Catholic youth inspired by Fr. Rother’s life

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Youth from around the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are seeing their faith strengthened as they witness firsthand the process of beatification for the Venerable Servant of God Stanley Rother. The beatification is an exciting event for a generation of youth who sometimes find it difficult to relate to the lives of saints, who they say can seem ancient or too perfect.

Students at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche, where Father Rother attended, walk the same hallways Father Rother once did as a child. Mackenzie Schneiter, an eighth grade student at Holy Trinity, said Father Rother’s choice to stay with his people in Guatemala, even in the face of death, inspires her faith.

“I’m very fortunate,” Schneiter said, “that I live in the community where he was born, in fact, we are distantly related. Living here, I have had the opportunity to hear so many stories about Father Stan from people who knew him, went to school with him and went to church with him. In all of those stories, what has spoken to me, is that he was really just an ordinary guy with an extraordinary faith and love for God.”

A local, modern day saint-in-the-making, Oklahoma youth find themselves immersed in stories and artifacts of Father Rother. They are able to interact with people who knew Father Rother and speak to his faithfulness. This brings to life the potential for a new, modern saint to whom they can relate and rekindle their fervor for their Catholic faith.

“He got it,” Schneiter says, “He knew the most important thing in this world was sharing his faith with everyone, but especially the people of Guatemala. The way he lived and died is such an example to all of us.”

Schneiter’s classmate, Abby McIlvaine, agrees, “Every morning when I walk into school, I see the picture of him, and I ask myself, what can I do today to be like Father Rother? And, that becomes the mindset of my day.”

McIlvaine says Father Rother has helped her realize anybody can become a saint. Most importantly, she said, “you don’t have to be a recognized saint to help other people in need.”

In May of this year, the fifth through eighth grade classes of Saint Mary Catholic School, Ponca City, visit the original grave of Fr. Rother in Okarche. Photo provided.

continued on page 3

Oklahoma seminarians reflect on life of Fr. Rother

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Jerome Krug
Pontifical North American College, Rome

Krug grew up listening to stories about saints who were always from other parts of the world. One day, while sitting in religion class at Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City, Krug heard the story of Father Stanley Rother, a fellow Oklahoman who was on his way to gaining martyrdom.

For Krug, the reality that Father Rother grew up a mere 30-40 minutes from where he lived, and was called to serve the people of Guatemala, was another affirmation that the priesthood was God’s chosen vocation for his life.

Going into his seventh year of seminary, Krug said, “As I get closer to being ordained a priest, I get more confident this is what God is calling me to do, but I also get more and more of a holy fear of what I’m being entrusted with as a priest.”

For Krug, God is not looking for a big, fantastic, movie script kind of “yes,” but rather the “simple, every day ‘yes.’ This ‘yes,’ may not be glamorous or make us stand out, but can ultimately make us a saint, like it did for Father Rother.”

William Banowsky
Pontifical North American College, Rome

Fellow seminarian, Will Banowsky, reflected on Father Rother’s life, admitting one
It has been a few weeks since violent confrontations in Charlottesville, Va., drew our attention with renewed urgency to the troubling fact of racism in our society. These ugly events have been the latest manifestation of an age-old wound in our national consciousness caused by the sin of racism.

Racism is an attitude of mind and heart that rejects the fundamental equality of all human beings. This basic equality is rooted in our shared dignity as creatures created in the image and likeness of God. We are members of one human family. God is the Creator and Father of us all. We are brothers and sisters, members of the one human family. God is the Creator and Father of us all. We are brothers and sisters, members of the one human family.

Racism is not only a sin, but a sin that complicates every culture. It was the sin of racism expressed in the suffering of the millions of Jews and others whom Hitler judged to be inferior. Racism blinds us. It engenders unspeakable suffering and injustice. It fosters not only the victims of racial discrimination and violence, but also the perpetrators in whose hearts racism resides as a malignant and all-consuming cancer within society.

We cannot begin to address a problem until we acknowledge its existence. Racism, like every sin, is painful to acknowledge. Racism surely contributes to our fearful attitudes and mistrust of immigrants who, as scientists have shown, are evidence in the history of our nation’s treatment of American Indians. Denying to some segment of the human family the recognition of their fundamental dignity and even their humanity makes it easier to rationalize every sort of injustice.

Events at Charlottesville brought light to the troubling expressions of hatred and violence for all to see. They also brought the dam to burst on the decades of simmering division and mistrust in our time. Such manifestations are rooted in a painful history. They reflect our nation’s struggle to come to terms with the wounds and effects of slavery and racism.

The enslavement of Africans who were brought involuntarily to this land has been called America’s “original sin.” We are still grappling with the effects of that sin. These are very complex matters and I certainly don’t wish to oversimplify them. My purpose is simply to call attention to the reality of the sin of racism embedded in our society and hurtling in our hearts. We need to call it what it is.

On Aug. 23, Cardinal DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. The committee’s purpose will be to encourage the Church and our society to work together to challenge the sin of racism, to listen to those who have been affected by racism, and to seek reconciliation in Christ, and to have the grace to know and respect one another as brethren and sisters. I pray this new initiative will bear good fruit and strengthen the Church’s efforts to address the sin of racism.

The Annual Catholic Appeal funds the many good works other than those of Catholic Charities undertaken by the archdiocese. This Catholic Charities Annual Appeal is our largest source of funding year after year. It is the lifeline of our service to the community, ties us closely to our parishes and puts the “Catholic” in Catholic Charities.

Many Catholic Charities agencies across the country are funded more than 90 percent by state or federal governments (some by 90 percent). Some have parish support at less than 3 percent of their overall budget. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is your Catholic Charities agency precisely due to the generous support of our Catholic community. Indeed, our parish supporters, including you, contributed a majority of last year’s budget (usually more than 50 percent annually, but this past year’s budget was used for ongoing 2013 tornado and 2013 flood survivor services). That’s a wonderful level of local Catholic Charities support! As always, we’re very efficient, with 91 percent of dollars raised going to client assistance or services.

The community of believers was one heart and one mind, and no one claimed that any of his possession was his own.” Acts 4:32

O God, feast of all holiness, make us each walk worthily in our vocations, through the intercession of your Saints, on whom you bestowed a great variety of graces on earth. Hearing prayed your grace with the life of your priest and martyr Stanislaus Rother that by his intercession this humble flock may reach the sheath where the bush shepherd has gone. Grant that your Church may always be a saint living in your presence and interceding for mankind. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beautiful option when you are looking for a Catholic wedding ceremony in Oklahoma City. The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Oklahoma City is also a great option for couples who are looking for a Catholic wedding venue. The Church of the Annunciation in Oklahoma City is another option for couples who are looking for a Catholic wedding ceremony in Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, the archdiocese’s pro-life coordinator, has scheduled an annual 40 Days for Life observance from Sept. 17 to Oct. 16 in honor of St. Stanislaus Kostka, a Polish priest who died at 23. The observance is a pro-life initiative sponsored by the National Association for Non-Catholic Pro-Life Groups. The observance is held at Catholic churches throughout the United States and aims to promote awareness of the pro-life message and to encourage prayer for an end to abortion. The observance begins the day after Labor Day and ends on the feast day of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of pro-life work.

Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Sincerely,

From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Rappel, archdiocesan archivist

HELP SAVE LIVES IN OKLAHOMA CITY!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization! Threats to abortion and women’s rights and community outreach. 40 Days for Life has inspired 700,000 volunteers worldwide. For more information, call 40 Days for Life at 405-815-3030.

By phone, to remain in touch and live faith as Father Stan Rother did.

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U.S. bishops establish new ad hoc committee against racism

Bishops act to address the sin of racism and seek solutions

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. Initiated by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the USCCB, the committee will focus on addressing the sin of racism in our society, and even in our Church, and the urgent need to come together as a society to find solutions.

“Recent events have exposed the extent to which the sin of racism continues to afflict our nation. The establishment of this new ad hoc committee will be wholly dedicated to engaging the Church and our society to work together in unity to challenge the sin of racism, to listen to persons who are suffering under this sin, and to come together in the love of Christ to know one another as brothers and sisters,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

Bishop George V. Murry, S.J., of Youngstown, Ohio, has been appointed by Cardinal DiNardo as chairman of the committee. The membership of the committee will be finalized in the coming days and its name will be confirmed at the first meeting, expected shortly.

“I look forward to working with my brother bishops as well as communities across the United States to listen to the needs of individuals who have suffered under the sin of racism and together find solutions to this epidemic of hate that has plagued our nation for far too long,” Bishop Murry said.

“Through Jesus’ example of love and mercy, we are called to be a better people than what we have witnessed over the past weeks and months as a nation. Through listening, prayer and meaningful collaboration, I’m hopeful we can find lasting solutions and common ground where racism will no longer find a place in our hearts or in our society.”

The new ad hoc committee has been formed upon the unanimous recommendation of the U.S. Bishops Conference Executive Committee and in consultation with members of the USCCB’s Committee on Priorities and Plans. The establishment of the committee also will welcome and support the implementation of the pastoral letter on racism anticipated for release in 2018.

The formation of the ad hoc committee follows the conclusion of the work of the Peace in Our Communities Task Force. The Task Force was formed in July 2016 by then USCCB President Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz in response to racially-related shootings in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis and Dallas.

Nearly 40 years ago, the bishops of the United States wrote a Pastoral Letter on Racism. Among the many things they discussed was the fact that “Racism as a sin that divides the human family, blots out the image of God among specific members of that family, and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father.”

The launch of the World Apostolate of Fatima’s U.S. Tour for Peace is underway and coming to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The historic tour marking the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, will feature the world-famous International Pilgrim Virgin Statue, traveling worldwide for nearly 70 years.

The tour runs through all 50 states and will be an extraordinary occasion of healing, hope and peace. The statue was created in 1947 based on Sister Lucia’s description of her encounters with Our Lady. Come and experience the blessing of gathering with others devoted to Our Lady when the statue visits these parishes in our archdiocese.

Del City
Tuesday, Oct. 17, Saint Paul the Apostle, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Alta Vista
Wednesday, Oct. 18, Prince of Peace, 8 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
This one-of-a-kind journey across the United States is to allow Our Lady of Fatima, the Queen of Peace, to claim her dominion over our country and to bring the message of Fatima – the peace plan from heaven – to a world in need. Our Lord told Sister Lucia that he had placed the peace of the world in the Immaculate Heart. The Pilgrim Virgin Statue has visited more than 100 countries bringing Mary’s powerful and timeless message of ascension and hope to millions. Countless religious and civil dignitaries have been reported wherever the Virgin Statue has traveled.

For more information, go online to www.fatimaturforspeace.com

Prayer for the Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace

O Queen of the Rosary, Sweet Virgin of Fatima, who has deigned to appear in the land of Portugal, we beg you to watch over our dear homeland and assure its moral and spiritual revival. Bring back peace to all the nations of the world so that all, our own nation in particular, may be happy to call you their Queen and the Queen of Peace. Amen.

Our Lady at the Rosey, pray for our country.

Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us a lasting humanity.
Cristo Rey open house for potential students, parents Oct. 7

Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School will have an open house event on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for families interested in learning more about the school and visiting the facility. Spanish language tours will be available.

The Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School is located at 900 N. Portland, OKC 73106. More information about Cristo Rey can be found at www.cristoreyokc.org.

Yukon couple leads Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Rick and Renee Feller, parishioners at Saint John Neumann in Yukon, were selected as the Worldwide Marriage Encounter’s Leadership Team for Oklahoma and for the southwest United States.

They have been active in Marriage Encounter in Oklahoma and southeast Texas since 2007. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter is the largest pro-marriage movement in the world, offering a weekend for couples who want to make their good marriage even better.

In the western Pacific Ocean, just south of the eastern Asian coastline, a group of more than 7,000 islands unite to form the sovereign island country of the Philippines.

These islands are divided into three sections or regions, with Luzon, the largest and most populous island in the Philippine region. To the south, you have the western, largest island in the Philippines, Mindanao, and the southeastern islands surrounding Mindanao.

The St. John Neumann group of the same name, the central section of the Philippines, the Visayan islands, contains four islands that surround the Visayan Sea.

Father Bernard, a teenager with a passion for Christ, was born in the Visayan islands around the year 1564.

Allianz Millennial Faith

Building confidence in God’s providence

A young man in love with Christ!

The intense faith of a teenage Philippine catechist

Pedro A. Moreno, Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry

A young man in love with Christ!

The intense faith of a teenage Philippine catechist

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Family blessings through adoption

“Once I finally surrendered to God’s will, everything started to fall into place,” she said. She and her husband Robert attended a counseling seminar to learn about adoption. They were invited to submit a pre-application regarding their preferences. Subsequently, the Johnsons submitted a formal application to ensure their eligibility for placement.

As with many couples, the Johnsons’ vision of the adoption journey was one filled with all positives and little awareness of the actual experience. After many hours of discussion with Catholic Charities staff, members of the adoption team helped the couple understand the circumstances that lead others to place their babies for adoption. The Johnsons surrendered their preconceptions about a cut-and-dried situation.

The couple came to understand that part of the adoption plan means embracing a level of compassion and grace for the birth parents whose circumstances were difficult. The birth family who selected them chose not to choose to be engaged with services or with them. The Johnsons had hoped for a more open adoption with their daughter’s birth family to provide her a family, extended relatives and, most importantly, their soon-to-be-placed child. The process of adoption mimics the phases of pregnancy and laboring that other families experience with biological children. Staff members at Catholic Charities play a critical role in helping couples embrace these “pains” of labor with the understanding that adoption is not simply a legal process, but a sacred preparation in caring for one of God’s children.

From the very beginning, the Johnsons prayed steadfastly for their baby’s birth mother to remain open to the possibility of connecting with their baby’s family. The Johnsons trained their engagement with them was intentionally focused on helping them understand that the typical path to parenting was not the way they were destined to expand their family. This new awareness enabled them to fully embrace the reality of today’s adoption processes and relationships.

The Johnsons have decided to remain open to the possibility of connecting with their birth daughter’s family in the future through Catholic Charities’ Post-Adoption Services. In a show of good faith, they plan to write letters for the birth family and collect pictures of their daughter’s childhood, in hopes the letters and pictures will one day reach the birth family.

Johnson said, “If and when the birth mother would be turned away because of her physical ailments, but typically I only have resources to help five or six people qualify.”

“In May 2016, Katherine phoned Catholic Charities in hopes that this time she might receive financial assistance. She had called the office on and off since March. At age 57, she moved to the Ardmore area with her teenage daughter after a divorce. She tried time and again to get an apartment, but because of lingering debt she was repeatedly denied.

“Every time we would go to an apartment complex with the deposit, Katherine would be turned away because of her credit score or a debt issue,” Johnson said. “There was always an obstacle keeping her out of an apartment.”

With Catholic Charities’ help, they finally found a home that the Johnsons could call home. Partnering with the First United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities provided assistance for a security deposit. There, Katherine entered Catholic Charities’ long-term case management program called Family H.O.P.E., which stands for “help, organize, prioritize, empower.” In this program, case managers work to help clients to determine and achieve specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-sensitive goals. “Many times people in need of emergency assistance become Family H.O.P.E. clients,” Senior Director of Social Services Damon Britton said. “When people need emergency financial assistance, it’s usually a result of a bigger difficulty that needs to be addressed.”

Typically we find that when we can get clients to understand budgeting, they typically get a family with their biggest obstacles of their lives.

Moving toward independence

How a Catholic transitional housing program is helping families succeed

“Working with someone after being recently released from prison, is clearly a big step up for someone who has been doing time,” Rischard said. “I had to approach Theresa’s situation differently than other clients. Obtaining housing with a criminal background is difficult to do, but I had faith we would figure something out.”

Catholic Charities offers short-term transitional housing services to a small number of qualified clients. This service gives clients who are already enrolled in a Catholic Charities program the opportunity to understand their goal of permanence. “Many clients cannot afford rent and utility deposits, bills and household necessities. The transitional housing program gives them the opportunity to live on their own while paying reduced rent, which allows them to build a savings fund that will increase their life-skills while working closely with a case manager,” Senior Director of Social Services Damon Britton added. “Each client who is enrolled in the program comes to us with unique strengths and struggles, but is working hard to become independent.”

Catholic Charities Ardmore finding hope in all the right places

Once enrolled in the H.O.P.E. program, Katherine worked on life skills and goal-setting with Johnson. After a month in the program, she informed Katherine that she was diagnosed with cancer. “I feel like once I overcome one obstacle, I would run into another,” Katherine said. She had a job, and as she was learning budgeting skills, Katherine was working on accomplishing my goals and then the cancer hit. My employer allowed me to cut back my hours at work because I didn’t have the stamina to work full time, but that impacted my income. I wasn’t seeing success in my application for federal benefits and I felt like I was at a dead end,” Johnson said. “Katherine believed in me and really helped me with anything I needed. She helped me with my budget and all of my paperwork.”

“In March she came to her meeting really happy,” Johnson said. “She let me know her cancer was in remission. Because of case management, Katherine is more confident in her abilities to support her daughter and provide a future for her family.”

On Monday mornings are busy for the Catholic Charities regional office in Ardmore. A sign on the door reads “Call at 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning for financial assistance.”

Catholic Charities’ emergency assistance program provides up to $200 in rent or utility assistance to people who qualify. “The phone begins ringing off the hook at 8:30 a.m.,” Ardmore Coordinator General Sarah Johnson said. “I am a one-person office for the community. Once I have all of the paperwork and temporary help, but on a regular basis it’s just me. I help as many people as my budget allows, but typically I only have resources to help five or six people qualify.”

Catholic Charities emphasizes the phases of pregnancy and laboring that other families experience with biological children. Staff members at Catholic Charities play a critical role in helping couples embrace these “pains” of labor with the understanding that adoption is not simply a legal process, but a sacred preparation in caring for one of God’s children.

“Even though we were recently released from prison, she did her best to find housing and try to start over,” Johnson said. “I was initially resistant to the idea of adopting a child. Rischard encouraged me to give adoption a chance, and I decided to.”

Johnson said she had been struggling with relinquishing control and was grieving over not being able to have her own child. Letting go was the first step.

“As with many couples, the Johnsons’ vision of the adoption journey was one filled with all positives and little awareness of the actual experience.”

Catholic Charities case manager Annie Rischard said, “After many years of incarceration, serving time for drug-related charges, Theresa was released from prison and moved into a sober living house. She had a stable job, but needed guidance and support to find and secure independent housing.”

“The scenario of acquiring an apartment for someone who has been in prison is complicated,” Rischard said. “We provide extensive preparation to couples seeking to adopt a child by helping them build on their strengths and utilize new skills.”

Once enrolled in the H.O.P.E. program, Katherine worked on life skills and goal-setting with Johnson. After a month in the program, she informed Katherine that she was diagnosed with cancer. “I feel like once I overcome one obstacle, I would run into another,” Katherine said. “I had a job, and as I was learning budgeting skills, I was working on accomplishing my goals and then the cancer hit. My employer allowed me to cut back my hours at work because I didn’t have the stamina to work full time, but that impacted my income. I wasn’t seeing success in my application for federal benefits and I felt like I was at a dead end,” Johnson said. “Katherine believed in me and really helped me with anything I needed. She helped me with my budget and all of my paperwork.”

“In March she came to her meeting really happy,” Johnson said. “She let me know her cancer was in remission. Because of case management, Katherine is more confident in her abilities to support her daughter and provide a future for her family.”
The "expanding child"

Couple who struggle to get pregnant are being offered a new option for conceiving: to choose a fertilized egg or embryo that carries genes from only two parents. This can allow the one or more remaining embryos to be raised in a family setting.

But this is not an end to the debate. While some couples may find this option attractive, others may be hesitant. The decision to use this technology should be made thoughtfully, considering the potential benefits and risks.

Financial administration assistant/ receptionist

Seeking an experienced assistant to work in our busy office. Duties include managing accounts payable, handling invoices, and providing general support to the finance team.

Eduardo, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, is seeking a part-time elementary school guidance counselor. Knowledge of counseling and experience working with children are required.

Birth Choice volunteers needed

Birth Choice is in need of volunteers who will mentor clients and help with their medical care. Volunteers will be trained and supervised.

Job opportunities

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time director of marriage and family life ministry. The position includes direct leadership of all archdiocesan marriage and family life programs, oversight of marriage and family life ministry efforts, and the summer youth camp program. Bachelor's degree in theology or related field required; master's degree preferred. Previous experience in leading family life ministry on the parish and diocesan level a must. Significant background with leadership training and ministry formation highly desired. Bilingual in Spanish and English a plus. Salary and benefits to negotiate.

More information can be found at archokc.org. To learn more about our Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, visit our website at archokc.org.
El racismo es pecado

En el Océano Pacífico occidental, justo al norte de la costa oriental asiática, un grupo de más de 7,000 islas se unen para formar el país de Filipinas. Esta región es conocida por su diversidad y a los residentes permanentes en ella le cuesta. En el 2 de abril de 1672, un enemigo del mensajero del Evangelio silencio en su vida. La historia en esa isla es un ejemplo de cómo el pecado del racismo puede contribuir a nuestras actitudes temerosas y desconfianza hacia los demás. La multitud de los fieles tenía como objetivo a sus líderes y cualquier intento de desafiar el pecado de racismo es extensivo e influyente por los Ejercicios Ignacianos. Los jesuitas siempre han tenido una manera especial de comunicarse no sólo verdades específicas de la fe, sino que también a unos otros a través de su liderazgo y servidumbre. Otra cosa es que esta misión resulta producir buenos frutos a través de su apoyo y un compromiso renovado para hacer la sanación y el enriquecimiento mutuo.

Misa de Aniversario

El Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley le impartirá su bendición y la comu- nión a los miembros de la iglesia. Luego de esa ceremonia, se celebrará la Misa de Aniversario para el presente año 2017. Durante la Misa habrá una recepción. En toda la historia del Nuevo Testamento o un catecismo, pero los primeros discípulos, nunca tuvieron una copia de los Evangelios. A pesar de eso, convirtieron en sus vidas y existencia. Tengan en cuenta que los apóstoles, y muchos de los primeros discípulos, nunca usaron copias del Nuevo Testamento o un catecismo, pero muchos de ellos se convertieron en mártires simplemente porque estaban profundamente enamorados de Jesús. Nuestro joven modelo de vida cristiana se convertiría en catequista y con su sol poder compartir su fe en Jesús con los demás, se unió a un equipo de miembros de la iglesia. Este año, tuvo una intensa pasión por Cristo, nació en las Islas Bisayas alrededor del año 1564. Deseaba que saldrían a probar en soldados el sacerdocio de Jesucristo. El sacerdote que estaba defendiendo. El sacerdote fue el primer sacerdote que estaba bajo ataque. Su bendición final fue recibida por el sacerdote. El sacerdote también murió momentos después. 

La multitud de los fieles tenía como objetivo a sus líderes y cualquier intento de desafiar el pecado de racismo es extensivo e influyente por los Ejercicios Ignacianos. Los jesuitas siempre han tenido una manera especial de comunicarse no sólo verdades específicas de la fe, sino que también a unos otros a través de su apoyo y un compromiso renovado para hacer la sanación y el enriquecimiento mutuo.

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

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Mientras tanto, esta historia se ha repetido una y otra vez a lo largo de la historia de la Iglesia. Incluso con uno de nuestros propios misioneros de España, el padre Stanley Borth- er este joven catequista de las Filipinas es San Pedro Calungsod. Recordamos y celebramos su amor y compromiso con Cristo el 2 de abril, el día en que lo dio Cristo a su Iglesia. Necesitamos más jóvenes como él. Jóvenes profundamente enamorados de Cristo.
Briebs

Donor Advised Funds
How would you like to make a gift today that would enable you and your loved ones to continue to make charitable gifts in the future? When you make a gift to a Catholic Foundation of choice, or in many cases, other assets that are highly appreciated in value, you take your tax deductible contribution and establish a special account in your name called a Donor Advised Fund.

Your account is then invested to grow over time, permitting you to recommend annual gifts to your favorite Catholic or other tax-exempt charity. A Donor Advised Fund is like having your own foundation. The fund is invested for growth, which permits you to make annual gifts of income and principal while you are alive. When you pass away, your children or other successor advisors that you choose may make recommendations for distributions from the fund for years to come.

For more information about creating a Donor Advised Fund at the Catholic Foundation please call at (405) 239-6300, or visit www okllk.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Focus on marriage, improve communication, deepen intimacy and spend quality time free of distractions Sept. 15-17 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Karen Lutgen, (405) 332-9119, rdlsieh@gmail.com or apply at www.okllk.org.

Pro-life lecture

Mass of Remembrance for Suicide
In memory of those lost to suicide, a Mass of Remembrance will be offered on the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows at 6:30 p.m. Sept 15 at St. Francis of Assisi, 1901 N.W. 18 in Oklahoma City. Family and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide are invited to attend as well as anyone who wishes to pray and comfort those who mourn the loss. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Contact (405) 528-0485.

Oktibefest
Oktibefest at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1100 N.arda Road in Mustang, has been moved to a small Oktoberfest at 6 p.m. Sept. 16. The immerse in the sights, sounds and tastes of Germany by attending this annual adults-only (age 21 and older) Oktoberfest event and celebration. There will be a variety of games with prizes and live and silent auctions. Proceeds support the construction of a new parish church. Register at (405) 376-3433, or visit www.holy spiritmustang.org.

40 Days for Life
From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, everyone is invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil for an end to abortion. People are invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood facility 1011 N.W. 63, in War Acres. For information or to volunteer, contact Dale Dinkachofski, (405) 209-0309, deadudeheader@gmail.com, or Dick Smith, (405) 665-1603, dicksmith77@comcast.net.

Bishop McConnico Reunion
The class of 1962 BMCHS 55th reunion will be at Sept. 29-30. Call “CM” Halder at (405) 830-3611 or cmhalder@msn.com.

Falcon SK and Fun Run
St. John Nepomucatholic School 1-mile Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. and 3K begins at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 30 at the school, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd., Bricktown. Go to http://bit.ly/falconsSK. Contact falkan@okxysok.org.

Celebration of Life Walk
Birth Choices and BCRF have combined their 25th Celebration of Life Walk Oct. 1 at the Myriad Botanical Gar-
dens. Registration and activities begin at 12:30 p.m. Walk begins at 2 p.m. For information and to register, visit www.birthchoice.org.

Calendar

September 3, 2017 15
14 September 3, 2017
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This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect a full calendar timeframe. To see a full calendar, go to www.orthomystic.org.

Donation open
The bequest Mass for Sr. Rother is open to the public, free and no tickets are required. The bequest Mass is at 10 a.m. Sept. 23 at the Conception Abbey Church. To register a bus or shuttle or for information on parking, reservations, security, etc., go online to standybrother.org.

Rother Heritage Gallery
The Heritage Gallery at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northeast Expressway, is hosting “The Shepherd Cannot Run: A Retrospective on the Life of Father Stanley Rother.” The free exhibit is open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Saturday. Special tours arranged by calling (405) 721-5651, Ext. 141.

Guatemalan Bishop Mass and Talk
Bishop Gennaro de Villy, bishop of the Diocese of Solola-Chamaltenango where Fr. Rother served at the Catholic mission, will celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in the St. Gregory’s Abbey Church in Shawnee. The bishop will give a public talk at 7 p.m. in the Father’s Performing Arts Center at SGU with a reception following in the Mabee Gerrer Museum of Art.

Catholic Women: Living the Joy of the Gospel of the Women

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is celebrated Sept. 15 at St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, 2353 Wilcox Dr., Norman. In cases of inclement weather, event at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Shinn St. Norman, Contact Connie Lang, (405) 941-2044, papalang65@gmail.com or visit www.lifeprotect.org.

The Necessity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Feast of St. Peter Claver.

Knights of Columbus retreat at the Catholic Pastoral Center.
Contact Michael Zink, (405) 314-4210.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children Mass 10 a.m. St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee. Rosary processions follow.

The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica meeting 2-3 p.m., B/B, St. Charles Borromeo,
5024 N. Grove Ave, contact Judith Martin at (405) 635-5665, jmartinmartin@yahoo.com.

Pray, Walk, Talk at 9 a.m. at Regional Parks-Rutland Park, 2001 S. Portland Ave, in Midwest City. Contact Angie Tolimisno, (405) 737-4276, 618-9655, angie.tolimisno@aoal.com.

Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 3901 S.W. 29, OKC. Call (405) 685-4806.

Pray the Rosary for Life at 6:30 p.m. at the abortion center, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. In cases of inclement weather, meet at the chapel at St. Thomas More, 100 Shinn St. Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 941-2044, papalang65@gmail.com or visit www.lifeprotect.org.

St. Francis of Assisi Franciscan Friars Pray a Rosary 10 a.m. St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee. Rosary processions follow.

10. 02/09/2022, billfull@cox.net.

12. 07/08/2022, event@okcinc.org.

13. 09/09/2022, okcinc.org.

14. 10/10/2022, okcinc.org.

15. 11/11/2022, okcinc.org.

16. 12/12/2022, okcinc.org.
Overcoming the heartache of disaster

In 2015, 6,869 people registered with FEMA in 45 Oklahoma counties after treacherous rain and flooding. The U.S. government declared the disaster a FEMA emergency, allowing for the use of government money in recovery efforts.

Robertta Lee, a widow who was recovering from the recent deaths of her husband and adult daughter, was one of the many storm survivors who contacted Catholic Charities seeking help. Shortly after the storms swept through Oklahoma in Spring 2015, Lee suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized. She contacted Catholic Charities hoping to find help to repair her home from the flood damage.

Case manager Heather Millar met with Lee to determine her needs and help create a recovery plan.

"Initially Mrs. Lee was denied federal assistance because she had homeowners’ insurance at the time of the disaster," Millar said. "But, the repairs were more than she could afford while living on a fixed income.” Lee and Millar drafted a statement to present to the unmet needs committee, showing that her deductible was more than the cost of the repairs.

The committee approved the funding, and partner agencies volunteered manpower for repairs to her roof, ceiling and floor that were necessary to keep her home in livable condition.

Millar said, “Many times, clients are struggling before a disaster hits, and being forced to clean up from a natural disaster only increases the magnitude of those prior struggles.”

Disaster case managers like Millar work to provide hope and guidance through difficult times for survivors who are on the road to recovery.

Catholic Charities Disaster Services provides clients with safe, sanitary and secure homes following a natural disaster. Many times clients have no money to buy materials such as roof shingles, drywall or lumber that are necessary to fix damage. After an individual recovery plan is determined, case managers work with partner agencies to secure resources such as manpower, materials and money to meet disaster-related unmet needs.

"Lee is now living comfortably in her home without the fear of damaging her health due to unsafe living conditions caused by the flooding. She can enjoy the time she has with her granddaughter and watch her grow in security.”

Catholic Charities staff and volunteers pamper two clients at the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Stockyards City during “Queen for a Day,” an annual event to give homeless clients a day of pampering and feeling special. Photos provided.

Joanne Woods and her family gather in front of her new home made possible through Catholic Charities disaster case management services and partnerships with Convoy of Hope, United Way of Central Oklahoma, American Red Cross, and The Salvation Army. Woods’ home was destroyed in the May 20, 2013, tornado.

The community of believers was of one heart and one mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions were his own ...

- Acts 4:32

Make a contribution today online at givetocc.org or text PROVIDING to 41444 in order to give.