Pope Francis is inviting Catholics both in the mainstream of church life and on the margins to voice their dreams, ideas and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

The process launches Oct. 17 in parishes and dioceses worldwide. The pope is scheduled to formally open the synod process at the Vatican Oct. 9-10.

Under the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission,” the pope is calling the church to practice synodality, that is listening to – and hearing – one another in all facets of church life, two of the coordinators of the effort at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told Catholic News Service.

“It is just the first step in a larger, longer-term process of really incorporating the fruits of Vatican II and becoming a synodal church,” said Julia McStravog, a former USCCB employee who is a consultant to the bishops on the process.

“The launch begins a two-year process that continued on page 7

The Ordination to the Order of Deacon

“I was crying tears of joy”

Diaconate ordination
Nov. 5

By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

Twenty-seven deacon candidates from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will be ordained to the permanent diaconate by Archbishop Coakley on Nov. 5 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help after spending four years in formation.

One of the deacon candidates, Patrick Gaffney, and his wife Amy Gaffney spoke to the Sooner Catholic about the ordination and being ordained a deacon.

Q: How did you know you were being called to the diaconate?

Pat: I felt a call to be a deacon over the course of many years, probably 30.

Gaffney said the thought of enrolling in the diaconate program was given to him by a friend from college who is now a priest. Gaffney said after his friend was ordained a priest, he brought up the idea of the diaconate over dinner. Gaffney said he didn’t think about it too much until recently when he felt tugged to move in that direction.

The Gaffney family moved to Oklahoma from Minnesota about 14 years ago.

continued on page 20
Rush to execute harms culture of life

Oklahoma state officials plan to carry out seven executions over the next five months. They will be the first executions in Oklahoma in nearly seven years. This context at a time when a federal court has agreed to look at the state’s problematic lethal injection protocol as part of a pending lawsuit that questions the constitutionality of a lethal injection drug meant for anesthesia. This provides an opportunity for Oklahoma to stop the use of capital punishment and to use other means to protect society and seek justice for victims of crime and their families.

The Catholic Church teaches that each person is born with inherent dignity that we do not forfeit by misdeeds or even by committing crimes that cause grave harm. Rooted in this belief, the church regards capital punishment as a fundamental life issue and deems it inadmissible in all cases, especially when other means are available to hold criminals accountable.

Revolutions anywhere are cause for lament, but in Oklahoma especially, they raise serious concerns. The state bears the unfortunate reputation of executing the most people per capita in the modern death penalty era. What’s more, in recent years, Oklahoma has been home to several gruesomely butchered executions.

Beyond moral considerations, there are compelling practical arguments against the death penalty. It costs more to keep an inmate on death row than imprisoned for life. The system of capital punishment is riddled with flaws, including alarming wrongful conviction rates, widespread racial bias, arbitrariness, and a proclivity for targeting vulnerable populations. Such executions are a fundamental life issue and deems it inadmissible in all cases, especially when other means are available to hold criminals accountable.

Disability and severe mental illness

For these reasons and others, capital punishment has faded more and more into obscurity over the decades, both in the United States and the world at large. A majority of states have distanced themselves from the death penalty, with 23 having fully outlawed the practice to date and 13 others having gone 10 or more years without an execution.

There is little doubt that society has moved past the need for the death penalty. The Church teaching states that there now exist ways of holding individuals accountable for grave harm that effectively “ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.”

The death penalty is an immoral and anti-quantified method of addressing serious crimes and its usage in Oklahoma is irrevocably blemished. The church recognizes the grave harm done to victims and the need for healing and justice. It also understands that executions only perpetuate cycles of violence and often provide no measure of healing for families.

After nearly seven years without an execution, I believe our state is ready to embrace alternatives to capital punishment that honor human dignity and promote reconciliations. To oppose the death penalty is not to be soft on crime. Rather, it is to be strong on the dignity of life. The burdens of trauma and violence weigh heavy in our country and world and these days, this is our opportunity to reject a culture of death and build up a culture of life.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

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

Oct. 10 – Mass and feast day celebration, 10 a.m., St. Teresa of Avila, Harrah
Oct. 11 – Napa Institute Virtual Communications Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Oct. 12 – Pacific Council meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Oct. 12 – Staff All meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC
Oct. 12 – Archbishop Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Oct. 14 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Oct. 14 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 14 – Priests Continuing Education Committee meeting, 3 p.m.
Oct. 15 – Ignatius Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Inveteet, Feet Worth along
Oct. 15 – Department Directors meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Oct. 15 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 17 – Mass and dinner meeting with USCJ, 10 a.m., St. John the Baptist, Edmond
Oct. 21 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Oct. 21 – Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
Oct. 22 – Scotch and Cigars event for seminarian education, 6:30 p.m., archbishop’s residence
Oct. 23 – White Mass for Medical Professionals, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Oct. 24 – Synod Opening Mass, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC

Cristo Rey teacher awarded Catholic Educator of the Year

OKLAHOMA CITY — Katie Trivitt Beam, a teacher at Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School, was named the 2021 recipient of the Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Educator of the Year Award. Beam is a math teacher. Along with Beam, finalists for the award were Rebecca Lane, the director of inclusion and student achievement at Saint Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City, and Sue Hawkins, a long-time teacher at Saint Philip Neri Catholic School in Midwest City, who currently teaches middle school language arts and social studies.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma City presents the award each year to honor Catholic educators in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The winner receives $500, and their school receives $5,000. The other finalists are Martha Gann, a math teacher at Pius XI High School, and Mary Klein, a math teacher at Sacred Heart Middle School. Their presentations were made to the 130-year celebration Mass - a Mass and feast day celebration, 10 a.m., St. Teresa of Avila, Harrah.

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Catholic Charities assists Afghan refugees

OKLAHOMA CITY — Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and CAIR Oklahoma have welcomed the first group of Afghan refugees to Oklahoma City. CCAOKC has been involved with resettling refugees in Oklahoma for nearly 50 years. More recently, CCAOKC has worked with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as a reception and placement agency.

Traditionally, CCAOKC’s work begins when refugees arrive at Will Rogers World Airport after being thoroughly vetted through U.S. government agencies and approved for resettlement. Catholic Charities’ services for refugees includes housing, medical screening, registering children for school, employment and community acclimation. In recent years, arrivals have been primarily from Burma and Vietnam.

In late September, the first Afghan family was met at the airport by staff members from Catholic Charities and CAIR Oklahoma. CCAOKC provided transportation to a safe, clean environment for the family while they transition to a new life. CARR Oklahoma, the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, provided welcome bags and a welcome meal. “I believe our work in this space is a direct continuation of the mission of those 13 brave Americans who lost their lives to provide safety and security for those very people, and I for one am proud to be engaged,” said Patrick McGuinness, past executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “We have been grateful by the outpouring of support from across the community, and invite all others of goodwill to do their part to formally welcome our our new neighbors.”

As more arrivals are expected in the coming weeks and months, CCAOKC will continue to work to the resettlement agency for the state in partnership with CAIR Oklahoma and other organizations to help families feel welcomed and adapt to their new surroundings. CCAOKC expects to welcome 1,000 refugees in Oklahoma City and 800 refugees in Tulsa.

From the Archives ...

The story of the Catholic community in Prague is revealed in many of its churches and parishes. The first church, the church of St. Wenceslaus, was built in 1903 but was demolished by a tornado in 1919; both had been brick, frame structures. The third church was dedicated in 1921 and was a more substantial brick edifice and larger than its predecessors. By 1947, it became clear that new building had become necessary.

Father Jim White recounts: “That year (1947) Father George Johnsson was appointed pastor; he brought with him a small statue of the Infant of Prague, which had been given by some nuns in California. The story goes that, as he pondered the need for a new church, and he asked casually, ‘Why don’t you do something?’ Before long, donations of cash, building materials, labor and talent began arriving. The building went up with the help of the parishioners and even largely non-Catholic townspeople as well.”

True or not, it’s a great story that reveals the devotion the people of Prague have to the Infant Jesus of Prague. Father Johnson had the notion that putting a shrine dedicated to the Infant in the new Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church would be appropriate. Bishop Eugene McGuinness took it one step further, believing the church should become a National Shrine to the Infant of Prague since the original statue was located in Prague, Czechoslovakia, which was now behind the Iron Curtain and in the control of the Soviet Union.

Upon its dedication on Feb. 12, 1949, Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church became the home of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, inaugurated the same day. Since that day, pilgrimages from all 50 states have come to pray at the shrine as well as those from foreign countries to express their love and devotion to the Infant Jesus so dear to the Bohemian people.

Hobart RE director awarded Religious Educator of the Year

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Amy Rudkins, director of religious education at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Hobart, recently was named the Archdiocese Paul S. Cooley Religious Educator of the Year at a ceremony in Oklahoma City.

The award is given each year by the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. The award winner receives $500, and their parish receives $5,000. The finalists each receive $250.

The other finalists were Tereza Headrick, from Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, and Michelle Rodriguez-Pico, from Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman.

Father Dwanyandri Ariadna nomi- nated Rudkins for the award, saying “she is a role model for loving our faith.” She has been vol- unteering as an RE teacher since 2000, serves as the youth minister and RCIA director, and organized a women’s Bible study. She also has been helping parish youth in Stillwater during youth conferences for 17 years.

Headrick was nominated by Mandy Brown and Father Ste- phen Bird. She has been a volun- teer catechist at Epiphany for 16 years. This past year during the pandemic, she taught four separ- ate classes online.

Rodriguez-Pico was nominated by Jaret Duke and Father Joseph Irwin. She has served at Saint Joseph for 15 years and teaches confirmation to culturally diverse groups of high school students.

Catholic Daughters state workshop

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas held their state workshop Sept. 25 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. This year’s theme was “Keep me as the Apple of your Eye,” a verse from Psalm 17:8. The national director, Theresa Czarnecki, attended the meeting and offered insights during the workshop. Representatives from several state courts gathered to share ideas about membership and how to support local, national and international Catholic charities.

New officers for Catholic Daughters of the Americas were sworn in Sept. 25. From left to right, Karen Riehle, first vice regent; Martha Dudash, state regent; Debra Braunwage, second state vice regent; and Karl Ludwig, state financial secretary. Not pictured: Je Elena Newbury, state treasurer.

Saints & Scholars

The Saints & Scholars Dinner for Catholic education (previously the “Celebrating Catholic Education Breakfast”) was held on Sept. 16 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Northwest in Oklahoma City. For information about “Saints & Scholars,” visit cfook.org/saintsandscholars.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Prague.
CLEVELAND – Retired Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, who led initiatives to bring diverse communities together to overcome poverty, racism and basic injustice, died Sept. 21 at age 88, the Diocese of Cleveland said.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Cleveland announced Bishop Pilla’s death in a statement, saying the native Clevelander died at his home. No cause of death was given.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Malesic Sept. 26 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland. Interment will be in St. Joseph Cemetery in the cathedral.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, offered prayers and sympathy to Bishop Pilla’s family, friends and those touched by his years of ministry in the Cleveland Diocese. Bishop Pilla took a leadership role with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the forerunner to the USCCB, starting in 1981. He joined the bishops’ committees on Finance and Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and became chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Follow-up for Pastoral Life in America. In 1996, he became chairman of the conference’s treasurer, its vice president in 1997 and its president in 1995. He also was a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church at the Vatican. Born Nov. 12, 1932, to Italian parents, Bishop Pilla grew up in a working-class neighbor-

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic New Service

Bishop Pilla, former USCCB president, dies at 88

“…it’s not just a bureaucratic or ecclesial exercise. It’s a spiritual exercise for the individual, for the parish, for the community, for the diocese and for the church in America at large,” Coll said.

Coll and McGarvey also echoed the pope’s encouragement to the bishops of his diocese, the Diocese of Oklahoma, to go to the margins to ensure that “the poor, the homeless, young people addicted to drugs, everyone that society rejects are part of the synod.”

“The question of listening, how do we actually listen? It goes back to the invitation. The question is on the diocese to really think through what it offers to people, the church needs to go out and invite people back in,” McGarvey said.

The vademecum also recognizes the effects of the COVID-19 pan-
demic on the church.

The document states that the pandemic “has made existing inequalities expand” and shows that “church activity has gone through a pandemic, requiring a unified response.”

Secondly, the document continues, the pandemic poses logistical challenges for participation in diocesan listening sessions. It calls on dioceses to hold sessions such as online gatherings, small group meetings or other safe means to gain insight from church members.

Once the Vatican receives the synthesized reports of diocesan meetings from bishops’ conferences around the world, the Secre-
tariat of the Synod of Bishops will draft by early November a “instrumentum laboris,” or working document, to guide continental or regional synodal assemblies that will take place by March 2023.

Those assemblies will produce another set of documents that will help in the drafting of a second working document for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The Synod is expected to produce a final document on synodality through-out the church.

“…this is a spiritual exercise,” she said. “It’s not just a bureaucratic or ecclesial exercise. It’s a spiritual exercise for the individual, for the parish, for the community, for the diocese and for the church in America at large.”

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Cristo Rey OKC welcomes new chairman

OKLAHOMA CITY – Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School recently named a new chairman, vice chairman and members of the board. Founding board member, Carl Martinich, was named the new chairman and Chris Neu-erger will serve as the new vice chairman. The board also welcomes two new board members, Domini-cic J. “Nick” Dell’Osso Jr. and Joe Cardenas.

“We’re ecstatic to see the impact these members bring to the future development of our school,” Cristo Rey OKC President Chip Carter said. “Carl, Chris, Nick and Joe bring aspects that will improve Cristo Rey OKC in a variety of ways, and I look forward to seeing the work they accomplish.”

Martinich serves as the vice president of human resources, risk management and government affairs for Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores. As chairman, Martinich will provide strategic direction, monitor operations and government affairs for Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores. As chairman, Martinich is ensuring the board’s vision and direction are implemented, oversee the board’s fiduciary responsibility to the school and serve as an advocate for Cristo Rey OKC in the community.

Dell’Osso graduated from Boston College in 1994 and attended Saint Camillus Church in Mar-shall. He worked in sales and marketing, providing strategic direction and ensuring that the school’s mission is effective. Dell’Osso served as executive vice presi-dent and chief financial officer for Chesapeake Midstream Development, LP.

Cardenas attended Texas A&M Uni-versity at Kingsville where he received his bachelor’s degree in civil engi-neering in 1990 and later a master’s degree in environmental engineering from Oklahoma State University.

Cardenas serves as the business development director with EST Inc. As board member, Dell’Osso and Cardenas will lend their expertise in building new business relationships throughout the community, actively support program initiatives, identify opportuni-ties for growth and provide support in advanc-ing the mission of Cristo Rey OKC.

Partners where he serves as managing partner. As vice chairman, Neu-erger will assist Martinich in ensuring the board’s vision and direction are implemented, oversee the board’s fiduciary responsibility to the school and serve as an advocate for Cristo Rey OKC in the commu-nity.

In 2003, Dell’Osso graduated from Boston College in 1998 and the University of Texas at Austin in 2003. Dell’Osso serves as executive vice presi-dent and chief financial officer for Chesapeake Midstream Development, LP.

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By Owen Canfield

The couple’s two daughters cre-ated the Emil B. and Mary Agnes Fuksa Seminarian Endowment in 2016 following their father’s passing at age 97. It was his wish to use part of his estate to help educate future priests, particularly those born outside of the United States.

A biography provided by the sis-ters tells their parents’ story. Both were of Czech descent. Her mother was born outside Goltry, grew up near Lovell and attended Saint Camillus Church in Mar-shall. Her father lived all his life on the family wheat farm near Bi-som. The two married in 1940 and had two sons and a daughter, and raised their daughters and working the farm together.

Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Bisson was central to the couple’s religious and social life.

Along with other families in the community, they supported and participated in the various func-tions and activities of this parish that nurtured a strong faith in God for themselves and their children, the daughters wrote. “Friday night Stations of the Cross during Lent and Wednesday night devotions were rarely missed. They sup-port the two-room schoolhouse where their two daughters had the benefit of a Catholic elementary education. They prayed the Rosary together on a regular basis.”

In time, the Catholic school closed, and Saint Jo-seph became a mission church.

“Over the years they had known and admired several for-eign-born priests,” they wrote. “They came to the belief that perhaps foreign-born seminarians could be a solution to the priest shortage. Thus, they decid-ed to make a gift to the Catholic foundation to be used for seminar-ian education in the hope that the vibrant little parish of Saint Jos-eph in Bisson would continue to live on and nurture the faith and lives of future generations.”

Mary Fuksa died in 2012. Emil passed away four years later. The daughters created the endowment soon after to support the formation of seminarians.

Contact Owen Can-feld at the Catholic Foundation of Okla-homa to learn more about gift planning. 405-721-4115, ocanfield@cfook.org.

Owen Canfield is the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma’s associate director of gift planning.
Saint Joseph: A father who said “yes” by his actions

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

I

In December 2020, Pope Francis declared 2021 as the Year of Saint Joseph. In his apostolic letter “Patris Cordis” (With a Father’s Heart), Pope Francis referred to Joseph as a “strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart he was a great tenderness, which is not the virtue of a weak, but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. He said yes by his actions.”

Pope Francis further described him as, “A father in the shadows centered on Jesus and Mary.” In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, there are 11 churches or missions dedicated to, or named for, Saint Joseph – the most of any saint.

Some are large and some are small, but all understand the significance of Saint Joseph. Most of the churches were established after the Oklahoma Land Run. Historically, this was also around the same time Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church in 1870.

The oldest church name for Saint Joseph is still referred to as the “Old Cathedral” in Oklahoma City. It was built in 1895 and served as the cathedral until 1924.

The historical book, “Roman and Oklahoma: A Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,” written by James D. White contains information about the founding, pictures and history of all the churches or missions dedicated to the saint. For example, Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Buffalo, although not named to honor the foster father of Christ, was also named after a major donor Joseph Buscher.

The same historical text also details the building of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Union City with its original name of Saint Theophile in 1894. However, a tornado came through Union City and destroyed the first church, and it was renamed Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Norman, a group of Irish members wanted the name of Saint Patrick and the Germans wanted Saint Joseph.

Although there are no words spoken by Saint Joseph in the Bible, his importance is not lost in the Word. Saint Matthew enumerates the genealogy of Christ in Ch. 1 from Abraham to Saint Joseph. Scripture states that Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph (Lk. 2:51). He also learned his Jewish prayers from his earthly father and their annual pilgrimage from Nazareth to Jerusalem (Mk. 12:29).

Biblical readings imply that Mary referred to Saint Joseph as her father. (Lk. 2:49 and Jesus was often referred to as “the carpenter’s son.”)

The Gospel of Matthew (1: 16, 18-21, 24a) records Joseph’s “yes” when an angel came to him in a dream and prepares him for the significant role he was to play in God’s saving plan. He was invited to exercise his human freedom, to give his assent to the Lord’s invitation - and he did.

Father Benjamin Sow Ko Lo, pastor of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Tonkawa and Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Blackwell, said the parishes will be hosting celebrations to close out the “Year of Saint Joseph.”

Father Brian Buetner, pastor at Saint Joseph Old Cathedral in downtown Oklahoma City, had a celebratory Mass on the Feast Day of Saint Joseph on March 19.

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Fifteen ways to gain an indulgence in the Year of Saint Joseph

By Courtesy Mares
Catholic News Agency

ROME – Pope Francis has decreed a Year of St. Joseph in which Catho-
lics will have the opportunity to obtain a special plenary indulgence. Until December 2021, there are many new ways that Catholics can receive an indulgence, including ex-
tracing their daily work to the pro-
tection of Saint Joseph, the Worker or reciting the rosary with their families. These acts must be accompanied by sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer for the pope’s intentions, the usual conditions to obtain any plenary indulgence. Ple-
cy indulgences remit all temporal punishment due to sin and must be accompanied by full detachment from sin.

According to the decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on Dec. 8, there are 15 ways to receive an indulgence in the Year of Saint Joseph:

Participate in a spiritual retreat for at least one day that includes a medi-
tation on Saint Joseph;

Pray for Saint Joseph’s intercession for the unemployed that they might find good work;

Recite the Litany of Saint Joseph for persecuted Christians. Byzantine Catholics have the option of an Akathist to Saint Joseph;

Entrust one’s daily work and ac-
tivity to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker;

1) Faith – Saint Joseph’s example in performing a corporal work of mercy. These include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visit-
ing the imprisoned, visiting the sick and burying the dead;

2) Kindness – Saint Joseph’s example of the spiritual works of mercy such as comforting the sorrowful, counselling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injures, and praying for the deceased;

3) Pray the rosary with family that “all Christian families may be Stimulated to embrace the Holy Family”;

4) Engaged couples also can receive an indulgence by praying the rosary together;

5) Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, because Saint Joseph “invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with the paternal love of God’s will.”

6) Pray an approved prayer to Saint Joseph on the 19th of any month;

7) Honor Joseph with an act of charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inter-
cessions which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy 
Family, defend the chaste children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O most mighty protector, be kind to us and from the sorrows and dangers which we now suffer,

The圣约瑟夫天主教会在美国的成立 marks Joseph’s “yes” when an angel appeared to him.

Pater to the Holy Family, all the cho-

enanced the Child Jesus, we hum-

bly beg you graciously to regard the inter-
cessions which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

As one you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity.

If, too, you were one of us by your con-
stant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in fidelity, to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

The Apostolic Penitentiary permits any prayer to Saint Joseph approved by the Church, mentioning, in particular, the “To you, O blessed Joseph” prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII.

“To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inter-
cessions which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

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stant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in fidelity, to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

Find more information on the Year of St. Joseph at usccb.org/saint-joseph

St. Joseph Old Cathedral in Oklahoma City. Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.

Ten October 10, 2021

Prayer to St. Joseph after the Rosary

A prayer to Saint Joseph was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, Quas Primas. He asked that it be said in the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October which it is dedicated to, the Rosary. It may be said after the customary Silver Regina and concluding prayer, and may be used to conclude other Marian devotions.

Prayer to Saint Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inter-
cessions which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy 
Family, defend the chaste children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O most mighty protector, be kind to us and from the sorrows and dangers which we now suffer;

The圣约瑟夫天主教会在美国的成立 marks Joseph’s “yes” when an angel appeared to him.

Pater to the Holy Family, all the cho-

enanced the Child Jesus, we hum-

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cessions which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

As one you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity.

If, too, you were one of us by your con-
stant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in fidelity, to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.
Bishop says Father Kapaun conformed his life to Christ, ‘giving all he had’

By Christopher Riggs
Catholic News Service

WICHITA – Father Emil J. Kapaun conformed his life to Christ, Bishop Carl A. Kemme of Wichita said about the Korean War hero at a funeral Mass for him Sept. 29.

“Jesus modeled that love for us on the cross. He gave his life for us, his friends, so that we might not perish but might have eternal life,” Bishop Kemme said in his homily.

“Father Kapaun imitated that love all throughout his ministry, but it reached its fulfillment on May 23, 1951, the day of his personal Calvary, in a dark and lonely place, giving all he had for others,” he said.

The funeral Mass was celebrated for Father Kapaun, a native of Plain, Kan., in Hartman Arena in Park City, Kan. More than 5,000 people attended the event.

A clarion candidate, Father Kapaun has the title “Servant of God” and his cause is under consideration by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The priest of the Diocese of Wichita, a World War II and Korean War U.S. Army chaplain, was captured with many other soldiers on Nov. 1, 1950. He died at age 35 on May 23, 1951, after being forcibly taken to a North Korean prisoner of war hut to die.

“One doesn’t worry about me,” he told fellow prisoners. “I’m going where I always wanted to go, and when I get there, I’ll say a prayer for all of you.”

Bishop Kemme said Father Kapaun’s imitation of Christ began long before that day.

“Father’s earthly life began and was lived in a quiet, almost hidden way, but in a way that attracted the attention of family, priests, parishioners and others,” he said. “Something was special about young Emil Joseph Kapaun. In so many ways, he was like his parish’s namesake. Like Joseph, he was humble, obedient, virtuous, simple and hardworking.”

No one was surprised when he announced he wanted to become a priest, Bishop Kemme said. Young Emil made an almost daily, three-mile trip to Saint John Nepomucene Catholic Church in Plains to serve Mass. He was ordained in 1940.

“Like all priests, he offered his life in obedience to his bishop in whatever form of service he would be called to give, but he heard in the quiet recesses of his heart a call within a call, the call to give of himself as a chaplain in the armed forces.”

Thus began a life of sacrificial and selfless love of others, especially his beloved fellow soldiers, whom he regarded as brothers, even sons, the bishop said.

“The accounts of his service to his fellow soldiers and in the last months to his fellow POWs reveal so much of the man whose body we honor today with Christian burial. His love was simple, effective, selfless and deep.”

He strived to lift the spirits of his fellow prisoners, Bishop Kemme said.

“He would lead them in prayer, tell a joke, sing a song, pick lice off their bodies, boil water to give them a drink of clean water, light a fire, give them some quantities of food he had somehow managed to get—ever by stealing,” the bishop said. “In short, do whatever he could to bring light to those who entered into a darkness few of us can imagine.

“He was a missionary disciple of hope—and that hope indubitably kept many of those men alive.”

Bishop Kemme was among the eyewitnesses from the diocese that traveled the previous week to Hawaii to claim the remains of Father Kapaun at a military facility dedicated to identifying the remains of fallen soldiers.

“He said he was astonished when Raymond Kapaun, Father Kapaun’s nephew, asked if the bishop would like to touch the chaplain’s skull.

“I was stunned by the invitation and after a moment expressed my deep desire to do so,” the bishop said. “As each of us reverently touched this relic of the man … many thoughts began to enter my mind. The skull is the physical foundation of so much of what makes us human, the face, the eyes, the ears, the mouth.”

Bishop Kemme said while dining so, he thought of Father Kapaun’s face that is seen in so many photos, a caring face of quiet strength, a face of character, a face of a friend, a comrade, a brother that instilled courage and confidence.

Several bishops, including Archbishop Conley and Auxiliary Bishop F. Richard Spencer of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, attended the funeral along with priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Wichita.

The day ended with a procession after the casket with Father Kapaun’s remains was placed onto a U.S. Army funeral caisson, a two-wheeled, horse-drawn cart usually used to transport the wounded or dead from the battlefield.

The procession began at Veteran’s Memorial Park, about a half-mile west of The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Wichita.

The casket was led by a military color guard and was followed by Bishop Kemme, Father Kapaun family members and other military personnel. An estimated crowd of 3,000, made up of Catholic school students, their families and others, lined the streets as the horse-drawn cart passed.

A 21-gun salute was fired in front of the cathedral after an honor guard carried Father Kapaun’s body up the steps of the cathedral.

His casket was placed in a marble tomb located beneath a large crucifix in the east transept of the cathedral. Before the tomb was covered with a nameplate, diocesan priests and family members and friends were allowed to touch the coffin and offer a prayer.

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One-day marriage enrichment retreat offering couples the opportunity to grow in love and intimacy, sponsored by theArchdiocese of Oklahoma City

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Who?
Featured Presenters: Ryan & Mary Rose Verret
 Episcopal Couple,Authors, Speakers, and Pastors

Where?
St. Monica Catholic Church, in the Parish Hall
2001 N. Western Ave., Edmond, OK 73012
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8:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Cost: $30 per couple
$15 per individual

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Contact St. Alexander kirby at archokc@archokc.org or 405-709-2165
**Jobs Box**

Archdiocesan Catholic school coordinator - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking two education coordinators. The coordinator for early childhood education, PK-12, must possess a master’s degree in education and significant professional experience in early childhood education. The coordinator for middle and high school students, 6-12, must have a master’s degree in education and significant professional experience in secondary education.

Submit resume to Rev. Alonzo Suen, Director of Education, at alonzo.suen@archokc.org.

**License and clean driving record:** Flurry in written and spoken English; excellent written and verbal skills; and personality assessment tracking and maintenance skills. Submit cover letter and resume to Christy Knotts at christyknotts@archokc.org.

**Substitute teachers – OKC**

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers may be substituted for in five different grades, 1st-12th, based on their availability and the needs of the school. Teachers must have a bachelor’s degree and a valid teaching license to be considered. Submit cover letter and resume to Kristy Lewis at klh@archokc.org.

**Director of communications – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of communications to act as a key liaison between the archdiocese and its parishes, schools, and the public. The candidate must have a bachelor’s degree in communications or a related field and at least five years of professional experience in communications or journalism. Submit cover letter and resume to Edward Kwiatkowski at edward.kwiatkowski@archokc.org.

**Bilingual English-Spanish chaplain – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a full-time chaplain position in the Spanish-speaking community. The position is a full-time, permanent position with a salary range of $50,000-$60,000 per year. Submit cover letter, resume, and references to Sr. Susan Brown, Director of Faith Formation, at susanbrown@archokc.org.

**Spanish speaking - OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Spanish-speaking candidate for the position of Spanish-speaking assistant in the Communications Office. The candidate must have excellent oral and written communication skills and a desire to serve the Archdiocese. Submit cover letter and resume to Alonzo Suen, Director of Education, at alonzo.suen@archokc.org.

**Emergency assistance - Woodward**

Contact the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Woodward to schedule a meeting with our Emergency Assistance team. We are here to help those in need.

**Bilingual counselor – OKC**

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School is seeking a bilingual counselor to support minority students with school performance and discipline issues. The candidate must be fluent in both English and Spanish and have at least two years of experience in counseling. Submit cover letter and resume to Principal, principal@scbockc.org.

**Arts and crafts coordinator – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an arts and crafts coordinator to coordinate and implement arts and crafts programs in the archdiocese. The candidate must have a bachelor’s degree in arts education and at least five years of experience in arts and crafts coordination. Submit cover letter and resume to Jennifer Ginn, Director of Education, at jennifer.ginn@archokc.org.

**Summer camp coordinator – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a summer camp coordinator to oversee the summer camps program. The candidate must have at least two years of experience in organizing and coordinating summer camps and be able to work effectively with children and parents. Submit cover letter and resume to John Riedel, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, at john.riedel@archokc.org.

**Office of finance and administration – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a skilled maintenance worker to support the administration of the archdiocese. The candidate must have at least three years of experience in maintenance work and be able to work effectively with tools and equipment. Submit cover letter and resume to Michael Brown, Director of Finance and Administration, at michael.brown@archokc.org.

**Director of human resources – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director of human resources to lead the human resources department. The candidate must have a bachelor’s degree in human resources and at least five years of experience in human resources management. Submit cover letter and resume to John Riedel, Director of Finance and Administration, at john.riedel@archokc.org.

**Bilingual assistant – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a bilingual assistant to support the archdiocese’s Spanish-speaking community. The candidate must be fluent in both English and Spanish and have at least two years of experience in bilingual support. Submit cover letter and resume to Jennifer Ginn, Director of Education, at jennifer.ginn@archokc.org.

**Volunteer coordinator – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a volunteer coordinator to oversee the archdiocese’s volunteer programs. The candidate must have at least two years of experience in volunteer coordination and be able to work effectively with volunteers. Submit cover letter and resume to Jennifer Ginn, Director of Education, at jennifer.ginn@archokc.org.

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Las ejecuciones apresuradas dañan la cultura de la vida

Los funcionarios del gobierno de Oklahoma planean llevar a cabo siete ejecuciones en los próximos cinco meses. Serán las primeras ejecuciones en el estado de Oklahoma en los últimos siete años.

Esto sucede al tiempo que una corte federal ha acordado evaluar la problemática de las inyecciones letales en el estado como parte de una demanda legal que cuestiona la constitucionalidad de una inyección letal que se usa en Oklahoma.

Hace más de un mes que el Congreso de los Estados Unidos ha acordado evaluar la problemática de las inyecciones letales en el estado, como parte de una demanda legal que cuestiona la constitucionalidad de una inyección letal que se usa en Oklahoma. La corte federal ha acordado evaluar la problemática de las inyecciones letales en el estado como parte de una demanda legal que cuestiona la constitucionalidad de una inyección letal que se usa en Oklahoma.

Las ejecuciones causan lamentos en cualquier lugar, pero especialmente en Oklahoma, donde la cultura de la vida se ha superado la necesidad de la pena de muerte. La enseñanza católica afirma que existe una cultura de la vida que cada persona nace con una dignidad inherente a la que no renunciamos por nuestros errores, ni siquiera cuando cometemos crímenes que causan un daño grave. Enraizada en esta creencia, la iglesia enseña que la pena capital es un tema fundamental en la protección de la vida y la dignidad humana, promueve la restauración de las víctimas y las familias.

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El Departamento de Salud de la ciudad y el condado de Oklahoma en los últimos años ha logrado reducir significativamente la tasa de crímenes y encuentre otras maneras de proteger a la sociedad y buscar justicia para las víctimas de crímenes y sus familias. La entidad ha superado la necesidad de la pena de muerte. La enseñanza católica afirma que existe una cultura de la vida que cada persona nace con una dignidad inherente a la que no renunciamos por nuestros errores, ni siquiera cuando cometemos crímenes que causan un daño grave. Enraizada en esta creencia, la iglesia enseña que la pena capital es un tema fundamental en la protección de la vida y la dignidad humana, promueve la restauración de las víctimas y las familias.

Por David Agran
Catholic News Service

Miles de manifestantes salieron a las calles en diversos estados de México para participar en marchas promocionadas como "pro-mujer y pro-vida" y repudiando una decisión reciente de la Corte Suprema que despenalizó el aborto. Las marchas en las más de 49 ciudades de todo el país se organizaron con fines de protestar contra la pena capital y luchar por la vida. En el estado de México desde estudios periféricos, mientras que varias periódicos periódicos mencionan que algunos 31,000 personas participaron en las protestas de la capital.

Muchos manifestantes han vestido de blanco con pasto azules, un símbolo del movimiento por la vida, y en contra de los partidos de centroderecha que usan las mujeres que se manifiestan por el aborto. La conferencia de obispos mexicanos expresó su consternación por el fallo, pero también afirmó que para la mujer que se someta a un aborto "la cuestión nunca será la solución".

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El arzobispo Coakley y sacerdotes de las arquidiócesis visitaron recientemente el Santuario del Paso Santa María, un santuario que se centra en la vida después de la vida. Los sacerdotes ofrecieron la oportunidad de explorar el santuario y hacer preguntas. Los sacerdotes también expresaron su deseo de que las iglesias más pequeñas en el país y continúen, agregando el ladrillo de piedra blanca a la lucha por la vida. Contra el aborto, la Iglesia reconoce el daño que se hace a las víctimas y la necesidad de sanación y justicia. Pero también comprende que las ejecuciones sólo perpetúan ciclos de violencia y muchas veces no traen la sanación de las familias, posteriores a casi 7 años sin una sola ejecución, creó que nuestro estado está listo para abrirse alternativas de castigo que honren la dignidad humana y promuevan la restauración.

Oponerse a la pena de muerte no significa que nuestro estado está listo para abrirse alternativas de castigo que honren la dignidad humana y promuevan la restauración.

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"Esperamos que sea el comienzo del desper- tar de nuestro pueblo", dijo el obispo Miranda a Catholic News Service. "Y el despertar de la mayoría silenciosa que está a favor de la vida." La marcha más grande se llevó a cabo en la Ciudad de México, de miles de manifestan- tes corriendo por las calles gritando: "¡Jesús a la vida!" En el emblemático monumento del Ángel de la Independencia, cantaron el himno nacional y se reunieron para una mani- festación.

Los números exactos de manifestantes no se valoraron. Los organizadores hablaron de 1 millón de manifestantes en todo el país y dijeron que llevaron 500 autobuses a la Ciudad de México desde estudios periféricos, mientras que varias periódicos periódicos mencionan que algunos 31,000 personas participaron en las protestas de la capital.

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Un retiro de fin de semana en español del Viñedo de Raquel se planea para abrirse alternativas de castigo que honren la dignidad humana y promuevan la restauración.

Las marchas en al menos 89 ciudades de todo el país se “organizaron con poca antel-
Sister Speak – Allan Parker of the Justice Foundation. He represented “Roe” and “er is Allan Parker of the Justice Foundation. He represented “Roe”

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Archbishop of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa to provide a forum for people to discuss their experiences in former Catholic Indian boarding schools in Oklahoma. Find the schedule at archokc.org/sermon. For more information, contact Lisa Callison at rcallison@archokc.org.

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continued from page 1

Q: How did you feel when Pat told you about his call to join the diaconate?

Amy: It has been very good. When he first told me about his calling, I was crying tears of joy because I was so happy for him.

Amy Gaffney said the journey of going back to school and working alongside her husband has been a good experience. She said having the opportunity to do homework together, share ideas and discuss theology, has been a great part of their journey together.

Q: What are you looking forward to most about becoming a deacon?

Pat: What I’m looking forward to most is just being a servant to Jesus Christ and his Church in a way I haven’t ever done, in a unique way. I’ve done a lot of stuff with the Church, served on a lot of committees, but I’m looking forward to serving in this way and keeping an open mind for how he is calling me to serve.

Amy: I’m just excited to see where it takes Pat and where it will take us. There will be new opportunities for growth for both of us wherever we go, and it is just a way to grow in trust of God because we know he is there.

Q: How did your family respond to your calling to enter the diaconate?

Amy: The kids are very excited, very supportive. Our daughter has talked about the fact he will probably be able to baptize our grandbaby. They are all excited to come to the ordination. It has been fun for them.

Q: What do you foresee as being a challenging aspect of being a deacon?

Pat: The formation process helps with the intellectual formation of the Church and theology but also with the spiritual formation. I think it prepares us for a way that helps you orient yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. I have much more of an inner peace with things that used to bug me with as a result of this whole process.

Amy: Something we really appreciated were the close friendships we developed in the formation process. The couples have been real inspirations for spiritual growth with the strong sense of prayer they bring and the faith they have.

Q: In what ways have you grown in your spiritual life because of your diaconate formation journey?

Pat: I find myself saying if there are difficulties, for instance, challenges at work, staying focused on prayer allows God to take care of those things. If Jesus wants me to be a deacon, he will take care of these other things and make it possible for that to happen. This process has been a real orientation of, I don’t have to do everything, it is not about me being in charge of everything, and I can hand off some things to the Lord, which is very comforting.

The Gaffney’s both expressed deep appreciation for the Archbishop and priests from the archdiocese visited the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine on Sept. 27. Photos Chris Porter.

Archbishop Coakley and priests from the archdiocese visited the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine on Sept. 27. Photos Chris Porter.

“The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City announces The Ordination to the Order of Deacon

Conferred by The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Friday, November 5, 2021
6:00 PM
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help 2214 N. Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Tickets still available to Order Ticket required due to limited seating

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.