Personal conversion needed to confront Satan’s lies, pope says in Lent message

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY – There is an urgent need for personal conversion, without which the temptations of Satan, and the presence of evil, create a “hell here on earth,” Pope Francis said in his 2020 Lenten message.

“Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus,” he said. “Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will.”

Rather, the pope said, life is born of the love of God our Father.

“If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the ‘father of lies,’ we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and
Resources for the Lenten journey

The season of our Lenten renewal is upon us. On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with ashes and exhorted to repent and believe the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These 40 days are a journey of faith and conversion leading to a renewal of our baptismal commitment at Easter, during the season of Lent.

We offer a variety of resources to help encourage all of the faithful to enter more deeply into reflection on the teaching of the pastoral letter. One resource is an essay that explores each article of the pastoral letter. These articles will be published weekly through March 29.

The pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship” during Lent. Our staff recently has completed another two-year discernment process, I want to take this opportunity to outline a plan that is the fruit of more than two years of discussion, consultation and consultation. It will guide the parishes, schools and other pastoral activities of the archdiocese for the next 10 years. It articulates our pastoral priorities, beginning with building a culture of conversion and discipleship. The pastoral letter is an extended reflection on the Parable of the Sower that was introduced at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, which lays out a plan that the archdiocese has followed in the pastoral letter of the pastoral letter and vice-versa. The two go together. Vision 2030 and Planning 2030 (as they were then called) are a one-session study guide. The other articles will be published weekly through March 29.

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What seminary do you attend? I attend Katok-Kreismann Seminary. If it is God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest? God willing, I will be ordained a priest in 2025.

What advice would you give to someone discerning a call to the priesthood? The best advice I received and can give is to be attentive to what moves you and stirs the deepest longings of your heart. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, they asked each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us?” This deep longing of the heart, only can be discovered and truly understood through prayer. Let your prayer be an opening of your heart to Jesus and letting him explore its many rooms. In letting Jesus into the home of your heart, you will be able to most clearly hear His call. This isn’t easy because often our hearts are a mess because of sin, and we are afraid to let Jesus see that. This is why He tells us, “Do not be afraid.” If you are discerning a call to the priesthood, go to confession often and let Jesus into those mess rooms of your heart.

What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest? If I look forward to being able to give to others what Jesus Christ gave to me, and tie for others what so many others have given to me, including friends, family, and the work of Christ, and to seek out His lost sheep, his prodigal children, I look forward to bringing them God’s grace through the sacraments, to bring a witness of the infinite love and mercy of God as he transforms lives through me. Honestly, I look forward to every day I get to meet and share the message of God’s love which always precedes and maintains us. Christians pray with the knowledge they are unworthy, but still loved by God, he said.

Francis also spoke about the pausal mystery and putting it at the center of one’s life, which he said means to have compassion for Christ cruci- fied as represented in “the many innocent vic- tims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence.”

About almsgiving, the pope said sharing one’s worldly goods helps to make the world a better place.

“Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness,” he said. Francis said apart from giving alms, Christians must also consider the structure of economic life, which is why he has convened in March a meeting with young men and women from around the world to bring about “a more just and inclusive economy.”

“The Economy of Francesco,” which will be presented at the next assembly of Pontifical and episcopal conferences around the world in December under the age of 35, will be held in Assisi on Oct. 3–5, 2021.

Pope Francis pointed to the crucified Jesus, who was nailed yet took on “the weight of our sins.”

“May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him,” he urged.

“I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God’s call to be reconciled to him, to fix our gaze on the pausal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him.”

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age 11 and nearly all boys and more than half of young women pornography by age 18. In Archbishop Charles Keeler’s 2019 letter about Safe Haven Sunday, he states, “The effects of pornography are absolutely devastating and complicate relationship behavior, and family breakup, human trafficking, an increasingly distorted understanding of the meaning and dignity of human sexuality and the holy respect for persons who become institutionalized for the sake of sexual gratification.

Very often it is through acciden-tal access by means of a pop-up ad or a typo during an internet search. Digital technology has instrumentalized for the sake of human sexuality and the loss of the meaning and dignity of marriage and family life. The archbishop, compared to other behaviors Ministry for the archdiocese, said, “The effects of pornog-raphy are absolutely devastating and complicate relationship behavior, and family breakup, human trafficking, an increasingly distorted understanding of the meaning and dignity of human sexuality and the holy respect for persons who become institutionalized for the sake of sexual gratification.

The archbishop invites the pastors about Safe Haven Sunday, “The effects of pornography are absolutely devastating and complicate relationship behavior, and family breakup, human trafficking, an increasingly distorted understanding of the meaning and dignity of human sexuality and the holy respect for persons who become institutionalized for the sake of sexual gratification.”

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And, people begin to work properly and want to have conversations. Children are taught to be guided by their parents on these issues. We don’t want them to find everything out from their peers.” He said the second way how Safe Haven Sunday will help is if someone is struggling with por-nography and hears their priest talk about it in the family, it will help us, because the priest needs to bring to God’s mercy the confessional.

The archdiocese also has part-nered with a company called Covenant Eyes that produces a book for Safe Haven Sunday each year. Covenant Eyes has developed an implementation guide to help parishes across the country reach out to families and explain ways to protect their children and loved ones from the evils of pornography.

Last year, the book was titled, “Equipped: Smart Catholic Par-enting in a Sexualized Culture,” and it talks about basic practices families can set up in their home to make it safer from pornography - like Google Safe Search or not having smart phones in the bed-rooms at night - to name a few. This year’s book is titled, “Candi-dat,” and it’s preserving exposure has occurred. It coaches parents on how to have a courageous con-versation with their children.

Covenant Eyes has set up a website for the archdiocese about the subject of pornography called Clean Heart Online. The website has a clearinghouse of resources available to parents with pornography and the addition.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY
A Prayer for Individuals and Families Loving Father,
Thank you for the gift of marriage and family life. We, especially you and I, have been made in your image and likeness, through God's gift of marriage. Help us to treasure the beauty of the family, which is the starting place for all who have and enter these walls. May our home be a place where love and respect are present, where kindness and mercy are shared, where every life is protected from beginning to end and guided to seek out great joy in asceticism, while embracing the traditions and values of the faith.

We ask this through the intercessions of the Holy Family, Jesus Christ, Son of God, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.

The archdiocese is proud of its long-standing commitment to supporting freedom of religion and preserving equal access to services for all people – regardless of their race, national origin, religion, age, sex, disabili-ty, sexual orientation or gender identity.

The case is already gaining attention months before oral arguments, which could be in Oc-tober.

He also said the city of Philadelphia is proud of its “long-standing commitment to supporting freedom of religion and preserving equal access to services for all people regardless of their race, national origin, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The case is already gaining attention months before oral arguments, which could be in Oc-tober.

She said the city’s decision to review the Phila-demphia’s “tolerant and discriminatory action against the Catholic Social Services foster care program is a welcome step forward toward reopen-ing doors to loving and stable foster homes.”

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In January 2002, Hampton Lawter walked to the front door of Saint Ann Retirement Center on the first day it opened — before the building was even unlocked. Eighteen years later, he’s still happily residing in the assisted living community at Saint Ann.

Lawter laughed as he recalled his first night there. “There was only one table in the dining room, and I was the only resident there. I spent the night alone!”

Jan. 15 marked the 18th anniversary of the opening of the center, which is comprised of 120 independent living apartments and 50 assisted living residences. In the first year of operation, 25 residents moved in. Today, it is home to nearly 200 people. Along with Lawter, three staff members also have been with Saint Ann from day one. LaTrona Fullbright now serves as administrator of assisted living. Crystal Siggins manages a busy front desk in the independent living section and Daree Kuykendall serves as executive chef/food service director. Father Price Grimes celebrated the very first Mass at Saint Ann in the dining room and continues to celebrate Mass several days a week.

Lawter repeatedly praised the staff for their unceasing smiles, warmth and genuine concern for his well-being. Fullbright is notably proud of Saint Ann Assisted Living’s zero-deficiency status on state surveys conducted by the state for the past two years.

Mission and Community Relations Director Richard Amend joined Saint Ann in 2006. “I always had felt a calling toward Saint Ann,” he said. “I had talked to Archbishop Beltran about it and a few months later, he offered me a job! We have been blessed with a beautiful community here, and there is a lot we want to share about it. The camaraderie of the people here is so amazing!” Residents watch sporting events together in the 200-seat event theater, check out books from the library, play cards in the game room and relax at the “hydration station” with a drink from the coffee bar. Never passing up a reason to celebrate any holiday, the Saint Ann staff goes all out to create a festive atmosphere, celebrating everything from National Hat Day to Cinco De Mayo, including themed meals.

Following their move from Villa Teresa in 2014, the sisters resided in the independent living apartments while the convent was under construction. A walkway connects the convent to Saint Ann. Saint Joachim Chapel originally was built as a prayer chapel, seating only 40 people. Eventually, it was enlarged to its current capacity.

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

St. Ann Retirement Center recently celebrated its 18th anniversary. Pictured are resident Hampton Lawter and employees Crystal Siggins, Daree Kuykendall and LaTrona Fullbright, who have been at St. Ann since it opened in 2002.
The Strategic Planning Vision Team for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City gathered March 6, 2020, to discuss the multiple ways it is working to advance the Archdiocese's mission and vision this year.

To see more job openings, go online to www.archokc.org/jobs.

Book review: “Marketing God”

By John H. Deolan

The content of the book is organized within 40 Truths that apply the methodology of the book, with each chapter serving as an overview of each of the 40 Truths. The content is presented through a marketing, management, and business approach that makes the book relevant to many different industries and walks of life. It is a useful tool for anyone interested in marketing, management, or business.

The book is written in an easy-to-read style and is filled with helpful tips and strategies for marketing God to others. It is a valuable resource for anyone looking to increase their understanding of marketing and management techniques and how they can be applied to the Christian faith.

The book is available on Amazon and other online retailers.
La época de nuestra renovación cuaremesal está sobre nosotros. El Miercoles de Ceniza, un día de penitencia, ha sido tradicionalmente un momento de remoción y renovación de nuestra conciencia. En este tiempo, se enfatiza la necesidad de renunciar a las pasiones del mundo y volver a Dios. La Cuaresma nos invita a una reflexión profunda sobre nuestras formas de vida y relaciones con Dios.

**Recursos para el viaje Cuaresmal**

- **La epoca de nuestra renovación cuaremesal está sobre nosotros. El Miercoles de Ceniza, un dia de penitencia, ha sido tradicionalmente un momento de remoción y renovacion de nuestra conciencia. En este tiempo, se enfatiza la necesidad de renunciar a las pasiones del mundo y volver a Dios. La Cuaresma nos invita a una reflexion profunda sobre nuestras formas de vida y relaciones con Dios.**

**Papa: Ser manso no significa ser cobarde**

- **Papa: Ser manso no significa ser cobarde. Un enemigo inóspito y virulento puede parecer manso, pero más allá del aspecto exterior, su intención es dañar. El papa Francisco ha reiterado que ser manso no es ser cobarde, sino un signo de fuerza y sabiduría.**

**Se trata de nuestras relaciones!**

- **La Cuaresma es un buen momento para examinar nuestras relaciones con Dios y la comunidad cristiana. Esto incluye reflexionar sobre nuestras formas de oración, ayuno y limosna. Nos invita a hacer un examen de conciencia y rectificar nuestras acciones.**

**Retiro el Viernes de Raquel - Tulsa**

- **March 20 al 22 (Español). El retiro se puede unir a una maratón de oraciones y meditación en grupo. La Cuaresma es un buen momento para profundizar en nuestras relaciones con Dios y reflexionar sobre nuestras formas de vida.**

**Para enviar fotos, información sobre su lado o ideas de publicación, puede que se envíe un correo electrónico a tips@sooner.org.**

**Contacto Diocesano Local**

- **Lorelie Cogges (405) 721-1415**

**Recursos para el viaje Cuaresmal**

- **El papa continuó una serie de recomendaciones para el viaje Cuaresmal. Además de la oración, ayuno y limosna, recomendó la lectura de las obras de Génesis y toda la Biblia hasta el libro de Apocalipsis. Esto nos da una oportunidad para examinar nuestras relaciones con Dios y la comunidad cristiana.**

**Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.**

Es posible encontrar signos de la nueva alianza y su presencia real en nuestras relaciones. "Señor Jesús, gracias por esta alianza; gracias por tu presencia real aquí en la Eucaristía. Gracias por la hermosa amistad que nos ofrece a todos y cómo, a través de tu presencia, somos una Iglesia. Ayúdanos a cumplir mi parte de las responsabilidades de la alianza y gracias por haber cumplido con las tuyas. Amén."
**Becoming**

The 13th annual Faith Community Nurses’ Association Conference, “Healing Through the Arts: A Celebration of the Arts,” is March 6 at Crossings Community Center, 10225 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in OKC. Check online for rates. Visit www.ccfnok.org or contact fcnaok@gmail.com.

**Divorced? Separated?**

“Surviving Divorce” is a 13-week program held in person or by Zoom. A session begins March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Edmond and meets 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. every Saturday for the next 13 weeks. For information and location, call (405) 359-2700 or visit stmoniokc.com.

**Black and Indian Mission**

The Black and Indian Mission Conference, Crosstown Community Center, 10225 S. Pennsylvania Ave., will be April 3 – 4 at noon. For information, visit crosswoc.org or call (405) 793-0101.

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For many years, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was divided into nine regions. Each region had a vicar, appointed by the archbishop. Recently, with the assistance of the Priests Council, Archbishop Coakley reorganized the archdiocese using terminology found in Canon Law.

The regions are now known as “deaneries” and the vicars will be called “deans.”

This change provides an opportunity to consolidate the nine previous regions into six deaneries arranged by geographic area. A smaller number of deaneries will make it possible to gather together not only the priests of that deanery, but also staff members from the parishes and missions to help advance the mission of the Church in Oklahoma.