



## Marquette to pilot program for children with special needs

By AMANDA WILLIAMS

Marquette School's Sept. 30 Boots 'N BBQ was a sold-out success, launching what will be extensive fundraising efforts for a new program called RISE to be implemented next fall. RISE stands for Religious Inclusive Student Education.

Seven percent of students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools are children with identifiable developmental disabilities, according to the 2004-2005 annual report by the National Catholic Educational Association. In response to the need voiced by local parents and community members, Marquette has researched and decided to develop a special-needs program.

Tuition will not cover the costs of the new program; funding will have to come through the efforts of the parents,

with help from grants and other external funding. Backers say the program will have fewer than 10 students at Marquette.

After a Little Light House fundraiser last year, Laurie Tilley, Pat Hinson and Kathy Ward, all Marquette mothers, decided it was time to start asking questions about how to start a Catholic special-needs program. First, they went to Marquette Principal John Krauss, who loved the idea; next, they approached Superintendent Todd Goldsmith, who agreed there was a need for this type of program and had been for years. He told them it was time to take the next step.

The mothers conducted a poll in four church bulletins to determine what kind of need was out there. They received 19 responses that were very encouraging, Mrs. Tilley said.

"We began taking baby steps toward getting a RISE

program implemented," she said.

The original plan, according to Assistant Principal Tracey Robinson, was to allocate a portion of the under-construction Early Childhood Development Center as a special-needs school. However, after observing the FIRE program (Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education) at St. Peter School in Kansas City, the Marquette team decided to take a more integrative approach. The RISE program will mainstream special-needs students into regular classrooms with specially trained paraprofessionals helping students keep up with the curriculum and assisting teachers with classroom functions.

"Ideally, RISE students will begin in kindergarten so they  
*See RISE, page 17*



### Night falls on rosary rally

Father Tim Davison leads a rosary rally Oct. 7 at his parish, Sts. Peter and Paul in Tulsa. The torchlight rally attracted about 100 participants and wrapped up with a reception once night fell. For more photos, see Page 14. (Photo by David Crenshaw)

## Bishop allocates estate gift totaling \$550,000-plus

A Stillwater woman who died in December 2004 has left more than \$550,000 to the Diocese of Tulsa. Bishop Edward J. Slattery has decided to use the money to pay for a new church and parish hall in Stigler, to cover the cost of the parking lot at the Maronites' new church in Tulsa and allocated \$10,000 each to the two parishes in Stillwater, St. John the Evangelist and St. Francis Xavier.

Several years ago, he asked Stewardship and Development Director Bob Gisler to establish an office to help the faithful plan their estates for the benefit of their families and, if they choose, of the Church, too. At this time, 15 parishes have established committees.

*See GIFT, page 12*

The inclusion of the Diocese in the estate of the late Susan Elaine Randall points to the importance of estate planning, Bishop Slattery said.

### Inspired by monks

This painting by Jay O'Meilie is one of several pieces of art being auctioned off online through Oct. 25 to raise money for the Clear Creek Monastery in Cherokee County. The artwork will be on display from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Southern Hills Marriott Hotel, where Bishop Edward J. Slattery will host a fundraising dinner that night, followed by a concert at Cascia Hall. For more, see Page 9.



### IN THIS ISSUE

**Theologians revisit limbo for non-baptized babies** .....Page 6

**Warren Foundation honored** ..... Page 15

**Cascia alum directs PAC** .....Page 19

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

### Bipolar support group

**17** St. Bernard Church has a bipolar support group at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month. St. Bernard is located on 101st between Riverside Drive and Yale Avenue.

### Divorce support group

**18** St. Pius X Counseling Center will begin an educational support group for individuals in all stages of divorce. The free group will be held 6:30-8 p.m. every Wednesday at the counseling center through Dec 20. Babysitting is available. Contact Kelli Erwin for registration information, 622-4488.

### Fall bazaar

**21** St. Monica Catholic Church, 633 E. Marshall Place, will host a fall bazaar from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. followed by a dance from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Oct. 21. There will be games for children and fun for the entire family, including a talent show.

### Mission at St. Benedict

**22** Father Oscar Lukefahr will lead a mission entitled "The Mass: Jesus' Best Idea!" from Oct. 22-26 at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow. At the opening weekend Masses, the topic will be "The Mass - Whose Idea" with follow-up sessions each evening beginning Oct. 22 from 7-8 p.m. An anointing Mass for the sick and elderly will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 24, and children from kindergarten through third grade will attend activities based on the Mass. Babysitting for pre-schoolers available. Call the parish office, 455-4451, to reserve a spot. Father Lukefahr will be available for 15 to 20 minutes for a question-and-answer period before each of the mission's evening sessions.

### Infancy narratives

**25** The Women's Daytime Bible Study will sponsor the study of the Infancy Narratives of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in three presentations: Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and Nov. 8. Presenters will be Father Ted Tack of Cascia Hall, Father Kenneth Harder, pastor of St. John and St. Francis Xavier Churches, Stillwater, and Father Paul Eichhoff of Claremore's St. Cecilia Church. The sessions will begin at 9 a.m. each Wednesday at the Church of

the Madalene. Contact Mary Malcom for registration information, 294-1904 or psi@dioceseoftulsa.org. Walk-ins welcome.

### Pastoral care day

**26** The 21st annual pastoral care day will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 26 at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow. Guest speaker will be Patricia Darlington, a licensed psychologist in private practice in Stillwater, who will address "Being Spiritual vs. Doing Spiritual: Who Cares?" The day, which costs \$15, includes a lunch and concludes with Mass at 2 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Edward J. Slattery. Sponsored by the Office of Divine Worship, Diocesan Pastoral Care Committee and the Office of Catechetical Services, the pastoral care day provides a deeper awareness of spirituality and education about specific programs and methods for visiting the sick, shut-in or aged people in one's parish. For information, contact Sarah Jameson at 294-1904 or sarah.jameson@dioceseoftulsa.org.

### Gospel of life lecture

**27** The Pro-Life Office is sponsoring a pro-life Mass, dinner and lecture on "Living the Gospel of Life Amid a Culture of Death" beginning at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 27 at Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Father Wade Menezes, a member of the Fathers of Mercy, will be guest speaker. Bishop Edward J. Slattery will celebrate Mass, followed by a dinner catered by Escargot's at 6 p.m. The talk will begin at 7 p.m., and Father Wade will speak on what the Gospel of Life is and how to practically live it out in a society that devalues the mystery of creation and fosters a culture of death. Tickets are \$10. To register, call 294-1904 ext. 141 by Oct. 24.

### Rachel's Vineyard retreat

**27** Rachel's Vineyard retreat Oct. 27-29, provides an opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat provides a process designed to help experience the mercy and compassion of God. There are many exercises used with Scripture to help grieve the loss of your unborn child and receive and accept the forgiveness of Christ. The retreat concludes with a memorial service. The retreat's spiritual

director is Father John Wade. Cost is \$100, scholarships available. For more information or to RSVP contact Mary Lee Ingram at Catholic Charities, 585-8167 ext. 212.

### Benedictine retreat

**27** "The Mystery of the Breath of God," directed by Sisters Kimberly Prohaska and Therese Moreno, will be held Oct. 27-29 at the St. Scholastica Retreat Center in Fort Smith, Ark. Cost is \$50; for information, call 479-783-1135.

### Bingo at All Saints

**28** All Saints Catholic School will host its annual fall bingo beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 in the school gym. Everyone is invited to attend this night of family fun, food and fellowship. Admission is one canned good per family, and all who attend will be entered in a drawing for door prizes. There will be cash prizes for each game, and guests are encouraged to come in Halloween costumes. Contact Libby Carlson, 298-8660.

### Parents' retreat

**28** The Family Life Office and Pastoral Studies Institute are co-sponsoring a day of recollection and prayer entitled "Parents as Ambassadors of Christ" from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 28 at St. Therese Church in Collinsville. Father Wade Menezes, a member of the Fathers of Mercy, will conduct the retreat, which is designed not so much to teach parents how to raise their children as why they must raise their children well. Confessions, church tour, rosary and Mass will follow. Tickets are \$10 and include lunch. Call 294-1904 ext. 141 to register by Oct. 25.

### Viva Las Vegas

**28** St. Mary School's annual dinner auction will be Oct. 28. For tickets, to donate an item or questions call Paula Beaver at 743-9361 ext. 129.

### Community of saints

**28** All Tulsa Diocese Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire members and their families are invited to the 2006 Diocesan Catholic Retreat Oct. 28-29 at Camp Waluhili on Fort Gibson Lake. Catholic Scouter Development will be offered for adults. Activities in support of religious award requirements and community

service will be offered for youth. See details and registration form at www.catholic-church.org/tdccsof. Registration deadline is Oct. 14.

### Cascia open house

**29** Cascia Hall Preparatory School's open house will be at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 29. Potential students and their families will learn more about the school, meet the faculty and tour the facilities. No reservation is required.

### Italian-America fiesta

**29** The Italian American Society of Tulsa will host an Italian fiesta Oct. 29 at St. Patrick Church in Sand Springs. The celebration begins with Mass at 11 a.m., and an Italian dinner will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7, pastry and wine extra, and strolling musicians and an opera singer will offer entertainment. For information, call the parish office, 245-5840.

## NOVEMBER

### College night at Kelley

**2** Students, parents and grandparents are invited to attend College Night from 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 2 in the Kelley gym. More than 90 universities will be represented, and all Catholic high school students are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carol Klenda, 742-0053.

### Kelley placement test

**4** Bishop Kelley High School, grades 9-12, will administer the placement test for incoming ninth graders for the 2007-2008 academic school year from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 4. The test fee of \$15 is payable at the time of testing, but pre-registration is required. A question-answer session for parents will also be given at 8 a.m. in the Christian Brothers Hall. Pre-register for the test at www.bkelleyhs.org under Admissions. For more information, contact Jane Oberste, 609-7133.

## TRAVEL

### Pilgrimage to Mexico

There will be a "Queen of the Americas" Our Lady of Guadalupe pilgrimage Dec. 8-13. Pilgrimage includes five nights in Mexico City and will concentrate on visiting religious, historical and cultural sites. For more information, contact Alison Stookey, 451-0121.

## Bishop Slattery's public schedule

### Sunday, Oct. 15 - 10 a.m.

Ordain Deacon Christopher Anderson to the priesthood at Clear Creek Monastery

### Sunday, Oct. 15 - 4 p.m.

Bless new cafeteria and classrooms at Sts. Peter and Paul School

### Oct. 16

Diocesan priests retreat at Subiaco Academy

### Wednesday, Oct. 18 - 2 p.m.

St. Gregory's University board meeting at Tulsa College for Working Adults

### Saturday, Oct. 21

Reception, dinner, classical concert, Weekend with the Monks benefit for Clear Creek

### Sunday, Oct. 22 - 2 p.m.

Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating landmark anniversaries, Holy Family Cathedral

### Oct. 23-25

Extension Society meeting, Chicago

### Thursday, Oct. 26 - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch with Call to Ministry pastoral conference day, 2 p.m. Mass at St. Benedict

### Friday, Oct. 27 - 5:30 p.m.

Mass, dinner, talk by Father Wade Menezes at Family Life Series, Sts. Peter and Paul Church

### Sunday, Oct. 29 - 10 a.m.

Mass, homily, celebration of church restoration at St. Joseph Church, Krebs

### Wednesday, Nov. 1 - 9:45 a.m.

All Saints Day Mass at St. Anne Church, Broken Arrow

### Thursday, Nov. 2 - 6:30 p.m.

"Evening with the EOC" sponsored by the Pastoral Studies Institute, Church of the Madalene

### Sunday, Nov. 5 - 8:30 a.m.

Mass at Uganda Martyrs Church, Okmulgee; then blessing of Marian Shrine to the unborn at St. Anthony Church, Okmulgee

### Sunday, Nov. 5 - 2 p.m.

Catholic Charities Adoption Walk, Bishop Kelley track

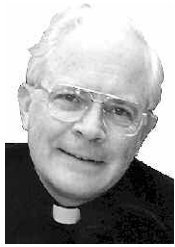
### Saturday, Nov. 11

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops general meeting, Baltimore

**Edward J. Slattery** Bishop of Tulsa

## Authentic community offers world 'a witness of love and service'

**Editor's note:** This is the 14th article in a year-long series outlining Bishop Slattery's response to the pastoral recommendations issued by the members of the Diocesan Synod at the end of 2005. In this article the Bishop identifies the role of the deacon in building and maintaining true parish communities.



When, at the beginning of this year, I set out to explain to you as thoroughly and as carefully as I could my response to the various pastoral priorities identified by the Diocesan Synod in 2005, I knew that we would have to work together well into the year.

The topics were important enough and complicated enough to arouse in me the determination to spend as much time as we needed, and I had the suspicion that it would take all of our conversations this year here in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic to cover just the three pastoral priorities which flowed from the first theme of our Great Synod.

But I never imagined that our second priority - to foster communion with one another - would demand such a carefully laid out introduction - extending now into our third month!

Like a construction crew carefully checking to make sure that each part of the building project is understood and that all the materials on the job site before ever the first shovel-full of dirt is moved or the first nail driven, we have been going over each of the component parts of our discussion, moving methodically ahead point by point, until now - thankfully - I think we are in a position to bring together each of these points and see what it will take to build parish communities which can indeed foster true communion, and by fostering true communion transform the world.

### Let's recall briefly where we started

We began by discussing the inner transformation accomplished in us by God's Grace. This transformation renders each of us a new person, redeemed and remade in the perfect image of God, His Son Jesus Christ. But since that same rebirth is the power of God at work in all who believe, I see in my neighbor the image of that same Redeemer God, to Whom I owe in Christ, both love and gratitude, the personal elements of any authentic worship.

By loving my neighbor, then, I love and worship God Who is alive in him and who has remade him even as He has remade me. True charity - being radically open to those around me and willing to empty myself for their sakes - is what allows me to make a fitting return to God for all the good He has done me.

Only when my life is characterized by this depth of charity can I say that I am able to give a living witness to the transforming power of Christian faith and hope.

This will be the absolutely indispensable component of Catholic life in the century ahead. If in Her infancy the Church needed the witness of the martyrs and in later ages was able to allow God's Kingdom to penetrate our world through the witness offered by the Church's Confessors and Doctors, while still later, by her missionaries and religious, in our lifetime that witness will have to be given by ordinary men and women who live lives of holiness born in extraordinary charity.

This explains the urgency of our task today. When animated by true charity, our Catholic communities—

beginning with the most basic community of the family but certainly including more complex communities like our parishes, schools and institutions - are capable of transcending the limits of human sinfulness.

Not only do they reveal the presence of God in our lives, but by erasing the difference between human love and Divine love, communities at every level of complexity, reflect the authentic face of Christ and the true mission of the Church.

When our parishes, schools, hospitals and communities are alive in Christ's love, they become the instruments capable of infusing the world with new energy, the power of the Holy Spirit, or as I wrote earlier, these fully human communities "become the leaven which transforms the world and the portal through which God's Kingdom erupts in our midst."

### The Church's constant articulation

Catholic communities are thus to be identified by the hope of its members, who - because they love one another and hold fast to the promise of life which we receive through the love of the Father - are capable of sustaining in charity and love the mutual faith and hope of their associates.

This is the witness which proclaims our life-giving faith to the world around us. As we have seen, each true community exists at a fundamental level to give its witness to Christ and His saving presence, so that the whole world can come to know Christ.

This is why Pope Paul VI taught so clearly that the love of Christ impels us "to proclaim Christ to those who do not know him." This is the truest form of community life and the greatest act of neighborly love.

And any thoughtful observer must conclude that these three elements - charity, community and evangelization - are the Church's constant articulation of God's will to save us.

Unfortunately, not every community composed of Catholics can be called a Catholic community. As we have discussed at length here in the EOC, our friendships and families, our parishes and institutions could be true communities, but are often only communes of self-interest.

This is because while they claim to be true communities and speak the language of community life, they are deeply flawed, closed in upon themselves and thus do not receive from the Holy Spirit that transforming love which is the world's witness and a necessary element in the evangelization of culture.

### The possibility of conversion

But - and this is important to point out once again - it is really more accurate for us to say that because each of us is a complicated mix of vice and virtue, or "weeds and wheat," as Our Lord describes us in St. Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 13:24-30), every community we form will combine elements of both self-less love and self-interest.

Every community we have - from our families to our Diocese - will be in a constant state of tension, caught between the two poles and always moving up or down, either toward greater authenticity as a community (if its members are constantly, continually renewed by the Holy Spirit) or toward a commune (if its members are dragged down by the natural weight of human self-interest).

Every association can be elevated through the conversion of its members. This is what we mean when we say that our institutions must be constantly renewed by the Gospel.

By opening the internal relationships of its members to the

Almost invariably, the permanent deacon became the pastor's assistant, a kind of second-tiered priest. This was a terrible disfiguring of the true nature of the deacon.

power of the Holy Spirit, the members of any institution or association, no matter how broken or dysfunctional, can begin to love generously, even selflessly, and move toward that authentic community which will offer the world a witness of love and service.

### The permanent deacon as the agent of conversion

I am firmly convinced that the permanent diaconate was providentially restored to the Church at the time of the Vatican Council for precisely this reason: to bring about the constant renewal of our parishes and institutions, purifying them and elevating them by serving as living images, true icons of the charity of Christ the Servant.

If this is true, then the deacon is as critical in the life of the Church as the priest! But for many of us, the indispensable character of the deacon and his essential role in the Church is hard to grasp since for many centuries the diaconate was considered nothing more than the "last step" a man took before being ordained a priest.

No one doubted the sacramental character imparted by ordination to the diaconate, but it was simply overshadowed by his subsequent ordination to the priesthood, which confers upon the priest to power to confect the Sacraments.

And unfortunately for us, when the permanent diaconate was restored to the Church 34 years ago, its renewal as a permanent order in the hierarchy coincided with a sudden and precipitous drop in the number of priestly vocations, so that ordained deacons were considered like mini-priests, holding with some, but not all, of the Sacramental authority of the priest.

They could baptize and witness marriages, but not hear confessions or anoint the sick. They were ordained to preach - and sometimes they did; they were also ordained to teach - although most times they didn't. But almost invariably, the permanent deacon became the pastor's assistant, a kind of second-tiered priest.

This was a terrible disfiguring of the true nature of the deacon, but even so, thousands of men in America discerned a vocation, and today there are nearly 15,000 permanent deacons serving the Church in the United States.

Next week, and in the weeks ahead, I want to explore with you the vocation of the deacon and how exactly his call to preach and lead the people in their Christian vocation of charity is a true bridge between the secular and the religious, between the world and its communes and the Church with its true communities.

**Marilyn Duck** EOC Editor

## A night like no other provides encouragement

*“By coming together at one table, we can prove that this is a situation of great richness, with remarkable opportunities for mutual understanding and for creating a society rooted in common values.*

*“We can demonstrate to society the idea that people can live together, regardless of group, faith, or ideology. We have a great deal to learn from one another. Together, listening and responding with openness and respect, we can move forward to work in ways that acknowledge genuine differences but which are built on shared hopes and values, to attain peace and to help bring about the long-awaited cooperation of world civilizations, and to encourage justice, love, respect and altruism.”*



The night of Sept. 28 was unlike any other in my experience. Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas had arranged an invitation for me to attend the third annual Institute of Interfaith Dialogue dinner. I had no idea, really, what I was walking into.

There were 30 tables, each seating eight people, in the hotel ballroom. At my table were an American couple, both of Turkish heritage; Frank, a retired Jewish man; a lovely woman named Jane, who is an Asian-American and attends a Congregational Christian church; a young woman, Lavonda, who may have been Pentecostal, and Josh, a Jewish grad student in electrical engineering at the University of Tulsa.

It's not that I haven't known people of all these faiths. What

was new was sitting down for a meal together for the express purpose of building bridges among our communities of faith. Conversation was casual and not restricted in any way to religion. Some of the most interesting contributions came from Dr. Omer Siddiqui, a neo-natal physician whose observations on the state of modern medicine here and abroad were insightful.

Dr. Siddiqui and his wife, Sheryl, excused themselves shortly after the program began with a video on the history of the Institute. The dinner was held during Ramadan, and they left to pray the fifth prayer of the day.

As far as fasting goes, the Muslims have a tough regimen: During the month of Ramadan, they cannot eat from sunrise to sunset. The Institute scheduled the dinner – similar events were held in Oklahoma City, Houston and other cities the same night – as a celebration of the breaking of the Ramadan fast for that day. Sheryl said it's not really so hard, but when she fasts she gets cold. Jane immediately got up and wrapped her sweater around Sheryl's shoulders.

Josh told us that the following Monday was Yom Kippur, during which Jews are to fast and pray from sunset to sunset. He was worried because his TU schedule is so demanding he feared he might fall hopelessly behind if he absented himself for even one day.

The tablemates were surprised to learn that Catholics now are to fast only one hour before receiving the Eucharist. They recalled when Catholics couldn't eat at all before they went to Mass.

I learned that Jews and Muslims, like Catholics, are excused from the fast requirement for health reasons or if

they are too young or too old. But Sheryl said Islam requires that a person who does not observe the fast compensate by providing a meal to someone who otherwise would go without.

Msgr. Gaalaas, one of several speakers, read excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's remarks three days earlier to the Islamic ambassadors he had invited to his summer home. The pontiff, while not directly referencing his academic lecture two weeks earlier that touched off violent protests in many Muslim countries, continued to elaborate on the need for dialogue and respect.

The audience applauded Msgr. Gaalaas enthusiastically at the end of his brief remarks, but at our table, there had been little discussion of the pope's address in Regensburg. The discussion of matters Catholic was more general; they were intrigued to realize, for example, that when Pope John Paul II was 79, the age Benedict is now – he had been pope for 22 years.

Msgr. Gaalaas told the audience he felt sure Pope Benedict XVI did not foresee the anger and anguish his remarks would prompt, but the people at my table seemed to think the incident was receding into the past.

The interfaith dinner audience were people of good will reaching out to one another.

It's easier to do in a ballroom in Tulsa than in Baghdad or the West Bank, but these people are trying, and they are succeeding. In dark days, it provided a welcome ray of hope.

**George Weigel**

## John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Islam

Throughout the recent controversy over Pope Benedict XVI's remarks on faith and reason at Regensburg University, attempts have been made to drive a wedge between Benedict and his papal predecessor.



The Arabic satellite TV network, Al-Jazeera, for example, ran a series of cartoons featuring a John Paul-figure releasing peaceful doves; the doves are then shot down by Benedict from the roof of the Bernini colonnades surrounding St. Peter's. The last images in the series have John Paul weeping, head in hands, while Benedict, holding a smoking shotgun, smirks.

All of which is silly and vulgar, of course. But it isn't that far from the views expressed by some Catholics, lamenting what they allege to be the drastic difference between Wojtyla's and Ratzinger's views of Islam.

The 1994 international bestseller, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," was John Paul II's most personal statement, a summary of his convictions about faith, prayer, the papal mission, other world religions and the human future. As such, it has a special claim on our attention as an expression of Karol Wojtyla's views, which were honed by an acute intelligence and a long experience of the world.

One section is devoted to Islam; in it, John Paul expressed his respect for "the religiosity of Muslims" and his admiration for their "fidelity to prayer." As the late pope put

it, "The image of believers in Allah who, without caring about time or place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all those who invoke the true God, in particular for those Christians who, having deserted their magnificent cathedrals, pray only a little or not at all."

But do these expressions of respect suggest, as National Public Radio's Sylvia Poggioli did, that, unlike Benedict XVI, John Paul II put Islam "on the same plane" as Catholicism? Hardly. Here, again, is the authentic voice of John Paul II, from "Crossing the Threshold of Hope":

"Whoever knows the Old and New Testaments, and then reads the Koran, clearly sees the process by which it completely reduces Divine Revelation. It is impossible not to note the movement away from what God said about Himself, first in the Old Testament through the Prophets, and then finally in the New Testament through His Son. In Islam, all the richness of God's self-revelation, which constitutes the heritage of the Old and New Testaments, has definitely been set aside.

"Some of the most beautiful names in the human language are given to the God of the Koran, but He is ultimately a God outside of the world, a God who is only Majesty, never Emmanuel, God with us. Islam is not a religion of redemption. There is no room for the Cross and the Resurrection. Jesus is mentioned, but only as a prophet who prepares for the last prophet, Muhammad. There is also

mention of Mary, His Virgin Mother, but the tragedy of redemption is completely absent. For this reason not only the theology but also the anthropology of Islam is very distant from Christianity."

In other words, there isn't a millimeter of difference between John Paul II's substantive evaluation of Islam and Benedict XVI's.

John Paul II was a master of the public gesture; but to read from his public gestures of respect for Islamic piety an agreement with Islam's understanding of God, man and moral obligation is to make a grave mistake.

John Paul II would have completely agreed with Benedict XVI's critique, at Regensburg, of a theology that reduces God to pure will, a remote dictator who can command the irrational (like the murder of innocents) if he chooses.

And, like Benedict XVI, John Paul II knew that such misconceptions can have lethal public consequences, because all the great questions of the human condition, including political questions, are ultimately theological.

Benedict XVI bears the burden of the papacy at a historical moment in which religiously warranted irrationality is a lethal threat to the future of civilization. He and his predecessor have the same view of the sources of that irrationality.

*George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*

# Forum

## Estate gift an answered prayer, Father Elias says

Editor, EOC:

On Oct. 18, 2002, I was sent by my bishop, Robert J. Shaheen, to Tulsa to be the priest for the Maronite Catholic Community. I was scared to go to Tulsa because I didn't have any idea where Tulsa is. My mission was to serve my people and to build them a church.

Here I was in an unknown part of the world, but the Holy Spirit guided me to go and meet the shepherd of the Diocese of Tulsa, Bishop Edward J. Slattery.

Bishop Slattery took me under his wing from the first visit. He found me a place to live and gave me an office in the Chancery to conduct the parish daily business.

Thank God for His guidance and for the beautiful people I met during my four years in Tulsa. With the help of the St. Therese Maronite community, we bought a piece of land and began construction in December 2005. To build a church with a just a handful number of parishioners is not easy, but we depended on God's Grace.

The building is almost finished and as usual, money becomes short near completion. In August, I was looking at the expenses, and I found out that I am in the red, I didn't have enough money to pay a couple of the contractors. I couldn't sleep, and I prayed to Saint Therese to intercede for us: "This is your Church, I am doing my best, but please help me, send a rose from Heaven as you promised, give me a sign. I am going to stop the project if you don't let me see the light at the end of the tunnel."

On the 10th of August, I received a phone call from Bishop Slattery's office, and his executive administrator told me, "the Bishop would like to see you." I came to the Bishop's house, and his Excellency asked me: "Do you need money for the building fund? A lady passed away, and she left her estate to the Diocese. I thought of you, and I am willing to give you \$100,000 from her estate. Please remember her in your prayers."

Saint Therese opened a door for me to let me understand the power of prayer and to believe in the providence of God.

What I want to say is that people can help a lot with their treasure after they are gone to eternal glory. Bishop Slattery couldn't have helped me if it wasn't for the generosity of that lady. Remember always that no one is more generous than God; every time you give, He gives you more.

**Father Elias Abi-Sarkis**  
Tulsa

### Emcee clarifies

I wanted to let you know K95 is not hosting the 2006 St. Anne Church entertainment show at St. Benedict's Parish Oct. 14. My name is Kelley Cash, and I work for K95, and I will be doing the emcee duties that night, but it is not a K95-sponsored event.

I am a member at St. Anne's and have helped host the event several years in a row. It is great fun. If you could make it clear in your next paper that it was not a K95-sponsored event it would be very appreciated.

Thank you very much. I enjoy your paper.

**Kelley Cash**  
K95.5FM Cash and Carey Most Music  
Morning Show  
Morning show Co-Host & PSA Director

### Peace of the rosary

I read your column in the Oct. 1 EOC, "Leaving September's headlines behind, bracing for more to come." How refreshing it is to hear from a sound mind in this too often mixed-up world.

As the events of Oct. 1 in Pennsylvania prove, the craziness - and I suppose I'd go so far as to say the evil - of September is following us into this new month. What can we do about it?

Hmmmm. The sad thing is, I don't know of anyone who has a plan. Perhaps that's why your suggestion of turning to the rosary in this month of October rings true to me. We all know the power of prayer.

Please accept my thanks for taking on the subject of the war in Iraq, global warming, etc. with a clear, concise voice. I share your prayer for the peace of the rosary rather than the retort of the gun.

**Pamela Watson**  
Tulsa



### EOC publication dates and deadlines

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publication dates and deadlines for 2006:

| Publication | Deadline |
|-------------|----------|
| Oct. 29     | Oct. 20  |
| Nov. 12     | Nov. 3   |
| Nov. 26     | Nov. 17  |
| Dec. 10     | Dec. 1   |



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Letters to the editor from the readers of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic are welcome. The EOC reserves the right to edit the letters for length. Letters must include the writer's name and address.

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## Theologians: Unbaptized babies in heaven, not limbo?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - To hope that babies who die without being baptized will go to heaven makes more sense than the idea that they go to limbo, says a group of papally appointed theologians.

While no one can be certain of the fate of unbaptized babies who die, Christians can and should trust that God will welcome those babies into heaven, said members of the International Theological Commission.

The commission, a Vatican advisory board, met Oct. 2-6 to continue work on a statement explaining why the concept of limbo entered the common teaching of the Church, why it was never officially defined as Catholic doctrine and why hope for their salvation makes more sense, said Father Paul McPartlan, a member of the commission and a professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"We cannot say we know with

certainly what will happen, but we have good grounds to hope that God in his mercy and love looks after these children and brings them to salvation," he said.

Speaking the last day of the commission's meeting, Father McPartlan said the 30 commission members were in agreement on the main thesis of the document, but they had not put the finishing touches on it. If they vote on the final version by mail, the document could be released in 2007.

He said that while affirming people's hope, the document takes pains to explain the Christian belief that baptism is necessary to guarantee salvation and urges parents to baptize their infants.

The document "in no way means to lessen the urgency with which the Church invites parents to have their children baptized," Father McPartlan said Oct. 6. "What we are trying to do is to

say, 'What does the Church say when confronted with the situation of an infant who has died without being baptized?' That and that alone is what prompted our document.

"The answer is not a simplistic, 'Oh, don't worry; everything is fine,'" but rather that God's endless mercy, his love poured out in Jesus Christ and his desire to save all people gives a solid basis for hoping those children will be saved despite not having been baptized.

The commission began formal studies of the question in 2004 when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, was president of the advisory body and prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

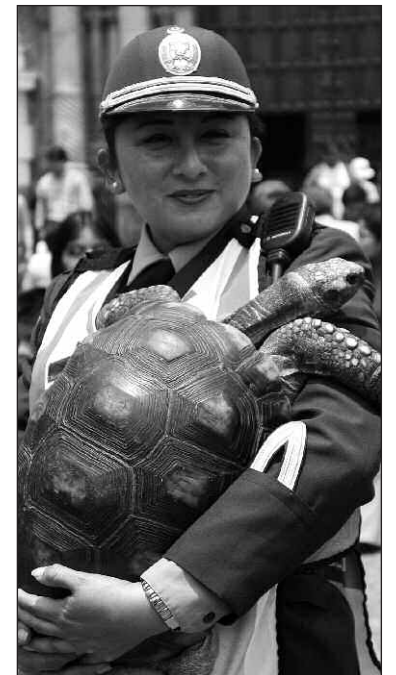
Pope Benedict celebrated Mass Oct. 6 with the commission members; in his homily, he spoke about the role of theologians as listening to the word of God in

order to help others hear the good news. But he did not mention the so-called limbo document at all.

Father McPartlan said the commission began considering the question because priests and bishops around the world had asked then-Cardinal Ratzinger for "an updated Catholic statement in response to the distressing human situation" of parents mourning the loss of a baby before baptism.

The commission also hoped to be able to respond to questions raised by those mourning the lives of babies lost through abortion. Because the Catholic Church teaches that human life begins at conception, the question applies to those babies as well, Father McPartlan said.

He also said the theologians felt called to articulate a Catholic expression of hope in a world where hope is often lacking and lives are often laid to waste by war and violence.



### Police carries turtle for blessing

A policewoman carries a turtle during a pet blessing outside St. Francis Church in Lima, Peru, Oct. 8. Festivities at the church honored St. Francis of Assisi. (CNS photo/Reuters)

## World 'sleepwalking' toward nuclear terrorism, warns nuncio to United Nations

NEW YORK (CNS) - The world seems to be "sleepwalking" down the path of nuclear weapons proliferation, increasing the risk of nuclear terrorism, said the Vatican's representative to the United Nations.

The United Nations must foster greater international dialogue to ensure compliance with treaties restricting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and banning their testing, said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio.

Without a firmer commitment to these treaties more states will arm themselves with nuclear weapons, increasing the possibility that such weapons will fall into terrorist hands, he said Oct. 5 in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The Vatican has observer status at the United Nations, which means that it can speak at sessions but cannot vote.

The world is at a crossroads regarding nuclear weapons, said the archbishop.

"One path can take us to a world in which the proliferation of nuclear weapons is restricted and reversed through trust, dialogue and negotiated agreement," he said.

"The other path leads to a world in which rapidly growing numbers of states feel obliged to arm themselves with nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear terrorism grows.

"The international community seems

Archbishop Migliore also asked for greater efforts to restrict the spread of small arms . . .

almost to be sleepwalking down the latter path, not by conscientious choice but rather through miscalculation, sterile debate and the paralysis of multilateral mechanisms for confidence-building and conflict resolution," the archbishop said.

The Vatican has repeatedly asked governments "which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them" to change their plans and "strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament," the archbishop said.

"Policies of nuclear deterrence, typical of the Cold War, can and must be replaced by concrete measures of disarmament based on dialogue and mutual negotiations," he said.

Archbishop Migliore also asked for greater efforts to restrict the spread of

small arms, saying that greater emphasis should be given to the "human dimension" of the destruction caused by these weapons, especially to children.

He said that there are 643 million small arms in the world today, and these weapons "kill and maim tens of thousands, spark refugee crises, undermine the rule of law and spawn a culture of violence and impunity."

The Vatican supports establishing "an obligatory legal framework aimed at regulating the trade of conventional weapons of any type, as well as regulating the know-how and technology for their reproduction." It also favors international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons.

In an Oct. 2 talk to the General Assembly, Archbishop Migliore asked for "more focused initiatives" to combat AIDS in poor countries.

"The concentration of our financial, logistic and human resources would enable the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS to put an end to this scourge and consolidate the hope that humankind will overcome the pandemic worldwide," he said.

The archbishop also reiterated the Vatican position that "ensuring access to reproductive health" as stated in the U.N.'s 2005 World Summit Outcome Document means "reducing maternal mortality."

## Priest killed, cardinal injured in car accident

BALTIMORE (CNS) - Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore suffered a broken ankle and a retired priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., was killed in an Oct. 7 automobile accident in Italy.

Another Harrisburg diocesan priest, Msgr. Thomas H. Smith, who was driving the vehicle through the city of Terni, broke several ribs.

Information about the accident was not released until Oct. 9 so that relatives of the deceased priest, Father Bernard Quinn, 78, could be notified. Cardinal Keeler and Msgr. Smith, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster, Pa., were hospitalized in Italy.

According to an Associated Press report, Father Quinn was in the back seat of the vehicle and Cardinal Keeler in the front passenger seat when a car struck the passenger side.

Baltimore archdiocesan communications director Sean Caine said the three priests were friends and vacationed together often.

"They've known each other for many, many years and basically, when they took vacations, they took them together, so this would be an annual or a semiannual thing," Caine told the Baltimore television station WJZ.

Cardinal Keeler, who served in the Harrisburg Diocese as a priest, auxiliary bishop and bishop from 1955 to 1989, submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI when he turned 75 in March, as required by canon law.

Father Quinn, who for several years was a Glenmary priest and was research coordinator for the Glenmary Research Center in Nashville, Tenn., had been in residence at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Lancaster since his retirement in 2001.

## Cardinal O'Malley tries his hand at blogging - and likes it

BOSTON (CNS) - From advice on how to live a life of prayer to descriptions of casual encounters with American tourists, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley's latest effort to communicate with his flock is making a splash both in Boston and in cyberspace.

The cardinal is documenting his most recent trip to Rome with a Web log, or blog, launched for the occasion: [www.cardinalseansblog.org](http://www.cardinalseansblog.org).

"It was suggested I use a blog to communicate with everyone but primarily with young people, to speak to them in their own media," the cardinal told *The Pilot*, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper, in a Sept. 26 telephone interview.

He said he was amazed to learn earlier this year how many people had followed events of the March consistory via the Internet, and his blogging experiment will continue even after his trip is over: Cardinal O'Malley said he plans to post at least once a week.

"It has not been my practice to bring people to Rome, but I thought I could share some of the experiences of this trip with Boston Catholics over the Internet."

The cardinal's 11-day trip to Rome featured two main events. On Sept. 23 he was the homilist and main celebrant at the anniversary Mass of St. Padre Pio. The event brought together more than 10,000 people at the Capuchin monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy. Cardinal O'Malley is

a Capuchin Franciscan, as was the saint.

On Oct. 1, the cardinal took possession of his titular church in Rome, Santa Maria della Vittoria.

The cardinal's first blog entries are casual, reminiscent of postcards home. Entries include his personal preferences on European travel, a discussion of airplane food and a recounting of conversations with the Lufthansa flight crew on their pride at having a German pope.

While keeping its casual form - the entries are peppered with anecdotes that frequently end with "lol," Internet shorthand for "laughing out loud" - as the days have progressed the blog has taken a more pedagogical tone. References to the lives of the saints, Church history and Roman architecture increasingly found their way into the cardinal's posts.

In an entry posted four days into the new endeavor, Cardinal O'Malley admitted that the blog "takes a bit of time," although he called the experience "amusing."

"I feel like I'm on some reality television show on MTV ... lol."

Though it may not quite be a reality television show, the cardinal seems to have attracted an audience to his online postings. A Google News search indicated its launch has been reported in places as far away as India and Australia. He told Catholic News Service in Rome that his blog had drawn more than 3 million hits.

As might be expected Catholic



A photo posted on Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley's Web log, or blog, shows the Boston cardinal checking his cell phone in his room at the Capuchin monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy. The cardinal documented his trip to Rome in late September using the blog. (CNS photo/courtesy *The Pilot*)

bloggers are weighing in on the initiative and the reaction has largely been positive.

In his *Splendoroftruth.com* blog, Jeff Miller analyzes one of the cardinal's latest posts.

"Sean Cardinal O'Malley moves

beyond photo-blogging with a great post of spiritual catechesis and commentary on the saints - especially (St.) Padre Pio. With all of the media attention (on) his blog, I was hoping he would expand it beyond just photos with travel

commentary. This post does that in droves," Mr. Miller wrote.

Massachusetts blogger Domenico Bettinelli Jr. welcomed the initiative and offered the cardinal some advice: "I think for it to be effective at connecting the cardinal directly with the people without the filter of the mainstream media, he should keep blogging and use it to write about controversies that arise."

Cardinal O'Malley said he plans to continue the blog once he is back home.

In an entry posted Oct. 2, the last of his trip, he wrote: "I am happy to announce to you that I will continue to communicate directly with you through my blog each week when I return to Boston. It's my hope to make a post once a week, on Friday of each week, starting this coming Friday. So, I invite you back to my blog and look forward to sharing and communicating with you well into the future."

But speaking of the media attention generated by this initiative, the cardinal stressed the importance of complementing traditional Catholic media presence such as *The Pilot* or Boston Catholic Television with the new media tools that are rapidly becoming mainstream for new generations of Catholics.

"This experience clearly indicates that, as a Church, we need to use the Internet more," he said.

## Proposal on chaplains' prayers could hurt military, archbishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS) - A congressional proposal that would have guaranteed the right of military chaplains to pray according to their conscience also could have had an "adverse effect on unit cohesion" and even result in a ban on all public prayer in the military, according to the head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien said in a Sept. 21 letter to U.S. Catholic chaplains that a proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 "would seek to impose a legislative mandate for military chaplains without considering the religious needs of all military members."

"We believe this legislation may well result in less public prayer and

marginalization of military chaplains," he added.

Although the House approved the mandate, the Senate did not. House-Senate conferees agreed Sept. 29 to replace the House language with a section overturning current Air Force and Navy regulations that restricted prayers specific to one faith at public military ceremonies.

Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo., sponsor of the proposed amendment, said that if he is re-elected he would introduce legislation that explicitly protects chaplains' rights to pray according to their conscience.

"While I would have liked stronger language protecting the religious freedom of chaplains, this legislation is a first step forward in protecting the First Amendment

rights of chaplains and all the men and women serving our country in the military," he said in a statement.

But Archbishop O'Brien said the legislation would have elevated "the so-called 'rights' of a military chaplain above those of the military and its people."

"Our military is a pluralistic society that relies heavily on unit cohesion," he wrote. "When military chaplains, who are assigned as chaplains for the entire unit, are called upon to deliver public prayer to mandatory attended gatherings, they are speaking with some form of command sanction.

"This legislation would appear to give the 'right' to a chaplain to decide independently to use denominational-specific prayer in any setting," Archbishop O'Brien

added. "To avoid the obvious adverse effect on unit cohesion that such activity would cause, it is entirely possible that commanders, who are ultimately responsible to protect the free exercise of religion for all their people, would decide to dispense with public prayer entirely. Our military would not be well served by this turn of events."

Archbishop O'Brien said military chaplains will continue to have the right to pray as they see fit at voluntarily attended worship services.

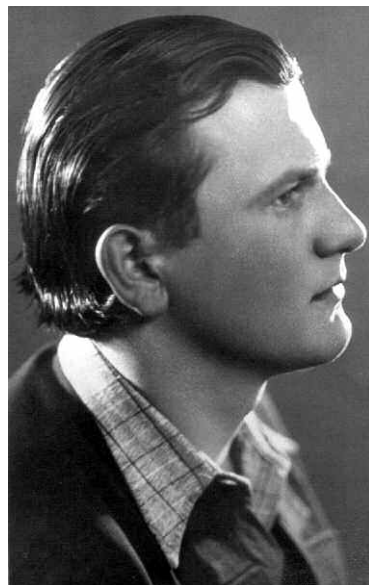
The military archdiocese "has long been an advocate for the constitutional rights of military chaplains to preach in accordance with their religious convictions when preaching to their congregations," he said.

The archdiocese "vigorously supported the efforts of Air Force chaplains Father Vincent Rigdon and Rabbi David Kay in their litigation against the then-secretary of defense (William J. Perry) when these dedicated military chaplains were ordered not to preach to their congregations about legislation banning partial-birth abortion," Archbishop O'Brien noted.

"We were most gratified when the federal judge held impermissible the military attempts to restrict or limit military chaplains who were performing their duties as clergy conducting their voluntarily attended worship services," he added.

# Polish church to open museum where late pope lived during WWII

After moving to Krakow with his father, a young Karol Wojtyla appears in a poster for the "Studio 39" theater. The underground theater group to which he belonged often practiced at his family's home during the war. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo)



KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) - The Archdiocese of Krakow, Poland, will open a museum in the house where Pope John Paul II lived during World War II.

The Krakow house is "very run down" and needs "total renovation," said Father Jan Kabzinski, archdiocesan steward. The archdiocese plans to use period furniture "to recreate the atmosphere and show the poverty he faced as a young person," Father Kabzinski added.

As Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul moved with his father to the house from his nearby Wadowice hometown in 1938, when he enrolled as a student at Krakow's Jagiellonian University. He lived in the two-room basement while working as a laborer under Nazi

occupation at a stone quarry and factory.

His father died at the house in February 1941, and young Wojtyla stayed there for three more years with a friend, Mieczyslaw Kotlarczyk, until he began studying secretly at the Krakow seminary.

The building, owned by the family of Pope John Paul's deceased mother, Emilia, was also used for wartime sessions of an underground theater group.

Father Kabzinski told the Polish Press Agency Sept. 27 that the archdiocese had bought 50 percent of the house from a private owner and was now seeking the owner of the other half who is believed

to be living in the United States.

Papal objects and memorabilia have become big business in Poland since Pope John Paul's death in April 2005. Signed letters, cards and books currently sell for high prices.

In October 2005, the late pope's Ford Escort GL was bought by an American lawyer for \$700,000, and a popemobile used during a 1982 pilgrimage to Scotland was sold at auction in early September for \$70,000.

Pope John Paul's Wadowice house, where he was born May 18, 1920, was bought by a Polish foundation in March and handed over to the Krakow Archdiocese for continued use as a museum.

## U.S. missionary says Oaxacans fear labor crisis

MEXICO CITY (CNS) - People in Oaxaca state feared that a labor crisis in their state might escalate after police and the governor's bodyguards clashed with an armed citizen militia.

"People are desperate for the conflict to end and hope an enlightened era of governance will replace it," said Phil Dahl-Bredine, a Maryknoll lay missionary working in Oaxaca, capital of the state with the same name.

"The citizens are afraid. And because there no longer exists a functional police force, they have organized neighborhood watches," he told CNS by telephone in late September.

Mr. Dahl-Bredine said there was "a lot of anger" in Oaxaca, where 70,000 teachers have been on strike since May 22. Gov. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz has threatened to cut off their pay and hire replacements.

On Sept. 25, the day after the militia clash, Archbishop Jose Chavez Botello of Oaxaca urged all parties to avoid violence and rely on tolerance, moderation, perseverance and a vision of transformation to find effective ways to resolve the conflict.

"Civilians, civic movements as well as the political authorities are urged to present suggestions and fundamental solutions to reconciliation that will lead to a lasting peace," the archbishop said in a statement published by the Mexican bishops' conference.

On Sept. 22, retired Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes of Tehuantepec



Two suspected thieves are tied to a lamppost after being caught by members of the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca. Members of the assembly said the suspected thieves had stolen a cell phone and money from an old lady in Oaxaca, Mexico, Sept. 25. Assembly members and striking teachers have been detaining petty criminals and dispensing summary justice while holding control of Oaxaca's city center for weeks as part of their effort to oust the governor. The sign reads: "Here are thieves, hit them." (CNS photo/Reuters)

urged the federal and local governments not to use violence to crush the rebellion.

Meanwhile, 5,000 Oaxacans were marching toward the capital to press Mexican President Vicente Fox's administration to take action. The caravan was expected to arrive in Mexico City Oct 1.

## USCCB plans national staff reductions

WASHINGTON (CNS) - If the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approves a proposed reorganization plan this November, by 2008 there will be at least 63 fewer employees on their national staff than are currently authorized.

The 260 currently authorized positions under consideration are to be reduced to 197.

The cost savings would allow the bishops to reduce their yearly diocesan assessment for USCCB staff and programs by 16 percent.

Of the positions that may be eliminated from the 2008 budget, 35 have already become vacant by not replacing some employees who have retired or left.

The figures do not include staffing for Catholic News Service, Migration and Refugee Services, the National Religious Retirement Office or the offices for the bishops' national seminaries in Rome and in Louvain, Belgium. Those offices have a total of about 125 authorized positions, with 10 of them currently unfilled.

USCCB documents on the proposed staff cuts were not released as of Sept. 28, but CNS obtained copies from an unofficial source after reports on their contents appeared on the Web site of the National Catholic Reporter and in several secular newspapers.

The staffing cuts are part of a broader plan to drastically reduce the number of USCCB committees, cut costs, limit paperwork and national statements, and focus the bishops' national efforts more narrowly on a few high priorities.

The bishops are to vote on



An employee enters the offices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, located on Fourth Street Northeast in Washington D.C.

realigning and reducing their committees when they meet in Baltimore this November. They are to have a preliminary discussion of the attendant staff cuts at that meeting. They are to make final decisions on staffing in November 2007, to take effect at the start of 2008.

In another cost-cutting effort, USCCB employees' health insurance premiums are to go up about 40 percent in 2007 with another increase in 2008.

The premium for family coverage, for example, will go from a little under \$2,000 this year to more than \$2,800 in 2007. In addition, employees will pay more for their health care in the form of higher costs for prescriptions and doctors' visits and new annual deductibles before insured coverage begins. The combination of premium increases and other higher costs means that employees will pay 15 percent of their total

health care costs instead of the current 10 percent they pay.

The bishops' work on limiting their priorities and projects at a national level dates back to November 2004, when they overwhelmingly approved a series of recommendations in that area proposed by a Task Force on Activities and Resources. Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, then bishop of Pittsburgh, headed the task force.

Last June the bishops approved the basic outlines of a reorganization plan proposed by the USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans, chaired by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M.

The proposal presented in June was to consolidate 35 standing committees into 14, eliminate all ad hoc committees, and reduce the current five committees at the executive or management level to four.



## Class of '44 gathers in Tulsa

From left, Msgr. Andrew Meister, from the Diocese of Omaha, Father William Swift, senior pastor of St. Mary Church, Father Ned Elliott, from the Diocese of Memphis, and Msgr. Louis Meyer, from the Diocese of St. Louis, concelebrated Mass at the Church of St. Mary on Sept. 27 as part of their annual reunion. They graduated from Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis and were ordained Sept. 23, 1944. Unable to attend, yet on the minds of the priests, were fellow classmates Msgr. Peter Dunne, also from the Diocese of Omaha, and Father Frank White CSV, from Chicago. After Mass, Father Swift told parishioners this may be the priests' last year to gather because of health issues and travel logistics. That afternoon, Father Swift hosted a block party at his house on Wheeling Avenue, which he is fond of calling "ghetto row." Several retired priests and religious sisters live on the street in houses owned by St. John Medical Center.

## Clear Creek choirmaster teaches Gregorian chant

Organizers were surprised and pleased when more than 50 Catholics showed up to devote a Saturday morning to practicing Gregorian chant under the tutelage of the choirmaster of Clear Creek Monastery, Father Mark Bachmann. After more than three hours of warming up, the choir performed a sung Mass, the Novus Ordo, at noon Sept. 30 at Holy Family Cathedral.

"I think it went very well," said Father Edward Yew, co-pastor of St. John and St. Francis Xavier Churches in Stillwater. "It was the beginning. We have to figure out where to go from here."

Father Yew, whose post-graduate studies were in liturgy, said choir members from St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow, St. Bernard, St. Thomas More, the Newman Center, Holy Family Cathedral, Sts. Peter and Paul in Tulsa, and St. Clement's, Bixby, Holy Ghost, Vinita, and the Stillwater parishes attended.

Bishop Edward J. Slattery, in his columns in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, has called for more use of Gregorian chant as part of his continuing implementation of the Synod's pastoral recommendations.

"After the Bishop wrote what he wrote, Prior Father Philip Anderson offered the services of the Clear Creek monks to teach chant," Father Yew said.

"The plan is to have something that is

regular, perhaps once a month. Judging from the response, it seems viable to have something go on."

During the Sept. 30 practice, Father Bachmann offered some suggestions on when to pause or emphasize the music as written but mostly was complimentary of the singers. "I'm a little embarrassed," he said at one point. "I have no criticisms to make."



## Breaking the Ramadan fast

Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas chats before dinner at Iftar Sept. 28, an interfaith dinner celebrating the breaking of the Muslim Ramadan fast, at the Radisson Hotel on East 41st Street near U.S. 169. During a brief talk to nearly 400 people, Msgr. Gaalaas quoted excerpts from an address Pope Benedict XVI had delivered earlier that week to representatives of the Vatican and leaders from 21 Islamic nations. At the Tulsa dinner, from left, are Carolyn Ekenstan, a Lutheran, Sheryl Siddiqui, a Muslim, Shirley Dormant, a Jew, and Sandra Rana, a Muslim. Msgr. Gaalaas represents the Diocese of Tulsa in the sponsoring organization, the Institute of Interfaith Dialog, formed in 2002.

## Diocesan briefs

### Clear Creek auction under way

Online bidding continues through 8 p.m. Oct. 25 on art work that the Oklahoma Society of Impressionists created during a weekend this summer at Clear Creek Monastery. The painters, including Jay O'Meilia, took their inspiration from the monks, and proceeds from the sale of their works will go to help the Benedictines complete their monastery.

The art work will be on display from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 in the reception area of the Southern Hills Marriott Hotel near 71st Street and Utica Avenue. Later that evening, Bishop Edward J. Slattery will host a fundraiser dinner at the hotel, followed by a concert at the new Cascia Hall Performing Arts Center. The dinner keynote speaker is Raymond Arroyo, news director for Eternal Word Television Network.

Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$100. For more information or to register go to [www.clearcreekmonks.org](http://www.clearcreekmonks.org) or call 877-TULSA ACC. The artwork can be viewed at the website.

Other artists whose works will be represented in the Clear Creek Monastery Art Series are Nick Berry, Rosiland Cook, Claudia Doyle, Jody Ellison, Carla Perry and Herb Robb.

### Evening with the EOC Nov. 2

Joe Wolking, the retired president and chief executive officer of PennWell Corp., will be moderator for "An Evening with the EOC" sponsored by the Pastoral Studies Institute from 6:30-8 p.m. Nov. 2 at Church of the Madalene.

Bishop Edward J. Slattery, the newspaper's publisher, and Marilyn Duck, its editor, will speak about the diocesan newspaper's mission, explain how to publicize events in parishes, schools and organizations and answer questions from the audience.



**Joe Wolking**

Mr. Wolking earned a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota, his native state, and went to work with a publishing company in Duluth, where, a decade later, he had risen to the rank of executive vice president.

Philip C. Lauinger Jr., son of P.C. Lauinger, owner of the Petroleum Publishing Co., invited him to visit Tulsa, and Mr. Wolking and his wife, Kay, have been here ever since. They are parishioners of Church of the Madalene.

After he retired from PennWell in 2000, Bishop Slattery asked Mr. Wolking to serve on the Diocese's finance council and investment committee. He stepped down from those posts last year to truly retire.

"We really don't know what the evening may bring, but I'm looking forward to meeting our readers and explaining what the EOC seeks to do," said Ms. Duck, who became editor in October 2005. "Our biggest problem right now is covering all that is happening in the Diocese, given our limited staff and space constraints. It's a nice problem to have (too much news), but it is a problem."

Part-time reporters Barb Hilger and Amanda Williams also will be on hand.

All are welcome, but please pre-register by calling Mary Malcom at 294-1904 or email [psi@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:psi@dioceseoftulsa.org).

Gift *Continued from page 1*

"It's not only to serve the future needs of the Diocese but to encourage everyone to make a will," the Bishop said. "Making a will can be a spiritual exercise, not only because we plan the disposal of our earthly goods to loved ones and the Church, but it also necessitates a person's contemplation of his or her own death, something most of us prefer not to think about."

St. Joseph's in Stigler will host Bishop Slattery Nov. 19 for the dedication of the church and blessing of the parish hall. Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m., with a dinner to follow at about 5 p.m.

"Last week I told the word to the people, and they are very excited," Father Charles Vincent said Oct. 3. The new church, built on land donated by parishioner Linda Alumbaugh on West Seventh Street across from Stigler's high school, is proving to be "an eye-opener to this region," Father Vincent said.

Bishop Slattery said he is grateful to retired Chancellor Henry Harder, who worked diligently on the Stigler building project and made many trips to the site. He also commended Brandon Moore, whose Jenks firm, Command Construction, built the new church. Johnny and Barbara Morris, parishioners who donated the stone that will cover the building's exterior, and Josephine McMahan of the parish council also were instrumental, he said.

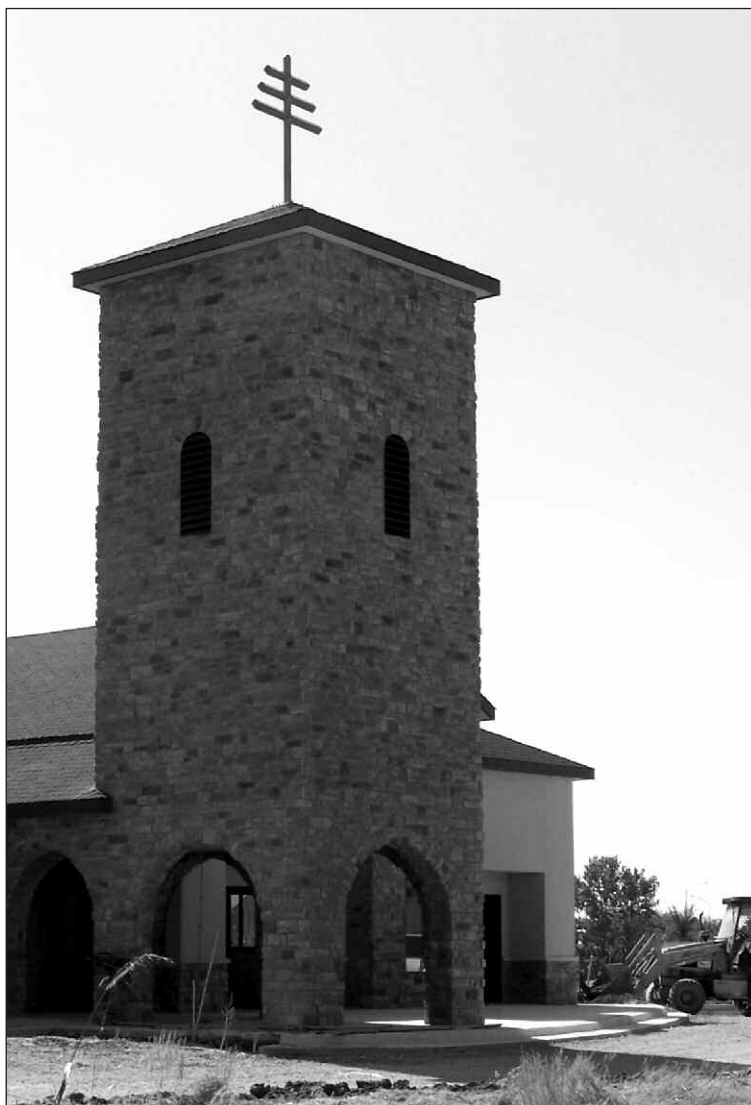
"A project of this magnitude does not come off without a lot of collaboration and cooperation," Bishop Slattery said.

Since 1962, St. Joseph's "church" was a storefront next to a building that burned down four years ago, Father Vincent said. "It's going to fall down," he said of the current building. Bishop Slattery said the building has so much mold it is a health hazard.

The new building is "a very big church in this missionary region," Father Vincent said. "I think the Catholic Church will grow in the near future, and many will come to the new church. People are asking when it's going to be dedicated, and that means they are eager to come."

About 38 families currently attend St. Joseph, he said, but there are many more Catholics in Haskell County.

An attorney wrote to Bishop Slattery a year ago last month and informed him the Diocese of Tulsa



Crews are preparing the parking lot at St. Therese Mission Church for paving, which will be paid for thanks to a gift to the Diocese from a Stillwater woman. The bell for the bell tower arrived from Lebanon prior to the outbreak of the war late this summer, as did an Antiochene cross, which is traditional in the Maronite Catholic Church.

had been the beneficiary of the estate of the late Susan Elaine Randall. The Bishop wrote to her sister, Mary T. Randall Oct. 14, 2005, expressing his gratitude and saying he would pray for the repose of her sister's soul.

"Since I am unable to thank your sister for her generosity to the Church, I want to express my thanks to you and to the other members of the family while assuring you that whatever funds come to the diocese from her estate will be used for the Church's mission - to bring Christ into the world."

Early this month, Bishop Slattery said the Randall gift "came just in time, because we were building a badly needed church in Stigler, and the parish has no money. It was imperative that they do something, but they didn't have the money." He will use \$450,000 of the total \$555,298.85 in the Randall estate money for St. Joseph's.

The new building will permit a separate space for the church and the parish hall, which is something Bishop Slattery said he wants throughout the Diocese. He wants "an attitude of reverence and silence in the place where Mass is celebrated and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved."

Father Vincent said he expects parishioners of the other churches where he is pastor - Immaculate Conception in Poteau and St. Elizabeth Seton in Spiro - may come to Stigler for the dedication and blessing.

Meanwhile, Father Elias Abi-Sarkis found he was running out of money this summer as construction progressed rapidly on the church the Maronite Catholics of Tulsa are building just south of East 81st Street on 107th East Avenue. For years, the Maronite community has been raising money to pay for the building, but with the workers

Estate planning catching on

Since December 2004, estate planning committees have been established at 15 parishes in the Diocese of Tulsa, and most of them have offered workshops that brief the faithful on basic estate planning, advance directives (living wills), budget and finance and long-term care insurance. Sessions on retirement and tax planning are in the works.

The workshops are presented by lay professionals from the fields of law, banking, finance and insurance and are coordinated through the estate planning office of the Diocesan Stewardship and Development Office.

The committees are in varying stages of development, with four classified as "formed and functioning," several others have been formed but report no recent activity and four parishes have formed a committee and still are gathering members.

"I personally think it is an excellent idea to explain to our people how they support their parishes, our schools, the Diocese, Catholic Charities, etc., by remembering the Church in the wills and through other opportunities that estate planning offers," said Msgr. Dennis Dorney, pastor of Church of St. Mary. "We should have done this years ago!"

St. Mary is among the most active parishes and has held eight workshops on basic estate planning, wills and trusts, advance directives and long-term care. Among the presenters have been parishioners Joe McCormick, Gene DeVerges, Sister Julie Mantemach and Frank Munn.

People who attend the workshops are offered the opportunity for a free consult, and at least some St. Mary parishioners have requested the follow-up after every session.

The largest workshop attracted 98 participants for a presentation by attorney Erin Donovan on basic estate planning at St. Pius X Church in August 2005. Eighteen people sought a consult.

At the first session, organized by Resurrection parishioner Joe Moran and presented by Deacon Dave Johnson from the Bank of Oklahoma, 72 people turned out for the basic estate planning briefing in December 2004.

Bob Gisler, director of stewardship and development, and his assistant Suzanne Pisaturo, said they are eager to help any parish get started or continue the estate planning services. They can be reached at 294-1904 or at [estateplanning@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:estateplanning@dioceseoftulsa.org).

finishing quickly, Father Elias was "in the red," as he put it in a letter to the editor in this issue's Eastern Oklahoma Catholic.

In August, he was invited to Bishop Slattery's residence and asked if he needed money to finish his church. The Bishop allocated \$100,000 of the Randall estate and asked Father Elias to remember Ms. Randall in his prayers.

Plaques will be put in both churches to honor her generosity and ask prayers for the repose of her soul.

St. Joseph also received a \$150,000 grant from the Catholic Extension Society, which Bishop Slattery served as president prior to his arrival in Tulsa in 1994. Also, an Extension Society donor in California, Mrs. Virginia Melanson, wanted to donate a crucifix and tabernacle to a mission church in honor of her late husband, Marty, and a deceased friend, Mike Dooley. The Melansons attended Bishop Slattery's ordination in Rome by Pope John Paul II, and

Richard Ritter, vice president and general secretary of Extension, thought the mission church in Stigler would be an appropriate recipient of the gifts.

Both will have plaques asking prayers for Mr. Melanson and Mr. Dooley, Bishop Slattery said.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Mission planned to dedicate the church building Dec. 3, but Father Elias has pushed back the date until March.

Father Ken Harder, pastor of St. Francis Xavier and St. John Churches in Stillwater, celebrated Ms. Randall's funeral Mass on Dec. 27, 2004. He said although she had physical disabilities and had trouble walking, "when she came to Mass, when she came to the Eucharist, there was just a look of great joy on her face. It's hard to describe, but there's just this anticipation that is a real joy."

He said the Stillwater parishes each will put her gift of \$10,000 into savings "so we can put it toward future needs."

## Father J. Paul Donovan

# Except for Native Americans, we are all immigrants

The debate, often near hysterical, going on over immigration is a renewal of a recurring passion in American history. As Americans, we get stirred up about new immigrants and their growing influence in our culture, cities, churches, economy.

When these new immigrants don't look like us and speak a different language, we often get upset. Why can't they be like us, talk like we do, be legal like we are? Who asked them here?

This debate is nationwide, and demand is for the government to solve it. These immigrants are costing us money, taking our jobs, not learning our language. Reaction to the problem takes many twists and turns: build walls, enforce laws, expel them, etc. All with self-assured smugness: We are not racists or anti-immigrant, just good, law-abiding Americans.

Perhaps we can learn something if we look at this "immigrant problem" in light of our nation's history. Even in colonial times, Benjamin Franklin was concerned about Germans moving into Pennsylvania, bringing their different culture, language, customs. Since the 1840s, the problem – along with hysteria and xenophobia – erupts every 20 or 30 years.

In the 1840s, with the famine in Ireland, the Catholic Irish began immigrating in large numbers. Prior to this, most Irish immigrants to the U.S. were Scotch-Irish from Northern Ireland, e.g., family of President Andrew Jackson. With the wave of illiterate, poor, Catholic Irish pouring into the country, there was a sharp reaction.

Did not they know this was a Protestant country? A political party of nationalists actually grew up, known as the Know Nothings. This was the era of burning Catholic Churches: the cathedral in Cincinnati, a convent near Boston. In all, more than 100 Catholic churches, schools and homes were destroyed.



With the coming of the Civil War, the hysteria died out. But 20 years later, it reappeared in the form of the Ku Klux Klan. The slaves had been freed, now the former slaves expected to be treated as equal citizens – but they were not white, and this nation was for white men.

Along with anti-black bigotry, the KKK was anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish. This movement swept the South, and remnants are still found today. In fact, in eastern Tennessee and Alabama, the KKK is being reignited by the protest against immigration.

By the 1880-90s, two different examples of this anti-immigration crusade took shape. In the east, the American Protective Association (APA) directed its forces against the new immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe. The Russian, Polish, Slavic, Croatian, Slovenian and Italian Greek immigrants were coming in large numbers, and the APA thought they would destroy America. Also bitterly disliked were the Jews from Eastern Europe, the Osjuden, who were strange in their customs and dress.

On the West Coast and in the western U.S., the hostility was aimed against the Chinese. Many were brought in to help build the railroads and work in the mines. But by 1880, with not so much work and since they weren't white and had different customs, we wanted no more. The Chinese Exclusion League formed in the 1870s, gained political traction, and by 1882 the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The 1880-90s also saw the rise of social Darwinism and the eugenics development. Much of this was directed against immigrants. This all reached a high level in the early 1900s. Eventually, immigration quotas that passed greatly favored the North European people.

It is only in the past 40 years that more balance has been brought to U.S. immigration policy. For example, we no longer exclude Asians.

There is another aspect of our national history we have difficulty facing. From the beginning, with the Jamestown,

Virginia and Massachusetts settlements, immigrants came uninvited and took the land they wanted, often by force.

This continued through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries until the white immigrants controlled the land from sea to shining sea. We even developed a motto: Manifest Destiny. We did the manifesting, and our destiny was from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

As the pioneers and settlers moved west, pushing or destroying the Indian tribes, we were not very concerned about our immigration; after all, we are God's Chosen People building the City on the Mountain Top. But in all honesty, these pioneers and immigrants, our forefathers, did not have visiting permits or green cards issued by the Pawnee, Sioux, Kiowa, Blackfeet. We needed to make a living, and so we came.

Since I was born and raised in Oklahoma, this whole question has special relevance. Our official nickname is the Sooners. Of course, the Sooners were the settlers who broke the law to enter the territory illegally, ahead of time, to stake a claim.

We have chosen our nickname to glorify such actions. It is in our songs and teams. "I'm Sooner born and Sooner bred Ö" "Boomer Sooner" does sound better than "Boomer Cheater."

We do have problems with immigration. A nation does have the right to control its borders, but this must be addressed with patience, wisdom and understanding.

We are all, except for Native Americans, a nation of immigrants. We must not be harsh, thoughtless or mean-spirited.

After our families got to this country, let us not pull up the ladder. We are Catholics: Our faith and traditions tell us people have a right to immigrate.

Let us find solutions, not political slogans. The issue is too important, and we have a history.

*Father J. Paul Donovan is the retired pastor of St. Henry Church in Owasso.*

## Job opportunities

**Jobs in a Box, a service to readers of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, carries ads free of charge. Brief ads will run in two issues of the EOC. Please be specific when listing skills and/or experience offered or required for a particular job.**

### Write to:

Jobs in a Box

The Eastern Oklahoma Catholic

P.O. Box 690240

Tulsa, OK 74169

Fax your information to 294-0920.

E-mail to [easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org)

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

- Responsible for assisting students in skills development, encouraging campus-wide involvement and providing a variety of activities and events. Master's degree in student affairs or related field preferred. In addition, one to three years experience in co-curricular program planning and student

leadership development. Submit a current resume with names and telephone numbers for five recent professional references and salary expectations. Mail to Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, OK 74804. Email, [nrwalck@stgregorys.edu](mailto:nrwalck@stgregorys.edu). Position open until filled. EOE

**ACCOUNTING CLERK** - The ideal candidate would be an experienced, hands-on individual familiar with monthly accounting cycles of G/L, A/P, A/R and inventory in manufacturing, distribution and retail environments. Proficiency in using a PC with Word and Excel and automated accounting systems. Excellent problem solving and people management skills essential. We offer a competitive salary and benefits, including major medical and 401(k). Send, FAX or email resume and salary requirements to F.C. Ziegler Co., Attn: Human Resources, 415 E. 12th St., Tulsa, 74120; FAX 918-582-3233, email [hrdept@zieglers.com](mailto:hrdept@zieglers.com) with "Accounting Position" in the subject matter header.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES CASEWORKER** - Catholic Charities' St. Anthony Assistance Unit is seeking a caseworker, a full-time, service-oriented position that

requires good people skills and initiative. Basic computer skills necessary, and bilingual skills (English/Spanish) are a valuable asset. Duties include direct interaction with individuals and families who need basic assistance, conducting interviews, assessing need, providing supportive listening, information/referral and working in food pantry. Food pantry responsibilities include receiving, storing and stocking of foods, involving frequent and regular physical demands, including lifting and moving more than minimal weight. St. Anthony has a Franciscan approach in service to others with an openness to prayer provided in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Church. Inquires and applications may be directed to Matt DeWeese, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, 74148, 585-8167, FAX 582-2123, email: [mDeWeese@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org](mailto:mDeWeese@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org)

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** - The Pro-Life Office of the Diocese of Tulsa is seeking a part-time coordinator for the Gabriel Project, a ministry to assist women and families facing crisis pregnancies. Duties for this volunteer position will include answering crisis pregnancy calls, coordinating training and promoting the ministry. Candidates should have basic computer skills, understand and support Church teachings on all

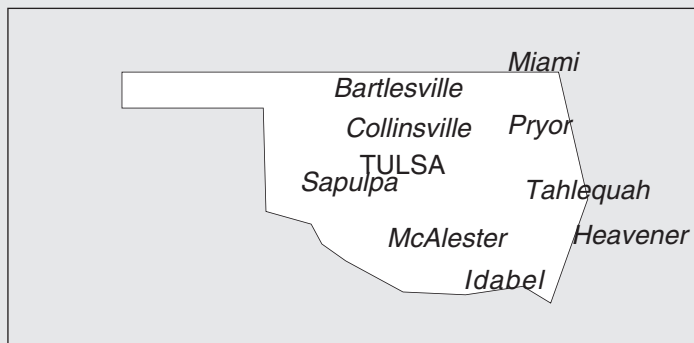
life issues and have a passion to minister to women in need. Interested persons should contact Deacon Tim Sullivan, Pro-Life Director, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, OK 74148 or email [tsullivan@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:tsullivan@catholiccharitiestulsa.org).

**PART-TIME SALES ASSOCIATE** - F.C. Ziegler Co. Catholic Art & Gifts is seeking friendly, responsible part-time sales associate to work 12:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. three Saturdays a month. Apply at 1111 South Detroit or call Nancy at 587-4131.

**CHILD CARE PROVIDERS** - Catholic Charities Our Lady of Refuge Hispanic Helping Center is seeking two child care providers for pre-school children. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday during the Hispanic women's support group meetings. The ideal candidate will speak Spanish and love to work with young children. Contact Marcela Frescott, 585-8199, or email [mfrescott@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:mfrescott@catholiccharitiestulsa.org).

**TELECOM SERVICES** - St. Peter's parishioner provides telecom services throughout the U.S. 1.9 cents U.S. domestic. Low international rates. Works from your cell phone. For more information visit [www.phone2cents.com](http://www.phone2cents.com)

## MISAS EN LA DIÓCESIS EN ESPAÑOL



**TULSA**

**Iglesia de Pedro y Pablo**  
1436 N. 67th East Ave.  
P. Tim Davison, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 11:30 a.m. y 6:00 p.m.

**Iglesia de la Resurrección**  
4804 S. Fulton  
P. Steve Austin, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 1:00 p.m.

**Xavier/ N.S. De Guadalupe**  
2434 E. Admiral Blvd.  
P. Jose Maria Briones, Párroco  
Misas Dominicales a las 7 a.m., 10:30 am, 12:00 p.m., 1:30, 5:00, 7:00 y 8:30 pm.

**Iglesia de San Pio X**  
1727 S. 75th E. Ave.  
P. Michael J. Knipe, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 5:00 p.m.

**Iglesia de Santo Tomás Moro**  
2720 S. 129 E. Ave.  
P. Carl Kerkemeyer, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 12:30 p.m.

**BARTLESVILLE**  
**Iglesia de San Juan Evangelista**  
715 S. Johnstone Av.  
P. Festus Maliwa, Párroco  
Confesiones a las 4:00 p.m.  
Misa Domingos a las 4:30 p.m.

**BOSWELL**  
**Iglesia de San Judas**  
Rt. 70 E. 11 St.  
Misa Bilingue los Domingos a las 11:30 a.m.

**COLLINSVILLE**  
**Parroquia de Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús.**  
1009 N. 19th. St.  
P. Patricio Bránquin, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. a la 1:00 p.m.

**DURANT**  
**San Guillermo**  
802 University Boulevard  
P. Valerian Gonsalves  
Oficia P. Juan Manuel Guerrero  
Misa los Sábados 1ro y 3ro del mes a las 7 p.m.

**IDABEL**  
**San Francisco de Sales**  
13 S. E. Jefferson  
P. Chester Artysiewicz, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 12:00 p.m.

**McALESTER**

**Iglesia de San Juan**  
300 E. Washington  
P. Leonard Higgins, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 12:00

**MIAMI**  
**Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús**  
2515 N. Main  
P. W. Gregg Elliott, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 1 p.m.

**MUSKOGEE**  
**Iglesia de San José**  
321 N. Virginia St.  
P. Bryan Brooks, Párroco  
Misa los Sábados a las 7:00

**OWASSO**  
**Iglesia de San Enrico**  
8500 N. Owasso Expressway  
P. Richard Bradley, Parroco  
Misas Domingos del mes a las 1:00 p.m.

**PRYOR**  
**Iglesia de San Marcos**  
1507 S. Vann St.  
Misa todos los Sábados las 7:30 p.m.

**SAPULPA**  
**Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús**  
1777 E. Grayson Ave.  
P. Stuart Crevcoure, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 8 a.m.

**STILLWATER**  
**Iglesia de San Francis Xavier**  
623 S. West St.  
P. Ken Harder, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 1:00 p.m.

**TAHLEQUAH**  
**Iglesia de Santa Brigida**  
807 Crafton St.  
Misa los Domingos; 1ro., 2do. y 3ro del mes a las 5:00 p.m.

**HEAVENER MISIÓN DE POTEAU**  
515 Main St.  
P. Don Tranel  
Misa los Domingos a la 5:00 p.m.

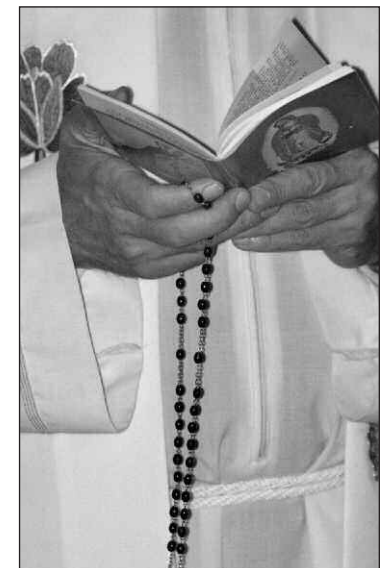


La multitud estaba solemne por esa noche, que fue dedicada a rezar el Rosario y por un mayor conocimiento de la dignidad de toda la vida humana.

## Santo Rosario atrae a 100 personas ah San Pedro y San Pablo



Miembros de la multitud recibieron 50 globos para que cargaran durante la procesión y rezos.



Padre Timoteo Davison sostiene el rosario que le dio su abuelita que murió a los 106 a-os.



Ernesto Calvillo ayuda a guiar la procesión pasar el edificio de la iglesia

## St. Francis of Assisi Trust honors Warren Foundation

Bill Lissau was a junior in high school when he and his Holy Family High School classmates were given sealed envelopes and were instructed to take them home for their parents to open. Inside was a letter saying whether the student had or had not been accepted for admission to what would be the first graduating class at Bishop Kelley High School.

Of course, the boys immediately opened the letters, Mr. Lissau told the audience of nearly 400 people who were in the Cathedral Oct. 4 for the third annual St. Francis of Assisi Tuition Trust Fund prayer service and gala.

Mr. Lissau made the cut and went on to graduate from Kelley with the class of '61. But some of his pals did not, and the reason cited in the letter contained a word they did not know. When they walked to the Central Library, then on Cheyenne Avenue, they went to the big dictionary and looked up "incorrigible."

That drew a big laugh from the Oct. 4 crowd and came after Mr. Lissau accepted the St. Francis of Assisi Award, presented by Bishop Edward J. Slattery to the William K. Warren Foundation. Mr. Lissau serves as vice chairman of the foundation, founded by Mr. and Mrs. William K. Warren, Sr.

In his remarks, the Bishop said the foundation is most known for its creation and support of the Saint Francis Health System, and said every Tulsan should think of the Warren

family's generosity when they drive along 61st Street and Yale Avenue.

But the foundation also has given generously - \$4 million and counting - to Catholic schools in and around the state. Another \$20 million has been given to Catholic colleges and universities all over the country.

William Warren Jr. currently serves as the foundation's chairman emeritus; John-Kelly C. Warren serves as chairman of the board and chief executive officer. Other Warren family members also help run the foundation.

Mr. Lissau said the values he learned in Catholic schools - he attended grammar school at Immaculate Conception - have stayed with him and other prominent Tulsa Catholics and nurtured the instinct to share their wealth with those who have less.

The keynote speaker, author and historian Julie M. Fenster, talked about "Parish Priest," the best-selling biography of Father Michael McGivney she co-authored with historian Douglas Brinkley. She said she accepted only two speaking invitations this year - one at the Vatican and the St. Francis of Assisi Tuition Assistance fundraiser.

Ms. Fenster said there are parallels between the saint's life and the parish priest who founded the Knights of Columbus. Both could have pursued more glamorous ministries but opted to humbly serve the less fortunate.

The Hon. Claire V. Eagan, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, spoke briefly in honor of Catholic school teachers and principals. The group was welcomed to the Cathedral by its rector, Msgr. Gregory Gier, who chaired the liturgy committee for the Solemn Evening Prayer that began the evening.

Nearly 400 people attended this year's event, up more than 100 from last year.

The St. Francis of Assisi Trust Fund, established in memory of Rose Mary Kelly Condon in September 1994, has distributed more than \$1.2 million and has provided 1,450 tuition grants.

The need for assistance still outstrips the grants available. Mr. Lissau noted that tuition at Kelley once was \$200; now it is \$5,700. "That is a real stretch for many families who couldn't afford this without your help," he told the audience, who paid \$100 per plate for the evening.

"This is a very important evening, and I thank you all for being here. But it's time to have fun," Bishop Slattery said in conclusion. As he and the concelebrating priests exited to the vesting room located off the sacristy, the crowd began filing to the Holy Family Cathedral School parking lot, where they enjoyed dinner and dancing under a huge white tent.

The liturgy/speaker/dinner/dance is held every year on Oct. 4, St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day.



W.R. Lissau, left, with Bishop Slattery and William-Kelly C. Warren.



Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts Pack and Troop 173, School and Church of St. Mary, gather in the back of the Cathedral with Msgr. Gregory Gier waiting to present the colors.

## Monte Cassino stages 'baby bottle boomerang'



Scott Solomon, eighth grade student at Monte Cassino, helps prepare the 1,100 baby bottles his class distributed throughout the school Oct. 9 to raise funds for Emergency Infant Services.

During religion classes Oct. 9, 1,100 baby bottles were distributed to students and faculty at Monte Cassino School.

The school-wide fundraising event entitled "Baby Bottle Boomerang" was sponsored by the eighth-grade students on behalf of Emergency Infant Services, a non-profit organization that meets basic human needs of infants and children through age 5 whose families are in crisis in the Tulsa area.

"The eighth-graders created the verbiage and prepared the presentation materials themselves," said Edana Brook, public relations coordinator and Monte Cassino parent.

Each student and faculty member will be given a baby bottle to take home and fill with money or loose change to be returned to the school by Oct. 27. All proceeds will be donated to Emergency Infant Services to purchase food, diapers, blankets and other items

needed to care for small children.

The students researched what it costs to live a moderate life in Tulsa and learned about Emergency Infant Services from one of its employees. They made posters, flyers and created bottle inserts explaining the program. They also decorated collection boxes and wrote presentations for the classes.

For the elementary and middle schools they devised a "free-dress day" incentive for each classroom that has 100 percent participation.

"The students will be surprised by how much money each bottle can hold," said Mrs. Brook.

They plan to donate the 1,100 bottles, in addition to funds raised, since they can be sterilized and used again by many infants in need. "The baby bottle project is important to me because it's helping people less fortunate get the things they need," said eighth-grade student Lydia Theban.

## Urgent adoption need

Adoption Services at Catholic Charities has an urgent need for adoptive families where at least one member of the couple is Native American and has a certificate degree of Indian blood, i.e. CDIB card. The Indian Child Welfare Act, a state and federal law, requires that children who are eligible for enrollment in a Native American tribe be placed for adoption with a family who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe. At least one third of the domestic adoptive placements at Catholic Charities have this requirement. For more information contact Mary Lee Ingram at 585-8167 ext. 116.

**Education news briefs**

**Muskogee to host concert**

The John Flynn Band, which has played at World Youth Day, National Catholic Youth Conferences and many concerts, parish missions and conferences around the world, will perform at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee. Proceeds will raise money for the St. Joseph Youth Group to attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. next year.

All denominations are invited, and everyone is welcome for a great night of praise and worship. Tickets are \$8 for individuals and \$20 for a family pass. The Hall of Fame is located at 401 S. 3rd St. Limited number of tickets available; call parish office, 687-1351 for reservations. The band's website is [www.thejohnflynnband.com](http://www.thejohnflynnband.com).

**Knee pads for San Miguel**

At a recent volleyball tournament, members of St. Pius X sixth-grade girl's team noticed San Miguel School players did not have knee pads. They didn't think it was fair that everyone did not have the appropriate equipment and foresaw painful consequences.

The team orchestrated a bake sale, which took place after school Oct. 2, to raise money so they can buy knee pads for their counterparts at San Miguel. Several parents offered to help buy the pads, but the girls said they would rather raise the money themselves.

The bake sale raised \$112 which, with the help of the school's athletic association, was used to purchase 26 knee pads.

"We realize how blessed we are to have the necessary volleyball equipment and want to share this gift with the San Miguel volleyball players," said Celeste Arras and Isabel Dobrin, who organized the sale.

"It's exciting to see our students identify a problem and take action on their own," said St. Pius X Principal Karen Arras. "And they're doing it for the right reasons, not just to fulfill service hours." She hoped to deliver the knee pads to San Miguel the week of Oct. 9.

**Podcasting: a modern method of evangelization**

The Newman Center at the University of Tulsa has a new medium for spreading the Word: podcasting. "On the U," the center's new podcast forum, debuted Aug. 28 and has picked up momentum ever since, said Steve Nelson, Newman Center director.

A podcast is a web-based audio broadcast that enables Internet users to log in and listen anytime, anyplace. With students dispersed all over campus, the country and the world, podcasting allows access to happenings at their home campus.

Father Stuart Crevcoure, Newman Center's chaplain, was a bit wary when Mr. Nelson first presented him with the idea because he was familiar with podcasting and aware of the amount of work involved.

"It is much more than simply sitting down and digitally recording an episode," the chaplain said. "There's arranging interviews, finding music to supplement the show, programming and then the all-important and time-consuming task of editing." He added that he's been very impressed with the



TU freshman Tanner Hesse, right, and Junior Brian Kane, peer ministry president, participate in the Sept. 22 "On the U" podcast at the Newman Center with tales of surviving their first month of college.

show since the first recording.

Topics have included campus life, church ministry, September 11 and even chocolate chip cookies. Recorded music and performances often are featured, both from the university and major record labels.

"This is a new form of evangelization that reaches out to college students in the online world," Mr. Nelson said. "I

personally see it as a learning experience for students as they grow and gain confidence speaking to their peers about faith and becoming leaders in the Church."

"It's an opportunity for our Newman Center students to give their take on current events, religious issues and campus life from a Catholic perspective," Father Crevcoure added.

The 4 p.m. podcast on Sept. 28 was about Eucharistic Adoration, educating and preparing Newman Center students for their first Face2Face Holy Hour that evening. Face2Face allows students an intimate and relaxed setting to meditate and reflect on Christ in the Eucharist, Mr. Nelson said.

During the podcast, sophomore Stephen Isley said that "adoration and devotion is where we come before the Lord to pray before Him, kneel before Him, and speak to Him outside the balance of Mass."

Father Crevcoure said he loves to hear the college students use modern media to evangelize and share their faith. He also hosts an occasional podcast called "Ask Padre" but said he prefers to leave most of the airtime for the students.

Listeners can download "On the U" podcasts to their mobile media devices or listen via the Internet at [www.ontheu.blogspot.com](http://www.ontheu.blogspot.com).

**Rapping priest releases new CD, says genre speaks to young**

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) - He's at it again. Father Stan Fortuna, the Franciscan Friar of the Renewal who is known as the "rapping priest," has released his latest CD in the genre.

Eighteen songs, ranging from old-school rap to world beats, make up the new release, which completes the series of rap albums he has released over the past few years.

"Sacro Song 3: The Completion of the Trilogy" deals with a range of topics, from the negative effects visited on fatherless children in "Daddy Wound," and the grip of the culture of death in "Hangin' in There," to a message of peace in "Peace Shout Out," and a tribute to his beloved role model, the late Pope John Paul II, in "I'm Loving You," "The Great One" and "KW."

Throughout the album, the doctrines of the Catholic Church are a consistent thread.

"I continue to do rap music because it's a genre that makes the message intelligible to many young people," Father Stan said in an interview with The Catholic Standard & Times, newspaper of



Father Stan Fortuna's new CD includes "B16 Bomber," a tribute to Pope Benedict XVI.

the Philadelphia Archdiocese. "And it even challenges people who don't like the genre, because the rap music affords the message to transcend boundaries and make an impact on the culture."

The new album includes the aspiring young rappers Sean Santiago, youth director of the South Bronx Youth Cultural Center in New York founded by Father Stan, and Glenda Mortoral, who is a member of the center. Their song, "Ima Do Me," deals with their experiences growing up in the inner

city of the South Bronx.

The album also features the rap artist Righteous B in "Jesus Talks," and the lyrical prose of Brother Agostino Torres, also a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, in "Mezcia."

"I didn't go into working on this CD saying, 'Here is what I need to touch upon.' It was very spontaneous," said Father Stan, who appeared at the Diocese of Tulsa's Youth Rally in 2002.

For instance, the idea for "Daddy Wound" came to him during a conversation with another friar about the children and teens to whom they minister in the South Bronx and, specifically, about how the lack of a father figure has severely wounded those young people.

He was on his way to World Youth Day 2005 in Germany and was missing the late pontiff, who had so greatly desired to make it to that youth festival, when Father Stan was inspired to write "I'm Missing You," which is his own favorite track on the album.

He has dedicated the album to Pope John Paul II, writing: "This

project is dedicated to none other than my hero now and (forever), the late, great Pope John Paul II. What can I say but 'Thanks JP. I'm Lovin' You,' and see you soon."

During the same trip, Father Stan was impressed with Pope Benedict XVI and the current pope's clear but profound explanations of the faith.

"I love his spirituality, and the way God made his brain. He's extremely clear," Father Stan said.

That was also when he was inspired to write the song dedicated to Pope Benedict: "B16 Bomber." In the song, Father Stan includes excerpts of Pope Benedict's closing Mass homily from World Youth Day.

All proceeds from the CD go to Francesco Productions, Father Stan's nonprofit organization, which works with the poor and needy in the South Bronx.

Editor's Note: More information about Father Stan Fortuna and how to purchase "Sacro Song 3" is available at [www.francescoproductions.com](http://www.francescoproductions.com), or by phoning Tony Saracco at: (914) 747-9792, or e-mailing him at: [tonysaracco333@msn.com](mailto:tonysaracco333@msn.com).

# St. Henry's parish embraces Down syndrome parishioner

By **BARB HILGER**

"He is not my Down syndrome son, he is my son," said Beth Soderfelt, speaking about her 5-year-old Aaron. He is the youngest of three children in the Soderfelt family, who are parishioners of St. Henry Church in Owasso.

Mrs. Soderfelt said Aaron is part of the parish family and is not treated differently than any other child. That is the goal the Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa is promoting during October, which is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

"Part of the awareness is getting the kids out into the community, so people can see that Down syndrome is not something to be feared," Mrs. Soderfelt said.

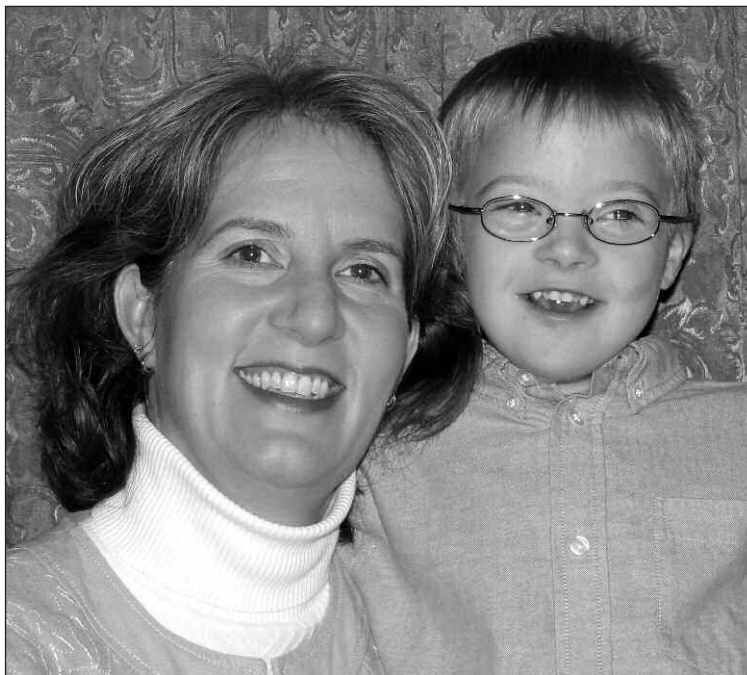
The association is sponsoring the fourth annual Buddy Walk, a national event in which people with Down syndrome invite others to be their "buddy" and walk with them to raise money and awareness. This year's event will be from 2-5 p.m.

Oct. 22 at Tulsa's Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave. The event includes a walk around the track and many activities for kids. The Tulsa Police and Fire departments will be on hand demonstrating emergency equipment, and there will be rides and games.

Mrs. Soderfelt is on the board of the Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa, a parent volunteer organization that provides resources for parents of children with Down syndrome. Money raised in the Buddy Walk will go to support both the local and national organizations, said Alana Kennon, event coordinator.

The local organization will use the money to fund new parent information packets, monthly newsletters and to keep local hospitals and doctors updated on the latest information about Down syndrome, which is a common genetic condition that affects people of all ages, races and economic backgrounds.

The national awareness website



Beth and Aaron Soderfelt

describes Down syndrome as "a chromosomal anomaly that occurs in 1.3 per 1,000 births. For some unexplained reason, an error in cell development results in 47

chromosomes rather than 46. The extra gene material slightly changes the orderly development of the body and brain."

"When you receive the initial

diagnosis you are told the limitations to expect," said Mrs. Soderfelt. The parent organization is in place to inform parents of what their children can do.

Mrs. Soderfelt said the first reaction she and her husband had was shock and worry over whether they would be able to handle a child with a disability. "Fast-forward five years, and we are no longer uncomfortable. Aaron has changed the perspective of kids, neighbors and friends, one of whom told me that God gave Aaron something extra, He didn't take something away from him."

As a parent of two other children, Mrs. Soderfelt said there are "barriers" with Aaron, "but there are barriers with raising any child. My expectations of Aaron are the same as those of my other children."

For information about the local association or to register for the Buddy Walk, contact Mrs. Kennon at 605-9931 or visit [www.firstgiving.com/dsat](http://www.firstgiving.com/dsat).

## RISE *Continued from page 1*

will grow with their classmates and be viewed as a peer; it would be more difficult for an older student to integrate as smoothly," said Mrs. Tilley.

"We've talked about doing this for years," said Pete Theban, who succeeded Mr. Krauss as principal. He spoke of the evident excitement the Kansas City students had for school and how much the school loved the students. "When a student in their FIRE program said to me, 'This is my school,' the pride and emotion in her eyes said it all."

Mrs. Robinson said that during the past five years, the diocese has seen an increase in children with special needs, and the schools are making every effort to accommodate them. "We already have a couple of students who would qualify for the RISE program," she said. "Currently three teaching assistants work with them outside of class."

The program will fund additional teaching assistants and paraprofessionals in the classroom to ensure each student progresses at his or her optimal pace. It also will allow for occupational therapy or other special programs as needed. The goal is to allow children living with various disabilities to have a quality,



From left, Kathy Ward, Pat Hinson, Mandy Atkins, chairwoman of Boots 'N BBQ, and Laurie Tilley enjoy the sold out Sept. 30 event at John Rucker Warehouse in downtown Tulsa.

mainstream Catholic school experience where they eat lunch with friends, attend the same classes and are active participants in the school community.

Marquette will seek paraprofessionals who will continue their training, including educational skills and Diocesan programs such as VIRTUS, the child safety program required for all people who work with children.

When admitting students,

parents, teachers and administrators will work as a team to ensure they are providing the best education while meeting the child's needs. The Kansas City school primarily served children with Down's syndrome and mild forms of autism.

School officials acknowledged some needs will exceed the school's resources and potentially could disrupt the learning environment. Each student's progress, as well as

the school capabilities, will be evaluated annually to make sure the relationship is still a good fit and beneficial to the child. "We may be able to accommodate a child while in kindergarten, but their needs may escalate as they mature," said Mrs. Robinson.

Both administrators said Marquette will not become a "special needs" school. They expect the program to start out small, and it will never have more than about 10 students.

"I hope someday a stand-alone school will be created for children with more complex disabilities" yet still deserving a Catholic education, said Mrs. Robinson.

A concern expressed by both Mr. Theban and Mrs. Robinson was that families would leave their home parishes and transfer to Christ the King so they could have their children in the RISE program. "We hope this program is adopted on a diocesan level so children can remain a part of their parish, as well as their school," said Mrs. Robinson. She likes to think of Marquette as a "pilot" program and that other schools will follow suit.

"With Kansas City's FIRE program as a guide, and the notes we've accumulated along the way, there's no reason why any school

couldn't follow this model," said Mrs. Tilley.

The RISE program also is a character-building experience for those who don't have special needs. In Kansas City, Mr. Theban witnessed the sense of community present among students and how helping their fellow classmates touched each student's heart. Though St. Peter's demonstrated strong and stable academics, what meant the most to Mrs. Robinson was the "compassion and acceptance" among classmates.

The goal is to obtain adequate funding to provide needed services while maintaining the standard tuition rate for all students. Mrs. Tilley said the parents don't expect the school body to absorb any of the costs associated with RISE. Mr. Theban and Pat Hinson, a teacher at Marquette, will focus on the academic and curriculum aspects of implementation, and Mrs. Tilley and Mrs. Ward will focus on grant writing and fundraising.

The next year will be full of fundraisers, grant applications and public promotions, but school administrators, faculty, parents and parishioners said they are determined to give special-needs kids the opportunity for a Catholic education.

## Inward examination: three new books for refreshing the soul

### BLESSED ARE THE BORED IN SPIRIT: A YOUNG CATHOLIC'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

By Mark Hart. Servant Books (Cincinnati, 2006). 129 pages, \$11.99.

### HOW TO BE A MONASTIC AND NOT LEAVE YOUR DAY JOB: AN INVITATION TO OBLATE LIFE

By Brother Benet Tvedten. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Mass., 2006). 119 pages, \$14.95.

### THE SPIRITUAL SPA: GETTING AWAY WITHOUT GOING AWAY

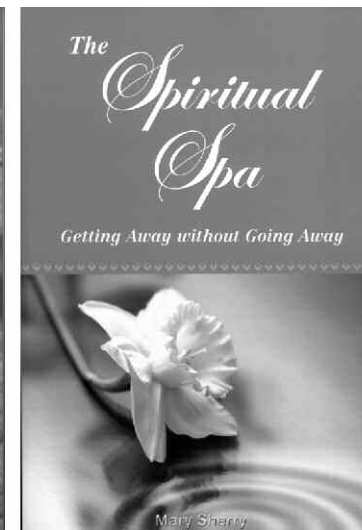
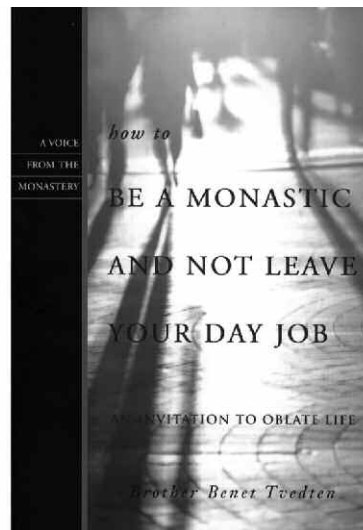
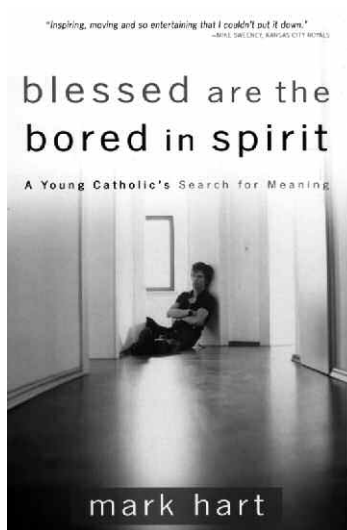
By Mary Sherry. Resurrection Press (Totowa, N.J., 2006). 171 pages, \$9.95.

#### Reviewed by MIKE HAYES Catholic News Service

Autumnal retreats, when retreat properties are abounding with colorful foliage, often are fodder for fine spiritual reflection. For those of us who are too caught up in the affairs of the world and unable to take that precious "Sabbath time" for retreat, three authors have provided a panacea. Each, in fact, covers different areas of Catholic life.

Mark Hart takes up the cause for young Catholics in their 20s with "Blessed Are the Bored in Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search for Meaning." Those in their college and post-college years will find Mr. Hart a meaningful and inspiring writer, who has struggled with his own spiritual demons and provides the reader with some helpful hints in overcoming their own.

A bit penitent at times, Mr. Hart writes an often heartfelt and convincing book that lays out a healthy and easy-to-follow plan for a life that is both morally sound and simultaneously engaged with the secular world. His stories will resonate with the lives of his target audience, and his



excellent chapter on sexuality fails to be the usual finger-wagging drivel that often gets laughingly spoon-fed to young adults.

Mr. Hart takes a real-world look at sexuality, and it is a no-holds-barred session in finding meaning in our sexuality. Hardly boring, Mr. Hart's book will enliven your spirit, make you laugh and challenge secularity at every turn.

For more committed Catholics, Benedictine Brother Benet Tvedten (who boasts of hosting Dorothy Day at his monastery), takes his readers on a trip through Benedict's rule and its benefits for healthy and prayerful living in "How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job: An Invitation to Oblate Life."

Providing both personal examples from his own life as well as testimony from others, Brother Benet teaches the way to integrate the Benedictine life into everyday living.

Simple and yet profound, Brother Benet's book encourages simplicity but also prods toward commitment. The book, in short, is an invitation for lay people to become oblates - lay monks, if you will, or people who have professed to follow St. Benedict's way without becoming professed clerics.

His testimony to the value of the laity in this regard is respectful both of the lay call and the call to priesthood and religious life. In short, Brother Benet has woven a fabulous tale of invitation to a life of deeper contemplation and a life of

great spiritual integration.

Finally, "The Spiritual Spa: Getting Away Without Going Away" is Mary Sherry's attempt to construct a metaphorical retreat house, or spa, within the pages of her book. Although the author may not have intended it, this book seems aimed at retirees looking for rejuvenation in their second half of life. Ms. Sherry herself has lived a rich life in which experience has taught her much and prayer has been at the heart of it.

An excellent chapter on "taking" is by far the deepest thought she offers and will stay with this reviewer for some time. Two small quibbles: The author often tries too hard in relating to the younger set with references to their culture, and she offers exercises throughout the book that, unfortunately, often fell flat for me.

However, her personal anecdotes throughout the book have much to offer (and are often hysterically funny) and convey sound wisdom coupled with elements from Catholic tradition. As you read, you'll think that your grandmother, who always had her age-old wisdom at the ready to share, was penning these remarks. Ms. Sherry's charm, wit and sage advice will give readers much to chew on.

Mike Hayes is associate director of Paulist Young Adult Ministries in New York and managing editor of the Paulist online site, *BustedHalo.com*.

## Amiable message, playful tone commend 'Open Season' for family fun

#### By DAVID DiCERTO Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) - Sony Pictures Animation gets off to a good start with its first computer-animated feature, "Open Season" (Columbia), an entertaining addition to what has already been a banner year for pixilated pleasures. And while not matching Pixar's best, it can be enjoyed by all but the very youngest viewers.

By turns wacky, warm and reasonably witty, the tale centers on Boog (voiced by Martin Lawrence), a domesticated grizzly bear who enjoys a pampered life in the hamlet of Timberline, where he lives in the garage of Beth (Debra Messing), the forest ranger who rescued him as a cub, and performs daily in an outdoor nature show.

Boog befriends runty, motor-mouthed mule deer Elliot (Ashton Kutcher), whom he frees from the hood of a truck owned by rabid huntsman Shaw (Gary Sinise).

Through a series of nutty occurrences, Boog is released back into the wild, still saddled with Elliot, who, minus one antler, resembles Max, the put-upon pooch in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Trying to find his way back home, Boog encounters a menagerie of woodland creatures, with whom he eventually bands to run the hunters out of the



Animated characters Boog, voiced by Martin Lawrence, left, and Elliot, voiced by Ashton Kutcher, are seen in the movie "Open Season." The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. (CNS photo/Columbia)

forest.

Other voice talent includes Patrick Warburton as an alpha elk, Jon Favreau as a beaver and Billy Connolly as McSquizzzy, a pugnacious Scottish squirrel who steals the show.

Boog and Elliot's odd-couple banter is not as sharp as that

in "Shrek" between the green ogre and his wisecracking sidekick, Donkey, but they're endearing nonetheless.

Visually, the film is vibrant, with the forest setting and the stylized critters given impressive detail, especially Boog's fur.

Directed by Jill Culton and Roger Allers (with a co-director credit to Anthony Stacchi), the film is a bit thin plotwise and padded with slapstick, but its playful tone and amiable message about friendship make it good family fun.

There are some scenes - mostly involving the sinister Shaw and his rifle - that may be a touch scary for sensitive children, but obviously the film is geared toward the cubs, though adults will find it highly bearable!

The film contains some mildly rude language and humor, a few scenes of hunting menace, some innuendo and comic action. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

David DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More reviews are available online at [www.usccb.org/movies](http://www.usccb.org/movies).

By MARILYN DUCK

Five years after she moved away from her hometown, Meredith Purgason had earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and drama from New York University and had produced two plays in the Big Apple. Moving back home to work at the high school she attended in Tulsa might have seemed a dubious career choice.

Then again, not many 2001 high school graduates are charged with being director of a brand-new, \$10 million Performing Arts Center. "It's my dream job," Miss Purgason said four days before the inaugural performance at the still-being-worked-on state-of-the-art facility.

The latest addition to the Cascia Hall campus was dedicated and blessed the afternoon of Oct. 10 by Bishop Edward J. Slattery, and that evening the PAC presented a concert featuring the vocal and bell choirs from the middle school and high school with special guests, the Tulsa Youth Symphony Chamber group.

Miss Purgason minored in music at NYU, but she wasn't in charge of producing the Oct. 10 concert; just making sure everything came off. Her performance debut will come in December, when she will direct five Cascia students in a production of Noel Coward's "Private Lives." In the spring, she will direct another play, that one a drama.

"I tell everyone you have to go to Broadway to get a theater this nice, and they don't believe me but it's true," she said.

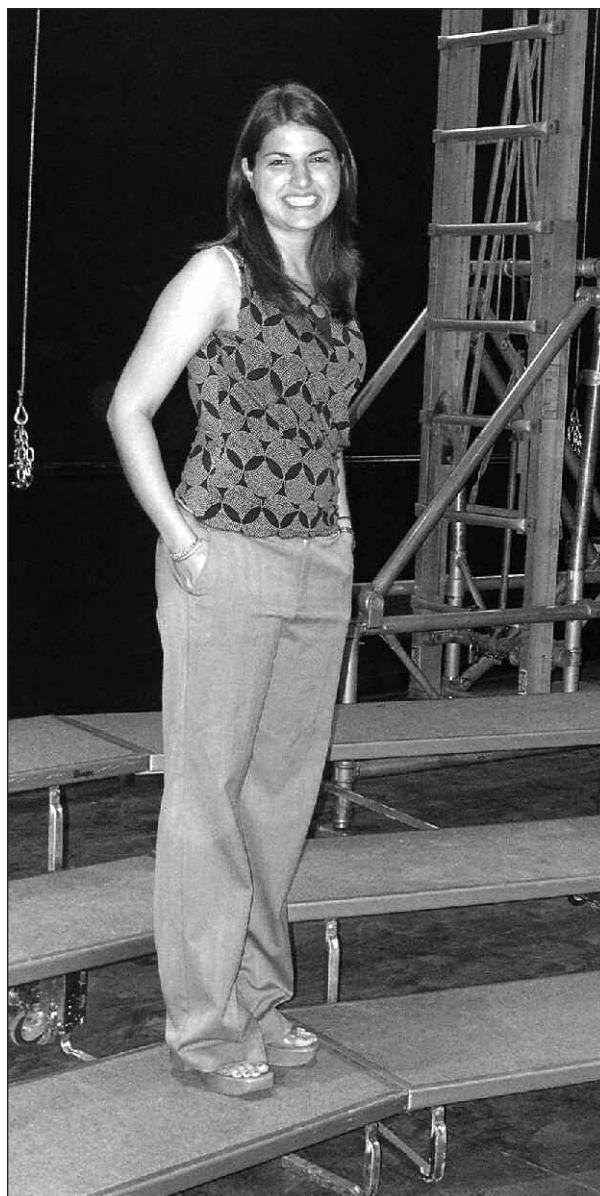
"I got on the subway,  
which in retrospect  
wasn't exactly a  
smart thing to do. At  
that point, I thought it  
was an accident. But  
then my dad called  
me on my cell phone  
and told me the  
second tower had just  
been hit."

Word-of-mouth may begin spreading the news; one friend visited recently and was appropriately wowed. "He said, 'Meredith, this is amazing. You've got a Broadway house here!'"

Miss Purgason never made it to Broadway during her New York years, but she came close when she produced her second play, in a theater on 45th Street in the summer of 2005. "Merrily We Roll Along" received glowing reviews and was sold out for its two-week run. But when it moved to the 45th Street theater – "down the street from 'Sweet Charity'" – the reviewers were not so kind.

"We stuck it out and ran the full four weeks," she said. "But they expected a Broadway musical."

Just as she knew when she was in fifth grade that Cascia Hall was the only place she wanted to go to middle and high school, she also was determined to attend college in New York. The class of 2001 valedictorian was in her second week of college when, walking to class, she saw an airplane crash into one of the World Trade Center towers. "I got on the subway, which in retrospect wasn't exactly a smart thing to do. At that point, I thought it was an accident. But then my dad called me on my



Meredith Purgason

## From Cascia to New York and back

### *New PAC director returns to alma mater*

cell phone and told me the second tower had just been hit."

Initially, "all I wanted to do was to go down there and help the people cleaning up." But the aftermath of the nation's worst terrorist attack began to take a toll on the 18-year-old.

"It was very scary, because they closed everything down. You couldn't get out of Manhattan; I was ready to walk back to Oklahoma."

Her father flew to Philadelphia as soon as domestic air traffic resumed and drove to New York to be with his daughter by the Friday after the attacks. Miss Purgason wound up going home. "I just didn't feel like I could focus on

school work, and I didn't want a semester of Cs. I think there were some people who never went back."

Miss Purgason returned to New York in January 2002 and graduated in three and a half years "with the help of those AP classes at Cascia." Along the way, she studied at the famed Lee Strasberg Theatric Institute, where Geoffrey Horne was one of her favorite acting teachers. "He played the young kid of the three who went back in 'Bridge on the River Kwai'"

Another had been in the same class as Alec Baldwin, and another teacher shared memories of Adam Sandler. "I had a lot of good teachers." She said what she most valued was teachers who take the time "to see students as individuals" because acting is so profoundly personal.

Cascia has a drama teacher – Judy Rogers – who will teach acting to the Cascia students, just as she once taught Meredith Purgason. Ann Zenthoefer – "Mrs. Z," her former music teacher, will handle preparations for music performances.

Miss Purgason's responsibility will be to produce and direct the two plays and manage the PAC itself. Among her duties:

- coordinate and schedule the PAC facilities and related services for classes, performances, rehearsals, meetings, receptions, assemblies and seminars;
- monitor facility and equipment operations and handle maintenance, repair and replacement;
- provide information and consulting services to internal and external customers, negotiate and execute rentals to approved groups;
- provide organizational and marketing service to faculty for productions;
- coordinate with the PAC Booster Committee;
- encourage community involvement.

That's a tall order, but as the September Cascia Hall newsletter noted, "Meredith is well prepared to take on the challenge. She has experience in performance, direction, production, choreography, costumes/makeup, lighting/sound, stage management and education."

Miss Purgason credits her father Bob's skills as a businessman for helping her learn how to draft a business plan and pursue investors for her previous dramatic productions. Her mother, Cindy, is a registered nurse.

Her sister, Madelyn – "or Maddie; if she gets called 'Madelyn,' she thinks she's in trouble" – will graduate from Cascia next spring. A sheltie, Gayla, rounds out the family.

But another advantage to moving from New York is that "I can afford a mortgage," and she has bought a house complete with a backyard for her new dog, Carl Sagan (pictures are offered upon the mere mention of his name.)

In one photo, the tiny puppy was on the verge of falling asleep with his head in his food bowl. Now the almost three-month-old Bernese mountain and sheep dog is growing at an alarming rate and is the apple of his owner's eye.

So while she will cherish her time in New York – she said she cannot express her admiration for its people – the time was right to move home.

"New York City is a wonderful place, but everything in that city is man-made. I'm a Native American, and I was tired of not getting to see grass."

The granddaughter of the gaming commissioner of the Peoria Tribe, which originally was from Illinois then resettled in Oklahoma near Miami, did her senior thesis at Cascia Hall on Native Americans and Christianity.

Now, she walks its halls as a faculty member, has a romping puppy on grass that belongs to her, is back with her family and since August has been prepping for a new career directing a theater of her own.

"I wake up every morning, and I'm just so happy. This is my dream job."

# Connections

To let other parishes know what's happening in yours, please submit photos and news items to Connections, P.O. Box 690240, Tulsa, Okla. 74169-0240. Call us with news at 918-294-1904, fax us at 918-294-0920, or send e-mail to [easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org).

Another way to share the news is to add the EOC to your parish bulletin mailing list. We receive a few bulletins from outlying parishes, and it would be helpful to receive more bulletins to help us learn about news and provide a variety of information in Connections.

## Washington County churches receive anonymous donations

By **BARB HILGER**

BARTLESVILLE - A donation of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus has been made to St. James Church in Bartlesville. The statue, which is a part of the Renaissance Collection by Roman, was placed in the chapel.

"It was so special to accept and bless this donation to the parish on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will enhance the experience of all who worship and pray in our daily Mass chapel," Father Mike Cashen said.

A chalice and paten that came from Barcelona, Spain, also were given to Father Cashen for St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in Nowata. The gold-plated cup is mounted on an antique silver base and depicts the 12 apostles.

Father Cashen said the gift is a beautiful addition to the parish and "will accent the dignity and special sanctity of the Sacrament of the Eucharist every time it is used at St. Catherine Parish."

The pastor of the two churches said the donations both were made anonymously. "Many blessings will accrue to the persons who thought so much of our Catholic parishes to provide these fine offerings for us all to share," he said.

### Spanish for adults offered in Stillwater

STILLWATER - A Spanish course for adults is being offered for the second year at St. Francis Xavier Church in Stillwater. Two sessions are offered, beginning Spanish I and Spanish II.

The class began in the fall of 2005 with 30 students, but by the end of the year class size had dwindled to 12. Those dozen students returned this fall to take up Spanish II, and a beginner's class was added that is taught by Luz Flores, a native of Colombia and an active member of the parish.

The Spanish II course is taught by Cida Chase, who has taught Spanish and French at Oklahoma State University for



The statue will go to St. James Church in Bartlesville

28 years. Mrs. Chase is a native of Costa Rica, and after retiring from OSU she decided to start the program for the Stillwater Catholic community in "appreciation of the goodwill and warm welcome the Hispanic community has encountered at St. John the Evangelist Church and at St. Francis."

When Father David Medina was assigned to St. Francis, he organized the Hispanic community and began the Stillwater English Language Institute. The Institute, staffed solely by volunteers from St. Francis, provides free English lessons for anyone in the Hispanic community.

Mrs. Chase offers her classes for free; the only cost is for books and materials. She follows the same program taught at OSU, using the same textbook. The text is an expensive



Students in the Beginning Spanish class at St. Francis Xavier Church, from back row left, Margie Sauer, Jean McMullen and Gregg Brant; Mary Jo Sohrwide, Kathy Wang Burnap and instructor Luz Florez.

one, so to help keep the cost low she allows students to use any edition they can find.

The second-year class has completed the equivalent of one semester of the college course in Spanish, said Deacon Paul Govek. Mrs. Chase teaches all aspects of the language: reading, writing and speaking, but "the main goal is oral communication, therefore we move at a slower pace than in an academic class," she said.

Deacon Govek, who has been in the class since its beginning, said the course has helped him to take an active part in the Spanish Mass at St. Francis every Sunday. "I have been able to read the Gospel at Mass so that people can understand," he said. Mastering the reading takes practice, and conversational Spanish is a future goal.

"It means so much to the Hispanic community for Deacon Govek to learn and to read the Gospel in Spanish. They really do appreciate it," said Mrs. Chase, who also is a member of St. Francis Xavier.

Deacon Govek said his only previous experience in Spanish language was a short survival course he took for his work as a mechanical engineer with Mercury MerCruiser. He said he is enjoying the course and would like to be advancing more quickly, but he said he reminds himself "to keep looking in the rearview mirror to where I've come from."

Though the students are tackling one foreign language for now, there is a future possibility of learning another. Mrs. Chase has told the students that once they have learned one foreign language, the second one comes easier.

### Msgr. Gier addresses women's council

MIAMI - The Tulsa Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's September meeting included a briefing from Msgr. Gregory Gier on the National Council of Catholic Women's meeting in Milwaukee in June, where the focus was on attracting younger members to the organization.

"I had never been to a national assembly, and I am very impressed with the extent of work this group does, especially at the international level," said the rector of Holy Family Cathedral.

Msgr. Gier was named the council's chaplain in May. He said his job will be to promote the council to fellow priests to help increase membership.

"The women do some really fine things," Msgr. Gier said, noting they are very practical. In Milwaukee, canvas bags were handed out to collect papers and items during the convention, and at the end the women were asked to return them. The bags were sent to a Catholic women's group in Haiti, where they were distributed to women who will use them to carry rice home from food distribution centers.

Also making the trip to Milwaukee were Karen Painter, Patty Somerhauser and Kay Kieth.

The council was to host its annual breakfast to support the retired priest fund Oct. 12 at Church of the Madalene. Thirty percent of the money the group donates goes to support the fund, and the women participate in many other projects.

The women support Birthright of Tulsa and Bartlesville and Catholic Relief Services, which helps women in other countries. Water for Life raises money to help bring clean water to villages in Africa, said Mrs. Painter, the council's vice president. While the organization has taken on many different projects over the years, this is one they keep coming back to, she said.