Parishes and schools commission high school, college graduates as disciples of Jesus

By Sarah Cooper
For the Sooner Catholic

As the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City strives toward its vision to “go make disciples,” this May’s high school graduations serve as an example of young people entering the world to evangelize and renew their communities by doing everyday things with their faith in mind. Graduating seniors, in both public and parochial schools, have had their Catholic faith formed by their high school education along with their family life and parish involvement.

On Tuesday, May 13, Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City awarded degrees to 170 graduates. Led by valedictorian Alison Nguyen and salutatorian Francisco Figueroa, the seniors were awarded grants and scholarships in excess of 8.3 million dollars. Across town, 89 seniors graduated from Mount Saint Mary High School on May 23 with 100 percent of the class going onto a higher education program. This year’s valedictorian was Rachel Ngo and the salutatorians were Nicholas Davis and Andrew Huffman.

For the first time since 1964, Saint Mary’s Catholic School in Lawton, Okla., had a high school graduating class. Through a partnership with Archdiocese of Miami Virtual Catholic School, Brianna Garncarz and Conner Ruiz were able to complete their high school curriculum requirements and graduate on May 21.

Oklahoma’s only Catholic college, Saint Gregory’s University, also held their spring commencement ceremony. On Saturday, May 17, 198 degrees were distributed to one of Saint Gregory’s largest graduating classes. Many of this year’s graduates utilized the adult degree program Saint Gregory’s offers in Tulsa and Shawnee, Okla.

Each of these schools aspires to form their students to be disciples for Christ after their graduation and into adulthood. Administrators at both Catholic high schools in the archdiocese consider the faith to be the cornerstone of all that is taught in their halls.

Mount St. Mary graduation. Photo by Cara Koenig/Sooner Catholic.

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Bishop McGuinness Graduation. Photo by Betsy Filton.

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Bishop McGuinness High School Class of 2014

Abigail Joy Agosta
OU

Connor James Ahrens
OSU

John Edward Thomas Akin
OU

Baxton Douglas Allison
Vanderbilt University

Jose Angel Alvarez Jr.
OSU

Stephen Bartlett Ambrose
Oklahoma Christian University

John Richard Amme
OSU-OKC

William Stephen Archer
OU

Aaron Wesley Augustus
Undecided

Anna Marie Bahn
UCO

Lucas Bennett Baker
OU

Colynne Jes Lesbich
OU

Bradleigh Jewel Bell
OU

Alexander Chance Berney
OU

Julie Marie Bonsly
Colorado School of Mines

Cameron Reid Brown
Undecided

Ratialyn Sila Brooks
OU

David Ross Brown
Texas Christian University

John Mitchell Burns
Boston College

Bailey Elizabeth Butler
OSU

Katherine Grace Byrne
OU

Michael Richard Byrne
OU

Lisa Anne Cameron
University of San Diego

Katherine A. Candelaria
Undecided

John Richard Burns
Boston College

Katharine Grace Byrne
OU

Michael Richard Byrne
OU

Lisa Anne Cameron
University of San Diego

Katherine A. Candelaria
Undecided

John James Ditmars, III
OU

Catherine Antonia Dodson
OSU

Patrick Connor Dolan
OU

Emily Catherine Dunlevy
UCO

Joseph William Dwerlkotte
Undecided

Sarah Larkin Dykstra
OU

Brian Scott Canfield
Newman University

Alissa Christine Canon
University of Arkansas

Margaret Thanh Cao
OSU

Sarah Anne Castillo
OU

Parker James Charles
OU

Daniel Michael Christiansen
OU

Coleman K. Eby
Undecided

Erica Katherine Eckart
Austin College, Sherman TX

Jordan Zachary Edwards
OU

Cody Clayton Ever Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Francisco Luis Figueras
Substantian United States Naval Academy

James Patrick Fletcher, II
OU
Bishop McGuinness High School Class of 2014

Reid Michael Mettenbrink
OU

William T. Milam, III
OU

Olivia Grace Miller
University of Mississippi

Evan Cali Mitchell
University of Colorado

Decker Jay Monier
University of Kansas

Ryan Richard Mullins
Undecided

Alexandra Sofia Nixo
OU

Michael Christopher Neuberger
Texas Christian University

Allison R. Nguyen
OU

Christopher Nguyen
OU

Kevin Tien Nguyen
OU

Christopher Scott Nold
UCO

Chinwemma Nwanbe
OSU

John Garrett Oker
Colorado School of Mines

Caroline Grace O’Hara
OSU

Jonathan Patrick Olay
OU

Jacob John Oliphant
OU

Ross Marie Park
OU

Benjamin Grey Patterson
OCU

Ian Avery Patterson
Boston College

Sarah D’Ann Piater
Florida Atlantic University

Luke Andrew Raczkowski
OU

Jason Wayne Rader
OSU

Brian Austin Ralston
OSU

Trent A. Reed
OU

William Philip Resides
OSU

Alex Besasse Reyes
OCCC

Jennifer Marie Reyes
OCO

Adrienne Monique Rodriguez
OU

Omar Rodriguez
OSU - OIC

Robert Chase Sweener
Westminster College

Kai Louise Terman
OU

Luke David Trotter
OSU - OKC

Stephanie Michelle Trautmann
Tulane University

Nathaniel Powell Trotter
University of Colorado

Photos by Betsy Felton.
Bishop McGuinness High School Class of 2014

Hannah Allison Van Horn
Van Horn
U CO

Isabella Vasquez
OU

Alonso Villar

Rachel Quinn Vitali
Mississippi

Billy Vrient Jr.
OSU

Madison Elizabeth
Wall
OU

Joshua Joseph
Waters
University of Tulsa

Mason Scott Werth
University of Dallas

Carl Samuel West
OU

Edward Augustin Wavel, Jr.
Undecided

Andrew Michael
Williams
University of Tulsa

Emma Mac Wilson

Emily Jane
Van Horn
Winona State University

Katherine Kegan
Wolf
OU

Emmelin L. Wood

Elise Karen Young
Undecided

Joseph Michael
Winters
OU

Kaylee Brooke
English
UCO

Andrew Faulkner
Military Institute

Ronald Edward
Foster
Southern Nazarene University

William Byrne
Foster
Haverford College

Victoria Anne
Frazier
Georgetown University

Kathryn Luscille
Galler
OSU

Alyssa Nichelle
Aleman
OCCC

Mario Alberto
Alvarado
OCCC

Jaime Elizabeth
Archer
St. Gregory’s University

Andrew L. Baker
OU

Declan James Basin
University of Mississippi

Matthew John
Bradenley
Utah Valley University

Chelsea Ryan
Bishop
OSU

Luke Allen Bevers
OSU

Kathryn Elise Bond
American University, Washington D.C.

Jordan Taylor Brown
Nebraska University

Bales Michele
Bromson
UCO

Brookline Nicholas
Brooks
OSU

Eva Angelica
Cardenas
OCCC

Miryam Elisheba
Coleman
Rose State

Ariel Contreras
OU

Christopher T.
Cordova
UCO

James Cole Cowan
Western Colorado State University

Emily Laurel Darrow
OU

Brittany Rose Davis
OSU

Malcolm A Davis
Southern Nazarene University

Nicholas Edward
Davis
Salutation
Southern Methodist University

Nicole James Davis
OSU

Daniela Diaz
OU

Miley Dawn Durbin
John Paul The
Greater Catholic University

Kaylee Brooke
English
UCO

Andrew Faulkner
Military Institute

Ronald Edward
Foster
Southern Nazarene University

William Byrne
Foster
Haverford College

Victoria Anne
Frazier
Georgetown University

Kathryn Luscille
Galler
OSU

Sooner Catholic
Graduation
8 June 1, 2014

Mount St Mary High School Class of 2014

Photos by Betsy Felton.
Mount St Mary High School Class of 2014

Kecia Anna Sharp
Robert Morris University

Austin Taylor
Sheffield OU

Mary Carolyn Silas
Rose State

Kourtney Elisabeth Sneed
UCO

Andrew Evan Stiehler
The University of Tulsa

Rachel Erin Strouhal
OU

MacKenzie Lynn
Swyden OSU

Luke David Teague
Washington & Lee University

Lindsey E Van Horn
UCO

Shanae Vasquez
Neuman University

Nhu Quyh Vu
OCCC

Dillon Matthew Warnecke
OU

Matthew Barron
Webber San Diego University

Katherine Ann Wipfli
University of Kansas

Kyle Gerald Peter Wipfli
The University of Tulsa

Andrew D Yoon
OU

Mingyuan Steven Zhao
Undecided

Once a Rocket always a Rocket