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By Eliana Tedrow
The Sooner Catholic

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Today, in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City the Saint Vincent de Paul Society continues to follow these teachings. Unlike many charitable organizations, one of the things that sets apart the society is that everyone is a volunteer. There are no paid staff members or buildings to maintain. All donations go directly to help the poor.

Saint Vincent de Paul was a

continued on page 10

A teacher at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City organizes her classroom. Photo provided.

“Baby Box” bill provides hope, help for women, babies

Photo Safe Haven Baby Boxes

The south team for El Camino de Apla’s prayed for the archdiocese and for the canonization of Bl. Stanley Rother during their camino around the archdiocese throughout July. Look for more photos of the camino teams and from Bl. Stanley Rother’s Feast Day in the Aug. 15 issue of the Sooner Catholic. Photo provided.

EL CAMINO DE APLA’S

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“No work of charity is foreign to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul”

Zoea Snodgrass and Scott Powell, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Oklahoma. Photo provided.

Back to School!

Teachers, staff and volunteers are busy preparing classrooms for the 2021-2022 school year, which begins in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on Wednesday, Aug. 11. Each Catholic school offers an advanced curriculum that educates the total child—spirit, mind and body. The curriculum is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and responds to his call to make disciples of all peoples. To learn more about Catholic schools, visit archokc.org/schools. People interested in career opportunities at Catholic schools can visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

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A teacher at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Oklahoma City organizes her classroom. Photo provided.
The Center of Family Love raised a record $860,000

KARCHE – The Center of Family Love celebrated its 40th anniversary by raising more than $860,000 during the organization’s Gift of Love Virtual Celebration. The event was the eighth in CFL’s history.

Generous donors from all over Oklahoma and throughout the United States participated at an unprecedented level during the event in support of the residents. Tanner, 25, one of CFL’s newest residents, is a survivor of traumatic brain injury and multiple cancer diagnoses. He served as the event’s first-ever resident host and emcee.

The Center of Family Love, which was started by the Knights of Columbus, empowers individuals living with intellectual and physical disabilities to reach for and achieve their dreams while providing innovative lifetime carefree of charge to them and their families in the event they cannot afford it.

The organization used the occasion to mark its 40th anniversary of serving Oklahomans with intellectual disabilities and held a birthday celebration for all of its residents, inspired by Pauline. CFL’s first resident in 1981, is now 40 years beyond her predicted life expectancy.

Additional highlights of the Gift of Love Virtual Celebration included a resident production of “Lion Sleeps Tonight” and a resident ballet performance in partnership with the Oklahoma City Ballet. CFL also presented its highest honors on two exceptional community leaders, with Richard “RL” Schulte of Edmond receiving the Harold J. Wittrock Humanitarian Award and Jeanne Sullivan of Tulsa receiving the Card and Bill Brown Community Ambassador Award.

Among the key contributors helping CFL to achieve this fundraising record included Kurt and Brooke Bollenbach, Ron and Nancy Carey, Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Rosary Council #1287, Oklahoma National Distributing Company and Rep. Mike Sanders of Oklahoma.

Get more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, visit soonercatholic.org.

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

May your merciful Lord calm the fears of all expectant mothers, fill them with his peace, and provide for every need.

The Santa Fe Family Life Center’s pool season ends Labor Day weekend. Call (405) 840-1817 or stop by 6300 N. Santa Fe Ave. in Oklahoma City to sign up. Visit sfflc.com for more information.

Day of Reflection, “I Shall Return to My Father: How to Make a Good Confession” presented by Fr. Dominique Cipelin, O.S.B., is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sept. 25 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1000 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Limited seating. Masks are recommended. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreats@stgreg.org or call (405) 878-5665. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

Put Out Into the Deep

Precepts of the Church: Supporting the Church’s mission

This is the sixth and final installment of a series on the Precepts of the Church. As stated previously, these precepts are laws proposed by the Church that, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, are “meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessity minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort” to ensure their growth in love for God and neighbor (CCC 2041).

Precept No. 6: “Love of God and neighbor. We are to love God above all and our neighbor as ourself.” (CCC 2056).

God is the source of all blessings, and we have a duty to use God’s blessings to enrich others without thereby impoverishing ourselves.” (CCC 2057).

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley’s Calendar

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

Aug. 1 - Mass for Quin Vada Day, 5 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp
Aug. 3 - Archdiocesan Building Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Aug. 8 - Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Aug. 8 - Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Aug. 9 - Assembly of Catholic Professionals Luncheon, 11 a.m., Downtown Petroleum Club, OKC
Aug. 9 - Cockout with seminarians, 6 p.m., archbishop’s residence
Aug. 10 - Group photo and meeting with businessmen, 9 a.m., CPC
Aug. 10 - Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Aug. 10 - Archdiocesan Dinner for Seminarians Education, 6 p.m., Omni Oklahoma City Hotel
Aug. 12 - Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Aug. 14 - Keynote Speaker at Tulsa Diocese Chapter meeting, 5:30 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa
Aug. 14 - Mass and dedication of new parish hall, 5 p.m., Sacred Heart, Mangum

“God of wisdom and might, we pray you for the center of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Bless us with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Grant that grace our bodies grow and understand; and peace and joy to their manner, study and activity. We ask through Jesus Christ your beloved. Amen.”

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

God is the source of all blessings, and we have a duty to use God’s blessings to enrich others without thereby impoverishing ourselves.”

Rother shrine update

Faces of the Shrine: Construction of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City is being overseen by construction manager The Boldt Company. Project Manager Tyler Boldt and his team have made significant contributions to the shrine while working closely with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Earlier this year, the Association of General Contractors of Oklahoma honored Tyler Boldt as “Project Manager of the Year!” To learn more about the shrine or to watch a live webcam, go online to rothershrine.org. To help secure the future of the shrine, go to give.rothershrine.org.

Sooner Catholic

Recommendations, precautions and protocols related to COVID-19 for youth activities at parishes and for students at Catholic schools in the archdiocese for Fall 2021 can be found online at archoke.org/health.
Mercy breaks ground on new Love Family Women’s Center

Expanding women’s services for pregnant moms and women of all ages

A new building to serve women in Oklahoma City is under con-struction on the campus of Mercy Health. The new facility, to be completed in 2023, will include high-end labor and delivery, postpartum services, and an expanded suite of services for new parents. The opening is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2024.

The cornerstone for the new Mercy Health BirthPlace at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City was ceremoniously laid and blessed on Friday, February 28, 2023. The project is designed to handle around 3,000 births annually, with plans to serve more patients with the kind of compassionate care they have come to expect from Mercy, said Dr. Chad Smith, obstetrician-gyne-ecologist and chief medical officer of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. “They know the need for this new facility better than anyone, and they are just as excited to see this dream finally become a reality.”

The Love Family Women’s Center will be a 175,000-square-foot, four-story building on the cam-pus of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. It will feature an obstetrics emergency department staffed by obstetricians. Three large common area suites located in the women’s hospital will connect to the hospital surgery suite. This strategic design allows for quick, safe access to additional services if needed.

“We looked at a number of different options and locations for a new facility over the years and ultimately decided this really is the best of both worlds for patients,” said Dr. Lisa Calhoun, chief medical officer of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. “We want to be able to serve every pregnant mom and newborn that needs us, but the reality is that our existing facility is not designed to support our current volume of patients. We simply need more space.”

Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City was built in the mid-1950s and the existing Mercy BirthPlace was designed to handle 10,000 births a year. Nearly 4,000 babies were delivered in this space during the pandemic, and the hospital has been at capacity for years, said Jim Sieker, director of Mercy BirthPlace. “With the addition of the new facility, we’re going to be able to serve more patients with the kind of compassionate care our patients have come to expect from Mercy,” said Sieker.

The new state-of-the-art facility will also feature Oklahoma’s first hospital-based low-intervention birthing unit. The unit will be run by accredited midwives who are also registered nurses in collabora-tion with obstetricians. The program will offer the option of a low-intervention birth with access to a higher level of care under the same roof if issues arise during delivery.

Mercy will serve women of all ages at the Love Family Women’s Center, including a dedicated area for women recovering from surgery. Outpatient therapy services, specifically pelvic floor therapy, will also be offered. A large con-fERENCE center will host support groups and classes on everything from childbirth, infant care, CPR and more.

A large portion of this project was generously funded through gifts from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma City. The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma City is here to help. Contact us (405) 721-4115 or cfo@cfook.org. Visit our website for more information cfook.org.
Gold medalist weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz inspires the Philippines with her victory and Catholic devotion

“Make Straight the Way”

Below is a lineup of scheduled broadcasts on “Make Straight the Way” hosted by Deacon Larry Sousa:

- Aug. 3 & 4: Melissa Armstrong – Speaker, pro-life ministry
- Aug. 10 & 11: Forest Champion – Convert to Catholicism
- Aug. 17 & 18: April Heiple – Executive director, Food and Shelter for Friends
- Aug. 24 & 25: Archbishop Coakley – Personal testimony Pt. 1
- Aug. 31 & Sept. 1: Archbishop Coakley – Personal testimony Pt. 2

“Make Straight the Way” broadcasts on Oklahoma Catholic Radio Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Filipina weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz proudly displays her Olympics gold medal and the Miraculous Medal, a devotional medallion depicting the Virgin Mary. Photo Catholic News Agency.

By Jose Torres Jr.
Catholic News Agency

TOKYO – Philippine Catholic bishops congratulated the country’s first-ever Olympic gold medalist, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, not only for her victory but for her show of faith and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Diaz’s triumph came in the women’s 55-kilogram weightlifting event on July 26. She also set an Olympic record after lifting a combined weight of 224 kilograms.

After completing her final lift in a very close competition, Diaz held her hands to her face, burst into tears and clutched at her Miraculous Medal of the Blessed Virgin Mary hanging from her neck.

“Thank you, Lord, thank you Lord,” she cried repeatedly after the winning lift.

Later on, the podium at the medal ceremony, Diaz pointed heavenward after singing the Philippine national anthem, then made the Sign of the Cross before stepping down and shouting “Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!” (“Long live the Philippines!”)

Diaz’s inspirational victory and public display of her Catholic faith touched the hearts of church leaders and Filipino Catholics watching from home and quickly went viral on social media.

“We admire her devotion to the Blessed Mother as she carried in her victory her great faith in God,” said Archbishop Romulo Valles, president of the country’s bishops’ conference. “Hidilyn is a true weightlifter who draws her strength from her love for the country and her deep Catholic faith.”

In a media interview on July 27, Diaz said her Miraculous Medal was given to her by friends before she departed for Tokyo earlier this month.

“They prayed a novena for nine days before my competition,” she told reporters, adding that she prayed a novena herself and is grateful for all the support her “prayer warriors” have given her.

Diaz said the religious medal is “a sign of our prayers and faith in Mama Mary and Jesus Christ,” adding that her faith in God is the major reason for her success.

Diaz is the fifth of six children of a poor tricycle driver in a small village in the southern Philippine city of Zamboanga.

A cousin introduced the then-10-year-old girl to weightlifting by training her with makeshift barbells made from plastic pipes with cast concrete weights at either end.

“WONDERFULLY MADE”
MOTHER & DAUGHTER BRUNCH

“MARAVILLOSAMENTE HECHA”
BRUNCH PARA MADRE E HIJA

FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS 18 AND UP FEMENINO MULHERES 18 ANOS INCLUSO

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The fifth-grade class from Rosary Catholic School in Oklahoma City made time capsules to commemorate the past year. The time capsules included Sooner Catholic articles, archdioce- san and school protocols, a mask, photos from the year, parent letters, a letter from Principal Christy Harris, letter from fifth-grade teach- er Katie Tooley, reflective writings from the year, and writings and images about 50 major news events from this past school year.

Knights of Columbus State Deputy Matt Maly and Fr. Rex Arnold, former pastor of St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon, presented international awards to Landri Ward, 9, and Jackson Zielinski, 14, at the Yukon Knights of Columbus Council #6478 Soccer Challenge.

Vacation Bible School was held June 21-25 at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Midwest City led by Director of Religious Education Laurann Donahue.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Duncan had Vacation Bible School June 28 – July 2. The theme was “Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.” The VBS was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Parishioners at St. Mary Catholic Church in Clinton held a Corpus Christi procession and celebration.

Knights of Columbus Council #12108 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman began a pro-life billboard campaign in 2018 with two electronic “Choose Life” billboards each month in the Oklahoma City metro area. With generous support, they have expanded to 25 electronic billboard locations displaying the “Choose Life” message to drivers each day in Clinton, Del City, Edmond, Elk City, Midwest City, Norman, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Yukon. The Knights are asking for gifts to help continue the campaign. They need a minimum of $5,000 before July 2022. Visit kofc12108.org to give online or mail a check to KOC Council 12108, ProLife Billboard Campaign, P.O. Box 893232, Oklahoma City 73189.

Freshmen from Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School participated in a scavenger hunt July 16 that included touring the Heritage Gallery at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Edmond and learning about the life of Blessed Stanley Rother given by archdiocesan Archivist George Espinal. The students also met with Deacon Norman Molina, director of the Cause for the Canonization of Bl. Stanley Rother. Photos provided.

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Sooner Catholic August 1, 2021
Norman parish to refurbish historic pipe organ

NORMAN – More than a year after the dedic- ation of a new edifice, Saint Thomas More Catholic Church has launched a campaign to fund the re- furishment of an historic pipe organ. Originally built in 1923 by the Ernest M. Skinner Organ Com- pany for First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, Conn., this instrument boasts more than 1,800 pipes. Played in recital by Marcel Dupre, then organist at Notre-Dame, Paris, and Virgil Fox, this instrument has a long and storied history in the church music world.

Under the leadership of Father Jan Goin, Saint Thomas More’s new chapel at the University of Oklahoma is home to his- toric art and sanctuary furnishings reclaimed from closed church- es, giving voice to generations past. The pipe organ is part of that vision.

The organ will be refurbished by the Schnitz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio, and Saint Thomas More has raised half of the $751,000 necessary to bring the instrument back to life before its 100th birthday. Donations can be made online by visiting stm-ou.org/organ. For more information, contact Nolan Patrick Reilly, organist and director of music for Saint Thomas More, at music@stm-ou.org or (405) 321-0990.

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman held their parish pic- nic on June 13.

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French Catholic priest who served as a chaplain to imprisoned slaves in the 1600s and devoted his life to serving rural areas of France and the poor of Paris. One hundred years later, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, a young law student in Paris, founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Its motto is "No work of charity is foreign to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

In the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Noreen Valadez is serving her 5th year as council president of the Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City.

"There are so many things Christ taught about serving the poor. There is nothing we won’t try to help, all people have to do is call," Valadez said. "Each conference (parish level) responds to the needs of the individual community. Aid and service can include things like utilities, rent, food, food pantries and furniture."

Funding for SVdP is primarily from the local parish. All money given by the parish, by friends of SVdP from other churches or the community or from memorial gifts go directly to help people in need.

Valadez said people who become "Vincentians" experience spiritual growth and friendship. In addition to service, Vincentians meet twice a month for prayer and to share information about "cases" and resources.

The two newest SVdP conferences are at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Ada and Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sulphur, both under the direction of Father Aaron Foshee.

"Since coming into the Church, I have been aware of the ‘preference option for the poor’ that has been expressed by the Church, and especially by recent popes," Father Foshee said. "Saint Vincent de Paul offers a tangible way for parishes to address this issue in their local communities."

Father Foshee added, "The Catholic Church in east-central Oklahoma is growing in its identity as missionary disciples, but has, to date, not had such a specific outlet for ministry as Saint Vincent De Paul. Since inviting the Vincentians to my parishes a few months ago, I already have witnessed a profound desire to meet the needs of our neighbors with the Gospel of Christ as well as the organizational communion that Saint Vincent De Paul offers its members."

Lisa Schmidt works with the Saint Vincent de Paul chapter in Norman.

"My biggest wish, of course, would be that organizations like ours weren’t necessary. My more realistic wish is that there was a better understanding and grounding at the individual and parish level in the Gospel values expressed in Catholic Social Teachings and the very clear message that we all are called to see the face of Christ in every human being, to see them as God sees them, and hope they see Christ in us," Schmidt said.

Schmidt added that she wished people knew that "most of the people we meet through SVdP are decent, hard-working people who just need a little help. More and more of our neighbors in need are ‘newly poor,’ and asking for help from strangers or applying for assistance is something they never, ever saw themselves doing, and it’s hard for them."

SVdP volunteer Jim Ray summarized, "The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is about spiritual growth. It is the ‘works’ part of putting our faith into action and growing spiritually in the process."

For more information about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in the archdiocese, go online to svdpokc.org or contact Noreen Valadez at (405) 706-7069, oklahomacitysvdp@gmail.com. Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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Making Sense of Bioethics

What young people could most profit from hearing about marriage

Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic Bioethics Center

Days of Reflection - Fall 2021
September 25 - “I Shall Return to My Father: How to Make a Good Confession”
Presenter - Fr. Bondale Copelin, OSB

October 23 - “The Roman Rite Mass and the Language of Ritual”

Sisters of Providence celebrate jubilees

Two Sisters of Providence celebrated 25 years of service in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on September 8. Sister Linda Lehner, former provincial councilor and provincial minister, attended the celebration.

Sister Mary Louis Faires, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Little Falls, Minnesota, received her habit on March 25, 1887. She was professed on November 23, 1887, and made her perpetual vows on November 8, 1897. She has served as a missionary, teacher, and administrator in various parts of the United States, including Oklahoma City, where she served as a teacher, principal, and director of religious education.

Sister Lechner, formerly Sister Mary Louis, entered the congregation this year. She is celebrating 70 years with the congregation.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land

Join Fr. James Grissom, pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, on a pilgrimage to Israel Oct 4-14. Spend nine days taking in the beauty of ancient monasteries and churches along magnificent landscapes while connecting with the land. Included: Round-trip airfare on American Airlines, breakfast and dinner; specially selected hotel accommodations; air-conditioned motor coaches; full-time tour manager; departure tax and current fuel charge. Cost: $4,099 from Oklahoma City. Visit www.oklahomajumedia.com for more information.

Maryknoll Missionaries

October 23 - “The Roman Rite Mass and the Language of Ritual”

With a close and detailed look at the gestures and words we use with the Sacred Liturgy of the Eucharist, Father Tad Pacholczyk, OSB, will offer a unique perspective on this enduring prayer.

November 20 - “St. Ignatius Continually. A Primer on Discernment of God’s Will”

Father Tad Pacholczyk will present a half-day retreat on St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Discernment of God’s Will. He will demonstrate how the Ignatian prayer can help us to discern the will of God for ourselves and for others.

Pacholczyk is a co-founder of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and author of numerous books, including “The Road to Radical Relevance,” “Making Sense of Bioethics,” and “The Language of Ritual.” He is a frequent speaker and writer on the importance of prayer and discernment in our lives.

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of young people, and assist in the mission to evangelize young people.

City is seeking a director of Catholic education and in parochial schools. These staff members will serve as lead-disciples for the Church community. Catholics in good standing, with a clear understanding of the Church in faithfully and responsibly communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission, ministry, and teaching of the Church are a must. Three to five years’ experience in teaching a must. Catholic school administrative experience preferred at the building level and/or central office. Send resume to mmills@archokc.org.

The Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference seeks a graphic designer to develop collateral and materials for their annual event. The ideal candidate has experience using Squarespace and knowledge of Illustrator, InDesign, and proficiency in video editing. Send cover letter and resume to Br. John McFadden at stjames.org or call (405) 442-2014.
Un latino mexicano al servicio del Papa Francisco y de América Latina

Entrevista al filósofo Rodrigo Guerra, recién nombrado Secretario de la Comisión Pontificia para América Latina (PCAL)

By Jaime Septién

E l profesor y filósofo mexicano Rodrigo Guerra, director del Centro de Investigación Social Avanzada, científico de la Comisión Pontificia para América Latina y docente de la Pontificia Universidad Católica Boliviana (PUCB), renombró recientemente como Secretario de la Comisión Pontificia para América Latina (PCAL). Aunque es la primera vez que un latino americano es nombrado para un puesto en esta institución, es un hecho que refleja el creciente reconocimiento de la combatividad de los jóvenes latinoamericanos, una signatura distintiva de la iglesia de América Latina.

¿Cuál es su nuevo rol en la PCAL y cómo puede contribuir a la misión de la Iglesia en América Latina?

Rodrigo Guerra: Como Secretario de la Comisión Pontificia para América Latina (PCAL), mi rol es principalmente de coordinación y apoyo a las máximas instancias de la Santa Sede en lo que respecta a América Latina. Esto implica una participación activa en la formulación de las políticas y estrategias de la PCAL, así como en la dirección de los proyectos y programas que correspondan. Mi objetivo es brindar apoyo y asesoramiento a los oidores y consultores de la PCAL en América Latina, en el marco de la promoción de la inculturación y el estudio de la soledad en el contexto particular de la región.

¿Cómo ve el papel del filósofo en la iglesia y cómo puede contribuir al diálogo entre iglesia y sociedad?

Rodrigo Guerra: Creo que el filósofo tiene un papel inestimable en la sociedad, y en particular en la iglesia. Su contribución puede ir desde la reflexión sobre los conceptos básicos, hasta la cuestión de la legitimidad de la institución. La relación entre filosofía y religión es universal, y el filósofo de la Iglesia debe estar en el centro de la confrontación de estos dos mundos. Como filósofo, mi objetivo es investigar, reflexionar y discutir sobre estos temas, y contribuir a la promoción de una sociedad y de una iglesia más abiertas e integradoras.

¿Cuál es su visión de la misión de la Iglesia en América Latina hoy?

Rodrigo Guerra: La misión de la Iglesia en América Latina hoy esencialmente es de diálogo y de encuentro. La iglesia necesita entender mejor a la sociedad, a los jóvenes y a sus preguntas, y al mismo tiempo, la sociedad necesita entender mejor a la iglesia y a sus enseñanzas. En este diálogo, el filósofo tiene un papel fundamental, ya que es quien puede poner en perspectiva y en diálogo tanto a la iglesia como a la sociedad. Mi objetivo es contribuir a esta tarea, apoyando tanto a la iglesia como a la sociedad en su relación.

¿Cómo cree que la iglesia puede fortalecer su trayectoria de diálogo con la sociedad contemporánea en América Latina?

Rodrigo Guerra: Fortalecer la trayectoria de diálogo de la iglesia con la sociedad contemporánea en América Latina requiere de una mirada abierta y de una actitud de escucha. La iglesia necesita entender mejor a la sociedad, a sus preguntas y a sus aspiraciones, y al mismo tiempo, necesita expresar su mensaje de doctrina de manera más comprensible para la sociedad contemporánea. La filosofía puede jugar un papel importante en esta tarea, ya que puede ayudar a la iglesia a redescubrir su mensaje y a expresarlo de una manera más adecuada para la sociedad contemporánea.

¿En qué aspectos cree que la iglesia necesita fortalecer su diálogo con la sociedad en América Latina?

Rodrigo Guerra: Creo que la iglesia necesita fortalecer su diálogo con la sociedad en América Latina en varios aspectos. En primer lugar, la iglesia necesita entender mejor a la sociedad y a sus preguntas. En segundo lugar, la iglesia necesita expresar su mensaje de doctrina de manera más comprensible para la sociedad contemporánea. En tercer lugar, la iglesia necesita estar más presente en los espacios públicos y en los medios de comunicación, para poder expresar su mensaje de una manera más efectiva. Y en cuarto lugar, la iglesia necesita fomentar la participación ciudadana, para poder involucrar a la sociedad en el diálogo con la iglesia.

¿Cómo puede la filosofía contribuir a este diálogo entre iglesia y sociedad en América Latina?

Rodrigo Guerra: La filosofía puede contribuir al diálogo entre iglesia y sociedad en América Latina de varias formas. En primer lugar, la filosofía puede ayudar a la iglesia a redescubrir su mensaje y a expresarlo de una manera más adecuada para la sociedad contemporánea. En segundo lugar, la filosofía puede ayudar a la sociedad a entender mejor a la iglesia y a sus enseñanzas. En tercer lugar, la filosofía puede ayudar a los jóvenes a reflexionar sobre sus propias preguntas y a encontrar en la iglesia una orientación y un sentido para sus vidas. Y en cuarto lugar, la filosofía puede ayudar a la sociedad a entender mejor a la iglesia y a sus enseñanzas, y a encontrar en ella una orientación y un sentido para sus vidas.
Ken Pedigo began June 14. Visit Moore. The 12 sessions taught by Faith 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Monday evenings in the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, go online to stanleyrother.org.

Luncheons for Life is 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 9 at Will Rogers Theatre, 4322 N. Western Ave. in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Steve Karlen, 40 Days for Life. RSVP at luncheons4life@okcatholic.org or call (405) 721-4115.

Bingo
The Knights of Columbus Family Bingo at St. James Catholic Church, 4201 S. McKinley in Oklahoma City, will begin Aug. 26. A mask is required for anyone who is unvaccinated. All games $10, with all door prizes furnished by the Knights. Food reasonably priced served at 5:30 p.m., Bingo 6:30 p.m. All players receive a raffle ticket for 55" TV to be given away in October. August birthdays will be recognized.

Retroreval
There will be a Retroreval weekend Aug. 27-29 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 North Western Expressway in Oklahoma City. Retroreval helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide tools to help get marriages back on track. For more information and registration, visit helpuspourmarriage.org.

Life of the Party Gala
The Willow Pregnancy Support is proud to announce the Founder of Luncheons 4 Life. RSVP at luncheons4life@okcatholic.org.

Tablet 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Omni Hotel, Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Bishop David Konderla, Diocese of Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Steve Karlen, 40 Days for Life. RSVP at luncheons4life@okcatholic.org or call (405) 721-4115.

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“Baby Box” bill provides hope, help for women, babies

continued from page 1

the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and supported by the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma. Once installed, these baby boxes will be similar to boxes in other states.

Baby boxes are designed to work in conjunction with Oklahoma’s current Safe Haven law as an incentive for mothers in crisis to safely relinquish their babies to designated locations where the babies are protected and provided with medical care until a permanent home is found.

Safe Haven laws generally allow the parent, or an agent of the parent, to remain anonymous and to be shielded from criminal liability and prosecution for child endangerment, abandonment or neglect in exchange for surrendering the baby to a safe haven.

Installed in an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital, these high-tech boxes have an exterior door that automatically locks upon placement of a newborn, triggering a silent alarm, and alerting trained medical personnel to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building. The Safe Haven Baby Box organization, a nonprofit based out of Indiana, staffs a 24-hour hotline (866-99BABY1) to give women the opportunity to talk to a trained professional as they consider safely surrendering their baby.

Since the first baby box was installed in 2016, 113 babies have been surrendered: 11 inside the boxes, two at a fire station and 100 surrenders resulting from calls to the Safe Haven Baby Box national hotline.

The bill increased relinquishment rights of women from the first seven days of life to the first 30.

Patrick Raglow, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said overall, even if a small number, baby boxes recognize that some women feel overwhelmed by their situation as new moms.

As a result, children are abandoned every year, some in parking garages, airport restrooms, dumpsters and worse, Raglow explained. “The Baby Box gives these moms who are under stress an ability to surrender their child lovingly, knowing there will be no questions asked and the child will be joined with an adoptive family who has been praying for just such an opportunity; to love this little child into family and life and opportunity,” Raglow said. “It turns tragedy to opportunity, abandonment to life-giving surrender.”

Monica Palmer, senior director of Licensed Services, which oversees counseling and adoption services for Catholic Charities, said reports of infant abandonment and death of infants from abandonment continue throughout the United States. “Only 10 states in the country have a baby box allowance,” Palmer said. “The additional allowance now in place here in Oklahoma for a mother experiencing a crisis pregnancy to surrender her infant in a baby box, and with anonymity, can prove to be a game changer.”

Palmer said women who are unable to raise and care for their child are often harshly judged by others. In an effort to broaden the window of protection for women, the new law expanded the umbrella of legal protection for women from the first seven days of life to the first 30.

“The stigma associated with surrendering a child that a parent experiences alongside fear of prosecution are common due to lack of understanding by the general public,” Palmer said. “Keep in mind that the baby box option is hopefully the last option rather than a parent’s first option as we would like to see the birth parent receive supportive counseling and assistance both for her rights and her and the baby’s overall health.”

Advocates for the law argued that without the law for baby boxes, a face-to-face surrender forces the birthmother to answer to “someone,” ultimately increasing the often-times present feelings of guilt and shame around her decision – a decision Palmer said often is burdened with heavy and complex layers of financial, emotional and relational stressors.

“Mothers in crisis pregnancies deserve anonymity and protection under the law as their courageous decision to carry an infant to term is to preserve a life,” she said.

Brett Farley, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma, said they experienced overwhelming bipartisan support for the measure. Farley said this is a “win-win” for both sides and a “huge opportunity” to reiterate that the pro-life movement does not stop with the birth of a child, but supports and encourages the woman and child after birth by providing opportunities for women in education, transportation, health care and in every area where a person needs support.

“We are encouraging life in every respect,” Farley said.

Aimee Ryan, LCSW, director of social work and the adoption coordinator for Catholic Charities, said extending the length of legal protection for women is important, citing postpartum depression and lack of support, among other factors, that cause women to relinquish.

Ryan said the installation of baby boxes provides an additional resource for women, some of whom may be panicking due to a lack of diapers, car seat or other material need. The hotline can be a lifeline for women who desire to keep their child but need a little help.

“If helping a mom get a car seat means the baby is taken care of and the mom is happy, we have done our job,” Ryan said. “If she still needs to place her baby for adoption, we also help her with that.”

For more information, contact Monica Palmer at [405] 532-3000.

Eliana Tedrow is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.