

# Archdiocese selects The Boldt Co. to build Rother shrine

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

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This architect's drawing shows the new Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine to be built in south Oklahoma City. [Image provided by Archdiocese of Oklahoma City]

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has chosen The Boldt Co. to serve as construction manager for the building of the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City.

The shrine will be built on a former golf course at SE 89 between Shields Boulevard and Interstate 35. It will be the final resting place for Rother, an Okarche native who was killed in 1981 in Guatemala while serving the poor as a missionary priest. In 2016, Pope Francis declared Rother the first martyr for the Catholic Church in the United States. In September 2017, during a Beatification Mass in downtown Oklahoma City, he became the first martyr and the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified — the last step before sainthood.

Groundbreaking on the 56-acre shrine complex is expected in early 2020 with completion by summer 2022.

"It is exciting to take the next step toward building this beautiful shrine in honor of a courageous priest from Oklahoma," the Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, said in a news release.

"I would like to thank the members of the Rother building committee for the many hours of work that lead to the important selection of a contractor, and I welcome Boldt as a new partner in this inspiring project."

Coakley shared the news of the selection on Monday.

The Boldt Co. will join design architects Franck and Lohsen, of Washington, D.C., and project architects ADG, of Oklahoma City.

The shrine will include a 2,000-seat church, a 200-seat chapel, a museum and a pilgrim center, which will tell the story of Rother's life and martyrdom. An event center and education building will be added in front of the main church.

"The committee found The Boldt Company leadership to be highly capable and good communicators with a deep understanding of the mission and purpose of the shrine," Molly Bernard, chairman of the shrine selection committee, said in a news release.

With a headquarters based in Wisconsin, The Boldt Co. has had an active presence in Oklahoma since the early 1980s. Local projects include the Bricktown Ballpark, MAPS for Kids, the Will Rogers World Airport expansion and the National Weather Center. The director of the shrine project will be Tony Yanda, a parishioner at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon.

"The Boldt Company is extremely honored and very blessed to be a part of this sacred and historic project," Yanda said in a news release. "We look forward to working with the archdiocese and the project team to build a shrine that truly honors Blessed Stanley Rother and those he served."

The committee will work with architects, contractors and others through the next phases of planning for the shrine campus.

### **Capital campaign continues**

Funding for the shrine is part of the archdiocese's first-ever capital campaign entitled "One Church, Many Disciples." Construction of the shrine is the central element of the \$65 million campaign.

To date, the campaign has raised more than \$56 million, and Coakley recently announced a challenge goal of \$80 million. About \$39 million of the total will be put toward completing the church and shrine.

Peter de Keratry, executive director of stewardship and development for the archdiocese said if the campaign continues its success, and pledges are paid over time, the archdiocese expects to be able to break ground on the shrine in early 2020.

"We estimate the shrine will take about two years to build with dedication of the main church occurring on the feast day of Blessed Stanley Rother, July 28, 2022."

For more information about the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, go to [blessedstanleyrother.org](http://blessedstanleyrother.org).