WICHITA – Sister Marita Rother really didn’t get to know her brother, Father Stanley Rother, as a priest until she visited him in Guatemala in the 1970s.

She was at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ convent in Wichita when he left to study for the priesthood.

“He went to the seminary right after high school,” she said, adding that he didn’t tell his parents of his interest in the priesthood until after he graduated.

“We never talked about it,” Sister Marita told the Catholic Advance, newspaper of the Wichita Diocese.

Still, she and her three brothers were close to one another and to their sister, Sister Marita Rother, A.S.C. “We prayed a lot together as a family, and I know that’s what drew us closer.”

It is in this ordinary life that Stanley first experienced a personal encounter with the Good Shepherd, where he learned what it meant to live as a disciple of Jesus. This is where he learned to be a man of prayer, a life of discipleship.

Stanley Francis Rother was raised in a staunchly Catholic, German farming family in the farmhouse where he was born on March 27, 1935. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic School for 12 years, and in between seminary semesters, Stanley returned to help with the harvest.

Life for the Rother family centered on the family, the farm and on the Church and its traditions. From an early age, Stanley and his four siblings (a sister died in infancy) learned the importance of prayer and of praying together as a family.

In a world that idolizes MVPs, lauds superheroes and glories celebrities, for someone to be described as ordinary could be taken as an insult.

Yet, one of the most inspiring things about Stanley Rother – the farmer from Okarche – is precisely how average and ordinary he was.

“His beatification is a verification that God can do great things with relatively ‘insignificant’ people,” explained Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Seattle and an Okarche native. “God chose a humble virgin in Nazareth (an out of the way, no-place village) to be the Mother of His Son. In the same way, God chose a priest from a remote rural part of Oklahoma who couldn’t learn Latin and barely passed seminary to be the Proto-Martyr for the United States!”

Father Rother’s life is a reminder that heroic holiness is accessible to each one of us, “if we want it. It’s that simple … and it’s that challenging.” Saints are local. They come from ordinary places like Okarche and Santiago Atitlán, yet their holy witness strengthens the Church universal.

A life of discipleship

Kansas nun shares memories of her brother who is on path to sainthood

By Christopher M. Riggs
Catholic News Service
WICHITA – Sister Marita Rother really didn’t get to know her brother, Father Stanley Rother, as a priest until she visited him in Guatemala in the 1970s.

She was at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ convent in Wichita when he left to study for the priesthood.

“He went to the seminary right after high school,” she said, adding that he didn’t tell his parents of his interest in the priesthood until after he graduated.

“We never talked about it,” Sister Marita told the Catholic Advance, newspaper of the Wichita Diocese.

“We were both rather quiet. I didn’t even tell my friends until shortly before I left that I was actually leaving (to become a nun).”

Still, she and her three brothers were close to one another and to the Church universal.

On Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. – a once in a lifetime event will take place in Oklahoma City to honor one of our own – Fr. Stanley Rother. I invite each one of you to take the time to join me and Cardinal Amato in the beatification of Fr. Rother at the Cox Convention Center.

This is an historic event for the United States and for Oklahoma that you don’t want to miss!

Please see the insert in this edition for more information or visit stanleyrother.org.
Passion and Purpose Conference with Matthew Kelly, 6 p.m., Cox Convention Center, OKC

Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

Beatification of Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother, 10 a.m., Cox Convention Center, OKC

Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

Sept. 19

Presbyteral Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Sept. 17

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

papers. It captured my attention and fired my imagination. It was big news; in all of the news, everyone was talking about the death of Father Stanley Rother. It became the news that everyone was talking about. The whole world was talking about it. And the reason was very simple: it was the testimony of a man who had poured his whole heart and being into serving the people of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. During his years of priestly ministry, he had been transformed into a living icon of the Good Shepherd by the spirit of the living God dwelling within him. He gave his all; as Christ gave his all. He had been blessed by the Church in Oklahoma with this opportunity to share our good shepherd and native son with the whole world and to build up his example of holiness as a model to come.

On Sept. 23, we will celebrate the life of Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother at his Beatification Mass in downtown Oklahoma City. The ceremony will be the only beatification in the United States and the first beatification of a U.S.-born priest and martyr. This once-in-a-lifetime event should not be missed!

Please join me, Cardinal Sean, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laypeople from across the United States and Guatemala as we honor an ordinary man who was called to do extraordinary things. We are all called to be saints. We praise and thank God for raising up this heroic priest and exemplary model of priestly holiness for the Church. Through his Beatification, we gain a powerful intercessor in Blessed Stanley Rother. May he continue to pray for us and to seek the follow the way where the brave Shepherd has gone before us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Prayer for the Cause of Canonization of Father Stanley Rother

O God, front of all holiness, make us each week celebrably in our creation, through the intercession of the Church, whom you bestow a great variety of graces on earth.

Having granted your Church with the life of your priest and martyr Father Stanley Rother, we beseech you to grant that by his intercession this humble flock may reach the haven where the brave shepherd has gone.

Grant that your Church may proclaim him a saint living in your presence and interceding for us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Owen’s story is a beautiful example of how God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. It is a reminder that each of us has the potential to make a difference in the lives of others and to be a light in the world. As we prepare for the beatification of Father Stanley Rother, let us pray that his life and witness may inspire us to live more generously and to follow the path where the brave Shepherd has gone before us.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

You’re invited

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017
10:00 a.m., Cox Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK

OPEN SEATING – NO TICKET NECESSARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I returned to my second year at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., everyone was talking about the death of Father Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma priest who was a symbol of compassion at his Oklahoma parishes in Sartins Atitlan, Guatemala. He was a “Most Holy” alumnus. It was big news; in all of the news, everyone was talking about him. It captured my attention and fired my imagination. From that time on I have always been eager to learn all that I could about the life of this heroic priest.

So, in 2010, as soon I accepted my new appointment to become the next Archbishop of Oklahoma City (even before it had been announced), I drove to Oklahoma City, to visit Father Rother’s grave and his boyhood parish. I was struck with the solemn realization that this was my responsibility to carry forward the cause for Father Rother’s beatification and canonization, and to make his story of generous pastoral charity and courageous sacrifice known to the world.

As I reflect on the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Father Rother had poured his whole heart and being into serving his parishioners. During his years of priestly ministry, he was being transformed into a living icon of the Good Shepherd by the spirit of the living God dwelling within him. He gave his all; as Christ gave his all. God has blessed the Church in Oklahoma with this opportunity to share our good shepherd and native son with the whole world and to build up his example of holiness as a model to come.

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Please join me, Cardinal Sean, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laypeople from across the United States and Guatemala as we honor an ordinary man who was called to do extraordinary things. We are all called to be saints. We praise and thank God for raising up this heroic priest and exemplary model of priestly holiness for the Church. Through his Beatification, we gain a powerful intercessor in Blessed Stanley Rother. May he continue to pray for us and to seek the follow the way where the brave Shepherd has gone before us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

St. Kateri center opens at St. Greg’s

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

American Indian Catholic Outreach

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

St. Gregory’s University, Benedictine Hall, Room No. 015.

For more information, contact Deacon Roy Callison
(405) 878-5495

Deacon Attocknie is managing editor of the Sooner Catholic.
New Catholic Charities office in Ardmore already helping residents

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime.”

Gonzalo Johnson, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, is not a fisherman, but three years ago he took a group of people to teach “how to fish.”

His one goal is to help people “break the cycle of multiple generational poverty.”

Johnson manages a team of 12 staff who help more than 1,600 households with needs such as rent assistance, food insecurity, utility assistance, emergency medical costs and more each month.

He is the coordinator of the archdiocesan Assistance Program, an agency that helps families in emergency situations.

Johnson said Juan Jimenez, diocesan coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, is not a fisherman, but three years ago he took a group of people to teach “how to fish.”

Every year, the Assistance Program helps families in emergency situations.

The seed of delight that Christ sowed in Stanley’s heart

Rev. James Stafford

Rev. James David Martin Stafford, 88, died on Sept. 7 in Oklahoma City.

Father Stafford was born Dec. 11, 1928, in Oklahoma City, Okla. He attended Seminole public schools, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, his master's degree at the University of Tulsa and his licentiate of Canon Law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1961, at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa. He was a colonel in the U.S. Army, fourth infantry regiment, and received the National Defense Service Medal.

Father Stafford devoted 47 years in active ministry to the people of Oklahoma, serving as assistant pastor, Immaculate Conception, OKC; associate pastor, St. Francis Xavier, Enid; chaplain at Enid State School and St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC; chaplain and teacher, Bishop Blanchet Catholic School, Tulsa; administrator, St. Andrew, Haskell teacher, Edmond High School; and assistant pastor, St. Joseph, Lawton.

He served on the Worship Commission, Board of Directors, Council of Priests, Seminary Board, Archdiocesan Chaplains of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima in Oklahoma and was a Regional Vicar. Father Stafford retired in 2008.

Father Stafford is preceded in death by his parents, and he is survived by his five children and several nieces and nephews.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the St. Francis Xavier Chapel on Sept. 11 with interment at Holy Family Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

Memorial gifts may be made to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 1222 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City 73101.
Carole Brown Director of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship

Contagious Faith

A method for our mission mentality shift

Many years ago, I served on a team of missionaries in Austria. Once, when I was attending a German class, the volunteer teacher was helping me with basic conversational skills. Naturally, one of the things I needed to learn is how to ask what someone does for a living and how to tell them what I do. So, when I told the Austrian lady that I was a missionary, she said, “But, what are you doing here? We are already Christians!”

I was discovering that indeed, Austria was a country with deeply Catholic roots. In spite of the impact of secularism, cultural Catholicism was still alive and well. There were still crucifixes hanging on the walls of stores, and even at the banks. Virtually all the historic bridges had a statue of Saint John Nepomuk on them.

Pentecost was even a national holiday—though few took advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the feast day by going to Mass! So many Austrians, my German teacher no longer my colleague and I were there, as missionaries. I soon learned that it was better not to tell people this because of the possibility of insult. Missionary activity, as far as most Austrians were concerned, was something that happened somewhere else, to someone else and would be done by someone else.

What we are learning in the Church throughout the west is that a missionary mentality needs to become the central feature of our understanding of ourselves as Catholics. Catholicism of every rank is being asked not only to live explicit lives of discipleship. We are called to believe in the kerygma, and the missionary action of the community. Only out of the kerygma does the possibility of true Christian interaction occur” (LMD, p. 11).

2. Accompany: “To create a culture of encounter and witness, we must live a life of discipleship. We need to live explicit lives of discipleship. We need others to model lives of discipleship and accompany us as we grow in the spiritual life and experience of ongoing conversion” (LMD, p. 1-15).

3. Community: “Accepting the first proclamation, which invites us to receive God’s love and to live in him, return, with the very love that is given, go forth in our lives and actions a primary and fundamental response: to desire, seek and protect the good of others” (LMD, p. 16).

4. Send: “As they get to know and love the Lord, disciples experience the need to share their joy with others by proclaiming Jesus Christ, not just with words, but also through service to those most in need” (LMD, p. 17).

This methodology is deceptively simple. Moving in the direction of creating a culture of missionary discipleship that permeates the atmosphere of our parishes will be complete but not impossible. It will mean prioritizing things we haven’t necessarily prioritized before to create opportunities for adult Catholics to have an experience of discipleship.

It will mean giving explicit witness to our faith; to overcome the tacit “don’t ask-don’t tell” agreement that prevents spiritual conversations from being initiated in the public space. It will mean making counterintuitive decisions at times—like prioritizing the discipleship of adults over children—why? Because a disciple adult can disciple their own kids—and other adults too!

It will mean eliminating some of the barriers of the parish to direct resources and energy into accompanied discipleship initiatives, which are by their nature time consuming and labor intensive. It will mean improved, evangelical (kerygmatic) preaching. It will mean a deepening commitment to pray with the Scriptures. It will mean a renewed devotion to the Holy Spirit as the principle agent of evangelization. And, it will mean taking the long view.

There are no microwave solutions. This kind of change requires the commitment of time—indeed lifetimes. But, we can see this culture shift happening already in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City wherever such commitments are made.

By Ted King

The Sooner Catholic

Saints Cornelia and Cyril

Sept. 16 is the feast day of Saints Cornelia and Cyril. Saint Cornelia was a Roman priest who was the page 525 to 152. He led the Church during an aggressive persecution under Emperor Decius. Pope Cornelius was martyred by the Romans in the year 253. Saint Cyril, a barrister and later Bishop of Carthage (in modern day Tunisia) and Primate of Africa, was a convert who had personal wealth that he gave away upon his conversion. Saint Cyril was a great evangelist. He, like Saint Cornelia, faced great difficulties in the midst of Roman persecutions. Saint Cyril was martyred in 258.

Saints Andrew Kim Ta-gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions

Sept. 20 is the feast day of Korean martyrs Saint Andrew Kim Ta-gon and Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions. Saint Andrew Kim Ta-gon (1821-1844) was the first Korean-born Catholic priest. He was martyred in 1846 during the Joseon Dynasty. He is the patron saint of Korea. Saint Paul Chong Ha-Sang (1794-1839) was the son of Catholic convert. At age 15, he became the successor of an interpreter and was allowed to travel to Peking, China, where he encouraged the bishop there to send priests to Korea. He wrote Pope Gregory XVI, requesting a diocese for Korea. Saint Paul Chong Ha-Sang was martyred for his faith by the Korean authorities.

Saint Matthew

Sept. 21 is the feast day of Saint Matthew, one of the 12 apostles. “As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, ‘Follow me,’ and he rose and followed him.” (Mt 9:9). Saint Matthew wrote the first Gospel and preached in Palestine (Israel) and Ethiopia, where he was martyred in 66. Ethiopia is a Christian nation to this day.

Saints Cosmas and Damian

Sept. 28 is the feast day of Saints Cosmas and Damian, who are very important in the Eastern Church. They were brothers and physicians in Syria during the Roman Empire. It is believed they were born in what is present day Syria Arab. They cared for the sick without payment and were responsible for many conversions as a result of their charitable work. Both are believed to have been martyred in the year 287 under the reign of Emperor Diocletian. They are the patron saints of physicians and surgeons.

Saint Vincent de Paul

Sept. 27 is the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), a French priest known for his work of charity. As a young priest he was taken prisoner by the Muslim Barbary pirates and was a slave for several years. He escaped and became an advocate for ransom slaves. In 1622, he founded a religious order, the Congregation of the Missions, known today as the Vincentians. Pope Leo XIII proclaimed Saint Vincent de Paul the patron of all charitable associations. There are Saint Vincent de Paul Societies in many parishes that help the poor.

Saint Wenceslaus

Sept. 28 is the feast day of Saint Wenceslaus and Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions. Saint Wenceslaus, also known as Václav the Good, was a Bohemian (modern day Czech Republic) duke. He was murdered by his brother who was then ruling in church in 938 and is considered a martyr. He is the patron saint of the Czech Republic, Prague. He also is recognized as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Archangel Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Sept. 29 is the feast day of Archangels Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Saint Jerome

Sept. 30 is the feast day of Saint Jerome (347-420). He was a Roman who was born in Dalmatia (modern day Croatia and Slovenia). He was a hermit and a Doctor of the Church. Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, known as the Vulgate. The Eastern Orthodox Church also recognizes him as a saint.
Beatification Mass 10 a.m. Sept. 23, Cox Convention Center, OKC

When and where is the beatification?
The Beatification Mass is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Doors to the arena open at 8 a.m.

Do we need tickets to attend?
Tickets are not required. It is open seating for the public. An overflow area is provided in the arena.

Will there be accessible seating for wheelchair, walker or other special needs?
Yes. For assistance, use the elevators on the south end of the arena. A sign language interpreter also will be available.

What entrance should be used?
Greeters will be at all four entrances of the Cox Convention Center arena to direct you to seating and to answer questions.

Where do we park?
A list of parking locations is available in this issue and online at stanleyrother.org. There is underground paid parking available at the convention center. Street parking is free on Saturday.

Will there be parking for buses?
Yes. There will be two large parking areas for buses less than two blocks from the convention center. For specific bus and parish shuttle parking information, go online to stanleyrother.org. Please register your bus at stanleyrother.org/bus.

Will we receive a program?
Everyone in attendance will receive a 120-page program in English and Spanish, a commemorative coin, a prayer card, a special edition of the Sooner Catholic and other items.

What should we bring?
Comfortable clothing is suggested. Keep in mind it is a Mass. There will be security at each entrance of the arena. They will search bags as people enter. The smaller the bag, the better. No backpacks. Preferably no strollers. There is no food or drink allowed in the arena.

What should we wear?
Comfortable clothing is suggested. Keep in mind it is a Mass.

Do we receive communion?
Catholics can receive communion. Communion will be distributed in each section. You will find more detailed information in the event program.

Who is celebrating Mass?
Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, will be the principal celebrant. Archbishop Coakley and more than 50 other bishops will concelebrate. The Mass will last about two hours.

Can we give to the collection before the beatification?
During the Mass, an offering will be taken for the benefit of the parishes in Guatemala served by Father Rother through an endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. If you would like to give online, go to stanleyrother.org/mass.

Do you have a list of restaurants?
A list of restaurants is available online at stanleyrother.org. The Cox Convention Center is just west of the Bricktown area and within walking distance of many restaurants. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can get information from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau at (405) 297-8912.

Are rooms reserved at hotels?
A list of hotels near the convention center is available at stanleyrother.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can get information from the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau at (405) 297-8912.

Where is Fr. Rother buried? Can we visit?
Father Rother is buried in a crypt in the chapel at Resurrection Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City. To arrange a visit/tour, call (405) 721-1491. In addition, there is an exhibit about Father Rother’s life at the Catholic Pastoral Center Heritage Gallery. For a special group tour, contact (405) 721-5655, Ext. 141. Exhibit hours are M-F 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by special arrangement.

What does beatification mean?
Beatification is the last step before someone can be made a saint (canonization). More information is available at stanleyrother.org.

Can we pray for a miracle?
Yes, we pray for the intercession of Father Rother. A verified miracle is required for him to be canonized. For information on how to document prayer and his intercession, go to stanleyrother.org.

Are there relics and other religious items for sale?
No, please pray for the intercession of Father Rother. A verified miracle is required for him to be canonized. For information on how to document prayer and his intercession, go to stanleyrother.org.

Spanish-speaking callers
Contact: Ana Romero, (405) 709-2708, Ext. 108, or aromero@archokc.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Bus Registration
Please register your charter bus or parish shuttle at stanleyrother.org.

Nearby parking areas will be provided for buses and shuttles during the Beatification Mass. Find more details on lot locations and where to park buses at stanleyrother.org.

Doors open at the Cox Convention Center arena at 8 a.m. No tickets are required. For questions and other information, contact Deacon Norm Mejstrik at (405) 623-9453.

Help
If you need help or have questions at the Beatification, find a person in a teal shirt with a button that says “Ask Me.”
Official Rother biography honors life, witness of first U.S. martyr

By J.E. Helin

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

Since the release of the well-written and highly readable biography, a Vatican commission has officially recognized the Oklahoma priest as a martyr and cleared the way for his beatification, which will be held Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City.

“His people in Santiago Atitlan didn’t need an official declaration,” Scaperlanda points out in her conclusion. “They already affirmed Padre A’plas as a saint, their saint, and they come to him daily asking for help and intercession — much as they did during the 13 years he served as their priest.”

Ch. 1 of the book describes “the quiet, clear night” of July 28, 1981, in the Guatemalan village where three men broke into the rectory of San James the Apostle and tried to kidnap Father Rother.

Father had once said, “I’m not afraid of dying, I’m afraid of being tortured” and betraying his beloved Christ. “It was broken, he told us,” Scaperlanda explained. Beyond the ordinations of life, the second thing that strikes the reader of Scaperlanda’s book is how truly awesome courage, his strength and the Christ-like aspects of his martyr’s death. He left Santiago Atitlan briefly in 1981 when he learned that his name was on a “death list” in Guatemala. At home in Oklahoma, he struggled with the question of returning to the mission, and Scaperlanda calls this period “his Garden of Gethsemani.” At his funeral, the coffin was carried by the men of the mission. More than 2,000 people had “already been there for hours, praying, singing and crying together.”

The mourners filed past the open coffin, and both men and women knelt to his side. When the body was later taken to the airport to be flown to Oklahoma, great crowds packed the streets and reduced the procession’s movement to a small pace.

In a Mass five weeks later, Bishop Angeles Molisio said at St. James “The presence of Father Francisco’s blood will be an efficacious sign that will remind coming generations of the great apostolic zeal of this priest of Christ.” He loved the parish community of Santiago Atitlan with all his heart. “J.E. Helin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Stewardship: Giving Back to God

In a call to all Catholics, Archbishop Paul Coakley said, “For myself, I am a Christian. For others, I am a priest.”

“The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run” by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda

Available at
Our Sunday Visitor, Amazon and at your local Catholic bookstore.

Sponsoring the local parishes and...

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

WILLS AND TRUSTS WEEK 2017
Sponsored by these local parishes and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

October 9—October 17
Informative and spot-light sessions to the Catholic in Oklahoma.

Decisions about your estate plans are some of the most important you will make. Are you prepared? We can help. Catholic from all parishes are invited to attend one of the information sessions during Wills and Trusts Week, October 9 – October 17

Call, email or go online to make your reservation:
(405) 727-4115 or john@okcatholic.org

Please do not call the individual parishes for information.

Estate planning is the process of anticipating the event of death and arranging for the disposal of your assets when you die. There are four or five essential legal documents that every adult should have prepared that will protect them and their families. These documents direct your legacy and health care providers regarding your end of life plans and your estate. Your will, often the only out of life plans should be clearly stated and legally enforceable in order to minimize conflict and confusion among family members and health care providers if you become incapacitated or pass away. As you prepare your will or trust be sure to communicate your Catholic values which should include a Catholic Healthcare Directive and Durable Power of Attorney. Attend one of these information sessions and learn more about the process of estate planning or how to refresh your current plan in light of today’s laws.

Accessible to all Catholics. Reservations are not necessary but welcome. Refreshments will be served. You don’t have to be a parishioner to attend a session at any of the parishes.

Call, email or go online to make your reservation:
(405) 727-4115 or john@okcatholic.org

Sponsored by these local parishes and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
La semillas de deleite que Cristo sembró en el corazón de Stanley

Seminillas de Amor

Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Director, Oficina de Ministerio Hispano

La semana de 9 de marzo se celebró en el piso 12 de la Casa Blanca el evento “Día de la Emigración Futuro Legales”, donde se otorgó estatus de paro para los inmigrantes en su vida profesional, laboral, y en su economía. En esa reunión, se evidenció que la presencia de miles de jóvenes en nuestra nación es un hecho importante. Aunque el deseo de hacer cosas extraordinarias es vivir un momento especial de hacer discípulos. El Padre Stanley hizo esto a menudo y lo hizo bien.

El Padre Stanley

El Padre Stanley Rother - la Palabra de Dios le dio el privilegio de llevar hasta en su parroquia misionera en Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Muerto en su parroquia misionera en Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Era ex-alumno del Seminario Monte Santa María. Fue una noticia de muerte del Padre Stanley Rother, un sacerdote de Oklahoma que había sido bendecido de Dios. Esa bendición fue dada a la Iglesia en Oklahoma con esta oportunidad de ser intencional en el ministerio de discipulado, de que pudiera conocer y comprender mejor al Padre Stanley Rother.

Un mensaje del Rev. Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Don’t miss the Beatification! 
The Beatification Mass for Fr. Rother is open to the public, free of charge! 
Don’t miss the Beatification Mass for Fr. Stanley Rother.

Rother is open to the public, free of charge!

Don’t miss the Beatification Mass for Fr. Stanley Rother.


Falcon 5K and Fun Run 

6:30 p.m. at The Heritage Gallery at the Oklahoma City University in Chicago and a music therapy degree from Siena Heights College (University of Detroit Mercy). Sister Fleischaker, OP, a Chicago native, is celebrating her 70th jubilee.

The class of 1962 BMCHS 55th reunion will celebrate Mass at 3 p.m. Oct. 15 at The Abbey Church in Shawnee. The anniversary will be Sept. 29-30. Call (405) 830-3611 or nlargent@archokc.org.

Jobs Box

Director of adult formation and leadership development

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of adult formation and leadership development. The position includes direct leadership of all adult formation efforts for adults, with a particular emphasis on those Hispanic deacons and priests.

Previous experience leading adult formation or as a health background and curriculum development a must. Bilingual in Spanish a plus.

To see more job openings, go on-line to www.soonercatholic.org.

Adrian Dominican sister who served in OKC marks 70 years in jubilee

Sister Johann (Mary Bernard) Fleischak- er, O.P., a native of Chicago, is celebrating 70 years in the Adrian Dominican order.

Sister Fleischaker entered the Adrian Dominican order in 1947. She professed first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1953. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Siena Heights College (University of Detroit, Mercy) and a master’s degree from DePaul University in Chicago and a master’s degree and a master’s degree in theology or related field required.

Adrian Dominican sister who served in OKC marks 70 years in jubilee

Sister Johann (Mary Bernard) Fleischaker, O.P., a native of Chicago, is celebrating 70 years in the Adrian Dominican order.

Sister Fleischaker entered the Adrian Dominican order in 1947. She professed first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1953. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Siena Heights College (University of Detroit, Mercy) and a master’s degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

Adrian Dominican sister who served in OKC marks 70 years in jubilee

Sister Johann (Mary Bernard) Fleischaker, O.P., a native of Chicago, is celebrating 70 years in the Adrian Dominican order.

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America’s first martyr

In Pope Francis’s words, “Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being” (The Joy of the Gospel, 8).

It is no coincidence that the same values Stanley learned growing up in an Oklahoma farming community – family-first, hard work, kindness, and generosity – are exactly the values that enabled him to become a missionary shepherd to the Tz’utujil when he first arrived to Guatemala in 1968. At the young age of 40, Stanley Rother became the sole priest and pastor at the Oklahoma Mission, which served 25,000 Tz’utujil Mayan parishioners.

He instituted a personal tradition of Sunday meals with his parishioners in their homes where he ate whatever they ate – a practice that also led him to have regular bouts of dysentery.

When it came to celebrating the Sacraments, the numbers alone were staggering. In 1974, for example, Father Stanley celebrated 649 baptisms, 85 weddings and 150 First Communion. Two thousand people received Communion every week.

Riggs is editor of the Catholic Advance, newspaper of the Diocese of Wichita.