Year for the Priest

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a “Year for Priests” beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father on June 19, 2010.

With the announcement of this Year for Priests, the Pope has declared St. John Vianney the Universal Patron of Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d’Ars.

Please pray for our priests that they might always be faithful to their sacred calling.

SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 4

On the Internet

The following link will take you to the USCCB Year for Priests Web site: http://tinyurl.com/lj5pqs

You will find Pope Benedict’s message and the announcement of the plenary indulgence in both English and Spanish. In addition, prayers have been commissioned for both priests and laity respectfully. PDF documents of these prayers (English/Spanish) can be downloaded and printed for parish and parochial use.

The link can also be found on the Sooner Catholic Web site: www.catharchdioceseokc.org, then click on Sooner Catholic.
The Good News

Marriage is a Sacrament

The cultural attitude toward marriage has deteriorated more and more in recent years. Not only has the sacredness and holiness of marriage been cast aside, but even the literal meaning of the word “marriage” has been debased.

The Church from its very inception has acknowledged the natural bond of marriage as divinely instituted. Moreover, Jesus elevated that bond to a sacrament. Clearly the Church teaches that marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman. When this bond is validly shared by two baptized people, it is a sacrament.

Traditionally, June is the month when many weddings are celebrated. Therefore, I thought it opportune to quote a short passage from the USCCB document on married love.

MARRIED LOVE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

Getting married. What a blessed and hope-filled time.

Men and women considering marriage yearn for certain things. They want to be accepted unconditionally by each other. They want their marriage to be filled with love and happiness. They want a family. In short, they want their marriage to be a source of joy and fulfillment their whole life long.

God’s plan for marriage, from the time he first created human beings as male and female, has always included all this and more. The desire and ability of a man and woman to form a lasting bond of love and life in marriage are written into their nature.

In the Rite of Marriage (1969), a man and woman are asked if they will love one another faithfully and totally — in short, if they will love as God loves. “Have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?” asks the bishop, priest, or deacon.

“Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?”

“Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?” These are different ways of asking the same basic question: Are you ready to accept this person, and all that may come from your union, completely and forever?

The spouses seal their love and commitment through their sexual union. Many today find it difficult to understand how profound and meaningful this union is, how it embodies these promises of marriage. Our culture often presents sex as merely recreational, not as a deeply personal or even important encounter between spouses. In this view, being responsible about sex simply means limiting its consequences — avoiding disease and using contraceptives to prevent pregnancy.

This cultural view is impoverished, even sad. It fails to account for the true needs and deepest desires of men and women. Living in accord with this view has caused much loneliness and many broken hearts.

God’s plan for married life and love is far richer and more fulfilling. Here sexuality is the source of a joy and pleasure that helps the spouses give themselves to each other completely and for their entire lives.

What does the Church teach about married love?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well.

Christian marriage in particular is a “great mystery,” a sign of the love between Christ and his Church. (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses’ sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become “one body” (Gn 2:24) or “one flesh.” (Mk 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life. When Scripture portrays God creating mankind “in his image,” (Gn 1:27), it treats the union of man and woman as joining two persons equal in human dignity (“This one, at last, is bone of my bones/and flesh of my flesh,” (Gn 2:23), and as being open to the blessing of children (“Be fertile and multiply.” (Gn 1:28).

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God’s gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God’s creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

To be sure, spouses who are not granted the gift of children can have a married life that is filled with love and meaning. As Pope John Paul II said to these couples in a 1982 homily, “You are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others, to the needs of the apostolate, to the needs of the poor, to the needs of orphans, to the needs of the world.”

A Health Update

Archbishop Eusebius Beltran is grateful to all who have prayerfully inquired about his recent 24-hour hospital stay. The mild stroke he suffered on Saturday, June 20 is under control. Thank God for good doctors and effective medical remedies.

Archbishop Beltran resumed his regular activities by completing the 2009 Confirmation schedule at Saint Peter Church in Woodward.
Summer Academy One Way CCHD Makes a Difference

By Angela Jennings
Catholic Charities

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is making a difference in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops,” says the mission statement of the CCHD. “Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education.”

Fruits of this year’s Archdiocesan CCHD-sponsored projects have been ripening since generous contributions were made to the collection by Oklahoma Catholics last November. Summer months offer great images of how those contributions are transforming our local communities.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Oklahoma City is again helping to support the Mount St. Mary Summer Academy. The Summer Academy works to “address some of the root causes of poverty and gang activity in south Oklahoma City,” said Brian Boeckman of Sacred Heart. New to this year’s Academy is the “Counselor in Training” (CIT) program. CIT cultivates leadership and communication skills important for employment. Participants are given a stipend for their summer training and those who complete the program may apply for paid positions in subsequent years. CIT, Boeckman said, “is another way the Summer Academy can continue to retain and help high school age youth with the necessary life skills to enhance their chances to be a successful contributor to their community.”

Applications are now available for 2009 local grants. Deadline is Sept. 1. A workshop for interested grant applicants will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8 at Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City. If you are looking for solutions to problems in your community or want to work on behalf of human dignity in a community near you, call your local CCHD diocesan director, Becky Van Pool, at (405) 523-3009, or e-mail bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Mayor Proclaims ‘Catholic War Veterans Day’ in Del City

DEL CITY — On June 9, the Catholic War Veterans USA formed Oklahoma’s second metro area post for Catholic veterans. The “Oklahoma Memorial Post 168” (memorializing the 168 victims of Oklahoma’s 1995 bombing) was formed in the “Sunnylane Family Reception Center” located at 3900 SE 29th Street. Catholic veterans were recruited from 15 Catholic parishes of the eastern Oklahoma City metro area. To date, all eligible veterans in attendance, except two, signed up for membership in the new post.

Mayor Brian E. Linley of Del City presented a proclamation to the new Post 168 in the form of a plaque which will be displayed at every meeting. The mayor proclaimed June 9, 2009, as CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS DAY in the City of Del City.” He further stated that “The Catholic War Veterans are dedicated to a program of united action to promote the well-being of all veterans by joining hands with other veteran service organizations to influence public opinion, promote good laws, and improve the lot of all veterans.”

Also gracing the Post’s first meeting was Rep. Scott Inman, D-Del City, and Bud Welch, whose daughter, Julie, died in the Murrah Building bombing of 1995. Welch represented the families of the 168 bombing victims. Also attending was Mike Skolaut, representing the Dignity Memorial Company that owns the building in which the new post will meet.

The Catholic War Veterans USA organization was originally founded in 1935 by World War II Army Chaplain Father Edward J. Higgins in Astoria, N.Y. On Aug. 17, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-382, granting a Congressional Charter to the Catholic War Veterans of the USA, the only Catholic organization to be honored with such recognition by the U.S. Congress.

Ever since, Catholic War Veterans have bonded together to establish a viable voice to promote zeal and devotion for God, for Country and for Home. The current CWV national headquarters is located in Alexandria, Va.

Membership in the Catholic War Veterans USA is open to all Catholic active duty military personnel, and Catholic veterans, including personnel of the National Guard and Reserves, who have honorably served a minimum of 90 days active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 now joins its counterpart, Oklahoma CWV Post 902, in serving the Central Oklahoma Catholic veteran community. It is interesting to note that both posts will meet simultaneously in their respective sites on the second Tuesdays of each month. “From different parts of this nation we served together for freedom’s sake ...”

“Now we will serve simultaneously from different sections of the metro for the benefit of our Oklahoma veteran community,” said Bob Lambert, commander of Oklahoma Memorial Post 168.

For more information, call Bob at 672-7728 or e-mail OkPost168@cox.net.
Church Being Given Chance to Rediscover Priesthood

CHICAGO (Zenit.org). — Though the priesthood has recently undergone a “purification,” the Church is being given an opportunity to rediscover what it’s all about, said the president of the U.S. Episcopal Conference.

Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, affirmed this in his column for the archdiocesan newspaper, Catholic New World. He dedicated the article to the Year for Priests, called by Benedict XVI from June 19, 2009, through June 19, 2010.

Noting some of the problems facing the world — issues ranging from home foreclosures, to nuclear disarmament, to domestic violence — the cardinal affirmed: “What strikes me is that these issues, like all issues in the Church, can’t move forward without attention from our priests.”

He noted that the Holy Father’s proclamation of a Year for Priests is “to help all of us revisit what the faith tells us a priest is and to encourage ordained priests in their lives of service and dedication.”

Cardinal George announced that the U.S. Episcopal Conference is offering resources for the year, including a prayer available in English and Spanish.

Essentials

The Chicago archbishop illustrated his reflection by recounting the conversations he recently had with a prelate from Cuba.

The Episcopal Conference president recalled: “[The Cuban bishop] told me that less than 2 percent of Cubans practice their religion, partially because of the scarcity of churches but also because of the atheist propaganda and because one is penalized for practicing the faith by being excluded from professions like teaching or the practice of law.

“Nevertheless, about 55 percent of Cubans still baptize their children and many still visit the national shrine on special occasions, even though the Church is without schools, youth groups, charitable organizations, regular means of communication and the institutions that are taken for granted as part of Church life here.”

Cardinal George noted how until the visit of Pope John Paul II just over 10 years ago, the government limited the number of priests on the island to 200.

“If a bishop wanted to ordain a priest, he had to wait until another priest died,” the cardinal explained.

He added: “The bishop told me that he began two new parishes last year. What does it mean to start a parish in Cuba? After years of personal formation, each of two newly ordained priests was sent into a neighborhood and told to begin gathering people to listen to the Gospel and to celebrate Mass and the other sacraments when and where he could.

“The parishes would probably never have a church building or anything else we would regard as normal and necessary. They would have only what the Church had at Pentecost: Faith in the risen Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the ministry of the apostles and those appointed by them to love and govern the people in Christ’s name.”

The cardinal concluded his reflection, acknowledging that “[r]ecent years have been hard on the priesthood, as it has undergone what Pope John Paul II called a ‘purification.’”

“Perhaps, however,” he said, “this Year of the Priest will be the occasion to discover again what priesthood really is and to support the overwhelming majority of faithful priests here and throughout the country.”

Bishops Urged to Address Social Justice Issues

Cardinal Underlines Need for Lay-Clergy Cooperation

ZAGREB, Croatia, June 10, (Zenit.org). — Involvement in issues of justice and peace is a necessary task of evangelization, according to the archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary.

Cardinal Peter Erdő affirmed this at a meeting of the bishops in charge of social issues in Europe.

In his conference titled “Justice and Peace in the Mission of the Bishop, the Bishops Conferences and the Council of European Bishops Conferences,” he affirmed the Church’s commitment to work for the good of the human person.

The cardinal stated, “Moved by love and looking for the true good of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God, both in her oneness and her nature intended for communion, the Church sees politics and everything that concerns social life as an integral part of her service of God and, in the name of God, of humanity.

“In fact, the human person cannot be divided: the different human capabilities are part of the one organic reality of the person.”

“Questions about justice and peace belong intrinsically to the Church’s mission,” Cardinal Erdő affirmed, and the “attempt to separate the pastoral mission or evangelization from social problems would represent a serious error.”

He asserted that “all our action in defense of justice and peace, precisely because it is immersed in the love of God, binds everyone, but particularly us bishops.”

Spiritual fatherhood

The cardinal explained: “Since we are invested with a spiritual fatherhood, the destiny and life of all, but especially of those who suffer most or who have been abandoned, have to all intents and purposes been entrusted to us.

“Whether it is the poor, children, those already born or those still in their mother’s womb, women exploited or abandoned, families in difficulties, the elderly who are ill or often alone, the unemployed, those who have been forced to flee their own country because of war or who have been left with nothing as a con-

continued to page 5
The curatorial staff of the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art has selected unique works of art that have rarely been seen by the public, since approximately 95 percent of the museum's collection is in storage.

Starting Sept. 11, the exhibition, “Come and See: The Journeys of Linda Schaefer” will be shared with the community. Artist and photographer Linda Schaefer has spent her career documenting rarely glimpsed parts of the world. Her photographic series include scenes of such diverse places as Coney Island, the homeless in New York, the raucous 1980 U.S. presidential election, Eastern Europe just after the fall of communism, and the Amazon. Schaefer was the last photographer given full access to Mother Theresa and her work in India.

Rounding out the 2009-2010 Special Exhibition Season are: MGOA Regional Art Exhibit from Nov. 6-22; Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation from Jan. 23 to March 28, 2010; and Objects of Devotion: Spanish Colonial Religious Art from the 17th-20th centuries from April 30 to June 13, 2010.

Additionally, some school groups visiting the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art this fall will not have to pay admission due to the generosity of the Inasmuch Foundation, with $5,000 to be used to scholarship student tours and school bus expenses. Schoolteachers and administrators may call the museum at 878-5605 to inquire about these activities. Over 6,000 school students participated in the museum's programs during the 2008-2009 school year.

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

For current programming, visit www.mgmoa.org or call (405) 878-5300.
When Stem Cell Research Gets Personal — An Interview

PHILADELPHIA — (Zenit.org) — The debate surrounding embryonic stem cell research is portrayed as an exercise in discerning politics from science.

But there are undoubtedly some personal issues involved. The stem cell debate gets personal when citizens’ tax dollars are used to fund the research, regardless of if the citizens are in agreement.

As the U.S. government follows President Barack Obama’s March 9 executive order to direct U.S. tax dollars to the funding of embryonic stem cell research, ZENIT spoke with Father Alfred Cioffi about stem cell research and the particular promise offered by these powerful cells found in umbilical cord blood.

Father Cioffi, a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami, is a research ethicist for the National Catholic Bioethics Center. He has done extensive study and work in bioethics and research, focusing his first doctoral thesis from Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University on “The Fetus as Medical Patient: Moral Dilemmas in Prenatal Diagnosis.” He earned a second doctorate in genetics from Purdue University, with a thesis on “The VWG Hypothesis: Predicting Distinct Chromatin Structures from the DNA Sequence.”

ZENIT: There is still a lot of public confusion about stem cell research and what it’s all about — oftentimes confusion amplified by false or misleading press reports. Could you explain the basics of the research?

Father Cioffi: The cell is the basic unit of life on this planet earth. All living creatures are made up of cells. Our bodies are made up of trillions of cells: bone cells, skin cells, liver cells, brain cells, etc. Stem cells are cells deep within our body that produce other cells; stem cells make other cells. So, when we are either developing, or when there is an injury or disease, stem cells are active making new cells — either to form an organ or tissue, or to repair a damaged organ or tissue.

Stem cell research uses stem cells in the lab to try to heal injured organs and tissues of the human body. It does this by seeking to turn human stem cells into cell lines. Our bodies are made up of approximately 220 cell lines: bone cells, muscle cells, brain cells, liver cells, etc.

According to their origin, there are two types of stem cells: embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells. Embryonic stem cells come from embryos; adult stem cells come from “adults,” that is, from people who are already born — so, even babies have “adult” stem cells, because they are already born. So far, the only stem cells that have given results are the adult stem cells, and there’s a fairly simple explanation for this.

Embryonic stem cells actually have too much potential. Why? Because all of the organs and tissues of the embryo come from embryonic stem cells — the whole embryo is formed from embryonic stem cells. So, when embryonic stem cells are transplanted into an injured organ or tissue, they actually grow uncontrollably, too fast, too much. The end result is a tumor: cancer. Why? Because, essentially, the whole little embryo wants to grow there, where the embryonic stem cells have been placed.

To obtain embryonic stem cells, the embryo has to be killed, destroyed. That is why the Catholic Church, and many people of conscience, are opposed to embryonic stem cell research.

In contrast, adult stem cells, coming from the various organs and tissues of our bodies, are more tame, and do not grow as fast or as much. Why? Essentially, because all that is needed to heal, say, a skin cut, is for the adult skin stem cells to grow just enough skin to replace the damaged area. In other words: Adult stem cells are already pre-programmed to replace the various organs and tissues of our body, each according to its type.

No one has to be killed to obtain adult stem cells. In fact, an added advantage is that they can be obtained from the same patient, thus avoiding the problem of immune rejection of the embryonic stem cells. That is why the Catholic Church actually encourages adult stem cell research.

ZENIT: So when U.S. President Barack Obama spoke of the triumph of science a few weeks ago with his reversal of the Bush ban for federal funding on stem cell research, he missed the mark?

Father Cioffi: He missed the mark indeed. Sadly, that decision was entirely driven by an ideology that puts a particular agenda in front of whatever scientific evidence there is. The reader can go to www.stemcellresearch.org, and see for himself the dozens of cures that have already been obtained with adult stem cells, and the zero cures with embryonic — all documented with research articles in scientific journals.

ZENIT: So why is there interest in embryonic stem cells?

Father Cioffi: Three main reasons, I believe: finances, theoretical biology and ideology.

Finances: Sadly, because of the money involved. It’s all about the patents. It turns out that, since there have been so many successes in adult stem cell research, practically all of the patents are already taken up by biotechs and pharmaceuticals. However, due to the lack of results with embryonic stem cells, the slightest success in a particular biochemical pathway breakthrough is patentable, and the patent field here is wide open. Certainly, this is highly speculative research (using embryonic stem cells), which is what tends to give better returns when there is the tiniest hint of possible success. At a time when the economy is struggling, these speculative investments are a big temptation to provide the “quick fix” that everyone is desiring, so promises sell big during these times. To witness: In 2004, pro-embryonic stem cell ideologues convinced the people of California to devote $3 billion of their state taxes to this research, sold as the “cure-all” for the state’s financial bankruptcy.

Theoretical biology: Theoretically, embryonic stem cells should be able to regenerate and replace all of the 220 cell lines that make up the tissues and organs of our body. Why? Because they come from the Inner Cell Mass of the very early human embryo (the blastocyst: about one to two weeks old), and the entire embryo develops from the Inner Cell Mass. In practice, however, as I explained above, these cells have too much potential, and end up growing uncontrollably, causing tumors. Therefore, some scientists are saying: “Give us enough time and money, and we’ll tame these ‘wild’ embryonic stem cells to grow into the various cell lines needed.” And that’s precisely what we, as pro-life people, don’t want scientists to do, because using more time and more money means destroying many more human embryos in the process. And, of course, if they are successful eventually, that would only stimulate even more scientists to destroy more human embryos for their coveted stem cells.

Ideology: Embryonic stem cell research has nothing to do with the legalization of abortion, and has everything to do with the legalization of abortion. It has nothing to do with the legalization of abortion because there is no pregnancy involved. That is, these early embryos (blastocysts) are typically frozen in liquid nitrogen (cryopreserved) in in-vitro fertilization clinics, and are considered “excess” by their parents, since their parents already obtained the pregnancy and birth of the baby that they wanted. If there is no pregnancy, then there is no “conflict of interest” between the mother and her unborn. On the other hand, it has everything to do with the legalization of abortion. Why? Because, by giving some human status to these frozen human embryos, it begins to undermine the abortion mentality that says, “They are not really human beings.” In other words, the pro-abortion (pro-choice) forces in our society are adamantly opposed to any suggestion of even the
earliest human embryo being recognized as human. In the mind of these ideologues, it is essential to continue to promote the perception that these early human embryos are “just a clump of cells” that should be used for advancing medical cures.

ZENIT: Going to a more particular question, what is the difference between adult stem cells and stem cells taken from umbilical cord blood?

Father Cioffi: Regarding umbilical cord stem cells, bioethically, they represent a special category. It turns out that the blood inside the umbilical cord also contains stem cells. Since the umbilical cord comes from the human embryo (or fetus), then these are embryonic stem cells. The umbilical cord is normally discarded once the baby is born, but these embryonic stem cells can be extracted from that cord blood without having to do the least damage to the baby. In a sense, this is the best of both worlds because, on the one hand, umbilical cord stem cells have the plasticity and high-quality healing capacity of embryonic stem cells and, on the other, the baby certainly doesn’t have to be killed in order to obtain them.

ZENIT: So then, let’s turn to another side of this issue: parents considering storing their newborn’s stem cells. Some — perhaps most — pregnancy books, obstetricians and pediatricians are cautious about recommending umbilical cord banking and even somewhat discouraging. Would you say this is a justified attitude? Does it reflect a lack of information? Or perhaps the effects of an anti-life ideology?

Father Cioffi: The downside of umbilical cord stem cells is mostly financial. It is relatively expensive to extract them — I’ve heard for the United States, perhaps about $1,000 — and then there’s a monthly fee — of about $100 — to store them. How long would they be stored? Essentially, for life, or until the newborn has an injury or disease sometime in his lifetime. And hopefully, that injury or disease could be healed with the saved umbilical cord stem cells.

ZENIT: So what would you recommend for pregnant couples? Is umbilical cord banking worth the price tag?

Father Cioffi: You have to consider several factors: How much is it likely to cost, up front and in the long run? What cures could be expected realistically, and in what time frame? Since cord blood stem cell research is an industry that is just now beginning, perhaps for now the couples who would benefit the most from storing cord blood stem cells are the ones who have another child who was either born with some illness or acquired some illness or injury that could be cured with the stem cells of the sibling, since coming from the same parents the tissue match would likely be a good one.

In the long run, umbilical cord stem cells offer tremendous potential, so my bottom-line recommendation for couples considering their storage when giving birth is this: If the couple can afford it (perhaps even with some help from family and friends — “baby shower donations accepted!”), then they should do it. Why? Because, in addition to obvious advantages to their baby, siblings and close relatives, this would also further this fledging industry that is indeed very pro-life, and needs all the help it can get in getting started.

If the couple cannot afford it, they could consider putting some “friendly pressure” on their health insurance company to cover, at least, some of the cost. I think that it is important to get health insurance companies to understand that their investment in umbilical cord blood stem cell storage is to their financial advantage in the long run. Why? Because, as more and more cures come about in this field, on average, more and more of their clients would benefit from them, say, for instance, an injured teenager whose cord cells were saved, and who will now heal better and faster because of them, thus reducing his hospital stay and treatment sessions, reducing health-care insurance costs.
Knights of Columbus-Supported Center of Family Love Announces Campaign To Build New Campus

OKARCHE — Four years ago, the Center of Family Love was on the verge of closing its doors. Opened in 1981 by the Knights of Columbus as a home to care for adults with intellectual disabilities, the Center of Family Love was struggling under the weight of an annual loss of roughly $500,000.

My, how things have changed.

The Center of Family Love has announced a Capital Campaign intended to raise $7 million for campus-wide expansion and improvements. And the really big news is the Center of Family Love is putting up $1 million of its own to help jump-start the effort. Combined with a $500,000 gift from the Oklahoma Knights of Columbus Foundation, the $4 million first phase of the campaign is, in the words of the Center's executive director, “very attainable.”

Oklahoma Knights are expected to throw their support behind the project. State Deputy Paul Weigl has written to every Knight asking for a $1,000 pledge to be paid over five years. Of course, any and all are encouraged to support this ministry to the best of their ability. Whether that’s a gift of $10 or $1 million, every bit of support is appreciated and necessary.

“The manner in which we meet the challenges and opportunities of growth for the Center of Family Love will stand as a measure of our values and commitment as Knights,” Weigl said in the letter to his fellow Knights. “If we do not believe in the vision started by our brother Knights 28 years ago, who will?”

Jim O’Brien arrived at the Center of Family Love as its new executive director in June 2005. In the last four years he has helped bring the Center back from the edge of extinction to where it is today: full, financially in the black and with a lengthy waiting list.

O’Brien, who turned 72 on June 18, credits the turnaround to a new attitude from the staff, strong support from the Okarche and Catholic communities as well as a revamped and energetic board of directors.

“There were three keys to getting it turned around,” O’Brien said. “Putting a management team into place, implementing cost controls and reorienting the thinking of supervisors and employees.”

O’Brien said turnover of the direct caregivers at the Center of Family Love, those who work daily with the residents and help them

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with their most basic needs, is high, but it's far below the statewide average.

“We have 70 percent turnover in our direct care staff,” O’Brien said. “But the state average is 200 percent.” A number of dedicated direct caregivers understand their work is more of a ministry than a job, O’Brien said. Another plus, several members of the Center’s management team are living in Okarche, which O’Brien said helps build community partnerships.

Not only is the attitude moving in a positive direction, so are the finances.

“The Center of Family Love is in its strongest financial position in its 28-year history,” O’Brien said. He said ground is expected to be broken on the new Campus Master Plan by the end of this year. Healthcare Design Group of Oklahoma City created the plan for the new construction and renovation of the existing buildings. Darin Miller of El Reno is founder and president of the firm.

O’Brien said the residents will remain in the existing home while new living quarters are constructed. When the living quarters are ready for move-in, the focus will turn to renovation of the existing main building. O’Brien said the plan is to move the Center’s manufacturing operations into the newly renovated building.

Center residents earn money by creating three-ring binders and air-conditioning filters. The Center has contracts to supply the state of Oklahoma with all its binder and filter needs. The Center also owns and operates a greenhouse on site.

The new and expanded campus will create space for 10 more people, boosting capacity to 64 residents. Some new positions may also be created. O’Brien said one position he hopes to fill is that of assistant executive director.

“I hope to work here as long as I’m capable and as long as the board will have me,” O’Brien said. A stickler for detail, he wants every piece of the management team in place when it comes time for him to step aside.

O’Brien said there will be no more living near the edge of extinction for the Center of Family Love. It’s too im-portant.
St. Mary’s Pair Leads Ponca City Grads

Newman, Schwager Nab Top Honors in Graduating Class of 2009

PONCA CITY — Valedictorian Kate Newman and Salutatorian Carl Schwager led the 2009 Ponca City High School senior class at graduation May 22.

Newman and Schwager are both active members of St. Mary's Church and the youth group. Kate has taken part in various community and parish activities. These include Friendship Feast, Parish Garden beautification, Vacation School of Religion, assisting at Poverty Meals and helping with child care. She has served as altar server, lector and in the youth group. Kate’s high school activities include Renaissance Leadership Team, Foreign Language Club officer, Youth Traffic Court Clerk, tennis, High Steppers, and of course, the National Honor Society.

Carl Schwager has also been active in St. Mary’s youth group as well as many activities at the Ponca City High School and community. Some of his extracurricular activities were National Honor Society, Youth Traffic Court, Renaissance Leadership Team, Student and Band Council representative and Foreign Language Club. He has been a member of the Marching Band all four years, during which time he was chosen as the Outstanding Male Musician and Northern Oklahoma College Honor Band Outstanding Percussionist. Carl has been a lector, altar server, piano and instrumentalist musician for teen Mass and adult congregation besides being active in youth group, which participates in Ponca City’s Friendship Feast — serving the less fortunate meals prepared and served by St. Mary’s youth.

“Carl continues to amaze me,” said Father Michalicka. “Besides being on the Superintendent’s Honor Roll and the National Honor Roll, he continued to help others and us. While he uses his musical talents generously, he also has assisted us in a number of ways like the Vacation School of Religion and the Parish Art and Environment Committee that enhances and enriches the church’s Liturgical Seasons. He truly strives for excellence in everything he does.”

Benedictine Reflections on Baptism Provided by English Author

Seeking Life: The Baptismal
Invitation of the Rule of St. Benedict

Esther de Waal is well known to Benedictine Oblates (lay associates of the Benedictine order who don’t have to be Catholic to be members) as the author of the book “Seeking God,” which was published in 1984 with a second edition published around 2001.

De Waal’s new book discusses the Prologue of St. Benedict’s Rule in connection with the theology and liturgy of baptism. The first part of the book is a discussion on baptism from its earliest times up to today from its liturgical and artistic descriptions. She reflects on the Holy Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday). She describes how those preparing to be initiated into the Church underwent instruction and preparation for baptism. She describes what the baptismal ritual was like in the early Church based on ancient Christian sources. She discusses how the creation of baptismal fonts tried to reflect the theology and symbolic meaning of baptism. Some fonts were in the form of a tomb, to symbolically show that one was dying and being born again or reborn in Christ.

The second part is a discussion of the Prologue of the Rule as a baptismal sermon or lecture since it is talking about monks or nuns entering into the monastery or the “School of the Lord’s Service,” which is being initiated into the monastic life. Baptism is an initiation rite whereby a person becomes a Christian. This book is a wonderful tool for meditation on Easter, baptism and Benedictine monasticism. She reflects on various phrases of the Prologue in conjunction with baptism. Like the first words of the Prologue are “Listen my son” and how we are called to listen to God who speaks through the Bible, the Word of God, and through the superiors and others.

De Waal includes an anthology of quotes from various Church and monastic Fathers. There are endnotes and acknowledgments of where the inspiring illustrations come from.


Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian and writes book reviews regularly for several Catholic publications, including the Sooner Catholic.
D’Ambrosio Headlines First Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference

The first ever Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference to empower women or men in spirituality, service and leadership will be held at St. Mark Catholic Church at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road in Norman. The conference is set for Saturday, Aug. 22. Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. and close with Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark.

This is an exciting, first-ever conference with speakers, prayer service, music, priests panel, workshop choice, Catholic vendors and catered box lunch. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

The conference will feature four outstanding speakers who will speak on Spirituality, Service and Leadership. The Archdiocesan Council Catholic Women Board and Regions are sponsoring this exciting event.

To register by PayPal or for information, visit our Web site: http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html

For mail-in registration, contact Karen Ritz: karenritz@cox.net, or mail request to 732 Villa Avenue, Yukon, Okla. 73099, (405) 350-2239.

For general information, contact Chris Thomas at thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net or call (405) 306-5187.

Speakers at this year’s conference include:

Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio

Raised in an Italian/Irish neighborhood in Providence, R.I., Marcellino D’Ambrosio never thought about being anything else but Catholic. But like other Catholic teens, his faith was the last place he looked for fulfillment. Following in the footsteps of his parents, both professional performers in their single years, Marcellino set his sights on stardom, playing bass guitar in several popular rock bands by the time he was 16. At that time he encountered a group of Catholics whose Christian life was an exciting adventure, an a d v e n t u r e worth living for. So he laid his bass guitar aside and embarked on a road that led to a Ph.D. in historical theology from the Catholic University of America. His doctoral dissertation, written under the direction of the renowned Jesuit theologian, Avery Cardinal Dulles, focused on one of the theological lights of the Second Vatican Council, Henri Cardinal de Lubac, and his recovery of biblical interpretation of the early Church fathers.

Father Juan Molina, O.Ss.T.

Father Juan Molina, O.Ss.T, is the Advocacy Program Coordinator for the Southwest Region of Catholic Relief Services. He is responsible for outreach to dioceses, religious and civic organizations, coalitions and institutions in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, in an effort to educate and inform Catholics and others on global issues and to provide opportunities for active engagement on legislative and policy matters as well as in other CRS activities including the organization’s Fair Trade Program, Global Fellows, Parish Homily, and Peace Building Initiative.

Father Molina holds several degrees including a master of arts/master of divinity from Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C., and a Ph.D. in economics from Fordham University in New York City.

Prior to his position at Catholic Relief Services, Father Molina served as a lecturer at the University of Texas at Dallas, as well as Fordham University. He also worked as a CRS intern in Zimbabwe and as an intern at the United Nations.

La recientemente establecida oficina de Catholic Relief Services en el Suroeste (CRS Southwest) trabaja para fomentar cambio en las mentes, el corazón, y las vidas con el fin de que, basados en la fe, los católicos en el Suroeste de los Estados Unidos tengan oportunidades de trabajar activamente para transformar el mundo.

Eunice Washa

Eunice Washa is the National Council of Catholic Woman vice president for Region Two. She chairs the NCCW Board of Directors Program Committee, and serves on the Legislative Commission. In January of 2008, the National Board elected her as the first vice president to preside at meetings in the absence of the national president. Involved in the Council of Catholic Women since 1982, she has served on all levels.

Maria de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda

María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda is an award-winning journalist and author who is published regularly in national publications. Her credits include: Our Sunday Visitor, U.S. Catholic, Catholic Digest, St. Anthony Messenger, The Lutheran, Extension, Liguorian. For many years, she published an award-winning column for “Catholic Parent” and for “Catholic Digest en Español” (no longer in publication).


María and Michael live in Norman with their Siberian Husky, Lobo.

Looking Inside: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is Within’

I was privileged to attend one of Father Petuskey’s last Masses held in the chapel at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. I will never forget his homily in which he repeated slowly, deliberately and reverently, “The Kingdom of Heaven is within...The Kingdom of Heaven is within...”, while touching his heart three times. I don’t believe there was a dry eye among those of us present.

I am reminded how important it is to me to be able to experience the Kingdom of Heaven and placing myself in the presence of God. When I take the time to pause and go within, I find peace, calm and a safe place where I know I am loved. When I seek God’s presence, I experience gratitude for my wonderful faith in Him; for a loving wife, family and friends; for a vocation; and for all His many blessings.

We can enter the Kingdom of Heaven by taking time from our busy days and being grateful for God’s gifts in our lives. We can enter the Kingdom of Heaven by sincerely seeking God’s will for us and asking for the strength and courage to carry out His will. We can enter the Kingdom of Heaven by being loving, doing good works and being of service to others.

We can enter the Kingdom of Heaven whenever we so desire by reflecting on God’s Presence within while taking a shower, while on our morning drive to work, while walking in a park, while sitting on the patio, while reading Scripture or devotional readings, while resting in the shade of a tree, etc. The wonderful thing is we can experience God’s presence at anytime of the night or day.
Buenas Noticias...

...El Matrimonio es un Sacramento

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

La actitud cultural hacia el matrimonio se ha deteriorado recientemente mucho más recientemente en los últimos años.

No solamente lo sacramental y la santidad del matrimonio se han puesto a un lado, mucho peor es que incluso el significado literal de la palabra "matrimonio" se ha desvirtuado.

La Iglesia tiene un conocimiento preciso de la naturaleza de la unión del matrimonio instituido. Es más Jesús elevó esa unión a un estado sacramental.

La Iglesia enseña con mucha claridad que esa unión matrimonial es entre un hombre y una mujer.

Cuando esa unión toma lugar entre un hombre bautizado y una mujer bautizada, entonces hablamos de un sacramento.

Tradicionalmente el mes de junio es cuando ocurren más matrimonios.

Por lo tanto, pienso que es oportuno compartir una parte de un documento publicado por la USCCB (Conferencia de Obispos de los Estados Unidos) sobre el amor matrimonial.

El amor matrimonial y el don de la vida
Casarse, ¿Qué momento tan dichoso y lleno de esperanza!

Los hombres y las mujeres que están considerando contraer matrimonio anhelan ciertas cosas. Desean ser aceptados mutuamente, sin condiciones.

Quieren que su matrimonio esté lleno de amor y felicidad. Desean una familia. En resumen, quieren que su matrimonio sea una fuente de dicha y satisfacción para toda la vida.

El plan de Dios para el matrimonio, desde el momento en que creó a los seres humanos como hombre y mujer, siempre incluyó estas características y muchas otras.

El deseo y la capacidad de un hombre y de una mujer de crear un vínculo duradero de amor y de vida matrimonial están inscritos en su naturaleza.

En el Rito del Matrimonio (1969) se pregunta al hombre y a la mujer si se amarán fiel y plenamente es decir, si amarán como ama Dios.

"¿Han venido aquí para contraer matrimonio por su libre y plena voluntad y sin que nada ni nadie les presione?", pregunta el obispo, el sacerdote o el diácono.

"¿Están dispuestos a amarse y honrarse mutuamente en su matrimonio durante toda la vida? ¿Están dispuestos a recibir con amor los hijos que Dios les dé, y a educarlos según la ley de Cristo y de su Iglesia?"

Todas ellas son diferentes maneras de formular la misma pregunta esencial:

¿Estás listo para aceptar a esta persona, y todo lo que puede producir esta unión, completamente y para siempre?

Los cónyuges sellan su amor y su compromiso mediante su unión sexual.

Hoy en día es difícil, para muchos, comprender que profunda y significativa es esta unión y cómo encarna estas promesas del matrimonio.

Nuestra cultura a menudo presenta el sexo como una diversión, no como un encuentro personal profundo e incluso importante entre los cónyuges.

Según esa opinión, ser responsable sexualmente significa simplemente limitar las consecuencias - evitar las enfermedades y utilizar anticonceptivos para impedir embarazos.

Esta perspectiva cultural es deficiente y hasta triste.

No toma en cuenta las verdaderas necesidades ni los deseos más profundos del hombre y de la mujer.

La aceptación de estas ideas ha causado gran soledad y muchos corazones rotos.

El plan de Dios para la vida y el amor matrimonial es mucho más rico y más gratificante.

En él, la sexualidad es una fuente de dicha y placer que ayuda a que los cónyuges se entreguen al uno al otro plenamente durante toda la vida.

¿Qué enseña la Iglesia acerca del amor matrimonial?

El matrimonio es más que un contrato civil; es una alianza de toda la vida entre un hombre y una mujer.

Es una unión íntima en la que los esposos y las esposas aprenden a dar y recibir amor generosamente, y luego enseñan a sus hijos e hijas a hacer lo mismo.

El matrimonio cristiano, en particular, es un "gran misterio", un símbolo del amor entre Cristo y su Iglesia (Ef 5:32).

El amor matrimonial se encarna muy poderosamente en la relación sexual de los cónyuges, cuando estos expresan más plenamente lo que significa convertirse en una sola persona (véanse Gn 2:24; Mc 10:8; Mt 19:6).

La Iglesia enseña que la unión sexual del esposo y la esposa tiene el propósito de expresar el significado pleno del amor, su poder de unir a la pareja y su apertura a una vida nueva.

Cuando la Sagrada Escritura describe la forma en que Dios crea la humanidad "a su imagen" (Gn 1:27), la unión del hombre y la mujer es presentada como algo que ocurre entre personas de igual dignidad humana ("Está si es hueso de mis huesos / y carne de mi carne" [Gn 2:23]), y como abierta a la bendición de los hijos y las hijas ("Sean fecundos y multipliquense" [Gn 1:28]).

¿Qué tiene que ver esto con la anticoncepción?

El esposo y la esposa expresan el compromiso de su amor no solo mediante palabras, sino también mediante el lenguaje de sus cuerpos.

Este "lenguaje corporal" - lo que el esposo y la esposa se dicen el uno al otro en la intimidad de las relaciones sexuales - expresa un compromiso total y la apertura a un futuro juntos.

Por tanto, la pregunta sobre la anticoncepción es la siguiente:

¿El acto sexual en el que se utilizan anticonceptivos afirma fielmente este compromiso de amor?

¿O introduce un elemento falso en esta conversación de cuerpo y alma?

El amor matrimonial es distinto a todos los otros tipos de amor en el mundo.

Por naturaleza, el amor del esposo y la esposa es tan completo, tan ordenado a una vida entera de comunión con Dios y del uno con el otro, que está abierto a la creación de un nuevo ser humano, al que amarán y cuidarán juntos.

Parte del don de Dios al esposo y a la esposa es esta capacidad de cooperar con el poder creador de Dios en este amor y mediante este amor.

Por lo tanto, el don mutuo de la fecundidad es parte integral del poder unitivo del acto sexual matrimonial.

Este poder de crear una vida nueva con Dios es la esencia de lo que los cónyuges comparten el uno con el otro.

Sin duda, los cónyuges a los que no se les conceda el don de tener hijos e hijas pueden llevar una vida matrimonial llena de amor y significado.

Como expresó el Papa Juan Pablo II a estas personas, en una homilía de 1982: "Ustedes no son menos amados por Dios; su amor recíproco es completo y fecundo cuando se abre a lo demás, a las necesidades del apostolado, a las necesidades de los pobres, a las necesidades de los huérfanos, a las necesidades del mundo"
Esfuerzos mancomunados para el bienestar de nuestras familias

Amor y comunicación en el matrimonio deben estar fundados en la fe

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La señora Adilia McManus, quiénes es la coordinadora de servicios hispanos de la Iniciativa Matrimonial de Oklahoma y la señora Lisa Carrassco, quien es la directora asistente de la Oficina de Vida Familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City trabajaron arduamente como líderes para organizar junto a un grupo de personas, un grandioso programa para las parejas hispanas en matrimonio y para aquellas que se quieren casar, el cual se llama "Real y para siempre". Este grandioso evento se efectuó el pasado 20 de junio en las instalaciones del Centro Pastoral de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Al respecto la señora Lisa Carrassco nos dijo, "Sabemos que en la Arquidiócesis enseñamos clases matrimoniales a través de la Oficina de Vida Familiar, sin embargo con este programa podemos ofrecer y complementar lo que hacemos cuan-

do hablamos de comunicación en el matrimonio con las técnicas que ofrece el programa de Iniciativa Matrimonial de Oklahoma. Observando la gran cantidad de parejas que asistieron, es muy probable que lo hagamos al menos tres veces al año en español".

Por otro lado, la señora Adilia McManus comentó: "Ha sido un éxito total, tenemos una sala llena con más de 240 personas, a parte de la cantidad de personas, queremos que lleven todas estas técnicas y enseñanzas para que las usen en sus casas y las compartan con su familia". El taller contó con una guardería que albergó la cantidad de 80 niños. La organización de este tipo de programa para fortalecer la institución sacramental del matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer son iniciativas muy bien recibidas en la comunidad hispana de Oklahoma.

El matrimonio es un sacramento que se realiza entre un hombre y una mujer y todo lo que se refiera a la institución del matrimonio debe ser real y para siempre.

Informe actual sobre el estado de salud del Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltrán

El Arzobispo Eusebius Beltrán expresa su inmensa gratitud por todas aquellas personas que han estado orando por su pronta recuperación debido a un pequeño derrame cerebral que sufrió el 20 de junio y lo mantuvo veinticuatro horas en el hospital.

Gracias a Dios por la pronta intervención de los doctores que lo atendieron y las medicinas recibidas se logró que su estado de salud esté bajo control.

El Arzobispo Beltrán ha reunido sus actividades completando las Confirmaciones correspondientes al presente año dos mil nueve y las cuales fueron pautadas a realizarse en la Iglesia de San Pedro perteneciente a la ciudad de Woodward.
Jobs Box

Associate Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni

St. Gregory's University has an opening for the position of Associate Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni. Qualifications include an assertive, personable self-starter with proven selling skills/experience to assume a position in institutional advancement in a non-profit fundraising office. Although experience in fundraising environment is preferred, selling or marketing experience could provide the necessary required background. The ideal candidate will have direct responsibility in developing and nurturing prospective donors; making and closing gift requests; and stewarding the donors. This is a wonderful opportunity for the right individual to advance in a career in philanthropy/fundraising. Bachelor's degree required. Send cover letter, resume and references to hr@stgregorys.edu or St. Gregory's University, Human Resources Director, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804. EOE

Math/Science Teacher

Bishop John Carroll School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic math and science teacher for our middle school. Applicants can fax resume and copy of Oklahoma State Teaching Certificate to Connie Diotte (at (405) 523-3053 or mail to 1100 NW 32nd St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73118. For additional information, call (405) 525-0956.

Part-Time Positions Available

Sacred Heart Catholic School in OKC is currently accepting applications for the following part-time positions for the 2009-2010 school year: Title I reading teacher and after-school care director. Please send a resume to Joana Camacho, principal, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109, or e-mail to principal@sacredheartokc.org.

Preschool Teacher

Villa Teresa Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for the fall 2009-2010 school year for a preschool teacher. Applicants must possess an Oklahoma state certificate in the area of early childhood education. Call Sister Veronica at 232-4286 for an interview.

Fifth-Grade Teacher Sought

Sacred Heart Catholic School, El Reno, is accepting applications for a fifth-grade teacher. Must hold certification in elementary education. Please send a resume, attention to Shannon Statton, principal, to 210 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036, or fax to (405) 262-3818.

Coaching Openings

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (Oklahoma City) is seeking qualified coaches in the following fields for 2009-2010: assistant girls soccer; assistant track, assistant volleyball and assistant football (with experience). Applicants can fax letter of interest, resume and copy of teaching certificate to Talita DeNegri at (405) 631-9209 or by e-mail to tdenegri@mountstmary.org. EOE

Part-Time Organist

Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Kingfisher, is looking for a part-time organist to help with weekend Masses and/or occasional special events. Stipend is available. Call the pastor, Father Stephen Hamilton, for more information at (405) 375-4581.

Full-Time Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. Monica Parish in Edmond is seeking a qualified and talented individual to serve as a full-time Youth Ministry Coordinator. Individual would be responsible for programming and coordination of a vibrant youth ministry program for 7th to 12th grades. Responsibilities would include continued formation of adult leaders, weekly gatherings for social and service experiences and working in cooperation with the religious education program. For more information, visit our Web site at www.saintmonicaparish.com or send a resume with references to Youth Ministry Coordinator Search, St. Monica Parish, 2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond 73012.

Part-Time Youth Minister

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Duncan is seeking a dynamic individual to minister to our youth through fun and fellowship. Responsibilities include planning and leading activities, trips and conferences in a Christian environment. Bilingual preferred. For more information, see our Web site at www.assumptionparishonline.org. Send résumé with references to “Youth Minister Search Committee,” Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, 711 W. Hickory Ave., Duncan, Okla. 73533, or e-mail to duncancatholic@sbcglobal.net.

Maintenance Opening

Trinity Gardens and Villa Isenbart Senior Apartments, 3801 NW 19th St., (405) 947-4143, are seeking a full-time maintenance person. A clean background check and good work history is required. Will be required to live on site in provided two-bedroom apartment. HVAC experience a plus. Pay will be based on experience. Please fax resume to (405) 947-4199.

Center of Family Love Openings

The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: DCTs - Certified is great, if not we will train. Shifts available are 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and float. CMA - Certified Medication Aide to work weekend doubles. Dietary aide - Help prepare meals following recipes and menus. Operational Workshop Accountant - Must be detail oriented with experience in Microsoft Excel, inventory control, and reviewing P/L statements. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemko@cfline.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73072. EOE

For an up-to-date full jobs box listing, visit us online at catharchdioceseokc.org

Across Oklahoma

All Day Watermelon Fest

OKLAHOMA CITY — July 2, St. Ann Retirement Center will host a watermelon fest. Activities include a 10:30 a.m. parade, 1 p.m. horseshoe-throwing contest, 5:30 p.m. cookout and at 6 p.m. the live music watermelon fest begins. Prizes awarded for best dressed. RSVP to (405) 721-0747.

NFP Prayer Scheduled

OKLAHOMA CITY — An evening of reflection and prayer for couples who utilize Natural Family Planning (NFP), those who teach NFP and those interested in learning more about NFP. Father Shane Tharp will talk on A Divine Design, July 23 at 7 p.m. at Epiphany Parish in Oklahoma City.

Catholic Family Golf Tournament

CHOCTAW — The Knights of Columbus Council 5759 will host a Catholic Family Golf Tournament at Choctaw Creek, July 25. It will be a four-person scramble with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded for the first- and second-place teams and the last-place team. Closest to the hole contest on all par 3s, a longest drive and longest putt contest. Hole No.14 will have a $6,500 Rolex watch contest for the first hole-in-one. Entry is $75 per person, includes green fee, cart, driving range token, two free drink tickets, coffee/doughnuts before tee times and lunch. Any clergy playing entry will be covered by Council 5759. Call Michael Zink at (405) 314-4120 for entry information.

Marriage Support

OKLAHOMA CITY — Retrouvaille, a program for married couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage, will be in Oklahoma City Sept. 11-13. For information or to register for the weekend, call (918) 695-7010. All calls are confidential, or visit our Web site at www.helpourmarriage.com.
JUNE

29 Rev. James Knight Memorial Golf Tournament at Boiling Springs Golf Course, Woodward. The format is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost: $50 per person or $200 per team. Deadline for registration is June 22. For more information, call (580) 256-5305.

30 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Rosary is said every weekday at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome.

JULY

2 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

2 Watermelon Fest at St. Ann Retirement Center. Activities for the day are 10:30 a.m. parade, 1 p.m. horseshoe throwing contest, 5:30 p.m. cookout and at 6 p.m. the live music watermelon fest begins. Prizes awarded for best dressed. RSVP to (405) 721-0747.

3 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact the HFMH at 741-7419.

3 First Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

3 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass location will be at Immaculate Conception Parish. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is 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 consecrating the family and home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will find materials available after Mass. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 528-6252.

4 Bicycle Ride to Benefit Good Samaritan Clinic of Edmond. Ride 20, 30 or 60 miles on your bicycle starting at 8 a.m. from Mitch Park. There is no fee but donations will be accepted for the clinic. Call Joel for more information at (405) 340-6120.

8 Grant Workshop at Catholic Charities starting at 6 p.m. Catholic Charities and Catholic Campaign for Human Development will host a two-hour workshop for anyone interested in grant monies for a local parish or Catholic school project. The workshop will be held at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City. The workshop will help with the application process and provide valuable contacts and resources. Call Becky for details: (405) 523-3009 or bvanpool@catholic-charitiesok.org.

11 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osbokc@ionet.net.

14 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 Oswalt at Epiphany, (405) 722-2110.

14 Catholic War Veterans USA. Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly post meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPostJ68@cox.net.

Mustang Parish Lends Support to Pantry

Members of Sacred Heart Court 1813 of the Catholic Order of Foresters joined the youth group of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mustang, to participate in National COF Join Hands Day. This day is designated as a time to perform service projects to benefit local communities. The theme for this year was “Feeding God’s Children.” On May 15, youth volunteers, along with Martin Weaver, youth director, Vickie Weaver and COF members Don and Betty Lehman shopped for food items at a local store, filling up the back of a pickup with food items and bottled water.

On Saturday morning all the volunteers gathered at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, organized their caravan and began their trip to Oklahoma City. Along with the pickup load of food, the group also took clothing items they had collected for Sister B.J.’s Pantry.

When the group arrived at the Pantry, everyone was warmly greeted by Sister Barbara Joseph. Under the direction of the youth director, teams quickly formed and the work began. As one group unloaded the clothing, another group prepared 300-plus sack lunches. Each sack had been decorated the previous week by the youth group, with Scripture verses and pictures. The sacks were then distributed to those who came to Sister B.J.’s Pantry.
The Mount Dedicates ‘Rischard Field’

School Supporter Honored At May 30 Celebration

OKLAHOMA CITY — More than 250 family, friends and alumni of Mount St. Mary Catholic High School were on hand on Saturday, May 30 to celebrate the dedication of Rischard Field at the school’s annual varsity/alumni baseball game. The school named its baseball/softball field in honor of Joe Rischard, class of 1954, for his generous gifts and contributions that have made a difference in the lives of Mount students.

Rischard was a student of Mount St. Mary in the early 1950s and his family has a long, rich history with the school. He and his father, Paul, built the school’s historic grotto in 1949. He was a three-sport athlete at the school and attributes much of his success in life to the lessons he learned on the athletic fields at The Mount. His three sons all graduated from The Mount and went on to earn degrees from the University of Notre Dame. In recent years, Rischard has reconnected with the school and has become a major benefactor in supporting the school’s mission.

“Joe Rischard has been a tremendous difference maker here at The Mount,” said Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement at the Mount. “As a school community, it is important that we recognize his incredible contributions and putting the Rischard name on one of our athletic fields is our special way to honor and thank him. Very few people build a legacy in their lives, but by the naming of Rischard Field, Joe’s legacy will shine forever.”