A personal Saint Joseph

For Father’s Day, Fr. Aaron Foshee shared how his “Poppa,” G. Wayne Walton, taught him to be a man of integrity

Q: What kind of Christian example has your step-dad been for you?
A: Poppa has been an example of fortitude and diligence when things have been hard. He instilled in me a quote that I say all the time, especially to my spiritual directees: “Breathe, and don’t lock your knees!” This is how Poppa has been able to get through his own personal hardships throughout his life; to persevere through the discomfort, frustration or unfairness. He has shown me how important it is to take up my cross and follow Christ’s example, even when it’s difficult.

Q: What are some of his goals for his family?
A: Poppa’s primary goal for his family has been to get them to heaven. He has worked to make this goal a reality by being an example himself of charity, humility and commitment.

Q: Who have been examples that he has followed in his life?
A: While not an example of fatherhood, one of the greatest examples of Christian holiness that I can think of that has been a phenomenal influence has been Mother Teresa. Even before we

continued on page 5

Archbishop ordains two seminarians to the transitional diaconate

OKLAHOMA CITY – Archbishop Coakley ordained seminarians Rodrigo Serna and Brannon Lepak to the transitional diaconate on June 6 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Due to precautions related to COVID-19, the ordination was open to the seminarians’ family and friends but was not open to the public. The ordination was live-streamed.

God willing, the new deacons will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021.

Archbishop Coakley spoke

continued on page 7
Confirmandi quandary: Let us hear from you!

Young people are valued members of the Body of Christ. They have much to offer the Church and the Church has much to offer them. Our young people are so important in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City that our Vision 2030 pastoral priorities of our Vision 2030 plan simultaneously.

The unique challenges that youth face today and the alarming statistics lead me to believe that we need to re-think what we are doing, and intentionally working toward a more effective approach will touch on all five pastoral priorities of our Vision 2030 plan.

I have previously considered this question, I have come to the conviction that the question of the most advantageous age and formation process for Confirmation is one we need to address at this time in the archdiocese. Careful and prayerful evaluation of what we are currently doing, and intentionally working toward a more effective approach will touch on all five pastoral priorities of our Vision 2030 plan.

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From the Archives …

Bishop Theophile Meerschaert came to the Fevers in September of 1898 from Belgium to bring the Gospel to the predominantly non-Catholic areas of Mississippi and later as vicar apostolic to what would become the Diocese of Oklahoma. A series of diaries that meticulously tracked his movements throughout the state still exist and are priceless vignettes that paint a picture of life in the early days of the Oklahoma Church.

One such glimpse can be seen in the opening of the new church in Eufaula. This new structure was the result of the labor of Father William Ketchum, who would later head the Catholic Indian Bureau in Washington. His responsibilities included most of eastern Oklahoma from Pawhuska to Ardmore.

Meerschaert continued:

The Sooner Catholic, June 21, 2020
Archbishop ordains two seminarians to the transitional diaconate

continued from page 1

to the seminarians about their calling, sacrifice and their gifts. 
"Strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, these men will help the bishop and his priests in the ministry of the word, of the altar and of charity, showing themselves to be servants to all. As ministers of the altar, they will proclaim the Gospel, prepare the Sacrament and distribute the Lord’s Body and Blood to the faithful," Archbishop Coakley said during his homily.

"Firmly rooted and grounded in faith, you are to live chastely and beyond reproach before God and man as is proper for the minister of Christ and a steward of God’s mysteries. Never allow yourself to be turned away from hope offered by the Gospel… When you go out to meet the Lord, you will be able to hear him say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.’”

Deacon Lepak’s home parish is Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City and he attends Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass. Deacon Serna’s home parish is Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman. He is studying at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Mo.

Are you discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life?
Contact Fr. Brian Buettner, Vocations Director, at bbuettner@archokc.org for more information. okcvocations.com.

The Corpus Christi procession on June 14 at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sulphur. Photos provided.

Photos Chris Porter, Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

The St. Philip Neri Catholic School 8th grade students celebrated graduation May 28 by throwing their masks in the air. Photo provided.

Confirmation on June 3 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Elgin. Photo provided.

First Communion on June 14 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. Photo Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic.

First Communion on June 7 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sterling. Photo provided.

Confirmation on June 3 at St. Ann Catholic Church in Elgin. Photo provided.

The Corpus Christi procession on June 14 at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sulphur. Photos provided.

Photos Chris Porter, Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.
E assurance the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City retrieve the information they need to participate fully in the life of the Church is a daunting task in the best of times for the Office of Communications. The three-person staff coordinates media relations for the archdiocese, spearheads social media efforts, manages the archdiocesan website and produces the bi-weekly newspaper – the Sooner Catholic.

Diane Clay, director of communications, and editor of the Sooner Catholic, is assisted by Dana Attolico, managing editor, and Avery Holt, digital media coordinator.

“Communication is very important as part of the mission of the Church, especially these days when there are so many avenues to reach people,” Clay said.

It means using multiple Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram, the website, e-mail, letters, print and digital versions of Sooner Catholic, Oklahoma Catholic Radio and more to reach everyone from teens to senior adults – in English and in Spanish – simultaneously.

The mission became even more challenging when the first case of COVID-19 in Oklahoma was confirmed March 11. “It accelerated what a lot of people were doing,” Clay said.

From that point, we had to make a lot of very difficult decisions,” Clay said. Public Mass was suspended, parish offices closed and Catholic schools moved all coursework online.

“Communication was important before the pandemic, but it took on a critical role in helping us bring the faith to everyone and stay connected,” Clay said. “Communications suddenly became our lifeline to our faith.”

Archbishop Coakley live-streamed a rosary on March 19 that had more than 22,000 views. Zoom meetings provided regular communication between the archbishop and priests, and allowed faith formation classes, Bible study groups, youth groups and parish staffs to meet in real time.

“Technology kept us from being isolated and detached when our regular means of connecting disappeared,” Clay said. “A lot of people had to scramble to get the technology they needed. It took parishioners, it took priests being open to new things.”

Live-streamed Masses also piqued the interest of people who wanted to learn more about Catholicism and brought back some people who had left the Church, she said.

Parishes both large and small found new ways to stay connected with their members.

“You still need to connect with everyone in the best of times,” said Father Rick Stanberry, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City.

When the pandemic hit, the parish sent e-mails and letters to let members know two Masses and Stations of the Cross services would be live-streamed each week. Other e-mails offered reflections and announcements like where and when to pick up blessed palms before Palm Sunday.

Fortunately, Father Stanberry had two seminarians in residence who could help with technology and social media. “I wouldn’t have made it without them because my technological skill is bad,” he said.

Duncan Tienne, who was serving a pastoral year at Christ the King, became the host of “The CK Morning Show” three days a week. The show featured Father Stanberry, Tienne and Stephens Jones – who was temporarily in residence because his seminary was closed – for Morning Prayer, a live chat and an occasional special guest.

“People were yearning for the Eucharist, yearning to go to Mass.”

He added the Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration online, all using the iPhone.

But, the pastor did have a good iPhone that he used to livestream Mass on Facebook.

“The first week, I got 2,000 new Facebook friend requests,” Father Grover said. “People were yearning for the Eucharist, yearning to go to Mass.”

Eight miles across town, Corpus Christi Catholic Church had no recording equipment, no sound equipment and only Ily Internet service, Father Danny Grover said.

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Father Titus Pau came from the Kalay Diocese in Myanmar in December to serve the community. He has helped with communications and sacraments and translated the letter regarding reopening of the church into Myanmar.

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“It has been cold and crazy at the same time,” he said about the many changes and the technology that have kept people connected.

K.B. McRill is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
The COVID-19 developed; uncertainty about the future of the economy and whether jobs will be there for the 40 million newly unemployed; uncertainty about how long the public quarantines will be and what the continuing lockdowns will mean about what will happen to our industries, our homes, our families and our friends.

In the midst of such uncertainty, we naturally look for something firm to hold onto: Cata- strophic reversals, whether an outbreak of war, widespread epidemics or looming or a new coronavirus, humble us and remind us how we cannot guarantee our own future. Yet, we instinctively yearn for a way to assure and secure that at least we are safe. Where should we turn for that humble us and remind us how we cannot guarantee our own future.

Many centuries ago, a powerful king of the united monarchy of Israel and Judah mocked about the false prophecy of earthly reassur- ances. Writing in Psalm 119, King David powerfully declared, “Some trust in chariot horses, or in horses, but I will remember your name. You, Lord, are near in the days of trouble. Con- fident in you, I say, ‘You will answer me.’”

“Peace be with you.”

The Church draws her life from the Eucha- rist, as Jesus said to his disciples. As we make the experience of faith but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church. In a variety of ways they deeply experienced the constant fulfillment of the promise: “Lo, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In the Eucharist, the Church of Jesus Christ of the New Testament is present. Adoration is the entrance into the Beatific Vision. In the Church we are prepared for the ultimate fulfillment of our expectation.

The answer to the uncertainties surrounding our human condition lies precisely as David noted in his inimitable and direct style, in God himself. He alone knows and understands every event of his- tory, from coronavirus pandemics to civil disturbances to economic collapse. It’s important for us to distin- guish between true and false promises. While a vaccine may limit the spread of the coronavirus for us individually, death will still have its day and eventually claim its ugly upon us. As natural as it may be for us to reach out for a vaccine to calm our preoccupations and restore peace of heart, in the future, only God opens a real path for us beyond fear and be- yond death. Our lives are on loan, and only can we guarantee the fulfillment of that loan in a desti- nity that lies beyond this troubled world.

Cardinal Robert Sarah summed it up well when he reminded us: “This virus acts as a warning. In a matter of weeks, the great illusion of a material world that thought itself all-powerful seems to have collapsed… A microorganism has brought this world to its knees.”

“We were promised to push the limits of human nature further by a triumphant science.” We were told about artificial procreation, surrogate mother- hood, transhumanism, enhanced humanity. We boasted of being a man of synthesis and humanity that biotechnologies would make invisible and immaterial. But here we are in a panic, confused by a virus about which we know almost nothing.

“Epidemic was an outdated, medieval word. It suddenly became our everyday life. I believe this pandemic has displayed the smoke of illusion. The as-called all-power- ful man appears in his raw reality. There he is mocked. His weaknesses and vulnerability are glaring.”

Being confined to our homes will turn us back to the essentials, to rediscover the importance of our ties of community with God.

We have an important opportunity to see the deeper lessons of the COVID-19 saga as it plays out in our midst. Far- ther than placing our hopes in the limited promises of this world, the pandemic reminds us of our vulnerability and our need for our true Saviour, at every moment of our life.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp staff is thrilled to offer some new and exciting opportunities to grow in faith and join together as a Catholic community.

By St. Benet Jacon, O.S.B.

Shawn McBride is a convert to Catholicism and has written this book to help recent converts and cat- holics learn more about their faith.

In an introduction to Cat- holicism that can inspire a reader to pursue a more in-depth exploration of particular topics. Shannon McBride explores various customs, rules, traditions, prayer, devotions, spirituality, Sacra- mentals in the Church and in the world, new and old, and how many interesting and sometimes little-known things there are. She discusses what certain things are that were talked about like rose, holy cards, blessed medals.

McBride’s book is divided into 10 parts with 150 chapters all together.

The chapters are short and to the point. Part One is an introduc- tion to the Catholic Church. He presents a discussion about the Bible, the Catechism of the Catho- lic Church, to all the questions you may have about the Church and its teachings.

In Part Two he covers the foundation that the Church is built on, with a reminder that the Church is perfect, but its members are not.

Part Three is about the Sacra- ments. He reminds the reader not to pick up some bad habits like coming to Mass late or leaving early. In Part Three, he covers the seven sacraments. He discusses the issue of “praying to Mary and the saints” and the use of religious articles.

Part Four is on prayer and its various forms. In Part Five he talks about the Sign of the Cross, the use of rosaries, and is going on retreat and Prayer and how to pray.

Part Six is on various ways to pray and praying with one’s family. He also discusses the different reasons for praying and for those who have died.

Part Seven is on the Church in life in death and how we encourage the reader to live their faith in daily life.

Part Eight is on the mysticism of prayer, rules and basic etiquette like what are bishops, priests, deacons, the pope, monks and nuns. He also gives some tips on how to keep your faith familiar with a missal, the parts attendants are familiar with the various objects used and clothing worn at Mass.

Part Nine is on evangelization and how to share our faith by actively working in this min- istry, the reader is directed by the Church to the conclusion where he provides an appendix that has additional resources for helping to read and share the Bible.

This book is highly rec- ommended for those cu- rious about Catholicism, new converts to Catholi- cism, and people interested in their faith. St. John Paul II on evangelization writes on a book, “Evangelii Nuntiandi” which should not overwhelm the reader. Again, the chapters are short and useful for anyone interested in energy coming across the page. This book is a very interesting book and inspires the reader to explore the topics more. By Benet Jacon, O.S.B., from St. Gregory’s Abbey, in a free- lance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
La 17 de abril de 2003, Nuestro Señor, en el año 2003, fue a visitar a la Santísima Madre Universal a su Carta Encíclica “Ecclesiae audivimus”, una reflexión de los jóvenes de nuestra época de una manera claramente y con el conocimiento de la época.

Una realidad que enfrentamos juntos es y estar en el mundo de la gratitud y Dios. Esta verdad no es objeto de un ejercicio estrictamente religioso, que muchos de nosotros hemos dejado la sabiduría que nos guían y nos forman para las Escrituras...

“La juventud inquieta, aún sin pertenecer por natu-

El enfoque más efectivo tocará las cinco prioridades pastorales de nuestro plan Vinicio 2030 simultáneamente.

La necesidad de enfrentar los jóvenes hoy y las alarma estéticas me llevan a creer que necesitamos entender lo que esta situación de unción. Le hago a mi personal que forme un grupo de trabajo para abordar esta preocupación, y han estado trabajando duran-

tro a través de la encuesta en línea. Tanto el núcleo del misterio de la Iglesia. Esta expe-

La confirmación pertenece a toda la Iglesia. Dios, quien estará con vosotros en todo el tiempo del mundo (Jn 20, 26).” Es la confirmación, por la gracia de Dios, lo que se ha de entender en un acto de fe intencionalmente. Es el momento de la confirmación que se hace con los fieles en la Iglesia.

...por el nuevo llamamiento de la confirmación que hace el Señor: ‘Habidme fiesta, que yo estoy con vosotros todos en el tiempo de la confirmación es una y se unen en el alimento que es Jesús verdadero y real. Casi como esposas de hierro unidos. Jesús es esencial para cada discípulo. La
de la naturaleza divina’ (2 Pe 1, 4), así como por medio de la cual se nos hace ‘partícipes

Conoceremos a Jesús, nuestro amado Señor, nunca nos abandonará, sino que encierra en síntesis la uadación del párrafo 25...

...y de los demás. San Pablo II dijo algo sobre esto en la sección 36 de esta carta. He
de la intención de que seamos bendecidos con ocasiones especiales, por lo que Jesucristo es sacado del tabernáculo... Cuanto más intensa sea la gratitud, más profunda será la devoción, más allá de la naturaleza de nuestro tiempo.

Así, en el tiempo de la confirmación, Jesús, nuestro amado Señor, nos quiebra y nos sigue, y con su presencia nos llena de confiada esperanza. …Con el amor infinito de su corazón. Si el cristianismo no es algo que esté en el nú
ciamente, en múltiples formas, la promesa del Señor: ‘He aquí que yo estoy con vosotros todos en el mundo, hasta el día del fin del mundo’.

Cuántas veces, mis queridos hermanos y hermanas, he hecho esta experiencia y en ella he encontrado fuerza, consuelo y apoyo!”

“En el humilde signo del pan y el vino, transfor-

El estudio advirtió que existe una fuerte
ción del espíritu de los católicos que son jóvenes en nuestra época. Nuestros jóvenes son tan importantes en la Ar-

La confirmación está en el centro de la eclesiología. Así es, el Señor: ‘He aquí que yo estoy con vosotros todos en el mundo, hasta el día del fin del mundo’.

La Eucaristía es algún momento que se da a todos los fieles, que reciben la confirmación cuan
dos que reciben la Confirmación de dos años
dos, se interactúan para crear espectralmente y perspicacia con esta decisión. Ven, Espíritu Santo.

Entra la perspectiva y da testimonio de su fe y enfrentar los muchos desafíos que enfrentarán como miem-

La participación en un proceso de plani-

Las condiciones de trabajo peligrosos, la indigencia policial, el movimiento Black Lives Matter que se ha dado en los últimos años. Vives bajo armado continuo, un desastre me-

Los jóvenes no se mantengan comprometi-

Por Norma Montes de Oca Catholic News Service WASHINGTON – Los inmigrantes latinos y sus familias afec-

...por medio de la cual se nos hace ‘partícipes

los jóvenes experientan desafíos y circunstan-

Por Norma Montes de Oca Catholic News Service

los años de 1960... O.P.

La muerte de George Floyd, un afroamericano que murió mientras estaba en custodia de la policía. El

Al mismo tiempo, algunos latino-

Los afroamericanos han sido muy afectados por los cambios en la política, especialmente en las

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Are you listening?
By Sally Crews Nash

Listening is not the only way I have been influ-enced by Catholic radio. The listeners and volunteers I work with play a vital part in our programming. Please allow me to pay tribute to the volunteers I work with play a vital part in the success of radio. These volunteers I work with play a vital part in the success of Catholic radio. These volunteers I work with play a vital part in the success of Catholic radio.

Jobs Box

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 execution of all fundraising 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 shrine corporation; and managing a staff member; and promotion of pilgrim- age, and other activities that take place on the campus. Must be a practicing Catholic who is active in parish life and forms life around the teachings of the Church; possess a bachelor’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; and be able to work in a shrine leadership role preferred. Bilingual in Spanish strongly preferred. Send inquiries and resumes to nlargent@archokc.org.

Principal - OKC
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a principal for the 2020-2021 school year. Must be a practicing Catholic and have an outstanding educational leader with a minimum of five years teaching experience. Administrative experience and bilingual in Spanish preferred. Applicants are expected to meet archdiocesan requirements. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience and archdiocesan guidelines. Position effective July 1. Contact the Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, OKC 73123 or (405) 721-4202.

Outreach internship - OKC
The Regional Agency of Oklahoma Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City is offering a volunteer outreach intern opportunity for creative individuals with a passion for spreading the Gospel through its various digital commu-nication platforms. College stu-dents or recent graduates should apply. Intern must be willing to commit 10-12 hours a week. Application deadline is June 30. Contact pdennis@okcarch.org.

School librarian - OKC
Christ the King Catholic School in Oklahoma City is interviewing applicants for the librarian position for the 2020-2021 school year. A bachelor’s degree in edu-ca­tion along with a state teaching certificate is required. Send re-sume, cover letter to Amy Fryday; Chair of the King School, 1905 Em-hurst Ave., Oklahoma City 73120 or afryday@skarchschool.org. Download teacher application packet at archokc.org/careers.

Teaching assistant - OKC
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School in Oklahoma City is interviewing candidates for the teacher’s assistant position in a first-grade classroom for the 2020-2021 school year. Experience working with young children is strongly encouraged. Send resume, cover letter to Amy Fryday, Christ the King School, 1905 Em-hurst Ave., Oklahoma City 73120 or afryday@skarchschool.org. Download the assistant application packet at archokc.org/careers.

 Teachers, director - OKC
The Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a part-time art teacher, part-time music teacher and a director for the 2020-2021 school year. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate to Christy Harris, principal, 1919 N.W. 18, Oklahoma City 73106 or principal@skarchschool.org. Download teacher application packet at archokc.org/careers.

Holy Family Home director
St. John the Baptist is seeking a director for the Holy Family Home, a 20-bed transitional home for homeless women and children. Applicants must have a 2-4 day/week commitment. Other qualifications include: leadership, communication, compassion and skills in working with all ages and other activities that will be offered this summer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp: Family Camp, Camp at Home and Family Nights. For details visit www.archokc.org/camp.

Shrine webcam
A new live stream allows view-ers to watch the building of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. The webcam will be live monthly throughout construction. Watch at archokc.org/camp.

OK Fun-Run-No
The Bl. Stanley Rother Feast Day 0K Fun-Run-No and Celebrations for Life in July 18. The race requires zero movement and is for all ages and athletic abilities. Race package $35, includes T-shirt, victory coin, bumper sticker and lunch ticket. Proceeds benefit The Center of Family Life and sponsor-sing parishes. Locations to be announced. Visit www.facebook.com/OK4Rother. Contact 0K4Rother@gmail.com.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp
Three camp events are being offered this summer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp: Family Camp, Camp at Home and Family Nights. For details visit www.archokc.org/camp.

Principal - OKC
Sooner Catholic Regional Agency Executive Consultant
www.americancatholicradio.org

June
21 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
21 Father’s Day.
21 Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 p.m., 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang. (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
24 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.
27 Feast of St. Cyril of Alexandria.
27 Feast of St. Pauline of Nola.
28 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
28 Daily Mass live-streamed from St. Francis de Sales Chapel 11:30 a.m., archokc.org/live, Facebook Live.
30 Daily Mass live-streamed from St. Francis de Sales Chapel 12:00 p.m., dioceseok.org/live, Facebook Live.

July
1 Feast of St. Junipers Serra.
3 Feast of St. Thomas.
1 CFC closed.
4 Independence Day.

Bride's Bureau
The Bl. Stanley Rother Feast Day 0K Fun-Run-No and Celebrations for Life in July 18. The race requires zero movement and is for all ages and athletic abilities. Race package $35, includes T-shirt, victory coin, bumper sticker and lunch ticket. Proceeds benefit The Center of Family Life and sponsoring parishes. Locations to be announced. Visit www.facebook.com/OK4Rother. Contact 0K4Rother@gmail.com.

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OK Fun-Run-No
The Bl. Stanley Rother Feast

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14 June 21, 2020
Souvenir Catholic
15 June 21, 2020
Souvenir Catholic
Please consider a gift to support the 2020 Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.
You can go online to archokc.org/SCappeal, or cut off the bottom section and return it to P.O. Box 32180 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

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Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Parish: ____________________________

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