The devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a traditional family devotion that is open to all family structures, traditional, single-parent families and multi-generational families, to name a few. This devotion has been promoted by many saints throughout the history of the Church.

The most famous one is Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun who received apparitions of Jesus. Others are Saint Gertrude the Great, Saint Veronica Giuliani and Saint Lutgardis of Aywières. They all knew the importance of having...

continued on page 3

The Ordination to the Order of Deacon

“Peace and joy are fruits of doing God’s will”

By Eliana Tedrow

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, Long Luong, and his wife Sandy Luong spoke to the Sooner Catholic about the ordination and being ordained a deacon.

Name: Long and Sandy Luong
Home Parish: Saint James Catholic Church and Saint Andrew Dung-Lac Catholic Church, Oklahoma City.
Occupation: Engineer

Q: How did you know you were being called to the diaconate?
Long: God used his messengers to inform me of his will. Since the beginning of 2000, to encourage my children to learn Vietnamese, I participated in teaching Vietnamese at Saint Andrew Dung-Lac. Sister Mary invited me to be a catechist, preparing high school youth for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. I enrolled in classes at the Catholic Pastoral Center to learn more about the Catholic Church and the Sacraments.

continued on page 5

GOD IS CALLING MEN YOU KNOW WILL YOU HELP THEM ANSWER HIM?
Pope Francis wants to hear from us

Since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the bishops of the world have gathered in “synod” periodically to reflect on how the Holy Spirit is prompting and guiding the Church on its pilgrim journey.

Usually, the synodal gatherings of bishops have occurred every three years with representative groups of bishops from each episcopal conference meeting to pray and reflect on pressing pastoral issues over the course of several weeks. Subsequently a teaching document has been prepared and issued by the pope. Some of the many topics addressed have been themes such as evangelization, the family, justice and priory formation.

The next synod will be different from previous synods in one way. For one, the theme is much broader than previous synods. The theme for the upcoming process is “For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation and Mission.” It is a synod on synodality. Another clear difference is that this synod will be preceded by a much broader consultation conducted over the course of two years. In fact, the bishops gather in 2023. It will proceed in phases involving consultation, synthesis and reporting.

Pope Francis officially opened the synodal process by reading the words of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops on Oct. 13 with a Mass at Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Each diocesan bishop will subsequently open the diocesan phase of the synod at a Mass in each cathedral this month.

The opening of the synod process in our archdiocese took place on Oct. 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The diocesan phase will be conducted between now and April 2022. It will be followed by a national/continental phase and then the synod of bishop delegates who will gather in Rome in October 2023. The word “synod” has a rich theological meaning and history. It comes from a Greek word meaning “journeying together.” The Church on its earth is a pilgrim Church, journeying through history along the way of discipleship and mission with its eyes fixed on Jesus who is “the way, the truth and the life.”

This synod will invite the Church to focus on how we live out this call to be a “synodal” Church that promotes deeper communion through listening, through broad participation and by living our mission to be light for the world and salt for the earth.

In many ways what we are being called to undertake is what we already have been living and doing here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We already have conducted various consultations in recent years as we developed the pastoral letter, “Go Make Disciples: Building a Culture of Conversion and Discipleship,” and our pastoral plan, Vision 2030. During this synodal process, we will build on these initiatives as we discern locally how the Holy Spirit is moving us to become an even more effective instrument of God’s mercy and aidng presence through history.

Between now and the end of the year, we will be designing a process to consult and gather responses that we will be able to submit as our local input for the broader national and global consultation. In the months of January and February 2022, there will be listening sessions in each of the six deanery regions of the archdiocese. These will involve providing some information about the process as well as gathering input from participants.

For those who will be unable to attend or who wish to participate in written form, there will be a survey link provided. We will gather and synthesize our responses and submit them for inclusion in the national plan by April 1.

There will be more information provided in the weeks and months ahead. I encourage your participation and your prayers throughout this process so we will be able to discern more clearly and respond more faithfully to the Lord’s providential plans for us, our church and our wounded but redeemed world.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

- **November 2, Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center**
- **November 3, School Mass, 8:30 a.m., Sacred Heart, El Reno**
- **November 4, School Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Charles Borromeo, OKC**
- **November 5, School Mass, 8:30 a.m., Tinker Air Force Base**
- **November 5, Mass of Ordination of Permanent Deacon, 6 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC**
- **November 6, Confirmation, 3:30 p.m., Epiphany of the Lord, OKC**
- **November 7, Confirmation, 5 p.m., St. Eugene, OKC**
- **November 8, Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC**

**November 8, 7 p.m.**
Catholic Pastoral Center Confessions 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Learn more about starting a Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotion at a parish.
Contact Alex Schimpf at (405) 721-8944, aschimpf@archokc.org

**November 9, 7 p.m.**
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Synod kick off Mass.
Contact Jolene Schonchin at (405) 721-1297, jschonchin@archokc.org

**November 5-7, 2022**
St. Joseph’s Seminary Conference.
Contact Alex Schimpf at (405) 721-8944, aschimpf@archokc.org

**November 8, 2022**
Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issues a statement following the following statement:

“Pope Francis has grave concerns about government promotion of contraceptives.

“At the same time, we have long supported efforts to ensure that abortion is kept physically and financially separate from family planning under Title X. And in December, the Title X program’s two-pillar policy was restored.

“Title X was intended and authorized to be a presentation, an orientation from abortion and it plainly states that ‘The funds authorized under this legislation (shall) be used only to support...’

“Pope Francis has grave concerns about government promotion of contraceptives.

“Abortion is not family planning. Abortion takes the life of an already-conceived and growing child. The violence of abortion wounds countless women physically, spiritually and emotionally.

“The authorization is wrong to allow taxpayer dollars to fund abortion providers who participate in a pre-pregnancy program specifically designed to exclude abortion.”

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

U.S. bishops’ pro-life chairman on rescinding of “Protect Life Rule”

WASHINGTON — The Biden Administration has published a new rule rescinding the “Protect Life Rule” governing the Title X family planning program. That rule had the commendable effect of ensuring compliance with federal law by stipulating that Title X projects may not share office space or financing with abortion facilities and are not required to refer for abortion. The rescission becomes effective on Nov. 8.

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Archbishop Coakley issues a Call To Prayer for an end to abortion, death penalty in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY – Archbishop Coakley issued a Call To Prayer for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on Wednesday for a renewed respect for all life, and an end to abortion and the death penalty in Oklahoma.

The Call To Prayer comes during Respect Life Month, the Month of the Rosary and with the first of seven Oklahoma executions over the next few months scheduled to be carried out Oct. 28.

“We must pray for a renewed focus on the precious gift of life – all life from conception until natural death. We need urgent prayer for our leaders that they have wisdom and courage to craft laws and policies that respect the dignity of all human life,” he said.

“I ask that we offer special prayers now through the beginning of Advent for greater respect for life, and to pray on the day of the executions for victims of these horrific crimes and their families, and for the souls of those executed,” Bishop Coakley said.

As Saint John Paul II said in his encyclical, The Gospel of Life, “May God grant that all who believe in Jesus Christ have the grace to accept that Gospel truth and the courage to bear witness to it, in order, is order, to build, with all of people of good will, the civilization of truth and love.”

“Add a prayer each day for an end to the death penalty. May the grace of Jesus Christ bring peace to the hearts of those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Pray this prayer for the Holy Saint John Paul II.”

McLOUD – About 30 miles east of Oklaho-
ma City in a town of about 5,000 people is Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. This mission church, established in 1904, has been a spiritual home to generations of families.

The church is typical of churches from the Oklahoma plains found largely in farming and farming communities. According to parishioner Lisa Lemenge, COVID-19 has been a period of loss and challenge for the church community held Saturday night with the Lay Missionaries, Sunday morning donuts and a bi-annual Mass and picnic at the nearby lake.

“We have experienced loss in our community and our home,” she said. “It helped set our church apart and make it known that we care about one another’s spiritual needs.”

“It was a beautiful way to celebrate our patron saint and enjoy one another’s company on a beautiful Saturday evening,” she added.

Parishioners are looking forward to welcoming people back into the church and hosting anyone looking for a parish to join them.

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is located at 123 N. Street in McCloud. Mass is celebrated Saturday at 11 a.m. and a “Welcome Home” event planned for later in the month.

Bishop Daniel Coakley is a freelance writer for the Steuer Catholic.

McCloud church welcomes parishioners back to Mass

From the Archives …

A photo story from George Rypinski, archdiocesan architect

St. Francis de Sales Seminary was the brainchild of Bishop Eugene McGuinness. As part of his vision of growth during the post-World War II boom, he saw the necessity to construct a seminary to ensure future priests for the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Bishop McGuinness was determined to open a seminary new (high school and the first two years of college) to serve the state and surrounding dioceses.

As a selling point of the Jubilee Drive to fund the seminary, Bishop McGuinness went to Rome and met with the then cardinal. Archbishop Coakley designed the layout and what it would entail. The corpus on the crucifix as well as the stole and the patron of the diocese, Saint Joseph was the work of Saint Joseph’s Handicraft. Sadly, Bishop McGuinness did not live to see its completion, leaving this life on Dec. 27, 1957.

The archdiocese was mid-century modern and the art in the halls and in the chapel was created by an Oklahoma priest, Father John Walsh. Trained at the Art Institute of Chicago, Father Walsh designed the layout and what it would entail. The corpus on the crucifix as well as the stole was the work of Saint Joseph’s Handicraft. Sadly, Bishop McGuinness did not live to see its completion, leaving this life on Dec. 27, 1957.

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St. Francis de Sales Chapel

Q: What has been the most rewarding aspect of being a deacon candidate?

Long: Discerning the call and being formed as the servant heart of Jesus in the company of caring and sincere brothers and friends has continued showing that the Church that Jesus found in universal, and we are the body of Christ.

Bandy: This event is very important to me because my husband is going to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders, being called as a servant of God with faith, leadership and obedience. This has impacted my family because we have witnessed that service that God has bestowed on my husband, helping us to always live with God’s holiness and grace, with my husband as an example.

Q: What special ministry will you underwrite?

Long: Where I came from, family is the basic cell of society, therefore, I will be involved in ministries such as luminaries for youth, adults and elderly.

Q: What is your favorite Scripture passage?

Long: I love the Gospel of John. A couple of my favorite Scripture passages are: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3:16), and “I came that they might have life and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10).

Q: What do you look forward to most in this minstry as a deacon?

Long: With eyes gazing on Jesus, I will serve God as his will is made known to me through the archbishop and his priests, and the director of the permanent diaconate.

Bandy: I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide every candidate on the path of holiness, holiness, love and life in mission, the deacon’s of the Catholic Church.

Elaina Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Steuer Catholic.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Santa Fe Ok.

November 23, 2022

McCloud church welcomes parishioners back to Mass
The Senior Class Retreat for Mount St. Mary Catholic High School was held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp on Oct. 13. Rocket seniors heard from aging cards they made for the medical staff.

The Spirit Team from Mount St. Mary Catholic High School spent time Oct. 11 en-

Ardford parish partners with consulate to assist Honduran families

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

ARDMORE — Following Archbishop Coakley’s Episcopal visit, “Put out into the deep!” more than 500 people from as far away as Colorado and Tennessee came to Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore in September to participate in a weekend with staff from the Honduran Consulate General in Dallas.

The consulate sponsored the weekend in which Honduran documents and Honduran passports were processed by 14 staff members. Saint Mary’s pastor Father Kevin Ratterman and parishioners gladly provided the location.

Staff members and participants described Father Ratterman and Deacon Juan Jimenez as “special angels” for their welcome and willing-

ness to host the event.

Consul Joachim Ritter said about Father Ratterman and Deacon Jimenez, “I wish I had this kind of cooperation at every location when we offer a program like this. They are special people. We had choice of Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, but happily chose Ardmore, Oklahoma. I have been in my position for two years and I wish I could have a Father Ratterman and Dea-

The event provided a central location for families to meet with officials about the legal process.

“We processed many appreciative people. Most of them got the word to come to Ardmore from social media for the program, which is a free service of the Honduran Consulate.”

Ritter explained, “These are all very hard-working people who are going through the legal process. They pay their federal, state, so-

cial security and Medicare taxes, but can’t vote or collect any benefits of a U.S. citizen. By getting these documents from the consul-

ate, it helps them continue the process with banks, identification and travel.”

Deacon Jimenez said three years ago, Saint Mary hosted a similar program for the Mexican Consulate.

“Both programs have been very success-

ful, and we want to serve as an outreach for all people,” he said. “We have no idea what kind of long-term effort this will have when we open our doors. We are fortunate we have such a great facility.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the

Sooner Catholic.
Sooner Catholic celebrated the Red Mass for legal professionals on Oct. 7 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker was Gerard Wegener, Ph.D. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.


In honor of the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, parishes from around the archdiocese held pet blessings in early October. The parishes pictured are: Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton; Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche; St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City; St. Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City; St. Mary Catholic Church in Clinton and St. Ann Catholic Church in Cordell. Photos Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic and provided.
Anniversary Mass

Bishops call attacks on U.S. Catholic sites ‘acts of hate’ that must stop

The Mysteries of discipleship

This past month, I shared about an apostolic letter from Saint John Paul II, “On the Most Holy Rosary.” This is Pr. 2 to that article, focusing on the mysteries of the Rosary.

It’s an appropriate theme during this “Month of the Rosary,” and a beautiful way to begin getting ourselves ready for the coming season of Advent.

As I was reading this powerful little book, this is the line that gave me pause. “The Rosary was instituted by Jesus through though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. It has all the depth and essence of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium.”

I prayed and studied that sentence for a number of days, which led me to the discovery of a number of other letters written about the Rosary throughout the history of the Church. It started to reveal a certain connection of the “mystery of the Gospel” intertwined with the mysteries of the Rosary.

Over the years, I have heard the core message of the Gospel, what we call the “kerygma,” unpacked more times than I could ever count. I would sum up the kerygma in five key points:

1) God has created us out of his incredible love, with a divine purpose; 2) Sin has separated us from God, damaged our relationship with him and dealt a deadly blow to us; 3) God sees us in our poverty and helplessness and sends himself in the form of a son to save us, take on the punishment for our sin, and give us new life; 4) Jesus invites us to join him, to be part of the “Church,” doing what the Father would do (accepting and receiving the gift of grace we have received and accept what Jesus has done for us); and 5) The finding in the temple is Jesus in the “Church,” doing what the Father would do, and the first disciples to see Jesus in the temple, giving thanksgiving and dedicating him to the service of God, accepting and receiving the great gift they have received (accept and receive what Jesus has done for us).

That is the message of the Gospel, the “great mystery of the Gospel,” this “good news,” comes alive when we pray “with” Mary. Mary helps us contemplate these mysteries and imparts her memories with us as well.

I invite you and encourage you to discover more of this all for yourself. Mary is the model disciple. She can help us on this journey of discipleship beyond anyone. What a great opportunity to explore a deeper relationship with her.

We soon will be entering Advent where she will be carrying Jesus and each day getting closer and closer to celebrating his birth. Let us come together with you and join in your prayer as you go along the way!

Sr. Mary Aidan Zurline

Jim Beckman
Executive Director
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Sister Mary Aidan Zurline died Oct. 10 in Oklahoma City. She was 84.

Sister Mary was born to Joseph Zurline and Kathleen McGinnis Zurline in Oklahoma City on April 13, 1933. She was raised in the family of God, a day of giving thanks; in the Wedding Feast at Cana we see the human poverty of this couple, having no more wine, in risk of huge embarrassment, our human condition has brought us to this place.

The great mystery of the Gospel...
Job book: “Stories of the Saints: bold and inspiring tales of adventure, grace, and courage”

By Fr. Benet Eston, O.S.B.

This book is very colorful due to the illustrations by Nick Thurber, who did a fantastic job on “Dragon Age: Inquisition,” which is part of the Dragon Age series. Casey Wallace wrote the stories. The book begins chronologically with Saint Papalyn and ends with Saint Tarsus. A map of the Roman Empire and the ancient world around the Mediterranean Sea follows Saint Tarsus’s story. It is followed by a short bibliography.

There are errors in the stories of the saints. For example, Saint Angela says he was canonized by Saint Gregory the Great, Saint Hildegard, Saint Vincent Ferrer, Saint Francis of Assisi, and Father Tad. It might cause them to look for a different story, which is not the case. The illustrations, again, are interesting and worthy pondering. This book will get something long, one or two page involvements in a few years. A few are page or so longer. Wallace did need to write in the story even for the young saints that keep the reader’s interest. There are a lot of errors in the stories of the saints. For example, Saint Angela says he was canonized by Saint Gregory the Great, Saint Hildegard, Saint Vincent Ferrer, Saint Francis of Assisi, and Father Tad. It might cause them to look for a different story, which is not the case. The illustrations, again, are interesting and worthy pondering. This book will get something long, one or two page involvements in a few years. A few are page or so longer. Wallace did need to write in the story even for the young saints that keep the reader’s interest.

The artwork by Nick Thurber is very appealing to the eye and the imagination. It is modern and graphic art style to create these intriguing illustrations for young readers. This book has an image of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Anthony of Padua. The image of Saint Joan of Arc. There are several saints that are appealing to young readers. People of all ages will get something interesting from this book. It might cause them to look for a longer book in the future.

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El Papa Francisco quiere escucharanos

Desde la conclusión del Concilio Vaticano II en la década de 1960, los obispos del mundo se han reunido en un “sínodo” periódicamente para reflexionar sobre cómo el Espíritu Santo está impulsándonos y guiándonos a la Iglesia en su renovación. Por lo general, las reuniones sínodorales de obispos se han realizado cada año desde 1965, pero se ha dado un tiempo extraordinario para este mes en el transcurso de varias semanas. Posterior a eso, el Papa normalmente reunirá y publicará un documento de enseñanza. Algunos de los temas muy abordados han sido temas como la evangelización, la familia, la justicia y la formación sacerdotal.

El próximo sínodo será diferente a los anteriores en varios aspectos. Por un lado, el tema es mucho más amplio que los sínodos anteriores. El tema del próximo proceso es “Por una Iglesia Sindodal: Comunicación, Participación y Misión”. Es un sínodo sobre santidad. Otra clara diferencia es que este sínodo será precedido por una consulta más amplia, realizada en el transcurso de los dos años anteriores de que los obispos se reúnan en 2023. Se desarrollarían en fechas que incluyen consultas, sesiones e informes.

El Papa Francisco inauguró oficialmente el proceso que conducirá a la XVI Asamblea General Ordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos el 13 de octubre con una misa en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma. Cada obispo discurrió posteriormente abrir en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma el 24 de octubre con una misa en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma.

Para el transcurso de los dos años anteriores de que los obispos se reúnan en 2023, se realizará un proceso para concretar y recapitular respuestas que podremos presentar como nuestro aporte local para la consulta nacional y global más amplio. En los meses de enero y febrero de 2022, habrá sesiones de consulta en cada una de las regiones del decanato de la arquidiócesis. Esto implicará proporcionar información sobre el proceso, así como recopilar comentarios de los participantes.

Para aquellos que no puedan asistir o desean participar por escrito, se proporcionará un formato para su inclusión en la fase nacional antes del 1 de abril. Se proporcionará más información en las próximas semanas y meses. Les animo a su participación en sus oraciones a lo largo de este proceso, para que podamos discutir con mayor claridad y responder más fielmente a los retos que nos van plantear.

“Guiándome en la construcción del reino de Dios”

Varios candidatos a diácono de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City serán ordenados al diácono permanente por el Arzobispo Coakley el 5 de noviembre en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro después de pasar cuatro años en formación. Uno de los candidatos al diácono, Héctor Hernández, y su esposa Martha Hernández hablaron con el Sooner Catholic sobre la ordenación y de ser ordenado diácono.

Héctor: Cuando fui invitado por el padre Rex Arnold, fue un “Sí” inmediato. Ya estaba trabajando en algunos ministerios de la iglesia y tuve la sensación de que podía hacer más.

Martha: Cuando Héctor fue llamado a ser diácono, tuve una sensación de felicidad, así como confusión y nerviosismo. Sabía que podía entender, preguntándole a Martha qué decía y luego investigando en el diccionario, los libros y la Biblia. Guía de poder estar más cerca de la ordenación.

Héctor: El apoyo de mi parroquia y la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Martha: ¿Qué es lo más desafiante de ser un candidato a diácono?

Héctor: Como soy hispano, el español es mi lengua materna. Fue un poco difícil para mí estar en una clase donde todo estaba en inglés. Me sentía como si estuviera comenzando de nuevo, como si estuviera asistiendo al jardín de niños, volviendo a todos cuando no podía entender, preguntándole a Martha qué decía y luego investigando en el diccionario, los libros y la Biblia.

Martha: Cuando Héctor fue llamado a ser diácono, tuvo una sensación de felicidad, así como confusión y nerviosismo. Sabía que era un gran paso, compromiso y responsabilidad debería a Dios. El camino, la verdad y la vida.

Héctor: Tres hijos adultos y tres nietos. Yolanda y su esposo Brian, Héctor Harvey y Emma y su esposo Tony Garza.

Héctor y Martha Hernández

El Papa Francisco quiere escucharanos

Las actuaciones del Sínodo

La construcción de la iglesia del Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother a Mustang, Oklahoma continúa. Aquí hay algunas actuaciones:

- La albolafia y techo de la catedral, incluyendo el techo de la nave; hay algunas actualizaciones:
- Termínar de soldar el domo; albañilería de transeptos, incluyendo el techo de la nave; hay algunas actualizaciones:
- Terminando de soldar el domo; albañilería de transeptos; encarpe y revestimiento de capillas.
- Dominar de soldar el domo; para ver la cámara web del sitio de construcción, visite archokc.org/shrine/live. Ayende a apoyar el santuario en archokc.org/shrine/support.

Héctor and Martha Hernandez

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La construcción de la iglesia del Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother continúa en la ciudad de Oklahoma con nuevas albolafias y techos. Aquí hay algunas actuaciones:

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- La albolafia y techo de la catedral, incluyendo el techo de la nave; hay algunas actualizaciones:
- Albolateria de transpe; encarpe y revestimiento de capillas.
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Las actuaciones del Sínodo

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October 24, 2021

Souther Catholic

Please contact organizers before attending. Find more briefs at archoc.org/briefs.

Opening Synod Mass
Join Archbishop Coakley and Fr. Rick Stanberry at 10 a.m. on Oct. 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for the opening Mass of the Synod of Our Lady, the upcoming Synod on synodality called by Pope Francis. “For a Synodal Church. Communion. Participation and Mission.” The Mass marks the beginning of the diocesan phase of the Synod process that will culminate in a worldwide meeting of bishops. The Synod process will examine how the faithful journey together as a Church.

Listening Sessions
Dcn. Roy Callison and Susan Callison with the American Indian Catholic Outreach office are hosting Listening Sessions throughout the Archdiocese 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/synod. For more information, contact Dcn. Callison at rcallison@archoc.org.

Anadarko Listening Session
Dcn. Roy Callison and Susan Callison with the American Indian Catholic Outreach office will host a Listening Session at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko on Oct. 31 following 10 a.m. Mass. The session will be held in the parish hall and is open to the public. The session is to provide a forum for people to discuss their experiences in former Catholic Indian boarding schools in Oklahoma.

40 Days for Life
The 40 Days for Life campaign is Sept. 22 – Oct. 31. Visit 40DaysforLife.org to pray the Rosary for Life, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Nov. 7 while supplies last. Drive-thru service only. Adult males $15. Credit cards accepted. Contact the church office at (405) 275-4616.

Reconciler with God’s Call
The Fall 2021 Encounter with God’s Call weekend is Nov. 13-15 at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo. This is an opportunity to discern to the call to priesthood and learn about college seminary life. The Spring 2022 event is Feb. 26-28. Visit ewgo.org. Contact (660) 944-2987, ewg@conception.edu.

Lay Missionaries of Charity
Many priests and other guests will join the event to discuss their experiences in former Catholic Indian boarding schools in Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa. A Tree of Life Celebration, honoring people God has called home during the past year, will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to Noon on Saturday. A variety of guests will join the show, including many Oklahomaans who have been impacted significantly by Catholic radio. Archbishop Coakley will be live on the air at 8:30 a.m. and at 4 p.m. on Thursday. Many priests and other guests from both the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa will be on the air. A variety of Catholic radio’s biggest fundraisers each year. There will be opportunities for matching gifts and sponsorships. Learn more, listen live or find a station at alcreradio.org.

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Support Oklahoma Catholic radio during the radiothon at 1-833-652-7234 or give online at alcreradio.org/give. Consider becoming a member of the Keepers of the Airwaves with a monthly gift. A monthly gift of support helps prepare for the future and possible expansion across the state.
“Guiding me in building the kingdom of God”

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, Hector Hernandez, and his wife Martha Hernandez 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?
Hector: When I was invited by Father Rex Arnold, it was a “Yes” right away. I was already working in some ministries at the church and got the feeling that I was able to do more.

Q: What has been the most rewarding aspect of being a deacon candidate?
Hector: All the knowledge I have acquired, the growing in my faith in God and his Church, all the good friends I have found during these four years, and the privilege God gave me to be able to be closer to ordination. Also, the support of my parish and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Q: What has been unexpected?
Hector: Even though I have been getting a lot of preparation during these four years, learning about our faith, theology, the spiritual life in Christ and the Church, thinking of the change of life from a lay person to becoming a member of the clergy can make me nervous. I have faith in Jesus and the Holy Spirit that they will be guiding me in building the kingdom of God.

Q: What is the most challenging thing about being a deacon candidate?
Hector: As I am Hispanic, Spanish is my native language. It was kind of difficult for me to be in a class where everything was in English. I was feeling like I was starting over as if I was attending Kindergarten, looking at everyone when I was not able to understand, asking Martha what was said and later investigating in the dictionary, books, the Bible.

Martha: When Hector was called to become a deacon, I got a feeling of happiness as well as confusion and nervousness. I knew it was a big step, commitment and responsibility to serve God with such a big title. It changed everyone’s life in our family.

Q: What special ministry will you undertake?
Hector: I hope to be able to preach without forgetting that I am a servant of Christ. I will be serving the community, taking communion to the sick and evangelizing.

Martha: My role as a deacon’s wife is to support Hector in his ministry, be at his side in every moment and for him, pray to Jesus Christ for him to be a good caring servant, that he never forgets that he is conformed to be like Christ who said, “He came to serve, not to be served.”

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.