

 *Mass Intentions*

Sat., July 8
4 pm ... ☩ Monica Celeste Morin by Claude & Irene Morin

Sun., July 9 **XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time**
7:30 am ... ☩ Anne Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family
5 pm ... ☩ Walter Lionel O'Kelly by P. Jerome

Mon. July 10
12 pm ... ☩ Joan Wisner by Teresa Greene

Tue., July 11
12 pm ... ☩ Dot, ☩ Ray, ☩ Roger LaRochelle by Lillian LaRochelle

Wed., July 12
12 pm ... ☩ Henry Roy by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Thur., July 13 **Saint Henry**
8:30 am ... ☩ Katherine (Day) Corriveau by P. Jerome

Fri., July 14 **Saint Kateria Tekakwitha**
6 pm ... ☩ Joseph Handy by Greg Handy

Sat., July 15
4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., July 16 **XV Sunday in Ordinary Time**
7:30 am ... ☩ Agnes Patti by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
9:30 am ... ☩ Phillip Beland (4th Anniv.) by Linda Beland
5 pm ... ❖ Our Parish Family

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ Joan & ☩ Frank Kenney, Jr. by Anne Kenney.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of July 2, 2017

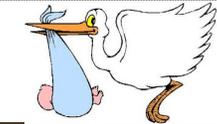
Regular Offertory	\$2,913.00
Make-Up Offertory	310.00
Loose Offertory	505.00
Regular Offertory Online	230.00
Total Offertory	\$3,958.00

Stewardship Online \$ 15.00
Food Pantry \$ 10.00

Last Year: Weekend of July 3, 2016
Total Offertory \$ 3,974.00
Thank you for you generosity.



2017 Annual Campaign for Catholic Charities update. Our goal this year is **\$27,500. We are now \$19,920 away from our goal, having raised \$7,580. Thank you to those who have contributed to date.** Envelopes are at the back of the church and in the pews. Please consider donating to this worthy charity and helping us reach our



IT'S A BOY!



Congratulations to Scott Bergandahl and his wife on the birth of their son. Scott is one of our talented organists. Joseph Andrew

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., July 10
7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., July 11
12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

Parish Giving **eGiving...** Now you can use your credit card or electronic check to support the mission of Saint Raphael Parish. Go to our website (www.saint-raphael-parish.com) and click on the Giving button. Set up one time or continuous donations. Thank you for supporting your parish!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, July 3, the food pantry served 10 families and gave out 13 bags of groceries.



VBS... Saint Raphael's ever popular Vacation Bible School will be July 17—21 from 9 am—12

pm. This year's theme is "Maker Fun Factory." If you'd like to register your child, applications can be found on our website: www.saint-raphael-parish.com. Or call Therese Dame at 647.2283.

In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of ☩ **Lionel R. Archambault**, who died July 2 and whose funeral was celebrated Friday by P. Jerome. Please keep him and his family in prayer.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 9, 2017

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33
Sunday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 (1-9)

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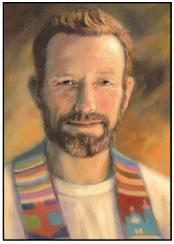


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An Oklahoma farm boy shows a priestly shepherd does not run away



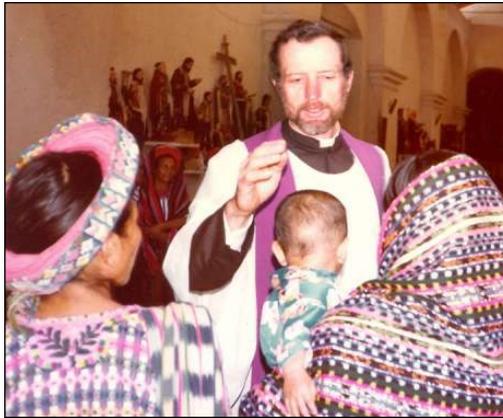
A few days ago, I found a holy card in my mailbox at Saint Anselm Abbey. The holy card depicted **Fr. Stanley Francis Rother** (*image left*). I stopped to think, “Now, who is Fr. Rother, and why do I have his holy card? Indeed, why are they even making a holy card for him?” Then it

occurred to me who this gentle-looking priest was. Father **Albert Brueckner, O.S.B.**, of Conception Abbey in Missouri, our retreat master this past May had mentioned that he was a postulator for the beatification of Fr. Rother. I remembered that the man whose cause he was studying had been **murdered in Central America**.

In doing a little research, I discovered that Fr. Rother is scheduled to be beatified, the last major step before canonization as a saint, **this coming Sept. 23** during a Mass in the convention center in **Oklahoma City**. Rother was born in 1935 in Okarche, OK, one of five children. He had difficulty with the academic work in the seminary, and was tossed out of one. Happily, his pastor went to bat for him, his bishop took a second look and the Oklahoma farm boy returned. Even if he had trouble with Latin, his practical mechanical and farm skills were much appreciated. He was **ordained a priest in 1962** for what is now the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and served in parishes until 1968, when he learned of the need for priests in the **Oklahoma Catholic mission in Guatemala**. From 1969 to 1976, he was pastor in Cerro de Oro, then at Saint James the Apostle (*image below*) in Santiago Atitlan in the Diocese of Solola.

During that time, he was busy with multiple pastoral duties, but also assisted in the translation of the New Testament into the **Tzutuhil language of the southeast Guatemalan highlands** – once he learned it and Spanish himself. By 1973, he was celebrating Mass and preaching in Tzutuhil. Father Rother was **no stranger to hard work**. He rebuilt the rectory, dug a well and installed a pump, repaired the church, built a parish hall and worked with local farmers to improve their agricultural productivity. He supported a radio station and even played a key role in building a hospital for the area where he served. **In short order, his parishioners came to love “Padre A’plas,” as they called him**. One old man used to come for lunch every day, and some mothers with children with teeth problems asked him to do **extractions**. He once drove to Guatemala City, the capital, to have a boy with lip cancer treated – and the lad survived.

Unfortunately, Fr. Rother’s parish and district were caught up in the **political violence** that



Fr. Stanley F. Rother, 1935-1981

swept over Guatemala and much of Central America in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Much of this trouble was attributed to **paramilitary organizations** resisting **alleged communists** but also intent on propping up **right-wing regimes** bankrolled, tragically, by the U.S. Government. **Priests who advocated for the rights of indigenous people or poor farmers often were targeted** for intimidation or violence as closet leftists.

Ten men already had been abducted from the area where his parish was located when Fr. Rother’s own name appeared on a death list. In a letter to Oklahoma Catholics, Fr. Rother wrote, “This is one of the reasons I have for staying in the face of physical harm. **The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger.**” Under pressure from civic and Church authorities, he returned to Oklahoma in January of 1981, but then went back in April of that year **determined to continue his service in his parish**. In May he made a quick return visit to the U.S. for the ordination of his cousin in Oklahoma. After his return again to Guatemala, and despite warnings that he should leave, **the shepherd was shot and killed in the rectory he had rebuilt on July 28, 1981. He was 46**. Following not one but two funeral Masses on the very day of his death, his body was flown back home to Oklahoma for burial in Okarche – but not before **his heart and some of his blood** were buried underneath the



floor of his parish church in Santiago Atitlan. In 2007, the Oklahoma City archdiocese opened his **cause for canonization**, and completed in 2010. Next a “position,” a detailed biography and analysis of the life of Fr. Rother, was presented to the **Vatican’s Congregation for the Cause of Saints** in Rome, and on June 14, 2015, the theology commission of the congregation **formally recognized Fr. Rother as a martyr**.

“Father Rother laid down his life for Christ and for the people of his parish in Guatemala, whom he dearly loved. It is very encouraging to

move one step closer to a formal recognition by the Church of Father Rother’s heroic life and death as a martyr for the Gospel,” declared **Archbishop Paul S. Coakley** of Oklahoma City, at the time of the recognition as a martyr. At the end of last year, **Pope Francis** confirmed the recognition with his own decree declaring that Fr. Rother had been killed *in odium fidei*, that is, **out of hatred for the faith**. The papal approval cleared the way for the upcoming beatification.

On June 30, we celebrated the optional **feast of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**. I often choose the option over the ferial day Mass because I think it is important that we, as a community, see the richness of all those holy men and women who have preceded us marked by lives of heroic charity, courageous witness and divine wisdom. The June 30 feast immediately follows the **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**, the martyred pillars of the Church of Rome at the center of the empire, and the foundation of its spread throughout the world. But the feast of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome recognizes that **Peter and Paul were not alone in their witness to Christ**. Thousands of men and women collaborated with them in the first centuries as believers in Jesus Christ and members of his Mystical Body, the Church.

The Greek word **“martyros”** means **“witness,”** and it is used in the Church to reference those who have been witnesses to the point of shedding their blood for the sake of the Gospel. We are all familiar with ancient maxim, **“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”** It is a reminder to us that God uses even the brutal slaying of his faithful servants to draw them deeper into the mystery of his love, to bring them home to eternal happiness – and, in a highly dramatic way, to **reveal to us the power and impact of their faith, hope and love**. The names of many of those martyrs are unknown to us, but their deeds are recorded in ancient records, some Christian, some pagan. **To witness with one’s blood is the highest form of testimony** – and the Church readily acknowledges the sanctity of those who prefer sword or axe to any denial of Christ.

The same love of Christ that marked those first martyrs in Rome gives purpose and joy to the lives of believers in our own time. Father Rother will be recognized as **the first nativecan-born martyr from the Church in America**.

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.