Fathers following example of St. Joseph

By Charles Albert  
The Sooner Catholic

In his apostolic letter entitled Patris Corde (With a Father’s Heart), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

Fathers and their families in the archdiocese talk about fatherhood and their importance in the Year of Saint Joseph.

Fred Frederickson – Ada

Fred Frederickson was born and raised in Nebraska where he followed in his father’s footsteps by becoming a rancher. He has ranched in Wisconsin and Arizona. He also owned roping arenas in Ruidoso, N.M., before moving his family to Oklahoma in 1978. Frederickson has been married to Collean for 62 years and has been blessed with seven children and 31 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

“He always accepted life’s trials and God’s blessings. In the evening he would read bible verses to the family. I know God is with him now. He’s always looking after his children and grandchildren.”

continued on page 6

On Vocation Day during his freshman year of high school, Deacon Brannon Lepak sat with fellow students to hear about various vocations. Then, a priest stood at the front of the room and talked about the priesthood. A “spark” ignited in the 15-year-old that he didn’t understand but was determined to follow.

“It was a deep moment I compared everything to. I was on a quest to figure out what God was calling me to do.”

continued on page 20

“Praying for a call to holiness and reconciliation of all people”

By Diane Clay  
The Sooner Catholic

Sooner Catholic receives two national media awards

The Sooner Catholic received two awards from the Catholic Media Association during the 2021 Catholic Media Conference held virtually June 8-10. Archbishop Coakley received third place in the Best Regular Column by Bishop or Archbishop category for his Put Out into the Deep columns in the Sooner Catholic.

Managing Editor Dana Attocknie won honorable mention in the Best Feature Writing – Diocesan Newspaper division for her story “American Indian Catholics celebrate faith, culture,” published in the Nov. 8 Sooner Catholic.

The Sooner Catholic is the official newspaper for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and is mailed to more than 50,000 households to assist Archbishop Coakley, clergy, parishes, schools and staff to spread the Good News of the Gospel and to “Go Make Disciples!”

Because of its circulation, the newspaper is in the same category as the largest cities and Catholic newspapers in the country. Archbishop Coakley serves as publisher; Diane Clay serves as editor.

To read Archbishop Coakley’s column or the article on American Indian Catholics, go online to soonercatholic.org.

CLASS OF 2021

Turn to pages 7-14 for the Sooner Catholic graduation section
The Precepts of the Church: Holy Communion

Continuing this series on the Precepts of the Church, it is time to consider now to the third precept: “You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once a year.”

There are other things that we can and ought to do to ensure that the Eucharist remains the wellspring of our lives and that our Eucharistic faith and devotion remain strong.

We can fast. The required Eucharistic fast of one hour before Communion is a small but important reminder that we need to prepare ourselves properly and intentionally for this encounter with Christ in Holy Communion.

We can spend time in Eucharistic adoration. Eucharistic adoration, or spending time in prayer before Christ present in the tabernacle or in the monstrance, fosters a deeper hunger and proper disposition for our encounter with Christ in Holy Communion.

We can embrace prayerful silence. Prayerful preparation and silence before Mass helps us to attentive and create an interior place of welcome for the Lord, our heart, our prayer.

Join Archbishop Coakley and the Board of Directors of the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma for the 2021 Archbishop’s Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 10 at the Omni Hotel, 130 W. Oklahoma City Blvd., in Oklahoma City. The dinner supports the St. John Vianney Endowment, which helps seminarians who are studying to be priests. Visit archokc.org or call (405) 721-4115.

Shrine webcam - Watch construction of the future Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine on a live webcam at archokc.org/shrine/cam.

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on our website.

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

That Catholic fathers will sufficiently support and nourish among their children, knowing that they will help to reveal the Heavenly Father’s love by their prayer, guidance and example.

We pray to the Lord, Lord, hear our prayer.

The Precepts of the Church present the “indispensable minimum” requirements for basic spiritual health and growth in both God and love of neighbor. As with our physical life, so with our spiritual life, we need regular nourishment if we are going to flourish and grow. We need the grace that comes to us through the Eucharist to thrive and grow as disciples of Jesus.

This precept perhaps seems to state the obvious. Most Catholics do not require a precept to motivate them to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. It was not always so. In previous generations there were often long absences at the confessional and very short lines for Holy Communion.

A strong sense of unworthiness before the majesty of God prevented many Catholics from receiving Holy Communion. In fact, the pastoral situation and are deeply concerned for the well-being of these members of Christ’s Body. While these persons may be unable to fulfill these two precepts sacramentally, this practice can be a source of grace and consolation.

After an unforeseen delay due to the pandemic, Blessed Stanley Rother’s beatification mass was held June 24 at the Oklahoma City Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

Blessed Stanley, pray for us!

Durante el mes de julio, se llevará a cabo un camino de oración en la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma y la Arquidiócesis de El Camino de Apíax para proveer para la intercesión de Blas. Stanley Rother. “Apíax” fue el apodo cariñoso que le dieron al Beato Stanley los descendientes de mayas de Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Es una “Francia” en su idioma nativo de Tzutuhil.

As part of the pilgrimage, prayer teams will visit every parish and mission in the archdiocese as well as the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine with parishioners to pray specifically for four things: for the grace of conversion, for a greater outgoing of the Holy Spirit, for an advance of the mission of the Church, and for the canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother.

The opportunities to pray are open to everyone, an and no registration is required.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley has approved a indulgence plenaria for anyone who visits seven churches in the archdiocese with the Camino Passport, prays the necessary prayer and completes at least one of the following at each location: pray the rosary, spend time in adoration, or participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Eucharist.

Find the schedule and more information at archokc.org/aplascamino.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

Wednesday, July 7

Golby, St. Michael (9 a.m.)

Enid, Catholic Charities - Mass (10 a.m.)

Enid, Catholic Charities - Mass (9 a.m.)

Enid, Catholic Charities (9 a.m.)

Junction City, St. Joseph (9 a.m.)

Lawton, we remember the fathers who have gone before us.

Wewoka, St. Joseph Chapel (7 p.m.)

Seminole, Immaculate Conception (8:30 p.m.)

Thursday, July 8

Enid, St. Gregory - Mass (9 a.m.)

Ada, St. Joseph - Mass (12:15 p.m.)

Bison, St. Joseph - Mass (9 a.m.)

Newsom, St. Joseph - Mass (9 a.m.)

Kingfisher, Sts. Peter and Paul (9 a.m.)

Oklahoma City, Our Lady of Victory (9 a.m.)

Enid, Catholic Charities - Mass (10 a.m.)

Full schedule archokc.org/aplascamino.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

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

June 23 - Confirmation (Year 1), 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph, Norman

June 24 - Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

June 24 - Catholic Charities Board meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities Office, OKC

June 25 - Archdiocesan Mass, 6 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

June 26 - Priesthood Ordination of De. Brannon Lepak, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City

June 29 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

June 30 - Catholic Conference of Oklahoma annual board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC

July 1 - Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Prayer teams to visit churches in Oklahoma

Learn more at archokc.org/aplascamino

During the month of July, a prayer pilgrimage in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City called El Camino de Apíax will be held to pray for the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother. “Apíax” was the affectionate nickname given to Blessed Stanley by the Mayan descendants of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. It means “Francia” in their native language of Tzutuhil.

As part of the pilgrimage, prayer teams will visit every parish and mission in the archdiocese as well as the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine with parishioners to pray specifically for four things: for the grace of conversion, for a greater outgoing of the Holy Spirit, for an advance of the mission of the Church, and for the canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother.

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Find the schedule and more information at archokc.org/aplascamino.

Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

during the month of July, we shall lead a pilgrimage inspired by the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother. “Apíax” was the affectionate nickname given to Blessed Stanley by the Mayan descendants of Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. It means “Francia” in their native language of Tzutuhil.

As part of the pilgrimage, prayer teams will visit every parish and mission in the archdiocese as well as the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine with parishioners to pray specifically for four things: for the grace of conversion, for a greater outgoing of the Holy Spirit, for an advance of the mission of the Church, and for the canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother.

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Blessed Stanley Rother, pray for us!

Oklahoma City police have taken on a new way of doing truancy. The former truancy program averaged nearly 200 citations each year for unexcused absences. In 2021, the Youth Enrichment Services program has issued zero citations and has provided services to more than 150 families. The goal of the program is to help families and improve community relations.

Master Sgt. Michael Aleman said the department realized it was the same kids over and over who were missing school. Aleman said they shifted the focus to elementary kids to help them early. A multitude of socioeconomic reasons these students weren’t going to school, there was one repetitive issue: head lice.

To secure treatment kits for families, the department turned to Saint James the Greater Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. With the support of Father Pruitt, Deacon Marti Gilkerson and the Knights of Columbus, the program soon had access to several lice kits to distribute within our community.

“This has grown into a huge ministry, where if a family needs food, they have access to the multitude of food banks. We can bypass red tape and get food to the families within an hour,” Aleman said.

“It started small with different people in the community providing lice kits for them and just snowballed because it’s just a good thing,” Deacon Gilkerson said. I think that’s good for the police to visit families to reach out to families. They see the families in need. Parishes don’t always see that in their area.

We just had one parish that is helping. If everyone is doing that, it is going to be a great help to the police department.”

Father Bill Pruitt said it’s important to work to establish relationships with the police department and the communities they serve, including the community of Saint James Catholic Church, which has a large Hispanic population.

Saint James also hosts a Red Andrews Dinner at Christmas, invites police officers to visit the school and works through Deacon Fernando Hernandez to help at-risk youth.

While the program began with the support of Saint James, it has expanded to include several local organizations.

“This is a new way of doing community-based policing and getting embedded in our communities,” Aleman said. “We help each other rather than penalizing each other.”

Sgt. Jordan Wacker reached out to food banks and other agencies, creating new partnerships within the community.

“These partnerships have allowed us to provide goods, clothing and food, and to be able to get those needs met that day, immediately, which is huge for us,” Wacker said. “You don’t want to go out to a family, and they say, ‘We’re starving,’ and get back to them in a couple of days. Partnerships with Saint James, Urban Mission, Pivot and Sharing Tree have been invaluable.

Now, when police respond to a call where a child is exposed to a traumatic event, they create an alert within the system, which alerts the school system and the truancy program that a child was exposed to trauma.

“The longer we have worked with the schools and dealt with these families, most of the time they are not missing school, especially in elementary, because of behavior. There is usually some type of life stress or basic need. Instead of punishing them, we help meet their needs. Then, it’s a lot easier to concentrate on the day-to-day stuff,” Wacker said.

Tabitha Narvaez, executive director of the Sharing Tree, an Oklahoma City-based nonprofit, said it’s especially important to partner with OPCO because they’re so passionate about helping people.

“This is profound,” Narvaez said. “This is unlike any other school district I have seen. I think they are on the cutting edge of what these services can do.”

Organizations like the Sharing Tree comprise essential partnerships for the newly named Youth Enrichment Services program.

“We have a facility stocked with clothing, shoes, etc. Clients come in and shop based on their needs and preferences, and we want to make sure their clients come in and feel valued, special, dignified,” Narvaez said.

For more information or to help, contact michael.aleman@archokc.org.

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Book Review: Sewing Hope in Uganda

By Dr. Benet Eaton, O.S.B.
The Sooner Catholic

“Rosemary Nyirumbe: sewing hope in Uganda” by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda is a biography of Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe, a Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Uganda.

Sister Rosemary was born in northern Uganda in 1956. She is one of 11 children. Scaperlanda tells the story of the early life of Sister Rosemary growing up in northern Uganda, which has been the region of violent upheaval throughout the recent decades. To tell the story of Sister Rosemary’s life is to tell the story of northern Uganda and how she and her religious community have lived and ministered in that region.

Sister Rosemary entered the Convent Sisters at age 15. She was a bit too young canonically to have done that, but the superiors did notice her age. The Convent Sisters were an Italian community. They wanted to create an African community, which occurred in 1976 with the creation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The new community had houses in South Sudan with John as the capital as the site of their motherhouse, in Kenya and in Uganda. Sister Rosemary and the sisters set up missions and schools to help girls and young women get an education and to learn a trade, especially sewing.

Uganda has gone through a lot of trouble starting with the dictatorship of Idi Amin who was overthrown in 1978 but was followed by John Kony and his Lord’s Salvation Army later named the Lord’s Resistance Army. Kony’s followers would abduct children and turn them into soldiers who were forced to kill their parents and other family members. Some of the children also were raped. Sister Rosemary and others saw that Kony and his followers were/are evil. Many of the children escaped and would seek help from Sister Rosemary and others. She helped them learn to learn a vocation and helped with the trauma they endured. What was done to these children was horrendous and will scar them forever. Sister Rosemary has been involved in helping them get through the trauma. This book shows these efforts.

Sister Rosemary has had enough time between her ministries to get an education that has been of benefit to her ministry. She has won many awards that have highlighted her work like the CNN Heroes, Time’s 100 most influential people in the world and many others. She has been called the Mother Teresa of Africa. Several Oklahomans have been involved in helping her.

This book has an introduction, six chapters, endnotes, a bibliography and an index. There are no maps, which could have helped to know exactly where places were mentioned in the book. This book is part of Liturgical Press’ People of God series. This book is very highly recommended to those interested in Sister Rosemary and the troubles in Uganda.

Dr. Benet Eaton, O.S.B., St. Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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Continued from page 1

family,” Colleen Fredericksen said.

He said his faith is strong and his aim in life is to serve God, attend Mass and care for his family. Fredericksen is active at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Ada and has served with the Knights of Columbus and parish ministry.

Fredericksen’s children worked together to write the following statement about their dad.

“Dad gave his best in raising us together with mom given what he had. He taught us the value of hard work and was diligent in passing on the Catholic faith to us through the example of praying the Rosary, attending Mass and reading the scriptures. We all felt blessed to be raised in a home that was devoted to the Catholic faith.”

Kyle Craddock – Ardmore

Kyle Craddock has been married to Megan for seven years and they are the proud parents of two children, Blakely and Carter. Craddock works in the family funeral home business in Ardmore.

Decorum, John Jimenez, from Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore, said, “Despite many young families staying away during the COVID crisis, you always could count on Kyle and his family being in church every weekend.”

“Kyle has been a rock to me when times get tough,” Megan Craddock said. “We prayed for our babies throughout both of our pregnancies and always placed our trust in God. I went into labor with our first while we were attending 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass. I looked at Kyle during the sign of peace slightly panicked and he was ready to get to the hospital. I told him we needed to go receive communion and then we would go straight to the hospital. He helped to give us strength to get through the 28-hour labor and c-section that was done.”

His 3-year-old son Carter added, “I love playing with Paw Paw and I love my dad helps me take off my socks and helps me eat.”

Juan Velarde – Sulphur

Juan Velarde’s family immigrated to the United States from Mexico when he was 7 years old. He has six siblings and said he learned a lot from his dad.

“He taught me how to use tools to get the job done and that money also taught me how to be like him someday, and that my boys will want to follow in his footsteps too,” Velarde said.

Juan and his late wife Robyn married in 1996 in Scottsdale, Ariz. They have three sons, Mexico, Bridges and Van. In 2002, they moved to Skiphur and joined St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. He started teaching religious education classes and has been involved in parish life ever since.

His wife died three and a half years ago.

“She made our house a home. She reminded us of our calling when we would forget. Now, that is all on me. I try to fill in for her, but I fail often. It is not easy being an only parent, but it is what the Lord has given me, and I am grateful for the time we had together and that I still have my sons,” Velarde said. “I’ve really enjoyed being a dad, because, well, my kids are great, but also because I feel I can help bring Christian values back to the culture by raising good men.”

Mason Velarde said, “Our dad has been our ballast through many rough times, but most impressively through the death of our mother. His mission is raising us to be great men. Although some of us will find different paths, we carry the same flame in our hearts. Our dad has shown us what it means to love like Christ.”

Bridges Velarde added, “My dad, an immigrant to the United States, the hardest worker I know, jack of all trades, dedicated to family, and father to me and my brothers (and many of our friends who have told me about his fatherly role in their lives) could be nothing less than an image of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of immigrants, workers, families and fathers.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Congratulations Class of 2021!
So that we might be molded by God’s grace, even as we cannot see where we abandon ourselves unreservedly.

- St. Ignatius of Loyola

**Catholic Schools Jobs Box**

**Elementary teacher – OGC**

Bishop John Carroll Catholic School is seeking an elementary teacher. Must be a certified teacher with experience in elementary education. Experience in Catholic education preferred. Send resume and statement of interest to Principal Tim McFadden, principal@bjcyc.org.

**Teachers – Edmond**

St. Joseph Catholic School is accepting applications for full-time 1st and 3rd grade teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Oklahoma state certification required. Contact Wade Laffey, (405) 242-4449, wlafey@stjospehschools.com.

**Teachers – El Reno**

Sacred Heart Catholic School is accepting applications for full-time 6th grade teaching position for the 2021-2022 school year. Oklahoma state certification required. Contact Shane Shaw, principal@archokc.org.

**Fourth-grade teacher – OGC**

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School is seeking a certified 4th grade teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. E-mail cover letter and resume to Principal Todd Gunnell, principal@hcloke.org.

**Middle school teachers – OGC**

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School is seeking certified middle school teachers for the 2021-2022 school year in the areas of math, science, and possibly theology. E-mail cover letter and resume to Principal Todd Gunnell, principal@hcloke.org.

**Teachers – Edmond**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is accepting applications for the teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. Interested applicants should hold at least a bachelor’s degree in education with state teaching certification in the desired teaching area. Send resume, cover letter and copy of teaching certificate to Principal Laura Cain, lcain@seasok.org. No phone calls.

**After-school care – Edmond**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is seeking part-time employees for the after-school care program, 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday during the school year. Contact Katie Zeulig, (405) 348-5364, kzeulig@seasok.org.

Catapult teachers needed

Catapult Learning works with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City to provide instructional intervention services to students while coordinating efforts with school personnel. Visit catapultlearning.com/careers.

To see more job openings, go online to archokc.jobs.
Los Mandamientos de la Iglesia: La Santa Comunión

Debemos tener, por un lado, un balance apropiado de la Eucaristía para mantenernos saludables! No podemos recibir la Santa Comunión con frecuencia pequeña, pero tampoco demasiado a menudo. Necesitamos una proporción sana en nuestras vidas, para mantener la gracia que nos brinda la Eucaristía.

La Iglesia recomienda hacer una comunión espiritual cuando en su posibilidad se haga posible recibir la Santa Comunión sacramentalmente.

La Iglesia recomienda que los católicos que, debido a varias circunstancias, no puedan recibir el Sacramento del Cuerpo y la Sangre, hagan una comunión espiritual cuando no sea posible recibir la Santa Comunión.

Otro mandamiento importante es el de no recibir la Santa Comunión. No está permitido a los católicos que, debido a varias circunstancias, no puedan recibir el Sacramento del Cuerpo y la Sangre, hacer una comunión espiritual cuando no sea posible recibir la Santa Comunión sacramentalmente.

Antes de recibir la Santa Comunión, la Iglesia nos brinda el requisito “minimo indispensable” para la salud espiritual básica para el crecimiento en el amor a Dios y a los próximos.

Quiero también reconocer la situación de algunos católicos que, debido a varias circunstancias, no puedan recibir el Sacramento de la Penitencia y de la Reconciliación. La Iglesia y nuestros pastores seguimos siendo muy sensibles a esta difícil situación pastoral y nos preocupan profundamente el bienestar de estos miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo. Aun cuando estas personas no puedan cumplir con estos dos mandamientos, es vitalmente importante que sigan participando de manera regular en la Misa y participando activamente en la vida de su parroquia.

La Iglesia recomienda la práctica piadosa de hacer la Santa Comunión espiritual cuando en su posibilidad se haga posible recibir la Santa Comunión sacramentalmente.
### Briefs

**El Camino de Aplas’**

Join in prayer for the archi- diocese and the canonization of Bl. Stanley Rother with two great teams visiting all parishes and schools in July. Updated full schedule at archokc.org/archdiocese in and the July 4 issue of the Sooner Catholic.

**Watch Heritage Gallery episodes on Bl. Stanley Rother**

Watch a series of short videos that highlight items in the Heri- tage Gallery related to Bl. Stanley Rother on YouTube or Facebook. Find episode 1 at https://youtube.be/8RUI1dRMrFg.

**First Friday Adoration**

Join the staff of the Catholic Pastoral Center in the first Friday of every month for adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City. Adoration is open to the public.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp**

Visit archokc.org/camp to see upcoming camps and camp family schedules.

**Santa Fe Family Life Center pool season**

The Santa Fe Family Life Center’s pool season is from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. A family membership is $300 for the whole summer, and an individual mem- bership is $200. Knights’ families can enjoy the pool and fitness center for free with a Knights’ membership card.

**Beast Feast**

The Knights of Columbus will host the annual Beast Feast Day carnival 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. July 17 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 211 W. Minnesota in Okarche. In- flatables, kite games, hamburgers and more. Mass at 5 p.m.

**Reds, Whites & Brews**

The Knights of Columbus will host Reds, Whites & Brews 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. July 23 at Doniphan Cigars, 6602 W. Atlantic Ave., in Okla- homa City. This event supports the secular services of Catholic: Charities: Sanctuary Women’s Development Center in Stockyards City. Visit catholiccharitiesokc.org for tickets.

**Day of Reflection**

“Day of Reflection,” In the Beauty of Holiness: A Day of Reflection for Artisans and Craftsmen, presented by Dr. Bianca Walamen, O.S.B., is 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. July 28 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacAr- thur St., Shawnee. Limited to 52 attendees. Face coverings recom- mended, but not required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreat@msn.com or call (405) 878-5656. Cost is $30 for early bird registration or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Rother Feast Day Mass**

Archbishop Conley will cele- brate Mass at 6:30 p.m. July 28 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche for the feast day of Bl. Stanley Rother. A special Mass will be in person and live-streamed.

### Calendars

**June**

26 Priesthood ordination of Den- bromun Lepak, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave.

20 Father’s Day.

20 Festival of las Americas, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 301 Jefferson St., Purcell.

27 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

27 Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 p.m., 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.

27 Feast of St. Aloysius.

27 Feast of St. Paulinus of Nola.

27 Feast of St. John Fisher and Thomas More.

27 Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

27 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine at (405) 358-3610, ccprayer@gmail.com.

28 Pray the Rosary for Life, 9 every Friday, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.

28 Feast of St. Junipero Serra.

28 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine at (405) 358-3610, ccprayer@gmail.com.

29 Father’s Day.

**July**

1 Feast of St. Junipero Serra.

1 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Elaine at (405) 358-3610, ccprayer@gmail.com.

2 Pray the Rosary for Life, 9 every Friday, 2453 Wilcox Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.

2 Lay Missionaries of Charity, the lay order of the Missions of Charity of St. Teresa of Calcutta, meeting at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents’ conference. Any lay person interested in living a consecrated life in welcome to “come and see” at 10 a.m. Contact Tom Haradon at (405) 694-1292, (341) 341-2199 or tomimh@gmail.com.

**LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES**

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to soonercatholic.org.

**Kevin Pierce**

kevin.pierce@kofc.org

Office: 877-707-0752

General Agent

**Councils:** 962, 1302, 3167, 2453, 4720, 6078, 6235, 6577, 8089, 9528

**MDRT, SKC**

**Lance Dufour**

918-550-0886

**MDRT**

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918-550-0886

**MDRT**

**Troy Snow**

405-515-0103

**MDRT, SKC**

**Devon Soukup**

405-249-1269

**MDRT, SKC**

**Tamo Lang**

Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.

**Lay Missionaries of Charity**

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to soonercatholic.org.

**soonerCatholic.org**

Kevin Pierce

kevin.pierce@kofc.org

Office: 877-707-0752

General Agent

**Councils:** 3220, 10822, 12669, 11909, 12819, 12382, 16367

**MDRT, SKC**

**Troy Snow**

405-515-0103

**MDRT, SKC**

**Devon Soukup**

405-249-1269

**MDRT, SKC**

**Tamo Lang**

Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
what it meant,” Lepak said. “I started reading about different saints and writers toward the end of high school and that shot off the quest to find a deeper meaning in life.”

Deacon Lepak, now age 45, will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on June 26 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City.

Lepak graduated high school and entered Trinity University in San Antonio to study music – one of his two passions; the other being language. He returned to Oklahoma to study classical guitar and bass but was too far behind everyone else and decided to earn a degree in English at the University of Central Oklahoma.

His desire to learn and teach language led him to New York where he lived in Brooklyn during the Sept. 11 terrorist attack and then to Japan for two years. It was in Japan, in a small-town Catholic Church, where he gained appreciation for his faith and once again felt a pull to devote his life to prayer and religious life.

“It made me question ‘without this, what would my life be?’ I decided I wanted to be a monk at that point and to try to figure out the monastic experience.”

At some level, it wasn't the right vocation for me. It wasn't a loving, supportive person. He was very supportive. He was a very loving, caring, supporting person. It wasn't a hard decision for him to make. He spent the last 15 years of his life working with Catholic Charities and was always involved in the Church, so he was happy. At some point I couldn't ignore it anymore,” Lepak said.

“My dad knew of my interest in the priesthood or the monastic life and he was very happy for me. He was very supportive. He was a very loving, caring, supporting person. It wasn't a hard decision for him to make. He spent the last 15 years of his life working with Catholic Charities and was always involved in the Church, so he was happy. At some point I couldn't ignore it anymore,” Lepak said.

“I was watching Father Rick Stansberry celebrate Mass and I thought that is actually the highest form of prayer right there. I was trying so hard to find a specific way of prayer, but I realized it's all in the Eucharist and God already has done it for you, and bringing people to Jesus with you. That was a beautiful moment. So, I started doing the paperwork.”

He was accepted as a seminarian for the archdiocese and recently earned a master’s degree in divinity at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Massachusetts. During ordination, while laying prostrate, Lepak said he will be praying for a call to holiness and reconciliation of all people to each other and to God. He said he will pray that God make him an instrument for people.

“I'm very happy. I feel ready. I've been thinking about it and studying for so long, it's a good time to put it into action. I am very thankful for my mother and all the people who helped me to get here. I'm definitely ready,” Diane Clay is editor of the Sooner Catholic.