For the past 28 years, Rose Day has united pro-life men and women from across religious and cultural boundaries in their passion for defending the lives of the unborn. On Feb. 3, Oklahomans convened virtually to participate in the 29th annual Rose Day. Despite going virtual, the message of this year’s Rose Day was clear: Pray. Serve. Speak Up.

The event was kicked off by an inspiring video voiced by different children. The video showed powerful images of children still in the womb, ultrasound technology and fetal development. It also offered facts and statistics about the impact the pro-life movement is having in Oklahoma.

Father Brian O’Brien of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Stillwater led the opening prayer.

Father O’Brien asked viewers to be “strengthened in our desire to stand for the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. In this moment,” Father O’Brien prayed, “when unborn life is so regularly threatened through abortion, and when the sick and elderly are at risk of being cast aside in our throw away culture, give us what we need to fight the good fight and to be the voice of those with no voice.”

Gov. Kevin Stitt provided opening comments, stating that while Oklahoma is in the top 10 for pro-life states, he would like it to be No. 1. He also promised to continue to back pro-life legislation. Stitt continued on page 8

The full video of this year’s Rose Day can be viewed at roseday.life.
It has been almost a year since COVID-19 became a household word in our nation. Virtually every aspect of our lives has been impacted by this global pandemic. Certainly, the life of the Church in our archdiocese has been dramatically altered as well. For a time, perhaps out of an excess of caution, I made the very difficult decision to suspend public Masses. Since it was impossible under such circumstances to fulfill the Sunday obligation, many were disappointed. Unfortunately, we had no roadmap to guide us through the many challenges and dilemmas presented by the situation. People were and are being asked to make changes that are unprecedented. We all are doing the best we can. We have had to accept certain limitations on our freedom to gather, to travel and live our lives as we had done “pre-COVID.” It has put a strain on everyone.

I grieve with the many families who have lost loved ones to COVID or whose loved ones have been sickened or sidelined. We have lost members of the clergy as well. In addition to physical symptoms, many have suffered significant mental, emotional and spiritual distress due to the fear, isolation and anxiety that have come with this pandemic. These sufferings have been real. As livelhoods have been affected, there have been serious economic impacts on many of our households, and on many of our parishes as well.

We have not lost hope, however! Things will get better. God is with us. This pandemic will have an end, and we are beginning to see the light at the horizon already. As safe, effective and ethically produced vaccines continue to be developed and distributed more and more people will have opportunity to protect themselves from this threat. Since the beginning of the summer, we have resumed public Masses with certain precautions in place to provide safe environments. People can safely gather for Mass and receive the sacraments, which are so necessary for our spiritual health and well-being.

We all look forward to the time when we have achieved herd immunity and the pandemic subsides. But, in the meantime, we continue to live our lives, albeit safely. We are learning to live under those conditions, but always with a view to a future with fewer restrictions.

Several months ago, I met with my staff and reviewed some of the safety guidelines I issued when we renewed for public Masses and other types of gatherings that are so important for parishes and for our ministry, including for education. I will be modifying those soon to permit greater flexibility based upon what we have learned from experience and the prevalence of health experts.

The vaccine will be a game-changer. Other precautions will remain in place for the foreseeable future (face coverings, safe distancing and sanitizing). Already many have recognized that it is now safe to return to Mass. They also have recognized their deep hunger and need for the Eucharist and the importance of connecting with others (especially at Mass). I know that there are still some who because of vulnerability or the need for care are not able to risk a return to public gatherings for Mass.

Unfortunately, I also am aware that many have simply gotten out of the habit of attending Sunday Mass. This is something that we have to bring back. It is something that we have to work on. It is something that we have to do in an intentional manner.

As the emergency subsides and vaccines become more plentiful, it is the time to be considering a return to Mass. The lifting of the Sunday obligation has been a provisional measure. It will not last forever. We have a duty to worship God as God desires to be worshiped.

Our Lord left us the Eucharist and established the Mass so that we can worship him in the way most pleasing to him. In addition to our duty to worship God, we have a need for the grace of the sacraments. Those who are hungry ought to seek nourishment now of the spiritual food that God gives us through the Eucharist. Why put it off? If you have not yet returned to Mass, it is time to do so. The Lord awaits you as do your fellow parishioners. If we have learned anything from this pandemic, it is the importance of belonging. You belong to Christ and to his Church. It’s time to come home!

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

Feb. 14: Confirmation, 2 p.m., Sr. Francis of Assisi, OKC
Feb. 16: Presidential Council meeting, 10 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Feb. 16: Napa Institute Virtual Board meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 16: All-staff meeting, 10 a.m.
Feb. 17: School Mass with senior class, 9:30 a.m., Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, OKC
Feb. 17: Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Feb. 17: Tax Credit Scholarship Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
Feb. 17: Reconciliation Committee meeting, 8 a.m., CPC
Feb. 17: Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Feb. 18: Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Feb. 18: Ill. Randel Rathsack and wife, 2 p.m., CPC
Feb. 18: Vocations Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
Feb. 19: School Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Yukon
Feb. 20: Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference, 9 a.m., CPC
Feb. 21: Mass, 10 a.m., St. Joseph, Yukon
Feb. 25: Catholic Chari- ties annual meeting (virtual)
Feb. 26: Confirmation, 10 a.m., St. Monica, Edmond
Feb. 26: Confirmation, 4 p.m., Christ the King, OKC

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Find more news on the website
By Sooner Catholic Staff

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma board of directors announced the selection of Peter de Keratry as the foundation’s new executive director.

“The board and I are extremely excited to welcome Peter as our new executive director,” Foundation President Danny Stith said. “We are fortunate to have a proven leader take the reins.”

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, in a 2016 decision, works to ensure a strong Catholic presence in ministry, service and education throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Through generous gifts in estate planning or in one-time gifts, donations to the foundation are the resources that create opportunities for the future.

Along with serving as executive director of the foundation, de Keratry will continue as executive director of stewardship and development for the Archbishop of Oklahoma City, where he has served since 2016.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma board of directors announced new executive director.

Peter de Keratry

Peter de Keratry - A veteran sacramentally married couple to begin, or deepen, their spiritual lives together is April 15-18 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7565d NW Expressway, OKC. Cost: $300 (archdiocesan members available). Register at archokc.org for more information.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat - A retreat for sacramentally married couples to begin, or deepen, their spiritual lives together is April 30-May 2 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7565d NW Expressway, OKC. Cost: $550. (Archdiocesan members available). Register at archokc.org for more information.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Additional coverage of Church and diocesan events, news and articles, only on soonercatholic.org.

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

Gospel of Life Disciples FUNDRAISER - Nominate someone for the Polak Plunge until Feb. 28. Visit gossipoflifedisciples.org/events.

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat - A retreat for sacramentally married couples to begin, or deepen, their spiritual lives together is April 30-May 2 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7565d NW Expressway, OKC. Cost: $550. Register at archokc.org for more information.

The U.S. bishops were notified of a small change to be made in the concluding doxology of the Collects in the Roman Missal. The word “one” is to be omitted.

Thence: “One God, for ever and ever” becomes “God, for ever and ever.”

The change is to be implemented on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. In addition to notifying the change in the texts of the Roman Missal, the change also should be made in the texts of other liturgical books.

Required change to the Collects of the Roman Missal

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma announces new executive director

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma board of directors announced the selection of Peter de Keratry as the foundation’s new executive director.

“The board and I are extremely excited to welcome Peter as our new executive director,” Foundation President Danny Stith said. “We are fortunate to have a proven leader take the reins.”

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, in a 2016 decision, works to ensure a strong Catholic presence in ministry, service and education throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Through generous gifts in estate planning or in one-time gifts, donations to the foundation are the resources that create opportunities for the future.

Along with serving as executive director of the foundation, de Keratry will continue as executive director of stewardship and development for the Archbishop of Oklahoma City, where he has served since 2016.

Peter de Keratry

“I, Peter de Keratry, having previously served as executive director of stewardship and development for the Archbishop of Oklahoma City, where I served since 2016, and having now been appointed the executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, do hereby assume the duties of executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, effective April 15, 2021.”

Peter de Keratry’s first act as executive director of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is to announce the selection of Daniel R. Stith as the foundation’s new executive director.

With Peter’s new position, we will be able to coordinate and strengthen the Church’s support and stewardship significantly. In his expanded role, he is particularly committed to assisting local parish communities.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has been a provisional measure. It will not last forever. We have a duty to worship God as God desires to be worshiped.

Our Lord left us the Eucharist and established the Mass so that we can worship him in the way most pleasing to him. In addition to our duty to worship God, we have a need for the grace of the sacraments. Those who are hungry ought to seek nourishment now of the spiritual food that God gives us through the Eucharist. Why put it off? If you have not yet returned to Mass, it is time to do so. The Lord awaits you as do your fellow parishioners. If we have learned anything from this pandemic, it is the importance of belonging. You belong to Christ and to his Church. It’s time to come home!

February 14, 2021

Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic
By K.S. McCutt
The Sooner Catholic

A career designing fuels and materials for rocket ships just got a lot closer for Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School senior Ian Torres-Acuna.

Ian, 18, was awarded a full four-year scholarship to study engineering at Washington University in St. Louis through the QuestBridge National College Match program that connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with 42 of the nation’s top colleges.

“I am so grateful. College is expensive, and I wouldn’t have been able to pay for it,” Ian said. “I really enjoy both chemical and aerospace engineering. I’m willing to do almost anything to work in the space industry.”

Since I can remember, I’ve looked up to NASA. Every nerd thinks NASA is the company they want to work for. It’s the future and I’m very futuristic,” Ian said.

Ian is one of 1,464 seniors this year – from more than 18,500 applicants – who matched with a QuestBridge partner college.

Mount counselor Donna Williams said he is the only student offered a scholarship this year.

“This is an amazing opportunity for Ian,” Williams said. “I think his future is very bright.”

Ian derived inspiration and strength from his dad, who worked at Marquette University for 28 years before he brought Ian to Oklahoma City recently named Missy Imel Henderson as the school’s new principal.

Missy Henderson is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School, where since 2013 she has served as a PTO parent council president and as a volunteer for the school’s academic, fine arts and athletics programs.

In Mexico, he was taught to be strong. “I learned to be fearless, intelligent, and to work hard,” he said. “Being a Catholic has helped me be kind and understand what it means to be a man of faith.”

Christ the King presents Distinguished Alumni Award

Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City recently named Mary Imel Henderson as recipient of the school’s Distinguished Alumni Award for 2021.

Henderson, a 1989 graduate of Christ the King Catholic School, was recognized during Mass on Jan. 31 at the school’s annual Catholic Schools Week, an annual national celebration of Catholic education in the United States.

Henderson is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, where since 2013 she has served as a volunteer for the school’s academic, fine arts and athletics programs.

In Mexico, he was taught to be strong. “I learned to be fearless, intelligent, and to work hard,” he said. “Being a Catholic has helped me be kind and understand what it means to be a man of faith.”
Oklahoma City Community Foundation awards $4,600 to five parishes

This winter, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is helping provide warm meals to homesbound elderly citizens by awarding $51,600 in grants to 40 area churches and organizations that prepare and deliver mobile meals through Meals on Wheels Oklahoma City.

Through the mobile meals programs in Oklahoma City, Norman and Edmond, home-delivered meals are available to all seniors age 60 and older who are unable to leave their homes without assistance or prepare meals due to health limitations regardless of income.

In 2020, Meals on Wheels Oklahoma City volunteers prepared more than 14,000 meals for homesbound senior citizens this month. Photo provided.

Some songs leave listeners wanting to listen to it again and again. This is the feedback the Oklahoma Catholic music group, Still Morning, is receiving in recovering after releasing the song, "Storms," on YouTube.

"It kills me with so much joy and yet humbles me at the same time," said Austin Satrio, one of the key members of the band. "We've had parents tell us how our song helped them give love of a child, and we've gotten e-mails from overseas describing how our music has led to forgiveness and healing."

Satrio added that Still Morning's motto is "to help the soul know and praise its creator."

"It's incredibly humbling to know that the Lord is gracious enough to enter into our gifts and passions and use them in ways we never could on our own," he said.

Little Morning was officially established in December 2019 and is led by its two key members: Satrio and Julia Lopez, who are both Catholic. Both attended the University of Oklahoma where their paths crossed.

"It was really in 2018, Austin's sophomore year, my senior year, that we started doing music together, completely unaware that just a year later, Still Morning would be born," Lopez explained. "We both had our deep conversions in college through the investment of FOCUS missionaries at OU, who showed us what it really looked like to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ - for we are forever grateful."

She explained that as their love for Jesus grew, so did their desire to make him known and to share his love with others. The music became the perfect avenue for them to do that. She said they firmly believe that Still Morning is not only a band, but a ministry.

The name Still Morning carries a two-fold meaning, Lopez said. It embodies the truth that is found in scripture, specifically in Lamentations 3:22-23, which reads "The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; they are renewed each morning." Great is your faithfulness!"

"It is here that we grasp the truth that the Lord's mercy is new every morning; that day, one day, we decided that we had to invest all we could into Still Morning and throw away all our visions of success. While we've come a long way from that point, this is a challenge we constantly face. We live in a world of competition that equates success with worldly popularity and big numbers, but we always try to let the Lord define the success of Still Morning and allow him to work through the ministry as he desires."

Their first song, Storms, was written by Satrio.

"Austin is definitely the primary songwriter," Lopez said. "Although I may contribute a thought here or there, the Lord has given him the beautiful gift of writing. Most of the songwriting flows out of spontaneous prayer — 'Storms' is no different. We like to view songwriting more as song 'receiving,' each one is truly a gift from the Lord.

Still Morning has led worship for many retreats, conferences and adoration nights around Oklahoma. Whether it's a high school confirmation class or a college retreat, each one has been a unique experience for the band, and all are opportunities to lead prayer through music.

Their fan base is growing, and they've heard from numerous people—locally, nationally and internationally—who have been touched by their music.

"While we do hope to reach the ears of as many people as possible, we value deep encounter more than anything, and have been blessed to see that fruit just in Still Morning's first year," Lopez said.

The band is raising funds for their first-ever multi-track release. Their vision is to release five songs, all of which will help people know and praise God. They said they believe those songs will be windows into deeper encounter, openings into radical prayer, and catalysts for the joy of the Gospel.

"God willing, our hope is that the EP would be recorded this spring, and released in the summer. We are convinced that this is not just a hobby, but a calling," Lopez said.

Their fundraising intention is to raise $12,300, all of which will go toward production costs, paying our musicians and engineers, and everything else that goes into the recordin generating, mixing and mastering of five songs, and they are almost halfway to their goal.

For more information or to give a gift, go online to stillmorningmusic.com. To contact Still Morning for a worship night, conference or retreat, e-mail stillmorningworship@gmail.com or find them on Facebook or on Instagram at @ stillmorningmusic.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Johnson left the abortion industry 11 years ago and said she has never looked back.

Johnson has since created the ministry, “And Then There Were None,” that caters to others who desire to safely leave their work in the abortion industry.

Brian Holte, editor of the Baptist Messenger newspaper and member of the Rose Day Committee, interviewed Johnson virtually.

Johnson noted “Unplanned,” a movie inspired by the real-life experience of Johnson’s time at Planned Parenthood.

“The most amazing stories were women who watched the film who were considering abortion and then after watching, chose life,” Johnson said.

Johnson said she has heard from thousands of men and women involved in abortion, had abortions, men who took girlfriends or wives for abortions, and found post abortion healing.

“Many times, we’re called the ‘silent majesty,’” Johnson told viewers. “It is time for us to stop being silent.

“We live in a time where people are afraid to speak up about God’s truth and that is what matters. One of those truths is that life matters and it begins at the moment of conception.”

“We all have a responsibility to speak life,” Rose Day concluded with a prayer by Spencer Lohr, pastor of The Cross of Calvary Church, who prayed “we stand with boldness and not intimidation.”

The full video of this year’s Rose Day can be viewed at roseday.life.

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Reconciliation: An Encounter with Mercy

By Charles Albert

Sooner Catholic

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, his intercession for me, and that of all Christians who have prayed before you, help you to renew in your heart, and to know that you are a child of the Most High.

Pope Francis once said.

The Sacrament of Penance (also commonly called reconciliation or confession) is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, in which the faithful are absolved from sins committed after Baptism and are reconciled with the Christian community.

According to Father Gary Staley, pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche, “Our Lord gave the apostles and their successors the ability to speak his own words of forgiveness (Jn 20:19-23). Jesus had his heart set on healing and saving, after he ascend into Heaven, his healing ministry would remain. A man himself could never forgive sins, but Jesus gave certain men the authority to speak his words of forgiveness, so that the world could continue to meet him in person as time marched on. This encounter of forgiveness where we meet the successors of the apostles, the bishops and priests, has developed through the centuries.

Father Staley further explains, “In sin, Jesus’ forgiving forgiveness at work is the most memorable part of the sacrament - not the sins confessed. The memorable part is seeing someone walking away with all that weight lifted off their shoulders!”

Father Lance Warren, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Reno, said when hearing confessions, he always carries a picture of the prodigal son and confession, and he generously gave me a framed print of the famous Rembrandt painting. It hangs in the confessional at Sacred Heart right now.

Father Warren further explained, “I know many parishioners prefer going to a priest they don’t know and might not well never see again, but it’s important to remember that for confessors celebrating the sacrament, there is the grace of leaving it all behind in the confessional. The priest who taught us in the art of confession told us this would be the case, but until I was ordained, I wasn’t sure I believed this. But, it’s true.”

“Reconciliation is not about judging or being judges. It’s an encounter with mercy itself. It’s an encounter with Christ.” — Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
The Catholic Difference

The challenge of eucharistic coherence

In his encyclical, "Ecclésia de Eucharistia," Saint John Paul II invited Catholics to "embark" on the "road" of eucharistic coherence, which he described as "a coherent faith lived in the Eucharist." This was not only a call to religious and political leaders, but also to all Catholics, including laypeople. Saint John Paul II emphasized that eucharistic coherence was not just a matter of personal belief, but a matter of public and social responsibility. He argued that eucharistic coherence was a matter of "the Church's life is not on hold until then, however. This time of crisis is not a time ofrophy. It is impossible to be a coherent Catholic and to affirm the degradation of human dignity that underwrites this evil."

And, according to those bishops (whose number included the man who would become pope six years later), the Church’s eucharistic coherence required that holy Com- mission not be distributed to those Catholics in politics and moral practice who were not in full communion with the Church because they were facilitating or participat- ing in such grave moral evils as abortion and contraception.

The question of eucharistic coherence remains an important topic even in the United States. In his encyclical "Ex corde Ecclesiae," Saint John Paul II invited Catholics to "seek God in the midst of the storm." This is a call to Catholics in the United States to re-examine their relationship with the Eucharist and to consider the implications of their actions in the public square.

George Weigel Ethics and Public Policy Center

What the Pandem- ic Can Teach Us," Fr. Barry Green, Fr. Harrison Ave and Michael Y. Sirico

The book addresses the pain that many have experienced, but quickly moves to finding Christ in the midst of this trial, and shedding light on what God might be saying to us in this unique time in history, both in the Church and in the world.

This is from the online description: “Through scriptural interpretation and examination of particular realities of the faith, we can realize that God is not only times in our lives, the only clear decision was to do what was being asked of us by the government, the CDC and public health leaders. In every diocese in the country made the same decision.”

Jim Beckman President of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

In the past couple of months, I have found myself in numerous conversations that have generally been centered around one question: "How can we worship the Lord during this crisis?" I have been very pleased to find that most of these conversations have been deeply rooted in the Eucharist. The fulfillment of the promise to remain with us "to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20) in the Eucharist, which "recapitulates all history," is one of the most radical in the world.

The spiritual well-being of the bishops’ sons and daughters in Christ is at stake. And, while the Catholic orthodoxy of public officials is not unique, it has distinctive consequences that undermine the eucharistic coherence of the Church.

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Church’s life. The life we have imagined, or expected to enjoy life as we would like it to be, will not be the same as the life we have experienced this past year. There can be a human tendency to try to recreate the life we had before this pandemic, to forget that this was not an ordinary year. There can be a human tendency to try to recreate the life we had before this pandemic, to forget that this was not an ordinary year. There can be a human tendency to try to recreate the life we had before this pandemic, to forget that this was not an ordinary year. There can be a human tendency to try to recreate the life we had before this pandemic, to forget that this was not an ordinary year.

Archbishop Coakley celebrated a Memorial Mass Feb. 14, 2021 for freshmen students at Creighton Oye Catholic High School in Oklahoma City during Catholic Schools Week. Photo Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

The immense challenges of this past year are actually a huge opportunity. "Finding Christ in the Crisis: Living God’s Plan" is an encouragement for overcoming the challenge of making reflection and daily prayer our habit. This book is only 109 pages in length, but it is very powerful and I believe it would be a fantastic resource for anyone.
Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Cabeza 4

¿Es hora de volver a casa?

Ha pasado casi un año desde que la palabra COVID se convirtió en el día a día en los hogares de nuestro país. Virtualmente todo aspecto de nuestras vidas ha sido impactado por esta pandemia global. Ciertamente la vida de la Iglesia en nuestras arquidiócesis ha sido dramáticamente impactada también.

En su debido momento, y probablemente ejerciendo un exceso de precaución, tomó la difícil decisión de suspender las misas públicas a lo largo y ancho de la arquidiócesis. Debido a que, dadas las circunstancias, era imperativo cumplir con la obligación de la misa dominical de manera segura, he debido levantar dicha obligación también. Es muy bien que muchas personas se molestaron con mi decisión. Desafortunadamente, no teníamos una guía segura que nos ayudaba a navegar los muchos retos y dilemas que esta experiencia nos presentó. Estamos todos haciendo lo mejor que podemos.

Hemos tenido que aceptar limitaciones a nuestra libertad de recorrer, de vagar y de vivir nuestras vidas tal y como lo hacíamos “antes del COVID”. Ha sido difícil para todos.

Aprovecharemos la paciencia, creatividad y flexibilidad de nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, catequistas, parroquianos y padres de familia, quienes han tenido que asumir un reto sin precedentes. Hemos sido testigos de héroes entre nosotros! Han tenido que asumir un reto sin precedentes ante este mal.

Hemos aprendido a vivir bajo estas circunstancias, aunque en medio de precauciones, intentamos seguir viviendo nuestras vidas. Hemos aprendido a vivir bajo estas condiciones, pero siempre pensando en que un día lo haremos con menos restricciones.

Me reúno con mi personal para revisar algunas de las medidas de seguridad que impone cuando realizamos nuestras reuniones públicas y otras reuniones de vital importancia para la vida y el funcionamiento de las parroquias, incluyendo la educación en nuestras escuelas. Pronto haré modificaciones a esos directrices para permitir mayor flexibilidad, aprovechando lo que hemos aprendido.

Cuando la vacuna llegue, es probable que sea tanto un alivio como una obligación. ¿Para qué posponerlo? ¿Para qué posponerlo? Si aún no has regresado a misa, te invito a hacerlo. El Señor te espera, así como te espera la vida que te ofrece a través de la Eucaristía.


Cuando la vacuna llegue, es probable que sea tanto un alivio como una obligación. ¿Para qué posponerlo? ¿Para qué posponerlo? Si aún no has regresado a misa, te invito a hacerlo. El Señor te espera, así como te espera la vida que te ofrece a través de la Eucaristía. ¡Es hora de volver a casa! 
Green Tie Gatherings “at home” event for Catholic Charities

OKLAHOMA CITY – On March 6, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is planning a new and innovative way to raise funds in place of their annual Green Tie Gala fundraiser. This year, due to the restrictions of the pandemic and for the safety of staff and donors, the “gatherings” will be virtual,” said Jessi Riesenber, senior director of development and outreach.

Donors will be able to do everything online from purchasing tickets to bidding on auction items.

“What your gathering looks like is entirely up to you as there are many packages to choose from. A gathering will be much like your table at the gala with your choice of who you are with or just for two. You even can gather with other sponsors and combine your packages for more fun,” Riesenberg said.

On the evening of March 6, there will be a silent auction and the “change a life” portion where there will be a live thermometer showing how much money is being raised. There will be videos on Facebook throughout the day highlighting how lives are being impacted. Donors can opt out of ordering food, but the goal is to replicate the annual Green Tie Gala at home.

Catholic Charities has garnered a fantastic committee excited to help raise the funds needed to support the women and children of Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Oklahoma City and Norman. This includes Mackenzie Barreca, Barbara Broni, Deanna Cardenas, Joe Cardenas, Kaci Cardenas, Robin Coffey, Nicole Dell’Osso, Susan Dell’Osso, Norine Fitzsimmons, Kristen King, Sue Krenger, Mary Joyce, Duane and Robin Mass, Julie Nalich, Bessa Todd and Sanctuary staff who work with clients face-to-face.

The goal is to raise $350,000 for the needs of women and children in Oklahoma City and Norman who utilize Catholic Charities’ Development Centers to take showers, wash laundry, pick up groceries, clothing and other needs such as utility bill and rental deposit assistance.

“Your gift or sponsorship for these ‘gatherings’ is a gift to help women in need,” Riesenberg said.

“Our main goal is to help women and children gain stability, housing and personal empowerment,” said Jessica Nuno, director of the Oklahoma City Women’s Sanctuary. “We have a 99 percent placement rate for women and families. Through our services clients not only gain the permanency of a home, but the tools they need for continued success.”