Archbishop Plans Outdoor Mass to Celebrate Golden Jubilee

Archbishop Beltran plans to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on May 15, 2010. The Archbishop will celebrate Mass outdoors at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. More information will be available as the date draws closer and all are invited to join in the celebration.

In the meantime, because Archbishop Beltran recently turned 75 years of age, he has submitted his resignation to the Holy Father as required by Canon Law.

This does not mean Archbishop Beltran will be stepping down as Archbishop of Oklahoma City anytime in the near future. He plans to continue serving as long as Pope Benedict allows. It is not unusual for retiring bishops and archbishops to continue actively serving in their leadership role well past their 75th birthday.
The Good News

Our Catholic Charities

Between now and next Sunday, Sept. 20, hundreds and hundreds of people will be blessed by our Archdiocesan Catholic Charities organization. These include the residents at Villanova Apartments in Lawton, the mothers and babies at Holy Family Home in Midwest City, the senior citizens living at Trinity Gardens and Villa Isenbart in Oklahoma City, the people receiving counseling in Enid, Lawton, Oklahoma City and Clinton, the women coming to the Sanctuary for Women, along with many homeless and the many other poor people who will obtain food or clothing or help with rent, utilities or medicine.

Yes, every day and every night, our Catholic Charities staff and volunteers are assisting men, women and children throughout Oklahoma. God blesses all these people through the Catholic Charities services which you provide by your prayers, work and contributions.

Next Sunday, Sept. 20 is the annual Catholic Charities appeal in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. A request for financial support for the works and mission of Catholic Charities will be made at every Mass in every church throughout our Archdiocese. A recorded message is also available to be played during the Masses.

I hope that everyone will realize that financial support of Catholic Charities is much more than simply giving money. Catholic Charities is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Catholic Charities is the united effort of the Catholic community of this Archdiocese in addressing the situations of those who are in need.

Catholic Charities endeavors to assist the poor, the homeless, the distraught.

In recent months, due to the economic downturn and increasing unemployment, there is a greater need for the services which Catholic Charities provides. Consequently, there is a need for increased funding to assure the continuance of these services. Our dedicated staff and volunteers renew their own commitment to be responsible stewards of the funds and contributions made to Catholic Charities.

Also, our Catholic Charities board of directors, having only recently begun the successful Sanctuary for Women, is exploring ways to extend our services. There is much to be done and while we cannot do everything, we will try to do as much as we can to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Our goal for this year’s Catholic Charities appeal is $2.4 million. If we can successfully reach our goal in this campaign, we will be able to maintain a balanced budget for the coming year. Moreover, we will be able to continue our programs and services. Therefore, I am sincerely requesting that every Catholic person of this Archdiocese join me in financially supporting the current Catholic Charities appeal.

If you have already made a financial commitment to this year’s Catholic Charities appeal, I thank you now in word and with an assurance of continuing prayer. If you have not yet responded to the current Catholic Charities appeal, I earnestly ask you to do so next Sunday at Mass. Whether you make a one-time gift for this year or a pledged commitment of monthly support, either would be gratefully received and responsibly used.

Catholic Charities is the combined work of all of us in this Archdiocese, reaching out to help others in need.

Please, Catholic people of Oklahoma, hear the plea of your brothers and sisters who seek your help through the various ministries and services of our Catholic Charities. Please join me in a commitment of prayer and support of our Catholic Charities. Please make a financial pledge today of $25 or $50 or $100 each month over the next year. Please be assured that you are gratefully remembered in my prayers and especially at daily Mass. May God bless you most abundantly.

Thank You and God Bless You!

September 8, 2009

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

By means of this note, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have so graciously remembered me in prayer.

Many of you have written to me or sent cards either on the occasion of my birthday or my brief illness. I thank you for your kindness and want you to know how grateful I am. Although I am older now, I am happy to say that I have fully recovered, am back to good health and a full schedule.

Please be assured of my ongoing gratitude and prayers. You and your loved ones will continue to be remembered daily in my prayers and Masses. May God bless all of you most abundantly.

Gratefully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

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Dear Friends in Christ:

“Everyone can be great, because anyone can serve ... you need only a heart filled with grace, a soul generated by love.” This inspiring quote of Dr. Martin Luther King is one that calls you and me to respond in faith and in love to the needs of others which we see every day. In giving ourselves to others, we help make God's love known to those who ask for mercy. We find Christ, God’s Servant to all people, when we encounter the suffering and needs of our sisters and brothers.

We live in very unsettling times. In Oklahoma many have lost jobs, working families are falling further behind in meeting their basic needs, and pain and addictions drain the life and spirit of young and old alike. With the downturn in our economy, we question the cost of everything and ponder the value of our assets. We find that our greatest assets are things which money cannot buy: the gift of life and our relationships with God, our family and our neighbor. We know that by sharing our God-given blessings with our needy sisters and brothers that we witness the dignity of life, and help God bring about the good that He seeks for his Kingdom.

During the past year, Catholic Charities has directly helped thousands of people who have asked for financial assistance, safe housing, help during pregnancy, reconciliation, disaster relief and relocation because of persecution. Our staff and volunteers believe that their lives are enriched because they see firsthand the power of God's grace in serving others. At our Sanctuary Women’s Development Center, we serve women living in shelters. We have witnessed that when someone whom we help realizes that she can help another woman, that she is empowered by her giving. Indeed, we cannot underestimate the power of human relationships of those who return their gifts in service to Catholic Charities.

In serving we become united with the sufferings of Christ, and we are deeply grateful for the sacrifices of many donors who make the work of Catholic Charities possible in our archdiocese. All of the ministries of Catholic Charities depend on the support we receive through our annual appeal. In these times of financial uncertainty and strain, many more people are seeking help from Catholic Charities. It is this challenge that we will courageously accept, and especially invite all persons who have not previously supported Catholic Charities, to participate in this important work.

Each of us is called to greatness, and our lives are always enriched by both what we give and what we receive. The work of Catholic Charities belongs to everyone and it will not be complete without you.

Tim O'Connor
Executive Director

Help Catholic Charities meet its 2009 Annual Appeal goal of $2.4 million
Catholic Charities A Voice for Those With No Voice
Embryonic Stem Cell Veto Example of Failure to Protect Life

Richard Klinge, associate director for Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services, speaks out on two of the many issues that Catholic Charities will be working on at the state and federal legislative level in the coming year.

In his June 2009 encyclical, Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict XVI discusses at length the “battle-ground between the supremacy of technology and human moral responsibility in the field of bioethics.” In this “most delicate and critical area,” he recognizes that a “fundamental question asserts itself forcefully — is man the product of his own labors or does he depend on God?” Pope Benedict concludes that when man becomes entranced by an exclusive reliance on technology, “reason, without faith, is doomed to flounder in an illusion of its own omnipotence.”

That same fundamental question identified by Pope Benedict faced our governor and each of our state senators and representatives during the just completed 2009 legislative session. Regretfully, our governor and many of our legislators, by their ultimate votes and decisions, made it clear that they stand on the side of science regardless of the impact on life. On March 12, 2009, with the support of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Catholic Charities and many other churches and religious leaders, the Oklahoma House passed House Bill 1326, which essentially banned non-therapeutic embryonic stem cell research (“Bill”).

On April 14, 2009, the Senate passed that bill and sent it to Gov. Henry for his signature or veto. On April 23, 2009, Gov. Henry vetoed the bill. Also, on April 23, 2009, the House overrode the veto of the bill by the narrowest of margins, but the Senate’s override attempt fell short. In his veto message, Gov. Henry made it clear that he did not see the protection of embryonic stem cells as a pro-life measure and, in fact, stated that it does “nothing to discourage abortion or save a life.” To further demonstrate his option for technology over faith, he went on to say that the bill would only serve to “hinder life-savings efforts by banning promising research that could yield new treatments or cures [for diseases].” It appears that many of the legislators, who had originally voted in favor of the bill, changed their minds and agreed with the governor’s position when they cast their votes to sustain the governor’s veto.

Despite this legislative setback in Oklahoma in this bioethical battleground, the teaching of the Catholic Church that the destruction of embryonic stem cells is the destruction of life remains unequivocal. In their June 2008 statement titled On Embryonic Stem Cell Research, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (“USCCB”), (i) reaffirmed that from conception onward, the human embryo is as much a living member of the human species as any of us and (ii) rejected the false assumptions that a good end can justify direct killing of embryonic stem cells and that anyone who kills embryos are not depriving anyone of life. The USCCB concluded that the human embryo “is a complete and distinct member of the species Homo sapiens and is a living organism which has the full complement of human genes and is actively expressing those genes to live and develop in a way that is unique to human beings, setting the essential foundation for further development.”

In September 2008, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the Instruction Dignitas Personae (“Dignitas”). After reviewing several of the medical treatments currently used by the scientific community to address infertility and analyzing their effects on human embryos, Dignitas acknowledges “the legitimacy of the desire for a child and understands the suffering of couples struggling with problems of fertility,” but instructs us that such a desire cannot “override the dignity of every human life ... from its conception to its natural end.” Any medical intervention must be gauged in reference to this standard. Dignitas reminds us that “God’s love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother’s womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness in each one...”

In Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict concludes that it is not surprising that man shows indifference toward the suffering and human degradation in our world “... when such indifference extends even to our attitude toward what is and is not human.” As Catholics, we must study and understand our Church’s teachings, we must pray and reflect on them and we must articulate them in the public square when political decisions (such as the veto of House Bill 1326) challenge the very dignity of life.

To read any of the documents discussed in this article, see http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bio-ethical/stemcell/index.shtml. Caritas in Veritate can be found at http://www.usccb.org/jphd/caritasin-verbatim/.

Catholic Charities Helps Many Find Work In Tough Times

Refugees new to the Oklahoma City area find that “big-box” stores, as large retail establishments are sometimes called, can satisfy many of their shopping needs. Discount chain stores are popular places for refugees to shop for affordable groceries, children’s school uniforms and inexpensive household goods. Increasingly, they have also been a place to find another basic necessity: work.

In the past year alone, retailers including Target and Wal-Mart have accounted for nearly 20 refugee job placements through Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City. That’s about 20 percent of all client placements. While other industries in the area have made dramatic employee cutbacks, many discount retailers have continued to hire. Newsweek magazine recently cited such retailers in its list of businesses that tend to be unaffected by a recession.

Beyond being “recession-proof,” discount stores have proven to be positive working environments for refugees, a fact that becomes apparent during the hiring process. One human resources manager at a local store noted that his company’s interview questions are known to be difficult, even for native English speakers, but interviewers sometimes use telephone translation services. Hiring managers at other stores allow refugees to bring their own interpreters to job interviews.

Mohammed, originally from Syria, says he enjoys his cashier job at a large local discount department store. “All people are equal — there is no discrimination related to color or religion or race. There are equal opportunities for every worker.”

A former consultant for Human Rights Watch in Lebanon, Mohammed says he plans to improve his English, have his law degree re-certified in the United States and eventually work for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. But after recently arriving in Oklahoma, he was eager to find a job that would cover his living expenses so that he could focus on future plans. He said his new retail job does just that.
Catholic Charities Comes to Aid of Disaster Victims

LONE GROVE — When Allison Craig joined Catholic Charities last year as a case manager, little did she realize that her work would bring her into small communities and remote areas of Oklahoma. For more than six months, Allison has traveled I-35 from Oklahoma City to Lone Grove making weekly visits with the families who were displaced by the horrific tornado that occurred on the evening of Feb. 10. She continues to stay in touch with the victims of the tornado and the organizations that are helping to restore order to the hundreds of persons who suffered injury and financial loss.

The damage which occurred in Lone Grove affected more than 100 families who were living in Lone Grove, many of whom rented mobile homes and who were without property insurance. Their cars, which were needed to go to work, were destroyed. When the sun came up, they saw devastation beyond their imaginations, and they were confronted with the question: Where to from here?

Within 24 hours the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Oklahoma Emergency Management and the Red Cross set up a town hall meeting to bring the Lone Grove community together and plan how the response to the tragedy would proceed. Catholic Charities contacted St. Mary Church in Ardmore to find out if any tornado victims were members of the parish, and to offer assistance to the parish’s efforts in responding to the community. While no member of St. Mary’s sustained loss, Father Thomas O’Toole expressed his hope that Catholic Charities would come to the community and offered the support of the parish.

Through the efforts of Rick Friedrick, director of missions at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Ardmore, Catholic Charities established an office at the hospital where people could come to meet with the Catholic Charities disaster case managers. With support from Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, bills were paid for expenses that required immediate response, including prescriptions, temporary housing, fuel expense and emergency repairs. “Our main concern is always to assure victims that there is hope and that we care about them,” Craig said.

Catholic Charities connected with Robert Lee, executive director of Mental Health Services of Southern Oklahoma, to secure counseling for those served. Businesses and churches in the Lone Grove community raised more than $200,000 for direct assistance for those who were affected. Craig said the effort was a remarkable demonstration of how neighbors banded together to help. They organized as the Recovery Effort of South Central Oklahoma (RESCO), and met on a regular basis with local service organizations, including Catholic Charities, to help with expenses that were beyond the scope of community helping organizations.

For Brenda and her family, the help from Catholic Charities exceeded all expectations. In the dark hours of the tornado's aftermath, Brenda was pulled from the debris of her mobile home. Everything was gone. Grateful for her life, she had difficulty thinking through the many decisions she faced. The $6,000 Brenda received to cover all her losses was barely enough to buy a used smaller mobile home, and it was in poor condition. When Brenda called Catholic Charities, Craig assured her the agency would help her solve her problems. As Brenda’s case manager, Craig became her personal representative, obtaining the needed services for Brenda and her family.

“With the great cooperation of many people, churches and businesses, Lone Grove experienced its own edition of Extreme Makeover in rebuilding Brenda’s home and doing many more good works,” said Catholic Charities Executive Director Tim O’Connor.

As a result of the work in Lone Grove, Catholic Charities was asked to assist in nearby Ratliff City following the wildfires that raged through the community in April. After meeting with the local officials, Catholic Charities agreed to supervise the United Methodist Conference, which took responsibility to provide case management services to the residents in the area. Case managers also continue to help victims in eastern Oklahoma County, who also suffered loss during the April wildfires.

O’Connor said, “Sometimes the work of Catholic Charities is perceived to be in only the Oklahoma City area, but during the past several years, we have made great efforts to directly serve the entire archdiocese, particularly with disaster help. Unfortunately, Oklahoma has many more natural disasters than other areas of the country, however, when people are in great need, they always remember the help which has been given through the local church.”

Number of households Catholic Charities assisted in Lone Grove: 62

Estimated hours of service provided for direct services: 750, and for community meetings: 38

Amount of funds Catholic Charities has spent toward assisting individuals with their recovery: $2,800

Estimated amount of funds requested by individuals and obtained from private resources: $45,000

The thing that keeps me working for Catholic Charities is that I get to see God’s miracles happen on a regular basis.

Eileen McGee, Coordinator, Catholic Charities Clinton Office
Catholic Charities Housing Projects Helps Lift Lives

Villanova Apartments
Lawton, Oklahoma
64 two- and three-bedroom units

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has received the 2009 Apex Award from the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency for its revitalization of Villanova Apartments in Lawton.

In 2006, Catholic Charities assumed sponsorship of the development, and ground was broken in May 2007 for the total renovation of the apartments. As a non-profit organization, Catholic Charities was able to maintain the availability of the project-based housing assistance for the city of Lawton. Reconstruction was completed last December.

Today, Villanova Apartments is a partner with the city of Lawton and stands ready to serve families who require housing support. “Catholic Charities is proud to sponsor this development and to renew its commitment to provide supportive safe and affordable housing to deserving families in Lawton,” said Associate Director of Administration Nancy Largent.

Blessed Sacrament and Holy Family parishes in Lawton have provided volunteer support in the development and services offered at Villanova Apartments. Catholic Charities provides a service coordinator to encourage residents to achieve their goals.

Villa Isenbart
Senior Housing
405-947-4143

Villa Isenbart is an affordable housing development sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for people who are 62 years and older.

In 1993, Catholic Charities submitted a HUD 202 application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for funds to construct Villa Isenbart. The application was approved and a separate corporation was formed to oversee the project and be accountable to the Catholic Charities board of directors. Bombing of the Murrah Building in 1995 delayed final application and approval, but construction began in 1996. Villa Isenbart welcomed its first residents in April 1997.

Features include 40 unfurnished one-bedroom apartments, a large community room, common areas, a coin-operated laundry and parking lot.

Residents of Villa Isenbart must meet specific income requirements for residency as required by HUD. The average resident age is 75. The average resident income is $9,629.

On-site activities include visits by nursing students from Rose State University, holiday and birthday celebrations, cookouts and resident council meetings.

St. Patrick Parish, which is adjacent to the apartments, welcomes the residents in social activities and religious services.

Trinity Gardens Apartments
Senior Housing
405-947-4143

Trinity Gardens is an affordable residential apartment complex serving senior adults. It is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and is located at 3825 N.W. 19th St. in Oklahoma City. The apartments provide safe and affordable housing for seniors of all faiths who can live independently in a retirement community setting.

With the assistance of Mercy Housing Inc. of Denver, Catholic Charities secured affordable housing tax credits to finance the costs of rehabilitating the former St. Ann’s Nursing Home into a senior apartment residence to serve low-income people. In 1997 Trinity Gardens was opened.

“Catholic Charities has made a long-term commitment for the use of this property to provide affordable housing for seniors at this site,” said Executive Director Tim O’Connor. “Supportive services are in place and available to every resident to ensure they can maintain independence. Catholic Charities has ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the operation of this facility and this is accomplished through its appointment of a voluntary board of directors that oversees the facility.”

Trinity Gardens opened in April 1997 with 54 unfurnished one-bedroom apartments and four unfurnished two-bedroom apartments. The original chapel serves as the community room. It is used for resident activities and group functions. The building also has a large common area upstairs, a coin-operated laundry and parking lot. The Margaret Annis Boys Trust provided funding for a community garden.

Trinity Gardens is designed for persons who are 62 or older and meet specific income requirements. The program is administered in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law Amendments Act of 1988. The resident ages range from age 62 to 95. Average resident income in 2007 was $13,000.
JustFaith Opens Eyes Of the Faithful in Parishes

JustFaith Ministries is a faith formation program for parishes that aspire to enable people of faith to develop a passion for justice, to express this passion in concrete acts of social ministry, and to expand the work of social ministry in their faith communities. Catholic Charities, through its Parish Outreach and Program Development Department, assists pastors and parish staff in implementing JustFaith in their parishes.

Deacon Tom Schott of St. Thomas More Church says, “JustFaith confirmed for me what the heart of our gospel is all about. If the core of the gospel is the love of God for us, then that love is actualized by our loving our neighbor. JustFaith brought home to me who my neighbor is and how my unthinking participation in the consumer society harms my neighbor and hurts our planet. The “normal” life I live falls short of my call as a follower of Jesus to surrender myself to the love of the Father. JustFaith opened my eyes.”

Orena Franks of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Oklahoma City recalls, “The most important impact of JustFaith is that it opened my eyes more to the poor and I see them as God’s children, as opposed to problems to society.”

The program “meets everyone where they are in their faith and gives them the knowledge and spiritual support to look at social justice issues in our world and find their role in these issues,” says Becky VanPool, director of Parish Outreach and Program Development at Catholic Charities.

VanPool said JustFaith is an educational experience, a formation process and a spiritual journey which grounds participants in Catholic Social teachings. Over seven to eight months, a group of eight to 12 participants gathers weekly for prayer, discussion of books and videos, presentations by guest speakers, retreats and immersion experiences.

Dianne Brown from Christ the King Parish says, “The biggest impact of the JustFaith experience for me was knowing how many good people, from the past and present, who had or have the vision and response to counter unjust situations. The JustFaith reading list exposed me to authors and topics I would not have read, if I had not participated in this experience.”

JustFaith groups are organized and active in several Oklahoma City metro area parishes including St. Charles Borromeo, St. Eugene, Christ the King, Our Lady’s Cathedral, Corpus Christi, St. Mark the Evangelist, St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist and St. John Nepomuk. More recently, JustFaith groups have been formed at Blessed Sacrament Church in Lawton and St. Peter Church in Woodward.

Linda Clark of St. Charles Borromeo Church encourages participation “because JustFaith is the best faith enrichment program I’ve been a part of in 35 years of Catholic programs, events, workshops, volunteering, and other opportunities. It changed my life in an unexpected and joyful way which I hope others will also experience.”

Catholic Charities Parish Outreach and Program Development Department provides information and resources to parishes in planning and implementing JustFaith. Recently, additional materials have been developed to provide opportunities for small groups to focus on specific social issues, such as prison ministry, economics immigration and environment issues. For additional information about all JustFaith programs, contact Becky VanPool at (405) 523-3003 or bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org, or visit www.justfaith.org.

Immigration Assistance Available Via Web Cam

Catholic Charities has implemented its first Web cam site at its Enid Regional Office to help immigrants with their legal questions, said Margie Solis, director of the Immigration Legal Assistance program.

The technology allows Catholic Charities immigration attorneys to counsel undocumented immigrants in the Enid area about their legal status and whether they are eligible for immigration assistance.

The Web cams have been successful in making services available to people outside the Oklahoma City metro area.

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Does Catholic Charities have permission to publish your name as a donor? □ Yes □ No
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Sister Betty Part of Catholic Charities Counseling for Two Decades

OKLAHOMA CITY — This past month, Sister Elizabeth (Betty) Kehoe celebrated her 50 years as a Religious Sister of the Congregation de Notre Dame. Archbishop Beltran celebrated the Mass during which Sister renewed her vows. Family members from Illinois, along with co-workers and friends from the Archdiocese, were in attendance. A dinner followed the Mass. A DVD presentation allowed those in attendance to get the flavor of the changes in those 50 years from Sister having worn a habit and teaching children to wearing lay clothing and counseling families, couples and children.

When asked about what wisdom she tries to pass on to those seeking relief and help with their problems, she stated that forgiveness is a major force available to each of us. Forgiveness goes a long way with helping people overcome problems that can greatly disrupt their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Forgiveness of oneself is both a challenge and a way out of suffering. This is a prescription for health and happiness offered by Sister Betty. For close to 20 years, she has been an integral part of the St. Joseph Counseling Service offered by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. She serves as assistant director at St. Joseph.

Sister Betty said many of the issues she counsels people over have changed during her near two decades at St. Joseph. She listed a host of problems she sees more of today than in the past. These problems often include difficulty with relationships, lack of good parenting skills, addictions to technology, especially through the Internet.

While the issues have changed, Sister Betty said one constant has always afflicted mankind — our dark side and the inability to admit it exists and to hold “ourselves accountable for it.”

“We have to admit as human beings we have a dark side,” she said. It’s vital that we be in “touch with this” and then be willing to hold ourselves accountable for our own weaknesses and character defects.

“As a society, we have such a tendency to blame others and project our own shortcomings and character defects on others,” she said.

Because many families have both parents working, children are often left alone. With all the new technology available, children can be exposed to a great deal of inappropriate sexual content. This certainly isn’t healthy. Living with the secrets and fantasy of cyberspace is a poor substitute for God’s gift to us of real people. “Even protective parents find it difficult to keep unsolicited sexual material out of their children’s lives,” Sister said. “Today, it’s not enough to be a step or two ahead, parents have to be many steps ahead.” She feels this can be so overwhelming that some adults simply choose to “turn a blind eye” to the issues. “We’re not healthy when we hide things,” Sister said.

Sister Betty said one of the great gifts parents can give to their children is to teach them to be “self-caring.” Children who are taught to truly care for themselves and others find greater hope and enjoyment in life. If a child is self-absorbed, he or she will find that meaningful relationships will be difficult to achieve.

Sister Betty said she has found great inspiration working with the women who seek support at Catholic Charities newly opened Our Lady of Guadalupe Sanctuary Women’s Resource Center. The center is located in Oklahoma City at 2133 SW 11th St. Sister Betty said many of the women who come there have been in abusive relationships. They are seeking peace in their own lives and for their children.

“It’s awesome work,” Sister Betty said. “The women are pretty trusting.” She said it’s gratifying when the women reach the point that they realize that they are more than their problems. She said one special moment occurred during a group session when participants were asked to express their lives in one word.

Three women said “happy,” two said “confused” and one woman said “blessed.”

Sister Betty said she used the word “delighted.” Her delight stems from not only from making it to this stage of her life, but from enjoying the moment with six other women who testified to the Lord’s goodness in their struggles and desire for forgiveness.
OKLAHOMA CITY — On Sept. 23, area pro-life advocates will again join with people of faith and conscience from many other communities across the nation for the 40 Days for Life campaign, said Debby Krisch, spokesperson for the Oklahoma City effort. This is the second year for the local campaign. The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is working with the local campaign.

The campaign will open on the 23rd at the Connor Center at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Participants will then move to the abortion clinics in Warr Acres and Norman. Last year, said George Rigazzi, director of the Office of Family Life, the campaign was successful in closing the Warr Acres clinic for two weeks. The Norman clinic was not included in last year’s 40 Days campaign, but has been added this year.

Rigazzi called the prayer campaign “very successful” and said more than 500 people took part last year. Participants will pray in shifts each day from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

“This is about prayer,” said Rigazzi.

40 Days for Life is an intensive pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion centers, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.

“40 Days for Life has generated proven lifesaving results since its beginning in 2004 in Bryan/College Station, Texas,” said David Bereit, national director of 40 Days for Life. “During four previous coordinated campaigns, more than 240 communities participated in this effort. More than 200,000 people — representing some 5,000 churches — have committed to pray and fast. And we know of at least 1,561 unborn children whose lives were spared from abortion during 40 Days for Life campaigns.”

To learn more about 40 Days for Life campaign, visit 40daysforlife.com. For information about the Oklahoma City campaign, visit 40daysforlife.com/oklahomacity.

OKLAHOMA CITY — WorldWide Marriage Encounter priests from all over the country gathered in Oklahoma City for a few days of fellowship and enrichment earlier this summer. Fifty-two priests listened to keynote speaker Paul Coutinho, S.J., share on his book “How Big Is Your God?” In addition to Coutinho, speakers included Tony and Cathy Witzak of Wayne, Pa., and Father Emile Frische of New York City, who are currently serving Worldwide Marriage Encounter as both United States Ecclesial leadership team and International Ecclesial leadership team. Other priest presenters included Father Mitch Walter of Newark, N.J., and Father Doug Reed of Edenton, N.C. The WWME priests enjoyed a late afternoon trip to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and a delightful dinner and evening on the Oklahoma City Riverfront. The Oklahoma City Worldwide Marriage Encounter community hosted this event by coordinating all of the facility and meal arrangements, transportation and hospitality.

You can find out more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter by going to www.wwme-oklahoma.org.

The next weekend in Oklahoma City will be Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 and Jan. 29-31, 2010. To register or for more information, contact Dan and Jean Forgue at (405) 760-0390.

OKLAHOMA CITY — On Friday, Sept. 25, at halftime of Mount St. Mary’s home football game against Kingfisher, the school will honor its first football coach, Tom Swyden, by naming its athletic field house in his honor. The field house, which was built in the early 1960s, just received a total renovation that helps give athletes and coaches a competitive edge.

“Tom Swyden’s name is synonymous with The Mount. Not only was he our first football coach, but he and his family have deep ties to the school. Tom’s children and grandchildren have attended The Mount, and he and his family have always given back of their time, treasure and talents to the school,” said Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement.
The Authentic Transformation of “Useless” Human Suffering

Human beings naturally recoil at the prospect of pain and suffering. When a sharp object pokes us, we instinctively pull away. When the unpleasant neighbor comes up on caller ID, we recoil from answering the phone. Our initial response is to avoid noxious stimuli and pain, similar to most animals.

Yet when dealing with painful or unpleasant situations, we can also respond deliberately and in ways that radically differentiate us from the rest of the animal kingdom.

We can choose, for example, to confront and endure our pain for higher reasons. We know that a needle will hurt, but we decide to hold our arm still when getting an injection because our powers of reason tell us it will improve our health. We know the pain of talking to our difficult neighbor, but we figure that we should rise to the challenge and do it anyway, attempting to build peace in the neighborhood.

We can also approach our pain and suffering in unreasonable ways, driven by worry and fear. When we suffer from a difficult relationship, we can turn to drugs, alcohol or binge-eating. When we suffer from the thought of continuing a pregnancy, we can terminate it by taking the life of our son or daughter by abortion. When we suffer from the pain of cancer, we can short-circuit everything by physician-assisted suicide.

How we decide to respond to suffering, whether rationally or irrationally, is one of the most important human choices we make. For many in our society, suffering has become a singular evil to be avoided at all costs, leading to many irrational and destructive decisions.

While physical pain is widespread in the animal world, the real difference for human beings is that we know we are suffering and we wonder why; and we suffer in an even deeper way if we fail to find a satisfactory answer. We need to know whether our suffering has meaning. From our hospital bed or wheelchair, we can hardly avoid the piercing question of “why,” as grave sickness and weakness make us feel useless and even burdensome to others. In the final analysis, however, no suffering is “useless,” though a great deal of suffering is lost or wasted because it is rejected by us, and we fail to accept its deeper meaning. Pope John Paul II often remarked that the answer to the question of the meaning of suffering has been given by God to man in the Cross of Jesus Christ.

In the field of Catholic health care, the question of suffering arises with regularity, and while the dedicated practice of medicine strives to lessen suffering and pain, it can never completely eliminate it. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in an important document called the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, reminds us that “patients experiencing suffering that cannot be alleviated should be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.”

The very concept of “redemptive suffering” suggests that there is much more to human suffering than meets the eye, and that it is not simply an unmitigated evil from which we should instinctively flee. Rather, it is a mysterious force that can mold us in important ways and mature us, a force we ought to learn to work with and accept as part of our human journey and destiny.

Each of us, in our pain and suffering, can become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ. As children, we may have been taught those famous three words by our parents when pain and suffering would come our way: “Offer it up!” Those simple words served to remind us how our sufferings can benefit not only ourselves, but those around us in the mystery of our human communion with them. When we are immobilized in our hospital bed, we become like Christ, immobilized on the wood of the Cross, and powerful redemptive moments open before us, if we accept and embrace our own situation in union with Him.

Because of the personal love of the Lord toward us, we can in fact make a very real addition to His plan of salvation by uniting our sufferings to His saving Cross, just as a little child can make a very real addition to the construction of her mother’s cake when she lovingly allows her to add the eggs and flour. While the mother could do it all unaided, the child’s addition is real and meaningful, as the love of the mother meets the cooperation of the child to create something new and wonderful. In the same way, God permits our sufferings, offered up, to make an indelible mark in His work of Salvation. This transformation of the “uselessness” of our suffering into something profoundly meaningful serves as a source of spiritual joy to those who enter into it. For those who are in Christ, suffering and death represent the birth pangs of a new and redeemed creation. Our sufferings, while never desirable in themselves, always point toward transcendent possibilities when we do not flee from them in fear.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org.

John Michael Talbot to Offer Concerts in Archdiocese

John Michael Talbot will be appearing in concert at the following locations. Free will offerings will be accepted.

Monday, Sept. 14 — St. Gregory’s Abbey Church, Shawnee, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 15 — St. James Parish, Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 16 — St. Thomas More University Parish, Norman, 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 17 — Holy Family Parish, Lawton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 18 — St. Mary Parish, Ponca City, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 19 — St. Mary Parish, Yukon, 7 p.m.

By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
Letters

Support No More
The Sooner Catholic again gives Tom Waken a forum to spew deliberate lies. His tone and content never change, only the names. Now it’s President Obama instead of President Clinton.

Maybe Waken could explain to the senior citizens why trillions of dollars of their retirement disappeared. Could that be a pro-life issue?

Please cancel my subscription to the Sooner Catholic. I will not support such a one-sided, single-issue paper.

Jimmy O’Neill
St. Mary’s, Ponca City

Column on Target
George Weigel’s column in the Aug. 30 Sooner Catholic edition said for what I thought and felt about the article in the New York Times magazine’s interview with Justice Ginsberg, but could not express.

I read Michael Gearson’s column in The Oklahoman of July 18. I was also baffled and in disbelief that these comments were being offered by Justice Ginsberg. I kept reading and waiting for some response to this column in the paper but there were none that I saw.

Thank you for publishing Weigel’s column, which is intelligent, frank and truthful.

Pam Andrews
Oklahoma City

Death Penalty Flawed
There is very little information disseminated with regard to the misconceptions regarding the death penalty. I would like to quote a few facts concerning the most popular myths on this topic (excerpts from Equal Justice USA pamphlet, Brooklyn, New York, 2009).

Myth 1: Victims’ families begin healing when the defendant’s sentence is capital punishment.

Fact: Families of victims continue to be traumatized for many years, even decades, after the sentence is pronounced. Every appeal, every re-trial, every statement by the defendant further prolongs the agony. Many family members have stated that had they known the torture they would endure throughout the legal process, they would prefer to see the defendant sentenced to life without parole (which begins immediately after the trial).

Myth 2: Execution is more cost efficient to the taxpayers than a life sentence.

Fact: Numerous studies in many states have concluded that when all the additional expenses of court proceedings and appeals, the actual expense to the taxpayer is at least double (and in some cases triple) the cost of maintaining an inmate in a maximum security prison for 40 years. Maryland, for example, reported that a single death sentence costs almost $2 million more than a comparable non-death penalty case. Moreover, Maryland spent $186 million extra for just five executions. Imagine if that money had been spent on additional law enforcement or correctional officers to keep our communities and prisons safer.

Myth 3: Every defendant gets adequate representation.

Fact: Ninety percent of those on death row were too poor to afford their own attorneys. Many court-appointed attorneys are overworked, underpaid, and are the least experienced in capital defense proceedings. Yet capital defense is much more time-consuming and complicated than other criminal defense work. Public defense offices are plagued by unmanageable caseloads, high turnover, and some of the lowest paid in the profession. Courts often allow the most egregious mistakes to stand. In one famous “sleeping lawyer” case of George McFarland, a Texas court ruled “the Constitution guarantees the right to an attorney. It doesn’t say the lawyer has to be awake.”

Myth 4: DNA testing prevents executing an innocent person.

Fact: DNA evidence exists in less than 15 percent of criminal cases. In those few cases where DNA evidence is available, access to the DNA database or new testing is extremely limited. While it is true that 135 death row inmates have been exonerated since the death penalty was reinstated in 1973 (seven in Oklahoma), and many of those exonerations were due to DNA test findings; the risk of executing an innocent person is still very real. In the past two years, the Chicago Tribune, the Houston Chronicle and the St. Louis Dispatch collectively reported on four executed inmates, who were likely innocent. They are Ruben Cantu of Texas, Carlos de Luna of Texas, Larry Griffin of Missouri and Cameron Todd Willingham of Texas.

Myth 5: Every defendant is treated fairly and equally under the law.

Fact (a): Geography counts — Where a crime is committed can play as big a role as the nature of the crime in determining who will live and who will die. Similar murders might get 40 years in one county and the death penalty in the next county over. Numerous states, including Ohio, Illinois, Maryland and Tennessee, have a large percentage of death sentences from just one or two counties. Nationally, in 2007, nearly three-fourths of all executions took place in just three states. The South accounts for 80 percent of the executions in the United States and has the highest murder rate.

Fact (b): Justice is blind — Many of the most high profile murderers and serial killers don’t get the death penalty because they have better lawyers who negotiate deals. Meanwhile, poor defendants are executed for robberies “gone wrong” or murders that were not premeditated. Accomplices have been executed in cases where the actual killer got life. Eighty percent of those executed in the U.S. were convicted of killing a white person, even though African Americans are victims in about half of all murders.

I could relate more “myths vs. facts,” but for the sake of the readers, please think about this information, and ask yourself, isn’t it time for Oklahoma to finally abandon the old West notion, “hang’em high,” and recognize that capital punishment is so flawed that it ought to be removed from the list of punishment alternatives for our legal system?

Dane Gill
St. Joseph Old Cathedral

Fear the Driving Force
We have read many articles about our death penalty process in Oklahoma. Our “eye for an eye” punishment for those convicted of murder hasn’t solved the problem. Although most of the free world has done away with this barbaric process of destroying human life, Oklahoma still thinks it’s the best way to deal with a person who takes a human life or is present when a homicide takes place.

The Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., has released considerable information about the terrible mistakes we make with the use of the death penalty. More than 125 innocent people have been released from death row. At least eight of these were in Oklahoma. We wonder how many innocent people were missed and subsequently executed by mistake. The studies also show that states with the death penalty have a higher rate of violence than non-death penalty states!

Another major reason for not using the death penalty is the outrageous misuse of our tax dollars. As much as $2 million can be spent for a death penalty conviction and execution.

All of this information has been made available to our legislators many times. They make the laws and are the main reason we still have the death penalty in Oklahoma.

Not all of our legislators support the use of the death penalty. Many see it for what it really is — revenge and hate and no deterrent to violent crime.

Could the main reason our legislators do not push for abolishment of the death penalty be fear of not being re-elected?

Our legislators should inform their constituents of the terrible cost the death penalty inflicts on taxpayers. In Oklahoma we have a great alternative, life without parole. There are no lengthy, expensive appeals. The convicted is put in prison and will stay there until new evidence comes which proves their innocence or until God takes them His own way.

Notwithstanding the morality of the death penalty process, our bankers would tell us that its use is just plain stupid! The cost in taxpayer dollars alone far exceeds the so-called good desired.

You, as lawmakers, have the distinct power to make these great and wonderful changes in the moral fiber of Oklahoma. Put an end to the premeditated killing process we have now, get back to a truly Christian way of life!

Jim and Ann Fowler
Saint Charles Parish, Oklahoma City
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Desde ahora y especialmente el próximo domingo, 20 de septiembre, cientos y cientos de personas serán bendecidas por nuestra organización Arquidiocesana Caridades Católicas. Esto, incluye a los residentes de los departamentos llamados "Villanueva" en la ciudad de Lawton, a las mamás y sus bebés que residen en la "Casa Sagrada Familia" en la ciudad de Midwest City, a los ancianos que viven en "Trinity Gardens" y en "Villa Isenhour", a las personas que reciben consejería en las poblaciones de Enid, Lawton, Oklahoma City y Clinton, a las mujeres que vienen al refugio llamado "Santuario para Mujeres", a los desamparados y a muchas otras personas pobres que obtienen comida, ropa, ayuda con su renta o con sus medicinas. Si, cada día y cada noche, los trabajadores de nuestras Caridades Católicas y sus voluntarios, ayudan a hombres, mujeres y niños a lo largo de toda Oklahoma. Dios bendice a todas estas personas a través de los servicios que se ofrecen desde Caridades Católicas, los cuales ustedes también provienen a través de sus oraciones, compromiso y contribuciones.

El próximo domingo, 20 de septiembre, es la colecta anual de Caridades Católicas en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City. Una ayuda económica será requerida en cada Misa, en cada iglesia alrededor de nuestra Arquidiócesis por el trabajo y la misión de Caridades Católicas. Un mensaje pregrabado está disponible también, para ser escuchado durante las Misas.

...Nuestras Caridades Católicas

Deseo que todos ustedes entiendan que el aporte financiero a Caridades Católicas es mucho más que simplemente dar dinero. Caridades Católicas están en el corazón de nuestra fe Católica. Caridades Católicas es el esfuerzo mancomunado de los miembros de la comunidad Católica de esta Arquidiócesis para solucionar las situaciones de aquellas personas que están en estado de necesidad. Caridades Católicas hace todo lo posible para poder socorrer a los pobres, a los desamparados y a los angustiados.

En los meses que han transcurrido recientemente, se ha pululado una debilidad económica y el aumento del desempleo, por ende, se ha incrementado la necesidad de proveer más ayuda por parte de Caridades Católicas. En consecuencia, es necesario aumentar los fondos para asegurar la permanencia de los servicios que se ofrecen actualmente y los que las situaciones actuales conllevan a implementar. Nuestro dedicado personal y voluntarios de Caridades Católicas han renovado su compromiso de ser responsables en el uso de los fondos y las contribuciones otorgadas para desarrollar sus ministerios y ayuda humanitaria.

También, la Junta Directiva de Caridades Católicas, recientemente comenzó con mucho éxito el "Santuario para Mujeres" y estamos buscando maneras de extender más servicios para ayudar a los más necesitados. Aunque no podemos hacerlo todo, hay mucho por forjar. Queremos que a través de Caridades Católicas podamos enmendar mucha ayuda a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en estado necesidad.

Este año nuestra meta de recolección para Caridades Católicas es de $2,4 millones. Solamente con el poder de Dios y la ayuda de todos ustedes podemos alcanzar nuestra meta satisfactoriamente en esta campaña, también podremos mantener un presupuesto balanceado para el año que viene.

Es más, podríamos continuar nuestros servicios y programas. Por esta razón, con mucha humildad y sinceridad le pido a cada Católico de esta Arquidiócesis que me acompañe y apoye con su donación o regalo financiero para ayudar con la colecta para Caridades Católicas.

Sí usted ya hizo este año un compromiso o aporte financiero con la colecta para Caridades Católicas, le doy las gracias de antemano con palabras y con mis plegarias continuas por ustedes. Si usted todavía no ha respondido a esta colecta para Caridades Católicas, encarecidamente le pido que lo haga el próximo domingo en Misa. No teman si usted puede hacer un sólo regalo o un compromiso de soporte mensual porque su aporte siempre será recibido con agradecimiento y usado con responsabilidad.

Caridades Católicas es el trabajo combinado de todos nosotros en esta Arquidiócesis, llevando la ayuda a quienes más la necesitan. Este trabajo y ministerio está basado en el gran mandamiento de amor. Jesús dijo ama a Dios sobre todas las cosas y a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. Nosotros con alegría, efectivamente cumplimos con este mandamiento a través de nuestro aporte personal y financieros que hacemos hacia Caridades Católicas.

Por favor, le pido al pueblo Católico de Oklahoma, que escuchen el ruego de nuestras hermanas y hermanos que buscan su ayuda a través de los diversos ministerios y servicios que se ofrecen en nuestras Caridades Católicas.

Por favor acompañemos en un compromiso de oración y asistencia para nuestras Caridades Católicas. Por favor hagan una donación financiera que por los menos oscile entre $25, $50 o $100 cada mes hasta el próximo año. Es un sacrificio, pero a la vez un acto de bondad y amor que hacen ante los ojos de Dios.

Por favor tengan la cortezia de que estarán grátamente recordados en mis plegarias y especialmente en la Misa diaria.

Que Dios los Bendiga abundantemente.

Celebrado Congreso de Sanación en la Escuela Católica "Bishop McGuiness"
Fomentando positivamente la construcción de una mejor comunidad

La realidad natural de la familia está en los preceptos Católicos

Por Mauro Yanez
Soon er Catholic

GUYMON — La Oficina de Vida familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City está trabajando arduamente con sacerdotes, religiosas y religiosos y con el laicado comprometido para que creen conciencia común de los derechos esenciales de la familia.

En los actuales momentos la sociedad globalizada está sufriendo un sin número de aflicciones que deterioran el valor y la identidad de la familia, tanto, que ciertas personas dejan de ver con importancia el valor de la familia y su integridad moral dentro de los preceptos de la Iglesia Católica y de la misma sociedad. El presente año, es un tiempo de derechos y desafíos, pero también un tiempo de reflexión y confianza en Cristo Jesús. Para tener una sociedad sana, se debe tener una familia alegre, llena de espiritualidad y valores morales que sirvan para su educación y progreso.

Los feligreses hispanos Católicos de Guymon han incrementado su compromiso de proteger y fortalecer la institución familiar siguiendo y atendiendo el llamado de la Iglesia de fortalecer y respetar el vínculo indisoluble del matrimonio, unión libremente contraída, entre un hombre y una mujer. Nuestros preceptos Católicos, que son las reglas de Dios dentro de nuestra Iglesia, nos llevan a concientizar que la familia constituye, más que una unidad jurídica, social y económica, una comunidad de amor y de solidaridad. En Guymon y en cada pueblo o ciudad de todo el territorio de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se reafirma que la familia es insustituable para la enseñanza y transmisión de los valores culturales, éticos, sociales, espirituales y religiosos, esenciales para el desarrollo y bienestar de la humanidad.

Parraquianos de San Jose en Norman hicieron tamales para recaudar fondos

Ayudando a nuestros hermanos y hermanas Católicos de Aguas Calientes

Más de dos mil tamales hicieron para cumplir una misión de bondad.

Ayudar al prójimo en México no es tema solamente religioso, sino ante todo, humano.
Jobs Needed

Cook Needed
Villa Teresa School has an opening for a cook. Must have some knowledge and experience with federal food program and menu planning. Call Sister Veronica at 232-4286 to arrange an interview.

Director of Religious Education
Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced Director of Religious Education. The director is responsible for overseeing the K-12 religious education for students not attending Catholic school, coordinating the RCIA program, Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession. The director also will be responsible for developing and coordinating a strong adult education program for the parish. The applicant should be well-versed in Catholic doctrine, work well with a variety of people and have strong initiative. Candidates should possess a degree in religion or theology, preferably a master's degree. Resumes should be sent to Father Rick Stansberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156, or e-mailed to kelly@ckokc.org.

Full-Time Director of Religious Education
St. Philip Neri Parish, Midwest City, is looking for a full-time DRE to coordinate the religious education program. The position will be available Oct. 1. Candidates will also be required to administer the Safe Environment program of the parish. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Send all inquiries and resumes to Father Timothy Fuller, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 1107 Felix Place, Midwest City 73110.

Part-time Organist
Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Kingfisher, is looking for a part-time organist to help with weekend Masses and/or occasional special events. Stipend is available. Call the pastor, Father Stephen Hamilton for more information at (405) 375-4581.

Part-Time Organist
St. Philip Neri Catholic Church is in need of an organist to play for our 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 300 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 Ext. 123 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. — SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three-manual organ.

Director of Admissions
St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Director of Admissions. Successful candidate is responsible for providing leadership and vision to organize and direct all functional areas within the Office of Admissions. The director is responsible for planning, managing and evaluating undergraduate recruitment and admission activities for the College of Arts and Sciences. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree required. Four-plus years of progressive experience in university admission; supervisory-level experience preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send information to Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350. For full job description, go to catharchdioceseokc.org/sooner/jobs.htm.

Assistant Director of Admissions
St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Assistant Director of Admissions. The successful candidate's responsibilities include marketing to and building positive relationships with prospective students, parents, counselors, parishes and alumni; analyzing and reviewing applications with the goals of increasing class size and academic quality; recruiting and enrolling qualified students who are good community members. Education and experience: Bachelor's degree required; admissions experience in higher education and management of tour guide programs preferred. Send information to Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350. For full job description, go to catharchdioceseokc.org/sooner/jobs.htm.

Dean of Enrollment Management
St. Gregory's is taking applications for position of Dean of Enrollment Management. The successful candidate is responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, analysis and general supervision of all programs related to the recruiting and retaining of undergraduate students for the College of Arts and Sciences. A bachelor's degree is required with a master's degree strongly preferred. Significant and progressive experience as a university admissions leader is expected. Salary is commensurate with experience. Electronic resumes are preferred, and should include a letter of application describing experience, qualifications, vision and record of achieving/exceeding enrollment goals at one's recent institution. Nominations, expression of interest or requests for the complete position specifications may be sent directly to the university: Dr. Richard Ludwick, Provost, c/o Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, hr@stgregorys.edu, (405) 878-5350.

Medical Staff Openings
The Center of Family Love in Okarche has immediate openings for the following: CMA - Certified Medication Aide to work weekend doubles. LPN or RN - Daytime hours Monday through Friday. Administrator's license a plus! Must have excellent organizational, administrative and management skills! To apply, call 263-4658, fax 263-4718, e-mail alemke@cflinc.org, or in person at 635 W. Texas, Okarche, Okla. 73762. EOE

Administrative Assistant
Catholic Charities has an opening for an administrative assistant. Successful candidate will possess computer proficiency in Word, Excel and Outlook; excellent organizational skills with the ability to multi-task; excellent typing and document production skills; Publisher or equivalent software proficiency preferred; positive oral and written communication skills; and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Preference will be given to candidates who are bilingual in Spanish. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Assoc. Director for Children/ Family Services
Catholic Charities has an opening for an Associate Director for Children and Family Services to serve on the Executive Team and oversee the direct social services for children and families offered by Catholic Charities. Successful candidate will possess excellent supervisory and administrative skills, excellent oral and written communication skills, a commitment to continuous quality improvement and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. The position requires a master's degree in social work from an accredited school of social work, a current social work license with clinical specialty, and a minimum of three years in social services to children and families. Please send resumes to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE

Clinical Director for Children/Family Services
Catholic Charities has an opening for a Clinical Director for Children and Family Services. This position will be responsible for the direction and oversight of all counseling programs and other clinical services of Catholic Charities, including the satellite offices. This position will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures. The successful candidate will possess a clinical license and have a master's degree in social work, human services or related field plus five years related experience. Knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching is required. Successful candidate must possess excellent oral and written communication skills, a commitment to continuous quality improvement and the ability to relate to and professionally interact with staff, volunteers and the public. Send cover letter, resume and salary history to Human Resources, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., OKC 73106, or nlargent@catholiccharitiesok.org. EOE
15 The Central Region Council of Catholic Women will hold their first general meeting of the school year at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center on NW Expressway. Sign-in begins at 9 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. Cost is $6.50 for the luncheon. Call Jeanne Ferguson at 341-4396 or e-mail jeanneferguson@att.net for lunch reservations.

15 Dying Well in the Christian Tradition from 7 to 9 p.m., a panel presentation on End of Life will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information, contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 721-5651.

16 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. All are welcome.

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

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

18 Mount St. Mary Alumni Tailgate Cookout at 6 p.m., prior to Rockets vs. Bethel football game.

18-19 The Catholic School of St. Eugene is celebrating its 50th birthday! A celebration will be held Sept. 18-19. Alumna of the school, past principals and teachers will be attending the event. It will include a school tour and picnic on Sept. 18 and Mass and an alumni gathering on Sept. 19. If you are an alumn of the school, register online at stegene-schol.org. For more information, contact the school at (405) 751-0067.

19 Retreat, St. Benedict's Spirituality from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with Joanne Yankauskas, OSB. Place: Library at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register by 9/16. Fee: $25, bring a sack lunch.

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

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

20 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 Diabrow at 830-8688.

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

24 Learn the Sympto-thermal Method of Natural Family Planning with Jeanne Blasi, certified instructor, over three nights on Sept. 24, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 9th and Boulevard, Edmond. The cost of supplies is $135. Free child care is available upon request. For information and registration, call Dr. Harry Kocurek at 340-0691 Ext. 109.

24 Corpus Christi Catholic Church will present “My Being Proclaims The Greatness of the Lord” Music and Liturgy Workshop in the Heartland. The annual event will run through Sept. 27 and will feature music composers, lecturers, performers and arrangers. Kenneth W. Louis, Washington, D.C.; Valeria Foster, Washington, D.C.; Bonita Franklin, Oakland, Calif., and Rawn Harbor, Rawn Harbor, will lead the workshop. Registration is $40 per person and includes all music and liturgy workshops, seven meals and workshop materials. Cost is $20 per person for Saturday morning liturgy workshop and one continental breakfast. Youth 12-16 are free. Corpus Christi is located at 1005 N.E. 15th St., Oklahoma City 73117. For more information, call Magnolia Cumby at (405) 521-9786 or missym1045@cox.net.

26 No One Comes to Faith Alone, 2009 Catechetical Congress. Join us for a morning of insight and renewal as Sister Kate Dooley, OP, addresses our theme of “Faith Professed” in two morning talks. The Catechetical Congress will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. The day begins with exhibits and refreshments at 7:45 a.m. and opening prayer at 8:30 a.m. The event will close with Mass at noon with Archbishop Beltran. All parishioners are invited to attend, especially those that have a role in the catechesis of our parish. There is no cost. Please register through your parish Catechetical leader (director of Religious Education or youth ministry coordinator).

26 2nd Annual St. Vincent De Paul Friends of the Poor Walk at St. Mark's Parish in Norman at 8:30 a.m. There will be a silent auction. The walk will take place around the lake behind St. Mark’s, which is one-third mile around. The money raised by this walk will stay in Oklahoma to help those in need here. There is no pressure to win, there are no prizes, everyone who walks is a winner. To register, call Ed at (405) 485-2332.

26 Late Nite Catechism will be performed at the Connor Center at Our Lady’s Cathedral. Ticket prices start at $75. The event will include a special Vietnamese dinner. Sponsorships are available. For tickets or information, contact Lisa Edmonds at 818-6678 or visit www.bjcs.org. Seating is limited.

26 St. Mary’s School Annual Fall Fest in Ponca City will be held from 6:15 to 10 p.m. Family fun featuring game booths, inflatables, silent and live auctions, raffle, bratwurst and much more. There is no admission charge and proceeds will benefit St. Mary’s School. St. Mary’s is located at 721 S. Seventh Street.

26 Retreat, Come Away to the Silence from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with Marie Ballmann, OSB. Place: Library at Red Plains Spirituality Center. Call (405) 373-0804 to register by 9/23. Fee: $25, bring a sack lunch.

27 5th Annual Young Adult Mass & Cookout with Archbishop Beltran from 2:30 to 7 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City. All young adults from around the archdiocese between the ages of 18-39 (already graduated from high school), single or married are invited. To register, contact the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office at (405) 721-9220 or e-mail becky@bjaimer@catharchdiocese-okc.org. Register by Tuesday, Sept. 22. Cost is $5.

27 The Divine Liturgy (the Eucharist or Mass) of the Byzantine Catholic Church will be celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman at 6 p.m. Father Phil Secton of St. Charles Parish will preside. A reception will follow with refreshments and Q & A in the Lake Room.

27 Czech Mass at St. John Nepomuk Church will honor the people of Czech descent with a special Mass at 10:30 a.m. St. John’s Altar Society will host a reception in Marion Hall. Coffee and kolaches (traditional Czech pastry) will be served.

29 Catholics Coming Home at St. Charles. We have a gentle way to come back to your Church family through Catholics Coming Home. We meet for one hour on Tuesdays for five weeks. Meetings start Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in Beckman Hall at St. Charles, 5024 N. Gove Avenue, Oklahoma City. For more information, call Frank at (405) 728-7750.
Oración del Servidor

Tus hijos vienen a ti, Dios de amor,
confiamos en tu bondad y misericordia.
tu Hijo se hizo humilde para venir entre nosotros
primero como un niño y luego como el Cordero de Dios.
Que el sacrificio de su vida y su servicio entre nosotros
nos enseña a vivir como sirvientes para todos.
Como administradores de Tus dones generosos,
demos testimonio de tu bondad en nuestras vidas
por el bien que hacemos como servidores de todos Tus hijos.
¡Bendito seas, Dios de toda bondad!
Que nuestro servicio te dé gloria
Al orar ahora y siempre por Cristo nuestro Señor, Amén.