Father Bird celebrates 40 years as priest, liturgical leader

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

Fred Bird handed his young son a nickel to drop into the collection basket before offering to help usher at Mass. The nickel quickly fell from Stephen Bird’s fingers and flopped under the pews, slowing rolling out of sight. He ran to his father pulling on his shirt, begging for another five cents. His father obliged, and Stephen proudly tossed it in with the envelopes. If Fred Bird gave time and money to the Church, Stephen Bird wanted to do the same.

It was a pattern that helped shape the character, faith and pastoral path of Father Stephen Bird, who celebrated his 40th year as a priest in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on June 25.

In the early 1960s, when the Bird family moved from Louisiana to Oklahoma, Fred Bird – a World War II B-17 navigator – helped establish a Boy Scout troop at Saint Charles Borromeo in northwest Oklahoma City. Father Bird watched as his dad led the troop in prayer at weekly meetings and at campouts. He eventually earned an Eagle Scout ranking.

"Not only was he leading me, he was leading many other kids too,” Father Bird said.

Father Bird’s interest in the Mass started at around the same time he drew thrill from Church participation. He would use a plastic cup and a piece of bread to “celebrate” Mass at home, practicing different aspects of the liturgy. The pageantry and order of it all fascinated him.

It wasn’t until the 8th grade that a teacher mentioned the possibility of entering the seminary and becoming a priest. The idea stuck with him through his years at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, but it didn’t become a real option until he attended a retreat at what was then the Center for Christian Renewal – now the Catholic Pastoral Center.

"My parents were wonderful. They were very involved in the Church and told me it was my choice,” Father Bird said.

So, Father Bird sent the paperwork to Assumption Seminary in San Antonio as well as an application to Oklahoma State University as a back-up plan. He was accepted to Assumption and earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Saint Mary’s University in 1971. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He went on to earn a master’s degree in theology with an emphasis in liturgy from Saint John’s University in Minnesota in 1984.

During his first assignment as associate pastor at the cathedral (1976-1981), Father Bird was named director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life for the archdiocese. It is a post he has held ever since. He also is pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in northwest Oklahoma City.

“I’ve enjoyed every single assignment. Each one has been unique,” he said. "I’m doing things I love to do and feel blessed to be in this position.”

As the head of liturgy for the archdiocese, Father Bird has organized or been a part of every major event in the diocese since 1979, including the installations of Archbishop Charles Salatka, Archbishop Eusebius Beltran and Archbishop Coakley as well as the ordinations of more than 40 priests.

In 2005, he organized the 100th anniversary continued on page 8

Mother Teresa recognized as saint

Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be canonized a saint on Sept. 4.

According to the current head of the order of the Missionaries of Charity, the number of sisters has increased from 3,914 at the time of Mother Teresa’s death to 5,161 as of Aug. 5. The number of Missionary of Charity brothers has grown by 53 to 416. When Mother Teresa was alive, her order was working in 120 countries; today they are present in 139 nations.

She was beatified in 2003 — six years after she died.

The “Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta” will air live from Rome on EWTN at 4 a.m. ET, Sunday, Sept. 4, with encores at 11:30 a.m. ET and 10 p.m. ET. “EWTN News Nightly” Rome Producer Mary Shovlain and Msgr. Anthony Figuereido (Host of the “Let Us Love” special on Mother Teresa) will host EWTN’s English language coverage.
On Aug. 10, I set out from Oviedo in Spain with my friend and fellow pilgrim, Bishop James Wall, to walk the ancient Camino Primitivo. Over the next 14 days, we would cover 212 miles as we made our way toward Compostela. The Camino Primitivo is the oldest of the network of pilgrim ways that make up the Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), which for the past 1,100 years has carried pilgrims to the tomb of Saint James the Greater in the cathedral of the city that bears his name, Santiago de Compostela.

In fulfilling his apostolic mandate to announce the Gospel to all nations, Saint James had traveled to the end of the known world, all the way to Galicia on the Iberian Peninsula in what is now Spain. He returned to Jerusalem only to become the first of the 12 apostles to be martyred for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Later, his mortal remains were carried back to Galicia where he was buried, forgotten and subsequently rediscovered. During the Middle Ages, the pilgrim journey to Compostela to venerate the relics of this son of Zebedee became one of the defining elements of the notion of Christian Europe and the European consciousness. It was this experience of pilgrimage, then and now, that gave a unique and concrete expression to the unity of peoples from different nations, backgrounds and languages joined through a common expression of faith.

As we set out on our pilgrimage and began to experience the breathtaking beauty of the Asturian and Galician landscapes with their towering mountains and deep green valleys, I was struck with a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to walk the way to Galicia on the Iberian Peninsula. The Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), which for the past 1,100 years has been the way of Jesus Christ and the way of communion, the way of conversion, the way of holiness. It is the way that leads to holiness. Over the centuries there have been many saints who have walked the way of Saint James. Among these some of the better known are Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Bridget of Sweden. But, the camino is not primarily for saints. It is especially for sinners. Often pilgrims would undertake the Camino de Saint James as a way of doing penance for their sins. A confessor might send a penitent on pilgrimage as the penance for the sins he or she confessed and for which he or she had received absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I began to find it easy to embrace the penitential aspect of the camino accepting the little pains and difficulties of the daily walk as an expression of penance for my own past sins and indeed for the evils and injustice of our world today. It was an experience of solidarity with the sufferings and struggles of our brothers and sisters.

The camino is for saints and for sinners. Today, it seems that relatively few of the people walking the Camino de Santiago are walking it for explicitly religious motives. We met many who acknowledged that they are “spiritual, but not religious.” These are the seekers. Like many of us, they may not know clearly what they are seeking. Nonetheless, they are being drawn by grace, by a restlessness in their hearts that will only be satisfied when their hearts find rest in the heart of Jesus. One of the joys of my camino was the recognition of grace at work in my own life and in the lives of fellow pilgrims. Even when we might seem lost, God does not lose sight of us.

Walking the Camino de Santiago is like being plunged into the flowing waters of a great river. It is the river of our common humanity created by Love and created for love. We arrived in Santiago and celebrated the completion of our pilgrimage with Mass in the Cathedral and at the tomb of Saint James. It is truly a deeply moving experience to gather in prayer with these fellow pilgrims from around the world and to see our prayers rising to heaven like incense as the smoke pours from the great Botafumeiro, the huge silver thurible that hangs from the ceiling of the cathedral and swings like a pendulum across the sanctuary of this great church. The most familiar greeting exchanged by pilgrims when they meet another is “Buen camino.” But, another is perhaps more poignant; “Ulteryo!” “Onward!” The camino doesn’t end when the pilgrim reaches Santiago. Hopefully, the experience of the pilgrimage has prepared the pilgrim, to continue the live life in the spirit of the camino, the way of Jesus Christ. Ulteryo!

Life as camino

One of those important lessons is the importance of learning to live in the grace of the present moment rather than living in the past or worrying about the future. It’s simple, but not easy. I was surprised again and again by the way the Lord’s loving providence manifested itself along the way. This usually occurred in seemingly chance encounters and conversations with strangers and fellow pilgrims.

On one occasion it was an old woman who came to our assistance when we had lost our way. It was the end of a long day’s walk and we needed a place to sleep. She could read the expressions of physical weariness and disappointment in our faces and our weary bodies, and took it upon herself to pack us into her little car and guide us back to the way of Saint James. Among these some of the better known are Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Bridget of Sweden.

The camino doesn’t end when the pilgrim reaches Santiago. Hopefully, the experience of the pilgrimage has prepared the pilgrim to continue to live life in the spirit of the camino, the way of Jesus Christ. Ulteryo!

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Mass, 11:30 a.m., Saint Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Stewardship and Development Pastors Advisory Committee meeting, Noon, CPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Archdiocesan Review Board meeting, 3:30 p.m., CPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Mass in honor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, 11 a.m., Catholic Charities Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>Mass and celebration in honor of Sister Susan Clark, 5 p.m., Saint Joseph Old Cathedral</td>
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<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Feast of Our Lady of LaVang Mass and celebration, 11:45 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Perpetual Help</td>
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<td>Sept. 13-14</td>
<td>USCCB Administrative Committee meeting, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Catholic Relief Services Board meeting, Baltimore</td>
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Dear Friend of Catholic Charities,

Blessings to you! Your Catholic Charities has been blessed in untold ways this past year, most obviously through our beautiful new facility near downtown Oklahoma City, especially the chapel dedicated to Saint Teresa of Calcutta, the statue of Homeless Jesus, and the beautiful lobby, welcoming our many guests and visitors. But, the facility, as nice as it is, is not the greatest blessing.

The greatest blessing has been the ability, through your support, to assist more than 14,000 of your fellow Oklahomans, not only in the new facility, but also through nine service locations and six additional parishes across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We serve others in your name: 81 percent of those we serve are not Catholic; 71 percent of client households earned less than $15,000 per year – an awful statistic, but one which we’re proud to have been present to; 42 percent of whom were under age 18.

I could go on and on with numbers and statistics about each of our more than 16 service programs, but the bottom line is through your generous support, we have been able to be Catholic to those in need.

A couple of other points:
- The new facility is funded totally through the capital campaign – no operational dollars went to construction, and every dollar raised in the future will go further to assist those who come to Catholic Charities since the facility has an endowment to sustain it for the next century.
- 92 cents of every dollar raised goes to direct client services. That’s right! Only 8 cents of every dollar for administration and fundraising.
- Parish partnerships and support through this annual appeal constitute the greatest single source of revenue for our work. Your donations allow us to retain our Catholic identity in mission and service. Please be generous!
- Many in our state, including many who have supported our work in the past, are suffering from the downturn in our oil and gas sector. Any additional support you might provide to this year’s annual appeal will go a long way to ensuring we can be present to the increased need faced across Oklahoma.

Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, shared that agencies like Catholic Charities “are privileged to be a bridge from the abundance of the Lord to the land of the living.” It is, indeed a privilege. Each of us has been blessed in our own way with the abundance of the Lord. Can you share from your abundance with those in need? Because you cannot “outgive” God, I know that you will be blessed abundantly in return. Thank you in advance for your generosity, and may you know of God’s abundant blessing.

Patrick J. Raglow is executive director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Contagious Faith
How to evangelize your family and friends

I am not an expert matchmaker, but I have had the privilege from time to time of making an introduction that resulted in marriage—usually when I wasn’t trying! I was just being myself in the same room with friends, and bam, they fell in love. There are a few little families that exist today because I accidentally mashed two introductions that turned out to be a moment of destiny. This is a skill that I wish I could grow in, because—well, it’s just a wonderful thing to find out that he’s prepared to participate in the things that are important to you, he reveals how good he is, and how much he loves. You talk about things you love. Whether it’s a great restaurant, a beautiful view, a great book, a great argument, a significant event in your life, in Christ, you talk about what you love. If you love Jesus, you want to talk about him. Granted, our culture tends to suffocate that instinct even in the Church, but the fact remains that when we love something, we have a hard time keeping it a secret. So, share with people the favors he has done for you. Don’t just light out about what he’s showing you in prayer, and how he is leading you in life.

Live in such a way as to provoke curiosity. Pope Paul VI wrote about the “wordless witness” that stirs “irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see you.” Why do they live in this way? Why is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one. Here, we have an initial act of evangelization. When a wordless witness can come through in action, but also just the tone of voice used when speaking of faith. Always be prepared to explain your joy. Witness out loud to what he has done for you.

More is caught than taught. Faith is received like a virus from someone who is infected. Contagious people don’t think about how to pass on the disease, they just do it. Religious people don’t think about how to pass on the faith either. It would be intimidating. Go together. Pay someone a visit to Jesus in the tabernacle. Go out to lunch afterward and talk. Pray together to the one who loves you both.

I immediately felt embarrassed. I mouthed before I could catch it, and I immediately felt embarrassed. She blinked at me. I blinked back. Then she said, “Tell me about yourself.” “So, we talked all the way to school (50 miles) and all the way home about Jesus, and sacraments, and all manner of things. It turned out she was a non-practicing Catholic with lots of questions, and that conversation put her on a renewed spiritual quest. But, it happened not because I set out to evangelize her with all my skills, but because I was living in the experience of being loved and helped by God, and I could not keep it secret. Pure grace.

The following principles can hardly be considered expert advice, they are simply things I learned from moments of not trying, moments when the occasion surprised me and God took over.

It’s not what you know, it’s who you know. People sometimes think that to evangelize you have to know everything about Church teaching. It’s helpful to know a bit about Church teaching, but even if you memorized the Catechism, it wouldn’t help if you don’t know Jesus Christ. So, get to know him. Make time in your life to develop a relationship with him by regular prayer, and then take up the Scriptures to see what he wants to say to you in reply. You’ll be surprised.

To know Jesus is to love him. Discovering Christ in the Scriptures is often a surprising awakening to the fact that he’s a real, living person, who is very much present and aware of what’s happening in your life. As he reveals to you that he knows what’s going on, and what he’s prepared to participate in the things that are important to you, he reveals how good he is, and how much he loves.

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Talking to kids about porn and human sexuality

A growing concern today involves the role of pornography as the next generation’s instructor in human sexuality. For many young people, pornography has become the only guide to sexuality they have ever known.

For Catholic parents, this raises the critical challenge of how best to approach these matters with their children, given that kids as young as 8 or 9 may already be acquiring information and viewpoints about human sexual behaviors from internet pornography. I would like to present six practical suggestions for parents, culled from parental testimonies and insights, from other experts in the field, and from ex-users of pornography.

First, steer away from “The Talk” toward a more integrated approach. Having “The Talk” relies on the misguided notion that parents have educational content or factual knowledge that they are duty-bound to try to deposit into their children’s brains. This approach is not only awkward and paternalistic, but it can convey a sense that sexual education is a one-time, get-it-over-with ordeal. Kids require ongoing guidance and support from their parents – an expressed willingness to enter into these important discussions that stress the beauty of sexuality in marriage and what it is really for, rather than just telling them what not to do or scaring them away from sexually transmitted diseases.

Second, be attentive to opportunities to share admission and stories. Because we live in a highly pornified culture, opportunities for parents to share important values assessment regarding human sexuality with their children arise often. Driving by a billboard with a risqué picture or seeing something on TV might, for example, serve as an opportunity to note how it’s against the love of women to use them as sex objects. Passing through a part of town where prostitutes are plying their trade might spark a discussion about how many women involved in prostitution are victims of human trafficking and the vast majority wish they could break free of it, etc.

Third, avoid internet access in the bedroom. Sometimes parents will say, “The kids have access at school and everywhere else, so I let them have unrestricted access at home – they’ve got to learn how to handle it anyway.” But the home setting needs to differ from the outside world, serving as an oasis and a protected environment for children. If someone offered to install a pipe into your child’s bedroom that could be turned on to pump in raw sewage, you would not agree to it. Yet, many parents fail to restrict what is entering their children’s bedrooms through the internet and TV.

Fourth, be wary of internet access on cell phones. “Due diligence” with cell phones can pose an inadvertent temptation in this respect as teens sit cuddled up on the couch with screens not visible to others. In family life, we are called to serve as our brother’s keeper. Set limits on “screen time” for children, and maintain password/access control over devices. Have the neighbor’s kids deposit their electronic devices on the kitchen table during visits to diminish the temptation to slip away to a private part of the house and surf the net, perhaps with younger siblings in tow. Such practices also may serve to indirectly evangelize other families in the neighborhood regarding the serious threats from internet porn.

Sixth, set appropriate rules regarding relationships, and be involved in the kids’ dating practices. Too often parents are tempted to take a “hands-off” approach to this area of their children’s lives. When I was growing up, we knew (and eventually appreciated) my father’s rule that we couldn’t date (and eventually appreciated) my father’s rule that we couldn’t date until we were 18. Setting appropriate rules for kids serves as a sign of a parent’s love and concern for them. Whenever parents determine that dating should begin, it offers further opportunities and occasions to discuss problems and scenarios that can help teens set moral boundaries.

Talking to kids and helping them to become good stewards of the gift of human sexuality bestowed by God is hard work. In a culture that forcefully communicates a pornified counter-gospel, though, it is certainly one of the most important and enduring gifts a parent can seek to provide for the happiness and well-being of their children.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
The National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is a travel destination for many. The majority of the shrine’s members live in countries across the globe. Due to the shrine’s eclectic and diverse members, many donations are made to the unique religious sanctuary. Recently, a special gift was bestowed upon the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. The Filipino community presented Prague’s shrine with a large monument engraved with the Ten Commandments.

Father Long Phan Ngoc, pastor of Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church and the national shrine, described the monument as “a gift for the Catholic community as well as every other denomination. It is for the whole town of Prague and for everybody who comes and visits the shrine.”

The national shrine and Saint Wenceslaus stand at the south entrance of the city of Prague. Therefore, countless people drive by the holy place each day. Father Long expressed his deep gratitude for every donation made to the shrine. “It is a place of national and international worship. People come here with a deep love of God in their hearts and many donate in different ways. Some people donate money, labor or articles like monuments or statues. Many wish to share their talents with the shrine and I am very thankful.”

He added, the Ten Commandments monument at the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is a symbol of unity through faith and a shared love of Jesus Christ.

Madeline Hecker is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
**Sooner Catholic**

**September 4, 2016**

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### Honoring September saints

**By Ted King**

**For the Sooner Catholic**

**Feast days through Sept. 15:**

**Saint Gregory the Great**

Saint Gregory the Great's feast day was Saturday, Sept. 3. He was born in Rome in 540 and while a young man was governor of Rome. He later became Benedictine monk, transformed his house into a monastery, and founded other Benedictine monasteries. He was an abbot; papal nuncio to the last Emperor of Constantineople, which was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire; a cardinal; and the Pope from 590 to 604.

As Pope Gregory I, he healed schisms, saved Italy by converting barbarians who were overrunning Western Europe, and converted Spanish and French Goths. He sent Augustine and other Benedictine monks to Anglo-Saxons, and Augustine baptized King Ethelbert, and many conversions followed the king's. He became the first Archbishop of Canterbury and is known as the Apostle of England. Both Augustine and Gregory died in 604.

Saint Gregory the Great established Gregorian Chant and was the author of the only extant biographical material on Saint Benedict, the founder of the Order of Saint Benedict, the Benedictines. He is a doctor of the Church and the patron saint of singers, teachers and students. Saint Gregory's Abbey and University in Shawnee are named after him.

**St. Gregory the Great**

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**St. Peter Claver**

As a young priest, he volunteered to be a missionary to the slaves and natives of what is today Colombia. He was appalled by the treatment of black slaves brought to the New World. He saw them on the ships when they arrived and gave them food, medicine, brandy and tobacco. Father Claver spent the rest of his life ministering to slaves and free peoples. It is believed he was responsible for the conversion of 300,000 slaves. He was ill the last four years of his life and, ironically, neglected and abused by an ex-slave hired to care for him. He died in 1654. Saint Peter Claver is the patron saint of Columbia, seafarers and slaves.

**Most Holy Name of Mary**

Monday, Sept. 12, is the feast day of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

**Saint John Chrysostom**

Tuesday, Sept. 13, is the feast day of Saint John Chrysostom, who lived from 349 to 407.

Born in Antioch in modern day Turkey, he became the Archbishop of Constantinople. Throughout his ministry, he stressed living the Christian life by his disdain for lavish living and his concern for the poor. He is a saint in both the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church and is a doctor of the Church.

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Wednesday, Sept. 14, is the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which recalls three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulcher and Mount Calvary; and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II. But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of salvation.

**Our Lady of Sorrows**

Thursday, Sept. 15, is the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows.

**Ted King** is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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### Upcoming events

**Marriage Encounter**

If you have been married for many years the Weekend can help you enhance communication, renew commitment and rekindle romance. If you are a newly married couple for a short time, you can learn the skills you will need to stay close through the ups and downs of life. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is Sept. 9-11 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway in Oklahoma City. The weekend starts on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Download the registration form at archokc.org or contact Rick & Bev Feller at (405) 323-9119, rbfeller@gmail.com.

**Nightfever OKC**

Join young adults on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Joseph's Old Cathedral, 307 NW 4th St, Oklahoma City, seeking quiet, prayer, and peace and inviting others to enter the open church with an open heart. Nightfever is an initiative led by young adults but open to all ages. Come and go as you please, light a candle, say a prayer, leave a prayer intention, or pick up inspiration from scripture. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, priests available for confession or counsel, and music to create an atmosphere of God's love. This event is open to all walks of faith and life. Contact James Silk at james.d.silk@gmail.com.

**Catechetical Congress**

Adults who assist in faith formation are encouraged to attend the Abide in Christ! Catechetical Congress on Sept. 24. Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe is the speaker for this year's event at the Catholic Pastoral Center in OKC. Registration is free; sign up today for the conversion of 300,000 slaves. He was ill the last four years of his life and, ironically, neglected and abused by an ex-slave hired to care for him. He died in 1654. Saint Peter Claver is the patron saint of Columbia, seafarers and slaves.

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**Monday, Sept. 5, is the feast day of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, canonized this year in Rome.**

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Thursday, Sept. 8, is the feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrating her birth. In the case of most saints, the Church commemorates their date of death, with Saint John the Baptist and the Blessed Mother as the few whose birth dates are commemorated. The reason for this is found in the singular mission each had in salvation history, but traditionally also because they were holy in their very birth.

**Saint Peter Claver**

Friday, Sept. 9, is the feast day of Saint Peter Claver, who was a Jesuit priest and missionary to South America. He was born in 1541 in Verdu, Catalonia, an eastern province of Spain. As a student at the University of Barcelona, he wrote of himself: "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, observing the understanding that I am like a slave."

As a young priest, he volunteered to be a missionary to the slaves and natives of what is today Colombia. He was appalled by the treatment of black slaves brought to the New World. He saw them on the ships when they arrived and gave them food, medicine, brandy and tobacco. Father Claver spent the rest of his life ministering to slaves and free peoples. It is believed he was responsible through your catechetical leader.

**Conference on Domestic Violence**

Fr. Charles Dahm, O.P., of the Archdiocese of Chicago will speak on Safety and Peace in the Family at the Catholic Pastoral Center in OKC on Sept. 29. Call (405) 721-8944, ext. 109 to register.

**Pre-Cana classes**

Pre-Cana is a day for couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage. A specially prepared team shares its experience and information with the intention of enabling engaged couples to be more aware of the privileges and responsibilities of marriage. Classes at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway, Spanish classes are Oct. 1 and Nov. 12. English classes are Oct. 15. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the program starts at 8:45 a.m., ending at 4 p.m. Call (405) 721-8944. Download registration form online at www.archokc.org.

**Ladies group trip to Branson**


**Birth Choice Walk**

The 24th annual Celebration of Life Walk, Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Myriad Botanical Gardens. Registration at 1 p.m. Walk at 2 p.m. Contact Carrie at (405) 606-8426.

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celebration for the diocese and the Jubilee Year celebration in 2000.

In recent years, Father Bird’s focus has turned toward building relationships with other faiths, particularly in relation to music and the arts. He is a founding member and current president of the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts and organized a beautiful choral concert for the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, featuring 168 choir members from 30 different Christian churches to represent the lives lost.

Father Bird has received recognition and numerous awards, including the Southwest Liturgical Conference’s Faithful Servant Award and the 2015 Father Stanley Rother Faithful Shepherd Award, but the accolades aren’t what’s satisfying about the past 40 years. “Celebrating the Eucharist so many times, and each time is special; celebrating marriage as such a joyful event; Being with people at those difficult moments. It’s a privilege to be with people and help them know the love of Christ and promise of resurrection,” he said.

“The Holy Spirit has helped guide me, and I am grateful.”

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

Reverend Joseph Stanislaus Vas

Father Vas died last month in Sri Lanka at age 86. Father Vas was born on Nov. 19, 1929, in Haputale, Sri Lanka, one of eight children born to Andrew Corsini Vas and Rosa-lind Regina Perera Vas.

He was ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 2, 1979, at The Cathedral Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Prior to ordination, Father Vas attended De La Salle School, Sir Lanka; De La Salle University, Manila, Republic of the Philippines; Ateneo de Manila, Republic of the Philippines and Saint Meinrad Seminary, Indiana. After ordination to the priesthood, Father Vas attended clinical pastoral education at NYU Medical Center.

His pastoral assignments included associate pastor for The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Saint Joseph, Norman; Christ the King, Oklahoma City; administrator of Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, Oklahoma City; and chaplain for Saint Anthony Hospital. He also served as prison chaplain at Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington.


Annual Young Adult Mass & Cookout with Archbishop Paul Coakley

Date: Sunday, September 25th
Registration & Welcome 3pm
Program 3:30pm
Mass 5pm
Cookout 6pm

Presenter: Fr. Chris Brashears
Associate Pastor, St. Eugene Church, OKC
“Free Fallin’: From Trust to Conviction”
How to trust God more and keep our Faith through the struggles.

Register by September 19 Cost is $10

To Register: Call your local parish young adult contact or the Youth & Young Adult Office

If you are single or married and in your late teens, twenties, and thirties, join us in celebrating our Catholic faith, with Mass, great food, and conversation! An invitation is extended to all young adults from around the Archdiocese between the ages of 18-39 who have already completed high school.

Catholic Pastoral Center
7501 NW Expressway, OK 73112
In Conference Rooms 1 & 2

The seminarians of the archdiocese served at Catholic Charities during Seminarian Days, Aug. 8-11.
Catholic Charities Annual Meeting

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City held their annual meeting on Aug. 25 at their new office. Father Novak celebrated Mass at the new Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Chapel, and president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, Sr. Donna Markham, spoke to staff members. Below, Fr. Scott Boeckman and his staff from St. Joseph in Norman accept the award for Parish of the Year from Sr. Donna.


Photos Cara Koenig.

Orphanage residents and staff gather for annual reunion

Brothers Bill and Bob Streets were in the orphanages together. Leon Leal looks at a scrapbook. "I did not know until much later in life how much St. Joseph Orphanage and the military really formed me. I still put my PJ's under my pillow every morning and kneel at night to say my prayers. For a long time I did not tell people I had been in St. Joseph Orphanage, but now it is a point of pride," Leal said.

Photos Cara Koenig.
“Works of Love:” a tribute to Mother Teresa

By J.E. Helm
For the Sooner Catholic

In “Works of Love Are Works of Peace,” Michael Collopy put together a superb collection of photographs that show, in the truest sense of the word, the beautiful philosophy of life that is at the heart of the charism of the Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns founded by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

The book is subtitled “Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Missionaries of Charity,” and in the introduction Collopy offers a brief history of the order and its foundress. The book is further subtitled “A Photographic Record by Michael Collopy” and adds that it features “Quotes and Spiritual Counsel by Mother Teresa with the Daily Prayers of the Missionaries of Charity.”

Collopy is a highly successful portrait photographer who has captured the likenesses of such world class figures as Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Frank Sinatra and Placido Domingo.

Mother Teresa was not fond of publicity, and she endured it only because it would allow her to gain support – spiritually and financially – for serving the poorest of the poor. Inside the title page is another quote of hers: “Too Many Words … Let Them Just See What We Do.”

Later in the book are a pair of photos of Mother being followed by photographers. Collopy says “there were about three of us taking pictures” and Mother was “uncomfortable with all the attention, feeling embarrassed and probably even a little annoyed.” She explained to Collopy “with a twinkle in her eye,” “This is my deal with God: for every photo taken of me, a soul is released from purgatory. And today – the place is cleaned out!”

Attached to Collopy’s introduction to “Works of Love” is a statement by Mother Teresa expressing her hope for “what might be accomplished in the pages of this book.” She writes, “Let us pray that this book will draw people to Jesus, help them to realize how much God loves them, and help them to want to pray.”

There are a number of photos depicting “The Home for the Dying” in India as well as images of the order’s many care facilities in India: The Home for the Elderly and Mentally Handicapped, The Leprosy Center (named Abode of Love), and the orphanage at Shishu Bhavan.

There are photos of the sisters in the United States going on home visits, working in soup kitchens and in the AIDS hospice in San Francisco, named The Gift of Love.

There are several large photos of Mother, one of which is on the front cover; her rosary always in hand. “My secret,” she said, “is quite simple. I pray!”

Interspersed with the photos and quotes are some of the prayers of the order, and one of the appendices of the book contains all of the prayers of the order.

Also attached at the end is a transcript of a talk by Mother Teresa titled, “Whatever you did unto one of the least, you did unto me.” In it she explains that “the least” includes not just the hungry and the homeless, but also those, for example, in nursing homes who have no one to visit them, who are “hurt because they are forgotten.” Also, she says, “in the West … so many young boys and girls [are] given to drugs. Why? ‘Because,’ Mother says, ‘there is no one in the family to receive them.’ Here, too, is her profound statement that “the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion.”

Another attachment at the end is a letter Mother wrote, titled “I Thirst.” She addresses the letter to all of the Missionaries of Charity sisters, brothers and fathers in 1993, and asks them to “read this letter before the Blessed Sacrament, the same place it was written. She asks them to keep always in mind the thirst of Christ, his thirst for love and for souls. “Only the thirst of Jesus,” she writes, hearing it, feeling it, answering it with all your heart, will keep the Society alive after Mother leaves you.”

Four years later, on Sept. 5, 1997, Mother did leave them. On Sept. 4, in Rome, Pope Francis will declare Mother Teresa of Calcutta a saint of the Roman Catholic Church – and of the whole world.

J.E. Helm is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
**Administrative assistant - OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has an immediate opening for an administrative assistant for the Office of Stewardship and Development. The position is responsible for providing assistance and support of an administrative, clerical and technical nature, primarily for the executive director. The successful candidate will be bilingual English/Spanish and organized and have excellent written, verbal and social media communication skills. Familiarity with The Raisers Edge or other CRM databases preferred. Send resume to nargerenti@archokc.org. Applications available at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC.

**Security sergeant**

St. Gregory’s University is seeking a security sergeant to assist the security director. Duties include staff support, technical services, criminal investigations, and to manage, coordinate and oversee security for special events. The sergeant also may be a field training officer responsible for training new and existing officers. Apply online at www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

**SGU admissions office coordinator**

The office coordinator oversees the daily organizational tasks of the admissions office and supervises student workers in the admissions office. Apply online at www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

**Admissions counselor - Shawnee**

The position handles recruiting and admissions responsibilities to successfully meet the needs of potential students from Texas to St. Gregory’s University. Office will be set as remote site/home-based. Bachelor’s degree required. Fluency in Spanish preferred. Apply online at www.stgregorys.edu/about-us/employment.

**Administrative assistant - Norman**

St. Joseph in Norman is searching for an administrative assistant who has a passion for parish ministry and ecumenical engagement and a zeal for forming joyful disciples in a parish that celebrates its cultural diversity. Preference given to bilingual candidates. To apply, forward resume, reference and a letter to Stacy Humbert, director of mission, advancement and administration at stacy.humbert@stjosephsok.org.

**Practical – Cristo Rey OKC**

Cristo Rey Oklahoma City is a Catholic High School that educates young people of limited economic means and all faiths to become men and women of faith, purpose and service. Candidates must have at least three years of experience supervising and evaluating faculty and staff; demonstrated commitment to Catholic, faith-based education; and a master’s degree. Fluency in Spanish preferred. Application information at www.archokc.org/jobs-box.

**Director of development**

The director of development at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Newman Center in Stillwater is to educate, inspire and inform parents, alumni, faculty, staff and members of the community about the mission of the Newman Center. The ideal candidate should be a practicing and faithful Catholic in good standing with the Church. The candidate should have experience in campus ministry as a student or three years of demonstrated success in development. The candidate must have knowledge of the principles of fundraising or an eager motivation to learn. Submitt application to CatholicPokesDevDir@gmail.com no later than Oct. 15.

**SGU-Tulsa, part-time security**

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**VISTA member**

This VISTA Disaster Resilience AmeriCorps project is designed to build community capacity to effectively communicate in high hazard disaster risk areas with persons with limited English proficiency. VISTA members assess cultural and language barriers to effective disaster preparedness, build partnerships, create momentum for community engagement and conduct public education and outreach. Working through the offices of Catholic Charities, the member serves as a liaison with local emergency management. College degree and bilingual required. Apply at www.vista.mysite.org.

**Principal - Okarche**

Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche is seeking a principal who will be a faith and academic leader for a rural Catholic parish school, serving students in grades PreK-3 through 8 for the 2016-2017 school year. Candidates must be practicing Catholics with knowledge and understanding of the faith. Master’s degree in educational administration or related field, and a minimum of five years educational experience preferred. Request application at (405) 721-4202; P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123; or email at arhochk.org.

I driver’s license (CDL) is plus. Apply at St. Ann Retirement Center, 7501 W. Britton Rd.

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**Murdered nuns recalled for their generosity, service in Mississippi**

By Maureen Smith

Sooner Catholic

JACKSON, Miss. – The deaths of Sister Margaret Held and Sister Paula Merrill demand justice, but not revenge, Franciscan Father Gregorio Plata said during a memorial Mass for the women religious in the Cathedral of Saint Peter the Apostle.

“I truly believe with all my heart that Margaret and Paula would tell us that we need to keep loving,” said the priest during the Aug. 29 Mass.

Father Plata is sacramental administrator of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Lexington, Miss., the parish in which the sisters were active.

Sister Margaret, a member of the School Sisters of Saint Francis in Milwaukee, and Sister Paula, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky, were recalled by family and friends in prayer services and Masses in the days after they were found dead Aug. 21 in a home in the parishes, Miss., home they shared.

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Miss., has been charged with their murder, the chief of capital murder, larceny and burglary in connection with the incident.

The day before the Mass, representatives of the sisters’ religious communities and families issued a statement opposing the death penalty for the suspect charged in their deaths.

“Many people will be dismayed, even angered at the joint state-ment the School Sisters of St. Francis and the Sisters of Charity made stating that they are op-posed to the death penalty that could be imposed on the per-son who committed this terrible crime,” Father Plata said of the Mass.

“But think of the power-ful statement that makes. At the heart of Christianity is forgiveness. ‘Father forgive them for they know not what they do.’ Forgiveness isn’t something we do on our own. It is something we choose to do with God’s grace.”

During a brief vigil at the sisters’ home Aug. 27, representatives of the religious orders called for a period of reflection and remem-brance.

Sister Susan Gatz, president of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, and Sister Rosemarie Rombalksi, of the School Sisters of Saint Francis, went into the women’s heads to offer to the ceremonial leader for prayer, closure and reflection. In the kitchen, they discovered a loaf of bread in a bread maker. The simple act – typical of the sisters who were known for being gener-ous with their good food – turned into a life-giving symbol for the communities.

“Marge and Paula really had that sense of offering bread to each oth-er. The bread of life, the bread of energy, the bread of hope,” Sister Rosemarie said.

About 300 people gathered at Saint Thomas Church the evening of Aug. 27 for another vigil.

Sister Rosemarie Rombalski of Jackson presided over the service, but Father Plata offered a homily.

He remembered the sisters as great cooks, gardeners, generous souls and hopeful women of the Gospel.

“As Christians, we only have one choice, to move on in hope,” he said.

As the families cope with the loss of their loved ones, they also worry about the people of Durant and Lexington.

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I driver’s license (CDL) is plus. Apply at St. Ann Retirement Center, 7501 W. Britton Rd.
Vida como Camino

El 10 de agosto partí de Oviedo en España con mi amigo y compañero peregrino, el Obispo James Wall, a caminar el antiguo Camino Primitivo. Durante los siguientes catorce días cubrimos 212 millas al peregrinar siguiendo nuestro camino hacia Compostela. El Camino Primitivo es el más antiguo de la red de caminos de peregrinación que conforman el Camino de Santiago, que desde hace mil cien años han llevado a los peregrinos a la tumba de Santiago el Mayor en la catedral de la ciudad que lleva su nombre, Santiago de Compostela.

En el cumplimiento de su mandato apostólico para anunciar el Evangelio a todas las naciones Santiago Apóstol viajó hasta el final del mundo conocido, todo el camino a Galicia en viajeros, lenguas y orígenes unidos a través de una expresión común de fe. Tenemos una expresión común de fe.

La providencia amorosa del Señor se manifestó de manera inesperada, encuentros y conversaciones con extraños y otros peregrinos, pero al llegar a Santiago, el Señor me llamó y me llenó de sus imponentes montañas y profundos valles verdes. Me llamó la atención y me llenó de inquietud en sus corazones que sólo podían ser comprendidos por un corazón de Jesús. Porque la gracia está en el trabajo en mi propia vida y en las vidas de otros peregrinos. Aún cuando podría parecer que estamos perdidos, Dios no nos pierde de vista a nosotros.

Sooner Catholic

El camino es el destino. La gracia está en el camino no es sólo por llegar a nuestro destino. El camino es aprender a caminar como y con Jesús. El camino es Jesús, la palabra de Dios. Él es el camino, la verdad y la vida... ¡Ultreya!
‘Icono de misericordia’: Superiora de las Misioneras describe a la Beata Teresa

Por Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

ROMA — La Beata Teresa de Calcuta era una mujer que se sentía verdaderamente casada con Jesús y la libertad que experimentaba — enamorada de él — la llevó a una pobreza radical, un compromiso cargado de valentía y un inmenso amor por los pobres — según expresó la superiora general de la orden religiosa fundada por la Madre Teresa.

“Era muy feliz por ser mujer y ser una madre para tantas almas”, le dijo a Catholic News Service la hermana Mary Prema Pierick de las Misioneras de la Caridad.

“Su libertad de amar abrió las puertas de los corazones y avenidas de servicio, lo cual quizás no era tan común, especialmente cuando se trataba de compartir la pobreza radical de los pobres”, dijo la religiosa alemana de ojos azules, quien fue electa como superiora general en 2009.

La Madre Teresa, quien será canonizada el 4 de septiembre, empezó su congregación en la década de 1940, caminando en los barrios pobres de Calcuta, “sin tener las paredes de un convento que la protegieran”, dijo la hermana Prema.

“Fue el amor por Jesús, la compa-ñía y amor ante el sufrimiento de los pobres los que la llevaron a hacer lo que hizo”, expuso la hermana Prema.

“Era parte de su misión con los más pobres de entre los pobres, especialmente los peca-doresses que se sentían rechazados e indesea-dos. Compartir su experiencia de oscuridad y de alejamiento de Dios la convirtieron en un instrumento de gracia para ellos”, dijo la hermana Prema.

Hablando en el jardín de las misioneras, donde los saris blancos con ribetes azules se escan en tendederos, la hermana Prema comento que la persistencia de la Madre Teresa se convirtió en parte del minis-terio de la Madre Teresa, la gracia que le dio poder al mismo.

“Era una lección para todos los creyentes. Y aunque la frase “trabajo corporal y espiritu-al” puede sonar anticuado para algunos, la Madre Teresa demostró el de misericordia” puede sonar anticuado para algunos, la Madre Teresa demostró el "trabajo corporal y espiritu-al" — es una lección para todos los creyentes. Y aunque la frase “trabajo corporal y espiritu-al" puede sonar anticuado para algunos, la Madre Teresa demostró el "trabajo corporal y espiritu-al" — es una lección para todos los creyentes.

“La oración es algo a lo que le queremos ser más que exitosos”, dijo.

Y aunque la frase ‘trabajo corporal y espiritu-al de misericordia’ puede sonar anticuado para algunos, la Madre Teresa demostró el "trabajo corporal y espiritu-al" — es una lección para todos los creyentes. Y aunque la frase ‘trabajo corporal y espiritu-al’ puede sonar anticuado para algunos, la Madre Teresa demostró el "trabajo corporal y espiritu-al" — es una lección para todos los creyentes.
Ireland pilgrimage
Join Fr. Ray Ackerman and Fr. John Peter Swaminathan on a unique pilgrimage to Ireland, July 10-22, 2017! Includes Dublin, Baltinglass Abbey, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Our Lady of Knock, St. Patrick’s Tomb and Cathedral, Giant’s Causeway, Titanic Museum in Belfast, Glendalough, Lake Como Cruise, Trinity College, Galway Oratory, Kilmainkedar Church, St. John’s Cathedral, Holy Well of St. Brigid, Cliffs of Moher, Rock of Cashel, Clonmacnoise, Blarney Castle, the Burren, Downpatrick Cathedral, Inch Abbey, Galway, and more. Mass, breakfast and dinner daily. Festive dinner with Irish Music and Dance. 4-star hotels, luxury air conditioned motorcoach, and roundtrip air from OKC. $4,399 per person. $300 pp deposit. Contact Melani Roeve at (405) 293-2003 or visit http://bit.ly/RevAckermanIreland to download brochure. Secure online registration at http://bit.ly/29KPPZTT.

Pregnancy and infant loss
St. Ann’s Ministry for Pregnancy and Infant Loss will meet 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, beginning Sept. 8, at St. John the Baptist’s Raphael House in Edmond. The monthly Catholic support group consists of parents who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, medical conditions, etc. Everyone is welcome, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. The meetings are a place to share stories and resources, and find comfort in Christ’s teachings. A journal is available to record reflections. Childcare available upon request. Contact Marilyn Seiler at (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org.

St. Philip Neri second annual 1/5th to SK walk
The second annual 1/5th to 5K walk will be Saturday, Sept. 10, at Regional Park in Midwest City.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children
The third annual “National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children” will be observed Sept. 10 at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. Mass at 10 a.m., followed by a rosary procession to the grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a brief ceremony and blessing of wreaths. Light refreshments served. Go online to http://abortionmemorials.org.

National Family Planning
Knowing National Family Planning (NFP) can help postpone or achieve a pregnancy and enrich a marriage. An intro class in the Bingley Osvald Method will take place Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. in English and 2 p.m. in Spanish at St. Mary Church, 408 S. 8, Ponca City (Parish Center – McGurk Room). A 20-minute pre-recorded video for the archdiocese, will present. Contact (405) 721-8944.

Pilgrimages to archdiocesan Holy Doors of Mercy
During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, join a pilgrimage to “Holy Doors of Mercy” sites in the archdiocese. St. Mary (Guthrie) of the Catholic Daughters of America has planned tours. St. Peter, Woodward, Sept. 17; St. Wenceslaus Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, Prague, Oct. 23; The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Joseph Old Cathedral, ORC, Nov. 12. Contact Gloria Belair at 405-649-2421 or gloria@gbel323.com.

Festival of the Americas and the World
Saint Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd., will celebrate the 20th annual Festival of the Americas and the World from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18. Free admission. Live music, dance and vocal performances and activities. Food sales benefit the church, and encompass a variety of authentic ethnic foods of the many cultures and traditions represented by our parish as well as favorites like hot dogs and barbecues.

Vocal health workshop for choirs
Fr. Stephen Bird, president of the Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the Arts, invites church musicians to participate in a workshop on vocal health for choirs Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to Noon, First Presbyterian Church, N.W. 25 and Western Avenue. There are two general sessions: an overview of vocal health as well as protecting the voice in rehearsal. Breakout sessions include promoting vocal health as director of a multi-generational choir and a group voice lesson. Keynote is Kelly Holst, with additional breakouts by Barbara DeMaio and Warren Puffer Jones. Price $10, with $100/cap for choirs if registered by Sept. 19. After the 19th, individual registration is $15, choir cap is $150. Send checks payable to Oklahoma Alliance for Liturgy and the arts (or “OALA”) to 3102 N. Classen Blvd. No. 284, OKC 73118. Visit www.LiturgyAndArts.org, or call (405) 722-2110, Ext 115.

Shawnee carnival and bazaar
St. Benedict Catholic Church would like to extend an invitation to attend the 2016 Annual carnival and bazaar on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 632 N. Kickapoo in Shawnee. Take Exit 185 from Interstate 40 and then south three miles. The Granny’s Attic Garage Sale and Pancake breakfast begin at 8 a.m. Silent auction, arts and crafts booth, game booths, inflatables, bake sale, food booths and entertainment are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact St. Benedict at (405) 275-0011.

Oktoberfest at Mustang
Holy Spirit in Mustang is celebrating Oktoberfest from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sept. 24. Reserve a seat by calling the church office at (405) 376-9435 or visit www.holy-spiritmustang.org, and select the Oktoberfest link. Proceeds to the new church building fund.

Annual youth adult Mass and cookout with Archbishop
The annual event is Sept. 25 at the Catholic Pastoral Center beginning at 3 p.m.; Mass at 5 p.m.; cookout at 6 p.m. Presenter is Fr. Chris Brashers, associate pastor at St. Eugene. The theme is “Free Fallin’ ’n’ Trust the Conviction” – How to trust God more and keep our faith through the struggles. Register by Sept. 19. Call the Youth and Young Adult Office at (405) 721-9220.

40 days for Life campaign
Fasting from Sept. 28 through Nov. 6, 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. 40daysforlife.com/oklahoma.
September

4 Are you a Catholic layperson who is drawn to religious life? Attend the monthly meeting of the Third Order (Lay) Dominicans. Stanley Rother House (behind St. James) in OKC on the first Sunday of each month, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call John or Mary McClernon at (405) 330-6334 or (405) 414-9407.

5 Labor Day, CPC closed.

8 Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

8 St. Ann’s Ministry for Pregnancy and Infant Loss will meet 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at St. John’s Raphael House in Edmond. The monthly Catholic support group consists of parents who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, medical conditions, etc. Everyone is welcome, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. Contact Marilyn Seiler (405) 340-0691, Ext. 197, parishnurse@stjohn-catholic.org.

8 The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary will be sung by the combined choirs of Epiphany at 7 p.m., celebrating the Nativity of Mary and for the special intention of the evangelization of the parish.

8 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, Thursdays, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539, tonicalvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.SpiritOKC.org.

8 Eucharistic adoration will be held each week from 9 a.m. Thursday to 3 p.m. Friday at the Gospel of Life Dwelling chapel, 1145 S.W. 42, OKC. Enter through side door. Contact Sr. Maria at (405) 778-1107.

9 Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities.

9 Bingo at St. Joseph, Norman. Dinner served 6:15 p.m. Games begin 7 p.m. with second session at 8:30 p.m.


10 The Red Plains Benedictine Oblates of Mt. St. Scholastica meet monthly on the second Saturday from Noon to 2:30 p.m. in the school building, Rm. A/B, at St. Charles Borromeo. Contact Judith Marin at jmmartinos@yahoo.com.

10 Bingo Night at St. Paul the Apostle, 3901 S. Sunnylane, Del City. Doors open at 6 p.m. Hamburgers/fries and other concessions available. Mini games begin at 6:30 p.m.; regular session at 7 p.m.

11 An NFP intro class in the Billing Ovulation Method 10 a.m. in English and 2 p.m. in Spanish at St. Mary, 408 S. 8, Ponca City, McGurk Room. Contact (405) 721-8944.

11 Pray the Rosary for Life at the Norman abortion clinic, 2453 Wilcox Dr., at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday. Contact Connie Lang at jlang9@cox.net.

11 Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

13 Catholic War Veterans (of any war/conflict) will meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. Contact Fr. M. Price Oswalt at (405) 235-4565.

14 Catholic War Veterans USA Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold monthly meeting at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Contact Ken at (405) 739-0036.

15 Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague. During these nine days, the novena prayers will be as follows – Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday following 2 p.m., and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.

17 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann Nursing Home, OKC, on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Mass at 9:30 a.m.; meetings following. Contact Karen Banks at (405) 396-9086.

18 Festival of Americas and the World, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Eugene, 2400 W. Hefner Rd. Authentic food from many cultures for sale to benefit the parish’s outreach ministries. Admission and an all-day program of entertainment is free, including activities for children.

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REGIONAL OFFICES:

In the Oklahoma City area:
Catholic Charities
1501 N. Classen Blvd.
OKC 73106
Phone: (405) 523-3000
Toll free: (800) 375-8514
Fax: (405) 523-3030
www.catholiccharitiesok.org
Hours: Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ardmore:
Catholic Charities
125 E St. S.W.
Ardmore, OK 73401
Phone: (580) 798-2305
Fax: (580) 798-2310

Clinton:
Catholic Charities
1217 Knox Avenue
Clinton, OK 73601
Phone: (580) 323-6363
Toll free: (866) 852-6363
Fax: (580) 323-6378

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Catholic Charities
710 W. Maine
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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was founded in 1912 and serves all regardless of race, religion, ability to pay, or national origin.

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14,851 clients served.
81% of clients served in Oklahoma City.
42% of clients served under the age of 21.
71% are assisted on food stamp.
73% of clients served in Oklahoma City.
27% of clients served in Ardmore.

Ardmore, Clinton, Enid, Lawton, Guymon, and Oklahoma City.
Between 1978 and 2015, Catholic Charities has served 6,000,000 people.

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