Oklahoma City priest thankful for kidney, friendship and prayers

By Diane Clay

The Sooner Catholic

Just before sunset on a warm night in August, Father Thanh Nguyen quietly opened the window of his second floor office at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in northwest Oklahoma City, and leaned to listen.

In the garden below, more than 300 parishioners had gathered near the Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang to say a Rosary for his upcoming surgery. “They didn’t see me, but I could hear them clearly. When I looked out the window and saw that so many people came, I praised God for their love and their prayers,” Father Thanh said. “It made me very calm. I knew everything would be in his hands.”

Father Thanh had suffered through dialysis for years after being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, and three years ago was placed on a list for kidney donation. Multiple parishioners and friends offered to be tested in an attempt to find a match, but nothing worked. One potential donor was a match, but through testing discovered he had diabetes himself as well as a brain tumor. He died a year later.

“I know some people can live on dialysis for years, so I just said I’ll do whatever I have to do.”

Church must encourage, ‘walk with’ families, synod members say

VATICAN CITY – Just like a family, the Catholic Church should challenge members to grow and behave better, but also like a family, it should not exclude those who still have some growing to do, said Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio.

Bishop Murry and other members of the Synod of Bishops on the family spoke about finding a way to affirm Gospel principles and church teaching while accompanying all Catholics on the path to perfection and holiness.

Irish Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin spoke later about the Irish referendum in favor of same-sex marriage, about faith and about finding language to share church teaching with a new generation of Catholics.

The Youngstown bishop told the assembly that while there are many “effective, traditional families” among Catholics in the United States, there are also single-parent families, divorced couples, blended families, families separated by migration and many others.

“Many of these adults and children feel left out of pastoral care,” Bishop Murry said.

“One universal and distinguishing feature of all families is that family members, regardless of how errant they become, are not rejected from the family,” the bishop said. “For them, the light is always on; the door is always open. Good families use ‘tough love’ among themselves to challenge complications from the surgery. Both men recuperated. Neither

ed. After several failed attempts, Father Thanh gave in and contacted his old friend from Saint Joseph Seminary College.

“I saw the progression. You could see he was deteriorating,” Father John said. “So, when I heard he was on dialysis, I told him I’m getting tested.”

A doctor called a few weeks later and asked him to come to Oklahoma City for further tests. It was the same week Father John had planned to go on his first pilgrimage ever — to Spain. “I did complete my pilgrimage, but to Oklahoma City. I came here for three days and got tested,” he said. “They just kept asking ‘Are you sure you want to do this?’ I just knew it was something I could do. That’s who I am, that’s the way God wired me.”

So, on Aug. 17, Father John and Father Thanh wheeled into surgery. After more than eight hours total, they both emerged with a successful organ transplant. Father John stayed at the Cathedral for nearly a month as both men recuperated. Neither have experienced infections or complications from the surgery.

“My greatest hope is that people who read the story would at least consider the possibility of helping others, to consider organ donation,” Father John said. “It’s not as scary as people think it is.”

Father John eventually returned to Louisiana. On Oct. 7, Father Thanh celebrated his first Mass since receiving his new kidney. It was followed by a celebration of “gratitude and thanksgiving” on Oct. 11 with the choir singing and children processing, and placing a Rosary made of roses under the statue of the Blessed Virgin.

“What Father John did for me; it is so wonderful,” Father Thanh said. “I’m still a little weak, but otherwise good. I just trusted the will of God, so I didn’t get frustrated. The Lord has blessed me.”

Help save a life

To learn more about organ donation in Oklahoma or to register:

Online: www.lifeshareoklahoma.org; www.LifeShareRegistry.org
Call: (800) 826-5433
ID: Mark ‘yes’ for organ donation on driver’s license or state identification
Expert: Healing possible for victims, perpetrators of domestic violence

By Laura Jeremi Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA — Help and healing is possible for Catholic families suffering the trauma of violence in the home, said psychologist Christina Welland.

A presenter at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Welland said no firm statistics exist on domestic violence in Catholic families. However, about 30 percent of women worldwide have had sexual victimization at least once in their life, she said.

A professor and author, Welland began her work in the field of domestic violence 45 years ago before it became so evident as a social issue in the 1980s. She has worked extensively in Catholic communities, first with victims of domestic abuse for 25 years and then, for the past two decades, with abusers.

“When you work with the abuser, you actually have an opportunity to help that person to change and as a result for the family to become a much happier place and a safer place, if you’re working with your couples, who really want to live the sacrament in their daily lives with their family,” she said.

Working with hundreds of abusers, Welland said she has found 80 percent of abusers will come forward for help. “Some are able to make the change,” she said.

“When I call for help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence” was issued by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 1987. “Women Healing the Wounds” was published in 2002.

“Women Healing the Wounds” can be downloaded for free at www.usccb.org Dallas Women’s March and Women Healing the Wounds.

The issue of domestic violence in complex, she said, but insecure attachments to one or both parents growing up are common charac-
teristic of some abusers.

“They have this enormous fear of being shut down, this enormous fear of not being loved, which leads them to commit all kinds of des- perate acts,” she said.

However, there are times when the only option is separation and annulment, she said, “because of the severity and physical violence and the lack of motivation on the part of the abuser to change.”

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued “When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women.” It was re-issued in 2002. The Synod of the Bishops on the Family, which began in Rome Oct. 4, will discuss domestic violence, followed by a special session from the extraordinary synod, held last fall.


Archbishop Paul S. Coakley’s Calendar

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

Oct. 16-19 – Annual meeting, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Austin, Texas
Oct. 20 – Department head meeting, 10 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Oct. 30 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 30 – Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Oct. 31 – Presbyteral Council meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
Nov. 1 – Men’s spirituality evening, 5 p.m., Christ the King, Tulsa
Nov. 2 – School and diocesan meeting, 8:15 a.m., CPC
Nov. 2 – Catholic Charities Board meeting, 1:30 p.m., Catholic Charities Office, OKC
Nov. 4 – Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., Lakeview Elementary
Oct. 30 – Vespers and dinner with religious to celebrate Year of Consecrated Life, CPC
Oct. 26 – Full Diocesan Day
Oct. 27 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Oct. 27 – Vocations Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Oct. 28 – School Mass and classroom visits, 8:20 a.m., St. Mary School, Ponca City
Oct. 29 – School Mass and classroom visits, 9 a.m., St. Philip Neri School, Midwest City
Oct. 31 – Red Mass, 5 p.m., Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Nov. 1 – Mass and dinner with UCO students, 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Edmond

Find more news on the website

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on www.sooner catholic.org

Put Out Into the Deep

“Put Out Into the Deep” Luke 5:4

Closer to home, the cause for the beatifica-
tion and canonization of Kokiare native son Father Stanley Boulter continues to advance in Rome. Like the Good Shepherd whom he served, Father Rotger gave his life for the flock entrusted to his care.

When violent turmoil threatened his parish on the shores of beautiful Lake Atitlan in Guatemala and death came knocking at the door, he refused to flee and secure his own safety. He remained steadfast, because a shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger. He refused to abandon his sheep, even at the cost of his own life.

Saint Junipero Serra was one of those saints. Both of these were ordinary men, but the grace of God and their fidelity to that grace transformed them into heroic witnesses for Christ. The saints are our heroes and role models in the great adventure of Christian discipleship. They walk the path of suffering and service, without pain, to save those for whom they care.

The saints are ordinary people, too, but in their own way, they have the grace transformed them into heroic witnesses for Christ. They walk the path of suffering and service, without pain, to save those for whom they care.

The call to holiness is an invitation to become who we are called to be. It is a choice to leave behind the old and to pursue new lives of virtue that reflect those virtues that the saints of the past have lived. In their lives, we can find this is their hope. This is their desire. This is their calling.

I remind them this is their hope. This is their desire. This is their calling.

The archdiocese encourages you to visit 

Catholic shrines of Wisconsin

“Women Healing the Wounds” can be downloaded for free at www.usccb.org

A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence

Public Notice and Events/Domestic Violence Resources in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Archbishop’s Office: 2201 N Walker Center, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

archbishop@archdioceseok.org

Welcome Home

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Contact Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

www.archdioceseok.org

In the footsteps of Junipero Serra

Explore and worship with Fr. Jim Goins, St. Thomas More, Norman, May 26-June 16, 2016, along the California Mission Trail. Unit 21 can be joined at the California Franciscan Missions, including the Mission of San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo with the tombs of St. Junipero Serra and three of his companions in Monterey, Carmel, San Francisco. 8,258 sq. miles includes the famous Mission of San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo and the Mission of Santa Cruz. $450 pp deposit due March 1. Contact Melani Roewe at (405) 293-2003.

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Paying tribute to victims of domestic violence.

In the Catholic Church, we cel-

Citing statistics from the U.S.

Expert: Healing possible for victims, perpetrators of domestic violence

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**The demand for Baptism, and the demands of Baptism**

Once upon a time in a land far away, there was a Catholic parish. A young couple who lived in the neighborhood presented themselves at the parish office to request baptism for their child. The parish secretary made an appointment for them, met with the priest, discussed dates, godparents and seating arrangements. The date was set and the baptism happened. No hassle. A few miles away, another young couple presented themselves at the parish. The priest in this parish had been pondering statistics in the average American church and was concerned. He knew if the situation prevailed, seven of the 10 children he would baptize that weekend would no longer be practicing when they were adults. In fact, he also knew that many of the parents presenting their children for baptism would not be seen again until it was time for first communion. However, the parish only makes baptismal preparation arrangements with families; it does not provide the image of the parents more than just baptism. The priest for Jesus Christ, and a consistent attendance at the Sacred Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. That is why the Church’s mandate was not only to baptize, but to make disciples. So, he decided to start using the language of Jesus and his disciples.

**The Catholic Difference**

Beneath these visible questions lie more basic issues that challenge the Church’s self-understanding. No issue is more critical; it ignites the charge that the Church’s classic understanding of the confession of faith is no longer valid. No issue is more complex; it tests the Church’s ability to reject that grace by certain grave sins, and how we are restored to friendship with God.

1. Can Catholics be both sinner and saved?
2. How does the Church help its people climb the ladder of love?

Many pastoral proposals floating around the Synod called Catholics to Holy Communion eviscerate the Church’s teaching on morality, but Catholics lack mercy, then we open the doors to a false understanding of Jesus is presented in a way which appears to show “that when the demanding teaching of Jesus was so, that the Church must be careful that knowledge of Jesus is not reduced to a political agenda.”

4. Should the Church recognize that a “divorce” is somehow decisive for the Church’s self-understanding rather than for the moral Church’s pastoral ministry encourages people to get up after a failure and to keep walking around the Synod begin with the assertion that the Church “must walk with families. Not only to baptize, but to make disciples. The priest for Jesus Christ, and a consistent attendance at the Sacred Liturgy on Sundays and Holy Days. That is why the Church’s mandate was not only to baptize, but to make disciples. So, he decided to start using the language of Jesus and his disciples.

Church must walk with families – continued from page 1

The Synod of Bishops in Rome is a normal level of teaching that represents the Church’s fullness of teaching about marriage and family life in a way that teaches the reality of people’s experience. For example, he said, few couples would speak of the “indissolubility” of their bond, but “they live fidelity and closeness and care in ways we understand as observant of the law – and pastoral mercy. These are not two aspects in opposition, but two of a single importance.

The Catholic Church, he said, is similar to a Catholic insistence on a relationship between Western nations – understood as observant of the law – and pastoral mercy. These are not two aspects in opposition, but two of a single importance.

The Synod, Archbishop Mar- tin said, is to help the church find language that presents the fullness of its teaching about marriage and family life in a way that teaches the reality of people’s experience. For example, he said, few couples would speak of the “indissolubility” of their bond, but “they live fidelity and closeness and care in ways we understand as observant of the law – and pastoral mercy. These are not two aspects in opposition, but two of a single importance.

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**The mystery of male-female complementarity**

James Parker came out at age 17 and later entered into a relationship with another boy. He worked as a gay activist for a while, but his personal experiences of intimacy and human sexuality eventually led him to grasp that “same-sex relationships” don’t exist; even if you want to say that it does.” He concluded that there are those whose heterosexual inclinations are more like heterosexual couples is basically “to befriend” them: “Deep down, there is no mystery between two men, ultimately.”

This striking insight helps bring into the radical and re- markable mystery we encounter in the joining of husband and wife “femininity and masculinity” manifest in the abiding mystery of the Church in the context of marriage. That abiding mystery in the joining of husband and wife into focus the authentic and re- vealed sense of their major value. This de- picted vision of our sexuality strips the beauty of the mystery at its core and diminishes our human dignity.

Human sexuality clearly touches deep, human chords, including our sense of our mutual life. In the depths of our human heart is found the desire for communion, so closely as to become ‘one flesh’ so as to become a new entity every time and in a spir- itual sense, in the presence of marriage.

Yet the union of two men, ultimately, is rooted not only in faithful spousal gift of oneself to another, but also in the inner order and interpersonal communion that we human sexuality clearly touches deep, human chords, including our sense of our mutual life. In the depths of our human heart is found the desire for communion, so closely as to become ‘one flesh’ so as to become a new entity every time and in a spir- itual sense, in the presence of marriage.

**Father Tad Puchalski**
National Catholic Bioethics Center

A couple attend a prayer vigil for the Synod of Bishops on the family in St. Peter’s Square on Oct. 7. CNS/Paul Haring.

**Father Tad Puchalski**
National Catholic Bioethics Center

Meet the Monks

This is the first in a series to feature the monastic orders of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

St. Rev. Lawrence Staykal, OSB

What order do you belong to? I belong to Saint Gregory’s Abbey — Order of Saint Benedict.

When and at what age did you enter the community? I entered this order at age 20 and professed first vows at age 21.

When did you profess your final (permanent) vows? My profession of final vows was on July 11, 1988.

When and how did you first discern a call to religious life? My parents were very devoted in our Catholic faith and emphasized its priority all of their five sons. The thought of priesthood always was in the back of my mind, but I never talked about it with anyone. I was probably 12 when our associate pastor, Fr. Bernard O’Boyle, O.S.B., took the Mass servers to Saint Gregory’s Abbey. I was impressed and had a monk with the monks. It made a huge impression on me.

What is your vocation? My primary ministry is to serve the monastery as an abbot. I lead the monks as individuals and as a community in our discernment of gifts and desires, best to seek God and to serve others. Along with this, I serve as the chancellor of SODI and assist parish priests as a substitute when the pastor needs to be absent.

What do you want people to know about monastic life? Monastic life in many ways is more demanding than family life but it is to the life of a diocesan priest. Monks form a multi-generational community of mutual support and encouragement in our desire to become more and more like Christ. Each brother serves as a school for the other monks in wisdom. Our monastery is different. Our community has always been an active role in the life of the local Church.

What is the most satisfying part of your vocation? It is very satisfying to know that I am part of something greater than myself.

What is your advice to young men who are in the process of discerning their vocation? Do not be afraid of God’s calling for your life. It is the way for you to find the greatest sense of fulfillment and joy in this life. It is important to ask ques- tions and not to know everything in advance. Finally, take the time to pray. Ask the Lord to open your heart to His will.

**Sister Florence May**
ASC, died Tuesday, Sept. 29. She was 101 and spent 83 of her years as a professed Adorer of the Blood of Christ.

She was born on Jan. 13, 1914, to David and Mary (Stuhlsatz) May. She attended the State Teachers College in Oklahoma City. She also worked at Sacred Heart College in Norman and served as a school principal for more than half of them. She entered the Adorers in Oklahoma City. She served as a provincial in the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region, Mission Center, 4323 Salthouse Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63109, or made online at adorers.org.

**Sister Coleen Hafemsten**
ASC, died Tues., Sept. 22. She was 76, and an Adorer of the Blood of Christ for 37 years.

She grew up on family farms near Perry, Okla., and Marion, Kan., and, for a time, after her mother’s death, childhood. She was born on Jan. 13, 1914, to David and Mary (Stuhlsatz) May. She entered the Adorers at age 16, in 1930; pronounced her first vows on March 19, 1945, and professed final vows on Aug. 8, 1942, and professed final vows on May 8, 1945. She was superior/principal of Sacred Heart College in Oklahoma City. She was also served in Illinois, California and Arizona.

**BVM Sister celebrates diamond jubilee**

Sister Virginia McEflerry, BVM (Austriam), celebrated 75 years in religious life on Sept. 27. She was among 26 diamond jubilarians who gathered in the Mount Carmel Motherhouse Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 6 for a liturgy of thanksgiving.

Sister Virginia was born in Seneca, Kan. She studied at Moore State University and entered on Sept. 18, 1938.

**Vocations**

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Pilgrimage to bring relics of St. Maria Goretti to OKC

By Sooner Catholic Staff

During the Pilgrimage of Mercy in anticipa-
tion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the body of Saint Maria Goretti will be in Oklahoma City on Nov. 9 at Christ the King.

The relics of the youngest canonized saint will be at Christ the King for a full day of public veneration.

The pilgrimage was organized by Father Carlos Martín, who brought the “Pilgrimages of the Church” relics presentation to Oklahomans in 2014.

Catholics venerate relics – the bodies, clothing or possessions – of saints because the men and women are close to God, and have the ability to intercede for the faithful. Saint Maria Goretti is petitioned as the patroness of mercy, because of the forgiveness she showed her murderer.

Maria Goretti was born into a poor Italian family. Her father died when she was age 9, and Maria began to care for her five siblings while her mother did farm work.

At age 11, her 20-year-old neighbor, Alessandro Serenelli, began to make inappropriate advances toward her. Finally, he attempted to rape her, and brutally stabbed her numerous times. Maria died the next day, July 6, 1922. Her last words were, “I forgive Alessandro Serenelli … and I want him with me in heaven forever.”

While Alessandro was in prison, he said Maria appeared to him and forgave him. Filled with contrition, Alessandro began to live a life of holiness, eventually becoming a Franciscan lay brother.

Maria’s relics were venerated in Tulsa on Nov. 10 and 11.

The relics of Saint Maria Goretti, patroness of purity, will be venerated in Oklahoma City on Nov. 9 at Christ the King Church.

Pilgrims can receive indulgence

The conditions for receiving the indulgence are:

1. Make a sacramental Confession
2. Receive the Holy Eucharist
3. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis
4. Have the interior disposition of being detached from sin, even venial sin

For more information, go online to:
www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/general_conditions.htm

At left, the official document granting the indulgence to those who venerate Saint Maria Goretti.
Head of CRS examines today’s competitive environment and the role of teachers

By Diane Clay

Dr. Carolyn Woo, president and chief execu-
tive of Catholic Relief Services, visited Oklaho-
amo recently to discuss the competitive culture
in which we live, how it affects children, and
the role and expertise of educators guiding
young people with faith.

Over a two-day session, Dr. Woo spoke to
Catholic educators and catechists throughout
the archdiocese, praising them as dedicated
service providers.

While she acknowledged that competition
can be a good way to help children discover
where their talents lie, it often is interpreted as a
deterrent or personal discouragement.

“If you win a medal, it doesn’t add anything
to who you are. If you don’t win a medal, it
doesn’t take away from who you are,” she said.

“Sometimes it makes us competitors when we
don’t need to be competing.”

She said children face isolation, pressure
through social media, abuse, drugs and lack
of community. Educators, along with the first
role models of parents, need to help students
navigate the current culture and understand
the love and grace of God.

“It’s always there for the asking, you just
have to stop and recalculate our own thinking,”
Woo said. “God is there to help us.”

For more tips and information, go online to
www.parentsrespostsupport.org (featured at
the World Meeting of Families) or www.catho-
liceducation.org/en/marriage-and-family. For
information about Catholic Relief Services and
their work around the world, go online to www.
crs.org.

Edward's Libby Medina named 2015 Religious Educator of the Year

Over the past 11 years, the Catholic Foun-
dation of Oklahoma has recognized outstanding
educators in the archdiocese. At the Catho-
licological Congress held this month at the Catho-
lic Pastoral Center, the foundation awarded the
2015 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic
Religious Educator of the Year Award to Libby
Medina, a fourth-grade teacher at St. Joseph Holy
School in Midwest City.

Medina has served the parish and commu-
nity for 30 years as a catechist, moderator of
the Formation Pillar Board for the parish, an
RCIA facilitator and sponsor, an Eucharistic minis-
ter, a lector and many other parish activities.

Finalist for the 2015 Religious Educator of
the Year Award was Miles Campbell, volunteer
director of religious education, catechist and
RCIA team leader at St. Joseph in Tonawanda,
and Kyra Childers, fifth and sixth grade cat-
echist at St. Joseph in Ada.

The award winner receives a $500 award and
her school receives a $5,000 grant from
the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her
honor at her school. The finalists also receive a
$100 award.

“They are all excellent examples of what
Catholic teachers should be, living examples of
teachers as Jesus taught,” Catholic Foundation
President Jerry Kelley said. “They are dedicated
role models for their students and we congratu-
late them as they receive this honor.”

Midwest City’s Monica Schmidkofner named 2015 Catholic School Educator of the Year

At the annual Teacher’s Fall Institute held at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, the Catholic Foundation awarded the 2015 Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award to Monica Schmidkofner.

Schmidkofner is an eighth-grade middle
school teacher at Saint Philip Neri Catholic
School in Midwest City. She has spent 21 years
at Saint Philip Neri where she has taught
religion, science, literature and pre-algebra.

She recently to discuss the competitive cul-
ture and the role of teachers

Fifteen years of service: Ann McGarry, St. Mary; Mary Morris, St. Eugene; Jenifer Gilbert, St. Lawrence; Wanda Loop, Grace Cathedral; Mary P. Scovel, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Ann Marie Schmidkofner, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley Catholic School Educator of the Year Award were Helen Caughlin, volunteer
.community for 30 years as a catechist, member of the
preparation catechist at Saint John the Baptist
School in Oklahoma City.

The Catholic Foundation and the archdiocese, praising them as dedicated

serves as the school’s science fair sponsor. Finalists for the 2015 Catholic School
Educator of the Year Award are Robin Badler, the Pre-K Teacher at Saint Mary Catholic
School in Guthrie, and Brian Bosak, theology
teacher and campus minister at Mount St.
Mary Catholic High School in Oklahoma City.
The award winner receives a $500 award and
her school receives a $5,000 grant from
the Catholic Foundation and a reception in her
honor at her school. The finalists also receive a
$100 award.

“They are all excellent examples of what
Catholic teachers should be, living examples of
teachers as Jesus taught,” Catholic Foundation
President Jerry Kelley said. “They are dedicated
role models for their students and we congratu-
late them as they receive this honor.”

From left to right: Diane Floyd and Cris Carter, Associate Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools for the
archdiocese, Brian Bosak, Monica Schmidkofner, Robin Badler and Sharon Robinson. Photo Diane Clay.

Calendar

October

18 The Silver Rose will be dis-
played at the National Shrine
of the Infant Jesus of Prague for
seven days. It also is the
yearly statewide pilgrimage
to the Knights of Col-
rusa. The parish to provide
traditional Mass, before Benediction.
Contact Mike Moore, (405) 699-4528.

22 The last Bingo night for 2015
at St. James Church, 4201 S.
McKinley Ave, OKC. Food ser-
serves: David
Los Santos: “¿Quiénes son esa gente?”

Yo soy fan de las películas clásicas del cine. Hay una escena en Dos Hombres y Un Destino (“Babylon Caesar”) en la que los dos héroes forajidos (Paul Newman y Robert Redford) están navegando a través de montañas y desiertos por una bandera implacable de representantes de la ley. A pesar de que sus rutas son escondidas bajo códigos y camuflaje, son elegidos para luchar por cosas más grandes que sus propios intereses. Cuando se les pide que abandonen sus ovejas, incluso a costa de su propia vida, se niegan a hacerlo. Esa es la lección de los Santos.

Conciliación de la violencia doméstica y pone en frente un problema para muchas familias en Oklahoma. El resultado de violencia doméstica no solo se niega a los adultos familiares o en la familia, sino que se perpetúa de manera emocional y abusiva para los niños, que son testigos. Si sabemos de alguien, puede ser de mucho valor como una ayuda para luchar por cosas más grandes que sus propios intereses.

Misa celebrando los Aniversarios

El Arzobispo Coakley invita a las parejas casadas que están celebrando particularmente un aniversario especial (25, 30, 40, 50) el presente año 2015 para que asistan a una Misa celebrando los Aniversarios el domingo 8 de noviembre, a las 3 p.m. en el Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, de Oklahoma City. El Arzobispo Coakley estará presidiendo la celebración. El aniversario de matrimonio, un nudo en la garganta. Tenemos que oír el deseo de mi marido que tanto amaba determinar un nudo en la garganta. Tenemos que reconocer que nuestro amor devota y comprometida cuya fe cristiana novedosos y también asimiló valores y elementos de la cultura indígena, reflejando en nuestra vida diaria, con verdaderas convicciones. ¿Quiénes son esos hombres y mujeres a los que la Iglesia celebra en Todos Santos el 1 de noviembre tras nos preparamos para celebrar la Solemne Misa el domingo 8 de noviembre, a las 11 a.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Los platillos de Baja, con su marido laborador, habla de una comunidad de personas que el Papa Francisco y esta distinguida Asamblea por inspirarnos para ser un nudo en la garganta. Tenemos que reconocer que nuestro amor devota y comprometida cuya fe cristiana novedosos y también asimiló valores y elementos de la cultura indígena, reflejando en nuestra vida diaria, con verdaderas convicciones. ¿Quiénes son esos hombres y mujeres a los que la Iglesia celebra en Todos Santos el 1 de noviembre tras nos preparamos para celebrar la Solemne Misa el domingo 8 de noviembre, a las 11 a.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Los platillos de Baja, con su marido laborador, habla de una comunidad de personas que el Papa Francisco y esta distinguida Asamblea por inspirarnos para ser un nudo en la garganta. Tenemos que reconocer que nuestro amor devota y comprometida cuya fe cristiana novedosos y también asimiló valores y elementos de la cultura indígena, reflejando en nuestra vida diaria, con verdaderas convicciones. ¿Quiénes son esos hombres y mujeres a los que la Iglesia celebra en Todos Santos el 1 de noviembre tras nos preparamos para celebrar la Solemne Misa el domingo 8 de noviembre, a las 11 a.m. en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro. Los platillos de Baja, con su marido laborador, habla de una comunidad de personas que el Papa Francisco y esta distinguida Asamblea por inspirarnos para ser un nudo en la garganta. Tenemos que reconocer que nuestro amor devota y comprometida cuya fe cristiana novedosos y también asimiló valores y elementos de la cultura indígena, reflejando en nuestra vida diaria, con verdaderas convicciones.

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Un retrato de Santa María Goretti, por Giuseppe Brovelli Soffredini.

Los Santos: “¿Quiénes son esa gente?”

El aniversario de matrimonio en la Iglesia es una oportunidad para celebrar la sagrada unión del matrimonio. Es un tiempo para recordar y celebrar las promesas que hicimos el día de nuestro matrimonio. Es un tiempo para reflexionar sobre cómo hemos llevado a cabo nuestras promesas y cómo podemos seguir creciendo juntos en nuestra relación. Es un tiempo para recordar la bondad, la belleza y la verdad de Jesús, que es nuestro modelo de la vida que significa ser plenamente humano, creado a imagen y semejanza de Dios.


Conciliación de la violencia doméstica y pone en frente un problema para muchas familias en Oklahoma. El resultado de violencia doméstica no solo se niega a los adultos familiares o en la familia, sino que se perpetúa de manera emocional y abusiva para los niños, que son testigos. Si sabemos de alguien, puede ser de mucho valor como una ayuda para luchar por cosas más grandes que sus propios intereses.

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Synod Bishops blessed with wonderful practical theologians

By Pedro A. Moreno, OP, MRE
Director of Hispanic Ministry

By now, most Catholics probably are aware of a major gathering at the Vatican in Rome, something called a synod. These regular gatherings bring together a selection of key church leaders, under the guidance of the Pope, to speak on subjects of unique pastoral and theological importance for the Church in the world. The process can be described as making sausage, it might not look pretty, but the final product is usually some wonderful insights and practical pastoral advice on how to better serve the Body of Christ with greater love and compassion.

The subject of this synod is the family. The Pontifical Council on the Family makes a beautiful comment in regard to this synod: “The ‘Gospel on the Family’ is the good news about divine love, which is proclaimed to those who live the fundamental, human and personal, experience of the couple and of communion open to the gift of children that is the community of the family. The Church’s teaching on marriage is presented and offered a communicative and effective way, so that it reaches the hearts and transforms them according to the will of God manifested in Christ, Jesus.”

During the synod, many theologians make presentations on various issues. This past week, I found one of the expert presentations rather unique. The bishops heard from a married couple about their family. This family is a clear manifestation of expert practical theologians who share with the bishops at the synod a wisdom that is beyond theological degrees. This unique family from the Diocese of Mumbai, India, Penelope and Ishwarlal Bajaj, shared a witness of family life that brings us freedom of choosing our own religion and I accepted that both our children should be baptized. It was my husband’s desire Sunday school, but were not baptized. It was my husband’s desire that both our children should be allowed the freedom of choosing their own religion and I accepted it with a very large lump in my throat. We have to thank the many mentors who helped us in our family. The differences of religion were never a deterrent to us, for little magic words like compromise, humility and sorry helped us to lose our ego and live for the other.

Would we make the same choices today? Sure. No other way! Is there someone out here who knows – how a perfect marriage takes place? We are still learning and understanding our marriage every day. If not for my husband’s tolerance and love of Christianity and my love and understanding of where he comes from, we would never have been able to celebrate our life and inter-community differences. Thank you Your Holiness Pope Francis and this distinguished assembly for inspiring us to share our personal memoirs of our life with you.”

Now, let me share the witness from Mr. Ishwarlal Bajaj.

“I was born in a Hindu family with highly educated parents; my mother being a doctor of medicine and my father an engineer. My parents made the decision of sending me to a protestant school where from an early age I assimilated Christian values and elements of the faith, which was novel but also deep and inspiring. I met my wife Penelope, a devout Catholic, and whose father was a doctor of medicine too and an officer in the Indian Army.

We both decided to get married 38 years ago with not much opposition from our families. I realized there were differences in religion, and since my wife was keen in following the Catholic faith, I was happy to allow her - her religious freedom.

After a while, I began attending the Holy Eucharist and was full of admiration at its contents. I felt at ease with the homily and the celebration being in a language - English I was familiar with. I then began attending a theology course, entitled “WellSprings,” which my wife Penelope organized and conducted for the laity of the Archdiocese of Mumbai. Through my attendance of the program for seven years I assimilated the teachings of Jesus Christ and got into a deep understanding and love of Scripture. I questioned, pondered and finally decided to get baptized on our silver wedding anniversary, 13 years ago.

My Baptism elevated our marriage to a higher spiritual level with a much better understanding of our relationship with one another. This motivated and encouraged my son and daughter who themselves decided at the ages of 28 and 32 to embrace the Catholic faith, thus completing the fabric of a unified Catholic family.”

This is what we must never forget. Our theological discussions are not just cold hard truths that are fought over and argued about in a process to annihilate the opposed view and come out victorious for having preserved the integrity of doctrine and biblical truth. This is not the path. Behind every theological point there is a human struggling to live, as best they can in their own particular circumstances, the will of God, as best as they can understand it at that moment of their lives. We must never lose sight of the people behind our truths.

Maybe if our theological discussions would include some key words born out of Christian love, like the one’s mentioned by Mrs. Bajaj, little magic words like compromise, humility and remorse, then maybe the Synod on the Family could bring us closer together, in loving service to so many marriages and families that are suffering, and not become an excuse for creating more walls to separate those who are called to minister to them.

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Bajaj for your loving wisdom, beyond theological degrees.