Father Metzinger Installed as Cathedral Rector

OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Paul S. Coakley joked with the faithful attending the vigil Mass June 18 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help that he had brought them a Father's Day present. A few minutes later he formally installed Father John R. Metzinger as Rector of the Cathedral.

Father Metzinger replaces Monsignor Edward J. Wassonberger, who recently was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Salina. He moved over to the Cathedral after spending several years as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond.

One of six children, Father Metzinger delivered his first homily at Our Lady's during the summer. He moved over to the Cathedral after spending several years as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond.

One of six children, Father Metzinger delivered his first homily at Our Lady's during the summer. He moved over to the Cathedral after spending several years as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond.

Father Metzinger Installed as Cathedral Rector

continued on Page 8

Bishops — ‘Fortnight’ About Religious Freedom, Not Politics

By Dennis Sadowski

Catholic News Service

ATLANTA (CNS) — Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore June 13 acknowledged the U.S. bishops’ “Fortnight for Freedom” campaign has come under heavy criticism in the secular media, as in the blogosphere and by some Catholics as being a partisan political effort.

But the two-week period is meant to be free of politics and will emphasize church teaching on religious freedom, the chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom said in Atlanta.

‘Already we realize that defending religious freedom is not a walk in the park,’ Archbishop Lori said during the spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, saying that politics plays no role in the effort.

“We’ve seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate and sometimes derisive,” he said.

The upcoming fortnight will be a period of prayer, education and action aimed at explaining how a federal health care contraceptive mandate violates religious principles. The mandate requires most religious employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations.

The fortnight opens with Mass June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the tolling of bells at churches across the country at noon eastern time.

Cautioning that derogatory comments can be discouraging, Bishop Lori encouraged his fellow bishops to maintain their focus on religious rights as established in the U.S. Constitution and to avoid choosing to “soft-pedal” the church’s basic messages.

“I would say those things should prompt us to do exactly the opposite. They show how very great is the need for our teaching and our prayers both within our culture and within our church. It shows how far we have fallen and how far we have to climb before we can rest assured that religious freedom stands on firm footing,” he said.

But the two-week period is meant to be free of politics and will emphasize church teaching on religious freedom, the chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom said in Atlanta.

The bishops’ religious liberty campaign was being funded by the Knights of Columbus and the State of Oklahoma, he said.

“Already we realize that defending religious freedom is not a walk in the park,” Archbishop Lori said during the spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, saying that politics plays no role in the effort.

“We’ve seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate and sometimes derisive,” he said.

The upcoming fortnight will be a period of prayer, education and action aimed at explaining how a federal health care contraceptive mandate violates religious principles. The mandate requires most religious employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations.

The fortnight opens with Mass June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the tolling of bells at churches across the country at noon eastern time.

Cautioning that derogatory comments can be discouraging, Bishop Lori encouraged his fellow bishops to maintain their focus on religious rights as established in the U.S. Constitution and to avoid choosing to “soft-pedal” the church’s basic messages.

“Instead I would say those things should prompt us to do exactly the opposite. They show how very great is the need for our teaching and our prayers both within our culture and within our church. It shows how far we have fallen and how far we have to climb before we can rest assured that religious freedom stands on firm footing,” he said.

During a news conference following the afternoon session, Archbishop Lori said the bishops’ religious liberty campaign was being funded by the Knights of Columbus and the State of Oklahoma, he said.

“We’ve seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate and sometimes derisive,” he said.

The upcoming fortnight will be a period of prayer, education and action aimed at explaining how a federal health care contraceptive mandate violates religious principles. The mandate requires most religious employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations.

The fortnight opens with Mass June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the tolling of bells at churches across the country at noon eastern time.

Cautioning that derogatory comments can be discouraging, Bishop Lori encouraged his fellow bishops to maintain their focus on religious rights as established in the U.S. Constitution and to avoid choosing to “soft-pedal” the church’s basic messages.

“Instead I would say those things should prompt us to do exactly the opposite. They show how very great is the need for our teaching and our prayers both within our culture and within our church. It shows how far we have fallen and how far we have to climb before we can rest assured that religious freedom stands on firm footing,” he said.

During a news conference following the afternoon session, Archbishop Lori said the bishops’ religious liberty campaign was being funded by the Knights of Columbus and the State of Oklahoma, he said.

“The bishops’ religious liberty campaign was being funded by the Knights of Columbus and the State of Oklahoma, he said.”

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world; bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us as we offer our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to resolutely defend our freedoms when they are threatened.

Give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a closer and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us, this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen
Fortnight for Freedom

We Catholics, joined by other concerned Americans, have entered into an important ‘Fortnight for Freedom.’ Sponsored by the Bishops of the United States, this initiative is a focused period of prayer, study, catechesis and public witness highlighting our Christian and American heritage of liberty. It is being observed from June 21 through July 4.

This extraordinary event has been precipitated by a growing concern over mounting threats to religious liberty in our nation and around the world. Our liturgical and civic calendars during these two weeks offer ample opportunities to focus our attention on this theme. The calendar includes the liturgical observances of several great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political powers as well as the great civic celebration of American Independence Day.

Our local ‘Fortnight for Freedom’ observance began this weekend with two special events in Oklahoma City. I want to thank those of you who were able to join me at the Mass in honor of the martyrs St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher at Our Lady’s Cathedral on Friday evening and at the Rally for Religious Freedom on Saturday afternoon at the Cox Convention Center.

Why are we suddenly hearing so much about religious liberty? The remarkable mobilization of energies around this issue has been triggered by the recent federal HHS mandate. Unless overturned, this mandate will require virtually all employer-sponsored health insurance programs to provide coverage for sterilization, contraception and even abortion-inducing drugs as so-called preventive services. Any exemption to this requirement based on religious belief has been written as narrowly that few can actually qualify. Before summarizing the bishops’ concerns about this injust mandate, let me say briefly what this debate is not about.

— This debate is not about contraception. Though I pray that more Catholics will recognize and accept the wisdom of the Church’s consistent teaching against the use of contraception, the bishops are not attempting to ban it. Contraception will undoubtedly remain widely available for all but a few Catholic institutions, to act against Church teachings. The “Fortnight for Freedom” is a rallying cry. This is going to be a long struggle. It will not end on July 4. Let us raise our voices in prayer, but also commit ourselves to study and appropriate action in witness to the important values at stake for us as Catholics and as Americans. Religious liberty is a right recognized in our Constitution. But it is not a right bestowed on us by the government. It is a universal human right granted to us by God our Creator.

— This debate is not about religious freedom for Catholics only, but about the religious freedom and conscience rights of those whose beliefs may be the next to face restrictions.

— This debate is not about the Church attempting to force anyone to do anything. It is about whether the government should be allowed to compel the faithful, and all but a few Catholic institutions, to act in accordance with their faith and moral values. These are the individuals who have labored to form their conscience properly but now face a government mandate requiring them to aid in providing “services” contrary to their faith or deeply held values. Whether as employers, employees, or even as insurers, they are left without any sort of conscience exemption at all. This too is unprecedented in federal law which until now has always been generous in providing conscience protection to individuals so that they are not forced to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions.

— This debate is not about the government’s right to regulate religious institutions. The HHS mandate includes an extremely narrow definition of who is a religious employer. Only those are considered “religious enough” to qualify for exemption from the mandate that hire and serve primarily those of their own faith and have as their goal the inculcation of their own religious beliefs. This narrow definition fails to recognize and protect our vital Catholic ministries such as Catholic Charities, Catholic hospitals and even our Catholic universities. All of those institutions serve without regard to the faith or beliefs of those whom they serve. Yet they are an integral expression of our faith.

— This debate is not about contraception. Though I pray that more Catholics will recognize and accept the wisdom of the Church’s consistent teaching against the use of contraception, the bishops are not attempting to ban it. Contraception will undoubtedly remain widely available for all but a few Catholic institutions, to act against Church teachings. The “Fortnight for Freedom” is a rallying cry. This is going to be a long struggle. It will not end on July 4. Let us raise our voices in prayer, but also commit ourselves to study and appropriate action in witness to the important values at stake for us as Catholics and as Americans. Religious liberty is a right recognized in our Constitution. But it is not a right bestowed on us by the government. It is a universal human right granted to us by God our Creator.

—to the exempt religious institutions and those religious institutions “not religious enough” to qualify. This third category is the individuals who strive in their daily lives to act in accordance with their faith and moral values. Those are the individuals who have labored to form their conscience properly but now face a government mandate requiring them to aid in providing “services” contrary to their faith or deeply held values. Whether as employers, employees, or even as insurers, they are left without any sort of conscience exemption at all. This too is unprecedented in federal law which until now has always been generous in providing conscience protection to individuals so that they are not forced to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions.

This is not a fight that the Church has asked for, but one which has been forced upon us by the federal government. But it is also intended to keep the government from overreaching unlawfully in the affairs of the Church from interfering in the internal affairs of the Church. This is not a fight that the Church has asked for, but one which has been forced upon us by the federal government. But it is also intended to keep the government from overreaching unlawfully in the affairs of the Church.

Further, this mandate forces those Catholic entities which the government does not deem sufficiently religious to violate their own teachings within their very own institutions. It is a mandate to act against our own conscience. This cannot stand.

There is also imbedded in this HHS mandate another concern. The mandate creates a third category in addition to the exempt religious institutions and those religious institutions “not religious enough” to qualify. This third category is the individuals who strive in their daily lives to act in accordance with their faith and moral values. Those are the individuals who have labored to form their conscience properly but now face a government mandate requiring them to aid in providing “services” contrary to their faith or deeply held values. Whether as employers, employees, or even as insurers, they are left without any sort of conscience exemption at all. This too is unprecedented in federal law which until now has always been generous in providing conscience protection to individuals so that they are not forced to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions.

This “Fortnight for Freedom” is a rallying cry. This is going to be a long struggle. It will not end on July 4. Let us raise our voices in prayer, but also commit ourselves to study and appropriate action in witness to the important values at stake for us as Catholics and as Americans. Religious liberty is a right recognized in our Constitution. But it is not a right bestowed on us by the government. It is a universal human right granted to us by God our Creator.
By Michael Kelly
Catholic News Service

DUBLIN (CNS) — The Catholic Church is under attack “partly because of the sins of some of its leaders, but mainly because of its uncompromising teachings” on marriage, said an Australian archbishop.

“Faced with this, the church can either compromise and face irrelevance, or continue to teach Christ’s truth about marriage, life and love, and pray that the world will listen,” Archbishop Barry Hickey, retired archbishop of Perth, told pilgrims at the International Eucharistic Congress June 12.

The archbishop told a packed conference hall that “only a few years ago one could safely assume that our understanding of marriage was generally accepted,” but this is no longer the case. “Increasingly marriage is being promoted as only one of the many options in human sexual relationships,” he said. “Recent years have witnessed a sharp rise in cohabitation before marriage. These so-called partnerships are even taking the place of marriage.”

He said that “adding to this is the pressure to change the very definition of marriage from a union of a man and a woman to a union of two persons of the same sex.”

“The ideal of Christian marriage is under great threat,” he warned. “The availability of easy divorce undermines the strength of commitment that true marriage requires and encourages the view that marriage is no longer a permanent contract.”

The June 12 events at the congress concentrated specifically on marriage and family. While the bright sunshine that marked the opening days was replaced by dark clouds and rain showers, spirits were not dampened as many parents brought along their children. A special “children’s space” allowed for a celebration of faith in song, dance and animation while adults attended the speeches and workshops.

In his address to the congress, Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, criticized a tendency to see marriage merely as a more consensual agreement or, as one American law school textbook on family law described marriage, as being better understood today as “a joint venture for profit between the spouses.”

He warned that “too often the cultural commentary about marriage — especially found in defense of divorce — suggests marriage and family is risky because one’s commitment and contribution may not ‘pay off’ — that there may not be an adequate return on one’s investment in the marriage.”

Each day of the June 10-17 congress, Mass was celebrated by a visiting prelate and contained special intercessions chosen to reflect the theme. Encouraging families to draw strength from prayer, Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris said the church “must not rule out anything of all that can be done publicly to defend the value of the family.”

However, he said that “the first mission of Christian families is to live concretely by these values, by reconciliation, mutual acceptance and joy in giving one’s life for one’s loved ones.”

The strength of our testimonies lies in the examples we give. The church will be heard and respected intransistch as she helps Christians remain irreversibly faithful, confident enough to welcome new lives, tirelessly kind to the oldest and to the most vulnerable, and respectfully open to the ones who are alone,” he said.
Vatican II Did Not Downplay Importance of Eucharistic Adoration, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — A misunderstanding of the Second Vatican Council has led some Catholics to think that Eucharistic Adoration and Corporal Christ processions are pietistic practices that pale in importance to the celebration of Mass, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“A unilateral interpretation of the Second Vatican Council has penalized this dimension” of Catholic faith, which is to recognize Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and worthy of adoration, the Pope said June 7 during a Mass marking the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The evening Mass outside Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran preceded a moment of silent adoration and the Pope’s traditional Corpus Christi procession with the Eucharist through the streets of Rome.

In his homily, the Pope told the thousands of people gathered on the basilica lawn that it is important to recognize the centrality of the celebration of Mass, the moment in which the Lord gathers his people, nourishes them and unites them to himself in offering his sacrifice.

But if Christ is seen as present in the Eucharist only during Mass, “this imbalance has repercussions on the spiritual life of the faithful,” who need to be aware of “the constant presence of Jesus among us and with us,” the Pope said.

“The sacrament of the charity of Christ must permeate all one’s daily life.”

Celebration and adoration are not in competition, the Pope said. “Worshipping the Blessed Sacrament constitutes something like the spiritual environment in which the community can celebrate the Eucharist well and in truth.”

Pope Benedict said Mass is most meaningful when the faithful recognize that in the Blessed Sacrament, the Lord is present, “awaits us, invites us to his table and then, after the assembly disperses, remains with us with his discreet and silent presence.”

Spending time in prolonged silence before the Eucharist “is one of the most authentic experiences of our being church,” and it finds its complement at Mass when Catholics “celebrate the Eucharist, listening to the Word of God, singing, approaching together the table of the bread of life.”

Truly entering into communion with someone, he said, is accompanied by “exchanging glances and intense, eloquent silence full of respect and veneration.”

“If this dimension is missing, even sacramental communion can become a superficial gesture on our part,” the Pope said.

Pope Benedict said another misunderstanding—one influenced “by a certain secular mentality” of the 1960s and ’70s—was the idea that the Bible teaches that with the coming of Christ, rituals and sacrifice no longer should have meaning. Basically, he said, some people believe “the sacred no longer exists.”

It is true that Christ inaugurated a new form of worship, one tied less to a place and a ritual and more to his person, but people still need “signs and rites,” the Pope said. In fact, without its annual Corpus Christi procession, “the spiritual profile of Rome” would change.

Preceded by members of parish Eucharistic adoration committees, children who recently made their First Communion, religious, seminarians, priests, bishops and cardinals walking to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Pope Benedict rode on the back of a truck facing the Blessed Sacrament, which was held in a gem-studded gold monstrance.

Thousands of people carrying candles walked behind the Pope. People watching from the sidewalks behind metal barriers tossed flower petals in front of the truck and joined in singing Eucharistic hymns and reciting litanies.

Darkness fell as the procession made its way to St. Mary Major, and the evening ended with the Pope blessing the crowd with the Blessed Sacrament.

New Missal Combines Many Elements Into One, Including the New Mass Translation

Some may remember the days when one could purchase a missal and have almost all of the readings and prayers for Mass for every day of the year in it. After the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, missals were provided in two or three volumes. They were small, but still one had more than one to keep track of. They served their purpose and were useful, but now a new missal, Saint Paul Daily Missal, that has almost everything in it is available with the new translation of the Mass.

The clergy will love this because they can take this one volume when they are traveling. Most people will not need a magnifying glass to read it either. Those who attend daily Mass will love this missal too since it has all of the readings and prayers that they will need to prepare for the Mass or to follow along.

The missal has a general calendar followed by a liturgical calendar. There is a list of the Scripture readings with their abbreviations. This is followed by the proper of seasons. With this section the user has the Sunday and weekday readings and prayers together which flows very well. For Ordinary Time, the Sunday readings that are divided into years A, B and C are together, which are followed by the two-year cycle of weekday readings. Again things flow well.

The Proper of Seasons is followed by the Order of the Mass which has Eucharistic Prayers I and IV and the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses of Reconciliation I and II. The missal does not have the four Eucharistic Prayers for Use in Masses for Various Needs. It does not have the Latin Order of Mass. The Proper of Saints and then the Common follow the Order of the Mass. The Masses for the Dead follows that and the missal ends with a Treasury of Prayers.

There are four colored silk ribbons. The cover is leatherette or imitation leather. It comes in burgundy or black. There are some black and white illustrations. There are commentaries on the Scripture readings by Sister Anne Ellen Hoffman, FSP, and Sister Mary Lea Hill, FSP.

This missal is highly recommended to those who participate in daily Mass and to the clergy and others for their preparation for Mass. There is also a one volume that has the Sunday readings and prayers available too. Brother Benet Exton, O.S.B., St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee.

Catechism Now in Browser-based E-Book Format

WASHINGTON — The Catechism of the Catholic Church is now available at the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in a format identical to an e-book. The new version, currently only available in English, can be found at www.usccb.org/catechism.

“The USCCB is wisely using technology to serve their constituents and they are raising the bar for engaging users,” said Zuret Gaffaren, CEO of Fig Leaf Software, the interactive agency that partnered with the USCCB to create the e-book version. “I always had the idea in mind that when the Catechism was first published in 1994, there might be some e-book readers that have a few of these features, but I doubt you can find one that offers all of these features in a single application.”

“The USCCB is wisely using technology to serve their constituents and they are raising the bar for engaging users,” said Zuret Gaffaren, CEO of Fig Leaf Software, the interactive agency that partnered with the USCCB to create the e-book version. “I always had the idea in mind that when the Catechism was first published in 1994, there might be some e-book readers that have a few of these features, but I doubt you can find one that offers all of these features in a single application.”

The new e-book version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is proving to be so compelling if not more, of an influence on the faithful,” said Bishop David Xerri, chair of the USCCB’s Evangelization and Catechesis Committee. “Our ability to use the new technologies means that many more millions will be able to find the Catholic Church’s teachings on their tablets, their smartphones and their laptops.”

Released in 1994, the Catechism of the Catholic Church has become the most widely used catechism in the United States. The word “catechism” is a training program, and support living program. RIDD is now recognized as a “national and international phenomenon.”

With the children’s programs in place, Espinosa said adding home health care was the last piece of the puzzle because as the children aged, they noticed a growing need for home health care.

“I always had the idea in mind that we need a wound to tomb program,” Father Zahler said, that covers the first and last years of life in a respectful, religious and caring manner.

He said the state started closing its institutions due to a lawsuit in the 1990s, and a void was left. Since society cannot or is simply unable to take on many of the challenges of the elderly and special needs individuals, “we wanted to pick up the slack … we took on what was needed,” he said.

“Saint Benedict says the care of the sick is the most important part, and they should be looked upon as Christ himself,” Father Zahler said. “Ultimate One is ‘up and running, open to all’ and provides a variety of services to people of all ages in need: home health care, non-medical home care, sitter service, home nursing, home therapy and transportation, to name a few. Services depend on Medicare or private pay. Espinosa said.

“We cover ‘a broad spectrum,’” she said. “Very basic (care) … to some- one needing therapy or rehabilita-
tion.”

Although Ultimate One has patients and personnel, it is still in an ‘infancy stage,’” she said, and is looking for more qualified recruits so they can expand further and provide more necessary care.

Father Zahler, who recently celebrated his 50th year in the priesthood, said this program is based at St. Gregory’s campus with his children’s programs, while a drop-in office is located at Catholic Charities on Classen Boulevard in Oklahoma City. He said Ultimate One serves a 100-mile radius and includes the Oklahoma City and Shawnee areas.

For more information, call Wanda Ote at 795-8663, Espinosa at 596-4832, or email ultimate.lhsr@gmail.com.

Shawnee — Expanding Benedictine values to those in need increased as Ultimate One Home Health Care opened its doors. Registered nurses and administrator Debbie Espinosa said this program started “from nothing” in January, and provides home health and spiritual care paid for by Medicare or private pay, depending on the services needed. This care is available to all ages and needs.

Founder and director Father Paul Zahler, Ph.D., Order of Stunt Benedict, said his original program began in 1964 as a sewn program to help special education children. The Early Child Development Center at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee was established in 1974, and he soon founded the National Institute on Developmental Delays. According to the NIDD website, http://www.nidd.org, some of the programs include a child develop-

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

KTLR FM 89.1

KTLR 890 AM

FM 94.1 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - 7 a.m.

AM 890 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station sign-off at dusk.

Go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com for the current schedule of programs.
Catholic Schools, Endowment Fund Big Winners Thanks to Foundation Golf Classic

The Catholic Foundation’s 11th Annual Golf Classic by every measure was again a huge success. The event, held on June 4 at Gaillardia Country Club, spotted 204 golfers in both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to the golf played on a great weather Monday on June, lunch, a wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event was almost $75,000 and will be split with half going proportionally to the 21 Catholic schools and remaining half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is set up to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised over $300,000 cumulatively for the Endowment Fund.


The Catholic Foundation’s 11th Annual Golf Classic by every measure was again a huge success. The event, held on June 4 at Gaillardia Country Club, spotted 204 golfers in both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to the golf played on a great weather Monday on June, lunch, a wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event was almost $75,000 and will be split with half going proportionally to the 21 Catholic schools and remaining half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is set up to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised over $300,000 cumulatively for the Endowment Fund.


The Catholic Foundation’s 11th Annual Golf Classic by every measure was again a huge success. The event, held on June 4 at Gaillardia Country Club, spotted 204 golfers in both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to the golf played on a great weather Monday on June, lunch, a wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event was almost $75,000 and will be split with half going proportionally to the 21 Catholic schools and remaining half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is set up to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised over $300,000 cumulatively for the Endowment Fund.


The Catholic Foundation’s 11th Annual Golf Classic by every measure was again a huge success. The event, held on June 4 at Gaillardia Country Club, spotted 204 golfers in both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to the golf played on a great weather Monday on June, lunch, a wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event was almost $75,000 and will be split with half going proportionally to the 21 Catholic schools and remaining half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is set up to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised over $300,000 cumulatively for the Endowment Fund.


The Catholic Foundation’s 11th Annual Golf Classic by every measure was again a huge success. The event, held on June 4 at Gaillardia Country Club, spotted 204 golfers in both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition to the golf played on a great weather Monday on June, lunch, a wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event was almost $75,000 and will be split with half going proportionally to the 21 Catholic schools and remaining half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is set up to support Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students. In the last 11 Golf Classic events, the Catholic Foundation has raised over $300,000 cumulatively for the Endowment Fund.

Bishops Welcome President's Action, Urge Congressional Action for Those Eligible for ‘Dream’ Act

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed the action of President Barack Obama to defer action to all young people eligible under the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

The bishops said this would permit young people who were born into the United States undocumented to come out of the shadows and more fully participate in society.

“This important action will provide legal protection, and work authorization, to a vulnerable group of immigrants who are deserving of remaining in our country and contributing their talents to our communities,” said Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

“These youth are bright, energetic and eager to bring their talents to our communities,” said Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, chairmam of the USCCB Committee on Migration. “Those youth are bright, energetic and eager to bring their talents to our communities.”

Archbishop Gomez said that “the best way to protect religious freedom might be to remind people they should love God.” Garvey supported his claim by citing the findings of author Charles Murray in his book “Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010.” Murray found, according to Garvey, that among white working class Americans, those who profess no faith or attend a worship service only once a year has increased from 38 percent to 59 percent in the last 50 years.

The university president also quoted Murray’s findings that point to a decline in marriage in the same demographic group from 84 percent to 48 percent and a seven-fold increase in out-of-wedlock births from 6 percent to 44 percent during the same period.

Garvey also said infringements on religious liberty such as the HHS mandate as well as a series of other decisions by federal and local governments pose serious threats to religious practice.

“Threats to religious freedom are not just a matter of personal belief,” Garvey said. “Our society seems to be playing a role in the growing indifference toward religious rights in the United States.

John Garvey said that if fewer people are practicing religion, as census data and sociological studies indicate, people are less likely to understand that a government action infringes on religious freedom.

“Our society won’t care about religious freedom if it doesn’t care about God,” Garvey explained. “That’s where reform is needed. We won’t have, and we probably won’t need, religious exemptions for nurses, doctors, teachers, social workers, if no one is practicing religion.”

Garvey predicted that “the worst way to protect religious freedom might be to remind people they should love God.” Garvey supported his claim by citing the findings of author Charles Murray in his book “Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010.” Murray found, according to Garvey, that among white working class Americans, those who profess no faith or attend a worship service only once a year has increased from 38 percent to 59 percent in the last 50 years.

The university president also quoted Murray’s findings that point to a decline in marriage in the same demographic group from 84 percent to 48 percent and a seven-fold increase in out-of-wedlock births from 6 percent to 44 percent during the same period.

Garvey also said infringements on religious liberty such as the HHS mandate as well as a series of other decisions by federal and local governments pose serious threats to religious practice.

As part of his presentation to the bishops, Archbishop Lori reviewed two documents explaining church teaching on religious freedom recently issued by the bishops.

One document, “United for Religious Freedom,” which describes various threats to religious liberty in the United States, was adopted by the USCCB Administrative Committee in March.

The five-page statement explained the bishops’ concerns about the contraceptive mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the health care law as well as its “new definition of who we are as people of faith and what constitutes our ministry.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan moved that the full body of bishops adopt the statement as its own. His motion was approved unanimously.

Archbishop Lori also discussed “Our First, Most Cherished Liberty,” a statement on religious liberty issued by the ad hoc committee. He noted that the statement “recognizes that our religious freedom problems in the United States pale in comparison to those problems abroad.”

Noting that at least 70 dioceses had planned events — with more expected — during the fortight campaign, the archbishop thanked the bishops for their support.
Sister Bernice Taylor, Sister Floriana Voegeli, left, and Sister Nicolette Herman celebrated their 75th anniversaries of first profession. They made their first profession on Aug. 10, 1937.

Sister Nicolette Herman was born in Westphalia, Kan. Her early ministry was in domestic services in various convents in Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1947 she began a ministry as executive housekeeper at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid. Except for the years from 1960-1968 when she was the executive housekeeper at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Sister served at St. Mary's until 2005 when she moved to the Wichita Center. The last 10 years of her time at St. Mary's, she served as a volunteer, continuing her dedication and service there. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Floriana Voegeli was born in St. Marks, Kan. She began her ministry as a nurse in hospitals in New Mexico and Oklahoma, spending a total of 13 years at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid. After studying pharmacy at Creighton University, she spent 14 years as pharmacy supervisor at a hospital in Carlsbad, N.M. Returning to Wichita in 1989, she served at the Acuto Center, becoming the director of services from 1990-1992. She then moved to then Sacred Heart/Kansas Newman College, now Newman University, for seven years. Even after retiring from teaching she continued her dedication to education as a volunteer at Ryan Library at Newman University. She is now Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Nicolette Herman and Sister Floriana Voegeli celebrated their 75th anniversary. They made their first profession on Aug. 10, 1937.

Sister Bernice Taylor was born in Canute. She celebrated her 70th anniversary of first profession. She made her first profession of vows on July 1, 1947. Her years of ministry have focused on education, with her first 25 years spent in classrooms in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. In the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, she taught at Corpus Christi (1969-1971), assisted teachers at Christ the King in 1988, and was a special education teacher at Elmhurst School (1989-1990). After obtaining a master's in education to the handicapped, her ministries shifted to assistant teacher and tutoring special needs students. Her work in education continued in the Oklahoma City Diocese, Kentucky, Missouri, and various schools in Wichita. Her ministries also included serving as director of Parish School of Religion and as director of the temporary center for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Bernice Taylor was born in Canute. She celebrated her 70th anniversary of first profession and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1942. After attending Sacred Heart College in Wichita and Marymount in Salina, Kan., she received a master's degree from St. Louis University and studied library science at Emporia St. Teachers College in Kansas. Her 52 years of education ministry found her in several schools in Kansas and Oklahoma as elementary teacher and principal. In the Oklahoma City Diocese, she taught at St. Joseph and St. Francis Xavier in Stillwater, St. Mary's in Elk City, Holy Trinity in Okarche and St. Mary's in Medford. She also shared her experience as an instructor in the Education Department at then Sacred Heart/Kansas Newman College, now Newman University, for seven years. Even after retiring from teaching she continued her dedication to education as a volunteer at Ryan Library at Newman University. She is now Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Schmidt, born in Spaulding, Kan., celebrated her 65th anniversary of first profession. She made her first profession of vows on July 1, 1947. Her years of ministry have focused on education, with her first 25 years spent in classrooms in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. In the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, she taught at Corpus Christi (1969-1971), assisted teachers at Christ the King in 1988, and was a special education teacher at Elmhurst School (1989-1990). After obtaining a master's in education to the handicapped, her ministries shifted to assistant teacher and tutoring special needs students. Her work in education continued in the Oklahoma City Diocese, Kentucky, Missouri, and various schools in Wichita. Her ministries also included serving as director of Parish School of Religion and as director of the temporary center for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Schmidt, born in Spaulding, Kan., celebrated her 65th anniversary of first profession. She made her first profession of vows on July 1, 1947. Her years of ministry have focused on education, with her first 25 years spent in classrooms in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. In the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, she taught at Corpus Christi (1969-1971), assisted teachers at Christ the King in 1988, and was a special education teacher at Elmhurst School (1989-1990). After obtaining a master's in education to the handicapped, her ministries shifted to assistant teacher and tutoring special needs students. Her work in education continued in the Oklahoma City Diocese, Kentucky, Missouri, and various schools in Wichita. Her ministries also included serving as director of Parish School of Religion and as director of the temporary center for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Blood of Christ Adorers Celebrate Anniversaries

On May 20, 2012, at the ASC Wichita Center in Wichita, Kan., four Adorers of the Blood of Christ who served in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese celebrated significant anniversaries of first profession. Sister Elizabeth Ann Schmidt, born in Spaulding, Kan., celebrated her 65th anniversary of first profession. She made her first profession of vows on July 1, 1947. Her years of ministry have focused on education, with her first 25 years spent in classrooms in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. In the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, she taught at Corpus Christi (1969-1971), assisted teachers at Christ the King in 1988, and was a special education teacher at Elmhurst School (1989-1990). After obtaining a master's in education to the handicapped, her ministries shifted to assistant teacher and tutoring special needs students. Her work in education continued in the Oklahoma City Diocese, Kentucky, Missouri, and various schools in Wichita. Her ministries also included serving as director of Parish School of Religion and as director of the temporary center for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Bernice Taylor was born in Canute. She celebrated her 70th anniversary of first profession. She made her first profession of vows on July 1, 1947. Her years of ministry have focused on education, with her first 25 years spent in classrooms in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. In the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, she taught at Corpus Christi (1969-1971), assisted teachers at Christ the King in 1988, and was a special education teacher at Elmhurst School (1989-1990). After obtaining a master's in education to the handicapped, her ministries shifted to assistant teacher and tutoring special needs students. Her work in education continued in the Oklahoma City Diocese, Kentucky, Missouri, and various schools in Wichita. Her ministries also included serving as director of Parish School of Religion and as director of the temporary center for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Floriana Voegeli was born in St. Marks, Kan. She began her ministry as a nurse in hospitals in New Mexico and Oklahoma, spending a total of 13 years at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid. After studying pharmacy at Creighton University, she spent 14 years as pharmacy supervisor at a hospital in Carlsbad, N.M. Returning to Wichita in 1989, she served at the Acuto Center, becoming the director of services from 1990-1992. She then moved to then Sacred Heart/Kansas Newman College, now Newman University, for seven years. Even after retiring from teaching she continued her dedication to education as a volunteer at Ryan Library at Newman University. She is now Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Sister Nicolette Herman was born in Westphalia, Kan. Her early ministry was in domestic services in various convents in Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1947 she began a ministry as executive housekeeper at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid. Except for the years from 1960-1968 when she was the executive housekeeper at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Sister served at St. Mary's until 2005 when she moved to the Wichita Center. The last 10 years of her time at St. Mary's, she served as a volunteer, continuing her dedication and service there. She is currently Living Mission in Later Life at the Wichita Center.

Book Reveals Rich, Healing Powers of the Rosary

HUNTINGTON, Ind. — June 13, 2012 — Most Catholics know the Rosary as an effective intercessory prayer — for their own needs, or those of others. But many people don’t have a full appreciation for how powerful, rich and healing it can be.

When the faithful say the Rosary, they ask for Mary’s prayers, and as an attentive mother, she responds. In fact, Mary intervenes even as someone begins to speak to her.

A new guide to optimal utilization of this centuries-old prayer, Praying the Rosary for Intercession, by Catherine M. Odell (Our Sunday Visitor, 2012) couples each of the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries with a pertinent Scripture passage, a reflection that relates the mystery to the topic of intercession, a mystery prayer and suggested intercessory mystery intentions. Also included in each chapter is a feature called ‘The Rosary in Our Lives’ — true stories of the Rosary and its place in the lives of saints, popes and theologians, as well as ordinary Catholics.

Praying the Rosary for intercession also includes a history of the Rosary, and step-by-step instructions on how to pray it. This book is ideal for anyone — whether that person is a regular at praying the Rosary, or is someone who’s never attempted this prayer but who wants to learn about it.

Readers will better understand the collective role of the Communion of Saints in praying for others, encompassing the faithful still in this world, as well as those in heaven and purgatory.
Harvest of Hope Offered at Divorce Ministry Conference

FORT WORTH — Catholic Divine Ministry (CDM) presents Harvest of Hope, Peace and Joy, its International Conference and Leadership Seminars, a conference which is open to all who have experienced divorce or loss of a relationship and who minister to them.

Learn to laugh with friends and peers as you journey toward whole- ness, healing, growth, wisdom and peace! With a focus on spirituality, this conference offers knowledgeable speakers and a variety of topics plus a rich array of activities, workshops and people who understand that God never abandons us.

International Conference and Leadership Seminars at Diocese of Fort Worth-Campus of St. Ann Catholic Church, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, Texas 76028, Oct. 4-6, 2012.

Contact keynote speaker will be Bishop Kevin Vann, S.C.D., Diocese of Fort Worth was ordained and installed as the third bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth in 2005 and has served as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Episcopal Liaison to Catholic Divine Ministry since May 2010.

Conference details, as well as registration information, is available online at www.naced.org.

Communicating in a LUVing Way is in the Flow of God’s Will for Us

LUVing communication is a key to bringing God into our marriages, enabling loving and intimate relationships with our spouses — our best friends, soul mates and lovers. LUV is an acronym for Listening, Understanding and Validating.

LUVing communication occurs when we truly listen to our partners while focusing on understanding what they are saying and then validating to them that we understand what they are communicating. This is very much in line with the St. Francis prayer where it says, “Lord grant that I not seek so much to be understood as to understand.”

When we are LUVing our spouses, we are truly loving them. When we are LUVing our spouses, we are focusing on understanding them in intimate and empathic ways that are in the flow of God’s will for us. As we LUV our partners we are being Christ incarnate by being the eyes, ears, mouth, face and gestures of Jesus.

LUVing communication helps to exclude the evil and hurts of taking things personally, being defensive and excessively explaining ourselves. LUVings communications exclude blun- ting, advising, giving, being critical, attempting to control, name- calling, resentment and self-pity.

LUVing communication is about compassionately understand- ing, accepting and forgiving and allows us to be a compassionate- site healing presence to one another while sharing in intimate and loving ways. LUVing communication promotes the love and goodness that our heavenly Father brings to our marriages.

LUVing communication, however, is a real paradigm shift for most of us in how we talk to one another because we are so used to communicating in ways to satisfy the ego. How do we make this paradigm shift after communicating this way for 20, 30 or 40 years?

We have to ask for God’s help and so prayer and meditation are keys to gradually changing how we communicate. In addition, we can notice, be honest about and when necessary apologize for ways we negatively talk with our spouses and share with one another a commitment to change.

We can initiate change by taking turns sharing for one or two minutes with one another while the other listens intensely, focusing on understanding what our spouse is saying. Then, as listener, we validate to the other that we understand, by repeating back in our own words what we heard. The speaker may need to clarify if we do not understand what was said. If the speaker is talking about feeling hurt and disappointed when we do not listen to them while watching TV, we might share in our words, “Honey, I understand that when I continue to watch TV while you are speaking to me you feel hurt and disappointed. Am I under- standing you?”

Once the spouses who is the speaker believes we understand them, it is our turn to speak for one or two minutes while they listen. Subjects we could talk about include our hopes, desires, hurts, sadness, disappointments, excitement, making love, financial issues, rules for children, etc. When we understand and practice LUVing communication, then we can become LUVers where the R is RESOLVE for resolving problems, issues, etc.

Assistance in LUVing communications is available at St. John’s Counseling Center, 353-8539.

Joe Probst, Parish Counselor, Spiritual Director, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.
Calendar

JUNE
24 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers in Infant Jesus of Prague, Lay Day to the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3086 or www.theneffa.org.

26-28 Mount Volleyball Camp Grades 2-8, 8 a.m. to noon. Grades 6/9, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: $55. Enrollment is limited to 30 players per age group. Camp directors. MS/M volleyball coaches Kenneth Bettheum, Bo Bedford and Mary Jekel. Camp is held on the campus of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School located at 2801 S. Shartel. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

27 Learn the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning with Scott and Gail Hunt, certified instructors, on Wednesday, June 27, June 25, and Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 96th and Boulevard, Edmond, in the basement central room. You must register for the class online at www.nfp.org and your materials will be sent to you. Payment is by credit card at $135. Free child care is available upon request by contacting Dr. Harry Kucurkci, (405) 093-1191.

JULY
6 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. Those wanting to learn more about First Friday Devotion and the practice of centering the family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will find materials available after Mass. For more information, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8494 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-4528.

7 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Laic) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Tom Harrison at (405) 341-2199 or lmoklahoma@bigglobal.net.

11 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2931 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the Church office at (405) 685-4806.

9-12 Mount Softball Camp 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Girls entering grades 7/8. Cost: $60. Camp director: Daryl Remold, 391-2123, dyrremold@hotmail.com. Camp is held on the campus of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School located at 2801 S. Shartel, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

10 Catholic War Veterans of any war/conflict will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Prioz Oswald at (405) 567-3044.

13-15 Rocket Team Football Camp (full-padded camp) 5 to 9 p.m. Grades 7-12. Cost: $85 pre-register or $100 day of camp (cost includes dinner and camp shirt). Camp director. Chris Shibak, head football coach, (405) 390-3810, enrollment@stmarys.org. Camp is held on the campus of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School located at 2801 S. Shartel, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

11 Catholic War Veterans USA, Oklahoma Memorial Post 149 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City; every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 739-0036 or by email at OklaPt149oxn.net.

24 Mount Volleyball Camp Grades 2-8, 8 a.m. to noon. Grade 6/9, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: $55. Enrollment is limited to 30 players per age group. Camp directors. MS/M volleyball coaches Kenneth Bettheum, Bo Bedford and Mary Jekel. Camp is held on the campus of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School located at 2801 S. Shartel. Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

14 McGuinness High School Class of 1952 Reunion (second graduating class of "Catholic High" as called way back then) will be celebrating the 60th year of graduation. Contact Patty Kerans at pattywolfe@cox.net, or Carole Papin Ryan at carole8772@cox.com.

15 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity (SF) is meeting at 1:35 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Davis at 808-6888.

28-30 Emmaus Days is a retreat for young men in high school who want to learn about the real to the Church and explore their relationship with God. The three-day retreat is held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. There is no cost for this retreat. Complete the registration form and return to the vocation Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the Vocations Office at (405) 721-0531 or email vocation@archokc.org.

Jobs Box

Director of Hispanic Ministry The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is searching for a Director of Hispanic Ministry (full-time position). Minimum qualifications include bachelor or master’s degree in theology or related field. In lieu of degree, several years of experience in this type of position or ministry could be substituted, at least five years of experience in Hispanic Ministry (full-time position). Experience in Hispanic Ministry (full-time position) preferred. Bachelor’s degree and five years of experience in Hispanic Ministry (full-time position) preferred. Bachelor’s degree in theology or pastoral ministry is preferred. Bachelor’s degree and two years of experience in youth/young adult ministry will be considered. Practicing Catholic in good standing. Mature understanding of the Catholic faith. Ability to communicate creatively and pastorally to young adults. Ability to work in a collaborative ministry environment. Instrumental musical ability or desireable. Completion of Archdiocese of Oklahoma City State Ministry Training Program. Position is part time with an anticipated start date of 8/1/12. Interested candidates should submit cover letter and resume to job@stgregorys.edu.

Full-Time Teaching Position The Catholic School of St. Eugene in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a certified fourth-grade teaching position for the 2012-2013 school year. CSEE is a faith-filled community where teachers and families work together to grow spiritually and academically. Please send resume and copy of teaching certificate to St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73139.

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 autistic spectrum disorder in an 11-month school-year program beginning in August, 2012. The teacher must hold a 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 Archdiocese application along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Dr. Donna Keenan, Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, 1404 N. Meridian Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120. The application form may be found at www.archokc.org.

Sixth-Grade Teacher Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno has a sixth-grade teaching position open for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate. Applicants must also be committed to providing academic excellence in a Christian environment. Please send resume to Principal Shannen Stutts at 230 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036 or by fax to (405) 282-3518.

High School Guidance Counselor Mount St. Mary Catholic High School has opening for the 2012-13 school year for high school guidance counselor. Duties include college guidance and high school scheduling. Please send resume and certificaton to Tasha DeNogla at (405) 631-0290 or email to ldegrave@mountstmary.org.

Junior High Science Teacher All Saints Catholic School in Norman is accepting applications for the position of junior high science teacher. In addition to classroom instruction, the teacher is also responsible for co-chairing the school sciences fair and coordinating student paperwork for district, regional and state science fairs. All applicants must hold current Oklahoma Teacher Certification. Mail or fax resumes to Leslie Schmidt, Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 4015 NW 6th, Norman, Okla. 73072. Fax (405) 447-7227.

Certified Elementary Teachers St. James the Greater School in Guthrie is seeking a full-time elementary teacher for the 2012-2013 school year as well as part-time teachers for Art and Spanish. Faith-filled applicants must be committed to high standards of academic excellence in a strong Catholic environment. Submit archdiocese application and a copy of teaching certificate to Anne Cushing, 1224 S.W. 414e, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

Full-Time Kindergarten St. Mary's Catholic School in Lawton is seeking a person of faith wanting a challenging career in Catholic education. The school will have the following opening for next year: Kindergarten full-time. Degree and certification are preferred for teaching positions. All applicants should submit current copy of application, in addition, for teaching positions, submit application to Paula J. Dalman, 611 SW 9 Avenue, Lawton, Okla. 73501. Phone: (580) 555-5288 to schedule an interview.

Middle School Opening St. Mary Catholic School in Guthrie is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in middle school subject specific certification area of science and math. Interested individuals should be able to share their faith within an academic challenging class-room environment. Send application to vocation@archokc.org.
Catholic Schools Fund Grants Scholarships for 2012-2013

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — Isabel Celedon had an experience of a lifetime when the St. Mary Catholic School second-grade student received her first Communion — at the Vatican.

And she owns it, at least in part, to her aunt.

Isabel’s mother, Joanne Celedon, was talking by phone to her sister, Inka Szalinski, who is a teacher at an international school in Florence, Italy. Szalinski mentioned that some of her students were going to the Vatican to receive their first Communion.

Isabel’s father, an Army officer stationed at Fort Sill, overheard the conversation and said, “What are the chances that Isabel can take her first Communion at the Vatican.”

“He was half serious, half joking,” Joanne Celedon said.

About a week later Szalinski called.

Lawton Girl Travels to Rome to Celebrate First Communion at Vatican

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — Isabel Celedon had an experience of a lifetime when the St. Mary Catholic School second-grade student received her first Communion — at the Vatican.

And she owns it, at least in part, to her aunt.

Isabel’s mother, Joanne Celedon, was talking by phone to her sister, Inka Szalinski, who is a teacher at an international school in Florence, Italy. Szalinski mentioned that some of her students were going to the Vatican to receive their first Communion.

Isabel’s father, an Army officer stationed at Fort Sill, overheard the conversation and said, “What are the chances that Isabel can take her first Communion at the Vatican.”

“He was half serious, half joking,” Joanne Celedon said.

About a week later Szalinski called back. She told her sister that Isabel had been included in a group of youngsters who would meet at the Chapel of Mary, Mother of the Family to receive her first Communion from Senior Cardinal Giovanni Lapi.

The Celedons sent a certificate from Father Joe Rose, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, verifying that Isabel had received all the necessary instruction classes to receive first Communion.

On May 12, in front of her mother, father, brother, Andrew, 10, and her aunt and her cousin, Isabel received her first Communion.

“I knew it was special, but I was kinda nervous,” Isabel said. “I killed the other kids who were speaking Italian.”

Her mother said the ceremony went off without a hitch. “It was picture perfect. We were all in awe,” she said. “It was very personal. The chapel was not all that large so everyone could hear and see what was taking place.”

The Army gave Robert Celedon, who is an instructor at Fort Sill, a special leave of absence to go to Italy with his family “They recognized how important this was to him,” Joanne said.

Isabel received a Bible and a Rosary blessed by Pope Benedict XVI as well as a “parchment” also signed by the Pope.

Far left, Isabel Celedon, a second-grade student at St. Mary Catholic School in Lawton, receives her first Communion at the Vatican. At left, Isabel with her parchment, signed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Catholic Schools Fund Grants Scholarships for 2012-2013

The Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund established by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City last year extended 35 need-based scholarships to elementary and high school students that will attend Catholic schools for the 2012-13 school year. These scholarships were made available as a result of donations received in the calendar year 2011, which netted $424,934. The funds were allocated to the 22 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, based on past year’s donations and on a near-equal distribution of the remainder to all the schools, so that all schools were able to receive a portion of the funds granted.

The 35 scholarships will help to lower the tuition costs for the receiving families. Scholarship recipients were nominated by the principals of the Catholic schools. Anyone seeking tuition assistance in future years should contact their Catholic school offices after the first of each calendar year.

The Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund, Inc. (CSOSF) is a separate nonprofit corporation under the leadership of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. The Corporation is a 501(c)(3) organization under the umbrella of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The fund’s program is administered by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma.

The mission of the CSOSF is to make Catholic School education available to all Catholic families. Scholarship Fund President Tony Tyler of St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Norman, said, “Statistics show that when tuition expense exceeds 8 percent of a family’s gross income, the burden becomes too great and the families choose public schools as an alternative. The CSOSF will solicit donations annually. Over 90 percent of the gross funds raised will be used for need-based scholarships the following school year. No endowments will be created with those donations.”

The CSOSF operates as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the Oklahoma state law which grants a 50 percent Oklahoma state income tax credit to CSOSF donors. Donations will be solicited annually. Contributions received in 2011, 2012 and 2013 will be reported to the Oklahoma Tax Commission for the purposes of qualifying the donation for a 50 percent tax credit, which will be available in the year 2013. Subsequently, donations received in 2014 will qualify for a 50 percent tax credit in the year 2014, and continuing each year thereafter.

Archbishop Coakley communicated his vision for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese earlier this year by stating, “Forming children and youth in the Catholic faith is a vital task for the Church if we are going to keep faith with the missionary mandate that Jesus taught when he commissioned his Apostles, saying, ‘Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.’ (Mt. 28:19-20). Handing on the Catholic faith to young people is an essential part of the Church’s mission to evangelize. Our Catholic schools, by virtue of the instruction, formation and witness that they provide, are a privileged place of evangelization. The reason we invest and sacrifice so much in support of our Catholic schools is for the sake of this missionary mandate. It is for the sake of evangelization.”

Opportunity Scholarships will allow more Catholic families to send their children to Catholic schools. Funds raised each year will be given in scholarships the following school year.

Support the Scholarship Fund by sending a gift to the CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PO BOX 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73132-180, or give online at www.archokc.org.

For questions, call (405) 721-4115.