Archbishop Coakley blesses Saint Anthony renovated chapel

Honors Archbishop Emeritus Beltran

A special Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Coakley this month to bless the renovated Saint Anthony Hospital Chapel.

During his homily, Archbishop Paul Coakley said, “This is a day of rejoicing for we have come together to offer this new church, new chapel to God. We give thanks for the opportunity to see it so beautifully renewed.”

Tom and Judy Love made a generous donation to Saint Anthony Foundation to renovate the 42 year-old chapel in honor of Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran.

“In your renovation of this chapel, you ensure the continuing presence of Our Lord Jesus on the grounds of Saint Anthony,” Archbishop Beltran said. “This hospital was built upon the Eucharistic presence of Jesus Christ. It was always my regular routine to stop here on my way to visit patients,” he added.

“We are truly appreciative of the generous donation made by the Love family. With their kind gift, we were able to enhance the Saint Anthony chapel, resulting in a lovely place of worship, where our presence of Jesus Christ is always my regular routine to stop here on my way to visit patients, and I was shocked because it was never empty. There was always someone here praying.”

Archbishop Coakley celebrates Mass in the renovated chapel of St. Anthony Hospital with Archbishop Emeritus Beltran and Fr. George Parackal, Chaplain. Deacon Rick Boothe assisted. Photo Diane Clay.

Local bishop describes ‘a very, very frightening scene’ in Nepal

By John Pontifex

Aid to the Church in Need

KATHMANDU, NEPAL — Nepal’s bishop has given a graphic account of the country’s catastrophic April 25 earthquake, describing how he was lucky to survive.

In a message to international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need, Bishop Paul Simick, the Vicar Apostolic of Nepal, said he “saw houses falling like a pack of cards,” and that people “were running in all directions to save their lives.”

“It was a very, very frightening scene. … I myself had to literally run to save my life.”

He continued: “Repeated aftershocks – just now there was one [and] I had to run away from my office – have made people frightened so they have left their houses and pitched tarpaulin tents on the streets and open fields.”

With more than 5,000 confirmed deaths, the bishop added that local radio reports had predicted a rise in the death toll as more bodies are recovered. “I saw animals killed by falling cow sheds and stone walls,” he added. “I saw the dry landslides after the shake all over the hills where I was.”

The bishop described the devastating impact of the earthquake on Nepal’s small Catholic community, numbering just 10,000 faithful. “Here in Kathmandu city, many Catholic families have cracks in their houses or major damage … many of our churches, schools, convents and other institutions have developed precarious cracks.”

Bishop Simick stressed the problems of trying to assess the situation on the ground, describing the crippling impact of communications breakdown, impassable roads, no domestic flights, and entire communities still cut off from any help.

Reporting on the suffering of Catholic communities, he described how some faithful had lost their lives in a mission station which takes three days by foot to reach from the capital. He said that on Monday “one helicopter went to see the place and victims, but because of bad weather it could not land and saw nothing.”

The bishop added, “I would also like to request your prayer support for the victims’ families who have lost loved ones, those who are still missing loved ones and those who are seriously injured.”

John Pontifex is a senior journalist for Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity under the guidance of the Holy See, providing assistance to the suffering and persecuted Church in more than 140 countries.
A new Pentecost for a new evangelization

Novenas are not as common of a form of popular piety as they once were. But, they are still with us. One such novena, which sets the pattern for subsequent novenas, was the nine-day period of prayerful anticipation following the Lord’s Ascension and leading up to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Jerusalem, but to await the promised gift of the Father. The Church's mission is to evangelize, that is, to announce the Good News to all persons. What is that good news? Pope Francis expresses the heart of the proclamation of Jesus to the world today: “Let the Gospel be good news for all.”

Evangelization is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit who is the source of our joy when we have encountered the mercy of Jesus in a personal way. Our efforts in service of a new evangelization are to be fruitful, we need a new Pentecost. Pope Francis writes, “Spirit-filled evangelizers mean evangelizers fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit.”

At Pentecost, the Spirit made the apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into heralds of God’s wondrous deeds, capable of speaking to each person in his or her own language. The Holy Spirit grants the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness in every time and place, even when it meets with opposition. We need to talk about the Spirit going forward, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty. Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but also with a life that shows our joy at all times. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we again are preparing to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the liturgical feast of Pentecost (May 24).

Like the apostles and disciples during that first novena leading up to Pentecost, I invite you to pray expectantly for the coming of the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts. The Office of New Evangelization has prepared a simple novena to the Holy Spirit. Please use it to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the Church.
A New Evangelization needs a new Pentecost

This past month, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City was one of 20 host sites for the New Evangelization Summit sponsored by the Diocese of Ottawa. Among other things, participants heard that “a new evangelization needs a new Pentecost.”

We tend to think of Pentecost as an event that happened a long time ago, after Jesus ascended into heaven. The apostles were told to go to Jerusalem and “wait until you are clothed with power from on high.” The apostles met and prayed in the Upper Room with Our Lady for nine days — the Church’s first Novena! And then the Holy Spirit came to them in a powerful way, described in Acts 2. The power they received from the Holy Spirit changed them in spite of all their weaknesses and inadequacies, transformed and made this unlikely bunch to burst out of the Upper Room and go change the world with their words and their miracles.

Ever since the Second Vatican Council was convened by Pope John XXIII, the peoples have been urging us to pray for a new Pentecost in our day. Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council with this plea to the Holy Spirit, “Re- new your spirit in your servants, as you promised you would in the prophecy of Malachi, ‘Till you are clothed with power from on high,’ and as a second Pentecost.”

Pope Blessed Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation, “Evangelization in the Modern World,” confirmed the need to reconnect the mission of the Church with Pentecost. “Let us ask for an apostolic seed, a renewed Pentecost, a new period of evangelization” (Evangelii nuntiandi, n.2). He went on to declare that the Holy Spirit is “the principle agent of evangelization; it is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel, and it is He who in the depths of coniescences causes the will of salvation to be accepted and understood” (Evangelii nuntiandi, n.7).

Saint John Paul II also was emphatic about the need for this experience of the power of the Holy Spirit. He observed that we are often called upon to make the same effort that the first followers of Jesus did. “We are called to do our utmost, not to half measure, not with a disinterested or conditional attitude, but with the same mind and heart of those who first listened to the message of salvation” (Evangelium vitae, n.4).

In this parable, the Church is represented by the wheat. The sower is the Church. The seed is the word of God. The soil is the hearers. The harvest is the end of this work. And the word of God is the Holy Spirit.

The most important event affecting Pope Romero’s decision to while-heartedly stand with the poor and oppressed was the assassination of his close friend Jesuit Father素材格鲁达；which prompted him to support land reform, worker unions and organizing committees that had a greater voice regarding their own lives. Romero, who was deeply inspired by Grande said, “When I looked at Rutilio Grande’s martyrdom, I thought, if they have killed him for doing what he did, then I too have to walk the same path.”

In a letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Romero warned continued U.S.- sponsored actions against the Salvadoran government would stop all military assistance to the Salvadoran government. Carter ignored Romero. And later, President Ronald Reagan greatly increased military aid. During his March 23, 1980, Sunday national radio homily, Romero said, “I would like to make one appeal at the beginning of the year: Why don’t you go to the coffee plantations of this friend of yours … Go find out for yourselves.”

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The painting of Salvadorean Archbishop Oscar Romero is located in the lower level of the Cathedral of San Salvador. CNS photo/Octavio Duran.

To open it up! And Romero did.

Next, he started talking with those poor workers, and began to understand their problems. But, Romero had difficulty believing ‘Alas’ claim that plantation owners treated workers unfairly. Alas replied, “Why don't you go to the coffee plantations of this friend of yours ... Go find out for yourselves.”

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The painting of Salvadorean Archbishop Oscar Romero is located in the lower level of the Cathedral of San Salvador. CNS photo/Octavio Duran.

To open it up! And Romero did.
Good Shepherd School marks Autism Awareness Month

By J.E. Hehn
For the Sooner Catholic

It was hard to tell who was having more fun — the students or the staff — at that month’s carnival at Good Shepherd School at Mercy. The outdoor carnival was held on April 30 to mark the conclusion of Autism Awareness Month.

Autism Awareness Month was established to promote awareness and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder and those affected by it. The entire month was celebrated nationwide with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events such as walks, conferences and “giving blue” events.

At Good Shepherd School, students enjoyed poppers, ice cream, and other treats as well as face painting, a bubble making machine, and games like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. A clown was on hand to create balloon art for the students.

Charleston’s restaurant provided a bounty house, and employees of Charleston’s staffed activities and games.

A highlight of the day was OKC Thunder’s mascot, Rumble the Bisan. Rumble was provided for the carnival by the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Pat Filer is the director at Good Shepherd School. Filer has been working to promote awareness of the program at Good Shepherd by meeting with state agency directors and community outreach directors. The school has been visited by several representatives, including state Rep. Jason Nelson, who is a member of the legislature’s Committee on Common Education.

Filer reported that many parents at Good Shepherd have said the school has given them hope for the future.

“It is really wonderful for me to see the positive impact that Good Shepherd has had on the lives of the children and their families.”

Last year, Good Shepherd had 16 students enrolled. This year, there are 21 students with four more coming by June.

A goal of the school is to return students to regular schools, public and private, and to return them to typical classrooms. In 2014, two students from Good Shepherd transitioned to regular education, and this summer, four will re-enter regular school programs.

The program at Good Shepherd focuses on Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA. ABA is a method based on the principles and techniques of human learning. ABA is used to improve socially significant behaviors such as communication and other social skills.

At Good Shepherd, students are provided with a highly individualized plan that enables them to achieve measurable skill improvements in areas such as reading and language, behavior and personal hygiene.

Good Shepherd is a collaborative effort on the part of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Mercy Health Systems and the University of Central Oklahoma. Good Shepherd is a UCO Model and Demonstration Site.

Faculty and graduate students from UCO’s psychology department of the college of education participate in the program. A clinical support team from UCO provides guidance and support to the staff. The team is comprised of education professionals, including board certified behavior analysts, behavior interventionists and ABA supervising interns.

Parent training is made available as well as opportunities for parents to observe and engage in direct therapy at the school.

Scott Singleton, UCO assistant professor of psychology, is the clinical director at Good Shepherd.

“We’re using the latest research to guide our practices,” he said.

Doreen Filer notes, “That programs work; they are proven effective in developing positive outcomes.

Being at the leading edge in the education of children with autism allows the school to serve as a learning resource for education professionals in the area.

‘Visitors from other schools can come and learn,’ Singleton said.

J.E. Hehn is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Catholic nurses honored by Catholic Foundation

Catholic Charities offers recovery to families impacted by storms

By Sonny Wilkinson
Catholic Charities

As residents in Bridge Creek, Norman and south Oklahoma City begin the recovery process following the May 6 storms, Catholic Charities’ Disaster Relief program is mobilizing to offer assistance and advice to those affected by the tornados and flood waters.

Throughout the next few weeks, the team will assess available resources as well as the needs of impacted families to ensure that all those who need essential help receive it.

“Catholic Charities will always be there to help families after storms, floods and other natural disasters,” said Patrick Ragow, executive director of Catholic Charities, archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

“Two years ago, we helped hundreds of residents in Moore, Little Axe and Shawnee thanks to the kindness of our donors in Oklahoma and across the country. Although the May 6 floods weren’t as widespread as some previous weather events, there is great need in Bridge Creek, south Oklahoma City and other areas. We hope that Oklahomans will support our efforts to make these families whole while after such a traumatizing event.”

While some disaster recovery programs waste with short-term needs, Catholic Charities focuses on long-term care.

Archdiocese honors Memorial Day

By Sally Linhart
For the Sooner Catholic

Memorial Day weekend often is simply a celebration of the beginning of summer. However, it is important for all of us to reflect on the real meaning of the holiday.

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance, a day to give thanks, and a day to honor the men and women in the U.S. armed forces who have laid down their lives while serving our country.

Additionally, it is a day to pray for all of those who are overseas serving in the U.S. military.

On Memorial Day, we mourn friends and family who have lost in service, and pray that their family members feel peace.

Several Catholic cemeteries around the archdiocese will celebrate Mass on Memorial Day.

Archbishop Coyle will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery in northwest Oklahoma City. Archbishop Emeritus Beltran will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m.

Father Charles Murphy will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. at Saint Patrick’s Cemetery, NW 23rd between Council Road and County Line Road, followed by a potluck lunch. Attendees are encouraged to bring folding chairs, umbrellas and a food item. Lunch will be held in the light rain.

In Woodward, Father Joe Abell will celebrate Mass at Elmwood Cemetery at 10 a.m. Attendees should bring folding chairs and umbrellas. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be held inside at Saint Peter.

In Norman, Father Boeckmann will celebrate Mass at Saint Joseph’s Cemetery at 10 a.m., followed by light refreshments provided by the Knights of Columbus. Attendees are asked to bring folding chairs and umbrellas. Saint Joseph’s Cemetery recently unveiled a new columbarium, which will be dedicated following Mass.

In addition to attending Mass and prayer, Americans are encouraged to observe the National Moment of Silence beginning at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day.

Sally Linhart is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

As a member of Oklahoma VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters), Catholic Charities is participating in the Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC) in south Oklahoma City and Bridge Creek.

Catholic Charities has been on site helping storm survivors with their recovery process including financial assistance, resource coordination and emotional support.

“We are familiar with the path to recovery, and we are dedicated to assurance Catholic Charities will be there during the process. As our clients know in Moore, healing is not instantaneous and some people need more help than others,” Ragow said.

“Even families with homeowner’s or renter’s insurance may need post-disaster support to help fill the gaps that may not be covered by their policy or that arise during the claims process or need for new services.”

Left to right, Fr. Charles Murphy and Fr. Joe Abell celebrate Memorial Day Mass at Saint Patrick’s Cemetery in 2012.
Catholic Foundation’s scholarships total $138,000 for 2015

The following six students have received the Bob Little Pastoral Youngman’s Scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Brandon Aguilar – Holy Angels, OKC, UCO
- Catherine Caughlin – Saint Joseph, Edmond, OU
- Kasey Roach – Saint Francis, Enid, OU
- Abigail Rams – Saint Mary, Clinton, OU
- Molly Ragan – Saint Peter and Paul, Kingfisher, OK
- Tyler Whitehead – Saint Francis Xavier, Enid, OU

The winners of the Amelia P. Davis and Elizabeth H. Davis Law- rence Scholarships are:

- Leslie Alvarez – Saints Peter and Paul, Kingfisher, OK
- Abby Lee – Saint Gregory, Enid, OK
- Tyler Schnaithman – Saint Gregory, Enid, OU
- Elenas Shimanek – Saint Gregory, Enid, OU
- Abby Zurcher – Saint Gregory, Enid, OU
- The Helen H. Hall Nursing Scholarship is awarded to:
  - Clair Kuper – Saint Monica, Edmond, OK

The P.B. Connely Medical Scholarships to attend the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine are awarded to:

- Nguyen Nguyen, Saint Andrew Dung-Lac
- James Michael Rudkins, Saint Thomas More, Norman

Students receiving Catholic Foundation Scholarships for the 2015-16 school year are:

- Taylor Allen – Saint John, Edmond, Oklahoma State University
- Garrett Baucom – Saint John Nepomuk, Yukon, Saint Gregory’s University
- Zachary L. Bernstein – Saint Ann, Elgin, USAO Chickasha
- Kaithyn Bridges – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stroud, Universi- ty of Central Oklahoma
- Humberto Cervantes – Saint Joseph, Hermann, Southwestern Oklahoma State University
- Vincent Dao – Saint Mary, Ardmore, UCO
- Julian Donna – Saint Eugene, Oklahoma City University
- Kham Ph. Du – Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, University of Oklahoma
- Davey R. English – Saint Gregory’s Abbey, Shawnee, SGU
- Selena Estrada – Saint Joseph, Stillwater, Oklahoma State University
- Andrew Dung-Lac, Rose State College

Junior Dung-Lac, OU

John Pham – Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, OU
Mary Pham – Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, OU

Anthony Thanh Pham – Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, OU
Sarah Ashley Pierce – Holy Family, Lawton, OU
Julian A. Pena – Our Lady of Victory, Purcell, OK
Omar Axel Anchondo Ramirez – Saint Peter, Pryor, OK

Scholarship recipients for the Evelyn and Kathy Ann Haskell Scholarships are:

- Steven Alan Patocka – Saint Joseph, Hennessey, UCO
- Gabriel Sanchez – Saint Francis Xavier, Enid, SGU
- Kyle Severson – Saint Michael, Gallup, Northern Oklahoma College
- Troy Wilkens – Saints Peter and Paul, Kingfisher, OK

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**Review: An invitation to appreciate, love Mass**

By J.E. Helm  
For the Sooner Catholic

For some people, attending Sunday Mass has become almost a religious ritual. They have abandoned the practice of saying anything beyond “Amen” or “Hear, O Lord,” much less engaging in any form of prayer in the service. And yet, the Mass is rich with meaning, and for some, it is their spiritual focus. In his book, “Behold the Mystery,” Mark Hart encourages us to go beyond the superficialities of the Mass and engage in it with our whole hearts.

Hart points out that “the same words of consecration” have been used “on the battlefield and in basilicas” for more than 2,000 years, and that the Mass has been “presented to the throne room of heaven for an hour on Sunday and on weekdays for two hours.” He argues that if we truly understand the Mass, we are presented with an opportunity to “inviting us to behold the mystery.”

The Mass is not our idea but God’s, Hart argues. He points out that “the same words of consecration” have been used throughout the Church’s history. And yet, we often don’t fully understand or appreciate the richness of the Mass.

Hart also emphasizes the importance of the liturgy, saying that “these pages discuss and analyze the processions, the low and the altar rite.” He gives us the words of Pope Paul VI (“Pray for us that we may not wander away from the altar.”)

The Mass is a beautiful and profound experience that can deepen our relationship with God. But to fully appreciate it, we must go beyond the superficialities and engage in it with our whole hearts. Hart’s book is a great resource for anyone who wants to explore the richness of the Mass and deepen their spiritual life.

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**Understanding the Feast of the Ascension, Pentecost**

By Ted King  
For the Sooner Catholic

The Ascension occurred forty days after the Resurrection on May 20, 1955. The Ascension, observed May 20 this year, celebrates the completion of Christ’s mission on earth and his entrance into heaven. “So then the Lord Jesus, after he had shown these signs in the upper room and had sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Then, he ascended into heaven.”

The Ascension, observed May 20 this year, celebrates the completion of Christ’s mission on earth and his entrance into heaven. “So then the Lord Jesus, after he had shown these signs in the upper room and had sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Then, he ascended into heaven.”

50 days after Pentecost, and it was 50 days after the apostles were together to celebrate Pentecost.

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**CRS president “Working for a Better World”**

By J.E. Helm  
For the Sooner Catholic

“Working for a Better World” is the story of Carmen Woo, who came from China, Vietnam and Cambodia to the United States. She served as a CRS board member since 2013.

Woo is the story of a woman who has worked for CRS for 43 years, and has seen the organization grow from a small, local organization to one of the largest humanitarian agencies in the world.

As Christians, we believe Christ will return to judge the living and the dead. As members of the Church, we are called to be dynamic Catholics. The feast of Pentecost is an opportunity to celebrate the Church’s mission to spread the good news of salvation in a true spirit of evangelization.

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**Pentecost Novena booklets available**

By Ted King  
For the Sooner Catholic

Pentecost Novena booklets are available at the Sooner Catholic office, and are prepared free novena booklets for use in parishes or by parishes. They are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese at www.archokc.org.
Un nuevo Pentecostés para una nueva evangelización

Por el obispo franciscano Octavio Durán

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — La capilla del hospital de la Divina Providencia en El Salvador es uno de los lugares más visitados por peregrinos de la localidad y extranjeros. Llegan diariamente de saber más acerca del arzobispo Óscar Romero, controvertido arzobispo que se ha convertido en símbolo salvadoreño. En 1966, la congregación de las hermanas Misioneras Carmelitas de Santa Teresa conoció a este hospital bajo la dirección de la hermana Luisa Casieu. Misioneras carmelitas que veía la necesidad de atender a pacientes de cáncer. Y fue en la que capsuló la misión de evangelizar que se realizaría en este hospital, hasta el día en que el arzobispo Romero fue asesinado, recitando tiros cerca del corazón, momentos antes de morir tratando de salvar a niños de la herida. 

Una religiosa que guarda reliquias de Romero se pregunta qué pasaría con ellas

Por Cindy Wooden

La Misa es fiesta de amor matrimonial

Por Pedro A. Murenu, OP, MRE

Director del Ministerio Nupcial

La celebración de la Eucaristía ofrece algo especial para los esposos

Director del Ministerio Nupcial

La Misa es fiesta de amor matrimonial

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La Misa es fiesta de amor matrimonial

El Vaticano da a conocer detalles de la visita del papa a Sudamérica

Por Cindy Wooden

CITADEL DEL VATICANO — El papa Francisco va a Sudamérica, un panorama entre la paz y el conflicto, donde sus palabras pueden ayudar a reconciliar y transformar de manera definitiva los sentimientos encontrados.

Un lazo se representa antes de una ceremonia matrimonal en San Ignacio de Loyola. (Agencia L. Hendricks)
Edmond students commemorate bombing anniversary
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic middle school students participated in the Oklahoma Standard commemoration during the month of April as part of the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing. Each student completed an act of service, an act of honor and an act of kindness.

Seventh graders visited the national memorial and attended Mass at St. Joseph Old Cathedral.

For the act of honor, all 93 middle school students made cards for Fr. Louis Vasko, Ty, a former associate pastor who is suffering from Alzheimer’s.

Students also made cards for U.S. Army active duty reservist, Capt. David James. He spoke to seventh grade students about his tour in Afghanistan, right before his transplant.

The Catholic Foundation

Donating Real Estate

Donating real estate can be a winning situation for the donor. Consider some of the benefits:

- The donor can provide a sizable gift without sacrificing liquidity.
- Donors who contribute long-term capital gain property (real estate they have held for more than one year as an investment) generally can deduct the property’s fair market value up to 30 percent of the donor’s adjusted gross income. Deductions can be carried forward up to five years after the donation.
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- The donor realizes a quick liquidation of assets.
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- The donor is free from burdensome property-management duties and selling issues.

The greatest benefit of donating real estate is the exclusion from your estate to the Catholic Church and investing in the future of your faith.

For more information, contact the foundation office at:
The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Inc.
P.O. Box 3216, Oklahoma City, OK 73122
(405) 724-4123
www.catholicfoundationok.org

Job Board

Hispanic Ministry
St. Eugene Church in OKC is seeking a full-time coordinator for Hispanic Ministry. Fluency in English and Spanish is required. Position involves weekend and evening work. Candidates must be practicing Catholics and experienced in coordinating large, active ministry. Send resume to Bill Rawden, P.O. Box 20931, OKC 73106-6930 or e-mail blrawden@stgeungec.org.

Music teacher
Sacred Heart Catholic School in OKC has an opening for a part-time music teacher for the 2015-2016 school year. Oklahoma teaching certification is preferred, but not required. Call (405) 634-5073 for application or send resume to Joanna Camacho, 2700 S. Shartel, OKC 73109.

Principal
St. Peter and Paul School in Kingfisher is seeking a principal. Salary is competitive and includes a faith and academic leader. Candidates should be practicing Catholics with knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Candidate must have updated knowledge of Vatican II theology and religious education, a master’s degree in Christian education experience (more than one of which must be full-time in a Catholic school), a master’s degree in any field, with a minimum of 18 hours of graduate work in administration, supervision and curriculum development. For application, contact contact Bishop Zink at (405) 314-4120.

Donation to the Precious Blood of Jesus, an unfailing means of tapping the inexhaustible mercy of God from the source of our salvation.

No one who is devoted to the Wounds and Blood of Jesus can be lost. Thursday 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., St. James, 4201 S. McKinley Ave. (405) 420-2527.

The Catholic Register, founded in 1890, is a weekly Catholic newspaper serving the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The opinions expressed herein are those of the writer and do not reflect the position of the newspaper or the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Catholic Charities opens Ardmore regional office
Archbishop Coakley dedicated the new Ardmore Regional Office of Catholic Charities on May 17.

Located at 125 E. Street SW in Ardmore, next to the parish of St. Mary, this new office will serve the communities of Ardmore, Lone Grove and greater South Central Oklahoma. Emergency assistance and Family Night program. For information, call Dorothy at (405) 604-4603.
Eucharistic celebration offers something special for spouses

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

A beautiful tradition is when a couple in love go to a restaurant to share a romantic dinner. The couple sits at a table, listening to romantic music, candles providing a dim light, a few glasses of wine and two people in love looking into their eyes and whispering about the love they have for each other.

Sorry, this column is about our Holy Mass and I began writing the first lines of a romance novel, but these two realities are not self-exclusive. The celebration of the Eucharist is really the celebration of our Sacrament of Love, and shows a particular relationship with the love between man and woman united in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Love of the Father, Love made flesh, and the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is referred to as the Love of all Loves.

As an old Spanish song dedicated to the Eucharist says, “Sing to the Love of all Loves; let us sing to the Lord, God is here, come let us worship, Christ the Redeemer! Glory to Jesus Christ! He has been given as a gift and earth bless the Lord, honor and glory to You, King of glory, forever may we love You, God of Love!”

Interestingly, in the early development of Holy Mass, the Breaking of Bread or Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist, was accompanied by a great dinner or fraternal banquet called Agape in Greek, which can be translated as Festival of Love.

So close were these two celebrations of love that sometimes these celebrations came to be referred to with the same name. But, after some abuse in the community (see 1 Corinthians 11: 17-22), they eventually were separated.

“In giving this instruction, I do not praise the fact that your meetings are doing more harm than good. First of all, I hear that when you meet as a church there are divisions among you, and to a degree I believe it; there have to be factions among you in order that (also) those who are approved among you may become known when you meet in one place, then, it is not to eat the Lord’s supper, for in eating, each one goes ahead with his own supper, and one goes hungry while another gets drunk. (cf. 1 Corinthians 11: 17-22)

Saint John Paul II said in his apostolic letter, “Mulieris Dignitatem,” (26), that “Christ is the Bridegroom because he has given himself. His body has been given, his blood has been poured out” (cf. Lk 22: 19-20). In this way he loved them to the end” (Jn 13: 1). “The ‘sincere gift’ contained in the Sacrifice of the Cross gives definitive prominence to the spousal meaning of God’s love. As the Redeemer of the world, Christ is the Bridegroom of the Church. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of our Redemption. It is the Sacrament of the Bridegroom and of the Bride. The Eucharist makes present and realizes anew in a sacramental manner the redemptive act of Christ, who ‘creates’ the Church, his body. Christ is united with this ‘body’ as the bridegroom with the bride. All this is contained in the Letter to the Ephesians. The perennial ‘unity of the two’ that exists between man and woman from the very beginning is introduced into this ‘great mystery’ of Christ and of the Church.”

Moreover, the entire Christian life is marked by the spousal love of Christ and the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of this in the 1617:

“The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church. Already Baptized, the entry into the People of God, is a nuptial mystery; it is so to speak the nuptial bath (cf. Eph 5: 26 to 27), which precedes the wedding feast, the Eucharist.

Christian marriage in its turn becomes an efficacious sign, the sacrament of the covenant of Christ and the Church. Since it signifies and communicates grace, marriage between baptized persons is a true sacrament of the New Covenant.”

Pope Benedict XVI, in his apostolic exhortation, “Sacramentum Caritatis,” insists on the connection between the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Marriage as he said in 27:

“The Eucharist inexpressibly strengthens the indissoluble unity and love of every Christian marriage. By the power of the sacrament, the marriage bond is intrinsically linked to the eucharistic unity of Christ the Bridegroom and his Bride, the Church” (cf. Eph 5:3.1-32).

I invite those who strive to live the sacrament of matrimony every day – and not as many mistakenly do by relegating the celebration of their wedding to a photo album of memories – to approach the Holy Mass in a special way.

The Mass is a festival of love that strengthens the love of each couple because it is an encounter with Christ, the Love of Loves and Spouse of the Church.

In Christ, whom we meet in a special way in every Mass, every marriage has become stronger and sturdier in their love. The Mass is the best romantic dinner for couples in love.

The Mass is a festival of love that strengthens the love of each couple because it is an encounter with Christ, the Love of Loves and Spouse of the Church.

Bekah’s selection to this elite group of educators recognizes her significant contributions to the school’s goal of integrating technology in our core curriculum,” Bishop McGuinness Principal David Morton said. “Implementing the iPad initiative keeps Bishop McGuinness on the cutting edge of technology, providing the best possible education for our students. We feel very blessed to have Bekah’s knowledge and expertise to lead us into the future.”

Bekah is a 2013 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a master’s degree in education with an emphasis in integrating technology into teaching.

She has worked at Bishop McGuinness for two years, and was instrumental in formulating the school’s program to incorporate new digital learning and communication tools into course instruction. Her insight allowed the school to launch a 1:1 iPad initiative this past fall.

“I love everything about my job at Bishop McGuinness,” she said. “Working with teachers and students to integrate the iPad is exciting. I am extremely honored to be recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator and I look forward to sharing what I learn from this experience with others to help them grow in technology expertise as well.”

Apple developed the ADE worldwide program in 1994 to recognize education leaders who utilize Apple products to integrate digital technology into the classroom. ADE’s work closely with Apple, fostering new ideas and sharing innovative experiences with others. They serve as an ambassador to advocate the use of new technology to increase student engagement for a more enriched learning environment.

As an award winner, Hightower will be recognized at the Apple Distinguished Educator Institute in Miami, Fla., this summer.