Archbishop Coakley celebrated the Synod Opening Mass Oct. 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Photo provided.

Archbishop Coakley opens synod in archdiocese

By Diane Clay
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – Archbishop Coakley celebrated the Synod Opening Mass Oct. 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to launch the diocesan phase of the synodal process called for by Pope Francis. The synod titled, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,” calls on every diocese throughout the world to undergo a process of gathering information and feedback on how the faithful journey together as a Church.

“The word synod itself is significant for...”

continued on page 13

Veterans recall service, dedication to country, faith and family

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

M CLOUD – A trio of veterans from this small parish 20 miles east of Oklahoma City recently discussed their military service, their love of Christ and their devotion to family. They also share a love of country and consider Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church a second home.

The oldest of the trio is Robert Jones who regularly attends Mass at age 88. Jones finished his service at Tinker Air Force Base after serving in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. He and his wife were married for 66 years until his wife passed away last year from COVID-19. During his military service he converted to Catholicism.

“I honestly believe that military service will enhance your faith in God. I also believe service should be mandatory for every young American to help them appreciate what we have in this country,” Jones said.

He served his country during the Korean War and Vietnam War.

Ralph Wilsack served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967. He was trained at Fort Bragg and fought in Vietnam. He has been married 45 years and has two grown sons.

“We didn’t see many chaplains in Vietnam, especially in the boonies, and I fell away,” Wilsack said.

Wilsack now is involved with the parish, and also with the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, which helps people in need.

“At an immature 18-year-old, spending a year or two in service to others (whether the military, Peace Corps or charitable work) would be a great benefit,” Wilsack said.

Steve Luba served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970 and fought in Vietnam. He has been married for 50 years.

“I had the harrowing experience of spending almost all my time in a place in Vietnam called ‘Landing Zone Grant.’ It was not a great place to be. I was there from the beginning to the end. I had the opportunity to go to Mass six times during my time there.” Luba was wounded and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

continued on page 9
This past Friday evening, Nov. 5, the Lord blessed the Archdiocese of Oklahoma with 27 new deacons. The beautiful solemn ordination of so many permanent deacons at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of Perpetual Help was a cause for celebration, not only for these men and their families, but for the parishes and ministry programs to which they will be serving throughout our archdiocese. It is evident to everyone who was in attendance that the Lord’s wonders are able to call each of us to place our gifts at the service of one another and so build up the Body of Christ.

Priests, deacons and religious women and men from homes, families and parishes just like yours. They don’t fall from the sky or grow on trees! I am grateful for my parents who often pray for vocations? Do we speak well of our priests, in a way that reminds children that a vocation to the permanent diaconate is a fitting start to service in the Church as ordained ministers or saints. Most are called to pursue holiness in another and so build up the Body of Christ.

Put Out Into the Deep

Father, during this time may your Church shine with signs of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant healing Be with us, Lord. Amen.

Edmond parishioners named “America’s Kindest Family”

Edmond – Keaton Barron was only 8 years old when he lost his battle to leukemia. While in the hospital, Keaton started the “K Club,” a place where kids and adults could choose random acts of kindness to help others. As a result, Keaton’s family is carrying on its mission of changing the world through small acts of kindness, making a significant difference in many lives. For this act of kindness and many others, Parents Magazine recently named the Barron family, parishioners at Saint Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, as “America’s Kindest Family.”

In the article, judge said she asked the Edward family – Luke (39), Holly (38), Keaton (forever 8), Reid (7), Holden (4) and Conley (2) – was inspirational.

“The Barrons’ kindness is a clear representation of what we aspire to be as parents, friends and neighbors,” contest judges Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart said.

“Keaton’s mom and K Club, to the people the hospital would let him take to use as a comfort to the child, and as a way to share the love and kindness that the Barrons have shown people.”

“The magazine recognized kind- ness efforts through the K Club, including collecting diapers, wipes and other source center; donating to build wells in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; making hygiene packs for those struggling with homelessness; and picking kind meals across Oklahoma City and Edmond.”

The family also creates “K Packs,” which allow families to make a significant difference in the world and do something kind. For more information, visit keatonbarron.org.

Eliana Tadros is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley’s Calendar

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

Nov. 7 – Confirmation, 5 p.m., St. Eugene, OKC
Nov. 8 – USCCB Pro-Life Activities Committee virtual meeting, 1 p.m.
Nov. 9 – USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Nov. 9 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Nov. 10 – USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism meeting, 6 p.m., CPC
Nov. 11 – Live on-air for Oklahoma Catholic Radiothon, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Nov. 11 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Nov. 12 – Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine Building Committee meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Nov. 12 – Live on-air for Oklahoma Catholic Radiothon, 4 p.m.
Nov. 12 – USCCB Administrative Committee meeting, Noon, Baltimore, Md.
Nov. 14 – USCCB Divine Worship Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., Baltimore
Nov. 14 – USCCB Pro-Life Committee meeting, 2 p.m., Baltimore
Nov. 14 – USCCB Religious Liberty Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., Baltimore
Nov. 14 – USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism meeting, 6 p.m., CPC
Nov. 15-18 – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Assembly, Baltimore
Nov. 16 – Catholic Benefits Association Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Baltimore
Nov. 20 – Mass for current, former Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma board members, 5 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Nov. 20 – Dinner for current, former Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma board members, Will Rogers Theater, OKC

Additional coverage of Church and diocesan news and events, only on sooner catholic.org

To send photos, event information or story ideas, e-mail communications@archokc.org.

For newborn babies. May they be kept safe, healthy and the love of God.

The annual Holy Spirit Catholic Church craft fair is 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Nov. 13 at 1190 N. Sara Rd. in Mustang. There will be a bake sale, gift card raffle, gift basket raffle and a variety of items for lunch.

The Monsks’ Market- place at St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee now sells high-quality Mission Monks Beef by the cut. Choose among ribeyes, T-bones, sirloins, various roasts, brisket, flank steak and ground beef. Store hours are Thursday and Friday, 1:30-5 p.m., and Saturday- 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Watch construction of Bishop Sherrine’s shrine on a live webinar at archokes.org/shrinewebcam.

The Sooner Catholic

by Eliana Tadros

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Find more news on the website

by Sooner Catholic Staff
The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.

The story of the "Five Moons," the American Indian dancers from Oklahoma who took the world of ballet by storm from the mid-1940s until the 1960s, is even more fascinating when one realizes that three of these five remarkable women were Catholic (the other two were Russel-ia Hightower and Muscymene Harlin). Maria and Marguerite Tallchief (members of the Osage Tribe) were born in 1925 and 1926 respectively and lived in the northeastern Oklahoma town of Pawhuska. Yvonne Chouteau was raised in Vinita and Shawnee, but also was on the roles of the Cherokee Tribe.

Early on, the mother of the Tallchiefs often recognized the extraordinary talent of her two young girls and due to money given to the Osage Tribe, the parents decided to relocate to Los Angeles to allow that talent to be nurtured by profession. It proved to be a move that was absolutely grand.

Much too was extremely gifted. Like her older sister, she began her career with the Ballet Russe in 1946 and later the Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas and her final company before retire-ment as prima ballerina of the Harrisson Ballet. She performed before heads of state such as President Kennedy and President Johnson as well as Charles De Gaulle.
Their incredible woman has been described as "elegant," "gracious," and "kind." Her faith was an animating principle in her life as she was active at Our Lady's Catholic Church in many years, including playing an active role in the parish's Liturgy committee. She passed away in 2011.

Besides being Oklahomans, the three women were proud of their American Indian heritage, and were not reticent to express their pride. All gave freely of their American Indian heritage and were not reticent to express their pride.
The volleyball team from Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School won the class 5A state championship after defeating Carl Albert High School. It is the Rockets’ third state championship in nine years. Led by coach James Ward, Rocket volleyball only lost one set during the regional and state finals and finished the season with 39 wins, the highest in MSM volleyball history.

For the first day of religious education classes at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alva students made chalk art with the theme “God Made Us Special.” Photos provided.

SOUTH VALLEY – Two years ago, at the beginning of the pandemic, Mass was being held with no congregation and children were unable to return to their classrooms. For Saint Catherine of Siena parishioner Amanda Cummings, the pandemic was an opportunity to do something more for her community. After learning about the grants for local projects offered by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Cummings began formulating an idea that would benefit both the students at the Paula Valley junior high school and the broader community.

The schoolyard where the school’s 300 students spent a portion of their lunch had only a single picnic table to sit and it was in the sun. Cummings proposed applying for the CCHD grant to install hexagonal benches around tree trunks so more students could sit and have a place to visit with friends. She also imagined that teachers would be able to sit with students, many of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch, and better engage with them. The benches also are used for schoolwork, using the free Wi-Fi from the library across the street. Students helped build the benches and included flower beds with donated materials from the community.

“Every day they will see the fruits of their work and feel pride and a sense of accomplishment as they gather in this lovely space right outside their classrooms,” Cummings said.

CCHD grants are not intended solely for charity efforts but to make real and lasting impacts on peoples’ lives. The CCHD grant was funded by gifts from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Pottawatomie at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore celebrated Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 3 with a rosary and a cookout. Nearly 200 parishioners attended the celebration. Photos provided.

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St. Catherine of Siena provides students, community gathering place

Photos provided.

New program offers academic options for Mount students

Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School recently developed the Diplomas of Distinction program to enable students to better focus elective choices. The program allows students to focus on their interests and aspirations for college and future careers as well as missionary discipleship.

Students take eight courses a semester for a total of 32 credits, which allows opportunities to learn beyond standard core curriculum. The 10 Diplomas of Distinction curricular pathways range from servant leadership to business and technology; from renewable thinker to engineering.

Students who elect to earn a Diploma of Distinction also take all the normal core theology, math, science, English and social studies courses.

As a final capstone, students who are earning a Diploma of Distinction are required to give a TED Talk-style presentation about a product or idea they created in the program.

Promo image of the program for the upcoming year.

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Photos provided.

Below is a lineup of scheduled broadcasts on “Make Straight the Way” hosted by Dcn. Larry Souza.

Nov. 2 and 3: Fr. Brannon Romani, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC - Muslim convert to Christianity (Pt. 1)
Nov. 2 and 3: Fr. Brannon Romani, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC - Muslim convert to Christianity (Pt. 2)
Nov. 9 and 10: Derwin Romani, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC - Muslim convert to Christianity (Pt. 1)
Nov. 16 and 17: Derwin Romani, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC - Muslim convert to Christianity (Pt. 2)
Nov. 23 and 24: Fr. Derwin Romani, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC - Muslim convert to Christianity (Pt. 3)

Photos provided.

Photos provided.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is here to help.

Contact us (405)721-4115 or cfo@cfook.org.
Catholic leaders call for global discernment, cooperation to address climate crisis at COP26

WASHINGTON – The United Nations will convene their annual meeting on climate, COP26, on Oct. 31. In advance of the meeting, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on International Justice and Peace, together with Sr. Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, released the following statement:

“The climate crisis is complex and demands the discernment and cooperation of the entire human family. We appreciate the Biden Administration’s recent commitments in anticipation of COP26 to reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions within our own borders and to increase climate finance contributions for adaptation and mitigation in low-income countries. These new developments reflect an integral ecology that promotes care for creation and strengthens the bonds of solidarity between nations, particularly between the rich and the poor.

“Yet, the challenge posed by climate change demands ongoing effort from all of us. COP26 is an opportunity for all nations to protect the environment while at the same time providing reliable, affordable and carbon-free energy through innovation and enterprise, ensuring a better future for the entire human family, especially for the working class, the poor and marginalized. In his message to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund this spring, Pope Francis spoke of the ‘ecological debt’ developed nations must pay, ‘not only by significantly limiting their consumption of non-renewable energy or by assisting poorer countries to enact policies and programs of sustainable development, but also by covering the costs of the innovation required for that purpose (cf. Laudato Si’, 51-52).’

“We unite with the Holy Father in upholding the Church’s teaching that creation is a precious gift of God intended to be shared by all. To protect this gift, as the world races toward a sustainable future, we must not forget those who suffer the greatest from ecological degradation. Climate leadership requires finding common ground in the pursuit of the common good, for the entire planet is our one common home.”

for bravery. He remains active in the church community.

Other veterans at the church from different conflicts include Donald Johnson, James Walker and Delores Martinez.

“There are many military veterans who have come home and show no scars from their service, but have seen and endured much. Some aspects of their service will never go away,” Wilsack said.

“They deserve the greatest amount of respect because there is so much they have endured that they will never tell you about, but will always be at the back of their mind.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic:
A Benedictine monastery was established in Oklahoma in 1875. The monks were from the French monastery of Notre Dame de la Pierre-qui-Vire and they traveled to the Indian Territory at the suggestion of the bishop of Little Rock. From their base at the Sacred Heart Abbey, the Benedictine monks worked to spread the word of God to people in the region. The monks would ride on horseback or in wagons across trails. They often endured the hardships of inclement weather, lack of food and accommodation, and countless other inconveniences.

"It was natural for us to organize a parish to serve the Catholic community that had settled in the newly established city of Shawnee," Abbot Lawrence Steyskal said. "Father DeGrasse accepted the assignment with his typical great zeal and success."

Father DeGrasse became Shawnee’s first missionary priest, often celebrating Mass in the homes of early settlers due to lack of a permanent building. Those settlers included the Timonseeures, the Caseydes, the Dickers, the Glensons and the Philip Sicks. Later on, Sunday Masses were offered at the Witch’s Foot Store located on Main Street. In 1895, Father DeGrasse spearheaded the purchase of land on Park Street between 9th and 10th Streets. Construction of the first permanent church and rectory soon began, and Father DeGrasse became the first resident pastor.

The church building was dedicated on May 12, 1907. The new church was dedicated on July 29, 1906, the cornerstone of the new church was laid. The new church was dedicated on May 12, 1907.

The city of Shawnee continued to grow after the turn of the century and the parish grew with it. It wasn't long before the congregation had outgrown the church building.

There was a story told that on one Sunday when Father Maurus Fuernestagen, then assistant pastor, was asking the congrega- tion what should be done about the burgeoning congregation, a long freight train came puffing and whistling nearby. Father Fuernestagen had to stop and wait patiently until the train passed to continue the discussion. That incident helped parochialies decide to move to a different location and build a bigger house of worship.

Father Haritchabalet assumed the charge for the current location (the lot on Kickapoo and Benedictine streets). In 1904, a two-story brick rectory was erected on the new site. Attached to the rectory was a large stone garage, which served for some years as an art studio for Father Gregory Gerrer, O.S.B., who had returned from art studies in Europe in 1904. His paintings and art collection later started the Mabee-Gerrer Museum located on the campus of Saint Gregory’s University.

The old church building on Park Street was moved to the new location and used as both church and school. In 1906, construction of the present church began, and on July 24, 1906, the cornerstone of the new church was laid. The new church was dedicated on May 12, 1907.

Saint Benedict’s Church continued to grow after the turn of the century and the parish grew with it. It wasn't long before the congregation had outgrown the church building.

The new church building was completed in 1906, and the cornerstone of the new church was laid on July 24, 1906. The cornerstone was blessed with holy water, and the cornerstone was dedicated to the memory of the pioneer settlers who had laid the cornerstone of the original church.

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Students from Sacred Heart Catholic School in El Reno went trick-or-treating outside with residents of the St. Katharine Drexel retirement community on Oct. 29. Students were glad to be with the residents again.

Photos provided.

The senior class for Mount St. Mary Catholic High School hosted its annual blood drive on Oct. 27. The MSM community donated 38 units of blood. Photos provided.

A Fatima Rosary rally was held Oct. 16 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Groom. Photo provided.

Parishioners at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oklahoma City set up a Day of the Dead offering near the church. Photo provided.

The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School student council spent a day at the district convention hosted by Dale High School. The students networked with other student councils, built leadership talents and learned new ideas for MSM. Photo provided.

Parishioners at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oklahoma City set up a Day of the Dead offering near the church. Photo provided.


Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass with Cardinal DiNardo from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston at the Southwest Lieutenancy Investiture Mass on Oct. 17 at St. Jude Catholic Church in the Diocese of Ft. Worth. Photos provided.

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“This is a rich theological term that in the earliest days even in terms of the Acts of the Apostles, the Church was often referred to as The Way, the journey. We are a pilgrim people on this journey together, our pilgrim way to the fullness of God’s kingdom.”

The synodal process in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will include multiple opportunities in-person and online to discuss issues affecting the universal Church and the local Church. Feedback from the meetings and online survey will be collected and a 10-page summary provided to the Vatican.

“The Holy Father has asked us to carry out this journey, making sure that we hear from as many people as we possibly can, paying particular attention to those who are not yet part of the journey to encounter them and to invite them to participate,” Archbishop Coakley said.

“The synodal process will culminate in a worldwide meeting of bishops in Rome in 2024. Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.
**The Catholic Difference**

**John H. Dolan**

In his new book, *Things Worth Dying For*, Archbishop Chaput has provided us with an inspiring hope as we ponder on the meaning of Jesus Christ's life. The book has quickly captured my full attention on its first chapter, “If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem.”

In *Things Worth Dying For*, Chaput quickly captured my full attention on the first chapter, “If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem.”

Reading in Ch. One (If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem) I had the opportunity to gain fresh perspectives on the topics of the virtues of humanism, beauty, truth and integrity.

The following morning, I had the chance to share my thoughts on this book with others. I was overwhelmed with the understanding that Chaput has provided me with a great book for the 2022 year. I highly recommend this book!
Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Dios llama a la gente común

El pasado viernes 5 de noviembre, por la noche, el Señor bendijo a la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City con 27 nuevos diáconos. La hermosa ordenación solemn de tantos diáconos, permanentes en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro fue motivo de celebración, no sólo para estos hombres y sus familias, sino también para las parroquias y ministerios en los que estarán llamados a la vida consagrada.

Fue una clara evidencia de que el Señor continúa llamándonos a cada uno de nosotros a poner nuestros dones al servicio de los demás y así edificar el Cuerpo de Cristo. Todos los bautizados están llamados a la santidad, a ser santos. La mayoría de las personas rara vez ponen un poco de Cristo. Dios llama a la gente común.

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La semana se centra en la importancia de fomentar activamente las vocaciones consagradas. Los sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosos consagrados son ejemplo y el testimonio de vida consagrada a través de la oración, la vida consagrada a los demás y así edificar el Cuerpo de Cristo. Todos los bautizados están llamados a la santidad, a ser santos. La mayoría de las personas rara vez ponen un poco de Cristo. Dios llama a la gente común.

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November 7, 2021

**Briefs**

**Listening Sessions**
Dcn. Roy Callison and Susan Callison with the American Indian Catholic Outreach office are conducting 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. For more information, contact Dcn. Callison at rcallison@archokc.org.

**Sidewalk advocates**
The Oklahoma City Catholic Outreach office is becoming a peaceful and prayerful sidewalk advocate as part of an effort to end abortion. Call 405-709-2714; Maria Santana (Spanish) at 405-682-9943 or kat@3 trimesters.org. Find more information at sidewalkadvocates.org.

**Holy Innocents Chapel**
The only 24/7 perpetual adoration chapel in Oklahoma City dedicated to the protection of all life from conception to natural death is seeking more dedicated and educated pro-life adorers. The chapel is located at 6114 N.W. 63 in War Memorial Park; contact Julie Lewis at norman@lifefimemorial.com. Find more information at lifefimemorial.com.

**High school shadow visits**
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School admissions office is hosting shadow visits on campus for 8th grade students. Schedule a visit or chat about admissions with MSM Director of Admissions Diane Floyd at dfloyd@mountstmaryok.org. Early admissions applications open; MSM open house Nov. 14; early admission decisions close Dec. 1.

**Turkey dinner – Kingsford**
St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Kingsford will be serving their annual turkey dinner that begins at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 7. Water supplies last. Drive-thru service only. Call 918-644-6056. Credit card accepted. Contact church at 405-375-4616.

**OKCR Fall Radiothon**
The Oklahoma Catholic Radiothon is Nov. 11-13. Archbishop Coakley will be on the air at 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Nov. 11. To donate, call 1-833-652-7234 or visit okcr.org/give.

**Homeless Friends Day**
The St. Pius X Pantry will host Homeless Friends Day 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Nov. 13 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. The pantry will be giving away coats, socks, pasta, dog food, cat food, hygiene kits and the COVID-19 vaccine.

**An evening with Melissa Ohden**
The Knights of Columbus No. 6878 at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Oklahoma City will host an Evening with Melissa Ohden: “Abortion Survive at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 in the Yukon Fae Art Center. For free tickets visit yukonfae.eventbrite.com. Sponsor info at yukonfae@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit the local Knights of Columbus 6878 state campaigns, Gateway Women’s Resource Center and The Center of Family Life.

**Archbishop Coakley**
Archbishop Coakley will be on 652-7234 or visit okcr.org/give. Nov. 11. To donate, call 1-833-652-7234 or visit okcr.org/give.

**Thanksgiving dinner**
The Kingfisher Catholic Church will celebrate a St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass at 6 p.m. Nov. 11. A 13-week Surviving Divorce Ministry series begins 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Tuesday evenings, beginning Nov. 11. Class is free, open to the public. Do not register. Payment of $15. Credit cards accepted. Contact Msgr. Michael Arroyo at rcallison@archokc.org.

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**Pro-life movement**
Nancy and Dan McFarland Con- tinually: A Primer on Diavolution of God’s Will, presented by Alex Schimpf is 8:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 20 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Limit ed seating. Masks recommended, but not required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreat@mkwok.org or call 405-878-1565. Cost $100 per couple, $85 at the door. Lunch included.

**Feast Day Mass**
St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church will celebrate St. Francis Xavier Day, 1552, St. Francis of Assisi, 1226, Nov. 11 at 6 p.m. in the plaza downtown in Oklahoma City.

**Rachel’s Vineyard**
A Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat weekend is Dec. 3-5 in Oklahoma City. This confidential healing retreat is for post-abortive women 14-17 years old. A place where other people have been through similar experiences. Call 405-579-2714. E-mail: rachael@rachelsvineyardok.org.

**Surviving Divorce class**
A new Surviving Divorce class will begin Dec. 7 at St. Mon- na Catholic Church in Edmond. Classes are 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Tuesday evenings, beginning Dec. 7. Cost $15 per couple, $10 per person. No new registrations accepted after Dec. 1. Contact Msgr. Michael Arroyo at rcallison@archokc.org.

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**Feast of St. Francis Xavier**
The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church will celebrate a St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Mass at 6 p.m. Nov. 11. A 13-week Surviving Divorce Ministry series begins 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Tuesday evenings, beginning Nov. 11. Class is free, open to the public. Do not register. Payment of $15. Credit cards accepted. Contact Msgr. Michael Arroyo at rcallison@archokc.org.
SULPHUR – Dorothy Currie is a doting grandmother, a substitute religious education teacher and a member of the choir at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church. She also served as a U.S. Marine.

In the 1970s, Currie, who is originally from Hawaii, joined the Marines when she was age 21. She had three uncles who fought in World War II, one of which lost his life in service. She said what attracted her to the Marines was the movie “Sands of Iwo Jima” and hearing the Marine Corps Hymn. “Both gave me goosebumps. I thought loyalty, service and honor were for me. It made me proud to be an American.”

Currie served the Marines in Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Okinawa, Japan; and Camp Pendleton, Calif., and visited the Philippines until her medical retirement.

She said the Marines helped shape who she is, and her faith helped guide her through a difficult period that included the loss of three infant children. “I always felt God had my back and was always in my heart,” she said. Currie said she considers the parish congregation like family, and Father Aaron Foshee, pastor, has made the parish a “home.”

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“I would like to extend a personal invitation for all to take part in the Holy Eucharist at our new communion rails. It is such a blessing to take a moment to thank God for his many gifts.”

Rosalina Agialoro-Holye, parish secretary at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, said Dorothy, “is so involved with the Church, she is a beautiful soul. ... She does many small things around the church with great love.”

Currie and her husband Larry have five children and six grandchildren. Larry is originally from Oklahoma and converted to Catholicism in 2019.

When asked if she recommends the U.S. Marine Corps for young people, especially young women, she said, “Yes! It makes you grow up and have a spirit of camaraderie that stays with you the rest of your life. I have the most wonderful memories of those days. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Semper Fi.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.