OKLAHOMA CITY — From Sept. 22 through Oct. 31, the Oklahoma City community is uniting with hundreds of other cities around the world for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history: the 40 Days for Life campaign. Recognizing that “with God all things are possible,” people of faith are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion.

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has already mobilized over 350,000 people worldwide, saved more than 2,800 lives from abortion, led to the conversion of 38 abortion workers, and seen five abortion centers close. 40 Days for Life is made up of three components:

Catholics Asked to Participate in 40 Days for Life

Continued to Page 3
The Good News

... The Same — Yesterday, Today and Forever

Living in Oklahoma where the state and the diocese are just over 100 years old tends to reduce one's personal historical perspective. Last week, however, I participated in the 400th anniversary of the Catholic Church in the neighboring archdiocese of Santa Fe. Initially, the Franciscans made the long and arduous trek from Mexico City to establish the Church in Santa Fe. They built the city and evangelized the native peoples. They encouraged more settlers to come join them and make their permanent home in this New Mexico.

At the 400th anniversary celebration, the descendants of the Pueblo people and the descendants of the settlers gave tribute to the many stalwart men and women of faith of the past. However, while the celebration rightly extolled the accomplishments of the past, it also celebrated the faith experience of the people of today participating in the ceremony. It was a festive, joyful celebration.

Every Sunday when Catholic people gather together to celebrate the Eucharist, we too should have a festive, joyful experience. We too remember the past as a present reality. First, we go back 2,000 years to an upper room. There we see Jesus and His Apostles gathered around a table for their final meal together. It was their last supper but it was not the end. What Jesus did totally changed the human condition for all eternity. By His life, death and resurrection, Jesus redeemed us! He made it possible for us to re-enter the plan of God to share His divine life with us forever.

Jesus wanted us to begin living this new life now and not only when we die. By His sacramental presence in us, He wanted us to begin growing in faith, hope and love now. In this way we would be properly prepared to meet Him at the moment of death. Therefore, at the Last Supper, as He was about to leave the Apostles, He took bread, blessed it and said: “Take My Flesh and eat It.” Then He took the cup of wine and said: “Take My Blood and drink It and you shall have life everlasting.”

During the Communion at the anniversary Mass in Santa Fe, as I held in my hand the consecrated Host, I looked intently at It and asked myself: “Is this truly the Body of Christ? Is this really the Lord Jesus? How can this, which was just a piece of bread a few minutes ago and still looks the same, how can this be the living Lord Jesus?” Moved by the grace of God, I immediately responded: “By the Power of God Alone.” Yes, only Almighty God Who is all powerful, Who is Creator of everything, only God through His Holy Spirit and with His Son Jesus can accomplish this! Then I asked myself a very human personal question: “Do I really believe this?” And, like Saint Peter himself, I replied: “Yes, Lord, I do believe for you have the words of everlasting life.”

The Holy Eucharist is truly the Most Blessed Sacrament because it is Jesus Himself. He is our Lord and Savior. He comes to us specifically to forgive us, to heal us, to strengthen and nourish us, to save us. He comes to bring us life, not just ordinary life, but life everlasting in heaven.

This great gift of God, giving Himself to us in the Eucharist, can never be fully comprehended on this earth. But it can be devoutly accepted in faith now as did the men and women of faith in the past because Jesus, the Lord, is the same yesterday, today and forever!

EWTN To Focus on History of The Mass

IRONDALE, Ala. (EWTN) — As a Catholic, do you ever wonder why Jesus is referred to as “the lamb of God” or why the “body and blood” of our Lord distributed at communion still look and taste like ordinary bread and wine? If the biblical story of the Mass did not begin at the Last Supper, where did it begin? Answers to these and many more questions will be provided in EWTN’s exclusive new 13-part series, “The Biblical Story of the Mass,” which will air 5 p.m. ET Sundays (with a re-air at 2:30 a.m. ET Fridays), beginning Sept. 5.

If you really want to understand what’s happening at Mass, why the priest and people have distinct liturgical roles, why the Eucharist is the best path to a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the Trinity — and a whole lot more — tune into this challenging new series.

Hosted by EWTN Theologian Tom Nash and Father Wade Menezes, this lively, conversational program is partially based on Nash’s book, “Worthy is the Lamb: The Biblical Roots of the Mass.” Nash is also co-author of “Catholic for a Reason III: Scripture and the Mystery of the Mass.” Father Wade Menezes is the well-known host of numerous EWTN series, including “The Ten Commandments of Catholic Family Life” and “Gospel of Life vs. Culture of Death.”
The State of the Estate Tax

It sounds like a pretty good idea: no estate taxes this year. It is actually a very complicated idea, one fraught with uncertainty in these challenging economic and contrary political times. What’s an individual to do? How does one’s estate plan work (or does it work at all?) when, one year, there’s a $3.5 million estate tax exemption and a 45 percent post-exemption tax rate, and the next year there’s no exemption and no estate tax at all, but the potential for huge capital gains taxes? And what if, the next year, all bets are off and estate taxes return, as currently legislated, to what they were prior to the Bush tax cuts, with an exemption of $1 million per estate and a post-exemption tax rate of 55 percent?

These significant changes make estate planning difficult. At the Foundation, we encourage our donors and potential donors to work with their professional advisers to keep their estate plans flexible and up-to-date, and to take advantage of every opportunity to direct their resources precisely where they want them to go — to family members and other heirs and to charities of their choice — rather than to taxes.

As always, the Foundation welcomes your questions and interest and would be happy to help you develop your most effective charitable legacy.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180
Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115 www.cfook.org
bsemtner@catharchdioceseokc.org

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

Catholic Foundation Grant Request Deadline Nears

Annually, the Catholic Foundation awards grants in support of education-related projects to parish, schools and religious education programs throughout the Archdiocese. Grants for audio/visual equipment, program and teaching materials, furnishings, books, Bibles and youth conference fees are among the many items that are requested.

Increasingly, the grant requests have focused on computers and technology as a means of engaging more students in the educational process. Technology in the classroom continues to provide educators with learning resources once thought to be only a dream. Teaching with technology increases not only the classroom attention level of all students, but the information retention level of individual students as well.

August starts the 2010 Grant Cycle for the Catholic Foundation. This year the Catholic Foundation Grant Committee will award grants totaling approximately $66,000 to support these needs. Grants will be awarded based upon the significance of the project, its expected outcome and financial necessity. The funds awarded are intended to support the project of the requesting organization, and are not intended to supplement operating expenses. Grant requests will not be considered for auctions or fundraising events, debt reduction, brick and mortar type projects, endowment funds or capital campaigns. With regards to applications for Steubenville and similar youth group mission trips, CFO grants will be awarded for up to $100 per attendee for a maximum of 23 students, one priest and one deacon, for a total of $2,500 maximum.

New this year, grants can also be awarded for up to one-half of the $5,000 cost of The Ten Commandments Monuments at your school or parish. These grants will be given high priority this year. Please reference The Ten Commandments project at the Catholic Foundation website at www.cfook.org for more information.

As funds are limited, there is no guarantee that grant requests will be awarded to all applicants. Please use the Catholic Foundation - 2010 Grant Request Form to apply for funding. Applications have been sent to pastors and principals. You may also download the grant request form from the Catholic Foundation website. Requests must be received at the Catholic Foundation, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73123-0380, on or before Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010. The CFO Grant Committee will meet in early October to consider all requests.

The Catholic Foundation is proud to provide educational resources to students through our annual grant awards.

40 Days

Continued from Page 1

1) Prayer and Fasting: Believers throughout our city are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion

2) Peaceful Vigil: Stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness outside the Woman’s Outpatient Clinic in Warr Acres and the Abortion Surgery Center in Norman

3) Community Outreach: Help take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, advocacy and public visibility.

“...making a statement to the people in our community that abortion needs to be eliminated,” said Debby Krisch, director of OKC 40 Days for Life.

Learn how you can speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves here in Oklahoma City, Norman and the surrounding communities by contacting Krisch at 823-9292 or okc40davsforlife@gmail.com or www.40davsforlife.com/oklahoma-city.
Spiritual Direction Certificates Awarded

On July 31, 2010, six persons celebrated the completion of their five-year Spiritual Direction Formation Program offered by the Benedictine Sisters at Red Plains Spirituality Center. The ceremony was held at St. Thomas More Church in Norman. Those receiving their Certificate of Completion were Diana Pruitt, Elizabeth Quoetone, Michele Rahhal, Danna Schweitzer, Carolyn Sher and Nancy Vargas. Family and friends joined them for the celebration.

CFL Hires Blair For New Post

OKARCHE — David Blair has been named as the assistant executive director for the Center of Family Love. Blair will report directly to Jim O’Brien, the executive director, and work with O’Brien to transition into the executive director role over the next three years.

“As a part of the Center of Family Love’s long-range plan, our board of directors wanted to plan for the future and bring in a next generation leader to work with me over the next few years to learn our agencies environment prior to my retirement,” O’Brien said. “David will be focusing his efforts on obtaining his administrator’s license and understanding department operations in the first year. He then will begin to gradually assume responsibility of overseeing operational areas and spend available time on fundraising opportunities over the next two years.”

Blair said he is excited about his new position and to learn from O’Brien, the man credited with rescuing the home for adults with development disabilities from near financial ruin. Last month, CFL broke ground on the first phase of a construction project that will transform the 30-year-old campus.

“I’m very honored to be selected for this position and excited to work with this organization under Mr. O’Brien’s leadership,” Blair said. “I want to continue to enhance our vision to be the leading developmental disability provider in the state of Oklahoma, which results in our individuals living their lives as independently as possible.”

Blair spent the last 16 years working for multiple health-care organizations across the country. He has worked for three different consulting firms including Deloitte, BearingPoint and First Consulting Group, where he started
Archbishop Gregory Aymond To Lead OKC Congress

Archbishop Aymond from the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Catechetical Congress. His extensive experience and passion for lay ministry will enliven his talk on this year’s topic, Faith Celebrated. Archbishop Aymond has a foundational background in education, seminary direction and homiletics. As a member and chair of various committees, he has served the Church on the national and international level. In addition to chairing the Board of Directors for the National Catholic Education Association and the Bishops Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, for over 20 years he served on the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He is currently a member of the USCCB committees for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, as well as Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. He is an effective leader and passionate pastoral speaker. Catechists, catechetical leaders, youth ministers and volunteers are invited to attend this free conference and gain insight from this man of faith.
I am pleased to announce that the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City accepted five new seminarians this year to make a total of 19 men from 15 parishes studying for the priesthood.

Our new seminarians are:

Kelly Edwards, 24, is a member of St. Monica Parish in Edmond. He is the son of Billy Lynn Edwards and Michelle Schaefer and will begin his first year of Pre-Theology at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana.

Alex Kroll, 18, is a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Enid. He is the son of Lynn Ray Kroll and Stephanie Willis and will be a freshman at Conception Seminary.

Max Yardley, 18, is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Edmond and is the son of Rockie and Julie Yardley and will be a freshman at Conception Seminary.

Josh Berntsen, 20, is a member of St. Ann Parish in Elgin and is the son of Timothy McCullar and Helena Berntsen and is transferring from Cameron University in Lawton to begin his sophomore year at Conception Seminary.

Josh Belcher, 19, is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Ada and is the son of Greg and Dana Belcher and is transferring from East Central University to begin his sophomore year at Conception Seminary.

Our returning seminarians are:

Cory Stanley, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Mustang, will begin his fourth and final year of formation at the North American College in Rome and will be ordained a transitional deacon at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Oct. 7, 2010.

Brian Buettner, a member of St. Mark Parish in Norman, will begin his second year at the North American College in Rome this fall and spent the summer in Lourdes, France.

Chris Brashears from St. Joseph Parish in Blackwell graduated from the Pre-Theology program at Conception Seminary in the spring and will begin his first year of theology at the North American College.

He spent the summer at Camp OLOG and learning Italian.

Linh Bui from the Cathedral Parish and Tim Ruckel from Epiphany Parish both completed the Pre-Theology program at Conception Seminary last spring and will begin first theology at St. Meinrad Seminary this fall. They spent the summer at the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha with 173 other seminarians from all over the country.

Danny Grover from St. Andrew Parish in Moore and Cristobal Deloera from St. Charles Borromeo Parish both graduated from Conception College and will begin theology at St. Meinrad Seminary.

Danny spent the summer at Assumption Parish in Duncan and Cristobal was on the mission team at Camp OLOG.

Aaron Foshee from the Cathedral and Lance Warren from Immaculate Conception in Marlow completed their first year of a two-year Pre-Theology program at St. Meinrad Seminary and will return there in the fall. Aaron spent the summer at Camp OLOG as the kitchen staff counselor and Lance was assigned to St. Eugene Parish.

Matt Thomason from St. John Nepomuk Parish in Yukon spent the summer at St. Monica Parish in Edmond and will return to Conception this fall to begin his second year of Pre-Theology.

Our college seminarians include:

John Paul Lewis from the Cathedral Parish and Andrew Horn from St. John the Baptist Parish in Edmond will be seniors at Conception Seminary this year and will graduate this spring.

Josh Zakrzewicz from St. Peter Parish in Guymon will begin his junior year at Conception and Blake Jezioro from St. John Nepomuk Parish in Yukon will be a sophomore at Conception.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they continue their formation and discern a possible call to the priesthood. For anyone interested in learning more about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, please contact me at the Vocations Office at the Catholic Pastoral Center at (405) 721-5651, Ext. 114.
Cardinal Bagnasco: God’s Truth is Weapon Against Culture

Genoa, Italy (CNA/EWTN News). — “No one is exempt” from the influences of the world which push for conformity to the dominant culture, according to prominent Italian Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco. In this atmosphere, he told the Vatican’s newspaper, prayer serves as a weapon against the prevailing mentality and leads people to the truth of God and man.

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, Metropolitan Archbishop of Genoa and the president of the Italian Bishops Conference, spoke to the Vatican’s L’Osservatore Romano during a celebration for the 155th anniversary of Blessed Father Antonio Rosmini’s death. Father Rosmini was a passionate philosopher and ardent promoter of social justice.

Asked if Catholics today, like Father Rosmini over a century ago, are called to face a crisis of values, Cardinal Bagnasco answered that they hear this call from the Pope himself. Benedict XVI “calls the faithful back to a greater awareness,” he said, in an atmosphere affected by “certain dominant cultural forms” that influence everyone, believers and non-believers alike.

“No one is exempt from this climate of possible contamination that could impoverish the faith, but especially the very behavior of Christians ...”

He cited Jesus’ words that people should not be “of the world” but “in the world,” explaining that “being in the world means being exposed to all of the pressures and tensions and proddings that we know.”

“Certainly we need to dedicate time to prayer, each according to his own vocation, and draw close to those means that the liturgy and especially the Lord have put at our disposal: the Gospel, the book of Psalms and all of the other practices of piety ...”

Each of these, he said, are ways “that help us to find the truth of God and of man.” And, he concluded, “If we truly believe, totally, that God loves us, it’s clear that we will live the personal and universal story with a perspective and, at times, with a more responsible, more positive attitude.”

“We need to truly believe that God loves us: (a truth) which holds the power to change our life.”
Young men from across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City spent a weekend at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Camp on the annual Emmaus Days Retreat. The retreat gives the young men a chance to spend time with seminarians and priests in prayer and fellowship to better discern if they may have a calling to the priesthood.
Mother Learns Forgiveness Through Wayward Son

By Ray Dyer
The Sooner Catholic

For 15 months, Barbara Bastion did not know if her son, Wid, was dead or alive.

The boy genius and wizard of high finance had fled from the law after being indicted in a major investment scam. He had gone into hiding after scamming hundreds of thousands of dollars from people who trusted him, including his own mother.

“He had taken me down the garden path along with everyone else,” she said.

Barbara understood her son’s greed. She knew he had snapped under pressure to achieve and a misguided belief taught to him as a child that failure was not only unacceptable, it was unforgiveable. But what the mother of three could not forgive was how she discovered her son was still alive.

“I have caller ID and when the phone rang one day it read Florida,” she said. “I thought, ‘Now who do I know in Florida.’ I had a strong suspicion it could be him. When I picked up the phone, I said this better not be who I think it is. When I heard his voice, I immediately slammed down the phone in such anger.

“Then I became sick.”

Barbara didn’t become just a little nauseated, she became physically ill and not for a day or two. The anger she held against her son took a major toll on her mind and body.

Her doctor told her the stress of caring for her ailing husband and the resentment she held against her son had caused her to develop hypertension and diabetes. Her eyesight was soon affected and doctors told her she was losing her vision.

A specialist worked on her eyes, injecting them numerous times with medicine meant to stop the bleeding that was occurring. The treatments yielded minor results. Barbara realized she could gradually lose all sight, leaving her now a widow and blind. And with a son who offered little regard for her well-being.

By now Wid Bastion was facing serious time in federal prison.

Barbara still couldn’t forgive her son even though he had asked for it.

“It wasn’t until she was sent to a doctor in Nevada who many claimed believed the most powerful medicine of all was prayer. “I sensed this when we first met,” she said. “I asked him to pray for me and I asked him if he would pray the words I asked. He agreed. I asked him to pray, “Dear God, will you please cure Barbara’s vision problems.”

She said at that moment a warm feeling came over her and all she could see in her mind was Christ on the cross asking His heavenly Father to forgive them for they know not what they do.

She then realized the power of forgiveness. All the anger and resentment she held toward her son evaporated. Her burden was light.

A few weeks later she returned to her eye specialist and he reported amazing and medically unexplainable healing had occurred.

Barbara was soon in contact with her son, Wid, who was now serving time in federal prison. She learned he too had been experiencing changes in his life, he was developing a deep sense of faith in God. A prison Bible study group had opened his eyes and his heart. A deacon in the Greek Orthodox played a major role in his conversion, which eventually led to his baptism in the Catholic Church.

Wid Bastion authored a book while in prison, “Solomon’s Porch.” It’s the story of a man in prison who is broken and alone and overwhelmed by guilt and pain. But through God’s mercy his mind is opened to the divinity of Christ and the struggle man faces every second to choose good over evil.

Tate Publishing, an Oklahoma firm based in Mustang, published “Solomon’s Porch.” Barbara Bastion said her son wanted to work with a Christian publisher.

“God had a plan for my son’s life. He didn’t give up on him. And I think one of God’s plans was to teach me how to forgive.”

Wid Bastion, Barbara said, is scheduled to be released from federal prison in November of 2011.

Prison Ministry: Learning and Hope in Sing Sing

By Gerald M. Costello
The Christophers

As new colleges go, the statistics are pretty impressive: 196 graduates in 10 years, current enrollment of 107, and a waiting list 2 1/2 years long. This is no ordinary college, though; it’s the one taught at night to inmates at Sing Sing, the famed New York prison. And here’s the most impressive statistic of all: of the 196 graduates, 41 have been released, and so far, not one has returned to prison.

That’s precisely what this college is all about — offering encouragement and redemption to its students in a way that few schools do. It’s called the Hudson Link, and it offers a bachelor of science degree to those who complete its arduous workload.

In other institutions, the degree can be a ticket to a lifetime career; here it’s a symbol of hope, a reminder that each one of us, no matter how imposing the challenge, is capable of great things.

Peter Applebome of The New York Times attended this spring’s graduation ceremony and provided a report on the evening, one that included this comment from a 2009 graduate: “You can become roadkill here. If you don’t believe you have options, you can’t move forward. But this program is all about hope. It’s given me a new life.”

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison is funded by private sources including individual donors, among them Doris Buffet, sister of investor Warren Buffet. She was at the ceremony (as was her brother) and explained why she’s such a passionate supporter. “I’m not a do-gooder; I’m not flaky,” she said. “I believe in this because it works. No one can leave here unconverted.”

The program began in 1998, after the government discontinued education grants to convicted felons. The ban satisfied some who believe in full-time punishment only; but at the same time it killed off many projects that taught courses behind prison bars. In Sing Sing, Hudson Link restored the private classes — at first through New York’s Nyack College, and for several years now with faculty members from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Students attend classes while fellow prisoners have a recreation period. The minimal tuition fees come from prison work assignments.

Continued to Page 15
Sting of Resentment Often Soothed By Forgiveness

Resentments are painful! Resentments shut us from the sunlight of the spirit. Resentments are barriers to the Holy Spirit. Resentments separate us from that Christ-like part of ourselves and prevent us from listening to, understanding and responding to God's will.

It is normal for us to have resentments and to experience difficulty in dealing with them. It is also normal, when harboring resentments, to experience anger, frustration and self-pity. Because resentments separate us from peace, serenity and harmony, it would be beneficial to learn to cope with and let go of them.

Generally resentments fall into three categories: first, when others have said or done something hurtful or shaming; second, when ambitions, finances, careers and/or jobs are threatened; and third, when significant love relationships are endangered.

To better understand our resentments, we can make a list of persons with whom we feel uncomfortable, upset and/or angry and write about how these individuals have affected us in the above areas.

Resentments are usually an indicator that something within ourselves — within our attitudes needs to change. This may not seem fair, that when they have offended us that we are to change something within ourselves in order to cope with the resentment. Yes, this is challenging. Because letting go of resentments is so difficult, the solutions have to be spiritual in nature. We have to rely on God.

We remind ourselves of the presence of the Holy Spirit within all that is love and good in whom we are. Seeking this Christ-like part of ourselves helps us find the willingness to change that something within and gradually minimize the resentful feelings.

When we are resentful about others doing or saying something hurtful or shaming, we can remind ourselves that we are children of God and that God loves us no matter what. We can also remind ourselves that usually when others have said or done something hurtful to us, it generally is about their reacting out of their own hurts, shame and/or fears.

If the resentment is about a job, career or livelihood being threatened, we can strive to understand that with our faith in our loving Lord, we will eventually survive and thrive and get through this difficult period. Using our faith we know and understand that something better is in God's plan for us.

If the resentment is about a threatened loss of a love relationship, we can work to heal the relationship and, if it is not to be, know that our loving Lord will accompany us through the hurt and grief. We can know that God always loves us and is the source of all healing.

So we can see how a spiritual solution helps us cope with each of these types of resentments. However, fully letting go of resentments requires our going further. In all of these cases it is necessary to find the willingness to have compassionate understanding, acceptance and forgiveness of the offending party.

Yes, acceptance and forgiveness are essential components of letting go of resentments. And yes, finding this willingness takes time, prayerful seeking and God's loving grace. It is in seeking this willingness that we make the spiritual changes necessary to recover and heal from, and let go of these resentments. This willingness is present within the Christ-like part of ourselves. Peace!

Joe Froehle, Parish Counselor, Spiritual Director

Briefs

Program Inviting Inactive Catholics Back to the Church Starting September 14

EDMOND — Catholics who are separated from the Church, for any reason, are invited to “Come Home!” The Evangelization Board at St. John the Baptist Parish is once again offering the “Catholics Coming Home” program on three consecutive Tuesday evenings: Sept. 14, 21 and 28, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Council Room. These informal sessions are facilitated by lay people, including former non-practicing Catholics. The Church is located at 9th and Boulevard. Follow the outdoor signs to the entrance to the Commons. Child care will be provided.

If you are currently not practicing your Catholic Faith, you are invited to these sharing sessions for an opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions about the Catholic Church. The “Catholics Coming Home” ministry attempts to reach out to inactive Catholics in a loving, Christ-like manner. Every effort is made to be non-threatening and non-judgmental. The facilitators do not attempt to solve problems, nor do they have all the answers. They will merely listen and provide guidance to appropriate resources.

For more information about “Catholics Coming Home,” call Deacon Gary Peterson at 340-0691 Ext. 110 or the Parish Office at 340-0691.

Golf Tournament Scheduled

Golfers, it’s time to test your prowess on the links at John Conrad Municipal Golf Course, the site of this year’s Knights of Columbus Council 8204 charity golf tournament. The four-person, select shot scramble is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m. It will be a shotgun start. The cost is $65 per golfer, which includes green fees, cart and dinner following the tournament. Proceeds will be used for the K of C 8204 scholarship programs, support to a northwest Oklahoma City free clinic, seminarian support and parish activities. To register or for additional information, please call Fred M. Crump at 819-4066 or 948-0230 or Pat Determan at 728-8614.

Weekend Retreat Set at Parish

OKLAHOMA CITY — A Life in the Spirit Weekend Oct 8-10 will be held at Immaculate Conception Church at 3901 SW 29th St. The weekend starts at 7 p.m. Oct. 8. The presenters will be Mary Jo Webb of Fairfax and Jackie Butler of Pawhuska. This is a weekend of presentations and prayer to discover more deeply the meaning and role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. There will be a Mass to conclude at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10. Registration and information: dsdirkschneider@gmail.com, or call (405) 720-8942.

Parish to Host Women’s Retreat

EDMOND — St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will host Johnnette Benkovic for a women’s retreat from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25. Benkovic was a special guest speaker at the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference Sept. 25. Benkovic was a special guest speaker at the Oklahoma Catholic Women’s Conference in 2009. She is executive producer and host of an international radio program and Women of Grace television program seen on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network).

Topics for the day will include Our Vocation as Daughters of God and The Healing Power of the Eucharist. Lunch will be provided, and the retreat will end with Adoration. Cost for the event is $15 per person.

Reservations are required and must be made by Friday, Sept. 17.

For more information, call the parish office at 340-0691.
Pro-life Groups Laud Court Decision

“Rather than fund additional embryo-destructive research, the government should focus its resources on adult stem cells that are already improving health and saving the lives of patients with cancer, heart disease, diabetes, spinal cord injury and many other conditions.”

St. Eugene’s Festival Promises Day of Culture, Fun

By Barbara M. Curcio
Parishioner — Saint Eugene Church

OKLAHOMA CITY — Are you sick and tired of bad news — has the heat got you, are you sick of ranting and raving on TV?

Perhaps you are experiencing a vague uneasiness that there may not be somewhere, somehow, someone who isn’t stupid. In short, do you need a shot in the arm of hope and confidence that there is some good being done somewhere — some good clean fun to be had?

Well, come to a family reunion — the 14th one in that many years in which, despite everything — people are trying to get along, to work together and to love one another. And in so doing, loving the Lord, and doing some good in the world.

In 1996, in our now multi-cultural parish, the “newcomers” made a move to share their cultures with the parish and a tradition was born that 14 years later flourishes as an annual festival representative of the whole faith community — its love and support of each other — of the respective heritages represented by all its members, and of fellowship, good food and fun. Come to the Festival of the Americas - International, Sunday, Sept. 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 N. Hefner, Oklahoma City, in the Fellowship Hall and the church campus.

The festival will again be an antidote to the enmity, the stress and the woe in the world that has us all worried — even those of us who are grounded in hope and faith that the Lord will take care of us — and that He will triumph in the end.

All are most welcome to come and partake of the spirit of the festival, which is always upbeat and joyous, the entertainment, which is free all day, including a performance by a favorite and gifted musician, Edgar Cruz at 4 p.m., and of course, the many delightful foods, of many traditions, either home-cooked or donated by fine ethnic restaurants, which will be for sale. Come, catch the spirit, hear the music, savor the food and the fellowship.

The festival will make you happy!
Buenas Noticias...

Mis queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:
Viviendo en Oklahoma, donde este estado y la Iglesia Católica tienen alrededor de cien años de establecidos oficialmente, uno tiende a reducir toda perspectiva personal. La semana pasada, sin embargo, participé en el cuarto centenario de la Iglesia Católica en la Arquidiócesis vecina de Santa Fe. Inicialmente los Franciscanos hicieron el arduo y largo camino desde Ciudad de México para establecer la Iglesia Católica en Santa Fe. Construyeron la ciudad y evangelizaron a los nativos de ese lugar. También, animaron a más colonizadores para que fuesen allá y con junto conformar el estado de Nuevo México un hogar.

En la celebración de los cuatrocientos años de insaturado la Iglesia Católica en ese lugar, los descendientes de ese pueblo y sus descendientes dieron tributo a los muchos hombres y mujeres incondicionales a la fe desde el pasado hasta el presente. Sin embargo, mientras con mucha razón se celebraba y se realizaban los logros del pasado, también se celebraba la experiencia de fe de las personas hoy habitan allí, particularmente aquellas personas que estuvieron en esa ceremonia. Fue una celebración de disfrute y alegría. Cada domingo cuando nos reunimos para celebrar la Eucaristía, también deberíamos disfrutar de esa experiencia festiva y de goce, la de ver nuestro ayer, hoy y por siempre. Aquí también recordamos el pasado como una realidad presente. Primero, volvemos en el pasado dos mil años a un estado elevado de acto de fe. Recordamos ver a Jesús y sus Apóstoles reunidos alrededor de una mesa para compartir su Última Cena, pero no era el final. Lo que Jesús hizo cambió la condición humana para toda la eternidad. A través de la Vida, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo, Jesús nos redimió del pecado! Él hizo posible que pudiésemos de nuevo entrar en el Plan de Dios para compartir Su vida divina por siempre. Jesús quiere que vivamos esta nueva vida ahora y no sólo después de nuestra muerte. A través de su sacramental presencia en la Eucaristía y mediante todos los sacramentos somos nosotros, que comenzamos a crecer en fe por su mandato de esperanza y amor ahora y por siempre. De esta manera, cuando nos acerquemos a Dios, nos estamos preparando apropiadamente para reunirnos con Él al momento de nuestra muerte. Por esto, en la Última Cena, ya cerca de Su partida se acercó a los Apóstoles, tomó el pan lo bendijo y dijo: "Tomad y comed todos de Él, porque esto es mi Cuerpo, que será entregado por vosotros". Después tomó la copa de vino y dijo: "Tomad y bebed todos de Él, porque éste es el cálice de mi Sangre, Sangre de la alianza nueva y eterna que será derramada por vosotros y por todos los hombres para el perdón de los pecados. Haced esto en conmemoración mía".

Cuando tomamos la Comunión en la Misa aniversario en Santa Fe, mientras sostenía en mi mano la Hostia consagrada, la miré con intensidad siempre mientras me preguntaba a mí mismo: "..." Movido por la gracia de Dios, Yo inmediatamente respondí: "Señor Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios vivó, que por voluntad del Padre, coperando el Espíritu Santo, diste con tu muerte la vida al mundo, librame, por la recepción de tu Cuerpo y de tu Sangre, de todas mis culpas y de todo mal. Concédele cumplir siempre tus mandamientos y jamás permita que me separe de ti"

¡Sí, sólo Dios Todopoderoso, Creador de todas las cosas, sólo Dios a través del Espíritu Santo y con su Hijo Jesús puede lograr todo! Entonces me hice a mí mismo una pregunta muy humana: "Realmente creo en todo esto", entonces inmediatamente por el mismo San Pedro contesté: "Haz, Señor, que recibamos con un corazón limpio el alimento que acabamos de tomar, y que el don que nos haces en esta vida nos aproveche para la eterna"


Iglesia Católica en Cuba es mediadora en respuesta a un reclamo humanitario

LA HABANA, (ZENTORG).—La Iglesia Católica en Cuba está mediando entre los familiares de los presos y las autoridades en respuesta al reclamo humanitario de esas familias, ha aclarado una nota de prensa difundida por el Arzobispado de La Habana en Cuba.

El comunicado fue avalado poco después por las Damas de Blanco, que calificaron de "positiva" la mediación de la Iglesia para la excarcelación de sus familiares presos políticos, y tomaron distancia de una dura crítica, realizada por disidentes cubanos en una carta abierta al Papa. La aclamación, en la que la Iglesia de Cuba deriva, deja claro que en ningún momento su actividad es política y tiene lugar "debido a la indignación generada en un número de fieles Católicos que han conocido en las últimas horas" el contenido de la carta abierta dirigida al Santo Padre Benedicto XVI, "de contenido ofensivo para con la Iglesia en Cuba".

"Cuando la Iglesia aceptó la misión de mediar entre los familiares de los presos o damas de blanco, y las autoridades cubanas, sabía que esta mediación podría ser interpretada de las más disímiles maneras y provoca diversas reacciones: desde el insulto y la difamación, hasta la aceptación y el agradecimiento. Permanecer inactiva no era una opción válida para la Iglesia por su misión pastoral", aclara la nota.

"La acción de la Iglesia a favor del respeto a la dignidad de todos los cubanos y la armonía social en Cuba no comenzó hace veinte años, y ha sido una acción que no se ha apoyado, ni se apoyará nunca, en tendencias políticas, ni en las del gobierno ni en las de quienes se le oponen, sino en su misión pastoral", subraya.

El Arzobispado asegura que "la Iglesia en Cuba no desviará su atención de aquello que la motivó a actuar en este proceso: el reclamo humanitario de familias que han sufrido por el encarcelamiento de uno o más de sus miembros".

El papel crucial asumido en el proceso de diálogo cubano por el cardenal Ortega Alainmo y por Monsenor Diosdodo García, ha sido posible por el hecho evidente que la Iglesia Católica está profundamente arraigada en el pueblo y es interpretable atendible de su espíritu y de sus expectativas."
La educación Católica contribuye a desarrollar en nuestros niños y jóvenes:
Valores básicos que rigen la convivencia humana y obrar por el bien común

Las clases de español en las escuelas Católicas son impartidas por maestros con la calificación correspondiente. (Foto tomada por Mauro Yanez / Sooner Catholic)

Por Mauro Yanez
Sooner Catholic

OKLAHOMA CITY — La educación Católica contribuye a desarrollar en nuestros niños y jóvenes valores básicos que rigen la vida y la convivencia humana y obrar por el bien común. La educación Católica impartida en el territorio de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City se organiza en áreas con un carácter global e integrador que es impartida por maestros que tienen competencia en todas las áreas para el desarrollo básico de los valores cristianos de nuestro Evangelio y la doctrina que encontramos en el Catecismo como también, la enseñanza del conocimiento social, científico y humano.

Nuestros niños y jóvenes han probado en la historia que cuando participan en la educación Católica logran conocer mucho mejor las características fundamentales de su medio físico, social, cultural y espiritual, con lo que logran un éxito académico que generalmente no ofrecen otras escuelas privadas y públicas. Los Católicos concedemos una gran importancia a la educación Católica que reciben nuestros niños y jóvenes, porque sabemos que de este tipo de educación dependen tanto el bienestar individual como el colectivo.

La educación que se imparte en las escuelas Católicas es el medio más adecuado para construir la personalidad y desarrollar al máximo las capacidades de nuestro futuro como lo representan los niños y jóvenes de hoy. La educación Católica, trata de que llegue a todos, aunque no es tarea fácil por los costos que conlleva mantener un exitoso sistema educativo. No obstante, el sistema de escuelas Católicas en esta Arquidiócesis permite que nuestros hijos conformen su propia identidad personal y configuren su comprensión de la realidad, integrando la dimensión cognoscitiva, la afectiva y la axiológica.

La educación Católica es el medio de transmitir y al mismo tiempo, de renovar la cultura y el acervo de conocimientos y valores que la sustentan el respeto a las diferencias individuales, de promover la solidaridad y evitar la discriminación.
Blair

Continued from Page 4

as a junior consultant and worked his way through the ranks to a management level. Blair’s experience includes project management, operational process improvement, revenue cycle management, IT strategy and software implementation. O’Brien said Blair’s background in hospital revenue cycle improvement, process improvement and project management will be perfect for his role in leading CFL.

Founded in 1981, the Center of Family Love serves as a home for more than 117 developmentally challenged adults of all ages and abilities. Now in its 29th year, CFL provides a continuum of care for its residents. The campus in Okarche includes an intermediate care facility, two group homes and the Loosen Geriatric Center, one of the few in the state of Oklahoma licensed for this kind of specialized care. Additionally, CFL has community group homes in both El Reno and Kingfisher. CFL Enterprises offers vocational programs to employ its residents. CFL Enterprises specialize in manufacturing custom air filters. The CFL Factory produces three-ring binders. The Kristy Wittrock Memorial Horticultural Center and Gift Shop provides rehabilitation therapy and transitional learning for advanced placement for adults with developmental disabilities. All residents employed in the vocational programs earn a paycheck they can spend or save as they choose.

David Blair

Jobs Box

Archdiocese Seeking
Safe Environment Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Safe Environment Coordinator. The Safe Environment Coordinator is a member of a team of Archdiocesan professionals who are charged with developing and implementing Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs consistent with the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter) adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, as revised in 2005 (the “Charter”). The position is part time, requiring approximately 18 hours per week. Applicants should have a background in child-protection services, education and/or behavioral sciences, have a firm understanding of Catholic religious education and youth ministries and excellent communication skills. Job duties include planning and implementing training sessions and workshops for Archdiocesan personnel and parish facilitators and assisting parishes with their Safe Environment Programs, including on-site visits to parishes and schools to gauge compliance with requirements of Archdiocesan Safe Environment Programs and the Charter. The Safe Environment Coordinator also assists with the USCCB annual audit for compliance with the Charter. If you are interested in this position, please send a complete Archdiocesan Application (available on the Archdiocesan website) and your resume to Tish Eason, Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73123.

Part-time Music Director
St. Benedict Parish, Shawnee, has an opening for a part-time music director. Please contact Father Don Wolf at 275-0001.

Religious Education Coordinator
Tinker Air Force Base Catholic community has a part-time Catholic Religious Education Coordinator contractor position currently available. The Statement of Work, explaining the position and necessary qualifications for this job (average 20 hours per week), is available at the chapel weekdays from 0730-1600. If interested, you may pick up a Statement of Work or send e-mail to 72abw.bsc.workflow@tinker.af.mil and one will be sent to you. Please submit your resume no later than Monday, Sept. 13. Once all resumes are collected, the applicants will be contacted to set up a time for an interview, valid applicants will be asked to formulate and submit a bid. The committee will score applicants and their bids on the basis of skills, education, experience, organization and administrative ability and motivation, ministry-focus, people-focus, and whether reasonable/within budget and value received for the amount paid. If you have any questions, please contact the chapel at 734-2111.

Director of Music
St. Charles Borromeo Church in Oklahoma City seeks a full-time Director of Music. Duties include planning and staffing weekend liturgies, holy days, weddings and funerals. The director is responsible for directing, scheduling and rehearsing with the choirs as well as providing keyboard accompaniment for the English liturgies. The director would also provide supervision and assistance for the Spanish Choir. Degree in music is required as well as thorough knowledge of the Roman Catholic Liturgy along with excellent keyboard and vocal skills. Send cover letter and resume to Rev. Tim Luschen, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 5024 N. Grove Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73122. E-mail at Tluschen@prodigy.net.

Volunteer Driver
St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store needs a volunteer driver for the donation truck. Person applying needs to have a clear driving record and be able to load and unload furniture. Call 917-5999 for further information.
Prison Ministry

Continued from Page 9

With limited library facilities and no Internet access, the surroundings could easily discourage individual students. That’s not the case, however. Instructors described them, in Applebome’s words, as “curious, focused, hungry to learn.”

“These men are extremely motivated,” he quoted one English professor, Jo Ann Skousen. “They’re always in class on time, always prepared. If I assign one act of a play, they’ll have read the whole thing.”

“Prison is the place where faith is tested,” said Felipe Luciano, the commencement speaker, a former prisoner and now a journalist. “You are here because you were there. But if you pass this, you are good to go.”

No one is under any illusions, Applebome reported; most students face long sentences because they’re in for murder. Still, he said, “Graduates reflected stark acceptance of what they had done wrong, and gratitude for the transformative experience in a place where hope often goes to die.”

Here, for a number of inmates — thanks to the generosity of donors, and to the efforts of a few dedicated teachers — hope lives.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

1 Grant deadline for local parish-based projects that addresses needs of those in poverty. For more information, call Becky VanPool, CCHD Archdiocesan Director, at (405) 523-3003.

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

1 Mount home softball game vs. McGuinness at 5:30 p.m. All games are doubleheaders, varsity then JV games unless noted.

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

2 Mount St. Mary home volleyball game vs. Chickasha, ninth grade, 4 p.m., JV, 5 p.m., varsity, 6 p.m.

2 Heart Health Seminar. Dr. Pamela Craven and Dr. Terrie Gibson will present “Women’s Heart Health” at 6 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1901 N.W. 18th St., Oklahoma City. Registration is free but reservations are required by calling Glenda Bronson, (405) 936-5226.

2 McGuinness home football game vs. Douglass at 7:30 p.m.

3 1st Friday Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi in Oklahoma City. After the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and concludes at 5:30 p.m. with closing prayer and Benediction. This is open to all. St. Francis is located at 1910 NW 19th, Oklahoma City.

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

3 First Friday Sacred Heart Mass at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 5:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available prior to Mass. Mass is at 7 p.m. For more information, please call the Office of Family Life at (405) 721-8944 or Diane Grim at (405) 528-6252.

3 Mount St. Mary home football game vs. Crooked Oak at 7:30 p.m.

4 All School Reunion for St. Mary’s Elementary School in Guthrie, all alumni and teachers of St. Mary’s Elementary, Benedictine Heights High School and College and St. Joseph Academy. Former students and staff members are invited to attend a prayer service at the Sisters Cemetery (current Guthrie Job Corps) at 9 a.m. followed by registration and visiting at St. Mary’s Church basement and school. Mass at 6 p.m. followed by a banquet. An open house will be held at St. Joseph Monastery in Tulsa, on Sunday, Sept. 5. Please help us develop a contact list and pass along the word. Contact stmarys@coxinet.net with REUNION in the subject line or call (405) 473-6328.

5 Byzantine Liturgy will be offered at 5 p.m. at St. Mark’s Church, 3939 W. Tecumseh Road, Norman. For more information, please call Father Phil Seeton at (580) 536-6351.

7 Mount St. Mary home volleyball game vs. Putnam City West, ninth grade, 4 p.m., JV, 5 p.m., varsity, 6 p.m.

7 Mount home softball game vs. Little Axe, 3:30 p.m., varsity only.

8 Catholic War Veterans USA. The Oklahoma Memorial Post 168 will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Sunnylane Family Reception Center located at 3900 SE 29th St. in Del City, every second Wednesday. For more information, contact Bob at (405) 672-7728 or by e-mail at OkPost168@cox.net.

9 Artist Way Class. Come join the facilitator, Katie Gordy, for a 10-week course based on the book “The Artist’s Way,” by Julia Cameron. This course is free and only requires participants to buy the book. The course runs on Thursdays from Sept. 9 to Nov. 18, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. (no class on Sept. 30). Child care will be available if five or more children need it. Call Katie Gordy at 359-2700 to register.

10 Bingo at St. Joseph’s, Norman, in the gym. A light dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., first session begins at 7 p.m., second session at 8:30. Each session is $5, blackouts are $1 each, no limit.

10 Mount St. Mary home football game vs. Luther at 7:30 p.m.

10 Battle of the Bishops - McGuinness home football game vs. Bishop Kelley at 7:30 p.m.

11 The Benedictine Oblates of Red Plains Monastery will meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They join the Community for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. For more information, contact Sister Eunice at 373-4565 or osbokc@ionet.net.

12 Charismatic Healing Mass, 5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 3901 S.W. 29th St., Oklahoma City. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4806.

Catholic Radio Five Days a Week

on

KTLR 890 AM

and

KTLR 94.1 FM
Students of all ages made their way back into our Catholic classrooms in mid-August. Pictured are students ranging in age from elementary school to those starting their college careers at St. Gregory’s University.

Freshman Tawnni Powell-McCarthy, right, and her parents, J.J. and Linda, carry items across the St. Gregory’s University campus during the first official move-in day for new students. SGU’s new student orientation, “Cavalier Camp,” included leadership activities and sessions intended to get students acclimated to SGU. The first day of classes was Aug. 25. (Photo by Brother George Hubl, O.S.B.)

Katie Frost and Lily Scott — both kindergartners at Villa Teresa.

Mount Enrollment Soars

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is experiencing high enrollment numbers, as 367 students were on hand for the first day of the 2010-2011 school year. The school has experienced a steady growth in enrollment over the last seven years.

Principal Talita DeNegri says the increase can be traced to values the Mount offers students and their families.

“As I visit with families, I constantly hear comments about our family atmosphere, incredible teachers, special programs, and most importantly, our strong spirituality,” DeNegri said. “It is these values that set us apart and attract so many new families.”

Enrollment for this year’s freshman class has been closed at 110 students, with students now on a waiting list. Director of Admissions Diane Wilson said it’s difficult to turn students away, but the school has to maintain its commitment to quality.

“We hate to deny any student admission because we know a Mount St. Mary education is life-changing for so many, but on the other hand, if enrollment gets too large, we risk losing the personal attention to each individual student that we are so well-known for,” Wilson said.

The school has already had numerous enrollment inquiries for the 2011-2012 school year. Interested families should contact the school to schedule parent tours and student shadow visits. Contact Wilson at dwilson@mountstmary.org or (405) 631-8865 Ext. 205.

Students of all ages made their way back into our Catholic classrooms in mid-August. Pictured are students ranging in age from elementary school to those starting their college careers at St. Gregory’s University.