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'Dark Past' Becomes Asset in Ministry

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — By any measure, Scott Weeman seems contented.

All of the pieces of his life seem to have fallen into alignment.

The 31-year-old is a newlywed, just married in September. He enjoys the love of his family and a supportive community of friends. He has found fulfillment in a rewarding ministry. And he recently finished his first book, which will be published in late 2017.

What a difference five years makes!

Flashback to Oct. 9, 2011, when Weeman had hit bottom and, in a long-distance call to his parents and a few remaining close friends, admitted that he needed help.

He had gone through "nine years of darkness," enslaved by an alcohol and drug addiction that damaged some of his closest relationships, cost him a full-tuition college scholarship, and resulted in two DUIs and several underage drinking citations. Even after making the decision to sober up, he doubted whether he would ever be able to make up all the years he had wasted.

"What's funny is that ... I thought that my life was over at the young age of 26 ... and that really the rest of my life would be playing catch-up," he said.

But, as it turned out, that wasn't the case at all.

"God has awoken me to believe ... that I can use my dark past as a great asset to help others," said Weeman, founder of the nonprofit

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SCOTT WEEMAN

Local Hospital Chaplains Minister with Patience and Love

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The ministry of a hospital chaplain is a demanding one. But, according to priests who have accepted such an assignment, it is also deeply rewarding.

Father Danilo Valdepenas, who serves as Catholic chaplain at Sharp Grossmont Hospital and Kaiser Permanente Zion Medical Center, has been involved in this form of ministry for almost four years and has come to love it.

"You cannot dictate the tempo," he said, contrasting it to the more traditional schedule he had in a previous assignment as an associate pastor.

After spending hours at the hospital, making rounds and visiting those patients who have self-identified as Catholic, the chaplain might arrive home only to receive an emergency telephone call about a patient who needs last rites.

As a result, Father Valdepenas said, a chaplain can

feel a bit like "a ping pong ball" at times, bouncing from one place to another at a moment's notice. He added that a chaplain must be patient and dedicated to succeed in this ministry.

"You have to love your work because, if you are not committed ... you cannot last," Father Valdepenas said. "They wake you up in the middle of the night. There is no excuse, there is no alibi in saying I am tired, I am sick, I cannot make it."

He said the most rewarding part of being a hospital chaplain is "being with the patient, being with the relatives, being with them in their emotions."

Father Valdepenas recounted an experience he had about two years ago when he was told in an early morning phone call that a newborn baby was close to death. He went to the hospital, baptized the child and offered words of counsel and comfort to the parents. Months later, the grateful parents sent him a photo of their now healthy baby.

Last year, he received a call to celebrate anointing of the sick for an 18-year-old who had been diagnosed with lung cancer. He continued to visit the patient throughout his stay in the hospital. The young man later contacted Father Valdepenas to express gratitude for the priest's ministry to him and for "the second life that God has given him."

"It's really very different from other kinds of ministry," Father Valdepenas said of hospital chaplaincy. "You bring the Church closer to them."

Father David Sereno, the Catholic chaplain at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido and Palomar Health Downtown Campus, has ministered in local hospitals for almost six years.

"Besides helping the families and the patients, which is the mainstay, one of the things I like [about hospital chaplaincy] is that it cuts through parish boundaries," he said. "People come to the hospital

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Hundreds of Grassroots Leaders to Gather for Vatican-Sponsored Conference

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — Grassroots leaders working to improve their communities across the United States will gather in Modesto in a convening inspired by Pope Francis.

Around 600 are expected to attend the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements on Feb. 16-19. Among them are at least 25 bishops, including San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy, who will lead a contingent of local community organizers.

The convening is organized by the Vatican's Department for Integral Human Development, in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and its Catholic Campaign for Human Development, PICO National Network and the California Catholic Conference.

It builds on three previous ones that took place in Rome, in October 2014 and November 2016, and in Bolivia, in July 2015. Those meetings focused on three themes: work, housing and land. In addition to these, the meeting in Modesto will tackle migration and racism.

Bishop McElroy explained that the term "popular movements" refers to the action of people who are poor and marginalized in society working together to attain justice and freedom.

"This is the action on behalf of justice which the Gospel speaks of as part of the saving message of Jesus Christ," the bishop said. "It is the action to bring human digni-



MOVEMENTS: Bishop Robert W. McElroy, pictured during a visit to the U.S.-Mexican border fence last year, will be one of the speakers at the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements Feb. 16-19 in Modesto. The meeting will focus on the themes of work, housing, land, migration and racism.

ty to every man and woman which the Church points to as the heart of its social teaching. And it is the search for liberty and

justice for all which is at the center of the American experiment."

He said the meeting in Modesto is signif-

icant because it brings together people of all faiths under the umbrella of Catholic social

SEE MOVEMENTS, PAGE 16

Franciscans Working to Stop Exodus of Young Christians from Holy Land

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Franciscan Father Peter Vasko has lived in the Holy Land for three decades, and he doubts there will ever be peace in the region.

But amidst the conflict and the hardships, he said, the Franciscan order is there to assist the local Christian population, "helping our people to survive, to give them hope, to give them joy, awareness and something that they can hold on to."

The Franciscans have had a presence in the Holy Land since 1217 and, some 125 years later, Pope Clement VI declared them to be the official custodians of the holy places. Today, perhaps more than ever, they have their work cut out for them.

"We've had many challenges over the many, many centuries ... but [during] the last century and a half, there's been an ongoing exodus of young Christians leaving the Holy Land," said Father Vasko, who serves as president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land.

The foundation was established in 1994 to stem the tide of that exodus through a variety of initiatives, including a successful schol-

arship program.

As the foundation's president, Father Vasko visits the United States twice a year to raise awareness of the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. Most of the foundation's funding comes from U.S. Catholics who organize receptions and fundraising dinners.

For Father Vasko, the loss of a Christian presence in the Holy Land would be a tragedy.

Of the three monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — only Christianity's founder was actually born there, and the region is where the Church itself was born, he explained. In the absence of "a living, worshipping community" of Christians, the holy places that generations of Christians have given their lives to defend will become nothing more than museums and monuments.

"If we don't have a sense of our religious roots and heritage, then how can we call ourselves Christians?" Father Vasko asked. "This is our heritage, this is where it all began ... so it has to be of utmost importance if we're to have any sense of who we are as Christians."

Many young Christians do not really want to leave the Holy Land,

Father Vasko said, but they are being driven out by political factors and economic challenges.

"None of the money [the U.S. government gives] either to the Israelis or to the Palestinian Authority ever trickles down to the Christians," he said. "They have no world government, they have no major organizations helping them, and they're the ones who are leaving."

Because education is key to acquiring a good job, the Franciscan Foundation launched a program in 1997 that provides a free college education to qualifying Christian students. Scholarship applicants must maintain a "B" average in high school, come from a family with financial need, and enroll at a college or university in the country or at least no further than neighboring Jordan.

For those students who are not interested in a university education, the foundation helps enroll them in a vocational program to learn a trade.

Father Vasko said that about 150 students are currently in college with foundation scholarships. Another 200 have already graduated, he said, and 85 percent of those graduates are working as account-



FATHER PETER VASKO

ants, engineers, doctors and in other professions.

An ecumenical organization, the Franciscan Foundation works to assist all Christians in the Holy Land, regardless of denomination. Father Vasko said the scholarship program is not limited to Catholic students.

"Christianity is Christianity," Father Vasko said. "We're so small ... we have to stick together."

Denise Marie Scalzo, who serves as the foundation's vice president and resides in Carlsbad, echoes that sentiment. She described the region as "the most ecumenical

place on earth."

She noted that there are only about 150,000 Christians total among the Holy Land's population of 8 million. As dire as the present situation might seem, Father Vasko remains hopeful for the future.

"When I see that 85 percent of all of our graduates ... are secure in a job, and 85 percent of them are staying in the Holy Land, they're not leaving, that tells us a lot objectively," he said.

Ten years ago, he added, Bethlehem was losing 500 families a year. That number has dropped to about 300, he said, which itself shows "we must be having some sort of an effect."

As he reflects on the foundation's work, Father Vasko takes pleasure in the knowledge that so many talented students are being prepared to take their place as "future Christian leaders in the Holy Land."

"That's my greatest joy," he said. "It's not me. I'm just an instrument. I always tell people, this is not my mission, this is not the Franciscan mission, this is God's mission."

For more information, visit www.ffhl.org.

The Southern Cross

Networking Group Helps Young Catholics Live Their Faith at Work

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — “This needs to happen.”

That’s what Clare Oven remembers thinking after hearing Jennifer Baugh, founder and executive director of Young Catholic Professionals, speak about establishing a new chapter in San Diego.

At that initial informational meeting, Oven was so enthusiastic about the nonprofit organization and its mission that she decided to apply for a position on the new chapter’s leadership team.

“It’s more than just a group for fellowship,” explained Oven, 28, who serves as the San Diego chapter’s vice president and director of operations. “It’s a ministry for young adults that’s specifically focused on trying to help them live their faith in the workplace.”

And it accomplishes that goal in several ways.

YCP San Diego sponsors a monthly Executive Speaker Series. On the second Tuesday of each month, young adults gather at a diocesan parish to hear a local Catholic professional speak about his or her life and career. Attendees also partake in free refreshments and drinks as they network with like-minded peers.

Representing diverse career paths, speakers have included Dick Lyles, CEO of Origen Entertainment; retired NFL kicker John Carney; Deputy District Attorney Michelle IaLeggio; Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Steve Breen; and Terri Funk Graham, former chief marketing officer for Jack in the Box.

Oven, who works at John Paul the Great Catholic University, said the speakers serve as models for living out the faith in one’s professional life and they often challenge attendees, leaving them with “something to think about for the next month.”

For instance, she said, Lyles encouraged his audience to accept the call to be leaders in restoring our culture, while IaLeggio reflected on the importance of having empathy for others.

A typical installment of the Executive Speaker Series will attract about 100 attendees, Oven said. “One of the things that I like ... is that we are drawing people from across the diocese and usually have a good mix of people from different parishes.”

In addition to the speaker series, she said, the local chapter also hosts a quarterly networking happy hour and will sponsor a half-day Saturday retreat twice a year and an annual celebration of the feast day of YCP’s patron, St. Joseph the Worker, on May 1.

All of these events are free and will remain so, she said, but a paid membership option is expected to be made available next summer and will provide access to an expanded calendar of



PROFESSIONALS: Clare Oven (fifth from left) is seen at a YCP San Diego event Nov. 8 at St. Pius X Parish in Chula Vista. Also pictured are guest speaker Michelle IaLeggio (fourth from left) and YCP San Diego leaders, including (from left) Vince Fonte, Maria Murra, Patricia De Saracho, Phillip Ghosn and Jamie Mark.

events.

Oven believes that an organization like YCP has a positive role to play in today’s world.

Catholic schools, from elementary school through the college level, can keep Catholics connected to their faith, she said. For public school students, she added, parish religious education programs, confirmation classes and campus Newman Centers can have a similar effect.

But after college, she said, it’s all too easy for young adult Catholics to stray from the Church until marriage and baptism classes draw them back.

“There’s a group of young adults in the Church who are looking for ... the next step up from a confirmation program or from a college program,” Oven said.

While YCP seeks “to fill that gap,” she was quick to note that the organization is not the only player in the young adult Catholic scene. She sees YCP, not as a competitor, but as a collaborator with the many already-existing diocesan and parish ministries, “which are great at supporting young adults.”

“We’re kind of taking it from a slightly different direction,”

Oven said. “The more people you have working on this problem, I think, the better.”

YCP’s San Diego leadership team, which was appointed by the national organization in early 2016, also includes Jeremy Orton, president; Patricia De Saracho, vice president and director of outreach; Maria Murra, director of marketing; Jamie Mark, assistant director of marketing; Sean Matthews, director of technology; Anthony Petz, director of finance; Marie LiMandri, director of parish relations; and Phillip Ghosn, director of pastoral relations.

The leadership team is supported by a board of directors. Neither receives financial compensation for their work.

“When it comes down to it, we’re not doing this for ourselves,” Oven said. “As soon as it goes from being a ministry to being a job, that’s when we’ve lost sight of what YCP is about.”

“At the end of the day, it’s not about ... whether we can get 250 people to an event,” she said. “It’s whether we’re ... serving the purpose that God has for us.”

For more information, visit www.ycpsandiego.org.

The Southern Cross

Implementation of Diocesan Synod Proposals Is Already Underway

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — The Diocese of San Diego moved quickly in the New Year to implement the synod’s proposals to strengthen Catholic marriage and families:

- Ten churches across the diocese became “pilot parishes” and began forming committees of parishioners to lay the groundwork for the proposals to become reality. This is important because the main work of strengthening families has always been envisioned as occurring at the parish level, led mainly by parishioners, and not necessarily at the diocese.

- Two task forces met to begin their work on engaging young adults and couples in parish life and on establishing the best practices for marriage preparation.

- The diocese began accepting applications for the director of the newly configured Office for Family Life and Spirituality.

Some 120 delegates, mostly parishioners, participated in an extraordinary synod on marriage and family the diocese organized in the latter half of 2016. At its conclusion, the dele-

gates presented Bishop Robert W. McElroy with 15 proposals to meet the synod’s goals: to welcome unmarried couples to the Church, to offer pastoral support for the divorced, to witness the beauty and realism of marriage, to nurture and form children, and to bring spiritual depth to family life.

A 25-member committee is meeting monthly to advise the implementation of the proposals, which also are being reviewed by the Priestly Council.

The task forces had an introductory meeting on Jan. 8 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Diego.

“We need your ideas to make the proposals a reality. Otherwise, they are just works of fiction,” said Paulist Father John Hurley at the start of the first task force meeting.

That group is to recommend strategies a parish can use to welcome and accompany young adults and couples into the full participation of Church life. Father Hurley stressed that no single strategy would work at every parish, but rather should be tailored to each location’s demographics.

The participants were young couples or

parishioners who had worked in young adult ministry. They shared what initially drew them to their parish and had kept them engaged in it. For their next meeting, Father Hurley asked them to bring ideas of how to interest young adults and couples in participating in parish life, consulting with fellow parishioners. He told the group that he hoped they will have concluded their work by mid-year.

The second task force will focus on the subject of marriage preparation. The group mainly will evaluate the marriage prep programs that are available, including online and those offered by other denominations, and recommend what the diocese should use in the future.

The task force members decided to conduct an online survey to find out what each parish does to prepare couples to marry. And they divided other fact-finding tasks among the members. Father Hurley told them that he hoped they could complete their work by summer.

Meanwhile, the diocese’s Human Resources department began accepting applications for director of a new Office for Family Life and Spirituality. Synod delegates proposed the cre-

ation of this office, which will serve the distinct needs of engaged couples and the newly married and those going through separation or who are divorced as well as promote family spirituality.

The 10 parishes that became “pilot parishes” began organizing themselves to begin to carry out the synod’s proposals. They are El Centro Catholic Community, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Chula Vista), Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Sacred Heart (Coronado), St. Brigid, St. James, San Rafael, St. Therese of Carmel and Santa Sophia.

At the synod, many delegates said they needed more information about conscience formation and the internal forum, two fundamental concepts of Catholic teaching that Pope Francis referred to in his apostolic exhortation “The Joy of Love.” Father Hurley told the members of both task forces that the bishop decided that the clergy in the diocese would reflect on these concepts in the coming year.

Complete information about the synod, including photos and videos, may be found at www.sdcatholic.org. Questions may be sent to synod@sdccatholic.org.

The Southern Cross

Briefs

Guard the Faith, Pope Tells Parents at Baptism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parents are charged with guarding the faith given to their children at baptism and helping them become true witnesses by example rather than just rules, Pope Francis said. By asking the Church for faith for their children through the sacrament of baptism, Christian parents have the task of helping their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for us priests, bishops, everyone,” the pope said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel. During the Mass Jan. 8, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis baptized 28 infants — 15 boys and 13 girls. The pope’s brief homily centered on the meaning of faith, which he described as a lifelong journey that “is lived” and leads to becoming a witness of Christ. Parents, he continued, must also teach through their example that faith “means trusting in God.”

Father Michael Scanlan Dies at Age 85

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO (CNS) — Franciscan Father Michael Scanlan, whose name is almost synonymous with the Franciscan University of Steubenville, died

Jan. 7 at Garvey Manor, a Catholic nursing home in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, after a long illness. He was 85. The priest transformed the struggling College of Steubenville — now known as the Franciscan University of Steubenville — in the 1970s. He was its longtime president — from 1974 to 2000 — and then chancellor at the university from 2000 to 2011, when he retired. The school became a university in 1980 and changed its name in 1986.

U.S. Abortion Rate at Lowest Since 1973

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. abortion rate is down to its lowest level since the Supreme Court made abortion legal virtually on demand in 1973, and the rate is half of its early-1980s peak. According to a study issued Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate for U.S. women ages 15-44 is 14.6 per 1,000 in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available. The figure represents a 14 percent decline from the 2011 numbers, and less than half of the 1981 rate of 29.4 abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age. Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, attributed the decline to more women looking “for life-preserving solutions” because of ultrasound and other technologies, along with knowing there are “programs available to help them with a new baby and new circumstances.”

Lunar New Year



A calligrapher paints while waiting for customers on a street in Hanoi, Vietnam, in this file photo. Calligraphy paintings are used for decoration during Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year, which begins on Jan. 28 this year.

CNS PHOTOGRAPH, REUTERS

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Holy Meals

While the controversial opening of a McDonald's near the Vatican may not have all local residents singing, "I'm lovin' it," the popular fast food chain is trying to do its part in the neighborhood by helping the poor and the hungry.

"Medicina Solidale" ("Solidarity Medicine") announced Jan. 12 that it is joining forces with McDonald's and the papal almoner's office, which gives the pope's charitable aid to the homeless around the Vatican, to distribute 1,000 meals to poor men and women who often find shelter in and around St. Peter's Basilica.

Starting Jan. 16, volunteers from the

charitable organization will distribute a specially prepared menu for the poor; it includes a double cheeseburger, fresh apple slices and a bottle of water.

Lucia Ercoli, director of "Medicina Solidale," said that the organization plans to distribute 100 meals a week for 10 consecutive Mondays. The program, she added, is "the beginning of a dialogue" with McDonald's to expand in the future.

"It is truly a small drop in an ocean of things being done by so many other associations, by so many people who spend their time helping others," Ercoli said Jan. 12 in an interview with *Vatican Radio*.

Catholic News Service

A Prophetic Voice

Detective Steven McDonald, the New York City police officer who was paralyzed after being shot in the line of duty 30 years ago and famously forgave his teenage assailant and went on to become a prophetic voice for forgiveness and reconciliation, died Jan. 10. He was 59.

A New York police spokesman confirmed that McDonald, who was Catholic, had died at a Long Island hospital four days after suffering a heart attack.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York called McDonald "a prophet, without speaking, of the pro-life cause."

"He showed us," the cardinal said, "that the value of life doesn't depend on physical ability, but on one's heart and soul, both of which he had in abundance."

The cardinal told *Catholic New York*, newspaper of the New York Archdiocese, that he had visited McDonald in the hospital's intensive care unit and said that the many rosaries and religious statues there represented outward signs of a Catholic faith the detective dearly practiced.

"You could see that he was such a fervent Catholic," Cardinal Dolan said.

Catholic News Service

Play Like a Champion!



COURTESY OF PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION

The St. Augustine Foundation will fund partnership for the Diocese of San Diego with the "Play Like a Champion Today" Character Education Through Sports program.

Winning-at-all-costs coaching, sports specialization, and parent "sports rage" are just a few of the problems eroding the culture of sports today. The Play Like a Champion Today program is designed to provide children and adolescents with the highest quality sports experience possible. It helps sports organizations by educating coaches and parents to make sports more safe, fun and developmentally enriching.

By partnering with Play Like a Champion, the Catholic elementary and high schools of the Diocese of San Diego may participate in a "Coaching as Ministry" clinic and a "Champion Sport Parent" workshop, both to be held at St. Augustine High School.

Pictured: (from left) Steven Granados and Cort Peters, who serve as "Local Certified Trainers" of the curriculum; Augustinian Father Kirk Davis, a board member of the St. Augustine Foundation; David Canedo, executive director of the foundation; and the foundation's president, Augustinian Father John Keller.

For more information, visit www.playlikeachampion.org.

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► RECOVERY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Organization pairs addiction recovery with Catholic spirituality

organization Catholic in Recovery.

Started in spring 2015 as nothing more than a blog, it received its nonprofit status this past April. The organization's roots can be traced back to a discovery that Weeman made shortly after embracing sobriety, when he began attending meetings for recovering alcoholics and simultaneously getting more actively involved in the Church.

"I found that the spiritual principles that were at the foundation" of both the Church and addiction recovery programs "were really the same tenets," he said.

Catholic in Recovery offers addiction recovery resources within the context of Catholic spirituality and "the life-giving sacraments of the Church," he explained.

The organization has collaborated with parishes and schools, enabling them to improve their outreach to those struggling with any form of addiction, whether alcohol, drugs, pornography, sex, gambling or food.

The Web site *CatholicInRecovery.com*, which Weeman said has more than 1,000 visitors each month, is home to a blog as well as a host of resources for those seeking help and encouragement on their path to recovery.

Weeman speaks at parishes throughout the Diocese of San Diego and blogs on the Web site about once or twice a month.

In January, Catholic in Recovery began hosting twice-monthly meetings at St. Joseph Cathedral for anyone whose life has been impacted by addiction.

Growing up in a small town in Wisconsin, Weeman was 17 years old when he had his first drink. He soon began taking drugs as well, beginning with marijuana.

After moving to New York City for college, he said, he transitioned from social drinking and recreational drug use to addiction. He was using alcohol or drugs — "usually both" — on a daily basis, and he found himself needing more and harder drugs, including cocaine, to reach the same high. He even began selling marijuana.

In 2010, Weeman moved to San Diego. He was still drinking excessively and using drugs at the time, but sobriety was just around the corner.

"By the grace of God, about a year later, I had reached my bottom, lost practically everything that I had, minus some close friendships that I had back home [and] the unconditional love of my family, and called for help," he said.

After that long-distance phone call, Weeman entered a substance abuse recovery program and also got involved with the young adult community at St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach.

Through his addiction, Weeman said, he was "humbled" to the point that he was willing "to give a personal relationship with God a chance." He ultimately came to accept "how much [God] loves me and how much He was willing to pursue me, even when I was hiding from Him as much as I could."

Though it has taken time, Weeman has rebuilt his life. He has repaired many of the relationships that were damaged by his addiction. After several semesters at a local commu-

Rice Bowl Grant



COURTESY OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

St. Martin of Tours Parish received a grant last year from CRS Rice Bowl, a project of Catholic Relief Services, to begin its community garden. The garden, still a work in progress, has beds for each grade level at St. Martin of Tours Academy. Radishes were planted in the fall and then donated in January to the parish food assistance program.

The CRS Rice Bowl Grant application deadline is Feb. 3. To apply, visit www.sdcatholic.org/OSM-CRB.

nity college, where he worked to improve his GPA, he was accepted into Point Loma Nazarene University. He will graduate in May 2017.

"My recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction is at the foundation for everything that is good in my life," he said. "That includes the personal freedom that I am granted, one day at a time, as well as my relationship with the Church, my family, friends and my beautiful wife, Jacqueline."

Weeman remembers being told five years ago that "the key component" in his own recovery would be to take "the great gift" of freedom and hope that he had received and to share it with

others. He still believes that, and that's what he hopes to accomplish through Catholic in Recovery.

By ministering to those still in the throes of addiction or in the process of recovery, he said, he is constantly reminded of the darkness he experienced and through which he passed.

"One of the gifts [I have received]," Weeman said, "is that I never lose sight of what it was like and that helps bring a lot of gratitude into my daily life."

For more information, visit www.CatholicInRecovery.com.

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Shrine Dedication Was Forty-Five Years in the Making

By Aida Bustos

CHULA VISTA — The Filipino faith community had planned a shrine for their beloved Santo Niño for 45 years.

Their wait is over.

On Jan. 15, San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy blessed the shrine, made up of a marble statue nestled in a white grotto, surrounded by tables and benches on the grounds of Most Precious Blood Parish.

More than 800 faithful lined the garden that surrounds the shrine, some leaning on canes and walkers, as they waited in the cold wind for the moment some had dreamed of for decades.

That moment was supposed to happen on last January's Feast of Santo Niño. But what had started out as a three-month construction project in September 2015 had taken a year longer to finish due to a series of construction delays. By the time it was finished, the project cost had reached \$74,000.

Deadlines came and went, and two invitations to the bishop to come out to bless the shrine had to be cancelled.

But the Señor Santo Niño Devotees never gave up. They had as a goal to build the shrine since they first formed in 1972, and they pursued that goal year after year, raising funds through dinner-dances, and most recently organizing casino trips and inviting individual donations. With around 300 members, the group is the oldest and largest such organization in San Diego County.

Their efforts culminated at the blessing of the shrine. Afterward, the bishop led a color-

ful procession around the perimeter of the parish and into the Father Albert Parish Hall. There, he celebrated a joyous Mass, which included readings in English, Spanish and two Filipino dialects.

About 1,000 families are registered at the parish, about half Latino and half Filipino, plus a scattering of Anglos and African-Americans.

A dinner followed with entertainment consisting of classical music, performed by three students and three members of the San Diego Symphony, and ballet folklórico dancing.

In his homily, the bishop told the faithful, who had filled every seat in the hall and an adjoining room, that he had visited the Basilica of Santo Niño last January in the island of Cebu while attending a conference there.

He said that he had seen "two beautiful elements" that complemented each other that day. First, he had seen the image of Santo Niño "who comes to us as a little child, humbled, opening Himself to us, revealing the depth of His love to us ... We see all that lies in hope, joy and promise for the future."

The bishop said he also saw parishioners at the Basilica who "had encountered God in the image of Santo Niño."

"You could see that the goodness within them was called forth, and once more they had been re-committed to ennobling the world in which we live by trying to make the love of God present in their family, their



SHRINE: Bishop Robert W. McElroy blesses the Santo Niño shrine Jan. 15. The grotto houses a marble statue and is surrounded by three patio tables, 12 benches and 346 personalized bricks sold to help fund the project.

neighborhood, in their places of worship."

The blessing of the shrine brought together the parish's former pastor, Father Emilio Magaña, and its current one, Father Silverio Espanilla.

"I'm happy that it's finally completed and that we're able to have a celebration at this level with the bishop," said Father Magaña, whose tenure at the parish ended last summer. He now leads St. Charles Parish in South San Diego.

He said the spirit of collaboration between the Filipino community and the Santo Niño Devotees paved the way for the building project, which broke ground under his leadership.

Father Espanilla arrived at the parish in mid-November, just as the project was being completed.

At the Mass, he thanked everyone who

had made the grotto possible, beaming, often breaking into "Viva Santo Niño!"

He was born in Luzon, Philippines, where he had been ordained. Last year, he was incardinated into the San Diego Diocese.

After the Mass, he said that although Santo Niño is a Filipino tradition, everyone is invited to visit the grotto.

"At the same time, we invite everyone to imitate the virtues of Santo Niño: humility, obedience, fear of the Lord."

He said he jokes with his Filipino and Latino parishioners about who has more devotees, Santo Niño or Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"Santo Niño necessarily needs the presence of His mother, and His mother needs Santo Niño," he said. "In a way, these traditions unite us."

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Briefs

Bishop McElroy to Speak at NFPC Convocation

ANAHEIM — The National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC) will hold its 49th Annual Convocation of Priests, April 24-27, at the Majestic Garden Hotel in Anaheim, California. Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego will provide a keynote address. The NFPC Convocation, formerly for Priest Council members, is now open to all Catholic priests. It is designed as a time for prayer, presentations, discussion, fellowship, relaxation, sightseeing and rejuvenation. Last year's gathering, held in Indianapolis, was attended by priests from more than 40 U.S. dioceses. The theme for the 2017 Convocation is "Forging a Future with Pope Francis." Speakers will present information in light of Pope Francis' leadership with practical and concrete applications for priestly life. This year's speakers include Father Ralph O'Donnell, reporting on the USCCB's Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations Committee; Father Ken Simpson of the Archdiocese of Chicago, speaking on reaching millennials; Kevin Appleby, who leads the International Migration Policy at the Center for Migration Studies, speaking about immigration; and Bishop McElroy speaking about priestly ministry. *For more information, visit www.nfpc.org.*

Obituary



SAN DIEGO — Father Jerome Bevilacqua, a retired priest from the Augustinian Community, died Dec. 11. He was 79. Father Bevilacqua was born on Aug. 3, 1937, in Pittsburgh, Pa. He entered the Augustinian Novitiate in 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 30, 1965, for the Augustinians. Father Bevilacqua was active in healing ministry, beginning in 1976. Among other assignments, he served at St. Augustine High School in San Diego from 1970-1975. The funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 16 at St. Patrick Church in San Diego. Burial was at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Director Sought for New Diocesan Office

PASTORAL CENTER — The diocesan Pastoral Center is seeking to fill a director position for the new Office for Family Life and Spirituality. This position reports to the bishop and will be responsible for providing leadership and administration of programs in support of both the beauty and realism of the Catholic vision of family life in the parishes. *To view the complete job description and requirements, visit www.sdcatholic.org and select the "Employment" tab.*

Mission Models Return to Knott's Berry Farm

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Beloved scale models of California's historic missions have returned to Knott's Berry Farm. In the 1950s, Walter Knott commissioned Leon Bayard de Volo to create scale models of all 21 California missions. Bob Weir, a 20-year veteran of Knott's Berry Farm's woodshop and current Knott's craftsman, has been meticulously restoring the missions for more than three years. The scale models border the same midway between Silver Bullet and the south entrance of Fiesta Village, as they did previously for many years. "Knott's Berry Farm prides itself in celebrating California's rich, living history, and the California mission models hold as much educational value as they do sentimental value for many of our guests," said Knott's General Manager Jon Storbeck. In addition to the return of the historic missions, Knott's is hosting its Early California History Day on March 15, 2017, in which students will have the opportunity to visit

Ready to Celebrate Mercy



The San Diego Tongan Choir (pictured) will perform at the 19th annual Divine Mercy Conference, which will be held Feb. 17-18 at the Juan Diego Center in Pala. Over the years, the choir has performed with other Tongans in the Los Angeles area on special occasions for the U.S. Tongan Catholic Chaplaincy. The choir comprises Catholics, Methodists and Mormons, reflecting the religious makeup of Tonga. At the conference, joined by singer/songwriter Donna Lee and friends, the choir will sing traditional Tongan songs at a closing Mass celebrated by Tongan Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi. This year's Divine Mercy Conference is shaping up to be especially musical, according to the event's organizers. Father Bill Quinlivan, known as "the Singing Priest," will be giving a special concert after the opening Mass Feb. 17. He will be joined by singers Donna Lee and Gretchen Harris. Conference tickets are not required to attend the opening Mass and concert. *For more information, visit www.SDdivinemercy.org or see the advertisement on Page 17 of this issue.*

and tour the displayed models within the park, as well as have the opportunity to display a mission of their own. One home-made mission model will be selected to represent an individual school and entered into the California missions competition. The winning models will be awarded special Knott's Berry Farm prizes.

Online Program Earns High Marks

SAN DIEGO — *U.S. News & World Report* has listed the University of San Diego's online Master of Education program among the nation's best in its 2017 ranking of online graduate education programs. USD ranked #22 out of nearly 250 schools in the

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2017 "Best Online Graduate Education Programs" report. The fully online master's in education program has offered degrees since 2013 and has received recognition and acclaim since it launched. Just 16 months after its launch, the online Master of Education (MEd) degree was ranked 75 in the nation by *U.S. News*. Since then, the program has moved up to 22nd in the category of Best Online Graduate Education Programs. Programs were ranked based on several key factors, including student engagement, student services and technology, admissions selectivity, and faculty credentials and training. *For more information about USD's online Master of Education degree, call (619) 260-4580 or (888) 832-0239, or visit* <http://medonline.sandiego.edu/>.

Free Screenings to Help Immigrants

SAN DIEGO — Catholic Charities in San Diego has stepped up its free screenings to help immigrants worried about potential major changes in federal policy. Personnel from its Immigrant Services division offers bilingual one-on-one assessments at participating parishes. These are for legal permanent residents interested in becoming citizens and for undocumented immigrants

wanting information about their particular case. On Jan. 8, Catholic Charities offered screenings at St. John of the Cross Parish and on Jan. 26 at Holy Trinity Parish. Immigration attorneys estimate that 15 percent of undocumented immigrants qualify to apply for legal status under existing programs but do not know it. In addition, Catholic Charities offers free one-on-one assessments at its Chula Vista office on Tuesdays. Immigrants also may make an appointment with a case manager to review their case, for an initial \$30 fee, or they can request to meet with an immigration attorney, for \$70. *Information is available at (619) 498-0722, (760) 353-6822 in the Imperial Valley and at www.ccdsd.org.*

San Diegans Headed to Religious Ed Congress

ANAHEIM — Constituents from various ministries enthusiastically plan to attend the Anaheim Religious Education Congress, Feb. 24-26, at the Anaheim Convention Center. The congress is an annual event that provides diocesan, parish and school leaders an opportunity to attend workshops covering a variety of theological, pastoral and spiritual topics. This year, Bishop Robert W. McElroy will preside at a Mass for the care of immigrants, exiles and refugees at 5:15 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Convention Arena. Earlier that day, at 12:15 p.m., all congress attendees from the Diocese of San Diego are encouraged to join Bishop McElroy for a group picture under the Convention Center Marquee outside the Arena on Katella Avenue. *For more information, visit www.recongress.org.*

The following has been announced by the Office of the Bishop:



Father Reynald Evangelista, a priest of the Diocese of Talibon, Philippines, has been appointed associate pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, El Cajon, effective Jan. 16.

Father Chris Kintanar has been appointed associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish, La Mesa, effective Jan. 19.

Father Niranjam Kanmury, a priest from the Diocese of Nalgonda, India, has been appointed hospital chaplain at Scripps Mercy Hospital (Chula Vista), Sharp Medical Center (Chula Vista) and Paradise Valley Hospital (National City), with residence at St. Pius X Parish, Chula Vista, effective Jan. 16.

Sixty Years of Priesthood



Bishop Robert W. McElroy celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on Dec. 18 at Sacred Heart Church in Coronado in honor of Msgr. John R. Portman's 60th anniversary of ordination. Msgr. Portman had served as pastor of the parish for 20 years before retiring. More than a dozen priests attended the standing-room-only Mass, which was followed by a celebration in the parish hall. There, current and former parishioners lined up to offer their personal message to the monsignor, including many couples who thanked him for marrying them years ago.

"We have been doubly blessed by Msgr. Portman's gifts to our diocese," Bishop McElroy told the parishioners at the opening of the Mass. He noted Msgr. Portman's contributions at the University of San Diego and his service at Sacred Heart, where he led the renovation of the church and the expansion of the school.

At USD, Msgr. Portman was a faculty member at Immaculate Heart Seminary from 1965-1968, until the major seminary was transferred to Menlo Park. He served as the founding chairman of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and established the Ecumenical Center for World Religions. He was named pastor of The Immaculata in 1972. In 2000, an anonymous donor to USD made possible an endowment in his name, the Msgr. John R. Portman Chair in Roman Catholic Theology.

He also was the first Roman Catholic president of the San Diego Ecumenical Conference, which honored his dedication to social justice in 1991.

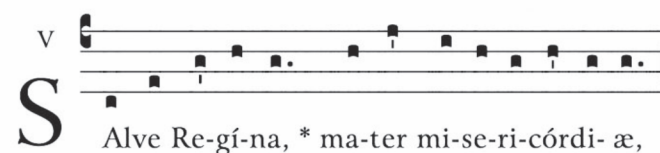
In closing remarks, Father Michael Murphy said that, when he was a seminarian in Rome, it was Msgr. Portman who had initially introduced him to Sacred Heart Parish, which he now leads.

"Msgr. Portman has been a mentor and a friend my entire priestly life," Father Murphy said. "He has truly blessed us all."

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► CHAPLAINS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hospital ministry reaches practicing, non-practicing Catholics alike

from all different parishes, so you're getting a cross-section of people, and I enjoy that."

As a chaplain, Father Sereno said he encounters everything "from birth all the way to old age and death."

Fortunately, most of the patients he meets will be in the hospital for a short time and then will go on with their lives, he said. But not all of them are so lucky.

Father Sereno recalled the time he received the call that a baby had been born prematurely and the parents sought baptism as soon as possible.

After baptizing the child, Father Sereno remembers placing his pinkie finger into the child's small hand — and the child grabbed it.

"I was just stunned right there for a minute," he said. "I was very touched. I'll never forget that. It was as if the little baby was thanking me for what I had done, baptizing him."

On another occasion, Father Sereno sat in a hospital room with a family during their loved one's last moments. The priest had already been at the hospital for several hours that day and had returned when informed about the patient's imminent death.

"I prayed for this individual until the heart stopped and he passed," said Father Sereno, who admitted that he was so affected by what he had experienced that he inadvertently ran a red light on his drive home that night.

Father David Leon, who serves as Catholic chaplain at UCSD Medical Center, Alvarado

Hospital Medical Center and Good Samaritan Retirement Center, has been performing this ministry for almost a decade.

Noting the large number of Catholic patients, he expressed appreciation for his team of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and the support that they provide in his ministry. He said there are between 85 and 150 Catholic patients at UCSD Medical Center on any given day. Though on call 24 hours a day, five nights a week, he is unable to visit all of these patients. Extraordinary ministers, who are at the hospital every day, visit patients on every floor and alert him to those patients who would like to meet with a priest.

The patients he visits include both practicing Catholics and those who, "for various reasons, haven't been all that active in the faith," Father Leon said. "I get the chance to counsel them, help them return to the sacraments."

"The most rewarding [part of this ministry] is when somebody is choosing to draw closer to the Lord by the return to the sacraments, when you see the patient or family members comforted both through the ministry that I offer plus the work of the extraordinary ministers," he said.

There are times when patients initially have little interest in spiritual support but, after a week in the hospital, request that the priest pay them a second visit, Father Leon said. Some of these patients have told him that their family and friends never visited but someone from the Church had come almost every day, and that inspired them to begin practicing their faith once again.

Such conversion stories mean a lot to Father Leon.

He told *The Southern Cross* that, when celebrating Mass at local parishes, he has been approached by people he ministered to in the hospital. They remind him of what he told



HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS: Father John Dolan (center) leads a meeting of the diocese's hospital chaplains Dec. 5 at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

them about the importance of attending Mass every week and they assure him that they have done so ever since being discharged from the hospital.

"For me, it's all about conversion," Father Leon said. "And that's necessary for all of us, all the time, for me as well. So helping people on the path to draw closer to the Lord at whatever stage in life they're in, that's what it's all about."

Father John Dolan, the Diocese of San Diego's Vicar for Clergy, believes that hospital chaplains play an indispensable role in the Local Church.

When Catholics are hospitalized, both the patients themselves and their concerned family members often need more than physical healing.

"They want to have a connection with the Church that has been a part of their life," said Father Dolan. "That spiritual dimension, but also that relational dimension with the Church,

is very important."

Some of the patients that the chaplains encounter have very little involvement with the Church.

"So, this is Church for them, when the Church reaches out," Father Dolan said of the chaplains' ministry.

While chaplains offer "those practical things," like the Eucharist and the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick, Father Dolan said, often just "showing up" and being present is "a very important piece of the puzzle."

Today, 11 Catholic priests in the diocese serve as chaplains at almost 20 local hospitals.

"It's been a blessing both to the priest, as well as to the patient," Father Dolan added, "and it's a great response to the mission of the Church that we are indeed called to be shepherds not only to the healthy but also to the sick."

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Wheelchair-Bound Publisher Retells St. Paul's Story with Shades of 'Star Wars'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — There are moments when a life is changed forever.

Mario DeMatteo experienced one in 2004 when, during a vacation in Costa Rica, he took a dive into a hotel swimming pool.

"Why I dove into that dark swimming pool, I will never know," the 32-year-old said. "When I hit the bottom, I immediately knew I was paralyzed. I held my breath for as long as I could and then the lights went out."

After three days in a Costa Rican hospital, he was flown back home to San Diego on a medical flight. He underwent intensive surgery on his neck and would spend four months in the hospital. It was soon clear that, because of his spinal cord injury, his old life was over.

"I remember praying to God that He would just let me die," DeMatteo said. "How could I possibly live in a wheelchair?"

But God had other plans, and DeMatteo is grateful for that.

After being discharged from the hospital, DeMatteo developed a passion for writing and drawing. He went to art school, found work as a graphic designer, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Literature and Writing from California State University, San Marcos.

Today, he is the founder of the independent Christian publishing company Beartruth Collective LLC and the publisher and co-creator (with Ben Avery and Mark Harmon) of its first book, *Paul the*

Apostle: A Graphic Novel.

Taking inspiration from the science-fiction and fantasy stories DeMatteo has loved since his youth, the graphic novel faithfully re-tells the saint's story, but with a unique twist.

"*Paul the Apostle: A Graphic Novel* is the biblically-based account of St. Paul from the Book of Acts in the Bible, set in a futuristic 'Star Wars'-esque universe. We use awesome-looking cartoon creatures instead of humans," said DeMatteo, who explained that the protagonist himself is depicted as a tail-less "fox-man" who "rocks a mohawk from time to time."

"All the names and places are the actual Biblical names and places," he said of the graphic novel, which is designed for ages 8 to 13. "What we did is repaint the Biblical story in a unique science-fiction visual language to illuminate the story in a new way for children and families to enjoy together."

DeMatteo, who attended St. Patrick School in Carlsbad from kindergarten through eighth grade, believes that comics are an excellent vehicle for communicating the Gospel message.

"Comic books ... have a unique ability to combine verbal and visual storytelling in a very engaging way that can bring the already awesome Bible stories to life," he said.

DeMatteo notes that he is far from the first to combine Christianity and comics, and he quipped that Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel frescoes are themselves "one great comic book unfolded across the walls."



MARIO DEMATTEO

Because children are naturally drawn to them, he said, comics provide "a good entry point into the Bible for many children who might be intimidated by the vast text that is the Bible."

Regarding the story of St. Paul, DeMatteo remembers being "absolutely floored" when he first read the account of the saint's life in the Acts of the Apostles.

"The transformation he undergoes, from being a great persecutor of the early Church to becoming one of its greatest advocates, is just so cool," he said, suggesting that this transformation "offers hope for all of humanity." He added that people can also take inspiration from the saint's endurance and perseverance in the face of his great suffering.

DeMatteo said Beartruth Collective is currently preparing a study guide to accompany *Paul the Apostle*. Work is also underway on *Peter the Apostle: A Graphic Novel*, inspired by the life of another saint of the early Church. He said the company has "big dreams of creating an entire illustrated comic-book Bible set in this awesome [science-fiction inspired] universe."

With this first book in the series, he said, "It is my hope that children will be entertained, while at the same time being educated about the amazing life of St. Paul and his unwavering faith in Jesus. Our ultimate goal is to get children interested in the Bible."

Paul the Apostle: A Graphic Novel is available exclusively at www.beartruthcollective.com.

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Late Priest Was Pastor, Advocate for Marriage and Vocations

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Msgr. John Dickie, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Dec. 21. He was 86.

During his six decades of priesthood, Msgr. Dickie served as a pastor as well as in Catholic education, priestly formation and as a strong advocate for sacramental marriage and religious vocations.

John Andrew Dickie was born on June 9, 1930, in Oak Park, Illinois.

Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of his ordination, he told *The Southern Cross* in 2006 that he began discerning God's call in seventh grade, when his teacher asked if he had ever considered becoming a priest. Dickie, who was an altar server at the time, was later asked the same question by his pastor.

He ultimately decided to become a priest, after briefly considering the notion of becoming a religious brother, motivated by a desire to celebrate the Mass.

He studied in El Cajon at St. Francis Seminary, from 1948-1950, and Immaculate Heart Seminary, from 1950-1956. He was ordained by the Diocese of San Diego's founding bishop, Charles F. Buddy, on May 19, 1956, at St. Joseph Cathedral.

As a newly ordained priest, his first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove.

He served as assistant principal of Aquinas Hall High School, from 1956-1958, and University of San Diego High School (USDHS), from 1958-1961, fol-

lowed by six years as principal of USDHS.

Msgr. Dickie, who was named a monsignor in late 1969, became a pastor for the first time in 1972. He was assigned to St. Michael Parish in Poway, which he pastored until 1976.

In late 1975, he attended his first Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) Weekend, beginning a long association with the organization that helps married couples deepen their relationships. An article that appeared on *eMatrimony.org*, a Web site dedicated to "supporting, encouraging, and challenging the WWME community," reported that he continued his involvement with Marriage Encounter even after his retirement.

He also was actively involved with the California Catholic Conference, which identifies itself as "the official voice of the Catholic community in California's public policy arena, representing the state's bishops on legislation and social issues." He served as the conference's assistant director from 1976-1977 and its executive director from 1977-1982.

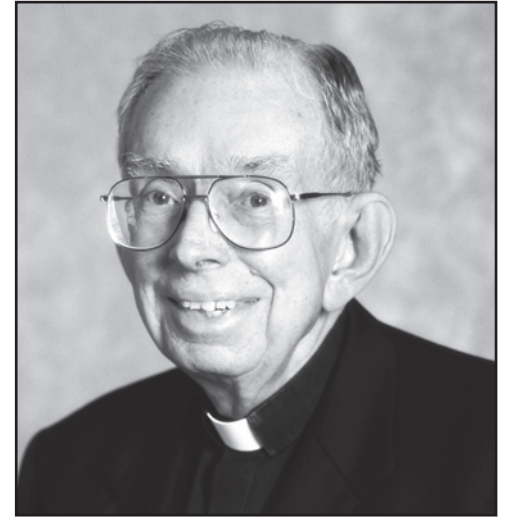
Msgr. Dickie then directed the diocese's Renew program from 1982-1984.

Following a return to parish life, as pastor of St. Columba Parish from 1985-1990, he was charged with the task of ministering to his fellow priests and assisting with the formation of the diocese's seminarians.

From 1990-1995, Msgr. Dickie was Vicar for Clergy, director of the Ministry to Priests Office, and rector of St. Francis Seminary.

In 1995, he accepted his third and final assignment as a pastor, serving the Catholic community at St. Mary Magdalene Parish until 2005, when he retired and became pastor emeritus. In his retirement, he was engaged in ministry to fellow senior priests.

The funeral Mass for Msgr. Dickie was



MSGR. JOHN DICKIE

celebrated Dec. 28 at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. The principal celebrant was Bishop Robert W. McElroy. The homilist was his longtime friend, Father James Rafferty. Burial followed at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum.

An *eMatrimony.org* article about Msgr. Dickie's retirement ends with a series of quotes from friends and colleagues, sharing their experiences with him and reflecting on his ministry.

"I have known you since I was a 14-year-old freshman in high school and you were the principal," Father Michael Sinor, pastor of St. Didacus Parish, wrote in one of those comments. "I have worked side by side with you after my ordination as we nurtured the vocations of other men in our seminary work together. I have been with you in our shared involvement in Marriage Encounter."

He closed by saying, "I thank God for the gift of your life, your priesthood and friendship. I thank God for all the ways you have revealed Christ's life to me through your integrity, honesty and gentleness and love."

The Southern Cross

'Angels' at Christmas



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Members of St. Pat's Angels, a community service group at St. Patrick School in Carlsbad, joined forces with the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center to bring some Christmas joy to sailors who spent the holidays far from home.

The junior high students donated toiletry items and small goodies and wrapped them in reusable plastic boxes. These were later distributed to foreign sailors aboard ships that docked in San Diego during the holiday season.

Pictured: Father James Boyd, chaplain of the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center, poses with members of St. Pat's Angels and their donations.

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Parish Celebrates 90 Years of Reflecting Christ's Light

SAN DIEGO — For many people, a 90th anniversary is not as significant as a 75th and certainly not as special as a centennial celebration.

However, the parishioners of St. Didacus Church, the patronal church of San Diego, thought it important enough to warrant several months' worth of anniversary-themed events.

As one longtime parishioner put it, "St. Didacus parishioners are a fortunate group. We are of mixed ethnicities, but all are one big, happy family. When or if your grandmother turns 90, it is surely a joyful, celebratory day and you wish with all your heart that she continues, reaching 100. Our parish is a loving grandmother!"

In 1926, Father Thomas Murphy was directed to establish a new church in San Diego, and the following year saw the dedication of St. Didacus Church. In 1939, St. Didacus School was dedicated a few blocks away. In 1977, Msgr. Patrick O'Dowd added the bell tower to the church and, in 1984, Bishop Leo T. Maher blessed the new parish hall.

The current pastor, Father Michael Sinor, reflected on the significance of the parish's 90th anniversary.

"The world is a different place than when this parish first began in 1926," he said. "What has remained constant, though, is our faith in Jesus Christ. Despite all the ups and downs of history, culture and the changes in the demographics of our parish community, believing Catholics have gathered here to celebrate the mystery of God's

love revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

To begin preparing for the 90th anniversary celebration, Father Sinor appointed parishioner Sylvin Watson as chair of the anniversary committee. After requests for volunteers were posted in the January 2016 bulletins, the committee was formed and met regularly from February until November. Parish administrative assistant Cindy Tiano attended every meeting and supported the committee's efforts by posting event announcements and including historical facts and stories about the parish in each weekly bulletin. With the approval of Father Sinor, the committee organized events for May through November of last year.

In May and June, parishioners sat for their family portraits to fill the 90th-anniversary edition of the parish directory. T-shirts were printed and sold to add to the spirit of celebration and to raise funds to offset the expenses of some of the events.

As the first of the anniversary-themed events, the parish Hispanic community hosted its fourth annual Kermes celebration (Mexican festival). Funds raised through the evening of Mexican food, games and raffle prizes were donated to the parish. With a nod towards the parish's early history, attendees were asked to dress in 1920s-era clothing.

One weekend in July, ice cream sundaes — donated by parishioner-owned Mariposa Ice Cream — were served after each Mass.

On Aug. 6, parishioners and neighbors were invited to a block party held at the



ANNIVERSARY: Bishop Robert W. McElroy is seen on the front steps of St. Didacus Church, with Father Michael Sinor (back, left), Deacon Dino Serafini (back, right) and altar servers Avery Lay, Benjamin Wood and Kyla Lay, after celebrating the parish's 90th anniversary Mass on Nov. 6.

church. The event included music performed by parishioners and local musicians, and food donated by local restaurants.

In addition to social events, the anniversary committee also wanted the parish to have the opportunity to give back to the San Diego community. So, on Sept. 17, some 24 volunteers from the parish served breakfast at Father Joe's Villages. On the third Saturday of October, volunteers joined the committee in cleaning the church, the church hall and surrounding grounds.

The final events marking the 90th anniversary celebration took place on Nov. 6, when Bishop Robert W. McElroy celebrated the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass in conjunction with the feast day of St. Didacus.

Attendees enjoyed a reception in the hall immediately following the Mass and mingled among friends as they looked at old photos of the parish community throughout the years. The parish's annual potluck celebration was held that evening.

Reflecting on the years to come, Father Sinor said of the parish community, "We will try to reflect the faithfulness of Christ as we go into the future, knowing that as we journey together, it is the Holy Spirit that continues to guide us. This parish and our parish school reflect a great deal of Christ's light through the varieties of gifts that God has blessed us with during the 90 years of our presence here."

The Southern Cross

IN LOVING Memory

INTO THY HANDS, O Lord, we commend the spirits of these beloved ones who are gone before us into the realm of thy eternal happiness and peace. AMEN

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Father Jerome "Jerry" Bevilacqua	St. Patrick	12/11/2016
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At Box Office, Filmgoers Can Choose Between Fantasy and Fact-Based

NEW YORK — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by *Catholic News Service*.

“A Monster Calls”

(Focus) Uncompromisingly dark melodrama about an adolescent British boy (Lewis MacDougall) struggling to cope with a variety of problems, the most dramatic being his mother’s (Felicity Jones) impending death from cancer. Coming to his “rescue” is a benevolent giant (voice of Liam Neeson) formed from the bark and roots of the local graveyard’s ancient yew tree — and with a voice as deep as a coal mine. His new companion’s centuries of observing human behavior and ability to dispense slightly off-kilter fables are supposed to bring the lad gruff instruction, if not exactly comfort. Though it’s based on Patrick Ness’ award-winning 2011 children’s novel, it is not a film for kids. Probably acceptable for mature teens. Some physical violence, several discussions of death, intense emotional scenes. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“La La Land”

(Lionsgate) Inspired by the musicals of Hollywood’s golden age, this comedy-drama set in present-day Los Angeles chronicles the gooey romance of two star-crossed lovers: an aspiring actress (Emma Stone) and a jazz pianist (Ryan Gosling). She wants to be a movie star, while he hopes to open his own club. The path to success is rocky, and their relationship is put to the test. Writer-director Damien Chazelle dreams big in this over-the-top fantasy where drivers exit their cars on a freeway overpass and burst into song, and lovers dance on air amid the projected stars in a planetarium. Beautifully shot in widescreen CinemaScope, it’s a unique film, though also a self-indulgent one, and tends to lose its way when the song and dance take over. Fortunately, that’s largely made up for by Chazelle’s engaging script, a cast of first-rate actors, and superb music. An implied premarital relationship and some crude language. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*



WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE CALLER ID: *Lewis MacDougall confronts The Monster (voiced by Liam Neeson) in the movie “A Monster Calls.”*

“Hidden Figures”

(Fox 2000) Appealing fact-based drama about an extraordinarily gifted mathematician (Taraji P. Henson) working for NASA in the early 1960s. As she and two equally brilliant colleagues (Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae), who are also her close friends, battle racism and segregation, she gradually wins the respect of her well-meaning but initially unenlightened boss (Kevin Costner). The film re-creates the tension of the Cold War space race, while showcasing family values and Christian piety as well as wholesome romance through the widowed protagonist’s relationship with a National Guard officer (Mahershala Ali). May be suitable for older teens. At least one use of profanity, several milder oaths, a vague sexual reference. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG.*

“Patriots Day”

(Lionsgate) Effective but unsparing dramatization of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and its violent aftermath. Director and co-writer Peter Berg approaches these events from multiple perspectives, predominantly that of fictional police Sgt. Tommy Saunders (Mark Wahlberg), who is among the first responders to the chaos unleashed by brothers

Tamerlan (Themo Melikidze) and Dzhokhar (Alex Wolff) Tsarnaev. Other strands of the story involve lead FBI investigator Richard DesLauriers (Kevin Bacon), his local counterpart, Ed Davis (John Goodman), and Chinese-born app designer Dun Meng (Jimmy O. Yang), whom the murderous siblings carjacked and kidnapped. Disturbing and sometimes gruesome images of terrorist mayhem, considerable gore, drug use, a marital bedroom scene, and pervasive rough language. *CNS classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — R.*

“Jackie”

(Fox Searchlight) A mesmerizing performance by Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy,

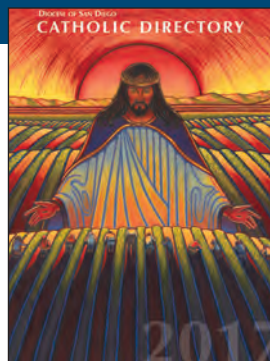
reflecting on loss while building the Camelot myth in the weeks following President John Kennedy’s (Caspar Phillipson) 1963 assassination, is mixed in with overwrought monologues and not-quite-accurate history. Director Pablo Larrain and screenwriter Noah Oppenheim focus on how Jackie created her own legend by virtually dictating a story about her husband’s last days to *Life* magazine reporter Theodore H. White (Billy Crudup). An explicit, gory portrayal of assassination, and at least one use of rough language. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — R.*

“Live by Night”

(Warner Bros.) Style trumps substance in this glossy crime drama tracing the rise of a Boston-bred gangster (Ben Affleck, who also wrote and directed) in the Florida of the 1920s and ‘30s. After a near-fatal conflict with the Irish-American kingpin (Robert Glenister) with whose girlfriend (Sienna Miller) he was having an affair, he seeks to avenge himself by allying with his enemy’s principal rival (Remo Girone), the leader of the Hub’s Italian mafia. Dispatched to the outskirts of Tampa to supervise his new boss’ rum-running racket, he falls for the elegant scion (Zoe Saldana) of a wealthy but shady Cuban family and clashes with a local evangelist (Elle Fanning) over his plans to build a casino. Questionable values, frequent violence with some gore, semi-graphic premarital sex, upper female nudity, and constant rough language. *CNS classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — R.*

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Scorsese's 'Silence' and the Seaside Martyrs

By Bishop Robert Barron

I have long been an ardent fan of Martin Scorsese's films. "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull," "Goodfellas," "The Aviator," "Gangs of New York," "The Last Waltz," "Casino," etc., are among the defining movies of the last 40 years. And "The Departed," Scorsese's 2007 crime drama, was the subject matter of the first YouTube commentary that I ever did. It is certainly the case, furthermore, that the director's Catholicism, however mitigated and conflicted, comes through in most of his work. His most recent offering, the much-anticipated "Silence," based upon the Shusaku Endo novel of the same name, is a worthy addition to the Scorsese oeuvre. Like so many of his other films, it is marked by gorgeous cinematography, outstanding performances from both lead and supporting actors, a gripping narrative, and enough thematic complexity to keep you thinking for the foreseeable future.

The story is set in mid-17th-century Japan, where a fierce persecution of the Catholic faith is underway. To this dangerous country come two young Jesuit priests (played by Adam Driver and Andrew Garfield), spiritual descendants of St. Francis Xavier, sent to find Father Ferreira, their mentor and seminary professor who, rumor has it, had apostatized under torture and actually gone over to the other side. Immediately upon arriving onshore, they are met by a small group of Japanese Christians who had been maintaining their faith underground for many years. Due to the extreme danger, the young priests are forced into hiding during the day, but they are able to engage in clandestine ministry at night: baptizing, catechizing, confessing, celebrating the Mass. In rather short order, however, the authorities get wind of their presence, and suspected Christians are rounded up and tortured in the hopes of luring the priests out into the open. The single most memorable scene in the film, at least for me, was the seaside crucifixion of four of these courageous lay believers. Tied to crosses by the shore, they are, in the course of

several days, buffeted by the incoming tide until they drown. Afterwards, their bodies are placed on pyres of straw and they are burned to ashes, appearing for all the world like holocausts offered to the Lord.

In time, the priests are captured and subjected to a unique and terrible form of psychological torture. The film focuses on the struggles of Father Rodrigues. As Japanese Christians, men and women who had risked their lives to protect him, are tortured in his presence, he is invited to renounce his faith and thereby put an end to their torment. If only he would trample on a Christian image, even as a mere external sign, an empty formality, he would free his colleagues from their pain. A good warrior, he refuses. Even when a Japanese Christian is beheaded, he doesn't give in. Finally, and it is the most devastating scene in the movie, he is brought to Father Ferreira, the mentor whom he had been seeking since his arrival in Japan. All the rumors are true: This former master of the Christian life, this Jesuit hero, has renounced his faith, taken a Japanese wife, and is living as a sort of philosopher under the protection of the state. Using a variety of arguments, the disgraced priest tries to convince his former student to give up the quest to evangelize Japan, which he characterized as a "swamp" where the seed of Christianity can never take root.

The next day, in the presence of Christians being horrifically tortured, hung upside down inside a pit filled with excrement, he is given the opportunity, once more, to step on a depiction of the face of Christ. At the height of his anguish, resisting from the depth of his heart, Rodrigues hears what he takes to be the voice of Jesus Himself, finally breaking the divine silence, telling him to trample on the image. When he does so, a cock crows in the distance. In the wake of his apostasy, he follows in the footsteps of Ferreira, becoming a ward of the state, a well-fed, well-provided-for philosopher, regularly called upon to step on a Christian image and formally renounce his Christian



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

APOSTATE: Liam Neeson stars in the movie "Silence" as a Jesuit priest who renounces his faith under torture in 17th-century Japan.

faith. He takes a Japanese name and a Japanese wife and lives out many long years in Japan before his death at the age of 64 and his burial in a Buddhist ceremony.

What in the world do we make of this strange and disturbing story? Like any great film or novel, "Silence" obviously resists a univocal or one-sided interpretation. In fact, almost all of the commentaries that I have read, especially from religious people, emphasize how "Silence" beautifully brings forward the complex, layered, ambiguous nature of faith. Fully acknowledging the profound psychological and spiritual truth of that claim, I wonder whether I might add a somewhat dissenting voice to the conversation? I would like to propose a comparison, altogether warranted by the instincts of a one-time soldier named Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Jesuit order to which all the "Silence" missionaries belonged. Suppose a small team of highly-trained American special ops was smuggled behind enemy lines for a dangerous mission. Suppose, furthermore, that they were aided by loyal civilians on the ground, who were eventually captured and proved willing to die rather than betray the mission. Suppose, finally, that the troops themselves were eventually detained and, under torture, renounced their loyalty to the United States, joined their opponents and lived comfortable lives under the aegis of their former

enemies. Would anyone be eager to celebrate the layered complexity and rich ambiguity of their patriotism? Wouldn't we see them rather straightforwardly as cowards and traitors?

My worry is that all of the stress on complexity and multivalence and ambiguity is in service of the cultural elite today, which is not that different from the Japanese cultural elite depicted in the film. What I mean is that the secular establishment always prefers Christians who are vacillating, unsure, divided, and altogether eager to privatize their religion. And it is all too willing to dismiss passionately religious people as dangerous, violent and, let's face it, not that bright. Revisit Ferreira's speech to Rodrigues about the supposedly simplistic Christianity of the Japanese laity if you doubt me on this score. I wonder whether Shusaku Endo (and perhaps Scorsese) was actually inviting us to look away from the priests and toward that wonderful group of courageous, pious, dedicated, long-suffering lay people who kept the Christian faith alive under the most inhospitable conditions imaginable and who, at the decisive moment, witnessed to Christ with their lives. Whereas the specially trained Ferreira and Rodrigues became paid lackeys of a tyrannical government, those simple folk remained a thorn in the side of the tyranny.

I know, I know, Scorsese shows the corpse of Rodrigues inside his coffin clutching a small crucifix, which proves, I suppose, that the priest remained in some sense Christian. But again, that's just the kind of Christianity the regnant culture likes: utterly privatized, hidden away, harmless. So okay, perhaps a half-cheer for Rodrigues, but a full-throated three cheers for the martyrs, crucified by the seaside.

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.



Produced by the Office for Social Ministry of the Diocese of San Diego with hosts: Kent Peters, Linda Arreola, and Deacon Jim Walsh

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With Orange to the north, Tijuana to the south, San Bernardino to the northeast, Tucson to the east, and Mexicali to the southeast, the Diocese of San Diego is a unique border diocese that has many Local Churches as its neighbors.



Father Ed Horning

One of those neighbors, the Diocese of Mexicali, is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. Although the Church has had a presence in this desert part of Baja California since the early 1900s (the first settlers made their homes there in 1903), the Diocese of Mexicali wasn't formally established until March 25, 1966. The diocese's anniversary celebration is already underway and will continue through October 2017.

The Diocese of Mexicali is currently led

Mexicali: A Diocese Which Flourishes in the Desert

by Bishop Jose Isidro Guerrero Macias, who has ministered as the diocese's third bishop since his appointment in 1997. There are many connections between Catholics in Mexicali and their counterparts in the Imperial Valley, the easternmost portion of the Diocese of San Diego. In fact, many Catholics currently residing in Imperial County were born in Mexicali or have a significant number of relatives living there.

With a Catholic population of more than 1 million and comprising more than 22,000 square-miles, the Mexicali Diocese has a fairly large and very important mission. Like the Archdiocese of Tijuana, it is a hub for many migrants. In addition to its robust ministry of teaching, sanctifying and shepherding, Mexicali has the unique calling to shepherd and care for many migrants who

have no shelter, food or opportunities. People from Mexico, Central America and, most recently, from Haiti come to Mexicali with the hope of possibly crossing over into the United States.

Thousands of people cross the border each day for work and school at the Mexicali-Calexico crossing. Since Mexicali's diocesan cathedral is walking distance from the border, it is not uncommon for many Catholics in the Imperial Valley to participate in Masses, classes and evangelization opportunities there. Often, for important occasions and sacramental celebrations, Catholics might celebrate in their Imperial Valley parish or at a parish in Mexicali because family members cannot cross the border for one reason or another. Imperial Valley Catholic schools also educate a good

number of children from Mexicali.

We have a unique relationship with this Local Church!

The theme of the Diocese of Mexicali's 50th anniversary celebration is one of wonder and thanksgiving from a verse of Psalm 126: "El Senor ha sido grande con nosotros" ("The Lord has done great things for us"). One recent event held to mark the anniversary was a Mass celebrated just outside the cathedral and attended by several thousand of the faithful of Mexicali, as well as many Catholics from the Imperial Valley.

The motto of the Diocese of Mexicali is "Diocesis que florece en el desierto" ("A diocese which flourishes in the desert"). Let us pray in thanksgiving for these many years of the Diocese of Mexicali and ask the Lord to continue to bless the Local Church of Mexicali, our neighbor, that it may continue to flourish in the desert.

The Southern Cross

Father Ed Horning is pastor of the Catholic parishes of Brawley and Westmorland.

► MOVEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Meeting intended to deepen bonds among grassroots groups

teaching that has been forged by Pope Paul VI, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis "to transform our world by empowering those who have little of this world's goods or power."

Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical

Council for Justice and Peace, will deliver a keynote address. As many as 30 leaders of international groups active in the World Meeting of Popular Movements are expected to attend.

Joseph Fleming, the National Catholic Engagement Coordinator for the PICO National Network, explained the purpose of the meeting. He said it was to create an opportunity for grassroots groups from across the United States to learn about one another's work and to deepen bonds of collaboration; to equip them with the tools to work more effectively in their push for policy changes; and to foster deeper dialogue between social justice leaders and U.S. bishops.

The meeting, to be held at Central Catholic High School, opens the evening of Feb. 16 with a keynote address by Cardinal Turkson. The next two days will be a mix of activities. There will be plenary sessions, where panelists will frame an issue and provide analysis. And there will be smaller group discussions where 30 leaders or so can share what they are doing in their community and the challenges they face as they pursue immigrant rights, environmental justice, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, and a living wage, among other causes.

"These are opportunities for some thinking together,"

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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Wednesdays, Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2017

No class on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 9:30-11:45 am

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Wednesday, March 1, 8:30 am-3:00 pm
Fr. Larry Dolan, ofm

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April 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 2017 Holy Week Triduum

"Wake Up" A Self-Directed Quiet Retreat with Morning Reflection 10:00-11:00 am.
Fr. Larry Dolan, ofm

Entering Holy Week we hear the voice of Jesus telling us to "Wake Up"
Don't be caught sleeping like the Apostles at Gethsemane. Open your eyes and spend time with Him during His last hours, reflecting on the salvation story of His Passover, Passion and Crucifixion.

Fees: There is lodging beginning Wednesday, April 12 after 3:00 pm through April 16, Easter Sunday at 12 noon. Dinner served on Wednesday evening @ 6 pm. No meals are served on Easter Sunday.

Fees: Commuter per person with lunch \$ 45.00 per day
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Call (760) 231-8445, ext. 133 or ext. 139, for more information or to schedule an appointment.

It's "Catholic Press Month" again. So, it's an appropriate time to report to you that, while a lot of newspapers have folded up shop of late, *The Southern Cross* is alive and well.



Father Charles L. Fuld

Yes, some have accepted the notion that people don't read print anymore and that somehow we've all migrated to very brief e-mail blurbs for our news. But we at *The Southern Cross* are still committed to telling the San Diego-Imperial Catholic story and making sure it gets to your mailbox — or at least to your church lobby — each month. Without *The Southern Cross*, it would be much harder for many to keep themselves grounded in their faith. We'd be at the

Celebrating Catholic Press Month Again

mercy of what the secular press has to say about our Church, and you probably wouldn't hear about all the amazing and inspirational things going on in this faith-filled Church of ours. Without our English and Spanish content, you might not know of all the ways our Church is reaching out and aiding the poor and the marginalized in our community. You also would miss out on the words of our bishop and of our Holy Father, as we wonder how to cope with such contemporary issues as marriage, abortion, end-of-life concerns, and care for migrants and the poor. There's only so much your pastor can cover in his Sunday homilies and announce in the parish bulletin. Our job is to back all that up.

In the near future, we will be reporting on all of the construction going on in our diocese. Yes, new churches and other facilities are being built here. We also will be publishing a new edition of our popular Senior Supplement, which will include a handy reference guide with information about the many senior programs offered in both San Diego and Imperial counties that might be of interest to our older readers or to our younger readers' parents and grandparents. We also plan to let you know more about our hospital and jail chaplaincy programs, as well as highlight some of our latest youth initiatives. Now that I've given you a glimpse into our plans as a newspaper, I'd like to take a moment to request your help as a loyal read-

er. Would you consider inviting your friends, neighbors and off-to-school kids to subscribe to *The Southern Cross* — or gift a subscription to them? By doing so, you may be the person who keeps them in our Church or brings them back to the regular practice of their faith. When the time comes to meet our Maker, all of us could use credits like that, that's for sure. Oh, and by the way, you may have noticed that we combined the December and January issue this year. No, we are not cutting back. What we've done, at the suggestion of one of our readers, is shifted our production schedule so that hereafter *The Southern Cross* will come out at the beginning of the month instead of the middle of the month — to make sure each issue will look as up-to-date as it truly is.

The Southern Cross

Father Charles L. Fuld is managing editor of The Southern Cross.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Fleming said. Bishop McElroy has been invited to speak on the issue of housing and work. "I will be attending the meeting primarily to listen, to learn, and to pray with those seeking to transform our world in the light of the Gospel," he said. The San Diego contingent includes organizers from the San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP), the local PICO affiliate; United Domestic Workers; Black Lives Matter; Employee Rights Center; two staff members from the diocese's Social Ministry Office; and Father Neal Wilkinson, from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Barrio Logan. SDOP, which represents 27 congregations and more than 70,000 families, organizes residents to work with a variety of organizations and local public leaders to improve the community's quality of life. Fleming said all the conversations at the meeting will be summarized in a report that will be shared with the U.S. bishops and the pope. Kevin Malone, executive director of

SDOP, knows intimately the power grassroots organizers can have and how long change can take. He and Father Emmet Farrell, who is now retired, spearheaded a community effort that took 10 years but led to the clean-up of a polluted neighborhood in National City and the construction of an affordable housing development. More recently, a coalition of grassroots organizations, working with the City Council, succeeded in increasing the minimum wage in San Diego. Bishop McElroy said he hopes the meeting "might be a catalyst for the Church in the United States to rededicate itself to the protection of the poor and the marginalized and to understand that on a very deep level the poor have much to teach us all." The U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements is not open to the public. But the plenary sessions will be livestreamed on the Web site *popularmovements.org*, and parishes and individuals are encouraged to hold viewing sessions and then discuss how they can support the local causes that help the poor and marginalized.

The Southern Cross

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

- EVANGELIZATION & CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**
For more information, call (858) 490-8230 or e-mail lvaca@sdccatholic.org.
- Spring Forward**
Mid-year catechetical conference with Father Richard Fragomeni.
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, in St. Michael Parish's Holy Family Center, Poway. Cost: \$20.
- Small Christian Communities**
Lenten preparation with Father John Dolan. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, in St. Michael Parish's Holy Family Center, Poway.
- Building Blocks of Faith**
With Rosie Soto and Glenn Valois. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Feb. 9, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$15.
- Rite of Election Meeting**
• For San Diego-area RCIA coordinators. 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost.
• For Imperial Valley RCIA coordinators. 10-11 a.m., Thursday, March 2, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Imperial. No cost.
- Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion**
2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 5, at Golden Hall, San Diego.

- Basic Catechist Formation**
48-hour course grants California Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$75/student. Upcoming courses are being offered at St. Brigid Parish, beginning Jan. 30, and online, beginning Feb. 7.
- SOCIAL MINISTRY**
For more information, visit www.socialministriesandiego.com.
- Mental Health Ministry Network**
For information about the San Diego Diocesan Mental Health Ministry Network, visit www.socialministrysandiego.com.
- Crime Victim or Family Member?**
If you are in need of spiritual support and would like to give or receive support from other people like you in similar circumstances, please contact the diocesan Office for Social Ministry's Restorative Justice Program at (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or e-mail jwalsb@sdccatholic.org.
- Friends/Family of Incarcerated**
Ongoing support for the hidden victims of crime, sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Ministry's Restorative Justice Program. Call (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or e-mail jwalsb@sdccatholic.org.
- Ministry to the Incarcerated**
Catholic adults can serve on teams ministering to Catholic inmates in a variety of detention facilities. For information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore, e-mail jwalsb@sdccatholic.org or call (858) 490-8375.

Opening Mass

Friday 7:00 pm

***It is not necessary to be registered in order to attend the opening Mass.*



Father Dave Leon will celebrate the opening Mass.

19th Annual

Divine Mercy Conference

February 17th & 18th

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PARISH EVENTS

Perpetual Adoration

24 hours daily (except during Sunday Mass) at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 1001 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas. For information, call (760) 635-2573.

Healing Masses

• 7 p.m., every third Tuesday in English and every third Wednesday in Spanish, at St. Pius X Parish in Jamul. Celebrant: Father Higinio Garcia. For information, call (619) 669-0085.

• 7 p.m., Jan. 25, at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Preceded by praise and testimony at 6:30 p.m. Celebrant: Father Denis Phaneuf. For information or questions, call (888) 590-5095.

• 6:30 p.m., Feb. 6, at St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad. Celebrant: Father Pat Crowley. For information, call (760) 724-4046.

• 7 p.m., Feb. 13, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish in San Diego. Praise and worship at 6:30 p.m. Celebrant: Father Denis Phaneuf. For information, call (858) 481-3232.

• 7 p.m., March 21, Aug. 8 and Oct. 17, at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. Preceded by praise and worship at 6:45 p.m.; Mass followed by healing prayer. Sponsored by Faith Alive Prayer Group of St. Timothy's.

Healing Prayer

• At St. James Church, Solana Beach, Every Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass, first Mondays from 9-10 a.m., second Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m., and third Saturdays after the 5 p.m. Mass. For information, call (888) 590-5095.

• At St. Therese of Carmel Parish (4355 Del Mar Trails Rd., San Diego 92130): first Sundays after 5:30 p.m. Mass; second Saturdays after 5:30 p.m. Mass; and second Sundays at 10 a.m.

• 6 p.m., every first Friday (after Benediction), at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Penasquitos. Led by Deacon Noel Rivera. For information, call (858) 484-1070.

PARISH EVENTS

Senior Get-together

Our Mother of Confidence Parish hosts a special get-together for seniors and all members of the community on the third Thursday of each month. Sign-up starts at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon and entertainment beginning at 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$7. Pre-registration required. Call (858) 453-3554 or e-mail emcglynn@omcsandiego.org.

Glory Immersion

An evening of praise and worship, filled with music, prophetic words, tongues, interpretations, Scripture and sharing. 7-8:30 p.m., Jan. 24, at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. For information, call (760) 741-1134.

Praise & Worship

A unique time in God's presence with praise, worship and healing. 7-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at St. James Church in Solana Beach. For information, call (888) 590-5095.

'Adventures in Acts'

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside is sponsoring a 20-session morning Bible study, "Adventures in Acts," from Sept. 7-Feb. 22. Cost: \$35, including workbook; pre-registration required. For information, contact debbief@stmoside.org or (760) 758-4100, ext. 110.

'Matthew, the King and His Kingdom'

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside is sponsoring a 24-session evening Bible study, "Matthew, the King and His Kingdom," from Sept. 8-March 23. Cost: \$35, including study material; pre-registration required. For information, contact debbief@stmoside.org or (760) 758-4100, ext. 110.

Winter Rummage Sale

8:30 a.m.-noon, Jan. 28 and 29, at Sacred Heart Church in Coronado. To benefit youth ministry. For information, call (619) 435-3167, ext. 311.

PARISH EVENTS

Rummage Sale

St. Gregory the Great Parish's Sister Parish Outreach Ministry will hold its annual rummage sale Feb. 4 in the parish hall. Doors will be open from 7 a.m.-noon. All proceeds will go to children at St. Gregory the Great's sister parish, Our Lady of Angels, in the form of scholarships to attend Our Lady's Catholic School.

Annual Mardi Gras Gala

Feb. 25 in St. Rita Parish's auditorium. Hosted by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Court 384. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m. Music by D.J. Waddell. Attendees asked to dress in Mardi Gras attire of purple, green and gold. For information, call Lady Bernadette at (619) 248-4605 or Grand Lady Leslie at (619) 302-0092.

GROUPS

Fighting Human Trafficking

Children of the Immaculate Heart, which provides housing and restoration programs for female survivors of human trafficking, will hold its fourth annual banquet and silent auction at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 11, at Our Mother of Confidence Parish. Dinner is free. Keynote speaker: Father Alphonsus Hermes. One of CIH's clients also will share her story of surviving sex trafficking in San Diego. RSVP required by Feb. 6 to Margaret Boharic at (619) 431-5537.

Pueri Cantores

• Annual National Catholic High School Choral Festival (Southern California Regional), March 24 (morning session, 9 a.m.-noon; afternoon session, 1-4 p.m.), at Our Savior Church at the University of Southern California, 844 West 32nd St. Los Angeles 90007.

• Southern California Choral Festival and Mass for Treble Choirs, 4 p.m., March 25, at Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 20444 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach 92646.

• Registration deadline: Feb. 15, 2017. For

GROUPS

information, visit www.pccochoirs.org or call (714) 633-7554.

School Open House

St. Michael School in Poway will hold an open house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 29. Includes opportunity to tour classrooms, speak with educators, enjoy breakfast, see STEM and science demonstrations, view student art displays, and more. For information, visit www.smpoway.org.

'Faith Alive'

Charismatic prayer group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Tuesday, in the St. Benedict Room at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. Bring a Bible.

Moderator Training

For leaders or adults who would like to moderate any of the award programs offered for Catholic youth organizations, mandatory moderator training will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Feb. 18, at the diocesan Pastoral Center in the San Francisco Room. For information or to sign up, contact Kim Brower at kimbrower@cox.net.

Light Weigh

God has the answers for your weight, food struggle and all temptations. Light Weigh One King is a 12-week Catholic Bible Study DVD program. It began a new session Jan. 13 at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. View the orientation video at www.lightweigh.com. For more information about the St. Timothy's group, call (760) 644-2934.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 25, at Sacred Heart Parish, Coronado. RSVP to (619)435-3631.

Oceanside Council of Catholic Women

Meeting, Feb. 8, at St. Peter Parish in Fallbrook. Cost: \$5. RSVP by Feb. 3 to (760) 728-2606.

GROUPS

"Love Our Priests"

The prayer group will gather for Mass at 10 a.m., Jan. 28, at Ascension Parish in Tierrasanta, with a potluck lunch to follow. Guest speaker: Jesuit Father Steve Corder. For information, call (858) 560-7132.

Moms' Catholic Book Study

Meets every Wednesday during the school year, from 10 a.m.-noon, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish to discuss wonderful Catholic books. Don't need to be a mom to attend; all are welcome. For information, visit <http://momscatholicbookstudy.weebly.com>.

The Tomorrow Project

A social enterprise project of Catholic Charities, designed to aid homeless women become job-ready. The women of Tomorrow Project assemble and sell gourmet soups, a rice mix and spice mixes. Proceeds go directly into the program. Order at (619) 230-1151 or www.tomorrowproject.org, or visit the store at 1777 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92101.

St. Maria Goretti Mass

An evening celebrating purity and chastity is held on the first Friday of the month at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Includes confession, adoration, Mass, speaker and fellowship. 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Mass, 6:30 p.m.). For information, visit www.thegoretti.org or call (619) 702-7009.

Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry of Mission San Diego de Alcalá offers three unique, compassionate groups to assist mourners through healing. For information, contact Dr. Roberta Flynn at drflynn@hotmail.com.

New Young Adult Group

Young adults, ages 18-30, meet Sundays from 6-8 p.m., for dinner at a private house near St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro. All are welcome. For information, call (619) 249-6600 or (619) 309-7810.

GROUPS

St. Paul Street Evangelization

Do you love Jesus and His Church? Join St. Paul Street Evangelization in sharing the faith in easy, non-confrontational manner. For information, visit www.StreetEvangelization.com, call (619) 515-3267 or e-mail scb@procopio.com.

Garden of Carmel

The Garden of Carmel Confraternity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is for lay persons who wish to have a deeper prayer life and live the evangelical life through Carmelite spirituality. Meetings are from 7:30-11:30 a.m., every third Saturday, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. For information, call (619) 656-5423, visit gardenofcarmel.wordpress.com, or e-mail aespangilinan@gmail.com.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Post-Abortion Healing

"A Time for Mercy" (Rachel's Vineyard post-abortion healing retreat), March 17-19. Retreats are confidential and non-judgmental, offered in Catholic tradition, and open to women and men wounded by abortion. Early registration recommended. For information, call Dolores at (951) 325-7702, e-mail RVTemecula@verizon.net or visit www.atimeformercy.org.

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain and Lourdes with Father Stan Fortuna, CF. April 24-May 3, 2017. E-mail Chris@206tours.com, visit www.pilgrimages.com/fatfortuna or call (800) 206-8687.

Prayers Answered

Thank you for answering my prayers St. Jude!
-PAT C.

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Also see your 2016 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

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Cost (per issue) is \$35 for four lines and \$10 for each additional line (max. 7 lines total).
Maximum 40 characters/line (incl. spaces).

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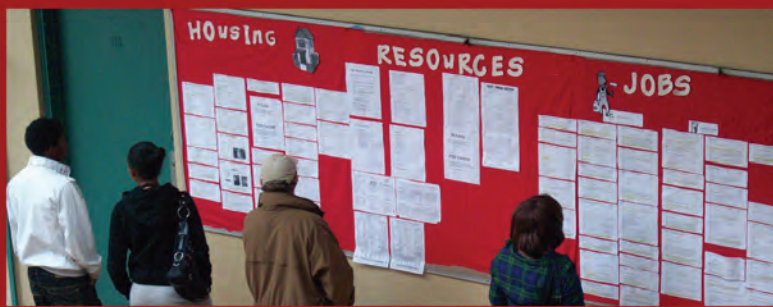
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and you gave me food,
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and you gave me drink,
A stranger
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Matthew 25:35

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Se Ofrece Ayuda para Inmigrantes



APOYO: Ana Aguilar, de Caridades Católicas, ofreció asesoramiento personal gratuito durante un taller en la parroquia San Juan de la Cruz, en Lemon Grove. La organización ofrece asesoramiento en talleres en parroquias a lo largo de la región, además de atender a los inmigrantes en citas particulares en su oficina de Chula Vista.

Organización católica brinda apoyo confiable, gratuito o a bajo costo

Por Aída Bustos

El comienzo de la nueva presidencia produce aprensión para los inmigrantes, particularmente aquellos sin papeles.

La organización Caridades Católicas de San Diego está aumentando el número de talleres bilingües que ofrece a lo largo de la región donde su personal capacitado brinda asesoramiento personal gratuito a cada inmigrante.

Asegura que es sumamente importante que cada inmigrante conozca su situación particular y haga lo que pueda para prepararse, y advierte que deberían evitar confiar en notarios públicos u otros “expertos” que prometen “arreglar” los papeles por cientos o hasta miles de dólares.

Además de los talleres, la organización ofrece asesoramiento bilingüe gratuito personal cada semana en sus instalaciones de Chula Vista, además de consultas a muy bajo costo.

Caridades Católicas ofrece una gama de servicios de emergencia para la comunidad vulnerable, incluyendo los que no tienen casa, refugiados, mujeres embarazadas y personas de la tercera edad, sin importar su estatus migratorio.

“Definitivamente hemos visto un aumento en la gente que expresa un nivel de temor e incertidumbre sobre lo que viene”, dijo Vanessa Ceceña, quien dirige el departamento de Servicios Migratorios en Caridades Católicas de San Diego. Añadió que inclusive inmigrantes que son residentes permanentes legales han hablado

VEA INMIGRANTES, PÁGINA 2

Encuentro Mundial de Movimientos Populares viene a Modesto

El Obispo encabezará un grupo de activistas comunitarios de SD

Por Aída Bustos

Líderes de origen popular que trabajan para mejorar sus comunidades a lo largo de todo Estados Unidos se reunirán en Modesto en una convocatoria inspirada por el Papa Francisco.

Se espera que alrededor de 600 personas asistan al Encuentro Mundial de Movimientos Populares de los Estados Unidos realizado del 16 al 19 de febrero. Entre los asistentes se encuentran por lo menos 25 obispos, incluyendo al obispo de

San Diego, Robert McElroy, que dirigirá a un contingente de organizadores comunitarios locales.

La convocatoria es organizada por el Departamento para el Desarrollo Humano Integral del Vaticano, en asociación con la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos y su Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano, la Red Nacional PICO y la Conferencia Católica de California.

El encuentro se basa en tres anteriores, dos de los cuales tuvieron lugar en Roma, en octubre de 2014 y noviembre de 2016, y el otro en Bolivia en julio de 2015. Estas reuniones se centraron en tres temas: el

VEA POPULAR, PÁGINA 6



LA LUCHA: El Encuentro Mundial de Movimientos Populares el 16 al 19 de febrero reunirá a líderes de todos los Estados Unidos que luchan a favor de una variedad de causas comunitarias.



ATENCIÓN: Vanessa Ceceña, directora de Servicios de Inmigración de Caridades Católicas de San Diego, revisa el caso de una familia durante un taller en la parroquia San Juan de la Cruz.

► INMIGRANTES

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Deben conocer su situación personal, beneficios que tienen

para renovar su “tarjeta verde” o averiguar el trámite para hacerse ciudadanos. Preguntan si este proceso se va a volver más difícil bajo la nueva administración del presidente Trump o si va a ser más complicado inmigrar legalmente a seres queridos en otros países.

“Todo lo que les podemos decir en este momento es que no sabemos, aunque no es la respuesta que quieren escuchar”, afirmó. “No sabemos lo que va a pasar”.

Sin embargo, aseguró que el Congreso tiene que aprobar cualquier cambio importante en el proceso para solicitar la ciudadanía, algo que tomaría tiempo. Trump no podría inmediatamente hacer el proceso más difícil. Lo que sí puede hacer es modificar o cancelar la Acción Ejecutiva migratoria conocida como DACA para los que llegaron sin papeles al país cuando eran infantes o niños, explicó.

Más de 725,000 jóvenes han recibido este permiso temporal para vivir, trabajar y estudiar legalmente en el país desde que el Presidente Obama emitió su Acción Ejecutiva en el 2012.

Caridades Católicas de San Diego tramitó más 300 solicitudes de DACA. Sin embargo, dejó de procesar nuevas solicitudes para ese programa desde la elección de Trump dada la incertidumbre de lo que su administración pueda ordenar.

Para los inmigrantes que residen de forma permanente y legal, la cuota para hacerse ciudadanos incrementó en diciembre a \$725. Sin embargo, los que tienen un ingreso bajo o modesto pueden calificar para un descuento de 50 por ciento de esa cuota o una exención total. Por ejemplo, califican para una exención si tienen un ingreso anual de alrededor de \$17,800 al año o menos o para un descuento si ganan alrededor de \$23,750. Por eso se les recomienda consultar con personal capacitado para revisar su situación particular.

Personal de Caridades Católicas ofreció asesoramiento sobre la ciudadanía a 140 personas en la parroquia San Miguel en National City y la mayoría calificaba para ese ajuste, dijo Ceceña.

Ofrecieron asesoramientos en las parroquias de San Juan de la Cruz en Lemon Grove y Santa Trinidad en El Cajon, el 8 y 26 de enero, respectivamente.

“Este es justo el tiempo para que la gente sin estatus obtenga una consulta para ver si califica para algo”, comentó.

Una red de abogados de inmigración católicos, conocida por las siglas CLINIC, estima que por lo menos 15 por ciento de los indocumentados califican para solicitar la legalización bajo uno de los programas actuales pero no lo saben. Por eso es tan importante consultar con un consejero capacitado.

Inmigrantes pueden solicitar una cita por \$30 con un consejero de Caridades Católicas para revisar su caso particular. Pueden tener una cita inicial con un abogado de inmigración por \$70 si han tenido contacto con un agente de Inmigración – por ejemplo, tienen una orden de deportación – o han sido arrestados por cualquier delito. Pueden llamar al (619) 498-0722 para hacer citas en Chula Vista y (760) 353-6822 en El Centro.

– The Southern Cross

AYUDA PARA INMIGRANTES

La organización Caridades Católicas de San Diego ofrece asesoramiento gratuito bilingüe cada martes en su oficina de Chula Vista, 293 H Street, a las 8 de la mañana.

También ofrece consultas con personal capacitado por \$30 para casos individuales; y con un abogado de inmigración por \$70 para caso individuales.

Marque el (619) 498-0722 en el Condado de San Diego para más información o para hacer una cita, o (760) 353-6822 en el Valle Imperial.

La organización también ofrece mucha información en inglés a través del Internet en la página ccdsd.org, bajo “Programs” y luego “Immigrant Services”.



En días duros es importante acercarnos más a Dios

Por Padre Bernardo Lara

Como alguno que otro lector sabrá, tengo un programa de radio llamado “La Vida Aún Es Bella” los lunes por Hombre Nuevo y hace unos días hablamos de “Juan Pablo II, Nietzsche y el Caos Social”. Esto a raíz de las reacciones por el “gasolinazo” en México.

Ahí comenzamos a hablar de Federico Nietzsche, un filósofo alemán que fue de gran influencia a finales del siglo XIX y comienzo del XX. En sus escritos atacó los valores éticos y morales durante su tiempo, incluyendo las enseñanzas del Cristianismo.

Durante el programa de radio nos enfocamos en dos de sus más grandes ideas que son: Su aforismo “Dios ha muerto” y “la voluntad de poder”.

Al decir Nietzsche que “Dios ha muerto” no habla desde un punto de vista ateo. No está clamando la inexistencia de Dios. Más bien está señalando que nuestro modo de vivir no refleja aquel principio moral en el que creemos.

En su libro “La Gaya Ciencia” expresa que “Dios ha muerto... y nosotros lo matamos” con nuestras acciones que reflejan una vida como si Dios no existiera y esto abre puertas a nuevos caminos. Años antes Dostoievski dijo, “Si Dios no existe, todo está permitido”.

Algo similar nos enseña Nietzsche con esta frase ya que al decir “Dios ha muerto” lo pone como una “liberación” del hombre de los valores ya existentes, para crear nuevos principios éticos. Esto nos lleva precisamente

al segundo punto del que hablamos: la voluntad de poder.

Muchas mentes brillantes han concordado que el ser humano tiene una motivación interior que nos ayuda a seguir adelante. Sin embargo, todos han diferido con respecto a ¿qué es esta motivación? Unos dicen que es el deseo de poseer cosas lo que nos da energías para vivir, otros han dicho que el sexo, otros que es un deseo nada más de vivir.

Nietzsche dijo que es un deseo por poder. Contrario a Darwin, por ejemplo, Nietzsche dice que el hombre no solo lucha por sobrevivir y adaptarse sino que también por utilizar su poder para engrandecerse.

Tristemente, podemos ver un reflejo de estas enseñanzas en el caos que sucede en la sociedad. El rico le quita al pobre, el pobre reta al rico. Suben el precio de la gasolina y algunos responden con violencia.

Como cristianos, debemos de tener cuidado de alzar la voz sin llegar a la violencia. Recordemos que Cristo caminó con los sencillos: su nacimiento fue atestiguado por pastores, sus apóstoles eran pescadores, Él mismo era un carpintero.

Es momento de acercarnos más a Dios pues bien, Juan Pablo II nos enseñó que: “El hombre puede construir un mundo sin Dios, pero este mundo acabará por volverse contra el hombre”.

El Padre Bernardo Lara es vicario parroquial en la iglesia Corpus Christi en Bonita. Se puede contactar en fatherbernardolara@gmail.com.

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Empiezan labor de implementar propuestas

Varios grupos trabajan para cumplir las metas del sínodo sobre familias

Por Aída Bustos

La Diócesis de San Diego se mueve rápido en este año que comienza para implementar las propuestas del sínodo que promueven la fortaleza del matrimonio católico y la familia.

- Diez iglesias pertenecientes a la diócesis se han convertido en “parroquias piloto” y comenzaron a formar comités parroquianos para sentar las bases que permitan que las propuestas se conviertan en realidad. Esto es importante porque la encomienda de fortalecer a las familias debe ser labor de las parroquias y los parroquianos y no necesariamente de la diócesis.

- Dos grupos de trabajo se reunieron para iniciar su labor para invitar a jóvenes adultos y parejas que se acerquen a las parroquias y para identificar las mejores maneras de prepararse para el matrimonio.

- La diócesis comenzó a aceptar solicitudes para personas interesadas en ocupar el puesto recién creado de director de la Oficina para la Vida Familiar y la Espiritualidad.

Cerca de 120 delegados, la mayoría de ellos parroquianos, participaron en un sínodo extraordinario sobre el matrimonio y la familia que la diócesis organizó en la segunda mitad de 2016.

Los delegados presentes en el sínodo presentaron al obispo Robert McElroy 15 propuestas para poder alcanzar las metas que se trazaron en el sínodo. Invitar a la Iglesia a parejas que no se hayan casado, ofrecer respaldo pastoral a divorciados, subrayar la belleza y realismo del matrimonio, atender y formar a la niñez, así como crear un profundo sentido espiritual en el seno familiar, fueron las metas que se trazaron en el sínodo.

Un comité formado por 25 integrantes se reúne mensualmente para supervisar la implementación de las propuestas, algo que también es observado por el Concilio Sacerdotal.

El pasado 8 de enero, los grupos de trabajo tuvieron su primera reunión en la parroquia San Juan el Evangelista en San Diego.

"Necesitamos sus ideas para hacer que las propuestas se conviertan en realidad, de no ser así, las propuestas serán solamente un acto de ficción", dijo el padre John Hurley, CSP, al iniciar la primera reunión del grupo de trabajo.

Uno de los objetivos del grupo de trabajo es recomendar estrategias para que las parroquias integren a jóvenes adultos y parejas a la vida de la iglesia.

El padre Hurley subrayó que no existe una estrategia que se ajuste a todas las parroquias sino que hay que conformar estrategias que tomen en cuenta la realidad demográfica de cada Iglesia.

Los participantes fueron parejas jóvenes o parroquianos que han trabajado en el ministerio de adultos jóvenes.

En la reunión, los asistentes compartieron los motivos que los atrajo en un principio a la parroquia y por los que siguen en ella.



Para la siguiente junta, el padre Hurley pidió a los presentes que traigan ideas para que jóvenes adultos y parejas se interesen en participar en las parroquias.

El padre Hurley les dijo que espera que concluyan su trabajo para la mitad del año en curso.

Los miembros del segundo grupo de trabajo decidieron por su parte iniciar un sondeo por Internet para conocer qué es lo que cada parroquia hace para preparar a sus parejas para la vida en matrimonio.

El padre Hurley les dijo a los integrantes del grupo que espera que concluyan su trabajo para el verano.

Mientras tanto, el departamento de Recursos Humanos de la diócesis comenzó a recibir solicitudes para el puesto de director de la nueva oficina para la Vida Familiar y Espiritualidad.

Delegados al sínodo propusieron la creación de ésta oficina que se encargará de detectar las necesidades de parejas comprometidas, recién casadas, y aquellas que estén pasando por una separación o divorcio, y para promover la espiritualidad familiar.

Diez parroquias aceptaron convertirse en “parroquia piloto”, un diez por ciento de la diócesis, y empezaron a formar comités para implementar las propuestas. Las parroquias son: La Comunidad Católica de El Centro, Inmaculado Corazón de María, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Chula Vista), Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo, Sagrado Corazón (Coronado), Santa Brígida, San James, San Rafael, Santa



EQUIPOS: Algunos integrantes del grupo de trabajo que se enfoca en cómo apoyar a parejas jóvenes en las parroquias platicó después de su primera junta el 8 de enero. Ellos incluyeron, de izquierda a derecha, Aaron Bianco, Andrea y Andrew Disotell y Ben y Megan Link. Blanca and Julio Gonzalez, en la otra imagen, participaron en el grupo que trabaja para identificar la mejor preparación para el matrimonio.

Therese de Carmel y Santa Sofía.

Durante el sínodo, muchos delegados señalaron que se necesita más información sobre “la formación de conciencia” y el “foro interno”, dos conceptos fundamentales de enseñanza católica a la que el papa Francisco hace referencia en su exhortación apostólica, “La Alegría del Amor”.

El padre Hurley les dijo a los miembros de

ambos grupos de trabajo que el Obispo decidió que durante este año los clérigos de la diócesis reflexionarán en esos conceptos.

Información completa sobre el sínodo, incluyendo fotografías y videos, se puede encontrar en sdcatholic.org. Preguntas pueden ser enviadas a synod@sdcatholic.org.

The Southern Cross

Inauguran Santuario del Santo Niño

Comunidad filipina lo logra construir tras décadas de esfuerzo

Por Aída Bustos

CHULA VISTA - La comunidad creyente filipina había planeado un santuario para su querido Santo Niño durante 45 años.

Su espera ha terminado.

El pasado 15 de enero el obispo de San Diego, Robert McElroy, bendijo el santuario, el cual consiste de una estatua situada en una gruta blanca rodeada por bancas en los terrenos de la Parroquia de la Preciosa Sangre.

Más de 800 feligreses se reunieron en el pequeño jardín que rodea el santuario, algunos apoyados en bastones y andaderas, mientras esperaban en el viento frío el momento que habían soñado durante décadas.

El tan anhelado momento debió de haber sucedido durante la fiesta del Santo Niño de enero del año pasado. Pero lo que había comenzado como un proyecto de tres meses en septiembre de 2015 había tomado un año más debido a retrasos de construcción. Para cuando fue terminado, el costo del proyecto había alcanzado los \$74,000.

Las fechas límites iban y venían, y dos invitaciones al Obispo para ir a bendecir el santuario tuvieron que ser canceladas.

Pero los devotos del Señor Santo Niño nunca se rindieron. Tenían como objetivo construir el santuario desde que formaron el grupo en 1972, y persiguieron ese objetivo año tras año, celebrando eventos como cenas-bailes y paseos al casino para recaudar fondos, además de aceptar donativos personales. Con alrededor de 300 miembros, el grupo es la organización más antigua y más grande del Condado de San Diego.

Sus esfuerzos culminaron con la bendición del santuario. Posteriormente, el Obispo encabezó una colorida procesión alrededor del perímetro de la parroquia hasta llegar al Salón Parroquial Padre Alberto, dónde celebró una alegre Misa que incluyó lecturas en inglés, español y dos dialectos filipinos.

Cerca de 1,000 familias están registradas en la parroquia, casi la mitad son hispanas y la otra mitad filipinas, y alguna que otra anglo y afroamericanas.

Tras la celebración eucarística se realizó una cena con música clásica por parte de tres estudiantes y tres miembros de la Sinfónica de San Diego, así como un baile folklórico.

En su Homilía el Obispo dijo a los feligreses, que habían llenado cada asiento del vestíbulo y una habitación contigua, que había visitado la Basílica de Santo Niño el pasado mes de enero en la isla de Cebú mientras asistía a una conferencia allí.

Comentó que había visto "dos hermosos elementos" que se complementaban ese día. En primer lugar, había visto la imagen del Santo Niño "que viene a nosotros como un niño pequeño, humilde, abriéndose a nosotros, revelando la profundidad de su amor por nosotros ... Vemos todo lo que está en la esperanza, la alegría y la promesa



para el futuro".

El Obispo dijo que también vio como los feligreses en la Basílica "habían encontrado a Dios en la imagen de Santo Niño".

"Se podía ver que el llamado de bondad estaba dentro de ellos, y una vez más ellos se habían comprometido a ennoblecer al mundo en el que vivimos tratando de hacer que el amor de Dios esté presente en su familia, su barrio, y en sus lugares de culto".

La bendición del santuario reunió al antiguo párroco de dicha parroquia, el Padre Emilio Magaña y al actual, el Padre Silverio Espanilla.

"Estoy contento de que finalmente se haya terminado y de que podamos tener una celebración con el Obispo", dijo el padre Magaña, cuyo mandato en la parroquia terminó el verano pasado. Ahora dirige la parroquia St. Charles en el sur de San Diego.

Agregó que el espíritu de colaboración entre la comunidad filipina y los devotos al Santo Niño allanó el camino para el proyecto de construcción que se inició bajo su liderazgo.

El Padre Espanilla llegó a la parroquia a

mediados de noviembre, justo cuando el proyecto estaba por terminar.

Durante la misa agradeció a todos los que habían hecho posible la construcción de la gruta, muy emocionado a menudo gritaba "¡Viva Santo Niño!".

Nació en Luzón, Filipinas, donde fue ordenado. El año pasado se encarnó en la diócesis de San Diego.

Después de la Misa el Pare Espanilla dijo que aunque el Santo Niño es una tradición filipina todos están invitados a visitar la gruta.

"Al mismo tiempo, invitamos a todos a imitar las virtudes del Santo Niño: humildad, obediencia y temor al Señor".

Añadió que bromea con sus parroquianos filipinos y latinos sobre quién tiene más devotos, el Santo Niño o Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

"Santo Niño necesita la presencia de su madre, y su madre necesita al Santo Niño", dijo. "En cierto modo, estas tradiciones nos unen".

— The Southern Cross



CELEBRACIÓN: En la parroquia de la Preciosa Sangre, el obispo Robert McElroy bendijo el santuario para el Santo Niño, el cual mide 12 pies de alto y 26 pies de ancho y contiene una estatua de mármol de 50 pulgadas. La instalación incluye mesas, 12 bancas y 346 ladrillos personalizados que se vendieron para recaudar fondos. La fiesta incluyó una procesión y una Misa celebrada por el Obispo y el Padre Emilio Magaña, quien lideró el proyecto durante su tiempo en la parroquia. Un grupo de feligreses, en sus setentas y ochentas, finalmente presenció su sueño para el santuario realizado.



► POPULAR

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Obispo: 'Los pobres tienen mucho que enseñarnos'

trabajo, la vivienda y la tierra. Además de esto, la reunión en Modesto abordará la migración y el racismo.

El obispo McElroy explicó que el término "movimientos populares" se refiere a la acción de personas pobres y marginadas en la sociedad que trabajan juntos para alcanzar la justicia y la libertad.

"Esta es la acción a favor de la justicia de la cual el Evangelio habla como parte del mensaje de salvación de Jesucristo", dijo el Obispo. "Es la acción de llevar la dignidad humana a cada hombre y mujer que la Iglesia señala como el corazón de su enseñanza social. Y es la búsqueda de la libertad y la justicia para todos lo que está en el centro del experimento americano".

Afirmó que la reunión en Modesto es significativa porque reúne a personas de todas las religiones bajo la sombrilla de la enseñanza social católica que ha sido forjada por el Papa Pablo VI, San Juan Pablo II, el Papa Benedicto y el Papa Francisco "para transformar nuestro mundo al potenciar a aquellos que tienen poco de los bienes de este mundo o poder".

El cardenal Peter Turkson, presidente del Pontificio Consejo para la Justicia y la Paz, pronunciará un discurso de apertura. Se espera la asistencia de por lo menos 30 líderes de grupos internacionales activos en el Encuentro Mundial de Movimientos Populares.

Joseph Fleming, Coordinador Católico Nacional para la Red Nacional PICO, explicó el propósito de la reunión. Dijo que era para crear una oportunidad para grupos de origen popular de todo Estados Unidos para aprender sobre el trabajo de los otros y para buscar oportunidades para colaborar; para brindarles las herramientas necesarias para trabajar más eficazmente en su búsqueda por cambios en las políticas; y para fomentar un diálogo más profundo entre los líderes de la justicia social y los obispos de los Estados Unidos.

La reunión, que se celebrará en Central Catholic High School, se inaugurará la noche del 16 de febrero con un discurso de apertura del Cardenal Turkson. Los próximos dos días serán una mezcla de actividades. Habrá sesiones plenarias, en las que los panelistas abordarán un tema y harán un análisis. Y habrá discusiones de grupos más pequeños donde alrededor de 30 líderes podrán compartir lo que están haciendo en



MIGRACIÓN: El Encuentro Mundial de Movimientos Populares se enfocará en la inmigración, uno de los temas que serán explorados durante la junta en Modesto. He aquí el obispo Robert McElroy y el pastor Bill Jenkins, de la iglesia United Methodist Christ Ministry Center, durante las Posadas Sin Fronteras el pasado diciembre.

su comunidad y los desafíos que enfrentan en su búsqueda de derechos de inmigrantes, justicia ambiental, vivienda asequible, reforma de justicia penal, salario digno, entre otras causas.

"Estas son oportunidades para pensar juntos", comentó Fleming.

El obispo McElroy ha sido invitado a hablar sobre el tema de la vivienda y el trabajo.

"Asistiré a la reunión principalmente para escuchar, aprender y orar con aquellos que buscan transformar nuestro mundo a la luz del Evangelio", dijo.

El contingente de San Diego incluye a los organizadores del Proyecto Organizador de San Diego (SDOP, por sus siglas en inglés), el afiliado local de PICO; Trabajadores Domésticos Unidos; Black Lives Matter; Centro de Derechos de Empleados; dos funcionarios del Ministerio Social de la diócesis y el Padre Neal Wilkinson, de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en el Barrio Logan.

SDOP, que representa 27 congregaciones y más de 70,000 familias, organiza a residentes para trabajar con una variedad de organizaciones y líderes públicos locales para mejorar la calidad de vida de la comunidad.

Fleming dijo que todas las conversaciones en la reunión serán resumidas en un informe que será compartido con los obispos de los Estados Unidos y el Papa.

Kevin Malone, director ejecutivo de SDOP, el afiliado local de PICO, conoce íntimamente el poder que los organizadores

de origen popular pueden tener y cuánto tiempo puede tomar el cambio. Malone y el Padre Emmet Farrell, quien ahora está jubilado, encabezaron un esfuerzo comunitario que tomó 10 años pero llevó a la limpieza de un vecindario contaminado en National City y la construcción de un desarrollo de viviendas asequibles.

Más recientemente, una coalición de organizaciones de origen popular, trabajan-

do con el Concejo Municipal, logró aumentar el salario mínimo en San Diego.

El obispo McElroy dijo que espera que la reunión "pueda ser un catalizador para que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos vuelva a dedicarse a la protección de los pobres y los marginados y entienda que a un nivel muy profundo los pobres tienen mucho que enseñarnos".

-The Southern Cross

SIGUE LA ACCIÓN

El Encuentro Mundial Regional de Movimientos Populares de los Estados Unidos se llevará a cabo del 16 al 19 de febrero en Modesto. No está abierto al público. Pero las sesiones plenarias serán transmitidas en directo en el sitio web popularmovements.org, y se alienta a parroquias e individuos a tener transmisiones.

JUBILEE YEAR 400

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Breves

Se busca director bilingüe

CENTRO PASTORAL – La Diócesis de San Diego busca llenar la plaza de director para la nueva Oficina para Vida Familiar y de Espiritualidad. Este puesto bilingüe se reporta al Obispo y tendrá la responsabilidad de liderar y administrar los programas que apoyan la amplia visión católica de la vida familiar en las parroquias. Para ver la descripción del puesto y los requisitos, visite www.sdcatholic.org y busque bajo la sección "Employment".

Misa para Inmigrantes

ANAHEIM – El obispo Robert McElroy celebrará la Misa dedicada a los inmigrantes, exiliados y refugiados durante el Congreso de Educación Religiosa en Anaheim, el sábado, 25 de febrero a las 5:15 p.m. Se invita a todos los de la Diócesis de San Diego que asistirán el congreso a tomarse una fotografía con el Obispo a las 12:15 bajo el letrero del Centro de Convenciones de Anaheim en la calle Katella. Informes sobre el congreso en la página de Internet recongress.org. Puede seguir el grupo diocesano que asistirá a través de la página OECM San Diego en Facebook.

Taller de salud mental

Se ofrece un taller de salud mental en español el jueves, 9 de febrero, en la parroquia Santa María, Estrella del Mar, de Oceanside. El Ministerio Kairos Salud Mental presentará el taller, que incluye una

conferencia con el psicólogo Conce Gallardo, misionero de Guatemala. El ministerio se dedica a apoyar y acompañar a las personas que tienen alguna enfermedad de salud mental o tiene un ser querido que enfrenta tal problema. Sus integrantes trabajan para eliminar el estigma de esta condición. El taller es de 6:30 a 9 p.m. en el Salón Estrella de la parroquia, 609 Pier Way, Oceanside. Habrá cuidado de niños disponible. Informes al (760) 672-9805.

Encuentro en parroquias

Equipos de católicos hispanos empiezan a organizar las juntas del V Encuentro en sus parroquias. La meta es discernir maneras en las que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda responder mejor a la presencia de los hispanos y potenciarlos para que no solamente puedan servir su comunidad más eficazmente pero toda la Iglesia. Los hispanos representan 39 por ciento en la Iglesia Católica del país y por lo menos 63 por ciento en la Diócesis de San Diego. El V Encuentro consiste de cinco sesiones de reflexión y acción con grupos pequeños de la parroquia o en las periferias, coordinadas por un equipo parroquial, que a su vez es entrenado por un equipo diocesano. Las cinco sesiones de deben realizar en el periodo de enero a junio y culminan en un Encuentro parroquial. Se insta a todos los católicos hispanos a participar. Deberían informarse con el párroco quién en su parroquia encabeza esta importante iniciativa. Informes generales en el portal VEncuentro.org; en la página de Facebook VEncuentroSD; y se pueden enviar preguntas del proceso local a vincuentrosd@sdcatholic.org

Gran Aniversario



La comunidad católica celebró el 60 aniversario de la ordenación de Mons. John R. Portman en la parroquia Sagrado Corazón en Coronado. Él ahora jubilado padre sirvió como sacerdote ahí por más de 20 años. Fue uno de los directores religiosos en la Universidad de San Diego, además de liderar varios otros puestos en su larga carrera. El obispo Robert McElroy celebró una Misa en su honor el 18 de diciembre, acompañado por el actual párroco de esa iglesia, el Rev. Michael Murphy, y por cientos de los antiguos parroquianos del Mons. Portman.

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

MINISTERIO DE EVANGELIZACIÓN Y CATEQUESIS

Para más información, llamen al (858) 490-8232 o Ltrent@sdcatholic.org

Edificación dentro del Ministerio: Como Supervisar Pastoralmente

con Enedina Saucedo

Martes, 24 de enero, de 6:30-9 p.m.

Centro Pastoral Diocesano

Costo: \$15

Conferencia de Medio Año

con el Padre Allan Deck, SJ

Sábado, 4 de febrero, de 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

St. Francis, Vista

Costo: \$15

Pequeñas Comunidades Eclesiales- Preparación para la Cuaresma

con el Padre John Dolan

Miércoles, 8 de febrero, de 6:30-8:30 p.m.

St. Michael, Poway

Gratuito

Componentes Básicos de la Fe

con Rosie Soto

Jueves, 9 de febrero, de 6:30-9 p.m.

St. Michael, Poway

Gratuito

Reunión para Coordinadores de RICA

Martes, 28 de febrero, de 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Centro Pastoral Diocesano

Valle Imperial-Reunión para Coordinadores de RICA

Jueves, 2 de marzo, de 10-11 a.m.

St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial

Rito de Elección y Llamado a la Conversión Continua

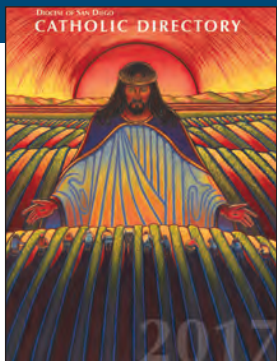
Domingo, 5 de marzo, 2 p.m.

Golden Hall, San Diego Community Concourse

Para más información, por favor llame a Leticia Trent al 858-490-8230 o Ltrent@sdcatholic.org

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St. Charles Parishioner

Tradición

Dedicado en 1919, Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum es un hermoso campo con más de cuarenta acres, un lugar no solo de servicio reverente a los difuntos, pero de consuelo espiritual para los que permanecen.



Santuario

Holy Cross no es una empresa comercial o cívica, sino una institución de la iglesia operada y mantenida como un encargo sagrado. El entierro se puede organizar como se desee, en tierra consagrada o en el mausoleo imperecedero, que es prueba solida contra el tiempo y los elementos.

Fe

Holy Cross responde a las inquietudes de las familias católicas para darle un lugar final de reposo a los difuntos, en tierra consagrada reservada exclusivamente para los creyentes y para sus familiares inmediatos.

Compromiso

Este es nuestro compromiso: mantener cada instalación con una anticipación inteligente para cada necesidad y deseo. Un santuario completo de tranquilo aislamiento, para la reflexión contemplativa, la meditación, las memorias inolvidables y para buscar la paz con uno mismo, con nuestro mundo y con nuestro Dios.

**Representantes están disponibles
diariamente para guiarle en su visita
personal de las instalaciones
de Holy Cross.**

HOLY CROSS
Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum
4470 Hilltop Drive • San Diego 92102
619 264 3127

the Joy of Love

la Alegría del Amor



Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:7

Tu amor me ha dado mucha alegría y ánimo, porque usted, hermano, ha refrescado el corazón del pueblo del Señor.

Filemón 1:7

**2017 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC APPEAL**
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



**2017 LLAMADO
CATÓLICO ANUAL**
DÍOCESIS DE SAN DIEGO

who we Serve

Catholic Schools and Tuition Assistance

With support from the Annual Catholic Appeal we strive to make Catholic Education both affordable and accessible to every child and family who desires it, regardless of their background, neighborhood, family income or culture. Tuition Assistance is provided to families who would otherwise not be able to afford sending their children to a Catholic School.

Formation in the Faith

The Annual Catholic Appeal provides funding for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministries, the Diocesan Institute and Youth Ministries. These diocesan ministries coordinate training for Directors of Catechetical ministries, Youth Ministry Coordinators, catechists and religious education teachers as well as theological formation for adults.

Catholic Charities

Following the example of Jesus who “came not to be served but to serve”, Catholic Charities is supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal in its effort to promote the dignity of the human person and its commitment to the Judeo-Christian vision of justice and charity. The agency assists almost 300,000 people each year through its expansive network of programs and services.

Prison Ministry

Chaplaincies at 27 different facilities impact the lives of over 25,000 inmates. These include eight sheriff’s jails, five juvenile detention centers, three state prisons and four federal detention facilities. Ministry supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal responds to the hunger that many of these inmates have to deepen their relationship with God.

PARISH	GOAL
All Hallows	66,000
Ascension	39,000
Blessed Sacrament	26,000
Christ the King	2,000
Corpus Christi	65,000
Good Shepherd	75,000
Guardian Angels	42,000
Holy Family	13,000
Holy Spirit	19,000
Holy Trinity	28,000
Immaculata	72,000
Immaculate Conception	24,000
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Ramona	23,000
Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla	66,000
Mater Dei	25,000
Mission San Antonio de Pala	8,000
Mission San Diego de Alcalá	85,000
Mission San Luis Rey de Francia	75,000
Most Precious Blood	20,000
Nativity	115,000

PARISH	GOAL
Our Lady of Angels	7,000
Our Lady of Grace	90,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	20,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	14,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe, El Centro	13,000
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	6,000
Our Lady of Light	7,000
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Diego	82,000
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, San Ysidro	25,000
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	48,000
Our Lady of Refuge	17,000
Our Lady of the Rosary	33,000
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	11,000
Our Mother Confidence	80,000
Queen of Angels	31,000
Resurrection	50,000
Sacred Heart, Brawley	18,000
Sacred Heart, Coronado	66,000
Sacred Heart, San Diego	40,000
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha	3,000

PARISH	GOAL
San Rafael	106,000
Santa Sophia	65,000
Santa Ysabel	3,000
St. Adelaide	2,000
St. Agnes	40,000
St. Anne	10,000
St. Anthony, Imperial	2,000
St. Anthony, National City	14,000
St. Brigid	76,000
St. Catherine Laboure	50,000
St. Charles Borromeo	22,000
St. Charles, Imperial Beach	45,000
St. Columba	24,000
St. Didacus	22,000
St. Elizabeth	5,000
St. Elizabeth Seton	80,000
St. Francis of Assisi	64,000
St. Gabriel	70,000
St. Gregory the Great	106,000
St. James	90,000

PARISH	GOAL
St. John of the Cross	46,000
St. John the Evangelist	17,000
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	77,000
St. Joseph Cathedral	42,000
St. Joseph, Holtville	5,000
St. Joseph's Westmoreland	200
St. Jude	13,000
St. Kieran	30,000
St. Louise de Marillac	14,000
St. Luke	52,000
St. Margaret	30,000
St. Margaret Mary, Brawley	6,000
St. Mark	80,000
St. Martin of Tours	50,000
St. Mary Magdalene, San Diego	58,000
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside	30,000
St. Mary, El Centro	22,000
St. Mary, Escondido	32,000
St. Mary, National City	22,000
St. Michael, Poway	115,000

our 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal Goal

Young Adult Ministry

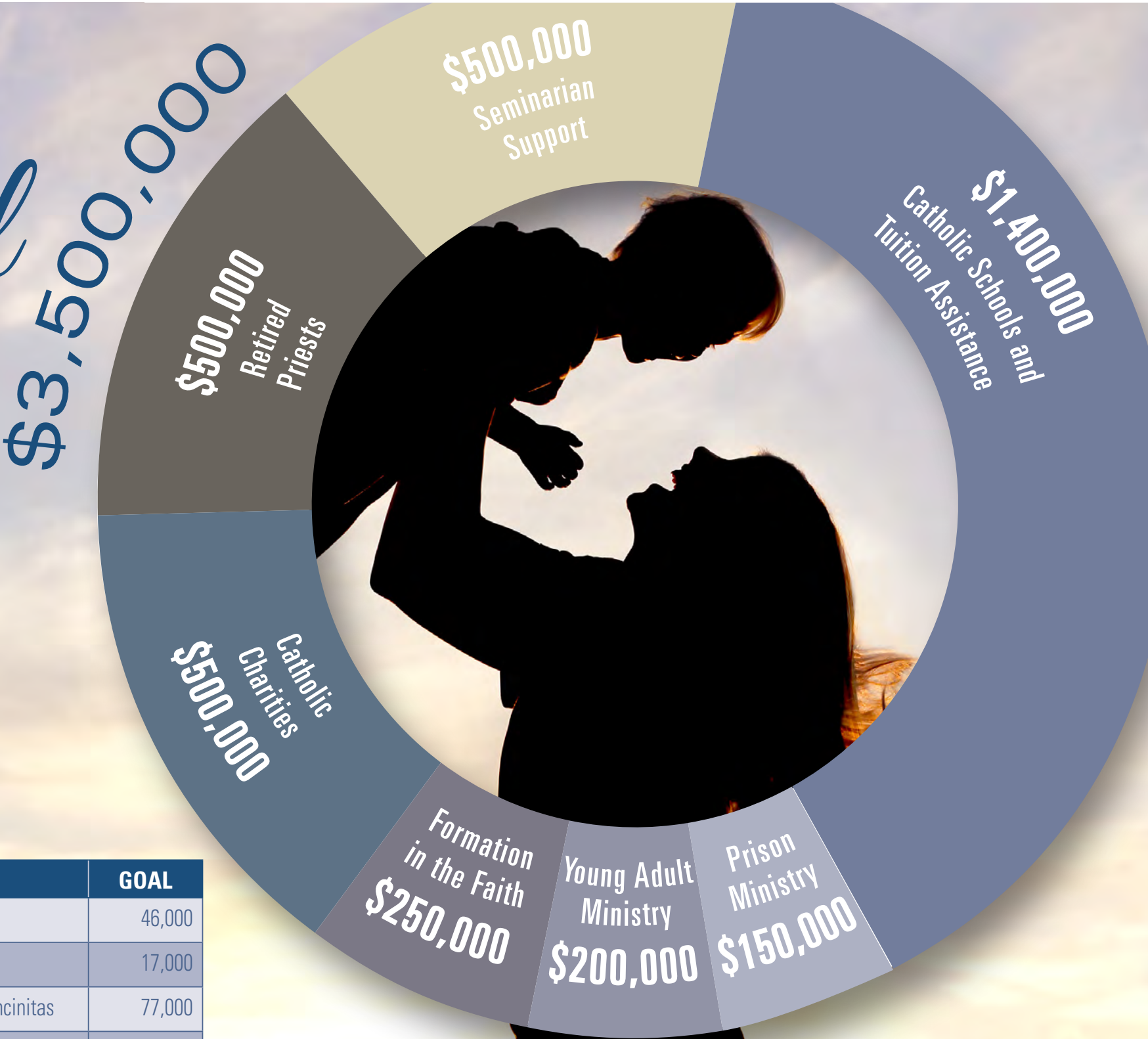
Young Adult Ministry reaches out and invites this age group to responsible participation in the full life and mission of the Church. Faith filled peer ministries and various social, service and spiritual opportunities strive to connect young adults to Christ and His Church.

Seminarian Support

The Diocese of San Diego supports over 16 seminarians who are discerning a call to priestly life and service in the Church. Tuition and living expenses average around \$45,000 per seminarian. Three new priests were ordained for our diocese this past year.

Retired Priests

Fifty eight retired priests of this diocese receive financial support so they can live in dignity, free of anxiety about their means of subsistence. This support includes providing health and auto insurance, and nursing care when required as well as supplementing their retirement and pension income when necessary. Retired priests are also invited to the annual convocation of priests at no charge.



2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

PARISH	GOAL
St. Michael, San Diego	43,000
St. Patrick, Calipatria	500
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	90,000
St. Patrick, San Diego	13,000
St. Peter	38,000
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	55,000
St. Pius X, Jamul	18,000
St. Richard	5,000
St. Rita	22,000
St. Rose of Lima	69,000

PARISH	GOAL
St. Stephen	20,000
St. Therese	84,000
St. Therese of Carmel	90,000
St. Thomas Indian Mission	5,000
St. Thomas More	50,000
St. Timothy	60,000
St. Vincent de Paul	30,000
St. Timothy	58,000
St. Vincent de Paul	30,000

Our Response as Stewards

Participation in the Annual Catholic Appeal accomplishes something simple but profound: it opens the door of faith for others and for yourself. Because of your gift, someone will meet Jesus Christ, have the opportunity to experience His loving grace, know His Mercy, and Love.

Don't delay, make a pledge today!

There are many ways to respond to the Annual Catholic Appeal:

- a monthly or quarterly pledge
- a one-time cash gift
- a credit card or electronic funds transfer; visit www.giving.sdcatholic.org
- a gift of stocks or bonds

Note that the Annual Catholic Appeal qualifies for many company matching gift programs.

the Joy of Love

Nuestra Respuesta como Administradores

La participación en el Llamado Católico Anual logra algo sencillo pero profundo: abre la puerta de la fe para los demás y para usted mismo. Gracias a su regalo, alguien conocerá a Jesucristo, tendrá la oportunidad de experimentar Su gracia amorosa, conocerá Su Misericordia, y Amor.

¡Haga un compromiso hoy!

Hay muchas maneras de responder al Llamado Católico Anual:

- hacer un compromiso mensual o trimestral
- hacer una sola donación en efectivo
- con tarjeta de crédito o transferencia de fondos electrónica, visitar: www.giving.sdcatholic.org
- un regalo de acciones y bonos

Note que el Llamado Católico Anual califica para muchos programas de donaciones complementarias de empresas.

la Alegria del Amor

Donate Now

Three Simple and Secure Ways
to Give Online!

#1 Monthly Recurring Gift

Most convenient form of giving. Sign-up for an online account, using our new and improved secure website.

#2 One Time Annual Gift

Using SECURE credit card transaction or automatic bank draft from checking or savings account.

#3 Make a Pledge

Set up a pledge, and you will receive a monthly statement by mail showing any remaining commitment due.

Create your private online account today.

The new online giving system is simple, secure and easy to use. It stores profile preferences and provides access to giving history.

Donar Ahora

¡Tres maneras sencillas y seguras
para hacer su donación por internet!

#1 Donación Mensual

La manera más conveniente de hacer su donación. Regístrese para abrir una cuenta en línea, utilizando nuestro sitio web seguro, nuevo y mejorado.

#2 Una Sola Donación Anual

Puede hacer su donación a través de una transacción segura de tarjeta de crédito o un giro bancario automático de su cuenta de cheques o ahorros.

#3 Prometer Hacer un Donativo

Haga su promesa y recibirá por correo un estado de cuenta mensual mostrando su saldo pendiente.

Creé su cuenta privada en línea hoy.

El nuevo sistema de donaciones en línea es simple, seguro y fácil de usar. Guarda las preferencias de su perfil y proporciona acceso al historial de su donación.