CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Beatification of

VENERABLE SERVANT OF GOD
STANLEY FRANCIS ROTHER
DIOCESAN PRIEST, MARTYR

with
Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B.
Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints
and
Representative of our Holy Father
Pope Francis

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
September 23, 2017
Cox Convention Center
On behalf of the Church in Oklahoma, I welcome Cardinal Angelo Amato, my brother bishops, and all of our honored guests to Oklahoma City! We are grateful for your presence as we celebrate this historic beatification of The Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother.

Father Rother’s witness of love and fidelity inspires me and countless others who have been moved by his faithful imitation of the Good Shepherd.

Pope Francis declared Father Rother the first martyr born in the United States, and he will be the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified. I am grateful to Archbishop Eusebius Beltran and to the many members of the archdiocesan commission who have labored to prepare and advance Father Rother’s Cause for Canonization.

Today, Father Rother is being offered to the whole Church as a witness to the Gospel and to the power of God’s grace in our lives. He was an ordinary man, who responded to God’s call to the priesthood and to missionary labors in a foreign land. It was his fidelity to grace that enabled him to become all that God desired for him.

I pray that his witness will inspire many young men to be open to God’s call to the priesthood and prompt all of the faithful to realize that holiness is nothing more and nothing less than the full flowering of our baptismal grace. We are all called to become saints.

Sincerely yours in Christ

The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
BEATIFICATION OF
STANLEY ROTHER

HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS

PREFECT OF THE CONGREGATION FOR
THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

HIS EXCELLENCY
CARDINAL ANGELO
AMATO, S.D.B.
As we gather to form the Eucharistic assembly, we are welcomed with a variety of sacred and liturgical music sung by various choirs of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Schola from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, one of the seminaries attended by the Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother, diocesan priest and martyr.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City commissioned a documentary about Father Rother. The film, created by Lampstand Media, will premier at 10 a.m.
Please note...

OUR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS IN FAITH AND WITH REVERENCE. PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND REFRAIN FROM RAISING BANNERS OR WAVING FLAGS.

Translation:
You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it; and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound also in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will be released also in heaven.
OPENING HYMN

THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION


1. The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is his new creation By earth; Her charter of salvation: One wa-ter and the Word. From heav’n he came and sought her To be his holy bride; With bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food, And his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

2. Ex-cept from ev-‘ry na-tion, Yet one o’er all the pressed, By schis-m-s rent a sun-der, By war, She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of one, And mys-terious Com-mu-nion With the Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho-ly name she her-e-sies dis-tressed, Yet saints their watch are peace for ev-er-more; Till with the vi-sion those whose rest is won. O bless-ed heav’n-ly keep-ing; Their cry goes up: “How long?” And glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest, And his hope she presses with ev-’ry grace en-dued. Soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song, the great Church vic-to-rous Shall be the Church at rest.

3. Though with a scorn-ful won-der This world sees her op-4. Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her pressed, By schis-m-s rent a sun-der, By war, She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of one, And mys-terous Com-mu-nion With the Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho-ly name she her-e-sies dis-tressed, Yet saints their watch are peace for ev-er-more; Till with the vi-sion those whose rest is won. O bless-ed heav’n-ly keep-ing; Their cry goes up: “How long?” And glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest, And his hope she presses with ev-’ry grace en-dued. Soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song, the great Church vic-to-rous Shall be the Church at rest.

4. Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her pressed, By schisms rent a sun-der, By war, She waits the consummation Of one, And mysterious Communion With the Lord; She is his new creation By earth; Her charter of salvation: One wa-ter and the Word. From heav’n he came and sought her To be his holy bride; With bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food, And his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

5. Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in pressed, By schisms rent a sun-der, By war, She waits the consummation Of one, And mysterious Communion With the Lord; She is his new creation By earth; Her charter of salvation: One wa-ter and the Word. From heav’n he came and sought her To be his holy bride; With bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food, And his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

PENITENTIAL ACT

CARDINAL AMATO: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (pause)

ALL: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

CARDINAL AMATO: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.
Archbishop Coakley, accompanied by Archbishop Beltran and Dr. Andrea Ambrosi, Postulator of the Cause, addresses Cardinal Amato with the request for beatification.

Archbishop Beltran reads a brief biography of the Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother, diocesan priest and martyr.

THE DEACON INVITES ALL TO STAND.

Cardinal Amato, representative of Pope Francis, reads the Apostolic Letter in Latin.

Archbishop Coakley reads a translation of the Apostolic Letter.

The banner with the image of Blessed Stanley Rother is unveiled.

During the hymn that follows, the relics of Blessed Stanley Rother will be carried in procession and placed to the side of the altar. The relics are then incensed.
LITTERAE APOSTOLICAЕ

Noa,

vota Fratri Nostri

Pauli Stagg Coakley,

Archiepiscopi Metropolitae Oklahomensis,

neœnon plurimum aliorum Fratrum in Episcopatu

multorumque christifidelium explentes,

die Congregationis de Causis Sanctorum consulto,

autorisate Nuestra Apostolica

facultatem facimus ut

Venerabilis Servus Dei

Stanislaus Franciscus Rother,

presbyter diocesanus et martyr,

missionarius secundum cor Christi,

heroum Evangeli testis pauperumque defensor,

Beati nomine in posterae apellatur,

st habui die duodecimae mensis Iulii,

qua in caelestium ortus est,

quotannis in locis et modis haec statuit celebrari possit.

In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum, die quarto decimo mensis

Septembris, in festo Exaltationis Sanctae Crucis, anno Domini

bismillescimo septimo decimo, Pontificatus Nostri quinto.

APOSTOLIC LETTER

Translation:

We,

welcoming the wishes of our Brother

Paul Stagg Coakley,

Archbishop of Oklahoma City,

and of many brothers in the Episcopate

and a multitude of the Faithful,

and having consulted the opinion of the

Congregation for the Causes of Saints,

by virtue of our Apostolic Authority

grant that

the Venerable Servant of God

Stanley Francis Rother

Diocesan Priest and Martyr,

who was driven by a deeply-rooted faith

and a profound union with God,

and by the arduous duty to spread the Word of God

in missionary lands,

faithfully living his priestly and missionary service until his

martyrdom,

should henceforth be called Blessed

and his feast may be celebrated,

in the places and according to the rules established by the law,

on July 28

the day of his heavenly birth.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Given in Rome, on September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the

Holy Cross in the Year of Our Lord 2017 the fifth year of

Our Pontificate

Francis
HOLY GOD, WE GOD PRAISE THY NAME

1. Ho - lly God, we praise thy name;
2. Hark! the loud celestial hymn
3. Lo, the apostolic train
4. Ho - lly Fa - ther, Ho - lly Son,

Lord of all, we bow before thee!
Angel choirs are rais - ing;
Holy Spir - it, Three we name thee;

All on earth thy scepter claim.
Cher - u - bim and Ser - a - phim,
Prophets swell the loud re - fraint,
While in essence on ly One;

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore thee;
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim thee;

In - fi - nite thy vast do - main,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord;
And from morn to set - ting sun,
And a - dor - ing bend the knee,

Ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
“Ho - lly, ho - lly, ho - lly Lord!”
Through the Church the song goes on.
While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: ascr. to Ignaz Franz; tr. by Clarence Walworth. Tune: GROSSER GOTT. Arranged by Richard Proulx

After the hymn, please be seated.

Archbishop Coakley, accompanied by Archbishop Beltran and Dr. Ambrosi, reads a note of thanks to the Holy Father. They are joined by Blessed Stanley Rother’s family, Tom and Marti Rother and Sr. Marita Rother, A.S.C.

Cardinal Amato exchanges the embrace of peace, then presents the Apostolic Letter to Archbishop Coakley and others.
GLORY TO GOD

Please stand.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on
earth peace to peo - ple of good will. We praise you, we
curse you, we a - dore you, we glo - ri - fy you, we
give you thanks for your great glo - ry.

Lord God, heav'n - ly King, O God, al - might - y
Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten
Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Fa - ther, you take a-way the sins of the world, have
mercy on us; you take a-way the sins of the world, re -
ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther, have mercy on us.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

COLLECT

CARDINAL AMATO: O God,
who gave your priest Blessed Stanley
the heart of a pastor and the fidelity of a martyr,
grant, through his intercession,
that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.
FIRST READING

Please be seated.

SIRACH 51:1-8

(Read in English — by Hna. Marita Rother, A.S.C.)

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

I give you thanks, O Lord and King; I praise you, O God my savior! I will make known your name, for you have been a helper and a protector to me. You have kept back my body from the pit, and from the scourge of a slanderous tongue, from lips that went over to falsehood. And in the sight of those who stood by, you have delivered me, according to the multitude of the mercy of your name, and from them that did roar, prepared to devour me, and from the power of those who sought my life; from many a danger you have saved me, from flames that hemmed me in on every side; from the midst of unremitting fire when I was not burnt, from the deep belly of the nether world; from deceiving lips and painters of lies, from the arrows of dishonest tongues. My soul was at the point of death, my life was nearing the depths of the nether world; they encompassed me on every side, but there was no one to help me, I looked for one to sustain me, but could find no one. But then I remembered the mercies of the Lord, his kindness through ages past; for he saves those who take refuge in him, and rescues them from every evil. The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me,  
let us together extol his name.  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard,  
and from all his distress he saved him.

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;  
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

SECOND READING

JAMES 1:2-4,12

(Read in English — by Miss Elmy Barbara Reanda Pablo)

A reading from the Letter of Saint James.

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him. The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

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GOSPEL

JOHN 12:24-26

(Proclaimed in English — by Deacon Paul Lewis, followed in Spanish by Deacon Angelo Lombardo)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: “Yo les aseguro que si el grano de trigo, sembrado en la tierra, no muere, queda infecundo; pero si muere, producirá mucho fruto. El que se ama a sí mismo, se pierde; el que se aborrece a sí mismo en este mundo, se asegura para la vida eterna. El que quiera servirme, que me siga, para que donde yo esté, también esté mi servidor. El que me sirve será honrado por mi Padre.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, please repeat the “Alleluia” and remain standing for Archbishop’s blessing; then be seated.
HOMILY

CARDINAL ANGELO AMATO, S.D.B.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Please stand.

Our Savior’s faithfulness is mirrored in the fidelity of his martyrs who shed their blood for the sake of the Gospel. Let us turn to our merciful Father with our needs and those of the whole world.

For the Church: that the People of God will have the courage of the martyrs to embrace the true freedom of the Spirit and a faith that is constant and pure, even in the face of death. We pray to the Lord.

For Christians throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith: that they will find in Blessed Stanley Rother, and all the martyrs, examples of strength and perseverance as they face hardships for the sake of the Heavenly Kingdom: We pray to the Lord.

For the people of Guatemala and Central America: that their faith in Jesus Christ may continue to grow through the witness and intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother and the martyrs of Central America. We pray to the Lord.

For respect for the dignity of human life in all its stages, from conception to natural death: that our love and resolve will bring about genuine and lasting change that will promote the dignity of the human person. We pray to the Lord.

For peace in our world: that world leaders will embrace a spirit of respect and dialogue as they work toward solutions that will resolve conflict, protect the innocent, and heal the hurts caused by violence. We pray to the Lord.

For all who have died: that they will know the fullness of life at the heavenly banquet in the presence of all the saints. We pray to the Lord.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all of our bishops: that as successors of the Apostles they will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with wisdom and zeal. We pray to the Lord.

O God of mercy, you know the many needs of your people. Hear our prayers, and through the intercession of Blessed Stanley Rother, grant what we ask in faith through Christ our Lord. Amen.
COLLECTION AND
THE PREPARATION OF
THE GIFTS

Today’s offering will benefit the parishes of Santiago Atitlan and Cerro de Oro, formerly served by Blessed Stanley Rother, through an endowment at the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. Make checks payable to CFO with Guatemala in the subject line. To give online, go to stanleyrother.org/mass.

CHOIR: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name’s sake. Yea, though I walk thro’ the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But, thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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CARDINAL AMATO:  
Pray, brethren, 
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Please stand.

ALL:  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.
PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

CARDINAL AMATO:

As we commemorate the martyrdom of Blessed Stanley Rother, O Lord, we make our offerings at your altar, praying that we, who celebrate the mysteries of our Lord's Passion, may imitate what we now do. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the blood of your blessed Martyr Stanley Rother, poured out like Christ's to glorify your name, shows forth your marvelous works, by which in our weakness you perfect your power and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CARDINAL AMATO:

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ALL: Amen.

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

"Holy, Holy, Holy," "Memorial Acclamation," and "Great Amen" from Misa Luna by Peter Kolar. English text from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Spanish text from Misal Romano © 1978, Comisión Episcopal de Liturgia, Madrid, Spain. All rights reserved. Music © 1998, World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # S.918225.
Due to the special circumstances of Mass in this arena, in the absence of kneelers, the faithful are asked to remain standing.

To you, therefore, most merciful Father, we make humble prayer and petition through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord: that you accept and bless these gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices, which we offer you firstly for your holy catholic Church. Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with your servant Francis our Pope and me, your unworthy servant, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

In communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse, your blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Jude; Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian, and all your Saints; we ask that through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help.

Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family; order our days in your peace, and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

Be pleased, O God, we pray, to bless, acknowledge, and approve this offering in every respect; make it spiritual and acceptable, so that it may become for us the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands, and with eyes raised to heaven to you, O God, his almighty Father, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took this precious chalice in his holy and venerable hands, and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

The mystery of faith.

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MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come, until you come, until you come again.

Amen. Ven, Señor, ven, Señor, ven, Señor Jesús.
Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension into heaven of Christ, your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to your glorious majesty from the gifts that you have given us, this pure victim, this holy victim, this spotless victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

Remember also, Lord, your servants Franz, Gertude and James Rother, who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.

Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace. To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners, hope in your abundant mercies, graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia, Blessed Stanley, and all your Saints; admit us, we beseech you, into their company, not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon, through Christ our Lord.

Through whom you continue to make all these good things, O Lord; you sanctify them, fill them with life, bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Those gathered are invited to recite this in their own language.
CARDINAL AMATO: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

CARDINAL AMATO: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL: And with your spirit.

DEACON: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

CARDINAL AMATO: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

ALL: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

For Communion, please follow the directions of the ushers. Communion will be brought to each section.

Translation

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

For Catholics:
As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians:
We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us “that they may all be one” (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion:
All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians:
We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

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AVE SACER CHRISTI

Sung by Mount St. Mary’s Seminary Schola

Ave sacer Christi sanguis, iter nobis rectum pandis ad aeterna gaudia. 
Ave potus salutarius, nullus unquam fuit talis bonitas copia. 
Miserere mei, Christe, fiat mihi rivus iste peccatorum venia. 
Salve me ab omni malo, fac me frui summon bono in coelesti patria.

Translation:
Hail sacred Blood of Christ, You open for us the right path to eternal joys. 
Hail saving Drink. No one has ever been such a source of goodness. 
Save me from all evil, make me enjoy the highest good in the heavenly fatherland.

Verses:
Ecce Deus salvator meus; fiducialiter agam, et non timbo. Quia fortitudo 
mea et laus mea Dominus, et factus est mihi in salute. Haurietis aquas in 
gaudio de fontibus salvatroris. Et dicitis in die illa: Confitemini Domino 
et invocate nomen ejus; Notas facite in populis adinventiones ejus; 
mementote quoniam excelsum est nomen ejus. Cantate Domino, quoniam 
magnifice fecit; annuntiate hoc in universa terra. Amplius lava me ab 
iniquitate mea, et a peccato meo munda me.

Translation:
Behold, God is my savior, I will deal confidently, and will not fear. Because 
the Lord is my strength, and my praise, and he has become my salvation. You 
shall draw waters with joy out of the savior’s fountains. And you shall say in 
that day: praise the Lord, and call upon his name. Make his works known 
among the people: remember that his name is high. Sing to the Lord, for he 
has done great things: show this forth in all the earth. Wash me yet more from 
my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Music by Kevin Allen
Love shall overcome even when the storm is raging. Though the night is long, still God's pow'r is unchanging. Love shall overcome; after nights of bitter weeping, there comes a brighter dawn for saints of God's own keeping.

Love shall overcome: from these chains our God will free us. When we pray as one, Jesus will redeem us. And the tears we cried will be a precious off'ring. And the peace of Christ shall reign forever.

Love shall reign, peace shall reign, Christ shall reign. Love shall overcome.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CARDINAL AMATO: As we celebrate the heavenly banquet, we beseech you, Lord, that, in following such a great example of faith, we may be encouraged by the remembrance of the blessed Martyr Stanley Rother and led on by his gracious intercession.

Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley

CONCLUDING RITES

PONTIFICAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

CARDINAL AMATO: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

CARDINAL AMATO: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

ALL: Now and forever.

CARDINAL AMATO: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Who made heaven and earth.

CARDINAL AMATO: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

DEACON: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.
CLOSING HYMN

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
2. The flower of earth's splendor in time must surely die,
3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring.

And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
Its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;

For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
But hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,

At blessings without number and mercies without end.
Though small in mortal stature to heaven's garden grown,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still,

We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word;
For Christ, the man from heaven, from death has set us free.
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,

We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
And we through him are given the final victory!
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.


TOCCATA

Charles-Marie Widor/Richard Proulx
An Oklahoma farm boy, Stanley Francis Rother was born March 27, 1935, in Okarche. Ordained a priest for what was then the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, he served in the diocese’s mission in Guatemala for 13 years. Seeking justice in the midst of a protracted civil war, Father Rother fought courageously for the well-being of his people in combating a culture that was excessively hostile to the Catholic Church.

The oldest of four children born to Franz and Gertrude Rother, Father Rother grew up in Okarche and attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School.

He worked hard doing the required chores, attended school, played sports, was an altar server and enjoyed the activities associated with growing up in a small town.

While in high school, he began to discern the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. He was accepted as a seminarian at a seminary in Texas.
More practical than academic by nature, young Stanley struggled with Latin, which at the time was a critical requirement since the entire curriculum was being taught in Latin. Due to his difficulties, he was asked to leave the seminary as his grades were inadequate.

He sought the counsel of Bishop Victor Reed. It was decided that Stanley would be allowed a second chance, enrolling at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He was ordained a priest on May 25, 1963. Father Rother served as an associate pastor for five years in Oklahoma.

Heeding the call of Pope John XXIII, he sought and received permission to join the staff at the diocese’s mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

Father Rother’s connection with the people of Santiago Atitlan was immediate. He served the native tribe of the Tz’utujil, who are descendants of the Mayans. He not only learned both Spanish and the Tz’utujil language, but his working knowledge of Tz’utujil enabled him to help translate the New Testament.

As the years passed, Father Rother tried to live a simpler life to be in communion with his people. He was surrounded by extreme poverty with the Tz’utujil living in one-room huts and growing what they could on their small plots of land.

Father Rother ministered to his parishioners in their homes; eating with them, visiting the sick and aiding them with medical problems. He even put his farming skills to use by helping them in the fields, bringing in different crops, and building an irrigation system.

While he served in Guatemala, a civil war raged between the militarist government forces and the guerrillas with the Catholic Church caught in the middle. During this conflict, thousands of Catholics were killed.

For a time, the violence was contained in the cities, but it soon came to the highlands and Santiago Atitlan. Catechists began to disappear, people slept in the church for protection and death lists began to circulate in the towns.

Eventually, Father Rother’s name appeared on a death list. For his safety and that of his associate, Father Rother returned to Oklahoma, but he didn’t stay long. He was determined to give his life completely to his people, stating that “the shepherd cannot run.”

He returned to Santiago Atitlan. Early on the morning of July 28, three men entered the rectory, fought with Father Rother and then executed him. His death shocked the Catholic world. No one was ever held responsible.

The people of Santiago Atitlan mourned the loss of their leader and friend. Because of the affection and veneration that the people of Santiago Atitlan displayed for their priest, they requested that Father Rother’s heart be kept in Guatemala where it remains enshrined today. His body was returned to his family in Oklahoma for burial. In 2007, his Cause for Canonization was opened.

On Dec. 2, 2016, Pope Francis officially recognized Father Rother as a martyr for the faith.

He is the first recognized martyr for the United States and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified. His remains eventually will be moved to a new shrine in Oklahoma City.
The chalice used for today’s Beatification Mass is an ordination gift from Father Rother’s family. It is inscribed: “Stanley Rother, May 25, 1963. To our son and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Franz Rother and family.” Made of sterling silver, it was designed by Father Rother and executed by Gilles Beaugrand of Montreal, Quebec.

On the base, in the midst of the Chi-Rho, is a diamond extracted from the wedding ring of his mother. This chalice was used throughout his priestly life. The matching paten has the image of the Lamb of God etched on the bottom. Since it was used primarily for significant feasts, it is in excellent condition.
In response to Pope John XXIII’s call for the Church in the United States to help in Latin America, the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa founded its mission at Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, in 1964.

To lead Oklahoma’s mission work, Bishop Victor Reed appointed Father Ramon Carlin. For the Santiago Atitlan effort, Father Carlin envisioned a team effort – priests, nuns, laypeople – who pooled their talents for a comprehensive development of the Tz’utujil Indians and Ladinos people in the Guatemalan village.

The Oklahoma team found a place of stunning natural beauty populated by some of the most destitute people on earth. The missionaries divided their work into four areas – worship (the Tz’utujil language was coaxed into written form for the first time), Catechetics (trained catechists and started a radio station), health (opening a clinic) and agriculture (efforts were made at model farming).

Father Carlin would eventually leave the mission, going to work for the new linguistic institute in Antigua.

Taking up the mission after Father Carlin was Father Stanley Rother, a native of Okarche. Father Rother finished the translation of the New Testament into Tz’utujil and won the hearts of natives. During Father Rother’s time, the political situation became volatile.

Years of war, civil unrest and military corruption made its way to the Oklahoma Mission. Parishioners and church leaders were kidnapped and killed. Eventually, Father Rother was marked for death. He returned to Oklahoma twice during that time; once when he first learned he was...
included on a death list and once briefly for the ordination of his cousin, Father Don Wolf. Father Rother told his family and friends he had to return to Guatemala, saying “The shepherd cannot run; my people need me.”

Father Rother returned to Guatemala and was murdered in his rectory on July 28, 1981. It would be nearly three years until another Oklahoma priest would take the helm at the Oklahoma Mission.

In May 1984, the first pilgrimage trip was made back to the mission by Archbishop Salatka, Bishop Beltran of Tulsa, Father Rother’s parents and 20 others. That trip opened the heart of one of those priests and set him on a path that would lead him to serve 17 years in Guatemala.

Father Thomas McSherry, a Tulsa native and priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, felt called to serve the people of Guatemala. Over his tenure, he built churches, a memorial to Father Rother, memorials to the victims of the civil war that raged for 36 years as well as homes for the widows. He served there longer than any other Oklahoma priest. In July 2001, the Oklahoma Mission was returned to the local diocese, since it now had enough priests to run the mission.
The Diocese of Oklahoma was erected on Aug. 17, 1905, encompassing the entire State of Oklahoma.

The first concerted missionary activity in Oklahoma came from the Benedictines of Pierre-qui-Vire in France. These hardy monks came to bring the Gospel in the midst of the prairie. They arrived in 1875 to Atoka where two Irish missionaries from Arkansas built the first church in Oklahoma.

Two years later, Sacred Heart Abbey and later a school was founded near Konawa. The Sisters of Mercy, the Benedictine Sisters, the Carmelite Sisters and various religious orders, schools and parishes followed.

The first bishop of Oklahoma was Theophile Meerschaert (1891-1924), a Belgian who possessed an infectious zeal and an undying energy. By the time of his death in 1924, he had set the Church on firm footing. The diocese established ties with American Indian tribes such as the Osage, Potawatomi, Kiowa, Apache and Comanche, and the influx of German, Czech, Polish, Italian and Hispanic immigrants gave rise to new opportunities.
Enduring extreme prejudice after World War I, due to an upsurge in the Ku Klux Klan, Oklahoma Catholics had a brilliant new bishop to combat such problems in Francis Clement Kelley (1924-48). A national figure due to his founding of the Catholic Church Extension Society, Kelley helped ease fears of a largely non-Catholic populace by becoming an important figure in the life of Oklahoma.

After World War II, general economic prosperity brought growth and numerous vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Bishop Eugene McGuinness (1945-57) had a dream of a Catholic church and school in every county in Oklahoma. He was the quintessential “people person.”

Bishop Victor Reed (1958-1971) was a native Oklahoman who endured the tumultuous 1960s. Social action was an important component of his tenure as bishop.

The 1970s was a decade of settling after Vatican II. John R. Quinn (1971-77) was only 42 when he became bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. His main task was to oversee the making of two dioceses, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa. Archbishop Quinn was named Archbishop of San Francisco after five years in Oklahoma.

The demographic of the Oklahoma Church began to change in the 1980s. Charles Salatka (1977-1993) began to see the shift and established an Office of Hispanic Ministry. Catholic schools saw a steady growth and were a critical element in the parish community. Under Archbishop Salatka’s guidance, the archdiocese maintained a solid financial base.

Archbishop Eusebius Beltran (1993-2010) had been the bishop of Tulsa before his arrival. Kind and compassionate, he authorized the building of the youth camp. Hispanic ministry was expanded and lay ministry progressed.

With new and complex challenges confronting the Church, Archbishop Paul Coakley (2011-present) established priorities of the New Evangelization, serving the burgeoning Hispanic population and bolstering the formation of youth.

Archbishop Coakley calls on all in the Church of Oklahoma and throughout the Church universal to “Go make disciples!”
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