OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran told the hundreds of Catholics gathered for a Memorial Mass on the 30th anniversary of the martyrdom of Father Stanley Rother that “the seeds of sainthood” that were planted in him at baptism were the same “seeds” that were planted in us all at our baptism.

Returning only hours earlier from leading a pilgrimage to Guatemala where Father Rother was gunned down in his rectory, the retired Archbishop Beltran co-celebrated Mass with Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. This was Archbishop Coakley’s first pilgrimage to Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, the picturesque and impoverished area where Father Rother ministered for more than a dozen years before his death at the age of 46.

A few days earlier, on the actual date of his death, July 28, Father Rother’s home parish, Holy Trinity in Okarche, celebrated Mass in his memory.

“Father Rother was one of those good ole farm boys from Okarche,” Archbishop Emeritus Beltran said in his homily given July 31 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

“He was at home on a tractor or combine. He knew how to repair fences, fix broken tools and improvise when necessary. He knew how to get the job done. Such talent and skill and determination were great for the farm but did not enable him to master the Latin language which, at that time in history, was essential for priests.”

Young Stanley Rother struggled through the first four years of college seminary, then entered theology studies but failed to achieve passing grades in the first year of theology. He was allowed to try again but was devastated when he was told to go home at the end of the first semester of the repetition year.

“Later Stan was interviewed by Bishop Victor Reed. Surprisingly, Bishop Reed arranged for this earnest seminarian to enter another seminary, Mount Clarion.”

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

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness in every generation: You raise up men and women heroic in love and service.

You have blessed Your Church with the life of Stanley Rother, priest, missionary, and martyr.

Through his prayer and his pastoral love, You revealed Your love and Your presence without as Shepherds.

If it be Your will, may he be proclaimed by the universal Church as martyr and saint, living now in Your presence and interceding for us all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Father Stanley Rother, Servant of God

I first became acquainted with the life of Father Stanley Rother when I was a seminarian at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Shortly after our return to the seminary in the fall of 1981, we gathered at St. John’s Well to place a bronze plaque in a garden that seminarian Stan Rother used to tend while he was a student at the seminary in the early 1960s. His parents, Frantz and Gertrude, and his brother Peter, Sister Marita, honored us by their presence that autumn afternoon.

That visit took place only a few months after Father Rother had been brutally slain in the rectory at his parish of Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala on July 28, 1981. It was one of the first of many public testimonials that would follow through the years bearing witness to the faith and heroic charity of this dedicated priest, missionary and martyr of Oklahoma.

Since that day I have always experienced the attraction of Father Stanley Rother. When I first learned that I had been appointed Archbishop of Oklahoma City, even before it had been made public, I made a personal pilgrimage to Father Rother’s home parish in Okarche to pray at a shrine in his memory on the beautiful grounds of Holy Trinity Parish. I asked his intercession to help me be a good shepherd, as he had been a good shepherd. When Father Rother had learned that his life was in danger from a brutal war that had already claimed the lives of many of his poor parishioners, he chose not to abandon his flock. “A shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger,” he had said.

For the last several months I have been writing on various aspects of the call to holiness. As baptized members of the Church, we are all called to be holy. We are called to become saints. Our generous response to this call is finned into flames when we experience holiness in others. We need guides to give us hope and encouragement. The saints provide us with real flesh and blood evidence that holiness is possible in every walk of life. They show us what a human life fully transformed by the power of grace and conformed to Christ looks like. The life of Father Stanley Rother has been such an example.

I was a seminarian at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. The newspapers and other media continued to bring forth good fruit and seed. “A shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger,” he had said.

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The Sooner Catholic (USPS 186-193) is published biweekly except for once in July and twice in December by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

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Subscription rate: $20 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.
Papal Nuncio: World Youth Day Bigger Than Economy

Rome, Italy (CNA) — When Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Spain for World Youth Day, he will find a country gripped by economic crisis. Despite that, the papal nuncio to Madrid says Spanish enthusiasm for the papal visit is undiminished.

“Spain is waiting for the Holy Father with great desire and hope that he will also assist a recovery on a spiritual level,” said Archbishop Renzo Fratini to Vatican Radio Aug. 4, adding that in Madrid itself, “There is great expectation and the whole city is abuzz.”

Spanish unemployment is currently the highest in the industrialized world with nearly half of all young people unable to find work. Spain “is going through a crisis of values and believes that the Pope will bring to this country a new wind,” said the nuncio, although he stressed that Pope Benedict’s mission will be primarily spiritual.

This year’s World Youth Day will take place in the Spanish capital Aug. 16-20. The Pope will arrive on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 18. In total, he will preside at nine events with young people over the following four days. That will include hearing young people’s confessions on Saturday at Madrid’s Jardines del Buen Retiro Park before presiding over Sunday Mass at the city’s Cuatro Vientos Airport. Hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims are expected to attend.

“Many young people feel disillusioned and are in need of new hope, and so this day — I believe — represents a new beginning,” said the nuncio. He sees this World Youth Day as a crucial component in Pope Benedict’s vision of a “new evangelization,” which will re-convert the traditionally Christian West back to a belief in Jesus Christ.

“The Pope will also make time for confessions — a testimony to indicate that the Christian life really starts from an inner renewal, from a conversion; the return to God.”

The theme for World Youth Day in Madrid is “rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the Faith,” taken from St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians. Archbishop Fratini believes this to be an apt slogan, particularly in a time of economic uncertainty.

“I believe it is a good opportunity to rediscover the foundations of the fundamental choice of Christian life: live it every day in relationship with others and in a dimension of solidarity and openness to the world,” said the archbishop. He hopes the week of events will help lead many young people to discover their vocation in life.

The archbishop concluded by assuring those planning to visit Madrid this month that the organization of the event is in hand with over 20,000 volunteers already in place and ready to assist.
Pope Urges Syrian Leaders To Respect Life

The Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News) — Pope Benedict XVI used his Sunday Angelus address to call for peace in Syria and to urge the government there to respect “the legitimate aspirations” of its citizens.

“I renew an urgent appeal to the Syrian Au- thority, and the population, for peaceful co-existence to be restored as soon as possible and for an adequate response to the legitimate aspirations of the citizens, respecting their dignity and for the benefit of regional stability,” the Pope told pilgrims gathered at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo near Rome Aug. 7.

The Pope’s comments come on the day that reports suggest at least 38 people were killed in a dawn raid by the Syrian army upon the eastern city of Deir al-Zour.

Dozens of tanks and armored vehicles bombarded the city, which has been the scene of frequent protests in recent months. In total, anti-government activists claim that over 1,500 civilians have now been killed since their uprising began in mid-March.

Defending this morning’s attacks, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria said “to deal with outlaws who cut off roads, steal lorries and terrorise residents is a duty of the state, which must defend security and protect the lives of civilians,” the Syrian state news agency Sana reports him saying to Lebanese Foreign Minister Adrian Manoukian.

President Assad also added that “Syria is on the path to reform.”

The Pope said he was “following with great concern the dramatic and growing violence in Syria, which has caused numerous deaths and severe suffering,” and he invited “the Catholic faithful to pray that efforts for reconciliation prevail over division and hatred.”

Pope Benedict’s plea for peace joins that of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who phoned President Assad to urge him to step using military force against civilians.

Catholic Schools in Indiana Have Voucher Program

Evansville, Ind. (CNA) — Catholic schools in southern Indiana are set to welcome low-income students who are now able to attend non-public schools thanks to the recently approved voucher program.

So far, 137 vouchers have been guaranteed for students transferring to the Catholic Diocese of Evansville system, which includes 28 schools throughout southwestern Indiana.

“The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Evansville have a proud tradition of contributing to the evangelizing mission of the Church that is distin- guished by excellence and committed to evangelize the whole child,” Diocesan Superintendent Daryl C. Hagan wrote in the Message Online.

“Our schools are steeped in a Catholic world view with administrators, faculty and staff who are sustained by the Gospel and know that we are all shaped by communion and community,” he added.

The diocese’s theme for the new school year is “All Are Welcome.”

The program allows public school students from low-income families to transfer to non-public schools at taxpayer expense beginning this aca- demic year, reported the Evansville Courier Press.

Depending on a family’s income, a student could receive tuition assistance at either 90 percent or 50 percent. The voucher program has been accepted by over 3,000 applications statewide and an unknown number are still pending.

“We definitely should help to increase enrollment. It gives students more of an opportunity to have a faith-based, high academic standard education,” Ron Pittman, principal of the local St. Wendel School told the Evansville paper.

“It’s a historic and exciting time for all of us in Catholic education,” Hagan said, adding that there is still time for local families to apply for a voucher.

“We ask you to join us in daily prayer for our priests, deacona, principals, religious, teachers, support staff, students, families and parishes as we begin this new year with a welcoming spirit and genuine desire to strengthen the Catholic Church of Southwestern Indiana through Catholic education.”

Briefs

Parish To Host Flea Market

SHAWNEE — St. Benedict’s Parish Guild Flea Market & Saturday Aug. 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 632 N. Kickapoo, I-40 Exit 185, go south two miles, church is on your right. Several vendors with arts and crafts, garage sale items, Home Interiors, hand- crafted jewelry. Come shop in the cool indoors.

Council Sets Tourney Date

The John Conrad Municipal Golf Course will be the site of this year’s Knights of Columbus 8204 19th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. The four-person, shot scramble is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 9 at 1:30 p.m. It will be a shotgun start. Cost is $65 per golfer, which includes green fees, cart and dinner following the tournament. Proceeds will be used for the K of C 8204 scholar- ship programs, support to a NW OKC free clinic, seminar support and parish activities. To register or for additional information, call Fred M. Crump at 812-4066 or 348-0230, Steve Sydnes at 728-9126 or Pat Determan at 728-8614.

Bingo Aug. 25 at St. James

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bingo Aug 25 at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and South McKinley Avenue. 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 prize and special recognition for all players born in August. Play and you get an entry for a big screen TV to be given away in October.

Hope for Marriages

If your marriage has become troubled or dissolved, uncaring or unloving, or if you are considering separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced, but you want to try again — then the Retrouvaille program can help you.

For more information, call 918-695-7010. You may call anonymously, or go to www.hopefor- marriage.com.

Please be assured that all names are kept in strictest confidence.

The next Retrouvaille program begins on the weekend of Sept. 23-25, 2011, and continues with six follow-up sessions on Sunday evenings.
The Catholic Foundation has announced the establishment of the Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship Program. The Foundation is seeking donations for need-based scholarships for Catholic students to attend Catholic schools. In announcing this new scholarship, Archbishop Paul Coakley said, “Today you have the power to pass along the Catholic faith to children who wouldn’t ordinarily have the opportunity.” A Catholic Schools Opportunity Scholarship will allow many young people in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City the opportunity to attend their local Catholic school.

In 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops said, “It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community, to strive toward making Catholic elementary and secondary schools...affordable to all Catholic parents...including the poor and middle class.”

Under the Quest 2000 Pastoral Planning Process in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the overall goal for Education/Formation is “to provide resources for ongoing formation in education and spiritual growth for all persons.” It states, “We will evaluate the possibilities for improving funding for Catholic schools...and provide adequate access to education. And we will assist and coordinate the development/fundraising efforts of our Catholic school system.”

Key findings in a recent Archdiocese study of Catholic schools found that: (1) Catholic education affordability is a major challenge; (2) Average high school tuition for Catholic students is $6,560 (2009-10); (3) Average grade school tuition for Catholic students is $3,034 (2009-10); and (4) Tuition costs are growing at or greater than the rate of living.

The Archdiocese Plan Recommendations include: (1) Reinforce the mission for all Catholics to make Catholic elementary and secondary schools...affordable to all Catholic parents...including the poor and middle class; (2) Improve affordability by increasing funds available, especially to those in need; (3) Aggressively pursue funding availability by increasing funds available, especially to support Catholic education; Our overall goal for Education/Formation is “to provide ongoing formation in education and spiritual growth for all persons.” It states, “We will evaluate the possibilities for improving funding for Catholic schools...and provide adequate access to education. And we will assist and coordinate the development/fundraising efforts of our Catholic school system.”

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Memorial Gifts that Invest in the Future of our Faith

When a loved one dies, many times the family asks that memorial gifts be directed to specific causes near to the deceased’s heart. The Catholic Church in Oklahoma is an appropriate organization to be the recipient of these gifts. In many cases the family adds to the obituary, that in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Archdiocese or to the specific parish where the deceased worshiped. In either case, the appropriate wording would be “In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Catholic Foundation (for the benefit of xxx), P.O. Box 3218, Oklahoma City 73123 or www.catholicfoundation.org.” The Catholic Foundation maintains an online presence and could even add a line item on the “Donate now” page that would include “[Deceased’s Name] Memorials” if you would like. People would be able to make donations on line or by mail. The Foundation has “memorial envelopes” for distribution at the wake or funeral if needed. Tracking the donations for memorials is taken care of by the Catholic Foundation. Acknowledgement Thank You notes are promptly sent to the donors and the family is also notified of the gifts.

For more information on memorial giving, contact: The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, 4115 Skyline Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or www.cfook.org.
Washington, D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) — U.S. Bishops spokesperson Sister Mary Ann Walsh blasted the Department of Health and Human Services for interfering in the work of religious hospitals that want to opt out of providing free contraceptives.

Government "must not stick its proverbial nose under the church tent," Sister Walsh said in an Aug. 8 Huffington Post editorial. "Now, however, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has gone beyond meddling its nose where it does not belong."

"It has plunged itself right in the middle of the sanctuary. It is trying to define what a religion does and does not do."

Walsh’s remarks come in the wake of the department’s Aug. 2 announcement that new health-care plans must cover contraceptives and sterilizations under regulations for preventive care created in response to the 2010 health care legislation.

Sister Walsh said that although the mandate provides an exemption for religious employers — which is at "a tacit acknowledgment that this violates the Constitution’s freedom of religion clause." The spokesperson noted that Catholic hospitals, charities and educational institutions provide about $30 billion worth of service annually in the country, and that no one "presents a baptismal certificate at the emergency room."

"The hungry do not recite the Creed to get groceries at the food pantry... students can pursue learning at The Catholic University of America, Villanova, or any other Catholic college without passing a catechism admissions test."

— Sister Mary Ann Walsh, spokesperson

Federal Policy Attacked By U.S. Bishops

Does Senior Catholic • August 14, 2011

Volcanic, Spain (CNA/Europa Press) — The prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Antonius Canizares, recently warned of the danger of turning from God.

"The main problem facing Europe is not economic, as serious as that is, but rather the abandonment of God which leads to self-destruction."

During a summer course sponsored by the St. Vincent the Martyr University in Valencia, Spain, the present and future of Europe, Cardinal Canizares delivered a speech titled ‘Christians in Democracy’. He encouraged believers to strive to overcome "the moral breakdown we are experiencing," and to recover "a society based on unconditional ethical foundations."

He underscored the responsibility Christians have to "engage in a new evangelization," which in his judgment is "the best service we can offer for our society to change and overcome this crisis."

The present-day situation, the cardinal said, is "not merely a structural or economic crisis, but rather a crisis of mankind, a breakdown of humanity, a moral breakdown, spending beyond our limits and pursuing enjoyment at all costs, pleasures for pleasure’s sake, even if that means destroying someone else."

"This situation needs to be overcome," he said. Cardinal Canizares defended the "identity of Europe," whose foundations were Greek philosophy, Roman law and the Christian faith. European identity is "impossible from the dignity of the human person as the basis of all order and of everything about the culture that characterized us," he said.

"Without the human person, no society has a future, without the dignity of the human person there is no order in the future," the cardinal added. Cardinal Canizares said that nonetheless he is "hopeful" of the future, and he called for "renewed conversion to Jesus Christ," beginning with the members of the Church, "which will usher in a great future for Europe."

World Youth Day

Cardinal Canizares mentioned Pope Benedict XVI’s upcoming visit to Spain for World Youth Day. "The Holy Father bringing together more than a million young people from all over the world is an event of great hope," he said.

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Did You Know!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter began as a way of improving communication between husbands and wives. But as might be expected, it came apparent that the technique used in the sessions could benefit anyone whose vocation involves close, caring communication with others. It is considered the first marriage enrichment program and has been updated on a continual basis to reflect the current marriage environment. For more information, contact Rick and Bev Feller at (405) 376-4098, or rbfeller@gmail.com.

"No federal rule says the church must limit its service to Catholics if it is to be true to its teaching," she said, adding that the department “doesn’t get the parable of the Good Samaritan, who helped the stranger simply because he was in need."

Sister Walsh also noted that Catholic colleges and universities teach 850,000 students annually, which include Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, atheists, agnostics “and members of any other religious or irreligious group you can name.”

"That’s good because health-care reform ought to increase access to basic care, not push religious groups to either violate their principles and abandon service to those in need whatever their religious belief."

"Meanwhile, the sanctuary is getting crowded. It is time," she added, for the department “to remove itself.”
Japanese Children Promising To Keep Hope

Rome, Italy (CNA) — Twenty elementary schoolchildren from northeastern Japan promised Pope Benedict “they would never give up” in the face of adversity.

The children traveled from the Japanese city of Ofunato to Italy and greeted the Pope at the conclusion of last week’s General Audience, reports L’Osservatore Romano.

Ofunato is a coastal city which was impacted by radiation from the Fukushima nuclear plant damaged in the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

They told the Pope of their will to “live and be reborn” and of their effort to “rebuild our still-beautiful city.” They also pledged to “never lose their smiles, which are a source of hope.”

To symbolize this hope, the mayor of the Japanese city of Hokuto, Masashi Shirakura, presented the Pope with a branch of the hibiscus.

Hibiscus is a flower which symbolizes Nagasaki after the nuclear blast of Aug. 9, 1945. The flowers lifted up Nagasaki after the nuclear event, said the mayor, and “are, in a certain sense, his real family.”

Seminarian Credits God For Saving His Life Twice Over

Rome, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) — He is one of the most popular and recognizable priests in the United States and beyond — and this month, Father C. John McCloskey chalks up three decades in the priesthood.

“Those 30 years have been magnificent!” told CNA Aug. 5, adding, “What could possibly be better than being a priest?”

“Through God’s grace, so many Masses celebrated, confessions heard, baptisms, weddings, people brought in to the Church and, happily God has used me as an instrument in so many ways other than priestly ministry, bringing dozens of vocations to the priesthood, religious life and to the new ecclesial movements, and all this with my evident faults and human failings.”

Father McCloskey’s road to the priesthood, though, certainly wasn’t a conventional clerical tale. A graduate in economics from Columbia University in New York, he worked for Citibank and Merrill Lynch on Wall Street before being ordained a priest of Opus Dei in 1981. Since then he’s gone on to become a best-selling author and popular religious commentator on both television and radio, most notably with EWTN.

He is perhaps best known, though, for guiding into the Catholic Church such notable figures as Robert Novak, Judge Robert Bork, Sen. Sam Brownback, Gen. Joseph Stilwell and Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of NARAL, Pro-Life Choices America, who died earlier this year.

“I just figured it was worth a call,” Dr. Page recalled with a laugh.

“It worked, and the bishop met the seminarian and heard his story.”

“They said, ‘Let’s see what you could do to help.’ They indicated their ability to help financially, but we still needed some medical assistance to take his care,’ he added.

Eventually, Partners in Health located a neurosurgeon who was willing to donate his skills and equipment. He traveled to the nearby Dominican Republic, which had equipment and was more capable of generating images of blood vessels, so that doctors could decide how to treat him.

The testing saved his life in more ways than one.

He was in the Dominican Republic when the earthquake of Jan. 12, 2010, hit Haiti. All nine of his seminary classmates were killed when the underground parking lot they were in collapsed. A seminarian from Peru, who had gone to Haiti for some time off with other seminarians, also died.

Shortly thereafter, Tibeau learned that the scenes from that trip showed that he had an aneurysm near his pituitary gland and optic nerve that could kill him or leave him neurologically impaired.

That left the problem of finding and funding the expensive surgery Tibeau needed, Dr. Page said.

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The highest honors from Gottingen
Christians whose intellectual and
Through her studies, the non-Jewish
was just 2 years old, and she gave up
Kippur, the Jewish “day of atonement.” Edith’s father died when she
her family’s celebration of Yom
1891 — a date that coincided with
the practice of her Jewish faith as an
Stein. St. Teresa converted from
— On Aug. 9 the Catholic Church
the autobiography of the 16th
Edith spent an entire night read-
commitment herself.
in the idea of religious commitment,
of empathy. She remained interested
had to wait another 11 years before
conversion, but would ultimately
Carmelites immediately after her
first day of January, 1922.
so that the Lord will be accepted by
meekness and simplicity of heart. The
the love which overflows from the
the shared hope that all of us and all
in a town where the practice of the
 Catholic faith had fallen off in the
wake of the French Revolution. Few
were initiated and few went to
confession regularly.
Lord is going to ask us at our judg-
ment whether or not we gave our
faith will see the Triune God face
forever.”
The overarching goal of his life
was helping his parishioners and
many of those who flocked to his
parish in the village of Ars, France, to undergo conversion, to
grow in holiness and to become fit for
eternal life on heaven,” he explained.
He recounted how St. John Vianney,
also known as the Cure of Ars, lived in a desolate, small church
in a town where the practice of the
Catholic faith had fallen off in the
wake of the French Revolution. Few
people were initiated and few went to
confession regularly.
“it sounds all too familiar,
doesn’t it?” Bishop Lori asked.

As a young woman with pro-
fessional literary gifts, Edith grav-
titated toward the study of philosophy
and became a pupil of the renowned
professor Edmund Husserl in 1913.
Through her studies, the non-
religious Edith met several
Christians whose intellectual and
spiritual lives she admired.
After earning her degrees with
the highest honors from Gottingen
University in 1915, she served as a

Knights Hear Support From Bishop Lori

Denver (CNA/EWTN News) —
On the Feast of St. John Vianney,
Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport,
Conn., told the Knights of Columbus
that bishops and priests are in
solidarity with them on “the path of
suffering.”

Just as you, dear members of
the family of the Knights of
Columbus, stand in solidarity with
the Holy Father, your bishops and
your priests, as we stand in soli-
darity with you, in a solidarity of
that love which overflows from the
heart of Jesus and leads us and our
loved ones to joys of everlasting life,”
Bishop Lori said at the fraternal
order’s Aug. 4 memorial Mass for all
decreed Knights of Columbus.

The Mass was part of the
Knights of Columbus Supreme
Convention, which was held in
Denver Aug. 2-4. Bishop Lori is
Supreme Chaplain of the fraternal
charitable organization, which has
1.8 million members worldwide.

Bishop Lori in his homily called
the Feast of St. John Vianney a
“powerful reminder” for bishops
and priests about their state as
“fellow pilgrims” who must seek forgiveness
of their sins and holiness in their
own lives.

Indeed our salvation is inextric-
ably bound up with yours. As your
bishops and priests, we know the
Lord is going to ask us at our judg-
ment whether or not we gave our
lives in union with Christ for the
soul of others,” the bishop said.
“So this morning, we meet again in
the shared hope that all of us and all
of those who have gone before us in
faith will see the Trinity God face
to face and rejoice in his presence
forever.”
The life of St. John Vianney is a
reminder “that Christ, in his love for
us, endowed his Church with all
means of our salvation and that the
Holy Spirit has poured into our
hearts a love that is stronger than
sin and more powerful than death.”
The bishop said St. John
Vianney’s life was “consumed with
saving souls.”
The overarching goal of his life
was helping his parishioners and
many of those who flocked to his
parish in the village of Ars, France, to undergo conversion, to
grow in holiness and to become fit for
eternal life on heaven,” he explained.
He recounted how St. John
Vianney, also known as the Cure of
Ars, lived in a desolate, small church
in a town where the practice of the
Catholic faith had fallen off in the
wake of the French Revolution. Few
people were initiated and few went to
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“it sounds all too familiar,
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As a young woman with pro-
fessional literary gifts, Edith grav-
titated toward the study of philosophy
and became a pupil of the renowned
professor Edmund Husserl in 1913.
Through her studies, the non-
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St. Teresa, Martyr, Celebrated August 9

Denver (CNA/EWTN News) — On Aug. 9 the Catholic Church
remembered St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, also known as St. Edith Stein.
She was canonized as a nun, on the first day of January, 1922.

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Continued from Page 1

St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md. There, after completing four years of theology, the rector predicted, “Mr. Rother should be a very valuable priest.”

On May 25, 1963, Bishop Reed ordained Stanley Rother for the Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa. Five years later, in 1968, he would be chosen to serve as a missionary priest at the parish in Santiago Atitlan in Guatemala.

“Remember, he was the one who could not learn Latin well,” Archbishop Beltran said. “Now, he must minister to some who spoke Spanish but to many more who spoke only Tzutuhil. Who would ever have thought that when this young priest was a seminarian, he could not learn Latin well enough but would become fluent and even translate the New Testament of the Bible into the Tzutuhil language for the first time!”

Civil war and political unrest plagued the people of Guatemala during the 1970s, and by the early 1980s the violence had moved into the area where Father Rother served. He had returned to Oklahoma, but soon went back to his people in Guatemala.

A short time later — on July 28, 1981, he was martyred for our faith, Archbishop Emeritus Beltran said in his homily.

“Father Stanley Rother was a priest of Jesus Christ,” the Archbishop said. “He ministered the Body and Blood of Christ to us here in Oklahoma and in Santiago Atitlan. For us and for them, but most importantly of all, he gave up his life for Christ. For this reason, we pray for the canonization of Father Rother, priest, missionary and martyr.

“On the day of his baptism, Father Rother received a share in the life of Jesus. His martyrdom some 46 years later was the completion of his incorporation in Christ. The seeds of sanctity were planted in baptism and harvested in martyrdom. I also remind you that the same seeds of sanctity, the call to holiness, were likewise planted in you and in me when we were baptized. Father Stanley Rother is a great example and inspiration for all of us. May the true love of God and of all our brothers and sisters lead us to life everlasting.”

Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran concluded his homily on July 31 with the entire congregation praying for the case of sainthood for Fr. Rother.

Above: Bringing up the gifts at Mass in Okarche on July 28 are great-nephews, Riley Platt and Trey Rother.Right is Father Rother’s siblings, Sister Marita, sister-in-law, Marty, and brother Tom Rother.

Archbishop Eusebius Eusebius Beltran concluded his homily on July 31.
Entrusted Care

Archbishop Coakley Receives Pallium From Pope Benedict XVI
In Mass at Vatican’s St. Peter’s Basilica

Archbishop Coakley was one of 41 prelates from around the world blessed with the woolen pallium, given to him by Pope Benedict XVI during a June 29 Mass. Archbishops from 25 countries were bestowed with the sacred garment, including five archbishops from the United States and Canada.

About 111 people from Oklahoma and Kansas accompanied the Archbishop to Rome. Among those were Tom and Margie Avant, lifelong Catholics who had never traveled outside the United States, let alone to Rome.

“Rome is the center of our faith — the history of the city and the area, it was overwhelming,” Margie Avant said. “Growing up Catholic and going from K through 12 Catholic education, I was amazed how much I learned.”

That started with the pallium itself, Avant said. She didn’t really know what the woolen vestment was or what it truly signified until she made the trip.

“All of the tradition associated with the pallium, I just never really understood all of that,” she said. “To be right there, in person, was beyond description.”

The Pope gave the 41 archbishops the pallium during the June 29 Mass, which was also the 60th anniversary of his ordination in Bavaria in 1951.

After a fanfare of trumpets and the procession in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Benedict devoted much of his homily to the great joy of the occasion, and he was uncharacteristically verbose.

The pallium presented by the Holy Father is given to archbishops who have been assigned to a new archdiocese. Avant said the process begins with the lambs, which are blessed on the altar at St. Peter’s Basilica.

Archbishop Coakley, speaking at a reception following the Mass, said the vestment symbolized a “pastoral challenge.”

The Lord entrusted care of the flock to Peter — and Peter, today in this ceremony, in a very visible and symbolic way, entrusts to each of us some share of that burden.”

As the Good Shepherd, being charged with caring and caring for the sheep, as Christ the Good Shepherd would carry the lost and forsaken sheep to lead them back to the fold,” he said. “The Lord entrusted care of the flock to Peter — and Peter, today in this ceremony, in a very visible and symbolic way, entrusts to each of us some share of that burden.”

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By Traci Chapman
For The Sooner Catholic

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Greeting pilgrims, friends and family members who traveled to Rome for the pallium ceremony, the Pope spoke in English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Lithuanian and Slovenian. He said the vestment was a “sign of communion in faith and love and in the governance of God’s people.”

“This was a once in a lifetime experience, and one that only deepened our faith,” Avant said.
Parish Guild Stitches Warmth for Young Patients of Children’s Hospital

OKLAHOMA CITY — Patients at Children’s Hospital are staying a little warmer and their rooms are a little brighter thanks to the St. Theresa’s Guild of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Edmond. Members of the guild made and donated 36 quilts, 20 fleece chemo hats, 36 crocheted hats and 36 cotton chemo scrub-style caps to the children on the 10th floor of the hospital.

Kristen Holmes, Children’s Hospital child/life specialist, said the quilts and hats will make a difference to the children. The 10th floor at Children’s Hospital is where youngsters are treated who suffer from serious blood disorders or cancer.

“These are chronically ill children. Most of them we see repeatedly,” Holmes said. “Most of them lose their hair, so the hats help with warmth,” she said. “The quilts also provide warmth but they provide something else, too. They make a room a little more cheerful with more color than just hospital blankets. It gives the bed a personality,” Holmes said.

Quilting and crocheting for hospital patients is the service work selected by the St. Theresa’s Guild. “As a group we just decided this time we wanted to do something with children,” said Alison Giordano.

Guild volunteers who participated in the quilt and hat donations included Kathy Treece, Mary Smith, Amy Flick, Linda Littlechild, Linda Allen, Linda Clancy, Laurie McLemmon, Debbie Herringer, Gail Panza, Joanne Williams, Maronne Simpson and Susan Bennett.

Women of Faith Conference Sends Welcome to Men and Students

OKLAHOMA CITY — All men, women, high school youth and college-bound students are invited to attend the third annual Women of Faith/ Women of Action Conference on Aug. 20 at Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church at 7336 W. Britton Road.

The theme of this year’s conference is “We Walk By Faith/Not By Sight.”

Marcus Grodi, president and founder of The Coming Home Network International and the popular TV weekly program on EWTN, Journey Home, will speak to the assembly both in the morning and afternoon about “What is Truth” and “The Verses I Never Saw.”

Sister Rosalind Moss, Daughters of Mary/Mother of Israel’s Hope, and Catholic Answers Live radio “From the Heart” and editor of Home at Last, 11 Who Found Their Way to the Catholic Church, co-host of EWTN’s Household of Faith and Now That We’re Catholic program, will address the attendees both in the morning and afternoon. She will speak about “The Making of a Jewish Nun” and “The Father’s Gifts.”

There will be Reconciliation during the lunch break. Come meet and welcome our new Archbishop. Bob Waldrop, Director of Music of Epiphany, will lead the choir. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for registration. Coffee, doughnuts and fruit will be served.

Sister Rosalind and Marcus Grodi will close the conference with a question and answer session. We will then say the Rosary. Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran will also be present.

Deacon Bob Waldrop will participate at Mass. Bob Waldrop, Director of Music of Epiphany, will lead the choir. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for registration, coffee, doughnuts and fruit.

Archbishop Coakley will be principal celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass at 5:30 p.m. Rev. Stephen J. Bird will concelebrate the Mass. Sister Rosalind and Marcus Grodi will close the conference with a question and answer session.

Father Bird, pastor of Epiphany, will preside at our opening prayer service at 8:30 a.m. Rev. Robert T. Wood, pastor of St. Mary’s of Guthrie and spiritual moderator of the ACCW, who are sponsoring this conference, will close the conference. Speakers and conferences will begin at 9 a.m.

Registration for the conference is $40. A catered box lunch is $10, and a conference T-shirt is $15. Payment may be made by PayPal on our website at http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html. For information or to mail in registrations, call Chris Thomas at (405) 306-5187, (302 East Ohio, Moore, Okla. 73172), or Barbara Wan at (580) 875-2279, (302 East Ohio, Walters, Okla. 73572).
Raising Up a Holy Place:

Saint Eugene Parishioner Chronicles
Events as New Church Constructed

By Kelly Matteson
For the Sooner Catholic

The pews have been ordered, the steel beams are in place and with each day that passes, the church that St. Eugene parishioners prayed for is becoming a more visible reality. The $7 million new church, located east of the current church at 2400 W. Hefner Road, will include 800 permanent seats with an additional 250 overflow seating. The current church, which seats 475, will be used as a parish hall.

Construction crews began placing the steel beams July 5 for the dome above the altar. The groundbreaking for the new church took place in October 2010, and the goal is to celebrate Easter in the new church.

Bob Rapp, chairman of the building committee, has around 100 photographs documenting the construction thus far. Standing in the same place each day, he takes photographs with the intention of creating a slide show that will show the construction from beginning to end. By the end of July, he expects to have to select a new spot indoors to photograph the progress.

“Every day I drive by and I can see more changes,” Rapp said. “Starting the first of August, you won’t be able to see the change outdoors because it will all be done inside.”

Father Joseph Jacobi, new church committee members and the St. Eugene parishioners gathered June 21 to watch as dirt from their homes was spread beneath the foundation of the altar in the new church. The soil symbolizes their home within the parish and their support for the construction project. Jacobi said a special blessing to mark the occasion. Longtime parishioner Mary Latta was on hand to watch the blessing ceremony. She said that she and her husband, Jim, are happy to see the construction under way.

“It is exciting to watch the church construction progress, especially now that the steel beams are in place and we can see the church taking shape,” Latta said. “After many years of discussion, it is a blessing and an answer to prayers to see a new church becoming a reality. We are thankful that many people are making sacrifices to support the building fundraising efforts. St. Eugene has been our parish and extended church family for more than 20 years and we are looking forward to celebrating Mass and the sacraments in the new church with family and friends.”
By Rep. Rebecca Hamilton
D-Okaloosa City

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the serial killer with a selfish, died the old-fashioned way, under medical care, fighting for his life. Before his death he was licensed, promoted and considered a martyr. Sixty Minutes played a tape of Dr. Kevorkian administering death-dealing drugs to Thomas Youk of Michigan on prime time TV, along with a favorable interview HBO spent millions producing and promoting You Don’t Know Jack, a film honoring Kevorkian. Academy award winning actor Al Pacino portrayed him in this sales piece for euthanasia of the elderly, the ailing, the disabled, or anyone else who might become inconvenient and unable to fight back.

Kevorkian, who spoke of establishing “euthanasia” where people would go to die and doctors would harvest organs and perform medical experiments, didn’t confess to killing people who were near death. Some, such as the man whose murder Sixty Minutes televised, had serious illnesses which could, after many years, lead to death. But they weren’t dying. They needed help, support and love, not to be murdered.

According to the Patient Rights Council, Kevorkian testified under oath that he favored doing medical experiments on candidates for euthanasia. In a startling parallel with Nazi death camp practices, he described a process by which “subjects,” including infants, children and mentally incompetent people would be used for experiments of “any kind of complexity.” Then, if the subject’s body is alive after experimentation, “death may be induced” by such means as “removal of organs for transplantation” or “a lethal dose of an untested drug.”

No one ever asked, “Whose suffering?” Were we, in fact, trying to alleviate the suffering of the dying person, or were we lifting the responsibility of politicians to pay for it.

The new arguments in the process of morphing to the next step. The new arguments in the forward march of the culture of death revolve around the notion that it’s not just a “right” to kill those on the fringes, it’s a civic and moral responsibility. The elderly, it is said, use too much medical care, cost too much money. They are using “valuable resources” that should go to others who are more deserving. If they have a “duty to die” for the good of future generations. Human embryos, they are told, hold in their tiny bodies the Rosetta Stone of perfect health and unending life for the rest of us. Slaughtering them for their body parts is not just a right of scientists, it is the responsibility of politicians to pay for it.

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Young Baby-Sitters in Training Learn the Proper Technique of CPR

OKLAHOMA CITY — Do you have a child between the ages of 10 and 15 wanting to baby-sit? Do you want the children in your neighborhood to learn how to properly care for a younger child? Sacred Heart Church of Oklahoma City offered a baby-sitter training course during the summer for children wanting to gain the experience and education of how to safely care for younger children.

With the help of a Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant, children are able to learn the importance of safety and the responsibilities of baby-sitting through the Baby-Sitter Training Course and Red Cross Baby-Sitting. This year's summer training course began June 20 and consisted of around 20 children between the ages of 10 and 14. The instructor made learning the different forms fun to learn and easy to remember Crossword puzzles and group activities made the summer camp a memorable one.

Sacred Heart has a summer academy for the community's youth, but the Baby-Sitter Training Course was added to the program with a lead objective in mind, "to empower the student." Because of funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Sacred Heart is able to provide children with a safe environment for learning babysitting skills and empowering youth to learn job skills and responsibilities.

The children were asked why they were taking the course. Their number one response was "to make money to help our families," followed by "to save someone's life." The children were excited and the room was filled with laughter while waiting for the program to begin, but the children were serious as they learned the proper ways to safely baby-sit. They learned about the different leader approaches — situational, sympathetic, democratic and directive, as well as what to do in various emergency situations. Several of the participants stated that being involved in the program made them feel responsible and one-child said, "It makes me feel good to know that if something bad happens while I'm baby-sitting, they trust me to save them — that I can save them."

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is an annual collection which gives local grants to help provide social ministry in parishes. Applications are available from Becky VanVoor, Archdiocese Director, OCHD. She can be reached at cchdoklahoma@gmail.com or (405) 523-3069. Applications are due by Sept. 1.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program. For nearly 40 years, OCHD has helped to make long-term changes in the economic condition of communities. OCHD supports programs that are aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty.

Acts We Perform, People We Become

By Father Robert Barron

Catholic News Agency

From the 1950s through the late 1970s, Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II) was a professor of moral philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland, specializing in sexual ethics and what we call today "marriage and family life." He produced two important books on these matters, "The Acting Person," a rigorous philosophical exploration of Christian anthropology, and "Love and Responsibility," an immensely accessible analysis of love, sex and marriage. These texts provided the foundation for the fully textured teaching of Pope John Paul II that now goes by the name "Theology of the Body."

As was evident throughout his popency, John Paul had a deep devotion to young people, and he wanted them to see the teaching of the church in regard to sex, not as a burden, but as an invitation to fuller life. In the context of this brief article, I would like to develop just one insight from John Paul's rich magisterium on sex and marriage, for I share the perennial concern of older people that too many young people are treating sex in a morally casual way.

Karol Wojtyła taught that in making an ethical decision, a moral agent does not only give rise to a particular act, but he also contributes to the person he is becoming. Every time I perform a moral act, I am building up my character, and every time I perform an unethical act, I am compromising my character. A sufficient number of virtuous acts, over time, shapes me in such a way that I can predictably and wholly perform virtuously in the future. And a sufficient number of vicious acts can masochize me in such a way that I am typically incapable of choosing rightly in the future. This is not judgmentalism; it is a kind of spiritual/moral physics, an articulation of a basic law. We see the same principle at work in sports. If you swing the golf club the wrong way enough times, you become a bad golfer, that is to say, a kind of person who is temperamentally incapable of hitting the ball straight and far. And if you swing the club correctly enough times, you become a good golfer, someone habitually good at hitting the ball straight and far.

Jesuit priest Karl Rahner (1904-1984) wrote: "A sufficient number of vicious acts can misshape me in such a way that I am typically incapable of choosing rightly in the future. This is not judgmentalism; it is a kind of spiritual/moral physics, an articulation of a basic law." We see the same principle at work in sports. If you swing the golf club the wrong way enough times, you become a bad golfer, that is to say, someone habitually incapable of hitting the ball straight and far. And if you swing the club correctly enough times, you become a good golfer, someone habitually good at hitting the ball straight and far.

Sooner Catholic
Addressing Our ‘Shadows’ Can Help Bring Spiritual, Emotional Growth

Continued from Page 15

John Paul put his finger on a problem typical of our time, namely, that people think that they can do all kinds of evil things while still remaining, deep down, “good persons,” as though their characters are separable from the particular things that they do. In point of fact, a person who habitually engages in self-abused, self-destructive and manipulative behavior is slowly but surely warping her character, turning herself into a self-absorbed, self-destructive and manipulative person. Viewed from a slightly different angle, this is the problem of separating “self” from the body, as though the “real person” hides under or behind the concrete moves of the body. Catholic philosophy and theology have battled this kind of dualism for centuries, insisting that the self is a composite of spirit and matter. In fact, it is fascinating to note how often the greatest sins of the person (to give it its proper name) involve itself and how often the Church has raised up to oppose it.

Now apply this principle to sexual behavior. Study after study has shown that teenagers and college students are participating more and more in a “hook-up” culture, an environment in which the most casual and impersonal form of sexual behavior are accepted as a matter of course. As recently as 25 or 30 years ago, there was still, even among teenagers, a sense that sexual contact belonged at least in the context of a “loving” or “committed” relationship, but today it appears as though even this modicum of moral responsibility has disappeared. And this is doing terrible damage to young people.

Dr. Leonard Sax, a physician and psychologist, explored the phenomenon of the “hook-up culture” in his book “Why Gender Matters,” a text I would warmly recommend to teenagers and their parents. He described that tawdry moral universe in some detail, and then he remarked that his psychiatrist’s office is filled with young people — especially young women — who have fallen into debilitating depression, anxiety and loneliness. DeSoros, and Dr. Sax theorized that these psychological symptoms are a function of a kind of cognitive dissonance. The wider society is telling teenagers that they can behave in any way they like and still be “good people,” but the consequences of these young people’s actions are different every day. Deep down, they know that selfish and irresponsible behavior is turning them into selfish and irresponsible people — and their souls are crying out. Their presence, in Dr. Sax’s waiting room, testifies to the truth of John Paul’s understanding of the moral act.

I might sum up John Paul’s insight by saying that moral acts matter, both in the short run and in the long run. For good or for evil, they produce immediate consequences, and they form characters. And so I might venture to say to a young person, “You may be tempted to engage in irresponsible sexual behavior. Please realize that, though you may not immediately appreciate it, your actions will irrevocably shape the person you are becoming.”

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry Word on Fire, and the Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. He is the creator and host of a new 10-episode documentary series called “Catholicism” and hosts programs on Relevant Radio, EWTN and at WorldTheology.com.

Catholic Radio Can Be Heard on
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and
KTLR 94.1 FM

By Joe Froehle

Sooner Catholic

August 14, 2011

EDITOR’S NOTE: Joe Froehle has many years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. His work includes many years at St. Anthony Hospital. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by e-mail at jfroehle@swbell.net.

Acts

Shadow work is good important staff. Working to heal the shadow or the wounded part of ourself is good for our soul. Shadow work can be the pathway to emotional and psychological growth and spiritual healing. As we acknowledge, understand and accept the shadow side of ourselves, we expose it to the light and changes happen.

Richard Rohr defines the shadow as “all those aspects of our own memory and hurt that remain hidden in our unconscious, those things that we’re not prepared to deal with at the moment.” God Jung says, “The shadow is not evil; it’s simply where the moment.” Carl Jung says, “The healing and a nurturing relationship, with ourselves and God within.”

Signs that shadow work is needed include fear of what others think about us; shrinking from asserting ourselves; fear of failure; or that we are not to be highly regarded; excessive anger and rage with loved ones, depression, anxiety and worry being addicted to alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling. etc.

These signs tell us we need to acknowledge, understand and heal the hurts, traits and beliefs that are within the shadow or we will continue to distort reality by projecting all that we hate within ourselves onto those around us. Until we work to heal the shadow, until we work to heal childhood wounds, we will continue to hate in another what we really hate within ourselves. Shadow work allows us to expose those mistaken and harmful beliefs to the light and to healing. Healing the shadow allows us to soften the resulting fears, flawed personal defects. As we acknowledge, understand and embrace the shadow, we allow God to love, nurture and forgive us, leading to spiritual healing and to being redeemed. At times we are already doing shadow work such as when we do an examination of conscience, confess our sins, accept responsibility for harming another, make a sincere and responsible apology, share with a spiritual director, journal when we feel guilty, share with a spouse or friend about a mistake we made, ask our Lord God for forgiveness, sincerely forgive ourselves, etc. Other ways of working on our shadow include group counseling, therapy, 12-step programs, men’s or women’s therapy groups, marriage counseling, volunteer work, spiritual direction, and the retreat in daily life. God understands the shadow and loves us unconditionally and as He. God knows and understands the source of the shadow for God was with us when we were formed in our mother’s womb. (Ps 139). God was with us during our formative years when the shadow came into its own. God is with us today and loves us even as we allow the shadow to overtake us.

God desires that we do shadow work. Read Matthew 7:5-6. “Let your yes mean yes and let your no mean no. Anything that goes beyond these is from the devil.”

Sooner Catholic

August 14, 2011

Editor’s note: Joe Froehle has had many years experience in marital, individual and family counseling. He serves in the Counseling Center at St. John the Baptist, Edmond. His work includes many years at St. Anthony Hospital. He can be reached at (405) 359-8539 or by e-mail at jfroehle@swbell.net.
Retreat in Daily Life Can Help Build Path to Peace

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

Are you wanting to live more mindful of God’s personal love, care and guidance in your daily life? For more than 500 years in the Catholic Church, the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola have helped persons, who pray the exercises, to "find God in all things." More than 25 persons, who pray the exercises, to St. Ignatius of Loyola have helped more than 500 years in the Catholic mind. R

There is a commitment of an hour of prayer a day for the seven months. Each week there is a group meeting and twice a month one-on-one spiritual guidance sessions with a trained listener. During July and early August, there are discernment interviews and prayer that help each person determine if God is drawing them to pray the Spiritual Exercises at this time. It has been a great tool for young and older folks stepping into career, marriage or other vocations. It has been a great tool for each peace at the end of the retreat. For those serving in family and other work situations, the retreat allows them to experience God’s love and guidance in new ways. For those in retirement, the habit of daily prayer gives new meaning to a life more free to grow in one’s relationship with God.

If you want to inquire more about the RIDL, please contact one of the following persons: Sister Mary Moloney, (405) 848-5181; Sister Benedicta Boland, (405) 373-4565; Sister Melissa Letts, (405) 373-4565; Joanne Forgue, (405) 350-6976; or Joe Frosini, (405) 341-2155.

Devotion to Mary: The Milk and Cookies of Catholicism

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

I got a great gift the other day — a wool carving of a seated Madonna holding Jesus with one hand and admiring a piece of fruit — looks like an orange — with the other. It reminded me that I love the Blessed Virgin because she is a very human representation of holiness. This is a bit of homespun theology, but to me Mary is like the milk and cookies of Catholicism — she comforts and nurtures and is there with emotional support. She has earned titles, such as Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. She is a patroness of the United States under that title. That’s good for a nation as powerful as the USA, but Mary also has titles which make her seem more accessible. I like the title “Cause of Our Joy,” partially because it is so common. It is depicted as Mary with outstretched arms offering Jesus to the world. It was also the name of the Legion of Mary group I belonged to as a teenage agrer.

Other titles have appeal at different times. When I was not sure what to do, I pray to Mary for help. In times of crisis I pray the Memorare, which I associate with St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist on a church wall in Knock, Ireland, more than a hundred years ago. Washington’s Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a majestic church filled with numerous oratories named after titles of the Virgin. The Our Lady of Knock oratory is aglow with Waterford crystal, humble Erin’s brilliant gift. Devotees learned early stick with you. Pope Benedict XVI prayed at the shrine’s image of Our Lady of Knock when he visited the national shrine in 2008. It is a replica of the one he visited as a child in his native Bavaria and where he left his cardinal’s ring after he became pope. Marian devotion has led some people to wrongly accuse Catholics of adoring, rather than revering, Mary, though adoration is reserved to the sacred. A parish priest once complained that our annual May procession to honor Mary succeeded our celebration of the Risen Christ at Easter.

Perhaps the affection reflects the emotional aura surrounding Mary, her embodiment of the best of all maternal characteristics. She is the considerer of young children with skinned knees and the wise counselor of older ones to do the right thing in the face of life’s challenges. Mary is the milk and cookies of our theology and provides the comfort found in an Oreo, chocolate chip or peanut butter cookie. The milk and cookies of Catholicism. The Our Lady of Knock oratory is aglow with Waterford crystal, humble Erin’s brilliant gift. Devotees learned early stick with you. Pope Benedict XVI prayed at the shrine’s image of Our Lady of Knock when he visited the national shrine in 2008. It is a replica of the one he visited as a child in his native Bavaria and where he left his cardinal’s ring after he became pope. Marian devotion has led some people to wrongly accuse Catholics of adoring, rather than revering, Mary, though adoration is reserved to the sacred. A parish priest once complained that our annual May procession to honor Mary succeeded our celebration of the Risen Christ at Easter.
Calendar

AUGUST

14 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2011 SW 26th, Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 456-6060.

15 Christ the King Church, Eucharistic Adoration every Monday starting with Mass at 6:30 a.m., Adoration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Benediction at 6 p.m. Christ the King, 8005 shotwell drive, Oklahoma City.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus, 17th-25th of each month. Nine days of novenas to Infant Jesus of Prague. During these nine days, the novena prayer is as follows: Monday-Friday following noon Mass, Saturday following 6 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jun Thorne Blvd. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

17 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 23rd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

18 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish Chapel, every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (MUF) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7516 W Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

19 Eucharistic Adoration, every Thursday from 2 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory’s Chapel, St. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee, Mass at 5 p.m. with adoration to follow. Included as vespers with the monks.

20 TAP INTO FATIH This month’s topic: Christology with Donna Bill Cote. Single or married, ages 21 to 51. 8:45 p.m. Q & A. Stay afterwards for fellowship. Tap into Fatih is held at Lottinville’s located on South Kelley, just south of 156th in Edmond. We have a private room in back. For more information, call Mary Lesher at 405-410-1655.

20 Pre-Cena is a day for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8944.

20 Spanish-Language Marriage Preparation program for couples that are married civilly or through common law and want to have their marriage blessed by the Church. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at (405) 724-8944.

20 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular Lay Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta meet in the Council Room at St. John the Baptist, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Mass at 7:30 in the chapel. For more information, contact Toni Harrelen, LMC, at (405) 253-2359 or lemcatholic@bce-global.net.


21 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance Hawaiian Luau Party, from 7 to 9 p.m. Mix and mingle, dance lessons. Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. At St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church located at 5024 N. Greer Ave., OKC. For more information, call Al at (405) 521-0763.

Jobs Box

Director for the Academic Success Center St. Gregory’s University seeks qualified applicants for a full-time Director for the Academic Success Center beginning August or September, 2011. This is an exempt position which assigns students needing tutoring to appropriate tutors (or faculty volunteers, or self), promotes Support Center services, monitors and evaluates tutoring sessions, processes payroll. A more complete job description is posted on the SGU website at http://www.stgregorys.edu/. Minimum requirements: a master's degree or higher, commitment to help students succeed, teaching experience, tutoring expertise, supervisory experience in an educational setting, excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate should be self-directing, able to work effectively with students with physical and learning disabilities, able to work with a flexible schedule. The Center Director will serve as ADA representative and may teach one course per semester in an appropriate field. SGU has approximately 750 traditional and adult students. Candidate should be able to accommodate change and growth at the university and should value the diversity of populations We are committed to excellence in teaching. Sharrons is a small, multi-cultural city in the Oklahoma City metro area. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and tutoring philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Human Resources, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, Attention: Dr. Ron Faulk, Provost. Application materials may be sent electronically to hr@sgu.edu or via mail service. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled, which will be announced on the SGU website.

Youth Minister

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond, a parish of 2,900 families, is seeking an energetic candidate to serve as full-time high school youth minister and assistant with middle school youth. Most importantly, we are looking for a faithful and passionate Catholic, willing and able to share their lives for Jesus and His Church. This person will work closely with the pastor and under the supervision of the Director of Religious Education, 4th through 12th grade. Qualified applicant is an active Catholic, fully formed in the teachings of our Church, with a passion for youth ministry. Can screen, plan, promote and carry out Liturgies, Bible studies, retreats, conferences and special events. Must be skilled in technology. Must possess leadership skills required to lead high school youth in worship and formation. Must be self-motivated and able to work in a multi-tasking team environment. Applicants should have at least a bachelor’s degree in Pastoral Ministry or a related field and a minimum of three years experience in youth ministry. Salary varies with education and experience. Send resume to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Attn: Barry Cagle, PO Box 151, Edmond, Okla. 73033.

Part-Time Music Teacher

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a part-time music teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. Liturgical music director duties for leading student choir and a minimum of three years experience in teaching. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and tutoring philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Human Resources, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, Attention: Dr. Ron Faulk, Provost. Application materials may be sent electronically to hr@sgu.edu or via mail service. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled, which will be announced on the SGU website.

21 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus' Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelites Monastery in Piedmont from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Strand at (405) 282-6624.

26 Spanish Marriage Encounter is a process designed to give you and your spouse a special opportunity to examine your life together. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 724-8944.

27 Respect Life Group meets on the last Saturday of the month at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic. Call Debby Knecht at (405) 324-5579 for more information.

27 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance Hawaiian Luau Party, from 7 to 9 p.m. Mix and mingle, dance lessons. Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. At St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church located at 5024 N. Greer Ave., OKC. For more information, call Al at (405) 521-0763.
church a shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague if the infant Christ would help him get the new church built.

Soon donations began pouring in from across the country. On Feb. 22, 1949, Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness dedicated the new Catholic Church at Prague again under the patronage of Saint Wenceslaus. Keeping his promise, Father Johnson set the statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague behind the main altar.

On Aug. 2, 1949, Father Johnson was granted permission to establish the National Shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague in Prague, Okla.

Father Oswalt said the Carmelite Sisters have a special devotion to the Infant Jesus. It was their Order that first received the original statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague in 1629.

The Carmelites continue to help support the Shrine and their influence can be found throughout it. An altar rail more than 100 years old was restored and placed in the church. And the Baptistry, built in the 1880s, has been restored to “its original dignity” thanks to a devoted and generous donor, Father Oswalt said.

A gift shop offers a wide assortment of items dedicated to the devotion of the Infant Jesus of Prague. And a newsletter is sent out monthly to some 7,000 people who have asked for information about the Shrine. About 150 of the newsletters are translated into Spanish and sent to Mexico and another 60 are mailed to Europe.

The church is home to three relics, one from the manger where Christ was born, one from the cross and one from a bone of St. Wenceslaus.

Father Oswalt said it’s beautiful to see how the Holy Infant sends support for the Shrine. Father Oswalt was asked to speak about the Shrine to a class of landscape and design students. The professor of the class at Oklahoma State University is greatly involved in the Knights of Columbus. The students are now designing a new courtyard for the Shrine. Father Oswalt said it is hoped the design will lead to a new and expanded outdoor Stations of Cross as well as a “Mother’s Garden” dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and featuring a monument to the unborn.

Catholic schools are finding their way to the Shrine. Faculty from St. John Nepomuk in Yukon and Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City will hold retreats at the Shrine prior to the opening of the school year.

To learn more, visit www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.
Shrine Draws Faithful, Travelers With Promise:

The More You Honor Me, The More I Will Bless You

PRAGUE — Legend has it that the Statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague was damaged in the 1600s during war that tore across the Czech Republic.

The story says the hands of the statue were missing when a priest by the name of Father Cyril found it in 1637. The statue had been hidden in a church, behind the altar.

The humble priest had a great devotion to The Holy Infant and it was at this time that the Infant Jesus was said to have appeared to Father Cyril and told him, “Have pity on Me, and I will have pity on you. The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.”

Father Cyril went about raising money to help restore the hands to the statue.

“The more you honor me, the more I will bless you,” has become the cornerstone of the Shrine.

Father M. Price Oswalt, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Church and one of the priests who persuaded the state Department of Transportation to place signs pointing the way to the Shrine, said last year more than 65,000 people visited the Shrine.

Father Shane Tharp was the priest who originally got the sign idea in motion while he served as pastor at Saint Wenceslaus before transferring to Chickasha. Father Tharp convinced the state to put the sign up on I-44, while Father Oswalt was successful in getting a sign placed on 1-40.

Father Oswalt credits the Sisters of Mercy, who came to Oklahoma dates to 1909 when Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, Oklahoma’s first bishop, dedicated a new church under the patronage of Saint Wenceslaus, also the patron of the Czech nation.

Ten years later the church was destroyed by a tornado. A new church was built on the same grounds and served the Catholic community until after World War II when growth demanded a larger church be built. But times were hard and the parish was unable to raise funds for a new church.

Father George Johnson was appointed parish priest in 1947. That same year his mother became critically ill and he traveled to California to be with her. The Sisters of Mercy, who were staffing the hospital where his mother was dying, asked Father Johnson if his parishioners had a devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague. He told them they did not, so they gave him a statue of the Infant Jesus.

In August of 1947, Father Johnson brought the statue to his parish in Prague and placed it at the side of the altar. Soon after, parishioners began telling of their prayers being answered.

Just before Christmas, Father Johnson found himself asking for help in raising money for a new church. He promised the Infant Jesus that he would make the new statue bigger and better and that devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague would grow.

While the increased traffic into Prague is great for tourism, there are plans for the Shrine to grow.

According to information provided by the Shrine, the history of the Infant Jesus of Prague dates back more than 400 years. According to legend, the statue was modeled by a virtuous girl to whom the likeness had been revealed in a vision. The statue is 18 inches tall and crafted of a wax-coated wood. The left hand holds a miniature globe adorned by a cross, signifying the worldwide kingship of the Christ child. The right hand is extended in blessing. The first two fingers are upraised to symbolize the two natures of Christ.

The story of how the Infant Jesus of Prague came to Oklahoma dates to 1939 when Bishop Theophile Meerschaert, Oklahoma’s first bishop, dedicated a new church under the patronage of Saint Wenceslaus, also the patron of the Czech nation.

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“The more you honor me, the more I will bless you,” has become the cornerstone of the Shrine.

Father M. Price Oswalt, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Church, home to the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, said the devotion to the Infant Jesus continues to draw people from far and wide.

As the 65th anniversary of the Shrine approached, Father Oswalt said it was obvious much work was needed to restore the aging structure. “Basically I said, ‘Lord, your Shrine is in desperate need of repair, do something.’”

Soon, the needed funds began to arrive and renovations and improvements have been taking place.

“We have a truck driver from Tennessee who stops in almost every time he passes through the area,” Father Oswalt said. The trucker wrote a check for $12,000 to put a new tile floor in the church.

Another gentleman, a World War II veteran from Illinois, sent a check for $25,000.

“He said The Holy Infant Jesus has been his buddy for years and...”

Continued on Page 19

Infant Jesus of Prague Dates Back Over 400 Years

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Continued on Page 19