Wayne and Lynda Walton waited patiently as friends, family, classmates, nuns, sisters and priests filed by them, one-by-one, to hug their son.

When it was their turn, they sunk their faces into his chest, tears streaming, as his arms enveloped them in a moment of grace. Years of searching for spiritual meaning, finding the beauty of God and listening to his call had led them to this moment. Their son was now Father Aaron Foshee.

On June 27, Archbishop Paul Coakley ordained Foshee, Lance Warren and Daniel Grover into the priesthood at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. The ordination was attended by more than 500 faithful and about 75 fellow priests.

"What a wonderful day of rejoicing for the Church and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as we ordain three young men for the priesthood of Jesus Christ for service to God's people," Archbishop Coakley said during his homily.

"A priest is many things to many people. Today, the expectations are perhaps more complex and demanding than ever before. But, priesthood is not merely what we do. It is who we are. It is a life. It is an identity. ... Jesus calls each priest to be his friend and to share his life. It is from that special friendship, from an intimacy born of daily conversation with the Lord in prayer and reflection on the Word of God, and rooted in a sacramental communion with Jesus Christ as head, shepherd and spouse of the Church that the fruitfulness of our ministry flows."

Along with Lynda Walton, who read the first reading (Jer. 1:4-9), Cheryl Lockovich from the home parish of Father Warren in Marlow read the second reading (II Cor. 4:1-2, 5-7), followed by Father Grover's dad, Deacon Clyde Grover, who read the Gospel of John.

During his homily, Archbishop Coakley spoke of Okarche's Father Stanley Rother – who was ordained in the same Cathedral in 1963. A special Vatican commission recently recognized Father Rother as a martyr to "Christ and to the holy Gospel" on the path to sainthood.

"He was a good shepherd, who refused to run at the advance of wolves threatening his flock. Instead, he laid down his life for them in witness to his faith in Jesus."

Remembering Father Rother on the anniversary of his death

Sister Marita Rother was scrubbing floors at her convent 34 years ago this month when she got a calm, yet urgent call from her father, Franz. "All he said was 'They got him.'" No further explanation was needed. Sister Marita packed her bag and drove from Wichita to the family farm in Okarche to be with her parents and mourn the loss of her older brother, Stan.

Over the next few days they would learn of his last moments as the beloved pastor of the Oklahoma mission parish in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. When political strife and guerilla soldiers crept toward his rural vil-
In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to “Come away... and rest awhile” (Mk.6:31). This is a timely summer time theme since now is the time of year in which many of us acknowledge our need for rest, and look forward to a change of pace in our busy lives.

Whatever the rhythms of our lives, from time-to-time we need to refresh ourselves. We need time away from our ordinary work and daily concerns to restore our energies, to enjoy the natural beauties of creation, to spend time with family and friends, to remember our Creator. The rhythm of a regular “Sabbath” rest is very much a part of God’s plan for our well-being. “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mk.2:27).

Unfortunately, the enjoyment of true leisure is practically a lost art in our culture. Many of us have become addicted to business and activity. We are too dependent on our smart phones and electronic devices to be able to simply go on our days off and rest. Unfortunately, we have lost sight of the beauties of nature. It reminds us of our dignity as sons and daughters, created in the image and likeness of God.

“Come away... and rest awhile.” Jesus invites each of us to refresh ourselves at the sources of life that the Lord’s Day offers us each week.

A man and woman walk near the Atlantic Ocean on Race Point Beach in Provincetown, Mass. CNS photo/ Gregory A. Shemitz.

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events can be found online at www.soonercatholic.org.

The Sooner Catholic will be on summer hiatus for the rest of July. There will be no July 26. Publication will resume with the Aug. 9 issue.

Archbishop Paul E. Coakley

Put Out Into the Deep

Find more news on the website

Is God calling you to religious life?

Emmanus Days retreat provides prayer, information for young men

By Maria Ximena Rondon

CNS/ENTV News

QUITO, ECUADOR – With the wall of the convent in Santo Domingo de los Túctichales, Ecuador, the Carmelites nuns were busy making liturgical cloth and the vestments for Pope Francis’ July 6-7 visit to the country.

“For me it is a great grace because it means to clothe Our Lord Jesus Christ in the person of the Pope,” Sister María Beatriz told CNA. “The vestments are a reflection of the devoted life of the nuns and of the devotion of the faithful to clothe Our Lord Jesus Christ in the person of the Pope.”

Sister María Beatriz explained that the vestments were made by the Carmelite Sisters of St. Dominus de Tsachilas with the assistance of the local Dominicans.

“The alb and stoles were embroidered by the Carmelites, with the assistance of the Dominicans,” Sister María Beatriz told CNA. “The vestments were embroidered by all of us, our desire is that the Pope will use them.”

The majority of the sisters who entered the community did not have any sewing skills, so they all spent time teaching them.

Sister María Beatriz de la Dellosa said the nuns were very happy and enthusiastic about the pope’s upcoming visit to Ecuador.

“[The pope] is God himself making his visit to all the Ecuadorians. I hope that all of us will feel encouraged by the pope’s visit, I hope that all of us will feel encouraged by the pope’s visit,” she said.

Maria Emmaus is a high school student.

“I was very aware of God’s call in my life, and I wanted to take an opportunity I could get closer to him, and to hear him call me more clearly,” he said.

Novice Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick had a different reason for attending.

“When I went, I wasn’t exactly looking to pursue a vocation as a priest, but I was more looking to follow my older brother and go on and study theology,” she said.

Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and columnist for Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Paul E. Coakley

Rural nuns make Pope’s vestments for the papal visit

By Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick

For the Sooner Catholic

Young men from around the archdiocese will gather for worship and prayer from Wednesday, July 2 to Friday, July 4 during the Emmanus Days retreat. Emmanus (e-May-un) Days is for all young men and is open to the vocation of the priesthood.

The summer retreat will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe ranch in Edmond.

“The weekend helped me to gain a better idea of what it means to be a priest, and what it means to be a seminarian. Prior to that retreat I had a superficial understanding of what a seminarian was a training ground for priests, when in it is actually a place for dis- cernment for men,” Father Grover said.

“A few priests focus their talks on their own vocation stories, which helps the men understand that there is no one cookie-cutter approach to being a faithful interviewer/priest,” he said.

Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick is a freelance writer and columnist for Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Ph. Stacy Grover, left, and his father and travel coordinator, Irwin in July 2014. Photo/Sooner Catholic.

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Religious Life

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“Any young man who has an openness to a call to God and the priesthood is welcome to attend,” said Father Stephen Shugrina, director of Vocations for the archdiocese.

“We can’t find a young man who will have a strong call, this is not necessary for attendance, only an interest in hearing more about the priesthood. It is a time of prayer, recreation and being around young men not far from their age who are pursuing the path to the priesthood.

During the retreat, participants will hear talks from priests and seminarians, participate in morning and evening prayer, engage in small group discussion and participate in vocation reflections moderated by Archbishop Coakley.

Deacon John Paul Lewis, who is not a vocation director, will be ordained a priest next summer, attended Emmanus Days as a high school student.

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Ph. Stacy Grover, left, and his father and travel coordinator, Irwin in July 2014. Photo/Sooner Catholic.
Evangelization in the age of same-sex stuff

On the last Friday in June, we woke up to the news that the Supreme Court of the United States had discovered in the vapors of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a right to “marriage” for same-sex couples.

The controversy witnessed of all previous generations notwithstanding, this pact faithful Catholics in the awkward position of having to publicly defend the truth about marriage in an environment that is becoming increasingly hostile.

There is a moral point, and even the White House, draped themselves in rainbow flag on social media, one senses a growing pressure to abandon our mission to call people to conversion to Je- sus Christ, and the way of life that leads to such a conversion involves. When legal rulings come into conflict with what has revealed, the social environment becomes deep- ly confusing, and one must have a profound sense of where our anchors are sunk. In other words, why does the Catholic Church op- pose this ruling?

The moral conversion to which the Church is called by its mis- sion is not simply an observance of a set of moral rules to which we have trained, in the same way that sex, which is a moral good, is a biological reality.

But, even if one is unpersuad- ed by the significant harms to a society that doesn’t value chast- ity, we have other reasons for our stand. God has revealed himself to humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus wasn’t just a good teacher; he was actually God.

The idea of marriage is not predicated on the State, the church, or the government. It is a Sacrament of the Church. Just as the sacraments do not create grace, marriage is not created by the law. It is the vocation of the Church to defend this Sacrament.

So, if marriage is a Sacrament, then the Church must defend it. And given the current trend of legalizing same-sex unions, the Church must do all it can to protect us from suffering, in fact it aliment for us. The laws that will be mutually agreed on, most likely be a sort of divorce or marriage, that guarantees the></p>
**Saint Joseph’s Orphanage reunion coming in August**

In August, former residents and staff members of Saint Joseph’s Orphanage will gather in Oklahoma City for the third annual reunion. Hosted by Catholic Charities and the Sisters of Mercy, the Most Blessed Trinity, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the orphanage reunion will take place Aug 15.

**Sister Joseph’s Orphanage in Bethany, and later Saint Joseph’s Children’s Home in Oklahoma City, served children in the state until its closure in 1950. The need was great — throughout the 1920s, more than 1,100 children were on the waiting list to become residents. In the end, the children were homeless, neglected or abandoned. Whether learning the value of hard work through scrubbing the floors or the teachings of faith through daily prayers, the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, the priests of the diocese and many others helped the children along the way. Those who lived and worked at Saint Joseph’s Orphanage are invited to attend the reunion on Aug 15 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Trinity Garden’s Garvey Room, 3825 N.W. 19 Oklahoma City. Mass will be at 5 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church. To attend this event, contact Jane Moore at jmoo@stjohnparish.org or (405) 230-2208 by Aug 7.**

**Marian Sisters visit Oklahoma**

At the invitation of Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Bietz, 27 Marian Sisters from Nebraska spent several days in Oklahoma City. Their motherhouse is in the Diocese of Lincoln. Their main activities are teaching health care and various forms of social work.

Archbishop Bietz first met the Sisters 60 years ago, and their lives and ministries have intersected ever since. The Sisters stayed at the Catholic Pastoral Center for the week as they exchanged information with the Marian sisters in Oklahoma and archdiocesan offices.

**Highlights from their trip included a visit to the grave of the Servant of God Father Stanley Rother, a Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Okarche; the Saint Joseph Museum; an afternoon prayer at Saint Mark in Norman; a morning at a private residence; a tour of Bricktown, the Fur Peace Ranch and Saint Joseph Old Cathedral.**

A lively afternoon was spent at Camp OLOG where the Sisters interacted with the middle school campers. They also were treated to a stop at Papa’s in Ardmore and for ice cream at Brown’s.

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**Catholic Heart Work Camp revitalize OKC homes**

By Charles Albert For the Sooner Catholic

Many Catholics who do not have school-age children may not have heard of “Totus Tuus,” which is Latin for “Totally Yours.”

“Totally Yours” was a motto of John Paul II, who created the programs for youth such as World Youth Day.

**Totus Tuus (Tot-e-tew too-us)** is a Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in the understanding of, and strengthen their faith in, Jesus Christ. Totus Tuus strives to bring our faith to life by creating a balance between knowledge of the mystery of the Church and an authentic Sacramental life.

The program involves sending college-age students and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa to individual parishes for one week to share their work with stude

Mysteries. Some parishes in the archdiocese have completed the very successful program and some are anxiously awaiting it.

Saint Mark in Norman already has completed a successful Totus Tuus program. Seventy students participated in the first-year program. According to Justin Linic, director of youth ministry, the parish also will have a vacation Bible program later this summer.

Indy’s two parishes, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Gregory the Great, combine their parishes under the direction of Brea Parker, director of religious education at Saint Francis. Like most programs, the 110 students are divided into two groups: Grades 4-6 attend during the day and grades 7-12 attend in the evening. The program in Enid is very popular and is in its third year.

Saint Joseph in Ada is in its sixth year under the direction of Ronnie Taylor. The program will be July 20-24 and remains extremely popular. Taylor said that with Vacation Bible School, “It was always difficult to find as many teachers who can volunteer a full week each summer.” This program, she said, allows for their presence for a longer period of time and allows them with well-trained young people and experienced and enthusiastic college students who live and love their faith.

Woodward’s Saint Peter has a new director of education, Tamara Rosales, who is anxious to experience the program. Totus Tuus will be in Woodward July 27-31. Last year’s enrollment was around 70 students, and this year’s program is already full.

The program is free for participating parishes.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic
Ordinations—continued from page 1

sus and love for his people. Such is the power of God’s grace bestowed in this sacrament of Holy Orders. He chooses the weak and makes them strong,” he said.

“Finally, dear brothers … strive to bring the faithful together into one family, so that you may lead them to God the Father through Christ in the Holy Spirit. Keep always before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served but to serve, and who came to seek out and save what was lost.”

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

Aaron James Foshee

Age: 28
Ordination: June 27, 2015
Assignment: St. Francis of Xavier, Enid; St. Gregory, Enid; St. Michael, Goltry
Seminary: St. Meinrad, Ind.
Hometown: Oklahoma City

Daniel Gregory Grover

Age: 30
Ordination: June 27, 2015
Assignment: St. Joseph, Norman
Seminary: St. Meinrad, Ind.
Hometown: Moore

Lance Allan Warren

Age: 33
Ordination: June 27, 2015
Assignment: St. Francis of Assisi, OKC
Seminary: St. Meinrad, Ind.
Hometown: Marlow

New priests in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Fr. Aaron Foshee embraces his parents. Photo Steve Stoner/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley gives the blessing from his cathedra. Photo Steve Stoner/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Coakley gives the blessing from his cathedra. Photo Steve Stoner/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Fr. Aaron Foshee embraces his parents. Photo Steve Stoner/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Remembering Father Rother

continued from page 1
1981, graven entered the mission rectory and turned to kibbe Father Rother. He taught them, but eventually was shot and killed. He was 46.
In 2007, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City opened a Cause for Beatification for Father Rother as a martyr for his faith. On June 23, 2013, a special tribunal of cardinals in Rome voted to formally recognize Father Rother as a martyr. The determination of martyrdom in a critical step in the Cause to have Father Rother beatified, the final stage before canonization as a saint.

“As much as you love him and as much as you care for him you never expect that kind of happening, that a member of your family is presented in this way. It’s a challenge to me to be a better person,” said Sister Marita, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ.

To honor her brother and the 34th anniversary of his martyrdom, Sister Marita recently traveled the grave of Servant of God Father Stanley Rother at Holy Trinity Cemetery along a tiny road outside of Oklahoma. The black headstone inscribed with PADRE APLAZA is unassuming except for thenick of rocks and Roxary beds around its edges.

As Sister Marita knelt to brush dust and cut grass from the headstone’s surface, she ran her fingers across her brother’s name.

“I believe he has been 34 years,” she said.

“The anniversary, I say little prayers and talk to him about life. It is sometimes very emotional for me even though I have been a member of 40 years, it doesn’t take away in which way, I pray for him to give me the energy and love for the people that he had. He was not pre-
tentious. He didn’t go out seeking people for approval or admiration. He did what he did in the way that he was. He was just the simple St. John.

Diane Dyk is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

Fr. Rother and a little girl in Guatemala. Photo ar-
chives of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Review: With all his heart

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda’s new book on Father Rother

By J.E. Helm

For the Sooner Catholic

A long-awaited narrative of the life and martyrdom of Servant of God Father Stanley Rother is here in Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda’s book, “The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run.”

Martyr from Oklahoma.

The narrative of priestly holiness. We need witnesses to pas-

terial charity.”

Deacon Raymond LaChance

Melotto said that, there in the Church of Saint

After the great Amen, our unity in the Mystery of God to give thanks! Our offering, Christ himself, calls for all of us to unite in one voice with a big enthusiastic AMEN! After the great Amen, our unity in the Mystery of Christ is celebrated once more when we unite in one voice to pray the Our Father prayer that Jesus taught us.

This prayer promotes solidarity as brothers and sisters, having God as a loving and caring Father with whom we can trust all of our needs. Faith in solidarity with God can cure true pain. This prayer promotes God and serves as our final preparation before Communion.

Eucharistic prayer. As Saint John Paul II stated in his

“Why me?” I asked. “I haven’t been at this pa-

During the first half of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, the first half of the Mass is to listen to the word of the Father that welcomes us and speaks to us in many and varied ways. During the second part of the Mass, we have an opportunity to respond to God’s loving Word by saying thanks and praising God, this is the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Saint John Paul II included us in his Wednesday audience of Oct. 11, 2000, that, “As the eucharistic body, the Eucharist means ‘thanksgiving’; it is the Son’s prayer. Our offering, Christ himself, calls for all of us to unite in one voice with a big enthusiastic AMEN! To praise our loving God sounds better and more true; the Son offers us the perfection that we ask of our loving Father.

Our offering, Christ himself, calls for all of us to unite in one voice with a big enthusiastic AMEN!

He himself assures us, “This is my body ... will be an ef-

Amen! Our agreement and approval of what has been said concludes this Eucharistic prayer. Our offering, Christ himself, calls for all of us to unite in one voice with a big enthusiastic AMEN!

The eucharistic prayer is the perfect “sacri-

Sister Alexa was born June 27, 1948, at Providence of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana. She entered the Providence of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master’s degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana. She was licentiate in Biblical Studies.

Obituaries

Deacon Joseph LaChance

Deacon Joseph LaChance was born June 28, 2015, in Denver, Texas. He was 22.

Deacon LaChance was born July 27, 1941, in Bar Harbor, Maine, to Albert Joseph LaChance and Alice Melotte (Crockett) LaChance. Raymond married Pamela Kir-


He graduated from Providence of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master’s degree at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, an associate from Providence of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, and a certificate from Catholic University of America.

She took her final vows on Aug. 15, 1946. She served in Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Texas. She was a member and organizer for the Family of Mary (1968-72) as vicar for religious and direct formation for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Providence, Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, 1800 West Washington St., Terre Haute, IN 47803.
En el Evangélico, Jesús nos invita a “Vengan… para descansar un poco.” (Mc 6:31). Este es un tema importante en nuestra vida diaria ya que abor- ne el momento en que muchas de nosotros reconocemos nuestra propia necesidad de descanso y esperamos un cambio en el ritmo en nuestras vidas tan ocupadas.

Para los cristianos, el descanso que recibe de sus días de reposo es una parte del ritual de la creación y redención en Cristo. Es el día en que se conmemora la Resurrección del Señor. Es nuestro principal día santo, el día en que se conmemora la promesa de vida inmortal que Dios ha hecho a los hijos de Israel y en que recibimos las promesas de vida eterna que Dios ha hecho en Cristo. Es una celebración de la vida eterna que se ofrece en la eucaristía. La Eucaristía es el acto de adoración yacienda que nos une a los que comemos la hostia, al Padre, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo.

En nuestra parroquia, al final de la misa, añadimos una oración al Padre “Ite missa est”. Con esta oración nos dirigimos a la adoración a Cristo, nuestro Salvador, y llamamos a todos a seguir el Evangelio. Con esta oración, Cristo mismo, llama a todos a unirse a Él como la mayoría de ustedes. La respuesta, “No he estado en esta parroquia tanto tiempo como vosotros” significa “acción de gracias”. Esta expresión y la ofrenda del agradecimiento son una forma de dar gracias y alabanza a Dios, a la Iglesia, al Señor, a todos los que participan en la Eucaristía. Es un día para estar más conscientes de que “el señor del mundo creado y(Screened) incluye esta Plegaria Eucarística. Nuestra ofrena- da, Cristo mismo, llama a todos a unirse a Él en una sola voz con su gesto bendecido. "¡Esto es parte de lo que somos. Y esto es lo que Queremos ser", dijo el Señor Jesus. Él mismo nos asegura: “Esto es mi cuerpo… esta es mi sangre.” "Una vez más, la audiencia antes mencionada, San Juan Pablo II nos recuerda que, “La Eucaristía, sacrificio de la nueva alianza, se presenta como desarrolla- y revitalizamos en las fuentes de la vida. En un acto para estar más conscientes de los ritmos del mundo creado e incluso de los estrés y conflictos que afloran en las llanuras de la naturaleza. Nos recuerda nuestra dignidad como hijos e hijas, creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Este es un momento para descansar un poco.” Jesús nos invita a cada uno de nosotros a renacernos y revitalizarnos en las fuerzas de la vida que el Señor del Dia no nos ofrece cada semana.

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Por Pedro A. Mosean, OP, SREK

Director del Ministerio Eucarístico

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En el Evangelio, Jesús nos invita a “Vengan… para descansar un poco.” (Mc 6:31). Este es un tema importante en nuestra vida diaria ya que abor- ne el momento en que muchas de nosotros reconocemos nuestra propia necesidad de descanso y esperamos un cambio en el ritmo en nuestras vidas tan ocupadas.

Para los cristianos, el descanso que recibe de sus días de reposo es una parte del ritual de la creación y redención en Cristo. Es el día en que se conmemora la Resurrección del Señor. Es nuestro principal día santo, el día en que se conmemora la promesa de vida inmortal que Dios ha hecho a los hijos de Israel y en que recibimos las promesas de vida eterna que Dios ha hecho en Cristo. Es una celebración de la vida eterna que se ofrece en la eucaristía. La Eucaristía es el acto de adoración yacienda que nos une a los que comemos la hostia, al Padre, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo.

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Bingo fundraiser
The St. Philip Neri Social Justice Committee will be hosting a Bingo Night fundraiser on Saturday, July 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. with bingo and door prizes. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. All are welcome, for more information, contact Jennifer Butch at (405) 242-4522.

God's music is silence
A silent retreat to explore cre- ativity and get to know our God will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, July 11, to Noon, Sunday, Aug. 3, at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The retreat is open to men or women. For more information or to register, call or text Katie Gordy at (405) 627-6954 or email katie@kone.com.

Rosary School golf tournament
The St. Francis of Assisi/Rosary School golf tournament will be held Aug. 11 at 7 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. Nine courses which identify us.” The courses will range from par- donate, snacks and lunch. Sign up by contacting Michael Zink at mikzink@broadbandtexas.net.

Women of Faith/Women of Action full luncheon
Archbishop Cordy will be the speaker at our full luncheon on Saturday, Aug. 28, at 11 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Go online to www.rosary-school.com.

Save the date
St. Mary Catholic School will host a golf tournament “Play for the Pad,” on Aug. 29 at Aqua Canyon Golf Course. Registration start at 8 a.m. $75 per player/$100 per team. Register at (405) 282-2071.

KOC poker run returns
The Oklahoma Knights of Co- rbus along with the Oklahoma Knights-on-Bikes are sponsoring the 4th annual Center of Family Life KOC Poker Run. The reunion will take place at 7 p.m. Ank you for helping the Lord bring to fruition your or just curious about the Catholic Church. You are cordially invited to an RCIA Evening of Sacraments. Christ the King Catholic Church on Thursday, July 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Christ the King is located one block north of Wabash Avenue and is between Pennsylvania and May avenues at 8005 Dor- set Blvd., Dallas. All are welcome. For more information, register at www.rosary-school.com.

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Welcoming parishioners with disabilities

This month marks the anniversary of the ADA

By Sally Linhart
For the Sooner Catholic

July 26 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 in an effort to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops along with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability have worked to provide parishes in the United States with resources and information necessary to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. The USCCB reminds us that we are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd, and there can be no separate church for those with disabilities.

Since the signing of the ADA, older parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City have retrofitted their properties to make them more accessible for people with disabilities, including the addition of wheelchair ramps, accessible bathrooms and motorized doors.

However, the need of people with mental or intellectual disabilities is equally important, but those needs often are overlooked because there isn’t always a physical marker such as a wheelchair or walker to remind us.

Archbishop Coakley visits with a resident of the Center of Family Love. The Center serves intellectually disabled Oklahomans. Photo Sooner Catholic.

Tips to help parishioners with disabilities:
- Provide transportation to/from mass for those who are unable to drive themselves;
- Become a “Mass companion;” arrange to sit with a person and their family during Mass, offer to assist to help them participate more fully in Mass;
- Don’t assume when a child is disruptive or loud during Mass. Many children with disabilities often are perceived as misbehaved. Offer parents a kind smile or ask what you can do to help;
- Encourage fellow parishioners to reach out to people with disabilities and their families, and include them in all aspects of parish life, not just Mass;
- If you are a family member of a person with disabilities, offer your insight on ways the Church can better serve your needs. Reach out to the pastor with your concerns and let him know what would help your family participate more fully.

Eli’s Reach: A family’s journey from fear to faith

By Norman Harvey
For the Sooner Catholic

On Monday, June 22, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton, Chad Judice presented his family’s journey of strength through faith, power through prayer, and the dignity of human life.

Judice, a Catholic educator for 14 years in the Diocese of Lafayette, once was asked by a student what his greatest fear was. His answer, “For me to have a child with a mental or physical handicap.”

As they saw it, Chad and Ashley Judice lived the ideal life. They both enjoyed their jobs, were active in the Church, had a healthy son, Ephraim, and felt totally in control. In 2008, they decided to have another child. Their life would irrevocably change. As Chad Judice later stated: “On Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008, in the darkness of an ultrasound room, within the span of 45 minutes, God revealed to me His Divinity and my humanity.”

The son they were expecting, Elijah Paul, was diagnosed with the most severe form of Spina Bifida, a birth defect that appears early in fetal development.

“Eighty percent of couples who receive this prenatal diagnosis choose abortion and 75 percent of children with this condition typically cause a miscarriage,” Chad Judice said.

If Eli survived the pregnancy, his life would be debilitating due to multiple surgeries and the certainty of lifelong medical needs. Every scientific fact signaled abortion as the answer. However, the Judices submitted to God’s will and prayed for a miracle. They were joined by members of their broader community and Saint Thomas More Catholic High School, where Chad Judice was a teacher.

Following the Judices’ example, two other couples facing similar circumstances in their own pregnancies rejected abortions and were moved to a level of humility and deeper faith in God.

During his presentation in Lawton, Chad pointed out that June 22 is the Feast Day of Saint Thomas More, the sign of which was not missed by the audience. Eli survived, and while he has struggled with physical ailments and epilepsy since birth, he has learned to walk with a walker and interacts with his brother as any sibling would.

Eli’s father ended his presentation by mentioning the keys to growing in faith and gaining strength through struggles were to “partake in the Sacraments, attend Mass and pray, pray, pray without ceasing” (Eph. 6).


For more information on the Judice family or to invite Chad to speak, go online to www.chadjudice.com.