Dad with Down syndrome inspires his son

Father’s Day June 16

By Matthew Green

Jad Issa’s son Sader is studying dentistry and is proud of his father’s achievements.

Jad Issa has Down syndrome, but his life isn’t what you might expect. Just ask his wife (who doesn’t have Down syndrome).

Jad Issa’s story recently made headlines when his son Sader spoke about his father in a video published on Facebook, which led to a series of stories and interviews about this remarkable family.

A loving father and a responsible provider

Sader Issa – a strapping young man who enjoys swimming, bodybuilding, studying and spending time with his friends – lives with his parents in Syria. He’s proud of his father; in the video, he says that even if he could, he’d never want to pick someone else to be his father. “I’m proud of him, the same way he is proud of me,” he said. This feeling is well-founded; Jad Issa is the family’s main breadwinner, and despite the difficulties of his condition, he “tried to do everything to secure a normal life for me like any other child,” Sader Issa said. “During my studies, he was the biggest supporter economically, psychologically and in all respects.”

As Sader Issa explains in the video, the pride is mutual: “One of Jerome Krug was a teenager confused about what God was calling him to do. He wanted to become a lawyer and work to make people’s lives better through political or community advocacy, but something was telling him to follow a different path.

For help discerning his call, Krug returned to the place where he often found Jesus – the adoration chapel at Saint Monica in Edmond.

“I said ‘Lord, I want to change the world for you.’ As clear as day, he said, ‘I’m not asking you to change the world, I’m asking you to let me change yours.’”

At age 17, a junior in high school, he now finally knew for certain he wanted to become a priest. He kept his decision to himself for several months before telling his family.

“I’m called to love his people”

By Diane Clay

Jerome Krug was a teenager confused about what God was calling him to do. He wanted to become a lawyer and work to make people’s lives better through political or community advocacy, but something was telling him to follow a different path.

For help discerning his call, Krug returned to the place where he often found Jesus – the adoration chapel at Saint Monica in Edmond.

“I said ‘Lord, I want to change the world for you.’ As clear as day, he said, ‘I’m not asking you to change the world, I’m asking you to let me change yours.’”

At age 17, a junior in high school, he now finally knew for certain he wanted to become a priest. He kept his decision to himself for several months before telling his family.

“The only person who was surprised when I decided to go to seminary was myself,” he said. “The other day I said to my sister ‘I can’t believe I’m going to be a priest in a month.’ She said, ‘Really? To me, you’ve always been a priest.’”

Krug is one of seven children raised in Edmond by his parents Tom and Katie Krug, who is a teacher at Saint Mary in Guthrie. He is the godfather of his youngest brother who is age 10.
Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

**June 16** – Confirmation, Nom, Immaculate Conception, Seminole

**June 18** – Parochial Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

**June 18** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 18** – All Staff meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC

**June 18** – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 20** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 20** – Senior Staff meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 26** – Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 27** – B. Stanley Bishir Shrine Building Committee, 9:30 a.m., CPC

**June 27** – Catholic Conference Board meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Conference Offices

**June 28** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 28** – Evening Prayer and dinner with priests, 5 p.m., CPC

**June 29** – Priesthood Ordination, 10 a.m., St. Mark, Norman

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

**June 16** – Confirmation, Nom, Immaculate Conception, Seminole

**June 18** – Parochial Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

**June 18** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 18** – All Staff meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC

**June 18** – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 20** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 20** – Senior Staff meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 26** – Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

**June 27** – B. Stanley Bishir Shrine Building Committee, 9:30 a.m., CPC

**June 27** – Catholic Conference Board meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Conference Offices

**June 28** – Maas, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

**June 28** – Evening Prayer and dinner with priests, 5 p.m., CPC

**June 29** – Priesthood Ordination, 10 a.m., St. Mark, Norman

In the past few issues of the Sooner Catholic, we have featured each of the five young men who are preparing for ordination to the priesthood this summer. On Saturday, June 29, as the universal Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, I will have the privilege of ordaining these five men as priests of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

What a great day for an ordination as we celebrate these two great apostles who spent themselves for Christ and his people! Ask any bishop and he will tell you that an ordination is one of the most awesome privileges and responsibilities that comes with the episcopal office. Ordaining a priest is like begging a son. It is an experience of spiritual fatherhood unlike any other. A priest forever!

Deacon Wil Banuwedey, Zac Bosman, John Herrems, Alex Kroll and Jerome Krug will begin their priestly ministry on June 29 at St. Mark the Evangelist Church, Oklahoma City. Deacons Alex and Jerome will be ordained deacons and then immediately ordained priests during the same Mass. The ordination will take place at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Oklahoma City on June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.

Almost every parent will be confronted by a child with the question, “Why should I attend Mass?” The Mass, of course, is the only place where you partake and receive the actual body and blood of Christ. The Church has a special feast day every year to remind us not to take for granted and to remind parishioners what they are receiving when they go to Holy Communion. The special feast day for the celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.

The Mass, of course, is the only place where you partake and receive the actual body and blood of Christ. The Church has a special feast day every year to remind us not to take for granted and to remind parishioners what they are receiving when they go to Holy Communion. The special feast day for the celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.

The vigil service was held at 6:30 p.m. June 29 at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s Joseph Home in Oklahoma City. The vigil service began with a reading of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The vigil service began with a reading of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Almost every parent will be confronted by a child with the question, “Why should I attend Mass?” The Mass, of course, is the only place where you partake and receive the actual body and blood of Christ. The Church has a special feast day every year to remind us not to take for granted and to remind parishioners what they are receiving when they go to Holy Communion. The special feast day for the celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.

Almost every parent will be confronted by a child with the question, “Why should I attend Mass?” The Mass, of course, is the only place where you partake and receive the actual body and blood of Christ. The Church has a special feast day every year to remind us not to take for granted and to remind parishioners what they are receiving when they go to Holy Communion. The special feast day for the celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.

Almost every parent will be confronted by a child with the question, “Why should I attend Mass?” The Mass, of course, is the only place where you partake and receive the actual body and blood of Christ. The Church has a special feast day every year to remind us not to take for granted and to remind parishioners what they are receiving when they go to Holy Communion. The special feast day for the celebration of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is June 23. The second reading will be Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians 11:17-26. This is an appropriate reading for the Mass, as it speaks to the importance of the Eucharist.
Pilgrimages to EWTN Studios
Join Fr. Stephen Bird, OP, and Fr. Christopher Strebler on a pilgrimage to EWTN Studios Sept. 23-28 from Sapulpa, Tulsa, Broken Arrow,博士, and Fr. Stephen Bird, OP, for a pilgrimage to EWTN Studios Sept. 23-28 from Sapulpa, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, and St. John Paul II, located in Brookfield, Wisconsin. The pilgrimage includes visits to various locations throughout Rome, including the Basilica of St. John Paul II, the Papal Palace, and the Vatican Gardens.

Pilgrimage to Boston
Join Fr. Stephen Bird, OP, and Fr. Danny de la Garza, OP, for a pilgrimage to Boston Sept. 16-20. The pilgrimage includes visits to all major pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Boston, including the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and the Basilica of the Assumption. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and a cruise on the Charles River. Daily breakfast and dinner are included.

Pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey, and Israel
Join Fr. Joe Arledge and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City for a pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey, and Israel Sept. 10-20. Enjoy two nights in Athens, three nights in Kavala, three nights in Thessaloniki, three nights in Rome, and four nights in Jerusalem. The pilgrimage includes visits to Ephesus, the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Colosseum, and the Pantheon. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Colosseum, and the Pantheon.

Pilgrimage to the shrines of Italy
Join Rev. Boniface Corcoran, O.F.M., and Richard Amend, O.F.M., and visit the shrines of the Holy Land on the pilgrimage to Italy Oct. 29-Nov. 5. 2022. The pilgrimage includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family.

Pilgrimage to Rome
Join Fr. Boniface Corcoran, O.F.M., and Richard Amend, O.F.M., and visit the shrines of the Holy Land on the pilgrimage to Italy Oct. 29-Nov. 5. 2022. The pilgrimage includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family.

Michael A. Scerbonlands
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimage to Portugal, France, and England
Join Fr. Rick Steichen on a pilgrimage to Portugal, France, and England Sept. 1-9. The pilgrimage includes visits to all major pilgrimage sites in Portugal, France, and England. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and the Basilica of the Assumption.

Visit us online at www.archokc.org
The Sooner Catholic (ESP) is 9/10 is published quarterly except for one in July by the Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Pilgrimage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimage to the shrines in Italy
Join Rev. Boniface Corcoran, O.F.M., and Richard Amend, O.F.M., and visit the shrines of the Holy Land on the pilgrimage to Italy Oct. 29-Nov. 5. 2022. The pilgrimage includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family. The pilgrimage also includes visits to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Church of the Holy Family.

Visit us online at www.archokc.org

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.

Pilgrimmage to Lockrow, England
A: The chancellor acts as an advisor, consultant or decision maker on all important practical questions arising in the archdiocese, its parishes, schools and other entities. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Q: What are the requirements of someone in your position?
A: A law degree and experience in organizational leadership and administration are essential. The chancellor works closely with the director of human resources to develop and implement policies and procedures. The chancellor also supervises all archdiocesan personnel.
Embracing prudence and the necessity of speaking up

Recently, I read a variety of responses to the question, “For those who used to be pro-choice and are now pro-life, what made you change your mind?”

Many answers were what I expected. From, “I saw my own baby at the eight-week ultrasound and she already looked like a baby,” and “My son was born at 23 weeks,” to “My friend had an abortion in high school, and even though everyone around her told her it was a good choice, she sank into a deep depression,” many people changed their minds due to their experiences, both good and bad.

Yet, not a small number answered differently. For them, it was something a friend or opponent on the issue said that first made them reconsider their position. Some were asked when human beings should gain the rights of people, if not at birth; another was asked by a pro-life adversary if she had ever read what the first feminists said about abortion; others were simply exposed to more biology.

The political and social discourse in our culture often consists of throwing words at each other, insults that denude the opponent coupled with examples that “prove” their world view. Amidst the breakdown of civil discourse, it’s tempting to fall back on the words attributed Saint Francis’s words, “Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words,” and say, “The way that we live is enough. I don’t have to say anything. I don’t have to use words.”

While saying less is often a part of the solution to the current state of social discourse, if we all said nothing, many of those former pro-choice people would still be pro-choice. For many of these people, the words served as a catalyst for their conversion toward respecting the dignity of the human person. The full Gospel would not be preached without words. The questions arise: When is it necessary to use words? When the situation calls for it, what words do we use?

Developing the virtue of prudence aids me in discerning when and how to preach the Gospel with words. Prudence, which Saint Thomas Aquinas calls the “mother” of the cardinal virtues, requires knowledge of “universal principles of reason” and “singulars which ethical action is conceived,” according to Aquinas scholar José Peper in his book, “The Four Cardinal Virtues.” In other words, prudence means that we have knowledge of reality as well as of moral norms. Knowledge of reality necessitates that we must have a thorough and real understanding of the situation from our relationship to the other person, the context of the discourse, and even our own disposition and personality. For example, my natural disposition is toward saying too much, to trying to convince and convert through reason alone. At times, in attempts to temper my natural inclination, I have said nothing. Saying nothing is, at times, appropriate, such as in response to someone’s posting on social media. Other times, in private conversation, it is necessary to speak up, to question a common assumption that is contrary to the Gospel and Christian way of life.

The necessity of speaking up is especially true when people ask, “You’re looking at your life, you see that you live differently, and they want to know more. We should give a response. Often, when people ask me, their question is not asked in the “right” way. The questions are clumsy and, at times, verging on rude. They want to know more about the facts, but some ask, “What age did children receive the Sacrament?” They long for another child, they want to be more open to the life given to their marital love, but they have a hard time imagining breaking the cultural script. They ask, “Is this your last baby?” because they don’t know how to ask differently.

Depending on the situation, preaching the Gospel with words may mean very few words, or it may mean many. It may include an invitation to “come and see.” Let’s preach the Gospel, even when words are necessary.

Jobs Box

Cristo Rey OKC president
Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School is seeking a president. The school is part of the national Cristo Rey Network. The president is the chief executive officer, having overall responsibility for the management of Cristo Rey OKC and must be Catholic. Preferred qualifications include: awareness of and commitment to Catholic traditions of education, service and social justice; exceptional communication and interpersonal skills; proven fundraising and revenue generating success; significant visionary leadership and management experience; strategic planning experience and execution capabilities; strong budget management skills. The president reports to the board. Position starts in July. E-mail cover letter and resume to nagle@crystorycokc.org.

Marriage preparation coordinator
The archdiocese is seeking a coordinator of respect life ministry and marriage preparation. This position provides support to the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life Ministry and serves as the coordinator for pro-life ministry and marriage preparation for the archdiocese. It is a full-time position with occasional evening and weekend responsibilities. Good oral and written fluency in English and Spanish; broad knowledge of and access to the Church’s teachings on the sanctity of human life, human sexuality, marriage and family life a must. A degree in theology or philosophy preferred. Send resume to nagle@archokc.org.

Freelance photographer
The Sooner Catholic is seeking a professional freelance photographer to cover events for the newspaper. Nights and weekends possible. Rate for shoot varies. Contact Dana Atukhus at datukhus@archokc.org.

Fundraising coordinator
The Center of Family Love is seeking a fundraising coordinator to raise funds, improve fundraising activities, assist in planning and coordinating events meant to raise funds and coordinate activities of volunteers and interns related to event planning and execution; maintain complete and orderly records of donors; build upon existing donor relationships and form new donor relationships. Bachelor’s degree in communication, public relations, journalism or related/applicable area preferred. At least two years of fundraising experience, deadline driven and strong leadership skills. E-mail resume to nagle@archokc.org.

Parish, resources coordinator
Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a full-time parish and resources coordinator to serve as consultant, educator and supporter for parishes and communities to develop and maintain social ministries and educational outreach to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Coordinator will provide support to the director of grants and donor administration to ensure good donor/donation stewardship through various database functions. Must have degree in a related field; be a practicing Catholic with knowledge of Catholic social teaching and spirituality; at least two years’ experience in social ministry with education and communication skills. E-mail cover letter and resume to bmm@csocokc.org.

Sixth-grade counselor
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has an opening for a sixth-grade counselor. This position requires a state certification in counseling and a minimum of two years’ experience. The freshwater counselor duties include all aspects of academic, social and emotional counseling to help 6th grade students adapt to their new high school environment. This position also includes working with the admissions team, placement testing and overseeing feeder school visits. Send cover letter, resume and transcript to Principal David Morton at dmorton@bmchs.org.

Business administrator - Tecumseh
The business administrator oversees and manages all aspects of the finances of the Church and School of St. Mary in Tecumseh, including budgeting, collections, monthly reports, approval of invoices, tuition and fees management, posting of payments, generating account statements, account collection

Anamaria Scapignola Bidick
For the Sooner Catholic

Teacher's assistant - Oklahoma City
St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for support staff positions. A teacher’s assistant is needed for the full-day 4-year-old pre-kindergarten program. Send resume to principal@jnkokc.org or mail to Natalie Johnson at St. John Nepomuk School, 600 S. Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, OK 73099.

Teachers - Oklahoma City
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking teachers for physical education, computer lab, Spanish and middle school core subjects for the 2019-2020 school year. SHCS is a PreK-8 school. Send resume to Adriana Garcia at principal@sacredheartokc.org or to Sacred Heart Catholic School, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., OKC 73109. Some positions require an Oklahoma certification.

Music director
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a full-time certified music director for the 2019-2020 school year. Area include instrumental music, marching band and vocal music. E-mail letter of interest and resume to Talia Hensley at tshensley@mountsmary.org or fax to (405) 631-9209.

To see more job openings, go online to www.archokc.org/jobs.
St. Aloysius Gonzaga: an Italian nobleman

By Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B.
The Sooner Catholic

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) was an Italian nobleman who lived during the Catholic Counter Reformation. His parents Ferrante Gonzaga, the Marquis of Castiglione, Italy, and Marta, the Countess of Juna di Santria, Italy, were connected to very important noble families of the Holy Roman Empire and several high-ranking churchmen. A new book by Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S., titled “Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, S.J.” has been released for Saint Aloysius’s feast day – June 24.

This book by Henderson has no illustrations. It does have an index and many footnotes. There also are three appendices. This book is an academic presentation of the life of Saint Aloysius, but the reader would notice how it flows and catches one’s interest in the saint’s life story and of what was going on during his lifetime.

Saint Aloysius was the first-born son and heir to the marquisate. At an early age, he discerned that God was calling him to a religious vocation. He had experienced the life of a nobleman at various courts of his day, but realized he wanted the simple life of a religious, which meant giving up his inheritance. He started reading spiritual works and practicing various penances and other ascetical works and devotions. Saint Aloysius could not on his own give up his title and inheritance and enter religious life without the permission of his father and the Holy Roman Emperor. It turned out he had an easier time convincing the emperor to let him do that than it was for him to convince his own father.

Ferrante Gonzaga was strongly opposed to his eldest son becoming a religious. He asked lay and Church leaders to get his son to reconsider. This did not work. More often those leaders ended up supporting Saint Aloysius. In 1585, Ferrante Gonzaga finally agreed to give him permission to renounce his inheritance and to enter the Jesuits. Saint Aloysius went to Rome to enter the postulancy and novitiate of the Jesuits. He did studies in Rome, Naples, and in Milan. His health was not good and he and the Jesuits had to make sure he took care of himself and not overdo his ascetical devotions. He was found to be very intelligent and made progress in his studies.

He worked in the various ministries of the Jesuits in Rome which included begging or at times working in the hospitals. He helped one beggar who was ill and caught what he had which killed him on June 21, 1591, at age 23. Many Jesuits and others considered him a saint. One of those was Saint Robert Bellarmine one of his spiritual directors. He was beatified on Oct. 19, 1605, and canonized on Dec. 31, 1726. Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S., is the author of four other books and several articles. In this book he includes quotes from letters of Saint Aloysius to his family members and others. He quotes some of the early biographies of Saint Aloysius like the 16th biography by Virgil Cepari, S.J., who knew Saint Aloysius and another biography by another Jesuit who knew the saint too, Jerome Piatti, S.J.

The book is highly recommended to those interested in biographies of saints and of a young adult who gave up his inheritance for the love of God.

Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B., Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Nourishing family through prayer

By Richard Rouillard
The Sooner Catholic

“The Prayer List: and Other True Stories of How Families Pray” by Jane Knuth is a book of stories that examines how people of all faiths use prayer in a family setting. Jane Knuth explores an idea; to think “out loud” to God, to communicate with God that many of us use more. Experience tells us that prayer often is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Whereas much of the book scrutinizes how prayer works in families, even ones in which prayer has long been a forgotten or neglected practice, the author focuses little on private prayer, communication with God that many of us use more. Experience tells me that genuine, effective writing results from an individual’s need to think through an idea, to think “out loud” on paper, to answer the question: “How do I know what I think until I see what I say?” Those are a secondary effect of the “Prayer List.” I found myself thinking about various forms that praying people use in the search to communicate with God. Formulaic prayers such as Holy Mass or the Rosary provide a community with words specifically chosen to set the time for the efficacy of the ritual. The recitation or chanting of Canonical Hours is meant to allow the participant to share the psalmist’s efforts to speak to God personally through his or her poverty. Spontaneous prayer often is guided by the Holy Spirit. The person praying is not always or ever sure what words will result, whether spoken aloud or “viewed” across the mind’s eye. Merged with her suggestions, Knuth also examines “What is prayer, really?” “How does prayer work?” At one point an interviewee offers an intriguing insight: “God wants us to want him.” Is that the reason we pray? Some people would argue that prayer is concrete inasmuch as we see the prayers written or we speak and hear the prayers we choose. Beyond those sensory experiences, prayer invites the participant to transcend words and to experience spiritual connections with the prayer’s addresser. The author hints at in the latter part of the book: sometimes listening is the more important part of our prayer efforts.

Knuth occasionally realizes and affirms that one-way prayer is useful, but quiet prayer might be more effective. We only petition God with our wants and needs and don’t take any time to listen, we may miss out on some very important spiritual connections with God. For some, this book confirms the power of prayer in the relations of families form with the Creator. For families whose faith is developing, Knuth offers insights into other people’s experiences with prayer, understanding that could only help advance to deeper faith nourished by prayer.

Richard Rouillard is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Book Review

Quo Vadis Days 2019

Quo Vadis Days is a four-day/three-night retreat July 28-31 for young men in high school and college at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp near Wellston. The retreat will help equip young men with the tools and opportunities to prayerfully discern God’s will for their lives. Space is limited. Register at qvdays.org or call the vocations office at (405) 721-9351.

Sr. Helen Barrett
Sister Helen Barrett (Kellite May), the youngest of five children in the family of Thomas Martin and Nellie Ap- nea Hallacy. Barrett, was born Sept. 22, 1932, in Weir, Kan. She entered eternal life May 27, 2019, at the Wichita Center of the Congregation of Saint Joseph in Wichita. She entered the Congregation of Saint Joseph in 1953. She received the habit on March 19, 1954, first profession July 26, 1956, and final profession, July 26, 1959. From Saint Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City she received her bachelor’s degree followed by a master’s in business administration from Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kan. From 2001-2006, she ministered at Holy Family in Lawton before retiring. The Mass of Christian Burial was May 31 with interment in Mount Saint Mary’s Cemetery.

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School
2801 S. Shancl Ave., OKC 73109
www.mountmaryok.org

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
101 N.W. 56, OKC 73118
www.bmhhs.org

For information on admissions, financial aid, placement test, tuition and enrollment deadlines, contact: (405) 842-6838.

Admissions: dwilson@mountmary.org

June 16, 2019
¡Regocijense y estén contentos!

En los últimos números del Sooner Catholic, presentamos a cada uno de los cinco jóvenes que se preparan para la ordenación al sacerdocio durante este verano. El sábado 29 de junio, mientras celebremos a estos dos grandes santos que se dedicaron a Cristo y su Iglesia en Oklahoma City, el papa Francisco decía que en su mensaje, están llamadas las vocaciones católicas, dijo el papa Francisco, “en su mensaje, están llamadas las vocaciones católicas a la sacerdote de la Iglesia Católica. Los laicos cumplen también su misión profética evangélica, con el anuncio de Cristo en medio de este mundo.

Para cada sacerdote, la ocasión de una ordenación nos ayuda a renovar la gra-
cia de nuestro propio día de ordenación con toda su alegría, su esperanza y su santo tempo. Ese día, recibí un oración a San Hilario, quién también la reza cuando comienzan “Mientras despierta
todos nuestros sentidos de fe y de nuestro deseo de crecer, los santos educadores, cuyo ejemplo grandes testimonios de los santos y santas educadores, cuyo ejemplo se le abrirá.”

La nueva carta pastoral del Arzobispo Coakley invita a todos, los ministros de la palabra, a compartir “la palabra de Dios con nuestros semejantes...de deben pasar de los sentidos a la imaginación e imaginación, a la vida espiritual, a la fe...Es necesario que, en resumen, se adelante el “proces
des de la evangelización como servicio de la fe y de las costumbres y la reverencia hacia los padres, habida cuenta de la utilidad común y de la dignidad de las personas.

El ministerio pastoral. Juntamente con este deseo, cier
temos nuestras palabras con estas palabras: ¡Amén!...Confirmemos la buena nueva porque sabemos que no necesitan decir mucho, pero lo que dicen es muy importante.

Los 12 profetas menores tienen algo importante que decir a los no crey-
entes. Ellos hablan de Cristo, lo alimentan de su Espíritu, lo guíe al comenzar esta ruta de proclama
tión de nuestro propio día de ordenación, y le se le dará; busca y encontraras; Llama, y le se le dará.”

No dicen mucho, pero lo que dicen es muy importante

No dicen mucho, pero lo que dicen es muy importante...Capilla de los Santos Inocentes

Los 12 profetas menores tienen algo importante que decir a los no crey-
entes. Ellos hablan de Cristo, lo alimentan de su Espíritu, lo guíe al comenzar esta ruta de proclama
tión de nuestro propio día de ordenación, y le se le dará; busca y encontraras; Llama, y le se le dará.”

No dicen mucho, pero lo que dicen es muy importante...Capilla de los Santos Inocentes
Day of Reflection
"The Eucharist: The Sacrament of Transubstantiation" by Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cathedral Pastoral Center. Contact Mary Ann Schmitt, (405) 990-1806.

Volunteers are needed for the first archdiocesan St. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance July 9 at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon. Sign up online at http://bit.ly/HonorDancesvolunteer or call (405) 721-1810.

St. Kateri Honor Dance
Archbishop Coakley invites everyone from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa, dioceses from other states, families, native dancers and the public to join him July 6 for the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Honor Dance at St. John Nepomuk in Yukon. The honor dance will include Mass, powwow dancing contests, the presentation of the new American Indian Catholic Outreach princess and amazing food! Visit archokc.org/honordance. Volunteers can contact Susan Callison at (918) 931-7514.

Suicide prevention training
Catholic Charities encourages parishes to participate in mental health awareness training. QPR is a free one-hour suicide prevention training that provides three simple steps to reach someone who may be feeling hopeless. Professional counseling available. Contact St. Joseph Counseling Center at (405) 524-0969.

Suicide grief support group
A support group for those who have lost someone to suicide meets at St. Francis in OKC on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Moore Hannah House north of the church. The gathering is in a caring atmosphere to remember loved ones. Call (405) 721-0069.

Golf Classic
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is hosting the annual Pete Cordova Golf Classic June 18 at Jimmie Austin Golf Club. Registration begins at 11 a.m.; tournament begins at 12:30 p.m. Teams and individuals interested in attending. Register at mountsmary.org or call Chris Stiles at (405) 990-1806.

Day of Reflection
"The Eucharist: The Sacrament of Transubstantiation" by Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. June 22 at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Contact (405) 340-0691.

Retreats
Clancy’s All Sports Golf Classic benefitting Montecassino Catholic High School will host the 2019 par-tee June 24 at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. The registration deadline is June 21. Noon, afternoon session is 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch provided. Donations accepted. Proceeds benefit upating the sports weight room in the field house. Cost $775 pp or $560 team. Register at bhmc.org. For sponsorship information contact John Hamiliton at hamilton@monksok.org.

National Council of Catholic Charities: Icon Writing Workshop/Retreat
Ann Schmitt at (405) 650-9674, annschmitt@monksok.org.

Prayer Ministry Group - Theological Reflection Group
Supervised by Father Kevin Pierce
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. June 29 at the KofC Pastoral Center. Contact Kevin Pierce, (405) 770-0752, kevin.pierce@kofc.org.
Dad with Down syndrome inspires his son

the things that I am proud of is when he in-
troduces me to a new person for the first time, and he says, ‘My son is a doctor.’ You can
see the pride and joy in his eyes. It’s like he’s
saying: ‘I have Down syndrome, but I raised my
son and did everything to help him become a
doctor who treats people. I’m proud of him.”
Clearly, Issa and his wife were able to provide
a more than adequate environment for their
son to grow up healthy, happy and smart.
In Sader Issa’s own words. “A child who
grows up in the lap of a person with Down
syndrome will have all the love and tenderness
that anyone can offer. This will lead to a person
who is emotionally and socially well balanced
and is able to achieve anything he wants.
… When you see a person, perceived by the
community as a vulnerable person or a person
who is dependent on the community, who is
working hard and trying to do everything to
secure everything I need as a small kid … This
will, of course, push me to do all I can to be the
best person (I can be).”
A husband and a friend
Jad Issa not only has been a good father;
according to his son, he also has been a good
husband. In his relationship with his wife,
“They may disagree sometimes, or not. They
have a full life of love, simplicity and humility
in all respects.” In short, Sada Issa said their
relationship is like that of any other couple.
Outside the home, Issa has been working at a
local wheat mill for 25 years, and he has good
relationship is like that of any other couple.
In short, Sada Issa said their
relationship is like that of any other couple.
Outsiders will, of course, push me to do all I can to be the
best person (I can be).”
A husband and a friend
Jad Issa not only has been a good father;
according to his son, he also has been a good
husband. In his relationship with his wife,
“They may disagree sometimes, or not. They
have a full life of love, simplicity and humility
in all respects.” In short, Sada Issa said their
relationship is like that of any other couple.
Outside the home, Issa has been working at a
local wheat mill for 25 years, and he has good
relations with his neighbors and co-workers.
“His social relations are simple and pure
because he loves everyone and anyone, and in
return, all people love and respect him, and
treat him like any ordinary person,” Sader Issa
explained.
Re-examining what Down syndrome means
All of this should make us think twice. When
most people think of Down syndrome, they
think of a life full of mental and physical dis-
abilities, of social isolation, of total dependence
on other people’s care, of being a burden. … In
short, a life they consider not worth living. This
is so common a view that in many countries,
children prenatally diagnosed with Down syn-
drome are aborted.
Yet, this view is profoundly and tragically
mistaken in at least two ways:
The first is the assumption that people with
Down syndrome are doomed to misery. In real-
ity, people with this condition can have a wide
range of abilities. Jad Issa is clearly on the
high end of the range of functionality, and the
fact that he was able to have a son is highly
exceptional.
However, in reality there’s no way for us to
know ahead of time what a person with Down
syndrome – or anybody else, for that matter,
with or without disabilities, money, social
privilege, etc. – will be able to achieve. Abortion
means cutting off any possibilities, ending a life
out of fear and misunderstood mercy.
Again, Sader Issa said it best: “As a child who
who grew up with a father with Down syndrome, I
know exactly how pure hearted and loving they
are, but also that they have ambition and drive
deserve a decent life and do not deserve to
be aborted.”
In the video, he added, “For many people,
the idea of a woman pregnant with a baby with
Down syndrome may be the worst scenario.
If my grandmother was convinced of this idea, I
wouldn’t be here with you.”
The second way this view is misguided is the
idea that the life of a person who isn’t able to
function as well as Jad Issa – someone who is
truly dependent on others due to disabilities
and may never have the joy of being a husband or
father – is a life not worth living. This atti-
tude is profoundly inhuman because the value
of each person isn’t what they can do, but who
they are: a human being, deserving of love and
care, and of the opportunity to develop what-
ever possibilities they have as limited as they
may be.
As Christians, we recognize in every human
being the image and likeness of God. Some-
times it’s an image that reminds us of Christ
during the Transfiguration, radiant with power
and goodness; other times, it’s the image of
Christ on the cross, wounded, rejected and dy-
ing. Jesus told us (Mt 25:40-45) that what we
do to those in need, we do to him.
People who are disabled, sick, or disadvan-
taged, are an opportunity God sends us to
learn how to love, and to do so with greater
purity of intention.
We need to build a culture where every child
who is conceived is accepted and welcomed
as a mystery whose future potential only God
can foresee; a society in which frightened
and confused parents don’t feel they need to face
an uncertain future alone, without support or
the necessary resources. Our task is to love
every child and to help them develop their full
potential, as great or as small as that may turn
out to be, not to cut their life short because we
lack the vision to recognize their value or the
generosity to give them a chance.

“I come from a very devout fami-
ly. I have memories of praying the
Rosary with my family and going
to the adoration chapel at Saint
Monica. My parents would invite
priests over and I think that was
really powerful for me.”
He attended homeschool un-
til high school when he entered
Mount Saint Mary Catholic High
School in Oklahoma City.
“I had a kindergartner’s love
to school at 14. I was excited to have
a backpack and a pencil bag. I’m
sure I annoyed the other stu-
dents.”
It was at The Mount that Krug
met a group of friends who would
keep him connected to his faith
and bolster his prayer life.
“A friend started inviting me to
daily Mass or to go pray at the
chapel. We were praying one time
after soccer practice, and I remem-
ber leaning over and saying, ‘What
are you praying?’ He said, ‘I’m just
talking about my day.’ I remember
that blowing my mind. I thought
I could do that. I started going to
daily Mass and praying more.
After realizing he wanted to go
to seminary, he turned
up a dream internship in Washington D.C.,
his senior year. He applied
and was accepted as a seminarian in the Arch-
diocese of Oklahoma City
and enrolled at Concep-
tion Seminary College in
Missouri. He earned a
bachelor’s degree in phi-
losophy at Conception
and then asked to continue his
studies at the Pontifical
North American College in
Rome. He recently earned a
bachelor’s degree in sac-
cred theology at PNAC and
is working over the next
year on a specialized cur-
riculum with an emphasis
on marriage and family.
“For someone who grew
up in Edmond and whose
time of traveling was
taking road trips to see
his grandma in New York,
moving to Rome has been
more challenging than expected
and more beautiful. It has allowed
me to miss my mission work in India
and Africa; things I never imag-
ined,” Krug said.
This past September, Krug was
able to bring his family to Europe
for the first time to be with him for
his deaconate ordination at Saint
Peter’s Basilica.
“To share it with them and show
them my favorite parts was won-
derful.”

Now age 26, Krug will be or-
dained a priest on June 29 at
Saint Mark in Norman.
“It’s kind of surreal. They’ve
always been somebody else’s or-
dination!” he said. “Any life call is
huge and being entrusted with this
call can be overwhelming. But, I
know I have a gift to be able to love
Jesus’ people the way Jesus loves
me. I focus on that and all of the
anxiety fades away.”
Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.