Catholic Charities  
Centennial Prayer  

O God of the ages,  
With every sunrise,  
You gift us with work for our hands.  
With every sunset,  
You grant us rest for our hearts.

May the light of each new day  
Give us faith in things unseen,  
Hope for victories yet unrealized,  
Charity for those who struggle.

May the dusk of each night  
Bring us dreams of a better world,  
Visions of our cause triumphant,  
Love for the sacrifices asked of us.

Grant your Church yet another century of service,  
Or time enough to build your Kingdom.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.  
Amen and Amen.  

By Father James Goins

Inside  
Anniversary trip to Santiago  
Atitlan, Guatemala  
11-15  

23 Painter rescues Our Lady
Catholic Charities Annual Appeal Celebrates One Hundred Years of Service

A once in a lifetime opportunity is rare indeed! Even rarer is an event that comes around only every hundred years. Next weekend, we begin just such an observance. The annual Catholic Charities Appeal, which will be held next weekend in parishes across the Archdiocese, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the founding of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma! The rich legacy of Catholic Charities in our state began with the opening of St. Joseph Orphanage in Bethany early in 1912. From that time until today the works of Catholic Charities has continued to expand throughout our state and Archdiocese. It can only continue with your generous and sacrificial support.

The many works and services of Catholic Charities express the care and concern of the Catholic Church for our brothers and sisters in need. We do not provide these services because these services may happen to be Catholic (many are not), but because we are Catholic. Caring for Christ in his distressing disguise of poverty is a responsibility of the Catholic Church. It is a duty for each of us to work and pray with our brothers and sisters, to do our part.” (Mt 25:40)

The types of services which Catholic Charities offers in the name of the Church have expanded with the changing needs of individuals and families over the course of the last century. The places where these services are offered have continued to expand as well. Today Catholic Charities provides counseling services, emergency response and case management. Catholic Charities offers support for families and adoption services. We provide service-enriched affordable housing for families and the elderly, care for women with unexpected pregnancies, sanctuary for homeless women who have no place to turn. We assist immigrants and refugees who are making a new start and many other services as well. We would be unable to offer such an array of services to so many of our neighbors in need without the generous support of our Catholic people. The Catholic Charities Annual Appeal will be held in each parish of the Archdiocese over the weekend of Sept. 17-18. I appeal to you to be generous. Make a sacrificial gift. I know you will do what you can and I thank you for your support.

Sooner Catholic
Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Publisher
Ray Dyer
Editor

Cara Koenig
Photographer / Special Projects

7051 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
(405) 721-5140 Fax: (405) 721-5229
e-mail: editor@catharchdioceseokc.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 32580
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Visit us online through the Archdiocesan Web Page at www.catharchdioceseokc.org.

Copyright © 2011 Sooner Catholic
Subscription rate: $20 per year for all who are not members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Periodical postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK 73125.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Sooner Catholic, P.O. Box 32580, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

The Sooner Catholic (USPS 980-119) is published biweekly except for once in July and twice in December by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

August 25
- Red Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
- Prayer Service and Reception with Benedictine Sisters, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 2 p.m.
- Graduation Mass and Luncheon, Archdiocesan Schools, 12 p.m.
- Opening Prayer and Welcome, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.

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

September 11 - Mass for Feast of Our Lady of La Vang, Our Lady’s Cathedral, 11:45 a.m.
September 11 - Archbishop’s Annual Prayer for Archdiocesan Staff, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5 p.m.
September 12 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee Meetings, Washington, D.C.
September 13 - Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
September 14 - Opening Prayer at Domestic Violence Conference, Emlary School, Norman, 8:30 a.m.
September 15 - Mass and classroom visits, Christ the King School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.
September 15 - Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
September 15 - Meeting with Editorial Board of The Daily Oklahoman, 3 p.m.
September 16 - Mass, Archdiocesan Teacher Institute, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 16 - Presentation of Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:15 a.m.
September 17 - Opening Prayer and Welcome, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 17 - Presentation of Religious Education Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:45 a.m.
September 17 - Mass, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 18 - Young Adult Mass and Steakout, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
September 20 - Mass at Catholic Charities, 11:30 a.m.
September 20 - Good Harvest Good Shepherd Luncheon and Meeting with Priests, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 20 - Archdiocesan Review Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 21 - Prato Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 22 - Mass and classroom visits, St. James School, Oklahoma City, 8:30 a.m.
September 22 - Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 12 p.m.
September 24 - Prayer Service and Reception with Benedictine Sisters, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 2 p.m.
September 24 - Red Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
September 25 - Guest Speaker at 40 Days for Life Rally, Christ the King Church, 3 p.m.

Sooner Catholic's Calendar

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

September 11 - Mass for Feast of Our Lady of La Vang, Our Lady’s Cathedral, 11:45 a.m.
September 11 - Archbishop’s Annual Prayer for Archdiocesan Staff, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5 p.m.
September 12 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee Meetings, Washington, D.C.
September 13 - Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
September 14 - Opening Prayer at Domestic Violence Conference, Emlary School, Norman, 8:30 a.m.
September 15 - Mass and classroom visits, Christ the King School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.
September 15 - Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
September 15 - Meeting with Editorial Board of The Daily Oklahoman, 3 p.m.
September 16 - Mass, Archdiocesan Teacher Institute, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 16 - Presentation of Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:15 a.m.
September 17 - Opening Prayer and Welcome, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 17 - Presentation of Religious Education Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:45 a.m.
September 17 - Mass, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 18 - Young Adult Mass and Steakout, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
September 20 - Mass at Catholic Charities, 11:30 a.m.
September 20 - Good Harvest Good Shepherd Luncheon and Meeting with Priests, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 20 - Archdiocesan Review Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 21 - Prato Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 22 - Mass and classroom visits, St. James School, Oklahoma City, 8:30 a.m.
September 22 - Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 12 p.m.
September 24 - Prayer Service and Reception with Benedictine Sisters, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 2 p.m.
September 24 - Red Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
September 25 - Guest Speaker at 40 Days for Life Rally, Christ the King Church, 3 p.m.

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

September 11 - Mass for Feast of Our Lady of La Vang, Our Lady’s Cathedral, 11:45 a.m.
September 11 - Archbishop’s Annual Prayer for Archdiocesan Staff, Catholic Pastoral Center, 5 p.m.
September 12 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee Meetings, Washington, D.C.
September 13 - Archdiocesan Finance Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 2 p.m.
September 14 - Opening Prayer at Domestic Violence Conference, Emlary School, Norman, 8:30 a.m.
September 15 - Mass and classroom visits, Christ the King School, Oklahoma City, 8:15 a.m.
September 15 - Vocations Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1 p.m.
September 15 - Meeting with Editorial Board of The Daily Oklahoman, 3 p.m.
September 16 - Mass, Archdiocesan Teacher Institute, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 16 - Presentation of Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:15 a.m.
September 17 - Opening Prayer and Welcome, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
September 17 - Presentation of Religious Education Teacher of the Year Award, Catholic Pastoral Center, 11:45 a.m.
September 17 - Mass, Archdiocesan Catechetical Congress, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 18 - Young Adult Mass and Steakout, Catholic Pastoral Center, 3 p.m.
September 20 - Mass at Catholic Charities, 11:30 a.m.
September 20 - Good Harvest Good Shepherd Luncheon and Meeting with Priests, Catholic Pastoral Center, 12 p.m.
September 20 - Archdiocesan Review Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 21 - Prato Council Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
September 22 - Mass and classroom visits, St. James School, Oklahoma City, 8:30 a.m.
September 22 - Catholic Charities Board Meeting, 12 p.m.
September 24 - Prayer Service and Reception with Benedictine Sisters, Epiphany of the Lord Church, 2 p.m.
September 24 - Red Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5 p.m.
September 25 - Guest Speaker at 40 Days for Life Rally, Christ the King Church, 3 p.m.
The Trojan Horse Is At The Gate

By Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

If you recall the story of the Trojan horse, you may understand why there is good reason to be very concerned about a new federal mandate that may soon take effect. This new federal regulation under the authority of last year’s health care reform act will soon require all employers who provide health insurance plans to cover an array of preventive services for women that include contraceptive and female sterilization.

Among the very disturbing elements of this mandate is the fact that it treats pregnancy as a disease or a disabling condition, which clearly it is not. Secondly, it places a major focus on mandatory coverage for surgical sterilization and all contraceptive services approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

It is “an unprecedented attack on religious liberty” to require that religious people and groups sell, broker or purchase services to which they have religious or moral objections. That is why the U.S. bishops general counsel said as he called for the mandate to be rescinded.

“Only rescission will eliminate all of the serious moral problems the mandate creates,” said Anthony Picarello, general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Picarello and bishops conference associate general counsel Michael Moses submitted an Aug. 31 complaint to the Department of Health and Human Services criticizing its interim final rule until Sept. 30.

The exemptions would not apply to those who share its religious beliefs. “Until now, no federal law has excluded from the coverage of contraceptives or sterilization such a moral or religious objection,” Picarello and Moses said. “The exemptions would not qualify for an exemption. They would not be included under the narrow umbrella of those who have a religious affiliation and taught his followers to do likewise (as is the Parable of the Good Samaritan) would not be included under the narrow umbrella of this so-called religious exemption.

As written, the religious exemption is too narrow to protect many Catholic organizations from opting out of this mandate. Catholic hospitals and even Catholic Charities agencies, both of which provide services without regard for religious affiliation and taught his followers to do likewise (as is the Parable of the Good Samaritan) would not be included under the narrow umbrella of this so-called religious exemption.

What can we do? The Department of Health and Human Services is allowing comments on this interim final rule until Sept. 30. Please take the time to visit the following link and register your opposition before it is too late. The Trojan horse is at the gate!

Please take a moment to visit the following link and register your opposition: http://nchla.org/actionsdisplay.asp?ID=209.

The requirements are also being appealed by the San Diego-based St. Gianna Physician’s Guild, which has launched an online petition against the mandate. Unless the regulations are rescinded, they will take effect on Aug. 1, 2012.

U.S. Bishops: Contraception Mandate Coerces Religious Groups

Washington, D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) — The HHS contraception mandate for insurance plans is “more radical” than any other in the United States and entitles “narrowly co-

This is an unprecedented attack on religious liberty” to require that religious groups and plans sell, broker or purchase services to which the insurance or moral objection. Instead, the freedom to exclude morally objectionable services has sometimes been staked affirmatively in federal law.

The exemptions cover a non-

The exemptions would not apply to those who share its religious beliefs.

Picarello and Moses said the mandate violates the Weldon amend-

The HHS released the mandate as part of the preventive care re-

requirements of the 2010 health care legislation. A 60-day comment period on the regulations began on Aug. 1.

Other prominent Catholics have opposed the regulations, including Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

Picarello and Moses said the mandate violates the Weldon amend-

The exemptions would cover contraceptives and sterilization, would not qualify for an exemption. They would not be included under the narrow umbrella of those who have a religious affiliation and taught his followers to do likewise (as is the Parable of the Good Samaritan) would not be included under the narrow umbrella of this so-called religious exemption.

The exemptions cover a non-

The exemptions would not apply to those who share its religious beliefs.

Picarello and Moses said the mandate violates the Weldon amend-

The HHS released the mandate as part of the preventive care re-

requirements of the 2010 health care legislation. A 60-day comment period on the regulations began on Aug. 1.
Sooner Catholic
September 11, 2011

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities:

On Oct. 6, 1912, St. Joseph Orphanage in Bethany opened its doors for the care of orphans. This milestone marked the beginning of Catholic Charities’ ministry to the poor and its commitment to protecting the lives and security of individuals, families and children who were materially deprived and at risk in Oklahoma.

In announcing our 2011 appeal, Catholic Charities is launching a year to celebrate our 100-year legacy as well as to recommit ourselves for the next 100 years of ministry to children and families throughout Oklahoma. Our theme — One hundred years of faith, hope and charity — both reflects on our very rich history and calls each one of us to help bring about the Kingdom of God by growing in our faith and service to others.

Our history has been built on the self-sacrifice of many clergy and religious who stood with children and families in times of economic hardship, family separation and disaster. Our legacy has flourished by the millions of acts of service and prayers of our faithful benefactors, volunteers and professional staff who live their lives in service to others. Our heritage has been blessed by the trust and confidence of those whom we have served with compassion and love.

At an early age, we learn that Charity is what we do for others: giving alms to the poor, sheltering the homeless and visiting the sick and imprisoned. But the history of our Catholic Charities teaches us that Charity is so much more. Charity is God’s blessing on all humanity, as we build an inclusive Kingdom where the gifts of all are revered and shared. So much more remains to be done in the next 100 years!

Please be generous to our 2011 Catholic Charities Appeal. Gratefully yours,

Tim O’Connor

Please consider pledging at least one hour’s wages per month to support these Catholic Charities programs:

- Maternity and Adoption Services provided services to 90 people in 2010. Holy Family Maternity Home serves over 40 teenage mothers per year.
- Family Support Services provided over $200,000 in rent, utility and other assistance in the past year.
- Transitional Housing was provided to 44 clients. Service-Enriched Housing serves over 150 income-eligible families and seniors annually.
- Disaster Relief helps hundreds of families each year whose lives and homes are harmed by tornadoes, flooding and other disasters.
- Refugee Resettlement partners with the U.S. State Department to assist people who have been persecuted for religious and social reasons.
- Sanctuary Women’s Development Center helped 486 homeless women and children in 2010.
- Immigration Services offers legal assistance and citizenship and naturalization services for immigrates with family members in the United States.
- Advocacy Services provides a voice for the unborn, the poor and vulnerable in public policy debates.
- Faith Community Nurse Development provides education and support to promote health ministry.
- St. Joseph Counseling Center provides confidential counseling services to hundreds of parish-oriented individuals, groups, families and children each year.
The seeds for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City were planted in 1910 when Father John Schaefer purchased land in Bethany to establish an orphanage for children who could not be reared by family due to separation, abandonment, deprivation or death. Two years later, St. Joseph’s Orphanage opened, providing thousands of Oklahoma children a home with the opportunity for education and support as they grew into young adults, and with it, began the works of Catholic Charities.

At the heart of Catholic Charities, however, is the social mission of the Church, which includes instructions for the faithful to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, and care for the sick and dying. It is this social mission that has been expressed in the services of Catholic Charities in Oklahoma for nearly 100 years.

Since it began, Catholic Charities has provided comprehensive social services to poor and vulnerable children, families, pregnant women, elderly and other individuals throughout Oklahoma, regardless of religious affiliation, race, national origin or gender. Today, Catholic Charities is a major private provider of social services to children, families and individuals in Oklahoma, working alongside public and private organizations to help meet the basic needs of those who have the least. In addition to its direct services, Catholic Charities also advocates at the local and state levels for public policy that promotes the common good on behalf of those whose voices are not heard.

While its earliest programs were related to adoption and foster care, today’s Catholic Charities’ services touch many different facets of life in Oklahoma, from adoption and housing to family counseling, refugee services and immigration. These services, many of which grew organically from a true need in the community, are still thriving today. For example, in 1975, to assist with the many displaced people after the Vietnam War, Catholic Charities began providing relocation and resettlement services to refugees. Twelve years later, in 1987, the Immigration Legal Assistance program began. In 1990, the Holy Family Maternity Home opened as a program to serve pregnant and parenting teens. In 1993, the Family HOPE (Help, Organize, Prioritize, Empower) case management program was established. Other programs include disaster and emergency relief, transitional housing, homeless services and faith community nurse training.

Over the years, Catholic Charities has expanded to include offices in Lawton, Clinton and Enid, as well as its headquarters in Oklahoma City. Opened in 1992, the Lawton regional office provides long-term case management, emergency financial assistance and counseling services. The Lawton office also provides emergency services and service coordination to residents of Villanova Apartments, an apartment complex for low-income families. The Clinton and Enid regional offices offer case management and counseling services. Furthermore, adoption services and immigration legal assistance are available to Lawton, Clinton and Enid clients through the Oklahoma City office.

This month, a new regional office opened in Guymon to provide immigration legal assistance and social services for children and families.

In addition to its emphasis on service, Catholic Charities also strives to be one of the state’s leading nonprofit organizations, earning a full four-year accreditation by the Council on Accreditation since 2007. Additionally, for the last two years, Charity Navigator, a national service that rates the financial health of nonprofits, has awarded the agency the highest 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.
Disaster Recovery is a Hands-On Aspect of Catholic Charities

“When you work in a Disaster Recovery Center, you encounter people in every stage of grief and emotional and physical turmoil,” says Damon Britton, associate director for Children and Family Services at Catholic Charities. After the deadly tornadoes of May 24, the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened Disaster Recovery Centers in multiple Oklahoma locations and Catholic Charities staff members provided assistance in all of them. Case managers met with disaster survivors in Piedmont, Blanchard, Guthrie, Kingfisher and Chickasha. In each location, staff members worked to meet immediate needs and help plan for long-term assistance.

“A DRC is essentially a one-stop shop for disaster recovery services,” Britton says. FEMA sets up the center in a local school, church or other facility. Services include not only FEMA but the Small Business Administration, state and local government agencies such as the Department of Human Services, and local nonprofit agencies. Each agency has a specific role coordinated by the State of Oklahoma Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster Charities’ role is to provide long-term recovery case management. This service begins at the DRC and can extend for up to two years. The goal of long-term recovery case management is to help clients return to their pre-disaster condition.

One resident from Chickasha said, “Catholic Charities listened to me. They let me talk about my situation. They let me cry and then they helped me figure out a plan to recover. That day at the DRC I received a gas voucher so I could get back and forth to my property. I also got enough gift cards to buy cleaning supplies and food. I also got a good dose of hope.”

Beyond Reading, Writing and Arithmetic: How St. Joseph’s Counseling Center Helps Students in Times of Crisis

For many people, childhood is often remembered as a happy and carefree time, where the most trying lessons were one of the three Rs. There are times, however, when a crisis arises at one of Oklahoma’s parochial schools that not only impacts a student’s performance, but also his or her emotional well-being. When that occurs, St. Joseph’s Counseling Center at Catholic Charities is available to offer counseling and support, as well as age-appropriate treatment, to help a student move forward.

“When a crisis occurs at one of the schools, such as a student or faculty death, it can be very difficult for all of those affected. To help ease the situation, we work closely with the administration, parents and teachers to help with notifying the students of the particular incident and provide grief counseling to classes or individual students as needed,” said Monica Palmer, Catholic Charities associate director of Clinical Services. “Some students may need additional assistance due to symptoms of depression, anxiety, family and social issues. In those cases, we work closely with his or her family to help, which can include up to six free counseling sessions for the student or family.”

Palmer said some children deal with grief and stress differently than others, so parents should be aware of signs of longer-term difficulties, which may require additional assistance. Some signs of more serious depression and anxiety in children can include sleep problems, appetite decreases, changes in interest level of usually enjoyed activities, irritable mood, reduced engagement in social ties, and trouble with concentration and memory. A drastic change in academic performance or temperament can indicate a more serious problem. For example, an elementary-aged child may regress or revert to an earlier stage of development (i.e. thumb sucking), or an adolescent may seem angry or easily frustrated when he or she is sad.

“Throughout the years, we have worked with several schools to educate and support students, faculty and staff about the stages of grief and loss,” Palmer said. “I believe this support is helpful to everyone, including parents and faculty who need to help guide their students through the process while working through their own feelings of loss. To help ease this difficult time, parents and faculty are given information about talking to their children/students and they are encouraged to seek professional assistance if they do not observe improvement over the course of a few weeks.”

She said, “At St. Joseph’s Counseling Center, we are committed to ensuring each member of the Archdiocese has access to mental health services, no matter what the age or need. Parents and faculty have been very gracious to our team and seem quite receptive to our presence in their schools. I believe this helps them know that they are not alone and that we are honored to help them in the most difficult of times.”
Creating a Safe Haven in Oklahoma for People From Throughout the World

Throughout its history, Catholic Charities has responded to social need by creating programs that offer solutions. In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, an incredible new need would arise: refugee services.

In 1975, after the fall of Saigon to the communist Viet Cong, refugees from Southeast Asian nations, including Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees, emigrated to the United States to escape the cruelties of a new regime and the widespread destruction of their homeland. As the wave of refugees grew, the U.S. State Department appealed to religious organizations, including Catholic Charities, to help relocate incoming families and provide services to help them adjust to their new lives in the United States.

This event significantly expanded the scope of Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program. Between January 1976 and the late 1980s, the program helped ease the transition for hundreds of Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees, who would need places to live, employment, English classes and enrollment in the public schools for their children.

“From its earliest days, Catholic Charities’ refugee program has been devoted to providing a safe haven to people who qualified for refugee status due to religious, political and racial/ethnic persecution,” said Aimee Ryan, Refugee Resettlement director. “Our program focuses on the strength of the refugee and builds on those skills that allowed them to flee and survive their displacement. While the surroundings and cultural differences require some adjustment, the refugees are already adept at applying themselves to the kind of changes that help them to transition into self-sufficiency in an American community.”

In the years since this program began, many former refugees have not only become proud U.S. citizens, they have thrived in making their mark throughout the state as business owners, professionals and even public servants.

Today, largely funded through the U.S. State Department, the Refugee Resettlement Program operates as an affiliate of the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The program offers reception and placement services for the first 90 days to about 150 newly arrived refugees each year. Job orientation and preparation takes place during this period with the goal of early employment and self-sufficiency.

Ryan said most information about refugees focuses on the horrors of torture, imprisonment, the murder of family members, and primitive refugee camps. However, while many have suffered some level of violence, the experience of the refugee varies widely. While the African and Burmese refugees often live in camps, Ryan said, some from other countries are allowed to rent apartment units and hold some jobs.

Sahar Aldurobi, a refugee through the program two years ago, was educated and employed with the government and owned her own home. She describes her trauma founded on fears for her children’s safety in a country torn apart by aggression, violence and the war atmosphere that was ingrained in Saddam Hussein’s dictatorship.

“I was free, but I would never truly be free,” Aldurobi recalls. Ryan said the program’s success is measured not by how many people it helps, but by the level to which clients are able to sink new roots into the community and accomplish their dreams.

“Over the years, Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Office has acted as a guiding hand for refugees from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America,” Ryan said. “Many of our clients may come from different cultures, educational levels and economic backgrounds, but all are joined by their opportunity for an extraordinary new future.”

“Through the seven years that I was the director of the Refugee Program at Catholic Social Ministries (now Catholic Charities), we helped with the placement of refugees from several ethnic groups from Southeast Asia that spoke 18 different languages. The majority were Vietnamese. With the help of Catholic Social Ministries, the state of Oklahoma became a little United Nations — a place where life could begin anew for thousands of refugees — even former enemies — who could now live together in peace.”

(Sister Anne Wisda, I.H.M. - Refugee Resettlement Director, 1976-1983)
Removing the Myths of Adoption

Since 1912, Catholic Charities has worked to provide safe, loving homes to children throughout the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Over the years, the organization has placed thousands of children and changed numerous lives. As Catholic Charities Adoption Services nears its 100th anniversary, program director Kirsten Lee, M.S.W., shares some of the top five myths and realities of adoption:

**Myth #2:** Adoption is selfish and irresponsible.

Adoption is neither selfish nor irresponsible. In fact, it is one of the most selfless decisions a mother can make. A birth mother who places a child for adoption is willing to be honest with herself and admit that she either does not want to parent or is not emotionally, physically or financially stable enough to parent.

An adoption plan takes a lot of responsibility as it involves paperwork, meetings, court dates and making sure both the mother and the baby remain healthy. It is a very courageous act and a precious gift to give to a couple. Any mother who works with a professional adoption agency is making a thoughtful and loving arrangement for her child that will enable him or her to lead a healthy and positive life.

**Myth #3:** Adoption is selfish and irresponsible.

Children who are adopted are different than biological children. Children who are adopted develop and grow no differently than biological children. It never hurts to talk with a professional about her options and her wishes for herself and the child.

**Myth #4:** Adoption is a good mother by giving her child up for adoption.

In many cases, the birth mother does not want to parent at this time in her life. Despite her best intentions, the mother may not have the support or resources needed to raise a child and may be unable to manage everything all on her own. In these situations, the birth mother makes a choice to be a good mother by giving her child better opportunities and a more stable environment.

A child can be placed with a loving and responsible couple at any time and will continue to have a fulfilling and positive life. This also will allow the mother to focus on making other positive choices in her life. It never hurts to talk with a professional about her options and her wishes for herself and the child.

**Myth #5:** Children who are adopted are different than biological children.

Catholic Charities Adoption Services works closely with adoptive parents to ensure the child adapts positively into their family. Even if the child is of a different race or culture, each is completely a part of the family and completely loved. It is not unusual for families to incorporate their child’s culture into their own culture by celebrating certain holidays and creating open and honest discussions about their child’s race and heritage.

**Myth #6:** Once the child is born, it is too late to consider adoption.

It is never too late to consider adoption through Catholic Charities. It has been our experience that birth mothers want to try parenting and realize weeks, months or years later that they are not meant to be a parent at this time in their lives. Despite her best intentions, the mother may not have the support or resources needed to raise a child and may be unable to manage everything all on her own. In these situations, the birth mother makes a choice to be a good mother by giving her child better opportunities and a more stable environment.

A child can be placed with a loving and responsible couple at any time and will continue to have a fulfilling and positive life. This also will allow the mother to focus on making other positive choices in her life. It never hurts to talk with a professional about her options and her wishes for herself and the child.

**Myth #7:** Children who are adopted are different than biological children.

Children who are adopted develop and grow no differently than biological children. In fact, adopted children can be successful in life and have a rewarding and loving relationship with their adopted family. While some children grow in their mother’s womb, some grow in their mother and father’s hearts.

Catholic Charities Adoption Services helps birth mothers make a thoughtful and loving decision for their child. A birth mother who places a child for adoption has no control in what happens to the child.

A woman who places her child for adoption is making a thoughtful, carefully planned and loving decision. It is a plan that takes time and careful consideration of various aspects. A birth mother has many options in deciding how she wants her adoption plan to proceed and makes decisions for herself and her child.

In many cases, the birth mother may select the adoptive couple and may even meet the couple more than once to assure that they are the best parents for her child. She knows exactly where her child is going and has tremendous faith in the couple she chose. Many mothers choose to receive pictures of their children after they have been placed and some even establish an open relationship with the child and the adopted parents.

**Myth #8:** Adoptive and birth family can never reconnect once they are separated.

However, in some cases, relationships are not possible. In those situations, Catholic Charities can still be of assistance in providing adoptees with additional information about their birth or birth family that may answer long-held questions regarding health histories and family trees.

Catholic Charities has recently developed adoption promotion posters and materials which are suitable for schools, health clinics and doctors offices. For more information about these materials or about Catholic Charities Adoption Services in general, contact Kirsten Lee or Stephanie Storozyszyn at (405) 523-3012 or visit www.catholiccharities-ok.org.
Homeless Women and Children Find Sanctuary

Visitors to the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center are often struck by the laughter which is a common sound each day. "Loneliness is a common denominator in our clients," says case manager Kirby Bewley at the Sanctuary, which is operated by Catholic Charities in south Oklahoma City, to provide a safe, nurturing environment for homeless women and their children. More importantly, however, Bewley says the center offers a joyful respite, an escape from worry.

Last year the Sanctuary served nearly 1,000 clients. Bewley says more than 95 percent of the clients participated in some form of case management. “Each wanted to create a permanent change in her life.”

Bewley says Sanctuary case managers and volunteers work with clients to teach good problem-solving skills and help them see their own self-worth. As a result of intensive case management, 72 families were moved out of homelessness and into housing in the past year.

For some families, finances are the only barrier keeping them from overcoming homelessness; for others, it is domestic violence and mental illness. “Women who come to Sanctuary often have issues from childhood that affect their lives,” Bewley says. “Many suffer from anxiety or depression. Counseling can break the cycle.”

For more information about the Sanctuary, contact director Amy Hampton at (405) 526-2321.

Creating HOPE For Families

Catholic Charities Family Support Services has seen an increase of nearly 50 percent in the number of families requesting financial assistance this year, said Damon Britton, associate director of Children’s and Family Services.

Family Support Services includes the Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance, Transitional Housing, and Family HOPE Case Management programs for families in crisis. Britton said the increase in requests could be due to the poor economy, excessively hot weather, or a combination of both.

Last year 265 clients participated in the Family HOPE program. This long-term case management program helps working families who are in financial crisis. HOPE is an acronym for “Help, Organize, Prioritize, Empower.”

“We have seen an increase in the number of clients seeking aid for the first time in the past year,” said Family HOPE case manager Cindy Kearney. “Many have lost their jobs or had their hours cut at work. Their situations are more complicated than those we have seen in previous years.”

Britton described the case of a single mother, determined to create a better life for her family who enrolled in the Family HOPE program. Catholic Charities provided her transitional housing while she worked with the case manager to develop a service plan to pay down debt. Her goal was to purchase a house for her family. The mother worked endlessly on the service plan to take care of her family by meeting intermediate financial goals and then to achieve her ultimate goal. She purchased a home for her family last December and is financially secure, Britton said.

“Developing a maternity home program in the 1990s was a definite pro-life action. In one instance I was talking to the residents and it was sad to me that none of the young mothers had ever been on a date. They were mothers but had never had the special feeling of being taken out by someone. Holy Family Home seeks to increase self-esteem, coping and parenting skills of residents. It also offers the adoption option.”

Pat Proehl, Catholic Charities Assistant Director, 1991-1999
Catholic Charities Opens New Office in Lawton

Providing emergency rent and utility assistance and case management to the citizens of Lawton with outreach to Duncan and Altus, Catholic Charities moved its base of operations to a new location in July. Located at 1930 N.W. Ferris Ave., this location will enable staff to be closer to the community it serves. The staff pictured above at the Lawton office include Pauline Harris, Lorraine Truitt and Brenda Toehay, shown here with Damon Britton, associate director for Children and Family Services.

Ministry Leads the Way

A model for parish healing ministries, developed at St. Peter Parish in Woodward in cooperation with Catholic Charities, is drawing national attention and will be featured as an example of “Best Practices” in the 2012 Catholic Charities USA Parish Social Ministry calendar.

In 1981, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote a document titled Health and Health Care, which stated, “Health in the Christian perspective means wholeness — not only physical and emotional but also spiritual and social. Health has to do with many things other than strictly medical concerns. The restoration of health and the maintenance of good health are not solely the responsibility of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. We all bear a responsibility in this regard, both as individuals and as members of large social and religious institutions.”

In the spirit of Health and Health Care, Catholic Charities works with parishes to develop holistic healing ministries. “During the past year, St. Peter Parish in Woodward pioneered a model for how parishes can utilize health professionals as well as non-professionals in embracing the healing ministry,” said Mary Diane Steltenkamp, director of Faith Community Nursing at Catholic Charities in Oklahoma City.

The St. Peter Parish nursing team, now comprising nine people, has embraced various programs addressing the physical and spiritual health of the community. Steltenkamp said the model has become so popular that several other parishes are developing similar programs.

Steltenkamp, who directs Faith Community Nurse training across the state of Oklahoma, will present aspects of the St. Peter model during the Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering in Fort Worth this month.

For more information about the Catholic Charities Faith Community Nursing training program, contact Steltenkamp at (405) 523-5000 or mdsteltenkamp@catholiccharities- ok.org.
A Celebration Of The Love, Life of Father Rother

Pilgrims Mark Anniversary

By María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda

For the Sooner Catholic

“Martyrs are blood witnesses of God’s inexhaustible love for his people.” (Father Henri Nouwen in “Love in a Fearful Land: A Guatemala Story”)

This truth is visibly and tangibly evident in the parish community of Santiago Apostol in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, where Okarche native and Servant of God Father Stanley Francis Rother is more than just remembered. Padre Apla’s (Francis in Tz’utujil) still witnesses the presence and power of God to His people 30 years after his death. Martyred on July 28, 1981, Stanley Rother has been declared by the Universal Church as a Servant of God — which in time could make him the first male saint born in the United States.

But the people of Santiago Atitlán are not waiting for an official declaration. They already affirm Apla’s a saint, their saint, and they come to him daily seeking for his help and intercession.

“He was a courageous missionary, who in spite of the violence that surrounded him, did not leave his flock. He is a great example for me, someone who gave his life for the People of God,” says Sister Ambrosia, a member of the Hermanas Misioneras de la Eucaristía, Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist, who remembers and survived the years of violent social unrest in Guatemala. “I can’t tell you how much I admire him. He could have returned to his country, but instead remained with his people here. He represents Jesus, who gave His life for all of us. All of Guatamala already knows that he is a saint.”

It is both appropriate and telling that Father Rother’s heart rests forever with the people closest to his heart, on a side altar of the big colonial church built by Franciscans in 1540. A large photo banner hanging on the wall above shows a vista of the lake with Father Rother celebrating Mass, along with the words proclaimed by Jesus: “No hay amor mas grande el que da la vida por sus amigos.” — There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

30th Anniversary Commemoration

This July, 38 pilgrims from Oklahoma and Arkansas, including Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop Emeritus Eusebius J. Beltran, St. Gregory’s Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, Subiaco’s Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, and Little Rock Bishop Anthony Taylor, journeyed to Guatemala to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of Father Stanley F. Rother.

One of the first things instantly obvious to visitors of the Santiago Atitlán parish is that the man that the Tz’utujil Mayan people remember as Apla’s, who taught, loved, prayed with and cared for them during the last 13 years of his life, is still their shepherd now.

“Father Stanley Rother, Padre Apla’s, came from Oklahoma to Santiago Atitlán because he loved God. Because Padre Apla’s loved God, he loved each one of you,” remarked Archbishop Beltran to the filled-to-capacity church at the 30th Anniversary Mass. “Because Padre Apla’s loved you, he wanted to share the Good News of Jesus with all of you. He proclaimed God’s love and mercy. He wanted you to know how much God loves you and how you and your children could have everlasting life in heaven. Because of this proclamation and adherence to our Catholic faith, Padre Apla’s was brutally attacked and killed here in the parish house.”

Reminding the community of Father Rother’s official cause for canonization, Archbishop Beltran added, “I want to encourage you to continue your own public and private devotion to Padre Apla’s. Come here frequently before the enshrined heart of Padre Apla’s and continue to seek his help.”

For St. John the Baptist parishioner Tom Morris, “It was celebrating Masses at this crowded 400-year-old church in Guatemala that Padre Apla’s sainthood was made clear to me,” he explained. “It was in the eyes of the people, in their singing, in their hunger for the Eucharist, and in the parish of Santiago’s five vocations to the seminary. My wife and I recently attended a Papal Mass at St. Peter’s and we felt a greater presence of our Lord in the people of the Church at Santiago Atitlán than we did at the Vatican.”

“The people treasure that he was, and is, one of them,” noted Sister María Victoria, who worked

Continued on Page 12
Continued from Page 11

for five years at the parish of Santiago Atitlán. "Apla's shared everything with the Tz'utujil. In spite of his different background, he embraced our culture and the poor and simple people. He ate with the people and rode out in the trucks to work the fields with them. He shared everything with them," added Sister Maria Victoria, whose community — the Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist — was the first community of women in Guatemala founded to take in indigenous vacations, even those without any schooling. The community now has a mission serving in Houston, Texas.

Father Michael Chapman, who has visited Santiago Atitlán three times in the past 30 years, said that being one of the large group of priests and bishops filling up the altar at the 35th anniversary Mass allowed him to observe "a vibrant community alive with the faith. What a joy that was!"

He also enjoyed seeing Father Thomas McSherry recognized and acknowledged both at Santiago and Cerro de Oro. "As the successor of Father Apla's, he carried the pastoral burden with the same self-effacing 'Father Apla's,' he carried the pastoral burden to the Tz'utujil people and their faith," noted Father Chapman.

"I learned about Father Stanley Rother's death 30 years ago as a seminarian and have remained inspired by his witness," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. "He captured my attention because he was an alumnus of my seminary I was attending, Mount St. Mary in Emmitsburg, Md."

Having the opportunity to celebrate Mass 30 years later at Father Rother's parish church in Santiago Atitlán was a powerful experience," Archbishop Coakley added. "I was deeply moved by the vibrancy of the parish, their devotion to the Eucharist, and their continuing veneration of Father Rother, whom they call Padre Apla's. Few of the people filling that crowded parish church would have known him personally, but his witness as a loving pastor who gave his life for his people has certainly not been forgotten! He is beloved and that is very evident!"

Experiencing the Church of Guatemala

As part of the week-long pilgrimage, the Oklahoma and Arkansas pilgrims visited other important sites for the Church of Guatemala, including the historical city of Antigua, the parish and ministries of San Lucas Toliman, the Hospitalito Eucaristía, Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist, and the parish at Cerro de Oro, a small church five miles from Santiago also served by Father Rother and the Oklahoma mission.

"Cerroserving this pilgrimage as a defining moment for her, Carol Shan said she traveled to Guatemala already familiar with Father Rother, through a friend from her years living in Woodward, who is a relative of Rother. "I wanted to come and see with my own eyes what it was all about," said Shan, now a resident of San Diego, Calif. "Meeting the people, observing what their life is like, and seeing the joy and hope that they live, it truly blows me away. They are a witness of faith through their living, loving and giving."

"It is amazing to me how God works with ordinary people to perform extraordinary works," said Donne Frasier of St. Patrick's Church in OKC. "Who would ever think that a priest from Okarche, Oklahoma, would make such an impression on so many people all over the world!" remarked Frasier about his first time experiencing Santiago Atitlán. "No matter who we are, where we were raised, we can make a difference, especially if we have faith in God and in ourselves. Father Stanley Rother is truly an inspiration for all of us. We don't have to be a genius or have extraordinary skills to make a difference in people's lives."

"I wanted to come and see with my own eyes what it was all about," said Shan, now a resident of San Diego, Calif. "Meeting the people, observing what their life is like, and seeing the joy and hope that they live, it truly blows me away. They are a witness of faith through their living, loving and giving.

"The week-long pilgrimage through Guatemala definitely left a strong impression on so many people all over the world," remarked Frasier about his first time experiencing Santiago Atitlán. "No matter who we are, where we were raised, we can make a difference, especially if we have faith in God and in ourselves. Father Stanley Rother is truly an inspiration for all of us. We don't have to be a genius or have extraordinary skills to make a difference in people's lives."

"One aspect that surprised Father Timothy Luschen on his first Guatemala visit was the amount of development in the town of Santiago. But the biggest surprise was the poverty of the people. So many things we take for granted — the streets, the electricity, the water. The discomforts we feel on our pilgrimage are the discomforts they live with every day."

Although it is not an easy trip, it is a life-changing experience for everyone and makes a difference in people's lives."
Adversity Transformed
Into Faith Adventure

By María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda
For the Sooner Catholic

Pilgrims leave home intentionally, with an expectation that the physical journey will fuel the spiritual quest. Pilgrims, as opposed to tourists, desire to approach their journey in a spirit of poverty and dependence, like refugees, consciously choosing at every phase of the journey to humbly present themselves and their needs to the Lord, acknowledging their utter dependence on God.

In the pilgrimage to Guatemala for the 30th anniversary of Father Stanley Rother, it was clear that God was very busy, often using the adversities and challenges that the group encountered to remind us that His plan was more meaningful, brilliant, better designed, than any pre-set itinerary, no matter how well thought out!

For the Arkansas pilgrims, the difficulties began immediately: mechanical airplane issues, delayed and postponed flights, and even an emergency landing in Houston, with sirens and firemen, significant enough to make CNN and local evening news.

"That set the tone for the whole pilgrimage," explained Little Rock's Bishop, Anthony B. Taylor. "The Lord was clearly in control throughout, not us … since we were pilgrims … the journey was really what it was all about, not any particular human timetable or earthly destination. And there were wonderful adversities almost every day! Bishop Taylor, formerly a priest with the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, was the Episcopal delegate for Father Rother's cause of canonization.


Sister Kathy Olsen, a member of the Archdiocesan canonization committee, jokes that pilgrimage director Carol Davito "could be a really terrific used car salesman!"

"When Carol suggested that we wear good walking shoes for the next day's journey because we'd have to walk a little ways due to a mudslide, I never could have imagined that would translate into walking across a swaying suspension bridge over a deep gorge that could only support five people at a time! Or that the transportation waiting us on the other side were not buses, but rather three pickup trucks where we hung on to railings. And did I mention that one of the trucks ran out of gas on our way to the convent we were visiting?"

"It was an adventure, to say the least," agreed Jean Nashert, noting that a fellow pilgrim had already pointed out the similarities between the group's adventures and the reality TV series "Survivor."

"I never thought I'd be walking on a swaying bridge!"

"This was an adventure with a capital A!" laughed Sister Kathy about her first trip to Santiago Atitlán. "No sickness, broken planes, mudslides or other obstacles could keep us from experiencing the many blessings," added Maria Peña of Little Rock.

"Bishop Taylor has taught often about Father Rother and the great example that he is for us all, his Christ-like attitude," Peña added. "But being surrounded at Mass by the people from all the different towns who had come there to celebrate his life, and the way they welcomed us, it was way more than I expected." Having the Mass readings proclaimed in Tz'utujil was a beautiful reminder that we are Continued on Page 15
by Maric de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda

For the Sooner Catholic

Joy, awe, sorrow, inspiration, respect, sadness and admiration. A myriad of emotions rushed over me on my first trip to Santiago Atitlán. As I continue to try to verbalize experiencing firsthand Father Stanley Rother’s community in Guatemala, I can’t help paraphrasing the famous gospel question about Jesus: Can anything good come from Okarche, Oklahoma? Why do we always think that God’s presence will be found in the spectacular, when over and over we find God in the simplest things, the common events, and the regular, ordinary people in our lives? This man whose intercession we seek, this man who died in love for his brothers and sisters in Guatemala, this man who is already venerated in Santiago Atitlán as martyr for his Tz’utujil brothers and sisters, was an average farm boy from an unremarkable, ordinary small town, very much like Jesus’ Nazareth.

This was also my first trip to Guatemala, and there was much about it that surprised me. The natural beauty mesmerized. Rugged luxurious mountains, towering volcanoes wrapped in fast-moving clouds, and the majestic Lake Atitlán framed the region of Sololá, where Santiago Atitlán is located. Breathtaking!

No one in our group of pilgrims could stop smiling at the one-hour boat ride between the hotel in Panajachel to the village of Santiago on the other side of Lake Atitlán. Riding often in silenced awe at the panoramas surrounding us, my heart intuitively sang, “Oh Lord, my God, how wondrous are your works!”

I must confess that before this trip, my academic knowledge of the country of Guatemala did not include the fact that there are 22 distinct Mayan dialects spoken there. That over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan. Or that over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan. Or that over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan. Or that over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan. Or that over 60 percent of the population is still 100 percent Mayan.

When Pope John XXIII requested in the 1960s that the mission church of Santiago (St. James) of Santiago, no resident priest had been ministering to the people who were there worshiping with us. They made that clear to me. They already come to Mass frequently, regularly, with their needs and their prayers, just as they did when he was their pastor for 13 years. His death, like his life, is one more outward sign of his deep and abiding holy love for them.

At the 30th anniversary Mass, I remember smiling at the Tz’utujil woman in her 60s standing next to me. I was struck by the certainty that we would never see each other again. In culture, experience and education, we have little to nothing in common with one another. We didn’t even speak the same primary language. Yet I had tears in my eyes as the two of us stood together in the celebration of our faith, how we sang the very appropriate hymn, “el Pescador de hombres,” and how we raised hands praying the Our Father in Spanish together.

In our Catholic faith, and through the centuries, and example of Servant of God Father Stanley Francis Apla’s Rother, we were and are already sisters in Christ.

Padre Apla’s, please pray for us now and forever. Amen.

Scaperlanda is a journalist and author living in Norman, and a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Church. For information on her published work, visit www.mymaria.net.

The launch to Santiago Atitlán. Photo by Father Stephen Bird
Continued from Page 13

united in the Word of God, by the Eucharist, by our Catholic faith.”

The worshipping experience with the Tz’utujil people gifted sister Kathy with the consciousness that “I take for granted the frequency and availability of the Eucharist.” Swirling the community’s willingness to travel, then stand there for hours in order to celebrate Mass was very moving. “The people are so expressive in their faith, they have such reverence and devotion. When I saw that kind of faith, I realize there’s a lot of hope for the Church.”

Difficult things always happen, especially if a journey is meant to be a true spiritual quest. But it is the pilgrims’ attitude that can either ruin or bless a journey. The pilgrim heart looks to the journey with willfulness, openness, and quite often a huge sense of humor. When an entire group attempts this sort of attitude, the blessings of the journey simply multiply.

For Bishop Taylor the challenges, obstacle, adversities and difficulties were nothing but wonderful. “Wonderful, because no one got upset,” noted Bishop Taylor. “We laughed when we could, which was often, and otherwise just took everything in stride, confident that all of this was one way or another God’s gift to us. We really could feel Jesus’ presence, tangible, every step of the way.”

Father Luschen noted that this wasn’t an ordinary place like Okarche, Oklahoma. “It was so uplifting,” agreed John Ward, “a great moving experience. It was beautiful to see the love that the people of Santiago have for Father Rother, especially the children, who never even knew him. It blew me away.”

30 Years Later -

Continued from Page 12

May be proclaimed by the Universal Church as Martyr and Saint…”

“Before (Stanley Rother) had returned from Oklahoma to Guate-

mals for the last time, he told me how much he desired to come back, “just before (Stanley Rother) had returned,” Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltr

an be a reflection of the Great Sacrifice of Jesus.”

Servant of God Father Stanley Rother is important not only for the Church in Guatemala and the Church in Oklahoma, but for every-

He didn’t stop him from going back.

It is impossible not to be struck by Father Rother’s lasting presence both at the Masses, and in the room where he was killed — now a Blessed Sacrament chapel,” acknowledged Father Luschen. “I felt a sense of pride that he was one of our own,” he paused, “but also the sadness. Father Rother was a Catholic priest who loved his people so much that he died for them … As a priest, I hope and pray that I would be strengthened to be more generous in giving of myself in serving the people of God.”

On his second visit to Santiago, Jack Nashert wanted his wife, Jean, to see with her own eyes what he experienced 30 years ago. “It is a great way of recharging my battery spiritu-

ally,” he smiled.

For Jean the experience was “everything I hoped it would be. It was wonderful.” The biggest impression for her, she emphasized, “were the children – so happy, so full of joy like when they grabbed the Archbishop’s hands as he processed into Mass!”

Celebrating Mass with as many priests, bishops and abbots was very special, but experiencing the faith of the Tz’utujil together was an espe-


Adventure

The big impression was something I hoped it would be. It was everything I dreamed it would be. It was wonderful, by our Catholic faith.”

The worshipping experience with the Tz’utujil together was an espe-

Mr. Terri Wight bringing gifts up at Mass in Santiago Atitlán. Photo by Father Stephen Bird. For more photos, visit tinyurl.com/44nxkz6.
Stewardship: We Are Called By God’s Grace

How does God alter you, transform you, make your life more fulfilling? How does God help you deepen your understanding of yourself, your loved ones and your community? What are the gifts you possess that allow God to be actively present in the world through you? Understanding Christian stewardship helps us understand these fundamental questions. “Stewards of God’s Grace” is from the New Testament’s First Letter of Peter. Christian stewards understand that they are entrusted with the mysteries of God’s grace in order to have abundant life for themselves, their families, their communities, and a world hungry for God’s peace. Christian stewardship inspires us to make better choices, rethink our priorities and become the person God created us to be.

Stewardship is the management of all of life’s resources given by God to each of His children. Our management of these gifts calls us to be accountable and responsible for their use. You are a steward. Your fellow parishioners are stewards! Actually all God’s people are stewards whether they acknowledge it or not. Instead of asking “Will I be a Steward?” we must ask, “What kind of steward will I be?”

The Lord has called His people to be faithful and wise stewards. We answer His call when we grow in our understanding of Stewardship. We answer His call when we grow in our understanding of Stewardship.

How to become Stewards of God’s Grace

We are called and sent to be witnesses of God’s Grace. Stewardship is the mission of the Church. We do not teach it; we must live it. A far more basic understanding of Stewardship is rooted in our awareness of God, of how God is involved in our lives, and how we see ourselves as disciples of Jesus in today’s world. The parables from the gospel of Luke are preeminent to the concept and theology of stewardship. Sixteen of Jesus’ 38 parables are concerned with stewardship. So, if we are to “hear His words” and “put them to practice,” then and only then can we be a solid foundation of Christian discipleship.

We are reminded of the story of the “Little Red Hen.” Remember, the little red hen planted the seed, harvested the crop, ground the wheat and baked the bread. Throughout the story she asks for help from the pig, the cow and the horse. No one was willing to help her in her mission until the very end when the wonderful aroma of the freshly baked bread permeated the farm yard, then suddenly everyone was anxious to participate in eating the bread. The little red hen cherished her gift of seed, she planted, tended it and transformed the simple gift into something wonderful and delicious that could be enjoyed by all. She treated her gift in a responsible and accountable manner. Not only that, she was willing to share her gift in justice and love with others. We can just hear the Lord saying to the little red hen, “Well done, good and faithful steward.”

If the story of the little red hen describes our faith life, where would we fit? Are we like the little red hen? Have we used the Lord’s gifts in a responsible and accountable manner and shared them in love and justice with others, or are we like the barnyard animals who only want to come to the table when all the work is done?

Stewardship of God’s Grace begins with patience, love and education. We must encourage all Catholics to live stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship, when lived and practiced, can do wonderful things for a parish. It can produce vitality and vibrancy that can breathe new life, a new spirit into the parish. For help with developing a plan of action or establishing a Stewardship Committee at your parish, call the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development at (405) 721-4115.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.

Please Remember the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City in Your Estate Plans

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115
www.cfook.org, or for more information, contact:

Planners Board for 4.00 credit hours of Continuing Education. We must encourage all Catholics to live stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship, when lived and practiced, can do wonderful things for a parish. It can produce vitality and vibrancy that can breathe new life, a new spirit into the parish. For help with developing a plan of action or establishing a Stewardship Committee at your parish, call the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development at (405) 721-4115.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115
www.cfook.org, or for more information, contact:

Planners Board for 4.00 credit hours of Continuing Education. We must encourage all Catholics to live stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship, when lived and practiced, can do wonderful things for a parish. It can produce vitality and vibrancy that can breathe new life, a new spirit into the parish. For help with developing a plan of action or establishing a Stewardship Committee at your parish, call the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development at (405) 721-4115.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123
(405) 721-4115
www.cfook.org, or for more information, contact:
Students Receive Foundation Scholarships

The Catholic Foundation has presented over $90,000 in college scholarships for the upcoming school year to 74 students in the Archdiocese. Two new recipients from Ardmore’s St. Mary Church include Gavin Anderson and Melissa Dominguez. Gavin plans to attend Thomas Moore College of Liberal Arts in Marrero, N.H., with an emphasis in business. Melissa has been home schooled through his high school years. Melissa will attend the University of Oklahoma and will seek a physician’s assistant degree. She was co-valedictorian at Ardmore High and very involved both in the church and the community. While all Catholic Foundation Scholarships are awarded regardless of the college or university chosen by the applicant, students attending a Catholic university receive triple the customary Catholic Foundation award of $1,000. Additionally, St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee matches the Catholic Foundation Scholarships for students attending this Catholic institution. Scholarships are awarded based on family need.

Briefs

Help Available for Troubled Marriages

Retrouvaille is a program designed to provide help and support to married couples who are undergoing difficulties in their relationship, for those who are hurting in brokenness and loneliness. It has also proven helpful to couples who are separated or divorced. Although Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin, couples from all or no faith traditions are welcome to attend. The next program begins on the weekend of Sept. 23-25, 2011. For further information, call (918) 695-7010 or go online to www.helpourmarriage.com.

Building Needed for Free Health Clinic

EDMOND — The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Edmond, a 501(c)(3) corporation, needs to move to a different rental building to medically serve Edmond clients with no health insurance. A medical office is a good model for our needs. As a minimum we require a 2,000-square-foot building with the possibility for an office, reception desk, two exam rooms, nurse station, storage room, utilities and parking. We need Saturday mornings for about four hours and need short-term access on some weekends. We need Saturday mornings for about four hours and need short-term access on some weekends.

School Sets Fun Run

OKLAHOMA CITY — Villa Teresa Catholic School is hosting its first ever Fun Run Saturday, Sept. 17. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the school, 1236 Classen Drive. The event provides the opportunity for family and community involvement to promote healthy choices. The mile run/walk can involve children as well as adults (toddler). The 5K attracts the more serious runner and begins at 9 a.m. There is online registration available at http://www.eventbrite.com. There is a $35 registration fee and a commemorative shirt. To receive the shirt, you will need to register before the day of the event. Lots of fun activities will be part of the morning. Come join us for an exciting and encouraging way to be healthy. All proceeds help the educational program of the school. Sponsorships are tax-deductible.

Parish to Host Celebration of the Arts

OKLAHOMA CITY — Michael Fresonke, MA, will present Joyful Music, a guitar concert, along with a display of contemporary art by Theresa Hurt on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 NW 18th. The performance will feature works for solo classical guitar composed by celebrated musicians Heitor Villa-Lobos, Matteo Carcassi, Francisco Tarrega and Carlo Domenici. Heitor Villa-Lobos, Matteo Carcassi, Francisco Tarrega and Carlo Domenici. A highlight of the concert will be Fresonke’s presentation of Little Suite in A Major, a work for solo classical guitar he composed this year and is recorded for CD distribution. The CD will be available for purchase at www.stfranciscatholic.com. Join us for an exciting and encouraging way to be healthy. All proceeds help the educational program of the school. Sponsorships are tax-deductible.

Parish Offers First Friday Adoration

NORMAN — First Friday Adoration at St. Mark the Evangelist on Oct. 7 and each of the first Fridays of the year. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 9 a.m. to noon and will be followed by Mass. St. Mark is located at 3839 W. Tecumseh Road. We invite you to join us in praying for our country.
Shawnee — The Knights of Columbus honored Blake Goss, 12, of Canute as winner of the International Free Throw Competition. Blake hit 25-of-25 shots at the state level.

"He shot at a 95 percent average this year," said Bob Burkitt, treasurer for the Knights of Columbus Council 333. "He hit the rim only one time during his warm-up," said Burkitt. "Every other time it was nothing but net." Blake Goss was presented a trophy for winning the International Free Throw Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Pictured are Grand Knight Kevin Marx, Kent Goss, Donna Goss, Ty Goss, Blake Goss, State Deputy Dan Hayon, Bob Burkitt and District Deputy Michael Harris. Photo by Jodi Davis, Elk City Daily News.

The state competition was held at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. Burkitt has been heading up the program and has been an active member of the academy since he was a student.

By Jodi Davis

ELK CITY — The Knights of Columbus honored Blake Goss, 12, of Canute as winner of the International Free Throw Competition. Blake hit 25-of-25 shots at the state level.

"He shot at a 95 percent average this year," said Bob Burkitt, treasurer for the Knights of Columbus Council 333. "He hit the rim only one time during his warm-up," said Burkitt. "Every other time it was nothing but net." Blake Goss was presented a trophy for winning the International Free Throw Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Pictured are Grand Knight Kevin Marx, Kent Goss, Donna Goss, Ty Goss, Blake Goss, State Deputy Dan Hayon, Bob Burkitt and District Deputy Michael Harris. Photo by Jodi Davis, Elk City Daily News.

The state competition was held at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. Burkitt has been heading up the program and has been an active member of the academy since he was a student.

Catholic Scouts Earn Rank of Eagle August 14

Ethan Scott, 20, received his Eagle Scout in June, 2009. For his project, he designed and built four outdoor picnic tables for the Edmond Historical Society and Museum. Ethan is a lifetime member of St. John the Baptist. He is a 2009 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School and is attending the University of Central Oklahoma this fall with plans to major in mechanical and aerospace engineering. Ethan is the son of Steve and Laura Scott of Edmond.

Did You Know!

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement began as a way of improving communication between husbands and wives. But as insights grew, it became apparent that the techniques used in the sessions could benefit anyone whose vocation involves close, caring communication with others. It is considered the first marriage enrichment program and has been updated on a continual basis to reflect the current marriage environment.

For more information, contact Rick and Bev Feller at (405) 376-4098 or rbfeller@gmail.com.
Saint Ann Retirement Center Reopens St. Joachim Chapel

By Richard Amend
For the Sooner Catholic

Saint Ann Retirement Center was blessed to have Archbishop Paul Coakley, along with Father Price Grimes, Father Louis Lamb, Father Joe Vas, Father Gerard MacAulay and Father Elmer Schwarz present at the special Rededication Liturgy for Saint Joachim Chapel. This reopening of the enlarged chapel took place on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 9:30 a.m. Many of the residents and family members were present to welcome Archbishop Coakley to our Retirement and Assisted Living Community. Following the Liturgy, a reception took place in the Grand Theater.

For the past several months, Saint Ann’s has been celebrating Mass in the Grand Theater while construction took place. The wonderfully designed octagonal-shaped chapel was able to keep the same inspiring setting, but also is now able to accommodate up to 150 participants.

We want to acknowledge our architect (TAParchitecture) John Ward, and (Nashert Constructors Inc.) Jack Nashert, for their expert craftsmanship throughout the project.

Saint Ann’s celebrates Mass daily at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Joachim Chapel with Father Price Grimes as the celebrant. There is also a 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon Liturgy, which is the vigil Mass for Sunday.

In the words of Father Grimes, “We are delighted that Archbishop Beltran gave us the opportunity to have the best possible worship space here at Saint Ann’s and we also want to thank Archbishop Coakley for his support in seeing the project through to completion.”

For information about joining the Saint Ann Retirement and Assisted Living Community, contact Richard Amend at 721-0747.

Pope Asks Forgiveness For ‘Cradle Catholics’ Who Did Not Evangelize

Castel Gandolfo, Italy (CNA) — Pope Benedict XVI has asked forgiveness on behalf of generations of “cradle Catholics” who have failed to transmit the faith to others.

“We who have known God since we were young, must ask forgiveness,” said Pope Benedict in a gathering of his former students at the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, on Aug. 28.

The Pope said an apology is due because “we bring people so little of the light of His face, because from us comes so little certainty that He exists, that He is there, and that He is the Great One that everyone is waiting for.” The Pope’s comments were made at a Mass to conclude the annual meeting of his “Schülerkreis” or “Study Group.”

The gathering has taken place every summer since 1977 and draws together those who defended their doctoral theses in front of Pope Benedict during his years teaching theology at various universities in Germany.

This year they were joined, for the first time, by those who have more recently written their doctrinal theses on works of the Pope. Together, the 40 invitees had spent four days exploring the issue of the “new evangelization.” The Pope based his brief introductory comments upon the words of the psalm of the day, Psalm 62, which describes the human soul that thirsts for God “like a dry and weary land.

Pope Benedict said that believers should ask Christ — who is the living water — to send them “those who seek the living water elsewhere.”

Just days after the success of World Youth Day in Madrid, he also asked for particular prayers for young people.

The homily for the Mass was delivered by another former student of the Pope — Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna — who spoke of the need for complete renunciation of self required by radical Christian discipleship. “Only by not conforming ourselves to this world, can we recognize the will of God and make it the foundation of our lives,” he said.

Pope Benedict’s academic career spanned 26 years and saw him teach at universities in Bonn, Münster, Tübingen and Regensburg, prior to his appointment as Archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977.

Despite his increasing responsibilities, he has always attended the annual gathering of his alumni, even after becoming Pope in 2005.
A recent news report chronicled a Chinese woman named Huang Yijin. Sixty years ago, her unborn child died, but the pregnancy was never expelled from her body instead, her baby’s body slowly began to calcify inside her, becoming a crystal-like mass. Such stone babies (known as lithopedions) are extremely rare. When Mrs. Huang was 92 years old, the baby was discovered in her abdomen and surgically removed.

This rare medical event prompts us to consider a thought experiment. Imagine a drug that could be injected into a child to crystallize him, but without killing him. The process would turn the child into a static mass for as many years as the parents wanted; another injection would reverse the process, and allow the child to wake up and continue growing. Parents who decided they needed a break from parenting could bring their kids to the clinic and pay to store them as crystals for a limited period of time. Some children might end up never being de-crystallized, with their stone bodies piling up in a warehouse.

Such a bizarre warehouse of children is not as outlandish as it might seem. In fact, fertility clinics in the United States already warehouse more than 500,000 human embryos in high-tech freezers filled with liquid nitrogen, children who are crystallized by-products of the in-vitro fertilization process. Parents can choose to “re-animate” their embryonic child by thawing them, implanting them and gestating them, but in either instance, they end up being abandoned because their parents are not yet old enough to carry a pregnancy, or are content with the number of their already-born children.

The multibillion-dollar business of infertility in the United States has been aptly described as a kind of “Wild West,” a lawless frontier where nearly anything goes, including the daily freezing and stockpiling of scores of humans who are still in their embryonic stages. This practice stands out as one of the most humanitarian tragedies of our age.

Freeze and thaw, however, does raise a voice against this injustice, which is profoundly marketed as a matter of personal reproductive choice and freedom. Because our frozen children have no voice to speak in their own defense, we slip into a mindset that ignores their inherent dignity.

But not every country has been so kind. Germany, which has a strong tradition of respect for life, enacted an Embryo Protection Law in the 1990s that included provisions outlawing the freezing of human embryos. Italy passed similar legislation. Both countries closely regulate in-vitro fertilization treatments, and allow the production of no more than three embryos at a time, all of whom must be implanted into their mother. Both countries forbid the production of extra embryos, experimentation on embryos, cloning and genetic testing of embryos.

Yet much reflection is needed to realize the serious injustice involved in forcefully “crystallizing” another human being. The freezing and thawing process should subject embryonic human beings to significant risk, and up to 50 percent of embryos do not survive the process. Stored embryos often end up being condemned to a kind of perpetual stasis, locked in time in the harsh wasteland of their liquid-nitrogen refrigerators. That injustice, once it has been foisted upon human beings, is then used by others to argue on behalf of an even more egregious offense against these dignity: the destructive strip-mining of embryos to acquire their stem cells for the radical stockpiling of embryonic human tissues to become almost routine in our society, as such humans are reduced to little more than “stem objects” to be warehoused and manipulated — valuable primarily for how they can serve the commercial interests or the personal desires of others. The temptation to dehumanize our own brothers and sisters is a perennial one, a temptation to back to that time in our country, not so long ago, when slaves could be considered only three-fifths of a person for purposes of congressional representation. Treating embryonic humans as less than and inadequate, as well as angry and frustrated. These feelings are, unfortunately, pretty normal. However, they often lead to inappropriate and hurtful reactions.

When experiencing these hurtful feelings, we might reflect on what we are thinking and how we respond to what is said or what happens. In summary, he says.

Our beliefs are learned from childhood and are the basis for our feelings, which are a reflection of our reality and lead us to...
Castei Gandolfi, Italy (CNA/EWTN News) -- Artistic beauty can lead the human heart to God, said Pope Benedict XVI at his Aug. 31 general audience.

"Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinity, beauty for God," the Pope said to over 5,000 pilgrims at his summer residence of Castei Gandolfi, 15 miles to the south of Rome.

"Dear friends, I invite you to be open to beauty and to allow it to move you to prayer and praise of the Lord."

The Pope explained how this "path of beauty" can be "an open door on the infinite" and is something experienced by all people, not merely by those who regard them-
Calendar

SEPTEMBER
11 Charismatic Healing Mass, 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 1901 SW 29th St., OKC. For more information, call the church office at (405) 685-4848.
12 Eucharistic Adoration at Christ the King Church, every Monday starting with Mass at 8:30 a.m. Adoration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Benediction at 6 p.m. at Christ the King, 4605 Dorset Drive, OKC.
13 Catholic War Veterans, any of your war/vets meet the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of St. Ann Retirement Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Father M Price Oswalt at (405) 587-3449.
14 Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, NW 32nd and Western, every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.
14 Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday at St. Charles Borromeo Church from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., closing with Benediction at 8 p.m. at St. Charles, 5014 N. Grove Avenue, Oklahoma City. All are welcome.
14 Engaging Spirituality at St. Monica’s, a new program offered through JustPath Ministries. You can be part of a small group that helps us to find God’s way of being in the world. The group will meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited. Call Marks Acton at 216-5114 for registration.
14 Catholic War Veterans USA, Oklahoma Memorial Post 169 meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Sunflower Family Reception Center, 3900 SE 29th St., Del City. For more information, contact Kent at (405) 739-0036 or by e-mail at OklaPost169@cox.net.
15 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Euphrasia Parish, in the chapel every Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and daily (MDP) from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Euphrasia is located at 7306 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City 73123.
15 Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday night from 3 p.m. to midnight at St. Gregory’s Chapel, St. Gregory’s Monastery, Shawnee. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with Adoration to follow. Included is vespers with the monks.
15-20 Monthly Neovia to The Infant Jesus. Nine days of novena to Infant Jesus of Prague monthly National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 587-3000 or shrinesinfantjesus.com.
15 The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Secular (lay)-Order of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta meet in the Council Room at St. John the Baptist Parish, Edmond, on the first and third Saturday of each month, beginning with Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. For more information, call Tari Harreselen, LMC, at (405) 343-2199 or lmcoklahoma@sothebig.net.
17 Villa Teresa is hosting its inaugural Fun Run! Beginning at 8 a.m. with the children one mile run and followed by the 5K walk/run at 9 a.m. The race begins at school, 1216 Classen Drive.
17 Project Gabriel Training Project Gabriel is a parish-based outreach designed to assist women in a crisis pregnancy. A training will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 N Wexford, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 336. For more information and to register, call the Office of Family Life at 721-8944.
17 Pilgrimage Sunday. Mass at 11 a.m., noon lunch, 1 p.m. Neovia prayers to Infant Jesus of Prague, Litany of the Infant Jesus, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague is located at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church at 304 Jim Thorpe Blvd. in Prague. (405) 587-3000 or shrinesinfantjesus.com.
17 The Community of the Secular Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mt. Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus - Oklahoma Community and Province of St. Therese meets at St. Joseph Carmelite Monastery in Piedmont from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Katherine Payne at (405) 230-4628.
17 The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Francis Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hospital Chapel. For more information, call Jim Dobash at 830-8688.
21 The Central Region Council of Catholic Women will meet at Catholic Charities on Classen. Registration at 9 a.m. Speaker is Rev Bill Priestt. Cost is $7. RSVP to your Parish Altar Society representative or to Mary Ann at 343-3778.
21 Prayer Day for Retired with Father Anthony Ram at the Catholic Pastoral Center Registration at 9:30 a.m. The group will attend Mass and have lunch in the cafeteria. There will be an opportunity for confession. The day will end at 3 p.m. To register, call Mary at (405) 721-5651.
21 St. Charles Catholic Singles Dance, 7 to 8 p.m. mix and mingle, dance lessons. Dance from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call Al at (405) 651-6765.

Jobs Box

Director for the Academic Success Center
St. Gregory’s University seeks a qualified applicant for position as Director for the Academic Success Center beginning August or September 2011. This is an exempt position which assigns students needing tutoring to appropriate tutors (or faculty volunteers), or self. Promotes Support Center services, monitors and evaluates tutoring sessions, processes payroll. A more complete job description is posted on the SGU website at www.stgregorys.edu. Minimum requirements are a master’s degree or higher, commitment to help students succeed, teaching experience, tutoring experience, supervisory experience in an educational setting, excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate should be self-directing, able to work effectively with students with physical and learning disabilities, able to work within a flexible schedule. The center director will serve as the ADA representative and may teach one course per semester in an appropriate field. Candidate should be able to accommodate change and growth at the university and should value the education of diverse populations. Candidates must be supportive of and willing to contribute to the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the university. Send letter of application, vita, transcripts, statement of teaching and tutoring philosophy and three letters of recommendation to Human Resources, St. Gregory’s University, 1900 W MacArthur Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804, attention Dr. Ron Faulk, Provost. Application materials may be sent electronically to humanresources@stgregorys.edu or via mail service.

Field Agent
The Knights of Columbus is seeking a field agent for a career opportunity representing our insurance program in the Enid-Stilwell area. This professional position offers the chance to make an above average income, a career path into management if desired, paid advanced education and generous bonus opportunities, and a complete benefits package with this full-time position. Works in an assigned and exclusive marketing area to sell and service our insurance and retirement products. Performs needs analysis for assigned members and recommends appropriate products to meet these needs. Develops positive relationships with the local council to help recruit new members. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, e-mail resume to Kevin Pierce, FICF, General Agent, at KevinPierce@ stgregorys.edu or call (405) 514-7660.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Gene Sucedo was painting a house on North Portland when something in the high grass and weeds caught his eye.

“There was something yellow shining out from under all the garbage and high grass,” Sucedo said. “I wondered what can that be, so I went over and started digging to find what this was.”

What it was, was a statue about 4 feet high of Our Lady of Guadalupe and it was in almost perfect condition.

Sucedo, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church, said he was taken by surprise at finding Our Lady in such “horrible” conditions.

“I said, ‘Oh no, Mother, I am so sorry they treat you this way.’”

For years Sucedo has traveled back and forth across Oklahoma visiting inmates in state and federal prisons. He first started in 1994 taking the Good News to prisoners in the state prison at McAlester. He now stays a bit closer to home visiting inmates at the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City.

Deeply devoted to Our Lady, Sucedo hosts a weekly rosary at his home at 1609 SW 48th. He said usually “two or three, sometimes four” people will come on Mondays at 7 p.m. to pray the rosary in his home. Numerous icons of Christ and His Blessed Mother adorn his home as do photos of saints and popes.

One of 11 children, Sucedo said, “Faith is my life.”

The colorful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe now rests in a highly visible area of his living room on a pedestal and with a rosary draped around her.

“I am blessed, I am very grateful,” Sucedo said.
Promesa de la Tarjeta

Nombre: ___________________________________________

Dirección: _________________________________________

Ciudad: ___________________________________________

Estado: ___________________________________________

Teléfono: ____________________________

Cantidades sugeridas: $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________, $_________.

Fecha: ____________________________

Anexar de que el cheque este a nombre del
Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal

Esta fecha de la tarjeta DEBE DE SER LLENADO

Completa esta sección si está realizando
PAGO CON TARJETA DE CRÉDITO

Tarjeta: ___________ Dígito: ___________

Fecha de Expiración: ___________ ___________

Código de Verificación de la Tarjeta: ___________

Si quiere pagar por el internet, complete la sección de arriba.

Nombre Que Aparecerá en la Tarjeta de Crédito:

Firma (respaldada): ___________________________________________

Si te interesan más detalles de alguna forma, te pides la tarjeta de crédito. Llame al 1-800-338-2600 o envíe un e-mail a CatholicCharitiesEnClaro@AOL.com.

¿Quiere saber más sobre la幫? Póngase en contacto con el Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma.

Nombre de la Institución Financiera: ___________

Importante: Para cumplir con la ley del estado de Oklahoma, esta tarjeta no contiene ninguna parte que indique que es cualquier componente de un plan de seguro.