Archbishop Coakley in a prayerful moment during his installation Feb. 11 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Edmond.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We gather together tonight with great joy and excitement. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has sent a shepherd to lead us safely on our pilgrim journey of faith. In a spirit of great joy, we thank Almighty God for His watchfulness and care for each of us. We are especially thankful for His great gift of our holy Catholic Church.

I am pleased to extend my very best personal greetings and a special word of welcome to you, Archbishop Paul Coakley. Moreover, on behalf of all who are present here tonight and on behalf of all the Catholic people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, I extend our most sincere and warmest welcome. The Lord is indeed good and extends His watchfulness and care for each of us. We are all excited about your appointment and installation here in Oklahoma City. This is a vibrant community, joyful and arrival here in Oklahoma City. We are all excited about your appointment and installation is through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Bishops are successors of the Apostles by divine institution. Therefore, they are authentic teachers of doctrine when they are in hierarchical communion with the head of the college of bishops, who is our Holy Father, the Pope. Pope Benedict XVI, as successor of the Apostle Peter, is the Supreme Pontiff of the Church. It is he who freely appoints, confirms or transfers bishops.

How very blessed we are today to have among us the representative of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in the person of His Excellency, Most Reverend Pietro Sambi, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

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Please join me in welcoming Archbishop Sambi!

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop Emeritus of Oklahoma City

Installation Mass
Saint John Church, Edmond
February 11, 2011

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EDMOND — Following warm and encouraging remarks by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, the Vatican’s ambassador put these words to Archbishop-elect Paul S. Coakley as he was flanked in front of the altar by Deacons Max J. Schwarz and Norman L. Mejstrik:

"Most Reverend Paul Coakley, you have heard the letter of His Holiness, Pope Benedict the Sixteenth.

"You are called by the Holy Spirit to serve almighty God and the people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in faith and in love as their Shepherd.

"Having already accepted the appointment of the Holy Father, are you willing to serve the people of this archdiocese in the tradition of the Apostolic faith of the Church?"

Archbishop Coakley responded:

"With faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and with love of God in my heart, I do accept the pastoral care of the people of God in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

"I resolve to serve faithfully the spiritual needs of this local Church."

And with that came very loud and sustained applause from the 1,200 seated inside Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church. And with that, on Feb. 11, 2011, came a new era for the Catholic faith of Oklahoma.

Archbishop Coakley takes over from The Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, who served as Archbishop of Oklahoma City for 18 years. Archbishop Beltran is retiring, but will maintain an office at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

The Mass and Installation of Archbishop Coakley took place on a sun-filled day at the Edmond parish. The ceremony was beamed to televisions across the nation by Eternal Word Television Network, also known as EWTN. Father Thomas Boyer of Saint Mark’s in Norman provided commentary for the television audience and Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting made sure those listening by radio would also be included.

The Mass and Installation drew dramatic coverage from the Daily Oklahoman with reporters, photographers and video cameramen making up the coverage team. Also on hand were cameras and reporters from Oklahoma City television stations and a crew from the Diocesan newspaper in Salina, Kan., where the 55-year-old Archbishop Coakley served for six years before his appointment here. Other Oklahoma newspapers and media outlets focused cameras on the altar and the more than 30 bishops from across the United States who traveled here to take part in the celebration.

A choir comprised of Catholics from a number of parishes and directed by Brother Damian Whalen, O.S.B., delivered moving and inspirational hymns and liturgical responses throughout the service.

The Mass and Installation was preceded Thursday evening, Feb. 10, with an Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

At that service, Monsignor Edward J. Weisenburger, Cathedral Rector, welcomed the archbishop-elect as the ceremony moved from the frigid air outside into the warm and welcoming confines of Our Lady’s.

Archdiocesan priests, Fathers Ray Ackerman, Tim Luschen, John Metzinger, Bruce Natsuhara, Joachim Spekath, O.S.B. and Msgr. Weisenburger served as consultants at both the prayer service and the Friday Mass and Installation. Assisting were Deacons Dunn
Cumby, Eulis Mobley and Paul Lewis. Serving as masters of ceremonies on both Thursday and Friday were Fathers Robert Wood and Stephen Hamilton.

The music for the Evening Prayer Service was coordinated by Oliver Douberly, Edwin Day, Donna Robbillard and The Cathedral Choir. Cantor was Deacon Paul Lewis. On Friday, music was directed by Edwin Day with Mandy Jiran, Margaret Noble, Robert Noble and Matt Wilson serving as cantors.

Bishops joining Archbishop Coakley on both Thursday and Friday were Archbishop Beltran, the third archbishop of Oklahoma City, Archbishop John R. Quinn, the first archbishop of Oklahoma City, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, Bishop of Little Rock, who formerly served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and Bishop Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of Tulsa.

Archbishop Coakley quipped at the beginning of his homily on Thursday evening that “even though it’s cliché,” the statement, ‘You never get a second chance to make a first impression’ is so very true.” The comment drew laughter from the audience. Thunderous applause broke out a few moments later when Archbishop Coakley recognized Archbishop Beltran and thanked him for his wonderful service and the love he provided to the Church during his 18 years as shepherd of the Archdiocese.

In his Thursday homily, Archbishop Coakley called for the entire Church to focus on developing vocations. He said the job of nurturing vocations cannot be left exclusively to the “archdiocesan vocations director.” Archbishop Coakley said one way the Church body can contribute to the development of vocations is by protecting the family and the “sacrament of marriage.”

In his homily on Friday, the newly installed Archbishop Coakley said as Catholics, we “are summoned, all of us, to be agents of a New Evangelization.

“The New Evangelization about which Pope John Paul II spoke so frequently and Pope Benedict continues to call forth is not merely about designing a new program, setting up a new bureaucratic apparatus or an elaborate pastoral plan. It is first and foremost about encountering a living person. It is Jesus Christ.

“What is new about the New Evangelization is certainly not the message. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus Christ is God’s definitive word to humanity. The call for a New Evangelization is a challenge and an opportunity for the Church today to find effective ways of announcing Jesus Christ and making Him known and loved at a moment in history and in the midst of a culture that no longer consider God relevant to its pursuits and concerns. The Word of God must be proclaimed to all nations, to peoples of every culture and race and language and walk of life. Jesus Christ is the Good News for which every human heart is searching and we are his witnesses.”
A Priest’s Perspective...

I must confess to a nagging discomfort throughout these past months. As it became ever more apparent that Archbishop Beltran was, in fact, going to retire, that a new man would be sent to pastor the Church of Oklahoma City, a vague apprehension settled in. Most people, I think, struggle with the prospect of a new boss, even a man of such obvious grace and intelligence as Archbishop Coakley.

Though ordained by Archbishop Salatka (his last class, actually), Archbishop Beltran has been the north star of my priestly life. I told him once I knew I was not an easy priest to shepherd; like many Oklahoma clerics, I have a maverick streak within me that I do my best to pass off as virtue. Still, through all the ups and downs of a supervisory relationship, I came to understand how the archbishop worked; understood what he appreciated and what he didn’t. At the end of his long tenure, an unadorned yet reassuring clarity marked our relationship. He but had to phone and say, “I am in need of a pastor in Norman and you are the man.” The well-defined contours of the relationship became a comforting surety of my life.

I suspect the challenge of middle age is to embrace rather than dread change, to learn to discern the difference between being settled and being root-bound. The Holy Spirit prefers change, sews transformation and demands the periodic sweeping clean of our embedded presumptions.

Thus, the day demanded by the Holy Spirit arrived. In the wake of a blizzard — fitting for a man forged on the Great Plains — bishops and priests, seminarians and lay leaders converged on Edmond to ignite pageantry and high expectations. The Coakley years had dawned. The warm blanket of ritual

Vested and happy to be among the invited, I took my place in a very long line of priests and deacons, seminarians and bishops. The liturgical procession was put in motion by boisterous organ pipes and confident voices calling us forward, forward toward an altar and a newly shined future. Change was no longer looming on the horizon; it was pooling around our feet and soaking into the very ground beneath the Church of Oklahoma City.

The installation of a new bishop is wrapped in the warm blanket of ancient ritual. While some Christians profess disdain for ritual, we Catholics adore it. Personally, I find ritual a safe refuge from the coldness of the abstract, especially when it unfolds as gracefully as did the installation Mass (hours of prep and practice to look effortless, no doubt). For instance, I found myself absorbed in the sight of the 30 or so attending bishops removing their miters before venerating the altar. We are, all of us, first servants of the Gospel and only then holders of office or rank. Ritual spoke to that more effectively than any textbook.

The presentation of the Apostolic Mandate, the official sign of Archbishop Coakley’s appointment, was perhaps the most enthralling ritual of the day. Deacon Norm Mejstrik held it aloft first for the consultors of the Archdiocese, then for the entire assembly to view. Norman moved deliberately around the sanctuary; the unhurried silence of that moment and the recognition that we were connected to a worldwide Church through the Papacy impressed me.

There was another moment, no doubt unnoticed by many, that I must mention. Deacon Paul Lewis was led to the ambo by several seminarians, one of them his son, John Paul. I was moved by the vocational symmetry of the sight: a son leading his father to the place in which the demands of the Gospel are voiced; a father leading his son into a life of radical obedience to those demands. The transformative power of hope

Archbishop Coakley is nothing if not a man of distinguished looks. Tall, lean and blessed with an abundance of white hair, he took possession first of Bishop Meerschaert’s chair and next the ambo with seeming ease. There is something startlingly youthful about him, as if all this tiring talk of the 50s being the new 40s be not just hype.

The new archbishop’s homily was the most eagerly awaited moment of the day. While speaking, he frequently looked directly into the crowd of priests. We, of course, were listening for clues to his personality, his agenda, and his expectations of us. He could not have been more forthright. His very motto, Duc In Altum (Put Out Into the Deep), a reference to the call of St. Peter, reveals a man taken with the idea of calling others to a new and intense form of discipleship.

Coming so soon after the untimely and tragic deaths of Fathers O’Toole and Lafferty, the installation of Archbishop Coakley needed to be the antidote for the shock and worry we priests have experienced concerning our dwindling numbers. Interestingly, the humility of the archbishop’s remarks was framed by an unmistakable confidence in the Holy Spirit. Quoting Mother Teresa, the archbishop reminded us that “God does not choose the qualified, he qualifies the chosen.”

There was also in his remarks a stirring call to arms. He spoke of the “New Evangelization,” a term coined by Pope John Paul II and used also by Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Coakley appears eager to take the Gospel to a new generation, anxious to proclaim it in new and innovative ways.

He also spoke of the need to call young men to priesthood. As I sat there listening and watching him, two things struck me: first, the homily was soaked in hope; second, the archbishop will be our best vocational tool because hope within but one man is transformative. Endings birth beginnings

As the installation was ending, I noted that Archbishop Beltran seemed pleased. A long, faithful run for our Archbishop Emeritus and now the baton handed off to an obviously worthy replacement. I left the festivities no longer anxious about the future. Instead, I left thankful and proud; proud to be a Catholic, a priest, an Oklahoman. The end of one era has birthed a new beginning and I felt within me a longing for that celebrated, lyrical, deep water.
Edmond Parish Hosts Historic Installation

By Steve Gust
For the Sooner Catholic

EDMOND — St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish had quite the checklist of preparations as it hosted probably the biggest event in its 122-year history — the installation ceremony and Mass of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. The second challenge was get it all ready in just under two months and do it while dancing around two fierce February snowstorms.

And late on the afternoon of Feb. 11 after Archbishop Coakley became the fourth archbishop of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, the verdict was in. It had all come together nearly flawlessly. "I’ve literally had hundreds of comments from people who have all been very complimentary," St. John's pastor, Father John Metzinger said. Perhaps the highest praise came from Archbishop Coakley; Father Metzinger said. "He told me we really had a very good facility for this."

The process started in December, when then-Bishop Coakley made his first major decision, after being named to succeed Archbishop Beltran. He opted to have his installation at St. John's in Edmond. While the sanctuary seating of 1,200 played a role in the decision, it wasn’t the only consideration. One of St. John’s organizers and planners, Anne Keef, assistant business manager, said there were other factors.

"In addition to the sanctuary seating, St. John’s is a multi-purpose facility," Keef said. "We could accommodate the bishops luncheon at nearby Seton Hall, the reception at the Great Hall, and offer several places for bishops, priests, deacons and Knights of Columbus to dress or vest."

The nearby St. Elizabeth Ann Seton gymnasium was used for vesting of the hundreds involved in the procession. Classes at St. Elizabeth's were canceled Friday. Father Metzinger said that was done to clear up more parking. Logistically the children couldn’t be picked up at the end of the school day, which would have been during the Mass.

It was necessary for the parish to work closely with the Archdiocese’s planning committee, led by Father Stephen Bird. The committee toured St. John to survey the buildings and from then it was a series of meetings.

"It was decided at that time that both vespers service on Thursday (at Our Lady's Cathedral) and the installation would have to be by invitation only," Keef said. "The committee also decided that they would bring in the presider chair used by Bishop Meerschaert, Oklahoma's first bishop. All the details for invitations and programs, parking, transportation, etc., were discussed. The committee met every Wednesday at the Pastoral Center until the snow forced us to meet by phone and e-mail."

The historic event required many extra touches, Father Metzinger said.

"We redid the garden area in the church and ordered flowers and plants for the church and Great Hall,” he said. “We rescaled and polished the floor in the sanctuary, and planned the menu for the luncheon for the bishops and Archbishop Coakley's family as well as the menu for the reception.”

Both events were catered by Susie Booth of St. John’s, who was told to prepare for 1,000 at the reception.

An event of this magnitude, with so many special clergy and guests, also required security. Keef worked with Detective Marion Cain of the Edmond Police Department and Oklahoma County Sheriff John Whetsel. Both are also St. John's parishioners. The day of the installation there were 30 law enforcement officials present to establish a line of security. That included a dog who did a pre-Mass sweep of the entire area. For some officers, it was a long day as Edmond police officer and St. John's parishioner Milo Box said he started the day at 7 a.m. and was still on his feet and working at the reception past 5 p.m.

Special attention was also given the Mass. Few who attended will forget the music. Keef recalls how that came together.

"I meet with Edwin Day (director of music at Christ the King), Barbara Meiser (St John’s Edmond), and music directors from St. Francis, Our Ladies, St. Charles, St. John’s, Yukon, and Epiphany to plan the music for the event,” Keef said. “They were each asked to select a few members of their choirs to perform at the installation. Additionally, choir members from a few other churches around the state were invited, including St. Monica’s."

The results were stunning.

A few weeks before the installation, one more element was added to make the celebration even more vibrant, a planned national telecast by the Eternal Word Television Network. Keef said a satellite truck was secured to broadcast and Father Thomas Boyer of St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Norman was asked to commentate for the live feed. He was onsite at St. John's during the broadcast in another room watching the monitor.

To pull it all together on installation day, Father Metzinger said St. John's enlisted ushers (15), staff members, the Liturgy Board and other volunteers to help with hospitality. There were probably 75 to 100 St. John's people involved. Some of the helpers drove shuttle buses to help with overflow parking. Edmond City Manager Larry Stevens also helped by having part of nearby 10th Street plowed of its remaining snow.

That reminded organizers of the most important detail, which no one person or committee could tackle.

"We prayed for decent weather," Father Metzinger said.

That prayer seemed answered as the sub-zero temperatures of the day before were replaced by bright blue skies and temperatures well into the 40s.

"The day went well," Father Metzinger said.

Meanwhile, at the Catholic Pastoral Center, archdiocesan employees were busy making the many visitors feel welcomed and comfortable. Carol Davito, longtime assistant to Archbishop Beltran, praised the CPC staff for their hospitality and professionalism.
Explanation of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley’s Coat of Arms

The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley has chosen to impale (that is to say join) his personal coat of arms with those of his new archdiocese. This act of union of the arms of both the bishop of the place and his see is symbolic of the marriage of a bishop to his Church. The arms of Archbishop Coakley appear on the right side of the shield, joined with those of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and surrounded by the archbishop’s motto and the heraldic symbols of his office.

The archdiocesan arms were composed in 1924 when the See was known as the Diocese of Oklahoma. The red of the field of the archdiocesan arms represents the Choctaw word for Oklahoma, which translates to “red peoples.” The silver cross represents the Christian faith, while the five red arrowheads represent the Five Civilized Tribes — Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole — to whom Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma, was deeded during the removal of these tribes from their historical homelands in South and Southeastern USA. Five downward facing arrowheads suggest peace and enlightenment, attributes of the Five Civilized Tribes and other American Indian people of Oklahoma.

The personal coat of arms of the Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley is particularly symbolic of his steadfast love and devotion to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and to his veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It also carefully honors both his French maternal heritage and his paternal Irish birthright.

The top of the archbishop’s shield is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist and commemorates Pope John Paul II’s nomination of the ecclesial year (2004-2005) throughout the Universal Church as the “Year of the Eucharist.” (Archbishop Coakley was appointed and ordained Bishop of Salina in 2004.) The color of deepest red is representative of the Blood of Christ. Here also are found two sheaves of wheat, known properly in heraldry as garbs wheatear. The first of these represents the Eucharist. The second was selected by Archbishop Coakley as a representation of the people and landscape of Kansas, his familial home, where the lifeline of wheat plays so integral a role.

Archbishop Coakley likewise wished to honor both the Mother of God and his own mother in the design of his personal coat of arms. In so doing, he selected the Fleur de Lys, the Lily of France, which the Church has used to symbolize the Blessed Virgin for 12 centuries. Here in the bottom half of his arms, the Fleur de Lys appears in gold, also the color of honesty and truth. Our Lady’s Lily, as the Fleur de Lys is known within the Church, herein also represents Our Lady in the title of “the Immaculate Conception.”

The Fleur de Lys is also the ancient emblem of the French people and in selecting it for his coat of arms, Archbishop Coakley also honors his beloved late mother, Mary Coakley, who passed away on March 10, 1988, and who was of French heritage.

The shield is divided by a heraldic device known as a chevron. It is best described as an inverted “V” and is one of the most ancient marks of division (known as ordinaries) utilized in the heraldic science. Archbishop Coakley selected the use of ermine for this special division, the heraldic depiction of white fur marked with black tails, which has been the heraldic emblem of the Coakley family in Ireland for several centuries. More so than this, however, is the use of ermine in ecclesiastical heraldry representing both the ecclesial title of “Christ the King” and the ecclesiological theology of the sovereignty of Christ’s Church on Earth. See the full explanation online at www.catharchdioceseokc.org.

Left: In an ancient tradition, Archbishop Coakley knocks three times on the door of his new cathedral to gain entrance. Above: During the welcoming of Archbishop Coakley to his new cathedral, Msgr. Edward Weisenburger presents him with a crucifix, which he venerates.
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City: Past and Present

In 1891, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII erected a Vicariate Apostolic covering Indian Territory, which we now call the state of Oklahoma. In 1905, the Vicariate Apostolic was transformed into the Diocese of Oklahoma by His Holiness Pope Pius X, with Oklahoma City as the Diocesan See. The designation was changed in 1930 to the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. On Dec. 13, 1972, a Papal Bull was issued by Pope Paul VI, which in effect divided the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa with Oklahoma City (Oklahomapolitana) being designated as the Metropolitan See (Feb. 6, 1973). The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City covers approximately the western two-thirds of the state of Oklahoma (46 counties); the Diocese of Tulsa covers the eastern third of the state (31 counties).

The Most Reverend John R. Quinn, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, was named the first archbishop of Oklahoma City. Archbishop Quinn came to Oklahoma in 1971 from San Diego where he had served as an auxiliary bishop. He was 42 years old, bright and articulate. As archbishop, he was given the task of leading the local Church in the unsettling period following the Second Vatican Council, which he did with grace and dignity.

Due to his many gifts, he was summoned by His Holiness Pope Paul VI to become the Archbishop of San Francisco in February, 1977.

After seven months, the Most Reverend Charles A. Salatka, Bishop of Marquette, Mich., was appointed archbishop of Oklahoma City and was installed on Dec. 15, 1977, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City.

Archbishop Salatka, almost 60 at the time of his installation, was a man of boundless energy. His enthusiastic pace was the hallmark of his episcopate, as well as his fiscal acumen that placed the Archdiocese on solid financial footing.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa, the Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, who had been ordained a bishop by Archbishop Salatka in 1978, was chosen by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to succeed Archbishop Salatka. The announcement was made Nov. 24, 1992. The new archbishop, a native of Pennsylvania and a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta before his appointment to the Diocese of Tulsa, was installed on Jan. 22, 1993.

Archbishop Beltran was 58 when he arrived in Oklahoma City and his reputation as a good pastor of souls was indeed accurate. During his time as archbishop, he had a vision of what the most pressing needs were and built accordingly. His love of children was made manifest in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp. His concerns for the care and well-being of older citizens were addressed in the development of the Saint Ann Retirement Center.

The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley, 55, becomes the fourth Archbishop of Oklahoma City. Born in Virginia, he has spent the majority of his life in Kansas. Ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Wichita, he served that diocese in many capacities. Spirituality (he holds an STL from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in Christian Spirituality) has been the guiding principal in his priest-

The Crozier — A crosier is a symbol of office carried by the ordinary of the diocese. It is symbolic of the bishop’s role in shepherding his flock. At his installation, Archbishop Coakley used a historical crosier, originally carried by Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness. The crook of the crosier pays special tribute to the Annunciation, depicting an angel appearing to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The angel carries a violet, frequently used as a symbol of humility. The base of the crook presents a carousel of six statues: the Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus, Saint Joseph and the Child Jesus, Saint Peter, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Paul and the Sacred Heart.

The Episcopal Chair — The Episcopal Chair used in this ceremony was first used by Bishop Theophile Meerschaert and is believed to have been purchased for Saint Joseph Church (now referred to as Saint Joseph Old Cathedral), Oklahoma City, which became the official church of the bishop soon after Oklahoma was erected as a diocese in 1905. Today, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, is the Cathedral Church of the Archbishop of Oklahoma City.

The Chalice — The chalice used at this installation Mass is that of Oklahoma’s first bishop, Theophile Meerschaert. It was a gift to Bishop Meerschaert at the time of his ordination to the episcopacy, Sept. 8, 1891, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary, Natchez, Miss. Bishop Meerschaert brought the chalice with him when he came to Indian Territory in September, 1891. Engraved in Latin around the large cup are these words from Psalm 116: “The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.” On the base of the chalice, the front has a depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus, the Lord, with the wording “In Cruce Salus” (In the cross is salvation). Three saints are also represented on the base of the chalice: Saint Francis de Sales, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Theophilus.

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Mass, Installation Called Wonderful

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

EDMOND — Rosalie Larkin said she felt like she was “already in heaven” after witnessing the Eucharistic Celebration and Installation of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley on Feb. 11 at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church.

One of 1,200 in the audience, Larkin said the Mass and installation was everything she had hoped it would be.

“It was just beautiful, the music, all the bishops and clergy, it was just awesome,” she said as throngs of Catholics converged into the reception area following the two-hour ceremony.

Father Kirk Larkin, her son, was one of the clergy selected to represent the priests of the Archdiocese in offering their welcome to Archbishop Coakley. Father Larkin, who is battling brain cancer, was joined by Father Kevin Ratterman.

For Judith Monterroso, being selected as a Reader for the Mass was a surprise and honor.

“I was very honored to do this,” said Monterroso, a parishioner at Saint Patrick’s Parish in Oklahoma City. Monterroso said she turned to prayer to help her overcome any feelings of nervousness.

“I prayed a lot,” she said.

Susanna Williams of Blackwell said the two-hour trip was well worth it to see her first archbishop installation.

“It was just wonderful,” she said. “Having all the priests, bishops and deacons here at one time was just amazing. I am so thankful to have been a part of it.”

For 12-year-old Titus Cara, the day was quite special and memorable. His family traveled from Holy Family Parish in Lawton and was selected to be among the first to help greet Archbishop Coakley following the installation. The youngster used the opportunity at the reception to gain the autograph of the new archbishop as well as every other priest he could corner. His Mass program was covered in blue and black ink with the names of priests, deacons and a bishop or two.

“I like to collect autographs when I attend events,” the young Cara said after getting the signature of Father Marvin Leven. “This is a really good one.”

Archbishop Coakley greeted hundreds of people who stood in line to meet him following the two-hour Mass and installation. He posed for pictures with friends, family and well-wishers and chatted with many for several minutes.

Marion Pruitt and his wife, Nikki, represented Sacred Heart Church, El Reno, at the Mass and installation. Pruitt said he “very much” enjoyed the Eucharistic celebration and the “beautiful music” and enjoyed seeing priests who had formerly served at his parish, such as Father Francis Nguyen.

For Rick Feuerborn, serving as an usher was a special blessing, considering he had served as an altar boy when Archbishop Charles Salatka was installed. A member of the Knights of Columbus, Feuerborn said from his perspective as an usher, the ceremony “went off without a hitch.”

Past and Present

continued from Page 8

ly life as he served as head of the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita as well as the Director of Spiritual Formation at his alma mater, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary. On Oct. 21, 2004, Archbishop Coakley was named the Bishop of Salina. His ordination took place on Dec. 28, 2004.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is built upon the historical accomplishments in faith and charity of many and the bishops are the common recognized thread. The first bishop was a Belgian missionary, Theophile Meerschaert. He arrived from Mississippi in 1891, several months after the establishment of the Vicariate Apostolic of Indian Territory. On Aug. 17, 1905, with the formation of the Diocese of Oklahoma, he became its first bishop. He was a tireless shepherd who spent many of his days traveling to meet and serve the Catholics of Oklahoma.

Upon Bishop Meerschaert’s death in 1924, Bishop Francis Clement Kelley left his post as the founder of the Catholic Church Extension Society to become the second bishop of Oklahoma. Witty and urbane, he did much to bring Catholicism to the fore in a predominately non-Catholic area. In 1930, Rome changed the name of the diocese to the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

The Most Reverend Eugene J. McGuinness, bishop of Raleigh, N.C., was sent to Oklahoma in 1945 as coadjutor and became bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa upon the death of Bishop Kelley in 1948. Bishop McGuinness was the architect of the growth of the Church as vocations increased and he sought to have a Catholic church in every town in Oklahoma.

With the sudden death of Bishop McGuinness in December of 1957, the man who was to be his auxiliary was tapped to be his successor Reverend Victor J. Reed was the only Oklahoma priest to be named bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. He guided the Oklahoma Church during the tumultuous decade of the 1960s, being a strong advocate for civil rights, as well as attending the Second Vatican Council and seeing to its implementation.
ARCHBISHOP PAUL S. COAKLEY

MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR NEW EPISCOPAL MINISTRY AS ARCHBISHOP OF OKLAHOMA CITY.

FROM THE PRIESTS, DEACONS, RELIGIOUS, CHANCERY STAFF AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF SALINA.
Congratulatory Messages from Around the Country

Congratulations! Bishop Anthony B. Taylor and the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese of Little Rock rejoice with the Church of Oklahoma City at the appointment of Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as their fourth Archbishop. The Lord be with you in embracing this call to faithful service to Christ and God’s people.

I congratulate Archbishop Paul Coakley on the occasion of his installation as Archbishop of Oklahoma City. I have known Archbishop Coakley since he served as Director of Spiritual Formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in the late 1990s. He brings many outstanding priestly gifts to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. You will quickly realize how blessed they are.

~ Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington

Congratulations Archbishop Paul Stagg Coakley. We at Cross International Catholic Outreach offer our prayerful best wishes! May the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City grow in faith and love under your spiritual guidance. Please know that all of us at Cross Catholic have you in our prayers. We look forward to working with you as we serve the poorest in our world.

~ Most Reverend George Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha

Congratulations on your appointment as the Archbishop of Oklahoma City. May God continue to bless you and grant you all the wisdom and insight you will need to lead and guide His people in this new ministry.

~ Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston

The Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, rejoices with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City on the appointment of their new shepherd. Congratulations and blessings to Archbishop Paul S. Coakley.

With Prayers & Best Wishes,
Bishop Edward J. Burns

The Bishop becomes a “father” precisely because he is fully a “son” of the Church.
Pope John Paul II
Pastores Gregis

The clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Omaha join me in congratulating Archbishop Paul S. Coakley on the occasion of his installation as Archbishop of Oklahoma City. May this be the beginning of a new season of joy and peace in the Lord for all in the archdiocese. God bless you.

~ Most Reverend George Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha

With friendship, gratitude to God and warmest congratulations to Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley Fourth Archbishop of Oklahoma City From his brothers

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput,
O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Denver
Most Reverend James D. Conley, S.T.L.
Auxiliary Bishop of Denver

And the clergy, religious and people of the Archdiocese of Denver

The United States Adorers of the Blood of Christ rejoice in your appointment as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. We extend our words of congratulations, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, and assure you of our prayerful support as you lead and shepherd the people of God.
I was standing in a furniture store leaning against a cabinet of some sort while looking at a couch. I had not taken our couch with me when I had moved out after acknowledging my marriage of 25 years had reached an end. I had gone into the store thinking that I needed something to sit on so I could watch TV. But I found myself confused and wondering how could I possibly pick out a sofa? To choose an expensive piece of furniture, you needed to have some sort of retreat for people who were widowed, divorced or separated. I heard him say that Beginning Experience was for those who were ready to move on after their loss. My interest was sparked. Even though I had been separated for quite some time, I still had no idea about the future. Because I could not understand where I had gotten life so wrong in the past, how could I make sure I made better choices now? If anyone had suggestions, I was ready to listen.

“Can you tell me a little more about Beginning Experience?” was all I asked after I finally stopped and made the call. A very nice person started telling me about how the weekend had helped her so much with the grief she had been suffering since the death of her husband. She explained how it had helped her to accept the past, learn about her life so right. I was nervous about going, but I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned me to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

At the end of Mass, the priest announced some sort of retreat for people who were widowed, divorced or separated. I was nervous about going, but I felt so much relief and peace. I am a different person than the lost soul standing in the store causing others to worry. I have found joy and friends who listen without judging.

So give yourself a gift and join us for the March 18, 19 and 20 weekend. The retreat is held at the Catholic Pastoral Center at 7501 NW Expressway. It only costs $100 for all food and lodging. If you really need help with the costs, it is available.

For any questions you may have, please call (405) 494-7765 or try (405) 721-5651 Ext. 108. I am looking forward to having the opportunity of meeting you.

Together we can all have the sun shine a little brighter as we once again find joy in our hearts.
Father David Lafferty Dies February 1 at 60

Rev. David Michael Lafferty, 60, died on Feb. 1, 2011, at the rectory of Holy Trinity Church, Okarche. Father Lafferty was born in Tulsa on Aug. 26, 1950, one of six children of John V. and Nora A. Mullins Lafferty. Father Lafferty attended Immaculate Conception School and Bishop Kelley High School in Tulsa. After high school he attended Christian Brothers College, Memphis, Tenn., followed by the University of Dallas and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Father Lafferty attended Holy Trinity Seminar in Dallas, and on Aug. 2, 1985, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City by the Most Reverend Charles A. Salatka. Father Lafferty's first assignment was as associate pastor at Saint Peter Church, Guymon. Between 1986 and 1995, he served Saint Peter Church, Woodward, first as associate, then as pastor. Between 1995 to 1997, Father Lafferty continued studies in the area of clergy spirituality at the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, where he received a Doctorate of Ministry. In 1997, Father Lafferty was assigned as pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Chandler, and its mission parish, Saint Louis Church, Stroud, where he served for six years. In 2003, he was assigned to the pastorate of Corpus Christi Church, Oklahoma City, and mission parish of Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, Jones. In 2009, Father Lafferty was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Okarche, and its mission parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Calumet.

During his 26 years of service to the Archdiocese and its people, he also served on the Council of Priests, the Theological Commission, the Priests Spiritual Direction Team, the Archdiocesan Stewardship Committee, the Committee for Continuing Education of Clergy and as a Regional Vicar.

In addition to his parents, Father Lafferty was predeceased by a brother, John V. Lafferty Jr. He is survived by brothers, Paul S. Lafferty of Henderson, Nev., and Dennis T. Lafferty of Tulsa, and a sister, Joan M. Lafferty of St. Louis, Mo.; in-laws, nieces, nephews and great-nieces and many caring friends.

A Vigil for the Deceased was held at Holy Trinity Church, Okarche, on Sunday evening, Feb. 6, 2011. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oklahoma City, on Monday, Feb. 7, 2011. Interment was at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery, Oklahoma City. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Smith & Kernke, North May Avenue, Oklahoma City.

Memorials may be made to Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73106, or the Center of Family Love. In lieu of flowers, family and friends suggest contributions to Catholic Charities or Center of Family Love, P.O. Box 235, Okarche, Okla. 73762.

Parish Celebrates Pro-Life Effort

HARRAH — The 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade prompted members of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters here to sponsor a Pro-Life Mass on Jan. 23. The Mass was celebrated by Father Eugene Marshall at St. Teresa of Avila Parish.

After Mass, a potluck luncheon was provided to the parishioners at the Family Center where dedicated pro-life leaders shared their experience with abortion clinics and their efforts to preserve the sanctity of life. Among them was Debby Kirsh, director of 40 Days for Life in Oklahoma City, and Linda Giachino, a pro-life advocate. Both are currently involved in Sidewalk Counseling, a program designed to assist young women.

The featured speaker was Oklahoma Rep. Rebecca Hamilton (D-OKC) who related that while she was a college student, she embraced pro-choice and that she supported the Roe v. Wade decision. After years of looking into legalized abortion, Hamilton is convinced that abortion is wrong. In her own words, “Abortion kills living babies.” She has since taken an active and vocal role in the pro-life movement and has made many appearances before civil and religious groups defending the rights of the unborn.

Mexican Bishop Emphasizes Prayers For The Family

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (CNA) — Bishop Francisco Chavolla Ramos of Toluca, Mexico, is reminding Catholics that Pope Benedict XVI has called for prayers for families during the month of February. Bishop Chavolla reflected on the Pope’s prayer intention in a message published Feb. 14 of the Mexican Bishops Conference website.

The family, the bishop stressed, originates in the marriage between one man and one woman and is called to be open to life. The future of humanity passes through the family, Bishop Chavolla said. He urged Catholics to pray that the role of the family be respected in society and that its “irreplaceable contribution” be recognized.

“This is the reason for which I am inviting you to be united in this intention of the Successor of Peter through prayer in the month of February. Let us pray that the Church will untiringly promote the family ministry that will influence society,” the bishop said.

He encouraged Catholics to join in Pope Benedict’s prayer intention by offering Masses, Holy Hours and Rosaries.
Faith And Working Through a Difficult Death

Caregivers and health-care professionals can and often do greatly assist those who are suffering and dying. Even with careful pain management and comfort measures, however, the dying process can still be agonizing and difficult. Each death has a unique and particular trajectory, but even the most difficult and unpleasant deaths often have powerful graces and remarkable opportunities for growth mysteriously interwoven into them.

Some time ago, I corresponded with a registered nurse about her mother’s final battle with lung cancer. She described the unexpected shifts in her mother’s condition that had taken place over a period of eight days: “…passing through a day of Cheyne-Stokes respirations (a pattern of deep breathing, followed by stoppage of breathing, followed by repetition of the cycle), days of such shallow breathing that death seemed literally one breath away, days of calm coma, two days where the smell of imminent death was detectable, signs of diminished extremity perfusions coming and then going, coming and then going, day after day, no urine output, then urine output, then no urine, then urine again, emerge from this state and embark upon three hours of increasingly severe respiratory distress culminating in a violent respiratory arrest.”

No stranger to death and dying, this nurse had assisted countless other patients with pain, air and hunger management. During her mom’s final hours, she had significantly increased morphine doses per hospice protocols, but with little or no apparent relief. Her mother’s death ended up being very hard. Reflecting on it afterwards, she realized that if she had not been both a health-care professional and a person who trusted deeply in God, she would have been to use her own words, “out of my mind with horror.”

Why certain deaths are so much harder than others is no easier to explain than why certain lives are so much harder than others. It gives us pause, though, to ask whether suffering doesn’t have some hidden but important meaning, however it enters our lives. As we seek to use the tools of medicine to alleviate the suffering of those who are dying, we realize how delicate a balancing act it can be, fraught with difficult decisions about dosages and interventions, and not always guaranteed to work. When pain and suffering cannot be alleviated, patients ought to be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.

The nurse described how she and her mother had experienced this Christian understanding themselves: “My mom and I prayed hard and much over this past year. She was expected to die a year ago. As we began to understand that she was actually improving and that she (and I) had been given this gift of time, we became increasingly devoted to the Divine Mercy of Jesus. I am of the opinion that God gave Mom an opportunity to be on the cross with Him.”

Real suffering engages a lot of complex emotions. We may worry that our crosses will be more than we can bear. We may not see how our sufferings could really have any value or meaning. In the end, suffering can make us bitter or it can make us better, depending upon how we respond to it and use it to enter into deeper union with the Lord who suffered and died a hard death for us.

I’m reminded of a story I once heard about a priest in Poland who taught at the seminary. Each year, there had been fewer candidates entering the seminary, rarely more than eight or nine, and it was becoming a serious concern for the seminary and the diocese. One day, this priest learned he had a terminal illness, with only a few months to live. Shortly afterwards, he turned to God and said: “Lord Jesus, I will do my best to offer up the sufferings that lie ahead of me, whatever they may be, but I would ask that you send us 18 new candidates for next year’s incoming class.” The good priest faced an excruciating death, but a few months later when the candidates started showing up at the seminary, there were exactly 18 new students in the class.

His story speaks of how suffering has meaning whenever we unite it to the redemptive sufferings of Christ. Our sufferings and struggles are an important, albeit temporary, part of our journey. They are a harbinger of a greater destiny and a promise of our transformation. Pope John Paul II once described it this way: “The cross of Christ throws salvific light, in a most penetrating way, on man’s life ... the cross reaches man together with the resurrection.”

Governor

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you are pregnant and in need,” Schuttloffel said. “Fortunately, there has been a significant course correction in Kansas with respect to the life issues,” he said.

In a Feb. 14 e-mail, the Kansas Catholic Conference director explained that Gov. Brownback — who was sworn in on Jan. 10 — included $350,000 for the Stan Clark program in his budget proposal last month.

Schuttloffel called the move “a major turning point” for the crisis pregnancy effort, saying that instead “of having a governor who is fundamentally hostile to the program, we have one who is actually asking for it to be funded.”

The initiative is important, he said, “because the pro-life movement is about more than just placing restrictions on abortion.”

“It is fundamentally about helping the vulnerable, born and unborn. Helping pregnant women to choose life is critical to the pro-life project, which this program does,” he said. “This program is in essence a statement by the state that we want to support pregnant women, we want them to know that they do not have to face a challenging pregnancy alone, and that we want to help them choose life.”

The initiative was first proposed in the 1999 Kansas legislative session. It awards competitive-based grants to not-for-profit organizations to provide an array of social services to pregnant women and, if necessary, for up to one year after their child’s birth. Among services provided are counseling on alternatives to abortion and facilitation of adoption.

Schuttloffel added the program is administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Family Health, Children & Families and that funding is dependent on annual appropriation by the Kansas Legislature.

He noted that although there have been “legislators who have not been helpful to varying degrees,” major opposition to the program has come specifically from past governors. “There really aren’t any legislators who have had the nerve to stand up and say they oppose funding for pregnant women in need.”

The pattern, “historically, has been for the Legislature to support the program only to have the governor work against it,” he said.

Although confirmation of the budget proposal won’t likely take place until May, “we won’t have to wait and wonder whether the governor will veto the funding,” Schuttloffel said. “We know he supports it.”

Several crisis pregnancy centers across the U.S. have encountered difficulties from pro-abortion lawmakers who’ve sought to undermine state funding for the centers or increase legislative red tape.

In recent months, the New York Council proposed legislation that would sharply regulate crisis pregnancy centers that do not provide abortion and contraception. A critic called the move “part of a national strategy by Planned Parenthood and NARAL to attack pro-life pregnancy centers.”

Christopher Bell, co-founder with Father Benedict Groeschel of Good Counsel Inc., told CNA last October that similar proposals have “failed miserably” in several other state legislatures, but the proposals have won approval in Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Montgomery County, Md.
Calendar

**FEBRUARY**

20 **Pilgrimage Sunday.** Mass begins at 11 a.m. and includes blessing of the sick and blessing of the children, noon lunch, 1 p.m. Novena prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at Saint Wenceslaus Church of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 567-3080 or www.shrineofinfantjesus-com.

20 **The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese.** Meet at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Susan Staudt at (405) 282-6624.

20 **The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity** meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Dishrow at 830-8688.

21 **Catholic Charities Annual Meeting** will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Oklahoma City. Mass will be at 4:30 p.m. Special guest speaker will be Howard Hendrick, director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. RSVP to Catholic Charities at (405) 523-3000.

23 **Eucharistic Adoration** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome.

24 **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at Epiphany Parish Chapel, every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (M,T,W,F) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Epiphany is located at 7336 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73132.

24 **Eucharistic Adoration**, every Thursday from 5 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory’s Chapel, St. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with adoration to follow. Included is vespers with the monks.

24 **Theology on Tap** for young adults (18-39), married, divorced or single, every fourth Thursday from 8 to 10 p.m. at Belle Isle Brewery (50 Penn Place) in the 1st Floor Bar. This month’s speaker and topic is Becky Van Pool, “12 Reasons to Abolish the Death Penalty.” For more information, contact Rachel at (405) 384-3807 or Willy at (405) 417-5802.

26 **Retreat - Finding God in Our Everyday Lives:** Living A Healthy Spirituality with Joanne Yankauskis, OSB, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fee: $40 ($10 deposit). Place: Red Plains Spirituality Center - Library. Bring a sack lunch.

**MARCH**

2 Michael Reardon to perform the Gospel of Matthew at Epiphany Parish, Oklahoma City, at 7 p.m. This was rescheduled due to snow.

4 **First Friday Adoration** at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 N.W. 19th, Oklahoma City.

4 **Holy Family Home Mass, 11:30 a.m.**, Holy Family Home, 6821 Eddie Drive, Midwest City. To confirm that Mass will be held that day and for directions, contact HFMH at 741-7419.

5 **The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** meet in the Council Room at St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month beginning with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Toni Harrelson, LMC, at (405) 341-2199 or lmc-oklahoma@sbglobal.net.

6 **Byzantine Liturgy** will be offered at 5 p.m. at St. Mark’s Church, 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. Moleben-Intercessions to Christ Emmanuel will be celebrated after Liturgy. For more information, call Father Phil Seeton at (580) 536-6351.

9 **Ash Wednesday**

Jobs Box

**Director of Religious Education**

**Epiphany of the Lord Parish**, Oklahoma City, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Religious Education. The parish is searching for a candidate deeply rooted in the Catholic faith with experience and vision to serve its 1,600 families. The director will coordinate all education programs for children and adults. The director will be responsible for catechist recruitment, formation and certification, and must also collaborate with the parish leaders of youth ministry, music, and the Journey of Faith.

Applicants should have a degree in theology, religious education or related area and minimum of five years experience working in catechetical ministry (master’s degree preferred). Interested candidates should contact Patricia Koenig in the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education to initiate the application process (PKoenig@Cath-ArchdioceseOKC.org), or (405) 721-5651 Ext. 126.

**Director of Religious Education**

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish** in Oklahoma City is accepting applications for a dynamic Director of Religious Education. Full-time position and benefits. Starting June 2011. Experience preferred. Degree in religious education, theology or equivalent degree required. Application and job description available by calling the parish office at 1-405-528-0485. Send application, resume and references to DRE Search Committee, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1901 N.W. 18th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

**Immediate Part-Time Cafeteria Position**

**Bishop McGuinness High School** cafeteria is accepting applications for an immediate part-time position. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact Marguerite Claybaugh, cafeteria manager, at (405) 842-6656 or e-mail to mclaybaugh@bmchs.org.

**Cafeteria Manager**

**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School** is accepting applications for cafeteria manager for the 2011-2012 school year. Applicants need to have had school cafeteria experience, knowledge of food safety as well as the Federal School Lunch Program and good computer skills. Contact Marguerite Claybaugh at (405) 842-6656 or by e-mail to mclaybaugh@bmchs.org.

**Five Full-Time Teachers**

**St. Gregory’s University**, a Catholic and Benedictine liberal arts community (est. 1875), seeks qualified applicants for the following five full-time, tenure-track positions: English/ Education, Philosophy (applied and medical ethics desirable), Biology, History and Dance. We seek faculty who are broadly trained and student-oriented. Ph.D. preferred; ABD candidates considered if doctorate near completion. Minimum of MFA in Dance. Responsibilities include teaching a range of undergraduate courses, student recruitment, professional development and university service. Appointments begin August 2011 (pending final budget approval). See full job description at www.stgregorys.edu. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy and three letters of recommendation electronically to hr@stgregorys.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, which will be announced on the SGU web site.

For up-to-date job listings, visit www.catharchdioceseokc.org.
School Celebrates Sacrifice

OKLAHOMA CITY — Saint Eugene School celebrated Catholic Schools Week by honoring those who have served our nation and sacrificed so we may live in freedom.

The national theme this year was “A+ for America, Catholic Schools.”

Twenty Saint Eugene parents of children in grades P-3 through eighth grade who are members of the police force, fire department, the military and FBI, including the Village fire and police departments, were honored at a special assembly.

Middle school social studies teacher Alex Whitten and Deacon Tom Goldsworthy, who both served as U.S. Marines, were honored as well for their military service. Preschool student Ben Betters was there to receive recognition for his father, Matt, who is currently deployed in Iraq.

All of the teachers and students were involved in the planning and this opened up many learning opportunities.

Music teacher Sabrina Malone, taught patriotic songs to the students which were sung at the assembly, and students in Kara Whitmire’s art class designed and created a large American flag, which served as a backdrop in the Saint Eugene gym.

Principal Suzette Williams introduced the visitors and led the students in a special blessing. She shared this quote from Blessed Mother Teresa: “I must be willing to give whatever it takes to do good to others. This requires that I will be willing to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no true love in me and I bring injustice, no peace, to those around me.”

Williams expressed that this quote was a perfect reflection on the selfless sacrifices each one of these men and women make in order for all of us to share in God’s love here at Saint Eugene Catholic School and in our country.