

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

VOL. 109 NO. 2

WWW.THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG

FEBRUARY 2020



En Español — Sección B



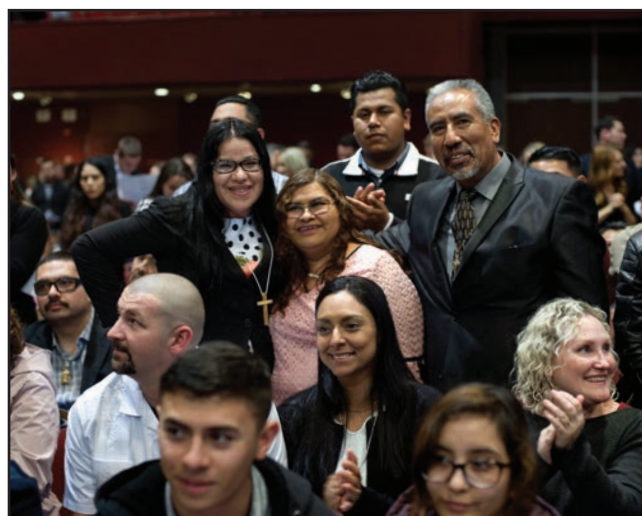
DAVID MAUNG

A Call to Service

Diocesan Mass held in honor of civil rights icon

See Page 4

CELEBRATION: Choir members sing at the Diocese of San Diego's first annual Mass held in honor of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King. The celebration, with Bishop Robert W. McElroy presiding, was held Jan. 19 at St. Rita Parish.



Same Rite, New Place

Annual Rite of Election moving to new venue this year
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Valentine's Day

What lessons can the secularized holiday still teach?
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'Live, Serve & Embrace Life'

Thousands attend eighth annual San Diego Walk for Life
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THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Gone Digital: Introducing Our New Website

Please accept this as a personal invitation to visit our new website, thesoutherncross.org. It's still a work in progress, but it's already helping us to tell the stories of our diocese and of Catholics in San Diego and the Imperial Valley region — and beyond — in a more immediate way than we can with only a monthly print edition.

No, I'm not announcing the imminent demise of the print edition of our newspaper to all of you, our subscribers, who love to read and keep the paper. But I am pointing to an electronic site we have launched, especially for our young people who prefer electronic media.

The site — in English and Spanish — will make it easier to share individual stories with others through email or your social media channels, using the buttons at the bottom of each page.

We will publish brief accounts of major news as it occurs. We can later provide enhanced versions of these stories in our print edition.

Our news site enables us to more easily hear from you. Our homepage has buttons to submit to us your news tips and to request a six-month, free subscription.

The site also offers advertisers a new opportunity to connect with potential cus-

tomers, a valuable tool for them.

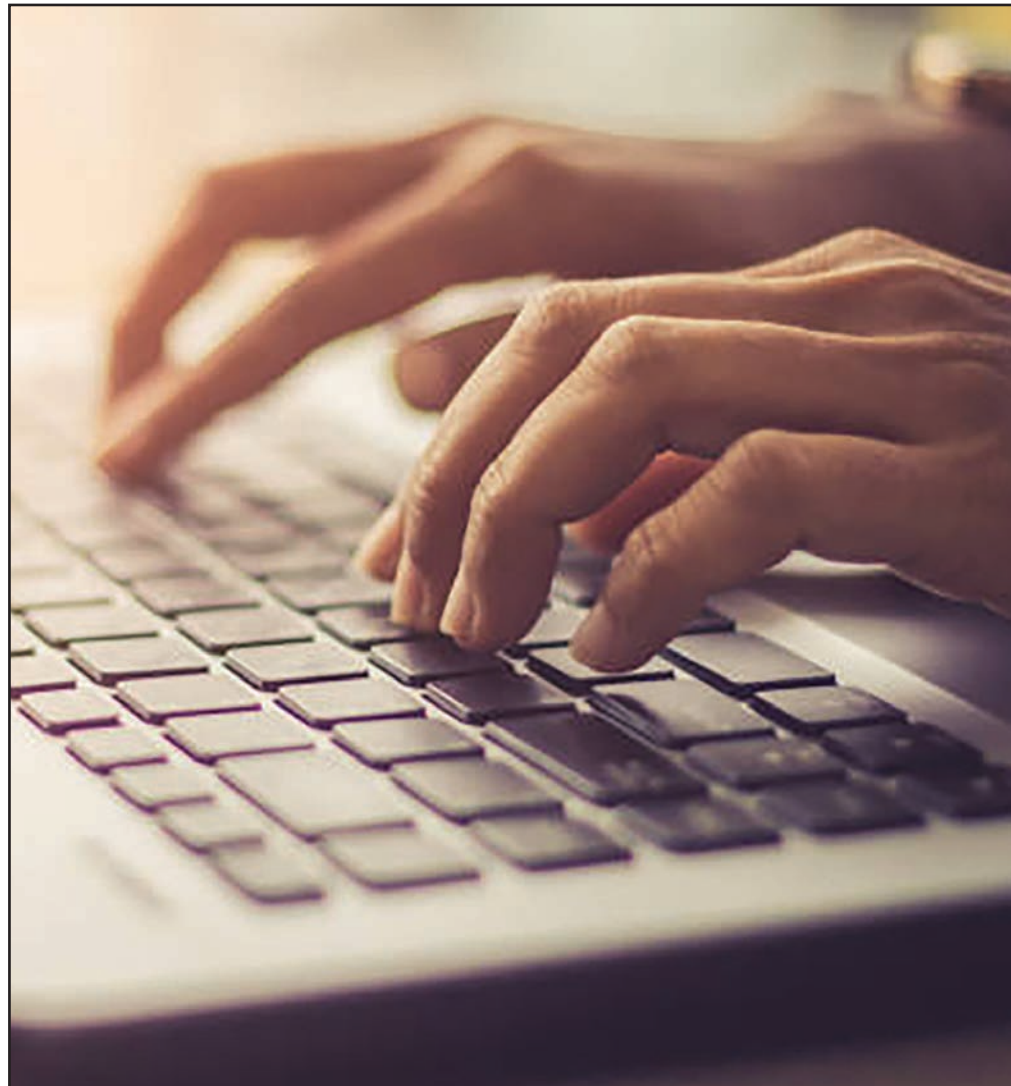
We continue to develop our site. We have added the content from recent editions and will add as much of our previous work as possible. We invite you to be part of the process of fine-tuning our site by submitting comments through the "Contact" button at the top of the site.

Our news site continues our commitment to evolve to better serve our Catholic community. Four years ago, we launched a separate section in Spanish. A year ago, we added correspondents in the Imperial Valley to expand our coverage to that area.

One thing will never change: our mission, which is to assist the Catholic Church in its teaching and pastoral mission by informing the faithful about the life and work of the San Diego Diocese. Whether in print or online, the publication provides well-written, useful content to help Catholics to live their faith at all stages of their life, to strengthen families and communities and to support the Church in the U.S. and worldwide.



Father Charles Fuld
Managing Editor
The Southern Cross



Independent Compensation Program Begins to Pay Settlements

Almost \$1 million paid so far to sex abuse victims

By Aida Bustos

LOS ANGELES — A total of 427 people have stepped forward to participate in the Independent Compensation Program launched last fall by six (arch)dioceses in California, including San Diego, to offer victims of child sexual abuse by diocesan priests a way to seek resolution swiftly and confidentially.

Of those 427 people, a total of 85 had filed a claim with the program as of mid-January. Thirty-two of the claims had been deemed eligible for compensation. And the program has offered \$3,940,000 to victims and paid out \$2,200,000.

Those figures came from the program's administrators, Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, who gave a progress report on Jan. 21 to the Independent Oversight Committee tasked with monitoring its implementation.

The administrators expect the number of compensated victims to increase dramatically through March 31, when the program is scheduled to end. However, they urged victims to register to file a claim through the program's website, californiadiocesescip.com, by the registration deadline of Jan. 31.

The oversight committee is made up of former California Gov. Gray Davis, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and former Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration Maria Contreras-Sweet. They expressed satisfaction with the program's progress to date.

"It is clear that the program is succeeding in achieving its objective, empowering victim-survivors with another option to pursue justice and healing," Gov. Davis said.

In addition to San Diego, the dioceses of Fresno, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are participating in the program, represent-

ing 80 percent of the Catholics in the state. When the program began accepting claims last September, the participating bishops acknowledged that no amount of money could ever make up for the damage and pain the abuse had caused, but that compensation could help victims in their path to healing.

The administrators provided program totals and a breakdown for each participating diocese as of Jan. 17. They said that 69 people had registered to file a claim with the San Diego Diocese, and 27 had filed the claim. Thus far, no claims against San Diego diocesan priests have been rejected, 18 claims have been processed, \$1.334 million has been authorized for payment and five claims have been paid in settlements totaling \$925,000. The rest of the claims were undergoing the review process.

'It is clear that the program is succeeding in achieving its objective, empowering victim-survivors with another option to pursue justice and healing.'

The administrators independently determine the amount of compensation to offer each claimant, and the Catholic Church has committed to paying each claim.

San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy has said that claims will be paid by insurance policies and diocesan financial resources, not from parish resources or from funds from the Annual Catholic Appeal.

The administrators described the allegations of abuse received by the program as largely historic in nature, many

dating back several decades.

They noted that the major reason claims were rejected was because the priest in question was a member of a religious order or from another diocese and thus not covered by the program, which only includes priests from the participating (arch)dioceses.

Individuals whose claims are not eligible are referred to the diocese where the offense occurred, where they can seek counseling or other support, and the religious order is notified of the claim against one of their own.

The administrators stressed the program's effectiveness, noting that only one person who has filed a claim has rejected the compensation offered.

"We are seeing victim-survivors being treated with the dignity and respect they deserve," former Gov. Davis said. "Settlements are typically paid within 90 to 120 days, which is significantly faster than years of litigation."

He noted that the program's process is confidential, "with victims free to share as much or as little about their claim as they wish."

Once individuals register in the program, the administrators will provide eligible claimants until March 31 to submit their claim forms. They will evaluate the claims and make compensation offers to eligible claimants as quickly as possible.

To register, individuals need to provide their name, contact information, and a brief summary description of the nature of the claim, including the dates and location of the abuse and name of the perpetrator.

All new complaints of abuse received through this program must be reported by the dioceses and by the claimant to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

For more information and to register to file a claim, visit: www.californiadiocesescip.com.

The Southern Cross

Rite of Election Relocating to New Venue

At diocesan liturgy, catechumens and candidates presented to bishop before entering the Church

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — A massive Catholic liturgy that annually draws about 3,500 people is moving to a new venue this year.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, the diocesan ceremony that represents a major step in the process of becoming Catholic, will be celebrated on Sunday, March 1, at the Town and Country convention center in Mission Valley.

For the past 10 years, the event had taken place downtown at Golden Hall, where it was held 20 times over the past 27 years.

“We decided to move to a larger venue that would accommodate our needs and our growing community,” Diocesan Chancellor Maria Olivia Galván explained.

About 1,000 catechumens (those who have never been baptized) and candidates (those who are baptized but have not been fully initiated) from about 75 Catholic faith communities, including parishes, college campus ministries and military communities, are expected to attend. They will be accompanied by their godparents and sponsors, as well as parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) team members and other guests.

During the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, the catechumens and candidates are presented to Bishop Robert W. McElroy, who asks whether they have been fully prepared to enter the Church. Upon receiving an affirmative response from their godparents and sponsors, the bishop declares the catechumens to be “members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries,” and urges the candidates to “hear the Lord’s call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.”

The elect will be baptized and both the elect and the candidates will receive their first Holy Communion and the sacrament of confirmation at their parishes during the Easter Vigil Mass.

“While all diocesan liturgies are filled with great joy, in the Rite of Election, we witness the Holy Spirit fully alive and at work, inspiring an abundance of faith, hope and love,” said Noreen McInnes, director of the diocesan Office for Liturgy and Spirituality. The rite is composed of a



ALL SMILES: Bishop Robert W. McElroy poses with a group of catechumens and candidates at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in this file photo.

Liturgy of the Word, “in which the catechumens and candidates encounter Christ in the Word, the celebrant, and the assembly, but leaves them hungering for the encounter with Christ in the Eucharist, which begins at the Easter Vigil.”

Galván said the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is “one of those moments that the Church is really looking forward to” each year. Despite the many challenges facing both the Church and the world today, she said, the number of catechumens and candidates shows that “there’s so much hope and hope is very much alive.”

The large scale of the event shows the catechumens and candidates, who have experienced parish life but perhaps do not yet comprehend the size and scope of a diocese, that

they are part of something much larger than themselves, Galván said.

But the sight of about 1,000 soon-to-be Catholics standing before the bishop in the auditorium, she said, is also something that inspires the many current members of the Church in attendance.

“To see that, it really fills your heart with joy,” Galván said, noting that the catechumens and candidates represent a diverse group that runs the gamut from young children to the elderly.

“I’m glad that they’re finding a home in the Catholic Church,” she said.

The Southern Cross

Valentine’s Day a Time for Reflection, Not Just ‘Lovey-Dovey Stuff’

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Valentine’s Day is just around the corner.

The holiday, which takes its name from multiple early Christian martyrs named Valentine, is now an overwhelmingly secular celebration, not to mention a highly profitable one for greeting card companies, chocolatiers and florists.

And there isn’t much in the way of a “Keep Valentine in Valentine’s Day” movement to restore its lost religious meaning.

Scant biographical information is available about any of the day’s saintly namesakes, and the little that is known has been supplemented by legends of uncertain historicity. As a result of this, the feast day of St. Valentine is no longer included on the Church’s liturgical calendar, at least not universally.

In some ways, it might seem like the Catholic Church has ceded Valentine’s Day

to the secular world. But Catholics active in marriage ministry contend that, even today, the holiday can serve as a yearly reminder for spouses to articulate and demonstrate their love to one another.

“It’s easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life and take our spouse for granted,” shared Eddie and Sheila Murphy, the San Diego-area servant leaders for Worldwide Marriage Encounter. “Having an annual day like Valentine’s Day to celebrate love is a good reminder, but that’s not enough to build and sustain a healthy marriage. Hopefully, it’s a reminder to communicate our love daily.”

It’s also a day for spouses to take an uncompromising look at the current state of their relationship.

“Sometimes, we act more like we made vows of commitment to our job, or to our 401K, or to our house, and we forget that it’s our spouse that we made that commit-

ment to,” said John Prust, director of the Diocese of San Diego’s Office for Family Life and Spirituality.

Janelle Peregoy, the office’s associate director for separated and divorced ministry, said the most valuable lesson that couples can take from Valentine’s Day is that they should be intentional about their love.

“I say that my marriage is the most important relationship in my life,” said Peregoy, “but, when I look at ... how I spend my time, how much of it goes to work? How much of it may go to childcare?”

She added that Valentine’s Day is “an opportunity to just pause and say, ‘Am I putting the time that I want to put into this beautiful relationship that I have sacramentally with this person?’”

Prust encourages married couples not to limit themselves to “the lovey-dovey stuff” this Valentine’s Day, but also to make time to reflect on the beauty of their commit-

ment to one another — and to keep doing so well after heart-shaped boxes of chocolate have been relegated to the clearance shelves.

“Celebrate Valentine’s Day, not just once a year, but as often as you can,” said Prust, who suggests that couples demonstrate their love not only through grand romantic gestures on one designated holiday but through “daily acts of kindness and love.” This could mean something as simple as taking on a chore just to spare one’s spouse from having to do it.

“Those little acts can make humungous difference in terms of sustaining that love” that the couple shares, Prust said.

Based on their experience of 22 years of married life, the Murphys said a successful marriage requires “daily decisions to love and sacrifice” on the part of both spouses, and they likened this to how “going to Mass only once or twice a year is not enough to

SEE VALENTINE’S, PAGE 10

Diocesan Mass Held in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King

Celebration to be held annually

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — Dr. Martin Luther King's call to service applies to our society today just as it did 50 years ago.

Deacon Marvin Threatt delivered that message in his homily at St. Rita Parish in the first diocesan Mass to honor Dr. King, organized by the Commission for African American Catholics. Bishop Robert W. McElroy, who presided at the Mass on Jan. 19, announced that it would become an annual celebration.

Deacon Threatt grew up in Birmingham, Ala., and shared how he was once attacked by police dogs when he was part of a group peacefully demonstrating to end segregationist policies.

He said that just as Jesus had proclaimed liberation and salvation to the people of His day, God had appointed a messenger, Dr. King, "a man with a prophetic voice to proclaim the same message of liberation and freedom to the people of our day."

The deacon noted that many believe

that Dr. King only helped African Americans "but the truth is that his work for equality and justice helped all Americans. It helped women, Hispanics, Asians, Jewish people, Middle Easterners and even Native Americans."

He said that for a time, after the civil rights legislation that Dr. King championed was passed, "things moved forward, going in the right direction."

"But if we're honest with ourselves, we can admit that today we have a long way to go to achieve total equality and justice for all of our people."

He said that every day brings "egregious signs of racism," such as human trafficking, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, bullying and intimidation of people because of their race, their nationality or sexual orientation.

The deacon said people of faith had to continue to pursue peace and justice for all people, despite the obstacles ahead.

"This day, this time, this liturgy is a call to service. It is a call to continue the struggle for justice. The life and work of Dr. King gives us a path to follow."

The Southern Cross



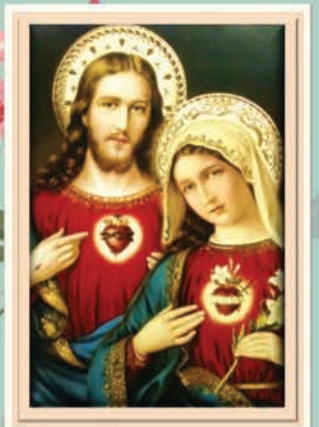
PROCESSION: Deacon Marvin Threatt carries the Book of the Gospels in the procession at the start of the diocese's first annual Mass in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. He is followed by Father Michael Pham, Episcopal Vicar for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities, and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan. Bishop Robert W. McElroy presided at the liturgy, which was organized by the Commission for African American Catholics.

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The Southern Cross is the official newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego. With print and Internet presence, it assists the Local Church to fulfill its teaching and pastoral mission by: informing the faithful about the life and work of the Church throughout the diocese, including its multicultural diversity; offering news and information which will foster unity with the Church throughout the world; and instructing the faithful regarding authentic Catholic teaching and practice.



PUBLISHER: Bishop Robert W. McElroy **MANAGING EDITOR:** Father Charles L. Fuld **ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Denis Grasska **STAFF WRITER:** Aida Bustos **ADVERTISING & OFFICE**

COORDINATOR: Donna Lightsey

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(ISSN 0745-0257) is published monthly by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego, CA 92117-5349 for \$15 per year. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA.

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

San Diego Bishops Among Those Heading to Rome for ‘Ad Limina’ Visit

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — A delegation of more than 30 Catholic bishops from California, Hawaii and Nevada, including San Diego’s Bishop Robert W. McElroy and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan, will be heading to Rome to report on the state of their dioceses.

The bishops will be making their “ad limina” visit from Jan. 26-Feb. 1.

“There’s an ancient tradition in the Church that, periodically, every diocesan bishop visits the Holy See to meet with the pope ... and also to meet with the different departments of the Vatican,” Bishop McElroy told *The Southern Cross*.

Traditionally, “ad limina” visits are to take place every five years. But, because the number of bishops worldwide has grown so large, this has proven impossible in recent decades. For the U.S. bishops, who are making their visits as 15 separate groups divided by geographical region, it has been eight years.

The Latin phrase “ad limina” is an abbreviated form of “ad limina apostolorum,” or “to the threshold of the apostles,” a reference to the fact that the visiting bishops are required not only to meet with the pope and high-ranking Vatican officials, but also to pray at the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul during their visit. Additionally, the bishops will be celebrating Masses together throughout the week at the major Vatican basilicas — St. Peter’s, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside-the-Walls and St. Mary Major.

In anticipation of the “ad limina” visit, Bishop McElroy said, dioceses were required to produce and submit a comprehensive



AD LIMINA: Pope Francis is seen meeting with U.S. bishops from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican Jan. 20. San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan will be among the next group of bishops making their “ad limina” visits Jan. 26-Feb. 1.

report on “the whole array of life” within the Local Church, including its geographical size, demographic trends, and what has been accomplished in various ministry areas.

The Diocese of San Diego submitted its report to Rome about six months ago and the information therein was shared with the appropriate Vatican departments, said the bishop, who explained that this information, along with that from similar reports submitted by the other bishops, will set the stage for many of the discussions that will take place during their visit.

Bishop McElroy, who has made one pre-

vious “ad limina” visit during his time as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, said different popes have approached their meetings with the visiting groups of bishops in their own way. With Pope Francis, he anticipates “a very long conversation,” several hours in length, between the pope and the entire group of bishops.

Bishop McElroy has spoken with some of his brother bishops who have already made their “ad limina” visits, and they have told him about their experience.

“The bishops have been very moved —

I’d even say emotionally so — by the depth of the conversation with the pope,” he said, explaining that the pope has been inviting the bishops to raise any issues they have and freely discuss whatever challenges they are facing.

The result, he said, has been “a very profound level of reflection.”

“They’ve been frank, they’ve been prayerful,” he said. “Many of [the bishops] say they really feel like they’re coming to Peter, as it were, for this discussion.”

The Southern Cross



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LOCAL BRIEFS

Student Launches Project to Save Lives

CHULA VISTA — Anaclato Ancheta III (Trey), a junior at Mater Dei Catholic High School, was concerned upon learning that more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cases of cardiac arrest occur annually in the United States and some 90 percent of them are fatal, according to the American Heart Association (AHA). Anaclato has started a project named All About The Heart, which is focused on teaching how to perform CPR and to utilize an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Anaclato notes that early CPR and defibrillation can more than double a victim's chance of survival, according to the AHA. Anaclato's goal is to hold multiple CPR seminars throughout San Diego County and to raise the more than \$3,000 necessary to provide his own parish, St. Charles Church in Imperial Beach, with two AEDs. Anaclato has organized two fundraisers, including a breakfast to be held Feb. 23 in St. Charles' church hall. He has also turned to crowdfunding, starting a GoFundMe campaign at <https://tinyurl.com/AEDSCP>. For more information, "like" All About The Heart's Facebook page (@allabouttheheart) or follow it on Instagram at @AEDHEART.

Father Ricard to Lead Local Youth Conferences

SAN DIEGO — Internationally renowned

speaker Father Tony Ricard of the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be leading youth nights hosted at different parishes throughout the Diocese of San Diego, from 6:30-9 p.m. each night. The dates and locations will be: Sunday, Feb. 2, at Corpus Christi Parish in Bonita; Monday, Feb. 3, at St. Mark Parish in San Marcos; and Tuesday, Feb. 4, at St. Michael Parish in Poway. *For more information, visit sdcatholicdisciples.net/events.*

Affordable Housing Project Breaks Ground

SAN DIEGO — Father Joe's Villages hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 7 for its first affordable housing project of 2020, Benson Place. It will begin remodeling this old motel to become 82 units of housing for people experiencing homelessness, complete with supportive services needed to maintain long-term housing. Father Joe's Villages will continue to create affordable homes in San Diego for those overcoming homelessness — 2,000 units to be exact — through its Turning the Key initiative, of which Benson Place is the first project to break ground.

Seafarer Center Requests Old Magazines

SAN DIEGO — The Stella Maris Seafarer Center is requesting donations of *National Geographic*, *Guideposts*, *Reader's Digest* and similar magazines that it can give to the for-



COURTESY GREG WISNIEW

What Are You Reading?

Jack Wisniew, a student at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School in Scripps Ranch, poses with a copy of *The Southern Cross* at Schwabacher's Landing in Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Send us a photo of you or your family posing with *The Southern Cross* while you're out and about or on vacation, and you might be included in a future issue. High-resolution photos accompanied by captions explaining who is in the photo, where the photo was taken and when it was taken can be emailed to dgrasska@sdccatholic.org.

eign sailors serving aboard the many merchant ships that dock at the Port of San Diego. *For more information or to arrange to drop off the magazines, call Father James Boyd at (858) 292-1822.*

Youth Conference to Be Held in Imperial Valley

EL CENTRO — El Centro Catholic will be holding its first Imperial Valley Youth

Conference on Saturday, March 7, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. This free one-day event is open to all youth of the Imperial Valley. It will consist of two workshop slots where youth will have topics to choose from pertinent to today's youth. The event will also include Eucharistic adoration, confession, live worship music, meals and a closing Mass. *To register for the event, visit www.elcentrocatholic.org. For more information, call (760) 540-5728.*

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

SPRING FORWARD

The diocesan Office for Evangelization & Catechetical Ministry holds its “Spring Forward” catechetical conference for the first time in the Imperial Valley. The event features guest speaker Father Tony Ricard speaking in five sessions on various topics. Father Ricard has given various keynote addresses, spoken at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, Youth Day events, retreats, revivals, and youth talks across the U.S. and Canada, and has preached in and visited at least 22 other countries. Food will be available for purchase the day of the conference. The cost to attend is \$15. For more information and to register, visit sdcatholicdisciples.net/events or call (858) 490-8230.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: St. Mary Parish Center, 795 S. La Brucherie Rd., El Centro 92243

MASS FOR CANCER HEALING

Everyone affected by illness of body, mind or spirit is invited to the ninth annual Mass of Hope and World Day of the Sick celebration, which will include an anointing. The

event is sponsored by St. Gregory the Great Parish's Family Cancer Support Ministry. A reception with light refreshments will follow the Mass in the parish hall. Attendees are invited to bring photos of loved ones who have lost their battles with illness and also to write a petition to be included among the prayers for the sick or deceased. For more information, call (858) 653-3540.

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.
WHERE: St. Gregory the Great Church, 11451 Blue Cypress Dr., San Diego 92131

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Walking with Purpose, a Catholic women's ministry, comes to the San Diego area as part of its “WWP Live!” event series. Founder Lisa Brenninkmeyer will deliver a talk titled “Hallelujah Anyway: Discovering Good Despite Anxiety.” There will be two options to attend — an evening or morning session. Brenninkmeyer will turn to Scripture for truths and solutions to anxiety. The CEO of Walking with Purpose, Julie Ricciardi, will also speak at the event. The cost to attend is \$15/person. A reception and book-signing will follow the talk. For



SPRING FORWARD (FATHER TONY RICARD)

information or to register for either session, visit walkingwithpurpose.com/events.

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., or Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.
WHERE: St. Timothy Parish, 2960 Canyon Rd., Escondido 92025

SWEETHEART DINNER/DANCE

You and your spouse are invited to San Diego Marriage Encounter's Annual Sweetheart Dinner and Dance, “Love Is in the Air.” The evening also includes a silent auction. Cost: \$50/couple; \$2 suggested donation for drinks. Register online at sdwme-events.org. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 10.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 15, 6:30-10 p.m.
WHERE: St. Michael Parish (Msgr. Coughlin Parish Hall-Gymnasium), 15546 Pomerado Rd., Poway 92064

LENTEN SUNG ROSARY

A sung rosary, focusing on the Sorrowful Mysteries, provides an opportunity for prayer and reflection on this first Friday of the Lenten season. For more information, call (858) 487-4314, ext. 1225.

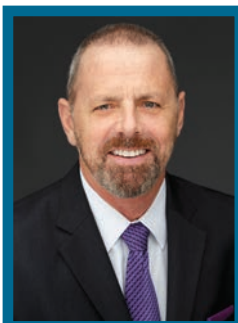
WHEN: Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
WHERE: San Rafael Parish, 17252 Bernardo Center Dr., 17252 Bernardo Center Dr., San Diego 92128



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- Top 50 Fastest-Growing Firms by Financial Advisor Magazine
- Fittest Companies San Diego 2017 & 2018

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- 2016 Better Business Bureau Finalist Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics

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Eye-Opening Film Seeks to Mobilize Christians Against Sex Trafficking

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — A powerful new documentary on sex trafficking, which was shown in select theaters on Jan. 23 only and can currently be seen at any churches that sign up to host a screening, makes its intentions clear from the outset.

“Blind Eyes Opened: The Truth About Sex Trafficking in America” begins with this Scriptural passage from Isaiah: “to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

Over the hour and a half that follows, viewers’ eyes will indeed be opened, not only by the many disturbing facts related on-camera by law enforcement personnel, legislators and those dedicated to facilitating the healing of trafficking victims, but also through the haunting first-person accounts of six survivors of this modern-day form of slavery.

In a Jan. 17 telephone interview with *The Southern Cross*, executive producer Geoffrey Rogers described the film as unabashedly “a Christian documentary.”

“Certainly it exposes the darkness, it shows the truth about sex trafficking in America — that’s the goal of it — but, when we produced it, we had a very clear objective and that was to show the hope in Jesus Christ to solve this problem,” he explained.

During the film, viewers hear from survivors who share Jesus’ role in their recovery. The film also shows Christian ministries reaching out to those in the commercial sex trade, and it concludes with a direct challenge to its Christian viewers to do more to combat this societal scourge.

After the documentary’s one-night-only theatrical release, which will include an additional 20 minutes of exclusive content shown immediately after the film, there also will be a one-month period, from Jan. 24-Feb. 20, during which churches can host their own one-night screenings of the film.

Several of those interviewed on camera in “Blind Eyes Opened” suggest that society’s blindness to this widespread crime is the result of simply not wanting to believe that such



things are happening, with increasing frequency, in our own neighborhoods.

In the film, Cpl. Alan Wilkett of the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, Florida, tells viewers, “It’s happening right before our eyes, and yet we’re not seeing it.”

The film tackles such topics as the insidious ways in which children are lured by traffickers who often prey on vulnerabilities like low self-esteem and an unstable family life, how law enforcement has shifted from viewing trafficked persons as criminals to recognizing them as crime victims, what additional steps American society can take against trafficking, and what resources are currently available to those fortunate enough to escape from such a hellish life.

Among the many heartbreaking stories recounted in the film is that of Edie B. Rhea, founder of Healing Root Ministry, Inc., a nonprofit led by trafficking survivors.

Her father died when she was 4 years old. A few months later, a man named Bill moved in with her and her mother. She said he molested her at age 10 and, two years later, began selling her for sex to strangers.

A childhood photo of a smiling Edie is seen onscreen as the grown woman recounts her lost innocence and the multiple rapes she endured at the butcher shop that Bill and her mother owned. On one occasion, she said, Bill prostituted her in exchange for a new meat grinder.

Rhea says in the film that she believes that there were “lots of opportunities for people to see [what was happening], but they didn’t see.”

“The signs were there,” she added. “They just looked the other way.”

Rogers described the survivors’ testimonies as “so incredibly powerful.” He said meeting them left an indelible mark on him and his wife.

“The messages that these survivors tell are unbelievably heart-wrenching and then incredibly inspiring, because you hear of their faith in Jesus and what He’s done for them,” said Rogers, who stepped away from a 15-year career in the corporate world in 2011 after feeling that God was calling him to ministry. Today, he is the CEO and co-founder of the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking and the president of Ships of Tarshish Films, a nonprofit that produces television and film content for Christian audiences about important social issues.

“Blind Eyes Opened” is the second project from Ships of Tarshish.

In its unflinching look at sex trafficking, “Blind Eyes Opened” also takes aim at pornography and abortion.

“We identify pornography as the number-one fueling factor that is driving the demand for sex trafficking in America,” Rogers said, explaining that porn addiction leads addicts to seek out increasingly deviant forms of pornography — and sometimes even to pay for sex — to achieve the same level of arousal.

Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who became an outspoken pro-life activist and whose conversion story was dramatized in the 2019 film “Unplanned,” is interviewed in “Blind Eyes Opened” about the connection between trafficking and abortion.

“Abortion is the best thing on the planet for an abuser because it covers up and hides the abuse,” she tells viewers.

One of the six featured survivors, Dr. Brook Parker-Bello,

SEE BLIND, PAGE 10



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Catholic Charities in Action

Home Away from Home: Resettlement Through the Eyes of a Refugee

BY Appaswamy "Vino" Pajanor
CEO, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego

Ndizeye can remember the day nearly two decades ago when he was forced to flee his home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The soldiers. The guns. The shouting. The crying.

"We knew what was about to happen if we stayed," he says.

He walked alongside others from his village for three days through the unforgiving terrain of eastern DRC to Gihembe refugee camp in Rwanda, where he lived for 16 years before he and his wife, Uwimana, were resettled in the U.S. in 2019.

16 Years in a Rwandan Refugee Camp

Ethnic conflict, violence and wars have continually destabilized the DRC for decades. Ndizeye made it out alive in 2003, the year the Second Congo War formally ended (though the killings did not). He was 23 years old when he arrived at Gihembe. He met and married Uwimana there in 2005. Asked to recall the details of how she first arrived at the camp, Uwimana's face drops. Then, her head.

"It was terrible," she says.

Uwimana had lost both of her parents and her sister. She lived by herself among some-20,000 Congolese refugees in Gihembe before meeting Ndizeye.

Refugees in Rwanda's five established camps receive 7,600 Rwandan francs, the equivalent of roughly nine U.S. dollars, per person, per month. They live in homes built from little more than plywood sheathing. They're fortunate for the shelter, safety and assistance—yet it is difficult to survive and remain healthy on so little and in a region plagued by illness. The current Ebola outbreak in the DRC is the second largest in history.

"You are safer from the killing and sickness, but you are not at home," Ndizeye says. "There is not enough food, water. Things are not enough. You are just getting the minimum to sustain."

Ndizeye was able to earn a small additional sum teaching social studies in the camp, which required him to pass a national exam and train himself. The extra money helped him support his three children—one daughter and two sons—all of whom Uwimana gave birth to while living in Gihembe.

This Is What a Refugee Looks Like

Ndizeye recites a song that he used to sing to his students in the refugee camp:

"Home again, my home again, when shall I see my home again?"

He smiles as he sings, but the reality rings through. For many refugees, home is a place they may never return. The only way to start a new life was through resettlement.

When Ndizeye was informed that he and his family would be accepted into the U.S., he spent a month communicating with various members of Catholic Charities' refugee services team in preparation for the journey. We arranged for a medical escort to accompany Uwimana, who suffers from diabetes, and met the family at San Diego International Airport upon their arrival on January 18, 2019, to take them to their new, two-bedroom apartment in City Heights.

Ndizeye now works for a large paper product manufacturer in San Diego, taking the bus and trolley more than an hour each way. He returns home from work around midnight. During the day, Uwimana walks the kids to and from school, attending English classes herself in between. Ndizeye says his next step is to get a car so that he can move faster. It is not easy to provide. It is not easy to adapt. But he hopes more refugees are given the opportunity.

"They have the energy and ability to work," Ndizeye says. "If they can get resettled and have a nationality here in the U.S., they can keep being useful, get a good education and solve problems instead of being in a refugee camp for years and years."

Read the full story to see how you can accompany refugees in their journey and help give them a pathway to hope, self-reliance and a sense of belonging in America, the land of the free. Visit ccdsd.org/away-from-home

SAMARITAN SPOTLIGHT

"Creating A Welcoming, Supportive Home"

Catholic Charities was approached by a nurse from a local San Diego hospital to help find housing for an 11-year-old girl from Mexico with kidney failure so she could receive dialysis in the United States. In Mexico, dialysis is not accessible for people under the age of 18 so without a safe place in the U.S. to stay, the child was not likely to survive.



Eunice Gonzalez, Service Coordinator for programs in our Homeless Women's Services department, helped explore possible solutions and, after exhausting the limited options available, offered a room in one of our residential homes. With help from Catholic Charities' Facilities Manager, the bedroom was quickly prepared for the child and her aunt to move in so the child could continue her treatment without interruption.

Eunice did not stop there, she also worked with the hospital staff and her guardian aunt to enroll the child in school, advocated for an IEP to ensure her needs were met and arranged transportation from the home to school. Although the child is a U.S. citizen, her guardian is not, so Eunice has also been relentlessly pursuing a way to get the child awarded SSI which would provide the funds for a small apartment. Other residents of the residential program have also created a welcoming, supportive home for the child and her aunt. "Most importantly, she's happy and safe as she awaits her transplant," Eunice said.

UPCOMING EVENTS

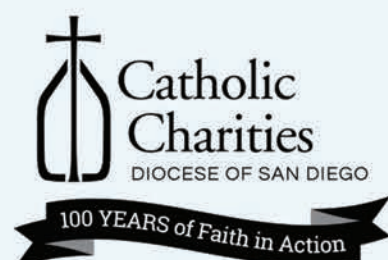
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► VALENTINE'S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Spouses called to imitate Christ's self-sacrificial love

cultivate and sustain an active faith life."

"If you plant a tree and only attend to it once a year, the tree may survive, but it will be wilted, stunted and undernourished," offered Vern and Lorrie Snyder, members of St. Michael Parish in Poway, who have been married for 32 years and are presenters for Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

In order to avoid "suffering that tree's fate," they said, "Our relationship needs the nourishment and attention of regular date nights where we focus on each other, attention to our sexual relationship, deep and intimate conversation, forgiveness, and lots of laughter."

Jesuit Father Michael Ravenkamp regularly works with couples on Engaged Encounter, Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille weekends. His day job is with the Diocese of San Diego's marriage tribunal, where he examines and evalu-



KISS ME: An engaged couple kiss after a blessing at the Shrine of St. Valentine in the historic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Dublin Feb. 12, 2019. Valentine's Day is celebrated Feb. 14.

ates the cases of Catholics who are seeking annulments.

Romance provides the initial spark for a relationship and it "doesn't do any harm to put some more kindling on that flame," he said, though hopefully a couple's relationship has "a more profound, serious side," too.

During couples' weekends, Father

child to term.

"Blind Eyes Opened" concludes with a powerful call for Christians to enlist in the battle against sex trafficking.

"You've got to fight the fight," Kevin P. Malone, co-founder and board president of the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, tells viewers near the end of the film, "and I believe, when the Church accepts that responsibility and really engages, we can make a major difference."

For more information about the film and where to see it, visit www.BlindEyesOpened.com. Churches interested in learning how to host a screening can do so by visiting www.faithcontentnetwork.com, clicking on "See the Current Film Line-Up," and selecting "Blind Eyes Opened: The Truth About Sex Trafficking in America."

The Southern Cross

Ravenkamp said, participants are invited to reflect on their significant other's most endearing qualities, write them down and share them with each other.

"How often do we take time out of the day to share with our nearest and dearest just those qualities that we find most endearing?" he asked.

"There's no reason why we couldn't do that every day," he added, noting that it costs nothing and doesn't require much in the way of planning.

Keeping God at the center of the relationship is also essential.

Father Ravenkamp referenced Catholic teaching that the nuptial relationship mirrors Christ's sacrificial love for humanity.

"The Catholic Church talks about matrimonial love as being a covenant," with both spouses called to "give their all" just as Jesus

held back nothing when He died on the cross for our salvation, he said.

For Ron and Carla Barnett, who have been married for 37 years and have been Marriage Encounter presenters since 2015, the practice of praying together each day was something they began as attendees at a Marriage Encounter Weekend and have continued ever since.

"Over our long marriage, there have been times when God wasn't at the center," said the Barnetts, who are members of St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad. "It's astonishing to realize now that it was usually during those times when things were not going so well. ... There is definitely more peace and harmony in our relationship when God is in the picture."

As Valentine's Day approaches, it's also worth recognizing that the potential lessons of the holiday are not limited to those who have been called to the vocation of marriage. Of the three St. Valentines who traditionally have been commemorated on Feb. 14 according to *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, one is believed to have been a priest and another a bishop.

"St. Valentine was a martyr," said Father Michael Sinor, a priest of the Diocese of San Diego who has been a Marriage Encounter presenter for more than 20 years. "The word 'martyr' originally meant a witness. As priests, we are called to witness to the self-emptying love of God as revealed by Jesus as He emptied Himself to become one with us in our humanity."

"St. Valentine's love wasn't romantic," he added, "but there was a deepness to it that both priests and couples are called to imitate."

The Southern Cross

► BLIND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Film ends with call for Christians to get involved

now the founder, CEO and executive director of More Too Life, Inc., a non-profit that provides mentoring and education to trafficking survivors, shares that her trafficker forced her to undergo multiple abortions.

During her onscreen interview, she pauses, seemingly holding back tears. In a broken voice, she reveals that, as a lasting legacy of those abortions, she has experienced several miscarriages during her marriage and has been unable to carry a

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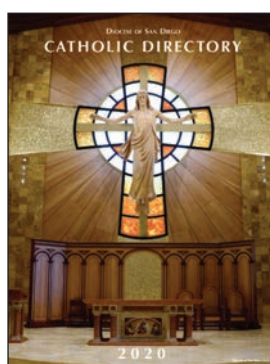


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Filled with Joy and Hope, Pro-Life Community Walks for Life

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — For the eighth consecutive year, the pro-life community of San Diego laced up its walking shoes to witness to the sanctity and dignity of each human life.

About 5,000 people of various ages, cultures and even faith traditions took part in the annual San Diego Walk for Life, which was held Jan. 18 in Balboa Park, near the corner of Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street.

This year's theme was "Live, Serve & Embrace Life." During the event, participants heard from several speakers, including San Diego Bishop Robert W. McElroy; Pastor Mike Van Meter of Foothills Christian Church in El Cajon; a young mother who placed her daughter for open adoption; and a former abortion nurse who became a pro-life advocate.

The walk itself, which commenced immediately after Bishop McElroy's address, consisted of a half-mile loop that began and ended along the sidewalk of Sixth Avenue. Participants prayed the rosary and held signs bearing pro-life messages.

Both before and after the walk, attendees enjoyed live musical entertainment and had the opportunity to visit about 50 exhibitor booths, representing a variety of pro-life, pro-family and religious organizations, such as 40 Days for Life, Birthline of San Diego, Culture of Life Family Services, John Paul the Great Catholic University and even *The Southern Cross*.

Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan was also in attendance and delivered the opening prayer.

In his remarks, Pastor Van Meter reflected



A WALK IN THE PARK: One of the younger participants in the San Diego Walk for Life holds a pro-life sign during the annual event, which was held Jan. 18 in Balboa Park.

on how several Biblical passages make it clear that God has a special concern for orphans and that all of us are called to reach out to them. He noted that this is "not optional. ... Defending orphans is a Gospel imperative. It is something that God has

commanded us to do." Defining an orphan as "a child whose family is broken and whose parents cannot or will not take care of them," he said that "so many unborn children in our country ... fall into this category." He stressed the need

to view abortion not as "just a political issue," but as "a holocaust" to which we must respond.

"I want to challenge you," Van Meter said, as he drew his talk to a close. "God's given you a life. He's given you a mind. He's given you a voice. He's given you strength. He expects you to use it to defend the fatherless, to advocate for justice, to stand up for the unborn."

"Don't be a spectator," he said. "God has called you to use what He has given you. He's going to hold you accountable to what He's given you to fight for life. Let's do that together, amen?"

Bishop McElroy was the last speaker to take the stage before the walk portion of the event, during which he participated near the very front of the procession.

"Those who say life in the womb is not human life are testifying to a lie," Bishop McElroy declared, "and we are here because we want to be witnesses testifying to the truth of God's grace in the womb and from conception until natural death."

Noting that this was his fifth year attending the San Diego Walk for Life since arriving in San Diego in 2015, Bishop McElroy spoke approvingly of how the attendance numbers have grown over the years, of the joy and enthusiasm of the event's participants, and especially of the participation of many young people.

"This is not a somber moment," he told the crowd. "This is a moment of joy and hope that looks to the future and that is confident that we are here with a call and a mission from God."

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Late Msgr. Finnerty Celebrated 'Sacrament of Presence'

SAN DIEGO — Msgr. Joseph L. Finnerty, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Jan. 20 at Nazareth House San Diego after a brief time in hospice care.

He was born on April 4, 1933, in Dublin, Ireland, where he studied for the priesthood at All Hallows College Seminary, from 1951-1957.

He was ordained a priest on June 16, 1957, for the Diocese of San Diego.

Upon his arrival in his new diocese, he initially served as an associate pastor at a succession of parishes, including Sacred Heart Parish, Ocean Beach; St. Francis de Sales Parish, Riverside; St. John of the Cross Parish, Lemon Grove; and St. Therese Parish, San Diego.

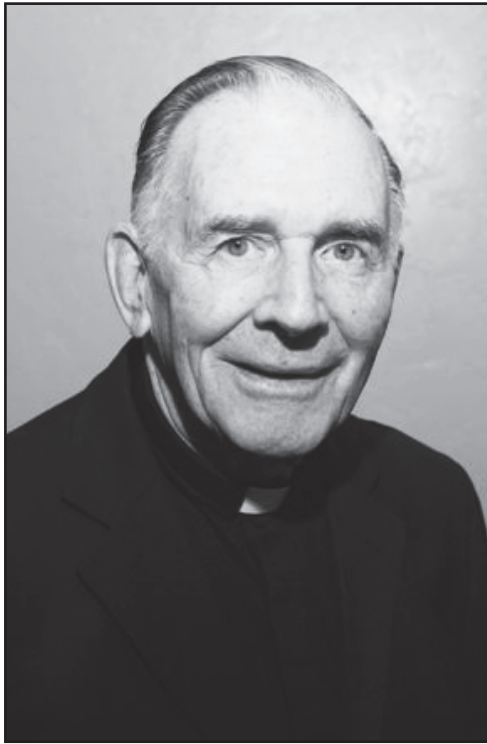
On Sept. 7, 1966, he was appointed pastor of his first parish, St. Thomas Indian Mission in Yuma. He ministered there until his appointment as pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Idyllwild in 1968.

From 1970-1984, Father Finnerty was the founding pastor of Resurrection Parish in Escondido. During that time, on May 18, 1985, he was named a monsignor by Pope St. John Paul II.

Msgr. Finnerty later served as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Poway.

He retired from active ministry in July 2001 and resided in Rancho Bernardo, while continuing to minister to St. Michael Parish.

Msgr. Mark Campbell, pastor of Our Mother of Confidence Parish, first met Msgr. Finnerty in 1966, when the former was still a seminarian at All Hallows College and the latter paid a visit. Over the years



MSGR. JOSEPH L. FINNERTY

that they both ministered in San Diego, the two priests became and remained friends.

"He was a compassionate, sensitive, caring man, who was a great shepherd of his people," Msgr. Campbell said of the late monsignor.

Msgr. Campbell described his friend as a "forward-thinking" priest, who had welcomed and implemented the post-Vatican II liturgical changes "very intentionally," and was a strong supporter of Catholic education.

The late priest, he said, also had "the gift of enabling the lay person to take their

rightful role in the Church, and to collaborate with them ... and to really give them their dutiful place in the life of the parish."

Msgr. Campbell said his friend was "always available" and "there for you," whether you were a friend, one of his parishioners or a brother priest.

"As Father Finnerty would say, the eighth sacrament is a sacrament of presence: Be

present to your people, know your people, and be there for them in their time of need."

Visitation and a vigil service were held Jan. 26 at St. Michael Parish. The funeral Mass was celebrated the following day, also at St. Michael Parish, with interment at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum.

The Southern Cross



COURTESY OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

95 Years as Priests

Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan recently presided at a Mass marking the ordination anniversaries of two local priests who serve together at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Lakeside.

Father Ron Buchmiller, pastor, was marking his 50th anniversary, while his associate pastor, Father Joseph Khuyen Van Lai was celebrating 45 years of priesthood. They have served together at Our Lady of Perpetual Help for 17 years.

Among the many priests who concelebrated with Bishop Dolan, Msgr. Richard Duncanson served as homilist. His homily offered insights into these two priests, with moments that brought laughter to the full house of friends, relatives and parishioners, as well as cheers for their 95 years of combined service as priests.

"Thank you, Father Ron and Father Joe, for your generous and wholehearted response to your vocation to the ordained priesthood," Msgr. Duncanson said in his homily. "I know that I speak on behalf of all of those whose lives you have touched and blessed during your 50 and 45 years of priestly ministry. May the Lord continue to bless both of you with many more fruitful and happy years in the priesthood."

Pictured, from left, at the anniversary Mass are: Father Joseph Khuyen Van Lai, Deacon Mark Silvia, Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan and Father Ron Buchmiller.

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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Imperial Valley Conference Focuses on Power of Sacraments

By Roman Flores

EL CENTRO — Rather than view them as options, “the sacraments sustain us.” That was one of the key messages of the second annual St. John Paul II Catholic Radio Winter Conference.

The speaker was Father Wade Menezes of the Fathers of Mercy, who is associated with station affiliate EWTN. He was warmly received by the 300 people who attended the second annual Winter Conference, whose 2020 theme was “Sin, Mercy and the Call to Holiness.”

The radio station held it as a way to supplement the teachings of the Catholic Church, particularly for the upcoming Lenten season, said its manager, Raul Caro. The event on Jan. 11 began with a morning Mass at St. Mary Church, followed by a series of talks in the parish hall.

In the first talk, titled “The Nature of Sin and its Consequences,” Father Wade talked about the differences between mortal and venial sins and their effects on the soul and society. He encouraged participants to frequent the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. He warned against scrupulosity, which is overthinking so much that one sees everything as sin, effectively not allowing Christ to be one’s Savior.

In his second talk, “God’s Tribunal of Mercy: The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation,” Father Wade spoke about the differences between sanctifying grace and actual grace, emphasizing how just one mortal sin can take the faithful out of God’s sanctifying grace. He highlighted the lives



CONFERENCE: Seminarian Ivan Mora (left) and other attendees listen to one of the talks by Father Wade Menezes at the second annual St. John Paul II Catholic Radio Winter Conference. The event took place Jan. 11 at St. Mary Parish in El Centro.

of saints who overcame their sins through growing closer to God through the sacraments and practicing the opposing virtues to their vices.

In the final talk, “Called to Holiness: Practice and Live the Sacraments,” Father Wade spoke about the differences, the spiritual benefits and the catechetical groupings of the seven sacraments, including their impact throughout human life.

“Our theme of the reality of sin and God’s

beautiful gift of mercy is to express to the faithful, in a way that is right, straight in line with the Chair of St. Peter, the beauty of God’s mercy calling us to a life of virtue and to shun sin,” Father Wade said in an interview.

He said that no matter one’s state in life, “to live our baptismal promises, to be sustained by regular [Holy] Eucharist and regular confession, to be joyful Catholics living in the midst of the modern world: That’s our goal.”

“The sacramental life supports us, and I

think that’s an important message tied to the reality of sin and God’s mercy,” he said. “Jesus is the author of all seven sacraments — that’s Church teaching — and so He gives us the sacraments to sustain us.”

St. John Paul II Radio, which serves Catholics in the Imperial Valley, carries Catholic programming online at jp2radio.com and on 95.7FM and 93.3FM in the Imperial Valley.

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Corpus Christi Catholic Church
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Monday, February 3, 2020
6:30 pm–9:00 pm
St. Mark’s Catholic Church
1147 Discovery Street
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To register and for more details: 760-744-1540 or office@stmarksccc.org

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
6:30 pm–9:00 pm
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To register and for more details: Alice Beas at (858) 487-4755 ext 3154 or aliceb@smpoway.org

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Annual Catholic Appeal Is Invitation to Respond Gratefully to God's Blessings

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — With the Annual Catholic Appeal, which is set to kick off during the Feb. 8-9 weekend, the Diocese of San Diego hopes to raise \$3.5 million to fund a variety of essential ministries.

Manny Aguilar, director of the diocesan Office for Stewardship, said the appeal provides local Catholics with the opportunity to come together to support causes that would be impossible or inefficient for parishes to take on individually.

Beneficiaries of the Annual Catholic Appeal fall under four main categories: Catholic schools, faith formation, Catholic Charities, and clergy and seminarian support.

"There's no way that parishes could afford that, so this is a way that we all come together so that ... we can find a way to address those needs collectively," Aguilar said.

Beneficiaries of the Annual Catholic Appeal fall under four main categories: Catholic schools, faith formation, Catholic Charities, and clergy and seminarian support.

"The needs go beyond the parish for programs that benefit all of those who participate in the Catholic community, for the poor, the needy, the dispossessed," explained Bishop Robert W. McElroy.

Local parent Claudia Gonzalez is among the many who have been able to send their children to Catholic school thanks to the generosity of ACA donors.

She noted that she has already seen "a big difference" in her children, who are among the more than 13,000 students who attend local Catholic schools, and she is grateful "to see them actually be happy to go to school."

The ACA provides necessary funds for several diocesan offices, including Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry, Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry, as well as the Diocesan Institute, a theological formation program that offers a wide variety of courses

for Catholic adults.

Maricruz Flores, director of the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry, sees ACA funds as leveling the playing field for low-income households, which might not otherwise be able to avail themselves of opportunities to send their children on retreats or to camps or conferences.

"With the Annual Catholic Appeal, we can offer that to our students," she said.

The appeal also supports prison ministry at 25 local prisons, jails and detention facilities.

Catholic Charities, another ACA beneficiary, represents the social arm of the Church and administers a host of programs that assist those faced with homelessness, food insecurity, immigration problems and many other issues.

The ACA also supports both those studying for the priesthood and those aged priests who have retired after years of faithful ministry to Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties.

"A lot of hands are involved, a lot of people are involved" in providing resources for priestly formation, said seminarian Brian Frulla, "and I think it relies on the generosity of the Church, of the People of God."

The annual tuition costs for each of the diocese's 21 seminarians is \$45,000.

At the other end of the spectrum, retired Msgr. Edward Brockhaus noted that rent in San Diego is among the highest in the nation. Referring to the ACA's financial support for the living expenses of about 50 retired diocesan priests, he said, "It really helps us to be able to make ends meet."

As suggested by this year's theme, "Gratitude in Action," the ACA is presented as an invitation to respond generously in thanksgiving for God's blessings.



KICK-OFF: Bishop Robert W. McElroy speaks at the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Kick-Off Luncheon, held Jan. 16 at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

"The Annual Appeal is one way in which we really can recognize that gratitude to God and say, 'Here's a way I can make God more present here in this Diocese of San Diego,'" Bishop McElroy said.

Demonstrating his own commitment to the campaign, the bishop was the special guest Jan. 16 at the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Kick-Off Luncheon, which was held at the diocesan Pastoral Center and attended by about 100 parish pastors, bookkeepers and

business managers committed to making this year's campaign a success.

"Without [donors'] support, we wouldn't be able to carry on the mission that has been entrusted to us by Jesus," added Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.sdcatholic.org/giving. In addition to monetary donations, the diocese also accepts stocks, bonds and IRA charitable rollover distributions.

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The One Pope

By Bishop Robert Barron

The new and much-ballyhooed Netflix film “The Two Popes” should, by rights, be called “The One Pope,” for it presents a fairly nuanced, textured and sympathetic portrait of Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) and a complete caricature of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI). This imbalance fatally undermines the movie, whose purpose, it seems, is to show that old grumpy, legalistic Benedict finds his spiritual bearings through the ministrations of friendly, forward-looking Francis. But such a thematic trajectory ultimately does violence to both figures, and turns what could have been a supremely interesting character study into a predictable and tedious apologia for the filmmaker’s preferred version of Catholicism.

That we are dealing with a caricature of Ratzinger becomes clear when, in the opening minutes of the film, the Bavarian cardinal is presented as ambitiously plotting to secure his election as pope in 2005. On at least three occasions, the real Cardinal Ratzinger begged John Paul II to allow him to retire from his position as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and to take up a life of study and prayer. He stayed on only because John Paul adamantly refused the requests. And in 2005, upon the death of John Paul, even Ratzinger’s ideological opponents admitted that the now 78-year-old cardinal wanted nothing more than to return to Bavaria and write his Christology. The ambitious plotting fits, of course, the caricature of the “conservative” churchman, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the flesh-and-blood Joseph Ratzinger. Furthermore, in the scene depicting an imagined meeting between Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio in the gardens at Castel Gandolfo, the aged pope frowningly lashes out at his Argentinian colleague, bitterly criticizing the cardinal’s theology. Once again, even Joseph Ratzinger’s detractors admit that “God’s Rottweiler” is in fact invariably kind, soft-spoken, and gentle in his dealings with others. The barking ideologue is, again, a convenient caricature but not even close to the real Ratzinger.

But the most serious mischaracterization occurs toward the end of the film when a dispirited Benedict, resolved to resign the

papacy, admits that he had stopped hearing the voice of God and that he had begun to hear it again only through his newfound friendship with Cardinal Bergoglio! Mind you, in saying the following I mean not an ounce of disrespect to the real Pope Francis, but that one of the most intelligent and spiritually alert Catholics of the last 100 years would require the intervention of Cardinal Bergoglio in order to hear the voice of God is beyond absurd. From beginning to end of his career, Ratzinger/Benedict has produced some of the most spiritually luminous theology in the great tradition. That he was, by 2012, tired and physically ill, and that he felt incapable of governing the great apparatus of the Catholic Church — yes, of course. But that he was spiritually lost — no way. Again, it might be a fantasy of some on the left that “conservatives” hide their spiritual bankruptcy behind a veneer of rules and authoritarianism, but one would be hard pressed indeed to apply this hermeneutic to Joseph Ratzinger.

The very best parts of this film are the flashbacks to earlier stages in the life of Jorge Bergoglio, which shed considerable light on the psychological and spiritual development of the future pope. The scene depicting his powerful encounter with a confessor dying of cancer is particularly moving, and the uncompromising treatment of his dealings with two Jesuit priests under his authority during the “Dirty War” in Argentina goes a long way to explaining his commitment to the poor and to a simple manner of life. What would have infinitely improved the film, in my humble judgment, is a similar treatment in regard to Joseph Ratzinger. If only we had had a flashback to the 16-year-old boy from a fiercely anti-Nazi family, pressed into military service in the dying days of the Third Reich, we would understand more thoroughly Ratzinger’s deep suspicion of secularist/totalitarian utopias and cults of personality. If only we had had a flashback to the young priest, peritus to Cardinal Frings, leading the liberal faction at Vatican II and eager to turn from preconciliar conservatism, we would have understood that he was no simple-minded guardian of the status quo. If only we had had a flashback to the Tübingen professor, scandalized by a postconciliar extremism



CNS PHOTO/PETER MOUNTAIN, COURTESY NETFLIX

SEEING DOUBLE: Anthony Hopkins portrays retired Pope Benedict XVI and Jonathan Pryce portrays Pope Francis in a scene from the movie “The Two Popes.”

that was throwing the theological baby out with the bathwater, we might have understood his reticence regarding programs advocating change for the sake of change. If only we had had a flashback to the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith composing a nuanced document, both thoughtfully critical and deeply appreciative of Liberation Theology, we might have grasped that Pope Benedict was by no means indifferent to the plight of the poor.

Now, I realize that such a treatment would have made for a far longer movie, but who cares? Heck, I was willing to sit through three and a half rather tedious

hours of “The Irishman.” I would have been happy to watch four hours of a film that was as honest and insightful about Joseph Ratzinger as it was about Jorge Mario Bergoglio. It would have made not only for a fascinating psychological study, but also for an illuminating look at two different but deeply complementary ecclesial perspectives. Instead, we got more of a cartoon.

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

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During February, my thoughts turn to two of my favorite biblical figures, Simeon and Anna.



Sister Constance Veit

Simeon is described in St. Luke's Gospel simply as "a man in Jerusalem" and Anna as an 84-year-old "prophetess." These two elders greet Mary and Joseph as they bring their newborn infant to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. We celebrate this moment in Jesus' life, referred to as the Presentation in the Temple, on Feb. 2.

Elders Shape the Future

Simeon and Anna are not just two pious old people making a fuss over a baby. Each one had been waiting for the coming of the Lord for many years. Their whole lives were defined by their patient, prayerful waiting. When the moment came, they recognized Jesus as the Messiah and testified on His behalf before all the people.

Pope Francis wrote, "When Mary and Joseph reached the Temple to fulfill the law, Simeon and Anna jumped to their feet. They were moved by the Holy Spirit. This elderly couple recognized the child and dis-

covered a new inner strength that allowed them to bear witness."

Simeon and Anna have an important message for our time. They represent the crucial role of older people who "have the courage to dream," as Pope Francis said. "Only if our grandparents have the courage to dream and our young people imagine great things will our society go on." Francis believes that older people who dream are able to move forward creatively as they envision a future.

"Without the witness of their elders' lives, the plans of young people will have neither roots nor wisdom," he said. "Today more than ever, the future generates anxiety, insecurity, mistrust and fear. Only the testimony of elders will help young people look above the horizon to see the stars. Just learning that it is worth fighting for something will help young people face the future with hope."

We Little Sisters are privileged to share our lives with many successors of Simeon and Anna — older people who have persevered in their faith through the years as they sought a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Among them is a woman I know who poured her life-savings into the rehabilitation of a child stuck in the cycle of drug addiction, and who later sacrificed her own comfort to support three generations of her family members who were displaced after a hurricane ravaged their island home.

Another resident, a tiny woman in her mid-80s, divides her time between helping in our chapel and working in the parish

founded by her priest-brother — the only Vietnamese parish in our diocese — helping with sundry tasks and taking Holy Communion to the sick.

I recently attended Mass at this Vietnamese parish as part of our annual fundraising appeal and enjoyed seeing our resident in action. While she and many of the women of the parish wore their traditional Vietnamese tunics and flowing pants in bright hues and varied designs, most of the young people came to church in the jeans, yoga pants and baggy sweatshirts typical of American youth.

The liturgy was completely in Vietnamese. I saw what a fine line these young people walk — with one foot planted firmly in the land of their parents and grandparents and the other in America.

I was touched to see that even the young people venerated our resident. As she scurried around the church attending to many details, she would give the young people a quick word of direction in Vietnamese or a charming smile of encouragement.

Our residents embody Pope Francis' dream of elders as "a choir of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise support the larger community that works and struggles in the field of life."

Although I am not yet a senior, it won't be long before I am, and I am grateful for the example of our residents who, like Simeon and Anna, are teaching me how to assume the mantle of a wise elder in the believing community.

Sister Constance Veit is the director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Bishop to Celebrate Mass for 'World Day of the Sick'

SAN DIEGO — In observance of the World Day of the Sick, the Order of Malta will host the Diocese of San Diego's second annual World Day of the Sick Mass.

With Bishop Robert W. McElroy serving as principal celebrant and homilist, the special liturgy will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, and will include the sacrament of the anointing of the sick as well as a blessing of caregivers.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened" is the theme of this year's World Day of the Sick. In caring for the sick, Pope Francis is encouraging in healthcare workers the human warmth and personalized approach of Jesus Christ.

In 1992, Pope St. John Paul II, just one year after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, instituted the World Day of the Sick. Since 1993, it has been

celebrated every year on or near Feb. 11, the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, as a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering.

The feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes was chosen because of the healing intercessions of Our Lady and is especially poignant to the Order of Malta due to the Order's special devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The Order of Malta is a Catholic lay order founded in 1048 A.D. with a double mission to witness to the faith of the Roman Catholic Church and to serve the poor and sick.

For more information about the Mass, contact the parish office at (858) 453-0222.

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Satan Claims to Be Down but Not Out



Sean M. Wright

(With apologies to C.S. Lewis, Douglass Wallop, Stephen Vincent Benet and Taylor Caldwell)

Sean M. Wright: Good morning, Your Infernal Highness. Glad to speak with you.

Satan: Needling me already, eh?

SMW: Needling you?

Satan: The “Infernal Highness” bit. Wishing me a “good” morning. And no one’s been glad to speak to me in five centuries.

SMW: But you’re the Prince of Darkness and ...

Satan: And you live in a republic, not an aristocracy. I won’t be patronized.

SMW: It was unintentional. Let’s get down to business. The Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent details your meeting with Jesus of Nazareth before He began His ministry. What did you hope to accomplish?

Satan: A lot! I just wasn’t aware of who Jesus was.

SMW: But all those prophecies, angels at His birth, the Star?

Surely you had some inkling?

Satan: I hate to burst your bubble, buster. I don’t waste a lotta time on this insignificant speck of a planet. What do you have? Caligula? The Borgias? Stalin? The petroleum cartel? Small potatoes! I usually leave temptation on Earth to lesser demons.

SMW: Then why are you so hellbent for us to join you in everlasting damnation?

Satan: Why? I have a bone to pick with my so-called Creator, proving to Him that you, with your muddy intellects and slimy desires, aren’t worth saving. Ever read Job? The Unknowable One wants you, an object slapped together from water and minerals, to take my place among celestial beings forever in bliss. The concept nauseates me.

True, every so often one of you comes along and catches my attention, so I test them: Socrates, all those prophets, Livia, Hildebrand, that Aquinas chap, Catherine of Siena — now there was a real spitfire — Martin Luther, John Vianney, that windbag Voltaire, John Adams, Daniel Webster, Margaret Sanger — what a drip she was — Dorothy Day; a few others.

And, hey, I’m not cheap! I’m willing to shell out plenty to snatch a soul out of His hands. You’d drop your uppers if you knew how much people you call saints reject. Or how little most sinners settle for. I win some, I lose some. Variety lends spice to the game.

SMW: I see. We were speaking of ...

Satan: Yeah, yeah. Jesus, the Word made flesh. I dropped in from the Andromeda galaxy to give Livia some tips about who next to poison in Octavian’s court when Jesus was born. I had a lot on my mind, what with inventing orgies, gladiator contests and imperialism. By the time I noticed Jesus, 30 years had slipped by.

Jesus looked good — very good. Still, overwork made me sloppy. I shoulda checked out His Mother’s record first. Whoa! Was that ever a tip-off!

See, I wanted to use Jesus the same way we use some of those televangelists today. It’s become my favorite ploy for your destruction.

SMW: What ploy is that?

Satan: It’s our “Gimme That Old Time Religion” gambit. The Catholic variation is “The Church Can’t Tell Me What to Do.”

A charismatic preacher comes along offering cheap salvation. “Just believe!” he declares, backing up his claims with some snappy patter and biblical double-talk. Before anyone can utter a “verily,” people are cleaning out their savings accounts “for the Lord’s work.” Often these funds are diverted into the stock market, a private plane, a charming little 26-room chalet in the Swiss Alps, or a swanky condo in Orlando.

My Enemy’s tougher. He invites you to offer Him the best of your abilities; to love others as much as you love yourselves; to crucify overweening ambition — and do it joyfully. What was He thinking of?

That Spanish chick, Teresa of Avila, got it right. After taking a pratfall in the mud, she glanced heavenward and sighed, “No

wonder You have so few friends. You treat them so badly.”

Eventually, the preacher we’ve set up is exposed as an embezzler. Or caught in a sleazy motel room. Maybe something worse. It depends. Then the press and TV news people close in — I’ve got a whole legion of demons working overtime in newsrooms all over your planet.

Next thing you know — POW!!! Disillusionment! “True believers” find their expectations dashed. The Christian ethos now sickens them. That’s when we move in for the kill. “All godly leaders are hypocrites,” we whisper. “Forget the hereafter. Life is now.”

They anesthetize themselves with drink, drugs, infidelity — vices of all sorts. Anything to fill that inner void where they thought they’d made the Eternal One their pet. When despair hits, they’re ours. It works diabolically!

SMW: And this is how you hoped to use Jesus?

Satan: You bet! I thought Jesus’d fit the bill neatly. He was in the desert meditating, been without food for weeks, and ripe for my suggestions.

“Hungry?” I asked Him. “So turn these stones into bread.” He had a comeback: “Man does not live by bread alone.” Big joke.

So I appealed to His showmanship: “Jump off the Temple roof, float to earth, take a bow, and start rounding up the suckers.” No dice. He saw through that one, too. Well, I thought He might.

I saved the big pitch for last. All the kingdoms of the world for His own. No effort whatsoever. He only had to put Himself in my hands.

I like to think He actually considered the idea for a moment.

I recall He smiled. It prompted a vague recollection. That same sad, shy smile I’d seen an eternity before. I grew uneasy. Was He going to laugh in my face? Worse. He simply turned His back to me. “Away with you,” He said softly, dismissing me. ME!

Then it struck me. Divinity had embraced humanity in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. What a cheat is my Enemy Above! He’d slipped His Son among you guys as deftly as Houdini shuffled cards.

SMW: Looks like you were disappointed.

Satan: Humph! That’s an understatement. I admit I was trounced.

It was a dirty trick, I tell ya. But don’t worry; I still have friends down here: phony fitness gurus, internet porn merchants. Not to mention abortion vendors and the venal politicians who legalize destroying babies stamped with the likeness of my Everlasting Enemy. That’s always good for a vile hoot.

Lately, I’ve developed a battery of scummy pundits and self-seeking celebrities to skulk around social media. Their task is to debase and confuse people shorn of morality into confounding evil for goodness. [Chortle] I’m not finished yet!

Sean M. Wright is a member of the RCLA team at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Santa Clarita, California. An Emmy-nominated television writer and a Master Catechist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, he responds to comments sent to him at Locksley69@aol.com.

Lenten Sacrifice



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CNS GRAPHIC/FAMILY THOMPSON

SACRIFICE: The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26. It is a penitential time, during which Christians prepare for Easter by devoting time to prayer, works of charity and self-denial.

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www.maryleehillmft.com
 1650 Linda Vista Dr. Ste. 210,
 San Marcos, CA 92078

PARISH EVENTS

Devotion Mass

St. Peregrine Laziosi (patron saint for those with cancer, AIDS and other illnesses) and St. Anthony Zaccaria (patron saint of physicians) Devotion Mass, 6 p.m., third Monday of every month, at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. Information: (619) 234-4820.

St. Thomas Purgatory Prayer Group

Meets every Monday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish La Mesa to pray for deceased loved ones, the sick and the dying.

Healing Prayer

• At St. Therese of Carmel Parish, Carmel Valley: First Sunday of the month after 5:30 p.m. Mass, second Saturdays after 5:30 p.m. Mass, third Sundays after 9 a.m. Mass, and fourth Saturdays after 5:30 p.m. Mass.

• At St. James Church, Solana Beach: third Saturdays after 5 p.m. Mass, third Sundays after both the 9 and 11:30 a.m. Masses, and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ("Holy Spirit Encounter" — worship, adoration and prayer ministry). The group's quarterly healing Masses have been discontinued. Information: (888) 590-5095.

Chinese RCIA

The San Diego Chinese Catholic Community offers Chinese-language RCIA at St. Therese of Carmel Parish. Information: sdccc7@gmail.com.

Bible Study

"The Gospel of Matthew at St. Therese of Carmel," a 26-session study of Matthew's Gospel. Sept. 12, 2019-June 18, 2020 (breaks for Advent, Christmas and Lent). Information: st.therese.growinginfaith@gmail.com.

Encounter

A Spirit-filled evening of inspiring music, powerful prayer, Eucharistic adoration, healing service and reconciliation. Held from 7-8:30 p.m., on the second Friday of each month, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Rancho Penasquitos. Next Encounter will be held Feb. 14.

Healing Masses

• 6:30 p.m., Feb. 3, at St. Patrick Parish, Carlsbad. Celebrant: Father Ben Drapeau. Information: (760) 724-4046.

• 7 p.m., Feb. 24, at Holy Spirit Parish, followed by Eucharistic adoration. Information: (619) 262-2435.

School Open House

St. Patrick School in North Park invites you to its open house from 6-8 p.m., Jan. 29. Information: (619) 297-1314 or secretary@stpatrickssd.com.

Ten Warning Signs of

Alzheimer's

6:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 30, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish (St. Frances Room), 1945 Illion St. 92110. RSVP: (800) 272-3900.

Mass for Cancer Healing

Anointing Mass, 6 p.m., Feb. 11, at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Scripps Ranch. Reception to follow in parish hall. Information: (858) 653-3540 or www.stgg.org.

"Walking with Purpose"

A national Catholic women's ministry is

PARISH EVENTS

coming to St. Timothy Parish in Escondido, Feb. 11 and 12. All are invited to hear "Walking with Purpose" founder Lisa Brenninkmeyer's talk, "Hallelujah Anyway: Discovering Good Despite Anxiety." Information: walkingwithpurpose.com/events.

Annual Rummage Sale

7 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 22, at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Scripps Ranch. Information: (858) 653-3540 or www.stgg.org.

Lenten Sung Rosary

Lenten Sung Rosary, focusing on the Sorrowful Mysteries, at 7 p.m., Feb. 28, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Information: (858) 487-4314, ext. 1225.

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Healing Pathways for Families

A series of workshops to equip parish leaders and parishioners to accompany families in their struggles. Each session offered both in morning (10 a.m.-noon) and evening (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Suggested donation for each session: \$10. Information: (858) 490-8299; www.sdccatholic.org/familylife. Registration: nmendez@sdccatholic.org.

• Feb. 12 — "Death and Dying," presented by Father Gerald Coleman. Morning session at Pastoral Center; evening session at St. Brigid Parish, Pacific Beach.

• March 24 — "Families Caring for Creation," presented by John Prust. Both sessions at Pastoral Center.

• April 22 — "Single and Raising Saints," presented by Jo Holt. Morning session at Pastoral Center; evening session at Our Mother of Confidence Parish, University City.

Divorced/Separated Come & See

Learn from parish leaders of divorced/separated ministry how to better support individuals and families impacted by divorce and separation. Jan. 29 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. 10 a.m.-noon session for parish staff; 6-8 p.m. session open to all. Information/RSVP: jperego@sdccatholic.org.

Forming Healthier Relationships

Event for adult children of divorced parents to reflect on the ways their parents' relationships affect their own and to gain insight/skills for building healthier relationships. 6-8 p.m., Feb. 11, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Information/RSVP: jperego@sdccatholic.org.

Spring Forward Conference

With Father Tony Ricard in Imperial Valley. Theme: "Stay With Us! Walking and Talking with Jesus!" 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 1, at St. Mary Parish, El Centro. Cost: \$15. Information/registration: (858) 490-8230 or Lvaca@sdccatholic.org.

Basic Catechist Formation

Courses will be offered at parishes throughout the diocese as well as online. If you are interested in becoming a Certified Catechist in the Diocese of San Diego, contact Lisa Vaca at (858) 490-8230 or Lvaca@sdccatholic.org for information.

San Diego Youth Day

10 a.m.-6 p.m., April 18, at Cathedral Catholic High School. Theme: "No Tengo Miedo, I Was Born to Do This" (a quote from St. Joan of Arc). Keynote speaker: Father Agustino Torres, CFR, from

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Corazon Puro, Inc. Cost: \$30/participant. Information: (858) 490-8262 or mflores@sdccatholic.org.

DIOCESAN INSTITUTE

15-hour courses: \$55 for credit/professional development; \$35 for audit. Register at www.sdccatholic.org/office-for-diocesan-institute. Information: (858) 490-8212 or dander-son@sdccatholic.org.

GROUPS, WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

Spiritual Exercises

Silent Ignatian Retreats preached by the priests of Miles Christi. For women: Feb. 14-16 in Temecula. For men: March 13-15 in Oceanside. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. Information: california@spiritual-exercises.net or (858) 263-5113.

Nourish for Caregivers

A Catholic support group for caregivers meets from 6:30-7:45 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish (St. Frances Room), 1945 Illion St. 92110. Information: (619) 276-6805.

Council of Catholic Women

The Oceanside Council of Catholic Women will meet at Feb. 12 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carlsbad. Cost: \$5. Information/RSVP (by Feb. 8): (760) 942-0627.

Sweetheart Dinner/Dance

You and your spouse are invited to San Diego Marriage Encounter's Annual Sweetheart Dinner and Dance, "Love Is in the Air." 6:30-10 p.m., Feb. 15, at St. Michael Parish (Msgr. Coughlin Parish Hall-Gymnasium) in Poway. Includes silent auction. Cost: \$50/couple; \$2 suggested donation for drinks. Register online at www.sdwme-events.org. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 10.

Charity Luncheon/Silent Auction

Father Joe's Villages Ladies Guild will hold a charity luncheon and silent auction, "The Queen's Luncheon," at 10:45 a.m., Feb. 17, at the Crown Plaza Hotel (2270 Hotel Circle North, 92108) in Mission Valley. Proceeds benefit the children at Father Joe's Villages. Cost \$60. Information/donations: connie.sherry@gmail.com.

Post-Abortion Healing

A Time for Mercy/Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Retreat will be held March 13-15. The retreat will be a safe place for both women and men wounded by abortion. Retreats are confidential and non-judgmental. Early registration recommended; space limited. Information: (951) 325-7702, RVTemecula@verizon.net or atimeformercy.org.

Marriage Encounter

Why not dedicate one weekend to enhance your relationship with your spouse? The next weekend experiences are March 20-22 and May 29-31, starting at 8 p.m. on Friday and ending at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Meals and lodging provided. Application fee: \$125. Voluntary donation requested at the end of the weekend. Registration: www.wvme-sandiego.org, www.wvme.org

GROUPS, WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

or (760) 659-9102.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It begins with a weekend program that can help get your relationship back on track. Information: www.belpourmarriage.org, (951) 259-9474 for English, and (619) 423-0182 for Spanish.

Are You a Catholic Businessperson?

How has your faith impacted your experience as a Catholic businessperson? Come to Rae's Cafe in La Mesa from 7:45-9 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss your faith journey and develop a network of faith-filled business people. Information/RSVP: (619) 780-1260 or nowland619@gmail.com.

Magazine Donations Requested

The Stella Maris Seafarer Center is requesting copies of "National Geographic," "Guideposts," "Reader's Digest" and similar magazines that it can give to the foreign sailors whose ships dock at the Port of San Diego. To arrange to drop off the magazines, contact Father

GROUPS, WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

James Boyd at (858) 292-1822.

The Goretti Group

Join the Goretti Group every first Friday: 5:30 p.m., adoration, confession, praise and worship; 6:30 p.m., Mass and veneration of first-class relic of St. Maria Goretti; 7:45 p.m., fellowship, talk and refreshments. Information: www.thegorettigroup.org or execdirector@thegorettigroup.org.

Rosary Makers Needed

Volunteers needed to help spread devotion to Our Lady by making rosaries. Rosary makers from St. Mary Magdalene and St. Columba parishes invite you to be part of their group. Contact: Yvette Tomcek (St. Mary Magdalene) at (619) 913-8858 or Teresa Kleinpeter (St. Columba) at (858) 277-6240.

Mom's Catholic Book Study

The group, which will dive into various Catholic books, meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays, during the school year. Information: <https://momscatholicbookstudy.weebly.com>.

GROUPS, WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

Women's Prayer/Bible Study Group

Group meets every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in members' homes in the Normal Heights area. Information: (619) 955-3985 or (619) 203-8101.

St. Paul Street Evangelization

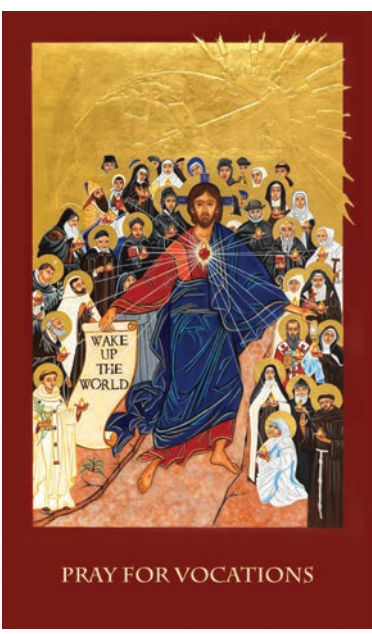
Join in sharing the faith in easy, non-confrontational manner. Information: www.StreetEvangelization.com, (619) 515-3267 or scb@procpio.com.

Serra Club of San Diego

The group, which supports Catholic vocations, meets after 8 a.m. Mass on the second Saturday each month in the church hall at St. Patrick Parish, Carlsbad. Information: <http://northcoast.serasandiego.org>.

Garden of Carmel

The Garden of Carmel Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for laity drawn to Carmelite spirituality, meets from 7:30 a.m.-noon, every third Saturday, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. Information: (619) 302-0027, aespangilan@gmail.com or gardenofcarmel.wordpress.com.



BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

GO FORTH! Remember the beauty of your first call. Jesus continues to call you today with the same full love and untamed grace.

GO FORTH! There is always more to do, to encounter, to be grateful for, to be astonished by. Begin and end with the joy of prayer—the marrow of consecrated life.

GO FORTH! Each of us has a role to play in the Church. Witness and sow well each day, and look to tomorrow with hope.

GO FORTH! Grow in love for God so that others will be attracted by the divine light in you. Welcome the new vocations the Lord sends to continue the work of consecration.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and first disciple of her son, Jesus, our Lord. AMEN.

— POPE FRANCIS

Adapted from the concluding message of Pope Francis at the close of the Year of Consecrated Life on XX World Day of Consecrated Life. Icon used with permission from Vivian Imbruglia.

World Day of Consecrated Life

The World Day of Consecrated Life, instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997 as a day to pray for religious brothers and sisters, will be celebrated during the weekend of Feb. 1-2. The National Religious Vocation Conference's prayer card (pictured), which features words from Pope Francis paired with the "Wake Up the World" icon written by Vivian Imbruglia, provides a source of prayerful reflection for this worldwide observance.

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walking with purpose



Join us for
WWP Live!

*Walking with Purpose Live is coming to the San Diego area February 11 & 12!
Our Founder and Chief Purpose Officer, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, will touch your heart with her talk:*

Hallelujah Anyway Discovering Good Despite Anxiety

Recent research shows that almost 40% of Americans are more anxious now than they were at this time last year. Anxiety affects 1 in 8 children in the US and 18% of adults. If you don't personally struggle with it, then someone close to you does. Is it possible to find good in this current state of reality without sticking your head in the sand? Join us as we delve into this important topic. You'll leave feeling better equipped to discuss it, face it, and move forward. When God promised His people a peace that passes understanding, He didn't say, "unless you live in 21st Century America." This is a profound issue and the questions surrounding it aren't easily answered. But together, we can move forward to a place of emotional rest and spiritual security.

February 11 at 7 PM or February 12 at 10 AM

Church of St. Timothy, 2960 Canyon Road, Escondido, California

About our speaker: Lisa Brenninkmeyer is the Founder and Chief Purpose Officer of Walking with Purpose. A convert to Catholicism, Lisa created her first Bible study program in 2002 out of a desire to see Catholic women come to know Christ personally. Since then, Lisa has authored 16 Walking with Purpose Bible study courses for women and girls, which have received the Imprimatur through Archbishop Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In 2012, Lisa was recognized by the Catholic Leadership Institute as a National Catholic Leader, and in 2014 and 2015, she was invited to present at the Amazing Parish Program's national conferences. Lisa was also a presenter at the USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders in July 2017, and a speaker at two Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) national events in 2018 and 2019. Lisa has been a guest on a number of radio, television and podcast shows as well.

Register online at walkingwithpurpose.com/events

Register for either the evening or morning event. Cost is \$15 per person; refreshments / book signing following the talk.

walkingwithpurpose.com • email: events@walkingwithpurpose.com

Diocese of San Diego
Office for Youth Ministry



San Diego Youth Day 2020

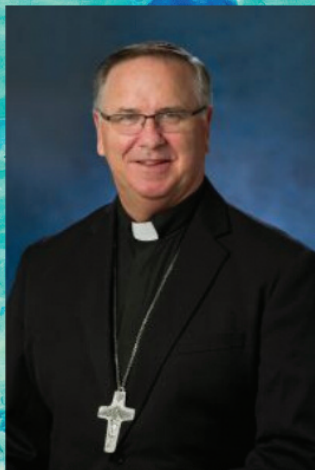
NO TENGO MIEDO, I WAS BORN TO DO THIS

St. Joan of Arc



Keynote
Speaker:
Father Agustino
Torres, CFR

April 18th, 2020 10am-6pm Cathedral Catholic High School



Bishop John Dolan



Veritas



Jamie Cleaton

Registration 3/5 to 3/26 \$30 - Late Registration 3/27 to 4/9 \$35

For more information - 858-490-8262 mflores@sdccatholic.org