The year was 1909, when a group of four priests and three laymen from the Diocese of Mobile, Ala., sought to change the course of history. Together these pioneer men formed the first chapter of the Knights of Peter Claver (KOPC). This was the first organization to allow men of color membership in a fraternal society.

Since that time, the Knights of Peter Claver have received strong support from the Catholic Church. Comprised of more than 18,000 Catholic family members and currently headquartered in New Orleans, La., the order now has more than 700 subordinate units throughout the United States and a unit in Colombia, South America.

The order is a member of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights. The Knights of Peter Claver is the largest and oldest African American Catholic lay organization in the world.

KOPC was named after Saint Peter Claver, a 17th century Jesuit priest from Spain. Saint Claver was stationed in Columbia, one of the main ports for slave trade. Saint Claver attended the physical and spiritual needs of many slaves. Until his death in 1654, he worked tirelessly for the abolition of the African slave trade and for the salvation of the African slaves. Through the work of Saint Peter Claver, more than 300,000 slaves were converted to Catholicism. Saint Peter Claver is the patron saint of slaves.

The mission of the Knights of Peter Claver involves promoting social and civic justice, fostering relationships within the community, youth and family, and performing charitable works. These tasks are carried out through many divisions: The Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, the Junior Division, Junior Daughters, the Fourth Degree Knights, and the Fourth Degree Ladies of Grace.

In 1926, the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary was formed. To-date, more than 11,000 women comprise the various “courts” within the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary. Additional branches include youth divisions of the Junior Knights and Junior Ladies.

The Oklahoma City Corpus Christi parish Knights of Peter Claver council was established in 1985 and has been active since its inception. Corpus Christi is home to Council #264 and Saint Martin De Porres Court #264.

The goals and objectives of the order are:
- To be a supporter to the local parishes and to the bishop of the diocese;
- To participate collectively in various parish and community activities;
- To promote civic improvements and social justice;
- To encourage lay apostolic and Catholic action;
- To make contributions to worthwhile causes;
- To award scholarships and support education;
- To foster recreational assemblies and facilities;

To develop youth in a positive, nurturing environment; To provide social and intellectual fellowship

continued on page 5
The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar.

**Feb. 12**
- Catholic Charities Green Tie Gala, 6 p.m., National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, OKC

**Feb. 14**
- School Mass, 9:40 a.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, OKC

**Feb. 15**
- To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail tips@archokc.org.
- Retreatrenew.com - This program designed to help struggling marriages reignite their love will be March 1-3. Contact St. Mary’s, Maryville (405) 443-3541, akjevr@tohrerhonls.org or visit www.helpusmarriage.com.

**Feb. 16**

The Sooner Catholic featured a story on Stan Nuschichmen, a member of St. Joseph’s in Ada, in the Oct. 14 issue. Stan died last year. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Find more news on the website

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

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Satan’s hatred of all things human and sacred has been unmasked recently in a surprisingly unambiguous manner. There is no other way to explain it. Jan. 25 marked the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in our country.

That infusional decision has led to the death of more than 60 million innocent children in the United States (roughly the size of the population of India).

This year, as with every year since 1973, pro-life men and women around the country observed the anniversary with prayer and sacrifice, muttering in the dark, that abortion has led to the destruction of these holy innocents and the devastating effects that abortion has had on countless others.

On this same day, legislators in New York raised their voices in Senate jubilation as the Catholic governor, Andrew Cuomo, signed into law a bill that made the right to abortion up to the day of birth a constitutionally right state.

Apparent concern that the tide of public support is turning against them and that changes in the composition of the U.S. Supreme Court could undermine Roe v. Wade, pro-abortion activists and legisla- tors led by their governor want to ensure that unrestrained Roe v. Wade, pro-abortion activists and legisla- tors led by their governor want to ensure that unrestrained...
OKLAHOMA CITY — Archbishop Coakley recently announced the hiring of Brandon Seid as the executive director of Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City near the Catholic Pastoral Center. Seid replaces Christine T. Ford, who retired Feb. 5 after nearly 40 years of dedicated service, including 23 years as director.

“I am excited to begin this new journey and am thankful for the trust Archbishop Coakley, who views this position the same way I do — as a service to the community, to Catholics in the archdioce- se and to the families who count on us during difficult times,” Seid said. “I also want to thank Joe and Todd Kernke and the staff of St. Michael and Kenneka Funeral Directors, who provided me with an excellent example of professionalism and care that prepared me to take on this new role. They have been a blessing to me and my family, and to many Oklahoma families for generations.”

Seid announced early this year in Terre Haute, Ind., where he graduated from Terre Haute High School. After graduating, he attended college at the University of Wyoming, University of South Carolina and went on to earn his master’s degree in counseling psychology in 2004.

During his time in Pawhuska, he built the present church (unofficially known as the Cathedral of the Osage due to its beauty and magnificent stained glass), the school and the rectory. Bishop Kelley was not pleased with Father Van Wassenbergh’s edifices and removed him from Pawhuska in 1925.

After a leave of absence, he was assigned to Guymon and was again in the service of his church. Enthralled with American Indian life, he lived his own version. He had its share of unique and bizarre. He entered baptismal records not in the proper books but on the wall of his sacristy. When the next pastor removed him from Pawhuska in 1925.

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Lent is coming – Are you ready?

“Think about the western way of life today. Many (probably most of us rent each night in climate-controlled homes. We rise each morning from our comfortable bed, take a hot shower and grab food out of our refrigerator to enjoy breakfast. The worst part of our day is when we arrive at work and are forced to endure the elements for nearly 30 meters as we trek across the paved parking lot from our car to our office space. Yet, we are still tempted to complain” (Exodus 90, Pillars of Exodus 90 sect. 11).

In the days leading up to the launch of this program on Jan. 21, we were led through the exercise of naming our “Why.” To undertake such a set of ascetical practices, for such a long period of time, you better know why you’re doing it. For me, this “why” came back to the state of the Church today with all the scandal and reports of priests and even bishops who have caused great harm to others. It has shaken me somewhat. I even have learned of some reports that involved priests I know. I found myself yearning to do something to contribute to a solution.

The problem is so big, and even systemic. I didn’t know where to start, until I learned about Exodus 90. For me, this became the perfect way to respond to this crisis with something I knew would be hard, but I also knew would make a difference. I think many of the men doing this right now are drawn to it for similar reasons.

Exodus 90 may not be for you. I’m still not sure it’s for me! But, Lent is coming, and better to be thinking now about what the season holds for you than to get caught off guard with that question on Ash Wednesday.

Let’s make Lent different this year. Don’t start with the question, “What am I going to give up this year?” Don’t settle for another mediocre year of no chocolate or no coffee. How about start with “Why?” Why would I give up something? What is God doing in my life and in my heart? How is God calling me into deeper relationship with him? How do I go to be more intentional discipleship? If you take time to really pray and think about those questions, you will know exactly what you need to do for Lent this year.

It’s my prayer that Lent in 2019 will be a significant time of discipleship for our whole archdiocese. I think the many men doing Exodus 90 – Archbishop Coady being among them – are leading the way.

There’s something different about this year. I pray that the grace of that reality would come in full force for all of us. May your Lent be a holy and fruitful one!

Jim Beckman
Director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Lent is coming – for some of us it started ear- lier! There are many men and priests throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who have taken on the ascetical journey of Exodus 90. I should say “Lent on steroids!”

The Exodus 90 routine has a man embracing a set of ascetical practices that make most of our previous Lent’s seem like kid’s stuff: short cold showers every day, regular intense exercise, no alcohol, no desserts or sweets, no snacking between meals, no soda or sweet drinks, no TV or movies or video games, a commitment to seven hours of sleep each night, and there’s more, but you get the idea. And, all this for 90 days! It’s pretty intense. Check it out on their website if you’re interested in learning more (www.Exodus90.com).

What is “asceticism”? You might ask? Asceticism is actually a pillar of Catholic be- lief. It’s rooted in the cross and the great mystery of how God saved us all from our own sin. God the Father sent his only Son to take on our punishment, and to die a self-sacrificial death on the cross. That path opened up self-dis- nigration as a means to holiness, and a powerful way to offer up our prayer to God. We call it redemptive suffering – in our suffering, we can participate with Christ in his redeeming act on the cross. Our suffering, offered up in prayer to be joined with his.

Unfortunately, in our modern culture the practice has been all but lost for most of us.

“Partake of the prayer and sacri- fice of Christ” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2205).

In our modern context, we are surrounded by comforts and conveniences. “Many of the world’s com- forts, though good in and of themselves, can actual- ly hinder us from fulfilling this call, because they steal our prayer and sacrifice.” (www.Exodus90.com).

This kind of sacrifice, as I said earlier, is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Suffering is considered a great blessing in the eyes of the Church, and the Church calls us to “partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2205).

In the days leading up to the launch of this program on Jan. 21, we were led through the exercise of naming our “Why.” To undertake such a set of ascetical practices, for such a long period of time, you better know why you’re doing it. For me, this “why” came back to the state of the Church today with all the scandal and reports of priests and even bishops who have caused great harm to others. It has shaken me somewhat. I even have learned of some reports that involved priests I know. I found myself yearning to do something to contribute to a solution.

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There’s something different about this year. I pray that the grace of that reality would come in full force for all of us. May your Lent be a holy and fruitful one!

Jim Beckman
Director of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis
In 1 Peter 4:10, we hear Peter say, “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” Over the past 7 years as your Archbishop, I have come to learn that people across the Archdiocese have a long history of generosity. I am happy to be among such generous and caring people.

Today, I am writing about the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal. The Appeal provides for the ever-increasing educational, human, pastoral, and spiritual needs of people in Central and Western Oklahoma. Each year, the Appeal enables the Church to implement and provide critical services in a comprehensive framework in order to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. It would not be possible to carry out His work without your assistance.

“Give, and Gifts Will Be Given to You,” is the theme for this year’s Appeal. While it is a simple theme, it says much about what we do as Church and who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has challenged us to take on the task of service to others and to do so with a joyful heart. The Appeal provides us with an opportunity to share our faith and the many gifts which God has bestowed upon us with our brothers and sisters. Without your support, many critical ministries would not be possible.

I invite you to join with me, your pastor, and fellow parishioners, to serve as an example of Christian Stewardship by making a gift of financial support to the 2019 Appeal. Your generous gift will assist our Church in carrying out the work begun by Jesus Christ. Please respond using the enclosed pledge card and envelope or go online to archokc.org/appeal to make your commitment. Every gift is important.

Please review the enclosed materials which outline the critical ministries which you help to make possible. Please, help me with your abundant generosity to strengthen our beloved Church and its crucial ministries that “Give, and Gifts Will Be Given to You.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

“Give, and Gifts Will Be Given to You”

Minimum Goal - $3,600,000
The Annual Catholic Appeal is our chance to support the work of the Church throughout the archdiocese.

Your generous gifts provide:

Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry
Draw in youth, young adults and college students into a vibrant experience of the Catholic faith.

Blessed Stanley Rother Institute
Religious education for leaders at every level for effective parish ministry.

Children’s Evangelization and Catholic Schools
Provide the formation needed to raise confident young disciples.

Marriage and Family Life
Support the domestic Church as the building block of society.

Vocations and Seminarians
Promotion of vocational discernment formation of those called to be priests.

Clergy Formation and Support
Build up priests and deacons to use the gifts God gave them to the best of their abilities.

Guatemala and Local Hispanic Ministry
Support the growing and vibrant Hispanic population in central and western Oklahoma and Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.
Blessed Sacrament Church, Thomas
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lawton
Christ the King Parish, OKC
Holy Family Parish, Lawton
Holy Spirit Parish, Mustang
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Calumet
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Hollis
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Sterling
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Chandler
Sacred Heart Church, Hinton
Saint Andrew Parish, Moore
Saint Ann Church, Cordell
Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Okeene
Saint Eugene Parish, OKC
Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Newkirk
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, OKC
Saint John Nepomuk Parish, Yukon
Saint Joseph Parish, Tonkawa
Saint Louis Church, Stroud
Saint Margaret Mary Church, Crescent
Saint Patrick Church, Walters
Saint Philip Neri Parish, MWC
Saint Richard Church, Carnegie
Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, Jones
Saint Rose of Lima Church, Watonga
Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Harrah

And congratulations to the churches achieving the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal goal!
La vida será victoriosa

San Ignacio de Loyola muy en serio la existencia y la actividad de Satanás. En sus "Éxitos Espirituales", pide a sus discípulos que busquen un "dialabla" como el enemigo de nuestra natural libertad y razón.

Esta no es una idea que San Ignacio desechó, sino que pertenece a la tradición cristiana. La lucha contra Satanás se basa en el testimonio de la Biblia. En la primera carta de San Pablo a los corintios, el apóstol dice: "Sé fuerte, y esto es lo que deben hacer todos los cristianos que buscan la victoria sobre Satanás.

El 2 de enero el 466 aniversario de la Carta Romana de la Santa Sede, promulgó un proyecto de ley que hacía que el aborto se considerara un crimen. Esta decisión infame no hay otra forma de explicarla que no sea una sonrisa macabra mientras este proyecto de ley se estaba debatiendo. Afortunadamente, esta medida fue derogada y no avanzó.

Lamentablemente, hemos estado haciendo una nueva guerra contra la vida humana. Satanás nos odia. El diablo como el enemigo de nuestra naturaleza no lo ha perdido, y es sabio. De hecho, es el que nos llena de bienaventurados y nos hace los esbirros de Satanás. En sus clásicos "Ejercicios Espirituales", se refiere al enemigo de nuestra naturaleza, al que nos deben a quién devorar. "(1Pe 5:8)

El 19 de enero el día de la Inmaculada Concepción, celebré un servicio en el que participaron más de 700 personas. El servicio fue un recordatorio de que tan devastadores han sido los efectos devastadores que el aborto ha tenido en nuestro país. Esa decisión infame no hay otra forma de explicarla que no sea una sonrisa macabra mientras este proyecto de ley se estaba debatiendo. Afortunadamente, esta medida fue derogada y no avanzó.

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Read Archbishop Coakley’s new pastoral letter
Archbishop Coakley’s new pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples! Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” lays out the vision for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City through 2030. Read the letter or download a copy at www.archokc.org/2030. Print copies available soon!

Sr. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance
Archbishop Coakley invites everyone to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa, dioceses from other states families, native dancers and the public to join him at the Sr. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance to be held July 6 in Oklahoma City. The Honor Dance will be followed by an afternoon/evening of powwow dancing contests, the presentation of the new American Indian Catholic Outreach Princess and amazing food! More information available soon. Visit archokc.org/honorance.

Appointments available
St. Ann has appointments in- dependent Catholic education, Sr. Ann, 7501 W. Britton Rd., is owned by and operated by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Contact 877-707-0752 to schedule a tour. Ask about the February special.

Green Tie Gala
Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will have its 37th annual Green Tie Gala at 6 p.m. Feb. 16 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, 1700 N.E. 63 in Oklahoma City. This event celebrates and supports the homeless services of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities’ Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers in Oklahoma City, Norman, and Holy Family Home in Midwest City. Tickets $25. Contact Chelsea Rose at (405) 523-3009, crose@ccaokc.org.

Outback dinner
Knights of Columbus Council #12108 invites everyone to the annual Outback Steakhouse Dinner at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 in Founders Hall at St. Mark’s in Norman. Tickets $30, includes the Outback meal, a complimentary glass of wine and a raffle ticket. Dinner tickets must be pre-purchased by Feb. 18. Contact tlackchick@gmail.com. It will be a fun-filled evening of games and raffle prizes totaling more than $700. Game proceeds will benefit The Center of Family Love. Visit www.kofc12108.org.

Natural Family Planning session
A Natural Family Planning session “Understanding your Fertility” by Hila- ry Sanchez will be at 10 a.m., Feb. 16 at St. Thomas More library, and at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at The Key Center, 1526 Lincoln Ave. in Norman. Open to single women, engaged or married couples. To RSVP, contact Hillary Sanchez at (405) 496-0576, hshirex@gmail.com.

Come and See weekend
St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee will host a Come and See weekend Feb. 15-17; April 12-14; June 28-30; Aug. 24 and Sept. 18-20. Register at vocation@monksook.org.

Sowers of the Faith
A Catechetical Day for Spanish-speaking catechists, youth ministers and volunteers, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expwy. Speakers Mary Ann Wiesinger and Luis Soto will talk about the archbish- ops’ new pastoral letter, Contact Jinium Coughlin before Feb. 13 at (405) 721-4155, jcoughlin@archokc.org. Catechetical Day is sponsored by the Blessed Stanley Rother Institute.

Women’s conference

Ministry workshop
A Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop will be 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at Epiphany of the Lord in Oklahoma City. Cost is $15 per or $30 for four or more people from the same parish.

Application day
Apply and interview in one day at Croato Rey OKC Catholic High School. Applications accepted 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Register at crais teerokc.org or (405) 945-9100.

Leaven Mission
St. Eugene presents “Create in Me a Clean Heart, Lament Mission” with Vai Limar Jensen on Feb. 3. Visit www.archokc.org and register online. Contact (405) 341-2199 for more details.

Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities joins with the Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC. Contact Jazmin Cogburn at (405) 945-9100. Call (405) 877-865-4180 to retreate@monksook.org to register.

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My Pledge:

- $300
- $250
- $100
- $75
- $25
- Other $______________

Please accept my pledge to help fund ministries in the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal throughout central and western Oklahoma. Enclosed is my check payable to: Annual Catholic Appeal.

Name: __________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________ _ _
Phone: __________________________________________________________ _ _
Email: _____________________________________________________________
Parish: ____________________________________________________________

Please complete and cut out this form, place it in an envelope with your pledge, affix first-class postage, and mail it to: Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Annual Catholic Appeal, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Income gifts are tax-deductible. Please consult your tax advisor about the deductibility of gifts.

Please return this form, or:
• Pledge Online: archokc.org/appeal
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