OKLAHOMA CITY — A counter on the Web site for the 40 Days for Life campaign keeps track of the lives saved during the pro-life prayer effort. “Day 9, 99 babies saved” reads the counter on this day. At least three of those lives were saved in Oklahoma City, according to Oklahoma Catholics who are participating in the prayer effort to end abortion.

“We had three saves on Friday,” said Elizabeth Peterson, who attends Epiphany Church. She is there, on the sidewalk outside a Warr Acres abortion clinic, with her adopted 6-month-old son, Patrick, and Barb Baker, a member of Immaculate Conception Church. They, along with many others, plan to be there every day during the prayer event that runs from Sept. 23 to Nov. 1.

This is the second year the 40 Days for Life Campaign has come to Oklahoma. The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is a supporter of the ministry. A woman by the name of Debby Krisch is considered the ramrod of the effort.

In fact, Peterson said it was Krisch who gently persuaded the three women entering the abortion clinic that Friday to change their hearts and minds. Krisch is a trained sidewalk counselor, according to Peterson. “She’s done this for years.”

But that’s exactly why Krisch, Peterson, Baker and the dozens of others involved in the 40 Days for Life campaign are so determined. They hope and pray they won’t be needed in this ministry another minute, no less for years.

They want abortion to end. They are sick and tired of our culture of death that hides its killing fields behind court decisions and words such as “choice.” They want God to hear their prayers. They want the men and women who work in abortion clinics and organizations such as Planned Parenthood to hear God’s voice and turn away from America’s holocaust. They want life to matter.

Last year, Jennifer Nguyen was so moved by the 40 Days for Life campaign that she drove daily from Stillwater to Warr Acres to participate in the effort. Now a teacher at Bishop John Carroll Catholic School in Oklahoma City, Nguyen called her passion for the movement “a God thing.”

“As I grow in my faith, I ask God, ‘What can I do to serve You?’” Nguyen said. She said when she learned of the 40 Days for Life campaign, she knew that was where she belonged. Each evening after finishing classes at Oklahoma State University, she would drive to Warr Acres where she manned the midnight to 6 a.m. prayer shift outside the abortion clinic. She would pray, fall asleep, wake up and pray some more.

The 40 Days effort this year runs from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., so Nguyen and the others will no longer be on the sidewalk at midnight, but if that’s what it took to change people’s hearts, she would gladly be there. Nguyen believes in the power of prayer.

“As I think it has had a powerful impact,” said Nguyen, who converted Continued to Page 9
Archbishop Chaput Addresses European View of Notre Dame

Vatican City, Oct 6, 2009 (CNA).—The Italian daily Il Foglio published an article titled “L’ascia del vescovo pellerossa - Charles J. Chaput contro Notre Dame e l’illusstre cardinale sedotto dall’abortista Obama” (The ax of the red skin Bishop - Charles J. Chaput against Notre Dame and the illustrious cardinal seduced by the pro-abortionist Obama) in which the Archbishop of Denver contests some of the strongly pro-Obama assertions made by Cardinal Georges Cottier last July in the international Catholic magazine “30 Days.”

Il Foglio is one of the most influential intellectual dailies in Italy, dedicated more to analyzing than covering the news. Its director is one of the most famous Italian contemporary thinkers, Giuliano Ferrara.

Despite being an agnostic, Ferrara is a longtime admirer of the thought of Joseph Ratzinger.

In its Tuesday edition, Il Foglio published a front page interview with Cardinal Francis George, and devoted its third page to Archbishop Chaput’s comments on Cottier’s original essay.

The archbishop’s article, originally submitted under the more modest title of “Politics, Morality and a President: an American View,” focuses on what it meant to American Catholics to have President Obama speak at the University of Notre Dame and be honored with a law degree, an event which Cardinal Cottier, Theologian Emeritus of the Pontifical Household, described in 30 Days in a very positive light.

Catholic News Agency exclusively presents below the full text of Archbishop Chaput’s article published in Il Foglio.

Politics, Morality and a President: an American View

One of the strengths of the Church is her global perspective. In that light, Cardinal Georges Cottier’s recent essay on President Barack Obama (“Politics, morality and original sin,” 30 Days, No. 5), made a valuable contribution to Catholic discussion of the new American president. Our faith connects us across borders. What happens in one nation may have an impact on many others. World opinion about America’s leaders is not only appropriate; it should be welcomed.

And yet, the world does not live and vote in the United States. Americans do. The pastoral realities of any country are best known by the local bishops who shepherd their people. Thus, on the subject of America’s leaders, the thoughts of an American bishop may have some value. They may augment the Cardinal’s good views by offering a different perspective.

Note that I speak here only for myself. I do not speak for the bishops of the United States as a body, nor for any other individual bishop. Nor will I address President Obama’s speech to the Irish world, which Cardinal Cottier mentions in his own essay. That would require a separate discussion.

I will focus instead on the president’s graduation appearance at the University of Notre Dame, and Cardinal Cottier’s comments on the president’s thinking. I have two motives in doing so.

First, men and women from my own diocese belong to the national Notre Dame community as students, graduates and parents. Every bishop has a stake in the faith of the people in his care, and Notre Dame has never merely been a local Catholic university. It is an icon of the American Catholic experience. Second, when Notre Dame’s local bishop vigorously disagrees with the appearance of any speaker, and some 80 other bishops and 300,000 lay people around the country publicly support the local bishop, then reasonable people must infer that a real problem exists with the speaker - or at least with his appearance at the disputed event. Reasonable people might further choose to defer to the judgment of those Catholic pastors closest to the controversy.

Regrettably and unintentionally, Cardinal Cottier’s articulate essay undervalues the gravity of what happened at Notre Dame. It also overvalues the consonance of President Obama’s thinking with Catholic teaching.

There are several key points to remember here.

First, resistance to President Obama’s appearance at Notre Dame had nothing to do with whether he is a good or bad man. He is obviously a gifted man. He has many good moral and political instincts, and an admirable devotion to his family. These things matter. But unfortunately, so does this: The president’s views on vital bioethical issues, including but not limited to abortion, differ sharply from Catholic teaching. This is why he has enjoyed the strong support of major “abortion rights” groups for many years. Much is made, in some religious circles, of the president’s sympathy for Catholic social teaching. But defense of the unborn child is a demand of social justice. There is no “social justice” if the youngest and weakest among us can be legally killed. Good programs for the poor are vital, but they can never excuse this fundamental violation of human rights.

Second, at a different moment and under different circumstances,

Continued to page 10

Bishop Balaswamy Dies in Homeland of India

Word has been received of the death of Most Rev. Bishop P.C. Balaswamy, Bishop Emeritus of Nellore Diocese in India. Bishop Balaswamy died Sept. 24. His funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 26 at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Nellore. Bishop Balaswamy shepherded the Diocese of Nellore for 33 years. He was a strong supporter, showing great love for the poor and the marginalized.
German Artist to Exhibit Works at Pastoral Center

Werner Ritter of Frankfurt, Germany, will be present during the exhibition of his “Color Lithography of Christian Symbols” Nov. 10-15. The display will be in exhibition in the Conference Center of the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The artist was inspired by the works of great masters to create new access, with contemporary techniques and modern elements of style, to timeless messages of faith of their pictures. Visitors to the exhibition will see masterpieces not only by their artistic aspects, but will engage themselves with the unchanging religious content, with the message of faith. Werner Ritter's works show the development of traditional reproduction technology and image processing in the age of the computer.

Ritter lives and works as an artist and managing director of cross media publishing agency in Germany since 1981. With his training at a lithographic art institution, he learned all the facets of lithographic techniques and has practiced his craft many years as a professional. As a Christian he is still convinced that it was an impulse of the Holy Spirit that made him parlay his workmanship skills and use old masterpieces as a model for his own modern artistic interpretation.

“My intention is to present my artistic works in different exhibitions. It is my deepest wish to present them in the United States to people whose ancestors originally came from Europe. Some of the paintings that served me as a basis for my work were created almost 400 years ago during the days of the Reformation. Those were hard time, times of starvation. These were times of religiously and politically motivated persecution and a time when victims left Europe with high hopes of a brighter future in America. My works want to remind the viewer that the origins of many Americans lie in Europe and parts of the American culture is rooted there. Back in the old world a seed was planted, a seed called spirit of decampment, faith and constancy in God, growing into a fruit called blessing.”

Plan now to visit this marvelous display at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N.W. Expressway, Oklahoma City. The exhibit accentuates the thought, “Our faith is a treasured gift from God; the more you learn the more you will want to learn.” The “AGGIORNAMENTO” EXHIBIT is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Love’s Travel Stops and Country Stores.

Please park and enter the north parking lot for easy access into the Conference Center.

ART EXHIBITION SCHEDULE
OPENING:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
NOVEMBER 11-14, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Survey Finds Abortion Not an Option

WASHINGTON — A nationwide survey commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has found widespread public opposition to including abortion in health care reform and majority support for conscience rights protection.

Conducted by International Communications Research (ICR) from Sept 16-20, 2009, the phone survey of 1,043 U.S. adults found that 60 percent favor “efforts to pass health care reform to provide affordable health insurance for all.” Focusing on that 60 percent, the survey found that:
- Sixty percent oppose “measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their taxes.”
- By a 49-39 percent plurality, oppose “measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their health insurance premiums”; and
- Among those favoring reform, those who favor maintaining “current federal laws that protect doctors and nurses from being forced to perform or refer for abortions against their will” outnumber those who oppose keeping such laws in place by a margin of two to one.

The survey also asked: “If the choice were up to you, would you want your own insurance policy to include abortion?” Sixty-eight percent of U.S. adults said no.

“With each passing week it gets clearer: The American public generally does not want to pay for abortion coverage and does not want health care reform used to promote abortion,” said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for Policy and Communications at the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

“Abortion is not health care. The USCCB are working hard to ensure that health care reform serves the most vulnerable among us,” McQuade said.

For more information on the U.S. bishops position on health care reform, visit usccb.org/healthcare.
Catholic Firefighter Gets Gold at International Competition

By Rex Hogan
For the Sooner Catholic

Oklahoma City firefighter David Trowbridge, a member of St. John Nepomuk Parish in Yukon, is a world-class athlete.

This summer, Trowbridge won the gold medal in the Toughest Competitor Alive competition at the World Police and Fire Olympics held in Vancouver.

Trowbridge takes exercise seriously. But this year, he believes he won his gold medal because he added another component to his workout regime — prayer.

Trowbridge has won medals at the Police and Fire Olympics before.

In 1993, Trowbridge won silver medals in the bench press and arm wrestling competition. Two years later, he won his first gold medal in the Toughest Competitor Alive competition and also in arm wrestling.

In 1997, he won two gold medals, one in arm wrestling and the second in the pole vault.

But Trowbridge struggled emotionally with attending this year’s Police and Fire Olympics. The event is held every two years.

Trowbridge has three grown sons. He has a 5-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son at home. As summer rolled around, Trowbridge had a decision to make.

“I really struggled with why am I doing this. Is it selfish? Will it bring any benefit to anyone else? I’m going across the country to chase a gold medal, is that money best spent on my family? What exactly is my motivation in this endeavor?”

“I spent a lot of time in prayer. I asked God to lead me in the right direction,” he said.

He talked to his friends. They were encouraging. “They were saying, ‘Yeah, go, this is who you are, you have to do this,'” he said.

He discussed it with his wife.

“I really wanted her to say, ‘You’re getting too old for this and the money could be best spent on the family,’” he said.

His wife told him to go.

He talked it over with his mother, Ruth Trowbridge. She told her son, “Did you ever think that maybe you’re an inspiration to other people.”

As the days and weeks passed toward July when the Olympics began, he still didn’t know what he should do.

“It was heavy on my heart. I actually didn’t know until the hour I left. I prayed God would lead me in the right direction. I prayed; ‘Lord, God, you know what you’re going to do...” Trowbridge said.

“As the days and weeks passed toward July when the Olympics began, he still didn’t know what he should do.”

Trowbridge still works out. Some days, he rides his bike to work. He rides it back home in the morning and sometimes stops to attend Mass at St. Francis Parish.

“It’s like belonging to two parishes. Sometimes I’ll be riding my bike and I’ll see people from St. Francis and they’ll wave,” he said.

Exercising has a spiritual element for Trowbridge.

“It has brought me to more of a realization that my next breath comes from God. He could say, ‘OK, no more strength and no more breath,’” he said.

“I’ll continue to do this and try to be a good messenger, as long as He let’s me,” Trowbridge said.

Dorothy Day Center Earns Support

For the first year, the Dorothy Day Center is a designated charity in Oklahoman City’s Heart of the City campaign. This arrangement was made possible through working with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

The Dorothy Day Center is the food ministry of St. Charles Borromeo Parish. It is a warehouse and an all-volunteer ministry that provides emergency food aid for about 12,000 hungry individuals and families a year. A little less than half of those receiving help are children.

Heart of the City is the annual municipal employees fund drive. It is operated by United Way of Central Oklahoma and is governed by a committee of city leaders.

The program is for pastors and two to three laity from each local church to initiate building a laity-led addiction ministry team within their faith community.

Addiction is known to be rampant in our society and some studies show as many as one-half the people in any one faith community can be struggling or suffering from addiction. Our parishes are called to be healthy, healing and compassionate, offering outreach to those in need. Parish denial is not acceptable when so many are hurting and families are being destroyed.

The events and Trowbridge’s marks are as follows:

- 5K run — 19.10 minutes
- Shot put — 9.9 meters
- 100-meter dash — 13.6 seconds
- 100-meter swim — 1.28 (minute)
- Rope climb (20 ft.) — 7.2 seconds
- Pull-ups (timed) — 28
- Bench press — 303 pounds
- Obstacle course — 1.20 minute

Trowbridge earned 4,988.36 points, to edge out Raymond Soto of Spain (4948.33), and Peter Lindahl (3637.56) of Sweden.

Trowbridge still works out. Some days, he rides his bike to work. He rides it back home in the morning and sometimes stops to attend Mass at St. Francis Parish.

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“I’ll continue to do this and try to be a good messenger, as long as He let’s me,” Trowbridge said.

Seminar to Focus on Addictions

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Faith Partners Leadership Training focusing on addiction will be held Oct. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, NW Expressway and 63rd Street.

The program is for pastors and two to three laity from each local church to initiate building a laity-led addiction ministry team within their faith community.

Addiction is known to be rampant in our society and some studies show as many as one-half the people in any one faith community can be struggling or suffering from addiction. Our parishes are called to be healthy, healing and compassionate, offering outreach to those in need. Parish denial is not acceptable when so many are hurting and families are being destroyed.

The cost of the leadership training is $150 per parish and includes training, materials and the book “Healing Places.”

For more information, contact Annette Harper, director of Chemical Dependency Ministries at (405) 530-2010 or e-mail cdm@okumc.org.
Grad Thanks Foundation for Support

Each year the Catholic Foundation, through the generosity of supporters of the Catholic Foundation Endowment and monies derived from managing other funds, provides approximately 75 four-year scholarships to students who are permanent residents of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The following is an update of one of our recent graduates. It is her letter to the board following graduation from college and a brief explanation of what she will be doing in the upcoming year. She graduated from Notre Dame with a BS in English and a minor in anthropology. She completed her teaching practicum and carried a 3.9 GPA. Please meet Tesia Zientek:

July 23, 2009

The Catholic Foundation Board Members:

As I have recently completed my studies at the University of Notre Dame, I want to express my sincerest gratitude at the financial support that the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma has provided for the past four years of my education. I could not have received the amazing spiritual and academic education that I did without your help. Thank you.

I also wanted to send a brief update on my future endeavors. I will be spending the next year in Puerto Rico working with the non-profit organization, The Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns. The director of my program just drafted the attached letter to send to one of my scholarships, and I think it succinctly sums up my future duties.

Again, thank you so much for all of your help.

Tesia Zientek

Excerpt from executive director Sylvia Henriquez’s letter regarding Tesia’s upcoming year:

“Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and empowerment of under-developed and economically challenged communities.

“Ms. Tesia Zientek has been assigned to Centro Alespi in Orocovis, located in a central, mountainous, rural region of Puerto Rico, and the poorest town in Puerto Rico. There she will be working with children and their communities to educate them and improve their socio-economic environment until they can achieve self-sufficiency.

“Considering her volunteer experience in environmental education and conservatism, Ms. Zientek will be in charge of implementing a sustainable ecotourism project. To achieve this, she will assist in the planning and establishment of goals and objectives, activities to achieve these goals and monitoring of the project. She is also expected to develop strong ties with the community and provide resources to increase students’ edu-

Parish Nursing Grants Received

Parish Nursing is a specialty practice that is a ministry to nourish, care and support families spiritually, mentally and physically. St. Benedict of Shawnee, St. Mary of Clinton and St. Anne of Cordell were given local seed grants through the Commission for Justice and Human Development to start Parish Nursing programs this year.

Parish Nursing is an independent nursing practice which “focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as a part of the process in promoting wholistic health, and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community,” says Trisha Taron, St. Benedict parishioner. The parish nurse plays a role as an “integrator of faith and health, personal health counselor, referral agent, volunteer coordinator and health advocate.”

The goal of the Parish Nursing program in Clinton and Cordell, according to Yvonne Harris, is “to reach out and provide services to all parishioners, to include those medically and financially poor, and to offer a healing ministry to the parishes.” Harris will coordinate the Parish Nurse Ministry with the financial support of the local grants.

The Commission for Justice and Human Development partners with parishes to support these local projects. The national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will be held Nov. 14 and 15 in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. One-fourth of the funds is returned to each diocese and are used for local projects. For more information, contact Becky VanPool at (405) 523-3003.

Priests to Lead Pilgrimages

Oklahoma Catholics are invited to travel with Father Jim Goins to experience the rare opportunity to see the Shroud of Turin on display, as well as churches, art treasures and landscapes that only Italy can offer. And of course, we have an opportunity to travel together to the Eternal City of Rome! We will travel not as mere tourists but as pilgrims in search of the roots of our faith. The cities, churches and shrines that await us radiate with the presence of God. Few Christians leave St. Peter’s in Rome unmoved, and few see the Shroud without wanting to know the risen Christ more fully.

The 11-day Catholic Italy pilgrimage visiting Milan, Turin, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Orvieto and Rome is April 12 to April 22, 2010. A $300 deposit reserves your place. Balance of $3,399 due Feb. 1. Contact Melani at 282-3140, e-mail melani@travelovertures.com or visit www.joyfulcatholic-journeys.com.

Join Father Oby Zunmas and others on a pilgrimage to Medugorje, March 15-24, 2010. Hosted by visionary Mirjana Soldo and her husband, Marko. Experience the peace and grace Medugorje has to offer. Round-trip airfare from Oklahoma City, two meals per day, lodgings, daily Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Cenacolo, Mother’s Village, opportunity to be present for Mirjana’s annual apparition and more. A $500 deposit holds your place. Balance of $1,759 due Jan 15, 2010. Contact Melani Roe at (405) 282-3140, e-mail melani@travelovertures.com or visit www.joyfulcatholicjourneys.com.

Clayton Cromer, a Boy Scout with Troop 339 in Edmond, completed his Eagle Scout service project by constructing a horseshoe court for the residents of St. Ann’s Retirement Center. Clayton is a junior at Mount St. Mary’s and is a parishioner at Christ the King.

Tesia Zientek

Tesia Zientek
Two Catholic Brothers Have Earned the Rank of Eagle Scout

Frank and Tom Frantz, two Catholic brothers, have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. They are the sons of Ron and Mary Frantz of Oklahoma City.

Having joined Cub Scouts in first grade and achieving all ranks, Frank Frantz advanced to Eagle Scout at Troop 15, First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City.

Frank’s Eagle project was to refurbish 13 outdoor benches at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and place meditation plaques on them. An accompanying brochure guides participants through the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The meditation plaques coordinate with the windows in the adjacent, historic 1924 cathedral. Determined to do something at his church, Frank created a project that is of interest for a multi-cultural parish.

Frank has earned three of the four possible Roman Catholic Scouting religious emblems: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei.

Frank, 16, is a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. He is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Key Club and Camino Club. He also is on the varsity cross country team. Other activities include his church youth group, having participated on three different out-of-state mission trips.

Tom joined Cub Scouts in first grade and achieved all Scouting ranks that lead to becoming an Eagle Scout. He is also part of Troop 15.

Tom’s project was at Camp DaKaNi, a Camp Fire day camp in northeast Oklahoma City. Having been a day camper as a youth who became a counselor in the last couple of summers, Tom wanted to give back something to the leaders here. He created a memorial garden for a longtime volunteer leader. The garden is located along the banks of Harrison Creek at the end of the Pribble Point Suspension Bridge. The garden includes a dedication sign, bench, pea gravel ground cover and hearty plants.

The garden includes a dedication sign, bench, pea gravel ground cover and hearty plants.

Tom’s recent Scouting role was troop guide for the new Scouts at Troop 15.

Tom has earned three of the four possible Roman Catholic Scouting religious emblems: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei.

At 16, Tom is a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. Previously part of the basketball team for two years, he now concentrates on running with the varsity cross country team. He is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Club, Key Club and Camino Club. With his church youth group, Tom has been a part of three mission trips to different states.

Across Oklahoma

Mercy to Host Health Seminar

OKLAHOMA CITY — On Oct. 15, Mercy will host a free Breast Health Seminar at Mercy Health North May clinic at 6:30 p.m. with one of the state’s leading radiologists. This seminar is for anyone who wants to know why it’s important to have a mammogram and what to expect with various breast procedures, including breast MRI. The free seminar will be held at Mercy Health North May clinic, 9100 N. May. To RSVP for the free talks, call (405) 752-3600.

Silent Retreat Oct. 16

OKLAHOMA CITY — God’s Music is Silence retreat Oct 16-18 with Katie Gordy at Mount St. Mary Retreat Center. The retreat starts Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. and runs through Oct. 18 at noon. For more information or to register, call Katie at (405) 627-6954.

TV Drawing Oct. 22

OKLAHOMA CITY — An HDTV flat screen television will be given away Oct. 22 during the final bingo gathering at St. James Catholic Church, 41st and S. McKinley Ave. Food and beverages reasonably priced will be served at 5:45 p.m. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. All games including two blackouts are $10. Door prizes and special recognition for all players born in October. Come and play and you will get an entry ticket into the TV drawing.

Mount Magic Oct. 24

OKLAHOMA CITY — Magic at the Mount Dinner Auction and Dance Oct. 24. Mount St. Mary Catholic High School will host its annual Magic at the Mount Dinner Auction and Dance from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman. Call Tanya Avery for reservations at 631-8865 or tavertyt@mountstmary.org.

Carnival at School

MOORE — Halloween Carnival at Villa Teresa Moore, Oct. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. The school is located at 13501 S. Western in Oklahoma City. We will have food, games, prizes, a cake walk, inflatables, a haunted house and a raffle. Please let your children dress in costume and come and enjoy the fun. The carnival is geared mainly for children from 3 to 8 years old. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Please call 691-7737 for more information.

Alumni Gather for Irish

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Alumni Baseball Game will be held Oct. 24 at McGuinness. Batting practice will start at 4 p.m. and the game is at 5 p.m., followed by dinner. Contact Bryan Wade at 408-2951 for more information.

School to Host Carnival

GUTHRIE — St. Mary’s Catholic School, 502 E. Warner, is having its annual Fall Carnival from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 30. This is a wonderful alternative to trick-or-treating. Come and join us for an evening filled with games, hamburgers, hot dogs, a dunk tank and more. Come in your best costume for a chance to win a prize in the costume contest.

Marriage Workshop Set

OKLAHOMA CITY — Stepping Into Marriage with Children workshop Nov. 7. Too often we assume that second marriages need little to no preparation, but 60 percent of second marriages end in divorce. This seems to be due, in part, to unanticipated problems and miscommunications. Issues highlighted include communication, step-family structures, former spouses, conflict, sexuality and spirituality. For more information or to register, call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944.

Test to be Offered

OKLAHOMA CITY — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will be administering a placement test Nov. 7 from 8 to 11:30 a.m., to any eighth-grader interested in attending the school as a freshman for 2010-2011. A second test date will be offered Nov. 14 at the same time. All prospective ninth-graders must take this test in order to help with course selection. On test day, students should bring $10 for the testing fee and two #2 pencils. No calculators or cell phones are allowed. Students not attending a feeder school and interested in taking the placement test must call Amy Hanson, freshman counselor, at 842-6638 Ext. 225 to register for the test.
McGuinness Students Earn AP Scholar Recognition for Their Work

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School announces that 51 students have earned AP Scholar Awards by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP exams. Forty-three students are 2009 graduates and 13 are current seniors. Only about 18 percent of the more than 1.7 million high school students in more than 23,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP exams in May 2009, performed at a sufficiently high level to merit this recognition as well as advanced placement in college.

Students take AP exams each May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exam.

National AP Scholar is the highest award granted. McGuinness had one student qualify for this award, class of 2009 alum Zachary Yokell. AP National Scholars earn an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are all class of 2009 graduates: Courtney Bisson, Allison Brewer, Caitlin Cadieux, Chelsea Cinotto, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Perry, Carl Walkup and Justin Wright.

There were 33 students qualifying as AP Scholars completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher. Twenty students were class of 2009 alumni including Trinity Billetter, Morgan Blackburn, Margaret Boer, David Broussard, Patrick Chong, Danielle Curiel, Dylan Frazier, Rachel Harper, Thomas McGarry, Jacqueline Myers, Allegra Pusateri, Taylor Rieger, Mollie Rischar and Kelsey Wallace.

The remaining 13 students were BMCHS current seniors: Nick Aguilera, Hannah Daly, Kristina Davis, Jonathan Gardocki, Monica Jordan, Nicholas Joyce, Thomas Labarthe, Alejandra Lopez, Mark Morrison, William Patrigo, Angelina Stancampiano, Mariel Thompson and Philip Tolentino.

Mount Fund Surpasses Goal In Second Campaign

The Mount Fund, Mount St. Mary Catholic High School’s annual giving program, surpassed its goal by raising $201,218 during the school’s past fiscal year. Only in its second year of existence, The Mount Fund has made a dramatic difference in funding campus programs and projects that enhance student life, upgrade facilities and cultivate partnerships that continue to bring philanthropic support to the school and its mission.

In its initial campaign during the 2007-2008 school year, The Mount Fund raised $122,000 from 310 donors. This past year’s campaign for the 2008-2009 school year realized a 40 percent increase in giving and strengthened its donor base by over 50 percent.

“Togo from no annual giving program to raising over $200,000 in only our second campaign has sent a strong message to all Catholic schools across the country that if you live out your mission and you are what you say you are, you will build relationships of trust that will inspire people to give. In addition, our success shows the strong commitment that our constituents have in our leadership, our vision, and most importantly, our students. I am always amazed at the generous giving spirit of our Mount community,” said Chris Stiles, Director of Advancement.

Funds from this past campaign were used for school renovations and upgrades above and beyond insurance coverage after last spring’s fire. Those improvements include new lighting and ceiling tiles, carpeting, painting, the addition of student lounges and furnishings, added classroom space, upgrades in the school’s security system, locker room renovations and campus landscaping.

“As we prepare to launch a new Mount Fund for this upcoming school year, we have raised the bar even higher and have set our sights on raising $250,000. Strong institutions have strong annual funds. This goal is quite realistic and achievable knowing that so many of our alumni, parents, grandparents and friends will answer the call to support The Mount,” said Stiles.
Hundreds of people turned out on a gray Sunday afternoon for Birth Choice of Oklahoma City’s Annual Celebration of Life. The event was held in downtown Oklahoma City and featured a day of fun, food and fellowship all in the name of the sanctity of life. The Walk for Life is a fundraiser for the organization and attracts pro-life supporters from throughout the area. At the same time, in El Reno, the local Birth Choice organization there held its annual Walk for Life event that attracted more than 40 supporters. The two-mile stroll through the downtown area helped raise more than $1,500 for the El Reno Birth Choice office.
Continued from Page 1

to Catholicism when she was 12. She said her mother and father did not raise their children in any particular faith. “Our mother was Catholic and our father was Buddhist, so they didn’t raise us in either faith. They left it to us to decide later.”

Nguyen said her grandmother was a “devout Catholic” and she always admired her. She attends St. James Parish, usually with her mother.

Nguyen said more young adults are supporting pro-life efforts. They’ve seen the destruction abortion causes and what she terms “the pure evil of it.”

“I think when people see us praying on the sidewalks, they can’t shove abortion into the back of their minds any longer ... They have to deal with the reality.”

“I think when people see us praying on the sidewalks, they can’t shove abortion into the back of their minds any longer,” she said. “They have to deal with the reality.”

Good news travels fast.

In 2004, a pro-life group in College Station was searching for a way to reduce the number of abortions in the area. They came up with the idea for the 40 Days for Life campaign. It’s an effort that is grounded in prayer and fasting. And it works. That year, as the group prayed and fasted in front of local abortion clinics, the number of abortions in the area dropped by 28 percent.

This year some 212 U.S. cities are hosting 40 Days for Life campaigns. The effort has spread to Canada as well as Denmark. This is the second year for the 40 Days campaign in Oklahoma City. George Rigazzi, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life, said the effort last year resulted in the Warr Acres clinic actually closing for two weeks.

Those organized in prayer on the sidewalks hope this year it closes for good. Many apparently agree.

“People have been wonderful,” Peterson said. She said a man brought them cookies from Panera Bread, while a woman brought them pizza one day for lunch. Many more honk and wave as they drive by in obvious support of the effort. Only one or two have demonstrated displeasure with the prayer vigil. Peterson said “that finger-waving at us only means they want us to pray for them.”

Pat Batts, from St. James the Greater, and David Robillard, from Our Lady’s Cathedral, pray outside the Warr Acres abortion clinic.

Prayer shifts are normally for two hours. Some stay longer. Some come twice a day. Mothers with children, doctors, attorneys, they come from many backgrounds, but with one purpose, to save a child’s life and to save a woman from the years of torment and heartache that sets in when they realize the truth.

The 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is set up outside abortion clinics in Norman and in Tulsa.

U.S. Bishops Raise Concerns Over Health and Human Rights

WASHINGTON — Three U.S. bishops raised their concerns over human life and dignity, immigrants and affordability in a Sept. 30 letter to the U.S. Senate. Cardinal Justin Rigali, Bishop William Murphy and Bishop John Wester chair the committees on Pro-Life Activities, Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Migration, respectively, for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

“Our Catholic moral tradition teaches that health care is a basic human right, essential to protecting human life and dignity,” the bishops wrote. “These moral principles and our everyday experience lead us to work for three central priorities for health care reform.”

The bishops outlined three criteria that need special attention as legislation moves forward: respect for life and dignity, affordability, and inclusion of immigrants.

“Health care reform legislation should reflect longstanding and widely supported current policies on abortion funding, mandates and conscience protections because they represent sound morality, wise policy and political reality,” the bishops wrote. “So far the health reform bills considered in committee, including the new Senate Finance Committee bill, have not met President Obama’s challenge of barring use of federal dollars for abortion and maintaining current conscience laws. These deficiencies must be corrected.”

On affordability, the bishops criticized the Senate Finance Committee bill for it “would impose financial burdens on low-income and moderate-income families and those families with significant and chronic illnesses.” They urged Congress to support measures that would help low-income families, including further limiting premium costs and other out-of-pocket expenses for all citizens and legal immigrants.

The full text of the bishops’ letter can be found online at www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/2009-09-30-health-care-letter-senate.pdf.
Parts of Proposed Health Legislation Nothing Less Than Evil

By Dr. Charles Rice

The main health care bill, H.R. 3200, “America’s Affordable Health Care Act of 2009,” has 1,017 pages. I read it, which gave me some, but not much, sympathy for House members who admit that they voted for it in committee, or endorsed it, without reading it.

Section 1233 (Pages 424-34), on “Advanced care planning consultation,” expands the physician services that Medicare will reimburse, to include consultations regarding end-of-life decision-making. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) says the Senate Finance Committee has removed “the end-of-life provisions” from its bill because they would pay physicians to “advise patients about end-of-life care and rate physician quality of care based on the creation of and adherence to orders for end-of-life care.” But that bill is only one of several on the subject. It is too early to count the end-of-life consultations out. As Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said on Aug. 16, “I’m hoping that at the end of the day,” the consultation provisions “will be part of the overall package.”

Let’s look at what Section 1233 says and, more important, what it does not say and thus leaves to bureaucratic, implementing regulations which could make the 1,017 pages of the bill look like a telegram. An “advance care planning consultation” is between “the individual and a practitioner” who does not have to be the individual’s own physician. A “practitioner” can be a physician or a “nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant who has the authority under State law to sign orders for life-sustaining treatments.” The bill does not state whether the consultation will be initiated by the practitioner or by the individual. Nor does it state that the individual is compelled to have a consultation. “Though not mandatory,” wrote Charles Lane of the Washington Post, “the consultations ... aren’t quite ‘purely voluntary.’” “To me,” he said, ‘purely voluntary,’ means ‘not unless the patient requests one.’ Section 1233 ... let doctors initiate the chat and gives them an incentive — money — to do so. Indeed, that’s an incentive to insist. Patients may refuse without penalty, but many will bow to white-coated authority. Once they’re in the meeting, the bill does permit ‘formulation’ of a plug-pulling order right then and there.” Regulations could, in effect, make the consultations mandatory, to be initiated by the individual or the practitioner with penalties on the individual who fails to initiate it.

A consultation shall include: “An explanation by the practitioner of advance care planning ... and ... advance directives, including living wills and durable powers of attorney ... the role ... of a health care proxy ... [t]he provision by the practitioner of a list of ... resources to assist ... with advanced care planning ... [a]n explanation ... of ... end-of-life services ... available, including patient care and hospice ... an explanation of orders regarding life-sustaining treatment ... which shall include ... the reasons why ... such an order is beneficial to the individual and the individual’s family and the reasons why such an order should be updated periodically as the health of the individual changes.” Note that the consultation “shall include” an explanation of only one point.

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Archbishop Chaput

Continued from Page 2

the conflict at Notre Dame might have faded away if the university had simply asked the president to give a lecture or public address. But at a time when the American bishops as a body had already voiced strong concern about the new administration’s abortion policies, Notre Dame not only made the president the centerpiece of its graduation events, but also granted him an honorary doctorate of law - this, despite his deeply troubling views on abortion law and related social issues.

The real source of Catholic frustration with President Obama’s appearance at Notre Dame was his overt, negative public voting and speaking record on abortion and other problematic issues. By its actions, Notre Dame ignored and violated the guidance of America’s bishops in their 2004 document, “Catholics in Political Life.” In that text, the bishops urged Catholic institutions to refrain from honoring public officials who disagreed with Church teaching on grave matters.

Thus, the fierce debate in American Catholic circles this spring over the Notre Dame honor for Mr. Obama was not finally about partisan politics. It was about serious issues of Catholic belief, identity and witness - triggered by Mr. Obama’s views -- which Cardinal Cottier, writing from outside the American context, may have misunderstood.

Third, the Cardinal wisely notes points of contact between President Obama’s frequently stated search for political “common ground” and the Catholic emphasis on pursing the “common good.” These goals - seeking common ground and pursuing the common good - can often coincide. But they are not the same thing. They can sharply diverge in practice. So-called “common ground” abortion policies may actually attack the common good because they imply a false unity; they create a ledge of shared public agreement too narrow and too weak to sustain the weight of a real moral consensus. The common good is never served by tolerance for killing the weak - beginning with the unborn.

Fourth, Cardinal Cottier rightly reminds his readers of the mutual respect and cooperative spirit required by citizenship in a pluralist democracy. But pluralism is never an end in itself. It is never an excuse for inaction. As President Obama himself acknowledged at Notre Dame, democracy depends for its health on people of conviction fighting hard in the public square for what they believe - peacefully, legally, but vigorously and without apologies.

Unfortunately, the president also added the curious remark that “... the ultimate irony of faith is that it necessarily admits doubt ... This doubt should not push us away from our faith. But it should humble us.” In a sense, of course, this is true: On this side of eternity, doubt is part of the human predicament. But doubt is the absence of something; it is not a positive value. Insofar as it inoculates believers from acting on the demands of faith, doubt is a fatal weakness.

The habit of doubt fits much too comfortably with a kind of “baptized unbelief”: a Christianity that is little more than a vague tribal loyalty and a convenient spiritual vocabulary. Too often in recent American experience, pluralism and doubt have become alibis for Catholic moral and political lethargy. Perhaps Europe is different. But I would suggest that our current historical moment -- which both European and American Catholics share -- is very far from the social circumstances facing the early Christian legislators mentioned by the Cardinal. They had faith, and they also had the zeal - tempered by patience and intelligence - to incarnate the moral content of their faith explicitly in culture. In other words, they were building a civilization shaped by Christian belief. Something very different is happening now.

Cardinal Cottier’s essay gives witness to his own generous spirit. I was struck in particular by his praise for President Obama’s “humble realism.” I hope he’s right. American Catholics want him to be right. Humility and realism are the soil where a common sense, modest, human-scaled and moral polities can grow. Whether President Obama can provide this kind of leadership remains to be seen. We have a duty to pray for him -- so that he can, and does.
Infertility Best Addressed With Compassion and Clarity

By Reverend J. Daniel Mindling, OFM Cap.

What do infertility specialists tell couples?

Hoping to find out firsthand, I called the number in a newspaper ad and joined a dozen prospective clients for an open house at a well-known fertility clinic. The clinic staff assured me that anyone could come, with or without a spouse. I am sure that I was the only Roman Catholic priest there, although street clothes gave no clue to my identity.

There were about 15 people in my group. Some came by themselves, most with their spouse. Let me say right away that my experience that evening could not be the same as the others in the room. They were yearning for a child. They were hoping that the doctors would make it possible. They had taken a big step just to be there. They were deciding whether they should entrust their hopes to this clinic. I was there only to observe.

The clinic staff explained infertility as a medical problem, and the couple as patients with a treatable condition. Testing was part of specialized medical diagnosis; the use of donor eggs, freezing embryos, and in vitro fertilization were therapies to overcome infertility; and having a baby would be a successful treatment of the parents. The presentation was not unlike a sales pitch, aimed to persuade prospective patients to choose this clinic for diagnosis and treatment because these doctors were experts in reproductive medicine.

The staff laid out treatment options. These may include corrective surgery and hormone therapy, but also in vitro fertilization, and even donor sperm or eggs. Quality control was highlighted. Doctors, we were told, select only the healthiest embryos for implantation. In the case of donor eggs or sperm, care would be taken to provide for the best “outcome.” Problematic multiple pregnancies could be dealt with, although no one clarified that this generally will involve killing one or more of their children in the womb. Clinical staff admitted that sometimes infertility is hard to treat. Patients are encouraged not to “give up.” Sometimes, they said, the most effective treatment is in vitro fertilization, and as part of that treatment, some embryos can be frozen for later use. Sometimes, they continued, the quality of the egg is such that the best treatment is to use donor eggs.

It was striking that these “treatment options” were explained without any acknowledgement that these procedures are contrary to the dignity and exclusivity of marriage, that they most often result in the death of innocent human lives. They were not treatments that assist marital intercourse to be fruitful, but substitutions which violate the dignity of marriage and subject the unborn to mistreatment and death.

These clinics do not and cannot provide spiritual support to couples suffering from infertility, nor appropriate moral guidance about the options under consideration. Pastoral care is indispensable and irreplaceable. Consider the needs. Couples experiencing infertility may find it hard to cope with this challenge to their natural desire to be parents and establish a family, a desire celebrated at their wedding. Well-meaning family and friends may add to this burden with questions or expectations. Homilies or parish social events may presume that all young married couples are parents. Cultural expectations can be very high. Some couples experience painful isolation as they or other family members are caught up with the responsibility for infants and toddlers. Health-conscious men and women in particular may feel that their bodies or natural methods of family planning have “let them down.” Spouses with a history of contraception or even abortion may feel overwhelmed with regret and even believe mistakenly that God is punishing them. Some may feel similar remorse after having tried in vitro fertilization and other morally illicit treatments. Some may be coping with pregnancy loss or the loss of a child after birth. Some may be losing faith or hope as they face a prolonged challenge of infertility. Some need the ministry of Church organizations as they consider adoption or other ways of nurturing and caring for children. The need for compassionate pastoral care and support is great, and few have special training to offer it.

Working with infertile couples is a pro-life and pro-marriage ministry. As the Vatican Instruction Donum Vitae explained in 1987, marriage promotes respect for the dignity of the child and vice versa: “The fidelity of the spouses in the unity of marriage involves reciprocal respect of their right to become a father and a mother only through each other. The child has the right to be conceived, carried in the womb, brought into the world and brought up within marriage: it is through the secure and recognized relationship to his own parents that the child can discover his own identity and achieve his own proper human development” (DV, part II). The Church also supports morally sound treatment to help married couples have children, rejoicing that “many researchers are engaged in the fight against sterility. While fully safeguarding the dignity of human procreation, some have achieved results which previously seemed unattainable. Scientists therefore are to be encouraged to continue their research with the aim of preventing the causes of sterility and of being able to remedy them so that sterile couples will be able to procreate in full respect for their own personal dignity and that of the child to be born” (DV, 8).

Simply presenting couples seeking a child with a list of prohibited procedures is far from a holistic and supportive pastoral approach. Pastoral care is more than the moral evaluation of treatment alternatives. At the clinic, infertile couples will hear a scientist or doctor offering them hope for a child, and at church they must receive much more than a priest telling them no. In Dignitas Personae the Church recognizes that “there are those who say that the moral teaching of the church contains too many prohibitions” (38) and reminds us that “behind every ‘no’ in the difficult task of discerning between good and evil, there shines a great ‘yes’ to the recognition of the dignity and inalienable value of every single and unique human being called into existence.” (37).

That “yes” must be apparent in our message to infertile couples.

“You send them away with theology, but the clinic sends them home with a baby,” one person told me recently. Aside from the fact that clinics send many couples home without a baby, this protest misses a great deal of the role of the Church. She should stand with the infertile couple in solidarity, and stand up for basic human rights whenever challenged by a culture that seeks to overcome infertility at any cost, viewing children as a product or a right. As Donum Vitae celebrates, there are indeed methods for treating the infertile couple with full respect for the dignity of the spouses and for the life to be born. A pastoral approach to the infertile couple supports their faith, their dignity, their marriage and their vocation. It recognizes the fruitfulness that all marriages are called to share, including marriages without the blessing of children. It offers compassion and clarity. When needed, it offers reconciliation and healing.

My visit to the clinic convinced me more than ever of the need for the Church to respond to the challenges of couples who struggle with infertility. Let us offer the light of the Gospel and the warmth of the heart of the Church to all couples who yearn for a child.

Rev. J. Daniel Mindling, OFM Cap. is a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Marriage Encounter Weekend Available

OKLAHOMA CITY- Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and renew your precious sacrament of marriage. The next weekend in Oklahoma City is Oct. 30 - Nov. 01. For information and registration call Dan or Jean Forgue at 405-760-0390 or 405-760-0349 or email partspeople@att.net
Se efectuará en el Centro Pastoral Católico el 24 y 25 de octubre
Conferencia de los Ministerios Hispanos de la Región X

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La Directora del Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, Sor Rosario Martínez, extiende una invitación a todos los líderes de las comunidades Católicas de los estados de Oklahoma, Arkansas y Texas, para que participen en la gran conferencia que se realizará en las instalaciones del Centro Pastoral de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City.

Está conferencia regional tendrá una Misa el día sábado 24 a las cinco de la tarde, la cual será oficiada por el Arzobispo Eusebius J. Beltrán. Al respecto Sor Martínez dijo: “Hemos planeado este evento para que los líderes y directores de los Ministerios Hispanos de la Región X, nos reunamos a celebrar la segunda conferencia con el tema central (Yo soy el camino, la Verdad y la Vida)”.

Este evento busca la compe- netración de los líderes y servidores que están respondiendo al llamado de Dios para servir a la comunidad hispana.

La Conferencia está pautada para que comience el 24 de octubre a las ocho y media de la mañana, con un desayuno y una jornada de reflexiones, oraciones y actividad recrerenntal, con la presentación del grupo de teatro experimental del Santuario de Santo Toribio Romo de la ciudad de Tulsa.

El 24 será un día bien intenso y luego el día 25 el evento terminará al mediodía para dar tiempo que la gente regrese temprano a sus respectivos pueblos y ciudades.

Sor Rosario Martínez mencionó que hay algunas habitaciones disponibles en el Centro Pastoral a un precio muy razonable, para que la feligresía se hospede por lo menos una noche. Sobre la intención de esta conferencia, no cabe duda que los líderes laicos hoy más que nunca necesitan urgir a la feligresía Católica de la Región X para que haya un mayor compromiso al asumir con convicción todos los aspectos de la vida, la tarea evangelizadora que Dios nos ha encomendado.

Finalmente, Sor Rosario Martínez comentó que la tarea evangelizadora en la comunidad hispana es muy grande porque hay muchos Católicos que requieren ser atendidos y animados para que conozcan bien su fe, por lo que esta gran conferencia regional de Católicos hispanos es un llamado de renovación espiritual para dar testimonio de ser verdaderos misioneros de Cristo.

Para más información pueden comunicarse en español al Ministerio Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City por el siguiente teléfono: 405-728-3761.

En un mensaje enviado para la plenaria de los Obispos europeos
Benedicto XVI: la Iglesia no puede ser marginada de la vida social

PARÍS, (ZENIT.org) — “La justa distinción entre Estado e Iglesia no debe estar presente a esta última de la vida social y cultural”.

Así lo pide el Papa Benedicto XVI en un mensaje enviado al cardenal Péter Erdö, presidente del Consejo de las Conferencias Episcopales de Europa (CCEE).

El Consejo celebró su Asamblea Plenaria en París del 1 al 4 de octubre, con el tema “Iglesia y Estado, veinte años después de la caída del Muro de Berlín”.

Las reuniones se celebraron en la Maison de la Conférence des évêques de France a invitación de su presidente, el cardenal André Vingt-Trois, arzobispo de París.

En el mensaje, que firma el cardenal Tarcisio Bertone, secretario de Estado, el Papa recuerda que “la Iglesia es fiel a su misión de verdad a favor de una sociedad a la medida del hombre, de su dignidad y de su vocación”, y que esta fidelidad “es garantía de un desarrollo humano integral, remedio a los múltiples desequilibrios que sufre hoy nuestro mundo”.

Por tanto la propia Iglesia, prosigue el texto, “desea que la vivencia de los hombres y de los pueblos esté inspirada y animada por la caridad. Así esta contribuirá a la edificación de esa ciudad de Dios hacia la que camina la familia humana”.

En su intervención, el pasado 1 de octubre, el cardenal Péter Erdö, arzobispo de Esztergom-Budapest, afirmó que “a veinte años de distancia de la caída del Muro de Berlín, que es el símbolo del final, en muchos de nuestros países, de regímenes atesos y comunistas, estamos viviendo ahora otras dificultades y retos”.

“La Unión Europea, a la que pertenecen muchos de nuestros países, está a punto de emprender nuevas iniciativas partiendo del Tratado de Lisboa -añadió -. La Iglesia apoya todo aquello que puede llevar a reforzar la paz y las relaciones de solidaridad entre los países, pero estará siempre vigilante para que se garanticen el bien común, el respeto por la vida y la libertad religiosa”.

Hoy prosiguió, "Europa necesita más sacerdotes", así como "la Iglesia en Europa tiene mucha necesidad de laicos, de familias, de personas que, en sus puestos de trabajo y en sus casas, en la política, en la cultura, en las instituciones sociales, en las escuelas y en las universidades puedan ser verdaderamente el rostro de Cristo".

El 2 de octubre, el profesor Giorgio Feliciani, del Centro de estudios sobre los Entes Eclesiásticos de la Universidad Católica de Milán, presentó un informe sobre los resultados de la investigación europea sobre Iglesia y Estado, promovida por el Consejo, ante las Conferencias Episcopales de Europa.

Sobre el estatus jurídico de la Iglesia Católica en los distintos países europeos, en la investigación se lee que "casi por unanimidad, las respuestas recibidas señalan la existencia de formas de relación entre la Conferencia Episcopal y la autoridad del Estado", a pesar de que “las modalidades resultan obviamente muy diversificadas”.

"En otros Estados, en cambio, no obtienen atención alguna son ridiculizados en los medios de comunicación, como lamentan los obispos suizos".
Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — En el año de 1965 el Papa Pablo VI promulgó la Constitución Pastoral Gaudium et Spes, un documento pastoral que permite entender mucho más la situación de la persona humana en el mundo de hoy.

La Iglesia Católica con esta maravillosa Constitución Pastoral, permite que interpretemos a la luz del Evangelio las discrepancias raciales y sociales de todo género, también las disconformidades entre los ricos, los menos ricos y los pobres.

Las actividades culturales que se celebran en las diferentes parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, tratan de alejarnos de la problemática de los egoísmos colectivos existentes en los actuales momentos.

El Festival de las Américas de la parroquia de San Eugenio, es un ejemplo de los preceptos que se encuentran en la Constitución Pastoral Gaudium et Spes, especialmente cuando elogiamos y reconocemos el valor de la cultura de nuestros pueblos y percibimos los beneficios que cada cultura da a la convivencia pacífica y al disfrute generoso de nuestra fe.

Vale entonces mencionar que la actividad del Festival de las Américas, celebrada de San Eugenio nos permite fortalecer nuestra fraternidad afirmando que: "La actividad humana, así como procede del hombre, así también se ordena al hombre. Pues éste con su acción no sólo transforma las cosas y la sociedad, sino que se perfecciona a sí mismo. Aprende mucho, cultiva sus facultades, se supera y se transcende. Tal superación, rectamente entendida, es más importante que las riquezas exteriores que puedan acumularse. El hombre vale más por lo que es que por lo que tiene. Asimismo, cuan- to llevan a cabo los hombres para lograr más justicia, mayor fraternidad y un más humano planteamiento en los problemas sociales, vale más que los progresos técnicos. Pues dichos progresos pueden ofrecer, como si dijéramos, el material para la promoción humana, pero por sí solos no pueden llevarla a cabo" (Gaudium et Spes, 35).
Jobs Box

Part-Time Teachers

Catholic Schools in the Oklahoma City area are in need of part-time teachers who are certified in the state of Oklahoma and are interested in working with Title I students. Title I is a federal program designed to assist students who reside in economically disadvantaged areas and are in need of tutoring in reading and/or math. Most positions require a commitment of two to three hours a day, two to three times a week. Through the Oklahoma City Public School District we are able to pay $17.50 an hour. If you are interested in working with children in need of reading or math assistance, contact Associate Superintendent Cris Carter at 721-4202 or e-mail ccarte@cdhiosokec.org.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a long-term substitute for a maternity leave. The position is for second grade, certification required. The approximate date to begin is December through the middle of February. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., OKC 73109.

Title I Reading Teacher

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a Title I reading teacher for grades K-8. Oklahoma teaching certification is required. Call the school office at (405) 634-5673 for an application or send a resume to Joana Camacho, SHCS, 2700 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City 73109.

Director of Religious Education

Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced Director of Religious Education. The director is responsible for overseeing the K-12 religious education for students not attending Catholic school, coordinating the RCIA program, Confirmation, First Communion and First Confession. The director will also be responsible for developing and coordinating a strong adult education program for the parish. The applicant should be well-versed in Catholic doctrine, work well with a variety of people and have strong initiative. Candidates should possess a degree in religion or theology, preferably a master’s degree.

Resumes should be sent to Father Rick Stansberry, Christ the King Catholic Church, P.O. Box 20508, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73156, or e-mailed to kelly@ckokc.org.

Part-Time Organist

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church is in need of an organist to play for our 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass. Must meet with cantor at 4:30 for brief rehearsal. The candidate must be a proficient sightreader and possess a level of playing skill to confidently lead an attendance of 300 in the singing of hymns, psalm, and other liturgical music. Knowledge of the Catholic liturgy is preferable but not required. Please submit a resume and be prepared to play a work of your choice to demonstrate your skill. Contact Bernard Jones at 737-4476 Ext. 123 or bernard_jones@me.com to arrange an interview/audition. — SPN has a Rogers Trillium 958 three manual organ.

Part-Time Organist

Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Kingfisher, is looking for a part-time organist to help with weekend Masses and/or occasional special events. Stipend is available. Call the pastor, Father Stephen Hamilton, for more information at (405) 375-4581.

Health Legislation

Continued from Page 10 side of the question of whether such an order would be beneficial.

“...may include the formulation of an order regarding life-sustaining treatment ... [which is] an actionable ... order relating to the treatment of that individual that (i) is signed and dated by a physician ... or another health care professional (as specified by the Secretary) ... in a form that permits it to stay with the individual and be followed by health care professionals ... across the continuum of care; (ii) ... communicates the individual’s preferences regarding life-sustaining treatment, including an indication of the treatment and care desired by the individual; (iii) is ... standardized within a given locality ... (as identified by the Secretary); and (iv) may incorporate any advance directive ... if executed by the individual.”

“The level of treatment indicated by the order “may range from ... full treatment to an indication to limit some or all or specified interventions. Such ... levels of treatment may include indications respecting, among other items — (i) the intensity of medical intervention if the patient is pulseless, apneic, or has serious cardiac or pulmonary problems; (ii) the individual’s desire regarding transfer to a hospital or remaining at the current care setting; (iii) the use of antibiotics; and (iv) the use of artificially administered nutrition and hydration.”

This “actionable” order becomes part of the individual’s permanent record, available to the government and health care professionals who are required to follow it. Opponents of end-of-life consultations were derided by President Obama and the media for raising the prospect of “death panels.” But note that the order does not have to be signed by the practitioner who conducts the consultation. Regulations, consistent with Section 1233, could provide that the order would be signed by a “health care professional” other than that practitioner who formulated it. There is no mandate that the professional who signs the order ever saw the individual involved. Could the signer be a member of a panel reviewing such orders without ever seeing the patient? Apparently so.

“The order “communicates the individual’s preferences ... including ... the treatment ... desired by the individual.” But it does not specify that the order must comply with those preferences. If the individual had executed an advance directive, the order “may incorporate” it but does not have to include it or even refer to it.

Section 1233 does not state whether the individual’s personal physician, lawyer or family members may be present at the “advance care planning consultation.” Nor does it specify that the order will be subject to judicial review.

An “advance care planning consultation” may be held “if the individual ... has not had such a consultation within the last five years.” A consultation “may be conducted more frequently ... if there is a significant change in the health condition of the individual, including diagnosis of a chronic, progressive, life-limiting disease, a life-threatening or terminal diagnosis or life-threatening injury; or upon admission to a skilled nursing facility, a long-term care facility ... or a hospice program.” The bill imposes no limit on the number or frequency of such consultations, raising the prospect of repeated pressuring of patients to forego treatment.

“Obamacare” seeks to increase those who are covered and to reduce costs. The only way to achieve both objectives is to ration the health care provided to the elderly and disabled. Half of a person’s medical expenses generally occur in the last six months of life. The rationing, at first, will be technically voluntary. Grandma will be told that she is not eligible for that hip replacement. She will be given the option of taking pain pills. But she will be encouraged to relieve the burden on her family through legal means of achieving “death with dignity.” Section 1233 is evil in its effect and potential.

Professor Emeritus Rice is on the Notre Dame Law School faculty.
Saint Greg’s University Earns Recommendation

MANASSAS, Va. — The Cardinal Newman Society announced that St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee is one of the recommended colleges and universities in a new edition of The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College, a free online resource, thenewmanguide.com, for parents and students seeking a faithful Catholic education.

This comprehensive guide recommends 21 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States plus eight international, online and unique programs based on the strength of their Catholic identity. In addition, the guide includes several essays to help families better understand the search for a strong Catholic college.

“I predict that in the coming years, St. Gregory’s University will gain a national reputation as both seriously Catholic and academically rigorous,” said Patrick J. Reilly, president of The Cardinal Newman Society. “We are happy to include it in The Newman Guide.”

The culmination of four years of research and hundreds of interviews, this edition of The Newman Guide builds substantially on the successful first edition which was published on All Saints Day in 2007. All told, more than 8,000 copies of that edition were distributed to Catholic leaders and families.

“When we published the original Newman Guide in 2007, we did not know what to expect, but we found that families were eagerly searching for help in identifying Catholic colleges that truly embrace their Catholic mission in all facets of campus life,” said Reilly, one of the editors of the second edition of the guide.

“The mission of The Cardinal Newman Society is to help renew Catholic higher education, and we can think of no better way to do that than by offering this edition of The Newman Guide as a book but also as a free online resource. We are doing this so that as many Catholic families as possible are able to learn about the quality academics and faithful campus life available at the recommended colleges,” said Reilly.

Every college or program recommended in the guide includes a complete profile that examines academics, governance, spiritual life, student activities and residence life. New additions to this edition’s profiles are a letter to families from each college president as well as information on financial aid packages. The online version of the college profiles include additional campus pictures and videos, open house and other event details, as well as a form to request admissions or financial aid information directly from the college.

Executive Director Sought

The Catholic Foundation is taking applications for its Executive Director position. Successful candidate shall serve as the Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation and is responsible for the administration, operation and management of the affairs of the Foundation. Position involves planning and implementation of development strategies, including donor solicitation and the management of capital campaigns, planned giving and endowment programs, knowledgeable communication skills with financial managers, direct mail, public relations and special events. It also involves the oversight of the scholarship and grant allocations on an annual basis, preparing an annual operating budget and preparation of appropriate monthly and annual reports. Requirements are a bachelor’s degree in a related field or equivalent combination of education and experience inclusive of development and charitable funding.

Send cover letter, resume and salary history to David Johnson, Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123-0380. (405) 721-7115.
Rosary Earns Blue Ribbon Status

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rosary Catholic School has been named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. This is the first time a Catholic school in Oklahoma City has received this award. All Saints School in Norman received the award previously.

Rosary joins 314 schools nationwide in earning the Blue Ribbon distinction. The announcement was made recently by Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education.

Rosary School Principal Karen Lynn, along with the faculty, have worked hard to build Rosary as an outstanding academic school that works with each child to build individual academic, social, physical and personal goals. Rosary Catholic School students repeatedly scored in the top 10 percent of our nation on nationally normed tests.

The schools recognized have high academic goals and great school leadership and teaching practices.

The Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Sister Catherine Powers, C.N.D. of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, along with Father Charles Murphy, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, have supported the principal and Rosary School in all of their endeavors. Rosary Catholic School, located in the historic Gatewood Neighborhood of Oklahoma City, is located at 1910 NW 19th St.

Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Using standards of excellence evidenced by student achievement measures and the characteristics known from research to exemplify school quality, the department celebrates schools, including those that beat the odds.

For many schools, attaining the Blue Ribbon School award and recognition is a realization of a long-held dream. The schools are honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where each Blue Ribbon School receives a plaque and flag to signify its Blue Ribbon School status. These schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation and details of their achievements are shared on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site.

This program dates back to 1982, when then Secretary of Education Terrel Bell commissioned a study of American education. The report, called A Nation at Risk, described a “rising tide” of mediocre schools that threatened the nation's future. In part, it galvanized the extraordinary energy that has been devoted to educational research over the last quarter century.

Secretary Bell created the Blue Ribbon Schools Award to bring the best U.S. schools to public attention and to recognize those schools whose students thrived and excelled. Working with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Bell launched the Blue Ribbon Schools and the National Distinguished Principals programs. Both highlighted outstanding models of American schools and school leadership.

Knights Again Provide Special Day at State Fair for Students

By Rex Hogan

OKLAHOMA CITY — Recently, at the Oklahoma State Fair, a group of special education students from Northwest Classen High School was standing outside a gate waiting to get inside.

A bus from Taft Middle School pulled up to the gate. A group of special education students from that school started getting off the bus.

“Hey, Jerry,” one of the Taft students said to a Classen student. “How do you like high school?”

“I like it,” the young man replied. “It’s fun.” That exchange between the two students wouldn’t have been possible without the Knights of Columbus, Council 1038. For 63 straight years, the Knights have sponsored a day at the fair for area special education students.

The students this year were from Northwest Classen, Classen Accent, Putnam City, Norman High School and Taft Middle School.

Council 1038 treated 70 students from the five schools to free admission to the fair and a hot dog lunch, said Ernie Chastain, Council 1038 member, who has been participating in the event for 12 years.

Karen Tucker, a Northwest Classen special education teacher, said students look forward to the day. “Ordinarily, these students wouldn’t get the chance to come out to the fair,” she said.

Susie Dennis, a Taft special education teacher, said her students know when it’s time for Council 1038 to treat them with a day at the fair.

“Many of our students live around here, so they know when the fair starts. It really is a special opportunity for them because many of their families can’t afford to take their children to the fair. The kids couldn’t come here if it weren’t for the Knights and we appreciate them,” she said.

Chastain said no one knows exactly how the Day-at-the-Fair began, but it probably started some years ago when Knights of Columbus sponsored a picnic for children at the St. Joseph Orphanage in Bethany.

“Then it evolved into taking them to the fair,” he said.