Recent events have made racism a local and national topic. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design.”

In a recent column titled “Racism is a Life Issue,” Archbishop Coakley wrote, “We are broken hearted, sickened and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What’s more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.”

“Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we...”

continued on page 16

Archdiocesan churches tackle the subject of racism

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

Madill
church on
the road to
recovery

ADILL – On April 22, parishioners at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Madill were looking forward to celebrating the first anniversary on May 4 of their beautiful new church and rectory when tragedy struck.

An EF2 tornado destroyed the rectory with Father Oby Zunmas hidden in a safe room. The storm also did extensive damage to the church, blowing out stained glass windows and doors and shearing away part of the roof.

For the past several months, the parish has been working on repairs. If everything goes as scheduled, the church will reopen by the end of September.

The church is made up of almost 380 families. Father Oby...
The genesis of the Black Lives Matter movement was moral outrage over the ill-treatment of young black men at the hands of police officers. Undoubt- edly, the powder-wag moment was the shocking death of George Floyd this past May in Minneapolis. His death has sparked both peaceful protests de- manding justice as well as acts of destructive vio- lence in cities around the world.

These protests have no signs of abating soon. The focus of many activists has shifted to include the treatment of black women such as Breonna Taylor, who died at the hands of Louisville police in her own apartment.

The movement has grown and taken on a life of its own, highlighting the deep roots of racial injustice and the effects of racism in society. Black lives matter. Which black lives? All black lives matter: men, women and children.

One controversial phenome- non linked with contem- porary outrage over racism or social injustice is the so-called “cancel cul- ture.” This is an effort to remove history in order to remove all reminders of events and persons that might cause discomfort or offend current sensibilities. We have seen this recently as the toppling of statues of confederate gener- als and slave-owning presidents, and even removing the names of saints like Saint Junipero Serra and Catholic literary figures such as Flannery O’Connor from public buildings, all because of their supposed racist attitudes or actions. Mob rule is a hazardous form of government and a danger- ous cultural path to embark upon. But, it has been an event that today’s protest culture seems committed to pursue.

The strength of that commitment to “cancel” of- fends the memories surprised many recently (myself included) when Planned Parenthood of New York City removed the name of its patron saint, Margaret Sanger, in 2019. This was the first time in the 101-year-old organization’s history that a name was removed because of questions about religiosity or preferential sidewalk adver- tising. Contact Julie Lewis at norm@glennonmedical.com. Find more information at sidewalkadverts.org.

Father, your truth is made public and you and your vocation to bring love and peace to others. Holy Spirit, you inspire us to transform our world. Empower us to seek the common good for all persons.

Give us a spirit of justice and make us one human family. We ask you, in the name of Christ our Lord: Amen.

CARES Act provides benefit for charitable gift

In March, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act) became law. It provided 3.3575535555555556 billion dollars of actions by the federal government which were designed to protect individuals and the nation during the current pandemic. Most noticeably this provided most adults who file tax returns with a stimulus check to stimulate the economy.

Included in the legislation was a clause which allows for up to $300 in charitable gifts to be taken as an “above-the-line” deduction for those who choose to make standard deduc- tions on their taxes. By giving a gift to a qualified charitable organization such as the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City or your parish, you can deduct up to $300 from your income. This allows donors who do not itemize their deduction to gain a benefit by supporting the Church. Please visit archok.org/give for ways to make a tax advantageous gift to the archdiocese.

Before filing your taxes, consult a tax professional to determine the outcome of this unique situation if you are eligible.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

Aug. 18 - Presidential Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Aug. 18 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Aug. 20 - Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Aug. 25 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Aug. 27 - Catholic Charities Board annual meeting, 9 a.m., Catholic Charities Office
Aug. 29 - Mission and laymen awards at Archdiocesan Congress, 8:15 a.m., CPC
Jan. 27 - Present religious educator awards at Archdiocesan Congress, 11:45 a.m., CPC

Which black lives matter?

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Blackbaud breach affects archdiocese

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Catholic Radio, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma and Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, we are notifying you of a third-party security breach that affected charitable institutions around the world.

What happened

We recently were notified by Blackbaud, a third-party database service provider, of a security incident that affected charitable institutions around the world, including the University of Oklahoma and the Vatican Observatory. At this time, we understand they discovered and stopped a ransomware attack.

After discovering the attack, Blackbaud’s cyber security team – together with independent forensics experts and law enforcement – successfully prevented the cybercriminal from blocking their system access and fully encrypting files; and ultimately expelled them from the system. Prior to locking out the cybercriminal, the cybercriminal removed copies of backups containing sensitive personal information. This occurred at some point beginning Feb. 7, 2020, and could have been in there intermittently until May 20, 2020.

What information was involved

It’s important to note that the cybercriminal did not access your credit card information, bank account information or social security number. However, Blackbaud has determined that the files removed may have contained information regarding your name, giving history, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Because protecting customer donor data is their top priority, Blackbaud paid the cybercriminal’s demands with confirmation that the copy they removed had been destroyed.

Based on the nature of the incident, their research, and third-party including law enforcement investigation, we have no reason to believe that any data went beyond the cybercriminal, was or will be misused, or will be disseminated or otherwise made available publicly.

What we are doing

We are notifying you so you can take immediate action to protect yourself. Ensuring the safety of our donors’ data is of the utmost importance to us. As part of their ongoing efforts to help prevent this from happening in the future, Blackbaud already has implemented several changes that will protect your data from any subsequent incidents.

First, Blackbaud’s teams were able to quickly identify the vulnerability associated with this incident, including the tactics used by the cybercriminal, and took swift action to fix it. They have confirmed through testing by multiple third parties, including the appropriate platform vendors, that their fix weakens the attack tactic. Additionally, they are accelerating their efforts to further harden their environment through enhancements to access management, network segmentation, deployment of additional endpoint and network-based platforms.

What you can do

As a best practice, we recommend you remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft to us and to the proper law enforcement authorities.

Your continued support for Catholic ministries in the archdiocese is greatly appreciated. We sincerely apologize for this incident and regret any inconvenience it may cause you. Stewardship@archokc.org.

International Advisory Board

The six women the pope named to replace the Augustinian Order as the all-male Council for Economy were announced the week of Aug. 3 to replace the Augustinian Order that the papacy had previously announced.

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Questions? Contact Alex Schimpf at cfook.org/dinner.

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For the first time, the Archdiocese’s Dinner was held virtually on Aug. 6. The dinner featured all 27 of the seminarians for the archdiocese and raised funds specifically for seminarian education, which costs $50,000 a year for each young man.

“Support of Seminarian education is critical to form future priests for the archdiocese,” Archbishop Coady said. “My goal is to raise and invest $10 million for the St. John Vianney Fund by 2030. Thank you all for your support of the SVJ fund. Let us see if we can reach that goal to fund that endowment.”

To give, please go to cfook.org/dinner.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.

Meet the Seminarians

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

VATICAN CITY – Renewing the membership of the Vatican Council for the Economy, Pope Francis named six women to the previously all-male board that oversees the financial operations of Vatican offices and entities.

Pope Francis appointed two Spanish bishops, four English bishops, and one Italian cardinal to the Vatican City State’s financial oversight council.

On Friday, Aug. 7, Pope Francis announced his new advisory group to help work toward a more efficient and ethical financial system for the Vatican and its affiliates.


According to Vatican News, Pope Francis received a letter from the Augustinian Order of the Province of St. Louis that expressed its desire to be excluded from membership on the council. The Augustinian Order, which is an all-male religious order, was appointed to the council in 2019 under the pontificate of Pope Francis.

Jesus’ mercy and love for all people is the foundation of all that we do, Pope Francis said in his letter.

“I invite you, beloved sons and daughters of the Catholic Church, to be close to all those who suffer from the effects of economic and financial crises,” the pope wrote.

The pope also named Cardinal Giacomo Bortolus, a former bishop of Rome and archbishop of the Vatican, to the council.

The new cardinals and bishops named to the council are: Cardinals Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary; Odilo Pedro Scherer of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Leonardo Sandri, secretary of state, of the Vatican City State; Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey; Andrea Arduino of Stockholm; and Archbishop Giuseppe Petrocchi of L’Aquila, Italy.

According to the statute, the council is responsible for supervising the administrative and financial structures and activities of the dicasteries of the Roman Curia, of the institutions of Vatican City State, and for the financial operations of Vatican offices and entities.
Bishop McGuinness recognizes 92 AP scholars

The College Board released the Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards for the 2019-2020 school year. Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School announced that 92 of its students earned the recognition for their exceptional achievement on the exams. Forty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar-Award for achieving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. The AP Scholars are: Lanna Al-Bostock, Lanie Bannister, Fabian Chinchone, Dominic Corso, Dawson Danner, Raven Ditter, Jooni Eberlei, Michael Golladay, Paula Grella, Gabriel Grin, Kenneth Harbin, Katherine Hill, William Hove, Jacob Holman, Evan Ilie, William Janzen, Petar Kes, Luis Kitchka, Sara Lato, Lydia Lytle, Madeline McClurg, Emily McDougal, Maxwell McReynolds, Abigail Turk, and Emiley White.

Fifteen students qualified for the AP Scholar-Award for achieving scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Catherine Carter, Luke Chausaule, Callaway Corsinhan, Grace Dietzel, Dane Farris, Taelen Floyd, Kira Jones, Olivia Kowals, Wyatt Langehau, Peyton McCuan, Rose Nguyen, Thomas Raglow, Drew Schemers, Ryan Schwartz, Haley Blassnach, Reut Sigler, Grant Smith, Jack Turek, and Emily White.

Thirty-one students qualified for the AP Scholar-Award with Distinction by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Claire Baer, Sarah Barrette, Brooke Coats, Matthew Coomes, Anaismarie Edmonds, Elizabeth Faulkner, Ellie Frank, Jude Gander, Alexandra Haworth, Emilie Henderson, Thomas Hooty, Duncan Ilie, Elizabeth Jiasten, Paula Le, Erys Lehr, Jacob Marino, Charles Maxwell, Emma Massauer, Christopher Nguyen, Danielle Nguyen, Huan Nguyen, Olivia Ortega, Abby Pace, Lubahai Romero, Sophia Silversky, Ethan Silverman, Brigitte Welch, Daniel Webber, Charles Williams, and Helen Wright.

Nineteen students qualified for the AP Scholar-Award with Distinction by earning an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Pope Francis sends donation to Beirut for explosion recovery

ROME – Pope Francis has sent a donation of 250,000 euros ($295,488) in aid to the Church in Lebanon to help with recovery efforts after the devastating explosion which occurred in the capital city of Beirut earlier this week.

“Pope Francis has sent a donation of 250,000 euros for Beirut,” the Vatican press office said Aug. 5.

More than 137 people were killed and thousands injured in a blast near Beirut’s port Aug. 4. The explosion caused extensive damage to the city and flatten buildings near the port. Beirut’s governor, Mawam Abbousb, said around 390,000 people were left temporarily homeless.

Church leaders have warned that the city’s reanimation are on the brink of total collapse and pleaded with the international community for aid.

Lebanese officials say the blast appears to have been caused by the detonation of more than 2,700 tons of the chemical ammonium nitrate, which is commonly used in fertilizer and mining explosives, stored in an unsecured warehouse on the docks for six years.

Pope Francis made an appeal for prayer for the people of Lebanon after his general audience address Aug. 5.

Speaking via livestream, he said, “let us pray for Lebanon, so that, through the dedication of all its social, political, and religious elements, it might face this extremely tragic and painful moment and, with the help of the international community, overcome the grave crisis they are experiencing.”

continued from page 1

has been the pastor at Holy Cross for 14 years. He spent more than two years raising money for the church and the rectory.

Father Oby was one of eight children and came from Nigeria, where tornadoes are very rare. He now has seen two tornadoes in Oklahoma. His parishioners recommended he build a safe room in his rectory. He made it into the safe room within seconds of the tornado hitting his house. He was uninjured.

The church is built in the form of a cross and its windows have the Mysteries of the Rosary. Many windows were destroyed by the tornado. However, one item of note was an undamaged hanging glass portrait of Blessed Stanley Rother.

Both windows on either side of the glass portrait were destroyed but, remarkably, no damage to Blessed Stanley’s portrait. If anyone is building a home in tornado alley, they need to consider having a safe room. It might be your home. It might be your bathroom. It might be your safe room, which my safe room is my laundry room. I recommend that people think about not just a pretty home, but a home that is safe,” Father Oby said.

Since his return from Oklahoma, Father Oby has had a number of future projects for the parish once the church and rectory repairs are finished and rebuilt.

“The church and rectory have been repaired and we are determining what the priorities are,” Father Oby said.

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A naturalization ceremony was held on July 24 at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School’s Pittl Stadium in Oklahoma City. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Citizenship and Naturalization Service needs places to hold naturalization ceremonies that would allow for social distancing. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.
Catholic camp continues to inspire families despite pandemic

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

Along with other summer events this year, the typical schedule for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp was canceled, but thanks to the innovative staff, the camp was able to host other events.

Daniel Spurr, coordinator of the summer camp, said the staff at this year’s summer was truly special. The camp staff went from a normal staff of 90 people down to nine. He said those nine did everything from planning the programming to cleaning the dishes to leading prayers, and hundreds of other responsibilities.

“Our overall goal is to ‘Go Make Disciples.’ We do this through providing moments of encounter with the Lord, accompanying people on their path of discipleship, building a community, and sending them home to be disciples and to make disciples. We focus on prayer, catechesis and community to build and form everyone who steps foot at camp,” Spurr said.

The adjusted summer schedule included Family Camps and Family Nights. The Family Camp had a total of 344 people, with 66 families participating, and the Family Nights had a total of 313 people, with 65 families participating. The sessions were held outdoors and all COVID-19 health precautions were observed.

Spurr said families provided feedback that they loved the opportunity to enjoy camp together.

Families were able to enjoy some of the regular activities that happen at summer camp such as Mass, confession, prayers, adoration, swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, and a drive-in movie.

“We were able to pray and celebrate our faith with everyone who came to camp. Family members of all ages were able to learn about the joy of Christ and grow in their relationship with him,” Spurr said.

“Families were able to enjoy all the fun activities as well as strengthen their relationship with Christ and within their family.”

Brooke Basler, a parishioner at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon, attended a Family Camp July 22-24.

“The kids loved the Slip-n-Slide, fishing, and arts and crafts the most. I personally enjoyed Mass. Father (Danny) Grover’s homilies were wonderful. Camp was a wonderful experience for the kids and the closest thing to a vacation they got, since we had to cancel our previously planned trip because of the pandemic,” Basler said.

“Being able to step away from everything for a few days and just focus on God and family was a gift.”

Jennevieve Scott attended the first and last Family Night and the first session of Family Camp with her younger children.

“God gives us opportunities to grow closer to him each day. It’s just a matter of whether or not we are listening and looking for those opportunities,” Scott said.

“Att Family Camp, opportunities abounded. From Mass in the morning to prayer in the evening, God showed up big time. In the same way the slower pace allowed for greater family connection, it allowed for more intentional time spent in prayer and worship of our king.”

Priests who attended the Family Camps and Family Nights were Father Zak Bauerman, Father Kelly Edwards, Father Aaron Foshee, Father John Herrera, Father Lance Warren and Father Danny Grover.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
In the past couple of weeks, I’ve been blessed with a song I’ve heard titled “This Hope.” The lyrics to the chorus go like this: “I have this hope, in the depth of my soul; I am not saying that you won’t get it.” Those words have echoed in my heart all day, every day, as I sit under pressure, with depression and anxiety, and the alarming increase in substance abuse. It seems hope is the last commodity we have lost. For us as Christians and Catholics, particularly, the questions we need to consider: how do we keep hope in the source of our hope? When everything around us seems to be falling apart, how do we hold on to hope?

Paul exhorts us, “For in this hope we were saved. Now, hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But, if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (Romans 8:24-25).

And, in Hebrews, Paul says, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). So, our hope is not rooted in what we can see, which is why it is possible to be hopeful, even filled with hope, despite the dismal circumstances that can be going on around us at times.

Yet, our hope is “a hope that is not made visible” you could say, by what we have seen, meaning in the past. One of the key things we can do to help with clarity is to understand hope as one of the central theological topics. These can be connected most closely to the different persons of the Trinity: hope with the Father, faith with the Son, and love with the person of the Holy Spirit.

The three of these can also be connected most closely to the three basic “capacities” that we as human beings: memory, intellect and will. The connections would look like this:


God is ever-present with us in our spiritual and human experience. God is the one who has saved us through the mission and sacrifice of God the Son. God is the one who is going before us and is with us, giving us hope that our future is secure in God’s hands. God is the one who provides us with a way out of the darkness and into the light of a future that is complete and eternal.

Jim Beckman
Executive Director
Sooner Catholic Foundation
and Evangelization and Catechesis

In the early days of the Church, the apostles traveled to many known lands to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The stories of their missionary zeal and inspired countless others in the years to come. Within a century, Christianity was offered in only a few places, with 12 followers, yet today, the Lord’s name is known across the globe.

In those earliest days, as the apostles would preach about Jesus Christ, they spoke and wrote of his life, death and resurrection. Additionally, they would point to the Scriptures to help prove that indeed, he was the Messiah.

In the latest work by Mike Aquilina, “The Eucharist Foretold, The Last Prophecy of Malachi” Aquilina beautifully writes of one particular prophecy – one particular verse – from the book of Malachi: “The day of the Lord is near; it will bring the sun to its fulness. By your deeds you will acknowledge my name, for I will match the flashy exterior. Here’s another: A person will plow with a bull and a small one, and they will be ploughed with a plow. We also know that Malachi 4:4-5 describes the Eucharist: “The day of the Lord is near; it will bring the sun to its fulness. And you will be glad when you see the sun of justice rising in the heavens.”

By Christopher Aderhold
The Sooner Catholic

The richness, beauty and truth of the Eucharist began 2,000 years ago. However, Aquilina, following the lead of the early Church fathers, writes that to know our history is to love our tradition and the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Eucharist is a gift, not something the Church has been given.

In this upcoming book, Aquilina writes of this verse in historical context. Written thousands before Christ, this prophecy would have made little sense to this faithful Jew of the time. Francis X. Kavanagh points out, in the foreword of this book, that these words were pure, they were broadly alluring, and they were made in only one place, in only one time.

The early Church fathers, however, in the centuries that followed Jesus’ resurrection, were utterly convinced that this prophecy spoke clearly of the pure sacrifice of the Mass. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the sacrifice of the Mass is fulfilled in one place, on one altar, in the efforts of early Christians to spread the Gospel.

The richness, beauty and truth of the Eucharist begins 2,000 years ago. However, Aquilina, following the lead of the early Church fathers, writes that to know our history is to love our tradition and the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Eucharist is a gift, not something the Church has been given.
¿Cuáles vidas de personas negras impregnan tu imaginación?

El origen del movimiento “Black Lives Matter” (Las vidas de las personas negras importan) fue la muerte de varios tallos tristes y tristes de personas que sufrieron a manos de policías. Las vidas de estos hombres y mujeres eran valiosas, porque cualquier momento tenía la posibilidad de llevarlos a cabo acciones racistas. El gobierno ejerció por multitudes haciendo marchas en riesgo, y es un camino peligroso de seguir, sin embargo, fue un camino de cultura que se ha decidido seguir.

La fuerza del deseo de cancelar toda memoria de los hombres, mujeres y niños negros, los cuales tienen una dignidad inalienable dada por Dios… y no una dignidad como la que pueden obtener los gobiernos o movimientos”.

“Esto es solo el principio de lo que sería un justo reclamo en favor de la dignidad de los hombres, mujeres y niños negros, los cuales tienen una dignidad inalienable dada por Dios… y no una dignidad como la que pueden obtener los gobiernos o movimientos”.

El movimiento ha crecido y adquirido vida propia, destacando las profundas raíces de la injusticia racial y las efectos del racismo en la vida y el trabajo de las personas negras importantes. ¿Cuáles vidas de las personas negras importan? ¿Cuáles vidas de hombres, mujeres, niños y niñas nacidos a la luz del día?

El movimiento “Black Lives Matter” (Las vidas de las personas negras importantes) tiene raíces en la denuncia de la injusticia en casos de mala conducción policíaca contra hombres y mujeres negros. Sin embargo, esto es solo el principio de lo que sería un justo reclamo en favor de la dignidad de los hombres, mujeres y niños negros, los cuales tienen una dignidad inalienable dada por Dios que nos ha hecho a todos y a cada uno y a cada una, y no una dignidad como la que pueden obtener los gobiernos o movimientos.

Dios quiere que todos sus hijos prosperen. Es benéfico para su reino el que estén bien, incluyendo la iglesia, el crear las condiciones necesarias para que las familias y los individuos puedan prosperar.

Recientemente vimos una de mis lidencias favoritas: el lettrer de estos vehículos no coincide con el acabado llamado “franqueo. La esquela puede verse muy bien, no se puede ver muy bien, muy bien y vestirá con su indumentaria, pero si esa persona tiene que atender con su indumentaria, tiene que atender a una persona con su indumentaria de manera que sepa que provocan un efecto destructor en ciudades que vivieron enfrentamientos como Frannery O'Connor, de edificios públicos. La fuerza del deseo de cancelar toda memoria de los hombres, mujeres y niños negros, los cuales tienen una dignidad inalienable dada por Dios… y no una dignidad como la que pueden obtener los gobiernos o movimientos”.

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**Briefs**

**Archbishop issues temporary mask requirement**

Until further notice, Archbishop Coakley issued a mandatory requirement for face coverings for all public Masses in the archdiocese. For more information or to read the “Letter to the Faithful,” go online to archokc.org/mask.

**New safe environment training launched**

The archdiocese announced a new training program for volunteers, staff members and clergy that will be required before working with minors in the diocese’s Catholic churches or schools. Learn more at archokc.org/safe-environment.

**Shrine webcam**

Watch construction of the St. Stanley Rother Shrine on a live webcam at archokc.org/shrineviewcam.

**Rottenary documentary**

Available online at rottenary.org, “An Ordinary Martyr,” is an online documentary on St. Joseph Oklahoma City’s Coakley issued a mandatory mask requirement.

**Study guides available**

Archbishop Coakley encourages everyone to spend time studying the pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples! Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City” with the help of study guides in English and Spanish. The letter and pastoral plan lay out the vision for the archdiocese through 2030. Find the pastoral letter and study guides at archokc.org/cathedral-conference.

**Knights of Columbus retreat **

The Knights of Columbus Retreat is scheduled for August 20th at St. Teresa’s Ranch in Oklahoma City.

**Gospel of Life School**

The Gospel of Life School is a two-year journey through the Catholic Church. The program was started by the St. John Rother Institute.

**Evangelization Retreat**

Evangelization Retreat is Sept. 4-7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Cost is $350; scholarships available. Contact Alex Schlipf at (405) 709-2755, asc@archokc.org. Register online at archokc.org/cathedral-conference/registration.

**Catechetical Conference**

The Catechetical Conference is scheduled for Sept. 4-7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Cost is $350; scholarships available. Contact Alex Schlipf at (405) 709-2755, asc@archokc.org. Register online at archokc.org/cathedral-conference/registration.

**Day of Reflection**

A Day of Reflection is an event organized by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Contact (405) 789-5865, retreats@archokc.org.

**Mass of Remembrance**

The Mass of Remembrance will be held on Oct. 15 at the Oklahoma City Archdiocese. Contact (405) 358-3610, cscrprayers@gmail.com.

**Scotch & Cigars**

Join Archbishop Coakley, David and Adam Mroz and other Catholic Radio supporters for Scotch & Cigars. The event is for catechists of children, youth and adults with live translation of speakers and presentations into Spanish and Vietnamese. Contact archokc.org/cathedral-conference.

**Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat**

The Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat is Sept. 4-7 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Cost is $350; scholarships available. Contact Alex Schlipf at (405) 709-2755, asc@archokc.org. Register online at archokc.org/cathedral-conference/registration.

**Contact**

Please contact event or meeting organizers before attending. Contact (405) 721-5651 Ext. 114.
must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy-going wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to the atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy and justice.

Parishioners at several Catholic churches in the archdiocese have gathered to seek ideas on how to break down the walls of racism and ensure that all of the congregation feels welcomed.

Father Daniel Grover, pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, said but parishioners were worried that the world was turning back the pages of history 50 years.

“A lot of my parishioners were worried about their kids again. They have not worried as immensely as they have in the past couple of years,” Father Grover said.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Catholic Church hosted a Mass and Eucharistic Procession with Archbishop Coakley with prayer to end racism and to protect life.

“It is important for us to stand up for peace and for us to stand up for the dignity of the human person,” Father Grover explained.

“Being in the heart of the city, I see the Catholic Church as the forerunner of social justice. It just seemed right that we would do something to support all, it gave us the opportunity to stand up for peace, stand up for the dignity of the human person, and to stand against any form of racism. Coming together at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on the feast of Corpus Christi to recognize the dignity of the human person as the Body of Christ was fantastic.”

Lisa Schmidt from Saint Thomas More University Parish in Norman said Saint Thomas Moore has taken steps to address the issue of racism. A total of 16 parishioners are involved in JustFaith Ministries and Racial Equity Module. They meet via Zoom to share ideas and use resources such as “I’m Still Here,” by Austin Channing Brown and “40 Days of Prayer,” compiled by Cheri Mills as part of a structured curriculum developed by JustFaith Ministries.

Nancy O’Connell from Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Norman said, “Saint Joseph’s Church, for many years, has devoted an incredible amount of time and energy to promoting multi-cultural diversity and a welcoming environment, especially as it relates to the Hispanic community.”

Over the past 10-plus years, the parish added two Spanish Masses, hired staff who are bi-lingual, and added signing in Spanish as well as English, etc. The parish also has used programs such as Bridge Builders that promote understanding and the building of inter-cultural relationships.

O’Connell added that with the recent series of national incidents, their Peace and Justice group met with Father Joseph Irwin, pastor of Saint Joseph Catholic Church, to explore how they should respond as Catholics – standing in solidarity with those oppressed, educating each other, recognizing and rooting out racism, and promoting authentic and loving relationships.

In addition to churches, some Catholic based organizations also have addressed the subject. On July 14, the Tekakwitha Conference held a virtual panel discussion about racism and its effects on the American Indian community. The discussion was centered on the “Open Wide Our Hearts,” letter from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that addresses the impact of racism.

As churches and organizations gather to help end racism, many saints such as Saint Katharine Drexel, Saint Josephine Bakhita, Saint Peter Claver, Blessed Emilian Kovch, Venerable Henriette Delille, Servant of God Augustus Tolton, and Servant of God Bartolome de las Casas, stand as patrons to pray and intercede.

Jolene Schorschin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.