OKLAHOMA CITY — The evening before 3,000 people gathered in the Cox Convention Center for the Rally for Religious Freedom, several hundred Catholics packed into the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Fittingly, the Mass was celebrated on the feast days of two great Catholic martyrs who gave their lives several hundred years earlier for that same exact cause — religious freedom.

The Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and concelebrated by a dozen other archdiocesan priests, fell on the feast days of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher.

As Archbishop Coakley pointed out in his homily, both saints gave their lives after refusing to “compromise” their consciences. The Archbishop said both saints “have much to teach us today” as governments around the world and including our own, push secular agendas that erode religious liberty.

The HHS mandate was cited in particular as one attempt by the federal government to attack religious liberty. The Archbishop said the mandate is a “situation we cannot allow to stand.”

The Archbishop’s speech given the following day at the Rally for Religious Freedom can be found in full beginning on Page 10, along with photos and more coverage of the historic event.

Father Rother Effort Moves Forward

OKLAHOMA CITY — On June 27, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley received the news that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints has named an official Relator for the Cause of Father Stanley Rother. The Relator, together with our collaborator from outside the Congregation, will prepare the Position Paper (Positio) on martyrdom.

Archbishop Coakley asked that all Oklahoma Catholics continue to pray for the Cause of Father Rother.

A Timeline of the Cause of Father Stanley Rother


Diocesan Phase

October 2007 — Tribunal convened by the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran. Mass at Holy Trinity
Make Time for Leisure This Summer

In Oklahoma, summer means heat. But for many people, summer is also when we look forward to a much anticipated vacation. Whether that means spending time leisurely at one of our beautiful Oklahoma lakes, a trip to the mountains, the beach, or just time at home with family and friends, our vacation time is precious.

My seminary rector used to send us home for summer vacation with the fatherly advice, “Remember, gentlemen, there is no vacation from your vocation.” We got the point. Forget about, “What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.” He was reminding us that our vocation is not something from which we were entitled to escape from time to time. Vacation is something rested deeply in our identity. It is not something we do. It is who we are. If anything, our vacation time away from the seminary was a time to integrate our vocations more completely into the whole of our lives. The same holds for all of us.

The Hebrew tradition of the Sabbath and our Christian tradition of the Lord’s Day remind us of the importance of the time. Jesus says, “The Sabbath is made for man.” (Mk 2:27). God commands the Sabbath rest, not because he needs it, but because we do. We need it to help us remember who we are, and who God is. Whether we take our rest on our weeknight or our weekend, our vocation and rest help us become more alive to wonder and more appreciative relationships in new ways.

Leisure is a good and necessary human experience. There is a sacred element as well, of course. As the psalmist says, “Be still and know that I am God.” (Ps 46:10). Vacations help us to refocus. They give us permission to disconnect from the ordinary schedule and responsibilities of work and commerce. Imagine a vacation in which we gave ourselves permission even to disconnect from our smart phones, tablets, and laptops! (Seem impossible? “Nothing is impossible with God.” Lk 1:37) Disconnecting from time to time reveals the liberating truth that the world goes on fine without us. How freeing to discover that we need not be in control all the time.

Time away from our over-scheduled routine helps us see things and appreciate relationships in new ways. Leisure and rest help us become more alive to wonder and more receptive to insight and understanding.

I pray you will make time to experience the restorative power of restful leisure this summer.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

For details on these events, please visit: www.archokc.org

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

July 14 – Friday, July 27 — Spanish Language Studies, Mexican American Catholic College, San Antonio, Texas
July 29 — 125th Anniversary Celebration for Diocese of Salina, Salina, Kan.
July 31 — Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
August 1 — Clergy Education Day, Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
August 2 — Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
August 3 — Blessing of St. Mary’s Virtual Catholic High School, Lawton, 4:30 p.m.
August 7 – Thursday, August 9 — Knights of Columbus National Convention, Anaheim, Calif.
August 9 — Mass, Canon Law Society Catholic Pastoral Center, 5:30 p.m.
August 11 — Our Lady of Fatima Celebration, Bison, 4:30 p.m.
August 12 — Mass, Saint Matthew Church, Elk City, 10:30 a.m.

New Seminarian Burse

A Seminary Burse has been created in memory of Father Kirk Larkin. In 1999, at the age of 39, Father Larkin entered the seminary. Following his second year of theology, a faculty member stated: “Kirk is very joyful. As a priest, he would be approachable because he is a man among men.” Another pointed out that Father Larkin had a “special interest in preaching and a passion to go with it.” Those traits would later help him become a successful priest and pastor.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 2004. Father Larkin’s first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Mary Church, Ponca City. In 2007, Father Larkin became pastor of Holy Family Church, Lawton. In 2010, Father Larkin retired due to illness. Throughout his illness he demonstrated great faith and courage, and provided an example of the peace of God’s love to those privileged to know him. Father Larkin died April 29, 2011, at the age of 51.

To make a donation to a Seminarian Burse, mail a check to the Vocations Office, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

Seminarian Burse

A $350 donation was made to the Seminarian Fund in memory of Kevin Boyle from John and Ardel Boyle.
A $500 donation was made to the Seminarian Fund in memory of Joseph Tu Duc Pham by Phuong Pham.
A $1,000 donation was made to the Father Clement Prilhib Seminarian Burse in memory of their nephew, Father Clement Prilhib, by George and Nila Prilhib.
A $500 donation was made to the Father Joseph Beltran Seminarian Burse by St. Ann Parish, Fairview, St. Anthony Parish, Okemah, and St. Thomas Parish, Salina.
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Catholic Charities Announces Repurposing of Holy Family Home to Assist Homeless Women and Children

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities recently announced that the residential services of Holy Family Home in Midwest City will change to help strengthen its programs for homeless women and children. This change follows a nine-month study which found an urgent need for residential services for women and children who require supportive housing services and case management in order to achieve self-sufficiency,” said Tim O’Connor, Catholic Charities executive director.

Holy Family Home began operations in 1993, providing residential services for teenage pregnant mothers (ages 12-17), who lacked parental support during their pregnancies. During the past two years, there has been a significant decline in the number of referrals to Holy Family Home. According to Monica Palmer, associate director of clinical services at Catholic Charities, a number of teenagers resist the structure of a group home setting, and may have the benefit of public assistance if they remain at home with their parents. In addition, they usually want to maintain a relationship with the baby’s father and his family, and so the option Catholic Charities offers does not fit in their plan, Palmer said.

“Catholic Charities intends to continue to serve pregnant teenagers with stronger emphasis on counseling and proactive case management services, which will support the plan to successfully complete their pregnancy” Palmer said. These services will continue to be part of our efforts, not only in the Oklahoma City area, but also in our office in Lawton, Enid, Clinton and Guymon.”

The Holy Family Home, a 7,200-square-foot center in Midwest City, will offer greater opportunities for women who are served at the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Oklahoma City When Catholic Charities began its Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in 2009, it became evident there was a critical need for a group residence to support women who were committed to become self-sufficient. Amy Hampton, Catholic Charities’ director of homeless services, who has overseen the program since 2009, said the program has helped more than 500 women obtain permanent housing, but many more could be helped if the additional resources were identified.

“Holy Family Home is well-suited to serve women with small children, as well as women who are pregnant. Designed as a ‘bridge,’ the residence will provide a private bedroom for each resident and shared areas for cooking, dining and group activities,” said Hampton. “The benefit of the program is the opportunity for women to develop supportive and trusting relationships with the staff and other residents, while they build self-sufficiency and skills that each one will need to become self-sufficient.”

“The Holy Family Home’s success during the past 19 years has been achieved through the great support of community and faith-based organizations, including United Way of Central Oklahoma, which have collaborated with Catholic Charities to provide opportunities and support for the young women and their infants at a critical time in their lives,” said O’Connor. “It is true that by changing the focus of Holy Family Home, Catholic Charities can count on the continued support of many groups that will inspire our women to success.”

Seed Grants Available to Parishes to Address Poverty Issues

Local grants are available to parishes to assist in the promotion of human development, empower persons in poverty, and provide for social needs which address causes which keep people in poverty. A local grant workshop will be held Thursday, Aug. 16 at the Pastoral Center regarding the Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant program. It will be held at 7 p.m. and will be available through video-conferencing sites at parishes in Lawton, Enid, Clinton and Woodward. The deadline for local grants is Sept. 1.

Local grants supporting parish projects have included English As Second Language classes, outreach to pregnant women and their families, and education for healthy lifestyles. CCHD Grants have also been used to begin health ministry programs in the parish.

YUKON — Darby Heard wasn’t all that surprised when she opened the letter telling her she had been selected to the National Catholic Youth Choir. The Bishop McGuinness senior wasn’t surprised because she knew what to expect after all, she had made the choir the year before as well. “I was more surprised last year,” Darby said.

The NCYC is made up of 35 high school students, ages 15-17, from 15 states. Perspectives choir members audition for a spot through written applications, recommendations and recording a song — usually a hymn — and sending it to the selection committee at St. John’s University School of Theology in Collegeville, Minn.

Darby, a parishioner at St. John Nepomuk Church in Yukon, tried out for the choir when she was a sophomore, but didn’t make it.

Darby Heard

“I really started working hard then. I took voice lessons,” she said. According to the choir sponsors, the students have an intense two-week summer camp. The camp includes extensive choir rehearsals, repertoire-based classes in religion, music theory and music history, recreation, recording a CD, daily Mass and prayer.

The choir members worship as a group with the Benedictines monks on campus and with the Benedictine sisters in nearby St. Joseph. They conclude each day by singing.

The choir members also receive cantor training as encouragement for musical ministry in their homes parishes and throughout their adult life.

The choir then goes on a 10-day concert tour in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. “It was a blast last year,” Heard said. “I made a lot of friends. Everyone loves to sing, so we can all relate to each other about that. One of the friends I made is from Iowa and we’ve kept in touch all this time,” she said.

Yukon Teen Named to National Catholic Youth Choir

According to Monica Palmer, director of Parish Nursing as "a very real extension" of St. Mark, appreciates Parish Nursing for its role in strengthening the church and the community, and the ability to "connect" people with the church. According to the choir sponsors, such as Michael J. Massey, "the choir’s mission is to bring people together through the power of music."
Fortnight for Freedom Highlights Social Justice Priorities

At this critical moment in history, there are two social justice priorities for the Catholic Church in the United States: the defense of life at all stages and in all conditions, and the defense of religious freedom for all. During this Fortnight for Freedom, in which the U.S. bishops are calling all Catholics to pray and work for religious freedom, it’s important to reflect on the linkage between these two great causes.

The fundamental democratic premise of the radical, inalienable, civil equality of all citizens is enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution. Religious liberty is the cornerstone of the American constitutional order — the American way of being a political community. That premise is no pious fiction, no noble ideal. It can be “demonstrated” and defended, by reason. And that defense need not necessarily lead to the right to life as the primordial human right, and the right of religious freedom as the “first freedom” in the political order. In defending religious freedom and the right to life from conception until natural death, U.S. citizens are not just defending what is “ours.” We defend America. We seek to give America new birth of freedom, rightly understood. We act, not as sectarian, but as citizens. We act on behalf of all, and on behalf of truth.

George Weigel is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.

Leah Darrow, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, magna cum laude, philosophy major, and psychology minor, and Mary Diane Steltenkamp, Newman University, B.A. in Psychology, B.S. in Psychology, B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Psychology, and B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Psychology, have both been involved in helping children learn about the Catholic faith. Leah Darrow is the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com, a website focusing on the Catholic faith, Catholic parenting and family life, and Catholic cultural topics. Each week, CatholicMom.com offers a variety of children’s activities designed to help children learn from the Sunday Liturgy of the Word. Leah draws upon her own experience in fashion, reality TV and the media during and after the conversion to Catholicism. As the language of the First Amendment to the Constitution indicates, religious freedom in the United States has always been understood as one of a cluster of fundamental freedoms — the freedom of thought and action essential to individual liberty and civil society. That idea of constitutionally limited government — a government that makes no theological judgments (religious freedom), that does not control the media (freedom of the press), that does not control thought and culture (free speech), and that does not sacrifice all “the space” in society (freedom of assembly) — rests, philosophically, on the premise of fundamental human equality.

Yet the premise is counter-intuitive. We know that all men and women are not created equal in intelligence, beauty, wealth, linguistic skills, or ability to hit a curveball. Everything we see, every day, everywhere, speaks of inequality. How, then, is it possible to sustain a constitutionally limited government — a government that recognizes that equality and inequality are not just “subordinate” to the demands of equality, but also “subordinate” to the demands of human dignity? Is equality a pious fiction, a noble lie we tell ourselves? In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson tried to solve this problem by reference to a fundamental human dignity, and to “self-evident” rights that reflect that equality that were “endowed” by “Nature, and Nature’s God.” Today, when the idea of divinely created “human nature” has disappeared from our high culture (and a lot of our law), that argument is under serious pressure. Jews and Christians can argue that their commitment to the premises of civil equality derives from obedience to the commands of the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jesus, in various forms of the Golden Rule — but will such an argument convince non-believers? In his 1993 encyclical, “Veritatis Splendor” (“The Splendor of Truth”), Blessed John Paul II proposed an imaginative solution to this problem, which is fundamental to all democracies and especially unique in democracies enshrined in the solemnity of aggressive secularism and its companion, radical skepticism. There is a way in which all men and women, unequal-in-everything, are equal, the Pope suggested. “Before the demand of morality all are absolutely equal,” he wrote. Everyone is equal before the demands of the fundamental moral law that we can know by reason. What are those demands? What are those moral truths? Is man, as the Pope suggested, “equal, before the demands of the fundamental moral law that we can know by reason.” It can be “demonstrated” and defended, by reason. And that defense need not necessarily lead to the right to life as the primordial human right, and the right of religious freedom as the “first freedom” in the political order. In defending religious freedom and the right to life from conception until natural death, U.S. citizens are not just defending what is “ours.” We defend America. We seek to give America new birth of freedom, rightly understood. We act, not as sectarian, but as citizens. We act on behalf of all, and on behalf of truth.

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CFO College Scholarships Awarded
Catholic Foundation Board Member Jerry Kelley recently presented CFO College Scholarships to St. Andrew Dung-Lee parishioners Yvon Tran, Ly Le and Andy Phanville. Tran and Le will attend the University of Oklahoma and Phanville will attend the University of Central Oklahoma. Each of these college freshmen will receive a $1,000 scholarship per year for four years of undergraduate study.

Kenyan Bishops Call for Increase In Security After Church Attacks
By Francis Njunga
Catholic News Service
NAROMI, Kenya (CNS) — Kenya’s Catholic bishops called upon the government to intensify its security efforts in the country’s north after the July 1 attacks on two churches, including a Catholic cathedral, that left at least 17 people dead and more than 50 people injured.

The simultaneous attacks on Our Lady of Consolation Cathedral and the Protestant Africa Inland Church in the northern town of Garissa were the most recent in a series of incidents since Kenyan troops were sent into Somalia in October to crush al-Shabab militants.

These unspeakable acts of violence were continually meted out on Kenyans, including women and children, have not only resulted in the loss of innocent lives but also created a sense of insecurity among Christians and all peace-loving Kenyans,” the bishops said in a statement July 2.

The bishops said they continued to believe the attacks were not part of a religious war even though they were carried out in Christian faith communities.

“We ask all Kenyans to work toward promoting peaceful co-existences,” the bishops said.

Boson Particle Discovery Could Unlock Hidden Universe Structure
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The discovery of a new sub-atomic particle — the so-called Higgs boson — may help scientists discover how the hidden structure of all matter in the universe works, a Vatican astronomer said.

“It indicates that reality is deeper and more rich and strange than our everyday life,” U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno told Catholic News Service.

When people go about their everyday business working or relaxing, they don’t think about the tiniest building block of physical matter, but “without these underlying little things, we wouldn’t be here,” he said.

Physicists working with the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research laboratory in Geneva, announced July 4 that they had 99.99 percent certainty they found evidence of a new particle that might be key to the structure of the universe and to understanding nature.

British physicist Peter Higgs first hypothesized the existence of the particle in the 1960s as the final missing element in the Standard Model, which explains how subatomic particles and forces interact.

Over the decades, with the help of increasingly powerful and sophisticated high-energy particle accelerators, scientists have been searching for what atoms are made up of, what the smaller component of atoms are made up of, what the nature of these smaller component is, and so on, Brother Consolmagno said.

But it wasn’t clear why some materials, such as protons and electrons, have mass and therefore are attracted to each other by gravity, while other materials, such as photons, have no mass, he said.

“Higgs, 50 years ago, worked out a model called the Standard Model, that would provide reasons for attraction and why there is mass,” the Jesuit said.

Higgs predicted that if a particle that produced the effect of mass existed, it should be “visible” after two atoms were smashed together at high enough speeds.

Experiments at CERN have revealed that “there is something that looks something like the Higgs boson,” Brother Consolmagno said.

The new data “will be used to test the Standard Model and how subatomic particles work,” he said.

The Higgs boson had been nicknamed “the God particle” as “a joke in an attempt to depict the particle as almost like a gift from God to help explain how reality works in the sub-atomic world,” he said. But such “God of the gaps” conjectures are not only had reasons to believe in God, they are also bad science, Brother Consolmagno said.

“You’ll look foolish, in say 2050, when they discover the real reason” for a phenomenon that was explained away earlier by the hand of God, he said.

However, another kind of faith and hope do exist in the scientific community, he said.

“No one would have built this enormous experiment, tapping the time and talents of thousands of scientists around the world, “without faith they would find something,” he said.

“My belief in God gives me the courage to look at the physical universe and to expect to find order and beauty. It’s my faith that inspires me to do science.”

"It indicates that reality is deeper and more rich and strange than our everyday life." — Brother Guy Consolmagno
Father Stanley Rother — A Life of Service, Sacrifice

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City, Speaks About the Priest Who Changed Lives Far From Home

By Christy Hicks
Liguorian Magazine

Father Stanley F. Rother was born into a devout Catholic family in Okarche on March 27, 1935. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa in 1963. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Church called for missionaries in Central and South America. In response to this call, after five years of priestly service at several Oklahoma parishes, Bishop Victor Reed assigned Father Rother to the Oklahoma mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. The mission, named Micatokla, was in a country torn apart by a vicious civil war that began in 1960 and didn’t end until 1996.

Father Rother joined the existing staff of priests and lay people in June 1968. Unfortunately, one by one, the members of the mission team returned to the States. Eventually Father Rother was the only remaining Oklahoma mission worker in Santiago Atitlan. Alone, he continued the work of the mission despite difficult conditions that continued to escalate. On the night of July 28, 1981, this good, holy and faithful priest was brutally beaten and shot to death in the parish house.

Q What brought Father Rother to Guatemala?
A) Father Rother was ordained a priest for the service of the Church in Oklahoma. At that time, the Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa was about to undertake one of the greatest ventures in its history: responsibility for the mission of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala. This poor colonial mission had been without a resident pastor for many decades. The town was difficult to reach except by boat and lacked most ordinary community services. It was very important that the first mission team from Oklahoma be very dedicated and committed.

Father Rother was just beginning his ministry as a priest in Oklahoma with determination and was very impressed by the news of the mission. Within a few years, his missionary spirit moved him to volunteer. He was delighted when the bishop accepted his offer and assigned him to the Santiago Atitlan mission.

Q Whom did Father Rother serve in Guatemala? Describe some of the conditions of the country and the people that Father Rother faced there.
A) The great poverty and the dire needs of the people of Santiago Atitlan were the incentives that moved the Church of Oklahoma to accept responsibility for this mission. Thus, when Father Rother arrived as a missionary in 1968, he was introduced to the indigenous people (the Tzutuhil) of that area. They are a gentle, kind and patient people. However, they were among the poorest of the poor in Guatemala. Malnutrition was practically universal among the Tzutuhil. There was very little formal education available, and the workers were exploited. It was a real challenge for Father Rother to face the daily schedule of mission life, which he did in a simple but effective way. He loved the people and they loved him.

Q What fears and challenges did Father Rother introduce and confront in his letters and writings?
A) From the time Father Rother arrived at the mission until his martyrdom 13 years later, many changes occurred. At first, together with the mission team, the challenge was to provide necessities such as food and medicine. As time moved on and much technical progress was achieved, the difficulties came from the overt prejudices and injustices of the ruling society. The political situation made it difficult for Father Rother to serve the people. By the end of a decade, Father Rother’s name began to appear on hate lists, and he received death threats. Many of his catechists and other active parishioners simply “disappeared.” Some were killed. All were frightened.

Q What events led to Father Rother’s death?
A) From the time of his ordination as a priest, Father Rother served God’s people

continued on Page 7
Mission Work Requires Gospel Joy, Living God’s Love, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bringing God’s word to mission lands is successful only when missionaries live the Gospel with joy and share the love and goodness they receive from God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“...What is good has the inherent goodness itself is essentially ‘communication’ that is, sharing with others, he said during a brief visit to a center belonging to the missionary of the Society of the Divine Word.

The Pope, who began his vacation July 3 at the papal summer villa of Castel Gandolfo, took a short trip July 9 to the center in the nearby village of Nemi, in the Alban hills southeast of Rome. He used his cane when entering the center’s chapel and when walking the grounds.

The Pope said he had fond memories of the center where he spent a week in the spring of 1955 working with three dozen other priests to draft the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (“Ad Gentes”). Then-Father Joseph Ratzinger was a theological consultant during Vatican II and was appointed to an editorial commission, led by Verbiest Father Johannes Schutte, to help prepare the draft document of the decree.

Father Schutte’s invitation to be part of the commission came as a surprise to 37-year-old Father Ratzinger, as “I was a very young theologian of no great importance,” the Pope said during an informal talk to Verbiest fathers attending their general chapter meeting.

Being in the company of so many eminent theologians and charged with “such an important and beautiful task to prepare a decree on mission, I represented ‘spiritual enrichment and a great gift for me,” the Pope said, adding that it was perhaps the most memorable time he had during the whole council.
The cells of the embryo are not just "a pile of cells, but an orchestration of living humanity known as a human being, marvelously complex, highly-ordered and structured, growing, expanding and developing in precise ways with each passing hour of intrauterine life."
Rally Illustrates Need for Faithful to Observe, Be Involved with Government

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — The lesson from the Cox Center and the Rally for Religious Freedom June 23 couldn’t be clearer. Christians need to observe and be more involved in what’s happening with their government.

Speaker after speaker addressed that in the aftermath of a Health and Human Services mandate this year ordering faith-based organizations to pay for contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

The rally, with about 3,000 in attendance, was in conjunction with the “Fortnight for Freedom,” a faith initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adamantly opposed to the mandate.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley opened the rally, calling the mandate an infringement on religious liberty. Previously the Archbishop has said the order is “unjust,” and should not be obeyed.

The audience interrupted the Archbishop’s speech more than a dozen times showing reusing support for his message.

“That quote was put on the conference big screen by the Rev. James Taylor, pastor of the University Christian Church in Norman.

“The only addition I would have made is to put an exclamation point,” he said.

The event drew attendance from Catholics as well as Protestants. Many Protestant speakers, such as Ray, heralded Archbishop Coakley for his public stand against the mandate.

That didn’t go unnoticed by Steve Ray, a Catholic convert as well as noted writer, conference speaker and frequent guest on EWTN.

“I thank the (Obama) administration for doing something nobody else could’ve done,” he said.

Ray also said people of faith shouldn’t follow a mandate from the government, which threatened the unborn.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley addresses the Rally audience. Rally photos by Cara Koenig.

“If you’re asking me if religious freedom is under assault and I’m here to tell you, yes, it is,” he said.

Lankford and others pointed toward the Declaration of Independence and the following statement:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It was noted our Founders used the term “Creator”.

“That’s Creator with a Capital C,” said the Rev. Frank Curgell, superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council of Assemblies of God.

Filmakers said these are all under attack. They encouraged movie themes of the rally. The movie features faith, commitment, patriotism and traditional American freedoms.

Filmmakers said there are all under attack. They encouraged movie themes of the rally. The movie features faith, commitment, patriotism and traditional American freedoms.

For more information on the rally or the issues raised during the rally, please visit www.fortnightforfreedomokc.com or http://rallyforreligiousfreedomokc.com.
In Defense of Religious Freedom

This speech was given by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley at the June 23 Rally for Religious Freedom. The rally was held at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

Good afternoon and welcome! I am so pleased to see so many of you here today! Only a couple of months ago the Catholic Bishops of the United States called the faithful to embrace a “Fortnight for Freedom” as a focused period of prayer, study, catechesis and public witness highlighting our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Today’s Rally for Religious Freedom in Oklahoma City is part of an overwhelming response to that summons that has been energetically embraced in communities all over our great nation.

Today’s extraordinary event has come to fruition after only a few weeks of preparation. It has been an urgent response to a momentous challenge precipitated by rising threats to religious liberty in our nation and around the world. Our liturgical and civic calendars during these two weeks of the Fortnight for Freedom offer ample opportunity to focus our attention on this theme. The calendar includes the liturgical observance of several great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political powers and it culminates with the great civic celebration of American freedom, Independence Day.

Why are we suddenly hearing so much about religious liberty? The remarkable mobilization of energies around this issue has been triggered by the recent federal HHS mandate. Unless overturned quickly, this mandate will soon require virtually all employers—ensured health insurance programs to provide coverage for sterilization, contraception and even abortion-inducing drugs. For many Americans this is morally offensive and contrary to their religious faith and convictions. But any exemption to this requirement based on religious belief has been written so narrowly that relatively few religious institutions and religious employers can actually qualify. Before summarizing my concerns and those of my brother Bishops about this unjust mandate, let me say briefly what this debate is not about.

This debate is not about contraception. Many of you are not Catholic. Even among Catholics our teaching on this sensitive subject is not widely appreciated. Though I pray and commit myself to helping more Catholics and others to embrace the wisdom of the Church’s consistent teaching in this area, the debate is not about contraception. Contrary to media spin, the bishops are not attempting to ban contraception. Contraception will undoubtedly remain widely available for those who seek it. We simply and forcefully object to being compelled to pay for something which is contrary to our religious faith and teaching.

This debate is not a Catholic issue. It is about the religious freedom and conscience rights of the American people to face government interference. Your presence here today demonstrates that you see this! This debate is not about the Church attempting to force anything on anyone. It is about whether the government should be able to compel the Catholic faithful, and all but a few Catholic institutions, to act against Church teaching.

This is not a fight that the Church has asked for, but one which we have been forced upon by this unjust federal mandate. We did not choose the timing for this public debate. The government picked this fight, and we cannot afford to back away from it. There is simply too much at stake! This is not a partisan issue; neither Republican nor Democrat; it is neither a liberal nor conservative issue. It is an American issue.

If these are things that this debate is not about, what then is it about? At the heart of our concern about this mandate is an unwarranted government definition of religion and what constitutes religious ministry. The separation between Church and State, enshrined in our Constitution, is certainly intended to prevent the Church from overarching unlawfully into the affairs of government or the vice versa. It is the right of government to interfere in the internal affairs of the Church. This present action represents an unprecedented and unlawful pontifical exorbitance by which the government is attempting to define who is and who is not religious. The government has no business defining religion or religious ministries.

The HHS mandate includes an extremely narrow definition of who is a religious employer. Only those employers are considered “religiously enough” to qualify for exemption from the mandate if they hire and serve primarily those of their own faith and have as their goal the enforcement of their religious belief. This extremely narrow definition of a religious ministry fails to recognize and protect our vital Catholic ministries such as Catholic Charities, Catholic hospitals and health-care institutions and even our Catholic universities. All of these institutions serve without regard to the faith or beliefs of those whom they serve. When someone comes to the St. Anthony Hospital emergency room, we do require them to be Catholic as a condition for treatment or admission. When a homeless woman comes to Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary House, we do not ask if she is Catholic. It doesn’t matter. We serve because we are Catholic and these ministries are an integral expression of our faith.

This arbitrary and narrow definition of religion divorces the commandment to love God from the commandment to love our neighbor. Whether intentional or not, its effect is to reduce the ability of the Church to carry out its mission in the public square and contribute to the common good. It reduces religious freedom to simple the freedom to worship. It precludes religion.

Further, this mandate would coerce those Catholic entities which the government does not deem sufficiently religious to violate their own teachings within their very own institutions. It is a mandate to act against our own consciences. This cannot stand!

There is also embedded in this HHS mandate another concern. The mandate creates a third category in addition to the exempt religious institutions and those religious institutions “not religious enough” to qualify. This third category comprises the individuals who strive to live lives of conformity but act in accordance with their faith and moral values. These are the individuals who have labored to form their conscience properly but now face a government mandate requiring them to act against their consciences in providing and/or paying for “services” contrary to their faith or deeply held moral values. Whether as employers or employees, or even as insurers, they are left without any sort of conscience exemption at all. This too is unprecedented in federal law which until now has always provided conscience protection to individuals.

The “Fortnight of Freedom” is a rallying cry. This is going to be a long struggle. It will not end on July 4. Let us raise our voices in prayer, but also commit ourselves to study and appropriate actions in witness to the important values at stake for us as Catholics and as Americans. Religious liberty is a right recognized in our Constitution. But it is not a right bestowed on us by our government, or any government. It is a universal human right bestowed on us by God our Creator.

God bless you! And may God come to our assistance in this time of testing!

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

July 15, 2012

This debate is not a Catholic issue. It is about the religious freedom and conscience rights of those whose beliefs may be the next to face government interference. Your presence here today demonstrates that you see this!

This debate is not about the Church attempting to force anything on anyone. It is about whether the government should be allowed to compel the Catholic faithful, and all but a few Catholic institutions, to act against Church teachings.

This is not a fight that the Church has asked for, but one which has been forced upon us by this unjust federal mandate. We did not choose the timing for this public debate. The government picked this fight, and we cannot afford to back away from it. There is simply too much at stake!

This is not a partisan issue; neither Republican nor Democrat; it is neither a liberal nor conservative issue. It is not a Catholic issue, a Protestant, Jewish or Muslim issue. It is an American issue.

God bless you! And may God come to our assistance in this time of testing!
Environmental activism is a dangerous vocation in the Philippines, but a Catholic nun in Mindanao is defending those who want her to return to her convent and stop raising her voice in defense of creation.

Benedictine Sister Stella Matutina works in Mindanao, the most conflictive island in the southern Philippines. Now 44, she spent 18 years studying and performing pastoral work in Europe before returning to Mindanao in 2007, when she says she quickly realized an environmental crisis was at hand.

"In the landslides and flooding and deaths, I could hear the cry of the poor and the grasping of creation, but our government was deaf. Thousands of people were dying every year, but our government was doing nothing to protect the environment," she told Catholic News Service.

Sister Matutina said her commitment to the stewardship of creation was beckoned to her convent near Mati in eastern Mindanao. Along with three companions, including one novice from her congregation, she had gone to the village at the invitation of community leaders to lead a discussion about local environmental concerns. The four were sleeping in the municipal office when the soldiers, wearing ski masks and missing the nametags on their uniforms, burst into the building in the middle of the night.

"We have this very Benedictine gesture where we lift our arms in surrender to God. We make it standing and kneeling, and in bed," she said. "We have this gesture where we lift our arms in surrender to God. We make it standing and kneeling, and in bed.

"We have this very Benedictine gesture where we lift our arms in surrender to God. We make it standing and kneeling, and in bed, this gesture before they killed me, arms up, I felt like I was making this gesture before they killed me, handing over my life to God." Sister Stella said the soldiers kept her arms up, "I didn't know at first who they were, and when they told us to put our arms up, I felt like I was making this gesture before they killed me, handing over my life to God."

The nun said the soldiers kept insisting the four were members of the New People’s Army, a rebel group. She said the squad’s leader, Lt. Ron Soria, announced they were waiting for an order over the radio to execute the detainees. The soldiers interrogated the four for most of the next day before turning them over to the head of a local Catholic school, who in turn escorted them to the local parish priest. When the news broke that the military had detained a nun, the army claimed it did not know Sister Stella was a nun since she was not wearing a habit.

"I don't know any conversations where the soldiers sleep in the habit and veil," she said.

continued on Page 15
SHAWNEE — St. Gregory’s University officials are inviting the public to take part in a unique campaign aimed at helping to complete the restoration of a historic landmark. Don Sumner, longtime SGU athletic director emeritus, is leading an initiative to replace Benedictine Hall’s 312 windows with energy-efficient windows. The campaign will help SGD complete its fundraising efforts to restore the nearly 100-year-old building, which sustained major earthquake damage last November.

Photo by Brother George Haas, O.S.B.

Brooks proudly explained that the group never has to solicit donations. Half of the funding comes from unrestricted monetary donations, and the other half comes from crafting done by Project Gabriel’s own volunteers and sold next door in the Benedict Street Marketplace. The group also relies on generous in-kind donations. One example is the building itself, which is donated by a St. Benedict parishioner, who also owns Benedict Street Marketplace next door. Project Gabriel also receives a local seed grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

For more information about Project Gabriel or other Catholic Church Development grants to parish programs, contact Becky VanPool, Archdiocese Director CCHD. She can be reached at cchdoklahoma@gmail.com, or (405) 521-3053.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week
KTLR FM 94.1
KTLR 890 AM

FM 94.1 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - 7 a.m.

AM 890 Schedule:
Monday - Friday: 1 p.m. - until station sign-off at dusk.

Go to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com for the current schedule of programs.
Youth Taking a Stand at the Crossroads

Eight students from “Crossroads” stop for morning Mass and a photo with Father Ray Ackerman at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. These young men and women are a pro-life group walking across America. Starting on the West Coast May 10, they plan on reaching Washington, D.C., on Aug. 11. More information can be found at WWW.crossroadswalk.org.

PTO Seta Final Event

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 1st and South McKinley Avenue, will be held July 28. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10. Door prizes and special recognition will be given for all players born in July. A Magnavox 37-inch flat screen TV will be given away in October and all players get an entry into the drawing.

Irish to Host Clancy Tournament

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop Mccammas Catholic High School is hosting Clancy’s 2012 All Sports Golf Classic on July 23 at Twin Hills Golf Course. To join us for this 18-hole tournament featuring a four-man scramble with a shotgun start. Tournament play begins at 11 a.m. Prizes will be awarded for all participants through presentations, trophies, reflection and small group sharing. The next Begning Experience Weekend, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, will take place at the Catholic Pastoral Center, July 20-22, 2012.

Contact the Office of Family Life at 721-8944 for registration information.

Across Oklahoma

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Contact the Office of Family Life at 721-8944 for registration information.
Head of Vatican Court Describes Leaks as Grave Crimes

By Sarah MacDonald
Catholic News Service
CORK, Ireland (CNS) — The head of the Vatican’s highest court described the spate of leaks of confidential Vatican documents as “most grave crimes” and warned that those responsible must be discovered and “appropriately sanctioned.”

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature, said the confidentiality of Pope Benedict XVI’s communications must be respected in order for the Pope to carry out his work in service of the church.

“It is not a question of hiding anything but of respecting conscience,” the U.S.-born cardinal told reporters following his address to the Fifth Fota International Liturgy Conference.

He added that he was appalled by what had happened in the events dubbed “VatiLeaks” by the Italian media.

“I am trusting and praying that those people will be discovered and they will be properly sanctioned,” he said.

Speaking July 9, the final day of the three-day conference focusing on the theme “Celebrating the Eucharist: Sacrifice and Communion,” Cardinal Burke discussed the Eucharist as a sacrifice in canonical history.

The cardinal particularly mentioned Canon 818, which safeguards against a priest celebrating Mass introducing his own wording, prayers or preaching according to his own judgment.

“...the priest is the servant of the Holy Father. Holy Father must be happy that his work in service of the church. We are free. The thinking behind this is that religion has nothing to do with public life and that within your church or chapel you can worship as you please, but that can’t have anything to do with your public life,” he said.

Cardinal Burke warned that such thinking was “absolutely contrary” to the Christian understanding of conscience. He stressed that sacred liturgy, which was the conference’s focus, had a direct impact on forming Catholic’s conscience and, as a consequence, right to worship as one pleased.

“The thinking behind this is that religion has nothing to do with public life and that within your church or chapel you can worship as you please, but that can’t have anything to do with your public life,” he said.

Cardinal Burke said that anyone who attempted to achieve what was needed to save (the United States) from a sort of totalitarianism in which the state dictates what people are to think and do,” he said.

Church, Okarche (birthplace of Father Faustino Tentorio, a well-known opponent of mining, and in the weeks before his death, spoke to many other ordinary people who gave their lives so that others can live lives worthy of human beings. There are lots of journalists, church workers and peasants who have given up their lives for the Filipino people.”

Sister Noemi said the violence against church workers are just part of a larger pattern of repression. “It’s not just church workers who are being attacked. The attacks on Sister Stella and Father Tentorio are better known because they are church people, but there are so many other ordinary people who gave their lives so that others can live lives worthy of human beings. There are lots of journalists, church workers and peasants who have given up their lives for the Filipino people,” she said.

Sister Stella and her congregation wants to send her back to Europe in October, and she’s torn about whether to go.

“If people are dying by the thousands, it’s high time to go out from our chapels and do something. But my community is afraid I will be killed. The other sisters are proud of what I’ve been doing, but they’re afraid for me.”

“They want me to live life happily. But why worry about my life if people are afraid, and ordinary people are killed every day?”
The U.S. Supreme Court’s long-anticipated ruling on two key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was issued June 28. Few could have anticipated the outcome in National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius. The Court upheld the constitutionality of requiring individuals to enroll in a health plan — the linchpin of the ACA. Writing for the Court, Chief Justice Roberts upheld that requirement as a legitimate exercise of Congress’s constitutionally granted taxing power. Since the ruling was announced, it has been the most spoken about — at least on the television or radio or in the online world — because it has to do with the health reform law and how it will affect millions of people across the country.

As the Supreme Court’s decision was announced, the most immediate concern was the loss of subsidies for people who buy insurance on the exchanges. But there are other important implications for health care reform, including the potential for changes in the way that health insurance is provided and funded.

For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ask an Oklahoman which state has the highest human trafficking activity and the answer probably will be New York or California. Ask a law enforcement officer in New York or California which state has the most activity related to human trafficking and the answer they’ll give is Oklahoma.

That’s what Mark Elam, director of Oklahoma’s Against Trafficking Humans, told a group attending a meeting about human trafficking at St. Eugene Catholic Church.

"Oklahoma is the crossroads of human trafficking. Look at the interstate highways we have here," Elam said. "One-third of all young girls who are being taken to be sex slaves go through Oklahoma."

Last October Bethany police found the dismembered body of a 19-year-old woman behind a Homeland grocery store. Police later arrested a man and charged him in connection with her murder. Police say the motive was trafficking.

"She was seized as an example to the other girls, ‘Do what I say or this will happen to you,” Elam said.

Last January, police raided a house in southwest Oklahoma City and made four arrests. Police said the four adults were named by Homeland Security Investigation officials as a group responsible for human trafficking. All four were booked into the Oklahoma County Jail after a Homeland Security Investigation claims the group was responsible for aiding and abetting in the commission of human trafficking.

In an interview, Elam said the federal government has the most activity related to human trafficking in the state of Oklahoma.

But Elam said it’s a problem that is growing.

"It’s all about greed," Elam said.

"Human trafficking produces the second highest income for criminals behind drug sales," he said.

Elam said Oklahoma is a prime target for predators looking for young girls to turn into prostitution.

"We’re No. 3 in the percentages of teenage pregnancy, we’re No. 1 in single parent households and we’re No. 1 in the percentage of children going to bed hungry," he said.

"Oklahoma has the reputation that if you want a young girl, then just drive through and stop at a truck stop.

"It’s up to us to stop it. Victims need to know it’s not their fault and there’s someone to call who can help.

For more information, go to www.OATHC.org or call O.A.T.H. at (405) 418-8445.

The Supreme Court Has Ruled. Now What?

The U.S. Supreme Court’s long-awaited ruling on two key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was issued June 28. Few could have anticipated the outcome in National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius. The Court upheld the constitutionality of requiring individuals to enroll in a health plan — the linchpin of the ACA. Writing for the Court, Chief Justice Roberts upheld that requirement as a legitimate exercise of Congress’s constitutionally granted taxing power. Since the ruling was announced, it has been the most spoken about — at least on the television or radio or in the online world — because it has to do with the health reform law and how it will affect millions of people across the country.

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Calendar

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15 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis of Assisi meets at 7:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Debro on 580-6868.

17-25 Monthly Novena to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of novena to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

19 TAP into FAITH! Father Ray Ackerman, new pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond. Come out for drinks or dinner, hear an interesting talk on important Catholic issues, and meet other interesting talk on important Catholic issues.

21 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturdays of each month beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Tony Harveloon at (405) 341-2199, or tmoklahoma@obglobal.net.

21 Theology del Cuerpo. ‘¿Te has preguntado que es el amor?’ ‘¿Es lo mismo el amor y el sexo?’ ‘¿Existen dos verdaderos significados de la sexualidad humana?’ ‘¿Qué importancia tiene la sexualidad dentro del matrimonio?’ ¿En nuestras días todo debe tomar una forma pero solo hay una que supera a todas ellas. La opinión de Dios es la más importante porque él es el Criador de todo. Ver y dese- charle lo que Dios nos dice en cuanto a la sexualidad humana. Este programa sera todo en español y sera abierto a todo el publico. Sirve como un suplemento a parque preparando- se para el matrimonio como tambien enriquecimiento para pare- jas casadas. El programa tomará lugar el Sabado, 21 de Julio en el Centro Pastoral Católicos, 751 W. N.W. Expressway, Oklahoma City de a.m. – p.m. La registracion empieza a las 8:30 e el costo por la comida se $14 por pareja y $7 por persona. Para llenar la oficina del Vida Familiar al (405)723-8944 para registrarse. No hay cuidado de ninos.

22 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. Theresa meets at Little Flower Church, Oklahoma City, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Katie Pynes at (405) 210-4268 or Betty Sharp at (405) 418-4275.

22 St. Charles Singles Dance at the church, from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call All at 611-7935.

22-25 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes bless- ing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Liturgy of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

24 National Shrine of the Infant Jesus is located at Saint Womanusco Catholic Church at 304 Tim Joe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080, or shrineofinfantjesus.com.

28 Bishop McGuinness Clancy’s 2012 All Sports Golf Classic at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. This 18-hole tournament features a four-man scramble with a shotgun start. Tournament play begins at 1 p.m. Each team selects the best shot from the tee through the last putt. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place, longest drive, hit the green closest to the pin. Check-in begins at noon. There will be an award dinner following the tournament. Proceeds benefit the Fighting Irish athletic programs.

103rd Annual Golf Outing – 3 p.m. La registracion empieza a 12 p.m. Los equipos estarán en el Club de Golf Twin Hills, Arthur Sodoma, president. Para más información, llamar a 611-7935.

Jobs Box

Director of Hispanic Ministry
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Director of Hispanic Ministry (full-time position). Minimum qualifications include bachelor or master's degree in theology or related field. In lieu of degree, several years of experience in this type of position or ministry could be substituted, at least five years of experience in Hispanic Ministry on the parish and/or diocesan level, as well as experience in ecclesiastical/ministerial leadership and planning required. Must be bi-lingual (English/Spanish) and a practicing Roman Catholic. Applications (required) are available online at www.archokc.org or by request from Father William L. Novak, V.G., at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 405-721-5651. Applicants must submit a complete and up-to-date resume and two letters of recommendation.

Middle School Teaching Position
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is now accepting applications for a middle school teaching position for the 2012-13 school year. Science, certification of science and math. Interested individual should submit their cover letter and resume to hr@stgregorys.edu.

Middle School Language Arts
Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is accepting applications for a full-time middle school language arts teacher. Qualified applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education or middle school English. Please send a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Tammy Jacobs, P.O. Box 480, Okarche, Okla. 73072; email tjacobs-480@cox.net.

Full-Time Teaching Position
The Catholic School of St. Eugene in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a certified fourth-grade teaching position for the 2012-2013 school year. Interested applicants must submit their cover letter and resume to Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Safe Environment Training Program.

Special Education Teacher
Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy in Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time teacher to teach children ages 3-9 with autistic spectrum disorders in an 11-month school-year program beginning in August 2012. The teacher must hold a standard Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in special education and one or more elementary education or early childhood education. Preference for a candidate who has completed train- ing in Applied Behavior Analysis and experience teaching children with autism. Please submit Archdiocese application along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Donna Krause, Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, 13408 N Meridian Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120. The application form may be found at www.archokc.org.

High School Science Teacher
All Saints Catholic School in Norman is accepting applications for the position of junior high science teacher. In addition to classroom instruction, the teacher will be responsible for co-teaching the science class and coordinating student lesson plans for the entire school, regional and state science fairs. All applicants must hold current Oklahoma teacher certification. Mail or fax resumes to Leslie Shumski, Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 4001 36th Avenue, NW, Norman, Okla. 73072, fax (405) 447-7227.

Full-Time Kindergarten
St. Mary’s Catholic School in Lawton is seeking a quality teacher having a challenging career in Catholic education. Will have the following opening for next year: kindergarten full-time. Degree and certification are preferred for teaching positions. All applicants should submit resumes and copy of application, in addition, for teaching positions, submit transcripts to Paula J Dolcimas, 611 NW A Avenue, Lawton, Okla. 73501. Call (580) 525-5288 to schedule an interview.

Junior High Science Teacher
Sts. Mary Catholic School in Guthrie is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2012-2013 school year. Applicants must hold a current Oklahoma Teaching Certificate in middle school subject specific certification areas of science and math. Interested individual should be able to share their faith within an academic challenging classroom environment. Please send resumes to St. Mary Catholic School, Attention: Sheila Whelan-Guthrie, Principal, 502 E. Warren, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Buckley Team Coordinator
St. Gregory’s University is looking for a coordinator for the Buckley Team. This essential role will help the student to gain a critical understanding of the role of the function of the position are to super- visory team. Responsible for recruitment, selection, training, scheduling and supervision of team members. Promote the Catholic and Benedictine Identity and mission of St. Gregory’s University.

Schools in need of assistant principal, middle school principal, high school principal and elementary principal. Please contact the school for more information.

For a full and up-to-date calendar, visit us online at www.souercatholic.org
FOCUS’ and a Goal

Brzozowski Meets With Students to Spread Words of Faith

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

HARRAH — Anna Brzozowski has one FOCUS when it comes to meeting with college students — bringing them to understand the unlimited, merciful love their Savior Jesus Christ has for them. Brzozowski is a Campus Missionary for “FOCUS,” which stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students. For five years she served as a camp counselor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. When she returned to the camp just prior to the Fourth of July, she was greeted like a celebrity. Younger female counselors swarmed around her “Anna B, Anna B” they called out as they realized she had arrived.

A graduate of Texas State University, the personable Brzozowski found herself called to the FOCUS ministry after it was introduced to her.

A standout basketball player, Brzozowski said she was like many young people today; "I was confused, lonely and not living the life Christ wanted for me," she said.

It was at this time she was introduced to "FOCUS," the campus ministry created by Curtis Martin of EWTN fame. A young woman approached her and began talking with her about her relationship with Christ.

Brzozowski said she took the conversation as "a sign from God" that she needed to develop a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him.

"It was like God was telling me, "You're not trying hard enough to find me,"" Brzozowski said. She then started attending FOCUS meetings and Bible studies while at Texas State. Soon she was living the way she knew God wanted her to and was experiencing great joy in her life. The college party scene was no longer fun and the people helping were angels sent to bring them to understand the empty spaces. Maybe there were people who understood the empty spaces. Maybe there were people who could help me move on in my life.

I wanted out of the terrible stinky mud hole in which I seemed to be stuck, and I wanted to think about it too much. But something had happened and I was completely unaware that my ability to do that job had deteriorated until it was brought to my attention that a month's work was full of errors and inconsistencies. I was ashamed and had to face the reality that I was no longer the person I used to be. I was ashamed and had to face the reality that I was not bouncing back from the end of my marriage.

"It was as though my life had no future," Brzozowski said. "I was confused, lonely and not living the life Christ wanted for me," she said.

With a degree in physical education, Brzozowski has put off entering the job market, instead agreeing to work for two years for FOCUS as a campus coordinator. She will leave for Arizona State University in August, not returning to Oklahoma until December when she is scheduled to meet with Archbishop Cicokley.

Brzozowski said FOCUS chapters are being developed at the University of Oklahoma and Tulsa University this year with plans to tackle Oklahoma State University in hopefully the near future.

A member at Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Harrah, Brzozowski said the impact of FOCUS at Arizona State University has been dramatic. In its first year, 105 students signed up to participate, and from that number 21 "student leaders" have emerged. Two male students have entered seminary and one woman has chosen to pursue a religious calling.

Brzozowski said FOCUS is greatly needed at this time as the culture of death constantly stalks all young people. She said as many young people believe they have done so much wrong in their lives that God could never love them enough to forgive them.

"If you would like to know more about FOCUS or help support Brzozowski, go to www.focususa.org or call 405-724-8928 if you have any questions or for additional information," she said.

If you are looking for answers about how to deal with the changes in your life, please join us for the next Beginning Experience Weekend, which is scheduled to be held July 20, 21 and 22 at the Pastoral Center, which is located at 7501 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

The $100 fee required in Oklahoma City pays for registration, supplies, lodging and meals. Call the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8924 or Martha Avila at (405) 724-8926 if you have any questions or for additional information. We will be glad to help.

Life can be filled with joy once again — you just have to reach out.

Anna Brzozowski is greeted by a swarm of smiling counselors as she arrived at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A proposed $16 billion cut in the nation's Supplemental Nutritional and Assistance Program is “unjustified and wrong,” said a joint letter from the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ domestic and international justice committees, leaders of Catholic Relief Services and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.


“At this time of economic hardship and continued high unemployment, the committee should protect essential programs that serve poor and hungry people. To cut programs that feed hungry people in the midst of economic turmoil is unjustified and wrong,” the letter said.

“A just farm bill requires shared sacrifice by all but cannot rely on disproportionate cuts to essential services for hungry, poor and vulnerable people,” it said.

The letter was signed by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace; Carolyn Woo, president of Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB’s international relief and development agency; and James Ennis, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

The letter critiqued the Agriculture Committee’s Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act. The full committee was to meet July 11 to consider the more than 100 amendments to the measure; a vote had not been scheduled as of mid-day.

The bill must pass out of committee before the full House can consider it. The Senate passed its version of the farm bill in late June. It contained only $4 billion in SNAP cuts, which Senate Agriculture Committee members said could be achieved by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse.

Any differences between the House and Senate versions would have to be resolved by a joint House-Senate conference committee. The current farm bill expires Sept. 30.

The letter also faulted Catholic leaders for opposing the bill and calling for more funds for SNAP. The letter praised the House Agriculture Committee’s work on international food security and development, saying it “wisely allocates $400 million annually for Food for Peace non-emergency programs to help combat the underlying causes of long-term hunger in the poorest countries. The House bill also increases spending on conservation and rural development programs.”

With an Oklahoma state income tax credit obtained by a gift to the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund, for every $2 you give, you’ll get up to a $1 state tax credit (up to a $1,000 gift for individual tax payers and a $2,000 gift for married couples filing jointly). Tax Credit will in the tax year 2013 but includes gifts made in 2011, 2012 and 2013. It’s simple—the more you give, the more you save. The numbers will vary, but here’s an example for someone in the 35 percent federal tax bracket:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation to Any 501(c)(3) Charity</th>
<th>Donation to the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Deduction: -700</td>
<td>Federal Deduction: -700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Deduction: -110</td>
<td>State Deduction: -110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cost to the Donor: $1190</td>
<td>OK State Income Tax Credit: $100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THAT’S A SAVINGS OF $1000!

When St. Paul describes the gifts God has given the church, he includes teaching among the most important (1 Cor 12:28). No surprise there. “Go teach!” was the final mandate of Jesus. History has long taught that without teachers to announce the Gospel and educe the young, the church struggles to survive. Evangelization through good teaching is essential to Catholic life. Please consider supporting Catholic Schools by making a donation to the Catholic School Opportunity Scholarship Fund today. Thank you for your thoughtful gift.
Faith, Hope and Love Await Youth Camp Attendees

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

OLOG — The words “Faith, Hope and Love” jump out to all who make their way to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. The sidewalk chalk is a colorful statement to the joy that sprang forth from the hundreds of young campers who attend weekly sessions during the summer.

This summer is no exception. While the campers enjoy a week filled with prayer and worship, they also fall head first into any number of fun activities such as canoeing, swimming, archery, basketball, arts and crafts, volleyball, soccer and much more. And while the campers take great delight in these activities, the young people who serve as camp counselors appear to get just as much from coordinating the non-stop action.

“Oh, this is the greatest job ever,” said Madeline Mahoney. This is Mahoney’s fourth summer to serve as a counselor at OLOG. A nursing student at the University of Oklahoma and a member of Epiphany Church in Oklahoma City, Mahoney said counseling at OLOG is not really like work.

“I would probably pay them to let me work here, it’s so wonderful,” she said. “It’s not even like a job.”

David Crall, a second-year counselor and a sophomore at OSU, said OLOG is a “great environment” for campers as well as counselors.

Crall said he attends Our Lady of Sorrows in Chandler, just a short drive from OLOG, which is situated in a picturesque location along the Oklahoma and Lincoln County lines.

“This is just really a special place,” he said.

Tony Taetano is from Tuttle and is a student at Oklahoma City Community College. This is his fourth year to serve as a counselor.

Taetano jokes with the middle-school students, spraying them with sunscreen before they take a dip in the camp pool.

“I love it,” he said, referring to his counseling position.

Nancy Housh serves as Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese. She has been director of OLOG for 25 years. Housh said the counselors are usually young people who enjoyed attending OLOG as campers. They know the camp inside and out and have a calling to work with young people.

Cecy Woods serves as the first aid coordinator at OLOG. She attends Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City and plans to study early childhood education at OSU-OKC.

Woods said physical injuries are few and far between at OLOG. The kind of first aid she is more apt to administer usually requires a cool drink of Gatorade and a pat on the back.

“I deal with homesickness the first few days of camp more than anything else,” Woods said. “They just need someone to listen to them. They want that family feel they left at home.”

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