Guatemalan Hospital Grateful For Oklahoma’s Longtime Support

Buffalo Mission Celebrates 100th Anniversary With Bells and Mass

Cool Times at Camp OLOG

A camper slides down the water tube during fun at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. Story and more photos on Page 9.

With Great Appreciation

Knights Council Feeds Priests, Religious in Show of Gratitude

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

In late June, the Knights of Columbus again hosted a dinner and short program, which had only one goal in mind — thanking the many clergy who serve the parishes and people of the archdiocese.

The location was St. John’s Parish in Edmond where more than 200 people — clergy, Knights and guests — came together for the Religious Appreciation Dinner. Edmond Knights of Columbus Council 6477 was the host Council.

Priests, brothers, sisters, deacons and seminarians were all present for a catered meal and a chance to hear speakers thank them for the work done through the year. Former Knights leader, Paul Weigl Jr., probably summed it up best during his remarks.

“I really want you to know how tremendously grateful we are for the work you do,” Weigl said. “I can’t stress that enough.” Weigl, whose term as state deputy of the Oklahoma Council of Knights expired June 30, invited any member of the clergy to make known to him personally any question they may have had with the Knights. He also wanted the crowd to know that Knights and families had a big commitment to becoming closer to Christ.

The main speaker for the evening was Pat McGuigan, journalist and former editorial writer for The Oklahoman. McGuigan discussed how the church calendar read ordinary time for this time of year. He took that opportunity to review the meaning of the term in the liturgical calendar. McGuigan discussed how the church calendar read ordinary time for this time of year. He took that opportunity to review the meaning of the term in the liturgical calendar.

continued on page 3
The Good News

... Gratefully Yours

Once again I am truly inspired by the expressions of kindness from so many people. I am grateful to all who called, e-mailed or sent cards of greeting at the time of my sickness. It is a great pleasure to assure you that my illness was short (less than 24 hours in the hospital). Also, my recovery has been complete and total. In fact, if the modern diagnostic procedures hadn’t detected a mild stroke, I would never have realized it. I am grateful to Almighty God for the fullness of our faith and always bear testimony to the truth of God’s grace had been poured into a soul and I believe there was now light at the end of the tunnel.

As Catholic people, we must live the fullness of our faith and always bear testimony to the truth of Christianity. While there are many hostile people, angry with God or the Church or us, there are others who are not angry, just confused. Still others have lost faith or hope. Some are simply ignorant of facts and others are negatively affected by a secular culture.

The reality is that every day you and I meet good and holy and happy people. We live and work and communicate with those who encourage us, inspire us and help us. How grateful we should be to Almighty God Who has sent such good people into our lives. How grateful we should be to God for all the gifts, graces and blessings He has so abundantly bestowed upon us.

How grateful we should be to Almighty God Who has sent such good people into our lives. How grateful we should be to God for all the gifts, graces and blessings He has so abundantly bestowed upon us.

Seminary Burses

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Mary Church, Ardmore. A $250 donation was made to the Father Stanley Rother Seminary Burse by St. Joseph Church, Hennessey.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by Our Lady’s Cathedral, OKC.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Eugene Church, OKC.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Andrew Dung-Lac Church, OKC.

A $500 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Andrew Church, Moore.

A $250 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by St. Joseph Church, Edmond.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by Our Lady’s Cathedral, OKC.

A $200 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by Holy Cross Church, Madill, and Good Shepherd Church, Marietta.

A $300 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminary Burse by Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher.
Appreciation
continued from page 1

a Knight. He looked at the example of his father, Bruce McGuigan, who died earlier this year. His father, also a Knight, had served in the Navy and raised a family of five, with his wife, Bonnie — also now deceased. The elder McGuigan was active in Little League sports and their parish, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He participated actively in his community and had made an impact on many lives.

During the dinner, Pat McGuigan said his father accomplished great things by doing the ordinary over and over. He said it was the same for Father Michael McGivney — who founded the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., in 1882. McGivney, an “ordinary” priest, died at age 38. But his legacy, McGuigan said, are the Knights — today with more than 14,000 councils. Knights contribute millions of dollars to charity each year and millions of hours of volunteer service.

The crowd was also welcomed by Knights Vice Supreme Master Richard Schulte, who was the emcee, and St. John’s pastor, Father John Metzinger.

Across Oklahoma

RCIA Workshop Set
The Office of Worship and Spiritual Life of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Pastoral Studies Institute of the Diocese of Tulsa will present a two-day workshop for RCIA leaders and volunteers on July 31 and Aug. 1. Victoria Tufano, former editor of Catechumenate: A Journal of Christian Initiation and other liturgical and initiation-related resources at Liturgy Training Publications in Chicago will lead the workshop. Registration is needed by July 21. The seminar will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Cost is $15 for Friday and $25 for Saturday. If registration is for both days, the cost is $35. Meals are included with all registrations. Housing is available at the Pastoral Center. The cost for housing is $17.50 per person if two share a room. Cost is $25 for one person in a room.

On Friday, the workshop is titled “Inquiring Minds Want to Know: The Period of Evangelization and Precatechumenate,” while on Saturday the theme is “Liturical Catechesis and the RCIA: Formation for the Life of the World.”

For more information, contact the Office of Spiritual Life at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 158.

School to Celebrate
OKLAHOMA CITY — Last year St. Eugene’s Catholic Church celebrated its 50th anniversary, now it’s time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Eugene’s School. Please help celebrate with a 50th birthday party Sept. 18 and 19. On Sept. 18 we’ll celebrate with a picnic and school tour. On the 19th we’ll celebrate with Mass at 5 p.m. and have a school alumni event following. If you are an alum of the school, please register online at www.steugeneschool.org.

Correction
In the June 28 issue of the Sooner Catholic, an incorrect e-mail address was listed for the Central Oklahoma Catholic War Veterans Post. The correct e-mail address is OkPost168@cox.net.

Pray for Priests
OKLAHOMA CITY — Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to encourage “spiritual perfection” in priests. The special year began June 19 on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day for the sanctification of priests. It will close during a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter’s Square June 19, 2010.

There will be an opportunity to pray for our Priests and for more vocations to the Priesthood each third Sunday of the month at St. Francis. The Chapel in the Meerschart House will be open from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. for anyone who would like to stop by and pray. St. Francis is located at 1901 NW 18th. For information, call 306-0413.
Guatemalan Hospital Grateful for Support of Oklahoma Catholics

By Karin Bergstresser  
For the Sooner Catholic

For 50 years the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has been a part of the ever-changing fabric of Santiago Atitlán in the highlands of Guatemala. Today it is focusing on social outreach, and has lent tremendous support to the effort of building a new hospital. With its 43,000 inhabitants, Santiago Atitlán is one of the largest indigenous communities in all of the Americas.

The archdiocese hospital support first arrived in a Hertz rental truck, driven overland through Mexico in the early 1960s. At that time the town had not seen many cars, people lived more traditional than today with all food cooked over wooden fires in thatched roof huts. There was no running water, and the public transportation consisted of big wooden canoes that only moved forward through the joint effort of its passengers.

On the shores of a beautiful deep lake, nestled below the towering tops of three volcanoes, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City sponsored priests to carry out its mission at the local parish over a few decades. Oklahoma support also helped teach parishioners to read and write, and when a measles epidemic killed over 600 of Santiago's children, that support set up a clinic and equipped it with an American team of a doctor and nurse. The locals still get “dreamy-eyed” when they talk about the arrival of the Oklahoma priests who were standing up for a people who for centuries had been subjugated by outsiders.

In recent years, the local Archdiocese of Sololá and Chimaltenango now is responsible for the parish. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is directing its effort to better the lives of a people it still has strong bonds with.

Painfully aware of the lack of health care, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has lent tremendous support to the local group that reopened the MICATOKLA hospital. It was abandoned toward the end of the civil war and sat empty for 12 years.

In April of 2005, the hospital once again provided services to the bustling town that had suffered too many unnecessary deaths from lack of access to medical care 24 hours a day. Only six months into the operation, after days of unrelenting rain, in the early morning hours of Oct. 5, Tropical Storm Stan caused devastating mudslides. Walls of mud, 10 feet high, boulders and uprooted trees tumbled down the volcanoes, at a speed of up to 70 miles an hour. More than 200 neighbors of the hospital died instantly. Over 5,000 were left homeless.

In spite of having filled with mud, the hospital miraculously saved all its staff and patients, but it clearly needed a safer location. Since then, the hospital operates from a rented building, a former backpackers hostel that is inadequate for taking care of the growing number of patients. From treating 300 patients a month, it now sees about 1,000 patients on a monthly basis. Much attention is given to pregnant women and their young children.

Thanks to generous donations, the Board of Directors, Asociación K’aslimaal, has been able to purchase property in a geologically safer location and has prepared for building a new hospital. A hospital architect based in Austin, Texas, lent his time and expertise to design an 18-bed facility.

When the time came to start building the medical storage building, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City stepped forward and paid for the full construction cost. The five acres of property has since been leveled, retaining walls built, water and electrical lines have been installed and in June, the first phase of the new hospital construction was completed.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has been incredibly generous by donating a total of $100,000 toward the new hospital building, and consequently their donation was doubled through the matching grant.

“We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “Without it we would not be able to fulfill this dream that began half a century ago.”

For more information, go to www.hospitalitoatitlan.org.

Karin Bergstresser is a member of the hospital board in Santiago, Atitlan Guatemala
Cardinal Rigali Blasts Administration for D.C. Abortion Move

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNA) — Pro-lifers and defenders of marriage reacted critically to an Obama administration proposal to use taxpayer funds for abortions in the District of Columbia and to a federal court's denial of a referendum involving same-sex “marriage.”

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia and chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a letter that no one can support funding abortions in the nation's capital and still claim to support reducing abortions.

“The evidence is overwhelming, and universally recognized by groups on all sides of the abortion issue, that the availability of public funds for abortion greatly increases abortions,” he wrote.

The budget alterations proposed by the Obama administration and passed by a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee permit “local” but not “federal” tax dollars to be used in the District of Columbia. It will also expand exemption from cases of rape or endangerment of the mother’s life to any cases in which a woman suffers from “a physical disorder, physical injury or physical illness.”

The subcommittee’s action “effectively nullifies” the Dornan Amendment, Cardinal Rigali charged, explaining that the amendment has prevented public funding of elective abortions in Washington, D.C., in most years since 1989. He criticized the proposed budget’s distinction between “federal” and “local” funds as a “bookkeeping exercise,” saying Congress already controls and appropriates public funds for the District of Columbia.

“The impact in terms of human lives will be exactly the same as if the amendment were reversed in its entirety,” he remarked.

The cardinal said “numerous surveys” showed that public funding of abortion is rejected by the American people. He also cited “tens of millions of postcards” Catholics sent to their congressional representatives opposing “any weakening or reversal” of appropriations riders on abortion.

Cardinal Rigali also warned that funding abortion came at “the worst of all possible times” when Congress must win broad support to enact “major” health care reform.

The House Appropriations Committee will hold a full committee hearing on the Financial Services appropriations bill, which includes the D.C. funding, after the Fourth of July congressional break.

The issue of same-sex “marriage” has also come to the fore in the district.

The District of Columbia Catholic Conference said it was “deeply disappointed” by the D.C. District Court's decision to deny district citizens the right to hold a referendum on whether to recognize same-sex “marriages” contracted outside of the district.

“This once again denies residents of the city a voice on the important issue of marriage,” the Conference said.

Last month, the D.C. City Council voted 11-1 to recognize same-sex “marriages.” The decision was especially opposed by the city's African American citizens and religious leaders.

The district’s Catholic Conference argued that the city council’s decision “disenfranchised” residents by bypassing hearings and public input.

“Civil governments have recognized marriage throughout time as between a man and woman because of its unique purpose: to form a stable unit where children are created and raised with the complementary gifts of father and mother,” the Conference’s statement continued. “This stability for children in turn forms a stable foundation for society.

“The D.C. Catholic Conference will continue to strongly advocate for the long-standing and proper definition of marriage as the union between one man and one woman.”

Marietta Hosts Confirmation

MARIETTA — Confirmation was held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on May 29. Archbishop Beltran conferred the Sacrament to the first class at the newly constructed church. Father Oby Zunmas concelebrated the Mass, while Deacon Rod Walker assisted. Good Shepherd is a mission of Holy Cross Catholic Church of Madill. The Madill Confirmation students came to Good Shepherd for Confirmation and next year Good Shepherd will go to Madill.

The church in Marietta just finished its second year in offering Faith Formation on Sunday mornings. Previously children of families attending Good Shepherd had to go to either St. Mary's in Ardmore or Holy Cross in Madill for Faith Formation classes. A reception followed the Mass and Confirmation. Those confirmed from Marietta were Anna Diaz, Perla Salas, Carla Sanchez, Jesse Andrade, Nicanor Aldava and Eulojio Sanchez. Those from Holy Cross, Madill, were Eliana De La Cruz, Nohemi Espinoza, Erik D. Figueroa and Alma G. Martinez.
Independence Day Celebrated at Saint Ann Retirement Center

Parade Kicks off Day of Food and Fun For Residents of Catholic-Run Home

Across Oklahoma

**Pastoral Ministry Classes**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Registration continues for fall 2009 Pastoral Ministry Courses. The Pastoral Ministry Program is offered by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to provide theological education, personal enrichment and continuing education for the people of God. Classes begin Saturday, Aug. 15. For a program booklet, fall schedule or to register, call or e-mail the Pastoral Ministry Office, (405) 721-4208, or cgirmes@catharchdioceseokc.org.

**Parish Festival July 12**

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Charles Borromeo, 5024 N. Grove, will host a parish festival July 12. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run until 9 p.m. Food, music, children’s games and family fun will be celebrated throughout the day.

**Emmaus Days Set**

July 29-31, 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 at (405) 721-9351 or e-mail jmulligan@catharchdioceseokc.org.

**Spanish Choirs to Gather**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Little Flower Parish will host a Spanish choir concert and mini-carnival Aug. 15. The event will start at 10 a.m. Choirs from across the archdiocese are expected to participate. The celebration will include game booths and homemade Mexican food. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

**Money Help Planned**

OKLAHOMA CITY — This fall, Christ the King will offer Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. This 13-week program has taught thousands how to live debt-free and achieve their financial goals. The fall session will begin Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. To register, contact the RE Office at 843-4766. The registration fee is $75, which includes the FPU participants kit, and access members only section of FPU Web site.

**Parish Offers Support**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Are you recently divorced or in the process of a divorce? If so, you are invited to take part in the divorce support group at Christ the King. The support group will meet for 10 weeks and will use the book “Divorce and Beyond” by James Groteman and Leon Havercamp. The first session will begin at 7 p.m. on Sept. 9. For more information or to register, contact the RE Office at 843-4766.

**Marriage Help Offered**

Thinking about separation or divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information or to register for the September program beginning Sept 11-13, call (918) 695-7010 or visit the Web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.
Rachel’s Vineyard Weekend
Set at Pastoral Center July 17

Rachel’s Vineyard is a weekend retreat, guided by the Holy Spirit, which offers healing to women and men who have suffered from the choice of an abortion. The Church offers healing and reconciliation to all those who are willing to let the love of Christ pour into their brokenness. Pope John Paul II states, in the Gospel of life, “The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of reconciliation.”

Caring and forgiving the wounds of abortion in all areas of the world, is protecting the life and dignity of the human person.

The next Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat will be Friday, July 17 to Sunday, July 19. Participation is strictly confidential. Participants will arrive at 6 p.m. on Friday and leave at 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 623-3844 or e-mail okrachel@yahoo.com.

The Archdiocese Office of Family Life hosts guests through a sacramental weekend of healing. Saturday morning starts early with Mass, followed by a morning of sharing abortion stories.

Each participant writes letters to their children and they are named out loud to the community of saints in the sacrament of Baptism on Saturday evening.

Sunday concludes with a Resurrection Mass for all the unborn. There is a resurrection in the wounded that only Christ can bring, who seek healing on a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat.

Rachel’s Vineyard is a ministry founded by Dr. Theresa Burke. Burke started one at the first therapeutic support groups for post-aborted women in 1986 after founding The Center for Post Abortion Healing.

The Church stands with this ministry because it offers Christ’s healing in the world today with the Sacraments.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City offers the Catholic retreat to anyone, regardless of race or religion. Anyone can come and celebrate in the life that Christ has to offer.

We can never undo the done. Because Creation is now, we have the ability to be Christ in the world today to the afflicted and suffering. The Catholic Church in Oklahoma City offers one of the only healing ministries for the post-aborted trauma. May the Spirit of Christ bless Rachel’s Vineyard and all who work to heal the wounds of the sinner.

www.rachelsvinyard.org

Ministry Offers Support in Times of Loss
By Marie Ruder

My house became my personal prison after my divorce. The guilt, anger, hurt and fear were constant companions. I was locked inside and didn’t know how to get out. It held me so tight I didn’t know what to do. After 25 years of marriage, I didn’t know how to be alone. Who was I without my husband. We were supposed to be together till death do us part. I had never lived on my own. There was so much going through my head. I didn’t know what to do, what the next steps should be. I had no one who understood what I was going through.

I prayed every day for help, some sign of what I could do to move on. Then I received a copy of the Sooner Catholic. I read it and found an article that sounded so familiar. They were telling my story. This person understood where I was. It was talking about a weekend of healing and being able to start moving on. This was my sign. I was newly employed after being without a job for a few months, so I was behind on my bills. But I decided that I would not pay one of them so I could get to the next weekend. Nothing was going to stop me. I called the Pastoral Center the Monday before the weekend and thankfully they still had room.

That Friday as I drove up to the center, I was so scared that this wouldn’t work. I had gotten to the point where I was almost without hope. If this didn’t work, I was afraid to go home and be alone.

As I pulled up, someone came out to meet me. There was no going back now. They seemed so happy to see me that I felt the first stirring of hope. Maybe this would be the answer to my prayers. They got me checked in and took me to my room. I met the other participants before we got started and they all looked as scared as I felt. I wasn’t alone and whatever happened, we were going to do it together.

That weekend saved my life. I got to know who I was and learned the tools I would need to go on with my life. I made new friends that I know will be with me on this new journey. Because that is what my life has become, a journey of new discoveries. The end of my marriage wasn’t the end of my life but the beginning of a new chapter, the beginning of a new experience.

I strongly encourage anyone who has gone through the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation to consider attending the next weekend. I can guarantee you won’t be sorry and it just might save your life like it saved mine.

The next BE weekend will be held July 24-26 at the Pastoral Center, located at 7501 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. Contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-5651 Ext. 108. For additional information, go to www.beginning-experience.org.

Registration Still Open for Women’s Conference in Norman

NORMAN — Register today for the first Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference at our Web site, http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html. For mail-in registration, e-mail karenritz@cox.net or call Karen at 350-2239. For general information, contact Chris Thomas at thomas-chrisL@sbglobal.net or call 306-5187. Registration is $30. After Aug. 1 it is $40.

This conference is being held at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman on Saturday, Aug. 22.

An opening Byzantine prayer and music service will be presented by Rev. Phil Seeton and will include Icon pictures and informational instruction.

Our speakers will focus on Spirituality, Service and Leadership. Dr. Marcelino D’Ambrosio of EWTN fame will speak twice during the assembly; first on Why Be Catholic and then in the afternoon session on Mother Mary and the Saints.

Father Juan Molina, Ph.D., of the National Regional Office of Catholic Relief Services will focus on Service. Eunice Washa, vice president of the National Council of Catholic Women, will highlight on Leadership.

A priests panel will answer questions from the assembly right after the lunch break. The panel includes Revs. Thomas Boyer, Jim Goin and Paul Gallatin.

Attendees have their choice of three different breakout workshops offered by national speakers, which include Spirituality: Rev. Tom Boyer, speaking on Discussing the Arts Interpretation of Death and Resurrection; Service: Rev. Juan Molina, discussing Ways of Service; and Leadership: Eunice Washa on How to Be Effective in Leadership.

In addition, there will be a catered box lunch for $10. Vendors, Pastoral Services and Reconciliation will be available during lunch break.

Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. for registration and opening prayer and music begins at 8:15 a.m. Conference begins at 9 a.m. Closing Mass will be at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark.

Come be a part of this exciting, instructional, faith-filled holy day. Learn how to let your light shine a little brighter. Call a friend or ask a neighbor to attend with you. Get a group together from your parish. Requests will be taken for large group seatings.

Come Ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. Isaiah 2:5.
Golfers Hit the Links to Support Catholic Schools

First place Flight B: Todd Neaves, Kevin Cooksey, Jeff Marchino and Bob Charlesworth.

Second place Flight B: Steve Craig, Tom Boismier, Keith Leffel and Ken Kenworthy Sr.

Second place Flight A: Charles Lawrence, Andy Lawrence, David Lawrence and Butch Meibergen.

Winners of the 2009 CFO golf tournament and the Archbishop Beltran traveling trophy and winners of Flight A are Father Kirk Larkin, Mark Potts, Bill Schutte and Baloo Subramaniam, pictured with tournament chairman Ray Haefele and Archbishop Beltran.

Catholic Foundation Releases Names of Scholarship Winners

Maria Andrade, Oklahoma City
Maria Baca, Okarche
Nathan Beattie, Edmond
Donovan Becker, Ponca City
Joshua Berntsen, Fletcher
Jeff Biggerstaff, Medford
Sarah Blaschke, Duncan
Stacey Brandhorst, Weatherford
Sarah Brockhaus, Noble
Samantha Bugos, McLoud
Selina Coronado, Altus
Chinh Doan, Oklahoma City
Phong Hong Duong, Moore
Laramy Edwards, Sayer
Connor Ferguson, Norman
Kelly Fletcher, Yukon
Rocio Garcia, Duncan
Michael Henderson, Cambridge
Lauren Himes, Kingfisher
Jamie Hughes, Enid
Brian Johnson, Seminole
Jessica Landoll, Elgin
Matthew Landoll, Lawton
Lauren Larres, Elgin
John Lewis, Oklahoma City
Brenda Luttrell, Norman
Daniel Mannas, Ardmore
Stephanie Mayhew, Oklahoma City
Bethany C. Meiwes, Okarche
Kalyne Neal, Oklahoma City
Ngan Nguyen, Oklahoma City
Nghep Nguyen, Oklahoma City
Steven Nguyen, Oklahoma City
Tung Nguyen, Oklahoma City
Carrie Nolan, Guthrie
Jessica Norris, Okarche
Tahni Osterman, Oklahoma City
Marissa Petty, Okarche
An Pham, Oklahoma City
Teneille Reherman, Kingfisher
Fatima Rivera, Duncan
Toby Rives, Oklahoma City
Sara Roberts, Weatherford
Jay Salgado, Pauls Valley
Carly Schnaithman, Garber
Emily Schneberger, Dill City
Tyler Severin, Goltry
Adam Simonds-Stege, Norman
Alexander Swartz, Sulpher
Ha Le Tran, Oklahoma City
Tovan Tran, Oklahoma City
Shana Usiukieqicz, Oklahoma City
Monica Valois, Shawnee
Kathryn Veulek, Waukomis
Shelby Waller, Oklahoma City
Matt Wedman, Yukon
Michelle Zakrzewicz, Guymon

Lawrence/Hau Scholarships
Connor Brinkley, El Reno
Blaine Hufnagel, El Reno
Whitney Kyser, Enid
Joseph Shimaneke, Enid

Bob Little Pastoral Music
Nolan Reilly, Oklahoma City
By the end of July, more than 1,000 young Catholics from across Oklahoma will have enjoyed a week of faith and fun at Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLOG) Catholic Summer Camp. Children from fourth grade though high school will have spent their respective week participating in a number of activities, from canoeing to fishing and swimming, as well as making new friends, learning new songs and spending time each day participating in Mass and learning about our merciful and all-loving God.

OLOG is the only Catholic youth camp in the state and, unfortunately, one of the few remaining in the nation. Under the leadership of Archbishop Beltran and Nancy Housh, Archdiocesan Director of Youth and Young Adults, OLOG has grown over the years, adding new buildings and opening its doors to even more Oklahoma Catholic youth.

For junior high week the theme was Harry Potter and the counselors set up a Quidditch field (a game from the books) and a tournament was played throughout the week.

At OLOG, Wednesday is wacky hair and clothes and water day. It is one of the most anticipated days at camp.
Nation’s Media Uses Twisted Logic to Support Abortion

Many influential people and institutions in our society, including Hollywood and the mass media, strongly support abortion. To justify their position, however, they must adroitly defy logic and ignore certain obvious facts.

One example of this side-stepping is the oft-repeated argument for abortion that it’s all about a woman’s body. As actress Amy Brenneman, who starred in the TV show Judging Amy, once put it, “Unless a woman really has sovereignty over her own body, we really haven’t come that far.”

The obvious flaw in this argument was cleverly exposed a few years back by supermodel Kathy Ireland (who used to favor abortion) during a televised interview: “Some people say, ‘Well, it’s a woman’s body; it should be her choice.’ There’s a 50 percent chance the baby she’s carrying is a male child, and he would have a penis. Women don’t have penises. So it’s residing in her body; it is not a part of her body.” While it should go without saying that babies have their own bodies, abortion advocates seem all too ready to tiptoe around the obvious to promote their agenda.

That tiptoeing is also evident whenever a breaking news story about the murder of an abortionist grabs the headlines. After someone recently gunned down Dr. George Tiller, the late-term abortionist in Kansas, almost every major media outlet extolled the genuine tragedy of his death, while tiptoeing past the tragedy of the 60,000 deaths that Tiller himself had coordinated within his clinics.

Several TV commentators, however, immediately perceived this double standard. Ann Coulter, for example, satirically mentioned “...This one random nut who shot Tiller ... I don’t really like to think of it as a murder. It was terminating Tiller in the 203rd trimester.” She then argued: “I am personally opposed to shooting abortionists, but I don’t want to impose my moral values on others.” Coulter also couldn’t resist exposing the faulty moral logic behind so much pro-abortion rhetoric and sloganizing, as in: “If you don’t believe in abortion, then don’t have one,” to which she replied: “If you don’t believe in shooting abortionists, then don’t shoot abortionists.” Perhaps no one has so clearly summarized the deadly logic of the pro-abortion position as Mother Teresa, when she declared in her 1979 Nobel Peace Prize speech: “...If a mother can kill her own child — what is left for me to kill you and you kill me — there is nothing between.”

The moral chaos of abortion often begins when advocates feign not to know when life begins. George Jonas, in his cleverly titled essay, Thoughts from an Ex-Fetus, observed how advocates must “pretend not to realize that life is an autonomous process, a continuum from zygote to old-age pension, a self-elaborating force that begins when it begins and keeps growing unless it’s vacuumed out first ... They must pretend not to see that if a fetus were not alive, it wouldn’t have to be killed.”

Perhaps the most plausible explanation of why abortion advocates will so readily defy logic and ignore the obvious came from writer Dale Vree. He had been invited to a “living-room discussion” on abortion back in 1989 in which included six prominent pro-lifers, six prominent pro-choicers, and one or two undecideds.

Vree expected that the heart of the debate would hinge on when life began, but it didn’t. It didn’t even turn on the hard cases — rape and incest. When one of the radical feminists argued that abortion is simply about the right to make choices, one of the pro-lifers replied that the choice was made back when the woman agreed to have sex. Then one of the pro-choicers finally blurted out: “We’re pro-sex and you’re anti-sex,” meaning, according to Vree, that “they’re for lots of sex in lots of forms while we pro-lifers feel it should be limited to heterosexual marriage ...They made it abundantly clear that they’re committed to the sexual revolution, and that revolution will wither without the insurance which is abortion and this is their bottom-line concern.”

This indeed appears to be the crux of the matter, the central concern that has motivated radical feminists, Hollywood, and many other advocates of abortion to sacrifice untold millions of unborn babies since the early 1970s. George Jonas zeroed in on this same bottom-line explanation: “We invent euphemisms, such as ‘choice’ for killing, and sophomoric dilemmas, such as pretending not to know when life begins, to ensure that nothing hinders Virginia’s quest for Santa Claus. No obstacle must interfere with her goal of self-fulfillment — least of all an issue (as it were) of her healthy sexual appetite.”

In the final analysis, this stands as probably the single greatest tragedy of our time, that the unordered and inordinate sexual desires of men and women have been allowed to twist the most rudimentary moral logic to the point of death for so many of our children.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org.

Author Takes Readers Inside the Dark World of Henry VIII


King Henry VIII of England is famous for his six wives and for having some beheaded. He is also famous for his break with the Roman Catholic Church over his divorce of Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn, and for setting up the Church of England with him as its head. He is also famous for closing down almost all of the monasteries and convents in England and Wales from 1536 to 1539, with the help of Thomas Cromwell and his cronies who took the “wealth” of these monasteries and placed it into the treasury of King Henry, who was in great debt. Geoffrey Moorhouse’s book focuses on one monastery in particular and on the cathedral that it was connected with, Durham, to tell the story of the dissolution of the monasteries.

Monasteries, friaries and convents provided help to the poor and served as hotels for travelers and as hospitals. Many monasteries also provided employment to many people. When the monasteries were dissolved, there were few agencies or institutions available to help the poor and sick. Many monastery buildings and churches were destroyed for their materials to be sold off.

Many monks and nuns saw the writing on the wall and prepared for the suppression of their communities. Some hid their valuables. Some distributed the monastery goods to its members for safekeeping. This, though, was not always successful and offenders were imprisoned or executed. Some monks and nuns defied Henry VIII and stood up to him by giving their lives as martyrs like the Abbot of Glastonbury, Richard Whiting. These would turn out to be only the first Catholic martyrs that the English monarchy would create.

The reader will need a dictionary to define some medieval monastic terms that are not used by today’s monks.

This book is highly recommended to those interested in monastic history, Church history or English history.

Geoffrey Moorhouse is the author of 19 books. Some of them are Great Harry's Navy (2006), The Pilgrimage of Grace (2002), Sun Dancing: Vision of Medieval Ireland (1997) and others. Brother Benet Exton is a Benedictine Monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Among other duties, he serves as the librarian.
Letters

Message Permanent

I take issue with Sue Ann Johnson’s letter in the June 14, 2009, issue of Sooner Catholic in which she, in supporting another letter writer, urged “editorial discretion be used to print more even-handed, less inflammatory coverage of moral concerns” in the paper.

I have noted neither a threatening tone nor a mean-spiritedness in any articles in the Sooner Catholic that I have read and I have been receiving the paper for a number of years. Perhaps Ms. Johnson has mistaken the clear and forthright statements of Catholic moral teaching as being “inflammatory” and lacking in even-handedness.

Frankly, I would be disappointed, to say the least, in any Catholic newspaper that failed in its mission to be clear and forthright in its statements of the Catholic moral position on the cultural issues of the day that had moral implications.

The Catholic moral position should not and does not change with current popular opinion or the trends of the times. Rather, it stands as a bulwark against the secularism and relativism of not only our times, but of all times until the very end of time. I believe that the Sooner Catholic, as an expositor of the moral stances of our Faith, does the job in a most commendable manner. Keep up the good work!

William Brown
Arlington, Texas

It’s a Catholic Paper

I would like to respond to the recent comments about the “moral” polarity of the newspaper. Two writers have mentioned they are uncomfortable with the “inflammatory coverage of moral issues” offered by the newspaper. I had to stop and chuckle. As an arguably open-minded young professional mother, I am concerned when the mind-set of a Catholic community is writing to a Catholic newspaper and complaining about Catholic stances on moral issues. This is a Catholic newspaper, is it not, that we read by choice? I can, and sometimes do, read USA Today.

Christian Smith McDowell
St. Mary’s, Ponca City

Invest in Life

Not long ago my wife and I were returning to Oklahoma City from Tulsa by way of the turnpike. As we approached a semi, we noticed these words on the tailgate of the trailer “It’s Not A Choice, It’s A Child.” God spread His message of Life in many ways, doesn’t He?

Over the years we have written many times about the death penalty in Oklahoma. We have not said much about abortion because we feel the Catholic Church has made its views abundantly clear on that subject. Abortion is indeed a pure form of the death penalty. Still, our country and state embraces the use of abortion, just as our state embraces the use of the death penalty.

Much has been said about the terrible expense of the death penalty process. You would think we could find better use of these tax dollars we use to put a person to death. Many treat death as a punishment, when in truth we have all been promised death at some time. There are many ways for us to die and some of them will be extremely difficult.

If our Oklahoma legislators were smart, they would abolish the death penalty and devote all of those death penalty tax dollars to a better cause, such as medical research. Look for new ways to fight cancer, which about 25 percent of us will encounter in our lifetime. Hopefully, when your time comes to take the chemo required for your cancer, our medical people will have the cure for which you so desperately search!

Recently, we read in our local newspaper about a young mother whose 7-year-old son is fighting cancer. She was going to Washington, D.C., to ask Congress to appropriate $150 million for cancer research in hopes of finding a cure for her son’s cancer. Our state lawmakers could abolish the death penalty in Oklahoma and put those tax dollars to work here in this state to help him and many others just like him. We did it with polio.

If we could accomplish this, our community would become savers of life instead of takers.

God bless you all and please pray for our legislators that they will see fit to take us out of the business of killing people.

Jim and Ann Fowler
St. Charles Borromeo, Oklahoma City

Pornography Deadly for Healthy Marriage and Family

At a family party, one of my relatives, a wife and mother, made an outrageous statement. She said there is “nothing wrong with Playboy magazine.” She actually called it “innocent.” I had to spend the rest of our conversation helping her understand that pornography — any pornography — is not only wrong, but a potential marriage breaker.

My relative’s perspective is not unusual. Today’s culturally accepted sexual promiscuity has desensitized the general public to harmful depictions of sexuality. Tabloids discuss the sexual exploits of the rich and famous. TV and movies showcase sexually active unmarried characters who typically “hook up,” co-habit, or, if married, engage in adulterous affairs. Pop music celebrates sexual promiscuity while mocking virginity.

The escalating use of pornography on the Internet reveals that we are in troubled waters. About 1.5 billion pornographic downloads occur each month from “peer to peer” file-sharing Web sites; 2.5 billion pornographic e-mails are sent each day; and online pornographic products and services are sold for $2.84 billion dollars annually in the United States. Most of this traffic is conducted by men.

Pornography is never “innocent.” Pornography is wrong for many reasons. It objectifies the human person, especially women, turns the sexual activity of others into raw entertainment, and exploits vulnerable women and children for tremendous profit. Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons of the Institute for Marital Healing says that people who regularly use pornography develop a “disordered view of beauty, goodness, the human person and sexuality.” This is especially poisonous for married couples. The porn user becomes obsessed with his own pleasure. Authentic self-giving to one’s spouse is decreased and spousal communication is diminished. The bottom line is that pornography strikes at the heart of spousal intimacy. It does harm to the marital friendship.

A wise bishop who was concerned with strengthening marriages once said that the two-in-one flesh union of married couples is “not an empty symbol.” He said that spouses “have not become the image of anything on earth, but of God Himself!” (St. John Chrysostom, Homily 12). This is a very far cry from the twisted image of self-serving pornographic sex.

The Church teaches that the conjugal embrace is “noble and worthy” (Gaudium et spes, #49). Sexual intercourse is not “something purely biological, but concerns the innermost being of the human person” (Familiaris consortio, #11). The key to understanding the nature of conjugal sexual intercourse is that it is both unitive and procreative. It is meant to build up the spousal communion of persons, and to cooperate with God to bring new life into the world. It concerns the whole person, who is called to love like God: “The total physical self-giving would be a lie if it were not the sign and fruit of a total personal self-giving, in which the whole person...is present” (FC, #11).

Spouses need to safeguard their union and reject anything, like pornography, that will compromise their love. They must strive to love each other well — reverently, joyfully, and yes, passionately, always in the light of God’s loving embrace.

Theresa Notare, Ph.D., is the assistant director of the NFP Program, Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, USCCB. To learn more on how pornography harms marriage and to read other marriage-building articles, visit www.ForYourMarriage.org.
Buenas Noticias...

Muy Reverendo Rusebías Beltrán
Arzobispo Metropolitano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

...Agradecidos a ustedes

Respondí con gran cortesía pero con firmeza, por la gracia de Dios, lo que quedó de la conversación tomó otra dirección.

La hostilidad y la molestia desaparecieron. La sarcástica se fue.

La gracia de Dios se derramó sobre el alma y creo que ahora habla luz al final del túnel.

Como pueblo Católico, debemos vivir a plenitud ahora y siempre nuestra fe y dar testimonio de verdadero Cristianismo.

Mientras hay gente hostil, enojada con Dios, o con la Iglesia, o con nosotros, también hay otros que no están enojados solamente confundidos.

Más aún, hay otras personas que han perdido su fe y esperanza. Algunas personas simplemente ignoran los hechos y otras son negativamente afectadas por la cultura secular.

La realidad es que todos los días, ustedes y yo, nos encontramos con gente santa, buena y feliz. Vivimos para trabajar y comunicarnos con esas personas que nos aportan, nos aportan, nos aportan.

Tres días para alimentar mucho más nuestra fe en Cristo Jesús

Fieligreses de Norman celebraron misión en el año de San Pablo

Fieligreses de la arquidiócesis participaron en la misión a la parroquia San José.

Padre Bruce Nieto vino desde Tennessee para dirigir el retiro en español e inglés.
Exitosos los carnavales de la Florecita y el Sagrado Corazón
Fiestas de verano que traen alegría y espacio para la familia

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Los carnavales que celebra la feligresía hispana junto a sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas son una tradición cultural que lleva años celebrándose en algunas parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City con mucho éxito y entusiasmo.

Además, estos son una fuente de esparcimiento que se convierten en un acto de beneficencia para esas mismas parroquias que realizan tan impresionantes eventos. Si algo se deja claro con estas festividades de verano de este año, es que el pueblo hispano ha dejado atrás la palabra “recesión” y ha salido con fe y esperanza en Dios a celebrar en familia la misa dominical y los carnavales durante este festivo verano. No hay duda que hay una expresión espontánea reinar en nuestra feligresía católica de unidad, que se observó con las miles de personas que se hicieron presentes en los carnavales.

Primero, durante los días de carnaval, la feligresía puede asistir a la misa dominical y luego ir a la verbena para comer los famosos elotes, deleitarse con la comida latinoamericana, juegos, música, y bailes folclóricos.

Aparte de divertirnos en este verano, pidamos a Dios intensamente por la paz en Honduras para que el comunismo no se apodere de esta nación y el resto del mundo.

La payasita ha entretenido durante muchos años el carnaval de la Florecita.

Padre Raúl Reyes, párroco de la Florecita, compartió con feligresía.

Nancy Galvan se hizo presente con su emisora en el Sagrado Corazón.

Excelentes bandas tocaron su música en el carnaval del Sagrado Corazón.

Feligreses de la Florecita buscando sombra para comer.
Jobs Box

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

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

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

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

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

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

Center of Family Love Openings
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: DCTs - Certified is great, if not we will train. Shifts available are 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and float. CMA - Certified Medication Aide to work weekend doubles. Dietary aide - Help prepare meals following recipes and menus. Operational Workshop Accountant - Must be detail-oriented with experience in Microsoft Excel, inventory control and reviewing P/L statements. To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@clfinc.org or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

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

Financial Representative Openings
The Knights of Columbus has an opening for a financial representative in the Oklahoma City, Lawton and Stillwater areas. This is ideal for a determined, high-energy, high-expectation, professional, self-disciplined, independent individual desiring to serve others, yet earn a better than average income. We provide top-rated financial products to our members and their families and will provide excellent benefits and training. Please contact Kevin W. Pierce, General Agent, for more information or an interview at 4001 NW 122nd St. #827, Oklahoma City 73120, by phone at (405) 514-7660 or by e-mail at Kevin.Pierce@kofc.org.

Retreat in Daily Life a Spiritual Exercise in Ways of St. Ignatius

Retreat In Daily Life is a seven-month experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius offered under the guidance of the Benedictine Sisters and Red Plains Spirituality Center, Piedmont.

One making the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius is asked to:
- Spend an hour of prayer and reflection time each day throughout the 30 weeks.
- Share the journey one to two hours weekly with a group of other retreatants on the same journey.
- Spend five to 10 minutes daily in Examen (10th step) to review blessings and calls that day.
- Meet and discuss every other week with a spiritual director the experiences, inner movements and insights received.
- Remain open to the inner restlessness and desire for some change and/or growth in one’s personal, social and spiritual life.
- Identifying the sacred in your life.
- Owning the reality of God’s presence and activity in your prayer and life.
- Connecting with the places of life and energy in your daily experience.
- Better trusting what you notice and responding more appropriately to what you notice.
- From October through May, groups of six to eight persons will be led through 30 weekly group sessions. Persons doing the retreat will likewise have a personal spiritual guide who will meet with them in 15 one-to-one individual sessions every other week.
- A fee of $60 per month is suggested as compensation for participation in the group meetings, plus a one-time $30 supply fee. Individual sessions are $15 each.

Since the Benedictine tradition has always been hospitality to all, we do not want anyone turned away for lack of funds. “Those who have been blessed with more may wish to contribute more, and those who have less give less so that all may be at peace in the house of God.” (Rule of Benedict).

Contact persons: Sister Benedicta Boland, OSB, Piedmont (405-373-4565); Sister Melissa Letts, OSB, Piedmont (405-795-0382); Annette Fisher, Moore/Norman (405-691-2177); Joanne Forgue, Yukon/OKC-West (405-350-6976); Joe Froehle, Edmond/Edmond OKC (405-830-7234); Bea Parker, Enid/North Central OK (580-554-6990); Mary Ann Henderson, Guthrie/Edmond (405-969-3090); Bob Johnson, OKC-NW (405-728-2245); Mary Moloney SP, Mid-OKC (405-848-5181); Julianne Parker, N. Norman/NW OK (405-872-1120); Marilyn Seiler, Stillwater/Ponca City (405-372-0036).
8 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. The Rosary is said every weekday at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome.

8 Grant Workshop at 6 p.m. This two-hour workshop for anyone interested in grant monies for a local parish or Catholic school project. The workshop will be held at Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Boulevard. Call Becky for details, (405) 523-3009, or bvnpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

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

10 Bingo at St. Joseph’s Parish, Norman. A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and two sessions of games are played, the first at 7 and 8:30 p.m.

10-12 Retreat at St. Gregory’s, St. Benedict and the Way of Humility will be presented by the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszyn, OSB. Abbot Lawrence will explore the 12 steps of humility listed in The Rule of St. Benedict. For more information, go to monksok.org or contact Father Charles at cj buckley@stgregorys.edu or (405) 878-5462.

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

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

17-25 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Nat’l Shrine of the Infant Jesus, St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

19 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 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624.

19 Taize Prayer, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road SW, Piedmont. For more details, call 373-4565. Optional video on Taize prayer at 6 p.m.

19 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 Dishrow at 830-8688.

19 Pilgrimage Sunday, 10:45 a.m. Anointing of the Sick, 11 a.m. Mass, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer of the Chaplet of the Infant Jesus and the Litany of the Infant Jesus. Nat’l Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Church, SH-99 7 miles N. I-40 or 20 miles S. I-44 at Stroud exit, Prague, (405) 567-3080.

23 Bingo, St. James Catholic Church, 41st and South McKinley Avenue in the gym. Food and beverages reasonably priced served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10.

24-26 Beginning Experience Weekend. This is a ministry to help cope with the traumatic experiences of losing a loved one through separation, divorce or death. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

26 Sts. Peter & Paul, Kingfisher, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the completion of the parish church building. All activities will be held at the Kingfisher County Fairgrounds Exhibition Building at 300 S. 13th St. Mass begins the day at 10 a.m. with Archbishop Beltran. Hamburger/hot dog cookout will follow. There will be inflatables for children and bingo. Michael John Poirier will lead a Holy Hour from 3 to 4 p.m. The day concludes with an ice cream social at 4 p.m.

29-31 Emmaus Days Retreat. This is a retreat for young men, high school freshman-seniors, who would like to learn more about the call to the priesthood. For more information or to register, call the Vocations Office at (405) 721-9351.

30-Aug. 2 Retreat at St. Gregory’s, Let Your Life Speak. Father Charles Buckley, OSB, will use the book of this title by Parker Palmer. In this book, Palmer reflects on vocation, the lifelong search to live out our lives in the ways of God. For more information, go to monksok.org or contact Father Charles at cj buckley@stgregorys.edu or (405) 878-5462.

31-Aug. 1 Garage sale, July 31 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 1 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, NE 23rd St. and Myers Circle, Nicoma Park, in the parish hall.

31-Aug. 2 Journey with Christ. This is a retreat for young women (15-20) to consider their calling. For more information or to register, call the Vocations Office at (405) 721-9351 or e-mail the Vocations Office.

AUGUST

1 Spanish Pre-Marriage Class. The class will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., the class is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is $40 per couple, lunch is included. For those interested or for more information, call Lisa at (405) 709-2709. This class may also be used as a training to work as a sponsor couple for your parish.

La próxima clase de preparación matrimonial en español, está programada para el 1 de agosto, 2009. La clase se efectuará en el Centro Pastoral ubicado en el 7501 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City. La jornada de preparación está pautada desde las 9:00 de la mañana hasta las 4:30 de la tarde. Para más información, favor llamar a Lisa Carrasco al Telf. (405) 709-2709. El costo de este programa es $40 por pareja. El almuerzo está incluido. Esta clase también sirve como entrenamiento para trabajar en tu parroquia como “padrinos” de matrimonio.

For an up-to-date calendar listing, go to catharchdioceseokc.org and click calendar of events
BUFFALO — In 1909, pioneer families consisting of J.B. Leving, Joseph Roetker, Victor W. Brown, Edward M. Claycomb, Aaron Bates, J.H. Vierheller and Peter Yunker raised money to build the first small frame church here. The principal donor was Roetker, in whose honor the church was named for St. Joseph. It was dedicated by Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, Vicar Apostolic of Indian Territory. Buffalo was a mission of St. Peter’s at Woodward and served by Father Peter Kamp from 1905 until 1913. Five of the original founders have descendants that are currently active participants of St. Joseph’s Parish.

Some 100 years later, 120 faithful gathered for a Centennial Celebration on Sunday, June 28, 2009. Honored guests included 48 descendants from five of the founding families: Father John Wade, who was the resident pastor from 1962 to 1965 (he is now a retired priest living in Tulsa), Father Paul Gallatin, resident pastor from 1965 to 1967, and Archbishop Beltran, who celebrated a beautiful Centennial Mass.

The day consisted of Blessing the Centennial Tree and new Centennial Sign at 4:30. Guests then had time for visiting, sharing memories, viewing a large picture board full of memories past and present, and taking family and group pictures.

At 5:45, five young boys lined up to ring the church bell 100 times in honor of the 100 years of faith and worship of the Catholic faith in Buffalo. Luke Finch, one of the bell ringers, is the great-great-grandson of J.B. Leving, and Will Cleveland, another bell ringer, is the great-great-grandson of Victor Brown.

The Centennial Mass was celebrated at 6 p.m. Archbishop Beltran was the principal celebrant, with Rev. Scott Boeckman, pastor, Rev. Thomas Nallapatti, associate pastor, Father John Wade, Father Paul Gallatin and Deacon Phil Kenny.

A bountiful Centennial Dinner followed. Copies of the centennial publication, St. Joseph’s 100 Years, were presented as gifts to the clergy. the Centennial Committee was presented with certificates, and John Baransky of the St. Peter’s Parish Council presented the parish with a beautiful large framed print of St. Joseph and Jesus as a young boy.

Writers’s Note: I came to St. Joseph’s in 1970, so did not have the privilege of knowing Father Wade or Father Gallatin. But when I witnessed the joy in the faces of the parishioners when they were reunited with these two priests who had prayerfully guided them through the many changes of Vatican II, it made all the effort we put into preparing for this day of celebration worthwhile — Dee Dee Mundell, Centennial Year chairman.