Oklahoma City – The chilly morning air blew through the crowd as they huddled at the bottom of the north steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol. More than 500 people gathered for the inaugural Oklahoma March for Life on Jan. 22.

“We’ve been involved with life issues for so many years and I felt that we needed to be out here and stand up for life,” said Dale Dirkschneider as he clutched a poster he made with pictures of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The poster read, “Your baby is made in the image and likeness of God.”

Dirkschneider was there with his wife, Stella. She said they watched the national March for Life on television the day before, and always support pro-life causes. They are parishioners at Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Oklahoma City.

Gunner Fullbright attended the Oklahoma March for Life with his wife, Olivia Fullbright, who cradled their 3-month-old daughter Rosalyn. They drove from Stillwater and are Nazarene.

“We just want to increase the numbers so that people know that there are a lot of people out here who care and want to make a difference,” Olivia Fullbright said. "I think a lot of people think that they’re alone in their feelings. They don’t realize there’s a lot of people who care.”

Jillian and Sean Chapman, Sooner Catholic soonercatholic.org/ respectlife

continued on page 9
Faith, frailty and reform

It has been nearly 20 years since the spotlight of media attention led us all too aware of human frailty, sinfulness and even criminal behavior within our beloved Catholi
c Church and its institutions. Human sinfulness, of course, has been with us since the begin
ning. But, the more recent scan
dl of abuse in its various manifestations brought many to their knees. It has humiliat
ed us, but also summoned us to repentance, accountability and reform.

Abuse against children and vulnerable pe
ople is a societal and cultural scourge. The Catholic Church, therefore, is not unique in
 grappling with its effects, except in the fact that while the Church is a human institution it also is a divinely established institution.

Because of its human members, our fail
ings often are all too evident and disturbing. But, when these highlights, we need not give in to despair or turn our backs on the Church because we have the Lord’s prom
ise that “the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). We may be crushed by the weight of our sinfulness, but do not despair of God’s grace and mercy. When we seek God’s mercy, we create the G<br>...
SSM Health names new ministries president, adds board members

ST. LOUIS – Father Michael Rozier, B.J., Ph.D., has been named president of SSM Health Ministries, the sponsoring body responsible for preserving SSM Health’s Catholic identity and serving as liaison to the Vatican.

Father Rozier succeeds Larry LeGrand, who served in the role for the past two years.

Father Rozier first joined SSMMH and the SSM Health board in 2018. He serves as assistant pro- fessor of health management and policy in Saint Louis University’s College for Public Health and Social Justice.

He earned his doctorate in health management and public policy from the University of Michigan. He also holds an M.Div. from Boston College, an M.H.H. from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. in chemistry from Saint Louis University. He previously worked as an ethics fellow with the World Health Organization.

In addition, SSM Health has announced the selec- tion of three new board members: Janice Burn- nett, John Harding, Ph.D., and Carolyn Kindel Betz.

From the Archives...

A young priest named Francis Kelley who was serving in Michigan in the 1890s was appalled by the conditions he witnessed in rural parishes: run down facilities, priests living in poverty and people struggling to maintain their Catholic faith. He also noted the need for more chapels to meet the needs of isolated and usually poor Catholics. It was seen as a challenge to bring the Gospel to as many people as possible. Father Kelley, later the sec- ond bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma, vowed to work to remedy the above-mentioned issues. With courage and cre- ativity, he founded the Catholic Church Extension Society in 1905. Headquartered in Chi- cago, Father Kelley began the mammoth task of fundraising, which he accomplished with great vigor.

To achieve bringing the sacra- ments and Catholic fellowship to mission territories such as Oklahoma, Extension concor- ded the idea (borrowed from the Baptists) of the railroad chapel-car. Approved by the board in 1906, the first car was named in honor of Saint An- thony. It was a fully equipped chapel complete with priest’s quarters. The concept was a stroke of genius as it became a temporary worship space where a permanent chapel was not possible. As an evangelization tool, it served as a curiosity, and provided access to Catholica for people in far-flung areas.

The system of operation would lend itself to close cooperation between the missionary dis- ciple bishop and Extension. The host bishop assigned a chaplain and Extension provided the superintendent who served as a secretary and organ- izer. All care maintained a small chapel complete with altar, pews and a confessionals. Oklahoma was a beneficiary of the chapel-car “Saint Paul” seen in the photo near Grand- field in the mid-1920s. It would serve several communities

Extension Mission Chapel Car “Saint Paul” near Grandfield.

By Jolene Schonchin
The Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY – Trinity Gardens Apart- ments, which are sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, soon will begin renovation and construction of their housing units.

The renovation is possible thanks to ad- ditional housing tax credits, which will help finance the cost of renovating 54 units and adding 24. Renovations and construction are scheduled to start this summer.

“The process to accessing funding is very com- plex and highly competitive. Due to the compe- tition, our project was not awarded the fund- ing during its initial application,” said Carly Akard, director of communications for Catholic Charities. “However, we have partnered with an experienced and highly efficient property management company that has maintained a high standard of service for our clients, allowing us to overcome the small hurdles that are common in the process. Trinity Gardens provides housing for people who are age 62 and older, and who meet specific income requirements. Trinity Gardens serves people of all faiths. Catholic Charities first secured affordable housing tax credits in 1996 to finance the costs of rehabilitating the building. Catholic Charities has made a long-term commitment for the use of the property to provide affordable housing for seniors.

Trinity Gardens opened in April 1997 with 54 unfinished one-bedroom apartments and four unfinished two-bedroom apartments. The original chapel serves as the community room. The building also has a large common area upstairs that is furnished, a coin-operated laundry and ample parking. The Margaret Ann Boys Trust provided funding for a community garden that is located on the site. Akard added that Oklahoma City has a serious shortage of affordable housing units. According to a recent article in the Curbside Chroni- cles, there are only 41 units available for every 100 very low-income households. Catholic Charities is exploring more ways to participate and to implement affordable housing projects to relieve the shortage. “Trinity Gardens has provided an affordable housing opportunity for more than 23 years by serving the elderly with low income and very low income. The renovation of the existing units will allow Catholic Charities to continue to provide this service and expand the number of household units we can serve,” Akard said.

Jolene Schonchin is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
Sooner Catholic

January 30, 2022

Around the Archdiocese

archokc.org.

The Archdiocese Family Confirmation retreat was held Jan. 15 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. Joe Cipriano was a speaker, Daysy Alatorre was a trans-lator, Abram Leon, lay ecclesial movement specialist from the Archdiocese of Denver, presented in Spanish, and Steve Anguiano presented in English.

Sooner Catholic

By Charles Albert

The Sooner Catholic

W
tile on a pilgrim-age in 1997 in Spain, Father Michael Knipe said, “I stood in a courtyard in Salamanca with a guide, a priest friend and parishioners on a pilgrimage from Fatima to Leon and Rome. I was memorized, less by searching for the frog among the plat-enque facade of the 16th cen-tury building, than the story of the Dominican Fray Luis de Leon and the connection of the university with the Church in the New World. Then and there, I desired to study here, some-how, some way.”

On Dec. 15, Father Knipe earned a doctorate in canon law from the Universidad Pon-tificia de Salamanca. Father Knipe, a priest in the Dio-cese of Tulsa, is Oklahoma’s first person with a doctorate in canon law since the late 1950s. It has been a long and wind- ing road for Father Knipe in his Christian journey. He grew up Methodist. He was born in southern Iowa and moved to Tulsa as a youth. While in col- lege in Tablequah, he studied history and criminal law and found himself asking what he was going to do. He had ob-served the local priest, Father Jake Males, “totally at peace with the Lord.” He entered the seminary and was ordained a priest in 1988.

In 2016, Father Knipe asked and was granted a sabbat- ical to go to Colombia to be immersed in Spanish and to start working on his doctor- ate. After nearly five years of study, he finished his thesis titled, “A Canoni-cal Historical Study of Chapter Two of the Reform of Marriage at the Coun-cil of Trent.”

Due to COVID travel restrictions, Father Knipe’s final defense of his thesis wasn’t until Dec. 15. Fa-ther Alessan-dro Calderon, a priest friend from Tulsa, was there for support.

“I walked to the university where I found Father Mike, in the chap-ell, silent in prayer before his defense. As we walked together through the great halls of the university, I felt transformed back in time, as if going back to the times of Trent. The Aula Magna where the defense took place was truly a sight to be held,” he said.

Father Knipe has served as pastor at a number of parishes in the Tulsa area. He also served on the tribunal for the diocese. He said he is proud and modest about the work the tribunal in Oklahoma has ac- complished. He thanked many people, including Archbishop Emeritus Beltran, Father Fred Schuyler, S.J., and Deacon Kasper Wiegant.

Father Rick Stansberry, who serves in the marriage tribunal for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said, “It will be a tremen-dous asset for the whole state to have someone with a doctorate in canon law working with us. I am looking forward to working with him on a number of issues, and have great ex-pectations.”

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Photo provided.

Fr. Michael Knipe and the Tribunal of Professors.

Fr. Michael Knipe

Fr. Mike Wheelahan and parishioners at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Chickasha held a Pastorela in December. Photos provided.

The Sooner Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is here to help. Contact us (405)721-4115 or cfo@cfook.org.

Visit our website for more information cfook.org.
CFO endowment helps kids attend Catholic camp

By Owen Canfield

Each summer, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Youth Camp fills with hundreds of schoolchildren who spend a week making new friends, deepening their faith and playing games and sports.

An endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma helps defray costs for some of the campers.

The Jacob Meier Memorial Fund is designed to provide need-based camp scholarships. The fund, created in 2010 by Rich and Sandy Meier of Yukon, is named for their son who was an active member of Saint John Nepomuk Meier of Yukon.

The fund wants to increase the endowment to $50,000 and beyond to provide need-based camp fee scholarships to as many as 30 children with the opportunity to attend camp each year.

In a story in the Yukon Review newspaper published shortly after the endowment was created, Rich Meier said, "It was 10 weeks pregnant. Our baby has fingers, a heart, toes, eyelids, teeth and a right to life, read Jillian Chapman's poster. She thought twice before leaving her poster tak- en because people didn't know she was preg- nant. It turned out to be a great day to make the announcement."

"Science confirms life begins at conception." Prior to the walk, there was prayer, words of encouragement and testimony on the value of life.

"We believe every single child is precious and every single child has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," U.S. Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) said.

Lankford walked in the national March for Life the day before in Washington D.C. and said this is the year the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision will be at the forefront. "I believe a post-Roe America is coming very soon. It doesn't end abortion in every place in the country. It only says to every state, like ours, you get to make the decision," he said.

"We believe every child is worthy of life." Socio Monte, from Enid, said she was there to speak about the truth of life. She said hu- man life must be protected from the moment of conception, and the "wonderful gift of life is a gift given by God.

"If I don't believe in God, I don't believe I'm God's creation, and that is where the problems of humanity begin," she said. "All of us together can build a civilization of love.

Rev. Todd Fisher, executive director of the Oklahoma Baptists, said when people think of the unborn, they also should consider the Lord Jesus. "Today, we find ourselves in the most crucial time of our fight against abortion, and for the pro- tection of unborn children. I want to declare this simple statement: We stand for life," he said.

"Our pro-life efforts are all about helping people have life; and have it more abundant- ly. It was Jesus who taught us the golden rule. We are to treat others the way we want to be treated and that ... principle certainly has application in protecting the most vulnerable among us - the unborn."

"God calls us to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and today we are being asked not just, but what can you do in addition to marching for life?"

He spoke of volunteering in local pregnancy health ministries, foster care, adoption and continuing efforts with people at church to give, pray and serve.

The final speaker of the morning was Tulsa Bishop David Konderla, who drew loud applause before his talk. Bishop Konderla said the experiences taught him about reverence for life. "He spoke of volunteering in local pregnancy health ministries, foster care, adoption and continuing efforts with people at church to give, pray and serve."

"The enemy against our nation is the devil," Bishop Konderla said. "Jesus Christ died to save all of us who were lost. If we give our lives to him and live our public, civic lives as subjects of his kingdom, he will win our battle against abortion and any other evil that we face. So, let us march today and let our march steel our resolve to be the hands and feet of Jesus who will return a culture of life and love to our society. Let's get walking!"

The two-mile march began at the capital building and ended in Midtown. Dana Atackman is managing editor of the Sooner Catholic.
Oklahoma March for Life
Jan. 22 - Oklahoma City

Photos Chris Porter, Avery Holt and Dana Atacknio/Sooner Catholic.
Pro-Life Ministries

- **Marriage and Family Life Ministry** - archokc.org/respectlife
- **Project Gabriel** - gabielleproject.org
- **40 Days for Life** - 40daysforlife.com

A pro-life campaign and movement to provide support, resources, supplies and references for women struggling with crisis pregnancies.

- **March for Life** - marchforlife.org
- **Rose Day** - roseyday.life

Rose Day is held at the Oklahoma State Capitol at the beginning of the legislative session each year. Hundreds of pro-life advocates meet with their state senators and representatives, and present them red roses representing the sanctity of the unborn.

- **March for Life - marchforlife.org**
- **Rose Day**
- **Holy Innocents’ Chapel** - holyinnocentstaksoe.org
- **Willow Pregnancy Support** - willowpregnancy.org

Holy Innocents’ Foundation Chapel, 6114 N.W. 63, offers perpetual adoration with the goal of bringing about an end to abortion. To sign up as a committed adorer or to volunteer, visit holyinnocentstaksoe.org.

Willow Pregnancy Support is a nonprofit, interdenominational charitable organization that provides medical services, community resources and free pregnancy testing and limited ultrasounds. Locations in Oklahoma City, Bethany and Edmond. Contact (405) 631-4477.

- **Students for Life** - studentsforlife.org

Students for Life is the nation’s largest youth pro-life organization. It is dedicated to training and equipping college, high school, middle school, medical school and law school students to defend the preborn and help young mothers on their campuses.

- **St. Catherine’s miscarriage and infant loss ministry**
- **St. Catherine’s healing ministry**

St. Catherine’s miscarriage and infant loss ministry meets 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Epiphany of the Lord, 7336 W. Britten Rd. in Oklahoma City, on the third Monday of every month. Call (405) 618-2402.

- **Holy Innocents’ Chapel** - holyinnocentstaksoe.org

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- **Willow Pregnancy Support** - willowpregnancy.org

Willow Pregnancy Support is a nonprofit, interdenominational charitable organization that provides medical services, community resources and free pregnancy testing and limited ultrasounds. Locations in Oklahoma City, Bethany and Edmond. Contact (405) 631-4477.

- **40 Days for Life** - 40daysforlife.com

An international, religiously-based pro-life advocacy group that campaigns against abortion in more than 20 nations worldwide. Find OKC support, resources, supplies and references for women struggling with crisis pregnancies.

- **March for Life**

The March for Life is held in Washington D.C. It is the largest pro-life event in the world. It is held on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal.

- **Wolves**

Wolves is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The annual pro-life rally will be at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Kay James will be the speaker. Advocates begin handing out red roses at 9:30 a.m.

- **Wolves**

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- **Rose Day**

Rose Day Mass

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring morning Mass prior to the Rose Day event, which will be held at the State Capitol beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 16. Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church chapel, 1901 N.W. 18, on the second floor of the Meierhaart House. Immediately following Mass, a brunch hosted by Saint Jude Guild of the Altar Society will be served in the parish hall.

All adults and students in the archdiocese are invited to show their love for the unborn by participating.

At the chapel, attendees will distribute roses, representing the sanctity of life, to government officials, and ask Oklahoma lawmakers to continue their support of pro-life issues. People are asked to bring four red roses for presentation.

This event will also feature a procession from Saint Francis at 9:15 a.m. with a return by about 1 p.m. Call or text Mary Ann Meerschaert at (405) 635-9074.

- **Mass**

Father Andy Bulso, chaplain of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Oklahoma City, on the third Monday of every month. Call (405) 618-2402.

- **Rose Day Mass**

Rose Day Mass

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring morning Mass prior to the Rose Day event, which will be held at the State Capitol beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 16. Mass will be offered at 7:30 a.m. at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church chapel, 1901 N.W. 18, on the second floor of the Meierhaart House. Immediately following Mass, a brunch hosted by Saint Jude Guild of the Altar Society will be served in the parish hall.

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Jobs Box

Bachelor's degree in accounting, GPA preferably four plus years experience in accounting, working knowledge of computers and bookkeeping, and extensive knowledge of Excel, Word and Outlook; experience as a non-profit environment preferred. Send resume to Dave Ashton at dashton@archokc.org.

Executive assistant - OKC

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通讯/reach out

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is seeking a community relations assistant to work with a city agency, answer phones, assist with social media, outreach, donor engagement, public speaking, fund raising, answer phones, assist with social media, outreach, donor engagement, public speaking, etc. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in communication or related field. Send resume to danielashepke@doh.or.org.

Development assistant - OKC

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Eugenics, forced sterilization and the mentally-challenged

Although most Americans today are unaware of it, forced sterilization was a well-known, widespread and extreme form of coerced sterilization, especially in the United States, during the early 20th century. The modern era of coerced sterilization began in 1917, when the Virginia law allowing the sterilization of mental defectives was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in Buck v. Bell. In the decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote that he foresaw little protection for the mentally ill and the disabled. The Virginia law allowed the forced sterilization of individuals and families. Few would similarly countenance forcible state-sanctioned sterilization in the 21st century. The law has been condemned, in certain dictatorial regimes, even as a form of genocide.

Direct sterilizations violate human dignity. A plethora of research indicates that individuals who have undergone coerced sterilizations have participated in the mutilation of a healthy and productive individual, and the purposes of impeding fertility run counter to the authentic healing mission of the medical profession. At its core, medicine should be about fixing damaged systems of the body rather than damaging healthy systems.

Whenever we face situations where family planning, as a private matter, is not an option for individuals or families, we have a moral responsibility to ensure that we are not responsible for producing one more child. One must ask whether the ethical principles of those who advocate coerced sterilization are sufficient to justify the entry of the state into the private lives of individuals and families.

In other words, the Catholic Church does not recognize the moral legitimacy of coerced sterilization, whether for the sake of population control or any other end.

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Book Review

Five Conversations about the Priesthood

By Br. Kenton Eton, O.S.B.

The Junior Catholic

Father Michael Pratt is the vocations director for the Diocese of Oklahoma City. He provides this short list guide on various aspects of conversations about the Priesthood. He also provides a list of ways priests can help young men discern – for further conversation with young men. He also provides a list of ways priests can help young men discern – for further conversation with young men.

Developer assistant - OKC

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Father Pratt suggests how to identify a potential new priest candidate to the diocesan priesthood, and how these conversations might work in the context of a pastoral vocation, he gives advice into how to structure conversations with that person.

Father Pratt also gives recommendations about what to do and not to do with the initial in-person meeting. At this meeting, the priest will be able to find out if the young man is interested in the vocation to the priesthood or not. It might be helpful that he is open to work through the process. It is discerned that the priest might be truly discerning the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood.

Father Pratt recommends that diocesan priests take next steps to continue conversations with young men. He also provides a list of ways priests can help young men discern – for further conversation with young men.

Father Pratt provides the next steps for conversations for conversation starters. The five conversation topics are: priety identity, the meaning in the priest’s life, the nature of the priest’s work, the meaning in the priest’s life, the nature of the priest’s work, the meaning in the priest’s life, the nature of the priest’s work, the meaning in the priest’s life, the nature of the priest’s work.
Han pasado casi 20 años desde que el reflector de los medios de comunicación nos hizo darnos cuenta de la fragilidad humana, el pecado e incluso las consecuencias criminales dentro de nuestra amada Iglesia Católica y sus instituciones. El pecado humano, por supuesto, ha estado con nosotros desde el principio. Sin embargo, los escándalos de abuso más recientes y las muchas aristas nos puso de rodillas a varios. Nos ha humillado, pero también nos ha llamado al arrepentimiento, la responsabilidad y la reforma.

El abuso de niños y personas vulnerables es un flagelo cultural y social. Por lo tanto, la Iglesia Católica no es la única en sufrir sus efectos, excepto por el hecho de que la Iglesia, aunque es institución humana, es también una institución divinamente establecida. Hecho de que la Iglesia, aunque es institución humana, es también una institución divinamente establecida. Por lo tanto, aunque la Iglesia Católica es la única en sufrir sus efectos, excepto por el hecho de que la Iglesia, aunque es institución humana, es también una institución divinamente establecida.

Se insta a católicos orar, trabajar por un día en que cada vida esté protegida por ley.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Salmo 3:4
Fe, fragilidad y reforma

16 January 30, 2022
Sooner Catholic
**Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory’s Abbey have launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to foster understanding of the history, educational value and experiences to archive scholars in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. To contribute documents, photographs or an oral history to the project, e-mail info@okcatholic.edu.

Learn more at archokc.org/akos.

**Listening Sessions**

Dcn. Ray Callison and Susan Callison with the American Indian Catholic Outreach offer sessions on Oklahoma Catholic Indian boarding schools in Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa to provide a forum for people to discuss their experiences in former Catholic Indian boarding schools in Oklahoma. Find the schedule at archokc.org/aiac.

To contact Dcn. Callison or Susan Callison at rcallison@archokc.org or okativestudentschoolproject@gmail.com.

**Holy Innocents’ Chapel anniversary celebration**

The Serra Club of Oklahoma City will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Holy Innocents’ Chapel, 6114 N.W. 63 in Ward Acres, for the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord.

After Mass is a small reception and open house to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the blessing and dedication of the Holy Innocents’ Chapel and Foundation offices. Donations for Fr. St. Joseph and St. Gianna statues are being accepted. Visit holyinnocentsokc.org/donate.

**SEER 2022**

The Archdiocese of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) mission continues at OU, OSU, Tulsa and UCO will be hosting a three-day conference Feb. 4-6. College students are invited to the weekend of prayer, fellowship, inspiration and entertainment. Register at seek.focus.org.

**Serra Club meeting**

The Serra Club of Oklahoma City will meet at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC. Speakers will be Rosemary and Dcn. Paul Lewis. Visit serraokc.org.

**Rose Day**

The annual pro-life rally will be at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Kay James will be the speaker. Advocates be on hand and praying out loud. Men’s Evening of Recollection

The Petalure of Opus Dei presents a “Men’s Evening of Recollection” at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 4 in the chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 5103 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. A priest and a layman of Opus Dei will present talks on how men can sanctify their day-to-day activities for God’s glory. Confession available. Evening will culminate in fellowship and refreshments.

**Faith Community Nurses’ Conference**

The Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference in Feb. 26 at Embassy Suites, 2501 Conference Dr. in Norman. Speakers are Kimberly Hohle, Linda Driver and the Friars of Veritas. Price $65; late price $75. Register at okcatholicwomen.com.

**Day of Reflection**

Day of Reflection, “Finding Joy in Lent” presented by Albritt Lawrence-Bayesam, O.B.S., is 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. McAurthur St., Shawnee. Limited seating. If interested, email Incarnation@incarnation.com, but not required. Attendees must pre-register via registreetodayincarnation.com or call (405) 878-5656. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Oklahoma Catholic Men’s Conference**

In the Father’s Feetsteps, Catholic Men’s Conference is 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. March 12 at Embassy Suites and Conference Center, 2501 Conference Dr. in Norman. Cost $50 until Feb. 14, then $60; college student $39; high school student $29. Inquire to Dcn. James Shew, Brian Greenfield, Marcellina Cipollini and Shae Ray. Register at catholincmen.net.

**Serra Club meeting**

The Serra Club of Oklahoma City will meet at 10:30 a.m. March 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC. The speaker will be Fr. Stephen Bird. Visit serraokc.org.

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**Anniversary celebration**

Sooner Catholic

3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Tune in at okcr.org.

**Oklahoma County Jail Ministry (Pt. 2)**

Dcn. Roy Forsythe, theology student, Benedictine College, director and president, Vatican Agency in the Order in America, will be the guest speaker.

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**First Friday Adoration**

Meeting of the Third Order (Lay Dominicans) 3 p.m., 5 p.m., St. Monica, Edmond (St. Ambrose Building) in room No. 105, for any Catholic layperson drawn to a religious life. Call John or Mary McKenzie, (405) 313-6611, (405) 414-4907.

**Pray the Rosary for Life**

Pray the Rosary for Life, 6:30 p.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Conie Lane, (405) 249-1041, potatolang@gmail.com.

**February**

February of the Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord.

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**Holy Innocents’ Chapel anniversary celebration**

The annual carnival for St. Benjamin’s Catholic Church is 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Feb. 26 at 632 N. Kickapoo in Shawnee. The indoor Mardi Gras celebration is free of charge. Cake walk, bake sale, face painting and food booths (American, Cajun and Italian). For more information, contact (405) 314-5345, ccrprayers@archokc.org.
At events nationwide, hope rises that abortion ruling will be overturned

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at Belmont University, traveled with the diocese's Catholic college campus ministry program to Washington. Standing outside the Supreme Court building made an impression, she said.

"I was like 'Holy cow, in a couple months Roe v. Wade could be overturned right here,' which was really powerful for me," she said. "This could be the last March for Life during the Roe v. Wade era. This could be a very real possibility that the next March for Life will be more focused on individual states."

Dozens of Catholic U.S. military personnel and members of the Archdiocese for the Military Services joined the March for Life in Washington as well. The delegation included cadets from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and others who were attending the archdiocese's Young Adult Ministry Symposium.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the archdiocese, was joined by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, archdiocesan episcopal vicar for veterans affairs, and several priests who serve as military chaplains around the world.

During his homily at Mass for participants in the archdiocese’s Edwin Cardinal O’Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, Archbishop Broglio reminded marchers that a strong prayer life must feed outward demonstrations of witness to the Gospel.

Borrowing from Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the archbishop spoke of a reservoir in which people of faith “fill up with Christ so that we are in a position to share our abundance. The reservoir retains water until it is filled and then discharges the overflow without loss to itself.”

“We cannot get up and march if we are not filled up with Jesus Christ and a desire to share his life with others,” he said. “We cannot teach if we do not draw the fullness of the gospel of life,” he added.

In Los Angeles, thousands of people gathered Jan. 22 for the eighth annual OneLife LA, where Archbishop José H. Gomez called on pro-life advocates to “build a society where it is easier for people to love and be loved.”

“We show that love by the way care for each other, especially the weak and vulnerable,” he said. “This could be a very real possibility that the next March for Life will be more focused on individual states.”

A week earlier, Jan. 15, thousands of people converged on the Colorado State Capitol in Denver for the Celebrate Life March to witness basic human rights in calling for an end to abortion.

Attorney Dan Caplis called on participants to continue their work to end abortion as the Supreme Court weighs its decision.

“And when Roe fails, yes, the highest mountain will have been conquered. But when Roe falls, there will be many other peaks to be scaled because when Roe falls, you have a chance to make law and to save babies,” Caplis said in calling on legislators to pass a law that would end abortion in Colorado.

Auxiliary Bishop Jorge H. Rodríguez-Novelo of Denver said the work of defending life “will require heroism, courage and suffering.”

“To defend the lives of the unborn is a reality that cannot accept delay or hesitation and demands boldness and action. It is a matter of life and death to defend the life of the sick, the elderly, the terminally ill, the people on death row,” the bishop said.

“It will imply a change of heart, moving from individualistic, selfish and materialistic understanding of life to a compassionate and solidarity and sharing one. The question of life is the greatest priority after God.”

Contributing to this roundup were Diane Clay, editor of the Sooner Catholic; Cori Urban, managing editor of Vermont Catholic magazine, the official publication of the Diocese of Burlington; Joe Ruff, news editor of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis; and Katie Peterson, staff member of the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.