Workers from Catholic Charities were on the scene offering assistance to many of the families who lost homes to the devastating wildfires that recently charred portions of the state.

Damon Britton, associate director of Children and Family Services, said the Catholic Charities workers handed out gift cards and gas cards to about a dozen families the day after the Luther area was hit by a massive fire. He said most of the families were either uninsured or were “under-insured.” Dozens of homes were destroyed.

“They have lost everything,” Britton said.

The Red Cross established a command post at the Luther High School and that’s where the Catholic Charities workers made contact with those in need.

The crew from Catholic Charities was scheduled to meet also with those who lost homes in Cleveland and Payne counties. Some 75 homes were believed to have been destroyed in the area around Noble in Cleveland County alone.

“We’re assessing short-term needs” at this time, Britton said, before moving into long-term assistance.

Ashley Moore, director of Family Support for Catholic Charities, has been helping to spearhead the assistance effort, Britton said. He said seven case workers are involved in meeting with victims of the wildfires around the state and are providing them needed assistance.
Coming Soon to a Parish Near Yours

Since arriving in the Archdiocese in February 2011, I have gained a passing acquaintance with most of the parish communities of the Archdiocese. I still have much to learn. My appreciation of the rich history and vitality of the Church in Oklahoma continues to deepen. Though we constitute a relatively small minority of the overall population of the state, we have had a great impact in many areas that affect the common good including education, health care and social services. The Catholic Church has been a beacon of truth and a leaven for good in society and in our communities.

Scanning the environment in which we Oklahoma Catholics live today reveals many important and noteworthy trends.

— We are living during a period of rapid cultural and social change. This is being driven in part by a globalized economy and facilitated by new digital technology and social media.

— We are ethnically diverse and the growing edge of our Catholic population in Oklahoma comes from a rapidly increasing Hispanic presence.

— We are being challenged by an increasingly hostile secular spirit that poses threats to fundamental freedoms such as religious liberty and the right to life.

— While the overall economic outlook for much of our area looks bright, many in our midst continue to live in poverty and in the shadows where they are vulnerable to exploitation.

— Many of these factors, and others beside, contribute to a weakening of marriage and traditional family structures, which in turn undermines our ability to hand on the faith effectively.

Recognize these new realities has led our recent months ahead. But I wanted you to hear it first from me.

Listening Sessions: Mutually Shared Vision

As the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City continues to serve the Kingdom of God in our midst, Archbishop Coakley, along with a representative team of leaders from the Archdiocese, is seeking your input and counsel. Listening sessions will take place according to the schedule below, to address the following questions:

1. What is your vision for our future over the next five years?
2. What three priorities would you like to see the Archdiocese embrace over a 24-month time period?

On behalf of Archbishop Coakley, we would welcome your input on these two questions as a means to facilitate discernment. The purpose is to develop a Mutually Shared Vision that expresses the life and future direction of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Please do remember this discernment effort in your prayer. Thank you.

Listening Sessions around the Archdiocese

Tuesday, September 11, 7 to 9 p.m.
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Monsignor Connor Center
3214 N. Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City

Thursday, September 27, 7 to 9 p.m.
St. Mark the Evangelist Church
Parish Hall
3939 West Tecumseh Road, Norman

Tuesday, October 9, 7 to 9 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier Church
Leven Center
110 North Madison Street, Enid

Wednesday, October 10, 7 to 9 p.m.
Saint Peter Church
1220 N. Quinn Street, Guymon

Tuesday, October 16, 7 to 9 p.m.
Saint Mary Church
St. Joseph Hall
1218 Knox Avenue, Clinton

Thursday, November 8, 7 to 9 p.m.
Holy Family Church
Kirk Hall
1010 NW 82nd Street, Lawton

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

August 12 — Mass, Saint Matthew Church, Elk City, 10:30 a.m.
August 13 — Seminarian Days, Catholic Pastoral Center
August 13 — Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
August 14 — Department Head Meeting at Catholic Pastoral Center, 10 a.m.
August 14 — Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:30 a.m.
August 14 — Finance Council Meeting at Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
August 17 — Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc. Board Meeting at Saint Monica Church, Edmond, 1 p.m.
August 17 — Speakers Dinner, Women of Faith, Women of Action Conference, Catholic Pastoral Center, 6 p.m.
August 18 — Mass for Women of Faith, Women of Action Conference, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 5:30 p.m.
Parishioners Raise ‘Voices’ for Immigration

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Father Raul Reyes is pastor of the Little Flower Catholic Church on South Walker. The majority of his parishioners are Hispanic. That’s one of the reasons the Voices Organized in Civic Engagement decided to hold an “Interfaith Prayer Service on Immigration” at Little Flower on July 19.

Voices’ members are Catholics, Protestants and members of non-profit groups, who meet to discuss and take action on community issues. Several hundred people attended the service.

Father Reyes said most of his parishioners are “very hopeful” about an administrative order concerning immigrants. The proposal would basically provide conditional permanent residency to certain illegal individuals of good moral character who have graduated from a U.S. high school, arrived in the United States as minors, and lived in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the order’s enactment. If they were to complete two years in the military or two years at a four-year institution of higher learning, they would obtain temporary residency for a six-year period.

“There are other parts of the law that are not pleasing to us, such as the showing of the papers. For many of our people, there are no borders. At the drop of a hat they go back home, they go back as forth continuously, they visit friends,” Father Reyes said.

However, he said, Hispanics are concerned about strict immigration policies that have been enacted in various states, including Arizona.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago prays with those involved in ministry to immigrants and former detainees at Broadview Immigrant Detention Center-July 27 in Broadview, Ill. Cook County deportations take place here on Friday and Saturday. The group prays here every Friday when the deportation bases arrive to take immigrant detainees to jail. The detention center in Broadview is operated by the Chicago office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and oversees all detainees in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Kentucky. At any given time there are about 1,000 people in custody. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World, July 27, 2012)

“...the Church is the place where illegal immigrants are also recognized and accepted as brothers and sisters. It is the task of the various dioceses actively to ensure that these people, who are obligated to live outside the safety net of civil society, may find a sense of brotherhood in the Christian community.”

Pastor George Young of Holy Temple Baptist Church said the service has prompted him to revisit the immigration issue at his church.

“This is something we have talked about at our church,” Young said. “A couple of years ago we put together a policy on immigration that we put into our bylaws, but we really haven’t done much with it.

“When I get back to my church, I’m going to pull it out and get people to continue to take some action involving immigration. What can be done to one group of people can be done to another group,” Young said.

Linda Clark, a St. Charles Borromeo parishioner and a member of Voices, said the group selects issues to discuss and take action on by talking to members of their parishes.

“We ask them what are the issues you are concerned about and what would you be willing to work on,” she said.

Catholic Charities to Offer New Immigration Policy Legal Assistance

OKLAHOMA CITY — The hopes of many young immigrants for immigration benefits has grown since President Barack Obama’s June 15 announcement providing deferred removal for certain undocumented young immigrants. With the new policy, however, has come a great deal of misinformation, warn immigration attorneys from the Immigration Assistance Program at Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City.

“One of the largest misperceptions is that policy offers a path to citizenship — it does not. Instead, it offers relief to some young immigrants that was not previously available, including temporary legal protection from removal and the right to request work authorization,” said Richard Klinge, Catholic Charities’ associate director of advocacy, outreach and legal services. “Nevertheless, many of the details of this policy are still in development by the government and the final rules will not be available for several weeks. In the meantime, we are interviewing clients to both identify those who meet the preliminary eligibility requirements and to assist them in identifying the documents that will be needed to ultimately apply for these new benefits.”

According to Klinge, this is not a blanket policy covering all undocumented young people. Instead, all requests for deferred action will be reviewed by the government on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for the deferred action, young immigrants must meet the following requirements:

- Be 15 to 30 years old
- Have entered the United States before the age of 16
- Have been present in the United States for five years as of June 15, 2012
- Have not been convicted of one serious crime or multiple minor crimes
- Be currently enrolled in school, graduated or have a GED, or have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States.

Despite the fact that the government has not issued the final rules for eligibility, Klinge warns there are already unscrupulous persons who are looking to profit off the recent announcement and to prey upon the hopes of these young immigrants by charging excessive fees and promising services they cannot deliver to those individuals. Instead, he encourages individuals, who wish to learn more about the new benefits and to determine if they are eligible for them, to immediately contact the immigration attorneys at Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3001.

Klinge says that Catholic Charities looks forward to serving the legal needs of the young immigrants who qualify for these new benefits.

Archbishop to Lead Holy Land Pilgrimage

Archbishop Coakley will be the spiritual director for pilgrims traveling to Poland, Prague and the Holy Land Oct. 18 through Nov. 1.

Highlights of the trip will include Częstochowa, Wadowice (birthplace of Pope John Paul II), Auschwitz, Krakow and Prague. In the Holy Land the pilgrimage will explore Mt. Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gethsemane and many other places, including a walk of the Palm Sunday route of Jesus, and praying the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa. This pilgrimage is sponsored by the Southwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Membership in the Equestrian Order is not required to join the pilgrimage. Space is limited.

For more information, contact Michele Malloy at 713-819-7318, or visit Archbishop Coakley’s page on the Archdiocese website at www.archhouston.org to download a brochure.
OU Professor Appointed to Pontifical Academy

By Anamaria Scaperlanda Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

In May, Professor Allen D. Hertzke of the University of Oklahoma was appointed as the most recent Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, joining fellow Oklahoman Russell Hittinger of the University of Tulsa as one of six Americans in the Academy.

The Pontifical Academy, established by Pope John Paul II in 1994, "has the aim of promoting the study and progress of the social, economic, political and juridical sciences, offering the Church the elements which she can use in the study and development of her social doctrine. The Academy also reflects on the application of that doctrine in contemporary society." Hertzke was appointed after presenting at the Academy’s XVII Plenary Session in May 2013 on religious freedom. Hertzke, Presidential Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma and an internationally recognized expert on religion and politics, used his research and expertise to give a talk titled Religious Freedom in the World Today: Paradox and Promise. Mary Ann Glendon, professor of law at Harvard and head of the Academy, drew heavily on Hertzke’s talk in her closing remarks.

Hertzke said, “Allen Hertzke was invited to address the Academy at that session because we were looking for a person who could provide us with an accurate overview of the state of religious freedom in the world today. The members were deeply impressed not only by the substance of his presentation, but by his rare combination of profound expertise with a truly international outlook, a thorough grounding in Catholic Social Thought, and terrific communication skills.”

Members of the Academy submit names for new possible members to the Pope. “It is the Roman custom to submit a list of three names (a “terna”) to the Pope,” as Dr. Hittinger described the process. “While the Academy weighs the list in favor of the person who received the most votes by ordinary members, it is the Pope’s prerogative to select whoever he pleases. Sometimes the Pope will ask for a second terna. Professor Hertzke was selected the first time his name appeared on a list of candidates.”

Dr. Hertzke said he was “stunned” when he heard of his appointment to the Academy a year after the conference. He stated, “I am very honored and humbled. I do see it as a great opportunity and responsibility.”

Additionally, Hertzke said the appointment, “elevates the work I’ve been doing and enhances the gravitas of my calling. It provides a vehicle for expanding the kind of scholarship that I do, in the sense that it takes work out of purely academic circles and into more applied contexts.”

Hertzke’s scholarly career has focused on religious freedom, beginning with domestic issues of religious freedom and, more recently, international issues surrounding religious freedom. As Hittinger said, “The issue of religious liberty is rather urgent for the Catholic Church. In many Islamic countries, ancient churches have been persecuted to the point of extinction; violence against Christians, including Catholics, persists in sub-Saharan Africa; and in the developed world of the West (and her former colonies), there has emerged a soft-persecution of Catholic institutions.” A social scientist like Professor Hertzke will help us to understand not only the moral and legal dimensions of the issue, but particularly the social situation of religion, which varies region by region.”

Hertzke’s depth of understanding provides benefit to his students at OU as well, and his membership in the Academy will provide additional benefit from Dr. Hertzke’s teaching, enabling students a glimpse into the perspective he receives from being a part of the rich collection of scholars. His involvement in the plenary session has already bolstered his teaching, enabling him “to incorporate new work in [his] material and providing students the back story of scholars.” For example, Dr. Hertzke met a distinguished Muslim scholar at the Vatican and was able to share about this experience with his students.

Dedicated to his students, Hertzke and his wife, Barbara Norton, are the Faculty-in-Resident at one of the undergraduate dorms, providing both of them with a special opportunity for interaction with OU students. They host events such as Cinnamon Roll Sunday. Additionally, they attend St. Thomas More Parish in Norman, the university parish.

Members of the Academy welcome this great scholar and teacher to their ranks. Dr. Glendon said, “As an internationally recognized expert in politics and religion, he is ideally suited to assist the academicians in fulfilling their difficult … mandate. There is great enthusiasm among the members for his appointment.”

Hertzke Discusses Religious Freedom with Priests

By Ray Dyer
Sooner Catholic

Dr. Allen D. Hertzke spent a day at the Catholic Pastoral Center discussing religious freedom with priests of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Hertzke is the University of Oklahoma professor recently named to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. He is considered an expert in the field of religious freedom.

Hertzke took the priests, as well as some employees of Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese on a journey through American history, pointing out the roots of religious freedom in our nation. At one time it was actually illegal to be Catholic in the United States, he said.

Hertzke said threats to religious freedom offer both “serious” challenges and “great” opportunities. He said those who fought earlier in our nation’s history understood that “conscience is meaningless unless you can act on it.”

Hertzke said that Americans, because of our religious freedoms, are actually among the most religiously tolerant people in the world. Hertzke said it is documented that religious liberty fosters “citizen loyalty and thriving, peaceful societies.”

Our nation’s history is littered with attempts by government to curtail religious liberty. At the same time, heroes who fought to keep those religious liberties emerged from any number of faiths or groups.

“When groups fight for religious rights, it creates space for others in a civil society,” Hertzke said. “On the other hand, when religious liberty is narrowed for some, it redounds against others.”
Catholic Foundation 2012 Grant Applications Available

Catholic Foundation board member John Hefner recently presented Anne Codding, principal at St. James the Greater Catholic School, with a $2,000 check for an educational grant awarded the school last year.

The grant, written for the school’s Early Childhood program, was used to purchase a learning system encompassing reading, mathematics, social studies and science geared for the academic level of the very young learners in pre-kindergarten. The system was purchased immediately when the school learned they had received the grant and was implemented in January for the second semester. It will continue to be used by each subsequent class.

The Catholic Foundation annually awards grants in support of education-related projects to parishes, schools and religious education programs through the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In addition to program materials, many of the grant requests have focused on computers, audio-visual equipment and technology as a means of engaging more students in the education process.

The grants program this year has an additional focus on school STEM programs. STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics. A portion of the new money available will go toward promoting new or existing STEM programs in the Catholic schools. The foundation is particularly interested in grants for STEM programs in classrooms that will offer a curriculum that is integrated, emphasizes questioning and inquiry, and gives students frequent opportunities to apply engineering design and problem-solving. The foundation desires to support classroom teachers who will gain access to standards-based instructional tools, quality curriculum materials and the latest Internet materials through its grants program.

This year, the foundation has budgeted $75,000 for the grants program. Applications will be accepted from now until Friday, Sept. 28. Grant applications have been sent to all pastors, parish directors of Religious Education and school principals throughout the Archdiocese. Additionally, the grant application form is linked to this website for downloading.

For more information, please contact Barney Semtner at (405) 721-4115, or email bsemtner@archokc.org.

Faith in God Gives Life Full Meaning, Pope Says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — While people obviously need to provide for their families and even make sure they get some rest and relaxation, the Gospel teaches that it’s even more crucial to strengthen one’s relationship with God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Jesus wants to help people go beyond the immediate satisfaction of their material needs, important as they are,” he said Aug. 5, commenting on the Sunday Gospel reading during his midday Angelus address. Jesus’ mission is to open people’s eyes to the possibility of an “existence that is not simply that of the daily worries” about what to eat, what to wear and how to advance in their careers, he said.

“The center of existence, that which gives full meaning and solid hope to the often difficult journey (of life) is faith in Christ, an encounter with Christ,” the Pope told a crowd gathered in the courtyard of his summer villa for the recitation of the Marian prayer.

“On days filled with activities and problems, but even on days of rest and relaxation, the Lord asks us not to forget that while it’s necessary to provide for material bread and restore our energy, even more fundamental is the need to deepen our relationship with him, reinforce our faith in the one who is the ‘bread of life,’ who fulfills our desire for truth and love,” the Pope said.
Pastoral Ministry Offers Fall Classes

The Pastoral Ministry Program is offering three courses this fall.

Sacramental Theology
This class will meet on Tuesdays, Aug. 5-Dec. 4, 7 to 10 p.m., taught by Peggie Dooley, Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century will meet on Thursdays, Aug. 23-Dec. 6, 7 to 10 p.m., taught by Amy Smith.

The courses will be offered at the Catholic Pastoral Center, as well as three of the following four locations: St. Francis, Enid; St. Peter, Woodward; St. Mary, Clinton; Prince of Peace, Altus; and Holy Family, Lawton. Final locations will depend upon registrations.

Introduction to Doctrine
Introduction to Doctrine is a course that reflects on the Creed, the sacraments, the commandments, and the Our Father, and serves as an introduction to the study of pastoral ministry. The course will be taught by John Warren, and will meet at Our Lady of Victory, Purcell, Tuesdays, Aug. 21 to Dec. 4, 7 to 10 p.m.

Vatican II: Fifty Years and Still Renewing
A three-week seminar being offered by the Pastoral Ministry Office, Vatican II: Fifty Years and Still Renewing is an adult faith formation experience. The seminar will meet on Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9 p.m., Sept. 17, Oct. 1 and Oct. 15, led by Joe McCrone.

Sessions will cover an overview of the Council and its pivotal themes, consider the People of God as coming to be persons within a community of faith, and look at the evangelical call to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and their implications for revitalizing our prophetic missions. The seminar sessions will be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, as well as some of our remote sites (depending on registrations), including locations such as St. Francis, Enid, St. Peter, Woodward, St. Mary, Clinton; Prince of Peace, Altus; and Holy Family, Lawton.

For more information on any of the Pastoral Ministry Program courses, for costs and textbook information or to register for a course, please call or email the Pastoral Ministry Office at (405) 721-4208, or email pmp@archokc.org.

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The Tax Man Cometh — How Will Church Institutions Pay for Health Care Reform?

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the head of a small evangelical college serving 2,400 undergraduates and 600 graduate students, Rev. Philip Graham Ryken has no quarrel with contraceptives approved by the Food and Drug Administration — including twp that contain a hormone mimicking a natural egg — free of charge to its employees.

If the school is unable to offer health coverage which complies with its moral and religious beliefs, that position could put him in line for taxes and penalties totaling $1.4 million a year for faculty and staff alone, Rev. Ryken said at a recent teleconference announcing a lawsuit against the contraceptive mandate.

Those tax credits will be available to individuals and families with income between 133 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2012, the federal poverty level was $11,170 for an individual and $23,050 for a family of four, meaning that tax credits could go to families of four with income as high as $92,200.

With more than 107,000 faculty and staff members at more than 200 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities, the total potential tax liability in Catholic higher education could be staggering if they feel compelled to drop their insurance.

Add to that the nation’s 629 Catholic hospitals employing more than 640,000 people, and the 381,000 people who work in 3,300 local Catholic Charities offices around the country, and the costs could swamp an already financially beleaguered U.S. Catholic Church.

But the penalty on employers is far from the only tax contained in the health reform law to take effect Jan. 1, 2014.

• An increase in Medicare payroll taxes from 1.45 percent to 2.35 percent on earnings over $200,000 for individuals and $250,000 for married couples filing jointly, effective Jan. 1, 2013. The tax will apply only to amounts above the thresholds and will be levied on insurers and self-insured employers, not directly on employees.

• Annual fees of up to $4.1 billion (in 2018) on the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector. The fee for 2012-13 was $2.8 billion.

• Annual fees of up to $14.3 billion (in 2018) on the health insurance sector. The first fee of $8 billion, is to be imposed in 2014. Those who itemize deductions on their tax returns will see the threshold for medical deductions rise from 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income to 10 percent beginning in 2013, except for people 65 and over. Contributions to flexible spending accounts for medical expenses will be capped at $2,500 a year in 2013, with any later increases pegged to the cost of living.

Other taxes and penalties are likely to arise as various federal agencies issue their final regulations related to the health-care law.

Jonathan H. Adler of Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland and Michael F. Cannon of the Cato Institute contend that the IRS has erred in ruling that those who live in states that decline to establish state insurance exchanges “will bepersons within a community of faith, and look at the evangelical call to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and their implications for revitalizing our prophetic missions. The seminar sessions will be available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, as well as some of our remote sites (depending on registrations), including locations such as St. Francis, Enid, St. Peter, Woodward, St. Mary, Clinton; Prince of Peace, Altus; and Holy Family, Lawton.

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ANNUNCIATION RAmA Of OLaKoma

The Tax Man Cometh — How Will Church Institutions Pay for Health Care Reform?

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El Reno’s Sacred Heart Expands to Include Sixth Grade

By Traci Chapman
For the Sooner Catholic

EL RENO — Sacred Heart Catholic School’s 2012 fifth-grade graduates will do something no other class before them has done in a long time — return to the school for their sixth-grade year.

Principal Shannon Statton said school officials decided last fall to add sixth grade beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. With about 121 students enrolled before the change, Statton said 11 of those are registered for the fall sixth-grade class.

“Our numbers are up, and many of our fall classes already had waiting lists as of June, so we are very excited about this change,” Statton said.

The school’s total education committee first studied the grade addition proposal. After the committee’s vote in January to make the change, the decision then came down to Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Sister Catherine Powers, now retired, who served as the Oklahoma City Archdiocese’s superintendent of schools.

With the school’s changes come three more — in the form of three new teachers at the school, Statton said. Deanne Lagaly, Angie Knight and Mary Sine recently joined Sacred Heart, and Statton said the timing “couldn’t be better.”

“We’re so blessed to have parents support us in everything we do,” Statton said. “We couldn’t do any of this without them.”
By Ray Dyer

OAKARCHE — Holy Trinity Parish celebrated the life of Father Stanley Rother on the 31st anniversary of his death, giving thanks to God for this faithful servant and praying that one day his name will be listed among the official saints of the Church.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley celebrated Mass, and concelebrating were Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran, Father William Lewis, pastor of Holy Trinity, and Father Price Oswalt. At the conclusion of Mass, Father Oswalt announced the creation of the Father Stanley F. Rother Guild. With the blessing of the Archbishop, Father Oswalt will head the Guild, the mission being to help support and promote the “Cause for Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, Father Stanley F. Rother (1935-1981).”

Father Rother is the Okarche-born farm boy who struggled to make it through the seminary, but went on to become a beloved priest who ministered to the impoverished but deeply faithful people of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. He was shot to death in his rectory the night of July 28, 1981. It is widely believed Father Rother was assassinated by a government death squad.

Father Rother is survived in Okarche by dozens of relatives. His brother, Tom Rother, and sister, Sister Marita Rother, took part in the Eucharistic Celebration. Near the conclusion of the Mass they carried a large framed photo of their brother to the altar where it was blessed by Archbishop Coakley.

Jamie Biller sang the beautiful song she wrote in honor of Father Rother, “The Shepherd Cannot Run.” The title refers to the famous line Father Rother penned in a letter home seven months before his death.

Archbishop Coakley said Father Rother serves as a shining example of what it means to follow the path Jesus created for us. “I believe that Father Stanley Rother died as a martyr for the faith when he was slain in his parish on July 28, 1981,” the Archbishop said. “With his death, Father Stanley gave his supreme witness to his faith in Jesus Christ. He lived his life, and gave his life, in a manner worthy of the call he had received. There is no greater love.”

Archbishop Coakley encouraged the faithful to continue praying for the Cause of Father Rother. “Of course, it will be up to the Church to judge whether or not to recognize Father Rother’s death as that of a martyr,” he said. “A martyr’s death is not so much a testimony to the heroism of the one who dies, as an epiphany, a manifestation of God’s presence who reveals himself in a powerful way in our human weakness.

“Our task is to continue praying for Father Rother’s beatification and ultimate canonization. What a gift this would be!”

Following Mass, the Knights of Columbus treated the parish community to a festival complete with moon bounces for the kids, a dunk tank and food.
Milwaukee Bishops Urge Prayers, Reflection After Killings

By Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — The killing of six Sikhs Aug. 5 at their temple in the Milwaukee suburb of Oak Creek brought an outpouring of spiritual support from leaders in the Catholic community, as well as a call for the entire community to examine violence in U.S. culture.

The two bacterial prayers during the Sikh community “that our prayers go out in solidarity with you,” Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki said Aug. 6. “That’s what I felt — that a sanctuary had been invaded.”

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba, long active in interreligious and ecumenical affairs locally, nationally and internationally, said Catholics should consider several things as a result of what happened at the Sikh temple.

“Since the school was first conceived, the bishops said that, ‘because of our strong sacramental tradition,’ the murders should serve as an opportunity for renewal of respect for all holy places and “everyplace that is deemed holy by those who gather.”

He also discussed an important religious item in the Sikh temple, the kirpan, which is a miniature sword. The kirpan requires formally initiated members to at all times wear a kirpan, which is usually carried in a sheath and worn beneath clothing. “It is a symbol of their commitment to fight evil and to resist violence,” the bishop told the Catholic Herald Aug. 6.

Bishop Sklba recalled that when Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in April 2008, he, as then-chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, welcomed the Pope to a meeting with interreligious leaders.

But the Sikhs were not among them, the bishop said, because the FBI would not allow anyone with weapons near the head of a sovereign state.

“Peace, respect, reconciliation and justice are hard work and can only be sustained by a proper understanding of the human person as worthy of absolute respect, as the proper end of human activity,” he added.

Among religious leaders who expressed support for Wisconsin’s Sikh community was the chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore.

“We Catholics mourn with our Sikh brothers and sisters,” he said in an Aug. 6 statement. “The U.S. Bishops stand with the Sikh community against all violence, particularly violence inflicted out of religious intolerance,” the bishop continued. “We are especially saddened that this horrendous act was carried out in a house of worship against people joined together as a family to worship God.”

Olszewski is executive editor and general manager of the Catholic Herald in Milwaukee.

Henry Act

Supreme Court to argue in support of the law. The Archdiocese and School’s request to file an amicus (“friend of the court”) brief states, “This trial” would be important when she found the Henry Scholarship Act to violate the religion clauses of Oklahoma constitution. She erred because the Henry Scholarship is consistent with — and protected by — the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.” In advocating for the constitutionality of the Henry Scholarship Law, the attorney for the Archdiocese and School said, “The Act has as its “unmistakably secular purpose” — to promote the well-being of the students with disabilities. Secondly, the Act did not advance or inhibit religion.

Payments are made to the student, not the schools. And the student may choose a secular school or a religious school. The Henry Scholarship Act provides money for the “use, benefit and support” of disabled children, not religious schools.”

Good Shepherd School represents but a small part of the positive economic impact that Catholic education has on the state of Oklahoma. During the last school year, there were nine schools in the Archdiocese which applied for eligibility to accept children from families who desire to receive scholarship money through the Henry Scholarship Act. Eighteen (18) Oklahoma students attending eight of these Catholic schools received Henry Scholarships, including five attending Good Shepherd School. However, approximately 10,000 students attend Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa. The two Catholic dioceses are the largest nonpublic education provider in Oklahoma. In 2008-2009, public school education in Oklahoma cost an average of $8,006 per student. If the 10,000 students attending Catholic schools were to transfer to and attend Oklahoma public schools, the additional cost to Oklahoma’s state and local governments would be approximately $80 million per year. Catholic schools save taxpayers money.

Due to the small number of students that Good Shepherd School can accommodate because of its specialized curriculum, the viability of the school would be in jeopardy should the Henry Scholarship Act be declared unconstitutional. In response to攻势 litigation, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley stated, “Since the school was first conceived, all those involved, including community leaders and community foundations, have been enthusiastic about the potential of the Henry Scholarship Act and Good Shepherd School. In addition to extending such an innovative and creative attempt to assist Oklahoma families who have children with special needs, a program supported by private and public funding, is now threatened. I pray that the Henry Scholarship Act can continue to help these young children reach their full potential.”

Henry Act

continued from Page 1
A Moment of Decision for a Real Life Catholic

Michael's heel was bouncing as if he was about to break into a sprint, but he didn't know which way to run.

"My friend texted me during your talk saying, 'He walked away, sad.' You're being asked to make the choice right now between your friends and Jesus. I know it's not easy. But don't walk away sad."

He took down and started to cry. He sat down and continued to cry for the next 10 minutes.

What an amazing thing to get a front row seat as Jesus stands before a teenager's heart with love, saying, "Follow me." Right in front of me, a heart was grappling with the invitation of invitations, as countless others have since 33 A.D. For more information about Project Gabriel or this training or to register, call the Office of Family Life at 721-8944.

Project Gabriel Training Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — Project Gabriel is a parish-based outreach designed to assist women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. The training provides assistance to women in a variety of ways, such as acting as a mentor or a volunteer giving auxiliary support, including preparing a meal, helping host a baby shower, gathering items for the new mother-to-be and many other ways of assistance. The training for Project Gabriel volunteers will be held Sept. 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 136.

This training is for those parishes already training to send new volunteers for training, and for those parishes that currently do not have Project Gabriel, it will offer them the opportunity to send personnel with the intention of starting this important ministry.

For more information about Project Gabriel or this training or to register, call the Office of Family Life at 721-8944.

A Place of Hope for Marriages in Distress

TUlsa — A marriage-saving program will start here on Friday evening, Sept. 7, and will go through Sunday afternoon, Sept. 9. The program, Retrouvaille, is a life-saving program for marriages in distress. Communication between husband and wife is the main emphasis of the program. In a safe and private place, a team of three couples and a priest present the program. The presenting couples have experienced extreme marital difficulties themselves and needed help to save their marriage. Their help came when they attended the Retrouvaille program and learned to use the tools offered. They will share the tools they used to turn their marriages around, and will teach those attending how to use them.

The six post-weekend sessions are a crucial part of the Retrouvaille program, and couples will begin the week following the weekend. The communication technique learned during the weekend will be further developed during these sessions. This is a powerful aid to help heal the hurts and build a loving and lasting relationship.

Before you make the final decision to separate or divorce, why don't you make a call or visit the website? All inquiries are confidential by calling (918) 695-7010 or going online to www.helpyourmarriage.com.

Student Killed as He Follows His Calling

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Andrew Moore felt called to walk across America this summer with pro-life college students to help save the lives of unborn babies. "I had already been involved in the pro-life movement for several years," Moore wrote in a reflection before he joined a group of Crossroads volunteers walking from San Francisco to Washington to pray for an end to legalized abortion.

"When I am at home, I pray in front of the local abortion mill almost every day and try to speak to the people going in. Crossroads sounded like a good way to serve God and help his children," he added. "I have been considering a vocation to the priesthood for some time, and Crossroads is a great way to work on my discernment — prayer, sacrifice and separation from the distractions of the world."

Tragically the 20-year-old Concord, Calif., college student lost his own life early July 20 when he was hit by a car and killed instantly as he walked along a highway in west-central Indiana with another Crossroads participant.

It was about 5 a.m. and the collegians had only been walking along U.S. 40 near Stilwell for about 15 minutes when they decided to cross the highway to walk on the other side so they could see oncoming traffic while they prayed the rosary. They were wearing reflective safety vests, and the Crossroads van with other walkers was just ahead of them along the central walk route to the nation's capital. With just 600 miles to go, the collegians were on schedule to participate in a pro-life rally Aug. 11 at the U.S. Capitol.

Although some talks at Indianapolis parishes were canceled after Moore’s death, the 18th annual Canada, northern, central, south/central and southern walks continued in his honor because the walkers said "that is what he would have wanted them to do."
Counselors Steer Those Affected by Recent Shootings to Confront Pain, Heal, Grow

By Carol Zimmerman

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Men and women who help survivors of a tragedy such as the July 20 shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo., are often called “grief counselors,” but should more accurately be described as “crisis responders.”

That’s the view of Will Marling, executive director for the National Organization for Victim Assistance, based in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Va.

Marling said those who trained in this area respond to specific protocol, he said.

The National Organization for Victim Assistance currently has teams at work in Aurora. According to Marling, their primary goal is to help people understand that their reactions — often a broad range including anger, sadness and remorse — are normal.

“We help people confront trauma and get through it on their own,” he said.

Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Denver is ready to step in.

Kathryn Benes, the ministry’s director, said the program was not immediately getting calls from those directly impacted by the Aurora shooting, because they were still meeting with crisis responders or were busy caring for the injured or making funeral arrangements. She said she expected those calls to happen in weeks, months or even years from now.

In the meantime, the archdiocesan group, formed just last year, was getting calls from many who already felt vulnerable, as the Aurora theater shooting reignited fears and emotions from the 1999 shooting at Colorado’s Columbine High School, experiences in recent wars, Hurricane Katrina or 9/11.

A major part of the group’s outreach, Benes said, is to incorporate a spiritual component to healing, especially since traumatic events often lead people to question: “How could God allow this?”

Mary Beth Werdel, an assistant professor of pastoral care and counseling at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York and co-author of the 2012 book “Primer on Posttraumatic Growth: An Introduction and Guide,” said spirituality is a key factor in helping people not only to cope with a traumatic event but to also move beyond it and find new life.

She said it is key for pastoral counselors to “believe in the possibility of growth” and help clients hold onto that even if they go through a particularly hard time and turn from God initially.

In the midst of the “darkness and debris” of trauma, “spirituality helps us climb above the wreckage,” she said.

Women of Faith Conference Registration Still Open

OKLAHOMA CITY — It’s not too late to register for the fourth annual Women of Faith … Women of Action Conference sponsored by the OKC Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. It will be held on Saturday, Aug. 18 at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, located at 7226 W. Southern Road.

We invite all women, men and youth to the conference. Our topics this year will be “Top Model to Role Model” by Leah Darrow; Lisa Hendey will be speaking on “What Moms Want — Balancing Work, Family and Faith” and “Raising Faith-Filled Teens/Children in Today’s Technological World”; and Mary Diane Steltenkamp’s topic will be “Walking to Heaven with Mary.”

A new feature this year will be the Corpus Christi Church Choir. They will be joining us at the conference this year with their joyful and inspiring singing.

Registration is $50 for a full day of spiritual fun, inspirational learning and great fellowship with ladies from all over the state.

A box lunch can be purchased for $10 at the time of registration.

You can register and pay by using your PayPal account at our website, okcaccw.com, or to register by mail, call Barbara Wann at 1-580-878-2278, or email Barbara at wannb@sbcglobal.net.

You can also print a registration form at our website and mail it to Barbara Wann, 302 E. Ohio, Walters, Okla. 73572. Please make checks payable to ACCCW.

City Logo Could Change After Lawsuit Threat

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — The City Council of Steubenville has not reached a final decision on whether it will keep a silhouette of Franciscan University’s chapel in an unofficial city logo.

News outlets reported in late July that the city of Steubenville has been threatened with a lawsuit by the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which claims the use of the chapel image as part of a public logo raises constitutional questions and concerns.

The logo design was unveiled last December, and afterward the foundation contacted the city on behalf of a resident who complained about the religious imagery in the logo. Supporters of keeping the chapel image in the design delivered a petition to the City Council, which met July 31.

Council members said they have not decided whether to adopt the logo as is and fight a lawsuit or choose a new design.
Across Oklahoma

Annual Walk Set for Sept. 9
NORMAN — The fifth annual Fund raising Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29. The walk will begin at All Saints Catholic School, at around 36th Ave. All participants will receive a T-shirt. The event is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul. The walk is free, and there are no administrative fees, and all proceeds will directly benefit the people of Norman, Moore and Pauls Valley.

SVAP has many programs, which include food pantries, housing assistance, disaster relief, job training and placement, clothing, transportation, utility costs, thrift stores, home visits, care for the elderly, medicine and youth outreach. For more information on either the walk or the organization, in general, visit our website: stvincentdepaulok.org.

Bown Named to Notre Dame Dean's List
Tyler Bowen of Yukon has been named to the 2012 (Fall) Dean's List in the University of Notre Dame's First Year of Studies for outstanding scholarship during the spring 2012 semester.

Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students.

Crafters Needed in Mustang
MUSTANG — Holy Spirit Catholic Church will be holding its craft show on Oct. 13. Any and all crafters interested in participating in the craft show, please contact Rita Dunning at 376-5287.

Father Donohoe Birthday Party Set
EL RENO — Sacred Heart Catholic Church will celebrate the birthday of the late Father Philip Donohoe with a traditional Irish dinner on Aug. 25. The meal of cabbage, cake, gifts and wine will be prepared by chef David Egan. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall and we will feature traditional Irish beverages, including Irish coffee. Tickets are $30 per person. All proceeds will go to the Father Donohoe Scholarship Fund for Sacred Heart School.

Knights of Columbus Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Golfers, it’s time to test your prowess on the links at the Conrad Municipal Golf Course, the site of this year’s Knights of Columbus Council No. 8204 charity golf tournament. The four-person, select shot scramble is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23, with a shotgun start. Cost is $65 per golfer, which includes greens fees, cart and dinner following the tournament. Proceeds will be used for the K of C’s annual scholarship program, support to a northwest Oklahoma City free clinic, seminarian support and parish activities.

To register for the tournament or for additional information, call either Mike Bertel at 721-5834, Pat Determan at 613-9590 or Fred Crump at 819-4086.

Marriage Encounter Set
OKLAHOMA CITY — Our freedom to stand up for our family values is in jeopardy today.

The traditional marriage of one man and one woman is at the core of that value. We invite you to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to strengthen your marriage. You and your children deserve the results.

The next Encounter weekend is scheduled for Sept. 14-16 at the Oklahoma City Pastoral Center.

To register, please contact John and Tracy Franklin at 309-3515, or tennatjohn.franklin@gmail.com.

Registration deadline for the Marriage Encounter is Sept. 1.

Saints Celebrates 114th Birthday
OKLAHOMA CITY — Aug. 1 marked the 114th birthday of St. Anthony Hospital. The story began with two sisters from the Order of the Sisters of St. Francis. They traveled from Missouri to Oklahoma City in search of funds to support their local hospital, but were asked to stay and open the first hospital in Oklahoma City. In 1898, the small house opened its doors with 12 patient beds.

In the 114 years, St. Anthony has expanded the number of beds, facilities and services. Proceeds will go to the Father Donohoe Scholarship Fund for Sacred Heart School.

Washington and the Reasons for ‘Partisanship’

Complaints that Washington-is-broken, which seem to have new intensity in recent years, often go hand-in-hand with laments about the intensity in recent years, often go hand-in-hand with laments about the quality of democratic politics and the moral-cultural fabric of our society. Where a breakdown of (Christian) democratic culture seems to be leading inexorably to a breakdown of democratic politics and the subjectivity of the regulatory technocratic elites (currently being previewed in Italy), is a cautionary tale for Americans.

But there is no possible root in political change to be found in the 21st-century American society is deeply divided on certain basic issues. That divide reflects a serious rift that has become more and more apparent in the past several years. While pro-lifers are, in many cases, willing to work in steps to dismantle the Roe-defined abortion license — much as the classic civil rights movement worked incrementally to break open the Jim Crow plate. Americans believe in moral absolutes, just light up a cigarette, cigar or pipe in the non-smoking section of a restaurant. Or try parking in the handicapped spot or your local supermarket without the appropriate license plate. Americans believe in moral absolutes, all right, some of us just don’t know how to justify them — which is to say, make sense of them.

In a mess like this, the Church’s primary task is to help clarify these policies or candidates. It’s to do its best, through preaching and catechesis, to rebuild a national moral consensus based on the moral truths inscribed in us by “Nature and Nature’s God” (as Mr. Jefferson once put it). That consensus is the cultural pre-requisite to a politics, if which are engaged with respect, and serious problems are addressed and solved.

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.

By George Weigel
Rachel’s Way
By Denise Bossert

A Life Well Spent
By George P. Matyszek Jr.

Pilgrims Walk 100 Miles in Maryland to Stand Up for Religious Freedoms
By George P. Matyszek Jr.

Catholic News Service

Sooner Catholic

14 August 12, 2012
Mass for Peace Marks Hiroshima Atomic Bombing Anniversary

Catholic News Service

HIROSHIMA, Japan (CNS) — The catastrophe at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in March 2011 illustrated “the errors of the world” that stem from human pride, a Japanese bishop said during a Mass commemorating the anniversary of the first atomic bombing. Bishop Sueo Hamaguchi of Oita said Aug. 6 that the events that unfolded after the powerful earthquake and massive tsunami that tore apart the plant and left a plume of radioactive contamination across a wide swath of northeast Japan should serve as a warning to the world, the Asian church news agency UCA News reported.

The faithful must turn toward Jesus, the source of salvation, and share the journey of those in the midst of hardship, he said during the liturgy which memorialized “victims of nuclear weapons and war everywhere.”

About 400 people attended the Mass at the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace. Bishop Manyu Maeda of Hiroshima was the main celebrant.

At 8:15 a.m., the time the bomb was dropped in Hiroshima in 1945, worshippers observed a minute of silence. The diocese’s observance extended over several days.

About 500 people carrying placards and banners reading “World Peace” and “End Nuclear Power” marched up the main street from Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to the cathedral Aug. 5.

That evening, a Mass to pray for peace was celebrated by at the cathedral. Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, recently retired secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, attended the Mass.

Focusing on the theme expressed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan in a November 2011 message that called for the end of nuclear power in the country, a diocesan symposium Aug. 5 examined the prospects of a nuclear-free future.

The program also featured comments from a Korean resident of Japan who survived the atomic bombing and from mothers who had been forced to flee Fukushima as the nuclear disaster unfolded.

The diocese’s observance was set to conclude Aug. 9 with a Mass at the World Peace Memorial Cathedral dedicated to the victims of the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Leo-Jun Ikenaga of Osaka, president of the bishops conference, reiterated the call to end nuclear power across Japan.

In a statement marking the annual 10 Days for Peace observance called for by Blessed John Paul II during a 1981 visit to Hiroshima, Archbishop Ikenaga said, “The path to peace is precisely the path to cherish and respect life.”

“Therefore, let us make every effort to appeal anew to abolish nuclear plants immediately and to create a society where people protect life and seek peace,” he said.

Jobs Box

Cafeteria Opening

Bishop McGuinness High School has a part-time position available in the cafeteria. If interested, call Laura Scott at (405) 842-6656 or email Lscott@bmchs.org.

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 autism.


Please submit Archdiocesan application along with a resume and copy of teaching certificate to Dr. Donna Kearns, Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy, 13404 N. Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120. The application form may be found at www.archokc.org.

LPN, Direct Care & Residential Staff

The Center of Family Love is growing and has openings for Licensed Practical Nurses, direct care and residential staff. Paid training is offered for the direct care and residential positions. Day (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.), night (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.), overnight (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.), and weekend double shifts currently available with health and wellness benefits starting the first of the month following just 90 days of employment.

For consideration, apply in person at the corner of 6th & Texas Avenue in Okarche, before 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email a resume to HR@cflinc.org.

Calendar

AUGUST

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

14 Catholic War Veterans (of any war/softsk) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M. Price Owsalt at (405) 567-3404.

16 TAP INTO FAITH, open to all adults, married and single, at Alfredo’s Mexican Cafe located at 3409 S. Broadway, the southwest corner of 33rd and Broadway in Edmond, 7:30 p.m. meet and greet, order food, drinks, etc. 8 p.m., talk with speaker, Deacon Roy Forsythe. When Jesus returns, will he find us who he will find us who he will find us who we pray for peace. If you plan on attending any of these events or would like to be added to our mailing list, please email Mary at marylacher@consultant.com, or text/call (405) 401-4105 so we can add you to the list.

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

18 4th Annual Women of Faith …

Women of Action Conference, held at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Go to okcowcc.com to register or contact Barbara Wann at 1-580-875-2278, or email wannb@sbcglobal.net for more information.

18 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 Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Tony Harrelson at (405) 341-2199, or lmcoklahoma@sbcglobal.net.

18 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at Little Flower Church, Oklahoma City, from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Katherine Payne at (405) 210-4826 or Betty Sharp at (405) 408-4275.

18 COMPANY Adult Catholic Singles ages 35+ We will be going to Perry to see Father Dan for Saturday Mass, followed by Eskimo Joe’s for dinner and hanging out in Stillwater. We will meet to carpool to Perry in the Braums parking lot at SE 15th and I-35 in Edmond.

If you plan on attending any of these events or would like to be added to our mailing list, email Mary at marylacher@consultant.com, or text/call (405) 401-4105.

18 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance from 7 to 11 p.m. with mix and mingle from 7 to 8 p.m. Snacks are welcome. For further information, call Al Frejo at 405-567-0763.

19 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch. 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, 1950 N. Western Ave., Oklahoma City. Call (405) 567-3080 or visit www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

19 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital chapel. For more information, call Jim Deubron at 830-8688.
Parish Celebrates 10 Years of Praying the Rosary

By Theresa Hurt
St. Francis Parishioner

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two simple questions from an 8-year-old reintroduced the Sunday Rosary at St. Francis Parish.

As we were leaving daily Mass, my granddaughter, Kylee Warne, asked me: “Grandma, didn’t we used to pray the Rosary up here?” I said yes, and she asked another question. “Why don’t we anymore?” I was so surprised Kylee had remembered us praying the Rosary as it had been over six years since that time.

Olen Audrey used to lead the Rosary each Sunday in the chapel and then we would go over to the church for Mass. His wife, Joyce was always there as well. The Rosary stopped when they moved to another parish.

From Kylee’s questions, I approached Father Rick Stansberry about starting the Rosary again. Father said that we could pray the Rosary in the church, so at the end of August in 2002, devotion to the Rosary was reignited.

I was only going to have the prayer once a month, but God has provided leaders for the remaining Sundays. Since that time, we added the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel and then we added the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Most recently we have started praying the Canonization prayer for Father Stanley Rother.

We have a small but faithful group that comes together each Sunday to pray for the needs of the parish, our priests and for vocations. My hope is that others will be inspired to join us.

I see the future of the church is in our youth. Look what happened when an 8-year-old asked a couple of questions.

St. Francis parishioner
Theresa Hurt and her granddaughter, Kylee Warne, now 18.

Renovated Yukon Chapel, Altar Dedicated

YUKON — On Friday, July 13, Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass for the dedication of a new altar in the newly renovated Assumption Chapel at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church.


The chapel renovation, which began in November of 2011, is really the culmination of a project that began in 1994. When the original church, built in 1961, could no longer accommodate the growing parish, a larger church was built just to the east. The nave of the original church was converted into a gathering area and the space that was once the sanctuary became the chapel, which was never named.

Assumption Chapel is named to honor the first Catholics who came to the Yukon area and established a parish in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Frisco several miles north of Yukon. In 1894, a new church was built in the town of Yukon and the name was changed to St. John Nepomuk.

The new chapel features a restored high altar from a church in Connecticut, a new altar, lectern and baptismal font, as well as a pipe organ, a carved statue of the Assumption of Mary and two new confessional. The floor is made of Roman Travertine marble and the sacristy was also completely renovated.

The renovation was made possible by generous contributions of the people of St. John Nepomuk.

16 August 12, 2012 Sooner Catholic