Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In October of last year, Archbishop Paul Coakley announced “Go Make Disciples” as the vision statement of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Simple and recognizable from Scripture, the vision to “Go Make Disciples” is both an invitation to come to know and love Jesus ever more fully and a challenge to share Him with others.

“We must be clear that the call to holiness is not a license to indulge in a privatized and individualistic spirituality,” Archbishop Coakley wrote in his pastoral letter to announce the vision. “On the contrary, it is a radical call to communion. Living our faith from the heart of the Church, living as disciples of Jesus and sharing in the very life and love of the Holy Trinity, moves us to serve the needs of others, as Christ served.”

The various offices of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City offer a variety of programs and services that are designed to enable you to confidently identify yourself as a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ in an increasingly secular world.

A few examples: We support parishes and schools in preparing you to receive Christ in the sacraments; we offer a variety of weeknight Christian formation programs; and we provide liturgical training and support to the parishes throughout the liturgical year. We provide you with opportunities to worship with other...
Six days in the Holy Land with CRS

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar. Jan. 27 – Episcopal Ordination of Reverend Mr. Michael Siciliano as Bishop of Diocese of San Angelo, San Angelo, TX. Jan. 28 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:30 a.m., Sacred Heart School, El Reno. Jan. 29 – Episcopal Ordination of Reverend Mr. Michael Siciliano as Bishop of Diocese of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX. Feb. 3 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:15 a.m., Christ the King School. Jan. 30 – Personnel Board, 2 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center.

FEBRUARY
Feb. 2 – TET Mass, Chickasha.
Feb. 2 – TET Mass and Celebration, 11:45 a.m., Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
Feb. 2 – Vigil for World Day of Prayer Celebrating Consecrated Life, 4 p.m., St. Francis De Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center.

FEBRUARY 3 – Catholic Relief Services Delegate to the Philippines

2 January 26, 2014
3

Six days in the Holy Land with CRS

When I accepted my appointment to serve as Chair of the Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors, I committed to seeing the face of Bethlehem as I traveled to the Holy Land with CRS. The bi-annual pilgrimage to Bethlehem offers the opportunity for CRS staff and board members to experience first hand the harsh realities of life in the Palestinian territories. I’ve been going to Bethlehem since 1980 and this year was no different. I went with 13 CRS staff members and 2 board members. The trip was an extraordinary experience and a powerful reminder of the realities of life in the Palestinian territories. I experienced firsthand the struggles of the Palestinian people and the challenges they face daily. This trip was an incredible opportunity to witness the impact of CRS’s work in the region and to see the incredible dedication of our partners in the field.

The itinerary included visits to a variety of sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, and the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. We also visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and on the Via Dolorosa sites such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Redeemer, and the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus. We also visited the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, the Church of the Annunciation, and the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem.

The trip was an opportunity to see the impact of CRS’s work in education, health, and economic development. We visited a school in the West Bank that is supported by CRS, and we saw the difference that education can make in the lives of young people. We also visited a hospital in Palestinian refugee camps that is supported by CRS, and we saw the difference that health care can make in the lives of vulnerable people.

I was touched by the resilience and strength of the Palestinian people, who continue to face significant challenges and obstacles. Despite these challenges, they continue to work to build a better future for themselves and their families. I was inspired by the commitment of CRS staff and partners to the cause of justice and peace in the Middle East.

I would like to thank CRS for the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land with my colleagues and to witness the impact of CRS’s work. I am grateful for the chance to see firsthand the challenges faced by the Palestinian people and to witness the hope and resilience that they continue to embody.

I hope that my experiences will help me to be a better advocate for the cause of justice and peace in the Middle East, and I look forward to continuing to support CRS’s work in the region.

EXCLUSIVELY ON THE WEBSITE

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archaeology news and coverage from www.sooner-catholic.com

• Archbishop Paul Coakley will pray Vespers at 4 p.m. at the Syrian Christian Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
• An interview with Cardinal Bechara Rai, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, is also a walled city, where life is complicated by the security zones that prohibit free movement and the checkpoints which are so pervasive throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Historically, Gaza is a strategically important city on the Mediterranean coast. We visited the local parish church, which is a cathedral in the Catholic Church. Its sanctuary is decorated by a mural depicting the Flight into Egypt because tradition has it that the Holy Family came through Gaza as they fled Herod’s murderous attempt to destroy the life of the child. We walk the streets of the parish among many of its other projects in the area.

In the Gaza Strip we encountered conditions that are far worse than anything I had imagined. In a land just 25 miles long and 8 miles wide there are more than 1.8 million inhabitants crowded together and living under harsh conditions. More than 50 percent are considered refugees because they were relocated there during the partition of Palestine in 1948 that created the State of Israel. The war-weakened economy and the political and social atmosphere of the war have made it difficult for the people to rebuild their lives.

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The Prelate of the Holy See, Cardinal Bechara Boutros Raai, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, is a walled city, where life is complicated by the security zones that prohibit free movement and the checkpoints which are so pervasive throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
Office of Hispanic Ministry recruits priests and seminarians, promotes Spanish Catholic Radio and lays groundwork for future expansion

Visitors are often surprised at the size and scope of the library at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. They are also taken aback to discover that these are but a few of the offerings in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City itself. They are not alone in their surprise. "The future is bright, as well. People are today giving into the design and immediately laying the groundwork for future expansion," said Ed Slovacek, the archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry.

The Office of Hispanic Ministry has also begun collaborating with Catholic Broadcasting. Every afternoon, till 6 p.m., Spanish Catholic Radio is aired in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. "It makes it possible for them to listen to the Mass in Spanish," said Slovacek. "They can also listen to radio spots, as well as the program, "Viva la Radio," which is available Monday through Saturday.

"The process to recruit and bring to our archdiocese is not an easy one and the legal paperwork alone is extensive and costly," said Slovacek. "The process to recruit and bring to our archdiocese is not an easy one and the legal paperwork alone is extensive and costly," said Slovacek. "The archdiocese also has a seminarians in Mexico. "If in our hope he is just the first of many vocations from south of the border," said Slovacek. "The future is bright, as well. People are today giving into the design and immediately laying the groundwork for future expansion," said Ed Slovacek, the archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry.

"If you haven't before, maybe this year is when you say "yes" with a generous donation to ADF and join Archbishop Coakley in responding to Christ's call to "Go Make Disciples!" said Slovacek.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City processes many cases each year. Sometimes it creates something new for all of the archdiocese rather than simply refurbish or expand an existing building. "The process helped them to think about their new marriage and approach it with a new heart and understanding, thereby making them better disciples to go out and spread the faith to others whom they meet.

"Go Make Disciples." Your donation enables us to introduce more priests to Oklahoma City, our Hispanic priests from various Spanish-speaking countries. Priests from countries such as Columbia, Venezuela and Mexico are now preaching the Gospel and celebrating the Eucharist in parishes from Caynon to Lawton to Oklahoma City itself.

"Go Make Disciples." Your donation enables us to introduce more priests to our Hispanic Catholics from across the archdiocese and sponsor events at which you can relate to others in your age group in an environment of faith.

If you’re married and have a family, we offer seminars and retreats to strengthen you in that vocation. If you’re considering a career in the diocesan, priesthood or religious life, we’ll assist you as God calls you to that direct vocation. To encourage your vocation, our trained spiritual directors can guide you in your discernment process. We also offer opportunities for retired adults.

We maintain a library of more than 18,000 books, DVDs and other educational items – all available for you to check-out for free!

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without the generous support of our donors. The Archdiocesan Development Fund exists to "develop the life of the archdiocese through ministry." Donors to the ADF fund between 40 to 45 percent of the costs of maintaining the programs and ministries provided by the archdiocese. Fees, investments, bequests and parish donations fund the remainder of the archdiocesan budget.

When you pledge to donate $25, $100, $250, $500 or more to the ADF, you support the Church in her mission to "Go Make Disciples." Your donation enables us to introduce Christ to those who do not know Him and to strengthen others in their relationship with Him. You also enable us to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world – to comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, teach the young and minister to those in need.

If you have already avoided yourselves of our many archdiocesan programs and services, you know how meaningful and effective they are. If you haven’t, we encourage you to explore the possibilities today by browsing this issue of the Sooner Catholic or by visiting our website at archokc.org.

Will you please pledge $25, $100, $250, $500 or more to the ADF today so that you and the more than 120,000 Catholics of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City can continue to receive practical and spiritual support as you seek to live as disciples of Jesus Christ? If you’re unable to pledage any money, please pray for the success of our appeal. In addition, we ask you to come to seek meets needs and to pray for you on a continual basis. Thank you in advance for your financial and prayerful support!

In Christ,"

Brianna Osborne
Office of Hispanic Ministry

The Sooner Catholic is published biweekly except for once in July and twice in December by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.
Diocesan program forms, develops, educates deacons, who in turn serve parishioners.

The Archdiocesan Development Fund is the financial source for the formation, spiritual development and education of deacons. The program provides sustained support in the ascension phase of formation. The cost of educating these men and their spouses is paid for by ADF. The ordained deacons are required to keep current on their faith through various programs within the church. The ADF helps to pay for these continuing education opportunities. Each year, the deacon is offered a three-week retreat, part of which is funded by ADF. Thanks to the generosity of the people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, through the ADF, the diaconate program is able to grow and to continue to serve.

Office of Worship and Spiritual Life equips and assists catechists, spiritual directors, newly baptized Catholics, newly ordained priests and others to “Go Make Disciples”

The Office of Worship and Spiritual Life reaches out to catechists in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Initiation of Adults and invites the catechists each year to pray with Archbishop Paul Coakley at the Rite of Election, and, last Easter, as Neophytes to celebrate the Easter Vigil with the archbishop, and to receive them forth as “Go Make Disciples.”

Schools also invite retired people and other groups to come to the Pastoral Center to share prayer and reflection time, sponsor the training of spiritual directors, and assists in preparing the liturgies for ordinations to the permanent diaconate, transitional diaconate and the priesthood.

We work in countless ways, especially paid that the ADF responds to a call of discipleship. Catechists have stepped up and young disciples means walking in their own continuing formation. Preparing disciples placed in their care.

Youth Faith Formation Certificate Program

The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference slated for Feb. 14 to 16 was used this past weekend as a springboard for thousands of high school students to return to their own campus, said Sarah Cooper, campus minister for the University of Oklahoma.

The conference will assist Oklahoma college students in prioritizing their faith and discovering their vocation. In addition, students have an opportunity to exchange ideas and focus on their Catholic identity. Following the conference, the participants will travel back to their colleges and universities renewed by the truth that they have been “Redeemed” by Christ.

“OCCSC is extremely beneficial and important to the growth of all Catholic college students. It is so easy for college students to forget why they belong to our beloved Catholic Church is so important to everyone’s life,” said University of Oklahoma student Jessica Clark Mullery. “This conference can replate those seeds, bear fruit for all college students and open our relationship with our Lord.

Sarah Cooper is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

OU students attend FOCUS missionaries at Student Leadership Summit

By Rebekah Scaperlanda

From Jan. 3 to Jan. 7, 26 students from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma joined 2,000 college students from around the state to participate in this year’s Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference, Feb. 14 to 16 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Center.

“The Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference is a chance for students and young adults to grow in their faith, to inculturate the larger church by gathering with others from across the state of Oklahoma,” said Becky Jaime, associate director of youth ministry for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. “They will gather in small groups to learn, through small group sharing, reflection, prayer and celebration Mass with Archbishop Paul Coakley and Bishop Edmund Edelen.

Drawing from the Bible’s redemptive theme, this year’s conference theme is “Redeemed.” Through speakers, small groups and worship, the organizers anticipate Oklahoma Catholic college students will be inspired by Christ’s unmerited love.

“First and foremost, these college students are on a faith journey, and this conference will help them grow and learn more about their faith,” said Rebekah Lagaly, Dean Fisher and Archbishop Coakley.

The conference will focus on the catechist’s development of a personal relationship with Jesus in their ongoing formation. There are several certification options that are offered by the Archdiocese of OKC to fit the various needs of catechists. More information can be found on the Religious Education Office webpage under the section “Youth Faith Formation Certifications.”

OU students attending FOCUS Leadership Summit

“If You Go

Oklahoma Catholic College Student Conference

When: Feb. 14 to Feb. 16

Where: Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp

Sponsored By: The Archdiocese of OKC

Register: More information and a registration form can be found at www.archdiocese.org or by calling Rebekah Scaperlanda at 405-625-1590. Deadline is Feb. 3 and the cost is $40.
The History of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began in 1908 as an Octave, 8 days of prayer commencing on January 18th, known among Protestants as the Feast of the Consecration of Peter and among the Romans as the Feast of the Chair of Peter. It concludes on January 25th, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. It was first proposed by Father Paul Wattson, founder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars. Among Roman Catholics, the observance was blessed by Pope Pius X and continued by his successor, Benedict XV during World War I and thereafter. In the 1920s, Protestant leaders proposed an Octave of prayer for Christian unity that would culminate on Pentecost, the feast of the founding of the Church. In 1941, the Faith and Order Conference, which was the predecessor organization of the World Council of Churches, changed the date of the Protestant observance to coincide with the Catholic dates. 1968 saw the first production of materials for observance of the Week of Prayer that were jointly prepared by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. This year’s theme was chosen by the Churches of Canada. Canadians live in a country that is marked by diversity in language, culture, and even climate, and we also embody diversity in our expressions of Christian faith. Living with this diversity, yet being faithful to Christ’s desire for the unity of his disciples, has led us to a reflection on Paul’s provocative question in I Corinthians: “Has Christ been Divided?” In faith we respond, “No!” yet our church communities continue to embody scandalous divisions. I Corinthians also points us to a way in which we can value and receive the gifts of others even now in the midst of our divisions, and that is an encouragement to us in our work for unity.

Clergy that participated in the prayer service:
Rev. Robert E. Rose, Jr., Pastor, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Rev. Joseph Alsay, Vicar, St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church
Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr., Oklahoma Conference, United Methodist Church
Rev. Don Wolf, Pastor, St. Eugene Catholic Church
Rev. Dr. William Tabbernee, Executive Director Oklahoma Conference of Churches
Rev. Stephen Bird, President, OALA, Pastor Epiphany of the Lord Church
Rev. Nancy McCullough and Rev. Marilynn Schellhamer, Chapel Hill UMC

Parishioners pack pews at MLK Mass

At 5 p.m. Jan 18, Archbishop Paul Coakley presided at a Mass celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City. Parishioners from across the archdiocese joined him at Mass.

“Each year when our nation celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we Catholics take the opportunity to express our solidarity with those who continue to struggle to live in dignity,” said Archbishop Coakley in advance of the Mass. “In the same spirit, we continue to advocate, pray and shine a light on inequality and injustice wherever it might exist. Our faith calls us to stand for the dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death. Among the greatest scandals in our nation is the continuing disregard and lack of protection for unborn children.”

Photos by George Earl Johnson, Jr.
Ash Wednesday Mass returns to Oklahoma City
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City supported Ash Wednesday Mass in the City and the world. The announcement, written by Fr. Michael Khodr, a theology student at St. Paul Seminary and a deacon candidate with a background in journalism, is a reflection of the many changes happening in the world and how we can respond to them.

“Seventy years ago, abortion was a moral evil that was not considered an issue. Today, it is one of the most divisive and controversial issues facing society,” Khodr wrote. “In the face of this division, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is committed to working for the sanctity of all life and the protection of the unborn.”

This year’s Ash Wednesday Mass, held at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, will be a celebration of the lives of the unborn and the importance of protecting them. The Mass will be led by Archbishop Paul C. McAdams and will include a testimony from Khodr, who will share his own personal story of abortion.

“The archdiocese is committed to supporting the pro-life movement and the sanctity of all life,” Khodr said. “We believe that every human life is a gift from God and that it is up to us to protect and cherish it.”

The Mass will also feature a video presentation by the Knights of Columbus, which will share their testimony of conversion from abortion.

“Their stories are a testament to the power of the pro-life message,” Khodr said. “They have found peace and forgiveness through their commitment to the sanctity of all life.”

The Mass will conclude with a prayer for the sanctity of all life and a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives to abortion.

“Let us pray for the sanctity of all life and for the protection of the unborn,” Khodr said. “May God bless us with the grace to be instruments of his love and mercy.”

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is committed to supporting the pro-life movement and the sanctity of all life. We believe that every human life is a gift from God and that it is up to us to protect and cherish it. The archdiocese is proud to support the pro-life movement and to advocate for the sanctity of all life in our community and beyond.

On this Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the importance of protecting the lives of the unborn. We are called to be instruments of God’s love and mercy, and we are called to support the pro-life movement in our community and beyond. We are called to protect and cherish every human life, and we are called to celebrate the sanctity of all life.

Ash Wednesday Mass returns to Oklahoma City on January 30, 2020. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is committed to supporting the pro-life movement and the sanctity of all life. We believe that every human life is a gift from God and that it is up to us to protect and cherish it. The archdiocese is proud to support the pro-life movement and to advocate for the sanctity of all life in our community and beyond.

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Fondo de Desarrollo de la Arquidiócesis apoya la visión de “Vayan y Hagan Discípulos”

Ministerio HISPANO se ha iniciado la formación de 250 nuevos discípulos a través del Fondo de Desarrollo Arquidiocesano. Todos los tres días, entre diciembre y junio, se realizarán programas de formación para 250 nuevos discípulos, como lo esperan 200 personas que desempeñan roles en la vida eclesial. Los discípulos se entrenarán en temas como la fe, la vida en la iglesia, la pastoral y la formación de nuevos líderes en la iglesia.

La formación de discípulos es una de las prioridades del Ministerio HISPANO, que busca fomentar la formación de líderes cristianos en todo el mundo. La formación de discípulos se realiza a nivel local, nacional y regional, y es una parte integral de la misión de la iglesia.

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Saint Gregory's University launches new Catholic nursing program at Blessing Hospitality on Shawnee, Tulsa campuses in 2014

January 26, 2014

Saint Gregory’s University launches a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Blessing Hospitality on Shawnee and Tulsa campuses in 2014.

In order to accommodate working adults and students from both public and parochial school systems, the collaborative effort to engage youth and work with ministries from the diocese was energetic, passionate about the diocese, and focused its efforts toward girls age 12 and under and all ages are welcome.

For more information on Planned Giving contact:
Dr. Marilyn Seiler, parish nurse @ saintjames-catholic.org
(405) 721-9220 or by email marilynseiler@ bgco.org

Birth Choice Director Opening Birth Choice is looking for a full time director of the South office. The Center Director of the office provides volunteers with support, advice and updated information regarding office policies and procedures. The Director ensures the continued operation of the office. The Center Director presents and facilitates the goals and objectives set forth by Executive Management. For more information send resume to headquarter@birthchoice.org for resume to (405) 606-8643.

Director of Residential Services
The Center of Family Love is seeking a qualified candidate for a part time position. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-2pm. For more information, contact Melody Puttman or the office at (405) 447-4605 for more information.

All Saints Catholic School to host Mattie Grass fundraiser All Saints Catholic School in Oklahoma City will host a Mattie Grass fundraiser on Saturday, March 2, 2013. The event will begin at 5 p.m. at Mattie Grass Field at 3223 North Broadway Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. For more information call the Office of Saint Joseph Bank Office at (405) 606-8434.

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Office of Ministries supports priests, maintains records, ensures a safe environment and updates archdiocesan technology

The Office of Ministries includes several offices: Vicar General, Vicar for Priests, Chancellor, the Presbyteral Council, and the Archdiocesan Finance Council. These offices provide a wide range of services for archdiocesan priests and parishes, as well as for the archdiocese as a whole.

Since 2012, Father William L. Novak, pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Church and Parish, Oklahoma City, has served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese. (The vicar general is the principal deputy appointed by a bishop of a diocese for the exercise of administrative authority; the position is required by the Code of Canon Law.) As part of his duties as Vicar General, Father Novak acts as a consultant to the Archbishop and as a member of the Priest Personnel Board. He also serves as an ex officio member of the Presbyteral Council (Council of Priests) and the Archdiocesan Finance Council. During 2013, in addition to his pastoral duties, Father Novak also served on several Archdiocesan committees, including “A Mutually Shared Vision,” “Metro Hispanic Initiative” and “The Year of Faith.” Father Novak can be reached at (405) 721-5651, ext. 139.

Reverend Scott Boeckman, pastor of Saint Joseph Church and Parish, Norman, serves as the Vicar for Priests. The Vicar for Priests provides care and support for his brother priests serving the archdiocese. He is also active in providing educational experiences and spiritual experiences for his brother priests. Father Boeckman works directly with the international priests assigned to the archdiocese to help them transition into their ministry to the people of the archdiocese. Father Boeckman can be reached at (405) 721-5651, ext. 189.

During 2013, Father Boeckman was instrumental in bringing to fruition a partnership between the archdiocese, Saint Anthony Hospital and Mercy Health Center, which established a Priests’ Nurse program to assist with the wellness and health care needs of our archdiocesan priests. This position uses the “parish nursing model” focusing on health promotion and disease prevention. The pillars of this specialty nursing are: providing resources and referrals, making available educational literature, helping to navigate the healthcare system, visiting during and after hospitalization, and listening to the priests’ concerns regarding their health. This holistic health approach addresses the whole person: their physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The position is not home health, nor hospice, nor public health nursing; however, if needed, a collaboration involving any or all of these nurses is possible.

Nationally, there has been an increasing effort to bring a healing ministry to the clergy in other dioceses and other faith denominations. In our archdiocese, Diane Steltenkamp, RN, has been hired to fill this position. Mary Diane may be contacted at (405) 721-5651, ext. 191, or by email at msteltenkamp@archokc.org.

Unlike many other canonically mandated positions, a lay person may serve as Chancellor. Loutitia Denison (Tish) Eason serves the archbishop and archdiocese as Chancellor. Principal canonical functions of this office include maintaining the archives of the archdiocese, including records, artifacts and statistical information and utilizing the data gathered to generate annual reports to the Vatican and the USCCB. Additionally, statistical data is summarized and compiled for updates to the archdiocesan listings in the Official Catholic Directory. The Office of Ministries has developed and presented materials and workshops for parish personnel regarding maintaining sacramental records and preparation of Pre-nuptial Investigations. The workshops were presented throughout the archdiocese utilizing the archdiocese teleconferencing network and with the assistance of the Pastoral Ministry Office.

The Archives continue to preserve and catalog archdiocesan records and to assist researchers. Archival materials also are utilized in Heritage Room displays. The Heritage Room is located in the Catholic Pastoral Center and is open to the public during business hours and by appointment.

Eason is also a civil lawyer and provides legal assistance and research for Archbishop Coakley and other departments and consults with the priests and parishes on canonical administrative issues and civil legal matters. Eason can be reached at (405) 721-5651, ext. 149, or by email at leason@archokc.org.

The Office of Safe Environment coordinates all of the activities mandated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Charter spells out essential norms that every (Arch)Diocese in the country must follow. These norms are designed for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

In carrying out these mandated norms, the Safe Environment Office, through its Data Administrator, is responsible for conducting background checks for all employees and volunteers who have regular contact with children, youth and vulnerable adults. The Safe Environment Coordinator provides for the safe environment education and training efforts of new clergy, seminarians, new teachers, Parish Safe Environment Facilitators, and others in service opportunities, as needed. In addition, the Coordinator oversees the Archdiocesan response to the annual USCCB Audit of Archdiocesan Programs for the Protection of the Children and Young People. As part of this office’s educational efforts, the Coordinator also produces materials designed for use by the Parish Facilitators in their important role. The Archdiocesan Coordinator, Sister Catherine Powers, CND, may be reached at (405) 721-5651, ext. 150, or by email at cpowers@archokc.org.

The Archdiocesan Victims’ Assistance Coordinator acts as a liaison with the Archdiocesan Review Board. Jennifer Goodrich, the Victims’ Coordinator, may be reached for non-reporting events by e-mail at jgoodrich@archokc.org.

NOTE: If you believe a child is being abused or neglected, you have a legal responsibility to report it. Reports can be made at any time to the OKDHS Abuse and Neglect Hotline at (800) 522-3511. Abuse or neglect involving Archdiocesan personnel should also be reported on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline: (405) 720-9878.

The IT Department is a relatively new archdiocesan office headed by Kevin Atkins. Through the efforts of Atkins, new technologies for communication and training have been instituted throughout the archdiocese. Some of these new technologies include establishing a secure online giving system for ADF, upgrades on Pastoral Center document management systems; assisting Saint Ann Nursing Home and other archdiocesan entities in upgrading record management systems; upgrading hardware and improving wireless services for the Pastoral Center and other archdiocesan entities.

Office of Pastoral Ministry expands program access through videoconferencing

The Office of Pastoral Ministry provides programs, initiatives and resources that support the initial and ongoing formation of the laity in living out their baptismal call to ministry in the local Church. Opportunities for enriching one’s knowledge and understanding of Catholic tradition, spiritual life, and development of skills necessary for lay ministry and for effective leadership in ministry are available to all members of the archdiocese. Two core programs, a B.A. in Pastoral Ministry and an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry are offered in affiliation with Newman University in Wichita, Kan., and with Aquinas Institute of Theology in Saint Louis. Access to all programs has been greatly enhanced during the past four years through the archdiocesan videoconferencing network.

The Catholic Pastoral Center and parishes in Altus, Armore, Clinton, Enid, Guymon, Lawton and Woodward serve as program sites. All programs are fully interactive and offered in real time. Begun in the last two years, the Parish Faith and Ministry Formation series offers occasional programs for adult faith formation such as Extraordinary Minister of Communion and Lector training, a Parish Office Staff monthly inservice series, and how to deal with grief and loss during holiday times. Information on all our programs and courses is posted on our webpage, http://archokc.org/offices-of-pastoral-ministry/home, and published in the Sooner Catholic. Information may be requested by calling (405) 721-4208 or emailing pmp@archokc.org.