An Oklahoma miracle

By Judy Hilovsky
The Sooner Catholic

In Saint Ann Retirement Center’s grand theater, a crowd of more than 75 gathered on Aug. 13 to hear the story of a modern miracle.

Father Marvin Leven, an Oklahoma retired priest, and Sandra Rother McGougan, related the 1992 story of Father Stanley Rother’s healing intercession. McGougan said on that July 3, she was stricken by a mysterious brain ailment; her mother, Kay Rother, received a call that Sandra had suddenly fallen ill and was taken to a nearby hospital.

When Kay Rother arrived, the situation was dire – Sandra had suffered a massive hemorrhagic stroke. Medical personnel had pronounced her daughter brain dead, placed her on life support and were discussing organ donation.

McGougan’s family had her transferred to Saint Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, where an internist found brain activity. The doctors agreed to do surgery with only a 10 percent chance of survival and, if she survived, the family said, she would be unable to talk or walk or have children. As the family gathered for a final farewell, her father phoned the family’s parish priest, Father Marvin Leven.

continued on page 16

Bl. Stanley Rother: From beatification to canonization

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

On Sept. 23, 2017, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, celebrated the Rite of Beatification for Blessed Stanley Rother during a Beatification Mass in downtown Oklahoma City. Blessed Stanley Rother is the first martyr for the United States and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified.

Blessed Stanley Rother is one step away from being canonized and officially recognized as a saint worthy of universal veneration within the Catholic Church.

The Church’s canonization process is complex and thorough. The Church has official procedures toward declaring sainthood: a candidate becomes “venerable,” then “blessed,” then “saint.”

Because Blessed Stanley was declared a martyr, only one verifiable miracle is needed to declare him a saint.

Deacon Norman Mejstrik is director of the Office of the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother. He said his office has received several reports of favors, which have been reviewed and documented.

The most common type of favor is medical since it is easier to document. There is typically a diagnosis, then a prognosis and some type of therapy. After there has been an effort to cure the patient without success, a favor is asked through intercession that leads to the patient being cured.

“A cure is considered complete if it is lasting and inexplicable by all scientific means,” Mejstrik said. “There must be no medical explanation why the person was cured.”

Mejstrik encouraged anyone who has prayed for the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother and received a favor to report it to his office or online.

If it appears to be of interest, we collect physician statements that testify that there is no medical explanation. We collect medical records, tests and anything else needed,” he said.

Reports of miracles are first reviewed locally by doctors, then theologically by the archdiocese. If they are deemed to fit the requirements, the archdiocese submits the favor to Rome, where a panel studies the materials and written reports.

Archbishop Coakley asked the faithful to pray for Blessed Stanley’s intercession. Prayer cards are available in English and Spanish through the Cause office or at the Blessed Stanley Rother Gift Shop at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Archbishop Coakley announces review, reporting plan for past allegations of abuse by clergy in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

**He is here with us**

One year ago, on Sept. 23, we celebrated the beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother in Oklahoma City. Born in Okarche, ordained a priest for the then-Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Father Rother found his purpose and the call within his call as a missionary in Guatemala where he gave his life in service to the Gospel and the people he loved. He is the first U.S.-born diocesan priest and martyr ever beatified.

The events leading up to that extraordinary day and the solemn liturgy read an entrancing story of love and sacrifice, long memories that I cherish from my 35 years of priestly ministry. No one who was present will ever forget it. The unexpectedly large crowd of people packed the streets and the overflow seating areas and spilled out onto the plaza outside, where thousands had been. The celebration was an extraordinary moment when the church could and should connect with a people where those who had been a missionary for us, and the building itself witnessed to this real-life flesh and bone through a priest and martyr. Saints are for all of us.

It has been my privilege to spend this last year to continue to tell his story and to make him known as we raise funds and plan the permanent shrine that will be built in his honor and where he will be buried. It will become a pilgrimage destination for people from around the world. The Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine is a central part of the historic “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign underway in the archdiocese. People throughout the archdiocese are busy today helping to entice potential donors in pledging funds that will enable us to advance the mission of the Church in our archdiocese for years to come.

God has given us a great gift in raising Blessed Stanley Rother as such an attractive role model, faithful witness and powerful intercessor in our midst. Especially at this time when the sins and crimes of some priests and bishops have brought shame and hurt on the whole Church, because of their misconduct, we need the witness of Blessed Stanley and other models of fidelity to remind us that God is with us. Jesus is our Shepherd. He never abandons his flock to the wolves. We pray that he will continue to raise up other outstanding witnesses and good shepherds like Blessed Stanley to guide and protect his flock. Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us.

**Editor’s Note:**

The following homily was given by William L. Novak, V.G., on Sept. 6 in the Latin Mass Choir Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City in the Saint Francis de Sales Chapel.

---

**Archbishop Paul S. Coakley**

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

"An understanding of sexual abuse allegations is a good place to start. No matter how painful this process may become, I am committed to being open and transparent with all of the facts of these cases."

Investigators also will provide recommendations.

A report will be published online, and a copy sent to all priests, deacons and parish staff.

The initial report is expected to be completed in 10 to 12 weeks. A second report, reviewing files prior to 1960 will be due in late 2022.

To report incidents of abuse in the past or present, contact the Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline (at 405) 721-4500 and ask to speak to Christine Hires, Director of the Children and Young People and consists of mostly lay volunteers. After a review, the board, said board members approved the plan and gave approval for a holy festival the day before the decision was being presented to the public.

The plan will include:

- To involve the chancellor of every priests file active and inactive for priests who have served in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City since 1960 (Prior to 1972 it was the Diocese of Oklahoma and Tulsa)
- Any file with an allegation of abuse of a minor or an abuse of power in a sexual relationship will be turned over to Raul Stein, an attorney in the law firm of Middle and Taft, for review. As an expert in inter-religious and religious investigations, Stein and his associates will conduct an independent review of the files and investigate further, if necessary,
- Once all files have been reviewed, Middle and Taft will present a report for each case and provide an analysis of how the archdiocese handled the matter over the years; Investigator also will provide recommendations.
- Headded that the archdiocese will work with the church and other institutions to raise awareness on the issue of child sexual abuse by priests. The first and foremost, it is the sexual abuse of minors and the abuse of power that requires our attention.
- We are all called to this moment in the history of our Church. We are called to prayer and penance, to the purification of the Church and our bishops and priests must set the example. It calls for a renewed commitment to vigilance, transparency and accountability from our shepherd’s and bishops.
- Our leaders must set the example.
- It means they would have to exert more energy and apply more effort not only that, dropping nets into uncharted waters? More work? But, here we are. In this place together. Instructed by our Lord to “put out into the deep” to go further and farther than we have gone before.
- Our own weaknesses and our own sins mean that we recognize that He is not standing on the shore away from us but has stepped into the boat with us. He is calling us to “put out into the deep” to go further and farther than we have gone before.
- It means they would have to exert more energy and apply more effort not only that, dropping nets into uncharted waters but has stepped into the boat with us. He is calling us to “put out into the deep” to go further and farther than we have gone before.
- It was a long night at sea. We discredited our boats and we were faced with the recognition that some of the new developments in the Church—locally, nationally and worldwide—gave rise to anger and hurt at what some did and what others failed to do. Amid this recalibration we also recognize and acknowledge the need for repentance and a new beginning.
- Over the past few weeks, we have worked from frustration to foundation to strength and then back again. We were all ready to call it a day and pack up our tents. But, our desire to hear their voices before us and says, “Put out into the deep.” Like Simon Peter, our first reaction may be to protest (a little), “We have worked all night,” but there is something within us, something that is not simply gained from our voice and still longs to respond to His command. Despite our weariness and our own imperfections, we hope that we recognize He is not standing on the shore away from us but has stepped into the boat with us. He is calling us to “put out into the deep” to go further and farther than we have gone before.
- It is about all the work we have done and all the good that continues to be done and the threat that all of it will be overshadowed or whitewashed. But, the response will be that it’s about the damage that has been done. Nephews and nieces will no longer be untouched.
- We have all been guilty of some type of sexual abuse or minor or abuse of power but I believe this time, this moment, this horrible time, as an opportunity for us to come together, to be renewed in our mission of making disciples.
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City launches new website

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on Wednesday launched a new website to better serve Catholics and parishes in central and western Oklahoma. The new website at www.archokc.org features cleaner navigation tools and more opportunity for collaboration.

“The new website helps the community at large and the Catholic faithful receive information they need to understand and participate fully in the life of the Church,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

The website was designed by eCatholic, a leading provider of engaging websites for Catholic parishes, schools and dioceses. New features on the site include “Find a Parish” and “Find a School” functions, quick access to information about Blessed Stanley Rother, vocations and youth evangelization, and modules for daily scripture readings, Catholic news and video. The site also provides improved access to contact information for chancery staff, easier navigation for diocesan departments and easily identifiable links for reporting abuse.

Soon to be added to the site will be comprehensive biographies for bishops, photo galleries and an updated directory.

“The website already is providing new opportunities to share content with other dioceses, parishes and the public to educate users and invite participation in the Church,” said Diane Clay, director of communications for the archdiocese.

“We encourage parish staff, pastors and parishioners to visit the new site to learn more about diocesan programs and to take advantage of resources available in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” Coakley said.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Over the past 10 years, McDonald has been active in his local parish and school, serving in various capacities ranging from altar server to youth group leader. He credits his Catholic faith for helping him to navigate the challenges of growing up and making important life decisions.

McDonald also attributes his passion for over the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

In 2002 apostolic visit to Toronto, Saint John Paul II addressed the crowd by saying: “Dear young people, let yourselves be taken by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

In 2002 apostolic visit to Toronto, Saint John Paul II addressed the crowd by saying: “Dear young people, let yourselves be taken by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

In 2002 apostolic visit to Toronto, Saint John Paul II addressed the crowd by saying: “Dear young people, let yourselves be taken by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

In 2002 apostolic visit to Toronto, Saint John Paul II addressed the crowd by saying: “Dear young people, let yourselves be taken by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.

In 2002 apostolic visit to Toronto, Saint John Paul II addressed the crowd by saying: “Dear young people, let yourselves be taken by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are.”

This message for young people to illuminate the world with the light of Christ is something that has captivated many young people around the world.

Beginning his sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma, Caleb McDonald is a proud product of a lifetime of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. McDonald attended Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City through grade 8 and went on to graduate from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is now active at Saint Thomas More University Parish.

“Over the years, Caleb has shown himself to be a positive influence on his peers and a role model for students in his parish and school,” said the Most Rev. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

For more information about the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, or to make a gift online, visit www.onechurchmanydisciples.org.
Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented at the annual Oklahoma state workshop Aug. 18 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

This year’s workshop theme was titled, “Lessons from a Cupcake.” When the workshop began, the ladies started decoring the cupcakes, adding a combination of toppings.

Once the cupcakes were decorated, adding the cakes, adding torating the cakes, adding a combination of toppings.

A silent auction was held and handmade quilt. The mon -

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-

Catholic Daughters hold state workshop

By Jolene Schenchin

All 11 Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) were represented during the state workshop held Aug. 18 in Oklahoma City. Photo: Jolene Schenchin/Sooner Catholic

including kind, generous, fair, patient, considerate and thought- ful. These are qualities that show Christ’s love for others through the Bible: Wisdom 16:12. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children and serving the desire of the one who received it, was changed to whatever flavor each one waded. In the prayer, Hall Holy Queen, it says, Hall Holy Queen, Mother of Mer- cy, our Life, Our Sweetness, and our Hope. A silent auction was held with several CDA items up for bid as well as other items donated by many of the courts. A total of $364 was raised. The money will go toward the Theological Fund for the Sacraments.

The Past Regent’s Club also held a raffle for a handmade quilt. The mon-
Lawton musician celebrates 50 years of local inspiration

By Zachary Boazman
The Sooner Catholic

This is the story of a Lawton denizen: a man, a pianist, a music director, a teacher, a believer, a life-long learner, and a dear friend to many. When contacted for an interview, she was shocked.

"Why would you want to write a story about me? Why don't you write a story about Jesus? I haven't done a lot."

Marjorie Farrell was born on Dec. 8, 1925, into a loving family from Dallas.

"Marjorie grew up during the Great Depression," explained one of her long-time students and friend, Pierre Mariano. "For entertainment, her family would sing and dance together, or they would listen to radio shows, and their family gatherings would include famous American musicians and dancers such as Martha Graham."

Despite the distractions to fame and worldly success that surrounded her early life, Farrell responded to God's call to be a religious sister.

"Every day at Noon," Farrell recounted, "I would go around the corner to Blessed Sacrament Church and pray, and one day, I got some books on Saint Therese of Lisieux and Saint Theresa of Avila. And, I thought to myself, 'I didn't know you could love God like that.' I loved God like I loved apple pie. I didn't know he was a person!

Farrell is grateful for her time in the community of Saint Mary of Namur where she received the most valuable training of her life.

"They gave me an education that my family was too poor to provide for me. They sent me to the American conservatory of music in Chicago for my bachelor's degree and Indiana University of Bloomington for my master's."

After 20 years of being a nun, Farrell left religious life and moved to Lawton where she would spend the next 50 years teaching and playing music.

Bishop Edward Weisenburger, of Tucson, remembered Farrell moving to Lawton when he was young.

"I was in the third grade when my parents enrolled my younger sister and me in piano lessons with Marjorie. We had no idea at that time that the gracious lady I met with for 45 minutes every week would soon become one of my family's most treasured friends."

In addition to teaching individual and group piano lessons in her home off Gore Street, Farrell also taught at two big name Lawton institutions: Cameron University and the Fort Sill Indian School.

"I just thought anything about Indians was interesting," reminisced Farrell, "Looking back at it, I felt like it was my second degree."

Amidst her busy schedule and the increasing contact she made with a number of musical artists (even outside of Lawton), Farrell always stayed close to the Catholic Church.

"I never for one minute thought I wouldn't be Catholic. That's so embedded in me."

Farrell worked at both Blessed Sacrament and Holy Family in Lawton, giving of herself in generous service.

"I would give the pastor a notice of what I could do and always told him he could call on me."

Farrell taught religious education and RCIA classes in addition to playing the organ and directing choirs in both churches. Ultimately, her legacy has become a synthesis of her life of faith communicated through music.

"Music became a prayer of praise and thanksgiving," Mariano reflected, "and not just an exercise of technical skill. Marjorie's passion in her faith: music is a reflection of faith. She encouraged her students to become music evangelists whether playing music with other musicians, for audiences, or while practicing at home."

"Music goes beyond speech," echoed Farrell, "it teaches something in everybody."

Her example of faith has raised leaders in the Church.

"Marjorie's deep Catholic faith was a real help to me in my own discernment related to seminary and priesthood," Bishop Weisenburger said. "Her rich personal prayer life and witness to the importance of the Church in her daily life were constant sources of encouragement for me."

"I don't think I was holy enough," Farrell said, "I want to teach anything more to people than piano."

Farrell clearly elicited gratitude from the entire Lawton community.

"Marjorie is beloved amongst musicians and the community-at-large not only because she is an exceptional musician, but because she is a woman of faith and a strong advocate for the Arts in Lawton," Mariano said. "As a grateful heart in the inspiration of Marjorie's music, I would like to offer a simple prayer of thanking for my friend and teacher, Marjorie Farrell."

Farrell's impact in the community extended past the piano. Bishop Weisenburger recognized that "friends like her don't come along every day."

Weisenburger added that Farrell represents a sign of God’s presence in his life, “reminding us that love and life – not death – are our destiny.”

To the end, Marjorie Farrell got the story about Jesus she wanted. It just happens to be her story too.

Zach Boazman is seminarian for the archdiocese and freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
**Two arguments against abortion**

*By J.E. Helin*

The introduction says, “This book is for you, and it is speaking to the Catholic boys and girls like you.” The book, “The Catholic Faith from A to Z” by John E. Helin, is intended to help young people learn about Catholicism. Each chapter is comprised of a series of questions and answers, and each page is more than a paragraph long, including various icons and illustrations. The book could work its way through this book on its own or parents could read it aloud with them.

**The Catholic Faith from A to Z**

**Book Review**

When Zacharias is in church, Jesus tells him to come down. The book “The Catholic Faith from A to Z” by John E. Helin is a helpful resource for young people to learn about Catholicism. Each chapter is comprised of a series of questions and answers, and each page is more than a paragraph long, including various icons and illustrations. The book could work its way through this book on its own or parents could read it aloud with them.

**The Theology of Charity**

**First, love of God; second, love of neighbor; our first, our parents**

Pedro A. Moreno, O.P., Pastor for Hispanic Catholics

**Sooner Catholic** September 16, 2018

**A Millennial Journey in Faith**

This summer, I slowly made my way through indulged Ulrich’s biography of the medieval mystic, saint and unlikely papal adviser, Catherine of Siena.

At one point, her peers were paring off to wed. Catherine sequestered herself for three years, fast and pray. At the Lord’s urging, she left her cell to engage in contemplation and spiritual nourishment. She fed her hungry, clothed the naked, served the sick, and urged sinners to repent.

Some of the “Quaestions” inserts are “an easy way for do-ityourselfers to convert back to the Bible.” For example, in one of the chapters, the verse is cited from 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

Some of the “Go Further” inserts would be useful for children with limited reading skills. The text is easy to read and understand, and the illustrations are eye-catching. The book is well-produced and visually appealing, with a mix of black and white images and full-color photographs.

The book could help parents and children understand the teachings of the Church together. Reading, learning and making memories of studying their Catholic faith is to be cherished. When she arrived at the papal court, she saw that they were full of corrupt prelates who for their own comfort, many going so far as to consider themselves royalty. While Pope Gregory XI did not engage in the abuse of politics and helped to sway the power of the papacy, he did stand up for the Church’s spiritual and temporal rights.

**Fight for the Church’s spiritual riches**

We are aggrieved that the absence of seminarians was so widespread that we felt the need to vanity!” We canceled an all-day event that included those included in this commandment: instructors, teachers, leaders, magistrates, those who govern, who all exercise authority over others. And who are today, our own family members, parents and children? To honor your father and your mother is a commandment in paragraph 1599 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The first commandment demands that we give respect to our father and mother because this relationship is the most universal. It likewise concerns the ties of kinship between members of the extended family. It requires honor, authority and gratitude toward ancestors and fellow family members. It is a commandment in paragraph 1599 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

If one accepts this premise, then the logic extends to all pro-life activities and leads directly to the conclusion that all abortion is wrong. The child in the womb is a unique human being, participant in the divine life of God. It requires honor, affection and respect toward all those whom God has placed in authority.

A Millennial Journey in Faith

This summer, I slowly made my way through indulged Ulrich’s biography of the medieval mystic, saint and unlikely papal adviser, Catherine of Siena.

At one point, her peers were paring off to wed. Catherine sequestered herself for three years, fast and pray. At the Lord’s urging, she left her cell to engage in contemplation and spiritual nourishment. She fed her hungry, clothed the naked, served the sick, and urged sinners to repent.

Some of the “Quaestions” inserts are “an easy way for do-ityourselfers to convert back to the Bible.” For example, in one of the chapters, the verse is cited from 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

Some of the “Go Further” inserts would be useful for children with limited reading skills. The text is easy to read and understand, and the illustrations are eye-catching. The book is well-produced and visually appealing, with a mix of black and white images and full-color photographs.

The book could help parents and children understand the teachings of the Church together. Reading, learning and making memories of studying their Catholic faith is to be cherished. When she arrived at the papal court, she saw that they were full of corrupt prelates who for their own comfort, many going so far as to consider themselves royalty. While Pope Gregory XI did not engage in the abuse of politics and helped to sway the power of the papacy, he did stand up for the Church’s spiritual and temporal rights.

**A Millennial Journey in Faith**

This summer, I slowly made my way through indulged Ulrich’s biography of the medieval mystic, saint and unlikely papal adviser, Catherine of Siena.

At one point, her peers were paring off to wed. Catherine sequestered herself for three years, fast and pray. At the Lord’s urging, she left her cell to engage in contemplation and spiritual nourishment. She fed her hungry, clothed the naked, served the sick, and urged sinners to repent.

Some of the “Quaestions” inserts are “an easy way for do-ityourselfers to convert back to the Bible.” For example, in one of the chapters, the verse is cited from 2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”

Some of the “Go Further” inserts would be useful for children with limited reading skills. The text is easy to read and understand, and the illustrations are eye-catching. The book is well-produced and visually appealing, with a mix of black and white images and full-color photographs.

The book could help parents and children understand the teachings of the Church together. Reading, learning and making memories of studying their Catholic faith is to be cherished. When she arrived at the papal court, she saw that they were full of corrupt prelates who for their own comfort, many going so far as to consider themselves royalty. While Pope Gregory XI did not engage in the abuse of politics and helped to sway the power of the papacy, he did stand up for the Church’s spiritual and temporal rights.

The book was published in 2018 by One Mind for Christ, a non-profit organization that publishes books and resources to promote the Catholic faith. The book is well-written and easy to read. It is a helpful resource for young people who are interested in learning about Catholicism. Each chapter is comprised of a series of questions and answers, and each page is more than a paragraph long, including various icons and illustrations. The book could work its way through this book on its own or parents could read it aloud with them.
Beatsto Stanley Rother: Un año después

Hace un año, el 23 de septiembre, celebramos la canonización del Beato Stanley Rother en Oklahoma City. Nacido en Oklahoma, ordenó sacerdote para la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City y Tulas, el Padre Rother emigró a Guatemala, que fue su hogar y lugar de servi

El Arzobispo Coakley anuncia una revisión, un plan para informar sobre acusaciones pasadas de abuso por parte del clero en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Un parque de recreo para niños en un centro de detención de inmigrantes aparece en esta foto tomada en Phoenix, Arizona, en 2018. Un segundo informe revisando acusaciones pasadas de abuso por parte del clero en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City fue presentado el 2 de octubre de 2018, iniciando a las 3 p.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad. El retiro del Viñedo de Raquel es un retiro de un día en Oklahoma City durante el mes de septiembre. Para información, le recomendamos llamar al (405) 709-2708 o mande un correo electrónico a la Oficina de Ministerio Matrimonial y Vida Familiar al (405) 720-5592.
Briefs

St. Gregory’s Days of Reflection

This fall, the Catholic Pastoral Center will host its annual St. Gregory’s Days of Reflection, an event designed for couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage, and is an opportunity for prayer, couple dialogue, confession and Mass. To register, contact Anna Rosser at (405) 721-8944, Ext. 108.

September 29

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend greets couples the tools to deepen communication and help relationships grow. The next encounter weekend is Oct. 7-8 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Visit www.wmelokc.org to register.

The Sacrament of Marriage will be celebrated Sept. 29 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. A specially-prepared Mass, entitled “The Five Love Languages,” will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. and continued at 6 p.m. on the eve of the wedding. To register, visit https://sacraments.okcatholic.org.

Oktobestr fest

Holy Spirit, 1100 N. Sera Rd., Mustang, will host its annual OktobeStrfest on Sept. 25. Reservations are $40 per family. Food, beer and wine available at this adults-only event. Entertainment includes games with prizes, music and a live and silent auction. All proceeds support the construction of the new church. For tickets, call (405) 376-9435 or visit www.holyspiritmustang.org.

St. Benedict annual carnival

St. Benedict, 632 N. Kirkwood in Shawnee, annual carnival 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Oct. 6. The Granny’s Attic Garage Sale and pancake breakfast begin at 8 a.m. There will be game booths, vendor booths, live bands, food booths and entertainment. Activities for all ages. Contact (405) 831-8342.

St. Francis/Rosary School Oktoberfest

The St. Francis/Rosary School will host its one-mile fun run and 5K race at 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively, on Sept. 29 at the school, 600 Garth Brooks Blvd, Yukon. Register at bit.ly/falcon5k. For more information, e-mail falcon5k@okcatholic.org.

Knights of Columbus Retreat

The Knights of Columbus Retreat open to all Catholics will be held Oct. 5-7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC. Fr. Lance Warren will speak about “What is Evil?” Cost $20 pp. Includes coffee, snacks and lunch. Contact Michael Zink at (405) 314-4120, Michael-the-j@okcatholic.org. Please make checks payable to Michael Zink, KOC, 14016 Collingwood Lane, Yukon 73013.

Knights of Columbus Retreat

The Knights of Columbus Retreat community will host their 30th annual Oktoberfest 2:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Oct. 7 at 1918 N. 15, OKC. Event honors the patron saints, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Francis of Assisi. Dedication of Family Life Center will be followed by Archbishop Paul C. Timberlake, two-mile Fun Run through Catholic University of America at 2:30 p.m. and Carnival. To be a sponsor, visit https://sponsporship. okcatholic.org. Join us on Facebook at ‘Contact Oktoberfest@rosaryschool.com.’

Craft fair

The altar sister at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon, will have their craft fair 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Oct. 13 at 600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd. Seasonal, jewelry and handcrafted handmade items will be available. Interested vendors contact Malinda Delfino, (405) 831-8342.

Red Mass

A Mass to invoke God’s blessing upon all judges, lawyers, law students, legal professionals, public officials and everyone entrusted with the administration of justice will be at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Coalicky with reception following. Richard Garnett, J.D., University of Notre Dame professor, will host Q&A session during the reception. For tickets, call (405) 877-7070 or visit bit.ly/redmassokc.org.

Admirations director

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School has an immediate opening for an admissions director. The full-time position is responsible for recruiting qualified students to apply to the school, directing the admissions process from point of inquiry to enrollment, supervising staff and volunteers for admissions events and managing the office of admisions. Apply at CristoReyOKC.org/careers.

Tinker chapel positions

The chapel at Tinker Air Force Base has openings for: airman and weekends required. Candidates must be practicing Catholics in good standing. Submit resume to Antonio Guzman at antonio@ckokc.org. Contact (405) 242-4533.

Director youth ministry, evangelization

Ada doctor provides eye exams to Bl. Stanley parishioners

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

The church of Saint James the Apostle in Guatemala houses a small chapel dedicated to Blessed Stanley Rother. Next to the chapel is a small room where residents of this poor community receive the blessing of improved eyesight.

The vision program in Santiago Atitlan was conceived and initiated by a parishioner of Saint Joseph in Ada, Dr. John Garber, an optometrist. The program is sponsored by the Ada Lions Club International.

Dr. Garber’s wife, Mary, playfully calls the program “The Garber Plan.” Many eye missions throughout the world provide used eyeglasses, but this program takes it further. Dr. Garber’s project allows patients to select their own frames with the exact prescription.

One of Dr. Garber’s interpreters said the Mayan people appreciate the frame selections and accuracy of their prescriptions, resulting in patients wearing their glasses more frequently. In the parish, there are only three people who speak the Mayan dialect, Spanish and English. Many patients over age 20 only speak Ts’utujil, so the exams can be challenging.

Dr. Garber’s attempt to learn the language is appreciated by patients, even though it frequently results in friendly laughter.

Dr. Garber was generously given some used optical equipment that was in excellent condition. Dr. Garber contacted the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for a possible Guatemalan church that could accommodate an eye clinic. The church in Santiago Atitlan was recommended. His patients are many of the parishioners that Blessed Stanley served.

The Garbers are accompanied by recruits from the Lions Club, church parishioners and fellow optometrists. Dr. Megan Slate has made seven trips to the Guatemala Eye Mission. The team provides eyeglasses for more than 120 patients per visit. Dr. Slate spoke of her love of helping the needy, but also how she simply loves the country and people of Santiago Atitlan.

“I am always in awe of Dr. Garber’s spirit and energy to serve so many people,” she said.

Mary Garber accompanies her husband on most of the trips to Guatemala.

“The people are so financially poor but are so devout and happy with their lives. They are so grateful and polite even though we speak a different language.”

Dr. Garber said the local people are the most religious people he has ever known.

“It seems to me that church is 24/7 in Santiago Atitlan. During Lent, their Stations of the Cross proceed over three miles and is more than three hours long. I like calling it the true City of Angels,” he said. “Having the opportunity to walk 25 feet from the clinic and go the chapel of Blessed Stanley, where he was assassinated, is a humbling place for me to pray for his intercession in my life as I try to serve his people in my small way.”

The Saturday night Mass was held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. followed by a family praise and worship service that went to midnight. They do not have kneelers in the church, but most people spent the entire time on their knees.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

continued from page 1

When Father Leven arrived, McGougan was in a dark corner with a nun supervisor. Father Leven introduced himself to Sandra Rother McGougan and said to her father: “It is time to turn this over to Father Rother – it’s time for a miracle!”

Father Leven drove to Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery where Father Rother was buried. He prayed and prayed and wept. When he returned to Saint Anthony, Dr. Stanley Pelofsky, the neurosurgeon, told Father Leven it was a miracle when Sandra opened her eyes on the third day.

Sandra was in therapy with the same nun supervisor, who asked: “What is the name of that saint you prayed to?”

Father Leven answered, “It is Stanley Rother.” Father Rother wasn’t yet a blessed. He was killed in July 1981 in Guatemala, declared a martyr on Dec. 1, 2016, and was beatified on Sept. 23, 2017.

“I had a stroke 26 years ago,” McGougan said, “and so it’s an honor to finally be talking about this miracle. I want people to know Father Stan was a selfless man, he would give the shirt off his back. Nothing about himself – no me, me, me. It was always what can I do for you?” I also need to thank Father Leven. If it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be here.”

Father Leven told the group he was with Father Rother when Stan said he was dropped from the seminary and going home.

Father Leven urged him to immediately phone Bishop Victor Reed. Father Rother and Father Leven gathered change for the telephone call and called Bishop Reed, who advised him to come to see him immediately. When Father Rother and his father, Franz, visited, the bishop asked, “Do you want to be a priest, Stanley?”

Rother said, “Yes, but it’s all over for me, isn’t it?” The bishop said, “No, it isn’t; we’ll send you to another seminary.” Bishop Reed kept his word and arranged for Rother to go to Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Father Stanley Rother was ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1963.

Today, Sandra is a wife and mother with a fulfilling career and a heart brimming with gratefulness. She attributes her healing to God and the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother. Father Leven resides in the independent living at Saint Ann Retirement Center and still celebrates Mass two days a week.

Even though McGougan’s miracle can’t be used as the verified miracle for sainthood since it occurred prior to Dec. 1, 2016, she and her family have no doubt that Blessed Stanley eventually will be declared a saint by the Catholic Church.