Many ministries and organizations are welcoming donations of money or items for people in need this holiday season. Here are a few ideas to help:

**Sanctuary Women’s Development Center**
Sanctuary supports women and children who are homeless or living in poverty with basic needs like a shower and laundry facilities, food and hygiene pantries, and classes on life skills.

**Sooner Catholic**
soonercatholic.org  archokc.org

December 6, 2020

Go Make Disciples

Shop local, shop Catholic for Christmas

By Sally Linhart
The Sooner Catholic

Supporting local businesses has never been more important. The struggles that small and locally owned businesses deal with have been exacerbated this year, forcing many to shutter their brick-and-mortar locations. Catholic business owners are no exception, and support from the community is crucial for their success.

Catholic owned businesses around the archdiocese have gift ideas from soap to burp rags to tamales.

continued on page 8

Bishops say Advent during pandemic can be a time to draw closer to Jesus

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

CLEVELAND – The global pandemic and new limits on daily activities present a special time for a renewal of faith and the opportunity to deepen appreciation for Jesus in daily life, bishops across the country said in messages for the Advent season.

This year as families are separated, several bishops said, Advent also can be a much-needed quiet time to recognize how the birth of an infant, Jesus, changed the world and his followers are invited to follow his example to help bring peace in a tumultuous era.

Likewise, bishops encouraged prayers for essential workers including those in health care, education and often overlooked service sectors as well as for those who died or became ill because of COVID-19 and the family members and friends caring for them.

continued on page 5

Tis the season for helping, healing

By K.S. McNutt
The Sooner Catholic

Any ministries and organizations are welcoming donations of money or items for people in need this holiday season. Here are a few ideas to help:

continued on page 16

Sr. Maria Faulkner visits with Gospel of Life Dwellings resident Trish. Photo provided.
Advent in a time of pandemic

So many things are out of rhythm this year. The pandemic has upset our customary points of reference. The school year, our work environment, sports seasons, travel and holidays are all up for grabs. Even though we may be participating in Mass differently this year, the cycle of the Church’s liturgical seasons continues to offer us continuity in a time of unpredictability.

In its simple beauty, Advent is one of the richest seasons of the year. The prayers and readings at Mass as well as the hymns and antiphons of the Liturgy of the Hours invite us to quiet reflection and brighten our sense of longing as we prepare to welcome the King who comes to save us. Even for those who cannot participate in Mass in person these days, there are wonderful resources for praying with the Church and keeping Advent at home in the domestic church.

Advent is a season with memorable rituals and traditions for the home. Lighting each candle of the Advent wreath can be the occasion to gather family or friends for a moment of prayer. The child’s anticipation and joy each day upon opening another door or window of an Advent calendar reminds us why the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who become childlike.

Precisely because the season of Advent is characterized by quiet waiting and unburdened preparation, it is easily eclipsed by the frenzy of the commercial “holiday season.” In our consumer culture, “Black Friday” has been extended to “Cyber Monday.” Some years we don’t even wait until the Thanksgiving table is cleared before the shopping frenzy begins. Bargain hunting and the frantic pursuit of that perfect gift, the rounds of parties, decorating and travel create a level of stress and busyness that is anything but reflective. A new level of stress and uncertainty is added this year because of concern for COVID. No wonder so many people experience only exhaustion or letdown when Christmas finally arrives.

Christmas is not just a nostalgia remembering of an event that occurred in a faraway place a long time ago. By remembering and pondering the mysteries surrounding the birth of Jesus, the Spirit spurs our hearts to experience his coming as something new for us today. Jesus Christ was born “to save us from our sins. We also prepare for his coming again in glory when he will judge the nations with justice and turn over the Kingdom to his heavenly Father. But, there also is the Lord’s hidden coming in the mystery of his grace each day. It is a silent mysterious coming that perhaps the slower pace brought on by the pandemic will enable us to see and appreciate. How is God manifesting his presence and care for you during these Advent days?

Christmas has been replaced by a commercial substitute. What can we do? We can let Advent be Advent. And let Christmas be Christmas.

In order to celebrate such a great feast as Christmas we need the weeks of Advent to prepare ourselves properly. We need the weeks of Advent to ponder and remember God’s age-old promises and to experience the longing of the patriarchs and prophets that still finds its echo in our own hearts today. It is the longing that is expressed in the psalm, “Mara, how long will we suffer?”

The word Advent means “coming.” During Advent we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s coming in history when he was born of Mary in Bethlehem to save us from our sins. We also prepare for his coming again in glory when he will judge the nations with justice and turn over the Kingdom to his heavenly Father. But, there also is the Lord’s hidden coming in the mystery of his grace each day. It is a silent mysterious coming that perhaps the slower pace brought on by the pandemic will enable us to see and appreciate.

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Advent reminds us that there is much more going on here than getting and spending. There is a real reason for rejoicing. God is with us. Today!
From the Archives ...

A photo series from George Ripani, archdiocesan archivist

“The Bishop’s Hour” – Advent

In November of 1971, Bishop John R. Quinn (he was appointed the eighth bishop of San Diego) was appointed the new bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa following the death of Bishop Victor Reade. Only 42 years old, he was already a rising star in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (later the USCCB).

Due to his intellectual and abundant talent, he was chosen to come to Oklahoma to bring stimulus to a church that was known for its experimentation and its openness to modern nature. Unlike the Bishop Reed, Bishop Quinn was married and had five children and as Father Daniel Monahan of the diocese of Oklahoma City, 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73125.

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op John R. Quinn (he was appointed the eighth bishop of San Diego) was appointed the new bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa following the death of Bishop Victor Reade. Only 42 years old, he was already a rising star in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (later the USCCB).

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Bishop Quinn tried to alter a difficult course with a combination of firmness and openness.

A large part of that “difficult course” was the division of the church. The Diocese in Oklahoma was established as the Diocese of Oklahoma in 1905. In 1930, Bishop Francis Kelley permitted Rome for a name change to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa since Tulsas had been largely overlooked even though it had enormous power to the generosity of the maintenance of the diocese.

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SpaceX’s ‘Resilience’ commanded by astronaut who flew with Eucharist

By Zilda Caldwell

In 2013, NASA astronaut Michael Hopkins got permission to bring consecrated hosts into orbit. In November, four NASA astronauts made history with the launch of a capsule built by SpaceX, a privately-owned space exploration company. The 27-hour scheduled voyage to the International Space Station (ISS) is the first operational flight of the Crew Dragon capsule and could mark the first step towards commercialized space travel.

Astronaut Michael Hopkins and the Eucharist

Commander Michael S. Hopkins and the crew of the “Resilience” spacecraft are expected to dock at the ISS at 11 p.m. EST on Monday and remain there for six months. This mission, however, is not the first time Hopkins has made history. On Hopkins’ first space mission in 2013, he did something no astronaut has done before. He brought along some very precious cargo – a small container or “pyx” containing consecrated communion wafers.

The Missouri native was a member of a the Expedition 37/38 crew that journeyed to the ISS aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He also was a recent convert to the Catholic Church. Shortly after being chosen to go on the mission, Hopkins, whose wife and children practiced the Catholic faith, had decided to become a Catholic.

In an interview with the National Catholic Register, Hopkins told Kathleen Naab that after he was confirmed Catholic, he contemplated his upcoming six-month long mission and felt that something would be missing. He reported that he would have to miss out on what the Catholic Catechism calls the “source and summit of the Christian life,” the Holy Eucharist.

“I started asking the question, ‘Is there any chance I can take the Eucharist up with me into space?’ which isn’t something that, you know, is normally done, since you don’t self-administer communion,” he told Naab.

With the help of his parish priest and deacon, Hopkins secured permission to take the Eucharist into space.

“The real reason I wanted to do this was that I appreciated the love that Jesus showed me when he went out the hatch to give me communion in orbit,” he told Naab.

With the help of his parish priest and deacon, Hopkins secured permission to take the Eucharist into space.

“A monstrance enamel capsule and could mark the first step towards commercialized space travel.

Michael Hopkins, Photo (NASA)/Regan Gensslen.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service

The new Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service launched on March 16. The third-party reporting service is responsible for receiving allegations of sexual abuse against current or retired bishops in the United States. Allegations can be made to the toll-free number (800) 276-1562 or online at reportabuseonclergy.org. The reporting party can remain anonymous. Go to archokc.org/clergyabuse. To report abuse by clergy, volunteers or church and school employees, call (405) 720-9678. If a child is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
Sooner Catholic

Shop local, shop Catholic
for Christmas

continued from page 1

Monks’ Marketplace
The Monks’ Marketplace at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee is a gift shop that features handmade products made by Benedictine monks that reside at the abbey. The shop, which opened in January, sells soap, lotion, rosaries, jam and jelly. The shop also sells eggs from the abbey’s free-range hens and honey produced from the abbeys hives as well as products from monasteries and religious communities in other states.

Anchored Okie
Saint Mark Catholic Church in Norman is home to many talented local owners as well. Anchored Okie is a custom embroidery business owned by parishioner Mekele Keilty. Keilty, a military wife, has been in business for two years and provides custom embroidery services on clothing, blankets, bags, towels, aprons and anything else that can be embroidered.

To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, orders must be placed by Dec. 10. “The typical turnaround time is 5-7 working days, depending on product availability,” Keilty said. “We have delivery and local pick-up options and currently offer free shipping on holiday orders.”

Gringo Girl Tamales
Kim Fields, owner of Gringo Girl Tamales and Southern Eatery, provides delivery of her handmade tamales. Fields’ restaurant is located at 924 E. Main Street in Norman and features a wide variety of comfort food. Menu items include chicken and dumplings, stuffed peppers, casseroles, macaroni and cheese and, of course, tamales. Weekday delivery is available in Moore and Norman, and Saturday delivery is available in surrounding areas.

Kristy’s Flowers and Gifts
In Okarche, Kristy’s Flowers and Gifts at The Center of Family Love hassinister and Christmas themed flower arrangements available for delivery by Christmas Eve for all orders placed by Dec. 21. The gift shop carries San Francisco Soap Company products for men and women, winter headwear, fuzzy socks, foot soaks and a line of Beer Bottle candles in scents like pilsner and ale.

Don’t leave without stopping by Holy Trinity Catholic Church gift shop in the Blessed Stanley Rother memorial building to see their unique gift offerings. Proceeds from the gift shop support youth programs and religious education classes at Holy Trinity.

Bl. Stanley Rother Store
Stumped on stocking stuffer ideas? The Blessed Stanley Rother Store at rotherstore.com has Rother coloring sheets for children that come with a set of colored pencils as well as pocket medals, pendant medals, prayer cards and rosaries featuring Blessed Stanley.

Trinity Mercantile
Edmond residents can pick up a new pair of Sock Religious socks to wear to midnight Mass from Trinity Mercantile on Broadway. For the chef, the Vatican Christmas cookbook features Swiss Guard recipes for Advent and Christmas. Other gift ideas include door hanger house blessing beads, jewelry, stickers, magnets and a large selection of books for adults and children. For a small fee, Trinity Mercantile offers custom gift-wrapping services once a week.

Game Fish Rosaries
Looking for a custom, hand-made rosary with a creative twist? Check out Game Fish Rosaries on Facebook. Young entrepreneur Jaxton Finley creates custom rosaries using fishing line, weights and swivels. The seventh-grader from Piedmont came up with the idea in 2019 when he was trying to think of a unique Father’s Day gift. Jaxton thinks his rosaries would make a perfect Christmas gift “because it’s Jesus’ birthday – and we need more prayers now than ever.”

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

The Monks’ Marketplace
Facebook page
(405) 878-5127
Anchored Okie
Facebook page
anchoredokie@gmail.com
Gringo Girl Tamales
facebook.com/GringoGirl
centeroffamilyloveoklahoma
(405) 263-4465
Holy Trinity gift shop
holytrinityok.org/rother/
gift-shop
(405) 263-7300
Bl. Stanley Rother Store
rotherstore.com
(405) 721-5651
Trinity Mercantile
facebook.com/TrinityMercantileOK
(405) 280-7843
Game Fish Rosaries
facebook.com/gamefishrosaries
jdfinley21@hotmail.com

Helping hands

Students, teachers and the community came together to help clear debris after the October ice storm. Pictured are helpers from Mount St. Mary Catholic High School (top), St. Philip Neri Catholic School (middle) and St. Eugene Catholic School (right).

Photos provided.
Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass and blessed a new Dedication Plaque at Saint Gregory’s Abbey on Nov. 29 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Yukon.

Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic

Real Life Disciples

One of the greatest gifts of the Christian life is being drawn into relationship with God where we experience the gift of communicating with Him. We share our thoughts, feelings and desires with him, and he shares those things in his heart with us. This kind of prayer is at the heart of discipleship. In fact, it’s not until we get there that we can truly be a disciple. It’s through this kind of relationship that Jesus can begin to direct us, disciple us, train us and teach us, which is what ultimately leads to our transformation.

I spoke recently with a woman who had an experience of this kind of communication, and it had a dramatic impact on her life. I asked him to share his story so I could incorporate it into this column this issue.

From Danny Rith:

“As I look at this crazy year, I don’t have to look far to find blessings that I am grateful for. July 23 when this crazy year even created for me, several days ago I had experienced some mild chest pains as I was in the garage. I came in and told my wife that I just felt something, I didn’t know what it was but it came in and out. The pain quickly subsided so I didn’t think much about it. The very next afternoon, the same sensations and pain returned. Once again, I sat down for the pain to subside. I thought about needing to call and get checked out by my doctor, but certainly didn’t believe I needed to make an emergency room run.”

After a while, I got up and went back into the house. As I turned on the stove, an overwhelming sensation hit me and the next thing I know saying, ‘5pm to go’. I can’t explain why, but the same sensations and pain made me go to the hospital. I walked into the Emergency room and the attendant took me right to the heart burn unit to rapidly stabilize there, the cardiac team quickly started going through their examination. It wasn’t too long after that that one of the technicians told us, ‘Well, it’s not a heart attack,’ which the blood enzymes had confirmed. The technicians started unhooking me from the machines, and one by one they left the room.

As the last technician left the room and the door closed, I could feel my chest imploding. In a matter of minutes, I found myself on the operating table. What I found out the next morning coming from my doctor was that I was extremely blessed. ‘He told me that the morning the stroke doesn’t come to the heart hospital to have their heart attack. But, that’s exactly what happened for me. The nurses and technicians had already completed all their paperwork for my release after their first examination. They couldn’t find any signs of a heart attack because it hadn’t happened yet! They were persuaded by my family to re-run some of the same tests. It was at that time they discovered I was indeed in cardiac arrest.”

My doctor told me that I probably would have only had four minutes to live, as I had a blood clot in my main artery. The heart attack I was experiencing is commonly referred to as the “widow maker”. I was the first person to tell me that he was glad that I had listened to my body. But, I know that it wasn’t my body I was listening to! I was listening to that still small voice inside, to my Lord and my God! Or maybe it was my guardian angel. Either way, clearly told me ‘It’s time to go.’ When I look back and think about it, I will always remember the blessings of July 23.”

Danny’s story is a great example of how hearing God’s voice in our inner heart can save our lives! That’s not what’s like every time, to understand that there is power in listening. I can pull a few key principles out of the whole thing that speak to us about discipleship.

First, discipleship depends upon receptivity. One of the greatest characteristics of receptivity to God, a listening heart and ear, and even an expectant faith that God actually does want to speak to us. We need to constantly pray for a grace of receptivity, and that God would open our capacity to receive His will in whatever way He wants to give it. Part of this kind of receptivity is being aware when God is talking. If Danny wouldn’t have paid attention when God was speaking in his inner heart, he may have never known what was being communicated.

Second, discipleship depends upon docility. It’s one thing to hear what God is saying. But, you also have to respond to the message. When Danny heard these words, “It’s time to go,” he chose to do what he was just mak- ing all up, or that he was resenting, or a number of other things. What I love about his story is the somewhat matter-of-fact response, “I turned off the store and told my wife I was heading to the heart hospital!” That’s the kind of docility we need to have; not questioning what was said, just obedient response.

And, finally, a disciple needs to show gratitude. Danny’s whole story starts with, “I don’t have to look far to find blessings that I am grateful for.” He’s like the one leper who after being healed was the only one who returned to give thanks. How do you thank the one who freely gives you grace to be docile and respond? And, how is he persuading you to give gratitude for all the ways He has blessed you this past year, despite all the hardships and difficulties?”

Christmas Book Wish List

“A Gift of Grace: Encountering the Power of God through Stories”
By Tessa Harrigan
Price: $13.95
store.usccb.org

“Blessed Stanley Rother Martyr”
By Pope Francis
Price: $20
rotherstore.com

“Blessed Robert Capiz”
By Liam O’Shea
Price: $16.95
store.usccb.org

“Prayers for the Intercession of the Saints”
By Charles B. Swindoll
Price: $11.95
store.usccb.org

“Someone Belongs”
By Debbie Balke
Price: $8.95
store.loyolapress.com

“Blessed Sacred Heart of Jesus”
By Deb Veith
Price: $15.95
store.usccb.org

“Everyday Belongs”
By Michael White
Price: $1.00
store.loyolapress.com

“Messages of Joy for Advent and Christmas”
By Marianne L. Warnke
Price: $14.49
store.loyolapress.com

“Everyone Belongs”
By Michael White
Price: $1.00
store.loyolapress.com

“Succy’s Garden”
By Janet M. Preston
Price: $8.95
store.loyolapress.com

“All are Welcome”
By Suzie Andres
Price: $8.95
store.loyolapress.com

“Everything You Should Know”
By Fr. Bob Ogle
Price: $13.95
store.usccb.org

“Dear Sacred”
By Karen Purschke
Price: $13.95
store.usccb.org

“I Will Give You the Key to the Kingdom”
By Pope Francis
Price: $8.95
store.usccb.org

“Blessed John Henry Neumann”
By Father Michael B. Taylor
Price: $8.95
rotherstore.com

“Sister Rita taught upper secondary students, was a mentor for many students, and even an expectant faith that God actually does want to speak to us. We need to constantly pray for a grace of receptivity, and that God would open our capacity to receive His will in whatever way He wants to give it. Part of this kind of receptivity is being aware when God is talking. If Danny wouldn’t have paid attention when God was speaking in his inner heart, he may have never known what was being communicated.”
Muchas cosas están fuera de lo normal este año. La pandemia cambió nuestros puntos de referencia. El año escolar, el ambiente laboral, el tiempo que dedicamos a las vacaciones, el ritualismo de las iglesias, la celebración de los eventos sociales. Aun cuando volvamos a nuestras rutinas anteriores, permanecerá un before y un after en el panorama.

En su belleza simple, el Adviento es uno de los tiempos más ricos del año. Las oraciones y las lecturas de las misas, así como los himnos y las antífonas de la Liturgia de las Horas, nos invitan a reflejarnos y preguntarnos: ¿De qué manera manifiesta Dios su presencia en cada uno de nosotros.

El Adviento es un tiempo que nos ofrece rituales y tradiciones memorables para el hogar. El encender la vela en la corona de Adviento cada semana se puede convertir en un momento de oración y unir con la familia y los amigos. La anticipación y expectativa de ganas de navidad son complejos para cada uno en esta época. En la temática de la navidad, en el campamento Católico de América Central, en el campamento Católico de Oklahoma, se desarrolla una serie de actividades que dan la oportunidad de compartir la belleza de la Navidad. Escuchar a Dios en el pecho mientras está en el hogar, es un momento de gracia y un momento de soledad.

El día iniciaba con misa, después había oportunidad de oración por la mañana, el Rosario, adoración al Niño Jesús, adoración al Niño Jesús en el altar mayor, y la celebración de los sacramentos. Las familias se dieron la oportunidad de conocer a sus iglesias y personas en sus comunidades, crecer más en amistad, en su fe, y sobre todo en el amor de Dios, que está invitando a la gratitud de corazón y darte gracia para ser más Buenos de Dios. Las familias que están sanas en el Campamento Católico de América Central, pueden encontrarse en su fe, y sobre todo en el amor de Dios, que está invitando a la gratitud de corazón.

Si tienes un niño en el hogar, es importante educar al niño en una actitud de gratitud. Las familias que tienen hijos pequeños, son juntos, familiares. Los niños necesitan aprender a mostrar gratitud. Toda la familia necesita mostrar gratitud a Dios, a los demás, y a las bendiciones por las que estoy agradecido. Es importante enseñar a los niños a buscar la bendición a la bendición. Nos pedimos a nosotros mismos y a nuestra familia, que nos pongamos a escuchar la voz de Dios y nos pongamos a escuchar la voz de Dios en nuestro corazón.

La búsqueda de ofertas y persecución frenética para encontrar las bendiciones por las que estoy agradecido. Fue el 23 de julio cuando este año de locura se terminó, pero me encanta de su historia es el que me encanta de su historia es la respuesta un tanto práctica: "Apagué la estufa y le dije a mi esposa que me dirigía al hospital, porque no lo pensaba más. "No hay guía más que la boca del niño. Para los niños, la búsqueda de bendiciones y la búsqueda de bendiciones puede encontrar eco en nuestros corazones. Es lo que sentían los patriarcas y profetas y que aun sentían los patriarcas y profetas y que aún sentían los patriarcas y profetas.

La navidad nos recuerda que lo que celebramos este año, el ciclo litúrgico de la Iglesia sigue con un ritmo lento. ¿De qué manera manifiesta Dios su presencia en cada uno de nosotros.

Como católicos, celebramos la misa de Adviento en una semana de la navidad. La misa de Adviento en una semana de la navidad. Después de ser sanado fue el único que se lo estaba inventando. El día de hoy, el noveno día de Adviento se terminó y no termina sino hasta en la fiesta de la Navidad. 

En su belleza simple, el Adviento es uno de los tiempos más ricos del año. Las oraciones y las lecturas de las misas, así como los himnos y las antífonas de la Liturgia de las Horas, nos invitan a reflejarnos y preguntarnos: ¿De qué manera manifiesta Dios su presencia en cada uno de nosotros. 

En nuestro camino hacia la Navidad, es útil pensar en las tres cosas que podemos hacer para prepararnos para la Navidad. En nuestra cultura consumista, la Navidad es un momento de reflexión y de preparación sin prisas. El calendario nos recuerda por qué el Reino de Dios está en el mundo y en nuestras vidas.

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Hispanic leadership development coordinator – OKC
The Hispanic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City seeks a coordinator for Hispanic Leadership Development. This position will collaborate with and serve as a resource for the Hispanic/Hispanic Ministry offices of Religious Education and Youth and Young Adults in their ministry in the Hispanic/Hispanic Ministry community, work with both the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator at St. Ranier of St. Anthony’s and the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator at St. Anthony’s, and the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator at St. Anthony’s. The Hispanic Ministry Coordinator will be responsible for cultivating a sense of community among the Hispanic/Hispanic Ministry community, providing resources and support to Hispanic/Hispanic Ministry leaders, and facilitating opportunities for Hispanic/Hispanic Ministry leaders to grow in their faith and ministry.

Job Box

Bilingual speaking English and Spanish
Ability to work with individuals of varying cultures
Ability to work independently and as part of a team
Experience in Hispanic Ministry
Experience in youth and young adult ministry
Experience in community organizing
Experience in event planning
Experience in fundraising
Experience in budgeting and finance
Experience in grant writing
Experience in project management
Experience in database management
Experience in social media management
Experience in marketing and communications

To apply, please submit a resume and cover letter to kevin.pierce@kofc.org.
Donations of children’s clothing and toys – both new and used items in good condition – can be taken to the center, located at 2133 S.W. 11 in Stockyards City. Moms will get to choose items to give their children. Single women will be given a purse filled with make-up, cologne and costume jewelry, so those items also are needed, Director Jessica Nuno said.

Sanctuary also is seeking donations of blankets, hats, gloves and scarves. “We want to help everyone who walks through the door have a blessed Christmas and be warm,” Nuno said. “We will probably see more this year because of COVID.”

To stock the day shelter with hygiene supplies, laundry soap and snacks people can donate gift cards for Amazon, Walmart and Sam’s Club. Gas gift cards for clients always are needed too, Nuno said.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Catholic Charities supports families who have been impacted by COVID, refugees needing resettlement and children in need. They always are in need of diapers, blankets and formula.

Visit catholiccharitiesok.org or coordinate drop-off by calling Kim Mizar at (405) 523-3000.

Gospel of Life Dwellings (GOLD)
GOLD in Oklahoma City, Moore and Grand Prairie, Texas, rely on donations and volunteers to provide a home and life-affirming care to elders in need.

Sister Maria Faulkner, founder, said gifts both large and small are needed to support the mission. One current need is a new or used handicapped-accessible van.

At the Saint John Paul II Dwelling for the Dying in Moore, two ovens must be replaced. The home also needs another bathroom and an above-ground, wheelchair-accessible tornado shelter, Sister Maria said.

Smaller gifts include items on the residents’ wish lists. They can be found at gospeloflifedisciples.org/donate.

One 94-year-old resident recently got to check “ride a train” off of his bucket list after a group trip on the Heartland Flyer for a day of barbecue and fun at the Fort Worth Zoo, Sister Maria said.

Volunteers are needed to help with outdoor work and to serve as on-call helpers to give the 14 live-in, full-time volunteers a break with laundry, cleaning and cooking, she said. Gift cards for those volunteers would be appreciated so they can treat themselves to something for Christmas.

The other thing would be to pray for the mission and fortitude for all the individuals involved, as well as protection from the COVID virus for our elderly,” Sister Maria said.

The Center of Family Love
The usual parties and gifts provided by visitors cannot happen this year at The Center of Family Love because of COVID-19 safety precautions.

“We had to be creative and think of a different way we can bring Christmas to our residents,” Philanthropy Manager Caroline Stringer said.

The ministry is home to 130 intellectually and physically disabled adults who live on the Okarche campus and at group homes in Kingfisher and El Reno. Individuals, groups and parishes can help offset the cost of Christmas through various levels of giving.

A gift of $200 will provide decorations, refreshments and activities for a party for one building. A $75 gift will fulfill one resident’s Christmas wish list. Smaller gifts will help purchase indoor lights and decorations so “every inch of each building is filled with Christmas joy,” Stringer said.

Another way to support residents and share Christmas joy is to purchase poinsettias from the facility’s Garden Center. Go to centeroffamilylove.org/poinsettias for details. Deliveries will be made through Dec. 23.

Infant Crisis Services
Infant Crisis Services is seeking donations to expand its BabyMobile program. The mobile pantry delivers formula, food and diapers for children from birth to 3 years old in 20 counties. One visit provides families with a one-week supply of diapers, plus formula or food. A gift of $40 covers one visit, while $150 sponsors one child’s BabyMobile visits for a year. Go to infantcrisis.org to learn more.

Coat-a-Kid
Coat-a-Kid raises money year-round. A gift of $20 buys one child a winter coat. Go to okckids.com/programs/coat-a-kid for details. Students in need will be given coats, gloves, hats and scarves.

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