Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2022 Annual Catholic Appeal
archokc.org/appeal

A letter from Archbishop Coakley

"Blessed Are They" is rooted in the well-known refrain of the Beatitudes and aptly serves as the theme for the 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal. As familiar as the words might be, I think it’s important to recognize their significance.

"They" is really each one of us. We each hunger and thirst for righteousness; mourn for people and opportunities lost; and understand deep in our hearts that we cannot do it by ourselves. Only by God’s grace are we satisfied, comforted and welcomed with love into his kingdom.

At the same time, "they" is all of us together. United as an archdiocesan family, we share a purpose: to provide for one another as we hunger and thirst for holiness, peace, mercy, forgiveness and comfort. As we give of ourselves for others, we also share in God’s blessings!

The Annual Catholic Appeal is an

continued on page 9
World Day of the Sick 2022

Since 1993, the Catholic Church has observed the World Day of the Sick on Feb. 11, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This liturgical observance was initiated by Pope John Paul II shortly after receiving his own diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease.

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

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Confirmation, 9:30 a.m., St. Francis of Assisi, NewOrleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21-March 1</td>
<td>Institute for Priestly Formation retreat for bishops</td>
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In his Apostolic Letter “Ecclesia ad oras,” Pope Benedict XVI stated: “One, personal experience with the virus or significant COVID already has claimed more than 5.7 million human lives worldwide. Hardly any of us have not been touched by this illness, either by the loss of a loved one or by a family member who was affected by the virus or significant disruptions in our way of life.

The impact of the virus cannot be accurately measured. The numbers of infections, staggering as they are, do not tell the whole story. The social and economic costs and physical effects of the illness bring other suffering as well. The pandemic’s impact on families, medical professionals, and other caregivers as well as the added stress on teachers, businesses and first responders has contributed to a mental health crisis that often goes unrecognized and unacknowledged.

A further collateral effect of the pandemic in society is evident in the pervasive sense of fear and anxiety affecting so many. This fear has scattered seeds of suspicion and discord in society and even in our families, communities and churches. The mental, emotional and spiritual sufferings brought in the wake of the pandemic need to be acknowledged and lifted up as well.

The World Day of the Sick is our annual reminder of Christ’s call to pray in compassion and solidarity for all who suffer from physical, emotional, mental and spiritual ailments as well as those who care for them.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

Archbishop Coakley

February 13, 2022

Sooner Catholic
From the Archives …

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

The challenge of vocations to the priesthood and religious life was a constant headache for the early bishops of the Diocese of Oklahoma. To meet the demand to serve this fledgling Church, Bishop Meerechaert plowed the depths in the fertile vocation grounds of Belgium and Holland. In the first 10 years of the Vicariate Apostolic (the step before diocesan status), 21 priests arrived from Europe to minister to the people of Oklahoma. During his episcopate, there were more than 20 clerics whose names began with “Van.”

His successor, Francis Kelley, sought to recruit more native-born clergy. While that was a more difficult task than he envisioned, by the post-war America and the Church in Oklahoma, the practice of dioceses in the eastern part of the country put limits on the number of seminarians that were ever ordained and were winnowed out by the turbulent 1960s would see many of those vocations questioned and the numbers would never be restored.

Tensions in the Church are always present, and when St. Paul is the patron saint of our church every year, we have this feast so we can thank God for all the blessings we have received through the intercession of St. Paul. He is a very good inspiration in his missionary work. Being a persecutor, he becomes an Apostle of Christ, and our parish needs to take him as an inspiration, so we can continue the missionary work of Saint Paul through our parish activities.

Father Pudota added that during the celebration each year, the church hosts cultural activities such as Filipino dancers and Indian dancers from India. The event was organized by the parish council, the youth and volunteers.

“This should give us the inspiration to continue the spirit of Saint Paul. We are very happy to have Saint Paul as our patron saint because he was a great missionary, and he was a great preacher who dedicated and sacrificed his life for Christ, who he was persecuting,” Father Pudota said.

Paul of Tarsus, also known as Saint Paul, was a Jewish-Roman, Turkish writer and rabbi. He wrote the Pauline Epistles in the New Testament. It is believed that he wrote 13 books of the Bible, all of which are letters to churches and Christians, encouraging them, helping them to understand Christian teaching and helping them to live Christian lives.

Saint Paul the Apostle Church donated $500 to the seminarians as an inspiration to their studies such as Filipino dances and Indian dances.
Sanctity of Life Mass


CANDLESMA

On Feb. 2, some parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City celebrated a candlelit Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). Pictured are Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon, St. Mary Catholic Church in Guthrie and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. Photos provided.

continued from page 1

the dedication date for the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine. The shrine will be dedicated during a public Mass on Friday, Nov. 4. The dedication will be the centerpiece of a week-long celebration.

“The shrine will be a beautiful place of prayer, reflection and pilgrimage for people from all over the world who come to Oklahoma City to learn about our native son and seek his intercession,” Archbishop Coakley said.

“The dedication of the shrine will be a significant moment in the life of the Catholic Church in Oklahoma and for the broader community. Built to honor Blessed Stanley Rother, the first U.S.-born priest and martyr ever beatified, the shrine will be his final resting place. It will be a place of welcome, serving all people.”

The shrine is named for Blessed Stanley Rother (ROW-THER), an Okarche farmer who in 1963 became a priest of what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa and served as a missionary in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. In 1981, Father Rother was murdered in his rectory during a violent civil war. The perpetrators have never been caught. In 2016, Pope Francis declared him a martyr for the faith — the first recognized Catholic martyr from the United States. He was beatified in 2017 in Oklahoma City.

The $40 million shrine is the signature element of the first-ever capital campaign for the archdiocese – One Church, Many Disciples. The site eventually will include the 2,000-seat church, a chapel where Blessed Stanley will be entombed, an education building, an event space and several areas designated for shrines and devotion. The site will be developed over time.

“This amazing church will serve as a beacon for anyone who passes by or visits or worships here. In this church, we endeavor to show Christ, to exalt Christ, and to manifest Christ to his people. The dedication will be an exciting event for the Catholic faithful and for the people of Oklahoma,” said Leif Arvidson, executive director of the shrine.

Along with the Spanish colonial-style church — which will be the largest Catholic Church in Oklahoma — additional elements at the shrine site will be a Tepayac Hill and a museum and pilgrim center. Tepayac Hill near Mexico City is where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego in 1531. Statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego will be placed on top of the hill. The pilgrim center and museum will welcome thousands of visitors each year to an experience that leads them through the life, witness and martyrdom of Blessed Stanley.

The church will host many large diocesan events and will help accommodate the growing Hispanic population whose parishes are significantly overcrowded.

The design architect for the project is Franck & Lohsen Architects in Washington D.C. They are supported by local architectural firm ADG.

The general contractor is The Boldt Company in Oklahoma City with Cooper Project Advisors serving as the owner’s representative.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER SHRINE DEDICATION 11 | 4 | 2022

For more details and updates on dedication events, visit archokc.org/shrinededication. For more information about the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, visit rothershrine.org.
the Solemnity of All Saints. Nearly 200 people were present.

The Mass was organized by a national campaign made of parishioners from the Baltimore pastorate of Saint Ann, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Wenceslaus as well as longtime members of the social justice committee at Saint Ann.

The purpose was to create awareness and educate people about the stories of the six candidates for sainthood. Members of the campaign are collecting signatures in a letter written to Pope Francis asking him to expedite their canonization.

“While there are no U.S. African-American saints, there are 11 white Americans who have been canonized,” the letter to the pope said. “We know there is a process, but it is not working for black American Catholics and supporters.

The process is reaping unfair, uneven results, especially when you realize that the six black saints have been waiting 714 years total, but it is not working for black American Catholics and supporters. The process is reaping unfair, uneven results, especially when you realize that the six black saints have been waiting 714 years total—"if you add up the times since each died."

Toussaint died 168 years ago and a few of the others have been deceased for more than 100 years. Sister Thea is the most contemporary, having died in 1996.

The letter asked the pope to canonize the six candidates "immediately."

"If not now, when?" it said. "If not you, who?"

Diones Moore, one of the leaders of the national campaign, a member of the social justice committee and a parishioner of Saint Ann, said the campaign started when parishioners serving the African American community realized only a few people know about the lives of these African American holy men and women, who despite their struggles with systemic racism, remained loyal to God.

Father Donald Sterling, the first African American priest ordained in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and pastor of New All Saints Catholic Church in Liberty Heights, carried the portrait of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, first African American diocesan priest in the United States.

"Besides being historical, it is humbling to think that in all these years I am the first African American priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore," Father Sterling said. "It is a humbling call on God’s part."

William和发展, a parishioner of Saint Ann, met Sister Thea in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in downtown Baltimore and said "her presence would light up the room."

Bishop Lewandowski said in the church there are saints for every community and every person, but not in the case of the African American community.

He invited the congregation to share with everyone the stories of these future saints, to make sure their parishes display pictures of them and to ask for their intercession.

Although the process of canonization can be long and tedious, Bishop Lewandowski encouraged the congregation by reminding them, "We don't make saints; God does."
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Fr. Kelly Edwards, pastor, St. Eugene Catholic Church, Weatherford

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2021 deacon class.

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<th>Goal</th>
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<td>Saint Mary, Quinte</td>
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<td>$600</td>
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**NOTRE DAME, Ind. — Jerome Bettis, in his football days, got the nickname ‘The Bus’ because he was carrying such a big package along with him during his punishing runs from scrimmage.**

Today, what Bettis is carrying is a full load of classes at the University of Notre Dame as he strives to finish what he started in his college days more than 30 years ago — a bachelor’s degree in business.

Bettis, now 49, is on track to graduate this spring and join that sizable percentage of his former teammates who have made good on a promise to their mother, Gladys — you may remember their family’s Chunky’s Chili Soup commercial from 20 years ago — that he would get his diploma.

“I promised my mother that I would get my degree,” he said. “In my immediate family, I’ll be the first person to graduate from college.”

Bettis told NBC’s “Today” show Jan. 28. “But most importantly, I have two children. For them to see and finish a commitment that he set out some 25 years ago for me to complete that, I think it says a lot to them.”

And at commencement exercises in May, Bettis getting a diploma from that all-Notre Dame football recruit from 1990 will have graduates.

Bettis has lived much of his life in public eye through his football career, but he has kept his studies handy in his post-football career, which has involved trucking, staffing, development and marketing companies as well as his career as a television personality, where Bettis is on camera for the NFL Network.

“I say to all our coaches that there are three things we should be concerned about versus integrity: Do you get a degree and do well in their lives, and the third is winning on the field,” said Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame’s president, on “Today.” “And Jerome getting a degree after all his success just underscores how important that is.”

**School “Bus:” NFL hall of famer Bettis goes back to Notre Dame for degree**

By Catholic News Service

Jerome Bettis, an NFL Hall of Famer who played college football at the University of Notre Dame, tells to class Jan. 28. He played three years at Notre Dame in the early 1990s and recently returned to finish his undergraduate degree. CNS photo/Blatt Cashour, courtesy University of Notre Dame.

Jerome Bettis, an NFL Hall of Famer who played college football at the University of Notre Dame, tells to class Jan. 28. He played three years at Notre Dame in the early 1990s and recently returned to finish his undergraduate degree. CNS photo/Blatt Cashour, courtesy University of Notre Dame.

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The Catholic Difference

Undercutting Vatican II to Defend Vatican II?

By John B. Diclez
The Sooner Catholic

If you ever have the opportunity to watch the movie “Just Mercy,” it can help you deepen your awareness of racial injustice that may exist within the U.S. legal system.

“Just Mercy” is a 2019 biographical legal drama film about Bryan Stevenson, a black lawyer who works to free prisoners who have been wrongly convicted of capital crimes. The movie is written by Denzel Washington and stars Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, and Tim Blake Nelson.

The story follows Stevenson as he takes on the case of Walter McMillian, a black man who was sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an Alabama judge. Stevenson, who is a practicing Catholic, works to prove McMillian’s innocence through intense legal research and advocacy.

The movie explores themes such as justice, compassion, and the role of faith in the legal system. It also highlights the importance of education and awareness in the fight against racial inequality.

The so-called “Vatican II” (1962-65) was a council that affirmed the Church’s commitment to the renewal of its liturgy, moral teachings, and social concerns. The council sought to make the Church more accessible and relevant to the modern world. However, the spirit of this innovation was often undermined by those who feared change and wished to return to traditional practices.

Archbishop Arthur Roach, prefect of the Vaticans Congregation for Divine Worship, recently called for the world’s heads of the authori- ties that includes Archbishop Coakley of Oklahoma City to seek a new legislation for the Vatican Council, which strictly limited the celebrations of Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal. ‘Traditionis Custodes’ pointed out that the council was ratified for both “Traditionis Custodes” and its congregation’s decisions are valid.

The spirit of Vatican II was marked by a desire to promote the Church’s work of evangelization and to pro- mote the Church’s desire to be a living, learning Church. In 2013, Pope Francis urged a return to Vatican II, in an effort to promote the Church’s work of evangelization and to pro- mote the Church’s desire to be a living, learning Church.
Jornada Mundial del Enfermo 2022

Desde 1993, la Iglesia Católica ha observado el Día Mundial del Enfermo el 11 de febrero, el Memorial de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes. Esta observancia no litúrgica fue iniciada por el Papa Juan Pablo II poco después de recibir su propio diagnóstico de la enfermedad de Parkinson. Despide de María desde hace mucho tiempo, San Juan Pablo II eligió esta fecha para hacer un llamamiento a los enfermos:

“Its your sufferings, to those who suffer: “Your sufferings, your pain, are the work of all of us.”

This solemnity, celebrated annually on February 11, is an opportunity to celebrate those who have been injured and supported with faith in the face of suffering. It is also a call to prayer for all who suffer, as well as to those who care for them.

This year, the Jornada Mundial del Enfermo (JME) will be celebrated on February 11 at Lourdes, France, with a particular focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the suffering of the sick and the health care professionals who care for them.

The theme for the JME 2022 is “A medida que el hermoso Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes va en nuestra forma de vida. Ya sea un capricho de su parte, porque este evento nos ayuda a ajustar su visión y prioridades, dijo Murphy: “Estamos siguiendo muchas universidades le habían preguntado: ‘Cuál es nuestro papel y cómo podemos apoyar el proceso de curación?’”

En preparación para la reunión virtual, los estudiantes se dividieron en siete grupos regionales de América del Norte, Central, y del Sur para hablar sobre los pensamientos, pruebas, y mares que les gustaría discutir con el Sumo Pontífice, acostó.

“Creo que lo que el papa Francisco está tratando de hacer: ver una iglesia que es suya.”

Murphy manifestó a CNS. “Quemamos asesoramientos de otras actividades también se sienten invitados y no ser tan excluyentes en esto. Si bien las charlas se centran en temas que van desde la migración hasta el cambio climático, el miedo a las enfermedades, y las oportunidades de futuro, el papa Francisco tiene en cuenta el hecho de que el Beato Stanley es el primer mártir nacido en los Estados Unidos. Además, los servidores del santuario están emocionados por el lugar de la construcción. El sitio de la construcción está lleno de esperanzados en el presente”, añadió Murphy. “Lo que el papa quiere hacer es mirar los límites y ver lo que podemos y cómo podemos ayudar todos lo que podamos; para decir: ‘Caminemos juntos, vinculados en el momento del retiro del pasado, pero esperanzados en el presente’, dijo Murphy.

Murphy dijo a CNS que espera que la reunión virtual se convierta en un punto de encuentro entre los dos continentes donde, a menudo, se “pasan y el presente” colonial e indígena chocan.

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A medida que el hermoso Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother sigue tomando forma, nómadas el lugar de que Zac Craig, director de la Oficina de Convivencia y Visitantes de la Diócesis de Oklahoma, junto con sus amigos, ayudan a construir el santuario. El santuario es un espacio de paz y reflexión, un lugar donde la gente puede venir a orar y reflexionar.

Seccions de disceminimento sinodal
El Papa Francisco invitó a toda la Iglesia a caminar junta participando en la fase de disceminimento del próximo año. Como parte de nuestra fase sinodal local, que comenzó el 24 de octubre, el Archidiócesis de Oklahoma y los sacerdotes de la arquidiócesis organizaron sesiones de disceminimento sinodal en toda la diócesis para escuchar ideas, pensamientos y perspectivas para el futuro de la Iglesia en Oklahoma. Recibieron más información y un horario completo en archokc.org/synod-spanish.

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Este año, la Jornada Mundial del Enfermo (JME) se celebró el 11 de febrero, con un énfasis especial en los efectos de la pandemia en el mundo. Casi todos hemos sido afectados por la pandemia en una manera o en otra, y la JME nos invita a recordar que todos somos enfermos, y a unirnos a los enfermos en oración. ¡Pero no nos atrevamos a olvidar ni a descuidar las necesidades de tantos!

¡Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, ruega por nosotros! Como parte del proceso sinodal, el papa se reunirá con universitarios y jóvenes estudiantes.

Por Juan Archo Estévez
Catholic News Service
**Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference**

The 25th annual Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference is 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 15 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, OKC. The speaker will be Stephen Kendrick. Visit okcatholicwomen.com.

**Are you listening?**

By Sally Croce Nash

Oklahoma Catholic Radio has a new chaplain: Father Daniel Grover, pastor of Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Elk City, was recently named chaplain, following the tenure of Father Christopher Brashears.

Chaplains support the spiritual needs of drivers, chaplains and the evangelistic activity of various ministries. Examples that come to mind are hospital chaplains, but the military, hospice care and prison ministry are other examples that all find chaplain work vital.

Father Danny is not new to OKCR listeners and supporters. He is passionate about Catholic radio as an effective form for evangelization.

“That’s why I gave up four days a year as pasteur to go on the air during the holidays and tell as many people as I can how Catholic radio can help transform their lives as they get to know Jesus Christ. The resources are right there on programs like ‘Catholic Answers Live.’ I learn and use the material in their booklets not only in my sermons, but in class teaching in my own parish.”

As pastor in Elk City, Father Danny’s vision for OKCR has expanded.

“Let me share something I learned that I think is very important,” he said. “If we want to do church ministry work, we need to look at the front door. We need to listen to OKCR.”

**Day of Reflection**

By Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and Archbishop Gregory’s Abby have launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native American Conference.

Register at okcatholicwomen.com. Veritas. Price $65; late price $75.

**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.

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**Catholic Men's Conference**

The Prelature of Opus Dei presents “The Liturgies of Holy Week: A Journey through time and space” presented by Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B., is 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Feb. 26 at St. Gregory’s Abbey, 1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Limited seating. Masks are recommended, but not required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreata@monastery.org or call (405) 878-5615. Cost $30 pre-paid or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Bars to Bars**

The annual carnival for St. Benedict Catholic Church at 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. Feb. 26 at 622 N. Kappa- polis Ave., Shawnee. A free dance and casino held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with music provided by The Rendezvous. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the door (includes a complimentary drink and passes).

**Faith Community Nurses' conference**

The 15th annual Faith Community Nurses’ conference “Growing up with the material in their booklets,” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 20 and 21 at Kramer School and Conference Center, 10255 N. Pennsylvania Ave. in Oklahoma City. A free lunch is included.

**Days of Reflection**

By Fr. Boniface Copelin, O.S.B.

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Archbishop Coakley celebrated the annual TET Mass on Jan. 29 at St. Andrew Dung Lac Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. A celebration for the Vietnamese New Year was held after Mass. Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.