Catholic Lawmaker Stood Against Pro-Abortion Pressure

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rebecca Hamilton is a state lawmaker who represents an area on the south side of Oklahoma City. It’s a diverse area made up of many cultures with just as many needs. Hamilton does her best to represent the different people and their different needs. She’s known as someone who is willing to stand up for what she believes. Or in her words, “for doing what it is I think God wants me to do.”

It was that quality that recently brought her words of thanks but even more words of condemnation. Hamilton was the only Catholic Democrat in the House of Representatives to support Senate Bill 139. The pro-life legislation was approved by both the Senate and the House and forwarded to Gov. Brad Henry. Earlier this legislative session, Henry vetoed SB 714, a pro-life bill. Twice attempts in the Senate to override that veto fell short by one vote. As of press time, the governor had not taken action on this latest pro-life effort.

According to those watching from the gallery, Hamilton deserves much credit that such an effort is even possible. Tony Lauinger, executive director of Oklahomans For Life Inc., called Hamilton “the heroine” of SB 139. He described her as “a wonderful example and a burden to other Democrats.”

“Catholic Charities is one of the few, if not the only, religious charities that uses taxpayer money,” Terry said.

In fact, many religious organizations rely on local, state and federal grants to provide benefits. Those grants would be covered as “taxpayer money” according to the new law.

Archbishop Beltran issued a statement in March this year, saying that the Catholic Church has not relied on federal money at any time during his tenure, and Linda Koenig, the associate director of administration for Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City, confirmed that her organization got very little funding from tax revenues.

“We have received money the past three calendar years to conduct an education program about anti-discrimination in employment practices,” Koenig said. “The grant was funded through a grant proposal written in conjunction with a Department of Justice program. It totaled $2,600 in 2005 and I believe the amount is $4,500 for 2007.”

A program of that sort would not fall under the provisions of the new law. However, any program that received funds through President Bush’s Faith-Based and Community Initiatives program could conceivably be in danger of criminal culpability, depending on which services they provide.

Application of the new law will rely on the individual interpretations of district attorneys and on what Terrill called “the reasoned application of case law by judges.” That spells uncertainty for what the law means in practice, and Oklahomans probably won’t know anything about the legal ramifications until arrests are made after the law takes effect on Nov. 1, 2007.

Father Michael Chapman of Holy Angels Church in Oklahoma City is concerned that despite the lack of funding to enforce the provisions, the new law represents a more troubling attitude in the country.

“This law represents an attitude that borders on cultural prejudice,” he said. “It sets up a system that will make people skittish because of someone’s accent.”

Could State Immigration Law Send Church Workers to Jail?

By Greg Horton
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gov. Brad Henry’s signature on the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007 on May 8 has left churches and charities with some uncertainty regarding benevolent services.

Among other activities, the law criminalizes harboring, transporting, concealing or assisting undocumented aliens “in furtherance of the presence of the illegal alien in the United States.” State Rep. Randy Terrill (R-Moore), the author of HB 1804, said the law is not designed to target churches and charities that provide short-term emergency and benevolent aid, such as food, clothing and transportation for emergency medical treatment.

According to Terrill, the law is targeted at employers who knowingly hire and transport undocumented aliens, as well as at individuals and organizations that provide shelter and aid for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of the recipients’ illegal status. Additionally, Terrill said the law targeted any agency that uses taxpayer funds to provide benefits: education, health care, housing and basic subsistence.

“A private charity using private funds is exempted in the law,” Terrill said, referring to Section 8-C-5 of the new law. Terrill said organizations like Catholic Charities would be affected by the law, though.

“Catholic Charities is one of the few, if not the only, religious charities that uses taxpayer money,” Terrill said.

In fact, many religious organizations rely on local, state and federal grants to provide benefits. Those grants would be covered as “taxpayer money” according to the new law.

Archbishop Beltran issued a statement in March this year, saying
The Good News

...Saint Katharine Drexel

One of my favorite saints is Saint Katharine Drexel. Although I never personally met her, I was told about her in 1952 in my first year of seminar studies. My bishop sent me to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary which was located in west Philadelphia. Katharine Drexel was then living in retirement at her convent just north of the city. All of our professors knew Katharine Drexel and spoke highly of her on many occasions.

Katherine (she changed the spelling of her name when she entered the convent) was born into the wealthy Drexel family in Philadelphia on Nov. 26, 1858. She died in 1955 at the age of 96. Well educated and accepted into the exclusive society of her day, so greatly gave it all up. This included the vast financial heritage she inherited. She gave up fame, fortune and ease for the love of Jesus. She gave it all away and dedicated herself to the Gospel. She reached out personally and through the religious community she established to correct the rampant injustices perpetrated against American Indian and African American people.

Katharine Drexel's dedication originally centered on her sincere concern for the Indian people of our country. She recognized that government inertia or bad faith was depriving them of the opportunity to hear the Gospel and practice the Christian faith freely. Shortly after establishing her religious community to confront this evil social condition, she also recognized the plight of the African Americans in our country.

She saw the Gospel and education as essential elements to correct the grave injustices of the society of her day. Thus she undertook to establish schools and a university to educate those who were being discriminated against because of their ethnic and cultural heritage.

The story of the mission of Katharine Drexel is an important part of the history of the Church here in Oklahoma. The many schools and institutions she opened here were the prelude to the growth and success of the Church in Oklahoma over the past 100 years. Her great undertaking while benefiting the Church throughout the United States did not stop there. Her vision and efforts are an important part of our national history. Our civil society still reaps the benefits of the dedication and mission of Katharine Drexel. It was she who, through faith and education, prepared our country to make the changes in law and the life of the civil rights movement. Many of the great leaders in the African American and American Indian movements of the 60s were students and graduates of Katharine Drexel's schools and university.

While Katharine Drexel made such a distinctive contribution to American history, she went about it quietly. She avoided fanfare and fame. She saw a cause where justice was needed and she supported it. She recognized that this cause is the cause of Jesus Christ expressed in the Beatitudes. She thus served God first and her brothers and sisters in need. Her mission and her contribution were total and complete. She lived and practiced the Great Commandment of love. She gave away all that she had and kept nothing for herself.

Another Round for Catholic Education

CFO Golf Classic June 11

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

There is a shotgun start at noon with wine and cheese for spouses at 3:30 p.m. Dinner will follow tournament play. Participants could win the Archbishop’s Traveling Trophy or a Pontiac Solstice from Rick Jones Pontiac-Buick-GMC for a hole-in-one. Numerous other contest awards and auction items will be available.

Join us for a day of fellowship and competition. All proceeds go to the Catholic Schools Endowment. Brochures and entry forms are available in your parish office or by contacting the Catholic Foundation at (405) 721-4115.

Pastoral Musician’s Scholarship Offered

The Catholic Foundation is pleased to announce the formation of the Bob Little Pastoral Musician’s Scholarship.

The scholarship will provide a $1,000 award annually to a student from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City pursuing a degree in pastoral music. Plans are in place to increase the award amount and number of scholarships in subsequent years as demand warrants. The scholarship will be renewable annually for up to four years, and can be applied to either tuition, books or applied music fees.

Bob Little of Hinton said he established the Pastoral Musician’s Scholarship because “fewer and fewer people are showing an interest in music ministries,” and said he “hopes to encourage students to consider the field of pastoral music by establishing

Sooner Catholic

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Priest Made Case for Governor to Veto Immigration Measure

EDITOR’S NOTE: On May 4, Father Edward J. Weisenburger, V.G., was in a group that met with a representative of Gov. Brad Henry to discuss immigration issues. Father Weisenburger left this written statement with the governor's representative. On May 8, Gov. Henry signed House Bill 1804 into law. Below is Father Weisenburger’s statement.

House Bill 1804

Following careful study and consideration of House Bill 1804, one cannot help but realize that the legislation is gravely flawed and contrary to Christian teachings and practice.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not simply invite us to reach out to the sick, the outcast, the suffering and the dying — it requires and demands that we do so in the name of our Savior. We are called and required to respond to those in need regardless of their race, religion or — as in the case at hand — their documented immigration status. If HB 1804 becomes law, then it will not merely be a misdemeanor for a priest, lay minister or volunteer to transport an undocumented abused woman to a shelter, but will make it a felony! Other similar activities call for the same punishment. It would seem that the only alternative, according to HB 1804, would be for ministers, church employees and volunteers to try to verify the immigration status of persons approaching us with critical needs before we offer help. Not only is such an investigation entirely contrary to our gospel values but it is likewise a hopelessly unrealistic expectation for persons untrained in the complexities of immigration law. It would seem that the real goal of the legislation is to intimidate and frighten Christian people into abandoning our own ethic.

The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are filled with examples of reluctant prophets. Many had no personal desire to speak out against injustice, hatred or the abandonment of God’s demands of His people. But choosing to be ever faithful to their God, and oftentimes in spite of the consequences, they did indeed speak the truth and walked in the ways of their God. I am quite certain that a great many Roman Catholic priests, lay ministers and volunteers will not be cowed by the threats of this flawed and sinful legislation. If we must, then we will be prophetic by continuing to live the Gospel of Jesus. We will reach out to those in desperate need, regardless of their immigration status, by continuing to transport abused women to shelters. Likewise, we will continue to transport hungry persons, including infants and small children, to food pantries and emergency shelters. And if forced to do so, then we will be prophetic by accepting the consequences of our state’s persecution of this essential teaching of Christianity.

Beyond our religious beliefs, HB 1804 is badly flawed in a great many ways readily grasped by thoughtful persons of every creed and ethic. The bill accepts numerous allegations as truth which are actually myth. For instance, it alleges that undocumented persons are annually receiving millions of dollars in state benefits for which they are not entitled. Howard Hendrick, director of DHS, asserts this to be entirely untrue. The legislation further indicates that undocumented immigrants are adding substantially to violent crime. An official with Oklahoma’s Department of Corrections states that less than 2 percent of persons incarcerated for violent crimes in Oklahoma are undocumented immigrants. Too, HB 1804 implies that it will prevent illegal immigrants from obtaining driver’s licenses. The truth is that the Department of Public Safety already verifies residency status before granting driver’s licenses. If there are forged identification cards being issued to undocumented immigrants, then they are not coming from our state agencies. Moreover, HB 1804 does not even address the trafficking of forged documents! The legislation then places a gravely undue hardship on state and local law enforcement officials who lack the time, resources or expertise to act as local agents of the federal immigration police.

Ultimately, HB 1804 is a blend of elements which are already federal law (and thereby don’t need to be repeated), language which is inflammatory and punitive against immigrants, onerous obligations on already overworked state and local law enforcement agencies, and intimidation against people of Faith who wish to live out their Gospel commitment. It capitulates to misinformation and misguided fears.

Regardless of the popularity or consequences, the only ethical response from our State’s highest leader is a firm veto.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Vicar General
Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Church Workers — continued from page 1

Father Chapman said the new law creates problems for local law enforcement as well. “If you’re sheriff in Caddo County, you don’t have the space to incarcerate foreign nationals. Obviously, if other states enact this sort of legislation, the available money would decrease.”

The question of funding to enforce the law has been asked repeatedly over the past several months, and Terrill has continued to insist that the law will “save more money than it costs.”

“Space for incarceration is an issue,” Terrill said, “but we’re looking at alternatives. Small municipalities will feel the burden but there are federal funds available to reimburse towns and counties for incarcerating foreign nationals. Obviously, if other states enact this sort of legislation, the available money would decrease.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a campaign to address the type of restrictive immigration reform that is now the law in Oklahoma. Called “Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope,” the campaign is meant to address the attitudes of Catholics in a post-911 world. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a consultant to the USCCB, said, “We acknowledge that the current negative environment towards immigrants is due, in part, to the horrific attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which have had a profound impact on our nation,” the cardinal said. “Let us not give into the temptation to scapegoat all immigrants who come to our land — and who contribute their God-given talent to our communities...”

Terrill is reluctant to discuss specific scenarios, saying, “I’m interested in listening to rational concerns, not fears about these things that aren’t so. However, if there are problems with the law, I want to know about it.”

Father Chapman said he believes that Terrill is correct about the law’s impact on charities. “All I know is what I’ve heard and read, and it seems the law is concerned with cutting off public funds for illegal immigrants.”

If there are negative repercussions to the law, Father Chapman said it will be important for young Hispanics to get involved in the public sector. “We need eligible voters to get registered,” he said. “There has been a 35 percent increase in the Hispanic population in Oklahoma City over the past 10 years. We need people to sign up to vote.”

Pat Fennell, executive director of the Latino Community Development Agency, agrees. “We have the numbers,” she said. “We have to get people signed up and voting. The sad thing is that politicians will continue to create this kind of legislation until the Latino population starts making them accountable.”

Back for a Second Helping

Chew on This

OKLAHOMA CITY — On June 2 at 6 p.m., the Religious Education Board of Our Lady’s Cathedral will continue the speaker series that can literally be described as food for thought. Appropriately titled “Chew On This,” the series, held in the Connor Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, will also include food (bring your favorite dish to share) and beverages. The March speaker’s topic, “Social Justice,” left the audience hungry for more. Our next installment promises to be an even more enticing dialogue on the Old Testament by Father Edward Weisenburger.


Saturday, June 30: Judy Reilly, “Celebrating Our Lady of Perpetual Help.”

Saturday, Aug. 18: Archbishop Beltran, “What It Means to be a Catholic.”

For more information, contact Faith Reilly at 523-3057.
Eucharistic Procession Celebrated at Conception Seminary College

By Jarrod Thome
Conception Seminary

CONCEPTION, Mo. — Every year, on the fourth Sunday of Easter, we not only celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday but also “World Day of Prayer for Vocations.” Established by Pope Paul VI in 1963, this year marks its 44th anniversary, and the Conception Seminary College Knights of Columbus (Council 13750) marked the occasion by organizing a two-mile Eucharistic procession.

The event was a definite success, bringing a crowd of around 200 faithful together on a beautiful spring afternoon. The procession started at 1 p.m. in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and ended at nearby St. Columbia Parish in Conception Junction. The procession had two scheduled stops for Benediction and, in between, those involved recited the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the luminous mysteries of the rosary. Additionally, traditional Eucharistic hymns — led by the monastic schola and student choir — also added to the beauty of the celebration. While efficiently moving that many people from one point to another is no small task, the event went smoothly and maintained a prayerful and reverent atmosphere due to hard work by the seminarians and detailed organiza-

Bishop Robert Finn of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese, although not able to attend, offered his support through a missive sent to Knight and Conception Seminary College Knights of Columbus. Bishop Cullen, Grand Knight of the Conception Seminary Council and senior from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the event. “It was a beautiful experience that I and my brother seminarians will remember for the rest of our lives. For many of us, this was our first Eucharistic procession.”

It is appropriate that the Knights of Columbus of Conception Seminary chose to coordinate a Eucharistic procession in recognition of this day, since Pope Benedict chose as a theme “The vocation to the service of the Church as communion.” The Church of Christ, a reflection of the mystery of God, has at its heart a call to communion — communion with one another (as there is communion between the members of the Trinity) and communion with God, which is experienced as an innate longing in our human nature, and received as a vocation at baptism. Both of these senses of communion attain deeper meaning through participation in the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. In his message for this day of prayer for vocations, the Holy Father writes, “At the center of every Christian community is the Eucharist, the source and summit of the life of the Church. Whoever places himself at the service of the Gospel, if he lives the Eucharist, makes progress in love of God and neighbor and thus contributes to building the Church as communion.” A Eucharistic procession, as Bishop Finn alluded to, recognizes this reality as it displays reverence for the Real Presence of Christ.

It is exciting to see such a display of devotion from so many people. The fact that it was organized, in large part, by the seminarians who are themselves studying for the priesthood is also edifying as it gives evidence that they are just as concerned with future vocations as they are their own. This display of communion and faith that the “Lord of the harvest” is here among us not only demonstrates that the harvest is plentiful but also that there will be laborers to tend to it.

Priest, Parish Celebrate Anniversary of Ordination

NICOMA PARK — Approximately 300 members of Our Lady of Fatima gathered at the Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center in Choctaw on May 6 to celebrate the golden anniversary of Father Wilbur E. Moore’s ordination to the priesthood.

Father Moore was baptized a Catholic on June 6, 1942, at the age of 13 and ordained a priest by Bishop Eugene McGuinness on May 25, 1957. During these 50 years of priesthood, Father Moore served the flocks of Saint Mary’s Church, Tulsa; Sacred Heart, Alva; Holy Name of Jesus, Chickasha; Saint Joseph Church, Ada, and these last 15 years at Our Lady of Fatima in Nicoma Park.

After a delicious catered dinner, the attendees moved to the auditorium for the evening program. Parishioners opened this portion of the celebration with prayer and singing of the national anthem. Entertainment was provided by St. Gregory’s Spirit and Sole Dance troupe, by the Seraphims (the parish children’s choir) who sang “Day by Day” and “Happy Anniversary,” and by a trio of young girls from the parish who serenaded Father with “Hopelessly Devoted To You.”

A memory book containing parishioners’ memories and pictures of Father was prepared and presented to him. A special video of Father’s life was presented and viewed with misty eyes and enjoyed by all. Finally, a gift in the name of the Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima was presented to Father Moore in appreciation of his many years of service to our church.
Shawnee Parish Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Building

By Alex Lee
St. Benedict Catholic Church

SHAWNEE — Early settlers in Oklahoma were known for their pioneer spirit, tenacity, perseverance and determination to overcome obstacles.

Those same traits may very well describe the character the Benedictine monks exhibited when they first arrived in Oklahoma in the 19th century. So zealous were these missionary priests for the spread of the Gospel and the salvation of souls that they persistently endured hardships of inclement weather, hunger, thirst and numerous other inconveniences they often encountered in their pioneer missionary work.

The Benedictine monks first arrived in what is now Pottawatomie County in Oklahoma in 1875 from the Monastery of Pierre-Qui-Vire in France. Among them were Rev. Isidore Robert and Brother Dominic Lambert, who established Sacred Heart Mission and School, forerunner of present-day Saint Gregory’s University, near Konawa on land donated by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Another young and charismatic Benedictine priest by the name of Felix DeGrasse was instrumental in setting up parishes throughout the Indian Territory. In the early 1980s, DeGrasse began building a church in Shawnee, and the cornerstone was laid and construction of the present Saint Benedict Church began in October 1896 in the same building. The school was separated from the sanctuary during school hours.

In August 1895, DeGrasse purchased lots at the corner of Ninth and Park streets in Shawnee. With the help of enthusiastic parishioners, construction of a new church soon began. The church was built in the style of an auditorium and a parochial school, operated by the Sisters of Mercy, began classes in October 1896 in the same building. The school was separated from the sanctuary during school hours by a curtain. A large pot-bellied stove provided the heat and kerosene lamps furnished the light.

DeGrasse named it Saint Benedict Catholic Church after the founder of the Benedictine Order.

DeGrasse thus became the first pastor of Saint Benedict Church and he later was elected abbot of the Sacred Heart Abbey, now known as Saint Gregory’s Abbey.

In addition to Shawnee, DeGrasse also established parishes in Pawhuska, Guthrie, Ponca City, Perry, Mulhall, Langston and Chandler.

The new parish saw significant growth in its first years and it quickly outgrew the church building. Shortly after 1900, there was much talk of changing the location and building a larger church to accommodate the burgeoning congregation.

The pioneer spirit of the Benedictine monks was again evident when in 1904, Rev. Blaise Haritchabalet obtained a beautiful site on North Kickapoo Street and built a two-story rectory.

On July 29, 1906, the cornerstone of a new brick church was laid and construction of the present edifice began. On May 12, 1907, the first Mass was celebrated in the new Saint Benedict Church and the building was dedicated. Rev. Gregory Gerrer, O.S.B., who returned from art studies in Europe in 1904, set up his art studio in a stone garage attached to the old rectory. His paintings and art collection later started the Mabee-Gerrer Museum located on the campus of Saint Gregory’s University.

Haritchabalet served as pastor of Saint Benedict Parish until 1915 when Saint Gregory’s College (now Saint Gregory’s University) opened and he was appointed its first president.

The red brick building with a cross-topped steeple is still standing at the corner of Kickapoo and Benedict streets after 100 years, with more than 600 families from the northern two-thirds of Pottawatomie County calling it their parish.

The parish commemorated its centennial anniversary on Sunday, May 6, with special celebrations. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at 10 a.m. with Archbishop Eusebius Beltran as the principal celebrant. Beltran was assisted by Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, former associate pastor and current abbot of Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Rev. Maurus Jaeb, current pastor, Rt. Rev. Charles Massoth, retired abbot and former pastor, and Deacon David Schrupp.

During his homily, Archbishop Beltran congratulated past and present parishioners for what they have sacrificed and done for the parish to make it the dynamic faith community it is today.

He also exhorted all parishioners to adhere to the mission statement of the parish, which stated in part to “strive to live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, the Sacraments, the study of His word and the teaching of His Church.”

Following the Mass, a centennial banquet was held at the Benedict Center with Mark Bronson, chairman of the parish council, serving as master of ceremonies. The banquet was attended by more than 300 parishioners. Each guest was given a beautifully produced commemorative color booklet titled “Saint Benedict Catholic Church 100 Years of Worship 1907-2007.” The booklet tells the story of the parish and describes the church’s 23 large stained glass windows, which are valued at $500,000 and listed in the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce’s tour of “Things to See in Shawnee.”

After the centennial banquet, Rev. Charles Massoth delighted those in attendance with his beautiful rendition of “Danny Boy,” “Scarlet Ribbon” and “God Bless America,” which brought the guests to their feet.

In closing, Rev. Jaeb thanked all parishioners for their contribution and stewardship to the parish. “This celebration is all about the past, present and future of Saint Benedict Parish,” Jaeb said. “We are grateful to those who have gone before us in building this church structure for worship 100 years ago and to the present parishioners who help in maintaining this beautiful church for future generations.”
Catholic Social Teachings and the Call for a Just Wage

This is the second in a series of articles on current issues of social justice. These articles, written by Mary Cobb on behalf of the Archdiocesan Commission on Justice and Human Development, will provide information, Catholic Social Teaching and questions for reflection to guide all Catholics in the work for justice.

Jesus emphasized the need to address the plight of the poor. After His ascension, Jesus left us — the Church — to carry on His mission. We have been focusing on the needs of people who earn the current minimum wage of $5.15 per hour. Congress has been working on a minimum wage bill. Increasing the minimum wage is desirable but the proposed bill does not provide a just wage — a wage allows the worker to obtain the essential necessities of adequate housing, food, clothing and health care. Will politicians ever be able to legislate justice within our society? Perhaps we are personally being called to advance Jesus’ call for justice, especially in regards to the poor.

The Church’s social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The depth and richness of this tradition is highlighted in seven key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition. They are:

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person — We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

2. Call to Family, Community and Participation — The God-given institutions of marriage and family are central and serve as foundations of social life. They must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. Beyond the family, every person has a right to participate in the wider society and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all, especially the poor and weak.

3. Rights and Responsibilities — All citizens have a duty to respect human rights and to fulfill their responsibilities to their families, to each other and to the larger society.

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable — The Church calls on all of us to embrace this preferential love of the poor and vulnerable, to embody it in our lives and to work to have it shape public policies and priorities.

5. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers — If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners and managers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to economic initiative and to ownership and private property.

6. Solidarity — As John Paul II said, “We are all really responsible for all.”

7. Care for God’s Creation — Our stewardship of the earth is a kind of participation in God’s act of creating and sustaining the world.

A basic premise of Catholic moral teaching is that each of us must develop a well-formed conscience, which we consult often. Understanding Catholic social teachings is important in conscience formation. When individuals and businesses make decisions based on well-formed consciences, there can be unexpected rewards.

Contrary to popular belief, small businesses can reap benefits from raising their employees’ wages. A few of the unexpected rewards are:

* Loyalty of employees will increase. Workers will be more dedicated to increasing the efficiency of the organization.

* Adequately paid employees do not change jobs frequently; they become more proficient and the company does not have to expend unnecessary resources to train replacement workers.

* It is a fact that lower-income workers spend their salaries locally. When companies increase worker salaries, more money goes into the local economy and the business may also have increased income.

* When companies increase salary rates, they will be called to effectively manage their employees. Professional managers will efficiently train, manage and evaluate their employees and work to remove productivity roadblocks from the workplace.

Employees should be expected to “give a good day’s work for a good day’s pay” but they are not slaves; they should be treated with dignity and respect and be adequately compensated for their labors. I have personally supervised hundreds of employees for AT&T/SW Bell through the years. It is my firm belief that good employees are the key to a successful organization and employees are usually only as good as the managers for whom they work.

Did you know …

* Most waiters and waitresses in Oklahoma make $2.13 an hour. They are required to pay withholding tax on their tips so they typically receive no take-home pay from the restaurant.

* Church employees are usually paid below the standard for comparable skilled positions.

* Anyone (coach, referee, minister, musician, notary public, etc.) receiving monies in conjunction with a service performed is to report all such amounts as income on their income tax return.

In a future article you will learn about an Oklahoma company that decided — on its own — to increase the wages of its employees beyond what is required by law. We will explore why they made this decision and the impact it has had upon their business.

Across Oklahoma

New Mexico Tour Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life will lead a pilgrimage to the religious sites of the Santa Fe area Aug. 24-28. The trip includes round-trip motor coach from Oklahoma City, daily hot breakfast at hotel, admission to all scheduled activities, daily supper while in Santa Fe. Lunches are at individual’s expense. Double occupancy $765 per person; single occupancy $1,060; triple occupancy (two beds) $665 per person; four in one room (two beds) $600 per person. For more information, call (405) 721-5651 Ext. 158.

Fundraiser Under Way

WALTERS — Saint Patrick Catholic Church is hosting a raffle in which the grand prize is a 42-inch HD plasma television. Second-place winner will receive a laptop computer. Drawing will be held July 29 at Saint Patrick Church. Tickets are $5 each or five for $20. All proceeds will be used to help build a new church hall. To enter, send a check to Saint Patrick Church, P.O. Box 608, Fredrick, Okla. 73542. Saint Patrick Church is attended from Saint Helen Church in Fredrick.

Mass Set for Saint Paul

DEL CITY — Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church will host on May 29 Filippo Flores de Mayo at 5:30 with Mass celebrated in Tagalog at 6 p.m. A potluck dinner will follow. All are welcome, and bring flowers for the Blessed Mother Mary.

Mass Time Changed

OKLAHOMA CITY — Effective Sunday, June 3, the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass at Saint Eugene Parish will be changed to 5 p.m.

St. Pat’s Golf Tournament

OKLAHOMA CITY — On June 24, Saint Patrick Church will host a four-person golf scramble at Kickingbird Golf Course. Tee times begin at 12:30 p.m. Entry fee is $75 per person (includes lunch). Contact Joe Allen at 722-5580 or go to www.stpatrickokc.org to obtain an entry form.

Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague

OKLAHOMA CITY — Father Price Oswalt of Epiphany Church will lead a pilgrimage from Aug. 27 to Sept. 6, to Poland and Czechoslovakia. Cost is $2,950 per person and includes two nights in Warsaw, one night in Czestochowa, three nights each in Krakow and Prague. Included are air Oklahoma City, Tulsa and DFW; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 1-888-544-4461.
Memorial Celebrates Life, Death of Homeless Man

OKLAHOMA CITY — Around 40 people attended a memorial service celebrating the life of a homeless Oklahoma City man. The May 8 memorial, coordinated by Sister Barbara Joseph Foley, CST, celebrated the life and death of Steve Beachboard. The 54-year-old man died under an I-40 overpass near the downtown area.

Father Rex Arnold led the memorial, celebrated at the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery. The Catholic cemetery donated services as did Smith & Kernke Funeral Homes.

Father Arnold and Sister Barbara Joseph first came in contact with Beachboard while working with the Hot Dogs for the Homeless ministry. Beachboard was one of the first people the founder of Hot Dogs for the Homeless, Rick Swyden, handed a sack lunch to more than four years ago.

Beachboard was well known to those who work with the homeless of Oklahoma City. He often stayed in the doorway of a building on Sheridan, just east of Classen. The owners of the building eventually fenced off the doorway, forcing the homeless man to take shelter elsewhere.

"Steve touched so many lives and I don't think he ever intended to," Sister Barbara Joseph said. She said she learned of his death when contacted by Smith & Kernke. Sister said a 1987 Florida driver's license and some other identification cards found on him indicated Beachboard's birthday was June 23.

At the memorial service, Father Arnold quoted from Saint Basil: "He who strips a man of his clothes is to be called a thief. Is not he who, when he is able, fails to clothe the naked, worthy of no other title? The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit."

Father Arnold said he appreciated the words of a Nazarene minister who spoke at the memorial service. "He said the Greeks contend the poor are God's ambassadors, placed here to give us the opportunity to do good."

Others who spoke at the service included Chris Engle and Linda Hearn. Music was provided by singers from Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond.

Generous Parishioner Turns Wedding Gowns Into Parish Fundraiser

EL RENO — Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, Sacred Heart Church will hold an unusual fundraiser here on June 2. More than 150 wedding gowns will be on sale in the Sacred Heart gym. The gowns, along with an assortment of bridesmaids dresses and dresses for flower girls and even some tuxedos, will be sold beginning at 7 a.m.

Shanon Eaton, one of the coordinators for the event, said the dresses were donated by a member of the parish who wishes to remain anonymous.

"This is just a wonderful gift to the parish," Eaton said. She said shoppers will find some fantastic bargains. "There are some dresses that would cost from $700 to $800 if they were purchased in a store," Eaton said. Many of those dresses will be sold on June 2 for half that amount, she said.

More than two dozen of the dresses are new, while the others have been rented, but all are in tip top condition, Eaton said. Wedding gowns will start at about $50 and go up to around $400. Eaton said sizes vary and are available up to 22.

The sale is cash only and fitting rooms will be available. Eaton said limited concessions are also being planned. The sale will run until 4 p.m. Dresses and accessories not sold on Saturday will be sold for half price the following day.

Appreciation Dinner Set

MOORE — Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran is among the invited guests for the 2007 Archdiocesan Clergy-Religious Appreciation Dinner, this year being hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 9901.

The event will be held on June 12 in the recently renovated Joyce Center of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Moore. The evening is scheduled to begin with a Social Hour at 6 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 7 p.m.

This annual gathering provides an opportunity for Knights of Columbus councils to honor the clergy and religious of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City with a formal event held in appreciation of their untiring service to the Church and the community.

K of C councils throughout the Archdiocese will be sponsoring their priests, deacons, nuns and seminarians as well as providing additional funds to ensure that clergy and religious not directly supported by them may also attend the event.

Reservations can be made by calling St. Andrew Parish at 790-3334 or K of C Council 9901 Grand Knight, Ray Hulley at 605-7919.
Oklahoma Knights Honored For Service to Church and Fellow Man

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — The thousands of volunteers of the Knights of Columbus certainly don’t provide charitable service thinking about possible awards. Still, the people so honored annually by the State Council cherish the recognition they receive.

Such was the case recently as the Oklahoma State Council of the Knights of Columbus honored many award winners at their annual convention, held in Lawton April 27-29 and hosted by Lawton Council No.1287.

“The Council awards presented at the state convention are true examples of the dedication and service that our brother Knights perform unselfishly,” said state deputy Jose Jimenez. “This year’s award winners will be forwarded to our Supreme office for consideration in our international award selection.”

No council stood out as well as Our Lady of Fatima Council No. 5396 of Nicoma Park. They were awarded with the top three honors including “Knight of the Year,” “Family of the Year” and “Youth of the Year.” The council’s achievements drew praise later that night from Archbishop Beltran during his remarks before hundreds at the convention banquet.

Philip Stramski of Choctaw was given Knight of the Year for his work with the church and community. Philip is a former U.S. Marine and a leader with his church and the Knights. He headed up small faith-based groups for the church and serves on the church board for Our Lady of Fatima Church in Nicoma Park. He also served the council as Grand Knight for three years and now is the district deputy with the Knights. He is a graduate of Mount Saint Mary High School.

Ralph and Florence Gosselin of Midwest City were lauded as Family of the Year for their work with the community and support of the foreign exchange student program. The Gosselins have opened their homes to many foreign exchange students. They ensure that all the children in their care receive proper schooling, after-school activities, medical care and of course, spiritual focus from the church. Florence also supplies community meals for the elderly in her area. Ralph is a Veterans Administration volunteer and heads up Knights of Columbus activities at the OKC VA Hospital. He also worked multiple shifts of a past candy drive to benefit the mentally handicapped.

Kristy Maly of Nicoma Park was awarded Outstanding Youth of the Year. Kristy, 16, has always been one to help when help is needed and generally volunteers without being asked. During summers she donates time to the Nicoma Park Library and youth programs. She also assisted in the painting of the Nicoma Park City Hall and Community Center. Kristy has been very supportive in many Knights and church functions. She is a sophomore at Choctaw High School and works to keep her grades in the top 10 percent of the school.

The Nicoma Park winners also were recognized by Jimenez.

“The winners have an extremely strong conviction to their families, Knights and Church.”

Other awards:

- David Groff of McLoud received the Knights “Al Wheeler” scholarship. He was awarded the $1,000 scholarship for his strong academic record at Saint Gregory’s University. With him were his parents, Michael and Lisa Groff. The Knights also provided recognition to Maree Collins, outstanding junior student, and Jessica Munson, outstanding senior student at Saint Gregory’s.

- Ralph and Florence Gosselin, Family of the Year.

- Jerry Knottingham, Grand Knight of Lawton Knights of Columbus Council No.1287, was given a centennial notification from the Supreme Council. The Lawton Knights started their council 100 years ago.

- Miami Council No.3167 was the Church Activity Award recipient for chapel work there involving 1,024 volunteer hours and $4,500.

- Tulsa Bishop Reed Council No. 5759 was honored for nursing home visits to the elderly at Christmas time. Their work netted them the Community Activity Award.

- District Deputies Tim Lang and Robert Melko were given recognition for helping in the past year to start two new Knights councils in the Tulsa area.

The Knights are a Catholic, fraternal service organization with more than 7,000 members in Oklahoma and 1.7 million internationally. The 102nd Oklahoma State Council convention in Lawton also provided members a chance to socialize and hold business sessions dedicated to several charitable programs of the Knights.

To find out more about the Knights of Columbus in Oklahoma, check out the state Web page at www.okkofc.org.

New Officers Elected - Term Starts July 1

State Deputy Paul Weigl, OKC, St. Eugene
State Secretary David Roewe, Edmond, St. Monica’s
State Treasurer Dan Hogan, Bartlesville, St. John’s
State Advocate Ron Schwarz, Edmond, St. Monica’s
State Warden Bob Melko, Tulsa, St. Thomas More
Archdiocese Celebrates Scouting/Camp Fire Youth

OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Beltran had a big smile for all the young men and women from across the archdiocese who gathered at the Catholic Pastoral Center for the annual Mass celebrated for the members of Scouts and Camp Fire. The April 22 gathering also featured a reception and awards assembly.

Father Mike Wheelahan, chaplain and adviser to the Archdiocesan Scouting program, and Sandi McGivney, archdiocesan chair for the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, were in attendance. Each youth is recognized at the Mass.

Youth earn awards and recognition by completing age-appropriate activities designed to strengthen and solidify their relationship with Jesus Christ. Each is recognized with a medal designed specifically for the program, a certificate signed by the archbishop and uniform emblem.

The Mass is organized by Nancy Housh, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth, and Annette Guillote, also of the Youth Office. They prepare letters and certificates for all the youth in addition to the medals the youth earn. Members of the Archdiocesan Committee on Scouting/Camp Fire come together at this Mass to recognize and applaud the Catholic youth.

Scouting/Camp Fire is a ministry taken very seriously by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) members in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Twenty-nine regional and national members sit on the committee that gathers monthly during the school year to plan activities to promote youth involvement in Scouting for the glory of God. Each fall they host an encampment at Our Lady of Guadalupe that focuses on their gifts from God, service projects and how they can continue to grow in their Catholic faith. Chairman McGivney coordinates all of this via the monthly meetings and e-mail with the members of the committee that will orchestrate their various parts with specific age groups. It is a lot of fun for the kids and the adults.

The NCCS offers many other opportunities for Scouting youth and Catholic sponsored troops to earn recognition and grow in their faith. Among these are Unit Awards for growth of Catholic Troops, Rosary Patch Program that promotes learning the rosary and its spiritual benefits, Duty to God Program that encourages youth to explore their many blessings and their duty to serve others, and an International Awareness Activity Award that spotlights acceptance of cultural differences by attending Mass and other Catholic activities spoken in another language.

The programs and retreats put on by the OK NCCS are sponsored by various organizations including the Knights of Columbus and other Catholic friends like Dairy Max. Donations are a vital part of our success in reaching more youth and we are grateful for all those who support our Scouting/Camp Fire efforts monetarily and spiritually, through product donations and in giving of their valuable time.

Please encourage young men and women you know to get involved with Scouting/Camp Fire. The values they teach will lift them up and give them greater confidence in themselves and their faith. Contact your local Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America and Camp Fire Boys and Girls Council for more information.

Concert Dedicates New Saint John Nepomuk Organ

YUKON — On May 6, Father William Novak and Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church blessed and dedicated the new Saint John parish organ. To celebrate, a concert featuring guest organist Edwin Day from Christ the King in Oklahoma City demonstrated the beauty of this instrument.

Saint John music director Robert Noble planned the Sunday afternoon concert featuring Day, the Saint John brass ensemble, the adult choir and bell choir performing pieces selected to showcase the new organ. Following the blessing of the instrument, Day also performed six solo organ works, including Bach’s Prelude and Fugue in D Major and Vierne’s Carillon de Westminster. These six works were selected to highlight one of the new organ’s exceptional features: the Saint John organ can switch among four different styles of intonation to provide an ideal complement for a wide variety of musical compositions. Available performance styles include English Cathedral, American Classic, Neo-Baroque and French Romantic.

The concert ended with a wine and hors d’oeuvres reception in Saint John’s Marian Hall, coordinated by parishioners Kathy and Art Chernak. They were aided by parishioners Lori Ruhl and Nick and Erin Block. The reception celebrated both the concert and the generosity of the many donors who made the church’s purchase of the organ possible.

The Saint John organ is a brand new Allen Renaissance Quantum Q-385 featuring an 80 stop/320 voice, three-manual console. Edmond Music installed the new organ at Saint John’s, and a pipe facade for the front of the church was designed and created by Organ Supply Industries Inc. of Erie, Pa.
Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2007

Aaron Alfonso
OU Scholarship

Mary Anthony
New York University Scholarship

Taylor Ashworth
Salutatorian
Neuman University Full Scholarship

Freddy Baeza
OCCC

Kevin Bohn
Valedictorian
University of Tulsa Full Scholarship

Jacquelyn Boyd
OU Scholarship

David Brown
University of Tulsa Full Scholarship

Sarah Buse
Benedictine College Scholarship

Katie Calder
University of Southern Mississippi

Casey Clendenin
OCCC

Garrett Davis
Work

Rebecca DeClark
Northwestern OSU Scholarship

Alex Denny
OU

Alice Ding
UCO Full Scholarship

Emily Evans
Rose State College

Matthew Fairchild
Air National Guard

Joshua Faw
Work

Andrea Flute
Neuman University Full Scholarship

Melissa Fontenot
Rose State College Scholarship

Ayana Furuta
American University

Marcelo Garcia
OSU/OKC

Kristen Greenley
OU

Steven Grissom
OU Scholarship

David Hapgood
Metro Tech Aviation Campus

Randel Harris
NOC/Stillwater Scholarship

Jennifer Hart
Rose State College

Josh Hartley
UCO Scholarship

Jacob Hernandez
OSU/OKC

Paul Hernandez
OU Scholarship

Corbin Hosler
OCU Full Scholarship

Michael Jaronek
UCO

P. J. Kennedy
Valedictorian
OCU Full Scholarship

Ryan Kilvey
OU Full Scholarship

Taylor Kretchmar
Rose State College Full Scholarship

Nick LaLinde
Work
Mount Saint Mary Senior Class of 2007

Sebastian Lang
OSU

Dustin Liberton
OSU

Martin Lopez
UCO

Brenda Luttrell
Saint Louis University Scholarship

Taylor Martinez
Work

Stephanie Mayhew
UCO Scholarship

Sara McDaniel

Skye Mellow
Christian Brothers University Scholarship

Samantha Mohr
OU Scholarship

Karra Nelson
UCO

Janet Pando
UCO Scholarship

Anthony Patris
U.S. Marine Corps

Jewelle Pena
OU Scholarship

Anna Perez
OU Full Scholarship

Christine Pham
UCO Scholarship

Theresa Pham
OSU Scholarship

Kathryn Pichens
Valedictorian University of Tulsa Full Scholarship

Jonathon Ramirez
Work

Jared Rose
Northern Oklahoma College/Stillwater

Nick Rosser
OSU Full Scholarship

Marie Rossow
OU Full Scholarship

Lucas Schoonover
OSU

Caitlin Schudalla
OU Scholarship

Kathleen Scott
OSU Scholarship

Cece Sever
OU Scholarship

Krysten Smalley
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising College

Nia Stephenson
UCO Scholarship

Rebecca Tagoe
OSU Scholarship

Dace Taylor
UCO Full Scholarship

Kennedy Tolman
OCCC

Adriana Williams
UCO Scholarship

Leann Williams
Business/Trade School

Daniel Winters
OCCC

Jin-ho You
South Korean University

Once a Rocket
Always a Rocket
Onward Rockets!

Clockwise from top: The senior class of Mount Saint Mary High School class of 2007. Valedictorians Kevin Bohn, PJ Kennedye and Kathryn Pickens each addressed the class at graduation. After graduation the senior class took the opportunity to stand together and sing the school’s alma mater song. Julian “Nick” LaLinde being robed by Anthony Patrix. A school tradition, 2007 senior class president Marie Rossov hands off the school flag to 2008 senior class president Liz Armstrong. Nick Rosser being hugged by his mom, Glenda Williams after she robed him at the senior farewell assembly.

Photos Sooner Catholic/Cara Koenig
Above: Brad Southerland and Matt Weigl. Below: Brad Johnson and Kristin Van Horn being robed at the senior farewell assembly. Photos Sooner Catholic/Cara Koenig

Valedictorian Elena Hight receives her medal from Principal David Morton. Photo by Betsy Felton

Salutatorian Andrew Shaffer receives his medal from Principal David Morton. Photo by Betsy Felton

Michelle Hotte, Jill McConnell and Kelly Archer got hung up at the all night after party on the Velcro wall. Photo by Betsy Felton

7 in '07


Girls Cross Country
Boys Track
Football
Girls Tennis
Boys
Girls Golf

In addition, academic state championships were awarded to:

Boys Tennis
Boys Track

An Truong received the Brian Smith Award for overcoming obstacles and having perseverance. When she first came to McGuinness, she could not speak English.

Coach Tom Ward, Class of '65, received the 2007 McGuinness Distinguished Alumni Award. Tom, the oldest of 15 siblings, all graduates of McGuinness, and his wife and four children are also McGuinness graduates. Tom returned to McGuinness as a teacher and coach for 25 years. Pictured are Janet Burke, Tom Ward, Brian Ward and Kevin Ward. Photo by Betsy Felton.
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2007

Peter Alig
OSU
Scholarship

Maria Araujo
U of St. Thomas - Houston Scholarship

Jacob Archer
TCU Scholarship

Kelly Archer
OSU Scholarship

Ryan Bahm
St. Gregory’s Scholarship

Kurt Baldwin
OSU

Taylor Barry
TCU Scholarship

Sarah Beard
OSU

Paul Böer
OU
Scholarship

Ryan Brasses
UCO
Scholarship

Lauren Broen
OU Scholarship

Megan Calvin
OCU Scholarship

Jessica Camp
St. Mary’s College of Notre Dame Scholarship

Brooke Carroll
University of Arkansas

Catherine Chastain
OU Scholarship

Rebecca Cox
OU

Matthew Culkin
College of Wooster
Scholarship

Rose Marie Curiel
OU Scholarship

Jack Daneshmand
UCO

Allison Deaton
Wichita State University

Benjamin Douglas
OU

Johnny Dowds
OU Scholarship

Rory Faherty
OU

Maria Araujo
U of St. Thomas - Houston Scholarship

Ryan Brasses
UCO
Scholarship

Lauren Broen
OU Scholarship

Megan Calvin
OCU Scholarship

Jessica Camp
St. Mary’s College of Notre Dame Scholarship

Brooke Carroll
University of Arkansas

Catherine Chastain
OU Scholarship

Rebecca Cox
OU

Matthew Culkin
College of Wooster
Scholarship

Rose Marie Curiel
OU Scholarship

Jack Daneshmand
UCO

Allison Deaton
Wichita State University

Benjamin Douglas
OU

Johnny Dowds
OU Scholarship

Rory Faherty
OU

Fiamma Felitch
Undecided

Martin Ferguson
OU
Scholarship

Laura Fowler
OU Scholarship

Alexander Fuller
OSU

Mark Fuller
OSU

Nathan Gardoichi
OCU Scholarship

Hunter Geatz
OCU

Daniel Gillman
University of Dallas Scholarship

Robert Glendening
UCO

Jessica Graham
OSU

Matthew Graves
OU
Scholarship

Forrest Harper
OSU

Kyle Huworth
OSU

Carrie Heitert
OCU

Robert Herritt
OU Scholarship

Rachel Herzig
OSU Scholarship

Elena Hight
Valedictorian
Georgetown Scholarship

Paloma Hinahon
OU

Karalee Hirst
OU Scholarship

Christopher Hoch
OU Scholarship

Jason Hogsett
OSU

Robert Holmboe
OU Scholarship

Hansen Hoss
OU

Michelle Hotte
OSU

Emma Hoode
OSU
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2007

John Hudachko  
OSU

Kaitlyn Hall  
Austin College Scholarship

Claudia Jaramillo  
OU Scholarship

Bradley Johnson  
Undecided

Marianna Johnson  
Columbia University Scholarship

Brianna Joyce  
University of Dallas

Caroline Joyce  
OU

Brian Kelley  
OU

Thomas Kiehl  
Creighton Scholarship

Bruce Klein  
OU

Karoline Knapp  
Undecided

Chelsea Knox  
OU

Joseph Krenger  
Undecided

Ryan Kubat  
OSU Scholarship

Lauren Kubier  
UCO Scholarship

Carter Labarthe  
Northwestern Scholarship

Abigail Lamberti  
University of Tulsa Scholarship

Justin Le  
OSU

Jared Lester  
Purdue

John Lewis  
Conception Seminary College Scholarship

Daniel Leyva  
UCO

David Linden  
OU

Kathryn Lively  
Whitman College Scholarship

Rebecca Lofton  
OU

Lindsay Lucas  
University of Arkansas Scholarship

Anna Mackey  
OU

Stephen Maidt  
OSU

Ryan Martin  
NOC/OSU

Brenton Massey  
OSU Scholarship

Brian Maudie  
University of Missouri

Jill McConnell  
OU Scholarship

Michael McCoy  
OU

Christopher McGarry  
Undecided

Michael McLain  
Colorado School of Mines Scholarship

Sarah Medley  
University of Arkansas

Zachary Mesarick  
OU Scholarship

Scott Mitchell  
UCU

Ricardo Montoya  
OSU Scholarship

Mason Morrow  
OU Scholarship

Kyle Murphy  
OSU

Keenan Murray  
OSU Scholarship

Susan Murray  
OSU Scholarship

Kathleen Neeley  
OSU

Benjamin Nichols  
UCO

Jeremy Onderek  
OSU

Colin Osborne  
OU Scholarship

Evan Ottaviani  
U of Tulsa Scholarship

Steven Perry  
Notre Dame Scholarship
Bishop McGuinness Class of 2007

Paige Pribble
Port Lewis College
Scholarship

Benjamin Reavis
OU

Sloan Remer
UCO

Nicholas Richardson
OU
Scholarship

William Richardson
DePaul University

John Riesenberg
OCU
Scholarship

Joseph Rigazzi
Belmont
University

Bradley Roberts
UCO

Jonathan Roman
OCU
Scholarship

Taylor Ronek
OU

John Roy
OSU

Meredith Salvia
OU
Scholarship

Jacob Schneider
OSU

Jeffrey Semtner
OU

Sangeun Seo
Indiana
University

Andrew Shaffer
Salutatorian
Notre Dame
Scholarship

Allison Shaw
OU

Ansley Sheemaker
FOA Lewis College
Scholarship

John Shields
OU

Jared Smith
OU

Michael Sosanya
OSU

Bradley Southerland
UCO

Matthew Spidell
UCO
Scholarship

Matthew Starr
St. Louis University
Scholarship

Natalie Szczepek
UCO

Gardner Taylor
OSU

Sean Thomasson
UCO

Daniel Thompson
OSU
Scholarship

Kristen Threet
OSU

John Toal
OU

Benjamin Trosper
OSU

An Truong
UCO

Kristin Van Horn
OU
Scholarship

Alejandro Vasquez
OU

Caitlin Vaughan
OU
Scholarship

Clay Vaughan
OU
Scholarship

Tyler Vaughan
OU

Sabrina Wallace
OU
Scholarship

Natasha Watts
USC
Scholarship

Elizabeth Weber
UCO

Jeffrey Weber
OCCC

Matthae Weigl
OCCC

Emily Westerman
OU
Scholarship

Andrew Wilson
OSU
Scholarship

Zachary Wilson
UCO

Kaycee Winkler
OSU

Chase Wise
UCO

Jessica Wood
OU
Scholarship
Tractor Signifies Memories, Dreams

By Candace Krebs
For the Sooner Catholic

In late April, Becky Schnaithman, along with family and friends, watched her son, Travis give his retiring address as outgoing president of the Oklahoma FFA amid a laser show, choir concert and lengthy awards ceremony with tens of thousands filling the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

She shared the momentous evening with her two sisters, including one who had flown in from California especially for the convention. Schnaithman and her sister, Brenda Sidwell, a crop insurance agent from Goltry, both attend Saint Gregory The Great Parish in Enid. Sidwell raised two children who were also very active in the Oklahoma FFA. Son, Brady is now based in Hong Kong and works for RaboBank. A daughter, Bambi, works for Genworth Financial in Orange County, Calif., where she has been named the company’s rookie of the year.

Their other sis, Pam Meyers, has lived in Yorba Linda, Calif., for two decades. She also has a son, who is now 24 and works for Merrill Lynch. Even though growing up in California he was never involved in FFA and 4-H, Meyers says she is thankful every day for the Oklahoma farm background she took with her to the West Coast.

“I'm just so thankful for the strong work ethic I gained,” she said. “It's made me very successful in my career. Especially in California, I feel grounded and responsible — whatever it takes to get the job done.”

The three sisters are all graduates of Oklahoma State University. They were active in 4-H back before girls were allowed to participate in FFA. “We were very active in the farming,” Meyers recalled. “It was a lot of hard work. But we just did what we had to do.”

A tractor made the event especially meaningful for the three women. As an introduction to his going-away speech, Travis rode up to the arena stage on a refurbished 1950 “G” series John Deere tractor that their dad once owned and farmed with.

All three sisters were emotional and enthusiastic about what the tractor represented. “It was my dad's very first tractor and it was the pride and joy of everything he had on the farm,” Becky Schnaithman said. “It’s part of our heritage. My dad would be so thrilled to know his grandson has it.”

Earlier in the year Travis had mentioned wanting to use a tractor as a prop when he gave his farewell address. His grandfather’s old tractor — long retired from farm work and lovingly restored as a collector’s item — was not even in the picture; it had been sold in a farm sale back in 1992. “We bid on it but we didn’t end up with it,” Becky Schnaithman explained.

“We all wanted to keep it but didn't see a need for it at the time,” Sidwell added. “As you grow older, though, those memories really reanimate your life.”

Out of the blue on Feb. 14 — their dad’s birthday, no less — the man who now owned the tractor called and said due to health reasons he needed to sell it. He could have sold it for thousands more to a serious collector, but he gave the sisters the first shot at buying it.

“That was really an inspiration for us girls that we could have something back like that,” Sidwell said. “The other man who wanted it called him a dozen times after that to see if we still wanted that tractor.”

They wanted to pass the tractor on to Travis, and he knew it would be perfect to use during his FFA speech.

When the moment came, no one was more emotional than the tractor’s previous owner, Kenneth Rexroat of Enid, who joined the Schnaithman family for Travis’ final presiding session as leader of the state FFA. Rexroat said there was “no telling” how many trophies and plaques he had won all over Oklahoma at parades and tractor pulls with the machine.

“I'm just so thankful for the strong work ethic I gained,” she said. “It's made me very successful in my career. Especially in California, I feel grounded and responsible — whatever it takes to get the job done.”

The northwest Oklahoma community was founded during the land run that opened the former Indian Territory to settlement.

He is also committed to continuing in production agriculture. The title he chose for his farewell address was “The Power of the Dream.” He talked about not giving up on his own passion for farming. “It's a hard deal,” Rexroat said of the farming life after hearing the talk. “Input costs keep going up. But he's got good thoughts. I don't think I've ever heard a boy give a better talk.”

“He loves it. It’s in his heart,” Becky Schnaithman said of her son’s devotion to farming and raising sheep and cattle at their farm near Garber. She and her husband, Lee also have two younger children who are active in FFA, Carly and Tyler. They took the stage to introduce Travis before his retiring address.

Last summer, Travis added to his skills by spending a week at auctioneering school. During his FFA speech, he conducted a mock bidding session to establish the price of a tractor made the event especially meaningful for the three women. As an introduction to his going-away speech, Travis rode up to the arena stage on a refurbished 1950 “G” series John Deere tractor that their dad once owned and farmed with.

Across Oklahoma

Saint James to Host VBS
OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint James Parish is holding vacation Bible school for children in grades Pre-K through fourth grade. The school runs from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 25-29. Cost is $15 per child, includes a T-shirt. To register, call Christina Mendoza at 636-6840. Deadline is June 11.

Shea to Speak at Conference
OKLAHOMA CITY — Mark Shea, popular Catholic writer and speaker, will address the Oklahoma Catholic Family Conference on June 23. The conference, to be held at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. An award winning columnist, Shea was raised more or less an agnostic pagan before becoming a non-denominational Evangelical in 1979. In 1987 he converted to Catholicism. The conference is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life and Saint Monica Catholic Church. Contact Jeff Finnell at (405) 255-4343 or e-mail OKCatholicfamily@aol.com for more information.

Golf Tourney Set
MUSTANG — On June 16, the first ever Holy Spirit Golf Tournament will be held. Shotgun start at 8 a.m. The four-person scramble will be played at the Westbury Country Club in Yukon. Entry fee is $65 and includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, range balls, lunch and a raffle ticket. Teams will consist of four members. Deadline for entry is June 8. Tee and green sponsorships are also available. All proceeds will be used to support the construction of our new church. Call Bryan at 376-6944 or go to www.mustangcatholic.com for registration.

Picnic at Saint Eugene's
OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Eugene Church will host a parish picnic from 6 to 9 p.m. June 2. Come to the “Rich in Diversity Yet One in Faith” parish picnic. The picnic will feature a chili cook-off and homemade ice cream creations contest. Games for all ages: bingo, dunk tank, D.J. and face painting.
JMJ: Do We Match Letters With the Way We Live?

Last September, a local parish school was in a tight spot. Their seventh- and eighth-grade language arts teacher had broken a foot and an injured back. “Would you consider subbing for about four, maybe five weeks,” the principal asked. I agreed to help out temporarily, but when health issues prohibited the teacher from returning, the principal said the position was mine if I wanted it.

Just weeks earlier, I had decided I liked being a stay-at-home mom and occasional freelance writer. Indeed, I was quite happy with my little life. A contemplative by nature, I spent my mornings reading and writing and well, contemplating. I did not want to return to the classroom after eight years’ hiatus from teaching, and I certainly didn’t want to take on middle school students in a K-6 setting (my previous experience was in secondary and tertiary instruction).

But by the time I realized the classroom teacher wasn’t coming back, I had become attached to the students. Somewhere along the way, I had become attached to the students and asked them these questions. I never singled out the offender du jour. I suspected they all could benefit from a moment of self-reflection. So I occasionally brought it up for general reflection and made a few comments about the importance of matching our words (both written and spoken) with our actions.

What about me? As the year came to a close, I realized that I had offended Our Lord more than those students who carelessly jotted JMJ at the top of the page and moments later let their eyes roam to a neighbor’s paper or slipped a cheat-sheet from their desks. I had told myself that this year was for them. I was there for them. I loved them so much that I wanted to stay with them for the year and save them from another transition. In truth, I routinely went home and complained to my husband about how much our lives had changed by the Church, I do know that when I look upon the Corpus, Jesus nailed to the Cross, I am reminded not only that he died for my sins, I am reminded of his suffering, and that I am not above Him, who created me, to suffer in this world less than He, who is not of this world, suffered for me. The image of Christ crucified on the Holy Cross also helps me to remember that to be a true disciple of Christ, one must deny himself and take up his cross. (Mt. 16:24)

The cross without the corpus is just a symbol. It symbolizes that Christ was indeed crucified on the cross, but a cross with the corpus represents much more than just knowing that He died for our sins. It reminds us of our salvation through the cross, the promise of eternal life, and to love more fully as Christ intended for us to do.

My heart did indeed go out to this young man, and the many other men and women that are clueless about the Catholic faith, and why we have our crucifixes, icons, statues and other images of Christ in our Churches and homes. I, for one, am happy that my eyes can gaze upon the Corpus of the Cross and know that my heart is fixed upon my Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

Vicki Gable/DRE
Holy Family
Lawton

Letter

There is a Difference

I am often amazed, but not surprised, when a non-Catholic person makes a statement about the crucifix. Recently two men came to my office to repair the copier. One was a Catholic and one was not. One of our custodians recognized the Catholic man and so the three engaged in conversation, which led to some comments about our church. My ears perked up, and I thought to myself, here is an opportunity to evangelize to the young man that was not a Catholic. I walked over to where they were and invited the young man to come to our services. His honest but uneducated answer was that the reason he does not attend a Catholic church is because we depict Jesus hanging on the cross. My heart sank. The custodian made the comment that all Christian churches have a cross and that story maps could and should be given back as an offering of love.

What I found really offensive, though, was the occasional incident in which a student cheated, and my eyes always went to the JMJ at the top of the student’s page. The cheating seemed to stink like spoiled meat when it was done on a page dedicated to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Yes, even a page of notes on characterizing a crucified Christ and story maps could and should be given back as an offering of love.

I thought it was awesome that my students were doing this small thing for God, too. Dedicate every little thing to Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Yes, even a page of notes on characterizing a crucified Christ and story maps could and should be given back as an offering of love.

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Daily Life Retreat Brings Daily Blessings

I was privileged to be a part of the May 6 closing ceremony for the Retreat In Daily Life, also known as the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. Sixty-nine retreatants shared how the Spiritual Exercises had affected their lives and had moved them toward a closer relationship with God. Tears of joy and gratitude were shed and laughter was frequent, as retreatants shared how their lives had been touched the past seven months. Some of the sharings included: “I now better understand how loved I am,” “I am now more in touch with the person I am becoming,” “I have a much better understanding of how Jesus is working in my life.”

Other sharings included “I now know more about what career change I may want to make,” “I feel so much closer to Jesus and want to be more Christ-like in my life,” “I know I must grieve, and I also know I am to live a life of love,” “I feel so much closer to my God,” “I am more in touch with God’s will versus my will,” and many other deeply spiritual sharings.

The Retreat In Daily Life contributes significantly toward the Spiritual Experiences described above and facilitates one’s moving toward a closer relationship with God in becoming the person one is meant to be. These Spiritual Exercises bring increased clarity and meaning to one’s life and help one experience freedom, peace and happiness.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola spent 20 years in the middle 1500s developing the Spiritual Exercises, in the form of a 30-day intense retreat. His purpose was to help men to internalize the experience of dedicating their lives to Jesus and to discern their desires to join Saint Ignatius’s Society of Jesus. Today, these same Spiritual Exercises are presented in a 30-week Retreat In Daily Life beginning in October and ending in April under the guidance of the Sisters of Benedict at the Red Plains Monastery in Piedmont. The Retreat In Daily Life includes a commitment to one hour a day in prayer, meeting weekly with six to eight other retreatants, and meeting twice a month with a spiritual director.

The Retreat In Daily Life allowed me to slowly and intimately experience over a seven-month period how much God loves me and to discern what is my response in living my life. The seven-month immersion in the Spiritual Exercises allowed me to not only better understand the teachings of Jesus, but to live these teachings in my daily life while going through the exercises.

You may want to consider doing the Spiritual Exercises if you are wanting: To better understand what gifts you possess, and how you may want to spend the rest of your life using your gifts in responding to God’s love for you. To better understand the teachings of Jesus and living a more Christ-like life.

To have a closer, more intimate relationship with a loving God within and better understand and live out God’s will for you.

To learn a way to spiritually discern a calling in your life or to consider making a career or other significant change in your life.

To better know, understand, accept and love the person you are becoming.

The retreat is offered at eight different locations in the Oklahoma City area. You are invited to contact Sister Benedicta Boland, O.S.B., at Red Plains Monastery at 373-4565 or myself at 341-2615 or 359-8539 or jfroehle@swbell.net if you have questions regarding or interest in the retreat.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Joe Froehle has over 16 years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by e-mail at jfroehle@swbell.net.

Spider-Man 3 Weaves Story on Power of Forgiveness

I took my two older boys to see “Spider-Man 3” this past weekend. Watching all that jam-packed action had the same effect on them as would a 2-liter bottle of Coke. After their “sugar high” subsided and they could actually speak, we had some great father-son chats about the movie’s many moral lessons.

I’ve been mulling the moral lessons from “Spider-Man 2” for almost three years now. Doc Ock, the eight-armed supervillain from that installment, was an image of the passions gone wild. When our passions are out of control, humanity — as the movie memorably demonstrated — is on a train bound for destruction. Only Spider-Man, there a Christ-figure sacrificing himself in cruciform, can save us.

Now with the release of Spidey 3, I’ve got lots of new material to draw from with my kids. It’s a multi-layered morality tale. One of the main questions this movie addresses is, “What do we do with the hurt we feel when other people cause us pain?”

“Revenge,” Aunt May tells Peter, “is like a poison. Before you know it, it can turn you into something ugly.” And it does.

When the man who murdered Peter’s uncle escapes from prison, Peter chooses revenge and Spidey’s alter ego emerges, overtaken by black-alien-parasitic goo. These nasty symbiotes, Peter learns from his college professor, bind to their host, and “when they bind they can be hard to unbind.”

It’s very rare to see lust portrayed as something evil in a Hollywood movie. But here, Peter Parker’s lusty prance down main street is a clear indication that he is no longer “your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.” His respect for women has gone out the window. Peter only wises up when he sees how he has wounded his beloved Mary Jane. “I hurt her, Aunt May. I don’t know what to do.” “You start by doing the hardest thing,” she says. “You forgive yourself.”

Peter, in a fit of merciless rage, had already told a fellow photographer who had cheated him out of a job at the Daily Bugle, “You want forgiveness? Get religion.” It was a sign of things to come. Where does Peter go to do battle with that diabolic goop that had overtaken him? To a church — a Catholic church. The cross atop the spire offers Spidey — and the audience — hope. In a grand image of what battling with sin often feels like, Parker breaks free from his oppression with the help of the victorious tones of the church bell. In the next scene, we see Peter washed clean in a (baptismal) shower.

From there on, Peter learns how to forgive himself — and others. For three movies now we’ve been feeling Peter’s rage toward his uncle’s murderer. [Note: If you don’t want to know the ending of the movie, stop reading now.] At the end of this installment, having tried unsuccessfully to avenge his uncle’s death earlier in the movie, Peter faces his uncle’s killer. The killer tries to excuse himself, “I had no choice.” He insists. Peter calmly replies, “We always have a choice.” Then, as the murderer confesses what happened that fateful night, Peter shows compassion and utters those liberating words, “I forgive you.”

The movie ends with this bit of wisdom: “Whatever comes our way, whatever battle, we always have a choice. It’s our choices that make us who we are and we can always choose what’s right.” When others have hurt us, we can always choose forgiveness. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.” (CCC 2843).

In its own way, this is the message of Spider-Man 3: Hurt can be transformed into something positive. Forgiveness is the only path that brings true resolution to our pain. The alternative is to be possessed by the black, parasitic goo of bitterness and revenge. It’s our choice.

Christopher West is a fellow of the Theology of the Body Institute in West Chester, Pa., and lectures worldwide on the subject. His books and other information are available at www.christopherwest.com.
Buenas Noticias...

...Santa Catalina Drexel

Catalina Drexel

Catalina Drexelvio en el Evangelio y en la educación, los esenciales elementos para corregir las graves injusticias de la sociedad

Educó a aquellos que fueron discriminados por su origen étnico y su herencia cultural. La historia de la misión de Catalina Drexel es una parte importante de la historia de la Iglesia en Oklahoma. Hay muchas escuelas e instituciones que ella abrió aquí, lo que contribuyó al crecimiento de nuestra Iglesia en Oklahoma en los últimos cien años. Sus aportes no se limitaron en Oklahoma sino en todo los Estados Unidos, ya que su visión e hazañas son parte de la historia de nuestra nación.

La sociedad civil sigue beneficiándose de la dedicación y misión de Catalina Drexel. Ella, a través de la fe y la educación, preparó a nuestro país para hacer los cambios necesarios en la ley y en la vida de los movimientos que abogan por los derechos civiles. Muchos líderes de las etnias indígenas y de la comunidad afro-ameri-

cana de los años setenta fueron estudiantes y graduados de estas escuelas y de la universidad de Catalina Drexel.

El primer día de octubre del año dos mil, tuvo la bendición de participar y conmemorar junto a Papa Juan Pablo II en la ceremonia de canonización de Santa Catalina Drexel. Ella es mi inspiración desde que inicié mis estudios en el seminario y continué dándome la luz y la alegría de servir a Dios y al pueblo de esta Arquidiócesis.

El 27 de mayo, que es domingo, bendeciré y declararé al Centro de Retiro Santa Catalina Drexel en la ciudad del Ren. Este maravilloso ministerio es aprobado por la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City aprobado por la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y llega preparándose diez años y fue patrocinado por la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de la ciudad del Ren.

El nombre de Santa Catalina Drexel fue seleccionado por un comité para invocar su santidad.

Estoy muy orgullosa y alentada de aceptar esta recomendación de ese comité para declarar al Centro de Retiro Santa Catalina Drexel como nuestro nuevo ministerio al servicio del pueblo de la Iglesia Católica de nuestra Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Habla experto sobre el bien común de la inmigración

El derecho a emigrar, según el pensamiento social católico

California (Zenit.org). El tema de la inmigración ha llenado titulares en Estados Unidos desde que el presidente George Bush propuso una nueva política para los trabajadores temporales.

¿Pero qué papel desempeña el pensamiento social católico en la inmigración? Andrew Yuengert, profesor asociado en la cátedra de economía John y Francis Duggan en el Seaver College de la Universidad de Pepperdine, compartió con Zenit que el derecho a emigrar no es absoluto.

Es, sin embargo, un recordatorio importante de la dignidad de los afectados por las políticas nacionales y es un componente del bien común universal, afirmaba.

¿Qué significa que hay un derecho a emigrar, y por qué existe ese derecho? ¿Cómo se conjuga con la dignidad de la persona humana?

Yuengert: Como he dicho antes, el término derecho viene a recordarnos que tomamos en cuenta el efecto de nuestras políticas en los inmigrantes y como en nuestra pro-

Debemos descubrir este derecho al reflexionar sobre lo que está implicado en la decisión de emigrar. Básicamente se entiende la inmigración a la ligerura. Hay pérdidas reales asociadas a ella: pérdida de la cultura local, pérdida de las conexiones familiares, y vulnerabilidad a la explotación en un mercado de trabajo y en una cultura nueva. Un inmigrante es un ser humano que debe un paro difícil, en ocasiones arriesgado, en la búsqueda de su propio desarrollo. El mismo acto de inmigrar proclama que estos bienes son importantes para él y su familia, que corren riesgo si él no emigra.

Una persona que va más allá de las fronteras nacionales persigue el bienestar de su familia, su propia educación, o quizás huyendo de un peligro físico directo, reclama nuestra solicitud por la dignidad que expresa en su decisión.

¿Tiene ventajas económicas tangibles una política de inmigración abierta?

Yuengert: Las ventajas de la inmigración son similares a las ventajas del libre mercado: Estados Unidos puede sacar plena ventaja de su fortaleza económica - bienes y servicios de alta tecnología - sin tener que prescindir de los bienes hechos con menos trabajo experto.

¿Están los estados moralmente obligados a aceptar a trabajadores inmigrantes? ¿a exactamente cómo pueden equilibrar sus intereses con la población nativa y el bien común?

Yuengert: La segunda cuestión exige la obligación moral del estado. Es obligado equilibrar los intereses de los inmigrantes con su bien común nacional. El equilibrio actual de intereses sugiere la virtualidad de la prudencia - es una difícil decisión, que requiere igual respeto por la dignidad del inmigrante y del nativo.
Son la respuesta adecuada al problema de la inmigración

Caridad, compasión, humanidad, amor y buena voluntad

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Como Católicos, debemos oír mucho por los niños y familiares que están siendo separados por las sorpresivas e inhumanas leyes contra trabajadores inmigrantes que se están ejecutando en el estado de Oklahoma durante los últimos meses. Ahora con la nueva ley de inmigración aprobada recientemente por los legisladores del congreso de Oklahoma, y refrendada por el gobernador de nuestro estado, el panorama no se ve muy alentador para miles de inmigrantes en Oklahoma.

Es lamentable que algunos políticos de Oklahoma en lugar de elaborar leyes justas, compasivas, humanas y equitativas para el bienestar común, hayan elegido el camino de la represión y discriminación hacia un sector de la población de Oklahoma como lo son los indocumentados, lo que trae como consecuencia la violencia, la xenofobia y el desprecio hacia los extranjeros en general.

La nueva ley de inmigración de Oklahoma es muy escabrosa porque no tiene como fundamento los valores morales en los que la sociedad debe guiar los principios de convivencia de nuestras vidas. También está cargada de perversidad porque su aplicación afectará la paz e integridad de la familia e instaurará un régimen de terror hacia los inmigrantes que habitan Oklahoma.

Miles de personas de origen mexicano que viven en nuestro estado están temiendo perder inesperadamente algún ser querido con las actuaciones de la ley. Todo es incomprensible con lo que propone la nueva ley antiinmigrante de Oklahoma. La doctrina Católica defiende la dignidad de todo ser humano. Por lo tanto, cualquier estrategia política que se haga en materia de inmigración debe proteger los derechos humanos y la dignidad de cualquier ser humano sin importar su origen, color de piel, idioma o nacionalidad. Ahora más que nunca, Dios nos hace una llamada a la unidad, a la concordia y a la reconciliación para ayudar a nuestro prójimo, por lo que debemos trabajar duro por la legalización de los trabajadores indocumentados y el respeto a su dignidad humana. Los trabajadores inmigrantes tienen dignidad y derechos humanos que se deben respetar a toda costa.

Ciertas personas culpán a los inmigrantes trabajadores de los problemas sociales de Oklahoma. Es muy fácil e irresponsable castigar a los inmigrantes o excluirlos de la ayuda pública. Es muy fácil decir que los inmigrantes, bien sean legales o indocumentados, hacen trabajos importantes y no menospreciables en sectores de la economía que contribuyen al progreso de Oklahoma. Además aportan diversidad cultural y espiritual muchas otras cosas.

El inmigrante ahora más que nunca requiere de nuestra ayuda. ¡Oremos y estemos a la Heights de nuestra Iglesia Católica!

No es posible dejar a los niños solos ante los medios de comunicación

VATICANO, (ZENIT.org). — No es posible dejar a los niños solos a la mercadearía de los medios de comunicación, asegura Benedicto XVI en viejas de la Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales. Así lo explica el Consejo Pontificio para las Comunicaciones Sociales en un comentario publicado al mensaje que el Papa ha escrito con esta ocasión y que lleva por título: "Los niños y los medios de comunicación social: un reto para la educación."

"El Santo Padre recuerda que los niños no están solos, no deben estar solos ante los estímulos tan atractivos que reciben de los medios y que a veces les lleva a confundir la realidad con la ficción", explica el comentario publicado por el Consejo presidido por el arzobispo John P. Foley.

"Comprendiendo que a veces los operadores de los medios se ven sometidos a intensas presiones comerciales, explica la Santa Sede, sin embargo, entiende a ellos y a los productores a salvaguardar el bien común, a preservar la verdad, a proteger la dignidad humana individual y a promover el respeto por las necesidades de la familia."
Principal Opening  
Bishop John Carroll School in Oklahoma City seeks a principal who will be a faith leader as well as an academic leader. Bishop John Carroll is the parish school of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral. The school serves approximately 185 students of pre-K through grade 8. Must be a practicing Catholic who has a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Applicants should have a minimum of five years teaching experience and a master's degree in a related field of education. Applications and/or further information may be obtained from Sister Catherine Powers, Superintendent of Schools, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123, or call (405) 721-4202.

Registered Nurse  
Catholic Charities seeks a registered nurse to coordinate a Statewide Faith Community Nurse Resource Center. Must have a master's degree in nursing, completed the Parish Nurse Preparation Institute and be currently licensed in the state of Oklahoma. Should have five years management experience and at least seven years of nursing experience. This new position will coordinate a new Statewide Resource Center which will advocate for statewide health issues; develop regional coordinators; assist in the development of a statewide documentation program of data collection; and offer the basic training as well as continuing educational opportunities. Send cover letter and resume to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., OKC 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE.

DRE/Youth Director  
St. Gregory the Great Parish in Enid is seeking an energetic director of Religious Education/ youth director for approximately 25 hours a week. Enthusiasm for children is a must. Send resume to St. Gregory Parish, 1924 W. Willow, Enid 73703.

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

Summer Camp Help Needed  
Saint Eugene Summer Camp is looking for part-time help for its summer camp program. May 28-Aug. 3 (Monday-Friday) from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Need someone who is good with children, responsible and energetic. Must be willing to complete Safe Environment Training and be at least 18 years of age. If interested, call Angela Liddiard or Mary Beth Arwood at 751-7115 Ext. 118.

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

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

Part-Time Teachers  
St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting applications for a part-time vocal music teacher and a part-time middle school math teacher (qualified to teach pre-algebra and algebra) for the 2007-2008 school year. Must be certified by the state of Oklahoma. Interested applicants may send a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Diane Floyd at 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon 73099, or call (405) 354-2509 for more information.

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

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

Elementary Teacher Openings  
Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is accepting applications for elementary and early childhood teachers for the 2007-08 school year. Submit resume and copy of teaching certificate to Jane Wittrock, P.O. Box 485, Okarche 73762, fax (405) 263-9753 or e-mail mjwittrock@holytrinity-ok.org.

Elementary Teacher Openings  
St. Mary's School, Ponca City, is accepting applications for employment for the 2007-2008 school year. Openings include early childhood teacher, part-time pre-algebra/algebra teacher and part-time vocal music teacher. Early childhood certification or subject endorsements required. Send resume and copy of teaching certificate to Shirley Zink at 415 S. Seventh, Ponca City 74601 or call (580) 765-4378 for more information.

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

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

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher  
All Saints Catholic School in Norman is seeking a full-time pre-kindergarten teacher for the 2007-08 school year. Applicants must hold Oklahoma certification in early childhood education. Mail resumes attention to Leslie Schmitt, Principal, at 4001 38th Avenue, N.W., Norman, Okla. 73072, or fax to (405) 447-7227.

High School Coaches/Teachers  
Mount St. Mary Catholic HS (Oklahoma City) is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2007-08 school year: assistant football coach and girls basketball coach, math, science, French and Spanish. Send resume, letter of interest, copy of teaching certificate and references to Talita DeNegr, Mount St. Mary HS, 2801 S. Shartel, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73130. Can also be faxed to (405) 631-9209. For more information, call 405-631-8865 or e-mail at tdene@mountstmary.org.

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

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

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

Music Director  
St. Eugene Church, Oklahoma City, seeks full-time music director to direct traditional, contemporary and children's choirs and supervise cantors. Organ and piano skills necessary. Bilingual skills preferred. Degree in music with experience directing music in a parish setting. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume with three professional references to Rev. Joseph Jacobi, St. Eugene Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, OKC 73120, fax (405) 751-8722, phone (405) 751-7115, e-mail mbrown@stegenes.org.
Catholic Lawmaker

continued from page 1

witness in public life to her Catholic faith.”

After Sen. Jay Paul Gumm, D-Durant, turned control of SB 139 over to Sen. James Williamson, R-Tulsa, it was Hamilton who stepped up to carry it in the House. Hamilton called Gumm and Williamson “truly heroes for the unborn.”

Hamilton said SB 139 “has a long history.” It started as her legislation and its original intent was to create a umbilical cord blood bank in Oklahoma. Following Gov. Henry’s veto of SB 714, lawmakers added language to SB 139 and reintroduced it. The new language made victims of rape and incest eligible for state-funded abortions. Opponents of SB 714 had cited the omission of those two areas as reasons for not supporting the earlier pro-life effort.

Lauinger said Hamilton received intense pressure to not carry the bill. In the end, she said there was no other choice.

“I had prayed about the cord blood bill and had consecrated it to Our Lady the Blessed Virgin,” she said. “When you do that you just have to sit back and wait and see where it leads.”

Hamilton said it’s troubling that issues concerning life generate so much anger and political venom. She also believes more Oklahoma doctors would speak out in favor of pro-life measures if they weren’t “terrified” of what it could do to their professional future.

“The most important thing to me is that I do what I think God wants me to do,” she said. That might mean agreement with her own party on some issues, but what I really am is a Catholic, a Christian, and not a very good one at that.”

Hamilton said on many occasions she has tried to talk with lawmakers about the culture of life and the blessings it would bring if our state vigorously pursued such a culture. She said some lawmakers will listen, but more often they won’t.

“I think we’re like pilots flying bomber jets way up high. We don’t see the human misery our actions cause.”

How your lawmakers voted

OKLAHOMA SENATE

YEAS: 34

Adkins
Armey
Bazne
Billy
Blackwell
Braddock
Coody
Cooksey
Dank
Denney
Derby
DeWitt
Duncan
Ellis
Enns
Faeugh
Glen
Hamilton
Hickman

Coffee
Corn
Jett
Jones
Jordan
Joyner
Kern
Key
Lamons
Luttrell
Martin, Sc
Martin, St.
McLoughlin
McDaniel, R.
McNiel
Miller

Justice
Lamb
Laster
Laughlin
Leftwich
Mazzei
Myers
Nichols
Paddock
Reynolds

Riley
Schultz
Sykes
Wilcoxson
McWhirr
McRabon
Rice
Sparks
Swede
Wilson
Crutchfield
Wyrick

NAYS: 14

Adelson
Ballenger
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson
Adelson

Armes
Bazz
Bence
Billy
Blackwell
Braddock
Coody
Cooksey
Dank
Denney

NATIONS

Walker
Watson
Winchester
Renegar
Worthen
Rousset
Wright
Mr. Speaker

NAYS: 20

EXCUSED

BigHorse
Cannady
Carey
Collins
Covey
Covey
Harrison
Hoskin
Kiesel
Lindley
McCafer
McCafer
McCullen
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.

Enns
Faught
Glen
Hamilton
Hickman

McDaniel, R.
McNiel
McDaniel, R.
McNiel
McNiel
McNiel

Tibbs
Trebilcock
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak
McPeak

Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan
Morgan

Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft

OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

YEAS: 68

Adkins
Armey
Bazz
Bence
Billy
Blackwell
Braddock
Coody
Cooksey
Dank
Denney
Derby
DeWitt
Duncan
Ellis
Enns
Faught
Glen
Hamilton
Hickman

Hyman
Ingnire
Inman
Jackson
Jett
Johnson, D.
Johnson, R.
Jones
Jordan
Joyner
Kern
Key
Lamons
Luttrell
Martin, Sc
Martin, St.
McLoughlin
McDaniel, R.
McNiel
Miller

Murphy
Peters
Peters, P.
Peterson, R.
Peters, R.
Pitt
Proctor
Prueit
Reynolds
Richardson
Schwartz
Sears
Shannon
Sherr
Shumate
Steele
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson
Thomsen
Tibs
Trebilcock

Riley
Schultz
Sykes
Wilcoxson
McWhirr
McRabon
Rice
Sparks
Swede
Wilson
Crutchfield
Wyrick

NAYS: 20

EXCUSED

BigHorse
Cannady
Carey
Collins
Covey
Covey
Harrison
Hoskin
Kiesel
Lindley
McCafer
McCafer
McCullen
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.
McDaniel, J.

Enns
Faught
Glen
Hamilton
Hickman

McDaniel, R.
McNiel
McDaniel, R.
McNiel
McNiel
McNiel

Tibbs
Trebilcock
McPeak
McPeak
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Morgan
Morgan
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Morgan
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Morgan

Wesselhoft
Wesselhoft
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Wesselhoft
Bert Seabourn Exhibit
Opening at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art


“My name has long been associated with being a Native American painter and/or a painter of Indians,” says Seabourn. “I think of myself as an American expressionist who sometimes paints Indians and sometimes paints non-Indians and sometimes paints landscapes and sometimes paints flowers. I think of an expressionist as a painter who expresses himself with the honest use of paint ... meaning ... it drips, it smears, it splatters, it runs ... it does all these things.”

Seabourn has earned more than 100 top awards at art competitions nationwide. Other honors include 1975 Master Artist title bestowed by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in Muskogee; the Governor's Art Award in 1981, presented by Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh; and in 1986, Seabourn's “Windwalker,” a 23-inch-tall bronze sculpture, was unveiled at the state headquarters for Southwestern Bell in Oklahoma City.

The exhibit also includes a free Community Art Day on June 16 with Kevin Connywerdy teaching featherworking. Seabourn will be giving a lecture and demonstration on June 28 at 7 p.m.

“Paintings should contest our creative elements,” says Seabourn, “order versus chaos, contemplative versus emotional, raw versus refined.”

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is located on the campus of St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur St. in Shawnee. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors age 65 or older, $3 for students and children ages 6 to 17 and free for children age 5 and younger.

This exhibition is funded in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council and Allied Arts. For accommodations on the basis of disability or more information, call the museum at (405) 878-5300.