ensures the needs of the most vulnerable, including those unable to provide adequate food to themselves and their families," said Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. "It is unacceptable that in a nation as bountiful as ours that children, working adults and senior citizens experience food shortages that puts their physical, mental and developmental health at risk.

"Hunger is a growing problem for families in our community and our nation, a problem that Catholic Charities agencies witness each day, as

44 percent of the assistance provided by our agencies across the country deal with food and nutrition," Father Snyder said.

In 2005, Catholic Charities agencies nationwide served more than 5 million people through their food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens and other food service programs. Those served in Catholic Charities soup kitchens has increased 27 percent since 2001, while clients served by food banks increased by almost 15 percent.

And the need for nutrition assistance across the country continues to rise, especially among low-income working families. For example, as many as 40 percent of the working poor must turn to emergency food to fight hunger, and 29 percent of food stamp recipients are in families where at least one person works. Children and elderly are also impacted, as nearly 80 percent of food stamp recipients are children, and three in four Americans older than 65 experience difficulty meeting their daily food needs.

Father Snyder said that while Catholic Charities agencies continue to provide needed food for families, the

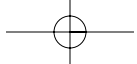
organization is working to convince federal lawmakers to revise and improve nutrition programs.

"Federal nutrition assistance programs deliver essential food assistance to one in five Americans," Father Snyder said. "Low-income individuals, families, children and seniors need these programs to lead productive lives.

"We need Congress to improve the food stamp program in the upcoming farm bill to make the application process easier, increase benefit amounts, improve outreach, expand eligibility and eliminate asset limits."

Following the hunger briefing, Father Snyder testified at a hearing conducted by the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support on proposals for reducing poverty.

Today more than 37 million Americans live in poverty. Catholic Charities agencies serve more than 7.4 million people each year, and local agencies are facing an increase in demand for emergency assistance, primarily among working families that are unable to make enough to provide for their basic needs.



## ‘The Touch’: God Reaches Out Through Us

By Cher Casso

*For The Sooner Catholic*

Recently while visiting a friend in a nursing home, I was privileged to witness the touch of God’s hand.

The man I was visiting suffered from Parkinson’s and a variety of other health problems, which only allowed him the use of his left hand.

An elderly woman entered his room in a wheelchair being pushed by a nursing home aide.

Being in her 90s and having long since lost the gift of her eyesight, she immediately reached for my friend’s hand and held it tight as they reminisced.

Being so moved at this sight, I

quickly grabbed my camera and snapped a picture of their hand-held embrace. I was struck by the thought of how often the touch of another person can brighten our entire day. It might be the hug of a child, holding hands with a spouse or an exchange with a stranger. In this brief encounter I was blessed to witness God’s touch in

the simple act of holding hands.

As this woman was about to be wheeled back to her room, she told my friend she was sad she could no longer see him, but was glad she could feel his touch.

So reach out to someone today, you never know what God can do through your “touch.”

## Birth Choice Ultrasound Helped Save This Baby



The little one you see here was almost aborted. His mother came to Birth Choice when she was only eight weeks pregnant. She came with her own mother, because the young girl was only 14 years old. Her mother was adamant that she have an abortion.

The volunteer that talked with them explained everything. She explained fetal development. She explained the ramifications of abortion, physical, spiritual and emotional. She even told the girl’s mother that this unborn baby was her grandchild. Last, but not least, she suggested an ultrasound to confirm the pregnancy. They consented.

When the Birth Choice volunteer nurse performed the ultrasound, they discovered not just one baby, but two! And their hearts were softened and changed. They saw the two babies

hearts beating. They saw two human beings and could no longer think of abortion. Sadly, one of the babies died in utero. But this little one survived. His name is Mark Alexander. He was 7 pounds, 6 ounces and 21 inches long. Both mother and baby are well and doing fine.

Mark Alexander is just one of many miracle babies, just one of the many little ones you help to save through your support of the Lord’s work at Birth Choice.

We ask you to please give generously to the Archbishop’s Mother’s Day Collection for Birth Choice this year in your parishes. You are the voice for the voiceless unborn babies. Please help Birth Choice continue to give mothers the means and opportunity to choose life. God wants His little ones to live!