OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Paul S. Coakley is scheduled to ordain Cory Douglas Stanley a Roman Catholic priest on July 8 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

No doubt, the sound of trumpets will be heard throughout heaven as Deacon Stanley accepts the sacrament of Holy Orders. A parishioner at Holy Spirit Church in Mustang, Cory Stanley was born in Elk City to Doug and Cindy Stanley on Oct. 1, 1984. He was baptized there at Saint Matthew Catholic Church the following month on Nov. 4. Father James Greiner performed the baptism. As Deacon Stanley said, little did Father Greiner know at the time how linked their lives would become.

Some 26 years after baptizing the infant Cory Stanley in Elk City, Father Greiner would vest him at his diaconate ceremony at Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

Continued to Page 6
Eucharistic adoration is a treasure which is being rediscovered in our time. In its various forms, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament allows the faithful to prolong the act of adoration which the Church offers to the Father through Christ and in the Holy Spirit at every Mass. Adoration is the most hour and proper act of a creature toward the Creator. We have a need and a duty to adore. Worship of the Eucharistic Lord outside of Mass, whether in perpetual adoration chapels, holy hours or simple visits to the Blessed Sacrament are authentic forms of Catholic prayer which foster deeper appreciation for Christ’s gift of the Eucharist. These acts of Eucharistic devotion which flow from the Mass foster love for the Mass and a longing for sacramental communion with Christ and a share in his mysteries.

In our busy and noisy world, those moments of silent adoration provide the time and setting in which profound prayer may be born in our hearts. It is especially important to introduce children and young people to this spiritual treasure. I have found them to be especially receptive to the grace of spiritual treasures. I have found them to be especially receptive to the grace moments of silence offer all of us.

Eucharistic adoration also provides those discerning their vocations, a privileged opportunity to hear the gentle and insistent stirring of the Lord, who speaks with “a still, small voice” (1 Kgs 19:12). For those and many other reasons, Eucharistic adoration ought to be an integral component of vocations programs, not only for those discerning, but also for the whole Church which must ask the Lord to prolong his presence in the Eucharistic tabernacle. We have a duty to adore. The Mass is the privileged place where our adoration is prolonged and nourished.

Prayer and Evening Prayer. A number of parishes, families and individuals have discovered the riches of the Liturgy of the Hours and the beautiful texts contained in the Hours. These texts and the Liturgy of the Hours serve as a way of entering more deeply into the liturgical year and to give structure and rhythm to our prayer. The Liturgy of the Hours enables us to join our hearts and voices in praying with and for the entire Church through Christ our High Priest.

Church Adoration

The Eucharistic Adoration also strengthens both, and helps prevent the scattering of the flock. The Mass is the privileged place where our communion with the Lord and one another is both proclaimed and nourished.

Each of us individually and all of us together draw life from the heavenly banquet that Christ has prepared for us at Mass.

“Sunday, the Lord’s Day, is a favorable opportunity to draw strength from him, the Lord of life. The Sunday precept is not therefore, an externally imposed duty, a burden on our shoulders. On the contrary, taking part in the Celebration, being nourished by the Eucharistic Bread and experiencing the communion of those brothers and sisters in Christ as a need for Christians, it is a joy. Christians can thus replenish the energy they need to continue on the journey we must make every week.” (Pope Benedict XVI).

We owe it to the Lord, to one another and to ourselves to participate fully and regularly in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. We ought to make every reasonable effort to rediscover and preserve the importance of the Lord’s Day as a day of worship, a day of rest, and a day for family.

The Eucharistic Liturgy, the Mass, is enriched and extended when the parish gathers to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. A number of parishes, families and individuals have discovered the riches of the Liturgy of the Hours as a way of entering more deeply into the liturgical year and to give structure and rhythm to our prayer. The Liturgy of the Hours enables us to join our hearts and voices in praying with and for the entire Church through Christ our High Priest.

There are many ways of Christian prayer. We could even say there are as many ways of praying as there are prayer-ers (that is, those who pray). Different cultures and periods of history have given rise to many forms of prayer and devotion among the Christian people. These ways of prayer touch the heart and engage the Christian imagination in pondering the mysteries of faith. This is especially true regarding the Holy Rosary. Mary’s Rosary is a compendium of piety and devotion as there are many ways of praying with and for those who pray. The gathering of the faithful Catholics. The life of every parish center on the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours enables us to join our hearts and voices in praying with and for the entire Church through Christ our High Priest.
Eucharistic Adoration Planned at Parishes

60 Hours of Adoration Planned in Honor of Pontiff’s 60 Years of Priesthood

Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 29, the Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul.

In honor of his anniversary, several Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese are inviting parishioners to join Catholics worldwide in 60 hours of Eucharistic Adoration, with the intention of praying for the sanctification of the clergy and for the gift of new and holy priestly vocations.

St. John Nepomuk in Yukon was the first parish in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to initiate the Adoration celebration. Other parishes joining in include St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman and St. Monica Church in Edmond.

At St. John Nepomuk, Adoration will be available around the clock for 60 continuous hours. Ann Cook, pastoral associate, said many parishioners will be involved in the Adoration to “guarantee that we have at least two people present at all times.” St. John Nepomuk will begin the Adoration with Mass at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29, and end with Mass at 7 a.m. on Friday, July 1.

“If you have never participated in Adoration before, be not afraid,” Cook said. “At Adoration, a booklet with suggested prayers will be provided. It will also include some ‘Adoration etiquette’ tips. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Jesus, and to focus your prayer on our priests, seminarians, and an increase in vocations.”

Pope Given Church Replicas for 60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Rome, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) — Pope Benedict XVI received replicas of the six most significant churches of his life to mark the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The day will be celebrated on June 29, the solemnity of St. Peter and Paul.

The 9-foot-tall replicas were built by members of the Equestrian Union of Upper Bavaria. They are of the Cathedrals of Munich and Freising, and the churches of Altotting, Birkenstein, Aschau and St. Georg von Traunstein and Bad Tolz.

Pope Benedict XVI was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1951, together with his brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, at the Cathedral of Freising.

The miniature replicas were transported to the Vatican by 42 horses from his native homeland of Bavaria, Germany. Nearly 200 musicians and 50 residents of Bavaria were on hand to present the replica to the Pope. They left Munich on June 5 after receiving a blessing from Cardinal Reinhard Marx and attended the Regina Coeli at St. Peter’s Square on June 12.

Prayer for Seminarians

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, give your divine assistance to the seminarians of our Archdiocese. Speak your word in and through them. Act in them, love them and give them your strength to discern your call to the priesthood.

Amen

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Grazious and loving God, help the men and women of our Archdiocese to hear the call to serve the people of God.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel — dedicated holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance.

Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Amen
St. Gregory’s Selects Main to Lead University

SHAWNEE — The St. Gregory’s University board of directors announced June 15 its decision to hire D. Gregory Main as its 15th president. He replaces David Marker, Ph.D., who has been serving in the role on an interim basis since November 2009. Main, an SGU board member since 2008, will begin his duties as president on July 1.

“We are delighted at the hiring of Greg Main to be president of St. Gregory’s,” said Father Don Wolf, chair of SGU board of directors. “The most important assets in any organization are vision and experience. Greg Main brings both of these in abundance to St. Gregory’s. We welcome him to the ongoing renewal of the university and count on his excitement and dedication. When thinking of the needs of the university and the skills Mr. Main brings to this job, we don’t think we could have made a better choice.”

Main brings both of these in abundance to St. Gregory’s. We welcome him to the ongoing renewal of the university and count on his excitement and dedication. He has more than 40 years of experience in economic development, and comes to SGU after a two-year stint as president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. There, he was responsible for executing the governor’s economic recovery and diversification strategy. From 2003 to 2008, Main served as president and CEO of i2E, Inc. of Oklahoma City, a technology commercialization company focused on assisting entrepreneurial start-up businesses. From 1998 to 2002, he was a general partner with Chisholm Private Capital Partners, a $66 million venture capital firm in Oklahoma City, and beginning in 1994, a partner in Intersouth Partners, a $66 million venture capital firm in Research Triangle, N.C.

“In this world of constant changes and challenges, I look forward to helping position the university to meet the needs of men and women who want an excellent education,” said Main, who was appointed vice chair of the SGU board of directors in November. “I am thrilled to be part of an institution that provides its students with a strong ethical, moral and religious grounding to support their journey in contemporary society, and am greatly in becoming leaders of the next generation.”

Main was appointed Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce in 1991, serving as the state’s chief economic development officer. He designed and implemented initiatives including the award-winning Oklahoma Quality Jobs program and Quality Jobs Investment Act. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing the Alliance for Manufacturing and the launch of the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board Venture Investing program.

Main began his economic development career in 1970 as executive director and chief planner for the six-county, nonprofit Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) in Escanaba, Mich. He joined the Michigan Department of Commerce as director of the Upper Peninsula offices in 1983. From 1983 to 1990, his duties included responsibility for marketing Michigan as a location for manufacturing investment. In that capacity, he directed State of Michigan offices in Brussels, Tokyo, Toronto, Lagos and Nashville. Main was deputy director of economic development in 1991 when he relocated to Oklahoma.

The monks of St. Gregory’s Abbey have played an extraordinary role in Oklahoma since well before statehood,” Main said. “In addition to establishing the Catholic Church in Oklahoma, they have educated our young people and continuously created advanced educational programs that have culminated in the wonderful institution that exists today. Now it is time to strengthen the financial base and establish the initiatives that will take St. Gregory’s University to a new level.”

Main was born in Holdig, Mich., and grew up in Lansing. He graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University in 1970 with a degree in urban planning. He has extensive training and post-graduate studies in general management, marketing management, business and real estate finance, sales and quality management.

Main is a Michigan native with Oklahoma ties. He has more than 40 years of experience in economic development, and comes to SGU after a two-year stint as president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He is a Michigan native with Oklahoma ties. He has more than 40 years of experience in economic development, and comes to SGU after a two-year stint as president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. He received a master’s degree in economics and public affairs from Michigan State University in 1970.

“My term as interim president,” Marker said. “I look forward to helping position the university to meet the needs of men and women who want an excellent education,” said Main, who was appointed vice chair of the SGU board of directors in November. “I am thrilled to be part of an institution that provides its students with a strong ethical, moral and religious grounding to support their journey in contemporary society, and am greatly in becoming leaders of the next generation.”

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Much was accomplished in Marker’s short tenure at St. Gregory’s. This fall, new student enrollment increased by 31 percent—a five-year high. Five business programs (accounting, finance, management, marketing, and information systems management) were added to the curriculum. The university also completed several improvement projects, including numerous landscape upgrades, a renovation of Benedictine Hall’s west entrance area, and refurbishing of the student residence halls.

“It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the St. Gregory’s community during my term as interim president,” Marker said. “I have enjoyed the opportunity to provide institutional leadership and participate in developing the plan to ensure a bright and secure future for the university.”

St. Gregory’s University is an authentically Roman Catholic university. It provides a liberal arts curriculum and professional programs to students in Shawnee and Tulsa. Founded in 1875, it is Oklahoma’s oldest institution of higher learning. Further information can be found at www.stgregorys.edu or by calling 1-888-STGREGS.
HOLY FAMILY MATERNITY HOME SEeks Donations

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Holy Family Maternity Home is asking the community for low-cost donations of movie theater gift certificates, museum tickets, restaurant gift cards and passes to local attractions, such as Celebration Station and Orr Family Farm, which can be used for six to eight residents and a chaperone.

Station and Orr Family Farm, which can be used for six to eight residents and a chaperone.

For more information about the program or to make a donation, please call Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3000.

Pilgrimage

Continued from Page 1

said Archbishop Coakley. “I am especially glad that so many of the priests and people of the Archdiocese will be there.”

Davidson, of Ada, is equally excited. “I am so looking forward to meeting our new Archbishop,” she said. “I haven’t had the opportunity so this will be very exciting.”

Davidson said she will be traveling with her actress, Patricia Weaver, who attends St. Mary Church in Ardmore. This will be Weaver’s first trip to Rome.

The Mass for the pallium will be one of several, celebrated by the group traveling with Archbishop Coakley. Still, this Eucharistic celebration will have special meaning since it carries with it so much of sacred Church Tradition.

“The Mass for this occasion, which is celebrated inside St. Peter’s Basilica on the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, is tremendous—rich in symbol and meaning,” said Archbishop Coakley. “It is a visible sign of the apostolic origins and universality of the Catholic Church as well as our communion with St. Peter’s successor. I look forward to meeting many other new archbishops from around the world. It will be an added bonus and special joy for all of us to celebrate this event with Pope Benedict, who is also celebrating his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination on that very day!”

It seems the theme “chance of a lifetime” strikes a chord with a number of the lay Catholics who are making the pilgrimage. That’s exactly the case for Tony and Beverly Layton of Lawton.

Purchasers at Lawton’s Holy Family Parish, Beverly Layton said she and her husband have had a pilgrimage such as this on their “list” for years.

“No that our children are grown, we can spend some money on ourselves and that’s what we’re doing,” she said. She said as an art student, she is “very excited” to see the magnificent works of art that Rome and the beautiful basilicas have to offer, as well as Assisi and the other areas of Italy the group will take in.

“It’s the opportunity of a lifetime,” Layton said.

Archbishop Coakley seemed to agree and added a few more reasons why the pilgrimage is so special.

“It’s really a wonderful blessing for Catholics to have an opportunity to visit the Eternal City,” the Archbishop said. “For many it’s the chance of a lifetime! In addition to our Masses at St. Peter’s, we will also get acquainted with other aspects of Rome. We will have Mass at each of the other major basilicas as well as visit the catacombs and Assisi. Along with our spiritual itinerary, I am sure there will be plenty of time for sightseeing and enjoying some of the other attractions of this great city. It wouldn’t be a trip to Rome without sampling its famous gelato!”

The pilgrimage will be from June 27 to July 4.

The Catholic Foundation

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Giving Through the Catholic Foundation – Why it makes sense

Tax Benefits – Because we are a 501 (c)(3) public charity, gifts to the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma receive the maximum tax benefits allowed.

Keeping it Simple – By establishing a fund at the Catholic Foundation, you can avoid administrative burdens, legal complexities and compliance requirements associated with private foundations.

Flexibility – The Catholic Foundation is able to accept a wide variety of gifts including cash, appreciated stocks, mutual funds and other marketable securities, life insurance policies, retirement plan assets, business-related assets, and mineral and real properties.

Cost Effective – Because the Catholic Foundation administers more than 150 funds, we are able to offer a wide range of services at a much lower cost when compared to operating a private foundation or similar entities.

CFO knows the Catholic Church in Oklahoma – Since our founding in 1985, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has worked with many individual donors, families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic-related organizations to invest in the future of our faith in Oklahoma. CFO has identified and addressed programs and opportunities to improve and enhance our spiritual life, parish life, the arts and music, youth ministry, religious education, Catholic School education, senior ministries, campus ministry, social services, vocation, seminarian formation, priest retirement and many other areas.

For more information on Planned Giving contact:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 32280, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
www.cfook.org
bsemsnter@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Holy Family Maternity Home is seeking the community for much-needed donations to assist pregnant girls with small financial capabilities and to support the shelter's operations.

Redeems for six to eight women and a chaperone.

Many of our residents are from a different part of the state, and sadly, their only experience with the Oklahoma City metro area is school and the home. For these girls, the opportunity to see a movie or visit a museum is a much-needed distraction from the difficult reality of life as an expectant teenage mother,” said Mary Jane Webster, director of the Holy Family Maternity Home. “Fortunately, just a small donation of a gift card or museum pass can make a large difference in a young girl’s life.”

Based in Oklahoma City, Catholic Charities Holy Family Maternity Home is a full-service home for pregnant women ages 12-17 in crisis pregnancies. The program is licensed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and provides 24-hour care and supervision in a safe and comfortable home environment. The Holy Family Maternity Home promotes the respect and dignity of life through assisting each resident and her family in making and carrying out plans that will ensure a positive future for herself and her child.

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Stanley

Continued from Page 1

“Being over here in Rome has been an incredible blessing. In Rome, every day you are surrounded with the Church, you can feel how big the Church is, and you can see and hear what being universal really means from the ancient curches to the tombs of the Saints, especially those of Peter and Paul, that city has made its impact on me.”

On July 8, God willing, Cory Stanley will begin a new journey, as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. It’s a journey he is eager to begin.

“I very much look forward to serving God and His people in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as a priest, and I ask for your prayers that I may be a good, happy, holy, humble and faithful priest.”

His advice to other young men is be open to listening.

“If a man feels called to the priesthood, it is a very wise thing to give God the time to discern His voice with your whole heart,” Deacon Stanley said. “Seminary gave me that time. And I’m really thankful that I persevered, and that for the rest of my life (after July 8), I’ll be a priest of Jesus Christ and I will be able to serve God and His people as I always felt Him calling me to do.”
Faith, Prayer, Passion = Students

Sacred Heart OKC Sees Dramatic Jump After Principal, Priest Address the Parish

By Ray Dyer

OKLAHOMA CITY — A year ago, Joana Camacho faced the prospects of opening the fall semester with 121 students at Sacred Heart Catholic School. Enrollment at the predominantly Hispanic school had declined for a variety of reasons, but for Camacho, opening school in August with an average of only 12 students per grade was unacceptable.

Camacho decided, along with new Sacred Heart pastor Father Roberto Quant, to take the issue to the parish. The faithful at Sacred Heart had always supported their school and with Father Quant strongly on board, the time seemed right to let the parish know Catholic education is not an option, it's a responsibility.

On a July weekend, Camacho spoke at all nine Masses celebrated at Sacred Heart. She explained the situation to the parishioners. Camacho's talks were followed up by Father Quant, who told the Catholic parents and grandparents they needed to have their children attending Sacred Heart School.

Apparently the message from the principal and the pastor got through loud and clear because within a month, enrollment at the school comprised of pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students had jumped to 171.

"The Monday following the Sunday Masses, we had five or six families waiting at the front door of the school to enroll their children," Camacho said. She said it was like that for the next several days. Enrollment jumped 50 students in less than a month.

Camacho gives a great deal of credit to Father Quant. Sacred Heart is his first parish with a school and he was very eager to see the parish and school working as one. Father Quant believes the two are so interconnected, he scrapped the individual business cards for the parish and school, creating a single card. The new card now reads Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School.

"It is one community," Father Quant said.

Sacred Heart is one of the larger parishes in the Archdiocese, although it may be among the least wealthy in terms of cash flow. Still, Camacho said there always seems to be enough money when a special project is needed. Parish tuition is $3,300 for the first child and $2,315 for each additional child.

The school does not offer full scholarships, but almost every student receives some form of tuition assistance. Assistance is based on income and parents are required to produce income tax statements to receive the assistance.

For their part, students and parents help support the school with "sweat equity" or service hours. They will clean after school, work in the garden, paint and basically do whatever is needed to make sure the school stays neat and orderly.

The parish also pitches in with a monthly collection dedicated entirely to the school. This usually nets the school between $800 to $1,000 per month.

"It's a happy place for teachers and students," Camacho said. Again, she points to Father Quant for setting the tone.

Camacho said several times during the just completed school year, Father Quant would be at the school, filling in as a substitute teacher or manning a serving line in the cafeteria.

And it's not only the priest who comes to the rescue when the normal routine is disrupted, as can often be the case when it comes to running a school.

"One morning our cafeteria manager and her assistant were both out sick," Camacho said. "We had our maintenance man jump in and help get all the ovens going and myself, a volunteer and Father Quant prepared and served lunch."

The kids loved it.

The librarian is another example of someone who obviously views Catholic education as a ministry. Kim Riley serves as the volunteer librarian and has for six years. She

Continued to Page 13
CFO GOLF CLASSIC SUPPORTS OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

T was the Catholic Foundation’s 10th Annual Golf Classic, a huge success! The event, held June 6 at Gaillardia Country Club, sponsored 204 golfers in both a morning and afternoon session. In addition to golf on a warm-weather Monday in June, a lunch, wine and cheese gathering, silent auction andowered dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event were over $65,000 and go to the Catholic Schools and the Catholic School Endowment Fund. The fund is set up to maintain the quality education and make it affordable to more students.

The Presenting Sponsor for the event was GMK Resources, Inc., and the Flight Sponsors were Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, MidFirst Bank and Charles L. and Jimmie H. Zorio. The Golf Ball Sponsor was Wells Fargo Advocate/John Hefner’s Strutton Retirement Center.


Auction Donors included Archdiocese Cookley, John Barany, Mary Beadles, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Greg Burns, Ben Byers, Brenda Culp, Nora Medley, Corinthians Antiques, Don Creel, Pat Smith – Downtown Goodyar Tire Co., Eau Farley, Ralph Frethiskron, InterBank, Gaillardia Country Club, Father Jim Greiner, Dean Jindal, Joe’s Fine Wine & Liquor, Dr. Charles Lawrence, Mary McDonald, Mitchener Farrand Jewlers, Mount St. Mary High School, Jill and Bob Narrby, Andy and Karen Rieger, David Rosenberg – Belle Isle Brewery, Burton and Garrey Sentner, Leonard Taron, Jim Zeigler, OU Alumni – Joe Castiglione, Bill and Peppe Howells, Glenn Mahler and OSU Foundation – Sue Redel.

This year, Catholic schools teams competed in the Schools Flight, which allowed for representative teams from any Catholic school to compete for the Archbishop’s Trophy and a grant award to the school. This year’s winner was the St. Eugene School team of Jake Stone, Tom Walker, Ceviit Lee and Willie McFall. Second-place team which also received a school grant was the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School team of Caitlin Fair, Jake Harrell, Grace Castelli and Nick O’Hara.

Also in the second year of separate prize money was the Women’s Flight. The winning team in the Women’s Flight was St. Eugene Team, which also received a school grant. The winning team was Karl Baldwin. No one won the Hole-in-One contest for a new Buick Regal from Rick Jones Motors – Buick-GMC or for a new golf cart from Justice Golf Cart Company.

In the Skills Contest, the winner of the Closest to the Pin competition was Caitlin Farris, winner of the Longest Drive competition was Jake Stone, winner of the Longest Putt was Kawh Baldwne. No one won the Hole-in-One contest for a new 2011 Buick Regal from Rick Jones Buick-GMC or for a new golf cart from Justice Golf Cart Company.

Chairman of the Golf Classic was Ben Byers and chair of the auction committee was Mary McAnulty. The event committee included Mary Beadles, Don Creel, Russ Farley, Patricia Hudacko, Jerry Kelley, Mary Mills, Jill Nisbet, James Zorio and Barney Sentner.
Lawmaker Tackles Culture’s Slippery Slope of Sin

By Rep. Rebecca Hamilton

Sin begots sin. It’s a simple as that. A young man has sex with a girl, then dumps her when she becomes pregnant. One sin, illicit sex, leads to another sin, abandon- ing the mother of your child and abandon- ing the child — your child — itself. The girl has an abortion, which is yet another disastrous sin. Illicit sex leads to a man abandon- ing his own child, leads to a girl climbing up on a table in an abortion clinic and paying a doctor, who is sworn to preserve life, to murder her baby.

Sin begots sin.

Abortion kills a child. It also kills compassion and humanity, not so much in the heart of the young woman, who may suffer all her life for what she has done, as in the heart of a society which created and through its indifference, endures this chain of heartless- ness. Abortion has taught us how to confuse the moral ship for the killer. Abortion has claimed that anyone who inter- fers with the right of the Nazis to kill the Jews was violating the “human rights” of the Nazis.

Abortion puts an entire class of human beings outside the consider- ation of law and compassion. It reduces them to non-people, to non-“human” for society or individuals, and fall- out from all this killing, either “right” which belongs to the murderer. Take the next step and claim that any attempt to deny or limit the killer’s “right” to murder with impunity is to deny them their “human right.”

First rule: Don’t admit that the people you are killing are, in fact, human beings.

Second rule: Make grandiose claims about the “good” that will come from the deaths of those people you’ve defined as non- human. For instance, abortion will give women equality. Euthanasia will alleviate suffering. Or killing human embryos for research will cure all known disease.

Third rule: Claim that the murder of human beings you’ve defined as non-humans is an actual “human right” which belongs to the murderer. Take the next step and claim that any attempt to deny or limit the killer’s “right” to murder with impunity is to deny them their “human rights.”

Fourth rule: Deny any negative result from all this killing, either for society or individuals, and ignore other ways of dealing with the evils you claim to be curing.

This is actually an old story. Human sacrifice goes back a long way. People have been killing people in order to get something for themselves for a very long time. Unfortunately evil does, indeed, begot evil. It appears that evil is a ravenging hunger which is never satisfied with today’s death toll. No matter what we feed the gods of this world, even when we sacrifice our elderly and disabled to eutha- nasis, even when we rip our unborn babies’ tiny bodies into pieces and flush the pieces down the drain, even then, evil wants more death.

We are smart, we humans. God gave us minds that can unravel the mysteries of the created universe. We can dismantle the building blocks of life, the DNA that directs our physical growth, and reas- semble them into other forms. We have the power, in our laboratories, not to create life, but to mistake about it; this body of law stands guard over your life and your journey, why you can raise your children with hope that they will come home from school safe, why you can drive the streets and go to sleep at night in peace, why you can be satisfied with today’s death toll. Unfortu- nately evil does, indeed, begot evil. It appears that evil is a ravenging hunger which is never satisfied with today’s death toll.

We have the power, in our laboratories, not to create life, but to manipulate it. As always, our “scientists” were a sort of god-like superhuman, above the conscripts of basic humanity. Evil begots evil. Wise people, including wise politicians, knew this. That is why we have created a body of law that stands like a fort around human life. Make no mistake about it; this body of law protects your life. It is why you can go to sleep at night in peace, why you can drive the streets and believe you will come home from your journey, why you can raise your children with hope that they will live to the natural end of their days.

This entire body of law that stands guard over your life and
Lawmaker
Continued from Page 10
mine is based on a common understand-
ing. That understanding is, as everything else I’ve discussed, simply: human beings matter. Human Beings Matter. You may not kill a human being. You may not kill an ANI-human being. No human being is too old, too young, too rich, too poor, too disabled, too gay, too black, too white, too female, too male, to be outside this protective wall of laws that says you may not kill them. Every time we breach that wall, whether through abortion, eutha-

nasia or the slaughter of the tiniest embryo, every single time we breach that wall, we are tearing down our own protection. We are made in the image and likeness of God. That means many things. We have souls. We have the knowledge of good and evil, and the burden of free will. We have the flame of transcendence that lifts us above the mundane. We have souls. We have in every cell of our being the knowledge of good and evil. We have the burden of free will. We have the flame of transcendence that lifts us above the mundane. We are made in the image and likeness of God. That means many things.

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“Human Beings Matter. You may not kill a human being. You may not kill an ANI-human being. No human being is too old, too young, too rich, too poor, too disabled, too gay, too black, too white, too female, too male, to be outside this protective wall of laws that says you may not kill them. Every time we breach that wall, whether through abortion, euthanasia or the slaughter of the tiniest embryo, every single time we breach that wall, we are tearing down our own protection. We are made in the image and likeness of God. That means many things. We have souls. We have the knowledge of good and evil, and the burden of free will. We have the flame of transcendence that lifts us above the mundane.

No, it will not. Evil begats evil. It always has. It always will.

The governor of Colorado advanced the notion a few years ago that the elderly and sick have a “duty to die” because of the drain on society of caring for them. With one speech, he morphed the “right” to choose death into the “duty” to die. This idea has been advanced by the likes of Peter Singer, who teaches “ethics” at Harvard, and Michael Tooley, who teaches “ethics” at the University of Colorado, and have written extensively that the “right” to kill an unborn child should be enlarged to include killing after birth, from 30 days to 1 year, depending on which one you quote.

Evil begats evil. It is up to us, as Catholics, to say no to this evil. It is up to us, as followers of Jesus Christ, to say enough to the killing. The Lord of Life told us that we are the light of the world. It is, and it always has been, up to us to be the light, shining in the darkness of despair and death that denies reality for so many people in the world today.

Rebecca Hamilton is a member of the Oklahoma House of Representa-gists. She is a pro-life Democrat and a staunch support-er of women’s rights. Hamilton attends St. James Catholic Church in Oklahoma City.

Center of Family Love

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skills, for our residents. “They know they’re doing some-
thing important, and we let them know every day how much we value them,” he said.

While CFL’s officials count their blessings, they are not without their challenges. Funding cuts and federal regulations limit some programs offered, O’Brien said. CFL spends $32 more per day per resident than it receives from its two major sources of funding — the federal Health Care Authority and Oklahoma Department of Human Resources, he said.

Combined, HCA and DHS account for 95 percent of CFL’s revenue. To counter both budget cuts and a lack of any increases, O’Brien said CFL staff are working to eventually house im-

mediate care residents in 16-bed or less pods, as well as continuing to increase the level of private donations coming into the center.

“We get more reimbursement for our residents if we house them in smaller facilities, which enables us to do more for these residents,” O’Brien said.

Money from outside sources has sustained us,” he said. “Less than five years ago, we had $112,000 in private donations; this year, we’ve received almost $600,000, not counting capital improvements.

While we are trying to become self-sufficient, that’s not yet a reality — knowing that you’re aware we’re out here, we know we’ll get a far shake, and that’s all we ask for,” he told Lamb and Sanders.

Whatever the future may hold, the bottom line is the same today as when the doors first opened in 1981, Blair said.

“We can take someone’s loved one at 18, and they can have a lifetime of care,” he said. “This is their home, and they are our family, as we are theirs.”

Photo: Todd Landis looks at construction under way at the Center of Family Love in Okarche, during a recent tour.}

Photo: Todd Landis looks at construction under way at the Center of Family Love in Okarche, during a recent tour.
Divorced, Separated, Widowed Can Find Support at BE Weekend

By Marks Acton
For The Sooner Catholic

I had been waiting for my emotions to settle down and come to some kind of acceptance with this new life in which I found myself. But my thoughts would always return to memories of the past and dreams that would never be realized. Instead of letting go, it seemed I was still holding on because I couldn’t see what the future was to become.

Psalm 36: I bless the Lord who consoles me.

Even in the night my heart exalts me.

I set the Lord ever before me;

With Him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices.

My body, too, abides in confidence;

Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world.

Nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

You will show me the path of life, fullness of joys in your presence.

The delight at your right hand forever.

When I read this Psalm, I couldn’t understand. I did feel so abandoned, as though my heart had been ripped out and stomped on while I had been praying so very hard. So I changed my prayer and asked God to “show me the path to life,” as the Psalm reads. Where can one go to find help with acceptance of the loss?

I found that the help is there if we open ourselves to it. My parish priest mentioned Beginning Experience at the end of Mass one Sunday. I did not really want to go away for a weekend with people I did not know. But I called the number listed in the bulletin in hopes of finding some answers. The woman with whom I spoke was pleasant and explained how much the program had helped her at the time of her loss. Upon her encouragement, I decided to attend, hoping that it would provide some consolation.

I had to grasp another line of that Psalm when the weekend arrived in order to actually get in the car and go to the Pastoral Center. “My body, too, abides in confidence.” I am so glad that I found that confidence and attended the weekend. The people I have met are also living with loss and uncertainty. They have helped me find strength and direction. Instead of focusing on what I don’t have, I have learned to look forward to a future with possibilities and new friends with whom to share what ever lies ahead.

The line of that Psalm that I could not imagine at the time is “my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. We cannot have the past but there are to be amazing years ahead!”

All we have to do is reach out and create them. So please join us.

The upcoming weekend begins around 7 p.m. on July 15 and will end July 17 about 3 p.m.

The event is held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City.

The $100 cost provides a healing weekend away from which you will return renewed.

For questions, call Shirley at (405) 760-9207 or the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 108, and they will be happy to help. We look forward to the opportunity of knowing you, for indeed we can trust in the Lord providing “fullness of joys.”

Briefs

Human Trafficking in Oklahoma on Agenda

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Safe Place Faith Community Ministry of St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Road, invites all adults in the Archdiocese to attend a presentation by Mark Elam with O.A.T.H. (Oklahomans Against Trafficking Humans) on Saturday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting rooms of the church. Elam will raise our awareness of human trafficking, help us informed of this growing problem in our state and help us learn to identify victims and how to protect those we love from falling victim. The presentation will be followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers provided by Elam, the YWCA and the Latino Agency. Please join us.

NFP Class Set for Fall

Natural Family Planning can help postpone a pregnancy or achieve a pregnancy. It is an ongoing observation and interpretation of the symptoms presented by the body each month and can be used throughout all the fertile years. The couple approach enriches the marriage relationship through improved communication. Couples talk about that which spouses feel special and not taken for granted. Learn the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning with Jeanne Blasi, certified instructor, on Wednesday nights, Sept. 14, Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 9th and Boulevard, in the basement council room. You must register for the class online at www.ccli.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 Kocurek at 340-0691 Ext. 109.

NFP Discussion July 28

OKLAHOMA CITY — Have you ever wondered why the Church teaches against contraceptives? Join us at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 28 as we examine the Church’s teaching on marriage, contraception and family planning. We will look at the theological and medical reasons in favor of practicing Natural Family Planning. We will also hear about the scientific foundations, ongoing research, and the simplicity of the Billings Ovulation Method of NFP and why your marriage will benefit from its use. Limited child care will be available by reservation only through the Office of Family Life. Call (405) 721-8944 for more information.

By Marka Acton
For The Sooner Catholic

Pilgrims Have Papal Audience

EDMOND — A dozen youth, young adults and adults traveled from the Parish of St. John the Baptist with Sister Barbara Joseph and Father Rex Arnold to Rome for a 12-day pilgrimage. Some of the places visited were Rome, Assisi and Florence.

One highlight of the pilgrimage was a Papal Audience with them and enjoyed dinner. We all had blessed moments on this trip.
Nun Dies In Iowa

Sister Elizabeth Plexus, BVM, 88, died June 7 at Marian Hall, Dal报酬e, Iowa. Funeral liturgy was held June 10 at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Sister Elizabeth was religious education coordinator for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. She taught in Chicago and Berwyn, Ill., Seattle, Tigard, Ore., St. Paul, Minn., Clinton and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, San Francisco and Santa Barbara, Calif. She was parish minister in St. Paul, and on staff at a house of prayer in Seattle.

She was born in Seattle on Aug. 3, 1922, to Roy and Laura (Johnsen) Plexus. She entered the Sisters of Charity, BVM congregation, on Feb. 2, 1940, from St. John Parish, Seattle. She professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1942.

Parish Health Part of CCHD

Parish nurses integrate faith and health in their work. They advocate in health-care issues, develop support groups and serve as personal health counselors. The Health Ministry program at St. Peter’s of Woodward was initially funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant. It strives to advance physical and spiritual health and to reduce disease and disability in the community. According to Mary Moore, a St. Peter Catholic Church committee member, “There are nine members now. We have two registered nurses, a physi-

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WOODWARD — Have you ever worried about not being able to afford health care or maintaining healthy spiritual, physical and emotional well-being?One of the oldest professional arts is mentoring. The older kids love to teach the younger ones look up to the older kids,” Camacho said, calling it a very “child friendly” environment. Eclectic Adoration is held weekly for the students at the Friday school Mass, the older students are teamed with the younger children. It’s a mentoring effort that seems to work for both groups. The students provide a Liturgy for the Mass.

“The older kids love to teach the younger ones how to act in Mass and the younger ones look up to the older kids,” Camacho said, calling it a very healthy arrangement.

Camacho, who in April received the honor of being named Region 10 Principal of the Year by the National Catholic Education Association, said another area of strength at Sacred Heart is the importance placed on proper behavior. If a child does not act as expected, he or she will face the consequences. One of these con-

sequences could be having to attend “Saturday school.”

Camacho said Saturday school runs from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and a parent is required to attend with their child. She said it usually only takes one or two trips to Saturday school before behavior begins to improve.

“We have expectations,” Camacho said.

That goes for behavior as well as academics. About 80 percent of the students at Sacred Heart are Hispanic and about 70 percent of those are learn-

ing English. But language is not viewed as an obstacle, instead, Camacho and the Sacred Heart faculty view it as a blessing. When the children leave Sacred Heart, they are speaking in both English and Spanish and many can write in both languages.

Those often who graduate from the eighth grade at Sacred Heart go across the street for high school at Mount St. Mary. It’s a nice package for parents to have in one city block a Catholic elementary and high school that both place great empha-

sis on the faith as well as academics and extracurricular activities.

Both Camacho and Father Quant agree, the real key to success at Sacred Heart is prayer. The faculty prays together each day at 7:30 before the school day begins. The entire school then prays at the morn-

ing assembly. Prayer is again recited before lunch, immediately after lunch and again when the children come in from recess in the early afternoon.

Camacho was nominated for the Principal of Year honor by Sister Catherine Powers, CND, superintendent of education for the Archdiocese. Nationwide, she was one of only 12 to receive the distinction.

Father Quant said Camacho is not afraid to lead, but more importantly, she is not afraid to lead by example. He said she is supported by her husband, Bruce, who Camacho calls her “rock,” as well as by her two children. She is also greatly supported by the parish and school.

When Camacho returned from recovering the NCEA honor in New Orleans, the entire school greeted her with a rally and had decorated her office with pictures and posters of support.

“They had a Mrs. Camacho Day,” she said, a slight blush coming to her face. “This is a wonderful place. We are very blessed.”
Job Opportunities

First-Grade Teacher Opening
Rosary School in Oklahoma City, 1919 NW 18th St., is seeking applicants for the 2011-2012 school year for first-grade full-time teacher. An Oklahoma Elementary Certification will be required. Please contact Principal Karen Lynn at 525-9272 for a tour and interview. You may see our school at www.rosaryschool.com.

Youth Minister
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond, a parish of 2,980 families, is seeking an energetic candidate to serve as our full-time high school youth minister and assist with middle school youth. Most importantly, we are looking for a faithful and passionate Catholic, willing and able to share these loves for Jesus and His Church in our community and with our youth. This person will work closely with the pastor and under the supervision of the Director of Religious Education, sixth through 12th grade. The qualified applicant should be an active Catholic, fully formed in the teachings of our Church, with a passion for youth ministry in a vibrant youth program. Can supervise, plan, promote and carry out Liturgy, Bible studies, retreats, conferences and special events. Must be skilled in technology. Must possess the leadership skills required to lead our high school youth in worship and formation. Must be self-motivated and able to work in a multi-tasking team environment. Applicants should have at least a bachelor’s degree in pastoral ministry or a related field and a minimum of three years experience in youth ministry. Salary varies with education and degree in pastoral ministry or a related field and experience. Offer to provide references to Anne Codding, Principal, St. James Catholic School, 1224 S.W. 41st, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

School Secretary
St. James Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking applicants for a full-time school secretary position. Please send letter of application and resume with three references to Anne Coogling, Principal, St. James Catholic School, 1224 S.W. 41st, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

Elementary School Openings
All Saints Catholic School in Norman has the following full-time positions available for the 2011-2012 school year:
Pre-K Teacher — Must have certification in Early Childhood Education.
Grade 5 Teacher — Must have elementary education certification, and will teach-grade 5 students. The applicant will be responsible for teaching English language arts (reading, English and spelling) and science.
Junior high religion teacher — Responsible for teaching religion in grades 6, 7 and 8. The applicant must be active, practicing Catholic.
Resource Room director — The director will tutor students and small groups in various subjects, administer make-up exams, work directly with classroom teachers to coordinate the implementation of the ISP/IEP modifications, assist with ESL students, and teach a study skills class for ISP/IEP students. Oklahoma teaching certification preferred, reading specialist or special education experience a plus. Please direct inquiries and send resume to Leslie Schmitt, Principle, 4001 36th Avenue NW, Norman, Okla. 73066, phone (405) 447-7227.

Job Opportunities Available
Villa Teresa in Oklahoma City has an opening for a lifeguard for the summer program at Villa Teresa School. Applicant must be certified and at least 16 years of age.

Teaching position for 2 1/2 year students. This position requires at least an associate degree in Early Childhood or Child Development or CDA. Interested applicants may call Sister Veronica at 232-4286 for an interview appointment.

Kindergarten Teacher
Holy Trinity School in Okarche has an opening for a kindergarten teacher. Applicants must be certified in Early Childhood. If you are interested in joining a well-established staff and work with small classes and outstanding parental involvement, please send your resume to Tommy Jacobs, Principal, Holy Trinity Catholic School, P.O. Box 485, Okarche, Okla. 73162. You may also send it e-mail to tjacobs@holytrinityok.org.

Elementary School Teaching Positions
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2011-2012 school year. SHCS is a PK-4 through eighth grade school. Please call the school office at (405) 614-5673 for an application or send a resume to Jean Canaday, SHCS, 2750 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109.

Teacher Needed
Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno is in need of two certified teachers for the 2011-2012 school year. Please send resume and reference to Shannon Ratten, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax (405) 382-3839. Sacred Heart Catholic School will be hiring a junior counselor pending a background check for the 2011-2012 school year. Please apply in person after 3:30 p.m. or send resume to Sacred Heart School, 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036.

Part-Time Music Teacher
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time music teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Liturgical music director duties for leading student choir and accompaniment at school Masses is to be negotiated. Please fax resumes and certification to Todd Gunzill at (405) 739-5683 or e-mail to tgungoll@scbschool.org.

Part-time Evangelization Coordinator Position
Including Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Coming Home Program is available at the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel at Tinker Air Force Base.

The Statement of Work, explaining the position and necessary qualifications for this job (and those who are not 20 hours per week), is available at the chapel weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If interested, you may pick up a Statement of Work or send an e-mail to 72abw.hc.workflow@tinker.af.mil and one will be sent to you. Please submit your resume later than Wednesday, July 13, 2011. Valid applicants will be asked to formulate and submit a bid. The committee will review applications and their bids on the bases of skills, education, experience, organizations/administrative ability and motivation, ministry-focus, people-focus, and whether reasonable/within budget and value received for the amount paid. This is a contract position. If you have any questions, please contact the chapel at 734-2111.
Included is vespers with the monks at 9:30 p.m. with adoration to follow. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee. The address is 7310 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

31 Oklahoma City 73132.

Oklahoma City 73132.

All Masses at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (405) 729-0365 or by e-mail at OkhPari168@cox.net.

15 Beginning Experience Weekend, $5 in charity to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce or death. The weekend will be July 15-17 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-1154.

17-25 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus, the 17th-25th of each month. Nine days of novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During those nine days, the novena rosaries will be as follows. Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jan Theres Blvd. in Prague.

17 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in the Oklahoma City area. For more information contact Father M. Price at (405) 665-3404.

10 Charismatic Healing Mass. 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office at (405) 666-4806.

12 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. Price Oswald at (405) 567-3404.

13 Catholic War Veterans USA. Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Sunflower Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City. For more information, contact Ken at (405) 729-0365 or by e-mail at OkhPari168@cox.net.

Information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Oswalt at (405) 567-3404.

1500 N. Western Avenue, Edmond.

19 First Friday Adoration at 9:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6221 Edie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass is at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, call Alice at (405) 473-7680. More information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 567-3425, or visit www.monksok.org.

The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Spirituality Center will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month. You join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-6585 or seobls@cox.net.

International Food Fest at St. Francis in Oklahoma City, July 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the T. Phil Keel grocery store. The dinner benefits the Rotary School Scholarship and Endowment Funds. St. Francis is located at 1900 N.W. 18th St. in Oklahoma City. Dinner tickets will be sold for $20 each after all the Masses on the three weekends prior to the dinner. Call Mary Lalli for ticket information, 397-8947.

3 Bingo Night at St. Joseph’s Church in Norman. Light supper served at 6:30 p.m. Games begin at 7 p.m. with a first session; second session at 8:30 p.m. $5 per session, no limit on blackout cards, group photo of all the winners. The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszyn, Bishop of Oklahoma City, is the principal celebrant. All are welcome.

10 Ending Experience Weekend, $5 in charity to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce or death. The weekend will be July 15-17 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-1154.
Center of Family Love: ‘I Had No Idea’

State Leader Impressed
By Tour of Home
Founded By Knights

By Traci Chapman
For The Sooner Catholic

OKARCHE — Thirty-six years ago, Joe Pierce and a few of his friends had a dream to help developmentally disabled people who had few options.

Today, Center of Family Love has 125 employees helping 117 adults with developmental disabilities and other challenges. CFL Director Jim O’Brien said since he walked through the center’s doors to assume his post in 2005, a great deal has changed, but one thing has not — the people being cared for every day.

“It’s amazing to me to see the difference someone can make in a person’s life, and our people do that day after day here,” he said.

Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb agreed.

“What I saw here — my heart smiled as I walked around,” Lamb told O’Brien and his staff. “The residents are happy, and not only that — they’re happy to see you when you come in the room.”

Lamb said his comments after a recent tour of the center along with Rep. Mike Sanders, R-Kingfisher, and Lamb’s chief of staff, Keith Beall.

Although CFL’s operations were not new to Sanders, Lamb said the visit was his first — and an eye-opener.

“I didn’t come to say very much; quite frankly, I came to learn,” Lamb said. “What I’ve seen — well, I had no idea.”

CFL has been blessed since it was first an idea in Joe Pierce’s mind in 1975. Looking for a way to fund a home for developmentally disabled adults, he approached a group close to his own heart, the Knights of Columbus. Through that partnership came what became CFL’s first donation — $30,000 as start-up capital. From that sprung $1.5 million used to build the organization’s original home.

That immediate care center opened in September 1981 with 48 initial residents. Today, the original building is still in use — currently with 54 people calling it home — as CFL looks to the opening of its newest dormitories, expected to be ready in September or October, said David Blair, CFL’s assistant executive director. After that, O’Brien said officials hope to turn their focus to an estimated $1.5 million renovation of the original building.

“We’re not standing still,” he said. “Five years ago, we didn’t have a single handicapped access door, five years ago we were almost out of business — look at us now.”

Lamb saw those buildings, as he toured other components of CFL — a place, Blair said, that offers a home to residents throughout their entire adult life. In addition to three group homes — the Okarche main campus and homes in El Reno and Kingfisher, CFL has an immediate care facility, as well as a geriatric care ward.

However, CFL is much more than housing, offering vocational programs, greenhouse, music and other therapies. O’Brien said, binders and air filters are made by residents, and flowers and vegetables grown by them are sold to the public, as well as gift shop items.

“Our residents are always learning and always doing things and keeping busy — from helping maintain their own homes in the group home to working in our factory or greenhouse,” said David Hardin, director of vocations. “We’ve seen this hedge build confidence, along with Also from left, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, David Hardin, Center of Family Love vocations director and Rep. Mike Sanders, R-Kingfisher, in one of CFL’s greenhouses.

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