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As the Mass began, tens of thousands of pilgrims, faithful and tourists continued to arrive, filling St. Peter’s Square and crowding around the large video screens placed along the boulevard leading to the square. By the time of Communion, the Vatican said there were between 150,000 and 200,000 people present.

In his homily, Pope Francis asked prayers that he would be able to protect the church like St. Joseph protected Mary and Jesus, “discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand.”

He said in the Gospels, St. Joseph “can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions.”

But more than anything, he said, the church’s patron saint teaches Christians that the core concern of their lives must be Christ.

“Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation,” Pope Francis said.

Although according to church law he officially became pope the minute he accepted his election in the Sistine Chapel March 13, Pope Francis received important symbols of his office just before the inauguration Mass — the Book of the Gospels, the ring of the fisherman, St. Peter, and the pallium, a woolen band worn around the shoulders to evoke a shepherd carrying a sheep.

With members of the College of Cardinals dressed in gold gathered before the pope, the Book of the Gospels, the ring, the pallium, and the fisherman, a weak left hand worn around the shoulders to evoke a shepherd carrying a sheep, the pontiff chose styles in continuity with two of his predecessors.

Pope Francis disarms press, public with fresh style

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Put Out Into the Deep

Introducing Pope Francis

Even as a rising chorus of observers, commentators and prognosticators were about to write off the Catholic Church as a mere relic of the past, due to its catalog of recent scandals and the growing indifference of many toward the Church, something extraordinary happened. A humble man from Argentina, a pastor with a special love for the poor, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., was introduced as our new Pope. He had chosen the name Francis.

When Pope Francis stepped onto the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica and stood quietly before the crowd gathered in the square, and indeed before the whole world, it was clear that something new and of great significance was occurring. Yes, he is our new pope. But beyond that mere fact, I had the sense of something more. Perhaps the fact that I knew next to nothing about him piqued my interest and fascination. My first question was, “Who is this man?” This is the question on all of our minds. He is our Holy Father. We already love him. But we want to get to know him. We were struck by his serenity, his simplicity, his evident humility. I was deeply touched by his profound humility. I was deeply touched by his profound humility. I was deeply touched by his profound humility.

His choice of a name has provoked intense interest among the faithful, among other Christians and even non-believers. During a Saturday meeting with journalists after his election he shared personally how he came to choose this name. During the papal voting Cardinal Bergoglio was seated next to Cardinal Claude Hummes, whom he described as a “dear, dear friend.” In his own words, “When things were getting a little ‘dangerous’, he comforted me. And then, when the votes reached the two-thirds, there was the usual applause because the Pope had been elected. He hugged me and said: ‘Do not forget the poor’ And that word stuck here (tapping his forehead); the poor, the poor. Then, immediately in relation to the poor, I thought of St. Francis of Assisi... And so the name came to my heart. Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation... Oh, how I wish for a Church that is poor and for the poor.

By the account of his first gestures as pope, his first homilies and addresses, it is apparent that this theme is likely to become one of the hallmarks of this new pontificate. At the time of his consecration St. Francis of Assisi received a special mandate from the Lord, “Francis, rebuild my Church.” St. Francis was chosen by the Lord to bring about a great renewal within the Church in his time. It seems to me that there is already evidence of a fresh breeze blowing through the Church at this moment, the breath of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is at work renewing, sustaining and guiding the Church.

Pope Francis has humbly asked us to pray for him. Let us do so. The obstacles he faces are great. The burdens and challenges of the Petrine office are unimaginable. But the future is in God’s hands. God has entrusted the Church to the care of Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ on earth. Viva il Papa!

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

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

March 24 — Palm Sunday Mass, 10 a.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral
March 26 — Private Audience of Prayer at Our Lady’s Cathedral
March 26 — Chrism Mass, 6 p.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral
March 28 — Holy Thursday — Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7 p.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral
March 29 — Good Friday — Passion of the Lord Liturgy, 7 p.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral
March 30 — Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady’s Cathedral
April 2 — Confirmation, 7 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, Oklahoma City
April 4 — School Mass and Classroom Liturgy, 8 a.m., St. Philip Neri School, Midwest City
April 5 — Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Catholic Charities Office
April 6 — Confirmation, 9:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond
April 7 — Confirmation, 9 a.m., St. Gregory the Great Church, Edmond
April 7 — Scout Awards Mass, 4 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center

Exclusively on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and Archdiocesan news, only on www.sooner catholic.com.

• Priests, professionals and students from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City gathered at Our Lady’s Cathedral March 14 for a Mass to celebrate the election of Pope Francis.

• Many of the faithful of the archdiocese gathered March 19 for a holy hour at the Catholic Pastoral Center, hosted by Archbishop Paul Coakley as a part of the U.S. bishops’ ongoing call to prayer for renewed respect for life, marriage and religious liberty.

The annual March for Life OKC is Monday, March 25. The pro-life event begins with Mass, continues with the march itself and concludes with a rally at the Oklahoma State Capitol Building.

• At the March 26 Chrism Mass, conseculated by Archbishop Coakley and the priests of the archdiocese, the archbishop will bless the oil for sacramental use throughout the archdiocese in the coming year.

• From March 28 to March 31, parishes across the archdiocese will celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter with scripture-rich, doctrine-rich liturgies that make Christ experientially present to attendees.

• Every day, Pope Francis offers a new catechesis – either by word or deed – to the faithful.

Plus, don’t miss daily updates on Facebook and Twitter!
**New Spanish-speaking priests to arrive this summer**

By Tina Korbe Dzurisin  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Three priests from a religious community in Mexico will arrive in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City this summer to assume pastoral care of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Archbishop Paul Coakley announced this month.

“We have both an opportunity and a responsibility to strengthen our pastoral care of Spanish-speaking Catholics, who represent the fastest-growing segment of our Catholic population in Oklahoma,” said the archbishop.

“The invitation to welcome three priests from the Priestly Confraternity of Workers of the Kingdom of Christ into the archdiocese — and to entrust Sacred Heart parish to their care — is one element of what is going to be a more comprehensive pastoral response,” he said.

The priests — whose names the archbishop has not yet released — will likely arrive on or near July 1. All will be native Spanish speakers and at least one will be fluent in English, according to Coakley, who noted that the terms of the agreement between the archdiocese and the confraternity require that priests who are coming to the archdiocese within the first year to attend a visit to Sacred Heart in May.

While the confraternity members who visit then will not necessarily be the priests who arrive to serve in the archdiocese full-time in July, the trip will allow the members of the confraternity to sample the “flavor” of the parish and convey a sense of Sacred Heart to their own parishioners, Father Quanto said.

Archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry Pedro Moreno, who works with members of the confraternity in a previous job in Texas, said he will also do whatever he can to ease the transition.

“I’m a strong, vibrant parish and it’s the kind of parish that I think parishes can benefit from this kind of pastoral leadership,” the archbishop said. “They’re going to work with the parish and school and with the priests who are coming to facilitate a smooth and full transition as quickly as possible.”

Current Sacred Heart pastor Father Roberto Quant, who characterizes the members of his parish as young and full of enthusiasm to apply the faith to life in the United States, extended an invitation to the confraternity to send members to Oklahoma for a visit to Sacred Heart in May.

The society is “of pontifical right,” which means the Holy See has approved its constitution.

**Archbishop Coakley proclaims sacred purpose of Archdiocese**

Archbishop Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, has ascertained and articulated the sacred purpose of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City — a process that began when Archbishop Coakley chartered the archdiocesan envisioning team in July 2012 and continued last fall with 12 listening sessions in parishes across the archdiocese.

While the team first crafted the language of the sacred purpose months ago, they finalized it for release to the full membership of the archdiocese at a recent meeting.

“The articulation of the sacred purpose came from the experience and wisdom and faith of the envisioning team members,” Archbishop Coakley said. “The Church is established by Christ and constituted by Christ and has its own structure, purpose and mission. We were trying to articulate that as it applies to us here in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in a way that is affirming for us today what has been embraced and lived out by those who came before us.”

The team selected each phrase of the purpose to connote a very specific meaning and to invite reflection on what it means to live as a Catholic Christian in central and western Oklahoma.

“Joy” is a key word,” Archbishop Coakley said. “Joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and it ought to be evident in all that we do in living and proclaiming our faith. People aren’t going to be attracted to our message and to our way of life.”

The purpose also contains its own metrics. To the extent that the members of the archdiocese live according to it, the body of Christ will be made present, the universal call to holiness will be proclaimed and all people will be welcomed into the promise of eternal life.

“This is a strong, vibrant parish and it’s the kind of parish that I think parishes can benefit from this kind of pastoral leadership,” the archbishop said. “We’re going to work with the parish and school and with the priests who are coming to facilitate a smooth and full transition as quickly as possible.”

**Our purpose as the people of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City:** Archbishop Coakley said, “is to joyfully witness to the Catholic faith in central and western Oklahoma...”

*March 24, 2013*  
*Sooner Catholic*
After more than a decade, thank you

Dear Oklahoma Catholics,

This will be my last year as editor of your Sooner Catholic. Thank you for putting up with me for the past 12 years. When now Archbishop Emeritus Beltran first hired me to serve as editor of the Sooner Catholic, I never dreamed that I would still be in the position more than a decade later. This alone must be proof the Church is giving and very patient.

In all seriousness, I would like to thank both Archbishop Beltran and Archbishop Conley for their patience, guidance, prayers and support over the years. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is blessed to have those men of great faith leading us through some pretty rough-and-tumble times. I never had a clue before coming to work for the Archdiocese how dedicated and committed these archbishops are to the God they love and the people they serve. The same goes for our priests. They give - and then they give more. Our religious sisters are cut from the same cloth. So many memories and faces come flooding into my mind as I think back over the past years. So many people reaching out to help others.

I remember being in the Parish Hall at Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City when now Bishop Anthony Taylor and Deacon Roy Forsey met with young Hispanic gang members who were trying to turn their lives around. A retired plastic surgeon, Deacon Roy was offering to remove gang tattoos. Then there’s Barbra Chadbucki and Ruth Blakely and all the women and men who support the Birdie Chance effort. Those are people who make a difference every day. They light a candle.

Jim O’Reilly and the Center of Family Love: what a beautiful legacy of love the Knights of Columbus and those who support CPL have given to our faith and to Oklahoma.

Sister Barbara Joseph Foley and Rick Syberg handing out packs of hotdogs to the homeless of Oklahoma City: ten years later, Hotdogs for the Homeless is still feeding the least fortunate. Ten years later, President is still huging the street people.

There are so many more faces and so many more memories: Tim O’Connor and the people at Catholic Charities, Rachel’s Vineyard, the Office of Family Life, Sister Kay and Catholic education, Nancy House and the Office of Youth and Young Adults, and all the love and laughter shared at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp. My advice is to send your children to summer camp at OLOG!

It’s been a remarkable 12 years for me. I know I have received as much more than I have given and for that I am truly humbled and thankful.

I hope in a small way to continue to contribute to the Sooner Catholic and the ministry of the Church in Oklahoma.

Thank you and God bless.

Ray Dyer
Sooner Catholic Editor

Pope Francis leaves deep first impression

ROMA — When Pope Francis stepped out onto the central loggia of St. Peter’s on the night of March 13, I thought of the man I had met in his Buenos Aires office 10 months before: Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., who was looking forward to laying down the burden of leadership and devoting himself to prayer, reflection and study. Now, because Benedict XVI decided to announce the Charter of Peter and do what Cardinal Bergoglio wanted to do, the old-school Argentine Jesuit is now Benedict’s successor. His acceptance of the cross that is the Chair of Peter and do what Cardinal Bergoglio wanted to do is one of the most beautiful moments in the history of the Church. The new pope, who has been called the “People’s Pope,” has already made history.

The new pope struck me then as someone who lived from the inside out. A man whose rich interior life was the basis of his public life, a leader whose decisions grew from prayer and discernment, not calculation. A man of profound humility who had long been interested in getting to know those who had been hurt by church leaders. I wasn’t surprised by his decision because Benedict XVI had been in the pre-papal lives. And while that model of preparing-for-the-papacy served the Church well for 35 years, it’s not the only possible model. Now, rather than a professor who learned how to be a pastor, the Church has been given a pastor who has long experience of being a pastor. Nonetheless, I was struck last May by Bergoglio’s sharp mind, his familiarity with issues throughout the world Church and his prudence in judging people and situations. He was, for example, completely realistic and hard-headed about his situation in Latin America. Rather than complaining about evangelical Protestant “sheep-rustling,” as more than a few Latin American prelates do, the archbishop spoke with insight and correction about the impor-

tance of Catholicism rediscovering the power of the Gospel through personal conversion to Jesus Christ.

A man of the New Evangelization. The new pope played a significant role in shaping the Latin American bishops’ 2007 “Aparecida Document,” which embraced the New Evangelization and put it at the center of the Church’s life. In our conversation, the man who would – become pope made clear his understanding that a kept Church “kept” in the sense of legal establishment, cultural habit, or both had no future in the 21st century West, given the ideals of secularism. Pope Francis is a man, I think, who intends to go on an evangelic- an effort. It will be all Gospel, all proposal, all evangelism, all the time.

A man of reform. We spoke of the Latin American edition of the “Catechism: To Be Catholic,” for which he thanked me. And in discussing Vatican affairs, then- Cardinal Bergoglio displayed a shrewd, but not cynical, grasp of just what was wrong with the Church’s central bureaucratic machinery and why. Thus I think we can expect the new pope to lead the Church in a purification and renewal of the episcopate, the priesthood, the religious life and the Curia because he understands that scandal, corruption and incompetence are impediments to the Gospel-centered mission I describe in “Evangelical Catholics: Deep Reform in the 21st Century Church” (Basic Books).

A man of freedom rightly understood. In addition to being the first pope from Latin America, Pope Francis’s lifelong commitment to the poor. I’d also note his commitment to human rights and democracy, both of which are under severe pressure in Argentina. The new pope knows the fragility of democratic self-governance and will work to shore up democracy’s eroding moral-cultural foundations throughout the West.

The real Francis

Thank you for God.

George Weigel is distinguished senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Denver Archdiocese. Phone: (303) 715-3215

By George Weigel

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Symbols of ministry

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you succeed him as the bishop of this church to which he and the Apostle Peter were fathers in faith,” Cardinal Tauran said.

Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, presented Pope Francis with the fisherman’s ring, a gold-plated silver band featuring St. Peter holding keys, a reminder that Jesus told St. Peter “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Giving the pope “the ring, the seal of Peter the fisherman,” Cardinal Sodano told the pope he was called, as bishop of Rome, to provide over the church with charity. He prayed the pope would have “the gentleness and strength to preserve, through your ministry, all those who believe in Christ in unity and fellowship.”

Six cardinals, representing the entire College of Cardinals, publicly pledged obedience to the pope.

While many Christians acknowledge the special role of the bishop of Rome as the one who provides over the entire Christian community in love, the way the papacy has been exercised over the centuries is one of the key factors in the ongoing division of Christians.

For the first time since the Great Schism of 1054 split the main Christian communities into East and West, the ecumenical patriarch attended the installation Mass. Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, first among equals of the Eastern Orthodox, sat in a place of honor near the papal altar.

Cardinal Tauran said.

The new pope made an immediate impact with his extraordinary gesture of humility: foreseeing the crowd’s blessing on election night, paying his own hotel bill and eschewing papal regalia such as red shoes -- came out into St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

Franciscan Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who had announced Pope Francis’ election to the world six days earlier, placed the pallium, which had been worn by Pope Benedict XVI, around the new pope’s neck. The retired pope did not attend the Mass.

“The Good Shepherd changed Peter to feed his lambs and his sheep; today we dreamed that this would be him,” said Juana Lucia Paz, a social worker dressed in a wig of blue and white, Argentina’s national colors. “We arrived outside the Metropolitan Cathedral at 2:30 a.m. from outlying Buenos Aires province. ‘This is a blessing for this country, an enormous sense of pride — for the whole world.’

Even in a country with significant non-Catholic and non-practicing Catholic populations, Pope Francis — until March 13, Buenos Aires Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio — is seen as a religious person raising the country’s profile.

The Buenos Aires government closed public schools March 19, and churches were to be rung at noon until March 13, Buenos Aires City officials said in a statement.

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The celebrating started late March 18. Outside the Metropolitan Cathedral, in the expansive Plaza de Mayo, rock music played. Vendors in the area peddled pictures and paraphernalia of Pope Francis, as well as pope-themed cushions, calendars and key rings.

Seminarians and youth groups began praying for the new pope. Trucks came to accept donations for Francis’ election to the world six days later. They were burned in St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

Two hours were to be rung at noon for 10 minutes. Mass was to be celebrated later at all parishes in the archdiocese for the feast of St. Joseph.

The election of Pope Francis is one of the most important events that have been produced in Argentine history and greatly exceeds the religious nature, "the city," said in a statement.

Thousands watched as their former archdiocese addressed them by satellite in the predawn hours. They thanked them for their prayers and told them: "Cares for the family, cares for nature, cares for children, cares for the aged. Let there be no hatred, no fighting, put aside envy and don’t group against anyone."

"I believe there are going to be changes for the better. With more people like him, humble and simple," said Catalina Bemer, who works in a charity and clustered serving Pope Francis coffee.


Fresh style

del from page 1

which Pope Francis has assumed his new role, along with doubt that he can or should keep up such an unconventional approach for long.

The new pope made an immediate impact with his extraordinary gesture of humility: foreseeing the crowd’s blessing on election night, paying his own hotel bill and eschewing papal regalia such as red shoes -- came out into St. Peter’s Square while the choir chanted a special litany to Christ the King.

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A statue sheds light on the mission of Pope Francis

By Brianna Joyce
The Sooner Catholic

Across the piazza from the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, or St. John Lateran, in Rome stands a statue. A robed man is poised atop a rough stone dais, his arms raised toward the figures of Constantine and Peter. From behind the statue, one can see that his hands are holding up the church. This is the great preacher St. Francis of Assisi, and the legend behind the statue may have significance for the papacy of Pope Francis.

In the year 1207, Pope Innocent III had a dream. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s excellent book, Great Teachers, tells the story: “In it, he saw the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the mother of all churches, collapsing and one small and insignificant religious brother supporting the church on his shoulders to prevent it from falling.” When St. Francis arrived in Rome, the Holy Father recognized him as that “insignificant” man. Pope Innocent made Francis and his disciples into an official Order, and, ever since, the Franciscans have preached the Gospel from the Holy Land to the New World.

What was so important about St. John Lateran? Then and now, it is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome—the Pope. The Chair, or See, of the Pope is at St. Peter’s, as many think, but in this Lateran Basilica near the ancient walls of Rome. In fact, until 1679, the Popes lived in the adjoining palace.

Across the piazza from the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano, remember: He supports the Church from collapsing by reinforcing its commitment to serve even the lowliest of creation with a deep love. He revived the faith of the Middle Ages with his zeal for the truth. He might remind us that, like St. Francis, we are called to publicly practice our faith in Rome. As the Vatican II Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity puts it, “Everyone should painstakingly ready himself or herself personally for the apostolate, exercising more effectively those charismatic gifts which the Holy Spirit has bestowed on all for the good of others.”

More information about the Aquinas Ministry Formation program, including information about how to apply, is available at http://archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministries.

Aquinas Ministry Formation program equips laity for role in the Church

By Sooner Catholic Staff

As stewards in the role of Christ, members of the laity have an active role to play in the life and activity of the Church, reiterated the bishops in their pastoral minis- try in a variety of pastoral ministries in the local Church, according to a news release.

The program offers a broad overview of the theory and skills needed for effective pastoral ministry. As a collabora- tive initiative between the Aquinas Institute and the archdiocese, the goals, structure and implementation of the MAPM degree reflect both the unique pastoral needs of the local church and the standard requirements for graduate-level, accredited theological education for ministry in the Church.

“The program is geared toward those who feel called to be a better disciple of Jesus in the context of the family, workplace, neighborhood or com- munity,” said Sister Diane Koorie, RSM, director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry. “It’s an ideal way to learn more about the faith, to become better skilled in service and to take the next steps to become a ministry leader.”

As the Pope is not at St. Peter’s, as many think, but in this Lateran Basilica near the ancient walls of Rome. In fact, until 1679, the Popes lived in the adjoining palace.

John Lateran? Then and now, it is the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome—the Pope. The Chair, or See, of the Pope is at St. Peter’s, as

St. Gregory’s blesses start of Benedictine Hall restoration

SHAWNEE (March 11, 2013) — St. Gregory’s University kicked off its multi-million dollar Benedictine Hall Centennial Restoration Project with a blessing ceremony presided over by St. Gregory’s Abbey’s Abbot Lawrence Steuwer, O.S.B.

The ceremony took place on the steps of the main entrance to Benedictine Hall, which lost its four iconic towers in a 2011 earthquake.

“The week before Spring begins, we are celebrating that God will bring this conclusion, and that His protection will keep those who work on it safe from injury.”

The first phase of the project will include the restoration of Benedictine Hall’s terraces and the marble steps of the building’s main entrance. “This is a terrific day for St. Gregory’s,” university President Greg Main said. “I’d like to thank the 3,400 friends and alumni that have contributed $2.34 million to the restoration of Benedictine Hall.”

The second phase of the project, which will cost an additional $2.7 million, is set to continue the restoration by returning period-correct windows and front doors to Benedictine Hall, constructing a new North entrance, adding a new roof and waterproofing the building in advance of its centennial anniversary in 2015. Nearly $1 million of interior renovations are also planned.

For more information about the Aquinas Ministry Formation program, including information about how to apply, is available at http://archokc.org/office-of-pastoral-ministries.
Catholic Foundation scholarships lessen stress, enable recipients to focus attention on academics

By Sooner Catholic Staff

In his four years at Oklahoma State University, Catholic senior and engineering major Jeff Biggerstaff has so far managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA -- and he cites a scholarship from the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma as one reason for that accomplishment.

"I have been able to dedicate much of my time to my studies because I have had the financial support of scholarships," Biggerstaff said. "Without the (support of the Catholic Foundation), my college career would not have been what it was."

After graduation, Biggerstaff -- who is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Stillwater -- said he hopes to utilize his degree in biotechnology and agricultural engineering as an environmental engineer for an energy company.

Fellow OSU senior and CFO scholarship recipient Lauren Larres also said the scholarship enabled her to focus more time on her academic pursuits than would otherwise have been possible.

"I have not had to take on a part-time job (because of these funds)," Larres said. "Also, I have maintained a lower stress level (because) I do not constantly have to worry about meeting expenses."

"I was very thankful to have received it. College expenses can become stressful and this scholarship appeased a lot of my stress," she said.

After graduation, Nguyen, who majored in management information systems, said she hopes to obtain a stable job.

This year, the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma will again offer scholarships to qualified students to defray the ever-increasing costs of higher education. Scholarship recipients are determined based on financial need, academic achievement, and service to church and community. The recipient must be a full-time student and a permanent resident of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Scholarships are renewed for all recipients for four years of undergraduate study as long as the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative GPA. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

How to apply

What is available? Scholarships from the Catholic Foundation, renewable for up to 4 years of undergraduate study

Who is eligible? Full-time students who are permanent residents of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

When is the deadline? April 2, 2013

Where is the application form? Application forms are available at http://cfook.org

Why apply? As CFO scholarship recipient Lauren Larres put it, "It is important to achieve higher education. The CFO scholarships will help others do just that, as it helped me."

Ngan Nguyen

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING, CONTACT:

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

(405)721-4115 • www.cfook.org • doug@cfook.org

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Selling Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Register online at www.cfook.org

**St. Monica's choir returns from Italy**

Edmond — On March 11, the choir of St. Monica's in Edmond returned from a trip to Italy. They gave concerts at the Festival of Peace and Brotherhood in the Castelli Romani region. After auditioning, they were accepted to sing the liturgy for Mass at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. Next, they traveled to Florence to sing at the Duomo. The choir members also "flashmobbed" (a surprise concert planned ahead of time) sacred music outside of Castel Gandolfo, while Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was in residence.

Because of preparations for the concert, the choir was unable to sing Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on March 6, as previously planned. However, they attended a public rosary and vespers with the College of Cardinals. Although the choir members could not visit the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican Museums opened the Raphael rooms and several libraries.

While on their trip, the choir performed famous pieces such as “Panis Angelicus” and Schubert’s “Salve Regina,” as well as many American hymns and spirituals. To hear some of their recordings, visit www.soonercatholic.com.

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**What to expect at the March for Life**

By Sooner Catholic Staff

The first Oklahoma March for Life took place March 28, 2013. Organized by 40 Days for Life and Oklahomans for Life, Inc., the participants prayed and rallied for the protection of life. After Archbishop Paul C. Carty celebrated Mass at Corpus Christi Church, several hundred people walked the one mile to the Capitol. It was a perfect spring day with a slight wind. Professional, priests and Knights of Columbus were present. Several elementary and high school students and their teachers marked their day to attend the event.

A peaceful rally was held on the Capitol steps. Some walkers held signs proclaiming “Defend Life.” Speakers included Rep. Rebecca Hamilton (D-Oklahoma City), a pro-life advocate. Kevin Calvey of Oklahomans for Life participated with his wife, Tony, who was pregnant with their third child. Archbishop Carty blessed their unborn son, Joseph, who will be one year old this coming April.

Petitions were circulated in support of anti-abortion legislation such as the “personhood” bill, which would give legal rights to embryos. The measure was never brought to a vote.

This year, the organizers of the March hopes for a big turnout. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help by Fr. John Metzinger. Archbishop Carty will be unable to attend because of other commitments.

The March will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral. The distance to the Capitol is approximately 2.4 miles. Participants may join in anywhere along the path if they don’t want to walk the whole route.

The March is a specific way to support the sanctity of life from conception to natural death and to answer the U.B. bishops’ call to prayer for life, marriage and religious liberty.

Those who would like more information may contact Debbie Kruel at dmkreul@hotmail.com or visit the “March for Life OKC” Facebook page.

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**March for See weekend previews life of seminarians**

By Tina Korbo Dzurisin

The Sooner Catholic

When Cristobal Deloera was a senior in high school in 2004 and 2005, he had no real picture of the life of a seminarian.

“I only knew seminarians were out in the middle of nowhere, miles and miles away from the city,” Deloera said in a written reflection on the discernment of his vocation to the priesthood.

In the winter of that year, three seminarians from the Archdioceses of Oklahoma City – Sieter Margaretta Vasquez and Father Joseph Michael Irwin – pointedly asked him whether he had ever considered the priesthood.

Deloera, who hails from the home parish of St. Charles Borromeo, said he “had been avoiding that question for a long time.” He began to seriously consider it.

Father Irwin then did Deloera one better; he invited him to attend the March 2005 “Come and See” weekend – officially called “Encounter with God’s Call” - at Conception Seminary College in Missouri. Deloera hastily agreed to go.

“I was thinking to myself, ‘Surely Father will forget to call me and I will be free to hang out with my friends on the weekend,’” Deloera said.

A week before the trip, Father Irwin called Deloera to remind him of it.

This time, Deloera responded with conviction; he was ready to go.

“I felt a profound peace because I knew that it was only going to be a weekend experience and I was going to have the opportunity to experience seminary life and ask questions to real seminarians,” Deloera related.

The next weekend, on the ride to Conception with other interested peers, Deloera felt a little nervous. A chorus of questions played itself over and over again in his mind: “God, why did you bring me here? What do you want from me?”

The weekend turned out to be one of the best weekends of his life.

“Honestly, I had never visited such a beautiful place as CSC,” he said. “The seminarians were normal like us. They radiated a great joy and happiness that, without a doubt, caught all of our attention. I could sense something very special, something that I didn’t understand at that time. Now that I reflect and look back on the weekend, I am able to say with much confidence that it was a ‘vocation’ that was being nurtured and formed by the hands of God.”

Deloera particularly appreciated that the seminary offered outdoor activities - soccer, volleyball, football and more. A sports lover, Deloera had mistakenly assumed seminarians no longer engaged in competitive activities.

In one short weekend, Deloera was able to experience (the) competition, passons for sports, brotherhood, friendship, courage and love of living life to the fullest” that characterized the lives of the seminarians.

The visit convinced him that God was calling him to study for the priesthood.

“I didn’t know what it was going to require of me, but I only knew deep within my heart that I should definitely give myself any opportunity to respond with a generous ‘yes’ and with a committed heart,” Deloera said. “Today, I happily say that I don’t regret attending ‘Come and See’ at Conception Seminary College.”

Now in his third year of theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, Deloera will be ordained a temporary Deacon this summer.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will sponsor students to attend another “Encounter with God’s Call” weekend at Conception Seminary College this April. Transportation will leave from the Catholic Pastoral Center April 13 and return April 15. Those who are interested may reserve a seat by emailing the Vocations Office at vocations@archok.org or calling (405) 721-9351.

“Dear friends, as one who has lived this experience, I humbly ask you – yes, you who are reading this right now - to please consider before God whether He is calling you to serve Him, perhaps as a priest for the people of Oklahoma,” Deloera said.

In the end, Deloera’s full written reflection on the discernment of his vocation to the priesthood, please visit www.soonercatholic.com.

Tina Korbo Dzurisin is the director of communications at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Archdiocese to host Year of Faith film contest
Q and A with Father William Novak, Vicar General
By Soonor Catholic Staff

Amid all the excitement surrounding the papal transition, the Year of Faith continues. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is hosting a film contest to celebrate the Year of Faith. Father William Novak, Vicar General for the Archdiocese, told us a little more about it.

SC: What is the theme of this film contest?
FN: It revolves around the Year of Faith. The theme is “Living your faith in word and in deed.” In your short film, we’d like you to show us what your faith means to you and how you demonstrate it to the world. Gather your friends and family and start filming! You can use any means available to you in creating a video that tells how you live your faith.

SC: Why did the Year of Faith committee choose to hold a film contest?
FN: It started with Archbishop Paul Coakley’s desire to promote the New Evangelization, the art of living the Gospel defined by Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. In a world darkened by secularism, relativism and individualism, we can’t be bashful or shy about our faith, we have to be active witnesses in the world. Believers are called to evangelize by every means possible, which includes the medium of film. With modern technology and new media, there are so many ways to spread the Gospel. Pope Francis granted a papal blessing not just to those in St. Peter’s Square, but to everyone who caught his first appearance on television, the radio or the Internet.

SC: What can those interested find details about the contest?
FN: The Department of Catholic Education at the archdiocese has all the information, including rules, dates and instructions. Get in touch with the director, Cris Carter, at ccarter@archokc.org. There are categories for children, youth and adults. We will accept entries until August and hold a film festival in September.

SC: What else does the Archdiocese have planned for the Year of Faith?
FN: We are excited to announce that the archdiocese will host pilgrimages throughout the summer months. You’ll be able to visit locations where the Catholic faith has grown. We’ve grouped the sites so that you will be able to see several churches or shrines in one day. Families are more than welcome to participate and see how the Catholic faith developed in Oklahoma. Information will soon be available on the Archdiocesan website.

SC: How can Catholics participate in the Year of Faith?
FN: Get involved at the parish level. Take advantage of catechesis opportunities that your parish offers, such as courses on the Catechism or Lectio Divina, a method of praying the Scriptures. Preferably read the Gospels - we still have plenty of prayer cards in English and Spanish available at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. Please visit our website at http://archokc.org/year-of-faith for more information.

The Year of Faith in the eyes of Pope Francis

A short selection from his letter as Archbishop of Buenos Aires

Among the strongest experiences of recent decades is to find locked doors. The growing insecurity has been leading us, little by little, to lock doors, use surveillance methods, security cameras and to distrust the stranger that knocks at our door. However, there are still some open doors in some of our towns. The closed door is a symbol of our present-day life. It’s more than just a sociological fact; it is an existential reality that marks a lifestyle, a way to stand up to reality, to others, to the future. The closed door of my house, which is also my home to my life and my heart. Each time there are fewer and fewer people capable of crossing that threshold: the armored security doors guard the insecurity of a life that is made more fragile and less permeable to the riches of life and love from others.

The image of an open door has always been the symbol of light, friendship, joy, freedom, confidence. We really need to get them back! The closed door hurts us, it weakens us, and it separates us.

We begin the Year of Faith and, paradoxically, the image proposed by the Pope is the door, a door that must be crossed to find what we so much need: The Church, through the voice and heart of our Shepherd, Benedict XVI, invites us to cross the threshold, to take a step of internal decision. He encourages us to enter into a new life.
The door of faith leads us to the Acts of the Apostles “And when they arrived, they called the church together and repeated what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27). God always takes the initiative and does not wait anyone left out. God knocked at the door of our hearts: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). Faith is a grace, a gift of God. “Faith only grows and strengthens by believing in a continuous abandonment in the hands of a love that is always experienced as bigger because it has its origin in God.”

Crossing through that door implies taking a path that lasts a lifetime. As we move forward, so many doors nowadays are open to us, but many of them are false doors: doors that invite us in a very attractive but deceitful way to take a path; doors that promise an empty happiness, narcistic and with an expiration date; doors that lead to crossroads that, whatever the option we follow, cause short- or long-term distress and embarrassment; self-referential doors that empty into themselves and without any guarantee for a future. While the front doors of our homes are closed, the doors of the male are always open.

We pass through the door of faith, that threshold is crossed, when the “Word of God is proclaimed and we allow the heart to be shaped by its transforming grace, a grace that has a specific name - and that name is Jesus. Jesus is the door (John 10:9). He and He alone, is, and always will be, the door. Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Without Christ, there is no way to God. As a door, He opens the way to God for us and, as the Good Shepherd, He is the only One who cares for us at the cost of His own life.

Jesus is the door and knock on our door to let Him cross the threshold of our lives. “Do not be afraid ... open wide the doors to Christ,” as we were told by Blessed John Paul II at the beginning of his pontificate. Open the doors of the heart as the disciples of Emmaus did, asking Him to stay with us so we can pass the door of faith. The Lord Himself will lead us to better understand the reasons why we can believe, as then we can have confidence to proclaim. Faith is deciding to be with the Lord to live with Him and share Him with our brothers and sisters.

We thank God for this opportunity to cherish our lives as members of God, for this journey of faith that began in our life with the waters of baptism, the inescapable and fruitful gift that makes us children of God and brothers and sisters in the Church. The goal, destination or end is the encounter with God Whom we have entered into communion and Who wants to restore, purify, elevate, sanctify us and give us the happiness which for our hearts long.
With palms, parishes observe Passion Sunday

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Today, parishes across the archdiocese celebrate Passion - or Palm - Sunday, the commemoration of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his Passion, death and Resurrection.

The sixth and last Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the most sacred span of days in the Catholic liturgical calendar.

The day traditionally features several memorable ceremonies, including the blessing or benediction of palms. Throughout history and in many nations, palm branches have represented joy and victory over enmity. In Christianity they represent Christ’s victory over sin and death.

Prior to Mass on Passion Sunday, the priest or bishop blesses the palm branches, which are then distributed to the congregation for a procession about the church. The procession concludes with a reading from one of the Gospels - taken this year from Chapter 19 of the book of Luke.

"Jesus rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road, the preceding priest read, "and now, as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. They proclaimed, Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Mass follows the procession and includes the memorable recitation - by both the priest and the congregation, in parts - of one of the Gospel accounts of Christ’s passion and death. This year, the Gospel is from Chapters 22 and 23 of the book of Luke.

The Gospel recounts the futility of the cerebals that clamer for Christ’s crucifixion, Christ’s prediction that Peter will deny him three times, Peter’s protestations his fulfillment of the prediction. After Mass, the faithful may keep the palm branches as a sacrament or return them to the church. Any returned branches are burned to ash, which are distributed on Ash Wednesday the following year.

Source: NewAcolyte.org

Oklahoma Catholics promote Divine Mercy message

By Sooner Catholic Staff

When 19-year-old Helen Kowalska entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland in 1925, she took the name Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament - and quickly earned a reputation for herself as a kind and humble nun.

Even as she lived a quiet exterior life, she had recorded in her diary the evidence of an intense interior life of union with God. The Lord Himself spoke to her, she wrote, and gave her revelations about His mercy.

"Secretary of My most profound mystery" Christ said to her, according to her diary, "your task is to write down everything that I make known to you about My mercy for the benefit of those who by reading these things will be comforted in their souls and will have the courage to approach Me.”

The Lord’s message of Divine Mercy, as recorded by Sister Faustina in her diary (published today as "Diary - Divine Mercy in My Soul"), spread rapidly until March of 1959, when the Vatican suddenly banned the diary to resolve confusion that had arisen.

In April of 1965, then-Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, began an official information gathering process about Sister Faustina’s life and virtues - a process that ended in September 1967 and resulted in the opening of the cause for her beatification.

In April of 1973, the Vatican reversed the ban on Sister Faustina’s diary.

Cardinal Wyszyński, of course, became Pope John Paul II in October of 1978. On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina and declared the first Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

Today, parishes around the world celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy message has spread dramatically, resulting in Divine Mercy national and international shrines, numerous religious communities dedicated to the Divine Mercy, worldwide Divine Mercy congresses and countless numbers of publications about the Divine Mercy message, including books, prayers, holy cards and pictures.

"Divine Mercy is not a secondary devotion but an integral dimension of the Christian faith and prayer," Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has said.

Cindy Case, who has been a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond for two decades, is a certified Promoter of Divine Mercy, Mariane of the Immaculate Conception, Stokbridge, Mass.

"The message of Divine Mercy is the message of the Gospel - repent, believe in God’s mercy and be merciful to others," Cindy Case said in a written reflection on Divine Mercy Sunday. "However, there is an inescapable emphasis that now is the time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Now is the time of His Mercy."

"The Church teaches that we have entered the last days since the Assumption of the Lord," she wrote. "As children of God, we are to live the Gospel each day, not in fear, but ready to joyfully welcome the Second Coming of our Lord. Yet, daily, we see in the news more tragedies, rampant immorality, terrorism, increased violence, war, famine, global economic problems, new assaults on life and freedom, the breakdown of the family, crime and scandal in the Church, public disregard and criticism of the Church’s teachings, and more. It’s natural that tensions and anxieties rise. God’s Divine Mercy offers us immediate relief. Through the messages of Divine Mercy given to Saint Faustina, we are presented simple ways to turn to God and receive His mercy and, therefore, His peace.

The reception of the sacraments, veneration of the image of Divine Mercy and prayer are among these ‘simple ways’ All have heightened importancy on Divine Mercy Sunday. Case said, because the Lord promised to grant ‘complete forgiveness of sins and punishment’ to those who go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday.

April 7 is Divine Mercy Sunday. Case’s parish, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, will host a Eucharistic Holy Hour at 3 p.m. that day in celebration.
La imagen de una puerta abierta

Al principio del año, algunos amigos me pidieron que hiciese una reflexión sobre el tema de las puertas de la fe, como parte de un proyecto de la Iglesia Católica. Acepté, siempre con recelo, porque es un tema complejo y a menudo difícil de abordar.

En mi pueblo, la puerta de entrada de la iglesia es de gran tamaño y siempre está abierta. La impresión que me deja es la de una invitación constante: “Venid a mí, todo aquel que esté cansado, toda esa que no tiene fuerzas… y os será entregado” (Mat. 11,28-29). La fe, en este sentido, es una puerta que se abre para recibir a todos aquellos que buscan paz, amor y perdón.

La fe es como una puerta que se abre para recibir a todos aquellos que buscan paz, amor y perdón.

La experiencia de la fe en los ojos del Papa Francisco

Antes de llegar a mi casa, vi una imagen que me llamó la atención: una puerta abierta que se perdía en el horizonte. La imagen me hizo reflexionar sobre el significado de la fe y cómo puede ser un puente que nos conecta con Dios.

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Hoy, en la iglesia, vi a una anciana que se acercó a la puerta para rezar en silencio. Fue una escena que me impactó. La fe es una puerta que se abre para recibir a todos aquellos que buscan paz, amor y perdón.

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Cortes enseñanzas de apologetica Católica

Por Padre Raúl Sánchez

¿Donde dice la Biblia que Pedro fue el primer papa? Se responde, de una manera muy directa, en ningún libro de la Biblia, como en ninguna parte de la Biblia se dice o aparece la palabra primo. Sin embargo, la referencia más cercana a esto en la Biblia es el Episodio de la Resurrección de Jesús, donde Pedro se postula como el primer papa. Se dice que Pedro fue el primero en confesar a Jesucristo como el Redentor del mundo. Por lo tanto, aunque no se diga evidencia directa en la Biblia, la razón por la cual Pedro se considera el primer papa es debido a su confesión pública de Jesucristo como el Redentor del mundo.

Papa Francisco es hombre común y amable en el servicio a los pobres

Por Por David Agers

Catholic News Service

Buenos Aires, Argentina — Oscar Juan, de 60 años de edad, venera a Papa Francisco y a sus enseñanzas. Pero también se le conocieron como el hombre común y amable, que de alguna manera cambió las expectativas de muchos. Juan testimonia que, cuando llegó el papa Francisco a Buenos Aires, no hubo un gran esfuerzo por parte de los medios de comunicación para darle la nota. Sin embargo, él, como la mayoría de los argentinos, se sintió emocionado con el nuevo papa. El papa Francisco es conocido por su simplicidad y su cercanía con la gente. Se le ha visto caminando por las calles de Buenos Aires, dirigiendo la Misa Dominical y visitando lugares populares. Su estilo de vida es muy diferente al de los anteriores papa Francisco, lo que ha causado una gran admiración por su apariencia informal y su ropa común.

Anuncio sobre la Radio Católica en Español

Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting (OCB) es enriquecedor en anunciar la expansión de la Radio Católica en Español para Oklahoma City. A partir del Lunes, 18 de marzo, programarán de radio católica en español será transmitido por KTBL AM 890 de 5:00 pm hasta la puesta del sol (que para el mes de marzo es hasta las 7:30 pm). Como parte de su expansión en línea, el canal OCB también ofrecerá un servicio de streaming en vivo al público hispanohablante en el estado de Oklahoma. El Padre Sánchez es abogado en Derecho y Cuestiones Políticas de la Universidad de la Gran Ciudad de Buenos Aires, donde el papa Francisco recientemente fue nombrado Obispo. EI Padre Sánchez es un personaje de relevancia en la comunidad católica en América Latina. Ha sidoemiado en numerosos programas de radio y televisión, y ha escrito varios libros sobre temas de fe y espiritualidad. Actualmente es director de la revista católica El Cíclope.
Television review
"The Bible" miniseries recreates salvation history

By Sooner Catholic Staff

No matter how far the people stray, faith in God ultimately saves Israel in the new TV miniseries, "The Bible.

Produced by Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Voice," "The Apprentice") and his wife Roma Downey ("Touched by an Angel"). "The Bible" recounts the story of salvation history. The first two episodes aired March 3 on the History Channel.

A handful of characters provide a sense of all the patriarchs, prophets and heroes who followed God. Because of time constraints, the show leaves out some plot points. For instance, it completely skips the story of Jacob and his twelve sons. The narrator's constant refrain is, "One hundred years later..."

While these lacunae are somewhat disconcerting, they allow the filmmakers to illustrate similarities in the kind of men that God chooses. An unquenchable trust in God's faithfulness distinguishes the leaders of Israel.

Often portrayed as an old man, Abraham's active, enthusiastic personality in the show was refreshing—probably true to the Bible. Moses always has a gleam in his eye and a fervent devotion to doing God's work. Both use the battle cry, "Trust in God! Even when friends and family doubt, these leaders have complete faith that God will fulfill his promises to make their descendants as numerous as the stars.

So far there is a definite structure to the episodes, for in the first two demonstrate the verse "The Lord goes," the next two represent "and the Lord has taken over!" Figures like the proud King Saul lose everything. David's beginnings seem more auspicious, for he echoes Moses' certainty in God. He seems ready to rule with God's blessing - more than rags. Also, despite the remarkable special effects that create the parting of the Red Sea, the characters are constantly covered in sand and wear little more than rags. Also, despite the remarkable special effects that create the parting of the Red Sea, many viewers might feel nostalgia for Cecil B. DeMille's interpretation of the scene.

Even if you remember all your Bible stories, this show makes you look at them differently. The praise Israel pays for a Kingdom, the pain of the Babylonian Exile and the willless trust of Mary are shown in a powerful new way. Familiar can enjoy the show, although many scenes contain violence and gore or mild suggestive material. Catch "The Bible" from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. CST tonight and next week on Easter Sunday.

First, the portrayal of desert hygiene is much more accurate in the miniseries. Rather than the glittering costumes of the old movie epics, the characters are constantly covered in sand and wear little more than rags. Also, despite the remarkable special effects that create the parting of the Red Sea, many viewers might feel nostalgia for Cecil B. DeMille's interpretation of the scene.

While not owned or operated by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting (OCB) is a non-profit charitable organization. The funding for this programming comes completely from listeners. Opportunities are available for Spanish businesses to advertise on the programs as well. Donations may be mailed to Oklahoma Catholic Broadcasting, P.O. Box 1428, Guthrie, OK 73044, or made online at OKCatholicBroadcasting.com. Donors should mark "Spanish Programs" on the comment line of their check. All donations will go toward the broadcasting of Spanish Catholic programs.

Catholics to lead Way of the Cross across OU campus

The St. Thomas More Catholic community will hold its annual Way of the Cross this Good Friday on the University of Oklahoma campus, stopping at different points on campus for each station. Stations begin at 3 p.m. Friday, March 29, at St. Thomas More parish. For more information, call (405) 321-0990.

All Saints Catholic School to celebrate Roman Holiday

The All Saints Catholic School Roman Holiday is April 8, 2013, at the Embassy Suites in Norman. The evening will feature a plated dinner, silent and live auctions and dancing to live music by The Mystery Dance. Tickets are on sale now. To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit www.allsaintsnorman.org and click on the "Roman" link. Donations can be made via the school web site.

Marriage Encounter aims to strengthen couples

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is April 26 to April 28, 2013, at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register, please contact John and Tena Franklin at john.tenafranklin@gmail.com or (405) 209-3515. It is just $50 to reserve your room. Space is limited. The deadline is April 10, 2013.

In 1854, five years before the Land Run of '89, five Sisters of Mercy made the long trek by covered wagon into Indian Territory. They crossed raging rivers, encountered outlaws and survived tornadoes. But unlike others before them, the Sisters of Mercy never turned back.

True mercy can't be contained.

It spreads like a tiny fire through the lives it touches.
March 24, 2013
15

March
24 Palm Sunday
26 Christ Mass, 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
27 Open House, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart School. Pre 3 – 5th Grade.
28 Holy Thursday
28 Open House at St. Mary School.

Job Box
Youth Coordinator
Christ the King Catholic Church in Oklahoma City seeks a full-time Youth Coordinator who will develop and facilitate a comprehensive youth ministry program in collaboration with the pastor, family, staff, parish groups and volunteers of our parish. Applicant must be willing and able to work nights and weekends while maintaining regular agreed-upon office hours. Minimum one-year leadership experience in Catholic youth ministry required. Degree or certification in youth ministry or theology is preferred. Please send resume to Father Richard Stanowski, Christ the King Church, 8001 Drexel Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Choir Director
Tinker Air Force Base Chapel is seeking a Catholic Choir Director. The successful applicant should be familiar with Roman-Catholic worship practices, rites and music, have at least three years of experience and be able to pass a background investigation. Minimum one-year leadership experience in Catholic youth ministry required. Degree or certification in youth ministry or theology is preferred. Please send resume to Father Richard Stanowski, Christ the King Church, 8001 Drexel Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Music Teacher
Christ the King Catholic School seeks a state-certified full-time music teacher for the 2013-2014 school year. Preference will be given to Catholic candidates with a strong background in traditional liturgy. Please submit application to Mrs. Karen Carter, principal, at 305 Elmhurst Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73120 by April 1.

Summer Internship
Catholic Charities and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to provide a 10-week paid summer internship for any U.S. Catholic who is interested in community service and leadership development. Applicants must be open to the values of participation, option for the poor, and solidarity building, and show potential for continued leadership. Internships are paid at a rate of $12.00 per hour and include an expense-paid orientation in Washington, D.C. May 29 to May 31, 2013. Deadline for applications is March 15. For more information, contact Becky VanPool at (405) 529-3003 or bvanpool@catholiccharitiesok.org.

Director of Pastoral Care
Via Christi Village, Ponca City, OK. The position is responsible for the delivery of spiritual care, as part of the care team, to residents, their loved ones and, as appropriate, staff. Responsible for coordinating programs and services to strengthen alignment of lives and behaviors of the organization personnel with VCH Mission and Core Values. Candidates must be knowledgeable and supportive of Catholic doctrine and the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services. Apply online at www.vcvah.com or in person at Via Christi Village.

Calendar
6 All Saints Catholic School
Roman Holiday Dinner/Auction at the Embassy Suites in Norman. To purchase tickets or for more information visit www.allsaintsnorman.org and click on the “Roman” link.

6 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (Lay) Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta meeting 5:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond. For more information, contact Tony Harrelson, Inc. at (405) 343-2199 or loharsles- homa@ctgglobal.net.

6 NFP Classes in English 10 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information, contact Ana Romoers at (405) 741-8944 or armoers@archokc.org.

6 NFP Classes in Spanish 1 p.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center. For more information, contact Ana Romoers at (405) 741-8944 or armoers@archokc.org.

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### Oklahoma City

- **Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
  - 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City
  - **Wednesday:** 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

- **Catholic Pastoral Center Chapel**
  - 7501 S.W. Expressway, Oklahoma City
  - **Monday:** 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (followed by Benediction)
  - **3rd Tuesday:** 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Christ the King Church**
  - 8005 Street Drive, Oklahoma City
  - **Monday:** 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (followed by Benediction)
  - **Services:**
    - **3rd Friday:** 5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (followed by Benediction)
    - **Saturday:** 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Church of the Epiphany of the Lord**
  - 7519 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City
  - **Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- **Holy Angels Church**
  - 317 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City
  - **1st Friday:** Mass 8:30 a.m., Adoration 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

- **Sacred Heart Church,**
  - 2706 S. Sharbird Avenue, Oklahoma City
  - **2nd Saturday:** 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
  - **Saturday:** 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - **Holy Hour:** 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

### Outside Oklahoma City

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA</th>
<th>Saint Joseph Church</th>
<th>1300 E. Beverly Street</th>
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<td>ALFAY</td>
<td>Prince of Peace Church</td>
<td>1500 Elikon Road</td>
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<td>ANADABRO</td>
<td>St. Peter Church</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Sorrows Church</td>
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<td>Holy Name of Jesus Church</td>
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<td>St. Damien of Molokai Church</td>
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<td>MINGUS</td>
<td>Saint Vincent DePaul Church</td>
<td>121 S. 83rd Street</td>
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### Midwest

| CITY                     | Saint Charles Borromeo Church | 5024 N. Grove, Oklahoma City |
|--------------------------| Saint Eugenius Church | 2600 W. Hefner Road, Oklahoma City |
| MOORE                    | Saint Francis of Assisi Church | 1901 NW 16th Street, Oklahoma City |
| NORMAN                   | Saint James the Greater Church | 4231 S. McKinley, Oklahoma City |
| OKLAHOMA CITY            | Saint Joseph Old Cathedral | 307 NW 4th Street, Oklahoma City |

### Prayer warriors pursue unique mission at Holy Innocents Chapel

**By Sooner Catholic Staff**

Dedicated Feb. 22, the Chapel already boasts admirers committed to pray for an end to abortion - but more are needed, said adoration coordinator Tony Harrelson.

"The presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist next to the abortion clinic is the ultimate 'god' in the battle with evil being waged every day. Adorers are needed for holy hours in perpetual commitment to help save the lives of the unborn," Harrelson said in a news release.

"Would-be admirers may enlant in the effort by emailing adoration.holyinno@gmx.com or calling (405) 343-2199."