



Go Make Disciples



A dream catcher and crucifix are seen on the wall at St. Anthony Indian School on the Zuni Pueblo Indian reservation in New Mexico in this 2011 file photo. *CNS photo/Bob Roller.*

Bishops encourage cooperation to address church's past in tribal schools

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – Two U.S. bishops have urged their fellow prelates to cooperate with any requests they receive from the federal government for an investigation on alleged abuses at tribal schools operated by Church entities in the past.

In a Nov. 8 letter addressed to all U.S. bishops, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, N.M.,

continued on page 8

Sr. BJ's Pantry helps homeless



Sr. BJ's Pantry hosted Homeless Friends Day Nov. 13 in Oklahoma City. People were offered jeans, socks, dog food, cat food, hygiene kits and the COVID-19 vaccine. *Photos Chris Porter.*

Members of the Oklahoma City region of the Order of Malta distributed nearly 200 specially designed coats to the needy as part of its mission to serve the poor and sick.

The coats were distributed at Sister BJ's Pantry in downtown Oklahoma City, where members of the Order of Malta cook and serve breakfast each Sunday morning.

The order's Coats for the Homeless program began in Australia. The Oklahoma City region brought the program here in 2019, when members and candidates began fundraising. The first shipment of 3,360 coats arrived earlier this year and were shared with regions across the country.

The coats are designed specifically for the homeless. They're one-size-fits-all, waterproof and hooded, and have an abundance of pockets that all



close with Velcro instead of zippers to better serve those who may have bad tactile response.

"These coats will be an additional way for our friends to stay warm during the cold months

continued on page 7

Catholic Charities announces 12th annual Green Tie Gala benefiting homeless women

OKLAHOMA CITY – Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will return in-person to host its 12th annual Green Tie Gala on Saturday, March 5, at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

The fundraising event provides financial support for the Catholic Charities' Sanctuary Women's Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman.

continued on page 9



Catholic Charities • Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
green tie gala

Advent

Nov. 28 - Dec. 24

archokc.org/advent

Students donate more than 100,000 pounds of food to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

By **Kate Fletcher**
For the *Sooner Catholic*

“One Giant Leap for CANkind.” With this theme in mind, the student council for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School set a goal to collect 100,000 pounds of cans for the annual canned food drive. The total was the largest ever collected: 103,598 pounds.

“Not only did we surpass our goal, but we also had a huge amount of participation from the entire school community,” said Sophia Lopez, senior co-chairman of fundraising.

As a result of the impact of COVID-19, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma had received fewer donations, so bringing in a record number of cans was important to both Lopez and junior co-chair Sabrina Guzman.

“Last year, I learned the importance of creating the opportunity for involvement,” Lopez said. “Sabrina and I worked hard to host multiple events to offer many chances for students to have fun with the school community while supporting the larger community.”

These additional events collectively raised more than 44,500 pounds of canned food, and contribute to the nearly two million total pounds raised since the Canned Food Drive started 34 years ago.

“The Canned Food Drive began in 1987 when each student was encouraged to bring a single can,” Lopez said. “This tradition has grown, and now our average is around 38 pounds per student.”

Students were encouraged to bring cans during the first three weeks of November, leading up to Thanksgiving Break, and were given an incentive to bring 60 pounds of canned food in exchange for free dress (being out of the school uniform) from the day they brought their cans until after the break.

The last day of the drive is known as CANstruction day. Before the cans are tak-



Students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School collected 103,598 pounds of cans for the annual canned food drive. Photo provided.

en to the food bank, students use the cans to build a large sculpture in the front of the school.

This year’s donations filled two semi-trucks and are expected to provide 90,000 meals.

Kate Fletcher is the associate editor for the Chi Rhoan student newspaper at BMCHS.



Sr. BJ’s Pantry hosted Homeless Friends Day Nov. 13 in Oklahoma City. Photos Chris Porter.

continued from page 1

ahead,” said Sister Barbara Joseph, founder of Sister BJ’s Pantry. “The fact that they can layer underneath this coat is a definite plus. We plan on taking our mobile bus out in the months ahead and distribute more coats.”

The Order of Malta dates to 1048 and counts more than 13,000

members worldwide. It was created by Blessed Gerard to serve Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem. In addition to serving the poor and sick, the order focuses on defending the Catholic faith. For more information about the local Order of Malta, visit Order of Malta – Oklahoma City on Facebook.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each Day add an item to a box.
Deliver to Sr. BJ's Pantry on Dec 29th or 30th

- Dec 1 - Box of Cereal
- Dec 2 - Peanut Butter
- Dec 3 - Instant Potatoes
- Dec 4 - Macaroni and Cheese
- Dec 5 - Canned Chicken
- Dec 6 - Chili
- Dec 7 - Canned Tuna
- Dec 8 - Pudding Cups
- Dec 9 - Mixed Canned Vegetables
- Dec 10 - Peanut Butter Crackers
- Dec 11 - Package of Rice
- Dec 12 - Package of Oatmeal
- Dec 13 - Pasta
- Dec 14 - Spaghetti Sauce
- Dec 15 - Variety of Soups
- Dec 16 - Cheese Crackers
- Dec 17 - Spam
- Dec 18 - Jelly
- Dec 19 - Cookies
- Dec 20 - Lunch Size Chips
- Dec 21 - Powdered Milk
- Dec 22 - Granola Bars
- Dec 23 - Canned Beans
- Dec 24 - Fruit Cups

www.srbjpantry.com