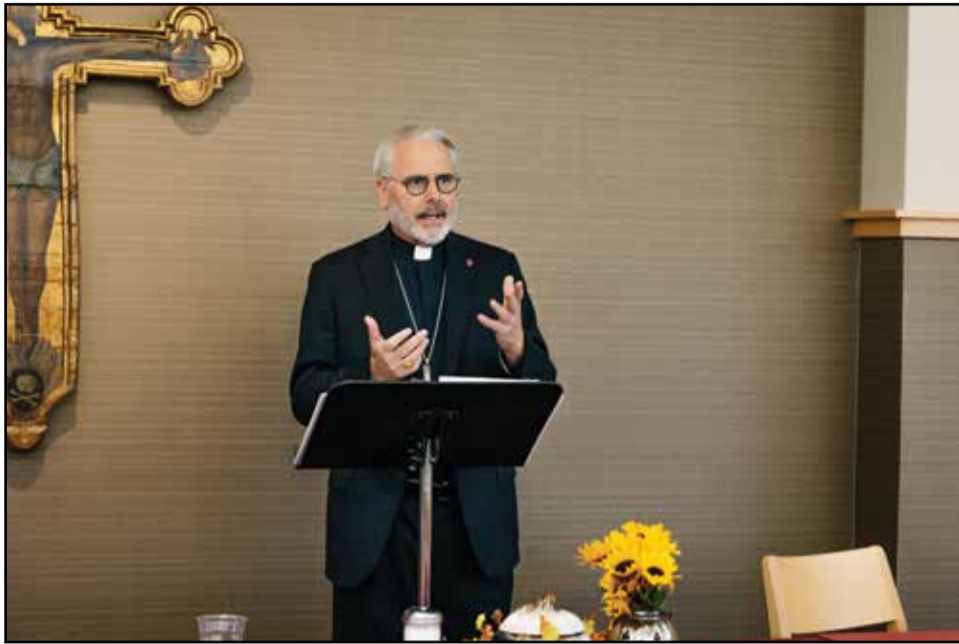


# Legacy society Mass, luncheon



Archbishop Coakley spoke during the first Meerschaert Legacy Society luncheon on Oct. 20 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Photos Rosalinda Rivera.

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma held its first Meerschaert Legacy Society Mass and luncheon on Oct. 20 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City.

The event served to recognize and thank those who are remembering the Church in their estate plans.

The legacy society is named for Theophile Meerschaert, the first Catholic bishop in Oklahoma. Meerschaert was named Vicar Apostolic of Indian Territory in 1891. During the next 32 years, he established parishes, appointed pastors and recruited religious sisters to staff schools and hospitals.

Archbishop Coakley noted during the luncheon that Meerschaert's work put the Church in Oklahoma on solid ground, and that estate gifts from those in attendance will help the Church in the future.

"The Catholic Church here is healthy and growing, and that's not the case as much in some parts of the country," said Archbishop Coakley. "Your gifts will help parishes, schools and other ministries for years to come."

If anyone has provided a gift in their will to support their parish or other Church ministry, let the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma know. Supporters will be enrolled in the Bishop Meerschaert Legacy Society and will be invited to future society activities. Visit [cfook.org/legacysociety](http://cfook.org/legacysociety) or call (405) 721-4115.



# Sister BJ's Pantry Homeless Friends Crypt

## Blessing and First Interment

On Nov. 2, All Soul's Day, Sr. Barbara Joseph Foley, Fr. Rex Arnold, two members of the Order of Malta and Resurrection Cemetery staff interred the first cremated remains into a crypt purchased by Sr. Barbara Joseph at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City. The crypt will be the final resting place for the cremated remains of those who had no family to provide a proper burial, including those who were orphaned and those who's family didn't have the means to pay for a proper burial. Fr. Arnold, chaplain of Sr. BJ's Pantry, a ministry to homeless men and women in Oklahoma City, blessed the space and interred the remains of two individuals. The first was Claude Boswell, a homeless gentleman who Sr. BJ's Pantry worked with during his life. The second individual was a man who died in 2008, was cremated and never claimed by his family. Both now have been provided a final resting place thanks to the efforts of Sr. Barbara Joseph and those who support Sr. BJ's Pantry. The crypt will be opened twice per year in order to inter any others who have died and were not provided with a proper burial.



Photos Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic.

