Sooner Catholic

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Some 200 people gathered outside the Center of Family Love under a blazing Oklahoma sun for the groundbreaking ceremony. The event attracted state lawmakers, the mayors of four communities and members and officials from the Knights of Columbus, the organization that built the home for people with developmental disabilities close to 30 years ago.

Jim O’Brien, executive director of the Center of Family Love, greeted the supporters and introduced several in the audience, focusing especially on three gentlemen who in 1975 had the vision to push for its creation.

Joe Pierce, Ernie Chastain and Harold Wittrock attended the June 23 groundbreaking event. The three are members of the Knights of Columbus and are credited with being the driving force behind the creation of the Center of Family Love.

Making their dream a reality did not come easy. Wittrock recalled how the three men were told a number of times such a home could not work.

“You’re not a farmer if you give up easy,” Wittrock said, reflecting on how the trio pushed forward even in the face of opposition.

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Sara Loosen-Otto participated in the groundbreaking.

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A Labor of Love: Center of Family Love to Expand

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

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Canonization Efforts Related to Father Rother to End Locally

Pages 2 and 16
The Good News

...You Are Invited, Come!

By means of this article, I am hereby inviting the Catholic people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to the Mass for the Archdiocesan closing of the Father Rother Cause of Canonization. This Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 20 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady's Cathedral.

Come join us in praying that the Servant of God, Father Stanley Rother, will eventually be canonized as our FIRST OKLAHOMA SAINT!

On Oct. 5, 2007, with the permission of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, I constituted a special Tribunal here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. A formal investigation into the life and death of Father Stanley Rother was the singular purpose of this Tribunal. The members of the Tribunal participated in a Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Okarche, during which they were sworn in for this solemn task. Thus the Cause for Canonization of Father Stanley Rother was officially opened.

Over the past 33 months, the members of the Tribunal have labored long and hard. They, like me and many of you who knew Father Rother, are personally convinced that he is a saint in heaven. However, the Church requires that for a person to be publicly acknowledged a saint, the Church itself must make that proclamation. The Congregation for the Cause of Saints is charged with the responsibility to prepare such cases for consideration by Our Holy Father, who makes the definitive proclamation of sainthood.

The history and the circumstances surrounding a candidate for canonization must be gathered and presented by the local Tribunal. Along with this information, numerous interviews were conducted. During this time we had to prepare all pertinent material in a convincing manner and in accordance with strict requirements and procedures. Only because our Tribunal members were so dedicated, competent and hard working are we able to complete the Archdiocesan phase in what is record time. Therefore, I have arranged and scheduled the Archdiocesan closing ceremony. Now we can transmit all the acts of Father Rother’s Cause to the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome. There our work will be evaluated and studied for a long time. Perhaps more detail or clarification will be requested during this phase.

When I first constituted the Tribunal for the Canonization of Father Rother, I asked for your prayers so that the cause might move forward. It has. Now, as it enters the next phase of the Church’s procedures, I again ask for your prayers. A standardized prayer was written and printed cards distributed throughout the Archdiocese. Some parishes have begun the good practice of reciting the prayer together at Sunday Mass. Many people pray it daily. It reads:

Over the past 33 months, the members of the Tribunal have labored long and hard. They, like me and many of you who knew Father Rother, are personally convinced that he is a saint in heaven.

Let us pray for the Canonization of Father Stanley Rother Oklahoma Martyr

Heavenly Father,
Source of all holiness,
In every generation You raise up men and women heroic in love and service.
You have blessed Your Church with the life of Stanley Rother, priest, missionary, martyr.
Through his prayer, his preaching, his presence, and his pastoral love,
You revealed Your love and Your presence with us as Shepherd.
If it be Your will, may he be proclaimed by the Universal Church as martyr and saint, living now in Your presence and interceding for us all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Once again, I invite you to Our Lady’s Cathedral for the Mass for the Archdiocesan closing of the Father Rother Cause of Canonization. This Mass will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20.

Come join us in praying that the Servant of God, Father Stanley Rother, will eventually be canonized as our FIRST OKLAHOMA SAINT!
Labor of Love

Continued from Page 1

Wittrock brought a shovel to the event that was used in the original 1979 groundbreaking ceremony. Wittrock's son, Kevin Wittrock, is a current member of the Center of Family Love Trustees, he too joined in the groundbreaking.

Miller Architects designed the $4 million project that will include two separate 16-bedroom units. Each unit will stand on its own, O'Brien said.

"Each will have its own kitchen, living area and laundry area," he said. The first phase is expected to take a year for completion. Cooper Medical will serve as contractor on the project. The firm built the Kingfisher Municipal Hospital. O'Brien said Cooper's familiarity with the construction-related work force in the area will prove to be a great resource for this project.

O'Brien said the second phase, expected to begin soon after the first phase is complete, will be a $600,000 renovation of the existing housing units. When finished, those units will also provide private bedrooms for residents.

The third and final phase will be a $3 million effort that will create two more 16-unit housing centers. O'Brien said the cost is less on the third phase although it is identical to the first because infrastructure is being put into place now to support both phases.

"We're adding the utility lines, the streets, the sidewalks now so that brings the cost of the third phase down."

The third phase will also include a unit dedicated to geriatric residents. O'Brien said the Center of Family Love will be the only home of its kind to offer services to the aging.

Financing for the project is coming from a number of sources. The Love family, Knights of Columbus across Oklahoma, the Knights of Columbus Foundation as well as banks in Duncan, Oklahoma City and Okarche are all participating.

"God put His hand on this many times, otherwise we wouldn't be where we are today," Joe Pierce said, recalling the early days when the Center of Family Love was only a dream.
CFO Golf Classic Supports Catholic Schools

The Catholic Foundation’s Ninth Annual Golf Classic was a huge success. The event, held on June 7 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club, sported 166 golfers in both a morning and afternoon session. In addition to the golf on a perfect-weather Monday in June, a lunch, wine and cheese gathering, silent auction and awards dinner were held. The net proceeds of the event totaled $60,000, and go to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. The fund is set up to support the 22 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, maintain a quality education and make it affordable to more students.

The Presenting Sponsor for the event was GMX Resources Inc., and the Flight Sponsors were Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores and MidFirst Bank. The Double Eagle Sponsors included Cooper Medical Buildings, Heritage Trust, Gallagher Benefit Services, Lawter & Associates, Maguire O’Hara Construction, OG&E, RBC Wealth Management, St. Anthony Hospital, Synergy Datacom Supply and Trinity Publications.


Auction Donors included Archbishop Beltran, Carleen and Jerry Burger, John Baransy, Nora Medley, Greg Burns, Toby and Rick Boothe, Rev. James Greiner, Dr. Charles Lawrence, Leonard Taron, Nancy Bodard, Matt Dallas, Joe’s Place Wine & Spirits - Norman, Thunder Basketball, Capital Asset Management, Louie’s Sports Grill, Russ Farley, Windstar Casino, Dornick Hills Golf & Country Club, St. Thomas More Books & Gifts, Dr. Robert Nisbet, Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, Sacred Relics - Diane Culbertson, Jill Nisbet, Pat Smith - Downtown Goodyear, Tom Casso, Brother Mel Meyer SM, Dr. Katherine Farley, Rose Rock Bank, the Tyler family, Barney and Gayle

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Semtner, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, OKC Dragboat Races - Mike McAuliffe, and OU Athletics - Joe Castiglione.

New to this year’s Golf Classic was the Schools Flight, which allowed for one representative team from each school to compete for the Archbishop’s Trophy and a Grant Award to the school. This year’s winner was the Christ the King School team of Jim Feighny, Ron Hill, Brian Affolder and Jeb Blacketer. Second-place team which also received a school grant was the St. Eugene School team of Bryan Wiliams, Jake Stone, Trey Welker and Willie McFall.

Also new to this year’s Golf Classic was a Women’s Flight. The winning team in the Women’s Flight was Allie Duncan, Jane Crain, Carolyn Hyden and Patsy Homsey. Second place in the Women’s Flight went to Susie Fuller, Kitty Belden, Suzette Williams and Susie Sullivan. The Foundation A Flight winning team was Randy Lewis, Rusty Parker, Larry Thomas and James Bell. Second-place team in the A Flight was Charles Lawrence, David Lawrence, Andy Lawrence and Butch Meibergen. The Foundation B Flight winning team was Ben Byers, Matt Dallas, Jim Keitz and Dick Dugger. Second-place team in the B Flight was Jimmy Merrill, Mike Cook, Tucker McHugh and Steve Craig.

In the Skills Contest, the winner of the Closest to the Hole Competition was Tim Benton; winner of the Straightest Drive Competition was Matt Dallas; winner of the Longest Drive Competition was Carolyn Hyden; and winner of the Longest Putt Competition was Sister Catherine Powers. No one won the Hole-in-One contests for a new 2010 GMC Terrain from Rick Jones Buick-GMC or for a new golf cart from Justice Golf Cart Company.

Chairman of the Golf Classic was Ray Haefele, and chair of the Auction Committee was Jill Nisbet. The event committee included Mary McAnulty, Russ Farley, Steve Jantz, Bev Kanaly, Toby Boothe, Patricia Hudacko, Gena Wright and Barney Semtner.
Mercy Sister Mary Jude Dietrich Dies on June 20

Sister Mary Jude Dietrich (Dorothy Frances) was born Feb. 6, 1921, in Humboldt, Kan., to John Emil Dietrich and Emma Catherine Breiner Dietrich. Sister Jude died suddenly on Sunday, June 20, 2010.

Sister attended school in Humboldt, Kan., and received a BS in medical technology at Webster Groves College in St. Louis. Her mission in health ministry endeared her to many through her patient, generous and loving service. Sister served as Supervisor of Clinical Laboratory and Radiology at St. John’s Mercy in St. Louis, Mo., Fort Scott, Kan., and Slaton, Texas. For many years Sister was on a 24-hour on-call schedule and graciously obliged anyone who needed her services. As she approached retirement, she volunteered in medical records at Fort Scott, Kan. In 2005, Sister began her retirement years at Mercy Health Center Convent, Oklahoma City. She continued her generosity and always shared a happy smile. Sister Jude enjoyed her religious community, reading, and being outdoors. She was noted as a prayerful, lighthearted person, and dedicated Sister of Mercy.

Sister was preceeded in death by her parents; her sisters, Sister Mary de Pazzi Dietrich, Ruth Dietrich Watts and Cecilia Dietrich Miller; and brothers, Robert Dietrich, Paul Dietrich, Carl Dietrich and Leo Dietrich.

Immediate survivors include Lawrence Dietrich of Humboldt, Kan.; beloved nephews and nieces; her religious community, Sisters of Mercy; associates, co-workers, friends, compassionate physicians and caregivers.

Rosary and Remembrance Service was held Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at Mercy Health Center Convent. Father John the Baptist celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Sister Jude had requested to be buried next to her sister, Sister Mary de Pazzi, at Mary Queen of Angels Cemetery, Fort Scott, Kan. Over 75 friends, including five physicians, co-workers and one nephew were present for her funeral services in Fort Scott. The Celebrant in Fort Scott was Father Darron May.

Retreat in Daily Life: What It Meant to Me

By Marka Acton
For The Sooner Catholic

I have come across many words that I have grown up hearing but never understood. It is perhaps my need to experience something before I am truly able to fully comprehend its meaning. One of the words that I actually remember asking people about is grace. What does it mean to receive God’s grace?

For so many years, God had softly been trying to get my attention. On random occasions a glowing sensation would radiate through every nerve ending of my whole body. It would only last for seconds, but I knew that God was gently saying, “Hello, I am here.” I simply chose to deny that any such events could occur. Especially to me! I wanted to ask someone about it but I did not know who I could trust. I had no idea that so many already knew and understood the gift of God’s grace.

God has a way of getting through to each of us. If we do not find understanding when He gently offers it, we will be given the chance through our suffering. He can only reach us when we are actively searching. I can’t help but wonder if I could have stopped the chaos in my life. Would searching sooner have at least brought me through it with less anguish and turmoil?

Due to my disbelief in God, I started into a tailspin when God actually came to me in an experience that was so shocking and so unquestionably of God that I had to finally accept that GOD IS REAL. I still did not know where to go for the answers I needed. I only knew I had to find them somewhere. I worked with very good people while trying to gain some understanding. Two psychologists and a very devout friend, they helped, but I needed something more than they were able to offer. I tried reading different sources for answers to how God comes to people. The books were almost as confusing as helpful. Not finding the means to stop the ever inevitable impact of the tailspin, I hit bottom a few weeks later. While in a state of despair, I wrote about feeling like I had broken into a thousand Lego pieces. How can a person whom God is working so hard to reach, feel that way? How do you find answers when events are happening in your life you simply cannot understand?

I ended up at Red Plains Spirituality Center where I found the Benedictine Sisters. I spent the weekend with them and found the meaning to another word I did not yet understand. What is our righteousness before God? I never understood how Jesus made us righteous. God does have a way of physically showing you this, even if you are as hard to reach as I seem to be. Through a small miracle he gave me a few days of knowing what life would be like if I did not carry around my sins. I seem to have been holding on to them and, as I had written about Legos, the weight was breaking me. The lightness and freedom without my sins in tow was otherworldly. I simply floated with absolutely no problems or concerns whatsoever. To know that God never held my sins against me was so freeing. But that is not how you learn the real lessons. That is simply a preview of what life can be. God expected me to do the work so that I would be able to find forgiveness in the future. Before leaving for the weekend, He gave me back my sins. I felt each of my burdens return. It was up to me to learn to release them for myself. I had to do the work of finding the true meaning of righteousness.

The Red Plains Spirituality Center and the Benedictine Sisters are a beautiful gift to all of us. It is amazing how many, like myself, do not know we are blessed with such beautiful people so willing to help us find answers we are searching for. After being at the center for the weekend, I was invited to join a retreat that was coming up, the 30 Week Retreat in Daily Life. This retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, but the materials have been so personalized, that I think St. Ignatius himself would enjoy attending. The expectations are high. Participants commit to an hour of prayer each day, attend a small group once a week, and meet with a spiritual director twice a month. A big commitment, but if you really want answers to spiritual questions, you can trust the program to help you find them.

Another word that I could not comprehend was surrender. What does it really mean to surrender to God’s will? Through the retreat, I am finding that being less and making God more is a wonderful way of approaching life. I am learning what the world can be if we but walk with God. It is like I am an infant with a whole new universe to explore and learn how to live in it. To attempt to look for God’s will in each moment is a joy. But the true pleasure is in the moment when you see His will actually manifest itself before your eyes. The wonder at knowing His infinite goodness is truly a part of each of our lives.

To say the retreat has been life-changing is an understatement. Finding the help to understand my purpose in life better is really more fulfilling than I had ever dreamed. The goal of the retreat is to start seeing yourself and your future accomplishments through God’s eyes. If you are willing to spend each day with the Lord, you can be so much more than you ever imagined possible.

A word that had long been eluding me and so many others in this world has come to have new meaning for me. Peace. The real peace that I’m talking about can only be found through absolute trust in God and His love for each of us.

By Marka Acton
For The Sooner Catholic
Mercy Opens $60 Million Patient Tower

ARDMORE — Mercy Memorial Health Center’s new $60 million, 180,000-square-foot patient tower opened its doors on Sunday, June 27, as the first high-tech, all-digital hospital in southern Oklahoma. With 150 private rooms, Mercy Memorial is among only 2 percent of hospitals in the nation with an integrated electronic health record which ultimately means greater safety in patient care.

“This new patient tower is much more than bricks and mortar,” said Rhonda Hanan, BSN, MS, RN, Mercy Memorial chief nursing officer. “Every facet of it was designed to provide better patient care.”

With a new nurse pod design, nurses will be closer to patients at all times, spending more time at the bedside. Traditionally, hospitals have placed nursing stations at one end of a long hall, usually serving about 15 rooms. With a pod layout, six or seven patient rooms circle the nursing area.

Patients in the new tower will also be able to directly call their nurse’s wireless phone with the press of a button. Instead of linking to one central desk, call buttons connect directly to wireless phones nurses carry, allowing them to respond more quickly to any patient needs or requests.

“The new nurse call system will remind them it’s time to reassess the patient’s pain level 45 minutes after pain medication has been given,” said Hanan.

In addition, Mercy Memorial’s pharmacy and laboratory will have the ability to respond much more quickly with a pneumatic tube system transporting laboratory samples and medication across the hospital at light speed. Previously, lab samples and medications had to be hand-carried between nursing units and the pharmacy and lab.

Mercy Memorial Health Center’s new tower will also provide:

- An integrated electronic health record (EHR) reducing the chance of medical errors. EHR provides more reliable lab and X-ray results with a quicker turn-around; less chance of duplicating expensive imaging and other tests; drug interaction alerts; and the ability for multiple medical personnel to access a patient’s chart at the same time.
- An atmosphere that welcomes family members. Patients’ rooms are equipped so one family member can stay overnight. The goal is to create a more family-friendly environment.
- Room service meals. Patients will select meals from a restaurant-style menu and choose what time they want to eat.

The new patient tower also includes a women’s health center, a new and improved intensive care unit, as well as more parking and a new entrance.

“We are focused on the needs of our patients and their families,” said Mindy Burdick, president of Mercy Memorial Health Center. “We will continue to provide compassionate care, but wired with new technology and a new work flow, our physicians, nurses and other caregivers are better equipped to provide a higher quality of care.”

Mercy Memorial Health Center is a member of Mercy Health System of Oklahoma and the Sisters of Mercy Health System.

Briefs

Faith Groups Sponsor August Nursing Conference

Faith Community Nursing Association of Oklahoma, Mercy Health System, Legend Assisted Living and Memory Care, and the Faith Community Nurse Resource Center of Catholic Charities are sponsoring the second annual Faith Community Nurse conference. “Are You Ready” will be held Thursday, Aug. 19, from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1001 NW 25th St., Oklahoma City. The day will focus on preparing the Faith Community Nurse and Congregation for emergencies as well as exploring new prayer practices in times of crisis. Speakers include Rev. Linda Brinkworth, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church; Debi Wagner, State Health Department; and Sharon Hinton, Rural Nurse Resource. Cost is $40 for FCNAOK members, $60 for non-members, $45 for clergy, health ministers and students if reserved before Aug. 6. Checks are payable to FCNAOK: Attn: Maria Avers, Treasurer, 820552 S. 3320 Road, Wellston, Okla. 74881. An additional $15 will be charged for registration after the deadline. For more information, contact Marilyn Seiler at (405) 334-1630 or mjsjuly@yahoo.com.

Garage Sale at Parish

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis Parish Garage Sale will be held Friday, July 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, July 23 from 8 a.m. to noon. The sale will be in the Parish Hall, 1901 NW 18th. Donations of household items, furniture, toys, collectibles, (working) appliances, etc., are appreciated. Babies and vintage are only clothing accepted, drop-off can be made Monday through Wednesday, July 18-20, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the same location. Please call 317-4600 with any questions.

School Reunion Set

EDMOND — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School’s 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Past and present students, parents and staff members are invited to attend the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Saturday, July 31, and then join us for a reception and open house in the school gym following in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School’s 20th year. Please help us spread the word! It will be a great time to catch up with friends and teachers, take a walk down memory lane, and see how SEAS has changed.
The voices of 200 fifth- and sixth-graders shouted in unison as Father Peter Jandaczek asked them again, “What are the three virtues?”

“Faith, Hope and Love,” the response came back in a decibel that surely shook the splinters inside the wooden logs of the chapel at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. Still, the Polish-born Father Jandaczek was not satisfied. “I still can’t hear you,” he chided the youthful congregation. “What are the three virtues,” he again demanded. “FAITH, HOPE and LOVE,” the young voices screamed.

“OK, that’s what I thought,” Father said.

This is an example of the kind of challenge the Catholic youth of Oklahoma encounter when they attend the beautiful week-long camp at OLOG. They are run ragged from morning to late in the evening and they love every minute of it.

A few hours later, following lunch, hula hoops, four-square and other organized chaos, the youngsters make their way to a session with seminarian Christopher Brashears, who leads them in a lesson on angels. Brashears paces back and forth through the maze of children seated on the floor, calmly asking and answering every imaginable and some not so imaginable questions that come from the kids.

Later, it’s off to water fun and still later there will be more prayer and play.

All in a summer day’s work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp.
Campers leave Mass and head for lunch.

Above, Father Peter Jandaczek gets some assistance making a point during his homily from seminarian Cristobal DeLoera. At left, seminarian Christopher Brashears walks the campers through a lesson on angels.
Shelter From the Storm

Local St. Vincent de Paul Society Assists Tornado Victims

By Eliana Tedrow
For The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — We’ve all seen them before: baskets labeled “Food for St. Vincent de Paul” sitting patiently in church lobbies, waiting for parishioners to fill them with food that will be delivered to needy community members. Although typically known for its ability to provide food and utility assistance to community members in need, local St. Vincent de Paul volunteers recently stepped up to one of the biggest devastations our state has seen in years — the May 10 tornadoes.

The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, urges both men and women to join together and “grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.” The aftermath of the May 10 tornadoes gave local Vincentians the opportunity to put their mission into practice.

A quick response by SVDP’s national allowed the local SVDP to offer assistance to victims rapidly. Betty Olivas, executive director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Oklahoma City, has led up local Vincentian efforts to relieve those impacted by the recent devastation and witnessed firsthand the importance of the SVDP national headquarters to making a difference locally.

“The next morning the disaster relief team from the regional team was on the phone [saying], ‘We’re here to help,’” Olivas explained. “Liz (Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, Associate National Director, SVDPUSA, South Central Regional Office) was there, helping us to understand and get a hold on what we need to be doing here.”

Within one day of the disaster, SVDP representatives had visited sites of the most heavily hit areas, taken pictures and spoken with people to get an understanding of their needs. Working with the Red Cross, enough information was gathered to request funding from the national SVDP. One week later, this request was approved and funds placed in a local SVDP account, ready to be distributed to victims.

“I’m so proud of the fact that I belong to an international organization that can respond like it does at the national level and so quickly,” Olivas said. “Many times we have to sit back and wait for funds, but we had them within a week.”

SVDP’s ability to provide financial assistance on the spot, in many cases, clearly differentiates this organization from some of the national federal organizations where, in many cases, victims had to apply for assistance and wait weeks to receive help. If someone needed a gas card, diapers or money for food, SVDP could offer assistance immediately.

As funds came in, more than 30 Vincentian volunteers opened resource centers in areas most impacted by the storms: Noble, Little Axe, Tecumseh, Seminole and Harrah. Many helped to create databases for the people they met. In all, local Vincentians were able to touch the lives of 233 people, distributing more than $20,000 in the form of food, rent money for housing, hotel assistance, furniture, appliances and various household items.

“Couldn’t be more proud of the Vincentians and their willingness to give of themselves and their time to those in need. That’s what our society is about ... always looking for the face of Jesus to those we serve and an excellent time for us to grow spiritually,” says Olivas.

Bill James, president of the Archdiocesan Council, was also on-site and witnessed the need for not only financial assistance, but to lend an ear and let people tell their stories or just get things off their chest.

“It’s easy for us to see Jesus in them — maybe because of the needs they have — but we hope they can see Jesus in us,” James says. “It’s an honor and a privilege to be able to help people, but it’s not just us helping people, but Jesus helping people.”

The local SVDP office is currently receiving calls as a result of the recent hail storms and flash flooding. The need for money and volunteers is ongoing.

SVDP has two thrift stores, one on NW 10th and Meridian, the other on NW 23rd. Any donations made to these thrift stores are used to help local community members and people with various needs. Clothing, furniture and household items are always needed as well as volunteers to man the stores.

If you would like to donate money or volunteer, please contact Betty Olivas at (405) 248-8114. You can also send money to the Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City SVDP, Attn: Betty Olivas, 3031 NW 23rd, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73107.
Catholic Education: Faith the Difference

In my five years as a Catholic freelance writer, I have never written about Catholic education. As a former teacher, I haven’t wanted to burn any bridges. Not the bridges that are in my past, nor the bridges that might be in my future. After all, what if God sends me back to teaching? Wouldn’t want to damage my chances for employment.

And so, I haven’t written about it.

It’s time to light a fire and burn that bridge.

Very soon, thousands of young people will return to school. Even now, their mothers are ordering the uniforms and buying the backpacks. The parents are sitting down with the family budget and hammering out how they will afford the tuition. They are purging things from the “want” list to make it all happen. They are putting off things on the “need” list and deciding to make do with what they have.

Parents are making sacrifices because they believe Catholic education provides the best foundation for their sons and daughters. What do parents expect when they fork out thousands of dollars? Certainly, they expect that their children will get a solid education, but they might expect those same results from many public schools or even from nonsectarian private schools.

Parents choose Catholic schools for specific faith-based reasons. They expect their sons and daughters will be taught the faith — how to live it, cherish it and share it. They don’t expect the classes to be carbon copies of the public school. The room, the curriculum, the teacher, the walls in the halls, the hidden curriculum (what students learn while they are in school that we didn’t set out to teach them) — it should all underscore one thing: We are Catholic.

When I was working on my B.A. in education, the buzz phrases were writing-across-the-curriculum or reading-across-the-curriculum. Here’s a buzz phrase for Catholic schools. Be Catholic-across-the-curriculum.

Every teacher should know the Catholic faith well enough to defend it. Every teacher should know what is in the Catechism. (You can’t know what is in the book if you haven’t read it.) Every teacher should exude a love for Jesus Christ and His Church — and find a way to integrate faith with the subject matter.

Here’s the reality. Parents are spending thousands of dollars in order to provide their children with a Catholic education, but all too often, their children graduate from Catholic schools unable to share or defend the faith. Some even have trouble living it.

It’s idealistic, perhaps, but wouldn’t it be great if our children could go to daily Mass every day of the school year? Wouldn’t it be great if they could spend 15 minutes in Adoration every week? If they could be equipped with an arsenal of prayers that would help them face any crisis? If they could recite the Creed and be able to explain what the Communion of Saints is? What Apostolic means? What the Four Marks of the Church are?

Wouldn’t it be great if they began the process of discerning a vocation while they were still in high school?

“Wouldn’t it be great if they began the process of discerning a vocation while they were still in high school?”

 wouldn’t it be great if our children graduated with such a love for the Catholic Church that they considered attending a Catholic college or prayed that God would send them a Catholic spouse?

As educators, we have to prove to our parents that a Catholic education is worth their financial sacrifices.

We have to prove to them that Catholic education is truly and completely Catholic. That the curriculum is thoroughly Catholic. That the hidden curriculum won’t undermine their faith. That they will encounter classmates who are grounded in the faith and not more inclined to challenge their faith or compromise their morals.

Catholic education should outshine every other educational option. Parents should turn to each other on a warm summer evening and say, “Well, that purchase will have to wait another year. Their Catholic education comes first.”

We should seek not only to make Catholic education worth every penny. We should make Catholic education priceless.

Denise Bossert is a convert to the Catholic Church. She has taught in Catholic schools and has an M.A. in British and American Literature. You can find more articles by Bossert at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

Free Clinic Good Example of Grant in Action

“Have you ever wondered what you would do if you needed medical help, but you were impoverished and had no health insurance? Can you imagine lacking the knowledge and resources needed for yourself and family when sick?”

Becky VanPool, Archdiocesan Director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, said The Good Samaritan Health Clinic received a CC&H grant to help those without insurance.

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic is a free clinic that provides medical services and health education to the impoverished. The clinic is operated through St. Monica’s Parish of Edmond and is open most Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

“The purpose of the clinic is to provide medical services to people who have no means of obtaining the services on their own,” said Deacon Lee Hunt, St. Monica’s Parish. “Beyond just examining patients, the clinic has made a commitment to provide education to the patients so that they can improve their own health. Through education, patients will have a chance to maintain and prevent illness and have a better chance to break out of poverty.”

The clinic was awarded a local grant through the Commission on Justice and Human Development to further the health education aspect of the clinic. Local grants fund projects that help participants address and overcome the issues that keep them in poverty. These funds are generated by the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which will be held Nov. 20 and 21.

The Commission for Justice and Human Development partners with parishes to support local projects throughout the Archdiocese. One-fourth of the funds are used for local projects throughout the Archdiocese. Local grants are available for parishes and Catholic schools to address the issues of poverty.

A grant workshop will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 11. The workshop will be hosted at Catholic Charities at 6 p.m. The workshop will give examples of successful projects, provide valuable contacts and resources, help with the application process, and introduce attendees to a useful support network.

Applications for funding are due Sept. 1. To register, call VanPool at (405) 523-3009 or e-mail cchd- oklahoma@gmail.com.
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Por medio de este artículo quiero invitar a los Católicos de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City a la Misa Arquidiocesana de canonización del Padre Stanley Rother. Esta misa será celebrada el martes 20 de Julio a las seis de la tarde en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Vengan, comparten con nosotros en oración por el Siervo de Dios, el Padre Stanley Rother, para que eventualmente sea canonizado como nuestro ¡Primer Santo de Oklahoma!

El cinco de octubre del año 2007, con el permiso de la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos, yo constituyo un Tribunal especial aquí en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. El propósito de este Tribunal fue realizar una investigación formal de la vida y muerte del Padre Stanley Rother. Los miembros del Tribunal participaron en una Misa que se efectuó en la Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad en la ciudad de Okarche donde fueron juramentados para esta solemne tarea. De este modo, la causa para la canonización del Padre Stanley Rother fue oficialmente abierta.

A través de los pasados treinta y tres meses, los miembros del Tribunal han trabajado duro y por largo tiempo. Tanto ellos, como yo y muchos de ustedes, quienes conocieron al Padre Rother están personalmente convencidos de que el Padre Rother es un Santo en el cielo. Sin embargo, la Iglesia requiere que para que una persona sea públicamente reconocida como Santo, la propia Iglesia Católica debe hacer esa proclamación mediante su debido proceso.

La Congregación para las Causas de los Santos está encargada de la responsabilidad de preparar estos casos para ser considerados por nuestro Santo Padre, quien hace la proclamación definitiva de santidad. La historia y las circunstancias alrededor de un candidato para la canonización deben ser recolectadas y presentadas por un Tribunal local. Junto a esta información, numerosas entrevistas son realizadas. Durante este tiempo tuvimos que preparar todo el material pertinente de manera convincente y en concordancia con los estrictos requerimientos y procedimientos.

Debido a que nuestros miembros del Tribunal fueron muy dedicados, competentes y trabajaron arduamente, pudimos completar la fase Arquidiocesana en tiempo record. Por lo que hice todos los arreglos y procedi a programar la ceremonia de canonización de la etapa Arquidiocesana en el proceso de canonización del Padre Rother. Ahora podemos transmitir todos los actos pertinentes de la causa del Padre Rother a la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos en Roma. Allá nuestro trabajo será evaluado y estudiado por largo tiempo.

Por lo que más detalles o aclaraciones serán requeridos durante esta fase. Al principio cuando constituyó el Tribunal para la canonización del Padre Stanley Rother, les pedí por sus oraciones para que la causa pudiera progresar y así se ha hecho realidad. Ahora, mientras entra en la siguiente fase de los procedimientos de la Iglesia, les pido de nuevo por sus oraciones. Una oración estandarizada ha sido escrita e impresionada en tarjetas distribuidas alrededor de la Arquidiócesis. Algunas parroquias han comenzado muy acertadamente, la práctica de recibir esta oración en la Misa del domingo. Muchas personas oran con ella diariamente.

De nuevo, los invito para la Misa por el cierre Arquidiocesana de la causa de canonización del Padre Rother, en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro.

La oración dice así:

...¡Vengan, están invitados!

Quienes estudian las causas en la Congregación para las Causas de los Santos

VATICANO — “El 7 de febrero de 1988, dieron lugar a una profunda reforma en el procedimiento de las causas de canonización y a la reestructuración de la Congregación, a la que se le dotó de un Colegio de Relatores, con el encargo de cuidar la preparación de las Posiciones super vita et virtutibus (o super martyrio) de las Siervas de Dios.

Juan Pablo II, con la Constitución Apostólica “Pastor Bonus" del 28 de junio de 1988, cambió la denominación a Congregación para las Causas de los Santos.

El Prefecto de la Congregación es el Cardenal José Saraiva Martins. El Secretario es el Arzobispo Edward Normaik y el Subsecretario, Monseñor Michele Di Ruperto. Además existe un equipo de 23 personas, la Congregación tiene 34 Miembros - Cardenales, Arzobispos y Obispos-, 1 Promotor de la fe (Prelado Teólogo), 5 Relatores y 83 Consultores. Unido al Dicasterio se encuentra el "Estudio", instituido el 2 de junio de 1984, cuyo objetivo es la formación de los Postuladores y de los que colaboran con la Congregación, como también la de aquellos que ejercitan los diferentes cometidos ante las Curias diocesanas para el estudio de las Causas de los Santos. El "Estudio" tiene además la tarea de cuidar la actualización del "Index de Status Causarum". La Congregación prepara cada año todo lo necesario para que el Papa pueda aprobar nuevos ejemplos de santidad. Después de aprobar los resultados sobre los milagros, martirio y virtudes heroicas de varios Siervos de Dios, el Santo Padre procede a una serie de canonizaciones y beatificaciones."
Celebrados los festejos de verano de las parroquias conocidos como los "carnavales"
Abriendo esperanzas y caminos para posibilitar nuevos entendimientos

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Varías parroquias que pertenecen y están bajo la autoridad de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City proclamaron con festividades una verdadera inclusión, en la cual nosotros todos nos reconocemos como hermanos y miembros de un solo pueblo de Cristo.

Los latinos o hispanos, somos un pueblo único, bendito por Dios, protegido por la Virgen María y llevados por el buen camino mediante nuestra Iglesia Católica. Somos un pueblo que en su gran mayoría profesan la fe Católica, la única y verdadera religión de Dios que llevamos en el alma y nuestra conciencia. Hemos celebrado con alegría una convivencia que es tradición en nuestra Iglesia durante todos los veranos desde hace muchos años. Ahora, reflexionemos para encontrar todo en Dios y que estas fiestas de benevolencia nos acerquen más a Él para que nos proteja de las fallas morales que nos conducen al pecado.

Recordemos que solamente con Dios todo es posible, desde aprender y aceptar su Palabra hasta entender el significado del peregrinaje de la vida y su fin hasta la vida eterna. ¿Qué nuestras fiestas, cultura y destino están siempre unidos a Dios y a nuestra Iglesia por siempre!

Sigamos la culminación de este verano en paz, amor y sobre todo en comunicación directa con Dios con la oración y el respeto a los valores morales que el Evangelio proclama, la obediencia a los 10 mandamientos y el acatamiento de nuestra doctrina Católica.

Nuestra bailes son un tesoro que Dios nos regala para compartir.

Nancy Galvan ayudó en los carnavales con juguetes para los niños.

Música, expresión Latina. (Fotos por Mauro Yanez/Sooner Catholic)

¿Quién dijo que los payasos son parte nuestra cultura hispana?
“freeing” oneself from “any sense of freedom “as the right to do whatever we want, whenever we want, however we want, whenever we want, however we want, with whomever we want.” Our culture has lost the true understanding of freedom as “the liberty to do what we ought,” he said. He observed the modern trend of “freeing” oneself from “any sense of dependence on God is something we must preserve, he said. We must boldly admit to the world “that every breath we take, each day we have, every opportunity we are given, come from an omnipotent God.”

Offering a courageous witness to a hostile culture, we should “hark in the fact that we are totally dependent upon Him,” the archbishop said. “He is sovereign, He is Lord, He has power and dominion.”

Emphasizing Christ’s teaching that “the Truth shall make you free,” Archbishop Dolan invited the faithful “to pray at every Sunday Mass: “We believe in God, the Father Almighty...” Recalling a comment from Cardinal Francis George, he explained that this opening line of the creed is “perhaps the most revolutionary statement we can make these days.”
11 The Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and experience the diversity and richness of our Catholic Church. St. Mark the Evangelist Church is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Refreshments with questions and answers will follow the Liturgy. For more information, call Father Phil Seeton at (405) 789-2595.

13 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 (405) 567-3404.

14 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

14 Catholic War Veterans USA. Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

15 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated 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.

15 TAP into FAITH! July 15 topic: Vacation From Your Faith? What’s Your Excuse? Single or married. Ages 21 to 121. 8 p.m. happy hour, 8:30 p.m. talk, 9 p.m. Q & A. Stay afterwards for fellowship. Tap into Faith is held at Pepé’s Mexican Restaurant located at 1701 S. Broadway in Edmond. For more information, call Mary Lacher at 401-4105.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. At Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH 99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH 99/377. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

18 Pilgrimage Sunday, Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. From I-40, take exit 200 north 7 miles on SH 99/377; or from I-44, take Stroud exit south 18 miles on SH 99/377. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

18 The community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624 or Sister Silvia Negrete at (405) 232-7926.

18 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Disbrow at 830-8688.

21 PARISH NURSE RETREAT - The 12th annual Parish Nurse Retreat will be July 21-23 at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat Center in Guthrie. This retreat will offer an opportunity for nurses to nurture their spirits with prayer, community and reflection. Cost is $50, which includes meals and lodging for two nights. Facilitated by Mary Diane Steltenkamp. Reservations may be made with Glenda Bronson, Mercy Community Outreach, 936-5226. Registration ends July 16 and is limited to 15 people.

28 Rother Anniversary Activities at Okarche. Starting at 8 a.m. at Holy Trinity in Okarche, there will be Exposition with all day Adoration, Benediction at 4:45 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m.

AUGUST

2-6 "Irish Summer Overture" music camp for students entering seventh to 12th grade next fall. The music camp dates are Aug. 2-6, 2010. Registration fee for the camp is $100 per student. If a student is registered by both Percussion and Drumline sessions, registration is $150. Parents can request information online at www.bmchs.org (link to Irish Summer Overture), or by calling Bishop McGuinness at (405) 842-6638.

4 Emmaus Days Retreat. This is a retreat for young men (high school freshmen through seniors) who would like to learn more about the call to the priesthood. For more information or to register, call the Vocations Office, (405) 721-9351, or by e-mailing the vocations office, jmulligan@catharchdioceseokc.org.

6 1st 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 open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

6 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.

6 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. 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, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

8 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th Street, Oklahoma City. For more information, call the Church office at (405) 685-4806.

8 The Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and experience the diversity and richness of our Catholic Church. St. Mark the Evangelist Church is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Refreshments with questions and answers will follow the Liturgy. For more information, please call Father Phil Seeton at (405) 789-2595.

13 Bingo at St. Joseph’s, Norman, in the gym. A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., first session begins at 7 p.m., second session at 8:30. Each session is $5, blackouts are $1 each, no limit.

14 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.
Canonization Effort to Close

The closing ceremony for the Canonization Committee for the Cause of the Servant of God, Father Stanley Rother, will be at Our Lady's Cathedral on Tuesday, July 20 at 6 p.m. This step closes the archdiocesan process of beatification and canonization, which was opened in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on Oct. 5, 2007, at Holy Trinity Church in Okarche.

Over the last two-plus years the canonization committee has been researching and documenting Father Rother by reviewing thousands of documents, newspaper articles and personal letters as well as conducting approximately 90 interviews to compile a complete overview of Father Rother's life and work. The results of this work will now be sealed and sent to Rome to the Congregation for the Cause of Saints.

All the material on Father Rother’s life that has been gathered will be reviewed over the next two to three years. Many other causes are also being considered and this will affect the length of time to complete the review of Father Rother’s cause. During this time the Congregation determines whether he died for the faith and truly offered his life in love for Christ and the Church.

After the review is complete, the Congregation will inform the Archdiocese if the material that has been presented is worthy of consideration as supporting the cause of Father Rother. If the answer is yes, Father Rother will then receive the title of “Venerable.” A martyr may be beatified and declared “Blessed” by virtue of martyrdom itself. Then only one miracle will be required for the final stage of his cause. If a miracle is confirmed, Father Rother would then be declared a Saint for the Universal Church.

All are welcome to the closing ceremony at Our Lady's on July 20. It is asked that you continue to pray for the Cause of Servant of God Father Stanley Rother, that he may be recognized as a Saint and Martyr of the Catholic Church.

Okarche to Celebrate Father Rother

Holy Trinity Church in Okarche will celebrate the life of Father Stanley Rother on July 28, the anniversary of his death in Guatemala in 1981. At 8 a.m. there will be Exposition of the Holy Eucharist with all-day Adoration. Benediction will be held at 4:45 and Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

Servant of God Father Stanley Rother during carnival at Santiago Atitlan.