Retrouvaille is a three-part guided program that was created to provide married couples with tools and resources to strengthen their marriage while placing an emphasis on the privacy of attending couples. The next Retrouvaille weekend is Aug. 27-29 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

Will and Brandi Ross, community coordinators for Retrouvaille, are a testament to the strength of the program. The Rosses attended as a couple in 2017, and believed so strongly in the program that they knew they wanted to be involved.

"We wouldn’t be sitting here talking to you right now if it wasn’t for this," Brandi Ross said.

Like many married couples, the Rosses were struggling and didn’t know where to turn for help.

"We didn’t have any guidance. Communication wasn’t something we knew. Retrouvaille was a lifeline for us; it gave us hope. It opened the door to communication, which was severely lacking," she said.

Brandi’s initial fear and concern about privacy were quickly dismissed.

"I was terrified," she said. "Privacy was very important to me, but all we had to do was listen. Nobody asked us to share anything.”

Retrouvaille is appropriate for married couples at all stages in their relationship. The program has been successful in helping couples with minor communication issues, couples that struggle with anything in between.

"You don’t have to wait," Will Ross explained. "Retrouvaille is a strengthening tool that can be used even before anything goes wrong!"

The Retrouvaille weekend is led by three presenting couples and a priest. Father Mark Mason has been involved with the program for about 10 years, and has seen firsthand the incredible things it has done for couples.

"I can see a difference from the beginning to the end of the weekend," Father Mason said. Although attending couples are never asked
There is a significant difference between “may” and “must.” This is a key point in the ongoing conversation regarding the ethics of vaccines and vaccine mandates, including the consequences for conscience. While it is true that federal rules are not always consistent, doctors and nurses still need to act in good conscience. It does not state that “you may not accept the vaccine, even though current vaccines do not appear to the Church as being themselves morally acceptable.” It is saying, “You must not act against your conscience. They should always strive to resolve whatever doubts their conscience may have before acting upon it.”

In recent years, the Vatican has reiterated that the Church does not require its members to receive vaccines. This is in line with the Church’s long-standing tradition of respecting the conscience of its members. In December 2020, the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith wrote that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation.” Consequently, it should be voluntary. In certain settings such as those for healthcare workers, the choice to receive a vaccine to protect themselves is a personal decision.

The judgment of the Vatican and the U.S. bishops regarding the moral acceptability of receiving a COVID vaccine was reviewed by many as a moral and ethical endorsement of these vaccines. That would be overestimating the facts. In effect, these statements indicate that a person can have good conscience in discerning to accept or reject a COVID vaccine, even though current vaccines do involve a remote material cooperation in the moral evil of abortion. Sooner Catholic is for those who are considering whether or not to receive a COVID vaccine.
Bl. Stanley Rother added to the proper calendar of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Blessed Stanley Rother, an alumnus of Conception Seminary, a priest ordained for the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa in 1963, a missionary to Guatemala, a pastor and a martyr, has been added to the saints on the proper calendar of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Bishop James Johnston petitioned the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to receive permission to celebrate Bl. Stanley’s feast day. The permission includes the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and the Diocese of Little Rock.

From the Archives...

The Sooner Catholic has been the standard bearer for Catholic journalism in western Oklahoma since 1974. It is, however, the sixth iteration in Catholic publications.

The need for uniquely Catholic news was paramount from the beginning of the Church in Oklahoma. The primary missionaries who brought the faith – the Benedictines of Sacred Heart Abbey – presented The Indian Advocate in 1888 and published four times a year. From 1901-1910, it was a monthly. It ceased publication in 1910. In 1915, the head of St. Joseph’s Orphanage, Father John Kekeisen started The Oklahoma Courier, which had been a champion of the diocese and then to Oklahoma City. The Catholic Home was a weekly and lasted two years before the new bishop, Francis Kelly, changed the name to the Southwest Courier in 1924.

Rivers became editor in 1969. Conservatives did not like the content and liberals objected to priests paying for a publication many did not want. Father Joyce started his own publication, The Oklahoma Observer, which he later sold to Frosty Troy. It became, primarily, a political opinion magazine that is still published today.

A turbulent 1960s posed challenges for Father and the Church. Some were not pleased with the stands taken by Father Joyce, especially his opposition to the Vietnam War although Bishop Rees had been one of the first bishops to decry the involvement of the United States in the war.

Parishioners had to pay for the Courier, many were furious with its content. Ironically, the Oklahoma Courier, which had been a champion of lay participation, was directed by the Pastoral Council (a board consisting of lay people and priests to work with the bishop on decisions affecting the diocese) to cease publication in 1969. Conservatives did not like the content and liberals objected to parishioners paying for a publication many did not want.

Eight years later, the current editor, Diane Clay, be- came editor of the Sooner Catholic. Using her 20 years of journalism experience, and with the design talent of Managing Editor Dana Attocknie, the newspaper is not responsible for uncontested material.

St. Peter Catholic Church in Woodward welcomed their new priest July 31. Fr. Christopher De Lavies was installed as pastor of the parish and its mis- sions - his first assignment as pastor after serving as an associate pastor in the archdiocese for seven years. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Coakley and concelebrated by Fr. Stephen Bird, Fr. Rex Arnold and Fr. Christu Raj Maddichetty.

Photos Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner Catholic Communications Appeal.
American Indian Catholic Outreach Princess Aline Schonschin represented AICO at the annual Oklahoma City Powwow Club’s Indian Hills Powwow July 23-24 in Oklahoma City. Schonschin and her family are parishioners at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. Photo Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.

The Oklahoma Catholic Daughters of the Americas state officers attended the national and territorial officers conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., in July. During the gathering, the national board approved a resolution submitted by Director Theressa Cersovski to promote devotion to Bl. Stanley Rother by praying for the “Cause of Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother.”

Blessed Stanley served at the diocese’s mission in Guatemala. On July 28, 1981, he was executed in the rectory. Pope Francis officially recognized Father Rother as a martyr for the faith on Dec. 1, 2016.

The Catholic Daughters is one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas with 63,000 dues-paying members in 1,150 courts (local chapters) in 45 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The passage of this resolution acknowledges the support and prayer by all the members of the CDA for the canonization of Bl. Stanley Rother.

(Left to right) Debra Brzozowski, Oklahoma second vice state regent; Karla Ludwig, Oklahoma state secretary; Fr. James Caldwell, Oklahoma state chaplain; Karin Dudash, Oklahoma state regent; Jo Ella Newbury, Oklahoma state treasurer; and Karen Risher, Oklahoma first vice state regent. Photo provided.

St. Benedict Catholic Church’s Parish Guild in Shawnee held their first meeting for the new Parish Guild year on Aug. 3. Anyone interested in the Parish Guild can contact Nancy Perry at nancyperry1947@yahoo.com. Photo provided.


First Holy Communion at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Anadarko. Photo provided.
“WHEN YOU LOSE HOPE, YOU CAN’T DO IT BY YOURSELF”

to share anything about their marriage, pre-
tensions. I always stand back and say how in the 
universe. We had to have someone walk with us when we 
people who have been there is what helped us. 
or, a lack of sensitivity and compassion for others. 
and support that the pro-
communication tools that are im-
to healing their marriage. 
Rooted in theology, the 
way to work together to promote 
serve everyone with respect and dig-
universal access to good and afford-
parental leave, and other supports for 
ensuring quality and affordable 
the church could do with us. We knew 
life support and sex 
Catholic institutions must be free to 
advocate a false understanding of gen-
and sexuality, and we affirm that 
fulfill everyone with respect and dig-
work together to promote the 
with a passion for nursing were turned 
away from college and university nursing 
cants with a passion for nursing were turned 
Marian University has similar programs in 
City has three start dates per year in January, 
Marian University is a 

Marian University opens state-of-the-art 
learning lab for nursing students

OKLAHOMA CITY – Marian University opened 
its state-of-the-art learning lab for nursing stu-
dents on Aug. 3. The lab is located in the IBC 
Bank Building, 3817 Northwest Expressway, 
Suite 450. 

Along with rigorous coursework, students 
can put their skills to work in an interactive 
learning simulation. 

“Here, students can make decisions in a 
safe environment before delivering real-world, 
patient-centered care as part of their 
clinical rotations at local hospitals,” said Dr. Michelle 
Frick-Garrick, academic director of Marian 
University’s Leighton School of Nursing. “And, 
care are armed with a low student-to-faculty 
ration.” 

Marian University has similar programs in 
Indianapolis and Nashville. 

The program is designed to relieve a shortage 
of skilled nurses. 

Not only are we serving an aging population, 
but many nurses are leaving the field altogether,” 
Frick-Garrick said. "These issues are exacerbated 
by a global pandemic and university nursing 
education programs that are at capacity and unable to accept new students.” 

In 2019, more than 80,000 qualified appli-
cants with a passion for nursing were turned 
away from college and university nursing 
programs nationwide. The reasons: a lack of 
faculty, clinical placements and space, accord-
ing to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. 

Marian University’s program in Oklahoma 

For more information, visit onlineabsn.marian.edu/oklahoma-city. 

Founded in 1936, Marian University is a 
nonprofit, faith-based learning institution that 
provides students, no matter their field of study, 
with a quality education framed within 
the context of Franciscan values. 

The university welcomes students of all 
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and responsible stewardship. 


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Hundreds of people in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa, the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark., and parishes in the Diocese of Sololá in Guatemala celebrated the 40th anniversary of Blessed Stanley Rother’s martyrdom on his Feast Day, July 28.

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Archbishop Beltran celebrated Mass at Bl. Stanley’s childhood parish of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche. The faithful also participated in El Camino de Apla’s and a Blessed Stanley Rother Pilgrimage by visiting a handful of sites related to Blessed Stanley. Photos Diane Clay, Dana Attocknie, Avery Holt, Nancy Largent/Sooner Catholic and provided.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother

O God, fount of all holiness, make us each walk worthily in our vocation, through the intercession of your Saints, on whom you bestowed a great variety of graces on earth. Having graced your Church with the life of your priest and martyr, Blessed Stanley Rother, grant that by his intercession this humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone. Grant that your Church may proclaim him a saint living in your presence and interceding for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
National Eucharistic Revival aims “to light fire” among the faithful

By Maria Wiering
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Catholics can expect addi-
tional emphasis on the Eucharist at all levels of
the church beginning next summer, culminat-
ing in a large-scale national event in 2024. The
Archbishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St.
Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the U.S.
Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on
Evangelization and Catechesis, detailed a three-
year National Eucharistic Revival initiative and
approved plans for a national event in his
committee update June 18, the last day of the U.
Bishops’ three-day virtual spring assembly.
Called a “Eucharistic Revival: My Flash for
the Life of the World,” the initiative aims to
“revive the church by rekindling a living rela-
tionship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy
Eucharist,” Bishop Cozzens said in a pre-
pared presentation.

The revival is part of the U.S. bishops’ 2021-
2024 strategic plan, “Created Anew by the
Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our heal-
ing and Hope,” approved last November. The
prelates discussed the revival in USCCB re-
 gional meetings in November, Bishop Cozzens
noted, saying that while some bishops expressed reservations about a national event, “many
called it a ‘provisional moment for us.’”

Bishop Cozzens described the revival as “a
movement of Catholics across the United States,
launched, convoked, formed and unified by an
encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist — and sent
out in mission for the life of the world.”

“We hope at the end of these three years, we
will have formed and sent more than 100,000
missionaries who are truly to go to Jesus Christ in
the Eucharist with our world,” he said.

The revival is designed to impact every level
of the church, from the home and parish to
the national stage. It is scheduled to begin
next summer with a yearlong diocesan reviv-
 al focused on “formation and engaging renewal
movements and apostolates to provide events in
every diocese,” Bishop Cozzens said.

That year will include a national corps
eucharistic apologists available to speak at
diocesan and regional events, formation events
designed to prepare diocesan leaders and online
training to form lay “eucharistic missionaries”
for priests and diocesan leaders, and online
providing transformational experiences that allow
participants to “experience the true encounter.”

“Dioceses could have Corpus Christi cele-
bations, days of adoration and reconciliation,
as well as days of eucharistic evangelization and
service,” Bishop Cozzens said in his pre-
 sented presentation.

The second year would involve parishes and
include small groups and training of eucharis-
tical missionaries, which Bishop Cozzens de-
scribed as “parish lay leaders who could help
the church grow and communicate that the revival
is here at the parish level, sent forth to evangelize and serve those in need.”

The third year will include the national event,
followed by efforts to “animate and strengthen
those missionaries who return to their diocese and parish” and the sending of mis-
niary “out to the margins to invite people into
our eucharistic communities,” Bishop
Cozzens said.

Discussion of a National Eucharistic Reviv-
als began under Archbishop Robert E. Bur-
ron of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB’s
evangelization committee from 2017-2020. It
was prompted in part by a 2019 Pew Research
study that found 69% of Catholics don’t believe
misconduct in the church, and Bishop Burns,
the archbishop of the Archdiocese of
Santa Barbara, began his conversion into the Eucharist. Through
Ignatius, our founder, gave the world the Church’s precious gift of
espoused a deeper commitment to the poor
and the marginalized.

Bishop Burns’ work, Bishop Burns said,
“invited us to think as a broader group, not
just the bishops but the entire church, how do
we reach Catholics on all levels of the church.
And he noted that leaders around the country have “en-
couraged us to think of a larger, more mission-
ary event, that would be more like a eucharis-
tical congress, more like the World Meeting of Families or World Youth Day.”

This kind of event could start a missionary
fire across our country when 100,000 people
come together to encounter Christ in the Eu-
charist and he sent out on mission.”

The evangelization committee will seek ap-
proval for a plan for the national event at the
bishops’ November meeting, Bishop Cozzens
said.

In a 33-minute live discussion of the reviv-
al following his report, bishops shared their
enthusiasm about the plan but asked about more strongly connecting the three
years of the revival to the national stage and
to promote the love of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

“Right now, the church in the United States
needs the healing and the unity that can flow from
rekindling our love for the Eucharist,”
Bishop Burns said. “We need to rekindle the
love of our people so they can become mission-
ers and reach out to the margins as we are
called to do by Fratelli Tutti,” Pope Francis’
2020 encyclical.

The plan for the revival includes five pillars:
- To foster encounters with Jesus through
eucharistic proclamation and experiences
eucharistic devotion.

With this national event, it becomes a pil-
grimage that we are making together and it
will have formed and sent more than 100,000
missionaries who are truly to go to Jesus Christ in
the Eucharist with our world,” he said.

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The Catholic Difference

Moral courage and the many cultures of death

By John H. Dolese

Ever wonder what it might be like to travel back in time? What about surviving with a saint such as Joan of Arc? Reading this book will give you the opportunity to do just that. ‘The Warrior Maid,’ written by Paul McCuster and is the second book of the three-book chronicles. McCuster takes us on an exciting journey back in time to 1562, where we travel with Andrew Perry and Evelyn Thompson, two teenagers about to receive their first holy communion. Eager to join the invitation, Joan soon begins to acknowledge her responsibilities to the God she loves.

There was a second person, Joan, but here, Joan begins to lead several different French movements against En- glish in various towns across the landscape of France. The quest to join the Maid of Orléans is McCuster’s way of giving modern readers a glimpse into the life of Joan of Arc. McCuster and Evelyn Thompson’s adventures are fascinating. For me, it is difficult to separate the two stories and to imagine them as two different novels. The two stories are intertwined in a unique, interesting way.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about Joan of Arc’s life and her impact on the world. The author does an excellent job of bringing her story to life, making it seem as though you are there with Joan, Andrew and Eve traveling through France, fighting for the English, experiencing victories, defeats and the trials and triumphs that accompany them.

We also find ourselves in the presence of Joan, Andrew and Eve through the story of the French Resistance. McCuster does an excellent job of capturing the essence of the French Resistance movement and its impact on the world. The story of Joan of Arc and the trials and tribulations she faces are incredibly powerful and compelling.

Another aspect that I found fascinating was the author’s ability to bring history to life. McCuster does an excellent job of capturing the essence of the French Resistance movement and its impact on the world. The story of Joan of Arc and the trials and tribulations she faces are incredibly powerful and compelling.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning about Joan of Arc’s life and her impact on the world. The author does an excellent job of bringing her story to life, making it seem as though you are there with Joan, Andrew and Eve traveling through France, fighting for the English, experiencing victories, defeats and the trials and triumphs that accompany them.

The Catholic Difference, by John H. Dolese, is a fictional novel that explores the life of Joan of Arc, the French resistance movement and the impact of faith on society. The book is written in an engaging, informative style that will appeal to readers of all ages. The Catholic Difference is a must-read for anyone interested in learning about Joan of Arc’s life and her impact on the world.
El festival se ha llevado a cabo más de tres años, se con-
vierto en un festival oficialmente aceptado. Después de que el padre autorizó las peregrinaciones católicas al lugar de peregrinación de Medjugorje.

El festival de 2020 estuvo lim-
itado a visitantes de Suiza y de la Unión Europea a causa de la pandemia de COVID-19. El festival de este año, del 1 al 8 de agosto, ha sido abierto a cualquier joven con certificado de vacunación o una prueba de COVID-19 negativa. El tema elegido para 2021 fue la pregunta: "¿Debo hacerlo?". El primer paso, dijo el padre, siempre debe ponerse en marcha, que es precisamente lo que hicier-
on los jóvenes al ir a Medjugor-
je. "El Evangelio no dice el nombre del joven, y esto sugiere que puede representar a cual-
a seamos cualquier joven, incluso como un permiso reacio. Es como si dijera, "puedes recibir la vacuna" en buena conciencia. Pero no significa que "debes" recibirla. En base a ello, muchos han tomado una decisión consciente y han recibido la vacuna, como yo...

En la moral católica, una persona nunca debe estar en contra de su juicio personal de conciencia. Como cristianos tenemos la obligación, por supuesto, de formar nuestra conciencia basada en los hechos de cada caso, en un contexto moral, moral, en la Palabra de Dios y las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. Aquellos que no profesan una fe tienen la obligación de obedecer la decisión de su juicio de conciencia basada en la ley natural inscripta en cada circunstancia. Aquellos que no tienen fe, no pueden actuar contra el juicio de su propia conciencia. Parece aparente que muchas personas han discernido que no están listas ni quieren re-
cibir la vacuna contra el COVID. He escuchado numerosas razones para esta decisión. Algunas veces se trata de su propio juicio de que la ciencia misma no está aún completamente segura de la efectividad de la vacuna. En todas partes podrían cambiar de opinión una vez que se han tomado en cuenta algunas de las vacunas

Más de 400 peregrinos a los viajes se unieron al Arzobispo Coakley el 10 de agosto para celebrar a las 21 seminarios de la pequeña parroquia en el Casino Aristegui 2021. Para apoyar la educación de los seminarios, visiten clerick.org/dinner. Vea más fotos de la cena en la edición del 29 de agosto del periódico Sooner Catholic.

Papa a jóvenes: Alegria verdadera brota de hacer la voluntad de Dios

El papa Francisco pidió a los jóvenes reunidos en el santuario Mariano de Medjugorje que aseguraran el ejemplo de María de aceptación total a la voluntad de Dios, llevado a Cristo al mundo y extendiéndose a las necesidades de los demás.

"Con no vaya, nos muestra que nuestra alegria está fundada en la voluntad de Dios y que aceptarla y vivirla no es fácil, pero nos hará a ligeras", escribió el papa a los peregrinos en el Festival Internacional de la Juventud en Medju-
gorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

El mensaje del papa, emitido a los peregrinos el 2 de agosto, se leyó en el festival el 1 de agosto.

"Entiendo el debate sobre la ética de las vacunas. Sin embargo, eso sería una mala interpretación. Lo que en realidad significa de las vacunas. Sin embargo, eso sería una mala interpretación. Lo que en realidad significa es que el joven, y esto sugiere que puede representar a cualquier joven, incluso como un permiso reacio. Es como si dijera, "puedes recibir la vacuna" en buena conciencia. Pero no significa que "debes" recibirla. En base a ello, muchos han tomado una decisión consciente y han recibido la vacuna, como yo..."
Briefs

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

Shrine webcam
Watch construction of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine on an online trip to archokc.org/shrine/webcam.

Watch Heritage Gallery episodes on archokc.org/blstanleymemorial.

Anniversary celebration Everything is ready to the 50th anniversary celebration at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Norman for Labor Day Weekend.

Lunchons for Life Life of the Party Gala is 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at SOCO, 3252 N. Western Ave. in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Steve Karlen.

40 Days for Life rally Steve Karlen, director of 40 Days for Life campaigns in North America, will be visiting Sept. 10 at the Oklahoma City Vigil, 1240 S.W. 44, and possibly the Norman and Edmond vigil locations.

Silver Tea The mother of the Catholic Church Guild Silver Tea will be held at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Benedict Center, Shawnee.

Mass of Remembrance The 2021 Mass of Remembrance will be held Sept. 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 2214 N. Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. The Mass is in memory of those who have lost their lives to suicide. Everyone welcomes. People who have experienced the loss of someone to suicide are invited to attend and celebrate their loved one's life.

Love Run The Knights of Columbus Family Binge at St. James Catholic Church, 4201 S. McKinley, Oklahoma City, will begin Aug. 26. Mask required for unvaccinated. All games $10, with door prizes furnished by the Knights. Food served 4-5 p.m., Bingo 6-30 p.m. All players receive raffle ticket for $5 if they attend in October. August birthdays recognized.

Retrovaluine
A retrovaluine workday will be held Aug. 27-29 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. This is a wonderful opportunity to help care for those in need, even when work hours are difficult in their marriages. It is designed to provide tools to help get marriages back on track. For more information and registration, visit helpmarriage.org.

Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat
A Domestic Church Evangelization Retreat will take place Sept. 3-6 (Labor Day weekend) at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Cost is $350, which includes lodging and meals. Scholarships available. Contact Alex Schimpf, (405) 709-2755, asc@archokc.org. Register at archokc.org/edc.

Calendar
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 soconerhc.org.

August
15 The Assumption of the Bl. Virgin Mary.
17 Holy Spirt Catholic Church will host their seventh annual Oktoberfest and auction at 6 p.m. Sept. 25 at 1100 S. Bixby Rd., in Mustang. This is an event for age 21 and older. Regina 414-9763, 414-9763, holyspiritmustang.org.
22 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time.
19 Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., The Catholic Pastoral Center, Contact Elaine at (405) 314-5345, ealine@archokc.org. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time.
20 Feast of St. Bernard.
22 Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 a.m., 2453 Willow Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
16 Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time.
21 Feast of St. Pius X.
20 Lay Missionaries of Charity, the lay order of the Missionaries of Charity of St. Teresa of Calcutta, meet at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents' conference room. Any lay person interested in deepening their faith to be a consecrated life is welcome to come and see. Contact Tunli Harrelson at (405) 694-1292, (405) 341-2199 or tonimah@sbcglobal.net.
21 Feast of St. Bartholomew.
21 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus. Nine days of novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague. During the novena novena prayers will be said Monday-Friday following Noon Mass, Saturday following 5 p.m. Mass, and Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass.
21 Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting, 10:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 NW 18, OKC. Visit serraco.org.
21 The Oklahoma City Community of Secular Franciscans meets monthly at Little Flower, OKC. Anyone interested in finding out about the monthly life of the prayer life with community support, call Vicky Caudell at (405) 637-4611 or William Gill at (405) 737-2024.
21 Feast of St. John Eudes.
16_pray the rosary for life 6:30 a.m., 2453 Willow Dr., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
02 Retrouvaise, Aug 27-29, Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC. Visit helpmarriage.org.
22 Feast of St. Augustin.
21 125th anniversary celebration, 5 p.m., Sacred Heart, Mustang.

Fall festival
St. James the Greater Catholic Church, 4201 S McKinley Ave in Oklahoma City will have a fall festival 5 p.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 10 a.m., Oct. 2 and 3. There will be a variety of food booths, games and activities, entertainment, raffle tickets, and volleyball tournaments.

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Briefer

August 15, 2021

Okinvest
Holy Spirit Catholic Church will host their seventh annual Oktoberfest and auction at 6 p.m. Sept. 25 at 1100 S. Bixby Rd., in Mustang. This is an event for age 21 and older. Regina 414-9763, 414-9763, holyspiritmustang.org.

Day of Reflection
Day of Reflection, “I Shall Return to My Father’s House: Good Confession” is 8:30 - 3 p.m. Sept. 25. 250 N. Broadway, in Oklahoma City. Visit 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Cost is $25 at the door. Lunch included.

Are you listening? By Billy Creuse Nash
I have been listening to “The Miracle Hunter,” an EWTN program, broadcast Saturdays at 6 p.m. on OKCR, and it has led me to this question: Do you consider answers to your prayers real? Or, do you answer that question without thinking how else the Holy Spirit could guide you? Jesus encountered with the blind Bartimeus while he was leaving Jericho.

In Mark’s Gospel, Bartimaeus hours that Jesus is passing by, and he calls out to him—con- tinuously. Everyone around him tries to shut him up, but he persists, and Jesus comes to him. He questions this man from believing Jesus can help him. Jesus’ response astounds me. He says, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Think about it. Jesus is disposed to give this marginalized man his heart’s desire, anything. Because he believes, everything changes for Bartimaeus. He is physically healed and his status in society. Transformed, he follows Jesus.

Physical healings are only one type of miracle discussed in the liturgical, half-hour of “The Miracle Hunter.” Much of the program is devoted to enhancing our understanding of the role miracles play in our Catholic faith. There are miracles recorded in Scripture, but program creator and host, Michael O’Neil, explores miracles and their agents from around the world, reaching into the past and reviewing contemporary supernatural phenomena.

The program is divided into different segments such as “Catholic Pub Trivia,” interviews with program guests and authors, and a segment I particularly enjoy, “The Story of Mary Pat O’Neil,” a member of the Mariological Society, honorary Mary, spotlighting her life, interces- sion granted through her, and her final role to us, the Church, worldwide, essentially connected to a miraculous event. Impeccably, but not miracul- ously, a degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford has equipped Michael O’Neil as a data-centric authority in explaining the Church’s rela- tionship to miracles. Executive director of EWTN Media, Rev. Francis Hoffman, characterize O’Neil as having “…the heart of a child with a penchant for the supernatural…” Secular, respected organization of Catholic authors, St. Joseph’s Press, has published several books. O’Neil has equipped Michael O’Neil with expertise and research upon his particular output.

The portion of the program titled, “They Might Be Saints” presents many, from the 20th century who are being examined for sainthood. According to rigorous standards on the path to sainthood from “servant of God” to “venerable” to “blessed,” Michael O’Neil is at an integral part of this process, signs that God is working through these people of faith.

The miracles always must point back to God, ultimately measured by how they mani- fest God’s glory as catalysts for conversion and deepening faith. Miracles have to be a beauty spot in Church with doctrine and teaching.

Furthermore, they are not sources of sensationalism or personal glorification. Note that Bartimaeus did not ask Jesus to make him the miracle of the bachelors in Jericho. He wanted to see. When Jesus speaks to him, Bartimaeus followed him.

Listening to “The Miracle Hunter,” I try to see just how many ways God goes beyond conven- tional norms to display his love and his command of everything, even in my plain, ordinary life. My expectations have changed. I pray for something or someone. The miracle occurs when I refrain from telling God about it. Jesus is disposed to meet my expectations with a miracle.

Are you listening? Are you waiting? Do you expect to see God at work in your life? Do you believe that Jesus is disposed to use you to do his work? Are you willing to accept his mission and believe the miracle he presents to you? Jesus is disposed to answer your prayers. Are you listening?
Here are the top faith-filled moments from the Olympics

By Christine Rousseau
Catholic News Agency

The games of the 32nd Olympics closed on Sunday, bringing an end to more than two weeks of competitions featuring the world’s most talented athletes with a global audience.

Some competitors made it clear they were playing not only for national pride and a piece of hardware, but also for a greater purpose.

Here are some moments where athletes shared their faith on the world’s stage:

A Miraculous Medal for a miraculous victory

On the third day of the games, Filipina weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for her country. Diaz, who competed in the women’s 55kg event, set an Olympic record with her clean and jerk of 127kg and a combined weight of 224kg. Her gold medal improved on her second-place finish at the 2016 games in Rio. Images of Diaz’s visibly emotional face on her final lift went viral, and after she successfully completed the lift, she repeatedly said, “Thank you, Lord,” and clutched her Miraculous Medal necklace.

After the Philippine national anthem was played at the medal ceremony, Diaz stepped down from the podium, made the Sign of the Cross, and shouted “Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!” (“Long live the Philippines!”)

Glorifying God in the pool

South African swimmer Tatjana Schoenmaker left Tokyo with a gold medal in the 200-meter breaststroke and a surprise silver in the 100-meter breaststroke. Schoenmaker swam with a pair of cross-shaped earrings, and under her official Team South Africa-issued swim cap, Schoenmaker donned a white swim cap with the words “Soli Deo Gloria” (“Glory to God Alone”) written on it.

That swim cap was on display during the qualifying rounds in the 100-meter breaststroke, as her country’s cap nearly fell off her head in both races.

Sydney McLaughlin and Team USA run to glorify God

“Glory to God Alone” written on her Instagram following her first gold medal win that she prayed "my journey may be a clear depiction of submission and obedience to God."

"I have never seen God fail in my life. In anyone’s life for that matter. Just because I may not win every race, or receive every one of my heart’s desires, does not mean God had failed. His will is PERFECT," she said. After winning her second gold medal – on her 22nd birthday – McLaughlin thanked God for another year of life, and wrote that she looks "forward to unveiling where it takes me as you continue to establish my steps."

McLaughlin’s teammates are vocal about their faiths as well. Athing Mu, a 19-year-old breakout star of the games, posted that her year had been one of faith and perseverance.

"In the end, I chose to grasp onto God and allow him to take complete control of my life. It allowed me to take a step back, learn how to trust him entirely and HAVE FAITH," she said.

Marileidy Paulino wears her faith on her feet

Marileidy Paulino, the Dominican Republic track star, is leaving Tokyo with two silver medals: one in the mixed 4x400 relay, and another in the 400. She’s the first woman ever from the Dominican Republic to win an Olympic medal.

After her second-place finish in the 400, Paulino told the Associated Press that she considered her medal a “miracle,” as she had only been running that distance for one year. On her spikes, Paulino wrote “Dios es mi esperanza,” Spanish for “God is my hope.”

Wrestler goes viral for praising the Lord and her country

Female wrestlers are not household names in the United States, but Tammy Mensah-Stock’s interview after winning gold in the Women’s 68kg freestyle competition went viral.

“It’s by the grace of God I’m able to move my feet. I just leave it in his hands,” she said, adding that she prayed that all of her hard work would be worth it. “And every single time it does, and I get better and better,” she said. “I’m excited to see what I have next.”

Jesus makes all things new

Nicola McDermott of Australia took the silver medal in women’s high jump competition, jumping a personal best 2.02 meters in the final. During each competition, McDermott not only wrote in her journal, but also wrote a devotion-al passage on her wrist.

For the final, McDermott wrote "JESUS makes all things new," with a cross drawn underneath. She told Australian media following her medal win that when she was a teenager, she was “always an outcast” before joining a church.

“I got welcomed into a faith community that loved me. I remember encountering God’s love and it changed the way that I thought of myself as a misfit,” she said.