

Building permit is obtained for shrine

Local architectural firm ADG recently obtained a building permit for the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine at 700 SE 89.

The permit lists the estimated cost of the building at \$14 million. General contractor for the project is The Boldt Co. of Oklahoma City.

The shrine is being built to honor Rother, the first martyr from the United States and the first U.S.-born priest ever beatified by the Catholic Church. His beatification during a ceremony in Oklahoma City placed the priest one step closer to sainthood. Rother was serving as a priest with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City when he was killed on July 28, 1981, in his parish rectory in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

The shrine will include a 2,000-seat church, a chapel where Rother will be buried, an education building, an event space and several areas designated for shrines and devotion. The site will be developed over time. Along with the Spanish colonial-style church — which will be the largest Catholic church in Oklahoma — an additional element will be a museum and pilgrim center, which will be an additional \$5 million. Overall cost of the project is \$40 million.

The center is expected to welcome thousands of visitors each year to an experience that will lead them through the life, witness and martyrdom of Blessed Stanley.

In May, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley introduced a live webcam that allows people to view the progress of the shrine project. The webcam will be live streaming throughout construction.

To access the webcam, go to www.archokc.org/shrinewebcam.