Archbishop to Address Pro-life Rally Sept. 25

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley will be the keynote speaker at 3 p.m. Sept. 25 when the “40 Days for Life” campaign kicks off. The campaign is a nationwide effort to bring an end to abortion in the United States. The 40 Days for Life campaign will run from Sept. 28 to Nov. 6.

Archbishop Coakley will address the pro-life audience at Christ the King Church, 8005 Dorset Drive. All are encouraged to lend their support to the effort.

On Oct. 15, a Prayer Walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 50th and Grove in Warr Acres, and proceed 1.5 miles to the Women’s Outpatient Clinic in Warr Acres. The clinic is an abortion provider, one of two in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The other is located in Norman.

Some parishes, such as St. Damien’s, are planning 24-hour prayer vigils seeking an end to abortion. For more information, visit www.40daysforlife.com/oklahomacity.

Birth Choice Life Walk Oct. 2


Carrie Rossow, Birth Choice spokeswoman, said Birth Choice opened in 1973 to give pregnant women the opportunity to choose life. She said last year 8,600 women made office visits at one of four Birth Choice locations — Bethany, Edmond, Norman and Oklahoma City.

Rossow said last year’s Life of the Party Walk earned $40,000 for the not-for-profit organization.

“It takes a lot of money,” Rossow said, and added organizers hope to bring in $50,000 to $60,000 this year.

“It takes nearly $1 million to run” the four locations, Rossow said, adding, “donations have been down this year.”

Executive director Barbara Chishko said the annual budget for Birth Choice is $1,040,460. “We see so many women (who need help), and we need the support of the community,” said Chishko.

In order to reach their goal, the Oct. 2 event will be filled with activities for the whole family, Rossow said. The band Zero to 60 will be playing, and the Knights of Columbus have donated their time and grills. She said Knights will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs, which are free with the admission donation. In addition to this, T-shirts will be available for $15, and children’s sizes are $10.

Life of the Party Walk is a “full family day,” Rossow said, and children’s activities are plentiful, including a clown and face-painting.

“We’re just going to have a great afternoon,” Chishko said. “Come out and support us.”

Rossow said they are asking for a minimum donation of $10 per individual or $25 per family, but more is always appreciated. She encourages friends and family members to sponsor those walking the one mile for unborn children.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. and the walk begins at 2 p.m. Rossow said participants can drop off their forms and money that day. For more information or the sponsorship form, visit the Birth Choice website at www.watchforthe-unborn.org.
Our Mission is Evangelization

For several months I have been writing on the universal call to holiness. At this point it is important to emphasize that the call to holiness is not a license to indulge in a privatized and individualistic spirituality. On the contrary, it is a radical call to communion. Living our faith from the heart of the Church, sharing in the very life and love of the Holy Trinity, moves us to serve the needs of others, as Christ served. “I am among you as one who serves.” (Lk 22:27).

To be holy is to live in union with Christ, to know him, to love him and to imitate him in his concern for all. The teaching of the Second Vatican Council is insistent on this point: “The Christian message does not inhibit men and women from building up the world, or make them disinterested in the welfare of their fellow human beings; on the contrary, it obliges them more fully to do these very things.” (GS 24). Our response to the call to holiness and communion opens the eyes of our heart and sharpens our sensitivity to the needs of those around us, especially those who are spiritually and materially poor.

Holiness and communion lead to mission. We cannot separate the call to holiness from the call to holiness and the mission. “The love of Christ urges us on!” (2 Cor 5:14) There are still people who have not heard the Good News. There are places in the world, and even in our nation where the Church has not yet taken root or lacks the resources to effectively pursue its saving mission. Our participation in the mission “to the nations” (ad gentes), and the “home missions” in rural America, is a vital expression of our faith. We are all called to cooperate in this missionary effort through our prayers, our financial support and sometimes even by our direct involvement through volunteer missionary service.

A robust and healthy personal faith, like a robust and healthy parish and archdiocese, can never be satisfied with mere maintenance of the status quo. It will always realize that its deepest identity and calling is mission. “The love of Christ urges us on!” (2 Cor 5:14) There is still another aspect of evangelization which is particularly urgent in our time and place. I will address the work of the so-called “New Evangelization” in my next column.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Monday, September 26 - Tuesday, Sept. 27, Catholic University of America Board Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, September 28 — School Mass and Classroom Visit, St. Mary’s School, Lawton, 9:15 a.m.

Thursday, October 6 — Guest Speaker at Bernard Wonkil Lee International Forum for Catholic Humanism, Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea

Saturday, October 8 — Home School Mass and Lunch, St. Monica Church, Edmond, 11 a.m.

Sunday, October 9 — Our Lady of Fatima Celebration, St. Joseph Church, Edmond, 3 p.m.

Seminary Burses

Donations were made to the Seminarian Fund in memory of Father Kirk Larkin:

$100 from Gene and Katherin Van Horn, Edmond.

$100 by John Paciotti Cypress, Texas

$100 from James and Teresa Ament, Edmond.

$50 by Thomas and Eileen Mamer, Edmond.

$50 from Anautics, Inc, Newcastle.

$100 from Anne Uhlenhop Health Trust.

$100 from Muscogee Nation.

$100 from Flusche, Fort Sill.

$100 from Lillian and Vernon Worthington, Sebastian, Fla.

$100 from Daniel and Carol Achord, Flemingon, N.J.

$50 from Jo Ann Knecht, Lawton.

$100 from Larry and Linda Winterscheidt, Edmond.

$100 from Gene and Katherin Van Horn, Edmond.

$50 by Thomas and Eileen Mamer, Edmond.

$75 by an anonymous donor.

$50 from Anautics, Inc, Newcastle.

$100 from Anne Uhlenhop Health Trust.

$100 from Flusche, Fort Sill.

$100 from Lillian and Vernon Worthington, Sebastian, Fla.

$100 from Daniel and Carol Achord, Flemingon, N.J.

$50 from Jo Ann Knecht, Lawton.

$100 from Larry and Linda Winterscheidt, Edmond.

Visit us online through the Archdiocesan Web Page at www.catharchdioceseokc.org.

The Sooner Catholic (USPS 666-910) is published biweekly except for once in July and twice in December by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Copyright © 2011 Sooner Catholic

Subscription rate: $20 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

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

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Archdiocesan Development Fund.
SHAWNEE — Oklahoma Knights of Columbus State Deputy Dan Hogan presents a check to St. Gregory’s University President D. Gregory Main. The donation, which totaled $29,000, will go to support the university’s scholarship fund. The presentation was made at a special community Mass inside St. Gregory’s Abbey Church. The Knights and SGU have partnered since 1915 in promoting Catholic higher education. Pictured are, from left, Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasayzen, OSB, Hogan, Main, and Knights of Columbus State Scholarship director Peter Pickett. (Photo by Brother George Hahl, O.S.B.)

Knights Give Support to SGU

Obituary
Benedictine Sister Dies at Age 87

Sister Bernadette (Mary Ernest) Havlik, OSB, 87, a Benedictine Sister of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kan., died Sept. 15, 2011, at the monastery. The vigil was held in the monastery chapel Monday evening, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m., and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated there Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Bernadette was born Dec. 14, 1923, in Bison, Okla., to Frank J. and Anna Pribyl Havlik. She was the second youngest daughter in a family of five boys and four girls. She graduated from St. Joseph School in Bison and from Sacred Heart Academy (now Benet Academy) in Lisle, Ill. She entered the Mount community in 1944 and made monastic profession in August, 1945.

Sister Bernadette earned a B.A. in biology with minors in English and education from Mount St. Scholastica College (now Benedictine College), a master’s in educational administration from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., and did further study at the University of Detroit, Mich. From 1945 to 1988 she taught in schools in Missouri, Kansas and Colorado, serving also as principal at Brookfield and Palmyra in Missouri, and at Westphalia, Blaine, Ottawa and Hanover in Kansas. Sister Bernadette was subprioress at Mount St. Scholastica 1988-1999, and also served as a member of the community council and senate and as sacristan. She was a longtime member of the quilting team, whose work was sought after at the community’s gift shop and annual Night of Dreams benefit auction.

Sister Bernadette was preceded by her parents; her brothers, Dr. Aloysius, Rt. Rev. Thomas, abbot of St. Procopius, Lisle, Ill., Rev. Bernard, Ernest and Norbert; and her sisters, Adella and Georgiana.

She is survived by her sister, Helen of Carlsbad, N.M.; nieces, Ellen (Don) Turney, Arlington Heights, Ill., and Debbie (Mohammed) ElBihr, Naperville, Ill.; nephews, Michael (Kathy) Havlik, Omaha, Neb., Mark (Maureen) Havlik, Boca Raton, Fla., and Dr. Kevin (Carol), Salt Lake City, Utah; grandnephews and grandnieces, Matthew (Julie Frye) Havlik, Seattle, Wash., Andrew Turney, Arlington, Heights, Ill.; Steven, Tory and Katherine Havlik, Salt Lake City, Tarik and Sophia ElBihr, Naper-ville, and Dr. Jennifer (Dr. Jonathan) Cone, New Orleans, La.; and by her monastic family.

Sister Joanne Celebrates Jubilee of Religious Profession

This year marks the 50th anniversary of religious profession for Sister Joanne Yankauskis, OSB, of Piedmont. Sister Joanne entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1959 in Waltham, Mass., and taught the primary grades in several schools in eastern Massachusetts before transferring to the Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Monastery in 1981. She was pastoral minister in the Tulsa diocese for nine years and has ministered in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese for the past 21 years.

Her religious journey took another turn when the Red Plains community merged with the monastery of Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kan., in 2009. Sister Joanne celebrated her golden jubilee on July 31, 2011, at Mount St. Scholastica along with eight other golden jubilarians, the rest of the Sisters and a large group of family and friends. At the Mass of Thanksgiving on that day, Sister Anne Shepard, prioress, praised the jubilarians for their decades of dedication, saying, “Our jubilarians have approached their God for nourishment and delighted in God’s rich fare. They have listened so that they would have life. In turn they have been life for us, for all here, for others. For that we are grateful.”

Currently Sister Joanne is on the staff at Red Plains Spirituality Center in Piedmont, which is now a mission of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica.
It would be a good rest.
I promised good meals and a nice room.
since I didn’t have to cook and I was
me? But I decided to give it a try
a year, so what could a weekend do for
a home for my youngest son all within
a tornado, got divorced, and established
a relief for me. I had survived a
alone and being divorced was actually
my abusive husband. I always felt
never had an emotional connection to
Weekends were and that I should go,
great the Beginning Experience
singles activities, I would hear how
several years. Whenever I went to
I was married for
21 years and had been divorced for
I heard about Beginning
Essex. To celebrate my birthday,
I had all suffered a lost relationship
friends. We were all different but we
beyond my imagination. I made new
encouragement
and gave me
their life road
and begin to
move forward
with their lives.
An upcoming weekend is to be held in
Oklahoma City on Oct. 7-9 at the
Catholic Pastoral Center. The event is
open to all.
If you are interested in finding
healing for your lost relationship,
please come. It is a wonderful week-
end that has been life-changing for so
many. Join us so that you can find
greater acceptance of your loss, ease in
your loneliness, and the way to a more
joyful future. Please share this in-
formation with others who may find
some relief from their pain and suffer-
ing.
If you have any questions or
would like information about register-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
From the Beginning Experience
Mission Statement
We believe that through resolving
the grief of a significant loss:
Individuals participate in the
death and resurrection of Christ as he
lives in the world today;
That those working through this
experience can effectively walk with
others for whom the experience is new
and hard;
And that the invitation to recover
would be accepted by those wish-
ing, call the Office of Family Life at
(405) 721-8944.
The Catholic Foundation Golf Classic held in June netted over $70,000, with half going directly to the 21 schools within the Archdiocese and half going to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. At a recent principals meeting, Foundation President Tom Avant and Golf Classic chairman Ben Byers presented each school with a check for $1,670. Pictured are, front row from left, Tom Avant, Sister Catherine Powers, Cris Carter, Suzette Williams (St. Eugene), Ann Haskovec (Bishop McGuinness), Connie Duette (Bishop John Carroll), Karen Carter (Christ the King), Tamara Jacobs (Holy Trinity, Okarche), Karen Lynn (Bourey), Anne Cuddington (St. James), Monica Allen (St. Peter & Paul, Kingfisher), Sister Veronica Higgins (Villa Teresa), and Ben Byers. Back row, Allyson Helm (St. Mary, Ponca City), Diane Floyd (St. John Nepomuk, Yukon), Angie Houard (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond), Talita DelNegri (Mount St. Mary), Leslie Schmitt (St. Joseph, Enid), Sheila Whalen-Guthrie (St. Philip Neri, Midwest City), and Mary Dresel (St. Philip Neri, Midwest City).

The Catholic Foundation

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a contract (not a “trust”), under which the Catholic Foundation, in return for a transfer of cash, marketable securities or other assets, agrees to pay a fixed amount of money to one or two individuals, for their lifetime. At the end of the annuity, the remaining assets can be directed toward any Catholic organization, parish or school that the donor desires.

A person who receives payments is called an “annuitant” or “beneficiary.” The payments are fixed and unchanged for the term of the contract. A portion of the payments are considered to be a partial tax-free return of the donor’s gift, which are spread in equal payments over the life expectancy of the annuitant(s).

The contributed property (the gift), given irrevocably, becomes a part of the Foundation’s assets, and the payments are a general obligation of the Foundation. The annuity is backed by the Foundation’s entire assets, not just by the property contributed. Annuity payments continue for the life/lives of the annuitant(s) no matter what the investment experience of the gift annuity fund.

Payments can begin immediately or can be deferred for a period determined by the donor and set forth in annuity contract. The payment period can be measured by one annuitant’s life (who in most cases is the donor) or by the lives of two joint and survivor annuitants (who are usually husband and wife). Charitable gift annuities are not issued for a fixed term of years. Unlike charitable remainder trusts or pooled income funds, whereby the obligation to make payments is limited solely to the contributed assets or segregated fund, a charitable gift annuity is considered a general obligation of the Catholic Foundation. Charitable gift annuities, therefore, take on much of the same characteristics as commercial annuities with the Foundation acting as the insurer.

For more information on Planned Giving, contact:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115 www.cfook.org bsentner@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Catholics Returning Home

OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Charles Borromeo Parish is offering an informal discussion group for people who are interested in returning to the Church. The group will meet on Tuesdays in the Kastner Room beginning Sept. 27 through Oct. 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. This is an open forum for the people to discuss why they left the Church and to investigate the possibility of returning. For more information, call the parish office at (405) 789-2595.

Church Bazaar and Carnival

SHAWNEE — St. Benedict’s Parish is hosting its annual bazaar and carnival Oct. 1 starting with a pancake breakfast and the start of the garage sale at 8 a.m. and games, booths and entertainment from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. St. Benedict’s is located at 632 N. Kickapoo, Shawnee.

Retreat Oct. 21

PIEDMONT — Entering the Heart of Autumn at the Red Plains Spirituality Center in Piedmont, Friday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please join us for a day away in a serene setting to meditate, reflect and commune with God. The cost is $75 plus $25 deposit (non-refundable). Bring a sack lunch, outdoor jacket, journal and pen. To register, call Katrina at 321-8747.
McGuinness Junior Lands Internship as Page for United States Senate

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School junior Caitlin Farris has been awarded a semester-long internship with the United States Senate Page Program in Washington, D.C.

She is one of 30 pages selected for the fall semester and the only student chosen from Oklahoma. Appointed by Sen. Jim Inhofe, Caitlin will serve a five-month term from Sept. 6, 2011, until Jan. 27, 2012.

Notified last month of her selection, Caitlin is thrilled. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Caitlin stated. “I am really excited about this experience because it allows me the opportunity to explore the political world and help me decide if I want to pursue a career in politics.”

Caitlin will meet Vice President Joe Biden on her first day and witness the State of the Union address.

Caitlin will live in supervised housing at Webster Hall on Capitol Hill with other Senate pages from all over the country. She and three other girls will share a room and there is a phone in the room they can share. Pages are not allowed cell phones or Internet access. They are never permitted to leave the dorm alone and all guests are required to present identification and sign in. Accustomed to wearing a uniform at Bishop McGuinness, Caitlin must adhere to a dress code which includes a navy blue pant suit, white long-sleeve shirt, black laced shoes and dark socks.

Caitlin will attend the fully accredited Senate Page School located in the lower level of Webster Hall while in Washington. The Senate Page School offers a junior year curriculum geared toward college preparation. Class hours are 6:15 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. each weekday. Caitlin will serve the U.S. Senate from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Specifically, she will serve the minority Senate party. If the Senate is in session and runs long, she may be required to stay until they finish for the day. On the weekends, students participate in field trips designed to expose the learning and cultural opportunities available in Washington, D.C., and surrounding areas.

Caitlin was a member of the 2010-2011 back-to-back state championship Lady Irish golf team and was the Class 4A individual state champion her freshman year. She is currently one of the top 10 female high school golfers in the state. When asked if she thought this opportunity might jeopardize her position on the Lady Irish golf team, Caitlin replied, “I don’t want to let the team down. I will do whatever I need to do to be a competitor for the Lady Irish.” Although she will not have much free time, Caitlin is taking a few golf clubs with her and hopes to practice at some of the local golf courses.

McGuinness girls golf coach Todd Farris is taking it all in stride. “As the golf coach, I hope she gets a few practice rounds in. As her father, I am extremely proud of her and realize this experience will help her accomplish long-term goals. She has worked very hard to earn this appointment. Her efforts are a great lesson on persistence, patience and work ethic. The Senate Page Program is an opportunity of a lifetime for her, to learn and to serve and to watch history unfold each and every day.”

Irish Seniors Named National Semi-Finalists

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two seniors from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School have been named semifinalists in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Scott Witcher, son of Lee Witcher of Oklahoma City, and Nate Yokell, son of Richard and Kathleen Yokell of Edmond.

More than 1.5 million juniors in over 22,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2012 Merit Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Approximately 16,000 were named semifinalists and about 90 percent of those are expected to fulfill all requirements to become finalists. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, which represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, is made up of the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

The names of the finalists will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July, 2012.
Parish Faith and Ministry Formation Training Set

Parish Faith and Ministry Formation series is an adult faith formation program planned on a variety of topics, days and times for Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The series will be offered through the video-conferencing center located at the Catholic Pastoral Center and the parishes of St. Peter in Woodward, Holy Family in Lawton, St. Francis Xavier in Enid and St. Mary in Clinton. Parishes located around these locations are encouraged to participate.

Eucharistic Minister Training in Spanish will be led by Father Don Wolf, pastor of St. Benedict of Shawnee. It will be held on Friday, Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. Registration is requested for attendance by calling the site coordinators, Bea Parker, Enid, (580) 237-0909, Peggy Kitchens, Woodward, (580) 323-0345, Geri Hough, Clinton, (580) 323-0345, Vickie Gable, Lawton, (580) 355-2054, and Cecilia Grimes, Pastoral Center, (405) 721-4208. Sites will be confirmed upon availability and response.

“Respect Life” presentations will be offered on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2:30 p.m. in English, and on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2:30 p.m. in Spanish. The first presentation will be led by Richard Klinge, Associate Director of Advocacy, Outreach and Legal Services for Catholic Charities. Presenter for the second session will be announced.

Klinge states, “The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops implores us to remember that ‘Life Matters’ because every person bears God’s image and has an immortal soul.” The bishops, however, also remind us that “many are viewed as being outside the circle of love — unborn children whose parents are tempted to eliminate them, vulnerable people with illnesses and disabilities who risk being abandoned or even killed through misguided ‘mercy,’ prisoners on death row, forgotten or despised long after they have repented of their wrongdoing.” Klinge invites Catholics from across the Archdiocese to discuss about how and why we must bring everyone into that circle of love.

Register for either session by calling Becky Van Pool at Catholic Charities at 405-523-3063 or 800-375-8514 Ext. 1110. Sites will be confirmed upon availability and response.

For a complete listing of the upcoming presentations that will be held in October, November and December, please contact Becky VanPool at 405-523-3063, 1-800-375-8514 Ext. 1110, or Sister Diane Koorie at 405-721-4208.

Across Oklahoma

Parish Readies Oktoberfest
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis Catholic Church and Rosary School, 1901 NW 18th St., are hosting their annual Rosary Run and Oktoberfest on Sunday, Oct. 2. The day begins at noon with a two-mile Run Fun run through the historic Gatewood Neighborhood. The event continues with games and rides, German food and arts and crafts booths. Parish groups will provide ethnic foods and information. Local dancers, singers, musicians and more will entertain. There is fun for people of all ages, and everyone is welcome.

Aging Gracefully Series to Begin
OKLAHOMA CITY — The Office of Family Life, Catholic Charities and Mercy Community Outreach are teaming up to present Aging Gracefully, a series designed to help seniors, their children and other caregivers in the practical realities of growing older. This free three-part series meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 8-22 at St. James the Greater Church, 4201 S. McKinley in Oklahoma City. On Oct. 8, a panel consisting of Dr. Dianne Gasbarra, Kitchens, Woodward, (580) 323-0345, Geri Hough, Clinton, (580) 323-0345, Vickie Gable, Lawton, (580) 355-2054, and Cecilia Grimes, Pastoral Center, (405) 721-4208. Sites will be confirmed upon availability and response.

Parish Readies Oktoberfest
OKLAHOMA CITY — St. Francis Catholic Church and Rosary School, 1901 NW 18th St., are hosting their annual Rosary Run and Oktoberfest on Sunday, Oct. 2. The day begins at noon with a two-mile Run Fun run through the historic Gatewood Neighborhood. The event continues with games and rides, German food and arts and crafts booths. Parish groups will provide ethnic foods and information. Local dancers, singers, musicians and more will entertain. There is fun for people of all ages, and everyone is welcome.

Aging Gracefully Series to Begin
OKLAHOMA CITY — The Office of Family Life, Catholic Charities and Mercy Community Outreach are teaming up to present Aging Gracefully, a series designed to help seniors, their children and other caregivers in the practical realities of growing older. This free three-part series meets from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 8-22 at St. James the Greater Church, 4201 S. McKinley in Oklahoma City. On Oct. 8, a panel consisting of Dr. Dianne Gasbarra, Mary Diane Steltencamp and Father Bill Pruitt will discuss the Church’s teaching on end of life issues. Oct. 15 will feature the legal aspects of growing older with Dick Klinge and Shirley Cox. The last session will be led by Peggy Browne on the topics of hospice care and the grieving process. For more information and to register, please call the Office of Family Life at 721-8944.

Home School Mass Oct. 8
EDMOND — The Consecrated St. Gianna Catholic Home School Apostolate invites all Home Educating Families to the Annual Home School Mass with Archbishop Coakley. Father Ray Ackerman will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 at St. Monica Catholic Church, 2001 N. Western Ave. in Edmond. Lunch will be served immediately following Mass in the parish hall. If you plan to stay for lunch, you must RSVP no later than Oct. 1 to Ceece Dan at jmi-jokko@yahoo.com or 373-0081. Since we are providing the food, we have to have accurate numbers of how many are coming so that we have enough. Also, if you can help with the food, please let me know.

College Retreat Set at OU
NORMAN — On Oct. 14-16, St. Thomas More University Parish will host Sooner Awakening 4, a Cursillo-based retreat for college students ages 18-25. There are talks, small group time, praise and worship, and so much more. Awakening is a powerful retreat with roots from many colleges throughout the United States, and you leave being a part of the Awakening family. As a whole, it's a great way to be able to focus on God for a weekend, and strengthen your Christian faith. Awakening is open to all college students, and it will be held Oct. 14-16 in Chickasha. If you're interested in attending S4A, check out stm-ou.org/students.

Arts and Crafts Show
YUKON — St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church will hold its annual arts and crafts show on Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show will be located in the Parish Activity Center. For more information, call Nicole at (405) 620-4923.

Placement Testing Nov. 12
OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will be administering a placement test on Nov. 12 from 8 to 11:30 a.m., to any eighth-grader interested in attending the school as a freshman for the 2012-13 school year. A second test date will be offered on Nov. 19 at the same time for all those who cannot make it on the first test date. All prospective ninth-graders must take this test in order to help with course selection. On test day, students should bring $15 for the testing fee and two No. 2 pencils. No calculators or cell phones are allowed. Students not attending a feeder school and interested in taking the placement test must call Amy Hanson, freshman counselor, at 842-6638 Ext. 225 to register for the test.

Vocation Prayers Set
EL RENO — Sacred Heart will host a Holy Hour for Vocations every second Monday of each month in the chapel at St. Katherine Drexel Retirement Center. The Holy Hour will be from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
St. Gregory’s University Buckley Team Turns 20

By Emily Kindiger

SHAWNEE — The Buckley Team is a common name not only around St. Gregory’s University, but also in parishes across Oklahoma. Rev. Charles Buckley, O.S.B., the official team sponsor and creator, said the Buckley Team started in 1991 and has been serving Oklahoma parishes for 20 years. He said the idea for creating the team “had been lurking around” for a few years.

Buckley said after his mother passed away, her estate was passed on to him, but a problem arose since he is a Benedictine monk. He and former Abbot Adrian Vorderlandwehr decided the best option for the money would be in the creation of a ministering team, thus the Buckley Team came into being. Each participating student would receive a scholarship from the endowment.

“We had to do something to assert who we are and make our I.D. a positive thing, and be of service to the Catholics in the state,” Father Buckley said.

He said the idea was partially modeled after the National Evangelism Team (NET). These college-aged students take a year off from school in order to minister. Father Buckley and Abbot Vorderlandwehr liked the idea of having “college-aged kids on a retreat team,” but wanted them to stay in school. Hence the Buckley team was created.

Father Buckley said he was involved in the formation of the group, and is still involved in choosing members for the team. However, the team is under the guidance and leadership of the St. Gregory’s campus ministries director, Victor Poole.

Father Buckley said many of the team’s former members have continued their ministerial service after leaving the school. Although most chose a smaller role, others have pledged their entire lives. He said Father Scott Broekman, the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Woodward, was one of the first members. Some younger past members include two seminarians, Sean O’Brian and Brother Simeon Spitz, who resides at the monastery.

Buckley said eight full-time members are currently on the team, which consists of one senior, two sophomores and five freshmen. Senior business major Connie Bair said this is her fourth year on the team. She said when she started, her “confidence level wasn’t very high,” but she can now talk to groups “with no problem.”

Bair is the oldest member now and “it’s been a great experience,” she said. She said her participation in the Buckley Team has given her “more confidence, and (I) have overcome public speaking, it’s made me more outgoing.

“I have a better knowledge of my faith,” Bair said. She recommends it to incoming students.

“We had to do something to assert who we are and make our I.D. a positive thing, and be of service to the Catholics in the state.”

Father Buckley said he remembers Bair’s first year when she was shy and mumbled, but now she is confident.”

Liza McDaniel, sophomore English education major, said this is her second semester on the team. “It’s fun. We are involved with youth groups around the region,” she said. “We are able to grow as a group, and more fully reach teenagers who are going through confirmation.”

When asked about his hopes for the next 20 years, Father Buckley said, “I hope we find a source of increased endowment.” He said many factors including the “increase in tuition” lower the money available to students who work long hours and many weekends. “The team members deserve more,” he said.

Despite the lack of money, Father Buckley said, “I like that (the team) keeps going and is valued.” He said the team’s director continues to receive phone calls from parishes asking them to come and minister to their teenage youth.

“It puts a good face on St. Gregory’s, and I like that very much,” he said.
Turn it Up! Catholic Radio in Archdiocese Seeks to Build Strong Voice

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — A growing voice for Catholicism and Christ's mission in Oklahoma is as close as the nearest radio. There are organizers working hard to make sure that voice only grows louder and is heard by more people.

Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting took yet another big step in its brief history last month with a benefit meeting in Edmond. Officials, including Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and David Vacheresse from the national Eternal Word Television Network, made appeals to boost the radio evangelization effort.

The latest goal of Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, now ending its fifth year, is extended programming on its metro area station of KTLR AM 890 and KTLR FM 94.1 and a new radio station serving Lawton, Duncan and the southwest area of the state. That station is KOEG (Kingdom of Eternal Glory) FM 88.3. It needs to be on the air by December or organizers lose the federally granted permit. The total price tag for both projects is estimated right at $550,000. Board member and organizer Jeff Finnell told a group of about 50 people in Edmond an appeal would be made to parishes in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese later in the fall where the faithful would have an opportunity to make the goal a reality.

Attendees at the Edmond home of Marcus and Crystal Robinson were asked to kick-start the campaign. The hope is a matching fund pool of $150,000 can be started.

The group has one enthusiastic supporter already — Archbishop Coakley.

"It is the mission of the church to proclaim the Gospel," he said. "We proclaim the Gospel without waiting for people to come to us." He also explained Catholic Broadcasting can "dispel myths" some have of Catholicism. It is also yet another way for the church to have a presence.

"This is what Pope John Paul II calls the new evangelization," the Archbishop said. He added the church is adapting with other forms of communications as well such as Twitter and Facebook.

"Catholic radio is also an important part of that," he said.

Finnell took the opportunity to recap the humble beginnings of Catholic radio in Oklahoma as the group started in September of 2006 with only a few hours a week on KTLR and has gradually expanded that to 1 p.m. to 7 a.m. What the board is aiming for now is a 24/7 broadcast day.

Supporters also heard from Vacheresse of EWTN who similarly chronicled the explosive growth of national EWTN radio nationwide in the past 15 years.

Archbishop Coakley told supporters of Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting that Catholic radio is part of the new evangelization advocated by the late Holy Father Pope John Paul II. To the right of the Archbishop is Jeff Finnell, who played a major role in bringing Catholic radio to the metro in 2006.

Sunday Mass Broadcast

Oklahoma Catholic Radio, KTLR, will now be broadcasting Sunday Mass from noon to 1 p.m. on 890 AM and 94.1 FM. The Mass will broadcast from St. Mark’s Catholic Church in Norman. This is an excellent opportunity for those who are unable to attend Mass, especially the homebound and sick, to experience God’s word and the Eucharist.

New Radio Program

There is a new program on Oklahoma Catholic Radio on Mondays from 1 to 2 p.m. “The Dr. is In,” featuring Dr. Ray Guarendi, will be airing weekly on KTLR AM 890 and FM 94.1. Dr. Guarendi is a Catholic clinical psychologist who is father to 10 children. His radio program focuses on the challenges Catholic parents and families face.

Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran was on a question-and-answer program when a Methodist minister called in to question him about the church’s teachings and doctrines on the Blessed Mother. Archbishop Beltran was able to clarify and answer the minister clearly and concisely.

"Something like that never would have happened normally," Finnell said. "In a car, a minister or any Protestant can tune in with the relative privacy and comfort he probably wouldn’t have if he were home watching television with his family."

Such programming, he added, is also good for those ill or home-bound for some reason or for many others looking to deepen or understand their faith even more. The KTLR mission is served with such shows as “Journey Home,” “Catholic Answers Live,” “St. Joseph Radio,” “EWTN Open Line,” “Divine Mercy Chaplet,” “Good News Sunday” and “Kresta in the Afternoon.” There is also an airing of Mass from St. Mark’s in Norman, noon to 1 p.m. each Sunday.

Supporters also heard from Vacheresse of EWTN who similarly chronicled the explosive growth of national EWTN radio nationwide in the past 15 years.

He urged those in attendance to support the campaign, which will lead to additional funding as well as more listeners.

Finnell said those interested in knowing more about Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting to log on to www.okcatholicbroadcasting.com.
Pope Calls on All to Participate in New Evangelization

Castel Gandolfo, Italy, (CNA/EWTN News) — Pope Benedict XVI called upon all Catholics Sept. 18 to participate in a New Evangelization of the world.

“Today’s liturgy reminds us that we are all to plant ‘grapes’ in the vineyard of the Lord,” he told pilgrims gathered to pray the midday Angelus at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, near Rome.

“He has given us diverse gifts, has assigned diverse tasks and determined diverse times for their performance. However, if we assume the work of our life with full dedication, we can expect the same pay: the joy of eternal participation in the goodness of the Lord,” he said.

The Pope based his comments on today’s gospel reading in which Jesus recounts the parable of the vineyard owner who paid each of his workers the same wage regardless of how long they worked.

“This ‘new sense of life’ comes from communion with Jesus Christ who, said the Pope, is ‘not just a historical figure, a master of wisdom, a religious leader, but is ‘a man in whom God dwells personally.’”

drawing a parallel between the era of St. Paul and today: New Evangelization is also a favored theme of St. Paul and today. New Evangelization, the Pope said, is an area that today’s youth seem to have lost interest in.

“Dear friends,” concluded the Pope, “the Gospel has transformed the world, and still is turning, like a river that irrigates a huge field.”

After the Angelus, Pope Benedict addressed various language groups, including German pilgrims. He said he looked forward to his four-day visit to Germany later this week and hoped the people of his native land will “respond generously to the offer of the boundless love of God and work for the good that is in the world.”

Family Must be a Sanctuary of Life

Piura, Peru (CNA) — Archbishop Jose Antonio Eguren of Piura in northern Peru has encouraged families to always be a cenacle of love and a sanctuary of life.

The Archbishop called on Catholics to pray that the family be “defended and respected as the true cenacle of love and sanctuary of life.” His words came during Mass on Sept. 11 as the country marked the National Day of the Family.

“If we want to put a truly human face on our future, we cannot ignore the precious gift of the family, founded upon the marriage between one man and one woman in a life-long consortium of love,” the Archbishop said.

Speaking on the Gospel passage in which Jesus tells his disciples to forgive 70 times seven times, Archbishop Eguren said this means believers must follow the example of the Lord, who always forgives a repentant heart.

“Brothers and sisters,” he said, “in an act of merciful love, God canceled original sin, paid the debt for the sins of humanity of yesterday, today and tomorrow, by sending his only Son, Jesus Christ, who became incarnate in the virginal womb of Holy Mary and died on the cross for us, for our salvation.”

“The great problem today is that we have lost the sense of sin ... Our sins have been paid with the death of Christ on the cross, with the sacrifice of His body and the shedding the last drop of his blood in order to achieve perfect reconciliation for us,” the Archbishop continued.

He also reminded the congregation to remember God’s infinite mercy for us.

“Let us move our hearts toward forgiveness for each other. If God has paid the debt of our sins, should we not be more disposed to showing love and mercy?”

Vocations — Follow Your Call

By Father William Novak

Vocations Director

A few weeks ago in the Sunday gospel, we heard the confession of St. Peter (Mt 16:13-20) to Jesus and his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” and Peter rightly answers, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus, the rock of the Church, become associated with the prince of darkness so quickly? The simple answer is that Peter doesn’t want to accept the sacrifice our Lord would have to undergo in Jerusalem. Jesus’ response may sound like a rebuke, and I think on one level it is, but his strong command for Peter to get behind him might also be his way of saying, “Follow me.”

God has a plan for every person, and even though we may not understand what that plan may be, he calls each person by name to follow him. All of us have a vocation — to the single life, the married life or the religious life — and every vocation includes sacrifice. Later in the same Scripture passage, Jesus instructs the disciples “to take up his cross.”

Father William Novak

command to “take up” is not just a matter of accepting sacrifice because there is no way around it and so we must resolve ourselves to it. Rather, the Lord is asking us to willingly embrace sacrifice, as he did on the cross. For it is only in laying down our life for others that we gain eternal life.

If you are discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood or religious life, I encourage you to consider what it means to embrace sacrifice, to lay down your life for something and someone greater than yourself, for in doing so we find fulfillment and joy in this life and in the life to come.

Please contact Father Novak at the Vocations Office for more information about following the call of God in your life. (405) 721-9351.
**Country Music Star is New Face of Terri Schiavo Foundation**

Julian, Neb. (CNA) — Kevin Boos has been using the musical skills God gave him for the better part of 40 years, serving as a liturgist for St. Bernard Parish in Julian and teaching music for elementary students at Lourdes Central Catholic School in Nebraska City.

Now he has written a new piece of liturgical music that collects all the Scriptural references of Mary into one song titled "For the Love of the Son." The song’s first inspiration came about three years ago during one of Father Mark Cyza’s homilies about the Blessed Mother. He said that Mary always answered God’s request with “Yes,” remembred Boos, who is also a published author and always answered God’s request with “Yes,” reabout the Blessed Mother. “He said that Mary years ago during one of Father Mark Cyza’s homilies that Mary for her importance to our faith as she said he was thrilled when the network approached him.

The organization started after Terri Schiavo, a severely disabled woman, died of starvation in March of 2005, two weeks after her husband won the right in court to remove her feeding tube.

Today over 1,000 families have contacted the network to ask for assistance and the group has shared its mission in nine countries and 42 states.

“What the Life and Hope Network does is provide an already pretty impressive network list of attorneys and doctors that are available and are committed to stopping things from happening again like what happened to Terri,” Raye explained.

“And unfortunately that’s a daily occurrence,” he said. “I thought Terri’s case was much more exclu- sive than it actually is, but it happens all the time.”

“So many Americans don’t know that the euthanasia movement is so prevalent,” Raye said, adding that the network “is absolutely vital … for the protection of the cognitively impaired that are in danger of being killed.”

Raye, 51, shared a dramatic personal experience that has inspired his decision to be spokesman for the organization.

In 1985, his wife, Connie, delivered their son three months early, after she simultaneously endured a stroke and heart attack as he was being born.

“She wound up being in a coma for four weeks,” he said. “During those four weeks, I heard every- thing. We were already getting this pressure.”

Raye remembers the medical team working on his case talking about, “You really need to start looking at an institution” to take care of her, and “if we take her off her respirator she’s just going to die — you might want to consider doing that.”

But Raye refused to listen to the doctors’ advice and said that today, Connie is alive and well.

He noted, however, the disturbing fact that as her husband, he would have had the ability to end her life. “If her mother would have fought me on it, it wouldn’t have mattered, I would have the legal right.”

“And let’s face it, the sanctity of marriage in our country is not what it once was — divorce is extremely common,” he added. “So is it right that that spouse, or soon to be ex-spouse, has the right to decide whether you live or die?”

Raye said that he credits his Catholic faith, which he converted to at the age of 23, as another motivation for working with the Life and Hope Network.

He remembers growing up in the Bible belt of northeastern Texas and said that although he had a strong Christian faith, as he grew up, he felt there was something missing.

Before Raye went on to chart 16 No.1 hits and 24 top 10 hits later in his career, he recalled being 18 years old and playing at clubs in Portland, Ore., where his dad lived at the time.

He got to know a couple who regularly attended his shows and noticed one day that the woman wore a crucifix on her necklace.

After finding out that they were Catholic, Raye asked the surprised couple if he could attend Mass with them. They happily agreed.

“I started asking questions and every answer I got made sense to me,” he said. “Next thing I knew I was in RCIA and I wanted to be a Catholic.”

Raye likens his discovery of the Catholic faith to stumbling upon “a treasure.”

“I do not know that the life would have been like since that time had I not had that to cling to, to lean on, to feed off of,” he said. “I love going to Mass, I love to go to confession — it all makes beautiful sense to me.”

Raye recently saw the couple — who became his godparents — at one of his shows in Portland.

“I got to spend the day with them,” he said. “I just thanked them up and down and said I was so grateful that I went to Mass with them that day because my life has been so much more blessed.”

**Nebraska Songwriter, Music Teacher Pays Tribute to the Blessed Mother**

St. Petersburg, Fla. (CNA) — Country music star and Catholic convert Collin Raye is set to be the new voice of the Life and Hope Network founded by Terri Schiavo’s family.

“I’m really excited to be a part of it,” Raye told CNA. “I’m amazed that they chose me.”

In a Sept. 14 interview, Raye — who has sold over 8 million albums and has been nominated five times as country music’s Male Vocalist of the Year — said he was thrilled when the network approached him.

The organization started after Terri Schiavo, a severely disabled woman, died of starvation in March of 2005, two weeks after her husband won the right in court to remove her feeding tube.

Today over 1,000 families have contacted the network to ask for assistance and the group has shared its mission in nine countries and 42 states.

“What the Life and Hope Network does is provide an already pretty impressive network list of attorneys and doctors that are available and are committed to stopping things from happening again like what happened to Terri,” Raye explained.

“And unfortunately that’s a daily occurrence,” he said. “I thought Terri’s case was much more exclu- sive than it actually is, but it happens all the time.”

“So many Americans don’t know that the euthanasia movement is so prevalent,” Raye said, adding that the network “is absolutely vital … for the protection of the cognitively impaired that are in danger of being killed.”

Raye, 51, shared a dramatic personal experience that has inspired his decision to be spokesman for the organization.

In 1985, his wife, Connie, delivered their son three months early, after she simultaneously endured a stroke and heart attack as he was being born.

“She wound up being in a coma for eight weeks,” he said. “During those eight weeks, I heard every- thing. We were already getting this pressure.”

Raye remembers the medical team working on his case talking about, “You really need to start looking at an institution” to take care of her, and “if we take her off her respirator she’s just going to die — you might want to consider doing that.”

But Raye refused to listen to the doctors’ advice and said that today, Connie is alive and well.

He noted, however, the disturbing fact that as her husband, he would have had the ability to end her life. “If her mother would have fought me on it, it wouldn’t have mattered, I would have the legal right.”

“And let’s face it, the sanctity of marriage in our country is not what it once was — divorce is extremely common,” he added. “So is it right that that spouse, or soon to be ex-spouse, has the right to decide whether you live or die?”

Raye said that he credits his Catholic faith, which he converted to at the age of 23, as another motivation for working with the Life and Hope Network.

He remembers growing up in the Bible belt of northeastern Texas and said that although he had a strong Christian faith, as he grew up, he felt there was something missing.

Before Raye went on to chart 16 No.1 hits and 24 top 10 hits later in his career, he recalled being 18 years old and playing at clubs in Portland, Ore., where his dad lived at the time.

He got to know a couple who regularly attended his shows and noticed one day that the woman wore a crucifix on her necklace.

After finding out that they were Catholic, Raye asked the surprised couple if he could attend Mass with them. They happily agreed.

“I started asking questions and every answer I got made sense to me,” he said. “Next thing I knew I was in RCIA and I wanted to be a Catholic.”

Raye likens his discovery of the Catholic faith to stumbling upon “a treasure.”

“I do not know that the life would have been like since that time had I not had that to cling to, to lean on, to feed off of,” he said. “I love going to Mass, I love to go to confession — it all makes beautiful sense to me.”

Raye recently saw the couple — who became his godparents — at one of his shows in Portland.

“I got to spend the day with them,” he said. “I just thanked them up and down and said I was so grateful that I went to Mass with them that day because my life has been so much more blessed.”

Almost immediately, the idea of a song occurred to him. “I had a pocket P.C., and I took it out and wrote down a couple ideas,” said Boos. “And then it just kind of sat there.” Around two years later, how- ever, inspiration struck again. Boos had been attend- ing a Bible study with the local Franciscan Sisters for several years. The group was exploring Mary’s appearance throughout the Bible, in both Old Testament prophesy and New Testament events.

Now the song was taking shape in the back of his mind. More threads worked it from other inspi- ration. Catholic speakers. In February, Boos finally sat down and wrote the lyrics out. Then he picked up his guitar and worked out the chords.

Right away, Boos knew there was something special about this song. “Most of the songs I write, I don’t like,” he admitted. “But this one I liked right away: The melody and the words fit together.”

Boos played “For the Love of the Son” for his wife and grown children. But then he wanted to hear somebody else sing it, so he could evaluate it a bit more objectively. He immediately thought of Piper Monson.

Piper is about to start fifth grade at Lourdes Central Catholic School. She’s always been a musical child, taking up the violin when she was only 4 years old and starting guitar lessons at school with Boos when she was in the first grade.

Something about Piper’s clear soprano seemed to match “For the Love of the Son.”

“For the Love of the Son” is intended to honor Mary for her importance to our faith as she answered “Yes” to God,” Boos said.

Anyone with a personal computer is welcome to hear the song. Simply go to www.kevinboos.com and click on the link, “For the Love of the Son.”

Printed with permission from the Sooner Catholic, newspaper for the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb.
The Very Sad and Misguided Dance of Chaz Bono

By Mary Hasson
Catholic News Agency

Picture this: a female-to-male transsexual proudly dances with a woman partner in front of millions of TV viewers, competing with straight couples for the applause, approval and votes of viewers young and old.

The show’s producer lauds the transsexual’s “courage” and “remarkably strong character.” The transsexual, who declares himself “a straight man,” and his LGBT supporters launch a media blitz to silence critics of the show, branding them “haters” and “stupid bigots.” Why? Because they won’t support this “positive role model” whose appearance will help “save lives” of vulnerable, transgendered teenagers.

It’s reality.

And it’s airing on the ABC reality show “Dancing with the Stars” this fall. The show scored big publicity when it announced that Chaz Bono, the transgendered offspring of the famous Hollywood duo, Sonny and Cher, would join this season’s TV dance competition. The show also will feature an openly gay contestant, Carson Kressley.

Chaz, who began transitioning from female to male last year, looks male (thanks to hormones), dresses and calls himself male, and has undergone breast removal surgery. While he would like to add male genitalia, he considers the reconstructive surgery too risky. Besides, he feels like a male already, even without the proper equipment.

What’s he doing on Dancing with the Stars (DWTS), a show which the producer maintains is a “family show”?

Chaz says, “America really needs to see this…” because of the ”completely inaccurate stereotypes and thoughts that people have” about transgendered folks.

His bottom line? (No pun intended.) “I want people to know that transgender people are just like everyone else.”

And if parents or families oppose his performance, preferring not to expose their children to the transgendered lifestyle?

They’re “haters.”

Well, then, either most parents in America are “haters” or Chaz Bono — and his Hollywood friends — have got it wrong.

America does not “need” to see transsexuals pretending that their sexuality is as normal as the married husband and wife next door. And they definitely don’t want their children to see it either.

A recent study published in the journal Pediatrics found that only 20 percent of American parents believe that it’s appropriate for children younger than 13 to be exposed to dialogue about alternative lifestyles. (Even higher percentages of parents would shield their children from images of alternative lifestyles.) The research found that, among both church-going and non-church-going parents, 32 percent believe the minimum age for exposure to dialogue about alternative lifestyles is 13-16 and an additional 29 percent of parents would wait even longer — until at least age 17. Further, 19 percent of parents believe such content is in-appropriate for all ages. (Full disclosure: I co-authored the Pediatrics article with Iowa State University media research expert, Doug Gentile, Ph.D., and others.)

Parents: Don’t be intimidated. You are not alone. It’s not “hateful” to affirm traditional male-female sexuality as natural and preferable to homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, and the rest of the sexual smorgasbord. And it’s a good — not hateful — instinct to want to protect your child’s innocence.

This stunt — shining the spotlight on Chaz Bono as the first transgendered dance contestant (so we can pretend his new self is “just like everybody else”) — is the latest round in the same old game: Hollywood liberals arrogantly shove sexually dysfunctional people at viewers, insist that the public accept and approve of all “sexual minorities,” and then slap the label “hater” on anyone who objects.

Maybe to Hollywood producers, sexually confused and sexually deviant people really are “just like” the rest of … Hollywood. According to actor Corey Feldman, it’s an open secret that Hollywood’s number one problem is pedophilia. And Hollywood seems fascinated by sexual disorder masquerading as normalcy. Small wonder that DWTS producer finds Chaz Bono’s show “compelling” and “provocative.” The LGBT community responded with verbal love strokes, hailing Hollywood’s decision as “a tremendous step forward for the American public to recognize that transgender people are another wonderful part of the fabric of our culture.”

Right. Only if “culture” means the LGBT culture, with all its “wonderful” features like dungeons and fetish shows (popular exhibits in the “Erotic City” area of the L.A. Pride event. Maybe they’re saving that for next season’s “family show”).

It makes you wonder: Do Hollywood types even know any regular parents? Or do they just ignore them?

Yes, transgendered people are equal in dignity to every other person. And Chaz Bono, female, male, or somewhere in the mutilated middle, should be treated with kindness and compassion. But let’s face it — anyone who feels compelled to mutilate his or her sex organs, with chemicals or surgery, because he or she feels like the opposite sex, has got some serious problems.

Chaz Bono’s story is heartbreaking. But heartbreak doesn’t make a role model. Nor does it make transgender-ism a condition to be celebrated.

Dancing with the Stars won’t showcase the backstory behind Chaz Bono because it tells of the misery that results when a child is left to raise herself. And the confusion that results when reality is defined by feelings, unmoored from objective reality, moral truth, or even the truth of one’s own body.

One particularly telling sentence in his memoir suggests the destructive inversion at the roots of Chaz’s tangled history: “As any child of famous parents will tell you, parents come first.” (Page 11).

And so they did for poor Chaz.

Sonny and Cher divorced when Chaz was 4. She was a cute little girl named “Chastity” back then. Her nanny, Linda, became the “one person who gave me … warmth, safety and attention.” (Page 10).

As a child, Chastity traveled with Cher, who let her hang out with the show’s drag queens in between and after performances. (Good parenting, eh?)

After the divorce, Sonny began calling Chastity “Fred,” and encouraged her to hang out with him like “father-and-son.” (Page 16).

By age 13, Chastity identified as a lesbian. And at 14, she was coached by an older lesbian — her mother’s friend — on “how to make love to a woman.” (Page 47).

Shaped by instability — temporary homes, disruptive school changes, and her mother’s revolving cast of lovers — Chastity became a dysfunctional adult. She suffered through bad relationships, drug addiction, depression, unemployment and personal confusion. Therapy from lesbian and transgendered therapists — surprise, surprise — compounded her confusion.

Last year she embraced a transgendered identity and became “Chaz.”

So this fall, Chaz will dance his sad dance in celebration of who he has become.

And when the approval, votes and applause prove to be but a temporary balm on his tortured soul … then what?

For Chaz’s sake, I hope someone in Hollywood introduces him not to the next, “best” surgeon or therapist, but to the only Someone who can offer true healing and peace.
Liturgical Changes Remind All Catholics We Are on a Journey

I wish I had a dollar for every time I felt like a newcomer to the Catholic Faith. I remember the prayer I wrote and printed out a copy of the prayer so that I would not have to stand in the world. Every convert knows that. Every convert knows that you get through it somehow. Eventually, you learn. Almost immediately, you love.

Little Mary Beth, who was only in seventh grade, took pity on me and said Amen and crossing myself had to remember the order of bowing and saying Amen and crossing myself in my RCIA journal in 2005. Lord, I am going to look like I don’t know what I am doing as if I stumble around sometimes as I try to figure this out. I’m going to look like a fool as I travel down unfamiliar paths.

State Appropriations estimates, he said this bill could mean more than $30 million of additional sales for Merck at taxpayer expense. This legislation would leave our children to make these decisions without the benefit of their parents’ wisdom.

California Proposal Would Give 12-Year-Olds HPV Shot Minus Parental Input

SACRAMENTO — (CNA/EWTN News) — “Scandalous” new information about the Gardasil HPV vaccines shows that California Gov. Jerry Brown should veto a state bill that allows 12-year-olds to consent to such treatments without their parents’ involvement, opponents said ahead of the year’s veto deadline.

By Denise Bossert

Like the time I attended Mass at St. Ignatius Loyola School and bowed my head to pray with teachers and students in the gathering space, only to feel a tap on my shoulder from one of the teachers who pointed to the Crucifix on the wall. That’s when I realized everyone in the room was looking upon the Lord as they prayed, and I hadn’t noticed because my head had been bowed and my eyes closed (like I had done in my Protestant years). Or the times I have written an article for the column and received a kind letter from an editor who wanted me to help him edit the article so that it was more in line with official Church teaching.

Over and over, I have felt like a newcomer to the Faith. I still have moments when I can’t remember whether we stand now or kneel. And those momentary lapses in memory almost always come when I am the guest speaker or the teacher or the Catholic writer — the one who is supposed to know it all.

Lord, I’m going to fumble and stumble around sometimes as I try to figure this out. I’m going to look like a fool as I travel down unfamiliar paths.

Recently, I was talking to a priest. When he realized that I am a Catholic writer, he suggested that I write something about the changes in the Liturgy. “It will be hard for the musicians and some of the people. And it will be hard for priests. We’ll probably stumble awhile, as we try to learn the new wording.”

“Oh, Father! You’ll feel just like a convert!” I said and then I told him about my year in RCIA and the way I still feel at times.

The church secretary, who was sitting near us, smiled then. “Maybe that’s not such a bad thing. We all need to feel like a convert now and then.”

She’s right. But it’s not the end of the world. Every convert knows that you get through it somehow.

However, Centers for Disease Control statistics say that 73 percent of teenagers receiving injections never complete the series. “These new facts are scandalous,” May said.

Bill A.B. 499, passed by the State Senate on Aug. 31, would allow children 12 years old and older to consent to Gardasil vaccinations and other methods to prevent sexually transmitted diseases without telling their parents.

Gov. Brown may sign the bill into law this month, or he may decide it should not become law.

He has voiced concerns about parental rights, as in his recent veto of a bill that would mandate ski helmets for youth and impose criminal penalties on parents if their child skis or snowboards without a helmet.

“I am concerned about the continuing and seeming inexorable transfer of authority from parents to the state,” the governor said in his Sept. 6 veto message. “I believe parents have the ability and responsibility to make good choices for their children.”

In a Sept. 13 letter to the governor, May said opponents were “heartened” by his concern about children’s rights. He said that A.B. 499 “takes away the rights of parents to make consequential health-care decisions for their children. Governor Brown should apply the same parental rights principles to A.B. 499 that he used when he recently vetoed the mandatory ski helmet bill,” May said Sept. 16.

He added that there are no protections against coercion from “adults with ulterior motives or profit incentives” to coerce or scare children into consent- ing to the vaccines. “Children are not equipped to stand up to the authority of adults, to do research, to ask questions, and to understand statistics about health risks that would enable them to make informed decisions,” he continued.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles has voiced similar concerns. Disallowing parents’ involvement, he warned, could lead to pressure on children from “parties who may not have our best interests in mind” and who may have “financial or other motivations” to encourage vaccination. “Our children need the knowledge and wisdom of their parents in order to make complicated medical deci- sions. This legislation would leave our children to make these decisions without the benefit of their parents’ wisdom.”

I could not comprehend the magnitude of the state bill that allows 12-year-olds to consent to such treatments without their parents’ involvement, opponents said ahead of the year’s veto deadline. This legislation would leave our children to make these decisions without the benefit of their parents’ wisdom.

California Proposal Would Give 12-Year-Olds HPV Shot Minus Parental Input
Calendard

SEPTEMBER
25 40 Days for Life Begins
26 Christ the King Church has Eucharistic Adoration every Monday starting with Mass at 6:30 a.m., Adoration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Benediction at 6 p.m. Christ the King is located at 8055 Dorset Drive, OKC. All are welcome.

28 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

29 Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday at St. Charles Borromeo Church from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing with Benediction at 8 p.m. St. Charles is located at 5024 N. Grove Avenue in Oklahoma City. All are welcome.

29 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Epiphany Parish, in the chapel 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.

29 Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday night from 5 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory’s Chapel, St. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with Adoration to follow. Included is vespers with the monks.

30 St. John Nepomuk Altar Society in Yukon will be selling kolaches on Friday afternoon in the school gym.

OCTOBER
1 Perpetual Adoration at St. Monica is held in the St. Augustine Chapel located at the back of St. Monica Church. You can sign up for an hour or just drop in as time allows. For more information, call the Coordinator for Adoration at St. Monica, Toni Harrelson, or email her at tonimab@sbeglobal.net or by phone at (405) 341-2199. St. Monica Parish is located at 2001 N. Western Avenue, Edmond.

1 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta meet at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Toni Harrelson, LMC, at (405) 341-2199 or inoklahoma@ sbeglobal.net.

2 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Claire Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More Church in Norman. All are welcome. If you would like to learn how Francis lived, plan to attend one of our meetings. For more information, call Alice at (405) 473-7680.

2 Byzantine Liturgy will be offered at 5 p.m. in St. Mark’s Church, 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Moleben-Intercessions to Christ Emmanuel will be celebrated after Liturgy. For more information, please call Father Phil Seeton at (508) 536-6351.

7 First Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 N.W. 19th (just two blocks east of Penn), Oklahoma City.

7 First Friday Adoration at St. Mark the Evangelist in Norman. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 9 a.m. to noon and will be followed by Mass. St. Mark is located at 3939 W. Tecumseh Road. We invite you to join us in praying for our country.

7 Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m., Holy Family Home, 6231 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact HFMH at 741-7419.

7 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

8 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Spirituality Center will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osboke@sonet.net.

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

Jobs Box

Director for the Academic Success Center at St. Gregory’s University, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts community (est. 1875), seeks qualified applicants for a full-time Director for the Academic Success Center. This is an exempt position which assigns students needing tutoring to appropriate tutors (or faculty volunteers, or self), promotes Support Center services, monitors and evaluates tutoring sessions, processes payroll. A more complete job description is posted on the SGU website at http://www.stgregorys.edu/.

Minimum requirements are a master’s degree or higher, a commitment to help students succeed, teaching experience, tutoring experience, supervisory experience in an educational setting, excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate should be self-directing, able to work effectively with students with physical and learning disabilities, able to work with a flexible schedule. The Center Director will serve as the ADA representative and may teach one course per semester in an appropriate field. SGU has approximately 750 traditional and adult students. Candidate should be able to accommodate change and growth at the university and should value the education of diverse populations. We are committed to excellence in teaching. Shownee is a small, multicultural city in the Oklahoma City metro area. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and tutoring philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Human Resources, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W. MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Okla. 74804, Attention Dr. Ron Faulk, Provost. Application materials may be sent electronically to hres@stgregorys.edu or via mail service. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, to be announced on the SGU website.

Field Agent

The Knights of Columbus is seeking a full-time field agent for a career opportunity representing our insurance program in the Enid-Stillwater area. This professional position offers the chance to make an above average income, a career path into management if desired, paid advanced education and generous bonus opportunities. A complete benefits package is offered with this full-time position. Works in an assigned and exclusive marketing area to sell and service our insurance and retirement products. Performs needs analysis for assigned members and recommends appropriate products to meet those needs. Develops positive relationships with the local councils to help recruit new members. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please email resume to Kevin Pierce, FICF, General Agent, at Kevint.Pierce@kofc.org or call (405) 514-7660.
“Nothing less than faith is an adequate foundation for our work.” In her opening keynote, using these simple words, Mother Agnes Mary, S.V., superior general, Sisters of Life, set the tone by reminding each of us attending the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference in Atlanta, that it is our faith which both anchors and sustains our efforts to protect and to effectively promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death.

During the four intense but inspirational days of the conference, we heard about groundbreaking efforts in the Archdiocese of New York to promote chastity and to fight the scourge of pornography. We learned of renewed efforts of the USCCB to promote and encourage the development of Project Rachel programs throughout the country. We discussed and studied the issues addressed in the June 2011 USCCB Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide titled “To Live Each Day With Dignity.” We learned how our Latino brothers and sisters are standing up for life and human dignity.

Father J. Daniel Mindling, a moral theologian and the academic dean at Mount St. Mary Seminary, framed and identified the moral issues we must evaluate when dealing with outside organizations that may not share the Catholic Church’s pro-life positions. A world renowned psychiatrist, who advises the Vatican on life issues, shared her work and studies about the traumatic impact of abortion on the mother, the father and the immediate family. We discussed in detail with experts from the USCCB and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment federal legislative efforts to protect human life as well as disturb federal regulatory attacks on that same human life.

But at the end of the day, despite our exacting study of the issues and our review of the many exciting projects being undertaken by dioceses across our nation to promote and protect human life and dignity, Msgr. James Moroney, a member of the Adjunct Faculty of St. John’s Seminary in Boston, summed up our most important task. He constantly and unequivocally reminded us, through morning and evening prayer, through beautiful liturgies at daily Mass at the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and through his own keynote presentation, that “praying for Life is our most important work.”

My four days in Atlanta fed me spiritually and intellectually and informed, inspired and challenged me to make sure that, as this year’s USCCB Respect Life materials admonish us, I do not turn my back or give a deaf ear to the cries and needs of those most vulnerable among us on their journey from conception to natural death. I encourage everyone in the Archdiocese to join me in this effort. If anyone would like more information about the issues and projects discussed at the Pro-Life Conference, contact me at rkleing@catholiccharitiesok.org or call (405) 525-3000.

September 25, 2011 • Sooner Catholic

Praying for Life is Our Most Important Work
By Richard Klinge
Associate Director of Advocacy, Outreach, and Legal Services

“Nothing less than faith is an adequate foundation for our work.” In her opening keynote, using these simple words, Mother Agnes Mary, S.V., superior general, Sisters of Life, set the tone by reminding each of us attending the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference in Atlanta, that it is our faith which both anchors and sustains our efforts to protect and to effectively promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death.

During the four intense but inspirational days of the conference, we heard about groundbreaking efforts in the Archdiocese of New York to promote chastity and to fight the scourge of pornography. We learned of renewed efforts of the USCCB to promote and encourage the development of Project Rachel programs throughout the country. We discussed and studied the issues addressed in the June 2011 USCCB Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide titled “To Live Each Day With Dignity.” We learned how our Latino brothers and sisters are standing up for life and human dignity.

Father J. Daniel Mindling, a moral theologian and the academic dean at Mount St. Mary Seminary, framed and identified the moral issues we must evaluate when dealing with outside organizations that may not share the Catholic Church’s pro-life positions. A world renowned psychiatrist, who advises the Vatican on life issues, shared her work and studies about the traumatic impact of abortion on the mother, the father and the immediate family. We discussed in detail with experts from the USCCB and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment federal legislative efforts to protect human life as well as disturb federal regulatory attacks on that same human life.

But at the end of the day, despite our exacting study of the issues and our review of the many exciting projects being undertaken by dioceses across our nation to promote and protect human life and dignity, Msgr. James Moroney, a member of the Adjunct Faculty of St. John’s Seminary in Boston, summed up our most important task. He constantly and unequivocally reminded us, through morning and evening prayer, through beautiful liturgies at daily Mass at the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and through his own keynote presentation, that “praying for Life is our most important work.”

My four days in Atlanta fed me spiritually and intellectually and informed, inspired and challenged me to make sure that, as this year’s USCCB Respect Life materials admonish us, I do not turn my back or give a deaf ear to the cries and needs of those most vulnerable among us on their journey from conception to natural death. I encourage everyone in the Archdiocese to join me in this effort. If anyone would like more information about the issues and projects discussed at the Pro-Life Conference, contact me at rkleing@catholiccharitiesok.org or call (405) 525-3000.
Christ the King Breaks Ground for Junior High School

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Christ the King Parish and School held a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 11 for a new 20,000-square-foot junior high school building. Architect Phillip Fitzgerald said the project, which includes tearing down the old Greystone Presbyterian Church located adjacent to Christ the King, should be completed by the time school starts next fall.

Father Rick Stansberry, pastor at Christ the King, said the parish had planned to expand its junior high some time ago, but had little space to do so.

“We also wanted to add a preschool, but we didn’t do so because there was one next door at the Presbyterian church. Actually, it was run by our parishioners, but we didn’t have the room for an extra 100 students,” Father Stansberry said.

The plan to expand the school started looking like a reality when the Presbyterian church was put up for sale.

Christ the King parishioners, over about a six-month period, made pledges of $5.4 million to buy the Presbyterian church property and build the new junior high.

“We actually went over that (pledges) a little bit, the parishioners have been very generous,” Father Stansberry said. “We will have a second gymnasium, six classrooms and a science lab. We will move our playground across the street and also will add a parking lot.”

Father Stansberry said the added classroom space has been needed at the junior high level for some time.

“The junior high currently has the smallest classrooms,” he said. “They are only 700 square feet, the others are 800 square feet. So you have the biggest kids in the smallest classroom.”

Fitzgerald said he anticipates bids on construction work will “go out” in about 30 days. “It’s probably a seven- or eight-month project, so it will be ready in the fall,” he said.

There are 115 junior high students currently enrolled at Christ the King.