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ARCHBISHOP COAKLEY ATTENDS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

July 31, 2015, Midwest City, OK: St. Philip Neri Catholic Church and School broke ground recently to mark the start of construction of a \$2.2 million Family Life Center in Midwest City, Oklahoma.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site and among those in attendance were The Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City; Father Timothy Fuller, Pastor of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Dr. Cris Carter, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Principal Brenda Tener of St. Philip Neri School and The Honorable Dee Collins, Mayor of Midwest City. Over one hundred parishioners attended the Rite of Blessing for the grounds which was celebrated with the Knights of Columbus Council 4026, the Catholic War Veterans Memorial Post 168 and the Choctaw AFJROTC.

Father Fuller addressed the assembly expressing the necessity for the new facility, "We need space. We are a growing parish and must provide an area for educational and community activities." Archbishop Coakley commended Father Fuller and St. Philip Neri for their efforts, "I would like to compliment the school community and parish for their foresight. The Family Life Center is a long, cherished dream and I am proud of the parish's leadership in this endeavor."

Principal Tener spoke of her years as a student of the school and addressed the students in attendance, "It is a privilege to be a St. Philip Neri Falcon and to have such a supportive parish. The new Family Life Center will host numerous educational activities and provide our students with a gymnasium. I stand here today looking forward to the future of our school, the future of our parish, but most importantly, the future of our students." Dr. Carter was congratulatory in her statement following the ceremony, "This is a testament that people can come together in unity and make their community better."

The 18,000 square foot facility was designed by Mass Architects, Inc. of Oklahoma City. Lead Architect, Isaac Hines issued the following statement, "Mass Architects is pleased to be a part of the St. Philip Neri Family Life Center. This facility will provide much needed meeting and activity space for the school as well as providing event and community space for the parish. It is an exciting day for St. Philip Neri and we are pleased to be a part of their mission of outreach and service to the community." The construction of the project is led by Oklahoma City's Globe Construction Co. The estimated completion date for the building is June 2016.
