By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

OKARCHE – More than 500 parishioners and visitors gathered July 28 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche to celebrate the first feast day for Blessed Stanley Rother, a missionary priest from Oklahoma martyred for his faith in Guatemala in 1981. They were joined by thousands more watching online or celebrating Blessed Stanley in their home parishes in Oklahoma, Guatemala, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Maryland and elsewhere.

The anniversary Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley, Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius Beltran and Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen as well as several priests, including Fr. Gerard MacAuley, administrator of Holy Trinity, and Fr. Don Wolf, pastor of Saint Eugene and cousin of Blessed Stanley.

Seated in the first few rows were Blessed Stanley’s family, including his brother, Tom Rother, and...
Archbishop Coakley’s letter to the faithful

Editor’s Note: Due to the importance of the letter and its topic, Archbishop Coakley has asked that the newspaper reprint it in larger type and in Spanish. The letter originally was released on July 30 and can be found online at archokc.org.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The bitter fruits of the sexual revolution continue to wreak havoc on human society, the family and the Church. Thirty years ago, Blessed Paul VI warned in his prophetic encyclical, Humanae Vitae, of the disastrous consequences of separating sexual intimacy from fertility and its divinely ordained place within the sanctity of marriage. He warned of a growing disrespect for women, increasing marital infidelity and a general lowering of morality in society.

Perhaps not even Blessed Paul VI foresaw the bitter fruit that we have come to confront in the Catholic Church and in society due to the scourge of sexual abuse of minors and young people. This horrible, indeed diabolical, rejection of God’s plan for human dignity and sexual integrity has wrought incalculable harm. It is even more egregious when these crimes are perpetrated by members of the clergy and those in positions of trust. These are among the most bitter fruits of the clergy and the Church. Fifty years ago, Blessed Paul VI warned of this scandal. He wrote about his experience as a young priest in the seminary of his archdiocese:

These are among the most bitter fruits of our system of religious education and of the seminaries which produced them. The system itself came about as a reaction to the excesses of the past — the excesses of the early part of the century — and as a result of good intentions...But it has produced its own excesses and is in need of serious correction.

The Charter establishes a framework for addressing the scourge of sexual abuse of minors. It is a pledge of greater oversight, of God’s love, of the need for responding to allegations of abuse committed by bishops. This gap has contributed to the erosion of trust and in episcopal leadership amid priests, draconian and the lay faithful. Repairing this gap by creating the same standards and expectations for all, including bishops, will go a long way toward restoring that trust.

In a July 24 letter to Cardinal Dolan, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I highlighted this concern and my hope that the upcoming Administrative Committee meeting in September would address this crisis of trust and these deficiencies in a clear and robust manner.

While procedural and canonical changes may be necessary, they will not be enough. What is needed is humble repentance and continuing conversion for all those in leadership in God’s Church. Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.soonercatholic.org.

CWC meetings The Catholic Women’s Enrichment Club (CWAC) invites all women to meet the second Thursday of each month September – May in the patio room at Epiphany of the Lord, 7236 Britton Rd., ORC. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. followed by a short program and business meeting. To be a guest, contact Sharron Ferns- borough at (405) 721-2183.

ACTS Tula chapter ACTS helps others experience God’s love, fosters disciple ship to Jesus Christ, builds parish community. Upcoming retreat dates found at http://actstulachapter.org.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Archdiocesan de Oklahoma City

The Charter of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Annual Appeal 2018 will take place the weekend of Sept. 8-9. This past year, 12,557 Oklahomans were served throughout 46 counties and six service locations by Catholic Charities and its community’s generosity in support, Catholic Charities continues to change lives.

The Catholic Charities annual appeal is the yearly opportunity granted to Catholic Charities by its benefactors to reach parishioners across the archdiocese. Loyal parish support helps Catholic Charities continue day-to-day operations – operations so desperately needed in western and central Oklahoma. Catholic Charities depends on the generosity of our Catholic community to fund approximately 40 percent of our annual budget.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was founded in 1912 with the goal to help all. Now, 106 years later, Catholic Charities has been able to help Oklahomans each year regardless of race, religion or social origin.

In 2017, 71 percent of clients assisted by Catholic Charities had an annual income less than $15,000. With 14 programs in six service locations, including foodline, Emac, Guymon and Lawton, our service model aims to help those who have fallen in the cracks of society by providing shelter, case management services and tangible skills to help our clients gain independence.

On Sept. 8-9, the Catholic community will, once again, be able to commit to bettering the lives of so many who need assistance. Currently, 91 percent of every dollar raised goes directly toward client services. With the youngest client yet to be born and the oldest at age 92, Catholic Charities spans across generations and through the poverty line. The archdiocese has a unique ability to make a difference in hard-to-reach populations through supporting Catholic Charities.

People who have been beaten down by discrimination, homelessness and hopelessness find a bright light toward the future with the assistance provided by Catholic Charities.

On Sept. 8-9, you have an opportunity to help Catholic Charities shine that light for our many clients. With your assistance, Catholic Charities will help our neighbors find the hope and light Jesus Christ promises us all.

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

Well-known Catholic apologist Patrick Madrid headlined the most recent Assembly of Catholic Professionals in downtown Oklahoma City.

“I figure we’ve got a good chance that you and I believe as Christians, then we can’t say I can’t do what God asks me to do or I can’t quote the Bible like Tim Staples,’ but you don’t have to,” he said. “That’s not what helps people come to understand the real personal authenticity in which you can truly say, not to be afraid. Do you speak the truth, and you speak it in a friendly forthright manner. Little truths spoken in an understandable way can go a long way.”

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

“Why Be Catholic?”

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal 2018

Archbishop Coakley’s Annual Appeal:

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Archdiocesan de Oklahoma City

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Aug. 28 – Monthly Public Meeting, 9:30 a.m., 1st church of Oklahoma City

Aug. 28 – Archdiocesan Review Board meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 29 – Stewardship and Development Priests Advisory Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC

Aug. 30 – Catholic Charities annual board meeting and Mass, 9 a.m., St. Teresa of Avila, Harrah.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Official Pastoral Assignment

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Effective Aug. 1
Pastor
Rev. Rayanna Narissetti
Saint Ann, Elgin and missions
Mother of Sorrows, Oklahoma City; and Our Lady Of Perpetual Help, Sterling (formerly served as administrator

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them strength and grace as they embrace new minds as they search for understanding and peace and seal to their hearts. We entrust them to your care. Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

By Drysdale

“Put Out Into the Deep” Luke 5:4

Put Out Into the Deep

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Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

By Drysdale
Catholic bookstore opens in Yukon

By Elissa Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Lori Fischer prayed for a long time about doing something with her faith and her community. She was called to give back, but couldn’t find a good connection.

One day it all came to her: “bookstore was the one word that kept going through my mind,” she said. Not just any bookstore—a Christian bookstore.

That moment of realization led Fischer, with the help of her family, on a journey to bring the God’s love, the Catholic faith and coffee to a new venue in Yukon.

Good News became a reality in April when her bookstore, Silver Bell’s, opened. She said she wants Silver Bell’s to be a place where she can evangelize and talk about her faith.

“I want people to walk through the doors of Silver Bell’s and feel like family, like they are home and can relax, sip a cup of coffee and enjoy a great Christian book,” Fischer said.

A cousin to the Catholic Church, Fischer said she enjoys sharing spiritual experiences about what made her become Catholic.

“Some people, especially non-Catholics, have a lot of questions,” she said. “I try to get to know them.

Silver Bell’s offers everything from books to fiction and non-fiction, with an emphasis on an Catholicism.

“Everything is Christian-based. There is some apparel, mantillas and Bible games. I even have Catholic books, a huge seller!”

It’s not just Fischer’s books that are getting attention: Silver Bell’s is home to Mystic Monk coffee, a brew crafted by Carmelite monks in Wyoming. Patrons are encouraged to grab a book and a cup of coffee and cozy up in one of their chairs.

“I’m an old-fashioned, local bookkeeper,” Fischer said.

In addition to offering gifts and art, Silver Bell’s carries a rare form of iconography from iconographers at Epphany of the Lord in Oklahoma City.

Even Fischer’s 12-year-old daughter, Emma, helps drive the mission of Silver Bell’s. Emma leads a special class that teaches other kids how to pray the rosary. Fischer helps develop lessons on her Facebook page and hopes to expand their curriculum in the future.

Emma Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

“Live the Good News” Ada, Sulphur welcome new pastor

By Jelene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

Since becoming the pastor of Saint Joseph in Ada this summer, Father Aaron Foshee has found his schedule has been filled from dawn until dusk. After celebrating Mass, he has a list of duties to accomplish, and sometimes does not go back to the rectory until nightfall.

“My day is long, but it is life giving.”

From his seminary formation, to his mentors, Father Foshee said he has had help preparing to become the pastor of one of the oldest churches in the archdiocese.

“My mentorships with Father Irwin in Enid and Father Rick Stanberry at Christ the King in Oklahoma City have prepared me for this. Because of their example, because of my education at Saint Michael Seminary, I feel confident.”

Father Foshee also serves at Saint Francis Xavier mission in Sulphur. He said the church community is family.

“Saint Francis Xavier in Sulphur is a vibrant community. It is amazing to see we have intentions for marriage, keeping the church going and evangelizing, bringing the Good News to people in Sulphur,” he said.

It has been nearly 20 years since Father Foshee and his immediate family converted to Catholicism. Being a former Protestant, he said his love for Scripture was instilled in him as a young boy and said that has helped make him the kind of priest he is today.

“I try to encourage people because we should never be afraid of other Christian denominations. They have things to offer us, and we have things to offer them. It is something we should be open to,单元izing the Body of Christ. We are supposed to be one flock, one shepherd. God wants that,” he said.

He also gives thanks to Blessed Stanley Rother.

Fr. Aaron Foshee at St. Joseph in Ada. Photo Jelene Schonchin / Sooner Catholic.

Enid parish welcomes families from Micronesia

Enid – Parishioners at Saint Gregory the Great in Enid noticed a group of new families attending the parish. Recently, a committee formally welcomed the group from the Micronesian Federated Islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei.

Most of the new parishioners work at a local meat packing company and were recruited to move to Enid from their country to provide a labor force.

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There are no 100 new families that include about 65 people attending the parish. Since English is the second language of the group, they were not receiving sacramental preparation for their children. A Saint Gregory parishioner, Carl Gruenewald, who is retired from diocesan ministry in Kentucky, agreed to use her experience in multi-cultural ministry to explore how to assist these families with their faith needs.

Thanks to this work, on July 1, 15 children were baptized at Saint Gregory. In addition, a team of 12 adults with 20 children ages 7-15 held three days a week for seven weeks this summer to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. Members of the group said they were encouraged by the bell they’ve created through their Catholic faith and that this experience is witness to the universality of the Church.
Bishop McGuinness receives Catholic Foundation music grant

Thanks to the generosity of The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma and the Bobby Dean Little Trust, a new audio system was installed in the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School music room. Two high-frequency speakers, an amplifier, a mixer and a lavaliere system were purchased and installed with an additional $2,500 grant received. The teachers will be able to connect wirelessly to the school system with their laptops and iPads. The audio upgrade will provide an improved environment for music appreciation, band, choir and orchestra classes.

Founded in 1965, the foundation has provided educational grants to schools and organizations throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City as well as college scholarships to students. To learn more about CFO grants and scholarships, go online to cfovok.org.

Rother Family Center opens in Ardmore

By Charles Albert

In celebration of Blessed Stanley Rother’s first feast day, Father Kevin Rattan and parishioners at Saint Mary in Ardmore re-dedicated the newly repaired and remodeled parish hall to be named the Rother Family Center. In attendance were nearly 300 excited parishioners. The faith-filled event included the unveiling of a new icon of Blessed Stan, which was no place for the people of the parish hall.

In June 2017, Saint Mary suffered an extensive fire, causing more than $300,000 damage to the parish hall. “During the year that Saint Mary was without a meeting place, there was no place for the people of the church to gather and celebrate holidays and special events. Now, we again have a place for the parish community to continue to grow in faith and fellowship,” said Grace Humphrey, parish secretary.

The Rother Family Center is an updated and spacious venue. For more information or to book the parish hall, contact Humphrey at (580) 223-0231 or stmaryardmore@hotmail.com.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Retreat center opens in Crescent

The Healing House recently opened in Crescent, 30 miles north of Oklahoma City. The facility is available for people to stay who want a chance to spend quiet time with the Lord. It is a house recently updated with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, which provide a comfortable and safe place with meals available. Advance arrangements for meals required. There is a kitchen and a large listing area and dining area.

“Amazing” senior altar servers

Holy Trinity, UCO announce academic partnership

The University of Central Oklahoma recently announced an academic partnership with Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche. Holy Trinity will be the first private school in Oklahoma to serve as a site for student teacher practicums in the school of education at UCO.

Steve Lykes, principal at Holy Trinity, said “this partnership is a win-win situation for both schools. It gives us an opportunity to share our teaching experience in a Catholic school with small class size, and enables them to compare that experience with public schools. It also gives us, as principal, a potential pool of teacher candidates if an opening occurs at my school or other Catholic schools in the area. The partnership begins fall 2018.

By Rick Stanbery, Sooner Catholic

From the Archives...

“Monsignor Steber was a very large and life-like pastor of Holy Trinity in Okarche for more than 45 years. Originally from Alton, Illinois, his community was made up of German immigrants who valued education for the African missions. However, his health did not allow him to maintain his ministry on the Gold Coast. So, Father Steber (not yet a monsignor) answered the call to become a different type of missionary in Oklahoma. He was assigned to southeastern Oklahoma, then Shawnee, and finally Okarche. This German community was tailor-made for his talent as he was able to converse and preach in his native tongue. Consequently, he was revered by the people. While known to be stern about many things, his kindness and love of the children of Holy Trinity became legendary. One of those children was Stanley Francis Rother.”

— Matthew Guynn, director of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Archives

Fr. Rick Stanbery had a dinner honoring the senior altar servers at Christ the King. More than 20 served Mass all the way through high school. They all are going to college, meet with scholarships, seven were Eagle Scouts and two are going to seminary. Photo provided.

Fr. Stephen Bird, pastor of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, was named Chapter Director of The National Association of Pastoral Musicians convention in Baltimore. He was assigned to southwestern Oklahoma, then Shawnee, and finally Okarche. This German community was tailor-made for his talent as he was able to converse and preach in his native tongue. Consequently, he was revered by the people. While known to be stern about many things, his kindness and love of the children of Holy Trinity became legendary. One of those children was Stanley Francis Rother. Blessed Stanley was baptized by the good monsignor in 1935 as Francis Stanley Rother as he would not celebrate mass as a monsignor. Father Steber answered the call to become a different type of missionary in Oklahoma.

Fr. Rick Stanbery had a dinner honoring the senior altar servers at Christ the King. More than 20 served Mass all the way through high school. They all are going to college, meet with scholarships, seven were Eagle Scouts and two are going to seminary. Photo provided.
First feast day of Bl. Stanley Rother
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

On the first feast day, eight Catholic veterans and one spouse of Catholic War Veterans, Oklahoma Memorial Post No. 158, made a pilgrimage to Okarche. They visited the original gravesite of Blessed Stanley Rother. Attending veterans were Commander Ron Staubhopt and wife, June; Treasurer Ken Provost; 3rd Vice Comdr. Marge Tisdal; Directors Bill Howard and Hank Salazar; members Jay Brinkman, Wayne Raphael, and Roger Thibeault. While at the cemetery, the group met Sr. Marita, Blessed Stanley’s sister. Marge Tisdal

St. Francis de Sales Chapel Relic Veneration, OKC

Church of the Epiphany of the Lord, OKC

Fr. Brian Barnett holds a relic at Blessed Sacrament in Litchfield.

Fr. Dan Wolf at his reception for his CD “A Last Look in the Light, The Last Journey Home of Fr. Stan Rother.”

Catholic Heritage Center Blessed Stanley Rother Day prayer service on July 25 at the St. Francis de Sales Chapel.

St. John Nepomuk, Yukon

The Ingram family from Blanchard visited the Heritage Gallery and St. Francis de Sales Chapel on July 28.

Bl. Stanley Rother’s crypt at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City.

The impact family from Blanchard visited the Heritage Gallery and St. Francis de Sales Chapel on July 28.

The rosaries were made by students at All Saints Catholic School in Norman.

Fr. Irvin at St. Joseph, Herman

St. Philip Neri, Midwest City

Fr. Price Oswald at St. Joseph Old Cathedral, OKC

Fr. Danny Gower, pastor at Corpus Christi blesses riders prior to the group leaving for The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for the second decade. Bl. Stanley was enshrined at the cathedral in 1963.

The shrine will include a 2,000-seat church, a 200-seat chapel, a museum and a pilgrimage center, which will tell the story of Blessed Stanley’s life and martyrdom. An event center and education building will be added in front of the main church.

With a headquarters based in Wisconsin, The Boldt Company has had an active presence in Oklahoma since the early 1980s. Local projects include the Bricktown Ballpark, MAPS for KDHS, the Will Rogers World Airport expansion, and the National Weather Center. The director of the shrine project will be Tony Yanda, a parishioner at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon, Okla.

“The Boldt Company is extremely honored and very blessed to be a part of this sacred and historic project,” Yanda said. “We look forward to working with the archdiocese and the project team to build a shrine that truly honors Blessed Stanley Rother and those he served.”

The committee will work with architects, contractors and others through the next phases of planning for the shrine campus.

Funding for the shrine is part of a first-ever capital campaign for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City “One Church, Many Disciples.” Construction of the shrine is the central element of the $65 million campaign. To date, the campaign has raised more than $56 million, or 86% of its goal. An event center and education building will be added in front of the main church.

If the campaign continues its success, and pledges are paid over time, we expect to be able to break ground on the shrine in early 2020,” said Peter de Kerckhoven, executive director of stewardship and development for the archdiocese. “We estimate the shrine will take about two years to build with dedication of the main church occurring on the feast day of Blessed Stanley Rother, July 28, 2022.”

For more information about the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, go online to blessedstanleyrother.org.

continued from page 1
Many Catholics have been challenged by many of their elders to denominations who claim that Catholic doctrine is in error and has no basis in Scripture. Anyone wishing to be better prepared to answer such questions would do well to read “Mary in the Bible and in Our Lives” by Father Wilfrid Stinissen, O.C.D.

Father Stinissen’s book is a fine book also for anyone who wishes to grow in faith and foster a deeper love of Our Lady. Father has been a diocesan priest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and the many years he has devoted to prayer and study have blessed him with his profound understanding and commentaries.

He follows Mary’s life through the many references to her in the Gospel, as the book is well based. He also refers to Mater Ecclesiae and commentaries.

He ends his book by saying, “What is the price of a soul? The cost of a soul is the price of the soul of Jesus, who is ultimately and completely the way to salvation. A ‘soul’ to God is a ‘soul’ to Jesus, to be a soul of Jesus. But you, my dear friend, are a soul of Jesus. And you are a saint because you are a soul of Jesus. And God, Our Father, is a soul of Jesus. So, you’re not just a soul of Jesus, you are Jesus’ soul. You are Jesus’ soul because Jesus is your soul. Jesus is your God and you are his soul. And you, the soul of Jesus, are God’s own soul.”

As the author, Father Stinissen, has said, “It is our task to help people understand the meaning of their own lives, to help them understand the meaning of ‘Mary’ in their own lives.”

Father Stinissen’s work shines by examining the challenges that such devotion is in error and has no basis in Scripture. Anyone wishing to be better prepared to answer such questions would do well to read “Mary in the Bible and in Our Lives” by Father Wilfrid Stinissen, O.C.D.

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He ends his book by saying, “What is the price of a soul? The cost of a soul is the price of the soul of Jesus, who is ultimately and completely the way to salvation. A ‘soul’ to God is a ‘soul’ to Jesus, to be a soul of Jesus. But you, my dear friend, are a soul of Jesus. And you are a saint because you are a soul of Jesus. And God, Our Father, is a soul of Jesus. So, you’re not just a soul of Jesus, you are Jesus’ soul. You are Jesus’ soul because Jesus is your soul. Jesus is your God and you are his soul. And you, the soul of Jesus, are God’s own soul.”

As the author, Father Stinissen, has said, “It is our task to help people understand the meaning of their own lives, to help them understand the meaning of ‘Mary’ in their own lives.”

Father Stinissen’s work shines by examining the challenges that such devotion is in error and has no basis in Scripture. Anyone wishing to be better prepared to answer such questions would do well to read “Mary in the Bible and in Our Lives” by Father Wilfrid Stinissen, O.C.D.
Los caminos de una mayor libertad deberían conducir a un amor mayor.

Saciando nuestro deseo de una vida plena e infinita.

Pedro A. Moreno, O.F.M. 
Secretario General de Evangelización y Catequesis

August 19, 2018

Washington el 7 de agosto, decan- 
da la que la ACLU dice que son 
"generalmente" las solicitudes de 
los que ellos dicen que “es una evi-
cración de "protecciones de alo
to".

El caso Grace v. Sessions, 
"Cuál es el próxi

Juez bloquea deportación activa para solicitantes de asilo

El juez bloquea la deportación para un solicitante de asilo en Estados Unidos.

El juez bloquea el deportación para un solicitante de asilo en Estados Unidos.
Bishops at St. James
Bishops at St. James, 41st St and McKinley. Aug. 23. 10 a.m. all masses.
Choir office 325-1378. Bishops at St. James, 41st St and McKinley.
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sister, Sister Marita Rother, A.S.C.
“This evening we are not here to celebrate Father Rother’s death. We’re here for something much greater, something much more important. We’re here to celebrate his birth; his birth into heaven,” Archbishop Coakley said during his homily.

“The Church chose to raise him up and to honor him as a witness, as a model, as an example for veneration and to show us a real flesh and blood life lived in service to the Gospel and fidelity to Jesus Christ. We give praise and thank God for his life as we seek his intercession.”

Blessed Stanley’s feast day will be celebrated each year throughout the Oklahoma City Province, which includes the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and the Diocese of Little Rock. The Diocese of Sololá in Guatemala also received permission to celebrate the feast day. Eventually, other dioceses in the United States and elsewhere may celebrate the day.

On July 28, 1981, Father Rother was murdered in his rectory at the Oklahoma mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. Blessed Stanley’s body was returned to Oklahoma and is buried in a crypt in the chapel at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City. His heart remained in Guatemala and is enshrined at Saint James. Eventually, Blessed Stanley will be buried in a new shrine and church being built at S.E. 89 and Interstate 35 in Oklahoma City.

“We are so blessed to be the home parish of Blessed Stanley and his family. To share in this experience and honor such an amazing and humble man has been inspiring,” said Nancy Schudalla, administrative assistant for Holy Trinity.

“While we have honored the anniversary of his martyrdom each year, this year’s celebration was special. To see hundreds of parishioners and visitors come together to celebrate with our small community is a testament to the life and witness of Blessed Stanley.”

To learn more about Blessed Stanley and the upcoming shrine, go online to blessedstanleyrother.org.

Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.

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all incoming Cristo Rey OKC students, introduced students to technical skills such as using office software and common office equipment, and practicing “soft skills” required by employers, including a proper handshake, interpersonal communication, responsible use of social media and workplace etiquette. Students received a standing ovation from attendees as they accepted and donned their new blazers and ties, officially becoming part of the Cristo Rey Class of 2022.

Later that day, Archbishop Coakley blessed the chapel and celebrated the first Mass. He directed his homily to the 126 students, discussing the importance of education by retelling the parable of the sower. As Jesus preached about the need to plant seeds in good soil, he said, Cristo Rey OKC will be a productive and nourishing environment for each student’s education to take root and for their spiritual and academic lives to grow and flourish.

“You are being given an opportunity, with teachers, instructors and role models, who will help you to find that good soil and help you to flourish in that good soil to become all that your parents desire you to become, to become all that God wants you to become,” he said.

Finally, Archbishop Coakley joined a large crowd of students, faculty and supporters — including John P. Foley, S.J., the founder of the national Cristo Rey network of schools — for a blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony formally marking the school’s opening.

Renee Porter, president and chief executive of Cristo Rey OKC, said it was an emotional moment for everyone involved.

“This school has been years in the making. To the great credit of a number of community leaders — notably Archbishop Coakley, Judy Love and Gene Rainbolt — they realized the impact Cristo Rey’s transformative educational model could have on Oklahoma City-area students and sought to establish a school here,” Porter said. “And, the school could not function without support from the business community, which has embraced the work-study program. Already, we are seeing the impact: students excited and ready to work; proud parents and some of the best teachers in the region. It will be an exciting and wonderful school year.”

For more information about Cristo Rey OKC, go online to cristoreyokc.org.

Top: Archbishop Coakley celebrates Mass at Cristo Rey OKC.

Right: Renee Porter, Archbishop Coakley and Fr. John Foley cut the ribbon officially opening Cristo Rey OKC.

Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.