Misguided Media Fails to Grasp Cardinal’s Anguish Over Notre Dame Invite

By John Gile

Media attacks on United States Catholic Conference of Bishops President Cardinal Francis George after his castigation of Notre Dame for honoring President Barack Obama at its 2009 commencement call to mind the story about a meeting between Pope John Paul II and President Bill Clinton.

A chipper Clinton emerged from the meeting and told newsies gathered outside, “It was a cordial meeting, and we agreed on 80 percent of what we discussed.”

A few minutes later, John Paul came out and told reporters he was deeply saddened by the meeting. When a surprised reporter told him, “President Clinton just said you agreed on 80 percent of what you discussed,” John Paul answered, “Yes, but we were discussing the 10 commandments.”

What the secular media and even some nominal Catholics fail to grasp is that the Church’s foundational core is non-negotiable. We don’t vote on the 10 commandments, the Beatitudes or the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. They emanate from authentic teaching authority traceable to Peter and established by Christ.

Non-negotiable principles are alien to our hedonistic culture. A ludicrous example is the story of Clinton and John Paul, as though John Paul were at liberty to alter the 10 commandments to match Clinton’s decadent lifestyle. An equally ludicrous example is a Chicago Tribune editorial opinion: “Cardinal George’s comments reflect not simply an argument between the Catholic Church and the president, they reflect an argument within the Church.”

The Tribune’s reference to “an argument within the Church” betrays a failure to grasp the nature and mission of the Church and the nature of legitimate authority. Legitimate authority in the Church is analogous to some aspects of life in America. Our nation has certain requirements for citizenship and holding public office. If strangers

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The Good News

... Saints Yesterday and Today

We are usually more moved or impressed by very simple practices than by highly theological propositions or arguments. For example, there is a fine tradition in the Church to adopt a saint’s name at the time of Confirmation. The saint then becomes your chosen patron. This is not just a routine practice but a thoughtful choice made by the individual. In order to do this, the Confirmation candidate must research, read and learn about the saints. Then the saint selected becomes a model, an example and an inspiration.

Each year, principally during the Easter season, I confirm teenagers in at least 50 of our parishes. The groups of candidates are anywhere from two or three to 103! The total number I confirm each year in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is usually slightly over 1,000. During the ceremony of Confirmation, each of these candidates must request the sacrament and tell me the name of the saint they have chosen as their patron or patroness. Sometimes I ask the candidates why they have chosen that particular saint as their patron saint at the time of Confirmation affords great spiritual benefits to those who do so thoughtfully and prayerfully. In fact, all of us would benefit from such a practice. With the use of the Internet, we can find all kinds of information about the saints. Like the Confirmation candidates, let us all make friends with the great men and women of history. They are the ones who have attained the fullness of life by the grace of God. They are the ones who can inspire and encourage us. They can help and guide us.

In the early Church, people referred to each other as brothers and sisters and as saints of God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the word “saint” as the holy one who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life.

Therefore, the Church is called the “Communion of Saints.” The fact that each of us has been created in the Image and Likeness of God for a special purpose is clear and certain.

The selection of a patron saint at the time of Confirmation becomes a model, an example and an inspiration. For young people being confirmed, the choosing of a patron saint is much more than ceremonial. It is an opportunity for them to discover a person of faith with whom they can bond. They begin to recognize the strength and integrity of the saint. They develop deep respect and realize that they too can live good and holy lives. Their explanations reveal a new sense of hope which often results right then and there in a joyful commitment to the Lord.

The fact that each of us has been created in the Image and Likeness of God for a special purpose is clear and certain. That purpose is to come to know, love and serve God on this earth so that someday we can be united with Him forever in heaven. We were created by God precisely to become His saints. This is the whole reason for our existence. This is the purpose of our life on this earth.

Like the men and women of old who today are the saints of God in heaven, let us faithfully respond to Almighty God. Let us follow the example of the saints of yesterday so that we become saints today.

Seminary Burses

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

A $250 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City.

A $300 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Teresa Church, Harrah.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by the Latin Mass Community, Bethany.

A $300 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by Christ the King Church, Oklahoma City.

A $250 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by St. Rose of Lima Chruch, Perry.

A $30 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by an anonymous donor.

A $25 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by an anonymous donor.

A $20 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by Elizabeth Ruyle.

A $50 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by John and Sera Page.
2009 Clergy Assignments
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Effective June 23, 2009

Pastors:
Reverend David M. Lafferty, Holy Trinity Church, Okarche; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet
Reverend M. Price Oswalt, Saint Wenceslaus Church, Prague; Saint Michael Church, Meeker
Reverend Lucas Raj Pinapati, Saint Teresa Church, Harrah; Saint Vincent dePaul Church, McLeod
Reverend Frank Schmitt, SJ, Sacred Heart Church, El Reno; Saint Joseph Church, Union City
Reverend Shane I. Tharp, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Nicoma Park
Reverend John Zupez, SJ, Corpus Christi Church, Oklahoma City; Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, Jones

Associate Pastors:
Reverend Balaswamy Konka, Saint Peter Church, Guymon; Saint Frances Church, Beaver; Good Shepherd Church, Boise City; Sacred Heart Church, Hooker
Reverend William M. Lewis, Saint Joseph Church, Norman
Reverend Long N. Phan, Saint John Church, Edmond (effective July 7)
Reverend Anthony Raj Ram, Church of the Epiphany, Oklahoma City

Other Ministries:
Reverend Scott A. Boeckman, Associate Vocations Director
Reverend Stephen V. Hamilton, Associate Vocations Director
Reverend Francis Nguyen, Canon Law Studies, Saint Paul University
Reverend William L. Novak, Vocations Director
Reverend Arul Pudhota, Integris/Deaconess/Mercy, Oklahoma City, Chaplain
Reverend Frank Schmitt, SJ, Federal Correctional Institution, El Reno, Chaplain
Reverend Shane I. Tharp, Mount Saint Mary High School, Religion Teacher

Retiring:
Reverend Wilbur E. Moore, residence Catholic Pastoral Center

Leaving Archdiocese:
Reverend Omar Tabing, returning to the Philippines

Site Launched to Oppose Embryonic Research

WASHINGTON — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched a new “Oppose Destructive Stem Cell Research” campaign, equipping citizens to contact Congress and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to oppose embryonic stem cell research and support ethical cures and treatments “we can all live with.” The campaign is facilitated by the USCCB’s partner organization, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment.

Following President Obama’s March 9 executive order, the NIH proposed guidelines for federally funded research that will require destroying live human embryos for their stem cells. The draft guidelines are open for public comment through May 26.

The campaign home page, www.usccb.org/stemcellcampaign, summarizes why the proposed guidelines are unacceptable, provides links to USCCB resources (including the bishops statement, “On Embryonic Stem Cell Research” and multi-media resources and ads), and encourages Web users to “Contact Congress and NIH Now” through an e-mail interface. Several resources are available in both English and Spanish.

The campaign site explains that the NIH guidelines “would, for the first time, use taxpayer funds to encourage the killing of embryonic human beings for their stem cells.” It continues, “Embryonic stem cell research treats innocent human beings as mere sources of body parts, as commodities for our use.”

Catholics and other citizens are urged to contact both NIH and Congress because members of Congress and the administration have expressed interest in pursuing an even broader policy. “They want to obtain stem cells by destroying human embryos specially generated for research through in vitro fertilization (IVF) or cloning procedures — a ‘create to kill’ policy,” the campaign page explains.

Those who want to call for stem cell research and cures “we can all live with” may speak out by visiting www.usccb.org/stemcellcampaign and clicking on “Contact Congress and NIH Now.”
Mount Volunteers Recognized at Appreciation Dinner

OKLAHOMA CITY — On Saturday evening, April 18, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School held its second annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the school’s auditorium. This dinner was held to reward and recognize all the dedicated school volunteers who have given of their time and talents this past year. The evening, sponsored by the Mount St. Mary Advancement Office, was attended by over 100 constituents of the school. “We feel that it is important to take an evening and serve those who have so graciously served The Mount this past year. Our school is about building relationships and it is important to let our people know how much we appreciate their sacrifices that make this a special place,” said Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement.

Awards of recognition given that night honored special individuals whose tireless involvement exemplify a special love and appreciation for The Mount. The first award, the Rocket Choice Award, was presented to Roseanne Mogg for her behind-the-scenes work at Magic at The Mount. “Roseanne has a special gift to take care of the vital details that are not in the limelight, but that are essential to the success of our auction. She is certainly an individual who was always willing to rise above the call of duty, and for that, we felt it was appropriate for her to receive this special honor,” said Tonya Averyt, Advancement Operations director.

The second award of the evening was presented to Christina Short. This award, the Spirit of the Mount Award, was given to recognize Christina’s long-term loyalty and dedication in serving the school. “Christina has served in many roles and capacities over the last five years, from Booster Club president to chairman of our auction committee. Christina has always displayed a tireless commitment to making The Mount a better place. That commitment, along with her endless energy and enthusiasm, is the reason that we felt it was appropriate to recognize her with this special award,” said Stiles.

The final award of the evening was presented to Lisa Dudzinski as the Mount St. Mary Catholic High School 2008-2009 Volunteer of the Year. “Lisa has so graciously served in numerous roles such as long-term substitute teacher, bus driver and service project coordinator. Her passion, her enthusiasm and her strong faith have been an inspiration to our faculty and to our students. She has made a tremendous investment in the lives of the young people at this school,” said Principal Talita DeNegri.

“We appreciate the numerous volunteers and want to recognize them for the countless hours in which they serve our school. Our yearly Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is our special way to thank them. Their willingness to serve, to lead and to give brings out the best in all of us,” said DeNegri.

Misguided Media

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rode into town and declared themselves mayor or sheriff by their own authority, their arbitrary declaration would not reflect “an argument within the community.” It would reflect the strangers’ culpable ignorance that separates them from the community, and they would be repudiated by legitimate authorities. So it is with the Church.

Cardinal Francis George is an authentic Church authority in communion with the Apostolic See and charged with promulgating and defending the Church’s foundational core teachings. Father John Jenkins is simply the administrator of a quasi-Catholic private school. Like any college president, he is charged with raising funds for the school. College presidents do that by associating their institutions with prominent people to garner favorable media attention that can enhance their schools’ prestige. Father Jenkins’ invitation to Obama is an example.

At issue are Obama’s deeply offensive and ignorant anti-Catholic and anti-liberty policies, including:
— Obama’s commitment to the Freedom of Choice Act, which promotes abortion, effectively shuts down religiously affiliated hospitals, violates the consciences of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, as well as some atheistic and agnostic doctors and nurses, and strips parents of any rights in a minor daughter’s abortion decision;
— Obama’s restrictive tax deduction policies that will cripple religiously affiliated and private schools and will cut off support for independent think tanks;
— Obama’s allocation of millions of dollars from the public treasury to stem cell experiments that kill nascent human life at a time when prominent scientists point out that adult stem cell research is rendering the abortive experiments redundant.

Cardinal George is aware that misguided media and the general public perceive Notre Dame to be a Catholic institution reflecting Church teachings. The implicit endorsement by Notre Dame of Obama policies which are abominable to the Church compelled Cardinal George and others vested with responsibility for promulgating and defending the Church’s foundational core teachings to speak up.

In its diatribe against Cardinal George, the Tribune accused him of being “deeply out of line with comments that are a rude repudiation of President Barack Obama.” What the Tribune apparently fails to understand is that the Church and Cardinal George are called to be faithful to Christ, not to appease secular potentates. Consider Thomas More, who accepted death rather than implicitly endorse the apostasy of the adulterous King Henry VIII. Consider Christ himself, who confronted secular authorities and the professional religious who allied themselves with those secular authorities.

It should come as no surprise that Cardinal George is being scourged by the secular media and by nominal co-religionists for being faithful to his calling. It is the cross that has been borne for more than 2,000 years by those who are faithful to Christ.

(John Gile is editor-in-chief, JGC/United Publishing (www.jgc-united.com), former managing editor of Rockford Catholic diocesan newspaper The Observer, publisher of At The Crossroads: A Vision of Hope by Bishop Thomas G. Doran, author of four books and numerous articles published in newspapers and magazines.)
Pope calls attention to fate of ‘human family’ at Dome of the Rock

JERUSALEM, Israel, May 12 (CNA) —
The Dome of the Rock, a sacred site for Muslims, Christians and Jews, was visited by Pope Benedict on Tuesday morning. During his visit the pope emphasized that everyone must realize that they are “fundamentally interrelated,” and therefore must use reason and freedom to promote the love of God and neighbor.

Pope Benedict was welcomed to the Dome of the Rock, the place where tradition holds that Abraham planned to sacrifice his son, Isaac, by the Grand Mufti, Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, together with the director of the Jerusalem Islamic Foundations, Sheikh Mohammed Azzam al-Khatib al-Tamimi, and the head of the Awqaf Council, Sheikh Abdel Azim Salhab.

As he was led through the monument, the pope walked without his shoes out of respect for Muslim custom. In a press conference following the visit, Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said the Holy Father was unable to see the rock that Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son because of ongoing construction.

The Holy Father began his speech by recalling that the Dome of the Rock “draws our hearts and minds to reflect upon the mystery of creation and the faith of Abraham. Here the paths of the world’s three great monotheistic religions meet, reminding us what they share in common. Each believes in One God, creator and ruler of all. Each recognizes Abraham as a forefather, a man of faith upon whom God bestowed a special blessing.”

And yet, our world is “sadly torn by divisions,” the pope observed. This “sacred place serves as a stimulus, and also challenges men and women of goodwill to work to overcome misunderstandings and conflicts of the past and to set out on the path of a sincere dialogue aimed at building a world of justice and peace for coming generations.”

Because these types of discussions concern “all that is most sacred and dear to us,” Pope Benedict warned that “there may be a temptation to engage in such dialogue with reluctance or ambivalence about its possibilities for success.”

But since the “One God is the infinite source of justice and mercy,” we can move ahead with trust, the pope assured. When Catholics, Muslims and Jews begin with this basis, their faithfulness to the Creator leads them to realize that they are “fundamentally interrelated” and must work to mend divisions and promote human solidarity.

“This places a grave responsibility upon us,” the pope stated.

“Those who honor the One God believe that he will hold human beings accountable for their actions. Christians assert that the divine gifts of reason and freedom stand at the basis of this accountability. Reason opens the mind to grasp the shared nature and common destiny of the human family, while freedom moves the heart to accept the other and serve him in charity. Undivided love for the One God and charity toward one’s neighbor thus become the fulcrum around which all else turns. This is why we work untiringly to safeguard human hearts from hatred, anger or vengeance.”

“Dear friends,” the Holy Father said, “I have come to Jerusalem on a journey of faith. I thank God for this occasion to meet you as the bishop of Rome and successor of the Apostle Peter, but also as a child of Abraham, by whom ‘all the families of the earth find blessing.’ I assure you of the Church’s ardent desire to cooperate for the well-being of the human family,” Pope Benedict said.
In a Fuzzy World, Church Still the Anchor for Moral Absolutes

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in April of 2008, I had the chance to attend the opening ceremony at the White House South Lawn. As I listened to President Bush’s welcoming remarks to the pope, I was caught off guard by one line in particular, a powerful statement that seemed almost too philosophical to be spoken by a United States president: “In a world where some no longer believe that we can distinguish between simple right and wrong, we need your message to reject this dictatorship of relativism and embrace a culture of justice and truth.”

The president was expressing how we live in a time of history marked by moral relativism. This is the belief that there really is no right and wrong, just your opinion and mine about right and wrong, and we should simply “agree to disagree” and learn to get along. That is to say, you may believe that abortion, same-sex marriage and embryonic stem cell research are fine, and I may not, but there’s really no point in arguing, since everything is relative anyway — morality is up to me and you to decide individually. In such a view, there are no moral absolutes or universals, and morality shifts freely with each person’s perspective.

Ultimately, however, this position is neither reasonable nor logical.

If morality were merely about your’s and my moral opinions, the results would be disastrous. If I believe racism against blacks and the institution of slavery built upon it are wrong, but you believe they’re OK, can we both go our merry ways and live according to our own morality? Clearly not, and the United States had to undergo a terrible civil war to address this very question. If I believe serial murder and rape are wrong, but you believe they’re OK, can we both go off and live according to our own positions? Clearly not, since both positions cannot be true.

These obvious examples illustrate what each of us already knows, namely, that in the real world, “relative” truth doesn’t work. Suppose you and I each drive toward an intersection with a traffic light. If it were up to you and me to make up our own minds about what color the light is, without any reference to its real color, there would certainly be a lot of accidents at our intersections. What many fail to realize is that the moral world works similarly. Many people’s moral lives are crashing and burning because they fail to respect the non-arbitrary markers of the moral road map guiding our human journey. They’ve slipped into thinking that they can make up their own rules as they go along, and that it’s all relative to their own desires or circumstances.

In the movie Schindler’s List, much of the action takes place in a Nazi labor camp. The camp commandant decides to take a young Jewish girl to be his personal maidservant. At one point in the film, this girl has a private and very disturbing conversation with another man, Oskar Schindler, the protagonist of the film. With deep fear in her voice, she says to him, “I know that someday my master will shoot me.” Schindler at first can’t believe what he is hearing, and he does his best to reassure her that the commandant is really quite fond of her. But she insists, “No, someday he will shoot me.” She then speaks of what she had witnessed the previous day. She had seen him walk out of his quarters, draw his gun, and shoot a Jewish woman who was walking by with a bundle in her hand. She described the woman: “Just a woman on her way somewhere. No fatter, or thinner, or slower, or faster than anyone else, and I couldn’t guess what she had done [to provoke him]. The more you see of the commandant, the more you see there are no set rules that you can live by. You can’t say to yourself, ‘If I follow these rules, I will be safe.’”

Father Raymond Suriani, commenting on this famous scene from the movie, noted how this girl was absolutely correct: In a world of moral confusion, in a world of moral relativism, there can be no safety, and, consequently, no peace. She understood that in the “world” of that Nazi labor camp, right and wrong had been blurred to such an extent that she couldn’t determine what was “right,” even in the mind of the commandant. What pleased him at one moment might not please him in the next. And if he happened to have power, or to have a gun in his hand when he wasn’t pleased, she knew she could easily end up being his next victim.

There are certain important truths and universal moral absolutes which speak powerfully to us as humans about how we must relate to ourselves, to others, and to society. We can draw strength from the prophetic and protective voice of the Church, which speaks tirelessly to us of these moral absolutes and points out the threat to our humanity posed by every agenda of relativism.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org.

Reception to Honor Sister Cecilia

A reception honoring Sister Cecilia Pribil on her 80th jubilee with the Franciscan Sisters of Mary was held May 16 at her convent in St. Louis.

Sister Cecilia was born Nov. 6, 1909, in Hennessy, and baptized Christina Lee Pribil. Sister Mary Cecilia entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Maryville in 1929 and professed final vows in 1935. She graduated as an RN from St. Francis School of Nursing in Maryville, Mo. In 1930 and in 1938 she received her bachelor’s in education from Catholic Women’s College in Guthrie.

Sister served as a nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Maryville from 1932 to 1935. She served as operating room nurse and supervisor at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Oklahoma City from 1935 until 1964. While at St. Anthony’s she served as assistant hospital administrator and convent superior.

In the 1980s she was community superior, assistant community director and general counselor, mostly in Maryville. She was also active in pastoral care.

A family member said Sister Cecilia maintains a positive approach to life. She delights in the wonders of creation and cherishes a deep respect for nature. “A true Franciscan spirit that leads her to use wisely and prudently the gifts of the earth, always taking only what she needs.”

Colorado Site for Immigrant Conference


The convening will bring together immigration reform supporters from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma to provide them with coalition building skills, advocacy tools and other materials to strengthen and grow the support base for immigration reform.

It will also seek to arm advocates with updated Catholic messages and educational pieces to continue to push for comprehensive immigration reform.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver will preside the opening Mass for the convening, and Bishop Michael Sheridan of Colorado Springs will concelebrate.

Comprehensive immigration reform remains a priority for the Catholic Church.
Irish Priest Says Talks Bring Peace

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Father Alec Reid, a Roman Catholic priest from Northern Ireland, was honored April 19 at the Oklahoma City National Memorial with the Reflections of Hope Award.

Father Reid was ordained in 1957 and has spent 40 years in Belfast. The monastery where he is assigned sits between the Catholic and Protestant communities in Belfast, the scene of years of bitter political fighting between the Irish Republican Army, which wants Ireland united, and the Protestant and British government, which wants Northern Ireland to remain under British control.

Father Reid is the fifth recipient of the Reflections of Hope Award, which honors “a person or organization, in the United States or abroad, that has worked very successfully in a spirit of peace and nonviolence to selflessly better the lives of those around them, despite operating in an environment of political violence.”

Father Reid played a significant role in negotiating a settlement between the two political factions which resulted in the “Good Friday Agreement” in 1998. The IRA agreed to lay down its arms and the British government agreed to allow Catholics to help appoint government officials to the new Northern Ireland government.

“The first lesson of the Irish peace process is that we shall succeed by the Grace of God and only by the Grace of God. We are completely dependent on the Lord; peacemaking depends on His help,” Father Reid said.

He said “talking” is the key to finding peace.

“The only way to settle political conflict like the Irish one is through dialogue between all the participants. There is no other way to settle these issues except through dialogue between all the parties.

“That is the lesson we learned in the Irish peace process and it can be successfully applied on a global level. Dialogue has the power to settle all political conflicts in a way which safeguards the rights and human dignity of all parties,” Father Reid said.
Oklahoma Knights Honor Faith, Courage During 104th Convention

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — When Paul Smith was a freshman in high school, he was attacked by an angry group of boys. One of his attackers struck him in the head with a claw hammer. He was left for dead. Paul suffered a serious brain injury.

But the hammer did not injure Paul’s heart.

On April 25, Archbishop Beltran and several hundred members of the Knights of Columbus stood in unison, applauding as Smith was named Oklahoma Knight of the Year. The award was presented at the 104th Annual Awards Banquet held at the Clarion Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The event was hosted by Edmond Council 6477 with Mike Zink serving as master of ceremonies. Paul Weigl serves as state deputy.

The Knights recognized Kevin Stanton as Youth of the Year. Stanton is a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Nicoma Park.

The Family of the Year honor went to Jerry and Donna Jenkins and their children, Brad, Cory, Eric and Amy, also from Nicoma Park’s Our Lady Council 5396.

The Knights also recognized Terry Biggs with the Bernie Fonza Civic Award.

Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass prior to the banquet. Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen of Saint Gregory’s Monastery and Father James Caldwell, state chaplain for the Knights, con-celebrated.

In his homily, Archbishop Beltran challenged the Knights to spend time each day in prayer. The archbishop reminded the Knights that the Catholic Church was created by our Lord Jesus Christ and He is present with us at each and every Eucharistic Celebration.

It’s a message that Paul Smith lives out every day, according to the Knights who know him best. A member of Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Perry, Smith serves as chancellor of Coronado Council 1053 at Saint Rose.

It took numerous surgeries to save Smith’s life and many more to help him regain the use of his arms and legs, as well as his speech.

After the claw hammer attack, Smith became quiet and withdrawn. Several years later, after he joined the Knights, his life began to open up. He now updates the parish bulletins and updates the council bulletin board to reflect upcoming events. Smith also serves as an usher and assists the parish staff in a variety of ways.

“Paul attends Mass daily, opening up the church on all days that Mass is celebrated,” said fellow Knight Nick Beckham in his letter recommending Smith for the award.

Beckham said Smith checks on the elderly widows of the community to make sure they are all right, and he works with youth groups in the parish and helps with RE classes.

“Brother Paul Smith is not only a treasure to those whose lives are richer because they know him, he is also a treasure to his council, community and parish. He works as a volunteer in the true name of charity.”

Kevin Stanton was honored by the Knights as Youth of the Year.

Jerry and Donna Jenkins hold the Family of the Year Award.

Terry Biggs with the Bernie Fonza Civic Award.

Paul Smith holds the Oklahoma Knight of the Year Award.
Mass, Annual Banquet Honor ‘Women of Achievement’

Transcending the established norms of His own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way He honored the dignity which women have always possessed according to God’s plan and His love.

- Pope John Paul II

By Eliana Tedrow
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — “Pope John Paul II frequently spoke about the wonderment and greatness of women,” Archbishop Beltran said as he gave the final blessing at this year’s annual “Women of Achievement” banquet. More than 350 heads bowed attentively during the final blessing, as they listened to the words: “There are women who have received Jesus’ grace and have responded to it, even as Mary, Jesus’ mother did.”

On May 2, 18 women from as many parishes across the archdiocese were honored by the archbishop as women who responded to this grace.

The distinguished “Women of Achievement” award is sponsored by the Central Region Council of Catholic Women, an affiliate of the ACCW (Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women), and the NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women). These “Women of Achievement” were celebrated at a Mass and banquet, hosted by St. James the Greater Parish. There, they received words of encouragement, gratitude for their service and medals awarded by the archbishop.

In what the archbishop called “times of uncertainty,” it may not be easy to understand God’s plan for us. But, he explained during the homily, both women and men of achievement are called — all are called. “We are called by the plan of God. God made us in His image and likeness to know, love and serve Him so one day we can enter into heaven. If one is truly a person of faith, that person works hard, even if the situation seems helpless.”

Today, the archbishop continued, the Catholic Church faces challenges and is called even more to respond in faith. For instance, he said, all the years the Catholic Church has tried to help the helpless may be wiped out by the stroke of a pen — making abortion on demand legal.

“We must have faith,” Archbishop Beltran said. “This is our Catholic faith … We are convinced and believe with the apostles that Jesus Christ (and He alone) is the Son of God — and that He alone can give us life everlasting.”

Archbishop Beltran pointed to what he termed a “principal woman of achievement” — Mary, the Mother of God. She was called to a great servitude of faith as the mother of God’s son, a role she didn’t understand, but as a woman of faith, she understood that it was God’s law and responded with faith.

Archbishop Beltran referred to Father Stanley Rother as “Servant of God,” the official title the Church allows us to use on someone whose case has begun for the process of beatification to canonization. “Continue to pray for the successful beatification and canonization of Father Stanley Rother,” the archbishop said.

Each of the 18 honorees were praised for their ability to hear God’s calling, answer in faith, and persevere in times of uncertainty. St. Charles Borromeo’s Woman of Achievement can especially identify with perseverance. At 88 years, Florence Botchlet was granted the distinguished award. When asked what motivated her to continue works of servitude, she said, “Faith and family.” Florence went to Catholic school through the Great Depression and has weathered her share of hardships. But the smiling, lively “woman of achievement” has, according to her parish, remained a steadfast “beacon and model to those who have been privileged to know her.” When asked if she had any words of encouragement for the young women of the church, she stressed, “Persevere.”

To find out more about the Central Region Council of Catholic Women, call Chris Thomas, newly elected president, at 306-5187. Almost every parish is an affiliate and has a representative who attends the quarterly meetings of the CRCWW. But EVERY woman is encouraged to attend the meetings, where there is always an excellent speaker, update on our efforts, Mass, and lunch shared with other women of faith. Also, you may visit www.nccw.org to find out about our national organization, or visit http://okaccw.tripod.com.

2009 Women of Achievement

Amy Conway - Our Lady of Sorrows, Chandler
Martha Solis - Holy Spirit, Mustang
Renee Gruntmeir - St. Monica, Edmond
Theresa Coleman Henfling - Catholic Women’s Activities Club
Donna Davoren - St. Mark, Norman
Gabriela Zamarripa - St. Patrick, OKC
Madaline Maples - St. Joseph, Union City
Kitty Belden - St. Eugene, OKC
Elaine Meiser - St. Joseph, Norman
Susan Bennett - St. John the Baptist, Edmond
Janice Marie Watson - Cathedral, OKC
Janice James - St. James, OKC
Sandra Estep - Epiphany, OKC
Julie Murray - St. Philip Neri, Midwest City
Russanne Solomon - St. Francis of Assisi, OKC
Patricia Stang - St. John Nepomuk, Yukon
Florence Botchlet - St. Charles Borromeo, OKC
Molly Bernard - St. Joseph Old Cathedral, OKC
Thank You, Father

Happy 50th Golden Jubilee to Father Andrew Gerard MacAulay!

I know that Father MacAulay would quickly gesture to the others celebrating special anniversaries of ordinations this year, and all the other good priests of the archdiocese. And rightly so. This is a celebration for all.

A good priest is a shepherd, leading the souls in his care toward heavenly pasture. Father MacAulay became our shepherd at Holy Family Parish in Lawton. Our children were ages 4, 2 and 1 when the new pastor arrived. I doubt that Father even knew what it meant to us then, to have each week's Mass so simple and beautiful and each homily carefully prepared to inspire a new understanding of the Gospel and bring guidance and comfort in life's trials. I remember those years as my young husband putting in a lot of overtime at work and my own days a blur of laundry and spills and toys and storybooks, and the church at the center of our lives. We had very little beyond our basic needs, but Father MacAulay was the example of stewardship for our lives. What had God given us? What did we have to give? A portion of our treasure, but also our time and talent. Father respected all our gifts, not just our cash. The parish responded generously. Father didn't take over our parish, he joined it. He worked with us in meeting the needs. His special gift was in creating many small, active groups of parishioners, all these groups being both social and faith-sharing communities. In this way he gave us each other — in friendships that were supportive of one another and which made us a better parish overall. He sat through many a meeting, knowing his personal involvement was important to us, and giving us his best advice for our efforts to succeed. He joined us in many happy parish events, such as the annual bazaar and the Easter party. If I could revisit any of those moments in that time in the parish, I think I would first go to an ordinary Mass. I would hear Father speak to us, calling us as he always did, “my dear People of God.” I would so enjoy being at one of his Masses again. And also I wish I could go to just one more of the Holy Family potluck parish suppers — tables full of delicious homemade specialties, which the parish women cooked and shared so generously, with Father MacAulay saying grace over what had become — even in that transient community — a parish family.

Father MacAulay was a good leader, with much talent in administration and finance, a very effective and wise pastor, and he was good at soothing any troubles. If at times I expressed an opinion that was unkind or unjust, I remember he might say a gentle word that let me understand another's feelings or position. In those years as I was a young adult learning more about what it is to be a Catholic, I remember Father teaching us many ways to live our faith and not just go in and out the doors of church. He encouraged us to attend parish funerals, not just those of our own family or friends. He reminded us of the needs of all God's people, and he encouraged us to sometimes take part in community projects or prayer that was ecumenical sharing with the many in Lawton who were not Catholic but who were our fellow Christians. Mostly he reminded us that Jesus came “that we might have life and have it to the full.” He said that didn't mean just someday, but now. He simply made us want to be our better selves — and to be holier. When we thought we were too busy to be holy, he suggested praying just a little more, maybe just five minutes more each day, at morning and evening. He made us think about the fire Jesus had come to light on this earth and not just our routine.

He was a beloved pastor. The church was so full at his farewell and there were tears, even when they sang “Happy Trails to You.” He had been so kind to the sick, the elderly, the small children. He had never belonged just to the important people, but to each of us. So now we had to say goodbye to our pastor, but he was still our friend. At his next parish, Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City, we would visit sometimes, and we saw that he was looking after each one in his parish, and he was taking lessons in Spanish in order to be able to speak to all his people there.

I think that in every parish where Father MacAulay has served, the people would recognize the example of the shepherd who would leave the 99 and go in search of the one who was lost.

Father MacAulay came to us from Prince Edward Island, Canada, and he must have missed his own large family and his lively childhood home, in contrast to his quiet rectory. I imagine him feeling very alone sometimes, tired, and maybe sometimes discouraged by all the parish needs. So now it is time to honor his vocation, to celebrate his jubilee, and thank God that he came to us in Oklahoma. I don't know where all his parishioners are now; many have died, and some moved away, as we did ourselves. But we remember.

Father, thank you for your many sacrifices. We thank you for your goodness and holiness and kindness. We love you.  

Catherine Green  
former Holy Family Parish - Lawton  
Hutchinson, Kan.

SGU Students Create Mural for Vets

SHAWNEE — The Pottawatomie County Veterans Memorial Fundraising Committee hosted an unveiling of a 4-foot by 8-foot mural painted by St. Gregory's University students. The mural is mounted as a billboard for display at the site of a proposed memorial for county veterans.

The “Moving Wall,” a steel replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display at Woodland Park Aug. 21-24 to publicize fundraising for the Pottawatomie County Veterans Memorial.

The two-sided mural painting project is one of several public works projects created by SGU art students.

Katie Trivitt to Represent Irish at Seminar

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School sophomore Katie Trivitt has been selected as the school’s ambassador to the state Hugh O’Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar to be held this summer. In existence since 1958, nearly 9,000 students participate in HOBY programs annually.

HOBY’s mission is to bring together a select group of high school sophomores who have demonstrated leadership ability so that they can participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

HOBY’s specific goals are to help identify and develop future leaders, encourage self-awareness and development, network with current recognized leaders and provide the opportunity for the exploration of the democratic process and ways to give back to communities.

The student selection process was based on the student’s leadership abilities, sensitivity to others and desire to communicate knowledge to peers. Teacher recommendations, a short essay on the most rewarding aspects of being a leader in their own community and a personal interview were also taken into consideration.

Katie is the daughter of Donnie and Mary Trivitt of Oklahoma City. She is a graduate of Rosary School and is active in St. Francis of Assisi Church.
The IAF has never and will never support any individual who chooses to do so. Those who disagree with the politics of OSC should not have their donations taken from the collection baskets at church, or be forced to be counted with those in favor of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the organizer some want to “hire” to teach us to gather power for the poor.

Despite the good intentions of the people behind OSC, the Industrial Areas Foundation is an ideological political organization which will “work to reawaken the moral forces that protect our families and the dignity of life.” If only they would. The IAF has never and will never organize for pro-life issues. They are extremely “progressive” politically.

I was invited to an IAF meeting in October and I do see good things that IAF is capable of, but not at the expense of our morals being compromised. I was attending that meeting because I wanted to help the poor, too. I am still willing to help the poor — but this is not the best method for our time and resources. If we are to organize, it should be a valid Catholic organization that organizes for the poor, for pro-life issues, and for other truly Catholic issues.

Are we to join the pseudo-Catholics like at Notre Dame, by compromising our beliefs? Our own Father Jim Goin advises, “Always stand up for what is right, but realize you may be the only one standing.”

Deacon Smith fails to state the most important issue that we must all bring to the poor — salvation from our Lord Jesus Christ. That is another thing the OSC/IAF cannot and will not do. Pope Benedict XVI, in the 4-30-09 Vatican press release to the bishops of the Argentinian Episcopal Conference, states:

“After then encouraging them to stimulate “the practice of charity, especially among the most needy” in their dioceses, the pope highlighted the importance of concentrating on “prayer as opposed to activism or a secularized vision of the charitable efforts of Christians. This assiduous contact with Christ through prayer will transform believers’ hearts, opening them to the needs of others and so ensuring they are not ‘inspired by ideologies aimed at improving the world, but guided by the faith which works through love.’”

Enough said.

Jo A. Joyce
St. John the Baptist

A Threatening Tone

The sanctity of life is a core teaching of the Catholic faith, and it is for good reason that Catholics object to the honor Notre Dame plans to confer upon President Barack Obama. Nonetheless, I am shocked by the intemperate language Anthony J. Lauinger, of National Right to Life, uses to characterize President Obama.

According to Lauinger, Obama “has declared war on the unborn child ... while his policies simultaneously annihilate countless human beings at home and abroad ... He is doing more to promote the destruction of innocent human lives than anyone else on the face of the earth ...”

Excuse me? Lauinger is referring not to Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin or Adolph Hitler, but to the democratically elected president of the United States of America. Mr. Lauinger refers to “prudential judgment,” but did he for a moment stop to think about the plain meaning and implications of his words? The extraordinary and disproportionate venom of Lauinger’s language goes beyond his Catholic faith, or even the fact that his organization supports Republicans. Indeed, Lauinger’s invective comes close to the public incitement of bodily harm to our president.

If Obama does speak at Notre Dame, that will be a public appearance. As with all his public appearances, it is the duty of the Secret Service to investigate threats made against the president. It would be well within their responsibility to show concern for the climate created by extremist rhetoric such as Mr. Lauinger’s. It is also, I respectfully submit, the responsibility of Sooner Catholic to exercise greater editorial common sense in the future when presented with such hate-filled screeds.

Loren Gatch
Saint Joseph’s
Norman

Letters

An Individual Choice

I agree with Deacon James Smith in his quote of Pope Benedict in the May 3 Sooner Catholic, that the formation of just structures is indeed the duty of politics. Since it is a duty of politics, not the Church, it is a valid reason Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee (OSC) must be considered a “secular” organization, and should be supported by any individual who chooses to do so. Those who disagree with the politics of OSC should not have their donations taken from the collection baskets at church, nor be forced to be counted with those in favor of the Industrial Areas Foundation, the organizer some want to “hire” to teach us to gather power for the poor.

Despite the good intentions of the people behind OSC, the Industrial Areas Foundation is an ideological political organization which will “work to reawaken the moral forces that protect our families and the dignity of life.” If only they would. The IAF has never and will never organize for pro-life issues. They are extremely “progressive” politically.

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Loren Gatch
Saint Joseph’s
Norman

Across Oklahoma

Archbishop to Celebrate Memorial Day Mass

OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Beltran will celebrate Mass on Memorial Day, May 25, at 9 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery, 7801 N.W. Expressway. Everyone is invited to attend this Mass as we remember the deceased on this national holiday.

Memorial Day Mass, Luncheon Set

LOCKRIDGE — May 25 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.

Adult Casino Night

OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King Catholic Church, 8005 Dorset Drive, will have a huge adult casino night May 22 at 7 p.m. to raise funds for their high school summer mission trip to San Antonio. Player Cards get you admission, chips to play and discounts at many area restaurants and businesses for a whole year — all for only $25! You can bring your Player Card or buy one at the door and enter your card in the evening’s drawings. Casino CK will feature games (blackjack, poker, craps, horse racing), a live DJ, refreshments and great prizes. The grand prize is a laptop computer. All adults 21 and older are welcome. For more information or to purchase a coupon card, contact Willy Fontanez at 242-4533 or willy@ckokc.org.

Villa Teresa Celebrates 75 Years with Mass

OKLAHOMA CITY — Several celebrations have taken place this past year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Villa Teresa School, but there will be one final celebration on Saturday, May 23, at St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral at the 4 p.m. Mass. All former and present students are invited to attend as well as prospective parents. A reception will follow.

Enchilada Dinner Set

HARRAH — St. Teresa’s will host a fundraising dinner to benefit the building project, June 6 from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, McLoud. The menu: enchiladas with rice, beans, chips and salsa, including a drink and dessert. Cost: Adults, $10, child, $5 (ages 4 to 10). Children under 3 eat free. Tickets will be sold after each Mass or call 454-0993. There will be door prizes.

Holy Angels Sets Carnival

OKLAHOMA CITY — Holy Angels Catholic Church, N.W. 3rd and Blackwelder, annual carnival June 6-7, food booths from Mexico, Guatemala and Laos. In honor of the 40th anniversary of Father Mike Chapman’s ordination, donations will be accepted to the parish building fund. The carnival will run from 3 to 9 p.m. June 6 and from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 7. There will be chances to win a $500, $250 and $100 prize. A moon walk, fishing tank, ring toss and dunk tank will entertain the children.
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo.

Usualmente somos movidos o impresionados por las prácticas sencillas más que por los argumentos y proposiciones teológicas. Por ejemplo, existe una fina tradición en la iglesia de adoptar el nombre de un santo para el tiempo de la Confirmación.

De esta manera el santo se convierte en su patrón elegido. Esta no es sólo una práctica de rutina, sino una elección pensada individualmente. Para realizar esta elección el candidato a ser Confirmado debe investigar, leer y aprender acerca de los santos. Después el santo elegido se convierte en un modelo a seguir, una inspiración, un ejemplo.

Cada año, especialmente durante la temporada de Pascua, confirmo adolescentes en al menos cincuenta de nuestras parroquias. Los grupos de candidatos a ser confirmados van desde dos o tres hasta ciento tres.

El número total de Confirmaciones que realizo cada año en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City es usualmente superior a los mil. Durante la ceremonia de Confirmación, cada uno de estos candidatos debe requerir el Sacramento de Confirmación y decirse el nombre del santo que escogió como su patrón. Siempre me maravillo con cuánta fe y devoción muchos de estos candidatos responden a la cuestión que hicieron. Para muchos jóvenes a ser confirmados, la elección del santo patrón es más que una ceremonia. Es una oportunidad de conocer a una persona de fe con quien la cual se pueden sentirse identificados. Comenzando a reconocer la fuerza y la integridad del santo. Ellos desarrollan un respeto profundo y se dan cuenta que ellos también pueden vivir de manera buena y santa. Sus explicaciones revelan una nueva sensación de esperanza que usualmente resulta en un disfrute del compromiso con el Señor.

La selección de un santo patrón al momento de la Confirmación implica grandes beneficios espirituales para aquellos quines lo hicieron de una manera pensada y con oración.

De hecho, todos nos podemos beneficiar de esta práctica. Con el uso del Internet, podemos encontrar toda clase de información acerca de los santos. Al igual que los candidatos a Confirmación, hagamos amistad con los grandes hombres y mujeres de la historia. Ellos son quienes obtuvieron la vida completa por la gracia de Dios.

Son ellos los que nos pueden hacer vivir mejor y son los que nos inspiran e impulsan. Son los que nos pueden ayudar y orientar.

Fuimos creados por Dios precisamente para convertirnos en Santos. Ésta es toda la razón de nuestra existencia.

X Encuentro de Responsables de Comunicación de congregaciones religiosas
Comunicación, comunión, misión y creatividad: reto de los religiosos

MADRID, (ZENIT.org). — “Osadía, valentía, creatividad, imaginación” fueron expresiones que se escucharon durante el X Encuentro de Responsables de Comunicación de congregaciones religiosas, celebrado en Madrid del 8 al 10 de mayo, para referirse a la relación entre la vida consagrada y el mundo de los medios.

Algo más de cien personas participaron en este encuentro -informa Ivicom- que, desde el pasado viernes hasta ayer domingo, permitió el debate, la reflexión y el análisis de cómo está hoy situada la vida religiosa en medio de los medios.

Un total de 23 ponentes, entre conferenciantes y miembros de mesas redondas y paneles de experiencias, presentaron los diversos temas y puntos de vista.

Los organizadores, el Área de Comunicación de la Conferencia Española de Religiosos (CONFER) y el Instituto Teológico de Vida Religiosa (ITVR), habían previsto cinco conferencias, para presentar el estado de la cuestión en el tema de los religiosos y los medios, y tres paneles de experiencias para poner de relieve lo que ya, la vida consagrada, está realizando en el ámbito de la comunicación, tanto empresas, editoriales, revistas, agencias de noticias, distintas presencias en internet, etc.

Un mundo, el de la comunicación, medios y tecnologías digitales, en el que hay que estar presentes como consagrados, animó monseñor Juan del Río, ex presidente de la Comisión Episcopal de Medios de Comunicación, quien clausuró el encuentro y presidió la eucaristía final. Y estar presentes para “comunicar nuestra vida, y anunciar la verdad”, subrayó el religioso Enrique Losada, secretario general de la CONFER, durante el acto de clausura.

Las jornadas comenzaron el viernes 8 con la ponencia de José María Gil, director del Departamento de Medios de la Conferencia Episcopal (CEE), que abordó los desafíos para la Iglesia en el momento actual, e invitó a huir de dos posturas: “la fascinación por los medios y el temor a entrar en el mundo de la comunicación”.

José Cristo Rey, director del ITVR, presentó la vida religiosa como profecía en la nueva sociedad de la información, e invitó a “enfocar, ver, discernir y actuar” en un mundo que necesita la mística y “la espiritualidad de la tecnología”.

El sábado, la salesiana Caterina Cangia, de la Universidad Pontificia Salesiana de Roma, y experta en cultura digital, presentó una sugerente conferencia, desde la reflexión y la práctica, sobre las posibilidades para la misión, y también los riesgos, de las tecnologías digitales.
Padre José Rasky vino desde San Antonio, Texas para celebrarlo

Encuentro matrimonial es una oportunidad para compartir con Dios

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recientemente se efectuó un grandioso encuentro matrimonial en el Centro Pastoral, el cual fue patrocinado por la Oficina de Vida familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. En este encuentro hubo un gran entusiasmo guiado por el Padre José Rasky, quien vino desde la ciudad de San Antonio para ofrecer un fin de semana lleno de guiatura espiritual en español que sirvió para mejorar la comunicación entre las parejas católicas.

Estas parejas de origen hispano que asistieron en esta oportunidad, pasaron un tiempo que les permitió estar lejos de las distracciones y tensiones de la vida cotidiana. Ellos fueron alentados a examinarse concienzudamente uno al otro para mejorar su relación y seguir las directrices que Dios sugiere de respeto y valor al matrimonio. El Padre Rasky les recordó a los asistentes la importancia que tiene el santo matrimonio y el respeto de éste ante Dios y la sociedad.

Sin duda alguna, un encuentro matrimonial es una forma en la cual las parejas pueden profundizar en su relación y es la vía para proporcionar los herramientas necesarias para armonizar la vida familiar y así poder continuar utilizando esta experiencia a lo largo de la vida y dar testimonio ante Dios de una vida más santa y verdadero valor al casamiento eclesiástico. En los encuentros matrimoniales sobresale la importancia que tiene el Señor en el matrimonio y en consecuencia la formación espiritual de la familia. Para saber cuándo es el próximo encuentro matrimonial pueden comunicarse con la Sra. Lisa Carrasco por el Telf. (405) 721-8944.

Participantes del encuentro matrimonial junto al Padre Rasky.

Padre Raúl Sánchez nos deleita con sus sermones para tener una vida mejor

Retiros espirituales fortalecen nuestra vida hacia el bien común

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Los retiros espirituales que se efectúan este año en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City son momentos que sirven al laico para meditar y orar y así aumentar las experiencias personales de fe de para que luego se puedan examinar con la conciencia y razonar los pecados que derivan en grandes afeciones y desorden espiritual.

A lo respeto, el Padre Raúl Sánchez, habló de la importancia de diferenciar lo que hacemos conscientemente y lo que hacemos con el subconsciente. El presbítero hizo un llamado a usar la razón para buscar el valor moral y espiritual de la vida y darnos cuenta que en el subconsciente está el pecado.

Este retiro espiritual donde participó el Padre Sánchez se realizó en el hermoso auditorio de la escuela preparatoria católica "Obispo McJames". En este mes de mayo habrá más retiros espirituales, vale decir que cada retiro es único porque se aprende más sobre la oración y el poder del Espíritu Santo.

Para más información favor llamar a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City por el Telf. (405) 728-3561.
Financial Representative Openings

The Knights of Columbus has an opening for a financial representative in the Oklahoma City, Lawton and Stillwater areas. This is ideal for a determined, high-energy, high expectation, professional, self-disciplined, independent individual desiring to serve others, yet earn a better than average income. We provide top-rated financial products to our members and their families and will provide excellent benefits and training. Please contact Kevin W. Pierce, general agent, for more information or an interview at 4001 NW 122nd St., Suite 827, Oklahoma City 73120, by phone at (405) 514-7660 or by e-mail at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.

Chapel Part-Time Position Available

Tinker Air Force Base Catholic Community Coordinator Position: The Statement of Work, explaining the position and necessary qualifications for this job (average 20 hours per week), is available at the chapel weekdays from 0730-1600. If interested, please pick up a Statement of Work and submit your resume by May 29. Once all resumes are collected, the applicants will be contacted to set up a time for an interview. Valid applicants will be asked to formulate and submit a bid. The committee will score applicants and their bids on the basis of skills, education, experience, organizations/administrative ability and motivation, ministry-focus, people-focus, and whether reasonable/within budget and value received for the amount paid. If you have any questions, please contact the chapel at 734-2111.

New Center of Family Love Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: DCTs - Certified is great, if not we will train. Shifts available are 3 to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and float. Dietary aide - Help prepare meals following recipes and menus. Full-time hours available. HTS - To provide specific training to developmentally disabled adults that live in the community. Full-time and part-time hours available. Garden Center manager - Responsible for managing both our greenhouse and gift shop. Background in horticulture, accounting or business preferred. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemk@cfline.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

SCHOOL OPENINGS

Preschool Teacher Openings

Villa Teresa has job openings for preschool teachers, 2 1/2-year-olds and 4-year-olds. Applicants must have a degree in early childhood or child development and be certified by the state of Oklahoma. A teacher assistant is also needed for the fall. Please call for more information, Sister Veronica Higgins, 232-4286.

Elementary Teacher Openings

All Saints Catholic School in Norman is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions for the 2009-10 school year: pre-K teacher, junior high religion teacher and technology teacher. The pre-K teacher must hold early childhood certification by the state of Oklahoma.

The technology teacher will work in cooperation with the school's computer and network administrator. The teacher is responsible for teaching computer curriculum for students in pre-K through eighth grade.

The junior high religion teacher is responsible for teaching religion as well as elective courses to 140 students in grades 6, 7 and 8. Oklahoma certification is highly recommended, must be an active, practicing Catholic and Archdiocesan Religious education certification must be completed within three years.

Please send a resume, attention to Ms. Leslie Schmitt, principal, to 4001 36th Avenue, NW, Norman, Okla. 73072, or fax to (405) 447-4600.

Kindergarten Teacher

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is accepting applications for a kindergarten teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. SEAS is a PK4 through eighth-grade school. Please send resumes to ahoward@stjohn-catholic.org or call the school office at (405) 348-5364 for more information.

Full-time Music Teacher Needed

Christ the King School in Oklahoma City has an outstanding music program and it needs an enthusiastic leader with creative energy and talent. Contact Karen Carter, Christ the King Catholic School, 843-3909, or kcarter@ckokc.org.

English Teacher/Coach Openings

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is currently seeking qualified candidates for the 2009-2010 school year for an English position with experience in AP and Pre-AP. Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is seeking qualified coaches in the following fields for 2009-2010: volleyball, track and football (assistant with experience). Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Fourth-Grade Teaching Position

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a fourth-grade teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. SHCS is a PK4 through eighth-grade school. Please call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Part-Time Music Teacher

Bishop John Carroll School has an opening for the 2009-2010 school year for a part-time music teacher. BJCS is a pre-K through eighth-grade school. Call the school office at (405) 525-0956 for an application or send resume to Connie Diotte, 1100 NW 32nd St., Oklahoma City 73118.

Executive Director

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Oklahoma Archdiocesan Council Board has a part-time position open for an executive director. Understands, interprets and applies rules/policies of the Society. Coordinate and manage the day-to-day operation. Assist the board in performance of their various roles. Serve as a mentor and monitor for conference presidents to ensure the maintenance of effective local organizations consistent with the Rules of the Society. Is an active member of their Catholic parish. Possess excellent verbal, written and computer skills. Please mail your resume to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3031 NW 23rd St., OKC 73107 or e-mail stvincentokc@gmail.com.

Dean of Enrollment Management

St. Gregory's University in Shawnee has an opening for Dean of Enrollment Management. Position responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, analysis and general supervision of all programs related to the recruiting and retaining of undergraduate students. Involves developing and implementing the university's strategic enrollment and marketing plan and recruiting goals for the College of Arts and Sciences. This position manages the budget for the office and supervises the admissions counselors and office support staff. In addition, this position will coordinate and support the contracted recruitment companies. Applicants must possess an understanding of and willingness to support the St. Gregory's University Catholic and Benedictine mission. Master's degree is required. Experience as an admissions counselor and a minimum of two years experience in the director's or assistant position is preferred. Electronic résumés are preferred, and should include a letter of application describing experience, qualifications, vision and record of achieving/exceeding enrollment goals at one's recent institution. Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, 74804, rludwick@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350.
Author Provides Inspiration With Lives of Holy, Courageous Women


Gina Loehr provides in her book short biographies of many women saints, blessed, venerable and other holy women with one man included, Blessed Luigi Corsini, the husband of Blessed Maria, who were beatified together as examples for the married life. These women lived at various times throughout history. Some were queens while others were peasants. Many were religious or nuns and others were converted prostitutes. The way of life for these holy women varies. All are inspiring and worthy of imitating.

Loehr has grouped these holy women into seven groups with an eighth reserved for the ultimate holy woman, Mary, the mother of Jesus. The other seven groups are gathered under themes: faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Loehr devotes usually a page or two to a holy woman, which includes not only the woman’s biography, but also how this person can be an example to today’s people. The book is geared so that the general reader and the scholar will benefit from these stories. This book is meant to inspire people to live good lives by providing examples of women who did it even in rough and dangerous times. Some of these women gave up their lives in order to remain loyal to Christ.

By Brother Benet Exton

The more famous women like St. Teresa of Avila, St. Scholastica, St. Gertrude, St. Clare, St. Agnes and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta are of course covered, but some less-known holy women are included, like Blessed Frances Trethet, Saint Ludmilla, Venerable Edel Quinn, Lathrop, and Bustos de Molina. Loehr provides the holy woman’s dates, and when her feast day is or what she is patron of, if beatified or canonized. Loehr provides a bibliography that includes books, journals and Internet sites. There are no illustrations except on the cover, which includes images of Saints Catherine of Siena, Edith Stein and Joan of Arc. This book is highly recommended to those looking for a book on holy women, but do not want an overly academic treatment and something to inspire them.

Gina Loehr holds a master’s degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She writes and gives lectures on Catholic topics like saints and the virtues. She is the author of “Forming the Feminine Virtues” (2008).

Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian there and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including the Sooner Catholic.
Wanting What You Have
Young Oklahoma Catholics Find Joy, Peace in Smiles of Impoverished Peruvians During Mission Trip

By Lauren Pinaroc
Bishop McGuinness Senior

For spring break this year, most seniors looked forward to rest and relaxation. Not me. Instead of the sandy vacations my peers would enjoy, I committed my time to a unique service opportunity. Sunday, March 15, I arrived at the airport to meet 14 other individuals ready to forgo their relaxing spring break. We boarded a plane, and nine and a half hours later, arrived in Piura City, Peru. The Bishop McGuinness Peru Mission Trip began.

Why Piura City, Peru? Well, that is owed to one Father Joseph Uhen. Some years ago, this 1976 Bishop McGuinness graduate, who pursued Holy Orders, was sent to Piura to assist a church in Peru. Father Uhen looked around and saw need. In the Peruvian people of Santísimo Sacramento Parish, he found his calling. He then proceeded to do everything imaginable to fulfill this need, and more. He set up a soup kitchen, women's house, drug rehabilitation program, plans for additions to the church, and, most notably, the Family to Family program. This program matches American families with in-need Peruvian families. Letters, prayers and funds are exchanged. However, the ambitious young priest did not stop there. He invited groups from his home parish, St. John the Baptist in Edmond, to come spend a week in Peru, taking part in the vocation that gave and continues to give him so much joy.

While students from Bishop McGuinness have been traveling to Piura for years, it was only last year's spring break that Bishop McGuinness sent a small contingent of students to Peru in a specifically Bishop McGuinness Mission Trip. This year was to be the second such trip. I had participated in the first and was fortunate enough to return. I was ready for an experience like no other.

On this mission trip, from March 15-22, I accompanied freshman Katie Cooley, sophomores Phillip Kim, Devin Pinaroc, Ashley Quick and Stuart Symes, junior Charlie Shields, sophomore of Edmond North High School, Paige Mihalsky, students of the University of Central Oklahoma, Taylor McGarry and Andrew Browne, parents, Lynn Pinaroc, Roy Symes and Rebecca Quick, and sponsors Anne McGarry and Becky Coyle on an eye-opening week in Peru.

Never before did we do so much physical labor. Every day, breakfast was served at 8 a.m. and by 9 a.m. we would begin the various day's activities, ranging from building houses, serving meals, digging ditches, buying supplies, visiting the elderly, distributing clothing and helping with vacation Bible school. At 7 p.m. we attended daily Mass.

One of my favorite memories will always be of visiting the elderly.

When visiting the elderly in Peru, one is accompanied by a kind nurse, Veronica, who initially takes blood pressure and temperature. She then hands you a tub of water, gloves, and a little bag of towelettes with soap, then calmly asks you to turn your attention to the hands and feet. Understand, these elderly are people who would generally be considered hospice patients in America, though care is usually given by family members, with only minimal help from Veronica. Their hands and feet are not manicured, moisturized affairs of lily soft skin. These are limbs that have seen years of work and toil, years that have clearly left their mark. You, as a missionary, are expected to kneel down and wash the hands and feet of your Peruvian grandpa or grandma.

I was surprised. I expected hard physical labor, lifting bamboo poles and sweating in the hot sun. For some reason this request caught me off guard. Maybe it is because I have never been that fond of feet, never having been one to enjoy the symbolic washing of the feet ceremony. But I could not help remembering the passage in the gospel of John, describing Jesus doing this very thing for his disciples. I kneeled before the little granny and smiled at her. I washed her feet. I trimmed her nails. I felt Jesus Christ working through me in that moment.

While in Peru, I saw more smiles on the street than I would ever see in Oklahoma. I played with children who had only a patched-up soccer ball or tire to play with. I spoke with mothers and fathers as I rebuilt their homes from bamboo mesh and tin. I sat with hospice patients as they stared ahead blankly, blinded by cataracts because the simple procedure to remove them was too expensive. Every one of them was smiling.

The Peruvian people utterly amazed me because of their spirit. With such close contact with Americans, they are fully aware of their situation compared to the United States. And yet, they are full of only gratitude and happiness for what they have. Every day we were in Peru, the church was flooded with people, waiting with a picture of an American family and a welcome sign, waiting to see if their padrinos, the American family who adopted them, had come to Peru. One member of our group, Paige Mihalsky, recognized one of the American family pictures. The little old lady holding the photograph almost shouted for joy. Tripping over her words, the woman asked Paige to thank her padrinos, tell them that she prays for them every day and asks God to bless such a wonderful family. I was told later that this is a very normal Peruvian reaction.

Every man, woman and child of Peru knows what he lacks, but, more importantly, he knows what he has been given. That is the overall spirit of Peru. That is the lesson the group from Bishop McGuinness learned, what America as a whole needs to learn. Peru taught me that happiness is wanting what you have. This is what I learned on my mission to Peru. It is what I will bring with me, no matter where I go, for the rest of my life.