Let us pray that we may consciously live in the presence of the Risen Christ Eternal and gracious God, we believe your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to have ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven; May we also in heart and mind ascend to where He is, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

This original painting of The Ascension was created by the late Father John Walch. The photo is courtesy of Saint Gregory's University.
To our Venerable Brother
Eusebius J. Beltran
Metropolitan Archbishop of
Oklahoma City

We were happy to learn that you, Venerable Brother, in the coming month of May are going to be reaching the 50th year since your reception of priesthood ordination. We are therefore pleased to send this letter to you to show you that we share your joy and also to show the fraternal communion in the Episcopate whereby we are joined to you.

Since we know that in fulfilling your sacred ministry you have worked with the utmost care, it is our intention to use this occasion to congratulate you for your past accomplishments and to speak with you as brother to brother.

As priest you were appointed a minister of divine grace, love and mercy, and you were especially attentive in realizing the spiritual well-being of the faithful in the Church of Atlanta where you were, among other things, a Pastor, the Secretary for Priests, the Presiding Judge of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal, the Director of the Clergy Personnel Board, one of the Archdiocesan Consulters and the Vicar General.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI, our Predecessor of happy memory, aware of your special gifts and your pastoral skills, appointed you the Bishop of Tulsa, and almost 15 years later you were transferred to the Metropolitan See of Oklahoma City.

In the exercise of your very important Episcopal ministry, you have worked closely with the Roman Pontiff and with the Magisterium of the Church. With diligence and wisdom you have made every effort that the faithful entrusted to your care might follow Christ, the Lord and Giver of Life, and that they might grow daily in human and divine virtue and at the same time that they might know and seek the things that are above (cf. Col 3, 2-3), thus conferring in no small measure on the well-being of the entire Mystical Body.

Therefore, as you observe this happy event in your lifetime, dear brother, may you receive all good things joined with these prayers: May Christ the Eternal Word of the Father and the Savior of mankind, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the dawn of our salvation, protect you, his well-deserving servant.

May He Who is both provident and gentle, continuously enrich you with an abundance of heavenly gifts.

May our mention of all these things and the Apostolic Blessing which from this See of Blessed Peter we willingly bestow on you and you in turn impart to the priests, deacons and religious and all the faithful entrusted to your care, be a witness of our mutual charity and a sign of endearment.

Go joyfully in the Lord, most beloved son.

Given at the Vatican, April 20, 2010, in the sixth year of our pontificate.

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

The Good News

... A Letter of Congratulations

Burses

A $20 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother seminary burse in memory of Mary V. Tinker from her relatives.

A $100 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother seminary burse in memory of Mary.

A $45 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother seminary burse in memory of Mary V. Tinker from her relatives.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran seminary burse by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cebuliski in loving memory of Jerry Cebuliski.

A $300 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran seminary burse by St. Mary Church, Guthrie.
### 2010 CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS

**Archdiocese of Oklahoma City**  
**Effective June 15, 2010**

**Pastors:**
- Reverend Raymond K. Ackerman, Saint Monica Church, Edmond
- Reverend Joseph H. Arledge, Saint Joseph Church, Hennessey; Saint Joseph Church, Bison
- Reverend James A. Goin, Saint Thomas More Church, Norman
- Reverend Maurus Jaeb, OSB, Saint Paul Church, Del City
- Reverend Chinnapa Konkala, Saint Patrick Church, Anadarko; Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Binger; Saint Richard Church, Carnegie
- Reverend Daniel J. Letourneau, Saint Mary Church, Medford; Saint Joseph Church, Pond Creek; Saint Mary Assumption Church, Wauka
- Reverend Timothy D. Luschen, Saint Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City
- Reverend Mark E. Mason, Sacred Heart Church, El Reno; Saint Joseph Church, Union City
- Reverend Bill H. Pruett, Saint James Church, Oklahoma City
- Reverend Roberto A. Quant, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
- Reverend Philip M. Secton, Holy Family Church, Lawton
- Reverend Shane L. Tharp, Holy Name Church, Chickasha
- Reverend Christopher H. Tran, Saint Eugene Church, Weatherford; Sacred Heart Church, Hinton; Blessed Sacrament Church, Thomas
- Reverend Michael Wheelahan, Saint Peter Church, Guymon; Saint Francis Cabrini Church, Beaver; Good Shepherd Church, Boise City; Sacred Heart Church, Hooker
- Reverend Robert T. Wood, Saint Mary Church, Guthrie; Saint Margaret Mary Church, Crescent (effective June 22)

**Associate Pastors:**
- Reverend Peter Jandaček, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
- Reverend William M. Lewis, Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City
- Reverend Rajesh Mankena, Assumption Church, Duncan; Immaculate Conception Church, Marlow; San Jose Church, Ryan; Saint Patrick Church, Walters; Saint Thomas Church, Waurika
- Reverend Lourdu Ponnapati, Saint Benedict Church, Shawnee
- Reverend Jarek Topolewski, Saint Mark Church, Norman

**Retiring:**
- Reverend Denis G. Hanrahan, Catholic Pastoral Center
- Reverend Kirk S. Larkin, Medical Retirement
- Reverend Lowell L. Steiferman, Catholic Pastoral Center
- Reverend Joseph S. Vas, Saint Ann Retirement Center

### Races Boost Villa Teresa

Villa Teresa might have just completed its best dinner-auction fundraising effort ever during the “Spirit of ’76 Spring Soiree Benefit Auction Dinner” held April 24 at Remington Park.

Beth DeGrace, president of the Villa Teresa Parent Teachers Organization, said while the final count is not official, preliminary numbers show the school earned around $26,000.

Sister Veronica Higgins, Villa Teresa principal, said the money will go to the Villa Teresa School on Classen. The Carmelite Sisters also operate a school for younger students on South Western which hosts its own fundraising efforts.

DeGrace said raising money for the school is a primary goal of the dinner/auction, but also a format for Villa Teresa parents to get together.

Sister Veronica said the autoographed jersey of Oklahoma Thunder basketball star Kevin Durant brought the highest auction amount at $3,500.

The second highest auction item was a ceramic plate which contained the names of the 3-year-old students at Villa Teresa. It sold for $600.

Sister Veronica said the school should let Durant know how much they appreciate his donated item.

### Races Boost Villa Teresa

To the Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Nicoma Park

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last January I attended a meeting with your pastor, Reverend Shane Tharp, and your parish council here in Nicoma Park. At that time I noticed the improvements made and I was very pleased with them. Thank you for your kind cooperation and above all, thank you for your continuing faithful practice of our Catholic faith.

During that meeting I mentioned the fact that it may be necessary to make some serious changes in the future regarding several parishes, including Our Lady of Fatima Church. The fact that your current rectory is a health hazard raises serious concerns. Since that time, I have also realized that your church building needs some repairs and renovations.

As you know, our Archdiocese is facing an increasing shortage of priests. This June three more priests will retire and no one will be ordained. Therefore, I am not able to assign pastors to fill all the vacancies. In view of this extreme shortage of priests combined with your need of a new rectory and the expenses of repairing the church building and the proximity of other Catholic parishes, I must make a very difficult decision regarding your parish. I can no longer send a priest to Our Lady of Fatima Church after June 6.

On Sunday, June 6, the Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ), I will celebrate a final Mass here at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 4 p.m. This will be a Mass of Thanksgiving to God for the countless blessings He has granted to the people of this parish since its inception as a mission in 1948.

The neighboring pastors and parishes will be extending a cordial welcome to you and I look forward to seeing you there in the future. In the meantime, I urge you to continue praying for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and for the strong and vibrant practice of our Catholic faith throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Be assured that you and your loved ones are remembered in my prayers and Masses. May God bless you most abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City

May 7, 2010

To the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Newkirk

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I wish first of all to express publicly my gratitude to your pastor, Reverend Joseph Vas. After many years of service here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Father Vas will be retiring on June 30 and relocating to Oklahoma City. Thank you, Father Vas.

In view of our extreme shortage of priests, I will not be able to send another pastor to your parish. Therefore, I am informing you of a change of status for Saint Francis Parish.

Effective June 30, your parish will become a mission of Saint Mary Church in Ponca City.

Therefore, on June 30, Reverend John J. Michalicka, the pastor of Saint Mary Church in Ponca City, will also become your pastor. Despite this increase in responsibilities, I know that Fathers Michalicka and Schwarz will serve your parish community well. I ask you to cooperate with them, especially in this transition period.

This change of your parish to mission status reminds us of the serious obligation we all have to pray for and encourage priestly vocations. Only through the ministry of the ordained priests can we have access to the Eucharist and sacramental life of the Church. Please pray and ask God to bless us with an increase of priestly vocations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City
ACCW Holds 16th Biennial Convention

The Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) held its 16th Biennial Convention on April 17 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This year’s host was the Central Region (CRCCW). Many women attended this year’s convention, which was a huge success.

This year’s theme was “Moving Forward in Faith and Joy.” The ACCW Convention is a time for the women of the Archdiocese to be informed of any changes to the organization’s by-laws, hear the resolutions of the organization, and to be present for the installation of officers for the next two-year term on the ACCW board of directors, as well as enjoying the speakers, silent auction and fellowship of other women across the Archdiocese.

In communion with the theme of the convention, Father Joseph Irwin, the keynote speaker, delivered a powerful message to the women encouraging them to “Be Still and Know that I am God.” Other speakers were Karen Painter, vice president of Region II of the NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women); Shirley Stricklan (outgoing president of ACCW), Pamela Kennedy (ACCW Province Director for Oklahoma), and Rev. Robert Wood, the ACCW spiritual moderator. Father Wood delivered a powerful message of encouragement, hope and inspiration to the women, to hold fast to their ministry in the ACCW, and continue to help it to grow and assist the people of third world countries, as well as our people here in our own cities and towns.

Women from each of the three regions (Central, South and North) were present, along with visitors from among the many parishes who are affiliates of the organization. Father Wood and Father Kolb celebrated Mass for the women, after which the ceremony of the sending forth of the outgoing officers and installation of the new officers took place.

After lunch the group resumed, with reports from each of the commission chairs, which keep the group focused on what is happening in the areas of Church, Family, Community, Legislative, International, Organizational and Rural Concerns. The silent auction was then closed, and the outgoing president, Shirley Stricklan (South Region), was presented with a special framed print of Mary, Queen of Peace, as a gift for her service to the council. The print was designed by Diane Andraska, who volunteered to do the drawing to depict the vision in the prayer written by Karen Hurley, president general of the World Union of Catholic Women Organizations (WUCWO). The first copy of this painting was presented to Pope Benedict XVI earlier this year, in appreciation of Stricklan’s service to the council.

For more information on how you can be a part of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, call President Brenda Arambula at 405-681-8237, any of the officers listed above, or visit our Web site at okaccwtripod.com.

Outgoing ACCW President Shirley Stricklan with her gift.

The new ACCW Board of Directors for 2010-2012 are:

President: Brenda Arambula (Central Region)
First Vice President: Desdive Milacek (North Region)
Second Vice President: Barbara Wann (South Region)
Secretary: Kathy Treece (Central Region)
Treasurer: Kay Janda (Central Region)
Auditor: Kay Buffington (North Region)
Historian: Florence Wood (North Region)
Parliamentarian: MaryAnn Holman (South Region)
Roth IRAs

This year, people whose income level denied them access to a Roth IRA, where investment gains are free of tax, can create them. They can also convert tax-deferred individual retirement plans into Roths by paying the taxes. The net income from a pre-tax IRA and the after-tax contribution to a Roth are the same (assuming tax rates remain unchanged over time). But a Roth offers an advantage: It does not require withdrawals for those older than age 70 1/2, as a traditional IRA does. Those who convert this year can pay the income taxes over two years. However, that may be a costly strategy for high-income taxpayers. At year-end, the temporary tax cuts sponsored by President George W. Bush in 2001 expire. Next year, the two top rates are scheduled to revert to the higher rates of 2000. Someone in the top bracket would pay $35,000 this year to convert a $100,000 IRA into a Roth, but would most likely pay $39,600 if they took advantage of the pay-later option. Those converting to a Roth may want to combine it with a charitable gift annuity, getting some immediate tax savings, tax-favored income and leaving money to both heirs and to the Catholic Church.

A 71-year-old single man in the top tax bracket who converts a $100,000 IRA and puts 60 percent into a Roth and 40 percent into a charitable gift annuity at The Catholic Foundation can save 16 percent of the $35,000 tax cost.

For more information about Charitable Gift Annuities and other planned giving opportunities, contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115   www.cfook.org
bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Catholic Foundation Grants Expand Programs at BMCHS

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has been the recipient of grants over the last two years that have recently come to fruition. The 2008 Catholic Foundation Grant provided for eight Querkbot robotics kits and tool kits for the physics classes and the school’s Robotics Academy. Incorporating physics, engineering, mentoring and team-building skills, the junior students will build four robots from the kits. They will in turn teach all of the freshmen science students how to operate and maneuver the robots using computers. Robotics is an emerging course of study being expanded at many colleges and universities throughout the country. The 2009 Catholic Foundation Grant provided the REACH program and Strategies for Success class at BMCHS a set of books that the students in the program can use at their reading level and interest level to improve reading skills. Books on CD were also acquired, which allow the students to follow along while hearing the text read to them, which helps with reading comprehension. These books will be available for use by current and future students for years to come.

McGuinness junior students in physics class learn robotics.
Mount Students Join in ‘The Wisdom Project’

Mount St. Mary considers it of high importance to incorporate learning about other religions, beliefs and cultures into the education of Mount students. A better understanding of religions, cultures and beliefs other than those of our own develops a deeper respect for others in the world and helps students better understand their personal beliefs.

The greatest gift one generation can give to another generation is wisdom. Teaching students the importance and value of wisdom was the main priority in the recent project students participated in at MSM. The project was inspired by the artist, Andrew Zuckerman, who recorded the thoughts and ideas of the world’s most prominent writers, designers, artists, actors, politicians, musicians and religious and business leaders, all over 65 years old. He captured their voices, physical presence and their written words in hopes of defining wisdom.

Mount St. Mary students followed suit, as students interviewed three senior citizens, two middle-aged citizens and one of their peers. Students participated in many aspects of learning before they finally created a wisdom statement of their own and a piece of artwork that “mapped” their wisdom journey based on the experiences through their interviews.

“The Wisdom Project” provided students with the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and consider their past, the choices they have made and the ways in which they have responded to the past experiences that did or could have provided opportunities for acquiring wisdom.

“The Wisdom Project” is unique to Mount St. Mary. We feel so blessed to allow students to take part in projects like this. Projects such as “The Wisdom Project” can transform students and impact them for the rest of their lives.

Mika Cheng and Bryant Colin, seventh-grade students at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City, were recognized by the Duke University Talent Identification Program, and took the ACT or SAT examination. Both students earned scores equal to or better than half of the college-bound high school seniors who took the test. Sacred Heart Principal Joana Comacho said the students will be honored in a State Recognition Ceremony in June.
At a recent Academic Awards Assembly, several Bishop McGuinness students received awards.

National Merit Finalists were Nick Aguilera, Jonathan Gardocki and Tommy Labarthe. Junior Rotarians were Hanna Daly, Tyler Gann, David Murray and Amee Pena. Outstanding Senior Ambassadors were Preston Lucas and Angelina Stancampiano.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation Scholarship Award was given to David Murray and Margaret Ruiz. The Principal’s Leadership Award and the Leadership Oklahoma Award was given to Nickolas Aguilera. William Edmonds was given the Hugh O’Brien Leadership Foundation Award.

The David Harlow Rice Scholarship in memory of David Rice, a BMCHS graduate who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, was awarded to Mary Beth Canfield, Ashley Hess and Kaleb Thornton. The Todd Harter Memorial Scholarship was given to Jonathan Southard and the Joe Cook Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of longtime Irish baseball coach Joe Cook, was awarded to Blake Brennan for his determination, unselfishness and love for the sport of baseball.

The Oded Amitz-lev Endowment Fund Award, in memory of 1991 BMCHS graduate Oded Amitz-lev, was awarded to Connor Ferguson. In addition, the Reginald and Lillian Hudson Memorial Scholarship went to James Fidel and Vina Nguyen.

The Scholar Athlete Award went to John Byrne and Emily Conrad. The Oklahoma Jim Thorpe Scholar Athletes were Sam Crabtree, Jay Lester and Lizzy Whitbeck.

The Sports Headliner Scholar Athletes were Katie Harris, Cassi Iser and Hannah Tubbs. The Oklahoma City All Sports Association Award was presented to Erin Gaffney.

The NFL Players Association and Professional Athletes Foundation Award was presented to Brennan Weber.

Selected to Boys State were Thomas Frantz, Colin Murray and Ashton Slatev, while Girls State nominees were Alexis Smith and Mary Katherine Tyler.

The Irish Service Award was presented to Corrine Dingess, Jonathan Gardocki, Alejandra Lopez, Katie Neuberger, Charlie Shields and Brogan Ward.

The School Spirit Award went to Rose Faherty and Sam Crabtree, and the Father David Monahan Award was given to Kristy Davis. The Stephen P. Parsons Award was presented to Nick Staples and Laura Thompson.
Sanctuary of Hope

“When people come into a shelter, it’s to take care of their most basic needs. Of course you need counseling, of course you need healing, but first you need food and clothes … so we deal with those things first and then move the relationship forward.”

— Amy Hampton, Director of Homeless Services, Sanctuary Women’s Development Center

OKLAHOMA CITY — It may look small on the outside, but this is no ordinary shelter. Within the walls of this small building, homeless, low-income and at-risk women are busy making phone calls, using computers, seeking counseling and case management — even finding rest, sipping a hot cup of coffee. Most importantly, perhaps, these women have found a sanctuary where they are nurtured by staff and volunteers, where they can share their stories with other women going through similar situations and eventually, regain their self-esteem, moving forward toward the hope of a better life.

Sanctuary Women’s Development Center — the former site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church in southwest Oklahoma City — only just celebrated its one-year anniversary. But since its inception in 2009, the center has seen the faces of more than 500 women and their children, welcomed more than 3,500 site visits, and has become one of the busiest day shelters in the area.

The women’s day shelter, “Sanctuary,” as many call it, was created as an expansion of “Home-less Services,” a program supported by Catholic Charities. The idea of a day shelter had been in the works for many years but had just not been able to get off the ground.

“Finding a location was a big challenge,” explains Tim O’Connor, Director of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City. “We ran into lots of problems with neighborhoods and people not wanting these people around.”

In 2008, Archbishop Beltran and Father Ralph Reyes, pastor of Little Flower, made the decision to offer the building that once housed Our Lady of Guadalupe, the mission site for Little Flower Church in Oklahoma City. The Archbishop asked Catholic Charities if they could use the building to establish services for the homeless. Catholic Charities, of course, accepted.

“I guess we were at the right place at the right time,” admits O’Connor, stressing how instrumental the support of Archbishop Beltran was in seeing the reality of a local day shelter come to life.

“From the onset, the staff of Sanctuary wanted to be more hands-on with the families in the neighborhood, providing less case management and more of an actual day shelter. But within the first month of being open, 40 came through the doors — and all 40 wanted case management. Case management they received, while additional support programs and services were established.

“At first we didn’t know exactly what we would be doing,” admits Amy Hampton, Director of Homeless Services at Sanctuary Women’s Development Center. “We didn’t know exactly who we would be serving. We knew a majority of our clients would be homeless and it would be families from the neighborhood. But we really didn’t know what needs they would have.”

Sanctuary is a fully functioning day shelter, run entirely by only three full-time employees and six volunteers who have been coming consistently since its inception in 2009. Of these, Sister Betty of St. Joseph’s comes at least twice a week to offer counseling services to women at the shelter.

To date, Sanctuary provides the following services to homeless and at-risk, low-income women and their children:

- Case Management
- Computer Labs
- Phones with Personal Voice Mail
- Life Skills Development
- Job Skills Development
- Employment Resources
- Linkage to Community Resources
- Trauma Group Counseling
- Community Gardens
- Linkage to Mental Health Resources
- Art Activities
- A Safe Place to Rest and Refocus
- Nutritious Beverages and Snacks
- Limited Financial Assistance
- Washer and Dryers
- Showers

Sanctuary is primarily funded by Catholic Charities and private donations, but numerous agencies and community organizations have stepped forward to propel the young shelter.

For instance, Grace Rescue Mission, a local non-profit shelter supported by the Oklahoma Baptist Commission, has been an invaluable resource for Sanctuary. Almost from day one, Hampton said, the GRM freely offered to work hand-in-hand with Sanctuary.

For instance, Sanctuary does not provide full meals for the women in the shelter — with Grace as a resource, women can simply walk across the street and have lunch. Grace also provides free security for Sanctuary, an invaluable service for volunteers, staff and the shelter’s women, the bulk of whom are trying to escape domestic violence or who are being stalked. Grace Rescue Mission has also opened their doors to Sanctuary by sharing their free medical and dental clinics, prescription assistance, vision assistance and clothing room with the women.

“We definitely couldn’t exist without them,” Hampton stresses.

Sanctuary has gained support from government agencies, other non-profits, and in particular, non-Catholic faiths — Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Episcopal, to name a few. All have extended open arms to the mission of Sanctuary.

“We balance well and feed off other non-profits...
Women’s Development Center Celebrates First Anniversary of Caring

and other denominations outside of our Catholic support … Oklahoma City has a great faith community that all want to tear down those boundaries and work together,” says Hampton.

Sanctuary has quickly adapted to the needs of its community. With area-wide support, they are able to provide a host of support services to women in need. In addition to its services, Sanctuary is simply a serene place where healing is fostered. The natural beauty of Sanctuary and its spacious outside space is something Sanctuary’s staff believes creates a naturally therapeutic atmosphere for women in need.

In addition to the nurturing environment, Hampton has witnessed women within the shelter become a natural support group for each other:

The most remarkable thing about Sanctuary is when you come into a homeless shelter, it’s kind of a prison mentality like you have to be tough … You don’t want anyone to know your business and you keep that attitude to survive … when people come in here it may take a couple of weeks and they initially have that attitude, but when they see the other ladies that have been here for a while and get to know them, and see that those ladies are finding jobs and getting housing and being positive — that shows them the way … They may leave [the shelter] and get into all sorts of trouble, but when they’re here they want to preserve this environment … It’s something natural. Nothing we’ve done but something that’s just happened. They have formed their own support system with each other. They share with each other. A lot of them remain friends after they leave.

— Amy Hampton

Sanctuary is always in need of donations and volunteers. To volunteer or donate items (i.e. clothing, nutritious snacks, coffee, tea, etc.) please contact:

Nancy Largent, Catholic Charities, (405) 523-3000.

Sanctuary’s hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more ideas on how you can help, call 526-2321.

Event Provides Support to Sanctuary

OKLAHOMA CITY — The second annual Reds, Whites and Boots event to benefit the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center was considered a great success and demonstrated the support the Catholic Charities-sponsored ministry is receiving throughout the business community.

The event was put on by Cattleman’s Restaurant and two California vineyards. The event was held in Stockyards City at the Cattlemen’s Special Event Center, 1325 S. Agnew, about a block from the Sanctuary.

Dave Eagan, longtime manager of Cattleman’s, said the event is a way to help support “a neighbor.”

Eagan said Reds, Whites and Boots grew from a conversation he had with Kelly Duckhorn McElearney and Paula Kornell. McElearney is with Ehlers Estate and Kornell is with Oakville Ranch. Both vineyards are in California’s famous Napa Valley.

Eagan said he was telling the women about the Sanctuary that had located in the neighborhood and they came up with the idea for a wine-tasting benefit to help support the ministry. More than 120 tickets were sold for the April 27 event.

Kornell attended the event and helped pour samples of the wines produced by Oakville Ranch. A Catholic, Kornell said it was a pleasure and an honor to help support the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center. McElearney had planned to attend the event, but missed her flight out of California.

Adding to the evening was Oklahoma’s own Choc Beer, produced in Krebs.

Sanctuary officials, Amy Hampton, Sandra Carrillo and Kirby Cannon were on hand to spread the word about the ministry. Tim O’Connor, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, welcomed those supporting the ministry through their support of the event. A silent and live auction also helped raise money for the Sanctuary.

Several priests, including Father Mike Chapman, Father Rick Stansberry and Father Stephen Bird were on hand as was Sister Katherine Powers, superintendent of Catholic education.

Eagan said the event was especially gratifying considering Cattleman’s is celebrating 100 years of business this year. The Sanctuary Women’s Development Center was opened just about a year ago.
Procuring Organs ‘Over My Dead Body?’

While it may cost an arm and a leg to live in the state of New York these days, it may soon cost a liver or kidney to die there.

Residents of the state have been debating a legislative measure, put forward by a state lawmaker that would automatically enroll all residents as organ donors. The law would rely on what is termed “presumed consent” and allow for the harvesting of deceased residents’ body parts unless that resident had specifically opted out of “donating” in this way when signing up for a driver’s license.

This approach to organ procurement raises significant ethical concerns. Would we allow a bank (or even a worthy charity) the right to automatically raid customers’ bank accounts upon their death unless they “opted out” of the program? As one commentator described the situation, “It really does smack of something quite dark when a system’s default mode exploits the fact that dead men not only tell no tales, they refuse no proposals.”

A recent editorial in the Buffalo News carried the analysis further: “A corpse may not have many rights, but one of them ought to be that the handling of it is not based on an invasive presumption. Informed consent should remain the standard. What is needed is to increase the number of donors through leadership and persuasion, not state-facilitated confiscation.”

State-facilitated salvaging of organs in the absence of explicit consent undercuts the essential character of organ donations as a gift. As Pope Benedict XVI noted in 2008: “Informed consent is a precondition of freedom so that the transplant can be characterized as being a gift and not interpreted as a coercive or abusive act.”

In fact, informed consent is so fundamental that the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out: “Organ transplants are not morally acceptable if the donor or those who legitimately speak for him have not given their informed consent.”

So what might be the anticipated effects of mandated presumed consent? Perhaps the very opposite of what advocates were hoping for — it might, paradoxically, cause people to step back from donating. As one commentator, half in jest, declared: “So now, if you’re ‘dead enough,’ they’ll just pull the plug and walk off with your entrails under the guise of presumed consent, which makes me think very strongly against being an organ donor.”

Professor James F. Childress commented on the importance of trust issues at the center of a very sensitive decision like organ donation: “If you ask why people do not currently sign donor cards, some of those reasons have to do with inertia, with not having thought about it, but some of them just have to do with trust and mistrust of the system.”

Even among those who are fortunate enough to receive a scarce organ, there could be an awkward hesitancy introduced by such a legal maneuver. One organ recipient named Alison posted this comment about the presumed consent law on an Internet discussion site:

“As an organ recipient, I would not have signed up for the UNOS [United Network for Organ Sharing] list if a law such as this were in place. I could not live with a transplant not knowing if the person was indeed dead when the organ was taken or if their religious beliefs were against organ donation and they just had not filled out an opt-out card ... Frankly, for me personally, the burden of knowing that someone had to die (accident, suicide, homicide, some family’s tragedy) for me to live is hard enough and the only thing that helps is knowing they gave willingly.”

By forcing the issue of presumed consent, rather than patiently seeking to convince potential donors to “opt-in” of their own free will — which is the way organ donation occurs in most American jurisdictions — lawmakers and organ procurement agencies may experience significant setbacks as people respond to a perceived assault on their freedom.

Lawmakers and the medical establishment should rather educate potential donors as to the importance of organ donation and seek to win their trust throughout the procurement process. Building up such trust through the process of informed consent all the way to the procurement of the organs themselves will go a long way toward increasing organ availability for future transplant patients.

Novel approaches such as mounting a public relations campaign from Hollywood might also increase the number of willing donors. The effect of having a noted celebrity on TV urging people to check the organ donor box on their driver’s license renewal form could be significant. Building up an authentic culture of life — and encouraging organ donation in ethically acceptable ways — needs to be a real priority for medicine and society, as organ transplantation offers significant and enduring health benefits to the sick who oftentimes have no other hope.

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. See www.ncbcenter.org

Letter

Whose Fault?

Over the past few years much has been written about the death penalty process we use in Oklahoma as a punishment. The Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., has published many facts related to the number of innocent people we have put on death row, later to learn they were indeed innocent. Nationwide, more than 130 human beings once believed to be killers have been released because of their innocence. Jurors with good intentions made these mistakes. How many mistakes have we not caught and innocent people killed? What if one of these “mistakes” was a member of your family? Someone you loved?

Another key point about which much has been said is the terrible cost, the millions we spend on the death penalty process, both in the prosecution and defense. This is all made possible with your tax dollars. All of this and much more has been made available to our Oklahoma legislators with no results. Why don’t we spend these death penalty dollars on paying our schoolteachers salaries, saving positions in our law enforcement and fire departments?

Maybe it is your fault, the Christian segment of our community that has set back and done or said nothing, finding it very easy to ignore the cruel fact that you are as much a part of the killing process that takes place at McAlester as the people who administer the poison. You pay for every step of this process. You are indeed an accomplice to murder.

Almost every religion is against the death penalty. The Catholic Church has stated many times its opposition. We have a more civilized alternative to the death penalty, it is life without parole. The condemned will spend the rest of their life in prison and it costs you a fraction of what it is now costing. Why is it that we Catholics are so quiet about this? To look holy at Mass on Sunday but in truth supportive of the killing process that makes killers out of us all. Is this what we are really all about? Dear God, I hope not!

Contact your legislators and demand that we get out of the business of killing. Let God do His work in His own way and we will save millions of dollars and hopefully some innocent life. Remind them of this when you vote in November.

Jim and Ann Fowler
Saint Charles Parish, Oklahoma City
COMMENTARY

Pro-Life Oklahomans Deserve Choice

A few weeks ago the Oklahoma Legislature overturned a couple of vetoes by Gov. Brad Henry concerning abortion laws. The governor didn’t like our elected lawmakers passing laws that helped better protect the lives of the unborn.

One of the reasons Henry gave for his vetoes was the laws would draw the state into a costly lawsuit. The governor was correct, shortly after the House and Senate voted to override his vetoes of these important laws, a pro-death outfit out of New York filed suit against Oklahoma, saying the laws violated the United States Constitution. A judge in Oklahoma City said the laws could not go into practice until a hearing is held in July.

A few days after this took place, Gov. Henry, apparently feeling vindicated, went on Oklahoma City television and gave interviews to an Oklahoma City newspaper supporting his decision to veto the bills. He again said defending these pro-life laws would cost the state. He chastised the Legislature for passing pro-life legislation that was sure to draw the ire of the abortion industry and result in expensive lawsuits. He said in these times of budget cuts, it’s just not right to be passing laws that will be expensive to defend and will in his legal opinion be overturned by the courts.

Not even a week later, the governor signed into law legislation that will put regulations into place for pet breeders and seeks to cut down on “puppy mills.” The new law requires breeders to provide health certificates for animals and be inspected each year.

Lawmakers estimate it will cost up to $400,000 to hire an executive director and investigators for regulating Oklahoma’s breeding operations. The bill allows a special fund that people can make donations to, in an effort to help with costs associated with this new law.

Would the governor feel differently if private individuals helped pay the state’s legal expenses in support of pro-life laws? Should Oklahoma taxpayers be given that choice? They now have it to help save the lives of puppies, why not babies?

“Sometimes it takes awhile to do the education and do the legwork to get something done, but I’m thrilled,” said Rep. Lee Denney, as quoted in the Daily Oklahoman. Denney, a veterinarian, has been working for three years to get the pet breeders bill signed into law. “I do think it’s a step in the right direction.”

So are the pro-life laws.

Eventually, the voice of the unborn will be heard, in our hearts, in our courts and even inside the governor’s mansion.

Briefs

Abbot to Lead Napa Valley Adventure

“Follow Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen to the Napa Valley,” from July 29 to Aug. 1, 2010, for a fantastic four-day adventure packed with exclusive tours and tastings, including a welcome reception at Nickel & Nickel, an intimate guided tour of the Far Niente Winery and a cooking demonstration at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), followed by lunch at the CIA’s renowned Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant. Space is limited to 12 couples. For more information, go to www.followtheabbot.com or call Teresa Brekke at (405) 359-5781.

Catholic education is scheduled for June 7 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. Space is still available for individuals or teams. Fill out the form below and mail completed form with your check made payable to Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123. You may also download the registration form at www.cfook.org or call the Foundation office at (405) 721-4115 for more information.

Memorial Day Mass, Luncheon Set

LOCKRIDGE — May 31 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 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.

Summer NFP Class Offered in Edmond

Learn the Sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning with Jeanne Blasi, certified instructor. The three-night course is spread out over three months, on June 23, July 14 and Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 9th and Boulevard, Edmond, in the basement council room. You must register for the class online at www.ccl.org and your materials will be sent to you. Payment is by credit card at $135. Free child care is available upon request by contacting Dr. Harry Kocurek at 340-0691 Ext. 109. Natural Family Planning can help postpone a pregnancy or achieve a pregnancy. It is an ongoing observation and interpretation of the symptoms presented by the body each month and can be used throughout all the fertile years. The couples approach enriches the marriage relationship through improved communication. Couples tell us that each spouse feels special and not taken for granted.
Carta del Papa Benedicto XVI al Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltrán

A nuestro Venerable Hermano Eusebius J. Beltrán Arzobispo Metropolitano de Oklahoma City

Estamos muy felices de saber que usted, Venerable Hermano, en los próximos días del mes de mayo estará llegando a los cincuenta y cinco años desde que recibió su ordenación al sacerdocio. Por lo tanto, estamos muy complacidos de enviarle esta carta, para que compartamos con alegría y expresemos la comunión fraterna en el Episcopado del cual estamos unidos a usted.

Desde que hemos conocido la fidelidad de su ministerio sagrado, en el cual usted ha estado trabajando cuidadosamente. Es nuestra intención usar esta ocasión para felicitarlo por sus logros y hablarle de hermano a hermano.

Como sacerdote fue designado para hacer un ministerio de gracia divina, amor y piedad, el cual usted de una manera muy especial estuvo realizando por el bienestar de la integridad de la Iglesia en Atlanta, entre otras cosas, su compromiso como Pastor, el Secretariado de los Sacerdotes, Juez del Tribunal Eclesiástico, Director del Personal de la Clercía, uno de los Consultores Arquidiocesanos y Vicario General.

En 1978, el papa Juan Pablo VI, nuestro Antecesor de feliz memoria, le dio a conocer a usted que por el don de sus habilidades pastorales se le otorgaría su designación como Obispo de Tulsa. Después de casi quince años allí, usted fue transferido a la Sede Metropolitana de Oklahoma City.

En el ejercicio de su importante ministerio Episcopal, usted ha trabajado muy de cerca con el Pontifice Romano y con el Magisterio de la Iglesia. Con diligencia y sabiduría usted ha hecho todos los esfuerzos fielmente inculcados para seguir cuidadosamente a Cristo, el Señor y Dador de Vida. Estos esfuerzos crecerán diariamente en humana y divina virtud, y al mismo tiempo conocerán y seguirán las cosas del Señor. (cf. Col 3, 2-3) por consiguiente confiando en gran medida el bienestar del entero Cuerpo Místico.

Por lo tanto, mientras usted conmemora este feliz evento en su vida, mi querido hermano, que recibió todas las cosas en armonía con estas oraciones: Que Cristo, verbo eterno de Dios, Padre y Salvador de la humanidad, a través de la intercesión de la Santísima Virgen María, le muestre nuestra salvación y lo protegga como su buen y fiel servidor. Que El Quien es providente y gentil, continúe enriqueciéndolo con abundancia y regalo celestial...

Que nuestra mención de todas esas cosas y la Bendición Apostólica, que viene de la Santa Sede de San Pedro, y que nosotros embestimos en usted, las imparta a los sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosos que están confiados en su cuidado pastoral para que sean testigos de nuestra caridad y nuestro signo de cariño. Vaya alegremente en el Señor, su amado hijo Dada en el vaticano, el 20 de abril del año 2010, en el sexto año pontificado.

Su Santidad, Papa Benedicto XVI.

San Carlos Borromeo celebró el día de las Madres con tradición Mexicana
La Primera Comunión
Una solemnidad litúrgica del Cuerpo y de la Sangre de Cristo

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Decenas de niños y niñas se prepararon en la Iglesia de la Florecita, para recibir su Primera Comunión con mucho interés y mucha diligencia y con el esfuerzo de los Padres de la Orden Carmelitas Descalzos, numerosos catequistas y la Congregación de las Hermanas Misioneras Eucarísticas de Santa Teresa.

El pasado 8 y 9 de mayo, la Iglesia de la Florecita se abarrotó de niños y niñas con sus padres y madres, y por supuesto, con sus padrinos para contemplar y celebrar el encuentro con el Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo por primera vez. La descripción de la Primera Comunión en esta bella parroquia se traduce ha un momento de intensa emoción y de profunda felicidad. El Padre Raúl Reyes, párroco de la Florecita, se dirigió a los niños y niñas y les pidió que sigan el camino de Dios. A los padres y padrinos, el Padre Reyes les recordó la responsabilidad de llevar a los niños a la Santa Misa y vigilar que continúen los sacramentos para que estos niños sigan la luz de Cristo y camino del bien.

La Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City tiene la bendición de contar con la Iglesia la Florecita, la cual preserva la más cálida tradición hispana de la Primera Comunión, que es la Eucaristía donde está el mismo Jesucristo.

La ley anti-inmigrante de Arizona fracasará como la HB 1804 en Oklahoma
Voceros de la Arquidiócesis llaman a la paz, tolerancia y calma

Padre Don Wolf expresó que los Estados Unidos en un país de inmigrantes.

Richard Klinge, abogado de Caridades Católicas pide una reforma migratoria justa.
Jobs Box

DRE Opening

Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith with experience and vision to serve its 1600 families. The director will coordinate all education programs for pre-K through 12th grade, including sacramental preparation for children and parents. The director will be responsible for catechist recruitment, formation, and certification, and must also collaborate with the parish leaders of youth ministry, music, and adult education.

Applicants should have a degree in theology, religious education or related area and a minimum of five years experience working with youth (master’s degree preferred). Interested candidates should contact Patricia Koenig in the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education to initiate the application process (405-721-5651 Ext. 126).

Associate Director for Development and Mission Integration

Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City is looking for an Associate Director for Development and Mission Integration. This position will work with the executive director and other staff to develop and implement a comprehensive development and fundraising strategy; research and identify potential donors and sponsors (e.g., prospect, explore, identify, and track fundraising opportunities) focusing on those that have the highest priority); write proposals, letters of inquiry and grant reports to donors; identify and follow up on potential funders suggested by other people; explore a wide variety of funding opportunities (e.g. foundations, corporate donors, individual memberships, plan giving, capital campaigns, events, etc.), identify which would work best for Catholic Charities and proceed accordingly; develop and implement a planned giving program; meet with current and potential donors. The successful candidate will possess a relevant degree and have a minimum of five years experience in fundraising. Candidates should e-mail their resume to HR@catholiccharitiesok.org or mail it to 1501 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106.

Secretary

The Office of Religious Education of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time secretary. The position requires a self-starter for a multi-task position supporting the director and associate director. Candidate should have proven proficient experience with Microsoft Office, with extensive experience in Access as well as good organizational and communication skills. Experience in catechetics and Spanish language skills are a plus. The Office of Religious Education is part of the Catholic Education Department for the Archdiocese located in Catholic Pastoral Center. The position is open immediately. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send resume to Religious Education Office, Attn: Patricia Koenig, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73132. For further information, call 405-721-1415.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

St. Eugene Parish is accepting applications for the full-time position of Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Applicant must be in full communion with the Catholic Church, have previous experience in youth ministry, have flexible working hours, and be fluent in Spanish. Principle responsibilities are ministry to youth and young adults and overseeing the preparation of youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please submit resumes in writing to: Reverend Joseph A. Jacobi, St. Eugene Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20930, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156-0930.

General Ledger Accountant

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate opening for a general ledger accountant to perform a variety of accounting tasks, such as examining financial statements, reconcile reports and prepare general ledger/profit and loss statements for management. Also, accounts payable and receivable and payroll. Must be a team player and able to multi-task. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Youth - Young Adult Minister

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

Part-Time Organist Needed

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church is in need of an organist to play for our 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 300 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 Ext. 123 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. - SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ.

Teacher Openings

Bishop John Carroll School in Oklahoma City is taking applications in the areas of elementary education and part-time music position for the 2010-2011 school year. Please submit resumes to cdiotte@hjs.org or fax 523-3053. Bishop John Carroll School is a pre-K through eighth-grade school. Please contact Connie Diotte at (405) 525 0956 for any additional questions.

High School Coaches Needed

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is currently seeking qualified candidates in the following coaching fields for the 2010-2011 school year: cross country, track, football assistant with wide receivers experience, and soccer assistant. Teaching field is social studies. Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegrí at 405-631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountsmary.org. EOE

Teacher Openings

Holy Trinity Catholic School, Okarche, has positions available for highly motivated and qualified applicants looking for a challenging career in Catholic education for the 2010-11 school year: second-grade teacher. Early childhood certification required. Additional middle certifications desired. Qualified candidate must be Catholic; 3- and 4-year-old preschool teacher. Early childhood certification required. It is preferred that the qualified candidate be Catholic. Full benefits package is paid by the school for full-time employees. All qualified and interested applicants should contact Tammy Jacobs, Principal, at (405) 263-4422. For more information, visit our Web site: www.holytrinityok.org.

Teacher Openings

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

Catholic Elementary Principal

St. Pius X Catholic School, Tulsa, serving approximately 400 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, is seeking a candidate for the 2010-2011 school year. St. Pius X Catholic School is a parish school located in mid-town Tulsa. We are seeking a highly motivated, well-qualified administrator with excellent people skills and experience in Catholic education. Requirements: practicing Catholic, master's degree (prefer education administration) and classroom teaching experience. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of and practice strong educational, administrative and communica- tions ability and a commitment to partnership with pastoral staff, parents and faculty. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should contact: Principal Search Committee, Catholic Schools Office, 820 S. Boulder Avenue, Tulsa, Okla. 74137, telephone (918) 582-9177.
Calendar
MAY

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

16 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbow at 830-8688.

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

17 Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. At Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH 99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH 99/377. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

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

19 St. Ann Retirement and Assisted Living Community “Grand Theater” opening from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 10:30 a.m., ribbon cutting/blessing. At 1 p.m., On Stage Entertainment will begin. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. It is a come-and-go event. For more information, call Richard Amend, Mission Director, at 721-0747.

20-22 “Three Day Waiting” Vigil Before Pentecost Sunday (May 20-22). Holy Spirit Silent Retreat at Immaculate Conception Church, 3901 SW 29th St., Oklahoma City. The retreat starts May 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m., May 21 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., May 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. There will be Mass, Adoration, Confession, Rosary, Readings, Reflection and Prayer. Groups will divide into English, Spanish and Vietnamese. All are welcome. For more information, call Precious Blood Devotees: Carolyn, (405) 793-7664 (English), Loan (405) 946-5429 (Vietnamese), Ester (405) 631-5252 (Spanish).

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

20 TAP into FAITH! May 20 topic: Marriage, Divorce, Annulments: What’s It All About? with speaker, Father Richard Stansberry from Christ the King Parish. Come out for drinks or dinner, hear an interesting talk on important Catholic issues, and meet other Catholic adults. Single or married, ages 21 to 121. 8 p.m. happy hour, 8:30 p.m. talk, 9 p.m. Q & A, at Pepe’s Mexican Restaurant located at 1701 S. Broadway in Edmond. For more information, call Mary Lacher at 401-4105.

21-24 Billings Ovulation Method Teacher Training to be offered. The United States headquarters of the Billings Ovulation Method, in cooperation with the Office of Family Life, will be offering a Teacher Training Program at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This is the first step to becoming a certified instructor. For questions, cost and other details, visit their Web site at www.boma-usa.org.

23 Pilgrimage Sunday, Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH 99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH 99/377. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

23 Many Voices One Spirit Musical Celebration of Pentecost will feature choirs from around Oklahoma City including the Choir of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church. The concert will be May 23 at 4 p.m. in Watchorn Hall of First Presbyterian Church at 1001 NW 25th St., OKC. Reception to follow. There is no cost but a freewill offering will be taken up. For more information, contact oalainfo@gmail.com.

27 The next discussion group for RCIA Coordinators, 11 a.m. at Saint Monica Church in Edmond, for a potluck lunch and open discussion about the progress of our RCIA programs. RSVP to Fayelene O’Connell at foconnell@uco.edu. For more information, contact Judy Reilly at (405) 722-2110 Ext. 125, or je ribs-@epiphanyoke.com.

31 Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery with Archbishop Beltran. Due to the amount of Mass participants in the past few years, Archbishop Beltran will be saying two Masses at Resurrection Cemetery for Memorial Day, the first at 8 a.m. and the second at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

31 Memorial Day Mass, Luncheon at St. Patrick Cemetery, Lockridge 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 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.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King Church and School has created a little more elbow room, so to speak.

On May 7, Father Rick Stansberry and his parishioners made good on the purchase of an adjacent piece of property. Buying property that becomes available near our Catholic parishes isn’t an uncommon event. But what makes this acquisition a bit out of the ordinary is the property happens to be a Presbyterian church, an active Presbyterian church.

Father Stansberry, in his third year at Christ the King, said the deal took several months to bring to fruition. In the end, Christ the King will pay $1.5 million for the 20,000-square-foot Greystone Presbyterian Church and the 1.5-acre lot it rests upon. Christ the King needs the room to expand its preschool program, a program that coincidentally has been housed in the Presbyterian church.

Father Stansberry said parishioner Linda Arrington owns and operates The Little Red School House located inside the Presbyterian church. After Principal Karen Carter arrived at Christ the King, it was decided that Christ the King would purchase the private school and incorporate it into the Catholic school.

“When those talks began it just sort of expanded,” Father Stansberry said. He said he approached Rev. Tim Blodgett, minister at Greystone, about the possibility of buying the church and the property. At first there was some hesitance, but the Presbyterians soon warmed to the idea and negotiations turned serious.

Father Stansberry said the idea was approved by Archbishop Beltran and the Christ the King Parish Council as well as the School Advisory Council and Sister Catherine Powers, CND, Superintendent of Education for the Archdiocese.

According to the Greystone Web site, the Presbyterians are looking at property in the Deer Creek area to build a new church.

Father Stansberry said the deal will allow the Presbyterians to continue to worship at the site for up to a year. He anticipates the congregation will move more rapidly to a new location once the deal is finalized.

The purchase of the adjacent church and property is one piece of the plan Christ the King has laid out. Eventually, the 65-year-old Greystone church will be replaced with new construction. Father Stansberry said the plan calls for building a new 20,000-square-foot education center on the property as well as additional parking. The total cost of the purchase and new construction is estimated at $5 million. Already, $4 million has been raised or pledged.

“This really demonstrates the faith of the people,” Father Stansberry said, who takes extra pleasure in the expansion. After converting to Catholicism as a teen, Christ the King became Father Stansberry’s home parish.

The purchase of the Greystone property also gives Christ the King a presence in two communities.

“Christ the King is in Nichols Hills, while Greystone is in Oklahoma City,” Father Stansberry said. “We’re probably one of very few parishes that will be located in two distinct municipalities.”