Archbishop Coakley:
Time to rally our people

SHAWNEE (June 28, 2013) — The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa will become major sponsors of Saint Gregory’s University in Shawnee for the first time since the school was established in 1875.

At a June 28 signing ceremony in Saint Gregory’s Abbey Church, Archbishop Paul Coakley of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Bishop Edward Slattery of the Diocese of Tulsa, Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen of Saint Gregory’s University and Father Don Wolf, chairman of the board of directors of Saint Gregory’s, signed a memorandum of agreement that indicates the four leaders’ shared intention to sponsor the school.

Archbishop Coakley said it was important to create the optimal conditions for Saint Gregory’s continued success.

“Saint Gregory’s University is the only institution of Catholic higher education in the state and a tremendous asset for the church in Oklahoma,” he said.

Discussions about how best to financially secure and sustain the uniquely important institution began among the Abbey, the Diocese of Tulsa and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City nearly two years ago, the archbishop said.

“After considerable consultation, a model of shared sponsorship among the Abbey, the diocese and the archdiocese was proposed and has been accepted in principle,” he continued. “The memorandum of agreement that indicates the four leaders’ shared intention to sponsor the school is important to create the optimal conditions for Saint Gregory’s continued success.

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Archbishop Coakley also noted that it will affect business owners who might find those health care options morally offensive.

As a time of prayer, catechesis and appropriate action, the Fortnight for Freedom is both unfortunate and necessary.

Of the sanctuary. It is the freedom to be heard, to be counted and not to be silent. It is a time for us to pray, to take action. This is what our Fortnight for Freedom is about. It is a time to rally our people. It is time to beseech God, and to beseech his saints to come to our aid.

Several priests from around the archdiocese participated in the Mass with Archbishop Coakley. Father Brian Euston, who was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, assisted as a deacon. About 350 people attended the Mass, significantly fewer than last year.


Devotional booklets for the Fortnight are available for download at fortnightforfreedomokc.com/devotions.html

Ideas of meaningful ways to observe the Fortnight for Freedom are found at fortnightforfreedomokc.com.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.
To serve and not to be served

Among the greatest joys I have as a bishop is the opportunity to ordain new priests. There is a wonderful sense of fatherhood in ordaining men who will become the spiritual fathers to so many throughout a lifetime of priestly ministry. These men join the ranks of a bishop’s closest and most cherished collaborators for service to the entire Church.

On Saturday, June 29, I ordained Father Brian Buettner a priest of Jesus Christ for service to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We welcome him! Ordinations are an occasion of tremendous joy and thanksgiving, not only for the new priest and his family, but for the whole Church. Priestly ordination marks the beginning of a lifelong ministry of teaching, sanctifying and shepherding God’s people as an icon of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

Among the greatest responsibilities that every diocesan bishop has is to provide and assign priests to serve the people of God. This year we have one new priest. Next year, God willing, we hope to ordain five. Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide abundant laborers for his vineyard! The harvest is rich, but it is increasingly difficult to provide priestly laborers for our parishes.

In the week ahead many of our priests will begin new pastoral assignments. They have to say their farewells and prepare to begin new ministries in another part of God’s vineyard. These transitions can be times of sorrow and uncertainty for both priests and their people. These can be difficult times. They can also be times of renewal. I have the greatest admiration for the generosity of our priests who accept these new pastoral responsibilities with the heart of a true servant and shepherd. I am also grateful for the understanding of the parishioners for whom these changes may often be difficult.

These changes come about because of many different circumstances. A lifetime of service, priests retire, or their energies wane. We have recently had the painful circumstances. After a lifetime of service, priests retire, grateful for the understanding of the parishioners for whom they have served with the heart of a true servant and shepherd. I am also grateful for the understanding of the parishioners for whom these changes may often be difficult.

Each priest and each parish is unique. After much prayer and considerable consultation, I make the best decision possible given our limited pool of personnel and the whole variety of circumstances. Each decision has to take into account the good of the priest, the needs of each parish, as well as the entire Archdiocese. There is no “app” for that! There is no neat formula. I trust that the guidance of the Holy Spirit, however, is very much involved in this process. Please continue to pray for your priests. Pray for vocations. Pray for me. And if you are a parishioner whose parish is receiving a new pastor, please welcome him with an open heart and a spirit of willing cooperation.

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

July 9 — Mass of Installation for Bishop Mark J. Seitz, El Paso, Tex.

July 13 — Knights of Columbus State Officer Installation Mass and Banquet, 5 p.m., Saint Monica Church, Edmond

July 14 — Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Mass and Banquet, 5 p.m., Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

The Supreme Court handed down its decisions in two cases pertaining to the legal definition of marriage June 26. For full coverage of the decisions and the implications, visit www.soonercatholic.com.

Archbishop Paul Coakley, Bishop Edward Slattery, Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen and Father Don Wolf signed a memorandum of understanding that establishes the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City the Diocese of Tulsa and Saint Gregory’s Abbey as joint sponsors of Saint Gregory’s University. Photos of the June 28 signing, in addition to the initial story on page 1, will be available online beginning July 1.

Archbishop Coakley ordained Father Brian Buettner June 29. Photos and more information, in addition to the initial story on page 6, will be available online beginning July 1.

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

Every day, Pope Francis offers a new catechesis – either by word or deed. Find his latest buzzworthy quotes and actions online.

Plus, don’t miss daily updates on Facebook and Twitter!
USCCB Religious Liberty Chair: Faith serves public life

By Maria Wiering
Catholic News Service

Baltimore — Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore holds up statesman Sargent Shriver and other Catholics like him as “a living example of how faith enriches public life” June 21 at a standing-room-only Mass opening the second Fortnight for Freedom.

“Faith serves the public life not only by the sheer magnitude of its humanitarian services,” he said, “but by its witness to Christ Jesus, to its witness to those moral truths and values without which democracy cannot flourish.”

Archbishop Lori and others have argued that all Catholic organizations should be exempt from the mandate.

The church does not have two wings, a ‘faith and worship’ division on one hand, and a ‘service’ division on the other, he said in his June 21 homily. “What we believe and how we worship gives rise to a life of service.”

He noted that Catholic Charities USA is the nation’s largest nongovernmental social services provider, and Catholic schools educate more children than any other nongovernmental system.

“We continue to live in an age of martyrs — when believers are tortured and killed because they are believers in places like Iran, Iraq, China and Nigeria,” Archbishop Lori said in his June 21 homily. “Let us keep the flame of faith and the flame of freedom burning brightly not only for our children and for our children’s children, but also for the sake of those persecuted believers who see us in our form of government and in our great land a beacon of hope.”

Archbishop Lori offers, yet the government is insinuating in how churches are organized or how they function,” Archbishop Lori said. “It is part of a broader movement to limit religious freedom to ‘freedom of worship’ — to accord a fuller degree of religious freedom to houses of worship but a lesser degree of religious freedom to charities, hospitals and universities.

Archbishop Lori also condemned efforts to marginalize the church’s definition of marriage by anti-discrimination laws, and to criminalize church-provided services to people who are living in the country illegally.

In a May 31 letter sent to Catholic in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archbishop Lori pointed to local campaigns to curtail freedom of speech and religion, including a Johns Hopkins University pre-life student organization that was initially denied club status, a Baltimore City ordinance compelling signage about abortion to be posted at pro-life crisis pregnancy centers, and a lawsuit seeking to end prayer at Carroll County Board of Commissioners meetings.

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Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore delivers the homily at Fortnight for Freedom Mass June 21 in D.C.
The "Edict of Milan," 1,700 years later

By George Weigel

The Edict of Milan, whose millennium last year was marked by the General Synod of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, was a significant event in the history of the Christian Church. It was signed by Emperor Constantine in 313 AD and it marked the beginning of official recognition of Christianity by the Roman Empire. The event was significant because it set the stage for the future of Christianity and the Church's relationship with state power.

In his magisterial study, The First Thousand Years, Ratzinger would rewrite Lactantius a millennium and a half later, as if he had never heard of the "Edeict of Milan" but the term is a misnomer. It was not an edict but a letter posted by Licinius from several cities in the East, such as Nicomedia, the residence of the emperor. Like other official correspondence, however, it was written in the name of his sister, Constantia. But the two emperors used the occasion to resolve a conflict that had existed for years.

The sign of God's election comes when Elijah throws his mantle about Elisha's shoulders. Elisha, immediately cog-no-tizing what the gesture means, runs to Elijah in order to ask him to connect enjoyment and the celebration of the liturgy. "I enjoyed that" betrays a spirit of entitlement because "I deserved to receive" is the wrong posture. Without a sense of deep gratitude, "I deserved" is the wrong posture.

When we come to Mass, this is our time to return a gift to God and that inner relationship from which the Mass as a sacrifice springs. "I have to be there" is a sentiment that is shared by few Christians today. God and that inner relationship from which the Mass as a sacrifice springs is the foundation of the world. What else would you like to receive at Mass? It's all already present for the taking.

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**Oklahoma Totus Tuus team finds joy and satisfaction in service of others**

By Michael Kistemaker

**For the Sooner Catholic**

This summer, parish youth all over Oklahoma will experience a total immersion of faith, courtesy of a specially trained team of young Catholic men and women.

The Totus Tuus of Oklahoma leadership team — a group of college-aged Catholics, including seminarians, from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa — will present weeklong, Gospel-centered retreats for elementary- and high-school-aged children at parishes throughout the state, including in Ada, Afton, Chickasha, Enid, Hennessey, Ponca City, Shawnee and Oklahoma City.

Totus Tuus is a Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship, according to the program website.

“The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in the understanding of and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ,” the website states.

The program began in the Diocese of Wichita, where Archbishop Paul Dudley first served as a priest. “I’ve been aware of Totus Tuus since I was a priest in the Diocese of Wichita,” the archbishop said. “When I was bishop in Tulsa, I established the Totus Tuus program in that diocese and when I arrived in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, I wanted to strengthen the partnership between the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa, where Totus Tuus had already been established.”

Today, Totus Tuus of Oklahoma can fairly be called a joint endeavor of both Oklahoma dioceses. Several archdiocesan priests — including Father Joseph Irwin, pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Church in Oklahoma City, and Father Shane Tharp, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Chickasha — assist in the training of the Totus Tuus leadership team. The Archdioceses also assign college-aged seminarians to serve as Totus Tuus team members in the summer.

“Totus Tuus has been a very effective evangelization and catechetical tool for young people, as well as a strong means of promoting vocations for young men and women,” Archbishop Ludden said.

The name Totus Tuus is a phrase in Latin meaning “totally yours” and was originated from a Marian consecration prayer composed by Saint Louis de Montfort. With the words of the prayer, de Montfort consecrated himself to Jesus through Mary and prayed to be transformed into a complete “disciple, imitator and slave of Jesus.”

The education goes both ways

“Totus Tuus is especially effective and unique because it has youth educat- ing youth,” said Father Charles Buckley, assistant vocations director for Saint Gregory’s University and is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

“Totus Tuus is not just an evangelization tool, but an educational tool where youth teach youth,” said Father Charles Buckley, assistant vocations director for Saint Gregory’s University and is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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Newly ordained priest to serve as chaplain of Bishop McGuinness High School

By Anamaria Sperandola Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

The newest priest of the Archdiocese, Father Brian Buettner, ordained yesterday, June 29, 2013, will begin his priesthood as chaplain of Bishop McGuinness High School and Associate Pastor at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. An Associate Pastor at the Cathedral, Father Buettner will also have duties to Corpus Christi Parish in Oklahoma City and Saint Robert Bellarmine in Jones.

As chaplain of Bishop McGuinness, Father Buettner will provide the sacraments for the school community as well as planning retreats and visit classes.

Principal David Morton said he is excited about Father Buettner’s assignment.

“As a young and vibrant priest, I believe Father will have an immediate impact on our students,” Morton said. “They are always interested in their call to religious life and all that entails. Because Father will not be the main person in charge of one of our larger parishes, my hope is that his presence will shine an even brighter light on Christ’s presence in our school.”

For Archbishop Coakley, Father Buettner’s vocation as a priest is an important aspect of his ministry as a priest. I look forward to working with [Father Metzinger] and learn from him his former pastor. “It will be a great blessing to have an intimate and personal way, and, from them on, I have felt a tug to the life of ministry.”

An important part of this witness is the sacramental life. For Father Buettner, offering the sacraments to the people of the church is central to his vocation as a priest.

“Our Christian life is centered upon the sacraments of the church,” Father Buettner said. “Being able to bring people to those founts of grace on a daily basis will be a great blessing in my life as a priest. I am specifically looking forward to assisting people in mending their relationship with God through the sacrament of penance.”

Father Buettner will be offering these “founts of grace” alongside Father John Metzinger, recto of the Cathedral. Father Metzinger was pastor of Saint Mark the Evangelist in Norman during Father Buettner’s teenage years at the parish.

Father Buettner is looking forward to working with his former pastor. “It will be a great blessing to work with [Father Metzinger] and learn from him during my first year as a priest.”

Father Metzinger is also anticipating Father Buettner’s place at the Cathedral and looks forward to have witnessed Father Buettner’s vocation-al journey.

“One of the great joys in the life of a priest is to see God working in someone’s life over a period of years,” Father Metzinger said. “I remember Brun as a bright, enthusiastic teenager. I know that he will bring that same intelligence and enthusiasm to his ministry as a priest. I look forward to working together in the service of God’s people. People are going to love Father Buettner!”

Anamaria Sperandola Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahome City.

Obituary — Sister Henrice Billion, OP

SINISINAWA, Wis. — Sister Henrice Billion, OP, died June 13, 2013, at Saint Dominic Villa. The funeral Mass was held in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sininaiva June 19, 2013, followed by burial in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Sister Henrice was born Nov. 10, 1916, in Sioux Falls, S.D., the daughter of Alphonse and Coralee (VanderGeest) Billion. Her parents, two sisters, Yvonne Miller and Sisit Alphonse Billion, OP, and two brothers, Patric and Henry Billion, preceded her in death. She is survived by nieces, nephews and her Dominican Sisters with whom she shared life for 75 years.

Memorals may be made to the Sinisinaiva Dominicans, 565 County Road Z, Sininaiva, WI, 53824-9701 or online at www.sinisinaiva.org by clicking on “Donate Now,” then “Honor and Memorial Gift.”

Meet Our Seminarians

This is the sixth part in a 24-part series to introduce the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to the people they will one day serve as priests.

Most Daniel Grover

1. What is your home parish?
Saint Andrew’s Catholic Church in Moore, Okla.

2. What seminary do you attend?
Conception Seminary for college and Saint Meinrad School of Theology for theology

3. If it is God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest?
2015

4. How old were you when you first thought that God might be calling you to the priesthood?
The first time I considered priesthood as more than just a child wanting to do something when he grew up was probably during high school at Bishop McGuinness. I was very involved with my parish youth group and active in the school, as well. I went on a retreat called Catholic Heart Workcamp that really allowed me to come to know God in a more intimate and personal way, and, from then on, I have felt a tug to the life of ministry.

5. What is your favorite subject in the seminary?
My favorite non-theological class was astrophysics. My favorite theological class was on Catholic schools—past, present and future.

6. What is the most important thing you have learned in the seminary so far?
The most important thing that I have learned is that God makes us each with our own gifts and talents. As such, I am called to be the best me that I can be.

7. What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest?
This year, I have been on a pastoral year. This year I have been given the unique ability to see in a more intimate way what means to be a priest and to have a priestly identity. That being said, I look forward to continuing the work that I have been able to do this year in a more concrete manner and to be able to administer the sacraments.

8. Who is your favorite saint?
Saint Gregory the Great. He is known above all for his magnificent contributions to the liturgy of the Latin Church.

9. Name one thing that every Catholic needs to know:
Though we are sinners, we are never too far gone that God, in His infinite mercy, will leave us or forsake us. He is ever ready for us to turn to Him, no matter what we have done. God’s love is everlasting and eternal.

10. Describe your relationship with Christ:
Like many, my relationship with Christ is never stagnant. It is an always-changing and always-evolving relationship. I know that I can count on Christ to shepherd me through my bad times, and to help me carry the weight of whatever crosses may come in my life.

11. Why choose a life of sacrificial love in any vocation rather than a life of self-gratification?
As with material gain, self-gratification is stagnant, and one day will be no more. Sacrifical love, however, is always evolving and always growing. As we get closer to God, we begin to realize that love is the answer. Even to the most difficult questions, love, or lack of love is the answer. With that being said, which is better? Love that is flowing and cheap, or love that has the ability to offer true and eternal happiness?

12. Why choose this particular vocation?
As a Sinsinawa Dominican March 8, 1937, and her final profession Aug. 5, 1940. She taught for 35 years, served as principal for 17 years, was librarian for four years, substitute taught for three years, and ministered in the transportation department for nine years. Sister Henrice attended Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado, California, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Sister Henrice taught at Saint Martin de Porres, Oklahoma City, 1942-1951.
Daily Mass attendees find peace, friendship and fulfillment

By J.E. Helm
For the Sooner Catholic

Betty Kiel is 92 years old and needs a walker to get to the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. She brought 10 children into the world, has 29 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. One of her daughters drops her off and another one picks her up.

Kiel says she comes to daily Mass because she "simply can’t function without being here." She’s been coming to Mass every day for about 56 years, first in Chickasha, Kan., and now here. She says she doesn’t think about coming; she just does.

"It’s just like putting on your shoes on," she says.

June and Jack Hovey have been married for 56 years and began attending daily Mass at Saint Francis when they bought a house across the street from the church in 1972.

Coupled prayer is a special blessing to the Church, and June says daily Mass is simply "how to start the day."

"Saturday feels empty," she finds, so there is no Saturday morning Mass at Saint Francis.

Jack says he prays for his family, for those in government and "to thank the Lord for what he has given us."

Now Mass at Saint Joseph’s Old Cathedral in Oklahoma City finds Army Sgt. James Johnson in attendance, in uniform at that.

Daily Mass “is a part of my life that is very important,” said Johnson, who works in information technology with the National Guard in Oklahoma City. He wants to “spend times with Christ as much as possible.”

Stacy Humbolt also attends the noon Mass. Humboldt is a new member of the Catholic Church, having been baptized this Easter. Before joining the Church, she was drawn to attending Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

New she said she wants Mass and Communion "not just on Sunday". She wants those things to be "a part of (her) everyday life."

Clearly, this Oklahoma Department of Commerce employee has found something very special in the "thrill of Angels."

Some 40 men and women attend Mass at 6:30 a.m. at Christ the King Church in Nichols Hills.

Mike Kremer says it is "just a good way to start the day."

Bob and Josie Lukeman also like early morning Mass.

Jodie says this time of day is "beautiful," that, unlike at weekend Masses, there are "no distractions."

Husband Bob is praying for an 82-year-old Marine acquaintance of his who died recently, a man noteworthy because, in addition to serving his country, he "could still fit in his uniform at 82!"

Bill Miller is at Christ the King by ten til six; he sets up for Mass. He comes "to honor God." Daily Mass is a practice he picked up from his wife, whom he met at a church social and chose social.

One man on the way to his car called out, "Know why I come to the 6:30 a.m. Mass? Because we don’t have an eight o’clock Mass!"

All of these people have found a kind of home in attending daily Mass. They feel settled here, friends with each other, friends in Christ. They are not there simply as petitioners, asking for health or a friend, help with finding a job or an increase in vocations, although certainly many pray for all those things and more.

They come as to a friend, a loved one. They find here what Thomas a Kempis in The Imitation of Christ calls "the sweet renewal of the soul."

Most can’t quite put it into words but all feel that the daily reception of Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar gives them something they simply cannot do without.

Daily Mass is a pious devotion. It’s a Church tradition. Everyone has heard someone extolled in a calque as "a daily Communicant" — but what ultimately draws these people to Mass every day is not mere pietè or tradition. Nor can it really be explained — only experienced. It’s Christ Himself.

J.E. Helm is an adjunct professor of English at Northeastern State and a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Father Stanley answers atheists

By Brianna Osborne
The Sooner Catholic

EDMOND — Father Cory Stanley, parochial vicar of Saint Monica Parish, presented a defense of Christian beliefs, answering atheist questions, in his talk titled "An Answering Atheist Friends." Saturday, June 11, at the Saint Monica Parish Hall.

One of the parish adult faith enrichment events, it took place after the 5 p.m. Mass, with sandwich, salad, and peach dessert.

In his brief talk, Father Stanley mentioned a few points about the existence of God that any Catholic may discuss with atheist friends. Father Stanley based his talk on the book "Godless Delusion," by Catholic apologist Patrick Madrid and Kenneth Harely, and the lectures and talks of Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft.

In the first part of his talk, Father Stanley described "naturalism," a worldview commonly held by modern atheists. It is the belief that only natural, material forces account for the universe, and that only the observations of science offer truth. Father Stanley lamented the fact that, today, science — which is really only one method for knowing the world — is conflated with the totality of knowledge itself. Furthermore, naturalism is taken for granted in school textbooks for all ages.

Catholicism touches a larger view of the universe, claiming that scientific observation is not the only means of understanding it.

Catholics are not against science; however, they believe that it is part of a larger whole and that knowledge acquired by faith and reason is equally absolute and real. The truths God has given through revelation also explain the universe.

The second part of the presentation discussed morality. Catholics believe that right and wrong are absolute truths, written by God in the heart of every person and revealed to the world in Scripture. Using the example of the recent tornadoes, Father Stanley noted that atheists and Christians alike felt compassion for the victims and wanted to help.

Many atheists exhibit moral behavior — they love their children, give to the poor and value human life. The question, then, is how do they account for those feelings and actions without a God who made the laws of morality?

Concluding his talk, Father Stanley said that the purpose of apologists is not to argue with people, but that "we are called to lovingly challenge people to question their worldview."

Starting a conversation with atheist friends will hopefully allow both parties to understand one another better and finding what Catholics have in common with atheist friends can be a good start for evangelization.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma grants scholarships to summer camp

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has awarded summer camp scholarships to six Catholic youth in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to enable them to attend Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. This year’s scholarship recipients are:

- Aaron Dolney of Saint Andrew Church in Moore
- Toni Fidel of Our Lady’s Cathedral in Oklahoma City
- Jacob Jackson of Saint Joseph Church in Blackwell
- Saint Matthew-Dunn of Saint John the Baptist Church in Edmond
- Brandon Serrano of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Madill
- Brittany Zink of Saint Joseph Church in Blackwell

The camp is attended by youth from throughout the Archdiocese and will be held this summer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp in Madill.

The Robert A. Streets Family Endowment Fund Scholarship was awarded to...

The Jacob Meier Memorial Endowment Fund Scholarship was awarded to...

For more information, visit www.cfook.org.
"Bigger and better" Love Run benefits the Center for Family Love

The second annual "Love Run" to benefit the Center for Family Love was even "bigger and better" than the first, according to information from Lou McConnell, CFL director of human resources. The poker run for motorcyclists and hot rod enthusiasts encompassed seven stops, including Eischen’s in McConnell, Okla., Gilmore’s Pub in El Reno, Okla., and Café Nova in Oklahoma City. At each stop, participants drew playing cards from a deck. At the end of the evening, high and low poker hand winners prizes. The event netted $6,000, all of which advances the mission of the Center for Family Love to provide quality lifetime care for adults with developmental disabilities.

"Just as we saw the number of participants increase this year from last, we hope to continue to grow this event and get the message out about our mission to as many folks as possible," McConnell said of the organization’s second annual “Love Run” fundraiser. "In planning this event, I continue to be amazed at the generosity and compassion of the community and those that come from near and far to participate. Oklahoma is full of great folks who understand the importance of helping those less fortunate."

Bishop McGuinness students rally to help "beloved teacher" after tornado

When incoming Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School sophomore class president Ryan Mai-Do and his fellow class officers learned that their “beloved” freshman theology teacher, Clyde Grover, was displaced from his severely damaged home as a result of the May 21 tornado in Moore, Okla., they were overcome by a desire to help him and the entire Grover family, which includes archdiocesan seminarian Danny Grover (see page 6). They planned a car wash and designated that all proceeds would go directly to the Grovers. The June 22 “Moore-wash” outside of All Souls Episcopal Church in Oklahoma City raised more than $2,000 with in six hours and donations are still coming in, according to an email from Mai-Do.

"Our teacher (Clyde Grover) has done so much for the student body, and, not only has he served us as a community, he has done his service in the air force! He has always been there for any student when tough times occur, and now we’re paying it forward to such a dedicated, prestigious and loving person,” said Bishop McGuinness incoming sophomore class president Ryan Mai-Do, who organized “Moore-wash” to support the Grover family after the May 21 tornado in Moore, Okla., rendered the Grover home uninhabitable. "We had around 20 volunteers. I’m proud of the people my classmates have become and the generosity of the community as we rebuild."

Carmelite Sisters celebrate 95 years

The Carmelite Sisters of Saint Therese celebrated 95 years of service to the church in Oklahoma on Saturday, June 8. Former students and others who have benefited from the ministry of the Sisters joined them for a celebration at Villa Teresa in Oklahoma City. "We have been faithful to the founding charisms of our small congregation," Sister Inmaculata Commet, librarian and archivist at Villa Teresa, said. "We trust there will be a remnant of our community still daily praising God (by the 100th anniversary of the order)."
No Dante, Dan Brown again displays antagonism toward Catholicism in Inferno

Reviewed by Anamaría Szczerbicki

Inferno by Dan Brown ( Doubleday, 2013, $16.95 on Amazon.com)

In another chapter, May Hallan Padilla, J.D., explores the tension between wasteful consumerism and a guilty desire for beauty. Additionally, Padilla discusses a healthy detachment from and attachment to our possessions by being good stewards of what we have. Good stewardship, she makes clear, includes generosity to the needs of our neighbor.

In his latest work, Dan Brown again displays antagonism toward Catholicism in Inferno, his sixth novel. Brown’s title. In all, this artistic background provides an inviting setting for the dramatic plot of the novel.

Inferno’s hero, once again, is Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor of “history and symbology.” Eventually, we discover that he has been pressed into service by the World Health Organization to solve a symbolism and art history puzzle in time to prevent the unleashing of a terrible world-scale plague.

The WHO’s director, Elizabeth Sinskey, is hot on the trail of Bertrand Zobrist, a one-time Benedictine abbot in Florence, Italy. Zobrist had harbored an international syndicate called the Consortium to protect him as he pursued his scientific research in secrecy. The plot of the novel is essentially a cat and mouse game between agents of the Consortium and agents of the WHO, with poor Langdon caught in the middle.

The story opens with Langdon inexplicably finding himself in possession of a small, cylindrical device, which, when shaken, produces enough energy to make a wall display of Botticelli’s The Map of Hell, a painting inspired by Dante’s Inferno. The painting has been altered, however, in one way to reveal clues that lead to still other pieces of art and still other clues, all of which taken together are used by Zobrist to explain what he has done. The long and short of Zobrist’s message is that the worst places in hell are reserved for those who fail to act when they have the chance to prevent great harm, and Zobrist is not about to be one of them.

Zobrist is a Transhumanist. He believes that the human race stands on the threshold of a new era, an age of great progress and great accomplishments. He also believes that human beings are about to make themselves extinct by overpopulation, which will deplete all the world’s resources and completely destroy the environment. Zobrist develops a virus that will cause a third of the world’s population to become sterile, and the virus has a genetic component that will ensure that this third of the world’s population will always be sterile. With the services supplied him by the Consortium, Zobrist develops his virus and makes an elaborate plan for its release.

Zobrist left the video showing the location of the plague device with the Consortium. He directed them to release the film shortly after his suicide. The Consortium views the video, and, against their stated policy, decides to halt Zobrist’s planned attack. Unfortunately, not one of the consortium members recognizes the location shown in the video, unearthing the very masonic clue that led to the bomb’s location. The job of Robert Langdon is to catch this other piece of art and still other clues, all of which taken together are used by Zobrist to explain what he has done. The long and short of Zobrist’s message is that the worst places in hell are reserved for those who fail to act when they have the chance to prevent great harm, and Zobrist is not about to be one of them.

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Pilgrims venture monthly to National Shrine in Prague, Okla.

By Connie Summers
For the Sooner Catholic

“The more you honor me, the more I will bless you.”

Those words, famously associated with the Infant of Prague, were lived out in full on June 23 during the Year of Faith pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague in Prague, Okla.

More than 200 people came to honor the Christ child and celebrate a small sliver of Catholic heritage in Oklahoma.

The day began with Mass followed by a special blessing for the sick and the children. Lunch was next with plenty of time for fellowship and shopping at the gift shop. The day concluded with the novena prayers to the Infant of Prague and finally Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Those attending the pilgrimage came from all over the state and neighboring states.

Eugene Price travels from Saint Louis, Mo., to the shrine every month and has been doing so for the past three to four years.

“It has strengthened my faith over the years,” Price said. “It was a gradual thing—it wasn’t all at once.”

Price said, “It’s a solicitation of the national Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, was itself a miracle.

In 1947, the pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church, home of the National Shrine of the Infant of Prague, was in need of funds to build a much-needed church for his growing community.

While visiting his sick mother in a hospital in California, Father George Johnson told the Sisters of Mercy taking care of his mother about his pressing need for funds to build a church back in Oklahoma. They told him about the devotion to the Infant of Prague.

Father Johnson made a promise to the Infant of Prague that he would build a shrine in the child’s honor if he received what he needed. The Sisters sent him home with a statue of the infant and, within months, Father Johnson had the money for the church.

Father Johnson kept his promise to the child Jesus and, in August of 1949, he petitioned Rome to establish the shrine.

According to shrine director Rhonda Bartos, the National Shrine hosts around 75,000 visitors a year.

“This year we expect that number to increase because of the Year of Faith,” Bartos said.

So why are so many people devoted to the Child Jesus?

Father M. Price Oswalt, the current rector of the shrine, said he believes people are attracted to the infancy of Jesus because “people can relate to an infant.”

“Can they put their hopes and dreams in this child and see the preciousness of life?” he said. “Who cannot love a child?”

The beautifully landscaped grounds of the shrine provide a peaceful atmosphere for prayer, reflection and meditation.

“It’s the best kept secret in Oklahoma,” said Father Oswalt.

The shrine is open daily from 7 a.m. to dusk and admission is free.

The National Shrine hosts “Pilgrimages Sunday” every month on the Sunday that falls between the 17th and 25th. Connie Summers is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

IF YOU GO

National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague Pilgrimage Sundays
When: 11 a.m. Mass followed by lunch, novena prayers and Benediction on the Sundays between the 17th and 25th of each month
Where: National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, Prague, Okla.
For more information: Contact Rhonda Bartos, director, at (405) 567-3080 or visit www.shrineofinfantjesus.com
Daremos en esta oportunidad, un gran salto. Explique por qué. Hace unas semanas habíamos venido tratando temáticamente como el Príncipe de Pedro y el significado del Tradicional Apostolía, su sentido e importancia dentro de la Iglesia. Tomamos estos, hombro, y son a mi modo de ver básicos para comprender los orígenes pri-
marios de la Iglesia Católica y en consecuencia lógica su doctrina y enseñanza maestral. El cuello esta en además algo así como 1800 años en el tiempo, y en la historia; para `tirar la doctrina de los Testigos de Jehová`. Me va casi obligado escribir sobre esta organización, todo vez que muchas personas llegan a mi oficina con infinitas de preguntas y con enormes dudas, respecto a este grupo anticatólico y sectario. No saben cómo contestarlos, qué decir y cómo detener los ataques. Nuestros los católicos para esta orga-
nización, estamos prácticamente condenados a muerte. Porque la Iglesia Católica se la gran ran-
chera del Apostolado. Y todo lo que hacen y deci-
den se profana, de origen pagano y por lo tanto mortal. Sin pretender ser exagerado, no nos querían, por decir los menos.

Decimos en principio que los Testigos de Jehová, no es una iglesia. Es una organización, fundada en el año de 1878 por el señor Charles Tolesale Ruse. Dicha organización se conoce como The Watchtower (La torre del vigía o del vigi-
tante). No poseen templo para congregarse; se reúnen en grandes aulas, llamadas The Kingdom Hall (Salón del Reino).

La doctrina y enseñanza de este grupo, ser bien claro desde el principio: es irreverente, irracional, incoherente y antirreligiosa y para más abundantes del catolicismo. Así, tratemos en este a poco veremos porque.

Los Testigos de Jehová, cada domingo de ma-

Cortas enseñanzas de Apologetística Católica

Por Padre Raúl Sánchez

“Servir y no ser servido”

Entre las mayores alegrías que tengo como un obispo es la oportunidad de
ordenar nuevos sacerdotes. Hay un gran sentido de la paternalidad en la orde-
nación de los hombres que se convierten en los padres espirituales de tan-
tos a lo largo de toda una vida de ministerio sacerdotal. Estos hombres se
unen a las filas de los colaboradores más cercanos y más queridos de un
obispo para el servicio a toda la Iglesia.

El sábado 29 de junio ordené Padre Brian Buteriner un sacerdote de
Jesucristo para servir a la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. ¡Le damos la
gracias, no sólo para el nuevo sacerdote y su familia, sino para toda la
Iglesia. La ordenación sacerdotal marca el comienzo de un ministerio perma-
nente. Poco a poco veremos porque.

El Padre Raúl Sánchez, original de Bogotá, Colombia inmigrador a esta Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se Pasteor Asesora en la Parroquia San Padre Apóstol en Gayton, Oklahoma.

La próxima semana muchos de nuestros nuevos sacerdotes comenzaran a servir a nuestros nuevos mestizos pastorales. Ellas tienen que decir sus adiós y prepararse para comenzar nuevas misiones en otra parte de la vida del Señor. Estas transiciones pueden ser momentos de dolor o incertidumbre tanto para los sacerdotes y sus parroquia. Estos pueden ser momentos difícil-
es. También pueden ser tiempos de renovación. Tengo una gran admiración por la generosidad de nuestros sacerdotes que aceptan estas nuevas responsabilidades pastorales con el corazón de un verdadero servidor y pastor. También estoy agradecido por la comprensión de los fieles para quienes estos cambios pueden ser a menudo difíciles.

Estos cambios se producen debido a muchas circunstancias diferentes. Después de una vida de servicio algunos sacerdotes se jubilan, o sus energías disminuyen. Recientemente hemos tenido la dolorosa experiencia de la muerte inesperada de uno de nuestros amados pastores, el Padre Roberto Quintero. Nuestros sacerdotes internacionales, que constituyen una parte cada vez más significativa de nuestra Provincia, finalmente, tendrán que regresar a su país natal. Por decir, un momento en que las necesidades de cada parroquia y cada parroquia es único. Después de mucha oración y una considerable consulta haya la mejor decisión posible, dado nuestro limita-
tado recursos de personal y toda la cantidad de circunstancias. Cada decisión tiene que tener en cuenta el bien de los sacerdotes, las necesidades de cada parroquia, así como las necesidades de toda la Arquidiócesis. ¡No existe un programa de computadora para educarlos! ¡No existe una fórmula fija y mágica! Todo se inicia con mi oración y mi experiencia. ¡Por favor, continúen orando por sus sacerdotes! Oremos por las vocaciones. Oren por mí. Y si usted se unió a un fiel y se parroquia está recibiendo un nuevo sacerdote, por favor, dele la bienvenida con el corazón abierto y un espíritu de cooperación voluntaria.

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Obispos de nueve naciones reafirman compromiso con inmigrantes

Por el Padre Shane Tharp

Catholic News Service

Los participantes — que incluyeron obispos de México, América Central, el Caribe, Canadá y Estados Unidos, así como críticos, diplomáticos, líderes locales y personal de la oficina nacional — señalaron un fenómeno en común: La polémica se ha visto con creciente frecuencia a nivel internacional, o sea, el aumento en el contrabando de migrantes hacia Estados Unidos de Canadá y Estados Unidos, así como las consecuencias en la migración de este año de los países en movimiento y a trabajar por la protección contra la violencia o por las vulnerables que emigran buscando un lugar de seguridad, casi siempre una casa propia y un puerto seguro en su país de origen.

En su declaración los obispos reafirman su compromiso con “personas vulnerables que emigran buscando seguridad o un lugar de seguridad, y no violar el espíritu de la ley y la moral de los países en movimiento y a trabajar por la protección contra la violencia o por las vulnerables que emigran buscando un lugar de seguridad, casi siempre una casa propia y un puerto seguro en su país de origen.”

Obispos de nueve naciones reafirman compromiso con inmigrantes

Por Dono Bonaveres

Catholic News Service

Los Angeles — La reforma abreviada de migración crítica necesariamente ocurrirá en Estados Unidos y en todo el Hemisferio Occidental de ser atendida a nuevas leyes que promuevan el desarrollo económico y apoyen la migración de refugiados y especialmente a los menores no acompañados en ruta.

La meta de la Consulta Regional se refiere al hecho de que los países en movimiento y a trabajar por la protección contra la violencia o por las vulnerables que emigran buscando un lugar de seguridad, casi siempre una casa propia y un puerto seguro en su país de origen.

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Review of Dan Brown's Inferno: "There are better things to read this summer"

continued from page 10

offer a free public concert in Istanbul.

The Da Vinci Code. There are better things to read this summer.
JULY

5 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information call the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8944.

6 The Lay Missions of Charity, the Secular Lay Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, OK on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 am in the Chapel. For more information contact Tom Harrison, Jr, at 405-341-2199 or imcoklahoma@boglobal.net.

7 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity movie at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More Church in Norman. In the Library. All are welcome. If you would like to learn how Francis lived plan to attend one of our meetings. For more information call Alice at (405) 473-7680.

7 The Byzantine Divine Liturgy will be at St. Mark, Norman at 5:30 p.m.

9 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 Fr. M. Price Oswalt at 405-567-3404.

10 Catholic War Veterans USA The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunyanel Family Reception Center located at 1900 SE 29th St, in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information contact Ken at 405-728-0016 or by e-mail at OklaPost168@cox.net.

14 Charismatic Healing Mass, 9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 901 S W 29th Street, Oklahoma City. For more information call the Church office at 405-685-4898.

For a full calendar and up-to-date information, visit soonercatholic.org or use this QR Code with your smart phone.

Job Box

Development Coordinator
The Center of Family Love in Oklahoma is looking for a Development Coordinator. For immediate consideration, please e-mail your resume to HB@beline.org.

Religious Ed/Youth Director
Sacred heart Church in El Reno is looking for a Religious Ed/Youth Director. Send Resumes to Sacred Heart Church in El Reno, 208 S. Evans, El Reno, OK 73036 or by email sacredmama49@gmail.com.

Youth Coordinator
Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City seeks a full-time Youth Coordinator. Please send resumes to Fr. Richard Stansberry, 405-724-8944.

Sacred Heart Church in El Reno is accepting applications for a Religious Ed/Youth Director. Send Resumes to Sacred Heart in El Reno, 208 S. Evans, El Reno, Okla. 73036 or by email sacredmama49@gmail.com.

Parish, Edmond, OK on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 am in the Chapel. For more information contact Tom Harrison, Jr, at 405-341-2199 or imcoklahoma@boglobal.net.

St. James the Greater Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a qualified, full-time teacher for Gr. 6-7-8 Social Studies and Religion. Send resume/contact Anne Codding, Principal at 405-685-4806 or e-mail at OklaPost168@cox.net.

好的，如果您有任何问题或需要帮助，请随时告诉我。
Court overturns DOMA, sends Proposition 8 back to lower court

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON — The federal Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, defining marriage as between one man and one woman is unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause, the Supreme Court ruled June 26 in a 5-4 opinion.

In a separate case, the court sent back to lower courts a challenge to California’s Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative barring same-sex marriage. In this second 5-4 ruling, with a different lineup of justices, the court remanded the case back to the lower federal court, saying the individual who defended the law in court lacked legal standing to do so.

Neither decision will have the effect of requiring states to honor same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions, but the DOMA case likely will affect how the federal government must treat same-sex marriages for purposes of federal law, and unions will be treated as second-classational. DOMA had the support of the Administration said federal agencies should recognize a same-sex marriage from one state to another.

The case to uphold DOMA was taken up by a group of members of Congress, known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a number of organizations opposed to same-sex marriage had urged the court to issue rulings that upheld the traditional definition of marriage.

In 32 states, constitutional amendments ban same-sex marriage, while 12 states and the District of Columbia recognize such marriages. Another eight states recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships, with some having overlapping bans on same-sex marriage.

A new sponsorship structure for St. Gregory’s University after nearly 140 years

By Tina Kerbe Dzurisin

DENVIR (June 19, 2013) — Postmodern man might scoff at truth and goodness, but he’s still enchanted by beauty, says prominent theologian and evangelist Father Robert Barron.

Beauty is, then, the arrowhead of evangelization, the point with which the evangelist pierces the minds and hearts of those he evangelizes.

“To lead with beauty,” Barron said to an audience of Catholic journalists and communications professionals gathered in Denver for the 2013 Catholic Media Conference.

“‘Lead with beauty,’” Barron said, “is my hope that this new form of governance will allow the university to play an even more central role in advancing the church’s mission of Catholic education in our state,” he said.

The partnership signifies Saint Gregory’s commitment to serving the Church of Oklahoma through its academic and student outreach programs and the Church of Oklahoma’s commitment to the future of Catholic higher education, according to information from Bresnau Hill, director of communications for Saint Gregory’s University.

As a part of the new agreement, the school will establish a flagship theology program, as well as deliver parish ministry, spirituality and other services in support of diocesan and parish operations. Special efforts will be made to reach out to low-income, minority and potential first-generation college students within Catholic parishes to offer encouragement to pursue and attain a university-level education.

Father Robert Barron to would-be evangelists: Lead with beauty

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