Archdiocese to Celebrate Ordinations on May 30

Archbishop to Ordain Three to Priesthood

OKLAHOMA CITY — On May 30, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran will confer the sacrament of Holy Orders on three new priests of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The three men, Deacons Joseph Patrick Schwarz, Christopher Tran and James Andrew Wickersham, have their own unique stories as to how they came to know serving God and His people through the priesthood was their life vocation.

Christopher Tran

Christopher Tran was born Feb. 12, 1965, in Hue, Vietnam. His parents are Hoanh Tran and Tron Bui.

When Christopher was a young boy in Vietnam, he had great respect for the priests who celebrated Mass. As an altar boy, he often thought about what it would be like to be a priest. However, it was not until he found himself adrift on a boat in the ocean without food and water that he vowed to God that if he survived, indeed one day he would become a Roman Catholic priest.

Joseph Schwarz

James Wickersham

continued on page 3

Irish, Rocket Grads Celebrate a Great 2008

The Mount class of 2008 gathered together one last time to toss their caps.

Silly string was sprayed and beach balls tossed as the McGuinness class of 2008 was announced.

Inside

Saint Greg’s Honors Grads In May 10 Ceremony

Parish Cooks Up Support for New Church in Oklahoma City
The Good News

Over the next few months, the Church of our Archdiocese will celebrate three ordination ceremonies. Four young men will be ordained priests and one of our priests will be ordained a bishop. How blest are these men to be called to these ministries by the Lord. How blest are we to share in these ceremonies and in their future priestly service to God’s people. Chronologically the ordination ceremonies are:

On Friday evening, May 30, three young men, currently deacons, will be ordained priests at the Cathedral of Our Lady. This ordination ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. The three young men to be ordained are Joseph Schwarz from Holy Trinity Church, Okarche, Christopher Tran from Saint Andrew Dung-Lac Church, Oklahoma City, and James Andrew Wickersham from Saint Thomas More Church, Norman. These three are being ordained for the service of the Church of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. They will begin their first priestly assignments in June.

On Thursday afternoon, June 5, one of our own archdiocesan priests, Bishop-elect Anthony B. Taylor, will be ordained in Little Rock, Ark., to be the bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock. His ordination is scheduled at 2 p.m. in the Statehouse Convention Center. A number of chartered buses will be traveling from several locations in Oklahoma to Bishop Taylor’s ordination in Little Rock.

On Thursday afternoon, Aug. 21, Brother Boniface Copeland, OSB, will be ordained a priest in Saint Gregory’s Abbey Chapel, Shawnee. Brother Boniface is from Oklahoma City, a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School and now a professed monk at Saint Gregory’s.

Ordination in the Catholic Church is a sacred rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The ordaining bishop, through the imposition of hands and the prayer of consecration, confers the Order of Bishop, Priest or Deacon. These three sacred orders, bishop, priest and deacon, constitute the entirety of the sacrament of Holy Orders. There are no other ordination rites or ceremonies in the Catholic Church. Through the ordination rite, bishops, priests and deacons are given the Order to exercise a sacred power which comes from Christ on behalf of the Church. These men, called by God and the Church, are ordained to serve God’s people and to lead the people on the pilgrimage of life to life everlasting in heaven.

In addition to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus, priests and bishops celebrate the sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance. They are ordained specifically for this purpose. Therefore, without priests and bishops, there would be no Mass nor any sacramental forgiveness of sins.

While we will greatly miss Bishop Taylor’s priestly ministry among us, we are pleased to share him with the Archdiocese of Little Rock.

As Catholic people of this Archdiocese, we should be very grateful to the Lord for calling the three new priests for the Archdiocese and one new priest for Saint Gregory’s Abbey. How wonderful it would be if we had this same number of priests ordained every year. Then, instead of closing parishes and reducing the number of Masses, we could do the opposite! Therefore, all of us must pray daily for an increase of vocations to the priesthood.

At this time, I also wish to remind any young man who has graduated from high school and any young man with college credits who is contemplating a priestly vocation to contact me or your pastor or the vocations director. We stand ready to help you in your search. We will pray with you and for you. We ask Almighty God to bless and help you.

Reaching Out

Disaster Relief - Myanmar and China

OKLAHOMA CITY — On May 14, 2008, the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran authorized special collections by Archdiocesan parishes during May and June to provide relief and assistance for the many victims of the cyclone in Myanmar (Burma) and the earthquake in Sichuan Province in central China. All donations received by the Archdiocese will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. Catholic Relief Services provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries without regard to race, religion or nationality.

Archbishop Beltran wishes to express the need for prayers and financial assistance for the people affected by these tragedies. Persons wishing to make a donation to this relief effort may also contact Catholic Relief Services at 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, Md. 21201-3413.

Disaster Relief - Myanmar and China

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

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Catholic priests.

At the age of 15, his family put Christopher on a bent in an effort to save him from the communist North Vietnamese forces marching toward what was then the South Vietnam capital city of Saigon.

“I prayed to God and told Him, ‘If you get me to the other side I will become a priest for you.’” That was in 1975. While Christopher did survive, his life took “twists and turns” that prevented him from fulfilling his promise to God, until now.

Over the years he needed to work to earn money to help support his family that remained in Vietnam and to hopefully one day bring them to join him in the United States.

Although Christopher escaped Vietnam, many of his family members were not as fortunate. He would learn the communists had forced his father to work in the “re-education camps.” His mother would eventually buy her husband’s freedom with gold the family had hidden, but not until her husband had spent five years in the camps, working in the fields and cutting trees in the forest. The communists only agreed to release him after he was severely injured. “My mother paid them in gold, they let my father go because they thought he would go home and die,” Christopher said.

Christopher would also learn his beloved grandmother did not survive the communist takeover of South Vietnam. Following the U.S. exodus from Vietnam, the communists buried his grandmother and others in her village alive. He remembers the great devotion to the Blessed Mother that his grandmother carried in her heart. Christopher said he knows it was his grandmother’s prayers for him from heaven that helped him survive and make it to the day he will fulfill his promise to God. He said he knows his grandmother was martyred for her faith.

Christopher was separated from his family for more than 15 years. “All I could do was pray and I did every day,” he said.

“I was at Mass one Sunday,” he said, “and they were praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. A light went off in my head, ‘Maybe I could be a Catholic priest?’ No! I did not want to do that. Over the next couple of years I wrestled with the idea and it just seemed to fit. I felt a calling to do something very important with my life.’”

His mother and father will both be seated in the pews at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help when Archbishop Beltran ordains their son a Roman Catholic priest. It has been a long and winding road to bring Christopher to this glorious day, but in his heart Christopher said he knew “God would never forget my promise to Him.”

James Andrew Wickersham

James Andrew “Andy” Wickerson, the son of Glenn Wickerson and Margo MacRobert, was born July 5, 1979, in Norman where he was raised. He found that he was called to the priesthood with the idea and it just seemed to fit. A light went off in his head, “Maybe I could be a Catholic priest?”

No! I did not want to do that. Over the next couple of years I wrestled with the idea and it just seemed to fit. I felt a calling to do something very important with my life. Years back, I thought politics was the answer to try to make the world a better place. I found that I was called to the priesthood so that I could help to make God present in a world that thinks the darkness the day.”

After six years of seminary, he is very sure of his calling, but he says, “As I look back to the summer before I started seminary, I was nervous, anxious, unsure, indecisive, and just about every other word that would describe someone about to take a step into unknown waters.”

Now, on the eve of ordination, James said, “It is very inspiring to me to think of St. Peter, many of the apostles, St. Thomas More, and hopefully one day in the canonization of Oklahoma’s own Father Stanley Rother, as witnessing to Christ by giving up their lives for the faith. To be even a small part of that, to be a simple parish priest, how can I not help but say yes?”

Joseph Patrick Schwarz

Joseph Patrick Schwarz is the son of Max and Patricia Schwarz. He was born April 8, 1978, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and grew up in Denver before coming to Okarche. He studied general business at Oklahoma State University, earning a bachelor of science degree. It was while studying at OSU that he realized God was calling him.

The idea of being a priest was always somewhere at the back of my mind,” Joseph said. “My whole life I’ve known something was leading me here, even though I tried to push that as far from my mind as possible!”

But in his fourth year of college he started reading the Bible all the way through, as well as attending Mass more often and talking to priests about his vocation. “I realized I really could be a good and loving priest, there for people in good times and bad, whenever they need me.”

His experiences at seminary, especially as one of 10 seminarians who stayed to help during Hurricane Katrina, only served to deepen that sense of rightness and service. While he didn’t arrive in Okarche until a decade after the death of Father Stanley Rother, he said the Okarche-born priest helped him understand more about perseverance.

“I think I learned more about Father Rother while I was in the seminary,” Joseph said. “His willingness to persevere even when things were tough, whether it was his struggles in seminary or during his time in Guatemala.”

“During Katrina, when we didn’t have food or water for three days, there were times when you could stop and think to yourself, ‘It could be worse, I could have been in Guatemala.”

Joseph said he looks forward to years of ministry as a “simple priest.”

Proud of Seminarian

I am writing today regarding Christopher H. Tran, who is scheduled to be ordained to priesthood on May 30 for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Chris has spent the last four years in our discernment program here at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Westom, Mass., where I am the rector. Chris is one of 15 men in this year’s graduating class who will be returning to their hom dioceses for ordination.

The entire Blessed John XXIII Seminary community is extremely proud of Chris. His journey has been a long one — from his youth in South Vietnam to his forthcoming ordination as a Roman Catholic priest at the Cathedral of our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Chris had wanted to become a priest since childhood. After escaping alone from South Vietnam at the age of 15, he arrived in Indonesia where Catholic refugee services arranged for him to be adopted by a family in New Jersey. He quickly adjusted to his new home and was able to complete high school and earn a college degree in interior design and art history. He then worked tirelessly for years to be able to sponsor the rest of his family, so they could join him in the United States.

At Blessed John XXIII, we offer a high-quality formation experience to men over 30 years of age responding to a call to priestly ministry. Chris is a fine example of the candidates who enter our seminary having enjoyed active and varied lives. Our program is specifically suited to these mature adults and respects and utilizes their life experiences and accomplishments as we prepare them for ordained ministry.

We currently have more than 600 alumni serving in over 120 dioceses and religious orders throughout the United States and beyond. In a time when good pastors are needed more than ever, our seminary administration, faculty and staff work hard to help prepare effective pastoral leaders. We will keep you up to date on all the men who will be ordained with him for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in our prayers as they embark on their new lives serving the Faithful of our Church.

Rev. Peter J. Uglietto
Rector
Blessed John XXIII National Seminary

Vocation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that I may choose the vocation to serve you best.

May the light given to me at my baptism be nourished by the Body and Blood of Your Son, that I may grow in Your knowledge and love. I ask this and all my needs today through Christ our Lord. Amen
Conference Focuses on Building Support for Social Action

By Connie Blaney
Catholic Charities

OKLAHOMA CITY — How to build and strengthen parish social ministries, address social justice issues, and the advocacy role of Catholics were key components of the Faith in Action-Parish Social Ministry Conference held recently at the Pastoral Center.

Becky Van Pool, director of Parish Outreach and Program Development of Catholic Charities, said the conference was a success and connected to the heart of Catholic Social Justice.

“We were very fortunate to have first-class speakers from across the nation to address such issues as poverty, leadership development in parishes, community organizing and advocacy and justice education,” said Van Pool.

Approximately 70 people attended the two-day meeting and included parishioners, parish staff, social justice committee members and deacons.

Some 18 parishes from across the Archdiocese were represented at the conference. Two participants from the Tulsa Diocese and one person from Texas also participated.

“It is our goal to establish and support parish social ministries throughout the Archdiocese,” said Van Pool. “This conference was designed to create an awareness of the need for each parish to establish a committee to address social justice issues and support parish leadership.”

Key speakers were Jack Jezreel, Sister Simone Campbell, Father Larry Snyder, Rachel Lustig, Kristen Ausdenmoore, Gloria Luna and Troy Ziegler.

Jezreel, founder and executive director of JustFaith Ministries, kicked off the conference spotlighting Catholic social teachings, and how social ministry should be primarily from the parish with every Catholic taking an active role in advocacy. Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of Net-work - A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, was the keynote for Saturday morning’s session. Sister Simone discussed Catholic social teaching and how it connects with social justice issues. “All Catholics should be the voice of the poor,” she said. “This is not easy. We need a supportive community; opportunities to stretch beyond our comfort zone, and a spiritual relationship with God in order to carry out this ministry.”

Advance Registration Under Way for FCNA Summer Conference

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

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

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

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

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

For registration information, contact Marilyn Seiler, Faith Community Resource Center, (405) 523-3006, e-mail mseiler@catholiccharitiesok.org, or go to fcanoak.org for a registration form and brochure.
Sister Rose Marie: Poet, Teacher, and to Some, A British Army Officer  

By Monica Knudsen  
For the Sooner Catholic  

Sister Rose Marie is Father Paul Gallatin’s aunt, older than he by just three years, and a gifted storyteller in her own right. She will join St. Charles Borromeo parishioners and friends on May 31 to celebrate her niece’s Golden Jubilee.

For Sister Rose Marie, poetry has been a lifetime vocation. Some of her poems are gifts to commemorate the milestones of those dear to her. “Unlike St. Paul” and “Paul’s Journey: A Light to the Gentiles” are tributes to her nephew, written for his 1983 Silver Jubilee. A quarter century later, she will share them again with guests at the celebration.

Sister Rose Marie was born in Vinita in 1928, the youngest of Jerome and Mary Emma Gallatin’s nine children. She grew up in the town’s Holy Ghost Parish and attended Sacred Heart Academy. She first heard poetry from her mother, as she rocked her in her arms. Her father called his family’s propensity for rhyme and language “a veritable schoolhouse.”

An evening’s entertainment during lean Depression years could be Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” or Oliver Wendell Holmes’ “The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay.”

After high school graduation in 1946, she entered the Congregation of Divine Providence. Those who inspired and affirmed her vocation were the Sisters who taught her, especially Sister Amata Regan. She also credits her mother, “a woman of tremendous faith and constant fidelity,” and her oldest sister, Mary Ellen, who took the religious name, Sister Rose Marie Gallatin.

Sister Rose Marie taught first grade during the baby boomer era — “class size 73, with no help.” She also taught English, religion and home economics at San Antonio’s Providence High School as well as English at Our Lady of the Lake University. Her Oklahoma connections include teaching at McGehee (1967-70), while Father David Monahan was principal. She retired from the classroom in 1991, and served as alumnae director of Providence High School until 2005.

In her poems, Sister Rose Marie explores spiritual meaning in everyday experiences, and writes with deep feeling about our search for God, and His for us. One of her favorites is “The Skaters and the Snowbird,” a meditation on the possibility of winter in heaven. “Not all the waters of Jerusalem, Will be turned to flowing streams, In a season of eternal spring, Heaven must include a winter scene, Or where would the snowbird sing?”

Her gift/poems are “a song of gratefulness and the greatness of God for creating that person’s life.” They honor a missionary serving in Africa, a confirmation day; retirements, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, a nun’s Silver Jubilee. She said, “I want the poem to touch a particular person. If it does, it can touch many others.”

She celebrates the humorous. “From Rags to Riches” is the true childhood story of her brother’s first solo visit to the Vinita Public Library. He was so absorbed in a book, the librarian unknowingly locked him in at closing time.

One of her favorite reactions to her poems occurred after a reading for a fourth-grade class. A little boy ran to his car after school, “Mom! Guess what? There was this nun in our class today, and she did this really neat poetry, and she used to be an officer in the British Army!” Mother and the teacher pondered. Sister Rose Marie said, “Finally Sister Bernie remembered she had told the class I was an English major. Isn’t that priceless?”

In every long life well lived, there is also pain and loss. Readers will weep over “Give Them to Eat,” an account of her mother’s trip to buy food for her large family, “with two thin dimes in a black and tattered purse.”

One of her life’s highlights was a 1978 trip to help at Father Stanley Rother’s mission in Guatemala. Inspired by colorful buses on mountain roads, moved by dire poverty, and shocked by a lion as guard dog for a finca, she wrote three “Guatemala poems.” According to Sister Rose Marie, it was said of Father Rother that he was the people’s “priest, prayer, counselor, medical assistant, mechanician, farmer, welder, builder, linguist, and the list goes on.”

Shortly before his death in 1993, his brother, Jimmy, suggested she share her poetry with a wider world. She has published three books, “Gift Rock,” “Six Stone Water Jars” and “I Saw That Sunflower Bloom” (now out of print), as well as poems in national magazines. She has also given a seminar on the healing power of poetry to doctors and patients at San Antonio’s University Hospital.

Sister Rose Marie strongly believes that poetry “is meant to be played with the instrument of the human voice.” Since her 2005 retirement, her focus has been poetry as ministry. She professionally recorded four CDs, I Saw That Sunflower Bloom, Gift Rock, Six Stone Water Jars and Words on Fire. All of the proceeds from the CDs benefit Providence High School.

Sister Rose Marie prays while writing, so that her “words will be what God wants people to hear.” Her poems are word symphonies that provide respite, recognition, spiritual nourishment and renewed energy. Her divinely-guided works prove that poetry is more than uplifting literature. It is an offering, a gift and a prayer.

To order a CD, contact Sister Rose Marie at gallatin_phs@yahoo.com.

Teen Earns Silver Scouting Award  

Megan Elisabeth Smith, 14, of Oklahoma City, recently earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Cadet Girl Scout can earn. Megan is a member of Troop 617, based at Soldier Creek School in Midwest City.

Megan’s project is called Boxes of Hugs. She made gift boxes filled with games, puzzles and pillows to cheer up cancer patients at Midwest Regional Medical Center.

Megan is the daughter of Greg and Phebe Smith. She is a home-schooled eighth-grader. Megan is an active member of Saint Paul the Apostle Parish in Del City, where she is an altar server and a member of the youth group. Megan earned the Family of God Religious Award in 2002 and a Girl Scout Bronze Award in 2006. She enjoys drawing, dance, especially ballet and jazz, and pageant watching and competing.

Megan has two younger sisters in Girl Scouts. An older sister, as well as their mother were also involved in Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Silver Award includes completing three project patches — leadership, challenge and career awards. It also includes a service project to help the community which totals 40 hours. Megan was honored at the annual Gold Awards ceremony held in April by Girl Scouts- Western Oklahoma Inc.

Briefs  

Parish Sets Festival  
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis of Assisi Parish is hosting the sixth annual International Food Fest on June 21 at 6 p.m. in the T. Phil Kierl Gymnasium. The dinner benefits the Rosary School scholarship and endowment funds. The dinner also celebrates the many cultures that blend together to make the faith community known as St. Francis, located at 1901 N.W. 18th St. Dinner tickets will be sold for $20 after all the Masses starting the weekend of May 31. Call Mary Lalli for ticket information, 947-2947, or Michelle McGannon at 947-0161.

Memorial Tourney June 2  
WOODWARD — Rev. James Knight Memorial Golf Tournament will be June 2 at Boiling Springs Golf Course, Woodward. Proceeds to benefit St. Peter’s Scholarship Fund. Format: Four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is $50 per person/$200 per team, checks payable to St. Peter’s Golf Tournament by May 27. Call (580) 256-5305 for more information.

Celebration Set  
OKLAHOMA CITY — 40th Anniversary Celebration, Sisters of Benedict, Red Plains Monastery, June 21 at Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City, 11 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, Celebrant. Reception immediately following in Bryce Hall.
Catholic Scout Builds Bridge on Way to Eagle Rank

ARDMORE — Boy Scout Troop 112 of St. Mary Church is proud to induct the troop’s newest Eagle Scout, Wes Weaver. Wes is the son of Trish and Rusty Weaver.

Wes’ achievement was recognized with the traditional Court of Honor held at St. Mary Catholic Church Parish Hall on Sunday, Feb. 10. Bruce Hamm officiated the event, Father Thomas O’Toole offered beautiful words of thanks and praise in the opening prayer and benediction, and Bill Nichols, Arbuckle Area Council Scout executive, delivered the keynote address.

Wes’ Eagle service project was to design and supervise the construction of a 112-foot bridge at Lake Murray State Park near Ardmore. Wes decided on this length of bridge to honor his troop, which is sponsored by the Men of St. Mary. The bridge spans a creek that is 12 feet at its deepest. Preparation for the bridge included drilling 14 holes at least 4 feet deep through native sandstone and then setting 11 pairs of posts ranging from 6 to 18 feet tall in concrete to ensure stability. Additionally, a bench was placed at one end of the bridge and the hiker’s trail was cleared of loose stones, saplings and debris. Over 500 man-hours were put into the bridge construction by Wes and the youth of Troop 112. Many St. Mary parishioners offered encouragement, equipment and their talents toward the project. Completed in October 2007, the bridge is now enjoyed by hikers and bicyclists who frequent the park.

As a Boy Scout, Wes has enjoyed backpacking over 70 miles at Philmont Scout Ranch, scuba diving at SeaBase, a high adventure base for Scouts near Key Largo, Fla., and attended numerous summer and winter camp sessions.

Catholic Foundation Awards College Scholarships

Each year since its inception in 1965, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc. has awarded college scholarships to deserving young men and women from all across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. From its humble beginnings of just two $500 scholarships some 40 years ago — this year the Catholic Foundation will present in excess of $80,000 in college scholarships to 60-plus students based on scholastic achievements, service to church and community and financial need. Listed below are the Catholic Foundation scholarship recipients for the 2008-09 academic year:

Maria Andrade, St. James, OKC
Megan Atwood, St. Joseph, Union City
Christina Baker, St. James, OKC
Nathan Beattie, St. Monica, Edmond
Donovan Becker, St. Mary, Ponca City
Joshua Berntsen, St. Ann, Elgin
Sarah Blasche, Assumption, Duncan
Amanda Bossa, St. Joseph, Hennessey
Stacey Brandhorst, St. Eugene, Weatherford
Sarah Brockhaus, St. Joseph, Norman
Selina Coronado, Prince of Peace, Altus
Daniel Crossley, Holy Trinity, Okarche
John Danaher, St. Joseph, Norman
Tui Do, St. Andrew Dung Lac, OKC
Chinh Doan, St. Patrick, OKC
Brittany Dray, St. John the Baptist, Edmond
Phong Hong Duong, St. Andrew Dung-Lac, OKC
Laramy Edwards, Queen of All Saints, Sayre
Connor Ferguson, St. Joseph, Norman
Abbey Gagnon, Sacred Heart, Alva
David Groff, St. Vincent de Paul, McCloud
Michael Henderson, St. Michael, Meeker
Ana Camila, Herrera Sacred Heart, OKC
Veronica Hochla, St. Andrew, Moore
Brian Johnson, Immaculate Conception, Seminole
Emily Kilian, St. Mary, Medford
Jessica Landoll, St. Ann, Elgin
Matthew Landoll, Blessed Sacrament, Lawton
Lauren Larreys, St. Ann, Elgin
John Lewis, Our Lady’s Cathedral, OKC
Brenda Luttrel, St. Mark, Norman
Rebecca Major, St. John Nepomuk, Yukon
Daniel Manns, St. Mary, Ardmore
Pedro Martinez, St. Charles Borromeo
Alan McCall, St. Mary, Ardmore
Bethany Meiwes, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Susan Murray, Christ the King
Kalyne Neal, St. Monica, Edmond
Nguye Nguyen, St. Andrew Dung Lac, OKC
Phuong Nguyen, St. Andrew Dung Lac, OKC
Tung Nguyen, St. Andrew Dung Lac, OKC
Carrie Nolan, St. Michaels, Bethany
Shelley Nolan, St. Michaels, Bethany
Tahni Osterman, Epiphany, OKC
Quy Pham, St. Andrew Dung Lac, OKC
Sara Roberts, St. Eugene, Weatherford
J. Guadalupe Salgado, St. Catherine, Pala Valley
Shaylyn Sawyer, Epiphany, OKC
Carly Schnaitman, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Travis Schnaitman, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Emily Schneeger, St. Mathew, Elk City
Adam Simonds-Stege, St. Joseph, Norman
Alexander Swartz, St. Francis Xavier, Sulphur
Becky Ta, Our Lady’s Cathedral, OKC
Gabriel Torres, St. Joseph, Norman
Ha Le Tran, Our Lady’s Cathedral, OKC
Maricela Vargas, St. Joseph, Ada
Kathryn Vuclek, St. Joseph, Bison
Christian Zakrawetz, St. Peter, Guymon
Teresa Zientek, St. Benedict, Shawnee

P. B. Connelly Medical Scholarship
Jonathan Manns, St. Mary, Ardmore
Matt Wedman, St. John Nepomuk, Yukon

Helen R. Hall Nursing Scholarship
Stephanie Mayhew, St. Philip Neri, Midwest City

Amelia P. Davis & Elizabeth H. Davis Lawrence Scholarship
Merle Fuerte, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Lauren Himes, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Bethany Meiwes, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Jessica Norris, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Carly Schnaitman, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Travis Schnaitman, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Jacob Severin, St. Gregory the Great, Enid
Melissa Spurluck, St. Gregory the Great, Enid

Evelyn and Kathryn Hau Scholarship
Maria Baca, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Kelly Fletcher, St. John Nepomuk, Yukon
Jamie Hughes, St. Francis Xavier, Enid
Molly Johnson, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Marissa Petty, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Teneille Reherman, St. Peter & Paul, Kingfisher
Cindy Shelley, Holy Trinity, Okarche
Catholic-Jewish Dialogue: Ten Commandments Answer to Modern Issues

WASHINGTON — The Ten Commandments can provide the basis for secular arguments on contemporary moral issues, members of the Catholic-Jewish Consultation noted at an April 30 meeting in New York.

The consultation, which includes representatives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Union of Orthodox Rabbis (OU) and the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA), meets twice a year. The recent meeting focused on religion and public morality in today’s American society.

Co-founded in 1998 by the late Cardinal John O’Connor, the Consultation meets to discuss moral and cultural issues that impact Catholic and Jewish life in the nation. The April 30 session included two presentations, one Catholic and one Jewish, on the Ten Commandments as a basis for negotiating contemporary societal issues like abortion, embryonic stem cell research and same sex unions.

Father Arthur Kennedy, rector of St. John’s Seminary, Boston, examined how the Ten Commandments, or Decalogue, has functioned in the present day. The consultation recently drafted a statement defending marriage between one man and one woman that will be published in the coming weeks.

Speaking from a Jewish perspective, David Berger, Ph.D., head of the Jewish Studies Department at Yeshiva College of New York, drew a distinction between the religious character of the first four commandments and the “secular” character of the other six. “The Sabbath, for example, is a quintessentially religious commandment, a ritual observance, even though it also has the social values of rest, freedom from work and bringing people together,” he said. The Sabbath has also influenced secular views on human dignity and human rights. However, when it comes to codifying civil law in a country that upholds church-state separation, Berger argued that religious prescriptions carry little weight unless they are also based on secular reason and need.

Both scholars acknowledged the role that belief in God plays not only in motivating citizens to will the good for themselves and others, but also in giving public recognition to the transcendent source of authentic human values. Subsequent discussion among Consultation participants revealed a common desire to be faithful to one’s own religious interpretations, while at the same time seeking the common patrimony that enables the two sides to speak together on public issues.

Previous meetings of the USCCB-OU Consultation have addressed school choice and education tax credits, anti-religious bias in the media and peace initiatives to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The consultation is co-chaired by Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, Rabbi of Young Israel Synagogue in Kew Gardens Hills, N.Y.

New COURAGE Chapter Opens in OKC

OKLAHOMA CITY — COURAGE is a Catholic ministry for people who struggle with same sex attraction and who want to live a chaste life in accordance with authentic Catholic teaching. There are COURAGE chapters all over the world and here in Oklahoma there have been COURAGE chapters in Tulsa and in Lawton. This is the first time the COURAGE ministry has been available in Oklahoma City.

COURAGE meets weekly and is a support group that follows the traditional 12-step spiritual recovery format. Our local chapter is approved by Archbishop Beltran and we have a priest who sponsors our group and serves as chaplain.

To find out more about the international COURAGE ministry, visit the web site, www.couragerc.org to contact someone locally and find out about meetings in the Oklahoma City metro area, or call 942-2017. Confidentiality is assured: You may leave a message and your call will be returned discreetly. Priests, deacons and other ministers are encouraged to save the contact information for future reference so that they can make referrals for those in need of support.

Across Oklahoma

Saint James Plans Care Camp

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ultimate Caregivers training camp is a fun and interactive way to learn to provide care for others. Young people can learn skills for beginning their own business or grandparents can refresh their skills and become better prepared to care for family members. This class includes certification cards in CPR, first aid, pet first aid and care-giving skills. Class is conducted by Astrud Ray, CMT, CTRS. Phone 833-3169 for more information or to enroll. Class size will range from six to 15 students, and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements: be at least 11 years old; love to work with people of various ages; be available for classes May 27 to May 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Location: St. James Catholic School, 1224 S.W. 41st St. Cost is $100 per participant. Bring a brown bag lunch. One healthy afternoon snack will be provided. Before and after care available by prearrangement for an additional charge. Assistance with carpooling also by prearrangement.

Bossett to Speak in Lawton

LAWTON — Denise Bossett, a convert to the Catholic Church, will share her conversion story at Holy Family Parish on June 29 and June 30. The presentations will be from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the main church. The Monday program will be for women only. Bossett is the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor and her column, Catholic by Grace, has been published in more than 20 diocesan newspapers including the Sooner Catholic. The programs are free and open to all. Come and hear the complete story of how Bossett became Catholic by Grace. For more information, call Holy Family office at (580) 536-6351.

Pilgrimage Planned

OKLAHOMA CITY — Join Father Joseph Jacobi of St. Eugene Parish for a spiritually enriching journey to the great shrines of France, Spain and Portugal on Oct. 19-27, 2008. In Lourdes, pilgrims from around the world are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette. The pilgrimage also includes Santiago de Compostela and Fatima. $3,500 price includes round-trip airfare, seven nights accommodations/double occupancy, breakfast and dinner daily, local transportation via deluxe private motor coach. Airline taxes, fuel surcharge and security fees are additional. Optional pre-excurision to Paris available. For more information, contact Judi Wilkinson at 751-7115 Ext. 115.

Volunteers Needed

The Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference has several volunteer positions open on its board of directors. A 501(c)(3) organization, the board and its subcommittees meet monthly in the Edmond area to plan the conference, which is held in January of each year. All applicants must be in good standing with their parish. Interested applicants should e-mail owcw@sbcglobal.net.

Treasurei

The responsibilities of this position include knowledge of not-for-profit accounting and tax preparation, annual budget preparation and analysis, cash management tracking and regular attendance at executive committee and board of director meetings.

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The responsibilities of this subcommittee chair include contacting parishes, businesses and foundations for cash or in-kind donations toward conference expenses. Experience in fundraising for nonprofit organizations preferred.

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Church Wrong

I supported the archdiocese when they aided those with AIDS or AIDS-related ailments, even if many of them contracted the health issues by practices not sanctioned by the church.

I reluctantly supported the archdiocese when they supported unwed mothers.

However, when the archdiocese supports those who are trying to bring down America, I cannot support them or kill something — just demand a study. When we did the impact of SB 163. We all know that if you want to stall and provide for their communities, or volunteers to provide this service. This system has worked quite well for almost 200 years in this country. My own great-grandmother was almost deported over a legal loophole and if family members hadn’t stepped in to navigate the system for her, it could have been disastrous. While our great-grandparents may not have learned English quickly, they wanted success for their children and pushed education and speaking English on their children.

People have succeeded when they speak a common language.

People who speak a common language can succeed in the business world much better than those who don’t. Why else would the business world have a common language? For years it was Latin, then French and for quite a while it has been English. And in some parts of the world it is becoming Chinese.

There is no evidence that SB 163 would “directly and adversely affect both U.S. citizens and other persons lawfully present in the United States who need help with English.” Using his own argument of lack of study — he is wrong about this. Use your observation and notice that this is not true based on past years of immigrants.

Demographic studies show that people can become conversant in English. If people going to other countries are encouraged to “immerse” themselves in the host country language, why should not those countries be encouraged to “immerse” themselves in the host country language? For years it was Latin, then French and for quite a while it has been English. And in some parts of the world it is becoming Chinese.

In reality, speaking a common language makes it easier. I have been an EMT and been ill in a foreign country. Most people agree it is imperative that medical providers be proficient in medicine. They cannot learn all the languages that patients might speak, especially in America. It would be impossible with all the immigrants we have. Again, translators can help those who need help. The whole profession should not be penalized because immigrants do not wish to assimilate. And yes, I did need a translator when I was deathly ill in a foreign country.

Nothing in SB 163 forbids those who would help people learn English from doing so. Nowhere does SB 163 forbid cultures from keeping their language and customs. Their language and customs are protected by our own government, as we sometimes hear when some candidates must in advance whether they have the stomach to oppose abortion? And yes, this is a litmus test.

The Sooner Catholic has to get its act together! We are not essentially a divided, right/left Church that is a “big accommodative tent” accepting the compromise of diversity. We have the mind of Christ, have the one true Way, and worship the one true God in God’s chosen community. It is false to play “right” against “left,” appeasing “conservatives” with the occasional orthodox article on moral issues such as contraception or in vitro fertilization, as a ruse to justify misguided “liberal” peace and justice offerings not always in complete conformity with genuine Catholic social doctrine.

Can the average Catholic be blamed then for fearing what we may get from the Sooner Catholic in the upcoming national election season? After all, isn’t there good reason to fear we will see the usual rationalizations that justify the unjustifiable; i.e., voting for a candidate who promotes a supposed “right to abortion,” regardless of party affiliation, when there is a substantially (even if not optimally) pro-life alternative? Imagine if we were to refuse to consider a strong “social justice” candidate solely because of his “pro-terrorism” stance despite an otherwise attractive platform. Would we in that case have to face the silly charge that we have become “one issue” voters, as we sometimes hear when some candidates must in good conscience be disqualified because of their pro-abortion position? Could a pro-terrorism stance rightly be considered just one issue among many?

Whenever there is a choice we should vote for the good people, and never for bad ones, regardless of party affiliation and lesser political issues. We are a society looking the other way while innocent children are being torn from the womb. Good people oppose that. Bad people find ways to justify it. Does it really matter what party we belong to? Shouldn’t we put aside our own private “personal issues?”

Dominic M. Pedulla
Saint John the Baptist, Edmond

Paper on Wrong Track

Who among us is not astonished at the turn the Sooner Catholic has been taking? Recently we have read articles downplaying the physical sufferings of Christ during His Passion, seen not-altogether-orthodox death penalty abolitionist advocacy over-emphasized, and the demand to the detriment of anti-abortion advocacy and now even rewarded with a regular column, endured the Sooner Catholic’s apparently insatiable appetite for an overly sociological or politicized view of the Church, and suffered through trite and trivial “pop-psychology”-style articles at best representing a banalization of the faith.

And what of the recent tremendous expenditures of precious energies covering the much-disputed illegal immigration bill? Shouldn’t Catholics have been told that not every unjust law must be disobeyed (some can be lictically tolerated as long as they do not require wrongdoing)? Putting aside the question of this particular bill being potentially unjust (it was likely at least partly unjust), what about the far more serious “illegal emigration” issue, where the unborn are violently forced to emigrate from the womb? Why not just require potential cute-selection in advance whether they have the stomach to oppose abortion? And yes, this is a litmus test.

The Sooner Catholic has to get its act together! We are not essentially a divided, right/left Church that is a “big accommodative tent” accepting the compromise of diversity. We have the mind of Christ, have the one true Way, and worship the one true God in God’s chosen community. It is false to play “right” against “left,” appeasing “conservatives” with the occasional orthodox article on moral issues such as contraception or in vitro fertilization, as a ruse to justify misguided “liberal” peace and justice offerings not always in complete conformity with genuine Catholic social doctrine.

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Dominic M. Pedulla
Saint John the Baptist, Edmond

William Brown, Arlington, Texas
Saint Greg's Honors Grads at May 10 Commencement

By Brad Collins
Saint Gregory's

SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University celebrated its 93rd commencement exercise on Saturday, May 10 inside W.P. Wood Field House, with bachelor's degrees conferred on 86 graduates. An additional 46 received associate's degrees and 12 received master's degrees.

Shirley Cox, legal services developer for the state Department of Human Services, delivered the commencement address, urging SGU graduates to discover their dreams, be passionate about what they do, and do justice in their lives.

“I encourage you to reach into the deep recesses of your soul and find that passion, live that passion and love that passion,” said Cox, an active state advocate for those on the margins of society. “Inspire others to your passion and call them forth in their aspirations. If you do, I predict, you will emerge as extraordinary leaders in your own right.”

Cox compared the graduates’ walk across the stage to Lewis Carol’s Through the Looking Glass, the sequel to Alice in Wonderland. In that story, she said, Alice imagines herself climbing through a looking glass, a mirror, wondering what life would hold for her on the other side.

“As you sit in your seats now, you may well feel like Alice contemplating what is beyond the mirror, a world that is very familiar, yet very different,” she said. “As you wait your turn in line to receive your diploma, you may well feel like Alice as she summoned her courage to step across and into the world beyond.

“And as you step across the stage, may we feel like Alice entering into the excitement, the thrill and the anticipation of a vibrant and beckoning experience.”

Valedictorians Zac Ottis and Melanie Jones also addressed the audience.

Ottis, who is from Norman, was the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Sciences. Jones, from Wagoner, was the valedictorian for the College for Working Adults.

“My advice to you is to put your all into everything that you do,” Ottis said. “Find a job that makes you happy and that you enjoy doing. When you aren’t working, enjoy life. The past four years, if anything, have taught me how fragile life can be, so make sure that you enjoy every minute of it.”

Said Jones: “We have made sacrifices. We have endured. And we’re finally here as teammates. Congratulations.”

Baccalaureate Mass was Friday at St. Gregory’s Abbey Church. Rev. Nicholas Ast, O.S.B., a history instructor at SGU, delivered the homily.

The SGU Chorale, under the direction of Brother Damien Whalen and music faculty member Sheryl Waters, provided music.

The following students received their degrees:

**Associate's Degrees**

- Bixby: Edie Dragoun
- Broken Arrow: Stacy Haynes, Karla Kuhn, Robin Miller, Brenda Royal
- Coweta: Brandi Marrs
- Fort Worth, Texas: Emily Vaughn
- Glenpool: Rhoda Adams, Steven Conway
- McLeod: Brandi Sears
- Mounds: Amanda Meyers
- Oklahoma City: Jessica Landry-Gaters, Tracie Reagan
- Owesge: Justin Binning
- Rose: Ashley Chancellor
- Shawnee: Joshua Clark, Melissa Dennis, Leroy Downs, Robert Gear, Gaia Hatler, Donald Heaps, Tedd Kerr, Elaine Maston, Rhonda Maston, Donna Mills, Tony Sellers, Gale Smith, Karen Southers
- Tulsa: Derrick Cox, Maria Crescitielli, Christopher Davis, Shannon Hand, Lydia Jones, Kendra Knox, Victoria Lee, Denise Mills, Jeffrey Richardson, Jerome Smittle
- Vera: Apri Buoy
- Wagoner: Sherry Hansen, Erin Hester
- Wanette: Darlene Lackey

**Bachelor's Degrees**

- Ada: Amanda Kelley
- Bixby: Kip Honeycutt
- Boley: Donna Parker
- Broken Arrow: Seth Birch, Stephen Friend, Courtney Hambley, Karissa McMillan, Sonny Reynolds, Joseph Solomon
- Brusly, La.: Hunter Langlois
- Centerton, Ark.: William Beal

Shawnee — Paul Burgess, instructor of political science at St. Gregory’s University, has been a fixture at St. Gregory’s since 1966. In that time, Burgess has been able to instruct all five of his children at St. Gregory’s and visit his children more often. Since that time, Burgess has been active in Democratic Party politics.

He has served as chairman of the Puttawatomie County Democratic Party, run for state representative, helped to organize Jimmy Carter’s local campaign for president, was an alternate delegate at the Democratic mini-convention in 1974, and has been a delegate at county, district and state party conventions.

Burgess has served on numerous committees in his time at St. Gregory’s.

He was chairman of the faculty life committee several times, served as a faculty representative and has been a faculty arbitrator for nearly 16 years. Burgess has also served on the school’s board of appeal and board of inquiry.

“My favorite part of being an instructor is the classroom atmosphere,” Burgess said in a recent interview. “I like the interaction with the students.”

Burgess and his wife, Maryann, have been married 48 years. He said after his retirement, he plans to travel and visit his children more often.
Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2008

- Nancy Arteaga
  - OCU Scholarship
- Elizabeth Armstrong
  - Northeastern Oklahoma State, Scholarship
- Maria Andrade
  - OCU, Scholarship
- Andrew Adamson
  - OSU
- Eric Adams
  - OCCC
- Anthony Baker
  - OCCC
- Kristen Balfour-Griee
  - OSU
- Domenique Bergamini
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Dejanae Berry
  - OSU, Scholarship
- Eric Brunette
  - St. Gregory's University, Scholarship
- Mary Contreras
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Amanda Crumpley
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Maria Contreras
  - Palo Alto College
- Hyeun Cho
  - OSU
- Claudia Chavez
  - Benedictine University
- Jared Charbeneau
  - Southwestern Christian University
- Michael Carpenter
  - Marine Corp
- Laura Allison
  - Newman University Scholarship
- Blake Gunter
  - Oklahoma Baptist University, Scholarship
- Paul Arambula
  - OSU-OKC
- Brittnie Calhoun
  - OSU-OKC Scholarship
- Andrew Dinh
  - MetroTech Scholarship
- Dejanae Berry
  - OSU, Scholarship
- Domenique Bergamini
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Andrew Danaher
  - OU, Scholarship
- John Danaher
  - OU, Scholarship
- Lacey Deaton
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Elle DeNegri
  - OU, Scholarship
- Devin Devine
  - University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
- Andrew Dinh
  - MetroTech Scholarship
- Eddy Duran
  - UCO, Scholarship
- Brian Daly
  - Johnson & Wales University, Scholarship
- Blake Gunter
  - Oklahoma Baptist University, Scholarship
- Blake Gunter
  - Oklahoma Baptist University, Scholarship
- Martin Hampton
  - UCO
- Abram Hernandez
  - OCCC
- Dakota Hernandez
  - OSU
- Dakota Hernandez
  - OSU
- Dakota Hernandez
  - OSU
Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2008

Lindsay Hughes
Redlands CC Scholarship

Erica Jaramillo
OSU

Janet Jimenez
OCC

Amy Johnson
OU, Scholarship

April Jones
OCU

Thao Le
OSU-OKC

Melissa Lee
OCU

Medalise Mahoney
OSU

Kathryn Manning
Fort Lewis College

Samantha Marino
Rose State College

Gabrielle Martinez
University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma Scholarship

Arthur McGowen
OSU

Thomas McKenzie
OU

Judith Meraz
OCCC

Vincent Ngo
Valedictorian, Stanford, Scholarship

Hai Nguyen
OCCC

Joseph Nixon
OU, Scholarship

Hunter Olstad
OSU

Christopher Patris
OCCC

Marianne Pickens
OCU, Scholarship

Wade Pierce
Salutatorian OSU, Scholarship

Gabe Pranter
OCCC

Jeremy Randall
OU

Landry Recla
OU, Scholarship

Oscar Reyes
OU, Scholarship

James Rogers
Gordon Cooper Career Tech

Jordan Rooks
OSU-OKC

Logan Simms
Marines

Jeremy Randall
OU

Landry Recla
OU, Scholarship

Oscar Reyes
OU, Scholarship

James Rogers
Gordon Cooper Career Tech

Jordan Rooks
OSU-OKC

Logan Simms
Marines

Justin Sine
OU, Scholarship

Kevin Skidmore
OSU, Scholarship

Rachel Spiva
OSU

Mary Rose Tener
State College Scholarship

Sarah Thornton
Southern Nazarene University

Jamie Vickery
OSU, Scholarship

Pedro Villafana
OSU, Scholarship
Thanks for the Memories
The 103rd Graduating Class of Mount Saint Mary High School

Blake Gunter gives the thumbs up as he and Rebecca Green process into graduation at St. Mark’s in Norman. Photos/Cara Koenig

2008 senior class president Liz Armstrong walks the Rocket flag into the senior farewell assembly, passing it to the class of 2009.

Seniors pose for a photo before graduation.

Pedro Villafana being robed by his sister, Rosa Villafana Byrne, class of 1995.

John Paul Pierce robed his big brother, Wade Pierce, at the senior farewell assembly.

Christopher Patris after graduation.
Irish Grads Leave Winning Legacy
Bishop McGuinness High School
Class of 2008

McGuinness grads were all smiles following the ceremony.

The after party theme.

Top: Teresa Rogge and Jacquelyn Elmer at the after party. Right: Clay Williamson as the human fly at the after party.

Three generations of Irish graduates are pictured here with 2008 grad Adam Cooper between his grandparents, Shirley and Richard, Class of '55, and his father, Steven Cooper, Class of '78. Photos/Betty Felton

Kelly Hughes and Lauren Forest pose for a photo at the senior farewell assembly.
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2008

Todd Adler
Undecided

Anna Ardoin
Undecided

Brittnee Baches
UCO

Shannon Bass
OU

Alexandrea Bass
UCO

Nicole Beard
OSU

Elizabeth Berend
Rose State, Scholarship

Brittney Bierschenk
OSU, Scholarship

Thomas Bishop
OU

Scholarship

Mollie Blanchard
OU

Scholarship

Amanda Boesman
OSU

Cathleen Brantley
OU

Robyn Breshears
OSU

Cameron Bryan
University of Nebraska

William Byrne
OSU

Scholarship

Britney Cain
UCO

Laura Callaway
UCO

Scholarship

Zachary Carter
UCO

Sarai Cerano
UCO

Katlyn Chaney
OU

David Clawson
Undecided

Gabrielle Cloer
SWOSU

Scholarship

Charles Coe
OSU

Hannah Colness
UCO

Scholarship

Katelyn Conner
OU

Scholarship

Adam Cooper
OU

Scholarship

Eleanor Covington
University of Colorado

Matthew Crowley
Undecided

Travis Cunningham
OU, Scholarship

Tafadzwa Dandajena
UCO

Amy Davis
University of Missouri

Scholarship

Alison Davis
Blinn College

Joseph DeGiusti
OU

Brennan Derby
Undecided

Keelan Dill
OU

Mary Donnelly
University of Tulsa

Colleen Dougherty
OSU, Scholarship

Ashley Edwards
OU

Scholarship

Christina Ellis
OSU

Jacquelyn Elmer
OSU

Chelsea Epps
OCU

Scholarship

Loren Ferguson
OSU

Mary Ferguson
OU

Giovanni Ferlaine
Kansas University

Keller Flinton
OSU

Scholarship

Korrine Folmar
UCO

Lauren Forest
OU

Scholarship

Kelsey Frederickson
Chapman
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2008

Jordan Fritch
Marquette University
Scholarship, Valedictorian

Lindsey Fry
OSU

Carlos Garcia
UCO

Jake Gareston
Undecided

Candice Gillies
OU, Scholarship Valedictorian

John Goetzinger
OU

Callie Gordon
OU

Angelica Grajeda
UCO
Scholarship

Lauren Gray
OU

Macey Guthery
University of Kansas, Scholarship

Evan Hardesty
OU
Scholarship

Ryan Harlow
UCO

Haley Harris
OSU

Lindsay Hazen
OU

Millard Henry
OU

Laura Hill
NOC-OSU

Kasey Hill
OU

Austin Hirsch
OSU

Tiffany Hoard
UCO

Katie Hufnagel
OSU

Delaney Hughes
OSU

Courtney Iser
Northwestern

Lauren Jackson
OU
Scholarship

Miranda Jackson
UCO
Scholarship

Molly Jones
OU

Yeymi Jordan
UCO

Doga Karyaldiz
OSU
Scholarship

Ryan Kelley
OU

Ryan Kemether
Undecided

Jessica Kierl
OSU
Scholarship

Yunho Kim
Arizona State
University, Scholarship

Kristina King
OU
Scholarship

Kelsey Kirk
Southern Methodist
University

Sheila Kraft
OU

Petamarre Lancaster
OU
Scholarship

Olivia Lee
OSU
Scholarship

August Lombardo
NOC-OSU

Kendall Loving
UCO

Devin Luxner
OU

Hugh Maguire
OSU
Scholarship

William Maguire
UCO

Joseph Maier
OU
Scholarship

Brooke Manning
OU

Callie Marso
Miami University of Ohio
Scholarship

Lauren Martin
OSU
Scholarship

Luisa Matthysens
UCO
Scholarship

Mitchell McGarry
Newman University
Scholarship

Chanel Melendez
OU
Scholarship
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2008

Katusha Mercer  
OU  
Scholarship

Christopher Nguyen  
OU  
Scholarship

Tina Nguyen  
OU

Leah Norsworthy  
OSU  
Scholarship

Taylor Nardin  
OCCC

Chike Neokolo  
OU

Gabriel Mayer  
University of Tulsa

Ann Mudd  
OSU

Robert Neville  
OU  
Scholarship

Jeffrey Merritt  
Samford University  
Scholarship

Meghan Milner  
OSU  
Scholarship

Billy Mitchell  
OSU

Allison Moorhead  
OU  
Scholarship

Justin O’Feery  
OSU-OKC

Jeffrey Olbert  
OU

Tina Nguyen  
OU

Kristopher Parham  
Undecided

Sarah Parrish  
OU  
Scholarship

Ryan Peck  
OU  
Scholarship

ShaRhonda Pickett  
OSU

Christian Poston  
OU

Julianne Prince  
UCO

Catherine Quinlan  
OU

Sarah Reel  
OSU

Alyx Reeser  
OU

Mary Renz  
Sam Houston State University  
Scholarship

Margaret Rischart  
OSU

Joshua Ritchie  
OSU

Berkeley Rodgers  
OU  
Scholarship

Lauren Rattan  
US Merchant Marine Academy  
Scholarship

Anna Raybourn  
OU  
Scholarship

Sarah Reel  
OSU

Alyx Reeser  
OU

Mary Renz  
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Margaret Rischart  
OSU

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OU  
Scholarship

William Ruffin  
Creighton University  
Scholarship

Emma Rupert  
OU  
Scholarship

Nicholas Ruttan  
UCO  
Scholarship

Emily Say  
OSU

Aaron Schick  
OU

Frederick Schrantz  
UCO, Scholarship

Kathryn Schrantz  
UCO, Scholarship

Salutatorian

Libby Schwartz  
OSU

John Scimeca  
Tulane

Natalya Sebastian  
University of Missouri-KC, Scholarship

Friska Shanbour  
Undecided

Austin Shotts  
UCO

Britney Simmons  
UCO

Jake Sinkula  
SWOSU  
Scholarship

Erin Smith  
OU  
Scholarship
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2008

Reilly Smith  
OU  
McKenzi Standard  
OU  
Laura Sterkel  
OU  
Daniel Stith  
OSU  
Chaz Teague  
NOC-OSU  
Daniel Tharnish  
Undecided  
Benjamin Thomas  
UCO  
Laura Thompson  
OU

Karla Thompson  
Undecided  
Jacob Torbeck  
Fort Lewis College/Durango, Scholarship  
Adrienne Trepagnier  
UCO  
Hayley Tweddell  
OSU  
Blair Tyrrell  
Undecided  
Sheila Umali  
UCO  
Scholarship  
Kinsey Vinson  
OSU  
Justin Voda  
Curry College

Mary Wade  
OSU  
Breanne Ward  
Chicago Scholarship  
Mark Weigl  
UCO  
Katherine Whitley  
University of Arkansas Scholarship  
Mary Ellen White  
University of Tulsa Scholarship  
Jon Williamson  
St. Gregory’s University, Scholarship  
Joshua Wilson  
OSU  
Brenton Wolf  
OU

Emily Woner  
University of Tulsa, Scholarship  
Cody Woods  
UCO  
Eric Wunsch  
OSU-OKC  
Katy Young  
SWOSU Scholarship  
Shayda Zahrai  
OU  
Scholarship

Eight in 2008

The class of 2008 went out on a winning note as Bishop McGuinness athletic teams captured an amazing eight state titles this year.

Girls Cross Country  
Football  
Boys Basketball

Girls Track  
Brenton Wolf  
OU

Irish Name Slavonic Distinguished Alumnus for 2008

Rear Admiral Greg Slavonic, USN (retired) (BMCHS class of 1967) has been named by the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Alumni Association as the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Upon graduation from Bishop McGuinness, Slavonic attended Oklahoma State University and graduated in 1971 with a degree in journalism and broadcasting. He enlisted in the Navy where he served for 34 years in the Navy/Navy Reserves, rising from seaman recruit to rear admiral, the fourth highest ranking officer in the Navy. Eleven of his 34 years were spent in active duty.

He is currently the executive director of the Jim Thorpe Association.

Slavonic is co-chairman of the USS Oklahoma Memorial Committee, which secured land and raised money to build a memorial to the sailors aboard the USS Oklahoma, who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma ground-breaking ceremony took place on Dec. 7, 2006, with the memorial dedication one year later on Dec. 7, 2007, 66 years after the fateful attack. Slavonic was responsible for bringing the Navy Leap Frogs team to McGuinness for an exhibition in 2007.

“As a graduate, past parent and friend, Greg embodies all that we stand for as a Catholic school,” said David Morton, principal of Bishop McGuinness.

“His service to our country and our community is unquestioned. The memorial to those that gave their lives aboard the USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, will serve as a testimony to Greg’s dedication to his state and country. It is truly an honor to have Greg as our distinguished alum for 2008.”

Slavonic and his wife, Molly, a 1968 graduate, sent their three children through McGuinness: Kara, class of 1994, Maggie, class of 1996, and Blake, class of 2000.
Do We Talk to One Another With Love or With Commands?

We might notice how often we use the words “should,” “ought to,” “need to,” “have to,” “suppose to,” etc., in our conversations with others as well as with ourselves. These words can seem harsh and demanding, even in innocent situations when this is not the intent. These words also communicate our expectations of others as well as of ourselves, oftentimes when these expectations are not appropriate.

At other times these words are used in excessive advice-giving and imply that listeners aren’t capable of understanding their own realities or are unable to think and make good decisions for themselves. These words can leave negative impressions and hurtful feelings when we are only trying to be helpful.

Examples of inappropriate use of these words include: “You need to mow the lawn,” “You should do your homework,” “You need to clean your room,” “You have to wash the car,” etc. Who are we to be so demanding of others? These statements can be critical, shaming, judgmental, and imply others are incapable of thinking for themselves.

Gradually replacing these words can help us be more understanding and loving in our communications while simultaneously being assertive in expressing ourselves. Gradually replacing these words helps us to be more tolerant and less demanding of others as well as of ourselves.

Gradually reducing the use of these words can help us reduce our expectations of others and ourselves which helps to minimize stress. Gradually replacing these words helps us to being less demanding and advice-giving. Gradually replacing these words helps us in letting go and letting God. Gradually replacing these words helps us to experience more calm, peace and contentment.

Some examples of softer yet assertive communications include: “Would you take me shopping this morning?” vs. “You need to take me to the store.” “Honey, can you vacuum today?” vs. the more usual “You need to vacuum.” “When can you take out the trash?” vs. “You need to take out the trash.” “Honey, can you wash my car today?” vs. “You need to wash my car.”

It is also more appropriate for us to use softer language when addressing our children. Examples might include: “Johnny, can you mow the lawn today?” vs. “I’m concerned your homework is not getting done, and I would like you to review it with me before you watch TV.” “If your room is cleaned by 5 p.m., I’ll feed you dinner.” “Can you empty the dishwasher?” “This is your day to clean the bathroom.” “Have you staightened your room?”

Asking or reminding our children versus being demanding allows us to assertively express ourselves as parents, while empowering our children to make choices and accept responsibilities for their actions. We can always move on to giving consequences for behavior.

Here are a few other phrases that can be used to gradually soften our communications. “It would be good if I could...”, “I would like you to...”, “Would you consider...?” “Wouldn’t you love to...?”, “What do you think about...?”, “I would like you to...” etc.

I’d like to emphasize how important it is for us to be less demanding in our own self-talk. Instead of forcefully telling ourselves, “I’ve got to mow the lawn tonight,” we can try, “It would be nice if I could mow the lawn tonight and then enjoy the smell of fresh-cut grass while sitting on the patio.” Or instead of “I’ve got to send her a thank you note,” try, “It would be good to send a thank you note, I’ll bet she would very much appreciate it.”

So I encourage us to find ways to soften our communications beginning with our own self-talk. Knowing that change is difficult, we might begin by just noticing how often we use these harsher words, and we might wonder what words would be more loving and tolerant. And let’s not tell ourselves, “I’ve got to change my vocabulary in talking with myself and others, but wouldn’t it be nice.”

As we consider changing, we might ask God for assistance, for, after all, only He changes us. But it is important for us to notice and to be willing. I’m sure God will take us up on our willingness and will smile on us.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Joe Froehle has over a thousand years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. His work includes many years at St. Anthony Hospital. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by e-mail at jfroehle@subell.net.

Christ Revealed the Mystery of the Giving and Receiving Spirit

There are different ways to be present or absent to each other.

For example, when Jesus is saying farewell to his disciples, he tries to explain to them some of the deep paradoxes inside the mystery of presence and absence.

He tells them that it is better for the one that he goes away because, unless he does, he will not be able to send them his spirit. He assures them too that the heavy and grief they will feel at his leaving is really the pain of giving birth and that this heartache will eventually turn warm and nurturing and bring them a joy that no one can ever take from them.

That is the language of the Ascension and Pentecost, not just as it pertains to Jesus leaving this earth and sending his spirit, but it is also as it pertains to the mystery of giving and receiving spirit in all our lives.

Among other things, it points to that perplexing experience we have where we can only fully understand and appreciate others after they go away, just as others can only fully understand us and let themselves be fully blessed by us after we go away. Like Jesus, we can only really send our spirits after we go away.

We experience this everywhere in life: A grown child has to leave home before her parents can fully understand and appreciate her for who she really is. There comes a day in a young person’s life when she stands before her parents and, in whatever way, says the words: “If it is better for you that I go away! Unless I go you will never really know who I am. You will have some heartache now, but that pain will eventually become warm because I will come back to you in a deeper way.” Parents say the same thing to their children when they are dying.

We only really grasp the essence of another after he or she has gone away. When someone leaves us physically, we are given the chance to receive his or her presence in a deeper way.

And the pain and heartache we feel in the farewell are birth-pangs, the stretching that comes with giving new birth. When someone we love has left us (to go on a trip, to begin a new life, or to depart from us through death) initially that will feel painful, sometimes excruciatingly so. But when that leaving is necessitated by duty or by life itself, then, no matter how hard it is, even if it is death itself that takes away our loved one, eventually he or she will come back to us in a deeper way, in a presence that is warm, nurturing and immune to the fragility of normal relationships.

Many of us, I suspect, have experienced this in the death of someone whom we loved deeply. For me, this happened at the death of my parents. My mother and father died three months apart, when I was 23 years old. They were young, too young to die in my view, but death took them anyway, against my will and against theirs. Initially, their death was experienced as very painful, as bitter. My siblings and I wanted their presence in the same way as we had always had it, physical, tangible, bodily, real.

Eventually the pain of their leaving left us and we sensed that our parents were still with us, with all that was best in them, our mum and dad still, except that now their presence was deeper and less fragile than it had been when they were physically with us. They were with us still, real and nurturing, in a way that nobody and nothing can ever take away.

Our presence to each other physically, in touch, sight and speech is no doubt the deepest wonder of in all of life, sometimes the only thing we can appreciate as real. But wonderful as that is, it is always limited and fragile. It depends upon being physically connected in some way and it is fragile in that separation (physical or emotional) can easily take someone away from us. With everyone we love and who loves us (parents, spouse, children, friends, acquaintances, colleagues), we are always just one trip, misunderstanding, accident or heart attack away from losing their physical presence.

This was the exact heartache and fear that the disciples felt as Jesus was saying goodbye to them and that is the heartache and fear we all feel in our relationships. We can easily lose each other.

But there is a presence that cannot be taken away, that does not suffer from this fragility, that is, the spirit that comes back to us whenever, because of the some inner dictates of love and life, our loved ones have to leave us or we have to leave our loved ones. A spirit returns and it is deep and permanent and leaves a warm, joyful and real presence that nobody can ever take from us.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. He can be reached through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com.
Husband and Wife Author Useful Reference on Blessed Mother


Those interested in knowing anything about the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, can consult this very good encyclopedia that provides quick and short descriptions about all kinds of things related to Mary. It is arranged in the A to Z format with many black and white illustrations of Mary, saints, buildings, shrines and other images. The articles vary in size, with most being very readable for the general reader. The husband and wife authors, Monica and Bill Dodds, have created a very useful, quick reference on Mary and topics related to her. They have included cross referencing, an index of topics and an index on the images and art in the book.

The Dodds have compiled information on the Blessed Virgin Mary's various titles like Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Sorrows, and many others that most people do not know about. The Dodds present information on the various Marian feast days, apparitions, organizations and associations, religious orders dedicated to Mary, songs, devotions, customs and many other topics. The authors provide the words to various prayers to Mary like the Hail Mary and Regina Caeli and others. They also provide some of the litanies and novenas devoted to Mary. The Dodds have articles on Mary's relationship with Orthodoxy, Anglicanism and other Protestant churches and with Islam. They present a list of encyclicals by various popes on Mary. There are articles on the various doctrines and dogmas concerning Mary like the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception.

The Dodds provide two appendices. The first is an excerpt from the U.S. Catholic Bishops Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy concerning Mary and devotions to her. The second appendix is an excerpt from the Second Vatican Council’s Lumen Gentium, Chapter 8, which is concerned with Mary and the Church. This book is highly recommended to those looking for a quick reference on anything related to the Blessed Virgin Mary.


Pope’s Homily, Book Work of ‘Master-Teacher’

Amidst some splendid Catholic theater, there were a lot of ideas to chew on in Benedict XVI’s visit to the United States. The pope’s sermon in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, in which he used the stained glass, the harmony and the countervailing tensions of the building’s stonework as metaphors for the life of the Church, was a homiletic masterpiece — and a powerful reminder to our priests that “preaching up,” not dumbing down, is the way to inspire congregations. The pope’s U.N. address, picking up themes from John Paul II’s 1995 General Assembly address, made an intriguing argument: Human rights, which can be known by reason, are the moral “language” by which the world can turn dissonance into conversation.

Those looking to extend their experience of Benedict XVI, master-teacher, might well buy a new book:

We do not see our soul, and yet it exists and we see its effects, because we can speak, think, and make decisions. Nor do we see an electric current...yet we see that it exists / just coming out from Our Sunday Visitor Press titled, simply, “Questions and Answers.” The book collects the public conversations the Holy Father has had with children, young adults and priests over the past several years. It’s a format in which Benedict shines, as the following examples illustrate.

Q. “In preparing for my first communion day, my catechist told me that Jesus is present in the Eucharist. But how? I can’t see him!”

A. “No, we cannot see him, but there are many things that we do not see but they exist and are essential ... We do not see our soul, and yet it exists and we see its effects, because we can speak, think and make decisions. Nor do we see an electric current ... yet we see that it exists; we see this microphone, that it is working, and we see lights. Therefore we do not see the very deepest things, those that really sustain life, but we can see and feel their effects ... So it is with the Risen Lord: We do not see him with our eyes, but we see that wherever Jesus is, people change, they improve. A great capacity for peace, for reconciliation, is created ... We do not see the Lord himself, but we see the effects of the Lord. So we can understand that Jesus is present.”

Q. “Do I have to go to confession every time I receive communion, even when I have committed the same sins? Because I realize that they are always the same.”

A. “You do not have to go to confession before you receive communion unless you have committed such serious sins that they need to be confessed. (Still, even ... if it is not necessary to go to confession before each communion, it is very helpful to confess with a certain regularity. It is true: Our sins are always the same, but we clean our homes, our rooms, at least once a week even if the dirt is always the same ... otherwise, the dirt might not be seen but it builds up. Something similar can be said about my soul ... if I never go to confession, my soul is neglected and in the end, I am always pleased with myself and no longer understand that I must work hard to improve...”

Q. “In this silence [of non-belief], where is God?”

A. “There was a very intelligent woman who was not a Christian. She began to listen to the great music of Bach, Handel and Mozart. She was fascinated and said one day, ‘I must find the source of this beauty’ and the woman converted to Christianity, to the Catholic faith, because she had discovered that this beauty has a source, and the source is the presence of Christ in hearts — it is the revelation of Christ in this world ... Christ came to create a network of communion in the world, where all together we might carry one another and thus help one another find the ways that lead to life, and to understand that the commandments of God are not limits to our freedom but the paths that guide us to the other, toward the fullness of life.”

A master-teacher who seeks to bring his student to friendships with Jesus, that is Benedict XVI. His answers to the basic questions of Christian faith and practice are very much worth pondering.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.

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Buenas Noticias...

...Ordenaciones

El Jueves 5 de Junio, uno de nuestros santos de la Arquidiócesis, el Obispo E. Anthony Taylor, se ordenó sacerdote en la ciudad de Little Rock, Arkansas. Su ordenación se realizó en el Templo de Little Rock. Su ordenación es una bendición para todos los fieles de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma. El Padre Romero es uno de los santos que se conmemoran el mismo día.

Sanctos Orígenes. La ordenación de un sacerdote, mediante la imposición de manos, es una señal de la con-ciencia. En el caso de la Orden de Obispo, Sacerdote y Diácono, estas tres vocaciones son esenciales para la vida de una comunidad. El sacerdote es la voz de Cristo en el mundo, y el diácono es la mano que realiza la obra de Dios.

Una invitación muy personal del Padre Michael Chapman

Todas están invitadas al carnaval de la Iglesia de los Santos Ángeles

Por M. Yanes
Sacerdote
OKLAHOMA CITY — Existe poco conocimiento en algunas personas sobre cómo se financia la obra evangelizadora de la parroquia de los Santos Ángeles. Desde hace algunos años, esta parroquia ha logrado que sus miembros donen con generosidad de dinero para los niños y jóvenes de la parroquia. Este esfuerzo ha logrado que el carnaval de la parroquia sea una realización de éxito.

El carnaval de los Santos Ángeles es una tradición muy antigua en la parroquia de Oklahoma City. Cada año, la parroquia organiza diferentes actividades para motivar a los niños a participar en la celebración. Este año, la parroquia ha decidido organizar un carnaval para celebrar la vida de los Santos Ángeles.

Los niños y jóvenes de la parroquia están encantados con la idea de un carnaval para celebrar la vida de los Santos Ángeles. El carnaval será el sábado 1 de junio, desde las diez de la noche hasta las cuatro de la madrugada. El carnaval será una gran actividad para los niños y jóvenes de la parroquia. La parroquia ha decidido organizar diferentes actividades para celebrar la vida de los Santos Ángeles.

A pesar de la crisis actual, la parroquia ha logrado organizar un carnaval para celebrar la vida de los Santos Ángeles. El carnaval será una gran oportunidad para que los niños y jóvenes de la parroquia se diviertan y reconozcan la importancia de la vida de los Santos Ángeles.
Conversando con el abogado Richard Klinge de Caridades Católicas

Hay que promover una mayor armonía y tolerancia hacia los inmigrantes

Por Mauro Yénes
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La comunidad inmigrante de origen hispano ha experimentado un incremento en Oklahoma en los últimos años (se según el Congreso de los Estados Unidos). Este ritmo de crecimiento, ha traido como consecuencia que los hispanos sean la minoría con el crecimiento más rápido en este estado.

Hay que reconocer que la inmensa mayoría de los inmigrantes que vienen a Oklahoma son personas con cresidas y comportamiento ético. Trasladándose la teoría en una exploración de los valores culturales de esta sociedad. No obstante a todos los casos que vienen a Oklahoma, hay pocas personas, quizás con algo de poder, que se empeñan en realizar lo negativo del fenómeno inmigrante, derivando el buen sentir de los inmigrantes con pequeños, al punto que lo que hacen es incentivar el más por la xenofobia.

Pese a que las autoridades de Oklahoma aumentaron los controles en el estado en busca de minimizar el flujo de inmigrantes con la ley HE 1804, Oklahoma continuará siendo un destino de inmigrantes y ello mostrará la realidad del sentimiento de población, que han sido actualizados recientemente y la realidad se puede palpar con los ojos.

Para el abogado Richard Klinge, quien es el director de arquitectos legales de las Caridades Católicas de Oklahoma City, como católicos debemos velar y garantizar la aplicación de la justicia social en las iglesias Católicas presbíteras, asignándole de esta manera que se tomen y protejan los derechos humanos de los inmigrantes y sus familias en Oklahoma. Según el abogado Klinge hay que eliminar los actos de racismo y xenofobia importantes en algunas ciudades, los cuales van en aumento en distintas sectores de la sociedad de Oklahoma.

El abogado Richard Klinge contestó las siguientes preguntas de gran interés colectivo:

¿Qué piensa usted de la situación que están viviendo los inmigrantes con la aplicación de la ley anti-inmigrante HE 1804?

La ley tiene un impacto

- ¿Qué debería esperar los inmigrantes al 1 de julio?

- Ése es un tema en que la autoridad de la comunidad en Oklahoma y las iglesias Católicas tienen una responsabilidad de garantizar que la ley HE 1804 no se interprete de manera incorrecta. La ley HE 1804 no es una ley antinmigrante, sino una ley de control de inmigración. La ley HE 1804 es una ley que busca proteger a los ciudadanos de Oklahoma y otros estados de la inmigración ilegal. La ley HE 1804 no debería ser interpretada de manera que se niegue acceso a los servicios médicos, educativos o laborales a personas que no sean ciudadanos de Estados Unidos.

- ¿Qué esperan tus inmigrantes en Oklahoma en estos momentos?

- Es un momento difícil para los latinoamericanos y otras comunidades culturales en Oklahoma. Es importante que los inmigrantes se mantengan unidos y trabajen juntos para encontrar soluciones que sean justas y beneficiosas para todos. La ley HE 1804 no deberá ser interpretada de manera que se niegue acceso a los servicios médicos, educativos o laborales a personas que no sean ciudadanos de Estados Unidos. La ley HE 1804 debe ser interpretada de manera que se respeten los derechos humanos de todos los ciudadanos de Estados Unidos.
Part-time Business Manager
Saint Thomas More University Parish is seeking a part-time business manager to coordinate the functions and operations of the parish office and its ministries. Hours are flexible with the possibility of full-time work in the future. Send resume and letter of application to Office Manager Position, St. Thomas More University Parish, 100 E. Stinson Street, Norman, Okla. 73072. Arrange to have two letters of recommendation sent to the same address. For information, contact Gloria Olivero, Parish Secretary, at (405) 321-0990 Ext. 200, or at glory@sttmou.org.

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

Swimming Instructor
Villa Teresa School, located at 1216 Classen Drive, is in need of a swimming instructor for the summer program that starts June 2. Applicants must be certified as lifeguard and water safety instructor. Call Sister Veronica at 232-7926.

Middle School Math and Computer Teacher
St. Philip Neri School in Midwest City is seeking a math and computer teacher for the middle school with state certification for school year 2008-2009. Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Bette Novak at (405) 732-7823 or e-mail to bnovak@spnok.org.

Teacher Openings
St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. A position is available for a full-time middle school level homeroom teacher who is qualified/certified to teach a combination of science, social studies and possibly religion for students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Applicants for this position must be certified in the state of Oklahoma. Another position is available for a part-time art teacher for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Call the school office at (405) 354-2509 for an application or send a copy of your current Oklahoma teaching certificate and resume to Diane Floyd, St. John Nepomuk Catholic School, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Okla. 73099.

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

Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Okla. 73099.

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

High School Coach Openings
Mount St. Mary High School, Oklahoma City, is seeking qualified candidates for the following coaching and teaching positions for the 2008-09 school year: head volleyball coach, assistant volleyball coach, assistant girls basketball coach, assistant football coach, head boys soccer coach, head girls soccer coach and head track coach. Teaching fields are: Advanced Spanish, Math, Latin (part time), French (part time), Art (part time), and Girls Physical Education (part time). Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegrI at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenen@mountetmary.org. EOY.

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

Part-time Teacher Openings
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City has the following openings for the 2008-2009 school year: Part-time Title I reading teacher — Oklahoma teaching certification required. Part-time music teacher — teaching certification not required. Part-time art teacher — teaching certification not required. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send resume to Joana Camacho, SHSCS, 2700 S. Shartel, Oklahoma City 73109.

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

Early Childhood Teacher
Villa Teresa School in Oklahoma City has an opening for the 2008-09 school year for 2 1/2-year-olds. Applicants must have an associate's degree in early childhood or child development. Send resumes to Villa Teresa School, 1216 Classen Drive, Oklahoma City 73103, or call Sister Veronica Higgins for an interview, 232-4286.

Part-Time Music Teacher
Bishop John Carroll is seeking a dynamic part-time music teacher for the 2008-2009 school year.

Applicant must be enthusiastic and willing to motivate students to do their personal best and have the ability to work with the director of music at the Cathedral for school Mass. Liturgy planning and basic liturgy skills would be helpful. Contact Connie Dotti at (405) 525-0856 or fax resume to (405) 529-3055.

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

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

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

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

26 Annual Memorial Day Mass at St. Patrick Cemetery at 10 a.m., located one-half mile west of Council Road on Sorghum Mill Road. A potluck luncheon will follow. Bring lawns chair for sitting, 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.

28 Lay Missionaries of Charity (LMC) to meet. Come and see who we are and what we do. An informational meeting will be held at St. Monica Parish, Edmond. Mass will begin at 5:30 in the chapel followed by the Rosary. Meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 in St. Stephen Room. For more information, call Toni Harrelson at 341-2199.

JUNE

2 Rev. James Knight Memorial Golf Tournament at Boiling Springs Golf Course, Woodward.

30 Golf Tournament by May 27. Call the parish office at 751-7115. Proceeds to benefit St. Peter’s Scholarship Fund. Format: Four-person scramble, shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is $50 per person/$200 per team, checks payable to St. Peter’s Scholarship Fund. Format: Four-person scramble, shotgun start at 10 a.m. Proceed to benefit St. Peter’s Scholarship Fund. Format: Four-person scramble, shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is $50 per person/$200 per team, checks payable to St. Peter’s Scholarship Fund.

A Memorable Past, A Glorious Future, St. Eugene Parish Celebrates 50 Years

OKLAHOMA CITY — In June 1958, Bishop Victor Reed made the announcement that a new parish was to be formed in northwest Oklahoma City. The parishioners would come from Christ the King Church in Nichols Hills. Anyone living north of Britton Road would become members of St. Eugene Catholic Church, named in honor of the late Bishop Eugene Jacobi with associate Bill Ross, brother to the founding pastor. In many ways St. Eugene is a microcosm of the universal church today: Its strength lies within its diversity … so evident that for the past decade, A Festival of the Americas has been held annually. More than 20 different ethnic groups are present within the parish. Within the past few years a reorganization of church leadership has developed to meet the needs of the now more than 1,500 families. All of the ministries (over 60) fall under one of five commissions: Worship addressing the liturgy, liturgical ministers and prayer experiences; Education/Formation covering adult formation, young adult ministry and the school; Community Life, where social events are planned and various community groups are formed serving the large and diverse congregation; and administration, which handles the building and grounds, stewardship and financing. During the past year plans have been drawn up for a new church building and the parish hopes to begin a capital campaign for this project later this year.

A golden anniversary celebratory weekend is planned from May 30 to June 2.

May 30: Dinner for founding members, former priests, religious and parish staff.

May 31: A parish picnic will be held from 6 to 9 p.m.

June 1: An outdoor Mass at 10 a.m. will be concelebrated by several priests who have served at St. Eugene over the past 50 years. It will be the only Mass for the day.

June 2: “Feast of St. Eugene.” Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in the church with Archbishop Beltran presiding and priests of the Archdiocese concelebrating.

On the evening of Sept 20, there will be a formal dinner celebration at the Beacon Club in downtown Oklahoma City. For more information, call the parish office at 751-7115.
An Appetite for Faith
Parish Cooks Serve Dinners to Go
In Effort to Build New Church

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Every Saturday after Mass and three times after Sunday Mass, the parishioners at St. Andrew Dung-Lac sell carry-out Vietnamese dinners.

It's just one of the ways the parish could afford to buy 11 acres of land at Southwest 59th and Independence, the site of their new church.

Since Easter of 2007, St. Andrew Dung-Lac parishioners have been donating money and raising money to buy the land and pay for a new 600-seat church.

“We've been here for over 10 years and we don't have enough seats for Mass,” said Father Dominic Hoang.

“Right now we have about 650 families. We have a Saturday Mass and three Masses on Sunday. That's why we started looking for a larger place,” he said.

On May 11, the parish held a groundbreaking ceremony for the future church.

Bang Ngo, parish chairman and chairman of the building committee, said some 1,000 people attended the ceremony. Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass outdoors, at the site where the new church will be built.

“We are all very excited,” Ngo said.

Ngo said the parish has raised $1.7 million since it started its fundraising efforts, but will need about twice that much to complete all the work on the new church.

“The land, the church, a new parish office and a rectory could cost up to $4.5 million,” Ngo said.

Work on the new church should start this summer and will be completed in two phases.

The project is expected to be completed in 2010.

“Our people are very generous,” Ngo said.

“None of this would be possible without Archbishop Beltran. He’s the one who approved and supported us. We couldn’t have done this without him,” Ngo said.

Ngo said if the parish raises enough money to complete all the plans on the church property, it plans to keep the parish property at 3000 S.W. 55th Street.

Hoang Le holds his son, Jaden Boo Hoang Le, during the celebration of Mass.

Saint Andrew parishioner Hong Ngo carries a platter of watermelon for the picnic celebrating the groundbreaking. Photos/Rex Hogan