

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 111 • NUMBER 09

THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2022



**TOPPING THINGS OFF:** Pope Francis places a red biretta on new Cardinal Robert W. McElroy during a consistory for the creation of 20 new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Aug. 27, 2022.



## Fight Prop. 1

Bishops warn that proposed expansion of abortion in California is an extreme measure. **Page 3**



## 'Tis the Season

How to participate, through prayer, learning and action, during the 'Season of Creation.' **Page 4**



## Welcome Back!

Students return to remodeled facilities, new leadership at several campuses. **Page 5**

**'This Is My Body,  
Given for You.'**  
**'Esto es Mi Cuerpo que  
Se Entrega por Ustedes.'**

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT INSIDE  
SUPLEMENTO DE DOMINGO CATEQUÉTICO EN EL INTERIOR

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# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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**Founded in 1912,**  
**The Southern Cross**  
**is the official newspaper of the**  
**Catholic Diocese of San Diego.**

**The Southern Cross** (ISSN 0745-0257) is published monthly by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego, CA 92117-5349.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Southern Cross, P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138-1869.

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Monthly print subscription: \$15 per year

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The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.3 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 98 parishes, 49 elementary and secondary schools, Catholic Charities and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. It also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.

## MORE FOR YOU

This colored triangle indicates that we have more content related to a particular story in our digital edition, **thesoutherncross.org**, including photos, videos, and at times an extended version.



## Faith and Fun

DAVID MAUNG



DAVID MAUNG

Several hundred young adults from San Diego and Imperial counties attended the Diocesan Young Adult Mass, held Aug. 14 at The Immaculata Church.

In his homily, Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano urged them not to get distracted from their faith, particularly when making major decisions.

"Let us persevere in running the race before us, but keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus," he said, quoting Scripture.

Afterward, they enjoyed a reception, complete with tacos and kinship.

# Diocese Conducts Survey of Faithful

By Aida Bustos



The diocese's consultation of the Catholic community continues.

It's inviting all faithful to express their views regarding the life of the local Church through an electronic survey that will be available starting Sept. 6.

"The results obtained from the survey will help to strengthen our path forward to better minister at all levels of our Church," Cardinal Robert McElroy said in a video message inviting participation in the survey.

On Sept. 6, the survey will be sent electronically via Flocknote to everyone who is registered at parishes, ministries or diocesan offices through that platform.

Individuals may also use a QR Code to link to the survey if they are not registered through Flocknote. The diocese provided the QR Code to parishes and ministries, inviting them to

share it with their community. Many will make them available after Mass during September.

Everyone who takes the survey will be completely anonymous. The survey — which will be in English, Spanish and Vietnamese — will be available for 30 days.

The survey is the second and final part of the listening phase of the consultation, known formally as the Synod on Synodality, being conducted by the Catholic Church worldwide. The first part involved listening to about 11,000 individuals at 1,100 small-group sessions at parishes and schools earlier this year, and at ally organizations, which reached out to those living on the margins of society.

The diocese, supported by polling consultants from local universities, developed the survey questions from the themes that emerged in those sessions.

It's conducting the survey to provide an opportunity for many more people to express their views, including those

who were not able to participate in the group sessions. The diocese particularly wants to hear from those not going to Mass regularly or who have stopped practicing their faith.

Synod commissions in San Diego and the Imperial Valley will use the findings from the listening phase to develop recommendations that respond to the overarching concerns of the faithful. Cardinal McElroy has said since the synod began that he would implement them as quickly as feasible, in consultation with pastors and lay leadership.

The goal of the synod is to encourage greater participation of community members in the life of the Church at all levels as it works toward renewal.

The survey may be accessed through the web pages [sdccatholic.org/syn](https://sdccatholic.org/syn) (English) and [sdccatholic.org/sinodo](https://sdccatholic.org/sinodo) (Spanish), which include information about the consultation.





# Prop. 1 Would Sweep Away All Abortion Limits

By Denis Grasska



A proposition on the Nov. 8 general election ballot

would enshrine abortion in the California state constitution and remove all abortion restrictions, even for late-term abortions.

Opponents of Proposition 1, including California's Catholic bishops, warn that the measure is extreme even for a state with some of the country's most permissive abortion laws and would set a nationwide precedent.

Under current California law, abortion is already legal until viability and, when the woman's life or health is in danger, even after that.

"Proposition 1 is especially egregious because it goes beyond even our state's very permissive abortion laws," said Molly Sheahan, associate director of Life & Family Advocacy at the California Catholic Conference.

The proposition has been dubbed the "Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment." It would amend the state constitution to guarantee unlimited access to abortion and artificial contraception.

The California Catholic Conference (CCC), the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in California, has joined a coalition called California Together, which is urging Californians to vote "No" on Proposition 1.

In a state like California, where a majority of the population identifies as pro-choice, opponents of Proposition 1 face an uphill battle.

But Sheahan explained that the proposition is so extreme that it is actually out of step with most Californians, even those who consider themselves pro-choice — and therein lies a path to victory on Election Day.

According to California Together, polling shows that a center-right, bipartisan coalition forms against Proposition 1 — 47% against, 42% in favor and 11% undecided — once voters hear the arguments against the proposition.

The challenge for the proposition's opponents is getting this information known, which is why the CCC is promoting voter education.

Sheahan predicted that the proposition would lead to several outcomes that even pro-choice voters would find undesirable.

For example, she said polling shows that a significant majority of California voters oppose late-term abortions and do not want to lift existing restrictions on them — 60%, according to a statewide poll of 800 likely voters, combined with focus group findings of non-Republican younger voters.

Support for the legality of abortion doesn't mean that California voters want their tax dollars paying for it. According to the previously cited poll, voters by a margin of 58% to 17% said the amount of money being spent on abortions would make them more



JOHN GASTALDO

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY:** Several thousand turned out to participate in the San Diego Walk for Life on Jan. 15, 2022, along the bayfront. Bishops across the state are working to inform voters about Proposition 1, which would virtually remove all restrictions on abortion in the state.

**'Proposition 1 is especially egregious because it goes beyond even our state's very permissive abortion laws.'**

likely to vote no on Proposition 1.

The Official Voter Information Guide for the November election says that Proposition 1 would have "no direct fiscal effect because reproductive rights already are protected by state law."

But Maria Valencia, associate director of Culture of Life in the Diocese of San Diego's Office for Life, Peace and Justice, finds that claim misleading. By removing all abortion restrictions and making California an abortion "sanctuary," the numbers of abortions performed here will only go up, she said.

"If (they) want to increase the business of abortion in California, it's going to take more money," Valencia said.

In this year's state budget deal, \$205 million was dedicated to expand access to abortion and reproductive health care in what the California Future of Abortion Council described as a "historic budget investment." A total of \$40 million of that will go directly to subsidize the cost of providing abortions for low-income or uninsured patients.

"This money is not earmarked in Prop. 1, it's true," said Sheahan. "But Prop. 1 establishes an explicit and unrestricted right to abortion to the moment of birth. Rights come with duties of the state, and California as a sanctuary state will have a vast in-

crease of women coming from out of state for that right."

Sheahan said that UCLA's Center on Law and Reproductive Health is estimating that 10,600 more women will come to California for abortions each year, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade* and many states ban the procedure. And, if California further expands abortion under Proposition 1, these numbers will only grow.

She said proponents of Proposition 1 have even admitted that the current level of tax funding may be insufficient.

Californians are urged to learn more at [noproposition1.com](http://noproposition1.com), where they can sign up for campaign updates. The campaign welcomes financial donations, which will help it to spread the word.

Sheahan also asks California Catholics to pray and help to get out the vote.

Valencia said that each of the 12 (arch)dioceses in California promoted voter registration in August and, in September, will focus on educating voters about Proposition 1.

In October, observed annually as "Respect Life Month," there will be nine consecutive days of prayer for life and for the defeat of the proposition. The novena will take place from Sept. 28 to Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Fittingly enough, the feast marks the anniversary of the 16th-century Battle of Lepanto, where vastly outnumbered Christian forces won a pivotal naval battle against the Ottoman Empire; the miraculous victory was credited to the intercession of the Blessed Mother through the rosary.



## Resources to Support Women and Children

The Church offers a variety of online resources to affirm life and support women and children. These include:

**[Sdcatholic.org/chooselife](http://Sdcatholic.org/chooselife):**

A page from the San Diego Catholic Diocese that presents a variety of local resources to help women facing unwanted pregnancies, and links to initiatives from the California bishops and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**[Cacatholic.org](http://Cacatholic.org):** Resources for individuals and parishes to defeat Proposition 1. This website includes a tool kit for parishes, and links to sign up for "Action Alerts" regarding the Legislature in California.

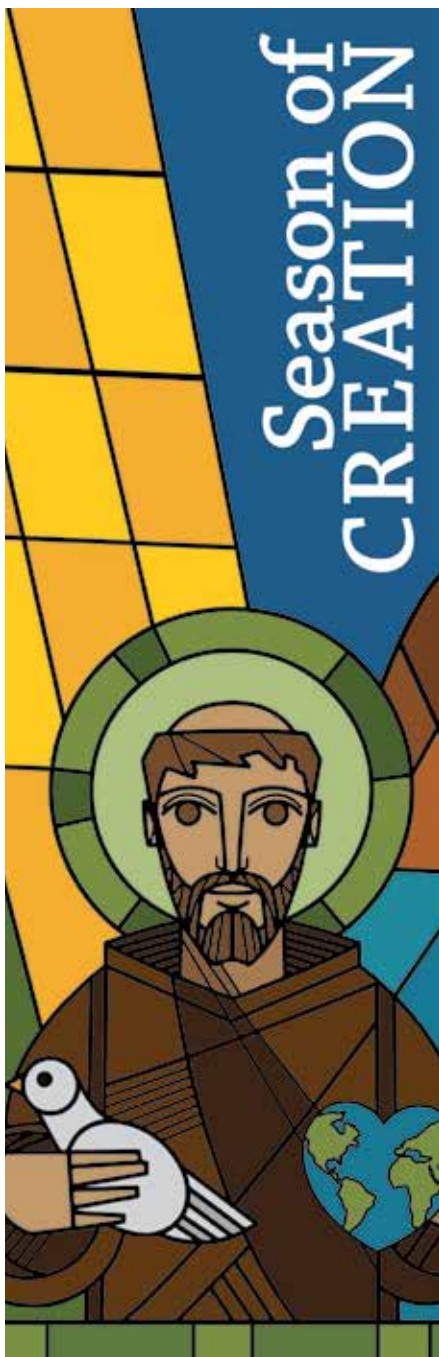
**[Wewerebornready.com](http://Wewerebornready.com):** Website launched by the California bishops to promote life-affirming resources across the state for women facing unplanned pregnancies. The site includes a wide variety of resources.





**SCENIC:** Lake Jennings, a water supply reservoir and campground in Lakeside, is a place where environmental stewardship and the appreciation of natural beauty go together.

## Great Ways for Families to Celebrate at Home



SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4

The diocese's new Creation Care Ministry will explore a theme every month to inspire action by individuals and families to protect our common home.

By Christina Bagaglio Slentz



### What is Creation Care? Rooted in Scripture and

tradition, "Creation Care" is a key part of Catholic teaching and, as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops argues, "is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith."

#### CARE FOR CREATION:

- Begins with gratitude, recognizing creation as a gift from God
- Charges us with the protection of our earthly brothers and sisters and our common home
- Calls us to live in harmonious relationship with all of God's creation

#### HOW CAN YOUR FAMILY HONOR THE SEASON OF CREATION?

You are invited to celebrate through prayer, learning and action. Here are some ideas!

#### PRAY

"Listen to the Voice of Creation" is this year's theme, with the burning bush as the symbol. Read Exodus 3: 1-12 as a family and discuss Moses' call from God, beseeching him to take action to save his brothers and sisters. Contemplate, what does the voice of creation say to you?

Add this creation-minded prayer to mealtime blessings:

*Loving God, we ask you to bless this food which comes to us through the work of many people, from the sowing of seeds in the earth, to our table here today. Help us to always care for Your beautiful creation. Amen.*

#### LEARN

Adults can access Pope Francis' World Day of Prayer for Creation Care

### Diocese Sponsoring Youth Art Contest

The diocesan Creation Care Ministry is hosting a youth art contest, focused on our responsibility to care for all of God's gifts.

The contest, "For the Beauty of the Earth," is open to fourth-through 12th-graders in local Catholic schools, religious-education classes, and parish youth and young adult ministry groups. There will also be a separate division for young adults over the age of 18.

Submissions of essays, poems, posters, paintings, drawings, videos and songs will be accepted between Aug. 24 and Sept. 24.

First- and second-place winners will be selected in each of the following grade categories: 4th-6th, 7th-8th, 9th-10th, and 11th-12th. First-place winners will receive a \$50 gift card, and second-place winners will receive a \$25 gift card. In the young adult division, one first-place winner will receive a \$100 gift card and one second-place winner will receive a \$50 gift card.

Register for the contest at [sdcatholic.org/artcontest](https://sdcatholic.org/artcontest).

### St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day Mass

Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. at St. Rita's Church, to be celebrated by Cardinal Robert McElroy.

Lunch and awards for Youth Art Contest winners to follow at parish hall.

Message by scanning the QR Code on this page.

The QR Code links the whole family to a 3-minute video about Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical about the "Cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." Watch together to learn how harm to the earth harms our brothers and sisters.

Sign up for a workshop on Laudato Si' on Sept. 10. (Details below.)

#### ACT

Reduce use of air-conditioning, carpool, increase your composting efforts, and reduce use of plastic at home and in your parish

Try "Meatless Mondays" and "Fish Fridays" to reduce your family's red meat intake and related carbon footprint.

Go on a family hike and gather trash as you go — and say a prayer with each item you pick up.

Lead a beach clean-up and/or begin to offer your voice in defense of the environment.

#### FREE WORKSHOP

All are invited to an introductory workshop on "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home."

The workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, in the hall at St. Martin of Tours Parish in La Mesa.

St. Martin of Tours Academy achieved the "Green Ribbon" award from the State of California and recognition from the National Department of Education for its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The workshop is free, but participants are asked to register at <https://forms.gle/Asp6HdRUj8Awmkdr5>.

*Christina Bagaglio Slentz is Associate Director for Creation Care Ministry in the diocesan Office for Life, Peace and Justice.*

Pope Francis' World Day of Prayer for Creation Care Message



Family-Friendly Video on "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home"





# New Year Brings New Principals, Upgrades

By Denis Grasska



At the diocese's 46 Catholic schools, about

14,000 students have begun a new year of learning.

Most of the Catholic elementary schools reopened between Aug. 15 and 22.

Among the high schools, Mater Dei Catholic started on Aug. 10, followed by Cathedral Catholic High School and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, both on Aug. 15; Vincent Memorial Catholic High School, Aug. 17; and St. Augustine High School, Aug. 24.

Returning students at five elementary schools and one high school encountered new principals, and those at three other elementary schools discovered that campus improvements had taken place over the summer.

The new principals include Emily Silady, St. Mary School in Escondido; Josh Englund, St. Mary Star of the Sea School in Oceanside; Chris Moeller, St. Charles Borromeo Academy in San Diego; Faina Salter, Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy in Chula Vista; Jodi Drake, Nativity Prep Academy in San Diego; and Aaron Gonzalez, Mater Dei Catholic High School.

Three campuses received major upgrades, courtesy of grants from the Shea Homes Foundation.

St. Katharine Drexel Academy has new fencing, new windows and blinds, new turf in two courtyards, and a new play structure. The renovations also included stucco repairs, the removal



**BACK TO SCHOOL:** Fourth-graders gather in front of the new sign and entryway at St. Charles School on Aug. 19. A \$1.1-million renovation project was completed over the summer.

of old drinking fountains, and the installation of a refillable water station.

Over the summer, St. Didacus School added new turf in the playground, resurfaced asphalt, added a new play structure for preschool, replaced chain link fencing with rod iron, and renovated the bathrooms, all through a Shea foundation grant. The school also added new flooring and paint in the school library this summer, made possible through the school's annual auction fundraiser.

Sylvia Benning, principal of St. Charles School in Imperial Beach, explained that the building that houses the school office and the kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms

is about two decades older than the junior high building and had been "showing its age."

A \$1.1-million renovation project — with St. Charles Parish and School each contributing \$20,000 and the remainder donated by the Shea foundation — began May 31 and was completed before the first day of school, Aug. 15.

Among other things, the school received a new, more visible sign at its front entrance, the older school building received an exterior paint job, and outdoor learning spaces were created where classes can be held in the open air.

"I've called it a facelift for our old building, but I've seen how it's lifting all of our spirits, as well," said Benning.

The start of the 2022-2023 school year was preceded by a busy August for the diocesan Office for Schools, under the leadership of its new superintendent, Leticia Oseguera.

There was a two-day Leadership Bootcamp, Aug. 1 and 2, for principals, vice principals and other aspiring campus leaders. This was followed by a New Pastors/Principals Meeting, Aug. 3, for school communities that are welcoming either a new principal or a new pastor this year.

A gathering of all of the diocese's principals was held Aug. 4. Oseguera said the principals had an opportunity to engage in some community-building activities, reflect on "their why" in education, and set goals for the year.

On Aug. 9, the diocese held its annual Religion Convocation on the University of San Diego campus. The event kicks off the school year by bringing together all of the local Catholic school educators. About 350 attended in-person, while about 200 joined via livestream.

The Office for Schools hasn't issued any new COVID-19 guidelines. There is no mask mandate, although masks continue to be recommended while indoors.

Superintendent Oseguera said the diocese continues to follow state and county health guidelines, and individual schools are free to "go above and beyond" them.

"The pandemic is still happening," she said. "Just like last school year, I think we just have to be prepared ... for whatever may come."



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20-137-011523 | 14273264-UF-1/14/2022



# 'Saints' Begins Centennial Year in Grand Style

By Denis Grasska



St. Augustine High School will kick off its centennial year on Friday, Sept. 16, with an 11 a.m. Mass at the all-boys school's North Park campus.

The liturgy will be held in the 55,000-square-foot student activity center, St. Augustine Commons.

"It's going to be a really big day," said the school's president, Ed Hearn.

In addition to the school's 700 students, faculty, parents and alumni, the centennial Mass will also be attended by Augustinian leaders, including the prior general and provincials from across the world, who will be in San Diego from Sept. 11-23 for an international gathering.

"Sons of St. Augustine," a documentary directed by filmmaker and alumnus Chris Cashman ('93) that chronicles the school's history, will premiere Sept. 17 to an audience of select donors and the board of directors at an event that will also include dinner and cocktails. Additional screenings will be held during the centennial year.

The school's history has also been documented in a book. "The Saintsman," written by Hearn, was released in July. Packed with historic photos, the book is being given to those who make a \$250 donation to the endowment fund.



**CELEBRATION:** St. Augustine High School will kick off its centennial year with a Mass, held Sept. 16 inside St. Augustine Commons, pictured on the day of its dedication in April of 2017.

St. Augustine High School, which is popularly known as "Saints," was founded in 1922.

It has seen many changes over the past century, including the adoption of a president/principal governance model in 2003 and the hiring of its first lay principal and lay president in 2003 and 2006, respectively.

Saints welcomed its first students in September of 1922. Classes that year were held in the hall at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Mission Hills, before relocating a year later to the present-day campus on Nutmeg Street.

Augustinian Father Gary Sanders, provincial of the Province of St. Au-

gustine in California and a member of the Saints Class of 1967, noted that there "wasn't always a welcoming of Catholics in San Diego" in the school's early days. But under the leadership of Augustinian Father John Aherne, who became principal in 1953, Saints made inroads with the community.

In 1956, Father Aherne convinced the public schools to accept Saints' athletic teams into the San Diego City League.

Until 1988, Bancroft Street had cut through the middle of the Saints campus. The street was closed between Nutmeg and Palm streets at a cost of \$880,000. This paved the way for later

redevelopment of the campus.

The three-phase "Building Future Saints" campaign transformed the campus between 2004 and 2018.

The first phase, which was completed in 2007, saw the demolition of two single-story classroom buildings and the construction of two new ones — the two-story Mendel Hall and three-story Villanova Hall.

Phase 2, completed in 2017, included the construction of St. Augustine Commons, a four-level student activity center that includes a below-ground gymnasium with seating for 1,500 and a sky deck with three rooftop basketball courts.

The third and final phase saw the completion of the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts in the summer 2018, which includes a 400-seat theater and 2,000 square-foot music studio.

Hearn credits the school's longevity to several factors, including God's grace, an ability to change with the times, and the "tremendous love" of generations of alumni who continue to support the school "in a million different ways."

Father Sanders reflected on what his own high school experience meant to him.

"It helped me know what my interests were," he said. "It let me know what I wasn't good at and helped me celebrate what I was good at academically. But all of it always comes down to community for me. I consider Saints as not just a school ... There's no doubt that it's a brotherhood."

## Mass for Survivors of Suicide Loss

*Misa para sobrevivientes de seres queridos que se han quitado la vida*

**SEPTEMBER 10TH ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH**

**5:30 PM 293 H ST CHULA VISTA, CA 91910**

Friends and family are invited to celebrate a bilingual Mass for their loved ones and experience healing and support.  
The Mass will be followed with time for reflection and a reception.

For more information & to provide the names of your loved ones email [bolivero@sdccatholic.org](mailto:bolivero@sdccatholic.org) or call 858-490-8299 by September 8th.  
Para más información y para enviar los nombres de sus seres queridos mande un email a [bolivero@sdccatholic.org](mailto:bolivero@sdccatholic.org) or llame al 858-490-8299 antes del 8 de septiembre.

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"Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what did you not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." - Matthew 25:44-46



# Fair to Offer Resources About Love, Sexuality

By Denis Grasska



Educating young people about God's plan for healthy relationships and human sexuality is a daunting task, especially in a sex-saturated society that misunderstands the Church's teachings on the issue.

Fortunately, for Catholic parents, catechists, educators and others, help is on the way.

The Family Life Education Curriculum Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 22, at Our Mother of Confidence Parish in University City.

Co-sponsored by four diocesan offices — Family Life and Spirituality, Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry, Schools, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry — the event showcases Catholic publishers and family life ministries that offer educational materials focusing on formation in the areas of human love, sexuality and relationships.

John Prust, director of the Office for Family Life and Spirituality, said the Church needs “to step up our game a little bit” when it comes to teaching young people about God's beautiful plan for the human body, relationships and marriage.

“Whatever milieu you're in” — whether a parent, a teacher, a catechist, or a youth minister — “we need to be doing something to help,” said Prust, “because, otherwise, our youth may be formed in a way that will make it more difficult for them to form healthy and holy relationships.”



**HERE TO HELP:** John Prust, left, of the Family Life and Spirituality Office, staffs an information table. Four diocesan offices, including Prust's, are co-sponsoring a Family Life Education Curriculum Fair Sept. 22.

“With all the things happening in the world and in the culture, we need to make sure that the Church has a good response,” echoed Joseph Horejs, associate director of the Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry.

“We know that our students are getting more and more messages that we disagree with, (and at) earlier and earlier ages,” he said, referring to controversial sex-education curricula introduced in California's public schools in recent years.

Horejs said there is a lot of misunderstanding, not only of what the Church teaches about sexuality, but also about “the gift” of sexuality itself.

The organizations invited to participate in the curriculum fair include: Ascension Press, RCL Benziger, Theology of the Body Evangelization

Team, Love Ed, Pearl & Thistle, Teen STAR and Ruah Woods.

“By no means do we have every organization (represented) here, just a sampling of some of the best that we've discovered ... and we wanted to let our people know what's out there,” said Horejs, who hopes these programs will be implemented at more parishes following the fair.

Prust said the participating organizations focus on different aspects and take different approaches.

For example, Love Ed seeks to empower parents to speak confidently to their children about sex and healthy relationships. Teen STAR is a fertility awareness course that students have to opt in to participate. Pearl & Thistle is a resource for moms to have conversations with their teenage daughters.

Despite their differences, Prust said, all of them are complementary and rooted in Pope St. John Paul II's influential teachings on human sexuality, which are known collectively as the Theology of the Body.

During the fair, representatives of each organization will have the opportunity to briefly explain their programs. Attendees will be able to visit the various organizations' tables, asking questions and learning more about what they are offering. The afternoon will continue with a series of breakout sessions on specific topics, such as how to teach Theology of the Body to teens and how to provide age-appropriate fertility awareness education.

The Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry held its own curriculum fair on the same topic last year, offering it virtually via Zoom.

Prust said the fact that the upcoming fair is a collaboration among a diverse group of diocesan offices sends a message: This isn't just for parish catechists.

“With all of our offices involved,” he said, “it's really communicating the fact that ... we all need to be involved in this and feeling more confident in sharing the good news about God's plan for love, marriage and healthy relationships.”

The event is free, and lunch is included, but registration is required at [sdccatholicdisciples.net](http://sdccatholicdisciples.net).

**For information, contact John Prust at [jprust@sdccatholic.org](mailto:jprust@sdccatholic.org) or Joseph Horejs at [jhorejs@sdccatholic.org](mailto:jhorejs@sdccatholic.org).**





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# Young Adults Can Unplug, Renew at Retreat

By Denis Grasska

“Verso l’alto” is the theme of this year’s Diocesan Young Adult Retreat.

The Italian phrase, which means “to the heights,” is closely associated with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, an avid mountain climber, who inscribed it on a photo from his last climb before his death from polio at age 24 in 1925.

The selection of that theme is also a nod to the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to foster greater devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is often described as “the source and summit” of the Catholic faith.

About 140 young adults, ages 18 to 39, from throughout the diocese are expected to attend the retreat, Sept. 16 to 18, at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center, in the Cuyamaca Mountains.

The retreat, which will begin on a Friday evening and wrap up early Sunday afternoon, will include two Masses as well as inspiring talks, small-group discussions, reflection time, fun group activities like a Saturday night bonfire, and opportunities for Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Registration opened Aug. 1, and the diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry expects the event to sell out before its Sept. 5 registration deadline.



**MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE:** The Diocesan Young Adult Retreat provides many opportunities for prayer and community over a weekend in the Cuyamaca Mountains.

Pamela Poe, associate director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said it’s not simply that young adults “enjoy” the retreat.

“They need it,” she said. “They need that time away.”

She explained that it gives young adults the opportunity to trade their “busy and noisy” world for “a setting that is so conducive to prayer and community” — at least for the weekend.

As director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Maricruz Flores is heading the leadership team for this year’s retreat. But, last year,

she was just a participant, and that experience left an impression.

“I appreciate just going off to Julian, disconnecting because my phone does not get a signal up there, and really being one with my brothers and sisters in Christ,” she said, “and, when I come back, I’m refreshed, I’m reinvigorated, and it keeps me on track in my faith.”

Flores said that, while the retreat follows the same general format every year, it’s a new experience each time.

“There’s something familiar about the retreat,” she said. “But, every year,

it’s different speakers, it’s new ideas, and then you get new young adults who come and share their lives.”

One of the new features of this year’s retreat will be a special track for bilingual participants, said Brilema Perez, associate director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The new track, she said, is “a great opportunity for bridging gaps” between the English- and Spanish-speaking young adult communities.

Another change is that, rather than hiring liturgical musicians from outside of San Diego County as in past years, the retreat organizers secured the services of the same local young adults who have been providing the praise-and-worship music for the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office’s successful Abide Worship Nights.

Perez spoke about the benefits of the retreat.

“It provides for a space to really dialogue, to really get to know the other person,” she said, explaining that participants hail from disparate walks of life.

She said the retreat is a chance “to speak from the heart and to talk about your experience of your faith journey, to listen to other people’s faith journey ... and find common ground.”

The cost to attend the Diocesan Young Adult Retreat is \$185 per person. Information is available at [sdccatholic.org/youngadult](http://sdccatholic.org/youngadult) or at (858) 490-8260.



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# Filipinos to Honor San Lorenzo Ruiz

By Aida Bustos



Members of the Filipino-American community of St.

Charles Parish have two reasons to be excited.

First, they are hosting this year's Fiesta Mass for San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint and martyr, on Sept. 10, followed by a fiesta.

It's the 35th diocesan celebration of this saint, who was canonized in 1987. (The other Filipino saint is San Pedro Calungsod, who was canonized in 2012.)

Secondly, the Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Robert McElroy, in his first community-wide celebration after being elevated to the College of Cardinals.

"We are proud that he will be celebrating with us," said Renato Bacani, the coordinator of the Filipino-American community at St. Charles and for the Fiesta Mass for the Diocesan Commission for Filipino Catholics.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz was born in Manila in 1594 and grew up in a Catholic family. He became a missionary and sailed to Okinawa in 1636, along with three Dominican priests. In Japan, he refused to renounce his faith and died after two days of torture at the age of 42.

St. Charles' Filipino community hosted this Mass two previous times, in 2003 and 2008. Filipinos represent about 25 percent of the parish, Bacani said.

He said the Filipino organizations from 20 parishes are working together to present this year's Mass.



**FEAST DAY:** Members of the Santa Sophia Filipino community led the Fiesta Mass for San Lorenzo Ruiz last year at their parish in Spring Valley.

Most Filipino community members are immigrants, he noted. This Mass gives them an opportunity to connect with other Filipino Catholics in the diocese, as well as share an important tradition with the general Catholic community.

Bacani worked for the U.S. Navy in the Philippines for 24 years and had an opportunity to immigrate to this country with his family in 1992. Many local Filipino families share this story.

"We started a new life here," he said.

San Lorenzo Ruiz is the patron saint for altar servers and migrant workers, who sacrifice much to help their families. Altar servers from all parishes are invited to the celebration and will be recognized for their service before the Mass.

Filipinos have migrated to all corners of the world, planting their Catholic faith and traditions in their new homes. They are known to contribute their service to their local parishes, much as they do in the San Diego Diocese.

Everyone is invited to the Mass for San Lorenzo Ruiz, which will be held at St. Charles Church, 990 Saturn Blvd., San Diego 92154.

A procession with the San Lorenzo Ruiz statue is to begin at 9 a.m., with the Mass to follow at 10. There will be a fiesta afterward in the parish hall, featuring food and entertainment.

More information about the Filipino community can be found online at [sdcatholic.org/office-for-cultural-diversity/filipino-community](http://sdcatholic.org/office-for-cultural-diversity/filipino-community).



## Peñafrancia Mass to Follow Nine Weeks of Devotions

The Southern Cross



The veneration of Our Lady of Peñafrancia is one of the oldest

and largest Filipino Marian celebrations held in San Diego.

After nine weeks of devotional prayers, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Peñafrancia will be celebrated by Vicar General Father Michael Pham, accompanied by diocesan clergy, at Good Shepherd Church on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m.

This year's theme is "Mary accompanies us in our journey toward a synodal Church."

The Mass, organized by San Diego Peñafrancia devotees under the leadership of Pag-Iribang Bikolnon-United Bicol, will be livestreamed at [sdcatholic.org/penafrancia2022](http://sdcatholic.org/penafrancia2022).

The Pag-Iribang Bikolnon is a consortium of Filipino organizations dedicated to nurturing and promoting the Catholic faith and culture through the members' devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The novena schedule and other details can be found at [penafranciasandiego.com](http://penafranciasandiego.com).

The Our Lady of Peñafrancia Mass will be held at Good Shepherd Parish, 8200 Gold Coast Drive, San Diego 92126, and livestreamed at [sdcatholic.org/penafrancia2022](http://sdcatholic.org/penafrancia2022).



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By Aida Bustos



VATICAN CITY — It's easy to be overwhelmed by the scale of the moment: the pope elevating the bishop of San Diego to the College of Cardinals amid the towering Renaissance grandeur of the largest church in the world, the holy shrine of St. Peter's Basilica.

But it's the small, tender moments, as Pope Francis highlighted in his homily, that stood out surrounding that event, moments that over time constructed not only relationships but bonds to the Church and to God Himself.

The pope elevated Bishop Robert W. McElroy to the rank of cardinal, along with 19 other churchmen, on Aug. 27, at an assembly called a consistory. He was the first bishop from the 86-year-old Diocese of San Diego to become a cardinal, and the only one from North America.

At the consistory, the pope presided over the hour-long ceremony in the packed basilica amid stifling summer heat.

One by one, each cardinal-designate knelt before the pope, each wearing a red cassock to symbolize their willingness to shed their blood for the Church. He placed the iconic red biretta on their head, and a signet ring on their finger.

Just before Cardinal McElroy got up, the Holy Father leaned forward, touched his own chest and spoke to him softly.

"He asked me how I was feeling after my heart surgery last year," the cardinal said later that day during a visiting session with family members and friends. "I told him I was fine."

Around 200 people from every stage of the cardinal's life were in Rome for the milestone, including family members from the San Francisco area, where he grew up. Also on hand were friends from elementary through graduate school, several cardinals, 40 priests and 14 diocesan seminarians.

They attended a dinner in his honor hosted by U.S. Ambassador Joe Donnelly and his wife, his first Mass as a cardinal at St. Patrick's Catholic American Parish, and the closing Mass for the College of Cardinals. The latter followed a two-day meeting of the College of Cardinals on the subject of reform of the curia.

Many of his friends joyfully shared the small moments of kindness they had received from the cardinal over the years, moments that helped to illuminate his extraordinary ministry.

Merle Talens has known the cardinal for decades, first as parishioner at St. Gregory Church in San Mateo, where he served as pastor for 14 years, and then as his assistant on special projects.

While there, he encouraged her to organize a ministry for fellow Filipinos to provide them an opportunity



**MAGNIFICENT:** Pope Francis led a consistory for the creation of 20 new cardinals at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Aug. 27. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, from the

to not only celebrate their own traditions but also to share them with the entire parish. Thus began a vibrant ministry that continues today, she said.

When he was elevated to auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, he knew who he wanted by his side.

"He was so sweet. He asked me to carry the staff that a bishop carries," she recalled. "I was so humbled and proud. The bishop has always been so kind."

They have kept in contact since he left to lead the San Diego Diocese. Last May 29, she found out that he would be elevated to cardinal. She emailed him congratulations. Before she knew it, her phone was ringing.

"He asked if I would attend the consistory," she said. "I told him that I would love to."

Five people from her parish attended the ceremony, including her son, John, whose two children were baptized by then Father McElroy.



**BROTHER CARDINALS:** Cardinal McElroy greeted Cardinal Roger Mahony, retired archbishop of Los Angeles, and other cardinals moments after being elevated to that rank.

CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING





**TRADITION:** Each new cardinal gets a solid gold ring and a new pectoral cross.

Laura Martin-Spencer met then Auxiliary Bishop McElroy in the Bay Area, where she worked with young adult Catholics.

“He could have taken more charge and told them what he thought,” she recalled, since he was a bishop after all. “He really empowered each person to speak. He was a ‘listening bishop’ from the very beginning.”

Years later, she and her husband were looking to leave the area for new jobs.

“I thought about what bishop would I want to work for? I just always remember having such a positive experience.”

Today, she serves as Director of Pastoral Formation at the Diocese of San Diego’s seminary.

For his part, seminarian Marc Gandolfo has had dinners with Bishop McElroy for the six years he’s been in the priestly formation program.

“Each and every time, the first question he always asks — and this really touches me — is, ‘How are you doing?’”

For photo gallery, visit  
[sdcatholic.org/cardinal](https://sdcatholic.org/cardinal)

San Diego Diocese, was among them.



**FAMILY:** Cardinal McElroy accepted the offertory gifts from his sister, Kathy Schreiner, and his brother, Walter McElroy, as he celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving at St. Patrick’s Church, official home of the U.S. Catholic community in Rome, on Aug. 28.



**FRIENDS:** Parishioners and clergy from the San Francisco Archdiocese, including Chancellor Msgr. Michael Padazinski, Merle Talens, and her son, John Talens, immediately to the right of Cardinal McElroy, attended a celebratory dinner in his honor Aug. 28.



# Seminarians Share Once-in-a-Lifetime Event

By Aida Bustos



ROME — Fourteen seminarians from the San Diego

Diocese participated in a two-week Franciscan pilgrimage from Assisi to Rome in August, which culminated in a once-in-a-lifetime event: their bishop being elevated to cardinal.

In interviews just before that consistory, several of them reflected on what that journey meant to them.

Anthony Jimenez said tracing the footsteps of St. Francis, “who saw Christ in others, particularly in the marginalized,” and then coming to Rome, a symbol of the Universal Church, was meaningful to him.

“I think that it’s all fitting in the context of Bishop McElroy, who embraces that universal vision,” said Jimenez, 41, who is beginning his second year of theology. “As someone who is aspiring to the priesthood, it inspires me to see the work of the Holy Spirit taking place here.”

Brian Frulla, 25, has three years of formation remaining. He said the journey had immersed him in the unfamiliar, lands with a rich religious history, and the familiar, having dinner with his bishop in Rome days before his elevation to cardinal.

“Definitely, this feels like it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” he said.

Twenty-eight-year-old Marc Gandolfo said Bishop McElroy is a gift to the diocese, and now he would be one for the greater Church.

“He’s a great shepherd, and is in constant need of our prayers,” said



**TOUCH OF HOME:** Anthony Jimenez greeted Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy at a dinner Aug. 26 hosted by U.S. Ambassador Joe Donnelly. Fellow seminarians Sean Embury and Marc Gandolfo also were on hand.

Gandolfo, in his last year of theology.

Evan Bui, 24, in his sixth year in the seminary, predicted that the cardinal would face both internal forces within the Church, and external ones, but that he would always take a pastoral approach in his ministry.

“I’m just very grateful that we have someone that is able to bridge the gap between the secular world and the

Catholic world,” he said.

Laura Martin-Spencer, the director of Pastoral Formation at the seminary, said the pilgrimage had been postponed, first by pandemic, and then a second time so it would coincide with the consistory.

She said it gave the seminarians a sense of what it meant to be a global Church — and more.

“The Franciscan pilgrimage allowed them to walk where the apostles walked, to be where Francis was,” she said. “All of this gave them more of the history of what they are joining as priests.”

Frulla, one of the seminarians, summarized his experience this way:

“It is a great time to just be a future priest with our diocese.”

## World's Media Wants to Hear from New Cardinal

By Aida Bustos



ROME — The world’s press has a lot of questions for Cardinal Robert McElroy.

In the day before the consistory, the Vatican Press Office organized a two-hour “media availability” for reporters to talk to the 20 cardinals-designate.

By far, the largest group, about 25, wanted to interview Bishop McElroy. They included U.S.-based companies and foreign ones, and Catholic as well as secular media. Among them were American TV networks, Associated Press, Reuters, and news services from France, Spain, Argentina, Ireland and Al Jazeera.

The questions were similar.

What would the new cardinal do?

He would begin by stating that his main job was to serve as the bishop of San Diego, and that he expected to continue to spend most of his time in that role.

He said he expected to help build



**CENTER STAGE:** Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy fielded questions from journalists from around the world at the Vatican Press Office on Aug. 26.

unity within the Universal Church, stressing that local dioceses needed to see their role not just through a parochial lens but a global one. He

acknowledged that this view would be a particular challenge for the U.S. Church.

Many questions focused on the

issue of polarization within the U.S. Church.

First, dioceses were experiencing it in different ways, he said. In San Diego, polarization was largely not an issue in the Latino, Filipino and Vietnamese communities, which constituted the majority of the faithful, he noted.

He said that polarization was a problem in society, not solely a Church problem, and that the Church had to listen to those who felt alienated and work to address their wounds.

“Everyone in the Church is wounded in some way,” he said, referring to Pope Francis’ image of the Church as a field hospital. “Everyone is needing the grace of God. And so, we are all healers and we are all being healed.”

How did he see the state of the Catholic Church?

“This is a wonderful moment in the life of the Church to be called to this ministry,” he said. “The Church is in the process of renewal, striving to listen to all voices, particularly those on the margins.”



# Food Bank Bids Farewell to 'El Centro Angel'

By Roman Flores



EL CENTRO —  
When Sister Maria  
Luisa Valdez came

to the Imperial Valley decades ago, she never knew she would touch as many lives as she has. But she felt called to help the poor when she visited an elderly couple, opened their refrigerator, and saw only a single can of tuna inside.

"That's all they had, one can of tuna, and from that moment I began to visit families to find what they needed," Sister Valdez said. "Right away, I contacted the (Imperial Valley) Food Bank and they would send boxes of food."

That was the start of Sister Valdez's more than 25 years directing the Sister Evelyn Mourey Center (SEMC) in northern El Centro, one of the Imperial Valley Food Bank's former food distribution sites, and of her years working closely with the food bank.

Sister Valdez said she is thankful the food bank "never said no to me" when she would come asking for food for needy families.

Throughout her years working at the SEMC, Sister Valdez helped to bring food to the needy, as well as develop community-building classes, according to a press release. These included English as a Second Language, typing, culinary, and U.S. citizenship classes.

Under her leadership, the center be-



**FEEDING THE HUNGRY:** Sister Maria Luisa Valdez, third from left, is seen among the Imperial Valley Food Bank Board of Directors of 2016. From left are John Levada, Shelly Wilkinson, Sister Valdez, Kris Becker, Executive Director Sara Griffen, Ed McGrew, and current Board President Jim Abatti.

came a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity in 2010. By May 2013, she had retired from her administrative work at the center and continued her advocacy as director emeritus on the SEMC's board of directors.

Sister Valdez served on the Imperial Valley Food Bank's board of directors from 2012 to 2017 at the invitation of Executive Director Sara Griffen.

The food bank held a farewell luncheon in honor of Sister Valdez on July 8, wishing her a happy retirement as she prepared to move to her order's motherhouse in Huntington, Ind., in mid-July.

The departure of Sister Valdez and her long-time friend and collaborator, Sister Maria Adela Amoroso, marks the end of a 90-year presence of their order, Our Lady of Victory Missionary

Sisters, in the Imperial Valley.

Griffen said, as soon as she heard Sister Valdez was leaving, she felt the food bank should "recognize this woman for all the things she did here," calling it "hard to see Sisters in this kind of ministry leaving the Valley."

"She knew everyone, she knew their issues ... she was just a really good minister to the people she served," Griffen said. "Having someone like her lets us not forget the mission as we're doing it. She's just been a constant voice for the hungry."

Griffen said the Imperial Valley Food Bank serves about 5,000 families — between 20,000 and 25,000 people — each month in Imperial County, more now than before the COVID pandemic.

It was Sister Valdez's advocacy for needy families and her hard work ethic that earned her the moniker "the El Centro Angel" with locals, said Lourdes Cienfuegos, a former worker with the Sister Evelyn Mourey Center who credits Sister Valdez with helping her to learn English.

Alba Sanchez, director of programs for the food bank, described Sister Valdez as "one of those people that, when you meet (her), you know why she's here. Her mission has always been to help."

"There's going to be a void here that is going to be very hard to fulfill," Sanchez said. "Sister touched many lives here in Imperial County."

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# Office Seeks Pen Pals to Write to Inmates

By Denis Grasska



Do you have the  
"write" stuff?

A pen pal program that matches local volunteers with inmates currently has about 70 volunteers.

But it's looking for more, according to Robert Ehn timer, PhD, director of the diocesan Office for Life, Peace and Justice, which runs the program.

The requirements are simple enough: Participants are asked to make a one-year commitment, writing about one letter a month.

Though neither the inmates nor their pen pals are required to be Catholic, the program is spiritual in nature. Ehn timer explained that the purpose of the letters is not simply to exchange friendly banter, but to provide "spiritual support, spiritual prayer, spiritual accompaniment."

In his own letters to inmates, Ehn timer said that he keeps this spiritual focus by sharing Bible verses, enclosing a prayer card or two, and reminding the inmate "that God loves them, that I love them, and that the faithful of San Diego love them and will continue to pray for them."

Ehn timer acknowledged that the pen pal program "isn't for everybody," noting that these are inmates who have received lengthy sentences in response to serious crimes.

But for those with "a heart to correspond with an inmate," he said, there is no reason for safety concerns. Pen pals often use only their first name and



the first letter of their last name, and the Office for Life, Peace and Justice's mailing address serves as their return address.

Ehn timer said the program, which began more than 10 years ago, is ideal for those who are interested in prison ministry, but, for one reason or another, are unable to make in-person visits to local prisons.

Scott Matney has been a pen pal for almost four years with Paul, a death-

row inmate at San Quentin State Prison.

For years, Matney had heard the scriptural account of the Judgment of the Nations, from the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, proclaimed at Mass. In those verses, Jesus reveals that we will be judged on how we helped those in need: "For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me."

Matney said he felt able "to check the box" on some of those things that Jesus mentioned, but not when it came to visiting the imprisoned. So, he decided to attend the last day of a three-day prison retreat to gain firsthand experience of prison ministry.

"I have to tell you, I was a bit intimidated," Matney said of attending the retreat, explaining that it was his first time inside a prison.

He later found out about the pen pal program, which he saw as something he could do while he "developed the courage" to do in-person prison ministry.

Ehn timer noted that the vast majority of the inmates participating in the program either have no family or are estranged from their relatives. So, letters from their pen pal might be "their only real window to the outside world."

John Murcko, a summer intern in the Office for Life, Peace and Justice, has been involved in the effort to enlist more pen pals. He intends to be a pen pal, too.

Murcko has read and responded to letters that inmates have sent to the office; he said that some of those letters have been "pretty heartbreaking."

He acknowledged that it's easy for people not to care about inmates or to feel that they deserve to be where they are because of their crimes.


"But that's not the end of the story," he said. "They're still human beings worthy of (the) dignity that God gave them."

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**"Do you want to listen to my story?"**  
a woman screamed in the parking lot of a bank.

A woman getting ready to use the ATM responded rapidly, "No, I'm in a hurry. I don't have time to listen to your story."

Others nearby, me among them, quickened our pace to avoid the woman's question, as if wanting to drown her voice with the distance.

I asked myself, why are we uncomfortable in the presence of a beggar and her screams? Why is it a natural reaction to turn away to avoid the gaze of such an individual?

Perhaps the indigent woman screams in the street what her body and soul need. After having experienced pain, rejection and abandonment, she doesn't have anything left to feign; her wounds and her grime are visible and, from the abyss, she finds the freedom and strength to scream at her Lord and those made in His likeness about what she's search-

**Associate Director,  
Family Life &  
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**Ricardo Márquez**



ing for, what she needs.

What does this have to do with me?

When we walk under the sun, our shadows follow us. That's a good metaphor to understand that all of us have shadows in our life, those parts that we ourselves don't recognize, that we conceal because of shame or because we don't want to see them.

My fears, my insecurities, my traumas — all of them are part of my shadow. We learn not to speak about them, to avoid them, because they connect us to pain. Perhaps the beggar reminds us of them, and we react, unconsciously, and turn away.

I don't make the time to sit down and listen attentively, compassionately to my own story, and neither do I make the time to listen to others' stories.

Pope Francis uses the image of the Church these days as a "field hospital":

"How much poverty and solitude we see in today's world, unfortunately! How many people live in conditions of great suffering and ask the Church to be a sign of the Lord's goodness, solidarity and mercy. This is a task, in particular, for those who have the responsibility of pastoral ministry. They are required to recognize and interpret these signs of the times in order to offer a wise and generous response," said Pope Francis during an audience in September of 2014.

The invitation is to be a sign, a gesture of compassion, tenderness and love that serves at least as first aid to the wounded, as Fermín Negre, a leading priest and musician from Spain, tells us:

"Serve in the concrete: Listen without a watch to the person who is alone, casting aside well-worn assumptions. Miss your favorite program to take a walk with that wounded person. Leave on the store shelves those things that you don't need and share items with someone who struggles to make ends meet by the end of the week. Help a senior citizen tie his shoelaces before he trips.

"Bring your faith down from the

heavens, and land it with words and actions, sharing who you are, honestly.

"All you have to do is pay attention, open your eyes and discover that everything is an opportunity to love and to serve in concrete, small ways, unperceived, discreetly. And find in that concrete expression of love the meaning of life."

We're called to heal the wounded. It's not our merits, nor external achievements that make us efficient in this service; it's being open to the grace of God that proclaims in our interior, to the Spirit that inspires us. All we have to do is let go, allowing ourselves to be moved by this force that leads us to recognize in the "other" our own image, the image of creation in each one of us, God's footprint in everything.

If I am aware of my shadow and my wounds, I can recognize them in the other, in the person who is screaming on the street. If I'm conscious of the love that energizes me, accepts me, and forgives me, I will be willing to listen to you. And, listening to you, we both will be healed, and the light and fraternity of the Kingdom will have claimed new space.

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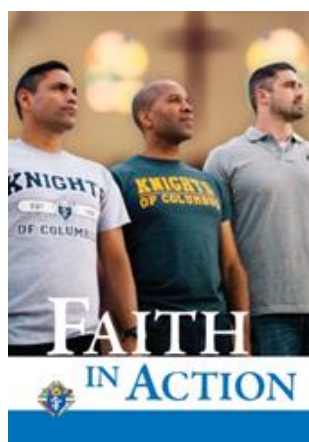
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## News Briefs

### Special Retreat to Focus on Grieving Moms

LOS ALTOS, Calif. — All grieving mothers are invited to find comfort at a four-day, three-night retreat.

The retreat will be held from Sept. 8 to 11 at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos.

For more information, visit [sacredsorrows.org](http://sacredsorrows.org) or [jrclosaltos.org](http://jrclosaltos.org).

### Survivors of Suicide Loss Invited to Mass

CHULA VISTA — A bilingual Mass for survivors of suicide loss and those who wish to accompany them will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista.

Families and friends are invited to stop by the parish hall after Mass for a reflection and complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

For more information and to provide the names of loved ones who lost their lives to suicide, email [bolivero@sdccatholic.org](mailto:bolivero@sdccatholic.org) or call (858) 490-8299. The deadline to receive the loved ones' names is Thursday, Sept. 8.

### Ladies Guild Seeking Members, Selling Crafts

The Father Joe's Villages Ladies Guild, a volunteer group that benefits homeless children, will hold a mem-

bership luncheon at 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 12, at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Scripps Ranch.

It will hold its annual craft sale, beginning at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 10, also at St. Gregory the Great Parish.

For more information, call (619) 733-7410 or email [margie.r.mills@gmail.com](mailto:margie.r.mills@gmail.com).

### Support for Divorced Offered Virtually

The diocesan Office for Family Life and Spirituality will be offering a free online program for divorced Catholics.

"Recovering from Divorce" will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 15 to Nov. 17, via Zoom.

The 10-week support program is designed to confidentially help participants heal through the light of living their faith.

RSVP to the Family Life and Spirituality Office at [bolivero@sdccatholic.org](mailto:bolivero@sdccatholic.org) or (858) 490-8299.

### Women's Retreat Offered in California, Arizona

At the "Into His Marvelous Light" women's retreat, participants will be invited to encounter the living Christ through prayer, sacraments and loving fellowship and to move together from the darkness of this world's trials into the marvelous light of God's love

and goodness.

The weekend retreat is presented by Magis Women, a ministry of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith, founded by Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer. It will be offered from Sept. 23 to 25 at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos and from Oct. 14 to 16 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Ariz.

For more information, including pricing, and to register, visit [magiswomen.com](http://magiswomen.com) or [jrclosaltos.org](http://jrclosaltos.org).

### Widowed, Divorced Invited to Healing Weekend

OCEANSIDE — Beginning Experience, a ministry that helps the widowed, divorced and separated move beyond grief, will hold its next weekend retreat Oct. 7 to 9 at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside.

The cost is \$300, which covers individual rooms, food and materials. Scholarships are available for those in need.

**Briefs** Continued on Page 17



### 'Draft Day' at High School

Students are seen opening their job-placement envelopes, as confetti cannons go off, at Cristo Rey San Diego High School's third annual Draft Day.

Held this year on Aug. 5 in the parish hall at St. Jude Shrine of the West, the event is based on the idea of a sports draft, with students being "drafted" by the corporate and nonprofit partners they will be working with this school year.

Cristo Rey San Diego offers a unique Corporate Work Study Program, in which all students work five days per month in professional, entry-level positions at local companies and nonprofit organizations. With the schedule set so they never miss a class, students earn valuable work experience in a corporate setting while receiving a college-preparatory education.

A reception for students, families and community members followed the job-placement reveal.

For more information, visit [cristoreysandiego.org](http://cristoreysandiego.org).

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**Sr. Kathy Warren**  
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**Briefs** *Continued from Page 16*

For more information, email [beginningexperiencesd@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperiencesd@gmail.com) or call (858) 748-2273 in English or (330) 607-8774 in Spanish.

**Cristo Rey H.S. Hosting Charity Golf Tournament**

The second annual Cristo Rey San Diego High School Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, Oct. 10, at the Grand Golf Club at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar, with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

A reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and student speakers will follow the tournament. All proceeds support the education of Cristo Rey San Diego High School students.

Single players are \$300; foursomes are \$1,200; and reception-only tickets are \$80. A box lunch and reception ticket are included for all golfers. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information, contact [bnicar@crstoreysandiego.org](mailto:bnicar@crstoreysandiego.org) or visit [crstoreysandiego.org/golf-tournament](http://crstoreysandiego.org/golf-tournament).

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**All Welcome at Korean Thanksgiving Mass**

The diocese's Korean Catholic community invites everyone to a Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday, Sept. 11, to be celebrated by Cardinal Robert McElroy.

Community members hold this traditional Mass to thank God for a good harvest and offer a tribute to their ancestors, known as *Chuseok*. The Mass and music will be mostly in Korean, but the homily will be in English. A reception will follow.

The Mass will be at noon at St. Columba Church in Serra Mesa. For more information, call (858) 490-8306 or email [adias@sdccatholic.org](mailto:adias@sdccatholic.org).

**'Begin a New Tomorrow' at Fall Festival**

Holy Family Parish's annual fall festival will be on Saturday, Oct. 1, and Sunday, Oct. 2. The theme is "Together We Begin a New Tomorrow."

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. There will be live entertainment; Mexican, Filipino, Vietnamese and American food booths; carnival games; a bounce house; and raffle prizes.

**Oktoberfest Coming to Julian**

JULIAN — St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Julian will hold its annual Oktoberfest from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Julian Town Hall and Julian Town Square, located at 2129 Main St.

There will be live music, food, silent and live auctions, and more.

Artist Ann Reilly Cole will lead a "Sip and Paint a Madonna and Child Icon" activity; register for it by Sept. 22 at (760) 765-0613 or [office@stelizabethjulian.org](mailto:office@stelizabethjulian.org).

**Obituary****FATHER HAROLD "HAL" TINDALL**

Father Harold "Hal" Tindall, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died July 29 at Nazareth House San Diego. He was 91.

Born in South Bend, Ind., he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Francis Seminary in San Diego, from 1972 to 1975, continuing at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, from 1975 to 1978.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1978, by then Bishop Leo T. Maher of San Diego.

Father Tindall's first priestly assignment was as associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in La Mesa. He subsequently served as associate pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in El Cajon, Holy Spirit Parish in San Diego and St. Michael Parish in Poway.

He became a pastor for the first time when he was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo Parish in 1988. He later served as pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Alpine, beginning in 1990.

Despite retiring on July 1, 1996, Father Tindall continued his ministry.

In the Aug. 7 parish bulletin for St. Gabriel Parish in Poway, Father Michael Froidurot recalled how the retired Father Tindall had come to reside at St. Gabriel's shortly after Father Froidurot became its pastor.

"Despite being a 'retired' priest," wrote Father Froidurot, "Father Hal spent almost 20 years here at St. Gabriel working tirelessly for our parish. He said many of our Masses each week, participated in ministry, and was an integral part of our community."

"Father Hal will be forever remembered for his deep commitment to community, his love for the Holy Spirit, his ornery sense of humor, and intolerance of perfume," he added.

Father Tindall's funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 20 at St. Gabriel Church.

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Website: <https://wholeperson.care>

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Questions? Christina Slentz, [cslentz@sdccatholic.org](mailto:cslentz@sdccatholic.org)







# Young Priest Promotes Vocations

DENIS GRASSKA

By Denis Grasska



Father Eric Tamayo, 32, serves as director of the diocesan

Office for Priestly Vocations, as vice-rector of St. Francis Center for Priestly Formation, and as associate pastor of The Immaculata Parish.

A San Diego native, he was ordained to the priesthood by now Cardinal Robert McElroy on June 29, 2018, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish.

Before beginning his current assignments in early July, he was the associate pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista.

**Question: What role did the Catholic faith play in your early years?**

**Answer:** I grew up in a Catholic household. The faith was always a part of my life and gave me a foundation. But it was also something that I took for granted, thinking that everyone lived the same way. It wasn't until my college years that I began asking questions: Why am I Catholic? Why do I do all these things that I do? Why does the Church say this or that?

**When did you feel called to the priesthood?**

I never really thought about the priesthood until my last year in college. That year, I started learning

Director, Office for Priestly Vocations

Father Eric Tamayo



more about my faith. I got involved with a young adult group, where I saw other men and women who cared about their faith, and that was the spark that led to participation in Bible study, the Knights of Columbus, and other ministries.

The more I got involved, the more I wanted to do and the more I felt like there was still something missing. I looked back at my life and realized all the little ways in which God had blessed me. I wanted to give something back. That's where the idea of priesthood came in. What better way for me to give of myself than to give myself totally? And, what better way to give of myself than through the priesthood?

Around that time, I also encountered younger priests for the first time. I had never really seen a young priest before, and I guess I had never even thought about it as an option.

**What have you found most fulfilling about priestly ministry?**

I was only ordained four years ago, and two years of my priesthood have been during the COVID pandemic. So, it's all fairly new. But I think the

most fulfilling part is just being able to walk with people on their journey, through the good times and the bad, from people preparing for marriage to those who are experiencing marital problems or dealing with the loss of a loved one. As a priest, I'm in a unique position to take a step back and see God very actively working in other people's lives.

**How did you feel about being assigned as director of the Office for Priestly Vocations and vice-rector of the diocesan seminary?**

I'm still just a couple of weeks in. But it's kind of wild being back at St. Francis House of Formation, where it all started for me. Not being too far removed from seminary life gives me a unique perspective to accompany other men in their own discernment.

**What are your responsibilities as director of the Office for Priestly Vocations?**

It's my responsibility to promote vocations. I'll be traveling throughout the diocese, visiting the parishes and schools, letting people know that the priesthood is an option. I think every Catholic man should consider the priesthood. Just as they discern married life, they should ask themselves the question, "Is this for me?"

**From your perspective, why is vocations ministry important?**

I think our culture is so busy and so

noisy. I think many of us get caught up in the rhythm of life. As kids, we grow up hearing about married life. In school, we start planning for the careers we want. We hear about all these different opportunities, but so rarely do we hear about the possibility of dedicating yourself to God through priesthood or religious life. And there's a need for vocations, especially in the Diocese of San Diego.

**What advice would you give to those seeking to discern God's call?**

The biggest thing, above anything else, is prayer. There's no replacement for prayer. If I ask where God is calling me to be, I need to take the time to listen in silence and prayer. If I don't, I won't be able to hear the answer.

A lot of it is quieting our life down and not being distracted by all the busyness and by our own expectations and goals. Along with that, staying close to the life of the Church — going to Mass, allowing the Word of God to speak to you, going to confession, experiencing God's mercy.

Eucharistic adoration was one of the things that helped me the most during my discernment, because it allowed me that time to quiet my life down and truly listen to what God was saying and reflect on how God was working in my life.

## Obituary

### Monsignor's Ministries Lifted USD, Ecumenism

Msgr. John Portman, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died July 20 after a long illness. He was 91.

Born in Wisconsin, he was ordained on Dec. 16, 1956, at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Father Portman received a License in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in July 1957. Upon returning to San Diego, he served as assistant pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, from 1957 to 1963.

In 1963, he returned to Rome to earn a doctorate in Ecumenism at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Father Portman served on the faculty of Immaculate Heart Seminary in San Diego from 1965 to 1968, including as vice-rector, beginning in July 1966.

He was appointed founding chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of San Diego in early 1968, serving there until his resignation in 1974.

On Aug. 23, 1970, he was named a monsignor.

From 1972 until 1976, Msgr. Portman served as pastor of The Immaculata

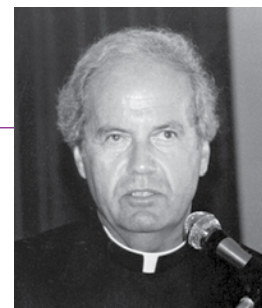
Parish, located on the USD campus. From 1976 until his retirement in 1996, he was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado.

As a priest and scholar who charted new approaches in the areas of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, he served as chair of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission from 1967 to 1981. He was the first Roman Catholic to be president of the San Diego County Ecumenical Conference. He also was a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue (ARC/USA) from 1977 to 1981.

In 2000, USD announced a \$2-million anonymous gift to endow a Chair in Catholic Theology honoring Msgr. Portman.

Since retiring in 1996, he continued to celebrate Mass and preach at St. Brigid, Our Lady of Angels and St. Catherine Labouré parishes.

The funeral Mass for Msgr. Portman was celebrated July 27 at The Immaculata Parish.





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## Dear Friends and Family of Catholic Charities:

*A promise is sacred. It's formed by compassion, intention, and commitment.*

For decades, Catholic Charities has been making and holding promises—to welcome the stranger, to serve those in need, and to be a solution in the community. Our latest promise is one of our most significant yet. This July, in partnership with the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission, we opened Rachel's Promise, our new 24/7 emergency shelter for women.

Rachel's Promise is in downtown San Diego's East Village, across the street from Rachel's Women's Center and Rachel's Night Shelter. It adds 40 additional beds, doubling the capacity of the night shelter, and provides wrap-around services and support to unsheltered women. Our three facilities work together to provide services, shelter, and support to women.

While every single unsheltered person faces danger and distress daily, unsheltered women are more vulnerable. Our participant surveys show that fifty percent of women report being physically assaulted while on the streets. Seventy-five percent have experienced at least one sexual assault in their lives. Eighty percent report histories of intimate partner violence. Eighty percent also report having their personal items repeatedly stolen while living on the streets.

Karen, age 75, was sleeping in Balboa Park and was a victim of elder abuse before coming to Rachel's Women's Center. She immediately received a bed at Rachel's Night Shelter and is now one of the first participants at Rachel's Promise. Karen told us she is now “safe” and able to focus on her life, her goals, and a positive future.

Phyllis never dreamed she would be homeless at age 54, but the overwhelming grief of losing her mother coupled with the trauma of domestic violence led her to panic to the point where she felt she physically could not breathe. Phyllis was living in her car, alone, without a job or any hope for the future. Eventually, she entered a shelter for both men and women. The paralyzing anxiety and stress of being there left her looking for an escape or any other option. Devastated with her life, the loss of her mother, and no support, Phyllis heard about an all-women's shelter close to where she was staying, so she decided to check it out. The first day she was at Rachel's, Phyllis said she finally felt like she could breathe.

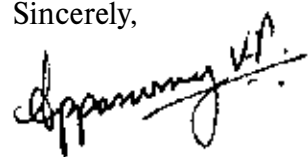
Rachel's Promise is just that—a promise—to these women and so many others who are unsheltered and often unseen. First and foremost, it is a promise to give shelter. But more profoundly, it is a promise that gives hope. Hope that a better day is here, a safe day. Hope for women who have nowhere to go and no one to support them. Hope that the team will support them and guide them to set goals that will start them moving forward in their lives.

At Rachel's Promise grand opening, the City of San Diego's Mayor Todd Gloria said, “Catholic Charities is no stranger to San Diego's efforts to help our most vulnerable residents, they literally do it every single day.”

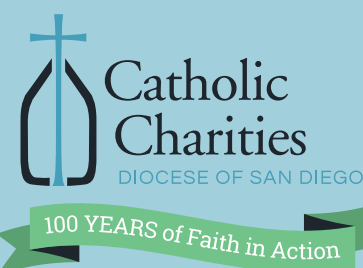
As each bed becomes filled at Rachel's Promise, another courageous unsheltered woman will wake up each morning with the resources, support, and safety to envision how she will ultimately leave the shelter. With the help of our team members at Rachel's Promise, she will reclaim her life, regain her independence, and make that bed available to the next woman in need.

This promise—a shelter of this magnitude—relies on generous giving and support. To support Rachel's Promise and the programs that support unsheltered women, donate using the envelope included or by visiting [ccdsd.org/giving](https://ccdsd.org/giving).

Sincerely,



Appaswamy “Vino” Pajanor  
Chief Executive Officer



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