Local youth groups assist in tornado recovery efforts

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

Several of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s youth groups sprang to action following the destructive tornadoes that ripped through the state of Oklahoma on May 19 to May 20 and again on May 31. As many metro school districts dismissed for summer break, hundreds of teenagers and young adults felt called to spend the start of their summer vacation acting in service for their fellow Oklahomans.

Youth groups across the state collected food, water and supplies for the families and first responders. Others rolled up their sleeves and traveled to the hardest hit areas during the first couple of critical weeks.

“Everywhere you look there is devastation,” said Cleary.

Youth of St. Philip Neri parish in Midwest City, Okla., chose to travel to Shawnee, Okla., to aid with the recovery efforts. On May 19, a violent EF-4 tornado struck the town of Shawnee. With many of the state’s restorers and manpower focused on Moore, Okla., the teens from St. Philip Neri wanted the community of Shawnee to feel that they were not alone in their massive cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

On Friday, May 24, Saint Philip Neri’s youth director, Frank Cleary, a graduate of St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, and his family drove to the affected area to see what was needed. What he learned that day astounded him. Cleary found a mobile home community largely unassisted and many families desperately in need of help.

Cleary and his wife gathered supplies for the mobile home community. Then, they helped families clear debris from the sites of their mobile homes while his children delivered Oreo cookies to the youngest victims in hopes of brightening their day.

“My spirit was humbled,” said Cleary.

In addition, Saint Philip Neri’s youth group set up a kitchen closer to the damage site to feed both victims and volunteers. Furthermore, they organized the large amounts of supplies that had been donated by individuals and continued on page 5.

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Oklahoma Catholics to observe Fortnight for Freedom

By The Sooner Catholic Staff

At 7 p.m., June 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Archbishop Paul Coakley will celebrate a Mass to open the second annual Fortnight for Freedom, a two-week period of prayer and fasting to raise awareness of challenges to religious liberty.

That same evening, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Washington D.C., Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore will do the same.

Bishops across the country will similarly lead the faithful in their dioceses in the observance of the Fortnight.

For the second year in a row, from June 21 to July 4, Catholics and other people of faith throughout the United States will offer concentrated prayer and acts of penance for a renewed respect for life, marriage and religious liberty.

During these 14 days, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast days and solemnities of a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — Saint John Fisher and Saint Thomas More, Saint John the Baptist, Saints Peter and Paul, and the first martyrs of the Church in Rome.

Culminating on Independence Day, this special period of prayer, study catechesis and public action emphasizes both the Christian and American heritage of liberty.

This year, the prayers of the faithful will especially focus on marriage, as the Fortnight for Freedom will likely conclude with relevant, marriage-related decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court.

In March 2013, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases that pertain to the legal definition of marriage — one to determine the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and the other to determine the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8.

Both laws define marriage as between one man and one woman.

In deciding these cases, the nine Supreme Court justices will ultimately decide whether any statute that defines marriage as between one man and one woman is constitutional and at what level (the state level, the federal level or both).

“The long-term effects on religious liberty and conscience rights of such court rulings will be far-reaching for our Catholic institutions, as well as for many other religious and social institutions,” Archbishop Coakley writes in this issue’s “Put Out into the Deep” column (see Page 2).

The June 21 Mass to open the Fortnight offers members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City — and others interested to preserve and defend religious liberty — a unique opportunity to consider those effects in prayer and to hear the archbishop’s extended reflections on the subject.

“There has been an insistent and reductive ten-dency in our society toward equating religious liberty with the freedom to worship,” Archbishop Coakley continues in his column. “Religious free-dom certainly includes this freedom, but it is much more.

Devotions with relevant prayers for each day of the Fortnight devotionals are available for download at fortnightforfreedomokc.com, a website designed specifically to facilitate the observance of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

More information about the Fortnight and additional resources are available at fortnightforfreedom.com, a website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In addition, the archdiocesan Facebook page (search “Archdiocese of Oklahoma City” to like the page and become a member of the ArchOKC online community) and the archdiocesan Twitter account (@ArchOKC) will facilitate dialogue about the Fortnight and suggest practical ways to participate throughout the two-week period.

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For more tornado response coverage see pages 5 and 11.

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Local youth groups assist in tornado recovery efforts

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Local youth groups assist in tornado recovery efforts

For more tornado response coverage see pages 5 and 11.
Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar.

June 16 — Confirmation, 10:00 a.m., Saint Peter Church, Woodward
June 17 — Envisioning Leadership Team Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 17 — Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty, 4:00 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel
June 19 — Private Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 20 — June 21 — Annual Provincial Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center
June 21 — Metro OKC Hispanic Ministry Team Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 21 — Fortnight for Freedom Mass, 7:00 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
June 21 — Confirmation, 11:30 a.m., Saint Helen Church, Frederick
June 21 — County Parish Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 25 — Department Heads Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 25 — Mass, 11:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel
June 27 — Event Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
June 27 — Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities Office
June 29 — Ordination, 10:00 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Official Pastoral Appointments

Effective July 1, 2013

Associate Pastor
Rev. Norio Antonio
Espinoza Bautistas
Holy Family Church, Lawton

Parish Administrator
Rev. John R. Metzinger
Corpus Christi Church, Oklahoma City
Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, Jones

Effective July 1, 2013

Archbishop Paul B. Coakley

Put Out Into the Deep
Luke 5:4

Fortnight for Freedom II

“No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority.” —Thomas Jefferson, Letter to New London Methodist, 1809

The news in recent months has been filled with alarming symptoms of the erosion of conscience rights and mounting threats to religious liberty under the direction or with the tacit approval of the highest levels of government. Would the Founding Fathers of this great nation approve of these “enterprises of the civil authority?” As citizens and people of faith we ought to be concerned. More than that, we ought to take action. As believers, our first response is prayer.

Once again the U.S. bishops have called for the observance of a Fortnight for Freedom, a 14-day period of prayer, reflection and action to promote a greater appreciation of religious liberty in the period leading up to Independence Day. In our own archdiocese, the Fortnight will begin with a Mass at 7 p.m., Friday, June 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I invite everyone to join us as we focus on real threats to our first and fundamental freedom and pray for the preservation and protection of our God-given right to religious liberty that has been wisely enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Why all this concern? Why now? There are both short-term and long-term reasons for continuing the Fortnight for Freedom after its initial observance last year. Short-term, there is great concern because most religious organizations will be forced to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate beginning on August 1 this year. In spite of religious and conscience objections, both religious organizations and private employees will be required by law to provide insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization in their insurance programs. They will be required to pay for services to which they have moral and religious objections, or face crippling fines. This is an unwarranted and unacceptable level of government interference with religious liberty. In addition to this immediate threat, there is also concern about far-reaching effects of the many recent legal attempts to redefine marriage. In either of two pending Supreme Court cases, the Court could strike down the status’ ability to protect the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman. The Supreme Court rulings, expected very soon, could in effect grant to same-sex unions equal status with marriage. The long-term effects on religious liberty and conscience rights of such court rulings will be far-reaching for our Catholic institutions, as well as for many other religious and social institutions.

Marriage is not merely a human institution. Like religious liberty, its origins are in the Creator’s plan that is ordered toward human flourishing and preserving God’s design for human beings and human communities, beginning with the family. Marriage is not primarily about the love shared between adults, but is intended to safeguard the transmission of life and to provide the most favorable setting for the raising of children. Children deserve both a mother and a father and the stability of a loving family. Regrettably, that is not always the case, but it remains the ideal. There has been an insistent and reductive tendency in our society toward equating religious liberty with the freedom to worship. Religious freedom certainly includes this freedom, but it is much more. It also includes the freedom for private individuals to live their faith in the workplace and in the public square and to advance the truths and values that Flow from faith publicly. It includes the rights of religious institutions such as schools, health care facilities and social service organizations to carry on their activities in full accord with their faith convictions and without government interference. These are coming increasingly under assault.

The Fortnight for Freedom draws attention to these very real threats and calls us to once again stand together, as Americans and Catholics. We welcome the opportunity to join with other churches and people of faith to celebrate and preserve our first and fundamental freedom.

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

Exclusively on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.com:

• The response to the tornados of May 19, May 20 and May 21 continues. For updated numbers regarding the thousands of long-term recovery cases opened by Catholic Charities and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society please continue to check archsoc.org on a regular basis.

• Members of the Sooner Catholic staff will be in Denver for the Catholic Media Conference from June 19 to June 21. Find daily dispatches about what they’ve learned online.

• Archbishop Paul Coakley will celebrate Mass to open the Fortnight for Freedom at 7 p.m., June 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Full coverage of the Fortnight for Freedom will be available online.

• Plus, don’t miss daily updates on Facebook and Twitter!

Admissions

On page 1 of the June 2, 2013, issue of the Sooner Catholic, in the article “Archbishop, metro area pastors respond to torna- does,” we mistakenly identified Father Tom Boyer as “Father Timothy Boyer.”

On page 1 of the May 18, 2013, issue of the Sooner Catholic, in the cutline of the cover photo, we mistakenly identified Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School graduates as “Mount seniors.”

We regret both errors, and appreciate the patience and support of our readers. It is our privilege to report the news of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and it is our hope and prayer that, despite our all-too-human errors, we do it in a way that conveys that Christ is the center of the Church and the lives of our members.
Pope: Religious freedom gets more lip service than guarantees

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Religious freedom is talked about more than it is protected, Pope Francis said.

“The serious violations inflicted on this basic right are causes of serious concern,” and the world’s nations must act together to uphold “the intangible dignity of the human person against every attack,” he said.

The pope made his comments during an audience with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at the Vatican June 8.

The pope said the cooperation that exists between church and state in Italy is built on the daily interaction and rapport between government officials and Catholics, whose main aim is always the promotion of “the interests of the people and society.”

He noted that 2013 marked the 1,700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan. This proclamation of tolerance of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire is seen by many, he said, “as a symbol of the first affirmation of the principle of religious freedom.”

However, today “religious freedom is more often declared than achieved,” the pope said.

Religious liberty, in fact, is frequently violated and finds itself subjected to various kinds of threats,” the pope said. “It’s the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people.”

Also, everyone benefits when people work together safeguard the “moral” right as it “guarantees the growth and development of the whole community,” the pope said.

Pope Francis also told Napolitano that the “profound and persistent global crisis” in the world today presents current problems, especially for the weaker members of society.

Vatican says Catholics have obligation to aid, defend refugees

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Catholic laity have an obligation to root out traces of xenophobia in their hearts and recognize refugees as their brothers and sisters — children of God whose dignity must be protected, said a new Vatican document.

Welcoming Christ in Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons, a document of pastoral guidelines for providing material and spiritual assistance to people forced to leave their homes was published June 8 by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers and the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promotes and coordinates Catholic charitable activity.

Since the mid-1980s, the document said, the debate surrounding refugees and other asylum seekers has become “a forum for political and administrative action purposes, which fuel haste and aggressive attitudes among the electorate.”

In effect, countries are focused more on deterring newcomers from reaching their shores than they are on offering protection and a welcome to suffering people fleeing situations that threaten their lives and dignity. Cardinal Antonino Maria Veglio, president of the council for migrants and travelers, told reporters:

From a Catholic point of view, he said at a Vatican news conference, “every policy initiative or intervention in this area must be inspired by the principle of the centrality and dignity of the human person.”

Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of Caritas, said being Christian means trying to meet both the material and spiritual needs of refugees and displaced people, who “ask us for a commitment of love that first of all restore their dignity as persons created in the image and likeness of God.”

“Along with bread, they need love that nourishes their spiritual dimension,” Cardinal Sarah said, and that love is precisely what gives witness to “the love with which Christ loves us and we save.”

The new document from the two councils was designed to update their 1992 document, Refugees: A Challenge to Solidarity. In addition to the more recent pastoral guidelines many countries have adopted since 1992 — including because of the threats of terrorism and because of the global economic crisis — the new document focuses more on the dangers of human trafficking and on the need to develop protections for the forcibly displaced — those people who were forced to flee their homes, but did not seek refuge in a new country.

According to data compiled by Cardinal Veglio’s office, in 2012 there were some 18 million officially recognized refugees in the world and 28.8 million internally displaced persons. In addition, an estimated 21 million people have been trafficked, including 4.5 million for sexual exploitation and 14.2 million for what amounts to slave labor.

With the introduction of more repressive measures both for immigration and for the recognition of refugees status, the number of people being smuggled or trafficked — for sex, forced labor or as child soldiers — has increased, the document said.

In addition to supporting Catholic groups, particularly women’s religious orders that are rescuing victims and helping them recover, the document said, lay Catholics need to look at how their investing or buying habits may actually promote trafficking for low-cost labor, including in the fields of manufacturing, textile and agriculture.

The document treats the whole field of migration as a field for Catholic missionary activity, which includes telling people about Christ, but also offers “concrete and effective service to the weaker members of society.”

But the most “worrying” problems today include the weakening of the family and social ties, failing businesses, the rule of profit in the work world and insufficient attention being paid to younger generations and their education.

In order to face the crisis, he said, “it is fundamental to guarantee and develop” democratic institutions, which are precisely an arena where lay Catholics can make critical, just and creative contributions to society.

Pope Francis said it was “urgent” to help foster, especially among young people, a new way of looking at political involvement.

There needs to be “a culture of encounter” in which “believers and nonbelievers may collaborate together to promote a world where injustices can be overcome and every person may be welcomed and may contribute to the common good,” he said.

“We Catholics have the duty to dedicate ourselves even more to the journey of spiritual conversion so that every day we get closer to the Gospel,” which calls on the faithful to offer “concrete and effective service to people and society.”

A key displaced by violence in recent years through a prayer in April, a town in the threatened southern Alpay region.

There are 20.8 million internally displaced persons in the world, according to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

A key displaced by violence in recent years through a prayer in April, a town in the threatened southern Alpay region.

There are 20.8 million internally displaced persons in the world, according to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
The Year of Faith according to Pope Francis

By Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director of Hispanic Ministry

A few months ago I presented the beginning of the Pastoral Letter on the Year of Faith written by Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis. Here I offer the final section of that letter which was published in his then-Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Oct. 1, 2012, the Feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Here, he continues to reflect upon “Crossing the threshold of faith,” a metaphor for living the Year of Faith.

The Year of Faith is a new call to deepen within our lives the faith we have received. To profess the faith with our mouths implies that we live this faith in our hearts and manifest it through works: a witness and public commitment. The disciple of Christ, sons and daughters of the Church, cannot ever think that belief is a private matter: This is a very important and difficult daily challenge, but we are persuaded by the fact that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1: 6). Looking at our own reality, as missionary disciples, we wonder: What does crossing the threshold of faith challenge us to?

Crossing the threshold of faith challenges us to discover that although today it seems that death reigns in various forms and that history is governed by the law of the strongest or run down and that hatred and ambition operate as engines of so many human struggles, we are also absolutely convinced that this evil reality can change and must change, decidedly so because “if God is for us who can against us?” (Rom. 8:31, 37).

Crossing the threshold of faith involves not being ashamed to have a child’s heart because a child still believes in the impossible and can live in hope: the only thing that can give meaning to and transform history. It is to constantly ask for, to pray without losing heart and worshiping so that the way in which we live may be transformed.

Crossing the threshold of faith leads us to plumb so that everyone can have “the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2: 5), experiencing a new way of thinking, of communicating, of looking at ourselves, of respecting each other, of being family, of finalizing the future, of living love and our vocations.

Crossing the threshold of faith is to act, relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit present in the Church and that is also manifested in the signs of the times. It’s to accompany the constant movement of life and history without falling into the paralyzing defensiveness of thinking that all of the past was better. It’s the urgency to think anew, share anew, create anew, knowing life with “the new learners of justice and holiness” (1 Cor 5: 8).

Crossing the threshold of faith implies having eyes filled with amusement and hearts not easily lost to everything but hearts capable of recognizing that, every time a woman gives birth, she is still wagering in favor of life and the future, that, when we care for the innocence of children, we are guaranteeing the truth of a tomorrow and, when we tenderly and lovingly care for the life of an elderly person, we are doing an act of justice and we are caring for our own roots.

Crossing the threshold of faith leads us to forgive and to learn to raise a smile. It’s to come close to all who live in the existential periphery and calling them by name: It’s taking care of the frailties of the weakest and to hold their wavering knees with the certainty that whatever you did for one of these least of our brothers or sisters, you did for Jesus (Mt 25: 40). Crossing the threshold of faith means to celebrate life. Let us be transformed because we have become one with Jesus at the table of the Eucharist celebrated in community, and from there be with our hands and hearts busy working on the great project of the Kingdom: All else will be given to you besides (Mt 6:33).

Crossing the threshold of faith is to live in the spirit of the Council and of Aparecida*, a Church of open doors not only to receive but open doors mainly for us to go out and to bring the gospel to our streets and to the lives of all men and women of our time. (*Aparecida is the most recent document of the Latin-American Episcopal or Catholic Bishops Conference, CELAM.)

Crossing the threshold of faith for our archdiocese means to celebrate life. Let us be transformed because we have become one with Jesus at the table of the Eucharist celebrated in community, and from there be with our hands and hearts busy working on the great project of the Kingdom: All else will be given to you besides (Mt 6:33).

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Archdiocesan youth lend time, skills to recovery effort

continued from page 1

The teens were struck by how the storm annihilated the community.

One teenager, Janessa Egler, recalled, “It was dev-
enating to see all of the damage. Seeing the baby
gear scattered in the debris was the worst. We also
found baby pictures and jewelry boxes in the rubble.
It was crazy to see all the belongings spread out
everywhere.”

Once they recovered from the shock of the situa-
tion, the teens dedicated their efforts to finding items
that would be important to the families who lost
everything.

“We were just trying to search for items that would
be reclaimable or meaningful to the family. We were
shocked when we could find many things still intact
scattered in the devastated mobile home park,” Saint
Philip Neri young adult Jenni Lane added.

Cleary believes the trip has made a lasting impact
on his teens.

“The kids were stunned and at a loss for words.
The force of the storm left an impression on the youth. They were very appreciative of the comforts
they knew they would be returning home to,” Cleary
said.

Lane was thankful she could aid with the cleanup.
“...You could see in the homeowners’ eyes how appreci-
ate they were...” she noted.

Cleary is hopeful his teens made a difference in
the lives of the victims.

Cleary added, “They really just want to help some-
how” They have been struck by the thought that they
could lose everything in an instant.

More to come in the months to come

As the school year was winding down, students at
Bishop McGuinness High School also made time to
help those affected by the tornadoes. The student
body, led by campus minister Amos Phillips and
Bishop McGuinness junior Adele Edmonds, loaded a
moving truck full of tornado relief supplies. In addi-
tion, they have been gathering financial contribu-
tions to aid families in the McGuinness and Mount
Saint Mary’s communities that were touched by the
storms. In the weeks following the violent weather,
the students raised more than $8,000.

Edmonds remarked, “We are hopeful that dona-
tions will continue to come and we believe our sud-
total result will be tremendous. These people will contin-
ue to be in our constant prayer and I know the stu-
dent body plans on holding these people close to our
hearts well into the school year and until they are
healed.

This summer, more than 100 families from Bishop
McGuinness will participate in ongoing Red Cross
relief efforts to alleviate the burden of the rebuilding
process across Oklahoma.

According to Phillips, “We have various work
days for cleanup, etc., that students, teachers and
parents will all be a part of.”

Phillips continued, “Our students were deeply
affected by this event, so close to home. The theolo-
gy department chair, Clyde Grover, lost his home in
the Moore tornado, as well as our cafeteria adminis-
trator’s sister, and family members of our students.
When our students realized the horror of what had
happened to our Oklahoma community, they imme-
diately wanted to take action and put together a
prayer service themselves and begin the initiative to
collect relief supplies and money.”

Unfortunately, the state of Oklahoma was struck
again by a second EF-5 tornado in El Reno, Okla., on
May 31. The youth of Saint Monica’s Catholic Church in
Edmond, Okla., felt called to assist the family of a parishioner in their rebuilding. The youth group spent June 6 cleaning out the family’s garage
and bedroom along with picking up trash, shingles
and belongings scattered across the pastures.

Roberta Miller, a high school junior from Saint
Monica’s, said, “The destruction in El Reno was over-
whelming. I am so glad I had the opportunity to go
help this family clean up after the tornado. I am so
greatful for all that I have, and I pray this family
gets an amazing house after everything they have
gone through.”

Saint John the Baptist’s youth director, Becky
Coye, said it was “quite a kick in the teeth” to see the
destruction firsthand and hopes her teens can assist
the people of Moore overcome this hardship.
Coye accompanied her youth group to the headquarters of Serve Moore. From there, they were sent to clean up Veterans Park, which had been littered with debris.

According to Coye, “The high school students
picked up stuffed animals, clothing, baby toys and, of
course, many small pieces of the houses. They real-
ized that by cleaning the park they were actually clear-
ing debris from people’s homes.”

Several members of the Saint John’s youth group
also helped to organize donations given to Families of
Columbus. They plan to return throughout the sum-
mer to continue the work they started.

“Most of our youth want to go back and help,”
Coye said. “All felt emotional realizing they were
picking up items that actually belonged to a person
who more than likely now had nothing. One of our
young people said ‘the magnitude of destruction was
so great it truly felt like we were in a different coun-
try.’ We walked the neighborhood bordering the park.
It had not been cleaned yet. The cars were a mangled
mass. It was very sobering to see the bits of houses
everywhere. Nothing was left standing at many of
the houses. At one, there was only a fireplace left and
at another only a bathroom with no roof.”

Coye continued: “We have found that the teens
have such open hearts to be the hands and feet of
Christ. It is our responsibility to see if they have an
avenue to show their compassion. Even though it
was tough, tiring, dirty work, they never complained.
Instead they just focused on the people who had lost
so much.”

High school seniors Sarah Simpleskey added,
there were so many people reaching out willing to
do anything to help. Everyone turns to their faith.
When I say I was moved by this experience, I’m more
moved by watching people’s faith, rather than seeing
the destruction, and that always brings a smile to my
face.”

Even the hardest hit parish of Saint Andrew’s in
Moore is ready to help out. Despite being without
power during and after both the May 20 and May 31
tornadoes, the middle school youth group will be
hosting the Just5Days Middle School Work Camp
from June 17 to June 21. Sixty-six campers will be
adding the cleanup effort around their parish.
According to organizer Faith Reilly, participants will
“be cleaning up debris, restocking and organizing
supplies, and even helping to watch children while
parents rebuild their lives.”

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic
Meet Our Seminarians

Meet Matt Thomas
1. What is your home parish?
   St. John Nepomuk, Yukon, OK
2. What seminary do you attend?
   St. John Vianney Theological Seminary
3. If it is God's will, what will your year as a priest be?
   2014
4. How did you come to your faith?
   When first thought that God might be calling you to the priesthood.
5. What is your favorite subject in the seminary?
   Scripture
6. Describe your typical day.
   5:55 am Holy Hour, 6:55 am morning prayer, 8am-12pm classes, 12:10pm Mass, 1:15pm lunch, 2-6pm study period, 6 pm evening prayer, 6:15 dinner, five times after dinner.
7. What is the most important thing you have learned in the seminary so far?
   How important it is to have a solid relationship with Christ.
8. What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest?
   Serving the people of God with the sacraments and sharing the gifts I have received with others.
9. Who is your favorite saint?
   St. John Vianney
10. Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know.
    God loves you more than you know and He is more focused on giving fully of himself than what Love naturally wants to share itself with others.

Meet Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick
1. 2-6pm study period, 6 pm evening prayer, 6:15 dinner, five times after dinner.

Ordination will include meaningful moments

By Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick

For the Sooner Catholic

On Saturday, June 29, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Deacon Brian Buettner will be ordained a priest. The Ordination Mass will take place at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The Rite of Ordination will take place directly after the homily, between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Rite includes numerous traditions imbued with symbolism, such as when the candidate prostrates himself on the floor during the Liturgy of the Saints. In prostrating himself, the candidate shows his willingness to give his entire self for the Church.

Archbishop Coakley said there are many moving moments.

"At the Rite of Ordination, people find different elements moving: when the priest prostrates himself, the laying on of hands [which is the moment when the bishop confers the power of the priestly ordination on the candidate], and the consecration of the new priest's hands with chrism, which is consecrating this man for priestly service," he said.

For Archbishop Coakley and all priests, the Rite of Ordination of a new priest has an added element.

"For every priest, attending an ordination is always an opportunity to renew our resolve and commitment, like a married person attending a wedding," the archbishop said.

Deacon Brian Buettner anticipates another aspect of the mass.

I am really looking forward to the exchange of peace with my brother priests of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Buettner said. "I have looked up to these great and holy men that serve the people of Oklahoma and it will be a great moment to embrace each other as a fellow worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

Immediately after he is vested as a priest, Father Brian Buettner will go behind the altar to stand at the side of Archbishop Coakley for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Father Brian will conclude his own ordination mass.

"After the ordination Mass," Deacon Brian said, "I will have an opportunity to speak to the guests at the ordination and impart my first priestly blessings to them during the reception in the Monsignor Connor Center. Later in the afternoon I will be hearing confessions in the Cathedral before celebrating the evening with my family. It will be a busy day, but I am sure that it will be wonderful."

The next day, Father Brian will celebrate the Mass of Thanksgiving, his first mass as the principal celebrant, at St. Mark the Evangelist in Norman, his home parish.

"I have spent as much of my youth at Saint Mark’s and I have been formed by those experiences," he said. "Celebrating my first Mass as a very altar that I had spent so many years assisting as an altar server will be a wonderful moment in my life."

He added a hope for future priestly vocations from the parish: "I may be the first priestly vocation to come from Saint Mark’s, but seminarian Bryan McCall and hopefully many more young men will hear God’s call in their lives to consider the priesthood."

Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahoma City.

Obituary

NAME: Sister Cecilia Ann Miller
AGE: 91
PARISH/TOWN: St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

Sister Cecilia Ann Miller died at 3:10 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2013, in Mother Theodore Hall, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. She was born Jan. 22, 1922, in Jasper, Ind., to Linus and Clara German Miller and was baptized Mary Ann.

Sister entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Jan. 6, 1940, and professed final vows Aug. 15, 1948. Sister earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master’s degree from the Rosary College. Over her 73 years as a Sister of Providence, she ministered for 28 years as music teacher in elementary schools in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Oklahoma. She served on the music faculty of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1967 to 1968 and again from 1972 to 1975. In the intervening years she was coordinator of school music for the Congregation. It was during this second term at the College that she gained expertise in music education for children with special needs.

When she left the college faculty and returned to her home town of Jasper, she taught music not only at Precious Blood School there (1977-1988) but also offered private lessons to some special children. After her years in Jasper, she moved to Louisville, Ky., where she taught music for five years at Ursuline-Pitt Academy, a school for special-needs children. In 1995, at the age of 73, she went to Taiwan for five years to begin a music program at Saint Theresa Opportunity Center, a school begun by Sisters of Providence for children with disabilities. On her return, she volunteered at Woods Day Care/Preschool and began offering music activities for her sisters in Providence Health Care. She continued the latter until 2011 when she submitted herself totally to the ministry of prayer.

Sister is survived by nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by a sister, Margie Loyal Thomas. The wake was from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 3, 2013, in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass of Christian Burial was 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 4, with Reverend Daniel R. Hopkins presiding. Interment followed in the cemetery of the Sisters of Providence. The Callahan-Del Buen Funeral Home assisted with arrangements. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. 47875.
Brother Simeon raised to order of deacon

By Michael G. Kietzman

For the Sooner Catholic

On Friday, June 7, 2013, within the brick walls of Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, Okla., Brother Simeon was ordained to the diaconate.

Brother Simeon, who had completed his final novitiate vows earlier this year, graduated from Saint Gregory’s University in 2006 with two degrees: one in political science, and one in philosophy. If God wills it, he will be ordained to the priesthood one year from now.

While philosophy is a typical pre-seminary degree, his call, his vocation, his journey of faith was not as clear-cut as it might appear.

Simeon Spitz was not necessarily a “cradle Catholic.”

“I was baptized Catholic as an infant but I wasn’t raised Catholic,” Brother Simeon said. “My mother was Baptist and I was raised free-will Baptists until the age of 10.”

At that age, his Catholic father had him attend a Catholic Church camp. At the time, he was quite an adamant defender of the Baptist faith, and “didn’t want to go outside and play with all the Catholic kids,” he said.

Indoors, he came to meet a priest who, unknown to him, would drastically alter the life of the young, strong-willed Baptist. Elected that he had the opportunity to debate a priest, he challenged the priest to a theological Baptist vs. Catholic duel.

Much to his surprise, the priest answered his questions using sacred Scripture to back all his claims. Shortly thereafter, young Simon Spitz underwent a complete ideological transformation. He received the sacraments of reconciliation and communion and became a practicing Catholic.

Now, he has obtained the diaconate, which, Abbot Lawrence Stasyzen of Saint Gregory’s Abbey noted means “servant.”

“The ministry of the diacurate is the sacramental embodiment of Christian service,” says Abbot Lawrence. “Of course all the baptized are called to Christian service, but the deacon is charged with the sacramental participation in the ministry of Jesus Christ, and also with proclamation of the Gospel.”

This means that Brother Simon is now able to give homilies at Mass, baptize babies, celebrate marriages and assist at Mass as an ordinary minister.

“Now you are not only a hearer of this Gospel, but also its minister and its carrier. Hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. Express by your actions the word of God what your lips proclaim,” Archbishop Paul Coakley advised to Brother Simon during his homily.

As a deacon, Brother Simon is one step closer to the priesthood, which he prays in accordance with the divine will. He has been called to serve the Church in a more intimate way, to have a distinct responsibility to shepherd the faithful flock.

Michael G. Kietzman studies English education and theology at Saint Gregory’s University and is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

New evangelization expert headlines annual convocation of priests

By Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick

For the Sooner Catholic

The priests of the archdiocese gathered for the Annual Convocation of Priests from June 3 to June 6 at the Pastoral Center. They gathered for prayer, pastoral education and fraternity. The theme of the convocation this year was the new evangelization.

Archbishop Coakley explained why this theme was chosen: “I chose the new evangelization in consultation with the Priest Continuing Education Committee because it’s a topic of importance in the Church, and this is an opportunity for us to study it together.”

The discussion of the new evangelization was led by Ralph Martin, a professor at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. Martin presented at the invitation of Archbishop Coakley.

Martin explained that John Paul II distinguished between primary evangelization, pastoral care and the new evangelization. Primary evangelization is directed toward people who haven’t heard the Gospel. Pastoral care is to aid those striving to live a holy life in the Church in their journey, while the new evangelization is to share the Gospel again with baptized Catholics who aren’t living as disciples of Christ.

Martin noted another feature of the new evangelization: “It’s lay people who are mainly engaging in the new evangelization, looking at ways to share the love of Christ with those they encounter in their day-to-day lives.”

Because the new evangelization is directed at Catholics who are distant from the Church, it is ordinary lay people of the Church who have the opportunity to witness a life of holiness in the Church. Priests and other members of the hierarchy have less contact with these fallen-away Catholics than ordinary lay people. Thus, the main role of the priest in the new evangelization, Martin explained, is to activate lay people. “Most people won’t have the confidence to feel like they have a mission, unless the priest tells them, Christ is living in them and wants you to work for him.”

Priests, Martin continued, can encourage people to go to renewal events — such as the parish mission or retreats — and point them to good books to help them grow in the spiritual life. These events can help lay people flourish in Christ’s love, which in turn aids the faithful in sharing this love with all those they encounter.

Martin shared obstacles to the new evangelization. “The Catholic Church has taken a lot of hits with clerical sex abuse and opposition to same-sex marriage,” he said. “The Church has an image of being against people. But there is treasure in earthen vessels, even if there are cracks in those vessels, for that treasure is Jesus.”

“The Church isn’t against gay people,” Martin continued. “The Church has a desire for happiness for everyone and a plan for everyone. God loves everybody enough to call them out of their sins to a life of holiness.”

Archbishop Coakley affirmed the importance of the new evangelization: “It gets at the heart of what our mission is: to awaken the faith of all Catholics and call them to deeper discipleship.”
Archbishop ordains four to transitional diaconate

Archbishop Paul Coakley ordained seminarians Linh Bui, Cristobal De Loera, Carson Krittenbrink and Timothy Ruckel to the transitional diaconate Saturday, June 1, 2013. "This is a very special class not only because of its size, but also for the beautiful expression of the diversity of cultures within our archdiocese," Archbishop Coakley said. "We see the fruitfulness of faith lived out in families and parish communities and, for this, we give thanks." For full coverage of this important archdiocesan event, please visit www.soonercatholic.com.

Former orphanage residents reminisce at reunion

About 80 former residents and staff members of Saint Joseph's Orphanage and Saint Joseph's Children's Home gathered for a reunion hosted by Catholic Charities Oklahoma City Saturday, June 1, 2013 — 101 years after the founding of the orphanage. The parish hall of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City — which was without power after yet another night of severe weather in central Oklahoma — was the dim, cool setting for the afternoon of reminiscing over ham and turkey sandwiches, potato salad, brownies and lemonade. After the initial gathering, the group toured the old grounds of the orphanage and said Mass, which was celebrated by Father Charles Murphy at 5 p.m. at Saint Francis. For full coverage of this meaningful event (including stories from former residents!), please visit www.soonercatholic.com.

Saint Mark's gives gratitude for 45-year ministry of Father Tom Boyer

Father Tom Boyer, pastor of Saint Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman, Okla., celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, June 9, 2013, in advance of his retirement later this month. "I might not always be your pastor," Father Boyer said in his homily, "but I will always be your priest." Friends, family, former parishioners and Mount Saint Mary’s graduates celebrating a 40-year reunion (former students of Father Boyer’s and pictured above) gathered to fete Father at a reception after the Mass. Father Boyer, who has been a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for 45 years, has been the pastor of Saint Mark’s for 11.
Scripture scholar explores supernatural family planning

**First Comes Love Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity by Scott Hahn (2002, 2007 Doubleday)**

Reviewed by Brianna Osborne

This year, the Fortnight for Freedom focuses on life and marriage. It’s a perfect time to pick up Scott Hahn’s 2002 book about preserving the family “First Comes Love”.

Scott Hahn reveals God’s plan to offer every member of the human race another chance to join his family through communion in the Church founded by his son. Simultaneously, Hahn demonstrates — through personal memoir, history, sociology and inspiring sermons — the path that loving families should follow. With Hahn’s simple descriptions, even difficult doctrines or explanations of Greek make for a very easy read.

As hinted in the main title of the book, Hahn does not jump straight into advice for family problems. Instead, he writes “You know the story. It’s the stuff of most of our movies, novels, ancient epic and popular songs. It’s the substance of our deepest longings or our most aching needs. It is not good to be alone.”

Hahn tells several love stories throughout the course of the book, but first he shares his own experiences of “the Oldest Story in the World.”

Moments from his own life — the day he fell in love with his future wife, Kimberly, or the day she gave birth to their first son — give the book a more personal touch than most Bible study books.

However, Hahn is an insightful biblical scholar with a talent for painting readers toward easy techniques to enhance their own study. Hahn proffers an in-depth explanation of Adam and Eve’s familial relationship with God, as well as an incredible theory as to how their love story became a tragedy.

“After the Fall, the human family increased, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob eventually becoming the tribe of Israel. The ancient Israelites formed ‘trustee families,’ meaning all the descendants of a patriarch united by a covenant. Yet the family of Israel was still separated from their heavenly Father — until Christ made a new covenant, forming an eternal family. Christianity exemplifies the trustee family perfectly — all of God’s children, living and dead, are united in the Eucharist. Every member is a part of God’s family, and should be treated as such.”

Although the book’s scope includes the big picture of God’s whole family, Hahn daily addresses the microcosm of individual families. While the daily lives of modern Christians are meant to be lived in the universal family, Hahn emphasizes that love in individual families comes first. He offers advice for families, addressing family dysfunction and the appropriate familial life for different vocations. For example, he offers hope to the important human beings who make up a marriage.

Hahn says, “Family life begins when a man and woman marry. In marriages, each spouse gradually grows up preference, power, privacy, and personal space in order to share life with his or her beloved. It’s a new process, and it doesn’t always come easily. Moreover, before the process is complete, the starry-eyed couple must be ready to look beyond their selfish-minded world to care for a child. . . . But love does a remarkable thing in a good home. The individual, the couple, the baby gradually become conformed to the family, precisely by their gift of self.”

Marriage, parenthood and life in a family are presented with all the pain and hardships that they entail, as well as the joys and blessings. As Hahn maintains, families must always be in the process of learning to live selflessly, which Christ epitomized, and learn from the customary tale of Adam and Eve’s selfish love.

The wealth of information in this book cannot be satisfactorily described here, as Hahn skillfully comments on every aspect of God’s plan to create a family existing throughout time, with all of the world united — a true supernatural family planning, if you will “First Comes Love” is an invaluable resource for any member of a family to learn how to live more selflessly.

Hahn’s works always provide an eye — opening experience. Among his best are “Hail, Holy Queen,” a study of the Virgin Mary’s role in salvation history, and “The Lamb’s Supper”, a book that is guaranteed to transform the way the reader views the Mass.

All three of these books are available at the archdiocesan library in both English and Spanish.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Church historian offers predictions for future of Church in 21st century

**Ecclesiastical Catholicism: Deep Reform in the Twenty-First Century Church by George Weigel (Basic Books, 2013)**

Reviewed by Tina Korbas Dzurisin

At the center of George Weigel’s latest work is not a need to be examined, but a person to love: That person, of course, is Jesus Christ, who does not merely speak truth, but is truth itself.

The centrality of Christ to “Ecclesiastical Catholicism” explains the reasoness of the book, which would otherwise be nothing more than a series of suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the Church’s outreach.

Whereas programmatic prescriptions for change more typically nag and very rarely invite people to action, Weigel’s ideas, peeves, privacy, and personal relationships are “Hail, Holy Queen”, a study of the Virgin Mary’s role in salvation history, and “The Lamb’s Supper”, a book that is guaranteed to transform the way the reader views the Mass.

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Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Flooding affects refugee apartments; Catholic Charities helps

By Brianna Osborne

The Sooner Catholic

Friday May 31, 2013, was the start of the Visitation, commemorating the Virgin Mary’s visit to her cousin, Elizabeth to help her during her time of need. It is an encouraging thought, reflecting the acts of those who were ready to help the victim of this year’s devastating storms.

The tornado that touched down in El Reno and the surrounding areas has now been declared an EF-5, as well as the worst on record in the United States. Nineteen people died as a result of the violent storm. Severe flooding occurred throughout the metro area, affecting local schools and homes.

Refugee apartments flooded

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on May 31, flooding began at the Jumae’s Landing apartment complex, home to many of the refugees in Catholic Charities’ resettlement program. Some families had arrived just days before.

Sixty-nine units were affected by the floods. In some areas, flooding exceeded four feet of water.

Personal possessions and furniture on the first floor were damaged, as well as many cars; some had water up to the dashboards. Just before 9 p.m., staff members from the refugee office were getting calls. Two case managers were sent to Jumae’s Landing to assist the families. For most residents, the flooding happened too quickly to save possessions.

In the front buildings, some were able to get to a few things to upper levels. Many people could not open doors because of the water pressure. Families were forced to climb out the doors to get a few things to upper levels.

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Safety and stability

Most of the refugees assisted by Catholic Charities have sought asylum in the United States — many of them because they were persecuted for their faith. According to Catholic Charities’ website, they have worked with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1975 to aid refugees and assist families or individuals 18 and older. They can help families with three to six members find a place to live, based on the capacity of affordable housing in Oklahoma City.

Catholic Charities provides a wide array of services for newly-arrived refugees, which encompasses many of the spiritual and emotional works of mercy. Pre-arrival, Catholic Charities works to set up a living space and gather household supplies for the family. Staff will then receive a family at the airport.

Once they are settled in, the staff at Catholic Charities offers assistance with counseling, financial consultations, medical appointments, benefits, access to insurance, employment services, job orientation and home assistance. For families with children, they assist with school enrollment, daycare needs and English language services.

An important part of this assistance is helping the refugees get acclimated to their new country, and helping them develop a greater sense of community.

One family’s story

One household affected by the flooding was an Afghan family that arrived in Oklahoma City a few months ago. According to Lewis, their apartment was impacted significantly in the flooding. The mother was overdue to have her baby in the commotion of that night, helpes from Catholic Charities get the mother and her baby out of that environment, found her a new bed Saturday afternoon, and made sure she was comfortable. The family’s case manager went back and forth to the hospital with her; she had the baby June 6.

After having been through all that, the family’s case manager came home and helped other refugees to get their beds and salvage furnishings. Lewis summed it up. “Generosity goes in one and out to the other.”

Aftermath

In this case, the refugee office of Catholic Charities will work through the disaster relief office to get the refugees new bedding and other disaster assistance. Refugee resettlement will also partner with the Oklahoma City Refugee Coalition members, the First Baptist Church, the Furniture Bank of Oklahoma City and property management to obtain new furniture for the refugees.

For those interested in helping tornado and flood victims, Catholic Charities has recently opened a resource center at All Saints School in Norman. Information is available at archokc.org, or at www.catholiccharitiesokc.org. Furniture Bank of Oklahoma City has also been getting in new and used donations to try to help all the victims.

Catholic Charities hopes to have all the refugees back in the apartment by June 20, so they can celebrate World Refugee Day. A small annual event will be held by the Oklahoma City Refugee Coalition.

Catholic Charities ramps up for long-term recovery help

Catholic Charities USA network deployed to assist CCOKC

By Jennifer Dennis-Smith

For the Sooner Catholic

Oklahoma City — A team of Catholic Charities disaster response specialists from across the country are assisting Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as it responds to the needs of people affected by the recent rash of tornadoes. CCOKC executive director Patrick Raglow announced.

Within days, disaster case managers and specialists began arriving from the Diocese of Joplin, La Crosse, Indianapolis, Tulsa, Biloxi, Brownsville and Baton Rouge. Kim Burg, disaster operations senior director from Catholic Charities USA, arrived early to lend technical support from the national office.

Since Hurrican Katrina, the national Catholic Charities network elevated its role in disaster response to become one of the country’s leading early responders, creating a niche in disaster case management. The CCUSA team’s disaster experience covers the gamut of natural events, ranging from Hurricane Katrina, California wildfires, floods, tornadoes, American Samoa tsunami and many others.

“We are grateful to Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Charities offices for their on-site staff expertise in helping us respond to this disaster,” Raglow said.

Immediately after arriving, the 12 housed staff began working alongside local CCOKC workers, assessing the immediate needs of disaster victims arriving at the 4 Multi-Agency Resource Centers and a distribution site set up at All Saints Catholic School in Norman. To date, case workers have interviewed more than 1,100 heads of household, assessing their gift cards, housing deposits, crisis counseling, and personal and household needs.

“The initial meeting is the first step on the long process to recovery,” Raglow said, “but our real case management will begin later when we do a more in-depth analysis of the families with multiple barriers to recovery.”

“Disaster response runs in predictable cycles,” he continued. “Right now, we are still in the initial relief stage, but already we’re seeing the signs the area is moving into the recovery stage.”

As surivors’ initial needs for food, clothing and shelter are met, families will begin to transition into a life of normalcy, moving into semi-permanent housing, returning to work and planning for the future. Already, long-term unmet needs committees are forming to begin discussing long-range planning.

“Rebuilding people’s lives is tough work,” said Raglow.

“These tornadoes will likely impact the region for years to come,” he added, citing that CCOKC is still working with families affected by the 2011 Woodward tornado.

“We are thankful for the assistance of countless Catholic dioceses and various communities from across the country that have donated goods and sent monetary contributions to assist us,” Raglow said.

With God’s help and the generosity of others, we will get through this disaster and care for the needs of people affected by these terrible storms.”

CCOKC has opened a disaster relief site at All Saints Catholic School (4001 36th Ave. N.W., in Oklahoma City), available for those affected by the recent tornadoes. The site is available for those affected by the recent tornadoes. The site is available for any individual or family in need of assistance. The site is available for any individual or family in need of assistance.

Catholic Charities USA has also been getting in new and used donations to try to help all the victims.

“We are grateful to the people of Oklahoma and the United States. ‘We’ve learned that we’re the ones who are receiving. We’re so grateful to be in the position that we Please continue to pray for Moore,’” said Lewis.

Catholic Charities USA has recently opened a resource center at All Saints School in Norman. Information is available at archokc.org, or at www.catholiccharitiesokc.org. Furniture Bank of Oklahoma City has also been getting in new and used donations to try to help all the victims.

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"Ninguna disposición de nuestra Constitución debería ser más valiosa para un hombre que aquella que protege los derechos de conciencia contra las empresas de la autoridad civil." (Tomás Jefferson, carta a la Iglesia Metodista de New London, 1809)

Las noticias en los últimos meses han estado llenas con síntomas alarmantes de la erosión de los derechos de conciencia y creencias amenazantes a la libertad religiosa bajo la dirección o con la aprobación tácita de los más altos niveles del gobierno. ¿Los padres fundadores de esta gran nación apoyarían estas "empresas de la autoridad civil"? Como coadyuvantes y pioneros de fe debemos estar preocupados. Más que eso, tenemos que tomar medidas. Como creyentes, nuestra primera respuesta es la oración.

Un día después de la celebración de una Quincena por la Libertad, un período de 14 días de oración, reflexión y acción para promover una mayor apreciación por la libertad religiosa en el periodo previo al Día de la Independencia. En nuestra Arquidiócesis, la Quincena comenzará con una Misa a las 7 pm, viernes, 21 de junio en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Invito a todos a unirlo a nosotros en este llamado de acción. ¿Por qué toda esta preocupación? ¿Por qué ahora? Hay razones tanto a corto y largo plazo para continuar con la Quincena por la Libertad después de su celebración inicial el año pasado. A corto plazo, existirá una gran preocupación porque la mayoría de las organizaciones religiosas se verán obligadas a cumplir con el mandato anticonceptivo del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE.UU. que inició el 1 de agosto de este año. A pesar de las objeciones religiosas y de conciencia, tanto de los no católicos, de quienes se sienta la Biblia sin magisterio apostólico será interpretada como medio y vía para asumir la doctrina de Cristo, Buena Noticia de salvación. Tener solo a la Biblia nos conduce a la ignorancia, a la duda. Y todos y cada uno de estos argumentos, que la explique, aclare y enseñe dan como resultado la Biblia y solo Biblia sin el magisterio apostólico. Según el parecer de cada quien, según se sienta la Biblia sin magisterio apostólico será interpretada como medio y vía para asumir la doctrina de Cristo, Buena Noticia de salvación. Tener solo a la Biblia nos conduce a la ignorancia, a la duda. Y todos y cada uno de estos argumentos, que la explique, aclare y enseñe dan como resultado la historia. Al obviar un gran panorama histórico de fe de la Iglesia después de su resurrección, esto, la enseñanza de Jesús, su mensaje y la vivencia de su iglesia, como medio y vía para asumir la doctrina de Cristo, Buena Noticia de salvación. Tener solo a la Biblia nos conduce a la ignorancia, a la duda. Y todos y cada uno de estos argumentos, que la explique, aclare y enseñe dan como resultado la historia. Al obviar un gran panorama histórico de fe de la Iglesia después de su resurrección, esto, la enseñanza de Jesús, su mensaje y la vivencia de su iglesia, como medio y vía para asumir la doctrina de Cristo, Buena Noticia de salvación. Tener solo a la Biblia nos conduce a la ignorancia, a la duda. Y todos y cada uno de estos argumentos, que la explique, aclare y enseñe dan como resultado la historia. 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El Año de la Fe según el Papa Francisco

Una segunda mirada a la carta pastoral sobre el Año de la Fe del Cardenal Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Por Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Todos los católicos deben preguntarse qué hacen personalmente, diócesis y obispos, para que el Año de la Fe sea más que un año de palabras. "¿Qué haces para hacer la iglesia santa, acogedora?" preguntó el papa Francisco.

"No te creas tú solo, o los partidos políticos, o una sociedad de la misericordia, que nosotros, en una forma muy vivida, te acogeremos a ti y a tu necesidad. Pero, que la iglesia se haga santa, acogedora, es un trabajo que cada uno de nosotros puede hacer", declaró el papa Francisco.

El papa Francisco: ¿Por qué no has hecho nada para hacer la iglesia santa, acogedora?

El papa Francisco también usó el ejemplo de una iglesia que cuenta con una parroquia que acoge a ancianos en un asilo, y preguntó: "¿Qué haces para hacer la iglesia santa, acogedora?" El papa Francisco dijo que el Año de la Fe es una nueva llamada a ahondar en la fe y en la práctica de la fe, y que el papa Francisco se siente un "amigo" de la iglesia y se siente un "amigo" de todos los católicos.

Cruzar el umbral de la fe implica tener ojo de verdad y corazon veríc, y es el trabajo vivido en la parroquia, en la comunidad y en el mundo. El papa Francisco dijo que el Año de la Fe es una nueva llamada a ahondar en la fe y en la práctica de la fe, y que el papa Francisco se siente un "amigo" de la iglesia y se siente un "amigo" de todos los católicos.
The Catholic Foundation
CORNERSTONE
Retirement Account
A growing number of Catholic Church faithful choose to name the Catholic Foundation as a full or partial beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan. Supporting the church with a legacy gift through your retirement fund is:
Easy to arrange
A smart way to donate
In addition, as a tax-exempt organization, we will receive your gift tax free. When left to individuals, a great portion of your retirement funds could be diminished by taxes. Simply request a beneficiary form from your plan administrator. Upon the beneficiary designation line, write "Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc." or "Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. for the benefit of . . ." (name your parish, parish school or other Catholic organization here).
Remember, a Christian steward is one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others and returns them with increase to the Lord. The Catholic Foundation continues to actively support the mission and work of the Catholic Church in Oklahoma. Your thoughtful gift to one of our many Funds is greatly appreciated for the future of our faith.
Questions? Please contact our office to discuss your planned giving options at:
For more information on Planned Giving contact:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
530 NE 4th Street, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 722-0051 or email resecretary@archokc.org
For more information on Father Stanley Rother Guild visit fatherstanleyrotherguild.org or like the The Father Stanley F. Rother Guild on Facebook.

Father Rother’s anniversary to be celebrated with Mass and cookout
Okarche — The 32nd anniversary of Father Stanley Rother’s murder in Guatemala is July 28, 2013. Archbishop Coakley will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity church in Okarche. After Mass there will be an old fashioned parish picnic with a cookout and games for the kids. At 1 p.m. adoration will begin in the church. Benediction will be at 2:45 p.m. afterward which there will be a prayer service at Father Rother’s grave to finish the celebration. Those who plan to attend should bring a lawn chair or blanket and a potluck dessert to share.

For more information on Father Rother or upcoming Rother Guild events go to www.fatherstanleyrotherguild.org or like the The Father Stanley F. Rother Guild on Facebook.

Briefs
Beginning Experience offers healing for heartache
There is help for the heartache of separation, divorce and widowhood at a Beginning Experience Weekend. This weekend program offers an opportunity, through God, for turning the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. Trained team members who have suffered the loss of a loved one share their own experience as they lead participants through presentations, private reflections and small group sharing. The next Beginning Experience Weekend, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, will take place at the Catholic Pastoral Center, July 19 to July 21, 2013. For more information or to register, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or visit http://archokc.org to download the registration brochure.

Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program offers theological and ministerial formation
The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) ministry formation program, offered in affiliation with Aquinas Institute in Theology in St. Louis, is now forming a cohort to begin study in late August 2013. MAPM prepares men and women for leadership in ministry in the local Church through human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation for ministry. The MAPM degree provides formation for pastoral ministers who serve in a variety of parishes, hospital, education and diocesan ministries. The program is designed to engage and complement the unique gifts of experienced pastoral ministers through graduate level theological and ministerial formation in the Catholic tradition.
Many potential ecclesial ministers, either by reason of distance from theological schools or of full-time employment, cannot participate in standard resident degree programs. In response to this challenge, the MAPM degree is offered in Oklahoma City as an Internet-enhanced cohort whose learning includes both online and face-to-face classroom sessions with professors from Aquinas Institute. Formative Spirituality is an essential component of the MAPM degree.
For more information, call Sister Diane Keener in the Pastoral Ministry Office at (405) 721-4208, email dkeener@archokc.org or visit http://archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministry/master-of-arts-in-pastoral-ministry. Applications must be completed by the end of June.

Saint Gregory’s University to host retreat for young adults
Saint Gregory’s University will be the setting for an inspired “Praying with Scripture” retreat for those who are 18 years old and out of high school to 39 years old. The retreat begins with vespers at 6:45 p.m. Friday, July 19, and ends with Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 20. The rest of the retreat will occur in the Rockwood Center at Saint Gregory’s University Shawnee campus. The cost is $55 a person and covers breakfast, lunch and overnight accommodations. For more information or to register, call Marvin Bennett at (405) 879-0352 or email fd@sgu.edu. Deadline to register is July 5.
**JUNE**

16 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Frairs meet at 1:45 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information call Jim Dawekee at (405) 468-66.

17 Annual St. Gregory Abby Golf Tournament Honoring Brother Andy Tes 9 a.m. Monday, June 17. This will be the four person scrum at Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, Oklahoma City. Help support the Monk of St. Gregory Abbey. Register online at www.monkseek.org or call (405) 878-5491.

17-25 Monthly Novenas to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of novena to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

19 Rother Guild Mass 7 p.m. St. Mary parish in Ardmore. Guild members will be there to answer questions on Fr. Rother and his cause. This Mass is a time to come together and pray for the Cause of Canonization for Fr. Rother. All are welcome do you do not have to be a Guild Member to attend.

21 Opening Mass of the Fortnight for Freedom at 7 p.m. at Our Lady’s Chapel. All are welcome.

29 Catholic Singles Dance. Meet and greet 7 to 8 p.m. Music will be from 8 to 11 p.m. May 25th at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Snacks will be available. For more information call Al Frejo: 631-0763.

Special Education Teacher

**Good Shepherd Catholic School** at Mercy in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time teacher to teach children ages 3-9 with autism spectrum disorders in an 11-month school-year program. The teacher must hold an standard Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in special education and either elementary education or early childhood education. Preference for a candidate who has completed training in Applied Behavior Analysis and experience teaching children with autism. Please submit Archdiocesan application along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Dr. Cris Carter, Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, 13404 N. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120.

The application form may be found at www.archdiocese.org.

**School Cafeteria Manager**

St. James the Greater Catholic School is seeking a qualified cafeteri manager for the 2013-2014 school year. In addition to excellence in food preparation for young students Pres-K through Gr. 8, familiarity with govern-ment food service, menu planning, purchasing, budgeting, and DHE requirements are necessary. Please send resume/contact to Anne Codding, Principal at (405) 636-6810 or stjames1@cox.net.

**Middle school teacher**

St. James the Greater Catholic School is seeking a qualified, full-time teacher for Gr. 6-7-8 Social Studies and Religion. This middle school educator must have state cer-tification and be a practicing Catholic. Please send resume/contact to Anne Codding, Principal at (405) 636-6810 or stjames1@cox.net.

**Fifth grade teacher position**

Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon is accepting appli-cations for the 2013-2014 school year. A position is available for a full-time, fifth grade homeroom teacher.

**First grade Teacher**

St. Joseph Catholic School in Enid, Oklahoma is seeking a teacher for First Grade for the 2013-2014 school year. Applicants must be cer-tified in Oklahoma for Early Childhood or have achieved certification by the start of the school year. Please send resume to Mr. Wade Laffey, Principal at wlaffey@stjosephschoolenid.com or send by mail to St. Joseph Catholic School, 110 North Madison, Enid, Oklahoma 73701.

**Part-time Spanish teacher**

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is accepting applications for a part-time Spanish teacher. Contact Shannon Statton at (405) 262-2284.

**Middle school teacher**

Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is accepting applications for a full-time certified Middle School teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. Submit resume to Shannon Statton, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036 or fax to (405)-262-3818.

**Replacement Pianist**

Corpus Christi Catholic Church on the near East side in Oklahoma City seeks a replacement pianist for when the regular pianist is unavail-able. There’s a keyboard organ if you prefer. Call Fr. Jack Zupan SJ at 239-2864 or call 301-0203.

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**Job Box**

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Catholic Foundation reschedules

Golf Classic for October 7

The members of the Catholic Foundation Board said they are disappointed but re-energized in their decision to move the 12th Annual Golf Classic to Oct. 7, 2013.

The storms and flooding of Friday, May 31, left the golf course saturated and in sad shape for the planned June 3 event. Putting the players and the golf experience on the No. 1 priority, Jaimee Zorio, Golf Classic Committee Chair, said it was a hard decision but the only alternative. The rescheduled tournament has been rescheduled for Monday, Oct. 7, 2013, at Gaillardia Country Club. The Committee is in the process of contacting all players and working with them to make the adjustment to the new date.

The Presenting Sponsor for the 2013 event is Ken and Karen Krosnowski. The Flight Sponsors are MidFirst Bank, Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, and Charlie L. & James R. Rori. The Golf Ball Sponsor is Wells Fargo Advisors/Ralph & Associates. The 10th Green Sponsor is David & Tish Eason. The Flight Sponsors include: David & Tish Eason; Wells Fargo Advisors/Ralph & Associates; The Catholic Hospital; Longhorn Services Co.; Maguire O’Hara Construction; and Mark Ruffin. Premium Hole Sponsors for the 10th Green include: Janie Grover; Cole & Reed; Crestron & Danley; and Doug Eason.

The Goodie Bag Sponsor is Gallagher Benefit Services/Nash & Company. The Double Eagle Sponsors include: David & Tish Eason; Wells Fargo Advisors/Ralph & Associates; The Catholic Hospital; Longhorn Services Co.; Maguire O’Hara Construction; and Mark Ruffin. Premium Hole Sponsors include: Janie Grover; Cole & Reed; Crestron & Danley; and Doug Eason. The Goodie Bag Sponsor is Gallagher Benefit Services/Nash & Company. The Double Eagle Sponsors include: David & Tish Eason; Wells Fargo Advisors/Ralph & Associates; The Catholic Hospital; Longhorn Services Co.; Maguire O’Hara Construction; and Mark Ruffin.

The Golf Classic features a full day of golf, fun and fellowship, but the main purpose of the event is to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, with net proceeds split equally between the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund and the 21 Catholic schools in the archdiocese. The event has been in June for the last eight years. The first three years the Golf Classic was the “Columbus Day Golf Classic” and was the last Monday in October. For the last two years, the net proceeds of the event have totaled more than $75,000 each year. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised more than $330,000 cumulative for the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund.

Another goal of the tournament is to foster awareness of Rosary School among the community.

“We want the community to really become involved and realize the value of Rosary School,” Crim said. Rosary School was founded in 1927 on the grounds of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. It was served by the Sisters of Mercy for the first 10 years. In 1938, Father Van der Grinten renamed the school, and the Dominican Sisters soon arrived and remained for the next 47 years as the school’s primary faculty. “Rosary is the only Catholic grade school in Oklahoma City to have been awarded National Blue Ribbon status by the United States Department of Education” said Karen Lynn, current principal of Rosary School.

To be granted this award, students must be granted this award, students must be the top fundraisers for Northwestern University in Chicago where he graduated” his wife said, “but he lived and breathed the Catholic Church.”

Dick was one of the top fundraisers for Northwestern University in Chicago where he graduated” his wife said, “but he lived and breathed the Catholic Church.”

The Saint Francis of Assisi Golf Tournament is dedicated in his memory. “Dick was the true impetus for this tour- nament,” Crim said. “He was such a great supporter of Rosary School and the community, and he was also an avid golfer himself.”

Connie Summers is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Saint Francis of Assisi to host first golf tournament

By Connie Summers

For the Sooner Catholic

On Saturday, Aug. 17, Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City will host its first golf tournament to benefit Rosary School. The money raised will go directly to the school’s computer lab.

“We hope to raise enough money to purchase 20 computers,” tournament chair Matt Grim said. “Many of the computers now being used are nearly 10 years old.”

Rosary School receives no federal money for infrastructure items. Those are obtained exclusively through fundraising and private donations.

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Dick Lynn passed away in 2009. Originally from Chicago, Dick and Karen found a home at Saint Francis of Assisi parish, and it was at Rosary School where Dick placed his fundraising efforts, a task where he was known to have quite a talent.

“The Saint Francis of Assisi Golf Tournament is dedicated in his memory. “Dick was the true impetus for this tournament,” Crim said. “He was such a great supporter of Rosary School and the community, and he was also an avid golfer himself.”

Connie Summers is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

IF YOU GO

Saint Francis of Assisi golf tournament to benefit Rosary School

When: 8 a.m. shotgun start, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2013

Where: Silverhorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City

Why: To honor the memory of Dick Lynn and to support Rosary School

For more information or to become a sponsor: Contact Matt Grim at (405) 923-7000, email golftournament@rosaryschool.com or visit www.rosaryschool.com.