Father Leo Patalinghug once bested Bobby Flay on his Food Network competition show, "Throw Down with Bobby Flay!" A man of many hats, including a chef hat, Father Patalinghug is best known for his internationally acclaimed faith talks. He headlines the 24th annual In The Father’s Footsteps Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference, scheduled for Feb. 29 in Norman.

The event, titled "Remain in Me," returns to the Embassy Suites Convention Center and Hotel. Register and purchase tickets at catholicmen.net. The benefit of the program is two-fold. First, deserving children, oftentimes stuck in D- and F-rated public schools are given a chance to succeed in a private school of their parents choosing.

Second, the scholarship funds help make Catholic schools more affordable and stable, reducing the chance of closure.

There’s just one problem: the legislature has capped at $5 million the total annual amount each scholarship program can receive and still provide the full tax credit to donors. This despite the amount of donations to the scholarship fund surpassing the cap every year. What does that mean? It means all of the private donations above the cap are blocked — denying scholarships to needy students and their families.

This year, the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma is working continued on page 3

Men's conference 2020: Living “true manhood” through faith, grace

Father Leo Patalinghug once bested Bobby Flay on his Food Network competition show, "Throw Down with Bobby Flay!" A man of many hats, including a chef hat, Father Patalinghug is best known for his internationally acclaimed faith talks. He headlines the 24th annual In The Father’s Footsteps Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference, scheduled for Feb. 29 in Norman.

The event, titled “Remain in Me,” returns to the Embassy Suites Convention Center and Hotel. Register and purchase tickets at catholicmen.net.

Father Patalinghug, a priest, chef, TV/radio host and author, highlights a lineup of five speakers during a day aimed at faith, renewal and evangelization. He will be joined by Edward Sri, co-foundering leader of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students); Paul George, author, consultant and life coach; Dave DiNuzzo, Catholic evangelist and speaker, author, retreat master, podcaster and theology teacher; and Alex Sanchez, campus ministry director at Saint Thomas More University Parish, who will speak during the young men’s luncheon.

"Remain in Me" is a natural progression of our own conversions from a prior theme of "Follow Me,“ said Ray Haefele, conference director. "We are called to take the Word of God into the world. Keeping our relationship with Jesus at the center of our life will assure that his word will be done. The day will unfold for us how to do both, continue our conversions and to be the word of God through our daily lives.”

Father Patalinghug hosts "Savoring our Faith," a weekly show on EWTN Network, with the theme of bringing the world together "one plate of grace" at a time. He’s a two-time black belt martial arts instructor, an award-winning break dancer/choreographer and award-winning cook. All of that has made him a popular subject on network

continued on page 3
Schools. I am about halfway through my pastoral visit to our 18 Catholic schools, three high schools and one special needs school.

As a Church in the United States, we set aside time each year to celebrate the unique value of Catholic schools during Catholic Schools Week. This year’s theme is “A beacon of hope for all.” Our reading starts Jan. 26 through Feb. 1 and will include local Masses, open houses and activities for families, students, parishioners and community members. Among these special events, the annual Catholic Schools Week Breakfast has become a special highlight of the week.

This year, the theme of the week is “Catholic Schools: Where the heart of the Church beats.” With a doubt our schools are outstanding places where students can learn and grow. They are given opportunities to serve and to become leaders.

What does it mean to succeed? For people of faith, it obviously means more than material and financial outcomes. It is hard, if not impossible, to separate the real value of Catholic education. One small marker is the fact that – based on the average cost per pupil of public-school education – Catholic schools save our taxpayers more than $20 billion annually. That’s a success!

More importantly, however, Catholic schools seek success as people of faith who pursue faith and discipleship. What a tremendous potential for the impact of faith formation exists when students spend 35 or more hours each year in school. Our Catholic schools seek to educate in faith as communities of faith and learning. Catholic schools form disciples of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel and inviting a response.

Our beautiful Catholic faith is woven throughout the curriculum in the classroom, through worship and through service, and all sorts of extracurricular opportunities. Prayer is not only permitted, it is promoted in our Catholic schools. As a result, studies show that Catholic school students are more likely to pray daily and retain a Catholic identity in adulthood. Catholic school graduates are more likely to be civically engaged, volunteer, vote and be committed to service. Historically, Catholic schools have provided a tremendously effective environment for nurturing vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In short, they have no substitute for the many contributions our Catholic schools make to Church and society. These are good reasons of success!

The Catholic Church always has affirmed the right and responsibility of parents as the primary educators of their children. To assist parents in this sacred duty, the Church has taught that children have a right to an education in faith, and that the state has a fundamental obligation to enable such a right. In its document on religious liberty, the Second Vatican Council affirmed that “The rights of parents are violated if their children are forced to attend lessons or in institutions that are not in agreement with their religious beliefs, or if a single system of education, from which all religious formation is excluded, is imposed upon them.”

Many parents exercise their duty to educate their children in accord with their families’ religious beliefs by choosing to send their children to Catholic schools, to parish religious education programs by homeschooming. Sometimes the highest cost of parochial schools makes it difficult or even impossible for parents to choose Catholic schools for their children. It is the responsibility of the whole Catholic community to strive to make Catholic education accessible, and affordable to more Catholic parents and children who desire it. Tuition assistance and other kinds of need-based scholarship assistance are important for the sustainability of our Catholic schools and their mission.

There is growing recognition beyond the Catholic Church of the importance of supporting parents’ educational choices for their children. The importance of parents’ rights to choose the kind of education that is best for their children has led to a growing movement toward parental choice in faith and other policies and programs that empower parents to make such choices. In community paternal choice policies give parents the flexibility to choose the kind of school that meets the needs of their children based on their religious convictions, the quality of education available or the specific needs of their children.

Parental choice programs are growing worldwide. They take the form of scholarship tax credit programs, voucher programs, special needs programs, individual or business income tax credits and educational savings account programs. For example, in Oklahoma families are finding assistance in sending their children to Catholic schools through the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Program, which allows children with special needs to enroll at Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy as well as several of our other Catholic schools. The Tax Credit Scholarship allows individuals and businesses who choose to participate in the program to receive a state income tax credit so that need-based scholarships may be awarded to students who wish to attend Catholic schools.

We have a treasure in our Catholic schools. It is a gift that gives dividends! But, it is our shared responsibility to continue exploring innovative public/private initiatives and to find effective ways to increase the gift of Catholic education available to more students and families.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

**Archbishop Cooksey’s Calendar**

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

- Jan. 18–26: Ad Lumen Vitae visit to Rome
- Jan. 20: Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast, 7 a.m., Embassy Suites Downtown – Medical Center
- Jan. 28: Presbytery Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
- Jan. 28–29: Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- Jan. 28: Personnel Board meeting, 2:30 p.m., CPC
- Jan. 29: School Mass and classroom visits, 8:45 a.m., St. Mary, Lawton
- Jan. 30: School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond
- Jan. 30: Senior Staff meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
- Jan. 31: School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Edmond
- Jan. 31: Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, 7:50 a.m., Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School, OKC
- Jan. 31: Catholic Conference of Oklahoma Board annual meeting, 1:30 p.m., CPC
- Feb. 1: Mass and celebration, 11 a.m., St. Andrew Dung-Lac, OKC
- Feb. 2: Confirmation, 12:15 p.m., Christ the King, OKC

**Find more news on the website**

By Sooner Catholic Staff

- To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail tips@archokc.org.
- Rose Day Mass, luncheon
- Men’s conference 2020: Living “true manhood” through faith, grace

continued from page 1

programs. His talk is titled “Be a Man and Feed Your Family.” He is a well-known Catholic speaker who also appears regularly on EWTN. His talk is: “No Greater Love: Remaining in Christ at Mass and Beyond.”

George has spent more than 23 years helping people discover the art of living through searching them for truth, discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and finding true happiness. His talk is: “Men Living Boldly for Christ.”

Oklahoma is the founder of TrueManMen’s Ministry, which focuses on spreading the truth of authentic masculinity in the image of Jesus Christ.

His talk will be: “Living Your Masculine Priestly and Relationally Living a Life of Virtue.”

Sanchez is a University of Oklahoma graduate with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. After serving as a FOCUS missionary for five years, he now serves as the director of campus ministry for Saint Thomas More at OU’s Catholic Center. His talk is: “The Guy’s Guide to Handling What’s Really Going on in School Today.”

The conference also will provide opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Cooksey.

Archbishop Cooksey’s official calendar.

continued from page 1

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Men’s conference 2020: Living “true manhood” through faith, grace

- Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
- Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Archbishop Cooksey’s Calendar

**Men’s conference 2020: Living “true manhood” through faith, grace**

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From the Archives …

A turning point: A priest of the people

A series with an immense amount of talent and unfailing optimism, Father Roberto Quant was ordained by Archbishop Charles Salatka on June 1, 1991. Born in Nicaragua on Sept. 22, 1960, his family moved to Honduras to escape the volatile political climate. Having owned and operated a Chinese restaurant in Nicaragua, it only was natural that his business continued in Honduras.

Father Roberto loved to joke about his Chinese features and heavy Spanish accent. In fact, to say that Father Roberto liked to joke is a gross understatement. For those who knew him well, laughter is the first thing that comes to mind when recalling this remarkable man. He could find joy in the mundane and his enthusiasm for the people he served was unwavering.

Parishioners were always made to feel like they were his favorite, most loved and most treasured friend, just as his best friend Jesus would do. The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus. Never receive him in a state of mortal sin.

From the Archives …

Fr. Roberto Quant in his office at the tribunal.

For those who knew him well, laughter is the first thing that comes to mind when recalling this remarkable man. He could find joy in the mundane and his enthusiasm for the people he served was unwavering.

Father Roberto was a vocation he took seriously. He fully believed in a life of service and loved sharing himself with parishioners. Joana Comacho, the former principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School who worked with him at his final assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart, recalled: “Father Roberto's unique personality made him special to those who met him. He always made you feel like you were his favorite, most loved and most treasured friend, just as his best friend Jesus would do.”

While known as one of the wisest priests in the archdiocese, he was a confessor who knew the law thoroughly and its proper application. Because he was fun loving, it is sometimes forgotten that he possessed a sharp mind and was a cleric of great depth. Revered for his warmth and compassion, his leadership skills and vision brought out the best in people and facilitated their growth in the faith.

Understanding the feelings of being in a foreign culture (which he himself had experienced when coming to Oklahoma for college) Father Roberto embraced the Hispanic populism of Holy Angels and Sacred Heart, building strong communities and, in the case of Sacred Heart, revitalizing the school (with the guidance of Comacho) and nearly doubling the enrollment. In 2013, he had been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, a parish with equally vibrant Anglo and Hispanic communities. It appeared to be the perfect match. Sadly, Father Roberto left this life suddenly at age 52 before he could begin his new challenge. Upon his death, Archbishop Conley summed up his life well-loved. "He left us behind him a rich legacy. As a priest, a son, a brother and friend, he enriched the lives of those around him with his delightfully animated intelligence and abiding good spirits. As beloved pastor of Sacred Heart parish, he attended to the spiritual needs of more than 8,000 parishioners with generosity and a smile. As judicial vicar in the provincial tribunal, he was an effective and amiable colleague."
"The foxes and the henhouse"

Probably the biggest bioethics story of 2019 involved Dr. Jinkui He (known to his associates as ‘JK’), a Chinese scientist who employed a new technology called CRISPR/Cas9 to produce the world’s first gene-edited babies. JK made genetic changes to two little girls, Lulu and Nana, whose parents are early-stage embryos, attempting to modify a receptor for HIV to confer resistance to a possible future infection in the virus. He was sentenced to three years in prison for producing the CRISPR babies. The trial proceedings concluded that JK had ‘rashly applied gene editing technology to human assisted reproductive procedures’.

The verdict reached by the Chinese court raises complex questions that must be confronted. What does it mean to ‘rashly apply’ a new technology like human gene editing? Who should determine if a particular use is ‘rash’ or ‘reasonable’?

Dr. Rita Vassena, a member of the executive committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, framed the ethical concerns around JK’s case this way: ‘As the current scientific consensus indicates, the use of CRISPR/Cas9 in human embryos destined to give rise to a pregnancy is, at this stage, unjustified.’

She couches her ethical analysis, as many scientists do, in terms of the ‘scientific consensus.’ But, such ‘consensus’ is an extremely malleable concept. It also conveniently implies that scientists themselves can set up their own ethical rules and provide regulatory oversight with no ethical scrutiny. As such, they are free to employ cloning technology to produce new human life – that we are opposed to editing of humans – that we are opposed to.

We are constantly told that abortion without restrictions means that we trust a woman to make decisions for her children. What if we work to keep using that word. … I do not mean ‘suffering’ or ‘to suffer with.’ Our culture struggles with two extremes. On the one hand, it is easy for us to use our religion as a tool for condemnation: ‘You are murdering your child.’ On the other hand, we can use our religion as a tool for acceptance: ‘How can we make a decision for this person – it is between them and God?’ But, we are called to be like Jesus – perhaps the one man in history who never will manipulate, use, or destroy another human being without consent. Jesus who forgives her. Jesus who loves her.

As Catholics, we need to answer these hypothetical questions with a different question: What if we work to solve her problems? Will human abortion help her trauma from abuse and rape? Will abortion help a partner to stop manipulating and abusing her?

We are constantly told that abortion without restrictions means that we trust a woman to make decisions for her body. Let her choose when she becomes a mother, she says. These decisions are between her and her doctor. What if she is homeless? What if she is raped?

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a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

1. We provide a safe and nurturing environment for all. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, loving, and effective.

2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.

3. We provide an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

4. We set high standards for students, and help them succeed.

5. We offer technology instruction and self-discipline.

6. We teach children respect for self and others.

7. We instill in students the value of service to others.

8. We provide a balanced curriculum that meets academic and life needs.

9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.

10. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.

11. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 80 percent of our graduates go to college.

12. We provide students with access to the resources they need to succeed.

In entering a public college after my 12 years of catholic education, I realized that receiving a Catholic education was one of the best gifts my parents could have ever given me. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the strong foundation that I was given. When everyone in a Catholic community is seeking a personal relationship with Christ, the Church becomes the Body of Christ, and this divinity that is Christ is perfect. While Catholic schools push students to succeed academically, they also teach that there is a much bigger picture than any career could fulfill, and that is Christ himself. Thank you Catholic schools!

– Elinora Nll, St. Mary, Guthrie

Catholic Schools

“What does Catholic school mean to you?”

“My Catholic school education was the best gift my parents ever gave me. What they taught me at home was reinforced by the school. My Catholic school education was the hope lens.”

-- Fr. Daniel Grover, pastor at Corpus Christi, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 1975

“My time in Catholic education was not just an average sequence of classes. Through the help of teachers and fellow students, it was a time where I felt truly connected to a close-knit community. It helped me form my morality and love for others and helped me to view the world through a positive and loving lens.”

-- Wendell Hixon, St. John Nepomuk Class of 2014, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 2018

10 January 19, 2020

We are an Easter people. Our lives are centered on the risen Lord that continues to save, redeem and nurture us with his very life and love. Ultimately, we live in and through the risen Christ.

While there are many Easter stories, the story of Emmaus is my favorite. Just think of it, two fearful and discouraged disciples make the wrong decision and go the wrong way by leaving Jerusalem and the community of faith behind them. They are clearly on the wrong path but they are convinced that Christ is the best decision.

Jesus joins them along the wrong path but they are so blinded by what they believe to be the best and worst decision to go on a different path that they can’t tell if it’s Jesus walking beside them. Yes, Jesus never abandon anyone, even if they make the wrong decision and go down the wrong path.

The Lord strikes up a conversation with them and begins to hear from them what he already knows, they are not happy with the way things went these last few days. They had other expectations and Good Friday and the cross made it clear that their expectations were not met.

Here is when Jesus begins to offer some fruternal correction with some harsh words at the beginning.

“Ooh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures (Lk 24, 25-27).

Jesus was opening their appetite with an explanation of the Word of God. Upon arriving at the wrong town along the wrong path, their appetites were open and they wanted more so they asked the “stranger” to stay with them. He did, and he always will stay with those who are hungry for him. Then, it happened!

...while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then, they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” (Lk 24, 32-32)

Their hearts burned within them with the Word of God. A powerful and living word that brought to them the fire of God’s loving truth and prepared them for the breaking of the bread. The Word of God always prepares us for the breaking of the bread, the Eucharist, at every Mass.

Pope Francis said in his Motu Proprio Aperuit illis: “The relationship between the risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. With the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet, the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’

To celebrate the divine gift of the Word of God, Pope Francis, in response to the voices of Christians throughout the world, has added a new celebration to our liturgical calendar that will be celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, which is to be called, Sunday of the Word of God.

As I reflect on my life, I see that Catholic education has played a pivotal role. As a child, it gave me confidence and a strong personal identity coupled with a strong faith. As a high school student it prepared me not just for college but for the rest of my life. As a teacher and administrator, I did not find my passion until I returned to Catholic education. Catholic education is a great way to start a child in life.

-- Brenda K. Tieron, principal at St. Philip Neri Catholic School and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 1971, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 1975

“Now Accepting Applications!”

St. Mary in Clinton was best church float at Clinton’s annual festival of lights parade through town. The latest float focused on the meaning of Christmas tree. Photo: Kristine Moreno.

Children from St. Francis Xavier in Sulphur participate in the Christmas play. Photo provided.

St. Patrick in Anadarko held their Christmas pageant on Dec. 15. It was followed by a parish potluck dinner. Photo: Corinna Carroll.

Students from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City sang Christmas carols throughout the school. The 2nd grade class, accompanied by the school’s choir, performed a wonderful Christmas program. Photo provided.

I received a stellar Catholic education at the Seton Homeschool curriculum during my elementary and middle school. Through this Catholic education I received, my parents instilled in me the importance of my own journey into making sure I had a great foundation in this world and for the spiritual journey ahead.”

-- Dominick Demas, seminarian for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Real High School Class of 2012

The ability to live out the Word of God, the life-giving center of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The time has come for the first part of the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The time has come for the first part of the Mass. Now, we will highlight the Word of God, the life-giving center of the Liturgy of the Liturgy. We may continue to live by the Eucharist and also by his word. May we always be open to his love, first in word, then in flesh.

I invite you to approach the tabernacle with your Bible and thank Jesus for the gift of his Word. While we all can’t have a personal tabernacle, in our homes, we all can have a personal Bible to celebrate and spend time with Jesus present in his word.

-- Fr. Swamy and children from St. Peter and Paul in Hobart at the annual children’s Christmas play. Photo provided.

Children from St. Francis Xavier in Sulphur participate in the Christmas play. Photo provided.

Pra-graph 3 of the Motu Proprio ends with these words: “The various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enframed, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God’s word. On this Sunday, we would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize in the homily the humanity of the Jesus that is in due... Pectors also can find ways of giving a Bible or one of its books to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of lectio divina.”

The weekend of Jan. 26 will be historic, our first celebration of Sunday of the Word of God! We have been celebrating Corpus Christi Sunday for many years and by doing so highlighted the practice of lectio divina. “The relationship between the risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. With the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet, the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’

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Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Las escuelas católicas son un don que más sigue dando

Entre los asuntos más destacados de mi calendario anual están las oportunidades para visitar y permitir a los niños aprender y crecer en la fe católica. Estoy a la mitad de mis visitas pastorales a nuestras escuelas católicas, y estoy agradecido por el apoyo incondicional que recibimos de nuestra comunidad. Estoy visitando las escuelas de edad preescolar, primaria y secundaria.

La importancia de las escuelas católicas se manifiesta en varias formas. Primero, proporcionan una formación académica sólida que se puede comparar con la de cualquier escuela pública, pero con una diferencia clave: las escuelas católicas ofrecen una educación que se enraíza en la fe y la tradición cristiana. Las escuelas católicas también fomentan la ética y la moralidad, lo que es fundamental para la formación de individuos que sean capaces de hacer una contribución positiva a la sociedad.

Además, las escuelas católicas brindan una formación cristiana que se extiende más allá del aula. Los estudiantes católicos tienen la oportunidad de participar en la vida del colegio, que se enriquece con los valores y principios cristianos. Estas escuelas ofrecen una formación que se centra en ser buenos cristianos y en ser ciudadanos responsables.

Asimismo, las escuelas católicas son un importante recurso para las familias. Proporcionan una educación de calidad que se adapta a las necesidades de los estudiantes, lo que puede ser difícil de encontrar en otras escuelas. Las escuelas católicas también ofrecen una comunidad de apoyo, lo que es crucial para el desarrollo de los estudiantes.

Pero, ¿qué significa tener éxito? Las escuelas católicas no solo deben enseñar a los estudiantes lo que necesitan saber para el éxito en la vida adulta, sino que también les deben enseñar a ser buenos ciudadanos y a servir a su comunidad. Es importante que las escuelas católicas se mantengan en la vanguardia de la educación, y que se sigan trabajando por mejorarla.

Por otro lado, es nuestra responsabilidad compartida hacer de nuestras escuelas católicas un lugar seguro y estimulante para los estudiantes. La educación no se reduce simplemente a la transmisión de información, sino que debe ser un viaje de descubrimiento personal. Es importante que las escuelas católicas se mantengan actualizadas con las últimas investigaciones sobre la educación y que se adapten a las necesidades de los estudiantes.

Por último, las escuelas católicas tienen un papel crucial en la formación de la vida espiritual de los estudiantes. Las escuelas católicas son un lugar donde los estudiantes pueden explorar sus creencias religiosas, aprender a valorar la fe y a servir a su comunidad. La educación religiosa es esencial para que los estudiantes desarrollen una fe sólida y una convicción de lo que creen.

En conclusión, las escuelas católicas son un don que sigue dando. Son un recurso esencial para nuestra sociedad, y el deber de cada uno de nosotros es hacer todo lo posible para que se mantengan en buen estado y sean un lugar de excelencia.

Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Suicide prevention training

St. Monica in Oklahoma City offers a free one-hour suicide prevention training that provides simple steps to reach someone who may be feeling hopeless. Professional counseling available. Contact St. Joseph Counseling Center at (405) 524-0969.

Made for More


Jobs Box

St. Stanley Rother Shrine executive director

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an executive director for the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. This position is responsible for the operation of the shrine, which is under construction in Oklahoma City. Duties include leading the planning and execution of all business and operational aspects of the shrine; providing executive leadership for lay employees and contractors supporting the shrine; representing the shrine to the archdiocesan community; and helping the archdiocesan community to be involved in the renovation of the shrine.

Administrative assistant

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City is seeking an administrative assistant for the secretary of Divine Worship. This position includes answering actual messages and phone calls from the school, working with students and staff members, and coordinating all events and activities. The position also includes some general office duties such as correspondence and clerical work.

Director of youth ministry - Norman

St. Mark's is seeking a qualified director of youth ministry who will be responsible for the coordination of youth programs for grades 7-12. The youth director will also be responsible for coordinating the confirmation program at the parish, and include events such as altar serving, serving as a Charismatic Catholic prayer leader with the diocese, and organizing community service projects.

Contact me today to learn more!
The one pope

By Bishop Robert Barron

The new and much-ballyhooed Netflix film “The Two Popes” should, by rights, be called “The One Pope,” for it presents a fairly nuanced, textured and sympathethic portrait of Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) and a complete caricature of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI).

This imbalance fatally undermines the movie, whose purpose, it seems, is to show that old grumpy, legalistic Benedict finds his spiritual bearings through the ministrations of friendly, forward-looking Francis. But, such a thematic trajectory ultimately does violence to both figures and turns what could have been a supremely interesting character study into a predictable and tedious apologia for the filmmaker’s preferred version of Catholicism.

That we are dealing with a caricature of Ratzinger becomes clear when, in the opening minutes of the film, the Bavarian Cardinal is presented as ambitiously plotting to secure his election as Pope in 2005. On at least three occasions, the real Cardinal Ratzinger begged John Paul II to allow him to retire, even after the death of John Paul, even Ratzinger’s ideological opponents admitted that the now 78-year-old Cardinal wanted nothing more than to return to Bavaria and write his Christology.

The ambitious plotting fits, of course, the caricature of the “conservative” churchman, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the flesh-and-blood Joseph Ratzinger.

Furthermore, in the scene depicting an imagined meeting between Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio in the gardens at Castel Gandolfo, the aged pope frowningly lashes out at his Argentinian colleague, bitterly criticizing the cardinal’s theology.

Once again, even Joseph Ratzinger’s detractors admit that “God’s Rottweiler” is in fact invariably kind, soft-spoken and gentle in his dealings with others. The barking ideologue is, again, a convenient caricature but not even close to the real Ratzinger.

The most serious mischaracterization occurs toward the end of the film when a dispirited Benedict, resolved to resign the papacy, admits that he had stopped hearing the voice of God and that he had begun to hear it again only through his newfound friendship with Cardinal Bergoglio.

The following I mean not an ounce of disrespect to the real Pope Francis, but that one of the most intelligent and spiritually alert Catholics of the last 100 years would require the intervention of Cardinal Bergoglio in order to hear the voice of God is absurd.

From the beginning to the end of his career, Ratzinger/Benedict has produced some of the most spiritually luminous theology in the great tradition. That he was, by 2012, tired and physically ill, and that he felt incapable of governing development of the future pope. The scene depicting his powerful encounter with a confessor dying of cancer is particularly moving, and the uncompromising treatment of his dealings with two Jesuit priests under his authority during the “Dirty War” in Argentina goes a long way to explaining his commitment to the poor and to a simple manner of life. What would have infinitely improved the film, in my humble judgment, is a similar treatment of his encounter with Joseph Ratzinger. If only we had had a flashback to the Tubingen professor, scandalized by a postconciliar extremism that was throwing the theological baby out with the bathwater, we might have understood his reticence regarding programs advocating change for the sake of change.

If only we had had a flashback to the Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith composing a nuanced document, both thoughtfully critical and deeply appreciative of Liberation Theology, we might have grasped that Pope Benedict was by no means indifferent to the plight of the poor.

Now, I realize that such a treatment would have made for a far longer movie, but who cares? Heck, I was willing to sit through three-and-a-half rather tedious hours of “The Irishman.” I would have been happy to watch four hours of a film that was as honest and insightful about Joseph Ratzinger as it was about Jorge Mario Bergoglio. It would have made not only for a fascinating psychological study, but also for an illuminating look at two different but deeply complementary ecclesial perspectives.

Bishop Barron is auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

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The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated at the parish of St. Patrick in Anadarko on Dec. 15 with a full day of activities and fellowship to honor the Blessed Mother.

The activities began with a procession around the church with singers, dancers and musicians processing behind Fr. Joseph David and Dcn. Eulis Mobley and an image of Our Lady. Flowers were placed at the foot of her statue. Following Mass, a gathering at the Altus Community Center continued the festivities.

“We celebrate the fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe because she is the Patroness of the Americas, not just in Mexico, but of all the Americas, so we celebrate her feast with a special Mass and the community gets together with the entire parish.” Dat Mobley said.

The Mexican Folkloric Dancers from Blessed Sacrament in Lawton were invited to the celebration to share traditional dances from all regions of Mexico. The event also included a live band, an array of foods and a silent auction.

Photos Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic.

St. Patrick in Anadarko held its 3rd annual “Change for Christmas” collection this Christmas season. The religious education students used the $1,480 raised to buy gifts for local children in the custody of the state Department of Human Services. Photo Carolyn Cantrell.