There is grace in our midst

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley Easter homily

It's a special privilege to be able to come to you from our Cathedral Church, from Our Lady of Perpetual Help here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to celebrate this Holy Mass, this glorious feast of Easter. These are not ordinary days. Something strange is happening. There is a great silence on earth today. A great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the king is asleep. These are words from an ancient homily for Holy Saturday that the Church's Office of Readings offers for prayer each year on that day, yesterday. It ponders in a palpable and evocative way the silent pause between the Lord's death on Good Friday and his triumphant resurrection on Easter Sunday.

I am happy to greet you wherever you are this Easter Sunday. But, I suspect that for most of us, it will seem like the long Lent of 2020 continues. It still feels a great deal like Holy Saturday. We are waiting in hope. There is indeed a great silence on earth today. We're sheltered in place. Out of concern for one another and for ourselves, we are practicing social distancing to slow the spread of the virus. We feel isolated. We feel lonely. We miss our ordinary routines and our social contacts. We miss our friends. We have not even gathered to sing our Easter praises with our parish community. There is not a public Mass being celebrated in any of our parishes for Easter Sunday or for the foreseeable future. The Lenten fast continues in the form of a prolonged fast from the Holy Eucharist. Something strange is happening. Indeed, perhaps something unprecedented, we wonder.

Certainly, no one living today remembers that on Oct. 4, 1918 a letter went out to the priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia during a similar crisis. A brief letter read, "Reverend dear sir, we hereby direct your attention 'to the order from the Board of Health' issued Thursday October 3, which prohibits the assemblage 'of all persons in the churches and schools of Philadelphia during a similar crisis. A brief letter read, "Reverend dear sir, we hereby direct your attention 'to the order from the Board of Health' issued Thursday October 3, which prohibits the assemblage 'of all persons in the churches and schools of Philadelphia until further notice.' Yours faithfully in Christ, D.J. Daugherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia."

continued on page 16

We are still here to educate and serve

Catholic Schools in the archdiocese continue educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic

"Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2020 has an even deeper meaning now than it did when schools throughout the archdiocese celebrated the annual event in January.

By mid-March, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diane Floyd was facing a rapidly changing situation full of unknowns. Schools were closing and she urgently needed to implement a learning plan designed to serve the needs of every student.

Floyd, along with Associate Superintendent Rachel Dowell and Allyson Helm, immediately began drafting a framework and assisting schools in assessing the needs of...
Where do we go from here?

For more than six weeks we have been adjust-
ing to a rapidly shifting landscape brought about by the spread of COVID-19. This dangerous virus has affected virtually every aspect of our lives, including the way we work and worship, the way we teach and learn, and the way we socialize.

Life goes on, however. We have learned new jargon and adopted new practices to “flatten the curve” and “slow the spread” of this highly con-
tagious virus for which there is still no vaccine or cure.

I have been inspired by the generosity of our health care workers and front-line responders who have continued to serve, often at great cost to themselves and their families. The effects of the contagion have been devastating in terms of lives lost, jobs lost, growing economic insecurity and a sense of fear and isolation.

Our pastoral life has certainly been affected as well. I have been inspired by the creativity of so many of our pastors and lay leaders who have found ways to connect with their parishion-
ers and fellow Catholics through live-streamed Masses, Zoom meetings and even drive up Masses and confession.

I applaud the hidden heroism of our priests who continue to offer Mass in empty churches for the salvation of the world and for an end to this pandemic. I suppose it will only be in ret-

Going forward, we will have to consult and plan for a gradual opening of our churches, tak-

ing necessary precautions to limit spread of the virus and maintaining social distances appropri-
ately to the changing conditions. The governor has indicated that as of May 3 worship services may resume in Oklahoma. However, given the nature of Catholic Mass and the personal and physical contact involved in the sacraments, that will not be the case for us.

The challenges have been significant. But, we have shown remarkable resilience. In terms of the practice of our faith, I have a strong sense that a hunger for the Eucharist among the faithful has been deepening because of this pro-

longed Eucharistic fast. I pray this produces a renewed appreciation for the Mass and all of the sacraments as we begin to return to a more normal litur-
gical, pastoral and sac-
cramental life within our parishes in the weeks and months ahead.

Due to some early trends indicating that in certain areas it might soon be safe to lift some social restrictions, conversations have begun about the proper timing for opening the econ-

omy while preserving the gains we have made in terms of public health. Similar conversations are underway to develop a plan to transition back to a more normal life within our parishes.

While the changes in parish life were sudden, once we recognized the dangers posed by the spread of the virus and received guidance from medical and civil authorities, it will not be possi-
ble to return to “normal” as quickly. Overnight, there were no more public Masses. Access to Holy Communion was suspended immediately. That was shocking for all of us.

While moving forward, we will have to consult and plan for a gradual opening of our churches, tak-

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ately to the changing conditions. The governor has indicated that as of May 3 worship services may resume in Oklahoma. However, given the nature of Catholic Mass and the personal and physical contact involved in the sacraments, that will not be the case for us. I am consulting with the Priests Council and with medical and civil au-

thorities as well as bishops in other parts of the country.

There is no playbook for how to do this. I ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit will give wis-
dom and counsel as to the best way to proceed. Christ is Risen! Indeed, he is risen! Alleluia!

Archbishop Coakley provided the blessing at the Remembrance Ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 2015.

Put Out Into the Deep

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Christ is Risen! Indeed, he is risen! Alleluia!

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Anadarko parishioner makes masks for community

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

Seamstress Katherine Abbott, a parishioner at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko, has been sewing since her mother taught her as a child. So, when COVID-19 hit Oklahoma, she didn’t hesitate to start making personal protection masks for her community and family.

“She just starting to help out and do my part,” Abbott said. She has made 40 masks so far, donating them to her sister-in-law’s granddaughter and a friend of her daughter who works at hospitals. She sent masks to her sister who is a nephrologist in Texas, and she donated several masks to Anadarko Public Schools, where she is the school nurse. She also gave masks to school employees who were handling distance learning packets to students.

“If they did not have a mask, I made sure they had a mask,” Abbott said. “I have worked in a hospital, so I understand about infection control. Since people are out there risking themselves, I figured we have to keep them healthy and safe as possible.”

When Abbott began selling masks, she used cotton material, trying to make them as close to hospital quality as possible. Although the material was tough on her sewing machine, she did not stop making masks until her material ran out. She said living in a rural town, her sewing supplies are limited, and the online stores are backed up. She said as long as there is a need for them, she will continue to make and distribute masks to do her part in keeping the community safe.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelancer writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Katherine Abbott wears one of the masks she makes and distributes to the community. Photo provided.

During the coronavirus quarantine, Erin Kowen painted an “Easter door” on her front door using tape and washable paints as a reminder that home is the first church. Photo provided.

American Indian Catholic Outreach Princess Adriene Schonchin volunteered to load the food baskets that the Oklahoma Nation ordered on April 21 at the Comanche Nation Complex in Lawton. The food baskets were delivered throughout Southwest Oklahoma. Photo provided.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

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Visit the archdiocesan website at www.archokc.org
To learn more about seminary, contact: Rev. Brian Buettner at okcvocations.com

Meet the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

To know more about seminary, contact: Rev. Brian Buettner at okcvocations.com

Brannon Lepak
What is your home parish? My home parish is Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City.


What do you look forward to most about becoming a priest? I would advise them to pray in adoration frequently and call Father Brian Buettner about your vocation.

If it’s God’s will, will you be ordained a priest? If it’s God’s will, I will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021.

What advice would you give to someone discerning a call to the priesthood? I would advise them to pray in adoration frequently and call Father Brian Buettner about your vocation.

If it’s God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest? If it is God’s will, what year will you be ordained a priest? If it is God’s will, I will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021.

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Longtime Catholic educator honored with memorial scholarship

Pro-life billboards provide signs of hope

By Elisa Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

In July 2018, the Knights of Columbus Council #12108 of St. Mark Church in Norman sponsored this billboard along Interstate 35 in Norman. Photo provided.

By Steve Gust
The Sooner Catholic

Although Morton never worked directly with Hughes, he met him on different occasions. "Frank was a great guy and a man of faith," Morton said. "After he left here, he would still come back for some of the games. He was a big part of the McGuinness family."

His daughter, one of his three children, agreed with that assessment. "When my dad passed away, we heard from so many of his former students," she said. "He touched so many young lives."

The family is hoping the scholarship will help provide student athletes the chance to succeed. To learn more about the scholarship or to contribute, go online to www.frankchughes.com.

Longtime Catholic educator honored with memorial scholarship

By Steve Gust
The Sooner Catholic

St. John Henry Newman was one of the most effective teachers and apostles in the history of the Church. We believe that a theological formation rooted in the witness of his life and work can advance today’s New Evangelization as well.

The Graduate Program in Theology at Newman is designed for working adults looking to grow in their understanding of their faith and their ability to pass it on as catechists in parishes, schools and communities.

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Classes are forming now for summer and fall terms. For more information, please contact Dr. Joshua Rapport at (785) 942-4291, ext. 2046. Please also visit our website for more information: www.newman.edu/TheologyMA

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SALINA, OKLAHOMA CITY, TULSA AND LITTLE ROCK Dioceses

The idea for running pro-life billboards stemmed from Vic Mundung, the Knights’ Life Director for Oklahoma. Mundung said people seem to always be looking for signs.

“As human beings we’re look- ing for signs,” he said. “God put it on my heart we need to have a presence and a positive force out there.”

Mundung and his late wife often sent prayer in faith and put up the first money for the initial billboards. Mundung’s wife passed away unexpectedly two days before Christmas in 2018 and never got to see the billboard campaign come to fruition. Devastated by her passing, Mundung’s fellow Knight, Dr. Ron Larchick, picked up the effort and ran with it.

“It was an amazing thing,” Mundung says.

Partnering with Tyler Media, the Knights have sponsored 12 electronic billboards and benches. The billboards go up in phases, allowing the Knights to collect the money for six months and pay for the billboards the next six.

Larchick, grand knight for Council #12108 and state trainer, says he has solicited comments from other Knights about what the campaign means to them.

“We’ve had a lot of good comments and compliments about what we’ve done,” Dr. Larchick said. “It has been fantastic.”

“We have an obligation as Catho- lic men to be the voice for the most vulnerable who need our protec- tion against abortion,” said Steve Rose, state warden.

Pat Thang, member of Council #12108 in Yukon, said, “I believe the pro-life billboards are thought-provoking and let people know that Catholics have a firm stand on the ‘Choose life’ issue.”

Larchick said the billboards remind people how precious life is, while simultaneously putting the Knights on the forefront of the bat- tle against abortion. The Knights would like to see their efforts continue, eventually expanding to Tulsa.

Currently, 15 councils in the state and several individuals, including non-Knights, fund the effort. To learn more about the pro-life billboard campaign, visit www.kofc12108.org.
“We are still here to educate and serve”

continued from page 1

their students and staff.

“The first thing we had to ask was: What are the needs of our students?” Floyd explained. “What kind of professional development do our teachers need to do this, and how can we provide that given the limitations?”

Efforts focused on creating plans for the most self-sufficient learners – high school students.

“Mount Saint Mary and Cristo Rey students already use Chromebooks, and Bishop McGuinness students use tablets, so we knew we already had devices available,” Floyd explained.

Following spring break, high school students immediately returned to their work, having the advantage of being exempt from the two-week cessation that public schools in Oklahoma were bound to.

“Cristo Rey was actually already further along at this point because they are part of a network and were able to model their plan from schools in other states that had already started,” she said.

Taking only a week-long break from the curriculum, Floyd worked quickly with school administrators to determine the best way to serve the youngest students in the archdiocese.

“For Pre-K through 2nd grade students, we asked ourselves what does learning look like for these age groups?” she said. “These teachers know what’s best for their students.”

Many schools opted for a blended option, combining work packets with online activities using an early childhood learning program called SeeSaw.

Parents submit pictures and videos of activities their children have completed, creating a more interactive experience.

“8th grade already were proficient in online platforms such as Google Classroom, Kahn Academy and IXL. Additionally, a majority of students have been able to continue interacting with teachers and classmates using Google meet and Zoom.”

Melissa Hooper’s daughter Bradley, a 3rd-grader at All Saints Catholic School in Norman, enjoys getting to see her classmates every morning during their daily Zoom call.

“I didn’t realize how much they missed their time together in class, so that’s been good for her,” Hooper said.

As a working parent, Hooper appreciated how hard administrators, teachers and staff worked to make the transition learning experience interactive and fun. Art teacher Amanda Herron created a website for students to find activities and upload artwork to share with classmates.

“We are not giving up,” Murphy said. “We are still here to educate and serve.”

Good Shepherd at Mercy, a school that serves children with autism and other neurological disorders, is providing as much support to parents as possible in an effort to minimize regression.

“Creating materials and videos to help parents provide therapy in the home and regular check-ins with families allow teachers to maintain those personal connections with their students.”

Floyd praised all school staff on their efforts, and proudly described how beneficial the conversations, ideas and creativity have been for the students. “This has allowed us to think differently about our mission,” Floyd said.

“We’ve discovered that it’s not easy! But, we are staying true to our mission to form young people with God’s love and mercy and there has to be some mercy in all of this, it’s not going to be perfect. We are all learning as we go along, and we all will come out better for what we’ve been through.”

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
When ventilators are in short supply, several key ethical principles can be used to decide which patient or his or her health care team should be allowed to use a scarce ventilator. One way to approach this problem is to use a triage committee to buffer clinicians from the potential bias of patients and their families. A triage committee should be set up at the beginning of a crisis and its decisions communicated to all caregivers.

As the crisis situation worsens, the triage committee should be allowed to refuse patients. It can then be reviewed by a second committee, which includes the patient’s primary clinician. If the patient is denied ventilator support, dialogue should be initiated with the patient or his or her surrogate decision maker. At the beginning of the event, a lottery or another randomization procedure should be used to choose who will receive ventilator support and who will be denied. When ventilators are no longer needed, patients should be weaned off the ventilator as soon as possible.

In situations where a patient on a ventilator is clearly deteriorating and there is no hope of rescue, one might consider stopping life support. However, this decision should be made in a way that respects the patient’s wishes when they were told about their condition.

If the patient has no wishes or cannot communicate their wishes, the decision should be made in a way that respects the patient’s wishes when they were told about their condition. If the patient has no wishes or cannot communicate their wishes, the decision should be made in a way that respects the patient’s wishes when they were told about their condition.

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Declaración del arzobispo Coakley en el vigesimquinto aniversario de las víctimas del ataque terrorista de Oklahoma City el 19 de abril de 2015

Aplaudo el heroísmo oculto de nuestros trabajadores de atención médica y personal de primera línea que han contado con nosotros y nos han cuidado durante este tiempo de pandemia. A ello se debe que se nos proporcione la vida que queremos y que seamos puestos al trabajo y vecinos. Estamos agradecidos por la fe que se ha mantenido a pesar de tantas adversidades. Estamos agradecidos por la fe que se ha mantenido a pesar de tantas adversidades.

En este Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, celebramos el amor y la ternura misericordiosas de Dios, que cada sacerdote recita claramente en la consagración “in persona Christi” (una frase latina que significa en la persona de Cristo), son palabras que Jesús nos habla con poder transformador.

Algunas de mis experiencias recientes como arzobispo me han animado a recordar a nuestras víctimas como seres humanos, a recordarles que son más que símbolos o estatuas. A los que nos han prestado atención, queremos decirles que nuestros pensamientos y oraciones están con ustedes. A los que nos han ayudado, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por su servicio.

La vida continúa, sin embargo. Hemos aprendido una nueva manera de estar en comunidad y de ayudarnos mutuamente. Hemos aprendido la importancia de cuidar nuestra salud y la necesidad de cuidarnos unos a otros.

En el futuro, tendremos que consultar y planificar una apertura gradual de nuestras parroquias. Necesitamos un plan para la transición y regresar a una vida normal y segura para nuestras comunidades.

Si bien los cambios en la vida parroquial pueden ser difíciles para algunos, también nos brindan una oportunidad de crecer a través de estas pruebas. Llegaremos a un punto en el que podremos evaluar con precisión lo que hemos aprendido y cómo hemos crecido a través de estas pruebas.

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Reporting service launched on Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting

Support your parish

Sunday Masses, prayers, an act of reflection by The Ministry of the Holy Spirit, COVID-19 information, online chapel. Watch the Mass online at archokc.org or live on Facebook Live on the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Facebook page.

COVID-19 information, online Mass set

Find a list of online daily and Sunday Masses, prayers, an act of spiritual communion and other resources related to the quarantines happening at archokc.org/health.

Support your parish

Even though public Masses are suspended, parishes and priests still need financial support from parishioners. Find online giving links and mailing addresses for your parish at archokc.org/parish-giving.

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service launched

The new Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service launched on March 13. 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 by telephone toll-free at 800-276-1562 or online at reportbishops.org. The reporting party can choose to remain anonymous. For more information, go online to archokc.org/leader/catholicbishopabuse/report or report abuse by clergy, volunteers or church and school employees, call (405) 720-9878. If a child is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

Becoming a seminarian priest

Our seminarians are away from home for months at a time during their formation. While at home, they would like to hear from people back home in Oklahoma! To become a daily Mass supporter, email Manley at archokc.org/prep, find their addresses and write a note.

Deacon formation program

The application period is open for the Permanent Deacon Class of 2021. Apply, meet with the pastor at the parish where you are registered. The pastor will request an application be mailed to you. Complete the request and supporting documents; e-mail complete application as instructed in the packet for review and assessment. Applications will be accepted by May 15.

Radiothon

The Oklahoma Catholic Radio Chapel in Oklahoma City. Every Monday night at 8:30 p.m. on 94.3 FM. Take part in “Our Mother’s Heart: The Immaculate Treasure of Love” with Abbot Lawrence Slavin, O.S.B., from 8:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. June 20 at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Early bird discount $30; $35 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Archdiocese and the Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City. Everyone is invited to attend.

A Day of Reflection

“Our Mother’s Heart: The Immaculate Treasure of Love” with Abbot Lawrence Slavin, O.S.B., will be 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. June 20 at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. Early bird discount $30; $35 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Archdiocese and the Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine executive director

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an executive director for the Bl. 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 construction of all business and operational aspects of the shrine; providing executive leadership for lay employees and contractors supporting the shrine; strategic planning for the facilities; programs, resource development and outreach; serving as the assistant secretary of the board of directors for the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine as a non-voting member; and promotion of pilgrimages and other activities that will take place on the campus. Must be a faithful Catholic who has active participation in parish life and forms life around the teachings of the Church. The position requires a master’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education (a master’s degree in business or other discipline using analytical processes preferred), five years in executive leadership with complete financial responsibility; demonstrated ability to provide oversight to staff and volunteers. Experience in shrine leadership preferred. Bilingual in Spanish strongly preferred. Field inquiries and resumes to Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, Director of Operations, 405-720-9878. Resume and cover letter to nlargent@archokc.org.

Parish secretary – Del City

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Del City has an immediate opening for a part-time parish secretary. The hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Abil- ity to communicate and interface in a tactful and professional manner with the pastor and the members of the parish in required as well as the general public in person, by telephone and via e-mail. Advanced usage of Microsoft Office software, including Word, Excel and parish database software required. Organizational efficiency, adaptability, time management and the ability to meet deadlines required. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Middle school math/theology teacher – OKC

St. James the Greater Catholic School, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for a middle school math/theology teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Should hold a bachelor’s degree in education with state teaching certification in the desired teaching area. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate to Alicia Vazquez, principal, 1224 S.W. 41st, Oklahoma City, OK 73109 or sarah.james@jamescatholic.org. Download teacher application packet at archokc.org/careers.

Middle school administrator – OKC

Christ the King Catholic School is interviewing middle school administrative applicants for the 2020-2021 school year. A bache- lor’s degree in secondary administration and the ability to meet deadlines required. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.
Undoubtedly, such prohibitions and precautions were common throughout the nation and throughout the world during the Great Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. That crisis eventually passed and this one will too. God is with us and even in the midst of this time of suffering and fear and isolation, we dare to proclaim Christ is risen, he is truly risen, hallelujah. COVID-19 cannot suppress our Easter Proclamation. Our proclamation of victory, life over death. We may indeed continue to experience fear and loneliness, vulnerability certainly, economic insecurity and the burden of our own mortality in the wake of this COVID-19 pandemic for quite some time. Our own personal experience of the joy the victory of Easter might be subduced or even delayed this year. But, Christ is risen, he is truly risen. And, so we dare to say and proclaim hallelujah.

Jesus the Son God took on our human weakness, he took on our mortality and frailty. He embraced it so that we would not suffer alone. He invites us. He invites us to unite our anguish and sufferings to his, as he offers himself to the Father for our sins and for the sins of the world.

This crisis will pass because Jesus Christ is victorious, because God is faithful, because God has not abandoned his people, he did not abandon his only begotten son to the tomb. His mercy endures forever. We may have to experience the waiting of Holy Saturday a bit longer. But, it is a grace filled time. God is with us in the midst of this trial.

During this time, I know that we are becoming more aware, more aware of the needs, the suffering, the anxiety of one another, more appreciative of the importance of spending time with our families and loved ones. I hope that we are becoming more patient. I hope that we are becoming more kind, more understanding of one another. We’re all inspired and edified by the great example of so many generous and even heroic servants in our health care field, our frontline workers who are risking their lives to serve us. We are all enduring similar burdens. Though certainly some are enduring much heavier burdens than others. I pray that our solidarity, or experience of solidarity brought on by this global pandemic continues to find expression in our attitudes, gestures, our actions, long after this crisis passes. There is grace in our midst at work.

I pray that our current hunger and longing for the Holy Eucharist and for the sacraments produces a renewed commitment, a commitment to share fully in the life and the sacraments of the Church long after our live-streamed Masses and closed churches give way to open doors and in-person celebrations of the Mass and the sacraments once again. Most of all, I pray that we may experience a new and in a deeper way, our need for the Lord, who alone can satisfy the deepest yearnings and hungers of our hearts. And, that we might turn to him during this time and find Easter joy. He offers us his friendship. He has given his life for us. And there is no greater consolation than that, to share his life, to be his friend.

I pray that the invitation we received weeks ago, it seems like months ago, when we were marked with ashes to begin this long Lent finds new meaning this Easter Sunday and throughout this Easter season. Repent and believe in the Gospel, believe in the good news. Christ is risen, that’s the good news. Christ is risen, hallelujah!

Top left - Chrism Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Middle right - Holy Thursday, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Photo Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic; Bottom left - Good Friday, Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church. Photos Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.