OU, OSU campus ministries affirm Catholic identity

By Brianna Osborne
The Sooner Catholic

Students are once again filling the lecture halls, student unions and dorms of OU and OSU – but are the Catholics among them filling the pews at Saint Thomas More in Norman and Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater? Here is an overview of the lively and faithful communities that await Catholics on campus.

OU-Saint Thomas More in Norman

At the University of Oklahoma, Father Jim Goins heads a thriving parish that is a home away from home for Catholic students.

“Saint Thomas More’s primary mission is to provide OU students with the sacraments of the Church,” said Father Goins. “We have four Masses on the weekends; we offer daily Mass Monday through Friday; confessions are offered twice weekly or by appointments.”

Last year, 20 students entered the Church or were confirmed; more are expected this year. Mass is always well-attended in the small church just down the street from Memorial Stadium. In the future, Father Goins hopes to build a larger chapel on campus.

“We also offer retreats, bible studies, classes in apologetics, mission trips, service projects, intra mural teams and numerous opportunities for fellowship with other students. One of our longest-running ministries is our Sunday evening free meal,” said Father Goins.

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There are some important parish events coming up in the next month.

“Our next Sooner Awakening Retreat will be held Oct. 18 to Oct. 20. This annual retreat is our largest single student event of the fall semester. More than 100 students will be involved. Sooner Awakening is our best chance to engage new students in our ministry. This retreat not only helps students to solidify their faith; it helps them meet other students,” said Father Goins.

“The other event I would note is our upcoming Gala for Campus Ministry, our annual fundraiser,” said Father Goins. “This year, it will be held at the Sam Noble Natural History Museum on Friday evening, Oct. 25. This dinner and auction is open to people throughout the archdiocese and its proceeds enable us to fund our expanding ministry to OU students.”

Father Goins was proud to acknowledge that a significant number of the archdiocesan seminarians come from Saint Thomas More. He revealed that it was one of his personal goals “to become a source for priestly vocations for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.”

“When I arrived as pastor, I told our parish council that, unless we produce vocations, we have failed in our mission. In fact, the ‘boom’ we’re experiencing now is a result of a parish-wide effort to nurture priestly vocations. We started a men’s and women’s discernment group and we encourage ongoing conversations about the joys of a life given to the Church. I will often call aside a young man who exhibits the ‘signs’ of a vocation to priesthood and ask him directly to engage in serious discernment,” said Father Goins.

OSU-Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater

In the Diocese of Tulsa, Father Stuart Crevcoure guides the students through a period of transition at Saint John the Evangelist in Stillwater.

Saint John will now focus mainly on students and campus ministry. The other Stillwater parish, Saint Francis Xavier, will move to the west side of town where a beautiful new church will be built. The students’ reaction to the change demonstrates the strong sense of Catholic community in Stillwater.

“Students are interested in the new church plans,” said Father Crevcoure, “but the inevitable question is, ‘We’ll still have Saint John, right?’ The model we’re following in Stillwater is that of College Station, Tex., where Saint Mary is a true university parish dedicated to student ministry and Saint Thomas Aquinas is the local parish for permanent residents and families.”

Saint John offers a variety of activities and resources for students. “In addition to providing the sacraments, we also seek to build students up spiritually, intellectually and in service to the church and community. Social activities like our Sunday evening dinner are very important. Making Catholic friends helps students hold on to and practice their faith through the college years,” said Father Crevcoure.

“This October we’re planning a large Marian procession traversing campus between Saint Francis and Saint John. This was a great suggestion from one of our graduate students from Italy who serves on the parish council,” said Father Crevcoure.

This public witness to the faith is important in an atmosphere that can be hostile to the church.

“The atmosphere of most college campuses, especially a large state school, is extremely secular,” said Father Crevcoure. “The church, her teachings and her traditions are subtly and often not-so-subtly attacked in the classroom and the broader campus culture. … The real challenge for students is to develop and hold on to a Catholic worldview when the church is consistently mis-represented or ridiculed.”

“A key thing is helping them understand how important the celebration of the sacraments is in their life as a Catholic. Mass attendance, confession and prayer are the foundation. In keeping with Blessed John Henry Newman’s ‘The Idea of a University,’ we also seek to instill a sense of the interconnectedness of all things – what we do, what we study, how we live, how we pray. Our firmly held beliefs as Catholics need to inform all these things. Ultimately, it’s about revealing the beauty of the Catholic faith and inviting students to participate in the banquet,” said Father Crevcoure.

Brianna Osborne is a staff writer for the Sooner Catholic.

For information on Mass times and activities: OU http://www.stm-ou.org/. Facebook, “St. Thomas More University Parish – Norman, OK” Twitter @OUCatholic

When it became apparent who would be elected pope later the focus shifted to CRS has been in Rwanda since 1971 and began Thursday, Sept. 19. For more information about the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s “News Releases” (“Father Stanley Rodgers’ and “Sooner Catholic-Blog” – see column at the end of the page). Archbishop Coakley’s pastoral letter—“Our purpose as the people of God”—will be published on the archdiocese’s website at archokc.org/vocations/home. If you are interested to receive email or text updates on Facebook and Twitter, please visit FlockNote.com/archokc. To learn more or to register to be a member of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City FlockNote community, visit FlockNote.com/archokc. FlockNote enables parishioners to tailor communications to their interests and needs.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Sept. 29 — Young Adult Mass and Choir Night, 6 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Sept. 30 — Ordination of Msgr. Christopher Brashears to the Order of Deacon, 10:30 a.m., The Pontifical Basilica of St. Peter the Vatican, Rome

Oct. 1 — Confirmation, 10 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Okarche

Oct. 6 — Archbishop’s Annual Picnic for CPC Staff, Principals, School Board Members and Deaconesses, 5 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Oct. 7 — Catholic Foundation Golf Tournament

Oct. 8 — Department Head Meeting, 10 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Oct. 8 — Finance Council Meeting, 2 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Oct. 8 — Archdiocesan Beacon Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center


Oct. 11 — School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m, Sacred Heart School, Oklahoma City

Oct. 14 – Mass for Anniversary of Dedication of the Cathedral, 10 a.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City

In pastoral letter, Archbishop Coakley proclaims new vision statement

By The Sooner Catholic Staff

In a special insert in the Oct. 13 issue of the “Sooner Catholic,” parishes will receive a pastoral letter from Archbishop Paul Coakley. In the letter, the archbishop will share the priorities and goals for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, all of which were discerned through a 13-month process that included the formation of an archdiocesan envisioning team, eight listening sessions across the archdiocese and in-person and government sessions facilitated by the Catholic Leadership Institute.

“Many of you participated in one of eight listening sessions that were held in various locations around the archdiocese,” Heardman said. “The archdiocese has also participated in various dialogues and in-person and government sessions facilitated by the Catholic Leadership Institute.”

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“In the aftermath of the war and genocide of 1994 CRS in Rwanda is a small country, about the size of Maryland. It has a population of more than 12 million people, and its population is very young! There is great poverty, but there is great hope. The scale of the challenge facing the country is almost overwhelming. But CRS is saving lives every day! It is feeding hungry children, providing education, and fostering real hope in people who have been displaced and living in temporary housing. Through CRS’ pastoral and social ministry, we have been able to help develop the skills and capacity to feed themselves. When HIV/AIDS even threatened to destroy the African continent the church is a major agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter. CRS is the official agency of the Catholic Church that acts on our behalf to serve those in need of food, clothing, water, and shelter.
In the land of crosses

SAMULAS LITHUANIA—No one knows when Polish Lithuanians first crossed all of these crosses on a hill about seven miles north of the city of Siauliai, it may have been sometime during the first century, 1833 uprising against Russian rule over the small Baltic country. Ofentimes, the black Lithuanian crosses killed during that rebla- tion, and a similar revolt in 1863, could not be found. Six Polish Lithuanian priests chiseled in memory of those who was eventually covered with memorials. During the country’s freedom movement independence be- tween the First and Second World Wars, citizens of a free Lithuania continued to plant crosses next to Siauliai, as the Hill of Crosses at Siauliai’s southernmost circumference. I first became aware of this remarkable place in the late 1970s as a young seminarian at the Latin Univer- sity in Rome. That struggle was led by some Remarkable men and women, including two priests, Fr. Janis Sabalinskas, Galvys luther, and Fr. Sigismundas Tarnavskis, S.J., and Father Alfonz Sru- kskis, a clandestine man, Nijole Sadunaite, whose expenses for the Gulag, remaining a testament to courage forged by the Lithuanian Church. The rev- olution of 1989, when Lithuania had produced the free- ing, an emerging underground publication in the history of the Church. The Lithuanian Catholic Church, which was typified, copy by copy, on manual typesetters, secretly distributed in Lithuania, and then smuggled abroad, where it was translated into English by Brooklyn-based Catholic Religious Agency. In the mid-1980s, working with my friend Congress- man John Miller, I helped organize a Lithuanian Catholi- c Church in the United States—Lithuanian Representative. The caucus’s bipartisanship membership program to bring the message of Lithuania’s struggle to release Lithuania from the Soviet occupation. Lithuanian Catholic priests of conscience, engineered a Congress- man’s resolution to recognize the freedom of Lithuania’s independence and religious freedom in 1987, the 60th anniversary of the侵占。I then made a public reception in the Capitol that was broadcast on national television. By the time the year was imploited—Lithuania leading the way with its 1990 de- claration of independence—Father Tarnavskis, Father Tarnavskis, and Sister Nipile were free, and the Church was wining and dining a major factor in Lithuania’s successful struggle for national identity and cultural integrity. Throughout the difficult years, I was fumigated by the Hill of Crosses. Time after time, the Soviets took down the crosses because they were a symbol of Lithuanian religious. Any display of religious conviction and political courage that emerged would be tolerated, the government of Lithuania public to atheist: prophetic and totalitarian power. Sister Nipile has always been the archbishop of Konnus since 1996. Alfonz Sru-kuskis, a new monas- tery, is retired but still busy and active; Sister Nipile continues to radiate that of consecrated life in Vilnius. It was wonderful to see each of them during a recent visit to Washington D.C. to mark the occasion of the 20th anniversary of John Paul II’s visit 1993. There were two of my students, members of the Lithuanian pilgrims in the parliament, in the Vilnius cathedral, at the Lithuanian embassy, and at the mission of Lithuania and the great Marcin Sabalinskas at Silve. I hope that, through these events, Lithuanian Catholicism looked back in such a way that the path forward, the free and virtuous society to which John Paul II called Lithuania, came into clearer focus. From a personal point of view, however, the most moving moving in a week of conversations was my visit to the Hill. Some count 100,000 crosses there now; the exact count makes no difference. At Siauliai, in what John Paul II called “the land of crosses,” I plant- ed a small cross in memory of the martyrs for religious freedom. I brought a Lithuanian flag as a public reception in the Capitol that was broadcast on national television. By the time the year was imploited—Lithuania leading the way with its 1990 de- claration of independence—Father Tarnavskis, Father Tarnavskis, and Sister Nipile were free, and the Church was wining and dining a major factor in Lithuania’s successful struggle for national identity and cultural integrity. Throughout the difficult years, I was fumigated by the Hill of Crosses. Time after time, the Soviets took down the crosses because they were a symbol of Lithuanian religious. Any display of religious conviction and political courage that emerged would be tolerated, the government of Lithuania public to atheist: prophetic and totalitarian power. Sister Nipile has always been the archbishop of Konnus since 1996. 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Catechist Good to be Here

By Briania Osborne

Monsignor Frank Greiner is respected by participants in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as a gentle soul who inspires them. He is a happy soul, as he always迓es to help. Father Greiner's parents wrote to Father Joseph Madera of the Military Diocese in recognition of his vocation. Monsignor Higgins gave me a book that inspired me to look more closely at the priesthood, and it was his example of life and faith during the catechumenate that led me to discern my vocation to be a priest. I knew well as I grew up, and it was his example that guided me in my faith and in my pursuit of a vocation. I remember him speaking to me about the importance of keeping our days holy by sharing a meal and conversation with those in need, referring to these encounters as special graces. I have had family members who needed someone to pray for, and so did Dan. In the young days I dated, I was going to a place where I could be myself. God kept talking to me — thank goodness, he thought.

As I got to know him better, I knew that his faith life and his life as a priest are very different. He gave me a great deal of comfort and guidance during this time. His personal testimony to the power of prayer is an inspiration, and he has given me hope for the future and for our church as a whole.

I hope people will realize I gave 100 percent of myself to God and to my church. I feel like they are truly meant to be here, and I feel like they are always with me in my prayers.

He was born in Atlanta, Ga., and attended Immaculate Conception in Oklahom City for the last 17 years. Father Greiner will retire on Jan. 14, 2014, allowing him more time to help out where he feels the most need.

The event was very inspiring for all who came, and our church during the dancing, singing and clapping, not to mention the food and fellowship that was enjoyed.

The dealership also addressed issues serious with humorous references — most notably her name for "drive-by perving," the phenomenon when people don’t make eye contact, mumble words and quickly move on to the next person during the Fashions of Fame.

"As a child, we pray with our whole bodies," said Jansen. She recommended that while shaking hands Catholics should pray for each person they greet.

Jansen also gave an amazing retelling of the story of Doubting Thomas. The Holy Spirit tells the apostles, "If you don’t believe, just follow me down to the Jordan River so you can be baptized." "Open My Eyes, Lord," he said. He then addressed issues serious with humorous references — most notably her name for "drive-by perving," the phenomenon when people don’t make eye contact, mumble words and quickly move on to the next person during the Time for Faith event.

"Lent is the phase of purifi cation and repentance, when we focus on prayer and fasting in order to prepare for the celebration of the sacraments on Holy Saturday. As the participants in RCIA, they begin to feel like they are truly meant to be here, and I feel like they are always with me in my prayers."
Archbishop Coakley dedicates sacred spaces at Saint John the Baptist

Jubilarians celebrate anniversaries

Bishops, parishioners honor Our Lady of LaVang at Cathedral
Review: Modern fairy-tale – while imaginative and moral – falls short

The Shadow of the Bear: A fairy tale retold by Regina Doman
Carol Glatz

The Shadow of the Bear: A fairy tale retold by Regina Doman

The meaning of “modern” in the presentation of traditional original retelling is also a question. Doman seems to want all the characters to interact as if they were in the same time period and place, yet she also uses the original story line of Snow White and Rose Red, which is told from the point of view of two girls. When Doman refers to the girls and says that they want to be Snow White’s sisters, she is not providing a modern retelling, because in the old stories, Snow White’s sisters were never mentioned. The girls in the story are never shown to be interested in the story of Snow White and her sisters.

The story overall is a fun read and it is the first in a trilogy with these original characters, so maybe the writing will improve once Doman settles into her characters. For example, one of the girls in the story is a Catholic and the other is a Jew. The Catholic girl is more interested in the story and wants to learn more about it, but the Jew is more interested in her own life and does not want to be bothered with the story.

Summary

The Shadow of the Bear is available in an archaic library for children. If you are interested in fairy tales, though, I highly recommend you read the original Brothers Grimm tales because they are more engaging and less forced.

Father Stanley Rother Catholic Institute launches fall semester

The Institute conducts classes Tuesday through Friday, with the cultural portion running from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the language classes following until 9:30 p.m. Registration officially closes Tuesday, Sept. 30, so interested students must register with people who begin later. The next official registration will take place in spring with the spring semester opening on Jan. 21.

For Angie Matthews, the language and other portions of the course are important. “If you’re looking at going to a country, if they’re New York, Chicago, or Spanish-speaking places, you should learn the language. We should learn about our culture, their culture, and how to treat people in a different culture. This is a great way for people to better understand each other.”

Many more paintings in the collection, such as the work of two Non-Catholic artists, will engage the imagination with the Gospels, making the collection a must-see.

For the Sooner Catholic

Anamaria Scaparrera Biddick is a freelance writer and math tutor living in Oklahoma City.

Review: “Of Heaven and Earth” engages the imagination

By Anamaria Scaparrera Biddick

“Of Heaven and Earth” engages the imagination

Not all religious art makes us see the Gospel in a new way, by re-introducing us to a familiar scene or glimmering something different in a story we have heard and re-told so many times. The exhibit “Of Heaven and Earth,” at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, opens to the public in November, beginning in the 1300s. Tiitan’s (“Christ and the Adulteress”) deputes the passion of Christ to the adulteress in the city of Ephesus. Pharetra brings the woman caught in adultery to Jesus, asking if he should destroy her. Jesus replies, “He who is without sin shall cast the first stone.” In the end, the woman is spared, but this scene of Catholicism in the story is one that Doman seems to want all the characters to interact as if they were in the same time period and place, yet she also uses the original story line of Snow White and Rose Red, which is told from the point of view of two girls. When Doman refers to the girls and says that they want to be Snow White’s sisters, she is not providing a modern retelling, because in the old stories, Snow White’s sisters were never mentioned. The girls in the story are never shown to be interested in the story of Snow White and her sisters.

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"No olviden a los pobres" Cuando se hizo evidente que sería elegido Papa, en el concierto de marzo un hermano cardenal ¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha deja-... necesidades de una nación afligida por la violencia y falta de desarrollo. La organización, que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994. Los desafíos que enfrenta el país para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las ha-... pequeño, el mayor desafío, a costa de la ayuda de los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de los hijos de la pobreza y el pene... el nombre de Cristo y de su iglesia. Es un llamado imprescindible para el servicio de los católicos: "¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha deja-... necesidades de una nación afligida por la violencia y falta de desarrollo. La organización, que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994. Los desafíos que enfrenta el país para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las ha-... pequeño, el mayor desafío, a costa de la ayuda de los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de los hijos de la pobreza y el pene... el nombre de Cristo y de su iglesia. Es un llamado imprescindible para el servicio de los católicos: "¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha deja-... necesidades de una nación afligida por la violencia y falta de desarrollo. La organización, que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994. Los desafíos que enfrenta el país para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las ha-... pequeño, el mayor desafío, a costa de la ayuda de los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de los hijos de la pobreza y el pene... el nombre de Cristo y de su iglesia. Es un llamado imprescindible para el servicio de los católicos: "¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha deja-... necesidades de una nación afligida por la violencia y falta de desarrollo. La organización, que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994. Los desafíos que enfrenta el país para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las ha-... pequeño, el mayor desafío, a costa de la ayuda de los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de los hijos de la pobreza y el pene... el nombre de Cristo y de su iglesia. Es un llamado imprescindible para el servicio de los católicos: "¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha deja-... necesidades de una nación afligida por la violencia y falta de desarrollo. La organización, que cobró la vida de casi un millón de personas en Ruanda era los horrores del genocidio de 1994. Los desafíos que enfrenta el país para ayudar a las personas a desarrollar las ha-... pequeño, el mayor desafío, a costa de la ayuda de los católicos en los Estados Unidos. Uno de los hijos de la pobreza y el pene... el nombre de Cristo y de su iglesia. Es un llamado imprescindible para el servicio de los católicos: "¡Alabado sea el Señor, que levanta al pobre." Seis meses después del cónclave de marzo un hermano cardenal de la delación de CRS allí la atención se dio a miles de Ruandeses en el nombre de los católicos de millones, así los que años. Sus actividades han cambiado con las necesidades urgentes de una población que sufrió la violencia inmundo y el tráuma que ha dej...
Red Mass: “Justice is essential to the bedrock of our society”

By Anamaria Szepesvári Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

Oklahoma City’s annual Red Mass took place on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help with Bishop Edward Weisenburger con- nected to the purpose of the Mass, speaking to those in the legal profession and civil servants. “We proceed, as the Mass is held, because we need you to be prophets of justice. While the law doesn’t belong to you alone, your part is absolutely critical.”

“By your professional endeavors, but even more fundamentally by your lives and vocations, you are called to help uproot injustice as you strive to prove showing as what we be… Justice is essential to the bedrock of our society. Without that stabilizing, the weak, the vulnerable, and the innocent—the weak, the vulnerable, and the innocent—will be without hope.” Bishop Weisenburger.

Tish Eston, chancellor of the archdiocese and an independent nursing practice where the nurse performs many roles including educator, person-

Archbishop Coakley expressed the importance of the Red Mass, speaking to those in the legal community and other civil servants who serve the church and society.”

“This year’s Red Mass, attended by more than 300, was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley from the rectory of the Basilica of St. Mary the Queen at the Basilica of the Virgin Mary, St. John Nepomuk Church in Bison at 10 a.m. 10 a.m. The Rev. John Kirkland, pastor, will celebrate the Mass. The homily will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Paul McKenzie, S.J., the Jesuit International Law Chair who recently moved to the Oklahoma City area last summer from Gaston College.

“ wounded by the sword that I used to give in D.C to the Red Mass, it’s a lovely traidue. The Supreme Court would be a good place to begin.”

John Bergsma to headline Saint John Optemps parish mission

St. Anthony Shewshew Holy Church in Oklahoma City, OK. Applications must meet the highly qualified require-

ments as described by the Oklahoma Department of Education and Social Services is responsible for operations and fostering holistic care of the pa- tient personnel. This position requires a minimum of 10 years of progressive experience in Long Term Care and experience in training and coaching.

Services. The Director of Vocational Services is responsible for operations and fostering holistic care of the pa- tient personnel. This position requires a minimum of 10 years of progressive experience in Long Term Care and experience in training and coaching.

Part-time cafeteria help

Bishop McCuinnis Catholics is now taking applications for part-time cafeteria help. If interested please contact Laura Scott by email at ccsecure@okc.edu or call 405-468-4608 for an appointment.

September 20

By Anamaría Scaperlanda Biddick
For the Sooner Catholic

Tish Eston, chancellor of the archdiocese and an independent nursing practice where the nurse performs many roles including educator, person-
Frances Savely Catholic School Educator of the Year 2013

At the recent Teacher’s Fall Institute held at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation awarded its 2013 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Frances Savely. Frances is a second grade teacher at Saint Eugene Catholic School in Oklahoma City. She has spent the past 27 years involved in the parish and school at Saint Eugene and has taught second grade for the last 19 years.

“Through the love and sacrifices made by her parents, Frances Smith Savely learned what it meant to be committed to Catholic school education early in life. She graduated from Saint Patrick School and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School herself. She and her husband, Gary, sent their two sons to Catholic school at Saint Eugene’s and Bishop McGuinness. Savely teaches with love and compassion for each child in her classroom. She knows that each child connects with their family. Savely said she wants to see each child grow in his or her God-given talents and she spends many hours during evenings and weekends attending events that her students participate in outside of school. She follows her students, not only through their eighth grade year, but also through high school. You can catch Savely at a recital or a basketball game supporting her current and former students.

“One of Frances’ greatest accomplishments as a teacher is the development of the second grade sacramental preparation program for our school,” her nominator said.

Savely has introduced many activities which have become traditions that families look forward to as their children become second graders. She is a treasure for our archdiocese and is a one-person walking billboard for sharing with all who meets that Catholic schools are here to serve each child (in) mind, heart and spirit.”

Annually, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma supports many educational programs within the archdiocese including the Catholic School Educator of the Year Award, with the Religious Educator of the Year Award. Early in September, nominations were narrowed down to three finalists from which the Foundation Committee selected an ultimate award winner. In addition to Frances Savely, the finalists for the 2013 Catholic School Educator of the Year are Dean Hoffhines, middle school Catholic doctrine teacher at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond, and Monica Schmidkiofer, middle school science, religion and literature teacher at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City. The award winner receives a $5000 award and her school receives a $5000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her honor at the school. The finalists also receive a $5000 award.

Finalist Dean Hoffhines has been teaching school for 40 years with the last 15 years in Catholic schools. He strives for excellence in everything he does and encourages his students to do the same. For many years, Hoffhines taught math and spearheaded the “First in Math” online math competition for his students that inspired students to work math problems even into the summer vacation. In the recent competition, more than 1 million math problems were correctly solved by Saint Elizabeth students in a nine-month period. “Mr. Hoffhines is the ‘go to guy’ for all things Catholic at our school,” said his nominator. “He has always been the most requested teacher for Catholic doctrine, leading the school todepartmentalize and give every middle school student the opportunity to experience his knowledge and love of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary and our Catholic Faith. Dean teaches to build up your life, build up other’s lives, be kind and love one another and pray often and unceasingly. He constantly emphasizes to his students that if you do this you will build treasures in heaven, a phrase that is used often in school at Saint Elizabeth’s.”

Finalist Monica Schmidkiofer has been teaching for 19 years with the last 15 years teaching science, religion and literature to the middle school students at Saint Philip Neri. Schmidkiofer rolls up her sleeves every day and at an early age she believed that each student she encounters is not a mass production but rather a one-of-a-kind unique gift from God. She not only teaches students faith and patience, tolerance and self-respect to her students. Through her leadership, Schmidkiofer helped to implement the House System in the middle school, the Annual Crud Ball game supporting her current student, the Annual Crud Ball game supporting her current student in late August by the selection committee. From nominations submitted to three finalists from which the Finalist Dean Hoffhines is very devoted to his parish in his honor as soon as it is published. Finalist Monica Schmidkiofer receives a $5000 grant from the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her parish in her honor as soon as it is scheduled. The finalists also receive a $5000 Award.

Mary Smith Religious Educator of the Year 2013

Over the past 10 years, the Catholic Foundation has recognized outstanding educators in the archdiocese as an extension of its focus on education. The Foundation has awarded the 2013 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Religious Education of the Year Award to Mary Smith, the junior and senior high religious education teacher at Saint Monica Church in Edmond. Smith has been a catechist for the past 20 years at Saint Monica’s and before that at Saint John the Baptist, also in Edmond. She received her advanced catechist certification in 1986.

Many parishes do not have a very active RE program for juniors and seniors in high school but Smith has forged a path for this to happen. She has introduced creative activities to the entire youth group, including the 40 Days for Life vigil, Coffee with Christ morning prayer group, Birth Choice Walk, Food Bank volunteering, peeling potatoes for the Edmond Thanksgiving dinner, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, participating in the Catholic Coalition for Social Justice Wars and taking the kids to Summer Workcamp Mission trips and Steubenville Youth Conferences. The class, which usually has 150 students enrolled, is mostly about apologetics, Catholic social teaching and evangelization.

“Mary is tireless in her desire to evangelize others and teach them about love for Christ. Her heart and door are always open to our teens at Saint Monica’s,” her nominator said. The finalists for the 2013 Religious Educator of the Year Award also included Betty Lagaly, kindergarten to first grade catechist at Saint Joseph Church in Union City and Dean Fisher, fifth grade catechist at Saint Peter Church in Woodward. The award winner and two finalists were selected from nominations submitted earlier this summer and were interviewed in late August by the selection committee.

Finalist Betty Lagaly has been active in the religious education program at Saint Joseph’s for more than 30 years. She started out by observing the class, then assisting the class and eventually became the lead catechist in the kindergarten to first grade class. Using hands-on activities in the classroom, she teaches, models and helps her children build a relationship with Jesus. She encourages parents to be involved also. “If I could use only one word to describe Betty, it would be creative,” her nominator said. “Her classroom is a fun learning place. She uses puppets, art, stories, field trips, nature, service and song to help her children build a relationship with Christ. She is a gardener and uses the wonders of God’s earth to teach children about God and service to their parish, as they plant seeds to give flowering plants to our homebound as gifts or to decorate the parish flowerbeds. She is also a person of prayer, always encouraging the families to teach their children prayers and say the Rosary. Betty lives her faith everyday and gives to her church by her constant example. Sometimes it is the quiet and faithful ones who teach in the greatest ways.”

Finalist Dean Fisher is very devoted to his students, in the classroom, in the parish at Saint Peter’s and in the community of Woodward. He has been teaching fifth grade students for 15 years and believes that a strong foundation in the Catholic faith should start at an early age. Fisher is very committed to a daily prayer routine and regularly begins his day by reading scriptures. He passes this practice to his fifth grade students in class. Each week in class, the students write their prayers on slips of paper. The slips are folded into a paper prayer chain and the chain is hung on a large wooden cross. The chain grows each week and, at the end of the year, the students celebrate with a ritual by carrying the cross outside and burning the chain in a fire pit, symbolizing their prayers rising up to God.

“Dean continues to set an example as a devoted Catholic,” said his nominator. “His service to his parish shines in many ways. Dean is chairman of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and takes communion to the homebound himself. He serves on the Finance Council and volunteers many hours to keep the St. Peter’s campus and facilities in top shape. And with his students, he continuously invites the youth to accept ownership of their own faith, to be involved and to keep the Catholic faith alive.”

The winner receives a $5000 Award and a $5000 Grant for her parish’s religious education department. There will also be a reception held at her parish in her honor as soon as it can be scheduled. The finalists also receive a $500 Award.