

A Twofold Identity

Deacons ordained to be apostles, servants

By Denis Grasska

RANCHO PENASQUITOS — Deacons are to be both apostles and servants, Bishop Robert W. McElroy said.

The bishop was delivering a homily June 3 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, just prior to ordaining five local men to the permanent diaconate.

Bishop McElroy defined this “twofold identity” as the central aspect of diaconal life, referencing a recent homily that Pope Francis gave to deacons gathered at the Vatican for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The pope, said Bishop McElroy, explained to the deacons that the roles of apostle and servant are inseparable.

Though permanent deacons are invited to live out this call in a unique way through ordained ministry, the bishop said, all baptized Christians have this dual identity.

“If evangelizing is the mission entrusted at baptism to each Christian, service is the way that mission is carried out,” he said. “It is the only way to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Deacons are called to be “friends with Christ,” the bishop said. He added that, in this Year of Mercy, the Church has reflected on the fact that friendship with God is rooted in God’s mercy.

He noted that, at the deacon convocation earlier this year, he designated the diocese’s deacons as “missionaries of mercy.” He prayed that the five men about to be ordained to the diaconate would experience God’s mercy in their own lives and share it with those to whom they minister.

“May it sustain you when you are tired, inspire you when you are searching, console you when you are suffering,” he said, and may God’s mercy be “the foundation of all that you do in your ministry as apostle and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Shortly after the bishop’s homily, Federico Drachenberg, Sergio Hernandez, Juan Santillán, John Tobin and William Turner promised “respect and obedience” to

SEE ORDINATION, PAGES 10-11



ORDINATION: Bishop Robert W. McElroy poses with the newly ordained deacons after the ordination Mass celebrated June 3 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Penasquitos.

DENIS GRASSKA

Zubik Case Sent Back to Lower Courts

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court May 16 sent the Zubik v. Burwell case, which challenges the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive requirement for employers, back to the lower courts.

The justices’ unanimous decision, explained in a nine-page unsigned opinion, was

based on the information that both sides submitted a week after oral arguments were heard in the case about how and if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to this coverage.

The court made clear that it

is not expressing an opinion on the merits of the cases that are challenging aspects of the federal government’s health legislation and it also was not ruling on the issue of a potential violation of religious freedom.

Because of the “gravity of the dispute and the substantial clarification and refinement in the positions of the parties,” the court stated that religious employers and the government should be “afforded an opportunity to arrive at an approach going forward that accommodates petitioners’ religious exercise while at the same time ensuring that women covered

SEE COURT, PAGE 16

Mercy Team Is Changing Lives

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — A boy with electrical tape across his cleft lip. He thought that, if he taped the sides together, they would heal and not be parted any longer.

That memory lingers with Dr. Thomas Vecchione, a veteran plastic surgeon in San Diego. He’s one of the founders of the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team based at Scripps Mercy Hospital.

The team is composed of medical professionals who volunteer their time to travel to Mexico twice a year to provide free reconstructive surgery, mostly for impoverished children. From 50 to 60 doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists and other medical staff, as well as a Sister of Mercy, go on each week-long trip, with many going time after time.

They treat individuals with cleft lips and palates, missing ears, crossed eyes, burn scars and other disfiguring conditions, transforming their lives.

Since the first trip in 1988, the team has helped more than 12,450 people in 13 Mexican states, and provided follow-up care to around 1,400 in San Diego. All services were donated.

After repairing the boy’s lip, the doctor asked him if he was happy. He

SEE SURGICAL, PAGE 17

Young Catholic Professionals Group Looks to Give Back

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Anthony Camara was looking to join a business networking group.

As a cradle Catholic and an employee of a Christian financial services organization, he was searching for one where he could interact with other faith-filled young professionals.

"I had difficulty finding a group that I could call home," admitted Camara, 25, a financial representative with Thrivent Financial. "I wanted to find a networking group ... with like-minded individuals that had a greater purpose, and I just wasn't able to find that in San Diego."

When his search proved fruitless, he realized he might have to start a group of his own.

So, with two other young professionals — Monique Gallery, the community engagement leader at Thrivent Financial, and Mallory Leonard, an Allstate insurance agent — Camara founded the San Diego Catholic Business Association.

He envisions the association as a vehicle for young Catholic professionals to practice their shared faith, grow their busi-



NETWORKING: From left, Kike Gonzalez, Marisa Delgado, Shelby Batchelor, Jackie Bilancia and Anthony Camara are seen at a San Diego Catholic Business Association mixer.

nesses and give back to their community.

Gallery, 35, told *The Southern Cross* that the association is "founded on integrity, spirituality, philanthropy and values." Its purpose, she explained, is "to influence the San Diego marketplace with higher mission for the glory of God, to create an

environment of professionals with common values to unite in faith, to promote each other, and to serve others.

"Our vision is to be known for spiritually-rooted business professionals that desire to support Catholic businesses, schools and individual growth," she said.

The association holds monthly business networking events on the last Wednesday of each month at a local brewery or wine bar.

At the typical meeting, which opens and closes with prayer, the co-founders briefly explain the association's purpose and

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 16

CA Bishops Address Legalization of Assisted Suicide

SACRAMENTO — The California Catholic Conference of Bishops, composed of bishops from the two archdioceses and 10 dioceses of California, issued the following statement on the legalization of physician-assisted suicide on June 9:

Every human being possesses inherent dignity, which deserves our respect. Each of us should feel loved, worthy and cared for at every moment of our lives, especially when our earthly journey is nearing its end.

What some mistakenly consider a newfound "freedom," will inevitably become a duty for others. By allowing doctors to prescribe a lethal dose of drugs to their patients, California is embarking on a dangerous course. This new law will place the disabled, the elderly and other vulnerable people at risk for abuse and mistreatment and will undermine the healing professions' venerable commitment to "first do no harm."

As Catholics, we have been called from the very beginning of our faith to care for the sick. This commitment to care for life at all stages will not be deterred by this law. The bishops of

SEE SUICIDE, PAGE 9

Retiring Catholic School Teacher Devoted 40 Years to First-Graders

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — At one time, Zahydie Annandono had wanted to be a nurse.

But after taking a job as a bilingual aide at two inner-city schools, those plans changed.

"I enjoyed teaching the children and all that was involved with it," said Annandono, who decided to pursue a career in Catholic education instead.

For the past 40 years, she has taught first-graders at four local Catholic schools, most recently at Nazareth School.

"One of my colleagues this year was one of my former first-graders," she said, referring to kindergarten teacher Elisabeth Scherer. "I have now gone full circle."

Annandono's teaching career began at St. Didacus School, where she taught for 14 years. She went on to teach for two years at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, four years at Our Lady of Grace School and 20 years at Nazareth School.

"I have loved teaching first grade for all 40 years," she said, describing that grade level as a time when a foundation is laid for future success. "What you create at this level with the assistance of the parents, who are the primary educators, will follow



RECOGNITION: Zahydie Annandono receives a plaque from Rene Trevino (left) and John Galvan (right) May 5 at the Bishop Cirilo Flores Catholic Educators' Banquet.

these kids for the rest of their lives."

Annandono said she chose to teach in the Catholic school system because it allowed her to share her faith — "a very important part of my life," she said — with her students, teaching them how to pray, explaining the significance of the Mass, recounting the lives of the saints, and instructing her students in Christian charity.

"Sharing my faith with 6-year-old

children is a privilege and also exciting," said Annandono, who has been a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Penasquitos for the past 22 years.

She said she is grateful for having had the opportunity to collaborate with parents in "shaping the beliefs of young minds."

"As my students move on to second grade, I hope to have prepared them both academically and spiri-

tually," she said. "Getting them excited about participating in Mass and then eventually receiving Eucharist in second grade is very important in the formation of a Catholic student."

Annandono was among the more than 75 teachers who were honored May 5 at the Bishop Cirilo Flores Catholic Educators' Banquet, where she received a plaque commemorating her 40 years in education.

Though she felt honored by that recognition, she has received other, less tangible rewards for her work as well. These include those occasions when former students have come back to visit and to share what they have done with their lives. She recently attended a former student's wedding and a college graduation party for other past pupils.

Annandono looks forward to what she is describing as her "endless summer vacation" and intends to spend time with family and friends. Her husband, Joe, has already retired and volunteers as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Scripps Mercy Hospital and as a scorekeeper for the baseball team at Hoover High School. The Annandonos have two grown children, Anthony and Marissa.

Though glad to be free of schedules and deadlines, Annandono said she will miss "the excitement of teaching and the students learning."

Her advice to the next generation of Catholic educators is "to love what you do" and "to put your whole heart into the lives that you are shaping as a student and as a Catholic."

The Southern Cross

They Call Him ‘Sir’: Beloved Educator Retires After 50 Years

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Over the years, Ned Wilson has become something of an institution at St. Augustine High School.

His retirement this year marks the end of an era.

A member of the Saints graduating class of 1958, Wilson has shared his love of science with generations of students at his alma mater since joining the faculty in 1965.

“I’ve been blessed,” Wilson told *The Southern Cross*. “People would say, years ago, ‘Well, you ought to retire and have a good time.’ My good time is right here. I’ve had a good time, so I’m not in any rush to walk away.”

But while he expects to have a continued presence in the Saints community, attending sporting events, theatre productions and band concerts, his days of full-time classroom instruction are over.

Though he considers himself to be as “fired up” as ever, he said it just felt like the right time to retire.

On campus, few actually knew him as “Mr. Wilson.” Instead, they called him “Sir,” a nickname that came about when his students began emulating the way he typically addressed them.

Wilson didn’t set out to be an educator. A “pre-med guy” at the University of San Diego, he didn’t land the dream job he expected after graduation. So he decided to continue his education and, after completing his graduate-level studies, he heard that St. Augustine High School was looking to hire a biology teacher.

Wilson was ready to try his hand at teaching, but he wasn’t immediately convinced that it would be his lifelong career.

“Once I got going ... I got ‘the fire,’” said Wilson, reflecting on how much it energized him to see the wonder and the understanding in his students’ eyes as they learned about science.

Steve Chipp, executive director of finance and facilities at St. Augustine High School, remembers Wilson’s first year as a teacher. Chipp was a student in his sophomore biology class.

“It didn’t take long to see he had a love and passion for being a teacher,” Chipp said. “I returned to Saints 11 years later and joined Ned



THANK YOU, ‘SIR’: Ned Wilson, affectionately known as “Sir,” recently retired after a half-century in the classroom at St. Augustine High School.

on the school’s administrative team. Seeing his interaction with students and desire for their academic success, I could immediately tell he had a love for working with students at Saints.”

During his years at the school, Wilson taught several subjects, including biology, chemistry and anatomy, as well as an intersession speech class for freshmen.

“Mr. Wilson has been a ‘must-have teacher’ for Saintsmen for five generations,” said Ed Hearn, president of St. Augustine High School. “He has been their teacher, mentor, assistant principal and cheerleader during the most formative years of their lives. ... All of us have been touched by his love of his profession and for Saints.”

“Ned is a symbol of the sense of community we cherish at Saints and in our Church,” said Principal James Horne. “His work with students, colleagues, faculty and alumni over the years is a show of his deep respect for humanity and his belief in the Augustinian educational mission.”

This year, in anticipation of his retirement, Wilson was presented with the ASB Outstanding Service Award by the school’s stu-

dent government “in recognition of excellence in Augustinian education,” and he received the Anima Una Award from the local Augustinian province “for being one in mind and heart with the Order of St. Augustine and the mission of St. Augustine High School.”

A member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in La Mesa for about 40 years, Wilson rejects the notion that religion and science are incompatible.

“I think one helps complement the other,” Wilson said, noting that he would begin his classes with prayer and that his faith informed the way he taught such topics as evolution and ethics.

In addition to his faith, Wilson also brought his humor into the classroom. For example, during the years he taught chemistry, as a recurring joke, he often claimed to be working on the discovery of a new chemical element, called “wilsonianium,” to be added to the periodic table.

As testimony to Wilson’s impact on his students, the senior class was gifted with ties from Wilson’s extensive collection — “What am I going to do with 150 ties in retirement?” he asked — and wore them under their graduation

gowns. Several students also asked him if they could have some of his classroom decorations as keepsakes.

Reflecting on the past 50 years and the sense of fun with which it has been imbued, Wilson said, “It’s been a game. But it’s a serious game and, as it turns out, it’s a life career game that I’ve continued to do.”

He used to have trouble accepting praise for his accomplishments in education, seeing himself as “just kind of a quiet guy ... doing my thing.” But now, when he learns of former students’ successes or hears them talk about how much their Saints experience meant to them, he takes pride in having been “a little piece of that, maybe.”

His hope for his students is not necessarily that they will all become scientists, but that they will prosper in whatever careers they decide to pursue and that they will be good people.

“Everything you do, I want you to be fired up for,” he said. “I want you to be ready to do the best you can.”

The Southern Cross

Legendary Jesuit Priest Has Been a Magnet for Young People

By Aida Bustos

BARRIO LOGAN — Jesuit Father Richard Brown has been connecting with young people for seven decades — and he’s not done yet.

Though slowed by arthritis that makes it hard to walk, the 89-year-old celebrates Mass every morning at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. And he keeps a busy social calendar despite officially retiring years ago.

His story is relevant today as the Catholic Church seeks to attract young people.

That’s precisely what Father Brown was called to do in 1968, when he was first assigned to be assistant pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe, serving Spanish-speaking families.

That assignment came naturally to him. A San Diego native, he had graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1944 and earned a master’s in theology from Gonzaga University after a stint in the Merchant Marine. After being ordained a Jesuit priest in 1958, he taught English, Spanish and Hispanic culture in Los Angeles. He then worked for five years in Mexico City, where he



SPIRITUAL FATHER: Jesuit Father Richard Brown is seen with students at Our Lady’s School.

formed the Club San Ignacio de Loyola, which became one of the most popular youth centers in the region.

Father Brown would serve at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for 37 years, alongside Father Jaime Rasura. He organized young Catholics there like never before, began celebrations that became revered traditions and touched generations of people whose faith

is grounded in Barrio Logan.

Hundreds of these individuals will gather June 18 at a dinner to honor his 70 years of Jesuit service — and to raise funds for scholarships for his beloved cause, Our Lady’s School.

Adela Garcia was 17 years old when Father Brown arrived.

“Here was this priest in shorts,” she recalled. “He was so relaxed, so different than we were used to.”

In 1969, Father Brown established a church chapter of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and invited Garcia to join. He ran the CYO like a club, offering weekly social activities for the members. These included parties once a month in the church hall, dances on boats such as the Bahia Belle, outings to Disneyland and even trips to Hawaii. Club members held events to raise funds for these activities.

“Some people still tell me that was the most fun they ever had,” recalled Father Brown.

He spoke to the youngsters about God but not in the traditional way, Garcia said, like quoting Bible verses.

SEE BROWN, PAGE 12

Briefs

Survey Finds Catholic Interest in the Bible

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Deacon Joseph Jensen entered Our Lady of Good Counsel Passionist Seminary in Warrenton, Missouri, in the late 1950s, he realized he was the only student in his class who had read the Bible. Deacon Jensen, now a lecturer in biblical studies at Georgetown University in Washington, credited his Seventh-day Adventist grandfather with exposing him to Scripture. Largely though, he said, “I grew up with the idea that Catholics didn’t read the Bible.” Such a common misconception could be changing. A new State of the Bible Survey by the American Bible Society found that 77 percent of Catholics want to read the Bible more often. Although the percentage has fluctuated in recent years, it reflects an 8 percentage point increase since January 2013, just before Pope Francis’ election. The American Bible Society has responded to Catholics’ growing interest in Scripture with new resources such as digital “lectio divina,” an online version of the traditional Catholic method of praying with Scripture. The soci-

ety uses the survey results to develop techniques to increase engagement with the Bible.

World Meeting Is Part of Wider Renewal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The 2018 World Meeting of Families in Ireland is part of a broad program of renewal of the Church’s pastoral care for all families, said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin. “In Pope Francis’ mind, the IX World Meeting of Families in Dublin is not an isolated event. It belongs within a process of discernment and encouragement, of accompaniment and animation of families,” he said during a news conference at the Vatican May 24. “It belongs within a program of renewal of the Church’s pastoral concern and pastoral care for the family and for families,” he said. Archbishop Martin and Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, presented the official theme of the encounter, which is held every three years. The gathering is dedicated to “The Gospel of family, joy for the world,” and it will run Aug. 22-26, 2018, in Dublin.

Happiness Not an ‘App’



CNS PHOTO/LORENZO PIZZANI VIA REUTERS

Happiness “is not an ‘app’ that you can download on your phones nor will the latest update help you become free and great in loving,” Pope Francis told thousands of teenagers from around the world who had flocked to Rome for a special Year of Mercy event for teens aged 13-16.

The celebrations began April 23 with confessions in St. Peter’s Square (pictured). The pope caught many off guard as he made an unannounced visit to the square. After greeting several people, he placed a purple stole over his shoulders and sat down, joining more than 150 priests offering the sacrament of reconciliation.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the pope “listened to the confessions of 16 boys and girls,” spending more than an hour in the square.

The pope celebrated Mass with the young people April 24, also in St. Peter’s Square.



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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.

Sawdust and Tears

Above the hum of the table saw, one story was told, then another.

As the dark chestnut boards were fixed together, gradually taking shape as a sturdy rectangular box, three brothers pieced together memories of a life.

"Something rich and beautiful happens when your hands are occupied but your mind is free," said Michael Schmiedicke, a web developer-turned-woodworker with a unique side ministry: casket-making. At times, he helps clients build a casket for their loved one themselves.

The ministry was born about six years ago amid sawdust and tears, when Schmiedicke

and two of his younger brothers made a casket for their grandmother.

"My understanding of death up to that point was tied to a certain sense of passivity and helplessness; I was a spectator to it," said Schmiedicke, sitting in his Front Royal, Va., workshop filled with wood of every shape and size and the smell of freshly cut lumber. He said making the casket allowed him to connect with his brothers and his grandmother, to process grief by facing the reality of death, and "to do one last act of service for somebody that we cared for."

Catholic News Service

That's 'Amoris'!

"Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say. It requires the self-discipline of not speaking until the time is right. Instead of offering an opinion or advice, we need to be sure that we have heard everything the other person has to say. This means cultivating an interior silence that makes it possible to listen to the other person without mental or emotional distractions. Do not be rushed, put aside all of your own needs and worries, and make space. Often the other spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard, to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their disappointment, their fear, their anger, their hopes and their dreams" [137].

— From Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation, *"Amoris Laetitia"* ("The Joy of Love")



What Are You Reading?



PHOTO CREDITS: COURTESY OF PATRICIA HANSEN AND PATRICIA TORRES

Patricia Hansen (pictured, left), a member of Our Lady of Light Parish in Descanso, poses with a copy of *The Southern Cross* in front of St. Stephen Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. Hansen visited the cathedral April 7, while taking part in a Divine Mercy pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage, which took place from March 29-April 8, included a Mass celebrated on Divine Mercy Sunday in the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Krakow, Poland. The pilgrimage was initiated by Therese More, a member of Queen of Angels Parish in Alpine, and facilitated by Best Catholic Pilgrimages. Most of the pilgrims hailed from St. Pius X and St. Rose of Lima parishes in Chula Vista. Father Luke Jauregui, pastor of St. Rose of Lima, was the spiritual leader and celebrant of daily Mass.

Aniela Torres (pictured, right) reads a copy of *The Southern Cross* on Good Friday, March 25, in the side garden of the San Elizario Presidio Chapel in San Elizario, Texas.

Send us a photo of you or your family posing with *The Southern Cross* during your travels, 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 e-mailed to dgrasska@sdccatholic.org.



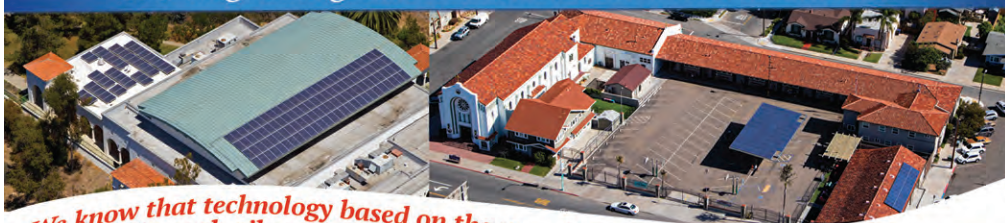
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Essay Contest Winners Reflect on Their Vocations

SAN DIEGO — Serra International's mission is "to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life."

Serra Club of San Diego fulfills that mission partly through its sponsorship of an essay contest for eighth-graders. Each year, the contest invites students to reflect on which religious community (or the diocesan priesthood) they would choose if God called them to consecrated life or ordained ministry.

The contest winners were: Mirka Aguilar, The Nativity School; Moya Caulfield, St. John School; Gabriella Martinez, St. Francis of Assisi School; Valentina Osorio, Old Mission Montessori School; Camilla Vasquez, St. Mary School (El Centro); Bryan Palpal-Latoc, Good Shepherd School; Cole Grissom, St. Gregory the Great School; John Paul Aglialoro, St. Joseph Academy; Connor Heffler, Our Lady of Grace School; and Jennel Manalo, St. Rita School.

An award presentation was held May 26 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Each winner received a certificate as well as a Bible with his or her name engraved on the cover.

The following are excerpts from the winning essays:

"I feel a special closeness to [the Missionaries of Charity] because [its foundress] Mother Teresa of Calcutta represents the epitome of a Christlike, selfless, holy individual. In addition, I am in awe of the fact that the community was founded on the premise of serving the poorest of the poor ... These are the people who need the most love, care, and faithful attention, and I would be honored to serve with religious sisters who minister to these children of God."

— Mirka Aguilar

"The Carmelite Nuns are an order of religious women devoted to leading a cloistered, contemplative, and apostolic lifestyle. Because of my beliefs, tendencies, and mindset, I believe that the best religious order for me to join would be the Carmelite Nuns. ... The Carmelite Nuns' beliefs and customs today remain similar to those in the 15th century [when the religious order was founded]. Carmelites focus on a cloistered and contemplative lifestyle. In other words, they devote their whole lives to understanding Jesus and the Church. They also constantly pray and do penance to make up for sinners who don't."

— Moya Caulfield

"I value the devotion [the Sisters of Nazareth] have to God, and how prayer is a daily part of their lives. The Sisters of Nazareth are a sisterhood, they are a community devoted to helping people and worshipping God. They live a simple life, working everyday to make the world better and I would be so blessed to be a part of their mission. Their love for God is the first and foremost reason as to why I would join their community."

— Gabriella Martinez



CONTEST WINNERS: The winners of the Serra Club of San Diego's eighth-grade essay contest pose for a group photo May 26 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Also pictured is Dr. Julie Cantillon (back row, right), associate director of the diocesan Office for Schools.

"[The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco] help impoverished children, mostly young girls and women. They not only provide for their material needs, but their spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth, as well. ... I would choose the Salesian community because I love children. Children have the potential to be great, but need a strong role model to guide them. ... I would feel blessed if I could help children meet their full potential and fulfill God's plan for them."

— Valentina Osorio

"I would join the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles because they are consecrated women who are completely dedicated to God in inseparable love, and are always ready to serve the Church. ... In essence, becoming a part of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles would strengthen my knowledge, connection, love and understanding of God which are the reasons why I would join this specific organization."

— Camilla Vasquez

"The reason I would like to be a Dominican priest is because I am interested in their mission: preaching, teaching, studying, and performing works of justice and peace by going out to those that are less fortunate in Africa and by preaching to the youth. Another reason ... is because one of my favorite saints was a Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas. ... The acts of showing your love to God through preaching and teaching is what inspires me to be a Dominican."

— Bryan Palpal-Latoc

"After much thought, I have decided that I will join the Diocese of San Diego if I ever [live] a religious life, because I would get to give homilies, give out sacraments, and take part in the [transubstantiation]. ... As a result of the Eucharist being Jesus Christ, I would also be responsible for delivering

Christ to people. It is hard to state just how important the Eucharist is within the Catholic faith, and so this would be a huge honor I would cherish."

— Cole Grissom

"The Jesuits follow a specific spirituality known as the Ignatian Spirituality. This type of spirituality is founded on several ideals, such as doing everything for God's greater glory, achieving perfect union with Jesus, and performing service to others. ... As a Jesuit, one of the most important missions is spreading social justice. ... Also, Jesuits are known for being active in education ... These ideals and commitments are the reasons why I would become a Jesuit."

— John Paul Aglialoro

"Augustinians are not only called to be peacemakers, but they are also chosen to be Christ's ministers. ... As an Augustinian, I would be an inspiring servant of God, help-

ing individuals to see God's grace by teaching them it's never too late to turn to God. ... This order fits my personality because I am an outspoken person and I love to share my faith with others, venture into foreign lands, and become globally aware of poverty issues."

— Connor Heffler

"I would join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. ... Dominican sisters do a variety of different things for the community, from teaching at schools to working to preserve the Earth. With the Dominicans' emphasis on education, I believe that I could impact people's lives positively. ... I would be dedicated to the Lord through prayer and service to others. I hope to help children realize their talents and abilities so they can use it for the benefit of their whole community."

— Jennel Manalo

The Southern Cross

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The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

Part IV: Sheltering the Homeless

By James Aitchison

In honor of the Jubilee Year of Mercy (Dec. 8, 2015-Nov. 20, 2016) announced by Pope Francis, *The Southern Cross* has been reflecting each month on one of the seven corporal works of mercy. This month's focus is on "sheltering the homeless."

To shelter the homeless is to welcome the stranger. Bishop Robert W. McElroy reminds us that, "as disciples, Jesus invites us to recognize Him in the poor, in those who suffer, and those in need."

On Nov. 20, 2013, in St. Peter's Square, a life-size sculpture depicting a figure asleep under a blanket on a park bench was presented to Pope Francis. Shrouded in a blanket with His face covered, it would be hard to distinguish him from among the many who roam our streets without a place to call home. The nail-scarred feet peeking out from under the blanket are the only indication the artist gives that it is Jesus.

According to the award-winning sculptor, Timothy Schmalz, "The large bronze sculpture, titled 'Homeless Jesus,' was inspired by an encounter I had with a homeless person on the streets of Toronto several years ago, an experience that brought new insight into the Gospel message in Matthew 25 about caring for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and the strangers in our midst."

Blessed by the pope, this statue now stands near the entrance of the Papal Office of Charities. This artwork shatters our prejudices and invites us to remember the plight

of the homeless. However, the works of mercy compel us to go beyond mere awareness of the issue; they confront us with the question of what would we do if we saw someone wrapped in a blanket, sleeping on a bench outside a church?

According to Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO of Father Joe's Villages, the largest and oldest homeless services provider in San Diego, "'Church' is an action word" and, in this jubilee year, "the Church is all about mercy."

"We are made to be loving and merciful to our brothers and sisters," Deacon Vargas said, adding, "Mercy is extending compassion to another because they are in need and not because they deserve it."

Homelessness or the risk of homelessness affects millions of Americans each year. It is estimated that 100 million men and women worldwide are literally homeless. The homeless situation in Hawaii, Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland, Ore., has led those locales to declare states of emergency and, in New York City, homelessness is at the highest level since the Great Depression.

Right here in San Diego, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless recently submitted its tally of the county's homeless, reporting that almost 19 percent more people are living unsheltered compared with last year. Deacon Vargas explained that these numbers come from what are called "point-in-time counts," which are conducted on a single night in January every year.

"More work is needed to drill down into the data to find out exactly where we are losing ground, where we are making progress,



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY SCHMALZ

HOMELESS: The sculpture "Homeless Jesus," the work of award-winning sculptor Timothy Schmalz, is seen near the entrance of the Papal Office of Charities at the Vatican.

and what we must do to get better every day in order to provide a 'safety net' for the poor and the homeless, while we work to ultimately end homelessness, one life at a time," Deacon Vargas said.

Having a place to call "home" plays an important role in our lives. Whether it is because of a job loss, low wages, illness, disability, substance abuse, family conflict, domestic violence, fleeing from war and impossible living conditions, etc., people face all kinds of situations that jeopardize their ability to maintain housing, and how we respond to the corporal works of mercy to house the homeless must be equally creative.

"Every situation is unique and therefore complex," said Deacon Vargas, "but the two most crucial elements we need to address homelessness at this point in San Diego are more income opportunities and housing units."

The challenges can seem daunting, but the faithful should be reminded that while each one of us, individually, cannot always be there to respond to every person in need

or be able to open up our homes to house the homeless, we are still capable of being part of the answer by supporting organizations like Father Joe's Villages and Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego.

"Last year alone," said Deacon Vargas, "our 10,000 volunteers generously donated 200,000 hours, saving us literally \$4.5 million in services across our programs; and, in terms of donating money, if every person in San Diego gave just \$10, we could fund our operation that now feeds, shelters and comprehensively cares for almost 2,000 people daily, for one year."

The stranger is now no longer a distant figure, but instead is increasingly present in the streets of our cities. Closely tied to our Catholic identity is the belief that charity is our first principle and that we are called to be "our brother's keeper" and to look after the physical and spiritual well-being of those around us. If every one of us practices just one work of mercy each day, we can change neighborhoods and nations.

The Southern Cross



Fr. Tom Herbst, ofm is Back for the Summer!

The Many parts of the Body: Belief and Spirituality in Different Christian Denominations

Tuesdays, July 5-Aug. 30. 9:30-11:30am (July 19th only-1:30-3:30pm) and same class again 7-9pm
The Christian faith is like a bright jewel with many facets; each reflecting a unique perspective of light. Each denomination seeks the truth and conversely, runs the risk of being blinded by its perception and interpretation of the light. This course will look at many of the denominations that together, form the vast global community of Christian faith. **Fee per person for all 9 sessions: \$90**

A Road Well-Travelled: Spirituality and Aging

Thursday, July 21, 7-9pm

Life can be understood in terms of journey, and the relationship between aging and spirituality. Another way of looking at this personal pilgrimage, is to examine the Exodus event and the insights of St. Paul. From there we will be able to map a journey both arduous and exhilarating. **Fee per person: \$20**

Francis and the Buddha: A Dialogue of Discovery

Thursday, August 11, 7-9pm

Imagine a meeting of St. Francis of Assisi and the Buddha, perhaps in a forest clearing on a bright day in early autumn. What might each have to say to the other: Would there be laughter, some knowing nods, possibly one or two bemused "scratching of heads?" Let us find out. **Fee per person: \$20**

Divine Mercy: Scriptural Roots

Wednesday, August 24, 7-9pm

Pope Francis proclaimed this the Year of Mercy. What does this mean? We will explore some of the many facets of Divine Mercy found in scripture that serve as a foundation for this great virtue. Covering both Testaments, the implications are enormous. Mercy makes a difference in how we interact in a variety of social, pastoral, and familial (to name a few) situations in our lives. **Fee per person: \$20**

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Father Joe's Villages

Briefs

Father Joe's Villages Hosts Children's Gala

SAN DIEGO — "A Night in Old Havana," Father Joe's Villages' 2016 Children's Charity Gala, was held May 21 at the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. The event raised money for Father Joe's Villages' therapeutic childcare programs for children ages 0 to 12 and for Toussaint Academy for homeless teens and at-risk youth. Proceeds from the gala help these youth obtain the tools they need to break the cycle of homelessness, including safe housing, medical and dental services, mental health support, nutritious meals, solid guidance toward life and scholastic goals, and opportunities for their parents to work toward self-sufficiency. The gala included a VIP reception, social hour, silent auction, dinner, live auction and dancing. At the event, Father Joe's Villages

presented two special awards in recognition of the honorees' contributions to Father Joe's mission to end homelessness. Jerome's Furniture and the Navarra Family were honored with the Pierre Toussaint Award. Danny Martinez, a UFC champion, was presented with the Father Joe's Villages Award.

Infant of Prague Coming to La Jolla

LA JOLLA — Mary Star of the Sea Parish will welcome an official replica statue of the Miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague during a bilingual Mass, which will be celebrated at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 16. The statue has been twice blessed, initially at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague and again at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Poland. Devotion to the statue was born in Spain and carried by nobility to Prague. The Infant of Prague is the patron of peace, vocations, children, family life, schools, health, finances, foreign missions and travelers.



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

Father Michel Froidurot is the dean for the Escondido Deanery, replacing Father John Dolan, effective immediately.

Father Alfredo Heyrosa has been appointed senior associate pastor of St. Mary Parish, National City, effective May 5.

Father Craig Haider has been appointed associate pastor of San Rafael Parish, San Diego, effective June 1.

Father Bruce Orsborn has been appointed pastor of St. Mark Parish, San Marcos, effective July 1.

Father Henry Rodriguez has been appointed pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, San Diego, effective July 1.

Father Ruben Arceo, SJ, has been appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista, effective July 1.

Father Jay Bananal has been appointed pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Chula Vista, effective July 1.

Father Phien Van Pham has been appointed associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, San Diego, effective July 1.

Father Pedro Rivera has been appointed chaplain at San Diego State University Newman Center, effective July 1.

Father Lauro Minimo has been appointed director of priestly vocations, effective July 1.

Father Nelson Vencilao has been appointed associate pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish, Lemon Grove, effective July 1.

With permission from his superior, **Father Romeo Velos, CS**, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mary Parish, El Centro, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, El Centro, effective May 10.

Deacon David Exner, who will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of San Diego, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Michael Parish, Poway, effective July 1.

Deacon Corey Tufford, who will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of San Diego, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Chula Vista, effective July 1, as a summer assignment only.

Deacon Derek Twilliger, who will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of San Diego, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mark Parish, San Marcos, effective July 1.

Father Thomas Thompson has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, San Diego, effective July 1.

Father Victor Maristella has been appointed chaplain of UCSD Thornton Hospital, La Jolla, with residence at Good Shepherd Parish, effective July 1.

Father Enrique Fuentes has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish, Oceanside, effective July 1.

Father Jude Serfino, a priest from the Diocese of Bacolod, Philippines, has been appointed associate pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Chula Vista, effective July 1.

Father Clement Iorliam, a priest from the Diocese of Gboko, Nigeria, has been appointed chaplain of Tri-City Medical Center, Oceanside, with residence at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista, effective June 17.

Talking Mercy



DENIS GRASSIA

Addressing a crowd of more than 60 priests, catechists, youth ministers and others, retired Bishop Robert H. Brom reflected on the mercy of God in a presentation delivered May 10 at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

Bishop Brom, who is serving as the diocesan designated "missionary of mercy," has been sharing the message of mercy with parishes throughout the ongoing Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.

The bishop's recent talk began with an examination of mercy and humanity's painful condition of sin. He followed this with a review of mercy as depicted in both the Old and New Testament.

He explained that, in Jesus, one can find the perfect revelation and incarnation of mercy. Christ's mission culminates in the Paschal Mystery, which the bishop identified as the definitive incarnation of mercy.

"The radical requirement for Christian life is to believe that one is loved," explained Bishop Brom, adding that the Church's mission of mercy is to be "merciful like the Father."

Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life, he said.

"To accomplish the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action," he said. "The Church is commissioned to announce the Good News of God's merciful love made manifest in Jesus."

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► SUICIDE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The new law lacks safeguards

California and our partners in Catholic health care renew our promise to exceptional healing and compassionate care for those facing diagnosis of a terminal illness.

Together, we vow to strengthen our palliative care and other health care services for the chronically and terminally ill, so that no one we treat feels compelled to choose assisted suicide. Through our health care professionals and the care and compassion of all people of goodwill, we will continue to lovingly attend, accompany and care for the terminally ill on their final journey.

We have spoken — and will continue to speak — vigorously against this misguided law. It does not, for example, require a psychological assessment of people requesting assisted suicide. There are also significant concerns from the disability rights community about the lack of safeguards in the law, an absence of reliable information about its use and the growth of suicide in other states where assisted suicide is legal.

Pope Francis has challenged us many times to care for those on the margins. In an address last year to medical professionals he addressed our responsibility to care for

people at the end of life: “Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age. Indeed, the person, under any circumstances, is an asset to him/herself and to others and is loved by God. This is why, when their life becomes very fragile and the end of their earthly existence approaches, we feel the responsibility to assist and accompany them in the best way.”

**‘We have spoken —
and will continue to
speak — vigorously
against this
misguided law.’**

We echo this commitment of our faith and take to heart the words of St. John Paul II: “respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!”

California Catholic Conference

When Controversy Hits Close to Home

Bill Donohue, president of The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, issued the following statement June 2:

Three men over 6 feet tall invaded a women’s bathroom in Atlanta, scaring the daylights out of young African-American girls. The victims’ mother, Maya Dillard Smith, is furious. What makes this so newsworthy is that Ms. Smith is the interim president of the ACLU’s Georgia chapter.

The ACLU is defending the aggressors, claiming that the men no longer consider themselves to be men; they call themselves transgender persons. No matter, Ms. Smith has had it with this insanity and has quit her

leadership post at the ACLU. She should instead sue the men who terrorized her daughters.

This issue is a time bomb waiting to explode. That so many of our cultural elites are buying into this new wave of sexual engineering shows how morally debased they have become.

The big losers are women, not men. If feminist leaders cared as much about the average woman as they do the rights of abortionists and lesbians, things would be different. But they don’t.

Kudos to Maya Dillard Smith for defending her daughters from these reckless men.

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58,600 Meals



CAROLINE KELNER

Members of St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach partnered with Friends & Family Community Connection to assemble food packets for the poor.

Some 58,600 nutritious meals were packaged during the event, which was held April 30 at St. Brigid Parish. More than 500 volunteers of all ages, including some from other churches, school students, Girl and Boy Scouts, and community members, participated.

Volunteers unloaded a semi-truck filled with 4.5 tons of dried ingredients of whey protein, rice, vegetables, vitamins and minerals, and set up an assembly line with tables, tarps, weight stations, sealing stations, box assembly and box decorating stations.

For information on how to organize a food-packaging event at your church, contact Caroline Kelner at carolinekelner10@gmail.com. The nutritious meal packets are distributed locally in San Diego, at Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana, and globally in various countries.

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Five Local Men Embrace Call to Serve as Deacons

By Denis Grasska

RANCHO PENASQUITOS — Five men were ordained to the permanent diaconate June 3 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Penasquitos. The following are profiles of the Diocese of San Diego's newest deacons.



Deacon Federico Drachenberg
Sacred Heart Parish, Coronado

In his younger days, Federico Drachenberg was not a regular churchgoer. “I considered going to Church more of a tradition, rather than a moment of meaningful encounter with God,” he said. “My mind was populated by many questions and distractions.”

But clarity came in the form of his wife, Claudia, who helped him discover “the joy of living a faith-filled life.”

Feeling “the nudge of the Holy Spirit” to become more actively involved at his parish, Deacon Drachenberg and his wife became extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. About five years later, he entered the diaconal formation program.

“Each one of us is called at a particular time and in a particular way,” the 50-year-old dentist said. “I feel blessed to be called to service and ministry.”

Deacon Drachenberg said a deacon is called to be “an unnoticed servant during liturgical celebrations and a champion for the pastoral cause of our parishes.”

“My prospect as a deacon,” he said, “is ... to materialize — to the best of my ability and with the help of God — the three gifts of faith, hope and love for God’s greater glory.”

Deacon Federico and Claudia Drachenberg have been married for 25 years and have three children. They have been members of Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado for about 17 years.



Deacon Sergio Hernandez
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, El Centro

“I always had an inner feeling that God was calling me to something deeper,” Deacon Sergio Hernandez told *The Southern Cross*. “I just did not know what it was or when it would be.”

He first considered the possibility that it might be the diaconate after accepting his pastor’s invitation to dinner and a conversation on the subject. After a year of prayer and discernment, he entered the formation program.

“To serve as a deacon is a calling to live a deeper and more humble life of service,” said Deacon Hernandez, 50, who has worked for the past 15 years as a terminal manager for a transportation and logistics company. “It means to leave your comfort zones and go to places you may not always feel ready to go, but you go anyway, placing your trust in God.”

As he begins his new life of ordained ministry, he said, “I am just looking forward to serving my Lord and His people as best I can, whether it is celebrating a baptism or wedding, or just being present to someone in need. I pray that I make the best use of the gifts the Lord has bestowed on me.”

Deacon Hernandez and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 25 years and have three children. They have been members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in El Centro for 20 years.



Deacon Juan Santillán
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista

At first, Juan Santillán had his doubts about whether he was truly called to serve his Church as a deacon.

“I am a person with many mistakes, without a professional academic degree, and I thought this is definitely not for me,” he admitted.

But with prayer came the peace that this truly was his calling. And, after enrolling in the formation program and taking his classes, he felt very happy with the path he had taken.

“[It] is an honor to serve God through His Church and the community from which I have received a lot of love,” said Deacon Santillán, 56, a certified electrician for the past 22 years.

Reflecting on the role a deacon is called to play in the Church, he said, “It is to be a teacher as he preaches and bears the Word of God, to sanctify by administering the sacrament of baptism” and serving at the altar at Mass, and “to encourage the community.”

As a newly ordained deacon, he said, he will strive to “continue to build the Kingdom of God here on earth through charity, social justice and family.”

Deacon Juan Santillán and his wife, Maria, have been married for 36 years and have two children. They have been members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista for 13 years.



Deacon John Tobin
St. Stephen Parish, Valley Center

About 15 years ago, John Tobin was told by his pastor that he was too young to enter the diaconate.

“That was the end of that,” recalled Deacon Tobin, now 49.

Except, it wasn’t really the end. Far from it.

From that moment on, the notion of being a deacon would return. He dismissed those thoughts for the next 10 years, but in 2011, he and his wife felt God was moving them in a new direction. One of the parish’s deacons asked if he had ever considered the diaconate before and, within two months, the Tobins were meeting with the director of the diocesan Office for the Permanent Diaconate.

Diaconal ministry is, “simply put, to love those who need to be loved, wherever they may be,” explained Deacon Tobin, who worked for 30 years in the automotive and equipment parts and service industry until last November, when he left his job because of the increased demands of his diaconal formation.

He is dedicating himself to his new ministry as he waits to see “where the Lord directs us” in terms of employment.

He said, “The fact that now I am not just responsible for the souls of my wife and children, but now also the faithful that we will be serving and ministering to is an awesome responsibility, one that we will not take lightly.”

Deacon Tobin and his wife, Cyndie, have been married for 29 years and have eight children. They have been members of St. Stephen Parish in Valley Center for 20 years.



Deacon William Turner
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Ramona

At a Lenten Bible study in 1995, William Turner read passages from the Gospel of Matthew that made him ponder what it means to be “a true disciple of Jesus.”

It was at that moment that he felt called to serve the Church. But, at least at that time, he did not meet the requirements to enter the diaconal formation program in the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich.

So, he and his wife instead enrolled in the Institute for Ministry, studying there from 1997-2000. They continued attending their weekly Bible study and facilitated Pre-Cana programs for engaged couples.

In 2012, six years after moving to Ramona, a fellow parishioner encouraged him to consider the diaconate.

Deacon Turner, a 61-year-old plumbing pro at Lowe’s in Santee, said that, in his diaconal ministry, he is called “to ... open my heart to God’s love through prayer and contemplation,” to serve as “a bridge between Christ’s love and those in need,” “to listen with the heart of Jesus and ... bring healing, love and joy to those I will serve.”

He especially looks forward to preaching and working with engaged and young married couples and those in troubled marriages.

Deacon Turner has been married to his wife, Suzan, for 38 years and has two children. The Turners have been members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Ramona for 10 years.

The Southern Cross

► ORDINATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Newly ordained given Book of Gospels

Bishop McElroy and his successors.

After prostrating themselves before the altar during the singing of the Litany of the Saints, the five men were ordained by the bishop through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination.

They were then invested with the diaconal vestments — the stole and dalmatic — and, kneeling one by one at the bishop’s feet, they received the Book of Gospels as the bishop exhorted them to, “Believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach.”

The newly ordained received the traditional “fraternal kiss” from Bishop McElroy and were welcomed in similar fashion by representatives of the diaconate of the diocese.

The Southern Cross



PHOTOS BY DENIS GRASSKA

SCENES FROM AN ORDINATION:
The five candidates for the diaconate are seen standing before Bishop Robert W. McElroy (previous page) and laying prostrate during the singing of the Litany of the Saints (left).

► BROWN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The Jesuit has been 'Padre del barrio'

"He taught us about living the way God wanted us to live and to enjoy it," she recalled. "And to not be upset that maybe we weren't perfect. He would tell us to work at it."

He would tell each person that God gave them a talent and that it was up to them to discover what that was and to use it.

At one point, Father Brown asked Garcia to lead the organization. She doubted she could. He told her that it was within her to be a leader. She trusted him and would go on to lead the organization for 10 years.

"The CYO was the rock on which I was built," she said. "All of my leadership skills, my ability to be a team member, the confidence that was instilled, all that stuff came from CYO and Father Brown."

Today, she is a retired executive from IBM and one of the best known activists in the region. She's co-chair of the dinner to honor Father Brown.

She lists name after name of individuals who say Father Brown transformed their lives. "The love for this man spans family, after family, after family."

Father Brown had a gift for understanding the Latino culture "better than we did," she said.

He recognized the importance of cars to Hispanics, for instance. When lowrider club members wanted to participate in the first procession of vehicles to honor the Virgin of Guadalupe that the priest organized in 1971, he welcomed them.

That parade would become an annual tradi-

tion that attracts thousands of participants each December who march, dance or drive from San Diego City College to the Civic Center. Father Brown also began the annual tradition of blessing the lowriders each spring, a custom that continues on Chicano Park Day.

In 1970, Rachel Ortiz helped to found Barrio Station, a center for youth at risk of joining gangs and falling prey to drugs and crime. A lowrider club recommended she meet Father Brown.

She did and invited him to join Barrio Station's inaugural board of directors. He's been

a member ever since, and now, some 46 years later, serves as board president. He has stood alongside Ortiz as she advocated over the decades for support of the center, including speaking at City Hall.

Ortiz credits Father Brown with working outside of the church walls to connect with residents, including gang members.

"He would walk the neighborhood and have no fear," she recalled. "He would talk to a lot of dangerous kids that no one else wanted to waste their time on."

Ortiz considers Father Brown like family.

"He will always be our 'Padre del barrio.' He is a natural-born leader. He is our spiritual leader. He is a father to all of us," she said.

The dinner to pay tribute to Father Brown will be held June 18 at Jacobs Center in Southeastern San Diego. Registration is from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and the dinner and dance will be from 6:30-11 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 1770 Kearney Ave., San Diego 92113, or online at www.olgsd.org.

For more information, call (619) 233-3838.

The Southern Cross

Life Choices Turns 30

POWAY — Life Choices, a Poway-based pregnancy counseling center, celebrated its 30th anniversary on May 12.

More than 700 people attended the celebration, which was held in the Holy Family Center at St. Michael Parish.

The featured speaker was David Daleiden of The Center for Medical Progress. Last year, Daleiden made headlines with his undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood for allegedly selling the body parts of aborted babies to fetal tissue procurement agencies and fetal tissue researchers.

In his remarks at the anniversary celebration, Daleiden told attendees that San Diego's own downtown Planned Parenthood abortion clinic participates in the trafficking of unborn children's body parts.

Timmerie Millington, Catholic speaker and co-host of the "Hearts and Minds" radio show, served as the evening's emcee. She said Daleiden's undercover work serves as a reminder of the ever-present need for crisis pregnancy centers in the local community.

His work has led to the defunding of Planned Parenthood in more than 12 states and a shift in the public's trust of Planned Parenthood, she said, and more women will continue to turn to crisis pregnancy centers like Life Choices to find support during their

pregnancies and help in making life-affirming decisions.

For 30 years, Life Choices has ministered to those in difficult situations. This was made evident when some of those who have been helped by Life Choices over the years took to the stage to share their stories during the anniversary celebration.

In commemoration of its anniversary, Life Choices has rebranded itself in an effort to better reach pregnant women in an ever-changing culture in which women face challenging decisions from the harm of hormonal contraception on the body to the choice of abortion.

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The following is the fourth installment in a new series that seeks to introduce our readers to the real people and the real stories behind the advertisements that appear in our paper.

J. Scott Scherer is the president and owner of Catholic Travel Centre (www.GoCatholicTravel.com). In a recent interview with *The Southern Cross*, Scherer reflected on his company's mission and why he chooses to advertise with the diocesan newspaper.

The Southern Cross: What does Catholic Travel Centre do and how long has it been doing it?

J. Scott Scherer: We are a group travel company that specializes in Catholic pilgrimage destinations. We are entering our 25th year, having opened our doors in 1991. Since then, we have organized well over a thousand very successful pilgrimages.

One of our secrets is our size: We have stayed small enough to remain personal and large enough to have buying power in the market. This is a balance that we keep. We have a deep, deep knowledge of all the Catholic sites. With that knowledge, we are able to customize any itinerary. We have a very experienced team — in our

office in Burbank and overseas — and these people have a heartfelt dedication to providing excellent service.

We have a heart of service, and I think that is one of our distinguishing characteristics. But a good heart is not enough. We team that heart with a high level of professionalism and high standards and, well, our clients can tell you the rest of the story. Each year, we work with a lot of group leaders in organizing their pilgrimages. Ninety-five percent of the business we operate each year is to repeat group leaders or to group leaders who've been referred to us.

SC: What is the story behind your company's name? Are your tours exclusively Catholic?

Scherer: When we chose the name, Catholic Travel Centre, we wanted to emphasize that we specialize in serving the Catholic community. I was born into a devout German-Hungarian-Irish Catholic family and was brought up with stories of the Holy Land, of the various shrines, and the places important to our faith. I also was involved in leadership in my local Catholic community, starting in high school.

Given our deep knowledge of and respect for our faith, we are drawn to serving this Catholic community. But we also have a sister company, Trinity World Tours, which serves the rest of the Christian community, providing similar types of services, but often to other destinations. For example, we have taken Methodist church groups to England to



J. SCOTT SCHERER

follow in the footsteps of John Wesley, the founder of that denomination — a very inspiring man, by the way.

SC: What has been the most rewarding part of working in the pilgrimage business?

Scherer: This line of work is so deeply satisfying. We get to organize experiences which have such a profound experience on people, often life-changing experiences. A pilgrimage is not only spiritual, it is also fun and very educational. So these components — inspirational, educational and fun — they make for quite a potent recipe. And who wouldn't want to be providing such experiences for people?

SC: Of all of the many places to which Catholic Travel Centre has taken pilgrims, do you have any favorites?

Scherer: We organize group travel to 20-plus countries — all over Europe, the Holy Land, South America and some even to Australia and New Zealand. For me, the most potent place to go on pilgrimage is still the Holy Land. This is where the story of our faith began. I always like to say that we get to know someone better after we visit their hometown. So, imagine how

much better you get to know Jesus after visiting His homeland!

Also, I have a soft spot for Italy — I love St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis of Assisi — and also, Ireland, which I am sure taps into my Irish grandmother's blood. And, of course, Spain; I lived and studied there as an undergrad, and I have a lifelong devotion to St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila, plus I speak Spanish. So those are my favorites, and these places also happen to be high on the lists of our travelers as well.

SC: How did you come to advertise with *The Southern Cross*? What has been the effect of advertising in the newspaper?

Scherer: We work with numerous parishes in the San Diego Diocese and, when we are organizing a pilgrimage, they often like to get the word out to people of the diocese. Your newspaper is the perfect vehicle for getting the word out on specific pilgrimages, and we always get a good response rate off our advertisements there. Also, sometimes, we get phone calls from priests who see our advertisements, have heard about us, and call us to organize a pilgrimage for their community.

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Why 'Last Days in the Desert' Is So Boring

By Bishop Robert Barron

With his latest film, "Last Days in the Desert," Rodrigo Garcia has accomplished something truly remarkable. He has taken a portion of the life of the single most compelling person who has ever lived and turned it into a colossally boring movie. As I watched "Last Days in the Desert," I was reminded of many films that I saw in Paris as a doctoral student: lots of uninterrupted shots of natural scenes, many views of people walking around and saying nothing, endless close-ups of serious faces looking blankly into the middle distance. At times, I thought that all of this meditative build-up would result in a spectacular payoff, but no — just more walking around and looking.

What made the film so tedious, however, was not simply its cinematic style. It was the fact that, like dozens of similar movies over the past 50 years, it portrayed Jesus simply as a human being, one spiritual searcher among many. I will confess to being amused by the breathless advertising around "Last Days in the Desert," announcing that this movie is "reckless" and "daring" in its presentation of a more human Christ. Give me a break! What would be truly dramatic and eye-opening would be a film that compellingly shows that the carpenter from Nazareth is also God. In Ewan McGregor's characterization, we see Jesus as a good, decent, honest man who is earnestly seeking His path. There is nothing miraculous, distinctive or particularly supernatural about

Him. He is like any other religious founder, indeed like any spiritually alert person you might run into at church. Fine, but so what? Why, one wonders, should we pay any attention to Him? Why would this figure be remembered after 2,000 years? Why would much of Western civilization be grounded in Him?

Now please don't misunderstand me: A clear affirmation of the humanity of Jesus is part and parcel of Christian orthodoxy. In the language of the Council of Chalcedon, Christ is "truly human and truly divine," the two natures inhering in the unity of one person and coming together "without mixing, mingling or confusion." According to the Church, Jesus is not quasi-divine and quasi-human, in the manner of Achilles or Hercules, but rather completely human and completely divine. There has been indeed, throughout Christian history, the temptation toward a monophysite reading, according to which Jesus has only one nature, namely divine. On this interpretation, the Lord's humanity is a simulacrum of a real human nature, as though God were merely donning the appearance of a human being. The orthodox Christian tradition has always stood athwart such a view. In fact, during the eighth-century monothelite (one will) controversy, the Church held that Jesus has a fully-constituted human nature, endowed with a human mind and human will. Therefore, it is perfectly permissible to speak of real development within Jesus'



CNS PHOTO/BROAD GREEN PICTURES

DISAPPOINTING DAYS: Ewan McGregor stars in "Last Days in the Desert."

human nature, as does the Gospel of Luke: "... and Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." It is even appropriate to speak, as the Letter to the Hebrews does, of Jesus being "tempted in every way that we are." Thus "Last Days in the Desert" is certainly justified in portraying the Lord as subject to temptation and discouragement. So far, so orthodox.

But if Jesus is merely human, the heck with Him. What makes Him compelling, fascinating and strange is the play between His humanity and His very real divinity. In point of fact, all of the poetry and drama of Christianity — on display in Chartres

Cathedral, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Aquinas' *Summa*, John Henry Newman's sermons, Chesterton's essays, the mysticism of Teresa of Avila, and the ministry of Mother Teresa — is a function of this juxtaposition. To reduce Jesus to the human level alone is to render an altogether prosaic Jesus, which is precisely what we have in "Last Days in the Desert."

There is a distinction between the Bible and practically all other spiritualities, religions and philosophies of the world. Whereas those last three can articulate very well the dynamics of our search for God, the

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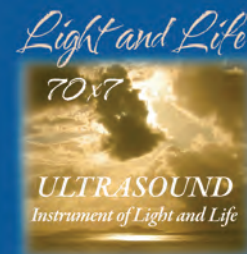
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Now in Theaters: New Romantic Drama Endorses Euthanasia

NEW YORK — The folks behind the grand-scale weepie “Me Before You” (Warner Bros.) clearly intend their audience to come to the multiplex armed with an abundant supply of tissues. Regrettably, though, any tears shed by viewers of faith will turn out to be bitter ones.

What begins as a charming love story with a strong pro-life message veers off course toward a climactic endorsement of behavior no one committed to scriptural values can accept. That’s a pity, because director Thea Sharrock’s adaptation of the 2012 novel by Jojo Moyes (who wrote the screenplay) initially has a lot going for it: an attractive, talented cast and a poignant Cinderella story that tugs at the heartstrings.

Louisa “Lou” Clark (Emilia Clarke) is a vibrant 26-year-old with a single goal in life: to support her tight-knit family. Her father, Bernard (Brendan Coyle), is out of work, so it’s up to Lou to bring home the bacon in the

quaint English town they call home.

Despite her total lack of relevant experience, Lou throws caution to the winds by becoming caretaker and companion to wheelchair-bound local resident Will Traynor (Sam Claflin). Handsome, wealthy and adventurous, Will was on top of the world until he was struck by a motorcycle in an accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

Now, two years later, he’s become withdrawn, bitter and cynical. Needless to say, Lou provides a much-needed breath of fresh air. Slowly but surely, she wins her charge over with her quirky style and appealing demeanor.

“I have become a whole new person because of you,” Will says.

Predictably, the couple fall in love, and Lou envisions their future together.

So far so good. Lou’s sincere, tender devotion to Will is exemplary, reminding viewers that life

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
former is not primarily interested in that story. It tells, rather, of God’s search for us. Mind you, that first story is a darned good one, and it’s told over and again in spiritual literature from the Epic of Gilgamesh to “Star Wars.” It has beguiled the minds of some of the great figures in human history: Homer, Virgil, Cicero, Plato, Spinoza, Kant, Newton and James Joyce. In a very real sense, the comparative mythologist Joseph Campbell was right: In all of the cultures of the world, one great song is sung and one great monomyth is repeated. But the Bible is not one more iteration of

the monomyth. It is the deeply disorienting account of how the Creator of the universe hunts us down, finally coming after us personally in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is not one more man looking for God; He is God in the flesh, searching for His people: “It is not you who have chosen Me; it is I who have chosen you.”

Would that a filmmaker might come forward to tell that story.

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



FRACTURED FAIRY TALE: Emilia Clarke and Sam Claflin star in a scene from the romantic drama “Me Before You,” which presents a positive view of assisted suicide.

is to be cherished in every circumstance — all the more so where disability has rendered it vulnerable.

Some of the dialogue expresses an equally positive outlook. “You only get one life,” Will admonishes Lou. “It’s actually your duty to live it as fully as possible.”

With all that to the film’s credit, accordingly, it comes as a perplexing shock when Will, who has already attempted suicide once, persists in a plan to travel to Switzerland where he can “die with dignity” and no longer be a burden to society.

Not everyone, of course, is supportive of Will’s death wish. Lou is devastated, whisking Will off to the tropics in an effort to convince him that life is worth living. Her mother, Josie (Samantha Spiro), calls Will’s plan murder.

Yet Will’s supportive but smothering parents,

Stephen (Charles Dance) and Camilla (Janet McTeer), are resigned to losing their son. And the script ultimately puts an unmistakable seal of approval on Will’s blatant rejection of the gift of life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is crystal clear on this topic: “We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of” (2280). With an active movement afoot to legalize so-called euthanasia, it’s as distressing as it is surprising that a romantic drama intended as popular entertainment should so flatly contradict that fundamental truth.

The film, which is rated PG-13, contains a positive view of assisted suicide, implied non-marital sexual activity and a couple of profanities. The *Catholic News Service* classification is “morally offensive.”

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► BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The group met for the first time last October

invite attendees to introduce themselves. There is a presentation by a local Catholic school principal, some sort of service project to benefit the school, and about 20 to 30 minutes of networking among attendees.

Camara, a graduate of Blessed Sacrament School, St. Augustine High School and Gonzaga University, takes great pleasure in the association's support for Catholic education.

"What I really love and [what] makes my day is hearing these principals talk about their mission," he said, "and how inspired they are ... to see these young Catholic professionals wanting to give back to the schools."

At the March mixer, All Hallows Academy Principal Jill Platt spoke to the group, and attendees were asked to bring pens, dry-erase markers, craft supplies and other items to make Easter baskets for the school's teachers.

"They were warm, and welcoming, and very generous with their donation," Platt said of the San Diego Catholic Business Association members. "I love their devotion to the schools."

In April, after hearing from St. Michael Academy Principal Mary Johnson, the association donated gardening supplies and \$250 to fund the construction of planter boxes to complement the school's new greenhouse.

"Without a doubt, Anthony Camara and the San Diego Catholic Business Association have been a gift to St. Michael Academy," she said. "Not only have they assisted us financially, they have given me and the faculty/staff a renewed realization that our Catholic values permeate the business world and that what we do as Catholic school educators has lasting and far-reaching opportunities for evangelization."

'There are not many places where one's faith and one's career/vocation intersect so entirely, in such celebration.'

Though the group is called the San Diego Catholic Business Association, Camara said it is open to everyone. Many of its members are business-owners, but not all. Though it may be tailored for young adults in their 20s and 30s, there are currently members in their late 40s and early

50s. And not everyone is Catholic.

Since its first meeting last October, the San Diego Catholic Business Association's membership has grown. Camara said there are about 90 members already, and an average of 20 to 25 people will attend any given event.

"We always have 10 to 15 new faces at every meeting," he said, "and I think, from there, it's really going to grow."

Marianna Brunetto, an operations specialist with U.S. Bank, had a decidedly positive impression after attending one of the group's mixers for the first time.

"The first event was great," Brunetto, 33, recalled. "I walked away knowing I wanted to continue with this group. It was great to talk about my passion for the nonprofit work I do, but also to hear others' passion."

Shelby Batchelor, 37, is a chaplain care specialist at The Elizabeth Hospice. She was invited by Leonard, a fellow parishioner of All Hallows Parish, to attend one of the association's events.

"I joined the Catholic Church about two years ago and it has been such a transformational experience," Batchelor said. "At the San Diego Catholic Business Association, I felt at home and able to share this experience and how it has changed my personal and professional life. There are not many places where one's faith and one's career/vocation intersect so entirely, in such celebration."

Visit www.facebook.com/SDCatholicBusinessAssociation or call (619) 226-9458 for more information.

The Southern Cross

► COURT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Opinion 'both a reset and a pause'

by petitioners' health plans receive full and equal health coverage, including contraceptive coverage."

The court stressed that this approach is "more suitable" than addressing the refined positions submitted by both sides and added that "although there may still be areas of disagreement between the parties on issues of implementation, the importance of those areas of potential concern is uncertain, as is the necessity of this court's involvement at this point to resolve them."

Five appeals courts had ruled in favor of the contraceptive mandate and one had ruled against it. But now, equipped with the new information both sides submitted

to the Supreme Court, the lower courts have been ordered to review these cases once more.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote separately to stress that the court had not decided any of the legal questions in the cases and cautioned the lower courts not to read anything into the new opinion.

"This is a game-changer," said Mark Rienzi, lead attorney for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represents the Little Sisters of the Poor, one of the group's challenging the federal contraceptive mandate.

He said the opinion reflects that the court has "accepted the government's concession" that it can provide contraceptives to women "without using the Little Sisters."

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl had a more nuanced look at the court's opinion, saying he was pleased that it offered a path forward, but he also acknowl-

edged that "this struggle will continue."

The Washington Archdiocese is one of several plaintiffs in this case.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that he was encouraged by the court's decision and that "it prevents the administration from issuing crippling fines against those who object" to the health care law's contraceptive mandate.

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, for whom the consolidated group of cases is named, said in a statement that the Pittsburgh Diocese was grateful the justices "recognize our willingness to reach a resolution that allows us to abide by our faith and the government to achieve its goals."

"We have already stated our willingness to come to such an agreement and we hope that the government shares that willingness," he added.

"Burwell" in the case name is for Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who is secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, another of the plaintiffs, said he and others in his organization are "studying the implications of this development

and are encouraged by it."

He said the group, in response to the court's request for more information, showed that there is "a way for the government to pursue its objectives without burdening our freedom of religion. We are ready to present these new arguments in the court of appeals."

The opinion stressed that sending the case back to lower courts should not affect the government from making sure women covered by petitioners' health plans obtain FDA-approved contraceptives, but it also means the government "may not impose taxes or penalties on petitioners for failure to provide the relevant notice" stating their objection to the coverage.

The court's opinion "can be seen as both a reset and a pause," said Richard Garnett, a University of Notre Dame law professor, who said the decision doesn't end the argument but it "wipes away" several lower court opinions that had ruled against the religious challengers. He said the court's action also delays a further ruling until a new justice is on the court.

Catholic News Service

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► **SURGICAL**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A mariachi festival raised \$189,000 for the team’s work

responded that he would not be needing any more electrical tape.

“That’s the kind of thing that brings home what we’re doing,” the doctor said. “These kids are outcasts. They are leading a life in the back room of society.”

The Mercy team’s coordinator works closely with partners south of the border, Mexican Rotary Clubs and the states’ public health and social service agencies. These organizations promote the team’s work there and pave the way for continuity of care.

The team is funded almost exclusively by donations. The Scripps Health Foundation organized a mariachi festival on May 21 that raised \$189,000 for the team’s work.

Two recipients of these life-changing surgeries shared their story at the fundraiser, and received recognition for their volunteer efforts.

Miguel Cervantes, 36, explained that he had endured decades of living with a massive growth on his right cheek. Called an “AV malformation,” it’s an abnormal tangle of blood vessels that can grow larger over time. When he was growing up he suffered constant bullying, which left him depressed, and made him a shut-in.

By the time he met the Mercy team in October 2014 in the city of Irapuato, in central Mexico, the tumor covered his entire

cheek and a chunk of his lip and had partially closed one eye.

Dr. Vecchione removed the growth from his lip but told him that they lacked the equipment to tackle the blood vessels in the main growth.

Cervantes was referred to San Diego, where the doctor was able to remove a significant part of the growth at Scripps Mercy Hospital five months later.

‘Everything changed overnight for me. There was an incredible improvement.’

“Everything changed overnight for me,” Cervantes recalled. “There was an incredible improvement, something I had not had in Mexico for 20 years.”

He had avoided being seen in public with his teenage daughter to spare her the emotional pain.

After the surgery, he was able to walk his daughter to school for the first time. And he’s now able to do simple tasks, such as grocery shopping, without dreading the stares and comments.

The doctor operated on him again on May 26 to further reduce the growth.

Francisco Vázquez, 28, grew up in a small

town near the city of Uruapán in Michoacán state. He suffered burns over much of his body in an accident with fireworks when he was 7 years old. The scarring locked his arms onto his torso and his neck onto his chest. He could not move his arms nor look up.

“I had a hard time eating, drinking water, even walking,” he said.

His father was a teacher and could not afford the specialized surgeries he needed. An aunt saw a poster at a church about the upcoming visit of the Mercy team to Uruapán and the family decided to go to the screening.

The sight of the boy with his chin stuck to his chest caused a stir, Vázquez recalled. Dr. Vecchione quickly examined him and he was scheduled for surgery the next day. The parents were skeptical about the Mercy team but prayed for the best. The doctor “liberated” his arms and head in a five-hour surgery, he said.

The next morning, his father was astounded that his son could move his arms and look up for the first time in years.

“From then on, I have followed the Mercy team to wherever they have gone,” said

Vázquez, who figures he’s had 17 or 18 follow-up surgeries to ease the scarring and accommodate his growth.

He takes a break from his accountant job and volunteers with the team, as does Cervantes, every time the Mercy team returns to Mexico. They especially talk to the children awaiting surgery and their families, explaining the process.

“I know what it’s like to be a patient,” Cervantes said.

Vázquez said he knows “there is no way I can ever repay them. But I want to help so more people can have a nice life.”

The two patients and their doctor cited the importance of faith in their lives.

“You know that God is looking over you,” said Vecchione, whose home parish is Our Lady of the Rosary in Little Italy, “and that you can help out a little bit.”

The best part of each trip is seeing the kids afterward, the doctor said, “seeing the beauty in their faces.”

To donate or for more information, contact Sherry Serio at (619) 686-3568 or visit www.scripps.org/mercymost.

The Southern Cross

EDITOR’S NOTE: In the April issue, an article about Bishop Robert W. McElroy’s visit to Father Joe’s Villages referenced the Paul Mirabile Center. The name of the center’s namesake was misspelled as “Mirable.” We regret the error.

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

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For more information, call (858) 490-8230 or e-mail lvaca@sdccatholic.org.

The Bible and The Mass

With Gloria Salinas. Six-week course, Wednesdays, June 15-July 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. Michael Parish in Poway (Holy Family Center). Cost: \$35; includes materials and certificate of completion. Bring your Bible.

Finding Beauty: Spiritual Retreat

With Stephany Veluz, RSCJ. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday, July 6, at the Spiritual Ministry Center, 4822 Del Mar Ave., San Diego. Cost: \$35 per person; bring lunch. Limited to 10 participants.

Basic Catechist Formation Courses

48-hour course grants California Catechist Certification. Cost: \$75 per student. Upcoming courses offered at the following parishes:

- St. Michael Parish, Poway, starting on Tuesday, July 5
- St. Therese Parish, Del Cerro, starting on Wednesday, July 6
- Contact Lisa Vaca at (858) 490-8230 or lvaca@sdccatholic.org to register.

Vietnamese Catechetical Institute: Divine Mercy in Catholic Catechism

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13 and 14, at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego. Cost: \$30.

Leadership In-Service

“Paying Attention to God: Prayer in Religious Education” with Victor Valenzuela. 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost.

Leadership In-Service

“Safe Environment and Mandated Reporting” with Rodrigo Valdivia, JCL. 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost.

Commissioning Mass and Year of Mercy Presentation

For ecclesial ministers. Mass celebrated and presentation given by Bishop Robert W. McElroy. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20, at St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish. No Cost; lunch included. Parish leadership is encouraged to attend.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

For more information, call (858) 490-8295.

Relationship Skills Workshops

Deacon Ralph and Peggy Skiano are presenting Relationship Skills Workshops at 7 p.m., every Wednesday, at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Drive, from June 1-Aug. 31. You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. Upcoming workshops include: Understanding Expectations (June 15), Re-Defining the Power Struggle (June 22), Control Issues (June 29), Listening Beyond the Words (July 6), Personality Differences (July 13), Childhood Issues and Emotional Baggage (July 20), Handling Anger Constructively (July 27), Speaking the Truth in Love (Aug. 3), How to Fight Fair: Conflict Resolution (Aug. 10), Feelings and the Hurt Spiral (Aug. 17), Forgiveness and Repair (Aug. 24) and Rebuilding Trust (Aug. 31).

DIOCESAN INSTITUTE COURSE

S290 Christian Anthropology (15 hrs)

Bernadeane Carr, S.T.L.

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(no class July 7) 6 – 9 pm

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YEAR OF MERCY

Doors of Mercy

An eight-week video series will take viewers on a journey through salvation history. This series will run at 7 p.m., May 18-July 6, in the church hall at St. Gregory the Great Parish. RSVP to (858) 653-3582.

‘No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy’

Presented by Father Donald Calloway, Sunday, Oct. 16, beginning with the 5 p.m. Mass.

Day of Recollection

“Celebrating the Year of Mercy in the Vincentian Way,” a day of recollection with Father Greg Adolf, will be held from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Aug. 20, at Mission San Diego. No registration fee. RSVP by Aug. 13. For information or to register, e-mail mvalencia@sdcatholic.org or (858) 490-8323.

PARISH EVENTS

Healing Masses

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

Vacation Bible School

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside is sponsoring a Vacation Bible School (VBS) on the church grounds from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., June 20-24, with a closing Mass at 10:30 a.m., June 26. Cost: \$50 for the week. Register by calling (760) 758-4100, ext. 110, or visit www.stmoside.org.

Senior Get-together

Our Mother of Confidence Parish hosts a special get-together for seniors and all members of the community on the third Thursday of each month. Sign-up starts at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon and entertainment beginning at 12:30 p.m.

PARISH EVENTS

Cost: \$7. Pre-registration required. Call (858) 453-3554 or e-mail emeglynn@omc-sandiego.org.

Gigantic Rummage Sale

7 a.m.-1 p.m., July 22-23, at in the parking lot at St. Pius X Parish in Chula Vista.

Summer Speaker Series

Ascension Parish (11292 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego) is hosting a summer series of free talks by Catholic speakers. Each talk is at 7 p.m. Schedule: “Behold Your Mother” (Tim Staples), June 21; “The Year of Mercy” (Bishop Robert H. Brom), July 6; “Understanding the Book of Revelation” (Jimmy Akin), July 19; “Apologetics for Chickens” (Patrick Coffin), Aug. 2; “The Galileo Affair” (Chris Check), Aug. 16; and “Why God Still Matters” (Karlo Broussard), Aug. 30.

GROUPS

Fight Human Trafficking

How can Catholics help fight human trafficking in San Diego? Grace Williams and Rob Moscato of Children of the Immaculate Heart will give a presentation, 6:30 p.m., July 21, at Mary Star of the Sea Parish in La Jolla. For information, call (619) 431-5537 or e-mail secretary.cih@gmail.com.

Mission Young Adults

Former members are invited to a 25-year reunion, Mass and reception, July 30, at Mission San Diego; family gathering, July 31, at Spreckels Park, Coronado. For information, contact Cynde at cynwallace@live.com.

Thomas More Society

Thomas More Society Luncheon, July 8, in the church hall at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, immediately following the noon Mass. Speaker: Bishop Robert H. Brom on the Year of Mercy. Requested lunch dona-

GROUPS

tion: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$8 for students. RSVP to Pjonna@limandri.com.

Glory Immersion

A unique time in God’s presence with music, prayers, Scripture, words of comfort and encouragement, healing and fellowship. 7-8:30 p.m., June 28, at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. For information, call (970) 741-1134.

Benedictus

A ministry for all Catholic men. 8 a.m.-11 a.m., June 18, at St. Michael Parish’s Holy Family Center. Includes Mass, breakfast, live music and guest speaker Patrick Rivera, director of the diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry. Cost: \$12 at the door; students 18 and younger, \$5. For information or to register, visit www.benedictus-sd.org or e-mail bobbytom1@aol.com.

Moms’ Catholic Book Study

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

North County Magnificat

“A Ministry to Catholic Women.” Next meeting is July 16 (Mass at 8 a.m.; breakfast 9 a.m.) at The Center (located on top of the Lexus dealership in Escondido). Personal testimony will be given by Heidi Hill. RSVP to (760) 505-6625 or visit www.magnificat-nsd.com.

Membership Luncheon

Father Joe’s Village Ladies Guild (formerly St. Vincent de Paul Ladies Guild) will host a free membership luncheon at 11 a.m., Sept. 12, at All Hallows Parish in La Jolla. The Ladies Guild has provided volunteer services for children at Father Joe’s Villages for 33 years. Contact (858) 483-7911 or

GROUPS

jsbolts@san.rr.com.

St. Maria Goretti Mass

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

Support Group for Separated/Divorced

A support group for anyone suffering from the pain and loss associated with a separation or divorce meets at 10:15 a.m., Sundays, at the St. James Catholic Church — Ministry Center in Solana Beach. For information, contact (760) 533-1520, (760) 814-8604 or fugrant@gmail.com.

Light Weigh One King

God has the answers for your weight, food struggle and all temptations! Light Weigh One King, a 12-week Catholic Bible Study DVD program for weight-loss and health, is being held at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. For information, call (760) 644-2934.

New Young Adult Group

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

GROUPS

Garden of Carmel

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

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Bible Study

Study the Acts of the Apostles. For information, contact eggrod0422@gmail.com or (818) 519-1769.

Widowed/Divorced/Separated

A healing weekend for widowed, divorced and separated persons will be held July 22-24 at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. For information, call (619) 895-3418 or (949) 466-4979.

Spiritual Exercises

Silent Ignatian Retreats preached by the priests of Miles Christi. For women: June 16-18 in Oceanside; Aug. 5-7 and Sept. 9-11 in Rancho Palos Verdes. For men: June 24-26 in Oceanside; Sept. 9-11 in Rancho Palos Verdes. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For women’s Exercises, contact [WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES](mailto:california@spir</p></div><div data-bbox=)

itualexercises.net or (858) 263-5113. For men’s Exercises, contact californiamen@spirituaalexercises.net or (661) 284-5970.

Day Retreat on Divine Mercy

Father Richard Perozich and Deacon Patrick Byrne will be retreat speakers on aspects of the Divine Mercy, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 22, at Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey in Oceanside. Cost: \$20; includes lunch. There will be confession, Mass, Divine Mercy chaplet and a Stations of the Cross garden walk. RSVP to (760) 440-9905 or jandonovan@cox.net.

St. Stephen’s Men’s Retreat

Sept. 2-4 at Vina de Lestonnac Retreat Center in Temecula. Keynote: Deacon Ralph Poyo. For information, call (760) 535-6992 or (760) 533-5099.

Pilgrimages

- Join Deacon Ron and Rae Arnold for PAX (Pacific Alaskan Xperience), a pilgrimage to Alaska, Sept. 2–Oct. 1, 2016. For information, contact (760) 500-3201 or sonraetoo@gmail.com.
- Pilgrimage to Greece and the Greek Isles in the footsteps of St. Paul, Oct. 17-28. For information, contact (760) 500-3201 or sonraetoo@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bulletin Board is a free service of *The Southern Cross* newspaper.
- All announcements appear on a space-permitting basis.
- Announcements (30 words maximum) can be e-mailed to dgrasska@diocese-sdiego.org. Those intended to appear in a particular month’s issue should be received — at the very latest — by noon on the first Thursday of that month.

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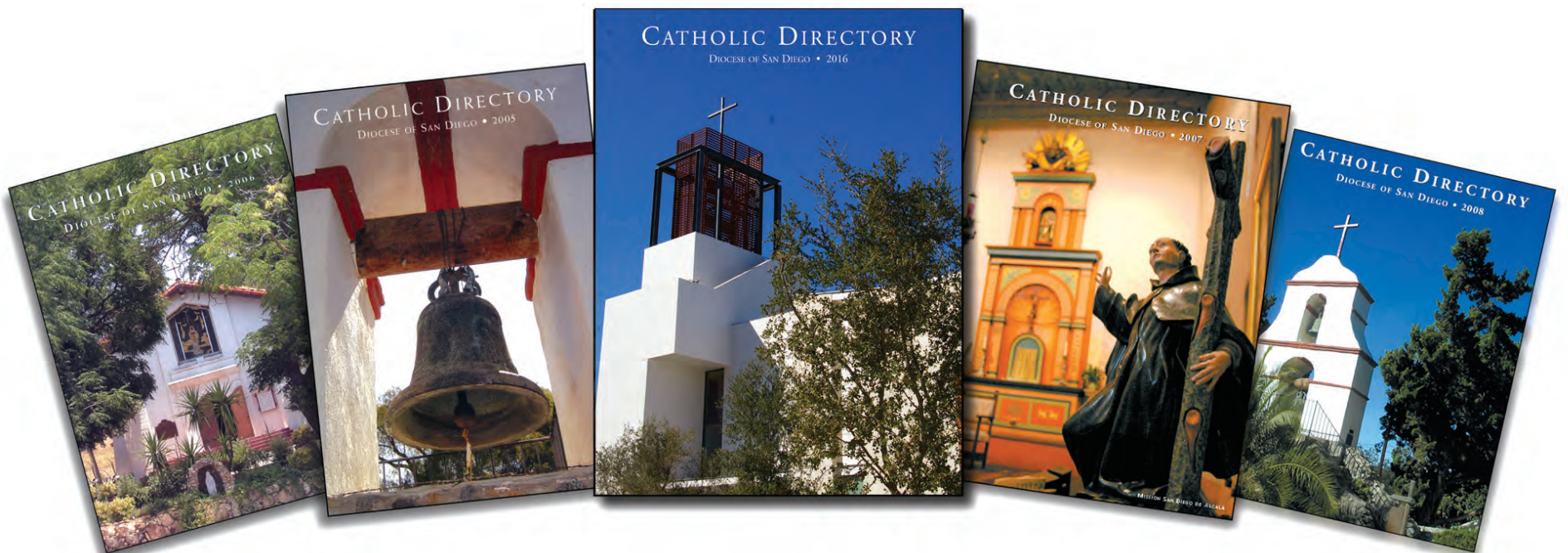
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Hidden Treasures Are in the Field and in Serving Others

By James Aitchison

When I think of visiting the beach as a kid, I remember my little brother seemed to always be digging for a treasure. My father would ask him how far he would have to dig to find the treasure and, of course, he would reply, "All the way to China." Ambitious for sure, but the reality is that with any treasure worth having in life, you've got to be willing to dig for it!

As we contemplate the treasures worth digging for, a guiding principle should be to check whether our motivation is to lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven or on earth. Ultimately, what Jesus counsels us to do here is the wisest thing, as there is nothing that brings greater joy to our hearts than laying up treasures in Heaven.

In this age of relentless activity, most of us are easily preoccupied with objects such as a house, car, bank account, savings account, investment, art, Smartphone, computer, clothing, etc. But what matters most and is filling our days, troubling our nights, giving us pause, pleasure or wonder? What makes us grateful? What elevates our spirit and invigorates our mind? Most importantly, where is our heart?

Indeed, all of the endeavors that make us fully human matter, but we can benefit most from stopping and getting quiet enough to reflect on and reprioritize the many treasures God has already given us. And while God has given and continues to give us many great gifts, not all of them lie like pebbles on the surface. "The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,



which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matt 13:24).

It's worth noting that, in the parable, the man didn't go back and sell part of what he had, but sold everything he had; and since he went back to buy the field, he must have said to himself, "If I have found this treasure in that field, there no doubt must be more

treasure." Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. Notice the word "buried." It's not sitting in a bank or in a museum. You've got to dig for it. You've got to search for it, and it's in a field. As the man set out searching in this field he now owned, imagine how he felt, possibly disenchanted, when he suddenly found out he also bought rocks, weeds and perhaps ants,

lizards and spiders. Still, he bought it and it was worth it all because he ended up finding treasure.

Mining for gold may sound fun, but you have to have the patience and the maturity to be able to dig for a good long while and sometimes cover every inch of the field, never knowing if you will find something of value. By committing to going through this

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process, perhaps the greatest treasure ends up not coming in any material form, but in what we become.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are reminded that we are called to be Christ's witnesses to the world. One sure way to experience this phenomenon of treasure-finding and to develop the perseverance for digging is by embracing opportunities to be of service to others. When we live sacrificially for Jesus' sake or serve Him by serving the Body of Christ, we store up treasure in Heaven. The digging here often requires reorienting our narrowed attention of selfish concern toward the welfare of others. Victor Frankl describes this attitude in his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, which chronicles his experiences in a Jewish concentration camp. Frankl survived by finding meaning through tending to others' needs over his own.

For those nearing or already in retirement, it is important to remember that the human heart needs to be regularly stirred with a renewed sense of purpose. Meant for times of quiet, the heart has an opportunity to peer deep within. This evaluation is twofold in that it provides an objective way to look at our accomplishments so far in light of the vision we have for life. Secondly, it shows us where we are now so we can determine the right path forward to prepare

for a great life after work — also ensuring we don't just retire from something, but retire to something.

According to Laura Owen, regional director for Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) San Diego, "individuals who have ample life experience coupled with gratitude and a generosity of spirit are likely the ones to possess the skills and necessary intangibles to make a significant difference in society and their local communities." IVC provides an effective framework to match the talents and recognized professions of retired men and women, most aged 50 or better, with nonprofit organizations that are in need of those specific skill sets, thus augmenting their ability to serve those less fortunate.

"In order to help volunteers transform their activity from service to mission, our program uniquely combines service to the poor with a process of spiritual reflection," Owen said, adding, "this process is rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, and the first saint known to serve the marginalized and the poorest of the poor."

Our hearts are set free to soar and take flight when challenged with purpose stemming from an others-versus-self orientation. We know from Scripture that our heart is where our treasure is. A



CNS PHOTO FROM CLEO

man asked why he could not find greater joy in working for treasures in Heaven and was troubled with being overly occupied with earthly things. He was told that he needed to have more of his heart in Heaven. The man in the parable had to commit all his resources to

gain the treasure, and he did so with joy. When Jesus is our Treasure and heavenly things are what we concern ourselves with most, we will also be able to commit — out of joy — our money, our time, our talents to His work in this world, a field

where treasures of Heaven are waiting to be found.

The Southern Cross

James Aitchison is a 23-year corporate marketing executive serving Fortune 500s, currently president and founder partner of The Cathedral Group, LLC, and a regular contributor to The Southern Cross.

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The Gift of Prayer

By Linda Schmetzer Cronin

Many years ago, on my very first Mother's Day, my husband gave me a set of beginner golf clubs to commemorate the occasion. With an 11-month-old starting to walk, those clubs didn't get much use and I decided that Mother's Day was a silly holiday. Some men will tell you that Father's Day is even worse. How many ties and polo shirts does one man need? At this time of the year, we organize barbecues, picnics in the park or a day at the beach. Over the years, I have come to realize that the gift of our time and love is the most precious gift.

How do we honor the people who gave us life, taught us our prayers, held us when we were scared, were there for us when rejection came or gave us tough love when we needed it? Some of us had idyllic childhoods; some of us walked out the door at 18 and never looked back. Some of us don't remember our parents, who died when we were young; some of us are caring for parents to whom we must reintroduce ourselves every day. Some of us watch helplessly as those we love suffer from a myriad of ailments; some of us can't bear to watch.

So how do we honor them? In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope



NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Francis has encouraged us to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. These works of mercy start in the family — call it “stewardship of the family” — especially for those who have aging

parents; this includes making sure they are eating well, getting them the proper medical care, taking them to appointments, finding caregivers or assisted living if needed, arranging for the sacraments if

they can't get to Mass, and when the time comes to bury the dead, sending them to the Lord with a funeral or a memorial Mass.

But what do we give to the parent we could never bring ourselves

to forgive and now it's too late? What do we give to the parent who doesn't know we're there? I remember in Catholic grade school, around this time of year, we were busy drawing spiritual bouquets and decorating them with Our Father's and Hail Mary's. Coupled with a promise to clean our rooms, it was the perfect gift. Perhaps it still is. Honoring a parent living or dead with a rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet or a Mass intention would be a special way to show our love, ask for forgiveness and perhaps rebuild a relationship.

The last spiritual work of mercy is to pray for the dead. For our deceased parents and grandparents, prayer is a beautiful and needed gift. Those who have gone before us can no longer pray for themselves. But prayer for deceased loved ones can also be a gift for current family members who might never have known them. Looking at pictures, remembering their lives and praying for them will bring them close to us again.

The Southern Cross

Linda Schmetzer Cronin is a minister to the homebound at All Hallows Parish in La Jolla.



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Make Every Day a Retreat

By Deacon Keith Eshaki

Have you attended a spiritual retreat for a weekend?

I highly recommend you go to a silent retreat like the ones preached by the priests of Miles Christi (www.mileschristi.org), who follow the Spiritual Exercises method of St. Ignatius of Loyola. You go on a Friday afternoon and come back on Sunday afternoon. I promise it will be one of the best weekends of your life.

The Lord made us of body and soul. The body needs physical exercise to survive. By the same token, the soul needs spiritual exercise to be closer to God and be most joyful. If you don't move your limbs for one month, you become stiff and very ill. There are similar risks to the soul from lack of spiritual exercise.

The Spiritual Exercises are basically structured prayers and meditations. If you pray daily and go to Mass and confession, then you are already exercising your soul. But as you know, on certain days, your prayer is more in unity with the Lord than on other days. The more you empty yourself during prayer, the more joyful and beneficial the prayer is to your soul.

St. Ignatius of Loyola presents to us three stages in the spiritual life, which provide the structure of the

weekend spiritual retreat and should be the structure of our day:

1) Purgative: when we cleanse the soul of the stain of sin. It's about feeling sorrow and shame for our sin. Start your day with contrition. Go back every day to the Father's house and ask for forgiveness.

2) Illuminative: when we come to know God more by reading and meditating on the Word of God in the Bible. Do that every day.

3) Unitive: when we unite ourselves with the Lord. This is when we reach a point of total self-abdication in which we let the Lord Jesus completely live in us, act through us and become totally united to us, which is what happens when we receive Him in the Eucharist or in an intense moment of prayer.

You can make every day a blissful day of Spiritual Exercises by consecrating every moment to the glory of God and committing to love like Him every second of your life. Even when you work, do it like Jesus does it, with utmost joy, competence, dedication and excellence.

Below are few prayers and meditations that can guide your daily spiritual exercises to help you carry



CNS/BOB MULLEN

your daily crosses and not let fear and anxiety drag you away from the Lord. The Lord gifted these prayers to me during moments when I let myself be overtaken by fear and anxiety.

"Lord, I come back to Your house like the prodigal son. Forgive me. Have mercy on me. Embrace me. I accept to carry the cross and follow You every day. I no longer live. You live in me, Lord. You give me strength to do all things. I rejoice in You always."

"Lord, I need You to remind me to empty myself completely every second and think with Your mind, love with Your heart, act with Your

will, speak with Your tongue, and do everything in complete union with You. I don't want to live unless You completely live in me. Every second that I don't let You act through me is a wasted second, and I beg Your forgiveness for it."

"May I spend every second in total dedication to You, Lord, because every second is a gift from You that I don't deserve to have. I'm to live every second in total humility, adoration, and love for others to bring them closer to You and the salvation of their souls in total service to You, Lord."

"Lord, You own every moment of time. It is Your time, Your cre-

ation. You have given it as a gift to me. Even every thought I have, Lord, I'm to focus on You, Your life and Your love and I'm not to use my healthy mind and brain in contemplating any thought of hate of others. I'm not to be hasty or anxious. I'm to be in total peace every second."

"The purpose of my life is to worship You, Lord, every second and to bring others closer to you by my words and actions. I don't want any comfort for me. I only want the joy that comes from uniting myself to You. So stay with me, Lord, I beg You."

To sum it up, I share with you the following quote from St. Josemaria Escriva: "We have to join Him through faith, letting His life show forth in ours to such an extent that each Christian is not simply another Christ, but Christ Himself."

The Southern Cross

Deacon Keith Eshaki serves at the altar at St. Peter Chaldean Catholic Cathedral in El Cajon and volunteers in marriage counseling, marriage preparation and youth ministry. He also leads spiritual retreats and prayer meetings, and gives talks on chastity, Theology of the Body and many other spiritual topics. E-mail him at keith@gcscsystems.com.



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Over the Hill or Just Beginning?

Matrimonial treasures are a gift to share

By John and Barbara Bertrand

When we look back at our life since we were married in 1966, it has been filled with many ups and downs, but through it all we always knew that our faith and our Catholic family would help us through those difficult times.

It was just after our 10th wedding anniversary that we said yes to experiencing a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Up until that experience, our marriage and lives were pretty much in sync with the American Dream with our emphasis on our careers and success. But that weekend changed all of that.

That Marriage Encounter Weekend gave us new hope, a new vision, and awoke within us gifts that we did not know existed. We left that weekend on fire to grow in our Catholic faith and our marriage. We also knew that something was calling us to share our gifts — treasures — with other married couples.

We grew from being inward-focused to being outward-focused. We began to realize that the sacrament of matrimony was alive within us and that it was our responsibility to say yes to Our Lord to a new lifestyle, not only for us and our family, but for the Church, "the people of God."

There was this burning inside of us to give so others might experience the beauty and power of the sacrament of matrimony as an outward sign for our Church family.

Matrimony, when lived for the sake of others, is a powerful treasure that can change the lives of millions.

Here is a glimpse of our journey and how living out our sacrament is truly a treasure for the world, a treasure that all matrimonial couples have.

We became heavily involved with the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement. We began by simply sharing ourselves and our treasures as a presenting team on weekends. The presence of the Holy Spirit working through the team couples and priest was very evident as we were witness to hundreds of conversions, hundreds of individuals and couples coming back to their faith. But what we didn't realize was that when we presented these weekends, we got more in return than we gave, and we continued to grow in our sacramental marriage along with this burning desire to discover more ways to share these gifts or treasures.

Our faith grew because of the challenge of many other Catholic couples and priests. We went from being satisfied in our marriage with two children and growing careers to realizing that the sacrament of matrimony called us to always be open to God's will, especially with regards to new life for our Church, "a larger family" if it was His will. We turned it over to Him and, 11 years after our second son was born, Barbara gave birth to another boy and two years later to our fourth son. In both of these miracles of new life, our openness to God continued to grow and



we knew that we had to say to Him, "If you want any of our sons to serve the Church as a priest, we give them up to you and ask that your mother, Mary, be with them and protect them on their journey."

Three of our sons answered the call to married life and are sharing their gifts or treasures in many ways while our youngest son, Jacob, was called to the priesthood, was ordained in June 2010 and is sharing his treasure with the people in the Diocese of San Diego.

We believe that one of the most important treasures that we can give to the Church is vocations. What a joy for us as Catholic parents to have one of our sons

answer the call to priesthood and the other three to bring even more new life to the Church through their matrimonial love.

Now that we have been married for almost 50 years, we sometimes think that we have done our fair share and it is time to rest, but the Good Lord keeps knocking at our door and calling us to do more. We continue to encourage married couples to be open to new life for the sake of the Church, because we know that, when young couples trust and take this step, everything in their lives is better.

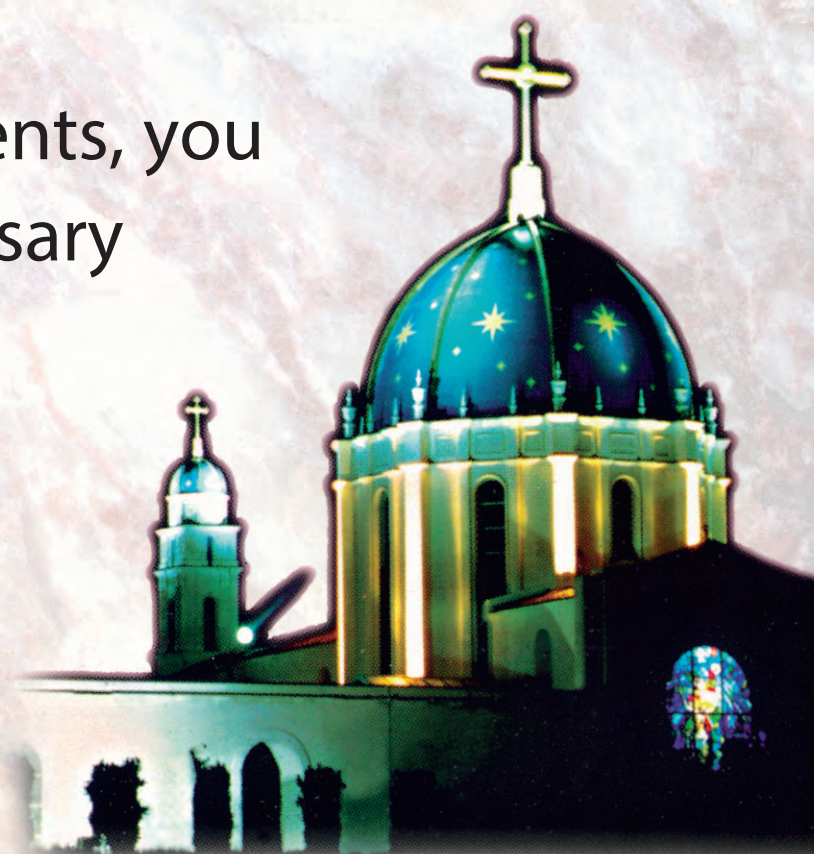
Accepting this call to openness is twofold: First, to be open to allowing God to be part of the cycle of life, to be open to giving

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birth to children of God, and to let His will be done; second, to be open to giving our children to the Church if He is calling them to serve the Church as a priest or religious. These calls to openness are not easy, but our lives will be more rewarding when we are able to give our treasures in this way.

About eight years ago, Barbara and I along with our son Jacob, a seminarian at the time, and Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone were asked to give the keynote address at the Worldwide Marriage Encounter International Convention on the topic of "Openness to New Life for the Sake of the Church." We shared our story and encouraged the couples to be open to new life. Two years later, when Jacob was ordained as a priest and giving out his first blessings, a young couple approached him, held out their young baby girl and said thank you to the three of us for the gift of Francesca. It was the treasures that we all shared at that convention that gave them the courage to be open to new life. What this reveals is that you are never too old to share your treasures with others. And when we do, lives are changed.

Even though we are not completely retired, we rejoice and enjoy sharing the treasures we have with our Church. Most of our gifts and energy are directed toward



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BERTRAND FAMILY

vocations. What a joy it is to support and encourage our young men and women who have said yes to discernment. Each year, as these men are ordained and these women become sisters, we know that all of the sacrifices and prayers are worth it. We know that by being open to new life and by sharing our treasures and our pas-

sion for the Church, lives have and are being changed.

We can say we are definitely not over the hill, we feel like we are just beginning, and it is because many couples and priests over the years have encouraged us to accept our treasures and challenged us to share them with others for the sake of the Church. We pray and

encourage you, no matter what age, to take a few moments and sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament and listen. We know that you will discover your treasures. Once identified, we encourage you to share them with others for the sake of our Church.

The Southern Cross

John and Barbara Bertrand have shared their gifts and treasures in many ways, including through Worldwide Marriage Encounter and many presentations on the subjects of matrimony, priesthood and vocations. They recently recorded a show for EWTN; it will air at midnight on June 21 and at 2:30 p.m. on June 23. Their son, Father Jacob Bertrand, also recently recorded a show for EWTN about his vocation; it is scheduled to air at midnight on June 28 and at 2:30 p.m. on June 30.



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Steve's Legacy: Four Things That Matter Most

By Dee Crimmel

His name was Steve. He lived in a beautiful home with a beautiful wife and five beautiful children. Steve had brain cancer.

When I first met Steve, he told me that he didn't think he needed a chaplain as he had everything under control. I encouraged him to take my card just in case. On the back of the card, I was inspired to write themes from Dr. Ira Byock's *The Four Things That Matter Most* novel; "please forgive me and I forgive you, thank you, I love you," along with "good-bye."

'I can't believe the weight that has been lifted off of my shoulders. Why didn't I do this earlier?'

This seemed to catch Steve's attention, and he said that he would definitely take my words to heart and have his wife call me if and when he wanted to see me again.

A few weeks later, the call came. Steve wanted to see me. At the door, their dog greeted me with a bark as Steve's wife led me out to the deck. There he was standing next to the rail looking out over the tree-tops below.

"You know those four things that you

wrote down on the back of the card you gave me?" he said.

"Yes," I nodded.

"Well, I've done them and I can't believe the weight that has been lifted off of my shoulders. Why didn't I do this earlier?" he asked.

As the weeks went by, Steve's family packed picnic lunches and went to the

beach, took weekend trips, and helped fulfill every crazy wish he ever had. Steve spent more time playing Barbies with his 4-year-old daughter and tumbling on the floor with his 8-year-old twin sons. He ate a gallon of ice cream with his teenage son and reunited with his stepdaughter who put nursing school on hold to be at his side.

Steve then decided to have a celebration of his life at his church. He spoke about the four things that matter most and encouraged people not to wait until it was too late to live by them.

Several weeks later, those who attended Steve's funeral were given a business card that read: "Remember the four things that matter most — please forgive me and I forgive you, thank you, I love you, and good-bye."

Though Steve is now gone, he has inspired all who knew him to reflect on the four things that matter most and share their meaning with their loved ones.

Dee Crimmel is a chaplain at The Elizabeth Hospice.



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Family members can often find themselves resenting their loved ones for not taking the initiative to help improve their disposition. It's important to be understanding and supportive throughout the process and encourage your loved ones as to why you would like to see them get help. It could be because you miss having after dinner talks, going to social events, or seeing them miss a simple "I love you" from a grandchild.

It's not easy to live with someone who has hearing loss, but for the person who is suffering from it, it can oftentimes be unbearable. While hearing loss is not anyone's fault, it can often feel that way. Stay positive and, like any other hardship within a family, shower your loved ones with support.

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Preserving Our Treasures with Estate Planning

By Mark Walsh

When it comes to getting our houses in order and preserving what we treasure most in life, we can no longer simply bury our heads in the sand. In addition to being the best vehicle to take the proper legal precautions to take control of our health care and financial decisions, proper estate planning can support many Catholic principles that we hold dear. Estate planning is essential in fulfilling three of these important spiritual principles.

First and foremost is the principle that we are to honor our mother and our father. Deuteronomy 5:16 states, "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God, has commanded you, that you may have a long life and that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you." As our parents get older, we honor our mother and father by unconditionally giving them the support they need, as they supported us when we were young children. We respect them by protecting our parents' individuality, valuing what is important to them, and providing for their basic needs.

By making sure that our parents have a proper estate plan in place, we can help them prepare for the struggles that accompany getting older: the need for conservatorships or powers of attorney due to mental incapacity, the need for a special needs trust to plan for long-term health care while preserving assets, proper estate planning to qualify for Medicare and veteran's benefits, etc. These estate planning tools help maintain support and provide a good quality of life for our parents. As such, reaching out to your parents as early as possible to see if they have an estate plan in place that reflects their wishes and desires to leave a legacy is not about you; it is about helping them, taking care of them, honoring them.

The second principle involves baptism. When we baptize our children in the Christian faith, we promise to build upon this foundation by raising our children to be good Christians. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the sacrament of baptism is "the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments."

Baptism is just the first step in a journey of becoming a Christian. As parents, we have an obligation to guide our children in their journey to becoming good Christians and strong believers in the Catholic faith. By making sure as parents that we have a proper estate plan in place "if anything were to happen to us," we can not only preserve the financial support for our children, we can also make sure that the right guardians, who have a genuine commitment to preserving the continuity of our children's journey, will in fact have clear instructions and the appointment to guide them in our faith. As such, having a proper estate plan in place is an important part of protecting our children's journey toward becoming good Christians.

Sanctity of life is a third and extremely important principle of our Catholic faith.



As Catholics, we believe that all life is sacred from conception until natural death, and it is to be protected. "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end" (Donum Vitae, 5).

Death or the process of leading us to our last breath or heartbeat, is a very important part of our Catholic journey. The anointing of the sick, formerly known as last rites, is the final sacrament we receive before we meet our Creator. Having these sacraments administered is by no means an automatic, though, so proper estate planning is critical to making sure that our health directives and end-of-life choices are clearly defined to follow our Catholic principles and are then placed in the hands of someone we love and trust.

In meeting the day-to-day challenges of our lives, it is often hard to set time aside to make proper plans for ourselves or our families or to engage our parents in the sensitive conversations required to plan for desired outcomes. However, we know that procrastination doesn't work, and if we as Catholics are ready to walk away from the ostriches, we can meet this duty head-on for our parents and ourselves, thus protecting the principles of our Catholic faith by having a proper estate plan prepared. We can't afford not to, and we can't afford to wait until it is too late.

The Southern Cross

Mark Walsh is a California attorney who prepares wills and trusts with respect to Catholic tradition and with 100-percent online processing and phone consultation.

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Welcome to our annual senior resource guide. Below you will find a partial listing of services offered at several of our parishes. Please note that this is not a complete listing of the many resources available. The best way to find out what your parish has to offer is to call the parish office or check the parish Web site, and one of the most valuable tools available to you is the parish bulletin.

PARISH RESOURCES

All Hallows, La Jolla
Hospital Eucharistic Ministry, Home Visitors, Meals-on-Wheels, La Jolla, La Jolla Friendly Visitors, Good Grief Group (includes senior members), Community Life (includes lunches and bus trips) For more information, call 858-459-2975 or email cbosh@allhallows.com

Ascension, Tierra Santa
(858) 279-2735 – Bereavement Ministry, Ministry to the Sick, Single Seniors & Grief Support Group

Corpus Christi, Bonita
(619) 482-3954 – Monthly luncheon for seniors

Good Shepherd, Mira Mesa
(858) 271-0207 – Call for assistance

Guardian Angels Church, Santee
(619) 448-1213 – Our ministries/groups: Bereavement Ministry, Ministry to the Sick, Lay Pastors Group (an outreach ministry to contact all parishioners),
Food Bank (Santee residents only), Women’s Guild (open to women of all ages; meets 1st Tuesday of month Sept-June), Prayers & Squares Quilt Ministry (open to all ages).

Holy Family, Linda Vista
(858) 277-0404 – Call for assistance

Holy Spirit, Oak Park
(619) 262-2435 – holyspiritoffice@cox.net, Evangelization to the Homebound is a video cast of the daily Mass beginning mid-June on www.holyspirit.org. M – F 7:30 a.m., can be viewed any time after the broadcast

Holy Trinity, El Cajon
(619) 444-9425 – Homebound Eucharistic Ministers; Senior Lunch (once a month); Food bank open 10 – 11a.m., M – F (El Cajon residents only)

The Immaculata, Alcala Park, USD
(619) 574-5700 – Call for assistance

Immaculate Conception, Old Town
(619) 295-4148 – Seniors group, 11:00 a.m., parish hall, 1st Monday of each month, except holidays that fall on the first Monday, when it meets the following Monday; hot lunch served at 11:30, \$5 per person, followed by fellowship

Mary, Star of the Sea, La Jolla
(858) 454-2631

Mater Dei, Chula Vista
(619) 656-3735 – Health Resources Ministry, Healing & Comfort Ministry

Mission San Diego de Alcala, Mission Valley
(619) 283-7319 – Mission Aires, 50+, monthly meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., \$15 annual membership, for more information contact Rozalynn (619) 587-0425

Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
(760) 757-3250 – Social Concerns Ministry, Sick & Homebound Ministry

Most Precious Blood, Chula Vista
(619) 422-2100 – Call for assistance

Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe
(858) 756-1911 – Widows & Widowers Monthly (September – June)

Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon
(619) 469-0133 – The 55 Plus Club, monthly luncheon September to June. Not limited to OLG parishioners, but friends and family are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office.

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Chula Vista
(619) 422-3977 – Personas de la tercera edad, 55 and older, usually meets twice a month at the parish hall for tasty lunches and occasional guest speakers. For more information, contact Isabel (619) 925-4317

Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Lakeside
(619) 443-1412 – Monthly Senior Luncheon (Sept. – May), second Wednesday of the month, noon in the Holy Family Center; Senior Resource Center, every Friday noon – 3 p.m., socializing and games; Once-a-month lunches at St. Joseph Center. For more information, call Barbara (619) 443-7180

Our Lady of Refuge, Pacific Beach
(858) 274-9670 – Food Bank, Homebound Ministry

PARISH RESOURCES

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, San Diego
(619) 280-0515

Our Mother of Confidence, University City
“Senior Social” 3rd Thursday 11:30 am, three-course lunch at noon, catered lunch and professional entertainment all for only \$7. All are welcome – bring your friends and neighbors. Contact Ellie McGlynn at 858-453-3554.

Queen of Angels – Alpine
(619) 445-2145

Sacred Heart – Brawley
(760) 344-3171

Sacred Heart – Coronado
(619) 435-3167 – Eucharistic Ministers visit the homebound and patients in medical facilities in the area. There is an Anointing Mass during the Lenten and Advent seasons. The Knights of Columbus invite seniors to a Christmas Luncheon in December. For more information, please call the Ministry Center.

Sacred Heart – Ocean Beach
(619) 224-2746 – Homebound Ministry, Bereavement Ministry & Senior Outreach Program (resources & social). For information, contact Janice at teixeira@cox.net

St. Adelaide of Burgundy, Campo
(619) 478-1017

St. Anthony of Padua, National City
(619) 477-4520

St. Brigid, Pacific Beach
(858) 483-3030 – The Senior Scene, for information contact Nancy at (858) 483-3034 or nancy@saintbrigidparish.org

St. Charles, Imperial Beach
(619) 423-0242 – Bereavement Ministry, Widows & Widowers Support Group

St. Charles Borromeo, Point Loma
(619) 225-8157

St. Columba, Serra Mesa
(858) 277-3863 – Seniors Club, 50+, meet 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, 10:30 a.m., parish hall, no meetings in July or August

St. Didacus, Normal Heights
(619) 284-3472 – Eucharistic Homebound Ministry

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Julian
(760) 765-0613 – Local parishioners can call for assistance

St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
(760) 438-3393

St. Gabriel, Poway
858-748-5348

St. Gregory the Great, Scripps Ranch
(858) 653-3540 – 50+ Club, Homebound Ministry

St. James/St. Leo, Solana Beach
(858) 755-2545

St. John the Evangelist – Encinitas
(760) 753-6254 – Monthly Senior Luncheon (Sept – May), third Thursday of the month, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM, Mass at 11:00 AM, All are welcome. Contact Nettie March at 760-753-6254.

St. John the Evangelist – San Diego
(619) 291-1660 – Homebound Ministry

St. Jude Shrine of the West, San Diego
(619) 264-2195

St. Luke, El Cajon
(619) 442-1697

St. Margaret, Oceanside
(760) 941-5560 – Legion of Mary Homebound Ministry, spending a minimum of two hours a week with each senior for prayer and fellowship.

St. Mark, San Marcos
(760) 744-1540 – Women’s Guild, meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon, St. John Paul II bldg., (September to June) meeting for fellowship and to support the ministries of the parish

St. Mary – El Centro
(760) 352-4211

PARISH RESOURCES

St. Mary – Escondido
(760) 745-1611 – Homebound Ministry

St. Mary Magdalene, Bay Park
(619) 276-1041 – The Hilltoppers, meet once a month; call parish for information. Bible Study – open to all ages

St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Oceanside
(760) 722-1688 – Installed “The Loop” so hearing-impaired parishioners can hear the Mass. For information, contact Barbie at Barbie-stmarys@hotmail.com.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, Pacific Beach
(858) 272-7655

St. Michael – Poway
(858) 487-4755

St. Michael – San Diego
(619) 470-1977 – Seniors Ministry includes Zumba on Mondays from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM and Yoga on Tuesdays from 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM.

St. Patrick – Carlsbad
(760) 729-2866 – Home Visitation, for information contact Jayce at jmcclellan@stpatrikcarlsbad.com or call 760-729-2869

St. Patrick – San Diego
(619) 295-2157 – Homebound Ministry

St. Pius X – Chula Vista
(619) 420-9193

St. Pius X – Jamul
(619) 669-0085 – Quilting Ministry, weekly, open to all ages

St. Richard
(760) 767-5701

St. Rose of Lima
(619) 427-0230 – Senior program, Homebound Ministry & Senior Outreach

St. Stephen
(760) 749-3324

St. Therese
(619) 582-3716 – 55+ Social Club, call parish office for information

St. Therese of Carmel
Faith in Action helps those in need with rides to doctors, grocery shopping, Mass & more. Faith in Action can also help with some errands for seniors. Contact Ellen at 858-481-1690.

St. Thomas More
(760) 758-4100 – Spirited Seniors, for information contact Jim & Marilyn at jandmday@cox.net or call 760-509-4545

St. Timothy
(760) 489-1200, info@sttimothychurch.com – Last Rites, Communion to Sick, and Helping Hands (visiting Sick & Homebound) Ministries available: Rosary Makers, Prayer Quilts, Small Church, Adoration, Bereavement Ministry, Sat Men’s Ministry, Sat Women’s Ministry, Prayer Group, Prayer Chain, Pro-Life group, Women of St. Timothy group.

St. Vincent de Paul
(619) 299-3880 – Altar Society

Santa Sophia, Spring Valley
(619) 463-6629 – Senior Club meets 1st Thursday of the month for 11:00AM Mass followed by \$8 hot lunch. Sept thru June, \$10 annual membership

Catholic Widows & Widowers of North County
www.cwvnc.com

LOCAL RESOURCES

Caregiver Coalition of San Diego
An alliance of agencies that provide service for family caregivers
www.caregivercoalitionsd.org

LOCAL RESOURCES

Southern Caregiver Resource Center
Caring for those who care for others
(858) 268-4432
(858) 268-7816 (fax)
www.caregivercenter.org
scrc@caregivercenter.org
3675 Ruffin Rd Suite 230
San Diego CA 92123

Attorney Services
Mark Walsh
mwalshusa@gmail.com
(800) 494-1324

Law Firm of John Altomare
4364 Bonita Rd. Ste. 425
Bonita, CA 91902
(619) 407-4097

Care Facilities
Nazareth House
6333 Rancho Mission Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 563-0480
www.sistersofnazareth.com/

Government Services
Social Security Administration
8505 Aero Dr.
San Diego, CA
(800) 772-1213

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
8810 Rio San Diego Dr.
San Diego, CA
(800) 827-1000

Hospice
The Elizabeth Hospice Center for Compassionate Care
930 Canterbury Place
Escondido CA 92025
(760) 737-2050
www.elizabethhospice.org

Moving Assistance
Peace of Mind for Seniors; Moving & Downsizing; Preparation to Completion; Mother-Daughter owned business; (800) 453-4171



San Diego County Senior Services – Aging & Independence Services
Inside San Diego County 800-510-2020,
Outside San Diego County 800-339-4661
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/pro_grams/ais/
(this Web site contains a wealth of information)

Adult Protective Services	800-510-2020
Caregiver Support.....	800-510-2020
Cool Zones.....	800-510-2020
Coordinating Care	800-510-2020
Employment Training.....	800-510-2020
Health Promotion	858-495-5998
In-Home Supportive Services.....	800-510-2020
Intergenerational Programs.....	858-505-6332
Legal Services	800-510-2020
Elder Law & Advocacy	858-565-1392
Long Term Care Integration Project (LTCIP).....	800-510-2020
Mental Health – Senior Mental Health Team.....	800-510-2020
Nutrition Services.....	800-510-2020
Ombudsman – Long Term Care	800-640-4661
or	858-560-2507
Public Administrator, Guardian, and Conservator:	800-510-2020
Preserving Your Health.....	858-565-8772
Project CARE.....	800-510-2020
Staying Informed	800-510-2020
Veterans Services.....	858-694-3222
Volunteers.....	858-505-6399

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MONDAY - SATURDAY, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
4050 MISSION AVENUE, OCEANSIDE, CA 92057

cem@sanluisrey.org • www.sanluisrey.org/cemetery

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Equipo Transforma Vidas



Provee cirugías gratuitas para niños en México, con todo corazón

By Aida Bustos

Un niño de siete años cubría su labio leporino con cinta eléctrica. Pensaba que si juntaba los lados de su labio la fisura iba a desaparecer.

El doctor Thomas Vecchione lo recuerda muy bien. El experimentado cirujano plástico de San Diego es uno de los fundadores del Mercy Outreach Surgical Team, un equipo especializado con base en el Hospital Scripps Mercy, y el niño fue uno de sus pacientes.

El equipo de médicos profesionales viaja a México dos veces al año y realiza cirugía plástica reconstructiva para niños de bajos recursos principalmente. Entre 50 y 60 doctores, enfermeras, anestesiólogos y demás personal médico donan su tiempo y experiencia, con muchos regresando muchas veces. Además, una Hermana de la Misericordia acompaña cada jornada.

Ayudan a personas con labio leporino, paladar hendido, estrabismo, quemaduras y otras deformaciones. El personal médico realiza cirugía plástica, cirugía general y de oftalmología.

Los pacientes, no solamente luchan con los retos físicos que les trae su condición, pero también, sufren de acoso constante o “bullying” haciendo sus vidas aún más difíciles.

En muchos casos, las cirugías transforman sus vidas.

Desde la primera jornada en 1989, el equipo ha operado de manera gratuita a más de 12,450 personas en 13 estados de México, y ha dado tratamiento avanzado a 1,400 de ellos en San Diego.

Tras reparar el labio del niño, el doctor le preguntó si estaba contento. Él contestó que ya no iba a necesitar cinta eléctrica.

VEA CIRUGÍAS, PÁGINA 3

LISTO: El doctor Larry McCarthy, cirujano plástico de San Diego, es uno de los voluntarios del equipo Mercy Outreach Surgical Team, que viaja al interior de México para operar en niños que sufren de condiciones como labio leporino. Todos los servicios son gratuitos para los pacientes de escasos recursos.

Cinco Hombres Aceptan el Llamado a Servir como Diáconos

Por Denis Grasska

RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS – Cinco hombres fueron ordenados al diaconado permanente el pasado 3 de junio en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo en Rancho Peñasquitos. A continuación perfiles de los nuevos diáconos de la Diócesis de San Diego.

Diácono Sergio Hernández **Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe,** **El Centro**

“Siempre tuve la sensación de que Dios me estaba llamando a hacer algo más profundo”, comentó el Diácono Sergio Hernández a The Southern Cross. “Solo que no sabía que era ni cuándo sería”.

La primera vez que consideró la posibilidad del diaconado fue después de una invitación a cenar con su pastor, en donde sostuvieron una conversación sobre el tema. Tras un año de oración y discernimiento, ingresó al programa formativo.

“Servir como diácono es un llamado a vivir una vida de servicio más profunda y humilde”, dijo Diácono Hernández, de 50 años de edad, quien ha trabajado durante los últimos 15 años como gerente de sucursal de una compañía de transporte y logística. “Significa salir de tu zona de confort e ir a lugares a los cuales no siempre te sentirás listo para ir, pero de todas formas lo haces, poniendo tu confianza en Dios”.

En el comienzo de su nueva vida como diácono dijo, “Solo busco servir a mi Dios y a Su gente lo mejor que pueda, ya sea celebrando un bautizo o una boda, o tan solo estar presente cuando alguien lo necesite. Pido para que Dios me permita hacer el mejor uso de los dones que El me ha regalado”.

Diácono Hernández y su esposa Patricia han estado casados durante 25 años, tienen tres hijos. Han pertenecido a la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en El Centro durante 20 años.

Diácono Juan Santillán **Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, Vista**

Al principio Juan Santillán tenía sus dudas sobre si en realidad había sido llamado a servir a su Iglesia como diácono.

“Soy una persona con muchos errores, sin un título académico profesional, y pensé esto definitivamente no es para mí”, admitió.

Pero con la oración vino la paz y la claridad de que éste en realidad si era un llamado. Tras inscribirse en el programa formativo diaconal y cursar sus clases se sintió profundamente feliz con el camino que había decidido tomar.

“Es un honor servir a Dios a través de su Iglesia y la comunidad de la cuál he recibido mucho amor”, dijo Diácono Santillán, 56, un electricista certificado con 22 años de experiencia.

Reflexionando sobre el papel que un diácono debe desarrollar en la Iglesia comentó, “Se debe ser un maestro

VEA DIÁCONOS, PÁGINA 6

La Dignidad Humana Debe de Estar por Sobre Todas las Cosas



Por el Padre Bernardo Lara

Aunque ya hace casi un mes desde que ocurrió este incidente, es necesario que recordemos y reflexionemos sobre la muerte de Harambe, el gorila al que dispararon tratando de salvar la vida de un niño que había caído a su hábitat artificial en un zoológico en los Estados Unidos. Por muchos días, esto era la noticia principal en todos los noticiarios tanto en inglés como en español. Recordemos que Harambe, era un gorila de los llamados “espalda plateada” que estaba en un zoológico de Cincinnati. Harambe pesaba de 280 kilos (alrededor 400 libras), era uno de los mil gorilas que se encuentran en cautiverio en zoológicos y era originario de África, donde quedan alrededor de 200,000 ejemplares.

Muchos programas de televisión no se limitaron a simplemente dar la nota sino que, además, fueron en busca de opiniones tanto de expertos en el comportamiento animal como de aficionados que sencillamente guardan amor hacia los animales. Los expertos en el tema mencionaban que Harambe era a final de cuentas un animal violento y muy fuerte y que, aun que en los videos no se notaba que quisiera hacer daño al niño, si cabía la posibilidad que asustado por los gritos de la multitud en su mismo intento por escapar y poner a salvo el niño, pudiese ocurrir un accidente trágico.

Claro que la madre del niño dio sus declaraciones y admitiendo que tuvo un error involuntario al perder de vista a su hijo durante unos segundos, aclara que agradece lo que las autoridades del zoológico hicieron por su hijo, a pesar de que también lamenta la muerte del gorila.

Esto desató el enojo de mucha gente, especialmente aquellos que proponen la extinción de los animales en shows y lugares de exhibición como los zoológicos.

A mi punto de ver, este tema de los animales es muy delicado y no lo voy a tratar aquí. En lo que si quiero lidiar es en la ira que desató mucha gente contra la mamá, el niño de tres años y el staff del zoológico. Sí es cierto que toda la creación merece respeto y un trato propio como describió el Papa Francisco en su carta encíclica “Laudato Si” el verano pasado. Pero la dignidad humana debe de estar por sobre todas las cosas. Al ver la rabia con la que muchas personas “pro-animales” se expresaban, me daba a entender que hubiesen preferido la muerte del niño a cambio de la vida del gorila. ¿Qué acaso nadie ve el problema en esta situación?

No estoy a favor de la muerte del gorila, estoy en contra de la degradación humana. La pregunta del millón sigue estando en pie, ¿cómo es posible que el águila calva esté protegida por ley en un estado (California) en donde es licito matar bebés por medio del aborto solo por que la madre lo ve

como un estorbo en su vida? ¿Cómo es posible que la tortuga del desierto esté protegida por ley en un estado en donde es licito practicar la eutanasia? ¿Cómo es posible que se preocupe más la gente por que la tortuga marina se reproduzca, en un estado en donde el “matrimonio gay” está aprobado por ley? ¿Cómo es posible que haya gente que prefiera haber arriesgado la vida de un niño de tres años con tal de asegurar la de un gorila? ¿Dónde queda el valor de la dignidad humana? Si no somos capaces de respetar al prójimo, ahora entiendo por que para muchos es mas fácil ignorar a Dios quien es invisible para el ojo humano. ¿Por qué se nos olvida que el hombre y la mujer, a diferencia de los animales, fuimos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios? Si nosotros mismos nos degradamos unos a otros, si nosotros mismos sembramos odio entre nosotros, el resultado será simplemente más degradación y odio en nuestras vidas y la prueba más clara está en la política de hoy en día.

Sin meterme mucho en política, después del evento del gorila, ahora puedo entender por que tenemos dos candidatos a la presidencia de los Estados Unidos que solo siembran odio disfrazado de amor. Por un lado un candidato que promete mejorar este país con su frase “Make America Great Again”, mientras trata de construir muros a base de odio y hace comentarios racistas al llamar violadores y criminales a las personas que solo quieren una mejor oportunidad de vida.

Por otro lado, tenemos una candidata que le declaró abiertamente la guerra a la religión en abril del 2015 y además es una candidata que promete mejores condiciones de vida mientras promueve la cultura de muerte con el aborto y la eutanasia-incluso promete una reforma migratoria cuando en ocho años que lleva su partido en la presidencia ha hecho muy poco o nada por los hispanos.

Por ambos lados se ve odio disfrazado de amor- lobos con piel de cordero.

El ser humano es el único ser que se puede denigrar y hacerse menos de lo que ya es. Al gorila en el zoológico no le dices “deja de estar actuando como una hormiga” pero al hombre si le puedes decir “deja de estar actuando como chango”. Sin embargo, por más que nos denigremos nunca podremos perder el sello indeleble que tenemos al ser creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios.

¿Por qué en vez de hacernos más grandes y participar de esa vida Divina que nos consiguió nuestro señor Jesucristo, preferimos denigrarnos? Ahora sí vienen muy al punto las palabras del papa emérito Benedicto XVI: “Cuando niegas a Dios, niegas la dignidad humana. Quien defiende a Dios, está defendiendo al hombre”.

El padre Bernardo Lara es vicario en las parroquias en Brawley y Westmorland en el Valle Imperial.

Se puede contactar en fatherbernardolara@gmail.com.

Bicentenario



Una gran comunidad de tribus nativas, hispanos y otros grupos celebró el aniversario de dos siglos de la Misión de San Antonio de Pala el 5 de junio con una misa al aire libre y una procesión alrededor del histórico sitio. Detalles en la próxima edición.

Ministerio Latino Organiza Expo para Salud Mental

Por Aída Bustos

OCEANSIDE – Casi uno de cinco adultos que vive en este país sufre de alguna enfermedad mental cada año. Es más, la mitad de las enfermedades crónicas mentales comienzan para la edad de 14 años y tres cuartos se desarrollan antes de los 24, según los expertos.

A pesar de esta realidad, los hispanos utilizan los servicios de salud mental 50 por ciento menos que la población blanca.

Un grupo de fieles de la iglesia Santa María Estrella del Mar estableció un ministerio para concientizar a los hispanos sobre el tema de la salud mental e informarles de los recursos disponibles para enfrentar a una enfermedad mental. El sábado, 9 de julio, presentará un expo bilingüe para la comunidad latina de Oceanside.

Veronica García, una de las fundadoras del Ministerio Kairos de la parroquia, explicó que “la idea es educar a nuestra comunidad. Decirles que no están solos, que son apoyados”.

Explicó que los problemas comunes de salud mental incluyen la depresión y la depresión posparto, la ansiedad, desorden bipolar, estrés postraumático y drogadicción.

Ella misma ha padecido de la ansiedad y tiene un hijo de ocho años con el trastorno por déficit de atención e hiperactividad (conocido como ADHD). Dijo que reconoce que es “una labor muy grande” saber qué hacer para ayudar a un ser querido o a sí mismo.

Los inmigrantes, en particular, no conocen el sistema de este país y muchos no dominan el inglés. Además, hay un estigma sobre la enfermedad mental, aseguró, aunque la situación ha empezado a cambiar.

“Ahora es más abierto”, comentó. “Y los diagnósticos son más precisos”.

Ella comentó que lo más importante es aceptar que la persona tiene una enfermedad y luego comenzar los medios para enfrentarla, con la ayuda de Dios.

El grupo de Santa María Estrella de Mar es parte de la Red de Ministerios de Salud Mental de la Diócesis de San Diego. A la fecha, 20 parroquias forman parte de esta red, con el equipo bilingüe de St. Didacus siendo el más reciente en unirse al esfuer-

Expo el 9 de julio

El Expo de Salud Mental para la comunidad hispana se llevará a cabo el 9 de julio de 8 a.m. a 3 p.m., en el Salón Estrella del Mar, 515 Pier View Way, Oceanside 92054.

Los oradores incluyen dos psicólogas y el sacerdote Joseph Lal. Además, habrá mesa de información de organizaciones de la zona que ofrecen servicios bilingües de salud mental a bajo costo o gratuitos. Incluyen North County Health Services, Alzheimer's Foundation, Mano a Mano Foundation, NAMI (oficina del norte del condado) y la campaña It's Up to Us.

Habrán pan y café gratuitos a partir de las 7:30 a.m. y venta de comida para el almuerzo.

Informes con Lupita (760) 445-3597 y Veronica al (760) 672-9805.

zo, según Linda Arreola, subdirectora de la Oficina del Ministerio Social de la diócesis, que organiza los voluntarios en salud mental.

Los voluntarios en estos ministerios reciben una capacitación inicial de seis horas del personal diocesano, además de actualizaciones regulares.

La diócesis solicita que cada ministerio identifique los recursos de salud mental disponibles en su área, inclusive profesionistas como psicólogos y terapeutas que puedan atender a los hispanos en español.

La idea es que los voluntarios sean puntos de contacto en su parroquia para personas que tengan preguntas sobre la enfermedad mental. Estas personas recibirán información de los recursos disponibles en su comunidad, especialmente a bajo costo, además de obtener compañía espiritual.

Arreola dijo que los inmigrantes a menudo se confían de información que viene de la gente que pueda o no ser correcta.

“Lo bueno de este ministerio es que es una fuente de confianza para la comunidad porque la información viene de la Iglesia”, aseguró. “Además, los parroquianos se cuidan unos a los otros sobre su salud”.

The Southern Cross

► CIRUGÍAS

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Pacientes hablan del gran impacto en sus vidas

“Eso muestra lo que estamos haciendo”, el doctor aseguró. “Estos niños son marginados. Viven escondidos de la sociedad”.

Salvador Hernández es el coordinador de la logística de cada jornada en México. Trabaja en conjunto con los Rotarios Mexicanos y con la Secretaría de Salud de cada estado y el DIF estatal que se encargan de darles seguimiento a los pacientes del equipo.

El equipo se enfoca en ayudar a gente que vive en comunidades rurales o rancherías que no tienen acceso a la atención médica ni los recursos necesarios.

Cuando empezaron a ir a México, el equipo atendía a unas 40 personas, dijo Hernández. En la reciente jornada médica, que duró una semana en Irapuato, atendieron a 401.

Casi toda ésta labor es financiada por medio de donativos. Scripps Health, un sistema de salud sin fines de lucro que patrocina al equipo, organizó un festival de mariachi el pasado 21 de mayo donde se recaudaron \$189,000 para las jornadas.

Hernández se jubiló hace tres años de la Marina estadounidense y hoy dedica su tiempo completo a este proyecto. La razón es sencilla.

“Sé que le voy a cambiar la vida alguien que no tenía esa oportunidad.”

Miguel Cervantes Álvarez, de 36 años, es una de las personas cuya vida fue transformada. El originario de Colima explicó que vivió por dos décadas con un tumor masivo en la mejilla derecha. La llamada “malformación AV” es una maraña de venas y arterias que crece rápidamente.

“Mi cachete estaba pero súper hinchadísimo”, aseguró Cervantes, añadiendo que todo había empezado con un pequeño absceso en la cara cuando tenía 13 años.

En México, no le daban ningún tratamiento certero; lo mandaban de una especialidad a otra. Sufrió “bullying” constantemente y depresión. Evitaba lugares públicos.

“A mí en lo que más me afectó fue con mi hija porque yo no quería andar con ella en la calle, no iba por ella a la escuela”, dijo. “Evitaba que la vieran conmigo para que no le dijeran nada”.

Un amigo de la familia les recomendó que fueran a conocer el equipo Mercy en octubre del 2014 cuando iban a estar en Irapuato para ver si pudieran hacer algo.

Cuando lo conocieron en esa jornada, el tumor abarcaba casi toda su mejilla, un cacho del labio y le había casi cerrado un ojo.

El doctor Vecchione le sacó el tumor del labio pero no podía extraer el tumor de la mejilla por falta de equipo especializado.

Lo remitieron a San Diego, donde el doctor le extrajo la mayor parte del tumor en el Hospital Scripps Mercy unos cinco meses después de la primera cirugía.

“De un día para el otro, tuve una mejoría increíble que en 20 años no vi en México”, aseguró Cervantes.

Ahora, puede recoger a su hija de 16 años en la escuela y hacer actividades rutinarias, como ir de compras al súper sin “tenerlo que pensar mucho”.

Desde entonces, decidió seguir el equipo Mercy, haciendo una pausa en su trabajo de gerente de empresa. Sirve de camillero y ayuda con traducción ya que habla un poco de inglés.

Acompaña a los papás que dejan a sus niños en el quirófano y luego los lleva a la sala de espera.

“Yo les platico mi historia. Les digo, ‘Tu confía, no pasa nada.’ Es un abrazo que transmite tranquilidad.”

En una jornada en Morelia Cervantes conoció a otro paciente que también sirve como voluntario, Francisco Vázquez Galinzoga.

Él se crió en el pueblito de San Juan Nuevo, cerca de la ciudad de Uruapan.

Cuando tenía 7 años tuvo un accidente con juegos pirotécnicos y se quemó la mayor parte del cuello y el cuerpo. Tras atención médica, “yo me quedé pegado. Mi cuello estaba pegado al pecho y los brazos pegados al cuerpo”.

“Era muy difícil comer, tomar agua y caminar de frente porque miraba para abajo”, aseguró.

Su papá, un maestro, no podía costear las cirugías especializadas que necesitaba. Una tía les contó que había visto en póster en la iglesia que “el Mercy Team” iba a llegar a Uruapan con doctores que atendían quemaduras y otras condiciones.

Decidieron ir al hospital donde estaba el equipo. “Vamos a ver que Dios dice”.

Llegaron el día de la valoración, y la presencia del niño “les llamó” mucho la atención. El doctor Vecchione lo examinó y se decidió que lo iban a operar el siguiente día.

“La cirugía duró cinco horas”, dijo Vázquez. “Me liberaron el cuello, las manos, todo”.

Su papá se quedó sorprendido.

“Lo que más conmovió a mi papá es que ya estaba parado derecho y caminando.”



CORTESÍA DE SCRIPPS HEALTH



NICHOLAI PEREZ

COMPROMETIDOS: En la foto superior, Sandee Giannaris, enfermera del Hospital Infantil Rady's, consola uno de los pequeños pacientes del equipo cirujano en México. Dos pacientes del equipo, Francisco Vázquez (izquierda) y Miguel Cervantes (derecha) recibieron un reconocimiento el 21 de mayo. Los acompañaron los doctores Thomas Vecchione, izquierda, y Jordan Waldman.

“Desde ahí yo sigo al equipo Mercy a todos los lugares donde van”, dijo Vázquez.

El equipo lo ha operado unas “17 o 18” veces más para reducir las cicatrices y hacer ajustes a medida que ha crecido.

“Yo quiero regresarle algo a Mercy de lo que ellos han hecho por mí. Yo quiero ayudar a más personas para que también tengan una vida más favorable.”

Ambos pacientes recibieron un reconocimiento durante la recau-

dación de fondos en mayo.

Tanto los pacientes como el doctor hablaron de la importancia de la fe en sus vidas.

“Tú sabes que Dios te acompaña”, dijo el doctor, que asiste la parroquia Nuestra Señora del Rosario en Little Italy. “Y que tú estás ayudando un poquito”.

La mejor parte de cada jornada, dijo el doctor, es ver a los niños después de las operaciones.

“Ver la belleza en sus caras.”

The Southern Cross

Grupo de donación de fondos

El Mercy Outreach Surgical Team ofrece cirugía reconstructiva gratuita para niños y adultos de bajos recursos en México. El equipo es financiado de manera filantrópica. Para mayor informes o para hacer una donación comuníquese al (844) 442-GIVE (4483) o scripps.org/mercymost.

El Padre para Todos los Tiempos

Celebran los 70 años de servicio del líder legendario del barrio

Por Aida Bustos

BARRIO LOGAN — A la gente joven le encanta reunirse, bailar y dar la vuelta en sus carros.

El Padre Richard Brown les dio lo que tanto les gusta- además de hablarles un poco de Dios. A cambio, le dieron todo su cariño y lo siguieron; de hecho el Padre Brown rompió récord de seguidores.

El Padre se ha dedicado a crear relaciones con gente joven durante siete décadas - y aún no termina. A pesar de que se le dificultaba caminar debido a su artritis, el sacerdote de 89 años de edad celebra misa cada mañana en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, ubicada frente a su residencia, y mantiene un calendario social activo.

El Padre Brown es una historia de amor. Trata sobre un sacerdote que ama a la gente sin importar su origen étnico, edad o posición social. Es sobre una parroquia que ama a su líder legendario. Y es sobre una vecindad que ama a su compañero más conocido.

Su historia es especialmente relevante hoy en día en que la Iglesia Católica batalla desde Roma hasta las comunidades locales de todo el mundo para conseguir atraer a los jóvenes a la Iglesia.

Eso es precisamente lo que el Padre Brown fue llamado a hacer en 1968 cuando por primera vez fue asignado a ser pastor asistente de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, atendiendo a las familias de habla hispana.

Esa labor se le dio de manera muy natural. Originario de San Diego, el Padre Brown se graduó de la Preparatoria San Agustín en 1944 y tras un periodo en la Marina Mercante obtuvo su maestría en teología de la Universidad Gonzaga. Tras ser ordenado sacerdote Jesuita en 1958, enseñó inglés, español y Cultura Hispana en Los Ángeles. Después vivió durante cinco meses en la Ciudad de México para reforzar su español. Durante ese tiempo formó el Club San Ignacio de Loyola, el cual se convirtió en uno de los centros juveniles más populares de la región.

Una era de activismo comenzaba a florecer en Barrio Logan cuando regresó en 1968. A lo largo de los próximos dos años los residentes habían ocupado una parcela que posteriormente se convertiría en el Chicano Park, una abuela se encadenaría a un edificio que posteriormente sería una clínica de salud que hacía mucha falta y un centro llamado Barrio Station abriría sus puertas para ofrecer a los jóvenes un refugio de las drogas y el crimen.

El Padre también comenzó una era de activismo en la parroquia que continúa hasta el día de hoy. Durante 37 años, organizó a jóvenes católicos de la localidad como nunca antes nadie lo había hecho, comenzó celebraciones que se han convertido en tradiciones y literalmente tocó a generaciones de gente de todos los caminos de la vida cuya fe está anclada en Barrio Logan.

Cientos de estos individuos se reunirán el 18 de junio en una cena para honrar sus 70 años de servicio Jesuita y para reunir fondos para becas para su amada causa, Our Lady's School (Escuela de Nuestra Señora). Ubicada en la parroquia, la escuela atiende a alumnos que cursan de kinder hasta 5to de primaria.

Adela García tenía 17 años cuando el Padre Brown llegó. Su familia pertenecía a la congregación y ella era voluntaria en la oficina de la parroquia.

“Ahí estaba el sacerdote en shorts”, recordó. “Era tan relajado, tan diferente a lo que estábamos acostumbrados”.

La parroquia tenía grupos de jóvenes latinos de años atrás, tales como Acción Católica y Las Guadalupeñas, a los cuales acudían entre 10 y 15 jóvenes regularmente.

“(El Padre Brown) reconoció que había un gran grupo de personas que no participaban”, comentó García, y se puso a trabajar.

En 1969 estableció la Organización Católica Juvenil (CYO, por sus siglas en inglés), un programa diocesano para atraer a gente joven que a su vez era parte de una iniciativa nacional de la Iglesia Católica.

El CYO se reunía los viernes por la noche. “Primero teníamos 50 miembros, luego 100, luego 200”, comentó García. “En ocasiones llenábamos el Salón Century del hotel El Cortez para bailes con 1,000 miembros”.

El Padre Brown era el encargado del club CYO, ofreciendo actividades sociales para los miembros. Entre las que se incluían fiestas una vez al mes en el salón de la iglesia, bailes en barcos, tales como Bahía Belle, salidas a Disneyland y hasta viajes a Hawái. Los miembros del club realizaban eventos para sacar fondos para esas actividades.

“Algunas personas todavía me dicen que ha sido la época más divertida de su vida”, recordó el Padre Brown.

El Padre les hablaba sobre Dios pero no de manera tradicional, aseguró García, como los que citan los versos de la Biblia.

“Nos enseñó a vivir de la manera que Dios quería que viviéramos y a disfrutarlo”, recordó. “Y a no estar molestos porque no éramos perfectos. Nos decía que tratáramos de ser mejor”.

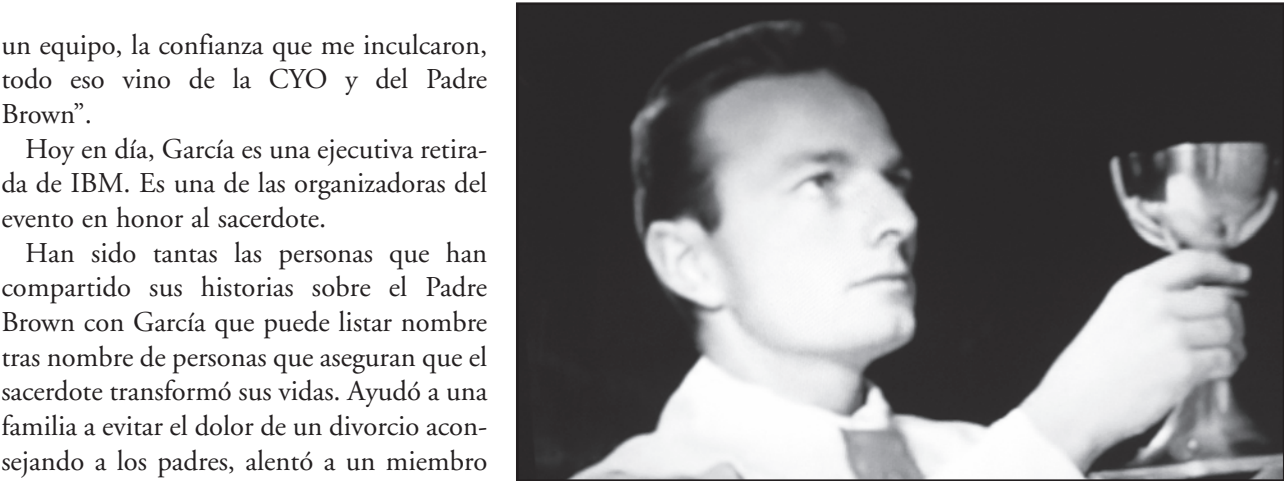
García recordó que durante una de las primeras reuniones de la CYO el Padre Brown les dijo a los asistentes, “La Iglesia no es perfecta. Hemos tenido problemas serios. Hemos tenido malos sacerdotes y malos papas pero hemos salido adelante”.

El sacerdote le enseñaba a cada persona que Dios les había regalado un talento y que estaba en ellos descubrir cuál era y ponerlo en práctica.

En algún momento el Padre Brown le pidió a García dirigir la CYO. No estaba segura de poder hacerlo. Él le dijo que ella tenía todo para ser líder y que él la apoyaría.

García confió en él y eventualmente guió a la organización durante 10 años.

“La CYO fue la roca sobre la cual yo fui construida. Todos mis habilidades de liderazgo, mi habilidad para formar parte de



un equipo, la confianza que me inculcaron, todo eso vino de la CYO y del Padre Brown”.

Hoy en día, García es una ejecutiva retirada de IBM. Es una de las organizadoras del evento en honor al sacerdote.

Han sido tantas las personas que han compartido sus historias sobre el Padre Brown con García que puede listar nombre tras nombre de personas que aseguran que el sacerdote transformó sus vidas. Ayudó a una familia a evitar el dolor de un divorcio aconsejando a los padres, alentó a un miembro de la CYO a mantenerse enfocada en sus estudios para salir adelante; y ofreció testimonio crucial para ayudar a otro miembro a obtener su estatus migratorio legal.

Bertha Olivas cursaba el segundo de primaria en Our Lady's School cuando llegó el Padre Brown. Eventualmente se uniría a la CYO y participaría en muchas de las actividades que él ayudaba a organizar.

“Nos entendía”, dijo Olivas. “Para nosotros, él era un ángel”.

A través de los años, el Padre Brown ha estado en los eventos más importantes de su vida.

Celebró su Primera Comunión, su misa de quinceañera, su boda y sus bodas de plata. Cuando su esposo falleció el año pasado, el Padre Brown ofició la misa del funeral.

Multiplifica esas acciones por 37 años de servicio en la parroquia y su impacto en la comunidad es claro.

Ya de adulto Olivas impartió clases en Our Lady's School. Actualmente, trabaja en



LEYENDA: El Padre Richard Brown a lo largo de los años y hoy en día: Foto superior, el Padre platica con los estudiantes de Our Lady's School todos los días – y ellos lo adoran. En otra época, estudiantes de la Preparatoria San Agustín (foto superior a la derecha) formaban parte del CYO. El Padre fue ordenado el 15 de junio de 1958 (foto a la izquierda). En diciembre de 1971, el Padre lanzó la procesión inaugural para celebrar la Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Vicente Fernández asistió una misa en la parroquia durante una visita a San Diego y conoció a sus párrocos, el Padre Brown y el Padre Jaime Rasura, quienes sirvieron esa iglesia juntos por más de 35 años.

Station, un centro para jóvenes en riesgo de ingresar a pandillas o involucrarse en la delincuencia y la violencia. Un líder de un club de lowriders le sugirió que conociera al Padre Brown.

Así fue, y ella lo invitó a formar parte de la mesa directiva de Barrio Station. Desde entonces ha sido miembro, y ahora, unos 46 años después, es presidente de la mesa directiva. A lo largo de este recorrido ha apoyado a Ortiz, inclusive ha dado discursos en el palacio municipal a favor de los jóvenes de la zona.

Ortiz aplaude al Padre Brown por trabajar fuera de la iglesia para conocer a la gente, incluyendo miembros de pandillas.

“Caminaba por el barrio sin miedo alguno”, recordó. “Platicaba con muchos

chicos peligrosos con quien nadie más quería perder su tiempo; él los saludaba de mano”.

Ortiz calcula que en aquel tiempo había como unos 1,000 pandilleros en la colonia.

Recuerda una conferencia en Barrio Station llevada a cabo a finales de los ochenta en época de Navidad con la intención de reducir la violencia. Miembros de todas las pandillas de la colonia asistieron, incluyendo los Red Steps, Los Treintas, Los Treces y Calle 26.

Ortiz recordó lo que el sacerdote les dijo a los miembros.

“No se maten unos a otros. No pasen su vida en prisión. Mejor, trabajen para que se pueda vivir mejor en su comunidad”, les dijo. “Algún día vamos a tener nuevas casas

y un buen mercado”.

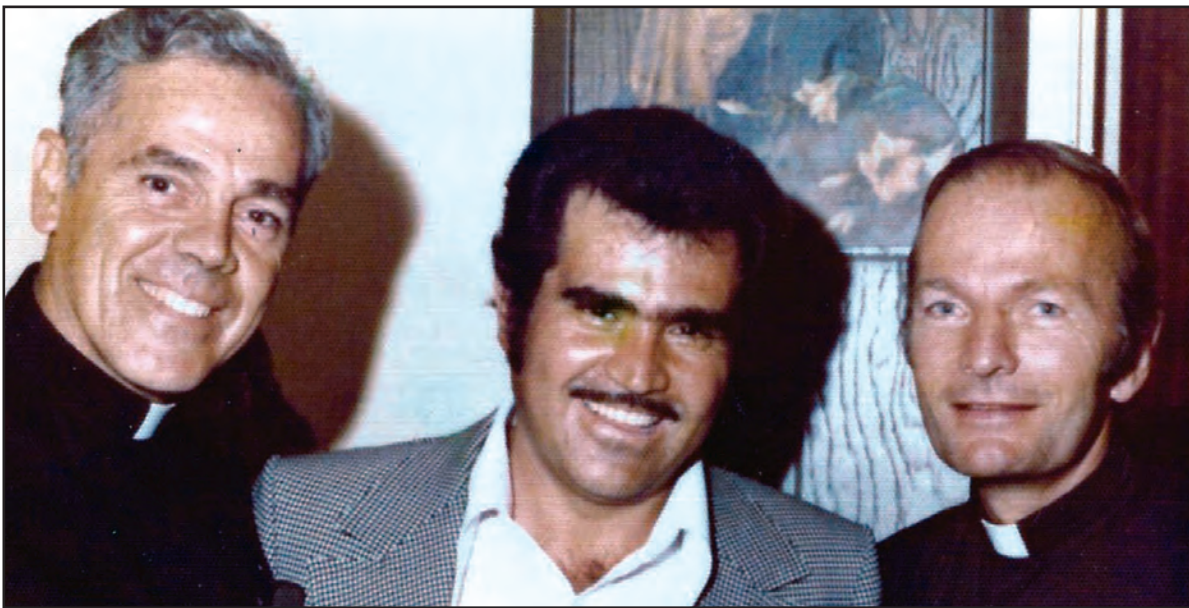
Todo eso se logró, Ortiz dijo, agregando que para hacerlo se requirió mucho trabajo de mucha gente por mucho tiempo. Ella considera al sacerdote como parte de su familia.

“Para mí es como un padre. Somos muy,

muy cercanos. Le puedo platicar cualquier cosa”, afirmó.

“Siempre será nuestro ‘Padre del Barrio’. Es nuestro líder espiritual. Es padre para todos nosotros”.

The Southern Cross



Cena para el Padre Brown

La cena para rendir tributo al Padre Richard Brown, quien cumplirá 70 años de servicio Jesuita, será el 18 de junio en el Jacobs Center de San Diego.

El registro se llevará a cabo de 5:30 a 6:30 p.m. y la cena-baile de 6:30 a 11 p.m. Los boletos cuestan \$75 por persona y están disponibles en la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, 1770 Kearney Ave., San Diego 92113, o en línea en olgsd.org. Para mayores informes comuníquese al (619) 233-3838.

El Jacobs Center está ubicado en 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego 92114.

► DIÁCONOS

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Vivirán 'una vida de servicio más profunda y humilde'

al predicar la palabra de Dios, santificar al administrar el sacramento del bautismo" y servir en el altar durante la misa, y "alentar a la comunidad".

Como diácono recién ordenado aseguró que luchará por "continuar construyendo el Reino de Dios aquí en la tierra a través de la caridad, justicia social y la familia".

Diácono Juan Santillán y su esposa María han estado casados durante 36 años, tienen dos hijos. Han sido miembros de la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís en Vista durante 13 años.

Diácono Federico Drachenberg
Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón,
Coronado

En su juventud Federico Drachenberg no era un feligrés como cualquier otro.

"Consideraba ir a la Iglesia como una tradición, más que un momento de encuentro significativo con Dios", dijo. "Mi mente estaba llena de preguntas y distracciones".

Pero la claridad llegó en la forma de su esposa, Claudia, quien lo ayudó a descubrir "la alegría de vivir una vida de fe".

Sintiendo "el impulso del Espíritu Santo" a involucrarse más en su parroquia, Diácono Drachenberg y su esposa se convirtieron en extraordinarios ministros de la Sagrada Eucaristía. Cinco años después, él ingresó al programa formativo diaconal.

"Cada uno de nosotros es llamado en un momento particular y de una manera particular", comentó el dentista de 50 años. "Me siento bendecido de haber sido llamado a servir".

Diácono Drachenberg dijo que el diácono es llamado a ser "un siervo imperceptible durante las celebraciones litúrgicas y un campeón para la causa pastoral de nuestras parroquias".

"Mi expectativa como diácono es materializar - lo mejor que pueda y con la ayuda de Dios- los regalos de fe, esperanza y amor para la gloria de Dios".

Diácono Federico y Claudia Drachenberg han estado casados durante 25 años, y tienen tres hijos. Han sido miembros de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Coronado durante 17 años.

Diácono John Tobin
Parroquia de San Esteban,
Valley Center

Hace 15 años el pastor de John Tobin le dijo que era demasiado joven para entrar al diaconado.

"Eso fue el fin de eso," recordó Diácono Tobin, ahora 49.

Excepto que en realidad no fue el fin, sino todo lo contrario.

A partir de ese momento la idea de ser diácono regresaría continuamente. Rechazó esa idea durante los próximos 10 años, pero en 2011 él y su esposa sintieron que Dios los estaba guiando por un nuevo camino. Uno de los diáconos de la parroquia le preguntó



DIÁCONOS: Los nuevos diáconos y sus esposas celebraron con el Obispo Robert McElroy el pasado 3 de junio en la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Monte Carmelo. De izquierda a derecha, ellos fueron John Tobin, Sergio Hernández, Juan Santillán, Federico Drachenberg y William Turner.

si había considerado el diaconado anteriormente y tan solo dos meses después los esposos Tobin estaban con el director de la Oficina Diocesana para el Diaconado Permanente.

El ministerio diaconal es "amar a quienes necesitan ser amados, donde sea que se encuentren", explicó Diácono Tobin, quien trabajó durante 30 años en la industria automotriz hasta el pasado noviembre cuando renunció a su trabajo debido al aumento en la demanda de su formación diaconal.

Diácono Tobin se está dedicando de lleno a su nuevo ministerio mientras espera a ver "a donde nos conduce el Señor", en términos de empleo.

Comentó que "el hecho de que ahora no soy solo responsable por las almas de mi esposa y mis hijos, sino también las de los fieles a los que estaremos sirviendo es una gran responsabilidad, una que no tomaremos a la ligera".

Diácono Tobin y su esposa Cyndie han estado casados durante 29 años, tienen 8 hijos. Han pertenecido a la Parroquia de San Esteban en Valley Center durante 20 años.

Diácono William Turner
Parroquia del Inmaculado Corazón de
María, Ramona

En un estudio de Biblia Cuaresmal en 1995 William Turner leyó pasajes del Evangelio de San Mateo que lo hicieron cuestionarse sobre qué significaba ser un "verdadero discípulo de Jesús".

Fue en ese momento que sintió el llamado de servir a la Iglesia. Pero, por lo menos en ese momento, no cumplía los requisitos para ingresar al programa formativo diaconal en la diócesis de Gaylord, Mich.

Por lo que él y su esposa se registraron en el Instituto para Ministerio, donde estudiaron de 1997 a 2000. Continuaron yendo a su estudio semanal de Biblia e impartían pláticas prematrimoniales para parejas com-

prometidas.

En 2012, seis años después de mudarse a Ramona, un parroquiano lo alentó a considerar el diaconado.

Diácono Turner, de 61 años y experto en plomería en Lowe's de Santee, dijo que en su ministerio diaconal ha sido llamado a "abrir mi corazón al amor de Dios a través de la oración y la contemplación", servir como "puente entre el amor de Cristo y las personas necesitadas", "a escuchar con el corazón de Jesús y ...traer sanación, amor y

alegría a todos aquellos a los que serviré".

Espera con ansias la oportunidad de predicar y trabajar con parejas comprometidas o matrimonios jóvenes, así como matrimonios en problemas.

Diácono Turner ha estado casado con su esposa Suzan durante 38 años, tienen dos hijos. Los Turner han sido miembros de la Parroquia del Inmaculado Corazón de María en Ramona durante 10 años.

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Breves

Retiro subraya importancia de abrir tiempo para Dios

OCEANSIDE – Un total de 160 de catequistas y liderazgo parroquial de 29 parroquias de la diócesis, desde la Señora de Monte Carmelo en San Ysidro hasta San Pedro en Fallbrook, asistieron el Retiro Anual de Fin de Año. El evento, organizado por la Oficina para Ministerio de Evangelización y Catequesis, se llevó a cabo el 4 de junio en la Misión San Luis Rey de Francia.

El propósito fue abrir un espacio para concientizar sobre la importancia que tiene la espiritualidad de cada persona y la unidad familiar como también reflexionar sobre el amor infinito y misericordioso de Dios. El orador principal, el Padre Jesús Cárdenas Núñez, del Seminario Diocesano de Tijuana, enfatizó que es imprescindible que las personas hagan un alto en sus vidas tan ocupadas y aparten tiempo de calidad para Dios. Subrayó la importancia de nutrir la vida espiritual.

Dentro del núcleo familiar es donde se aprenden los valores, dijo el padre, por lo tanto mujeres, hombres y jóvenes se deben reintegrar como familia en Cristo, y no ceder a las demandas de lo que la cultura y sociedad define como modelo a seguir. Más información sobre los programas de la Oficina Para Ministerio de Evangelización y Catequesis está disponible al (858) 490-8237 o a través del correo electrónico mgalvan@sdccatholic.org.

Obispos de California reitera oposición a suicidio asistido

SACRAMENTO -- La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de California, conformada por obispos de las dos arquidiócesis y diez diócesis de California, publicaron la siguiente declaración sobre la legalización del suicidio asistido por médicos: “Todo ser humano posee una dignidad inherente que merece nuestro respeto. Cada

uno de nosotros debería sentirse amado, respetado y valorado en todo momento de nuestras vidas, especialmente cuando se acerca el final de nuestra existencia terrenal. “Lo que algunas personas equivocadamente consideran una ‘libertad’ recién descubierta, inevitablemente se convertirá en una responsabilidad para otros. Al permitir que los médicos receten una dosis letal de fármacos a sus pacientes, California emprende un recorrido peligroso. Esta nueva ley pondrá en riesgo de sufrir abuso y maltrato a las personas con discapacidades, a los ancianos y otras personas vulnerables, además de que debilitará el compromiso venerable de los profesionales sanitarios de “ante todo no hacer daño”.

“Como católicos, desde los inicios de nuestra fe, hemos recibido el llamado de cuidar a los enfermos. Esta ley no frenará el compromiso de cuidar la vida en todas sus etapas. Los Obispos de California y las instituciones sanitarias católicas, asociadas nuestras, renovamos nuestra promesa de brindar servicios excepcionales de asistencia sanitaria y cuidados compasivos a las personas frente a diagnósticos de enfermedades terminales. “Juntos, nos comprometemos a fortalecer nuestros servicios de cuidados paliativos y otros servicios médicos para las personas con enfermedades crónicas y enfermedades terminales, para que ninguna persona que nosotros atendamos se sienta presionada a elegir el suicidio asistido.

“Nos hemos pronunciado – y seguiremos pronunciándonos – firmemente en contra de esta ley equivocada. “El Papa Francisco nos ha desafiado muchas veces a que cuidemos a las personas marginadas. Hacemos eco de este compromiso de nuestra fe y tomamos en serio las palabras de San Juan Pablo II: “¡Respeten, protejan, amen y sirvan a la vida, a toda vida humana! ¡Sólo en este sentido encontrarán la justicia, el desarrollo, la verdadera libertad, la paz y la felicidad!”

El Niño de Praga viene a Parroquia en La Jolla

LA JOLLA- Estrella de Maria de la Parroquia del Mar le dará la bienvenida a una réplica oficial de la estatua del Santo

Fiesta en el Valle Imperial



La parroquia Santa Margarita María de Brawley llevó a cabo una procesión en el marco de la celebración de Corpus Christi el 29 de mayo, liderada por los Padres Ed Horning (izquierda) y Bernardo Lara (centro). Fieles de las parroquias Sagrado Corazón y Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro (ambas de Brawley) y de San José (Westmorland) también participaron en el tradicional desfile hacia el Parque Guadalupe.

Niño Jesús de Praga en una misa bilingüe, que se celebrará el sábado, 16 de julio, a las 6 p.m. La estatua ha sido bendecida dos veces. La primera vez, en el Santuario del Niño Jesús de Praga, y la segunda, en el Santuario de la Divina Misericordia en Polonia.

La devoción al Niño de Praga nació en España y fue expandida por la nobleza en Praga. La leyenda sugiere que la estatua original, que fue tallada por un monje, perteneció a Santa Teresa de Ávila. La fe por el El Niño de Praga ha sido adoptada por muchos fieles a lo largo de la historia. Él es el santo patrono de la paz, las vocaciones, los niños, la vida en familia, las escuelas, la salud, las finanzas, las misiones en el extranjero y los viajeros.

Gala recauda fondos para niños sin hogar

SAN DIEGO - “Una Noche en La Vieja Habana”, la Gala benéfica de niños de Las Aldeas del Padre Joe 2016, se llevó a cabo el 21 mayo en el Inn de Rancho Santa Fe. El evento recaudó fondos para los programas de Las Aldeas del Padre Joe (Father Joe's Villages) que asiste a niños de 0 a 12 años que necesitan ayuda terapéutica y para ado-

lescentes sin hogar y jóvenes en riesgo que viven temporalmente en la Academia Toussaint.

Las ganancias de la gala ayudarán a estos jóvenes a obtener las herramientas que necesitan para romper su ciclo en situación de calle, incluyendo seguridad de vivienda, servicios médicos y dentales, salud mental, comidas nutritivas, orientación sólida de vida y metas escolares, y oportunidades para sus padres para que trabajen hacia la autosuficiencia.

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

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

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con el Padre Patricio Murphy

Miércoles del 3 al 31 de agosto, 2016 de 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity, 405 Ballard St., El Cajon, CA 92020

Costo: \$35, incluye materiales y certificado. Favor de traer su Biblia.

Enseñando como Orar

con Dulce Jiménez

Miércoles, 31 de agosto, 2016 de 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Gratuito

Taller de Ambiente Seguro y Reporte de Abuso

con Rodrigo Valdivia, JCL

Martes, 13 de septiembre, 2016 de 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Centro Pastoral Diocesano

Gratuito

Misa de Comisión para Ministros Eclesiales y Presentación sobre el Año de la Misericordia

por el Sr. Obispo Robert McElroy

Martes, 20 de septiembre, 2016 de 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Iglesia San Judas, 1129 S. 38th St., San Diego, CA 92113

Gratuito, incluye almuerzo

Se les invita al liderazgo parroquial a que asista.

PSICOTERAPIA BILINGÜE

basada en la fe Católica

Se aceptan varios seguros médicos y escala proporcional.



Mary L Hill

MA LMFT (Lic. # 83383)

760-687-9883

ESPECIALIDADES:

- Depresión y Ansiedad
- Crianza de los Hijos
- Violencia Doméstica
- Relaciones Matrimoniales y de Familia

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Allstate

You're in good hands.



Candy Raya

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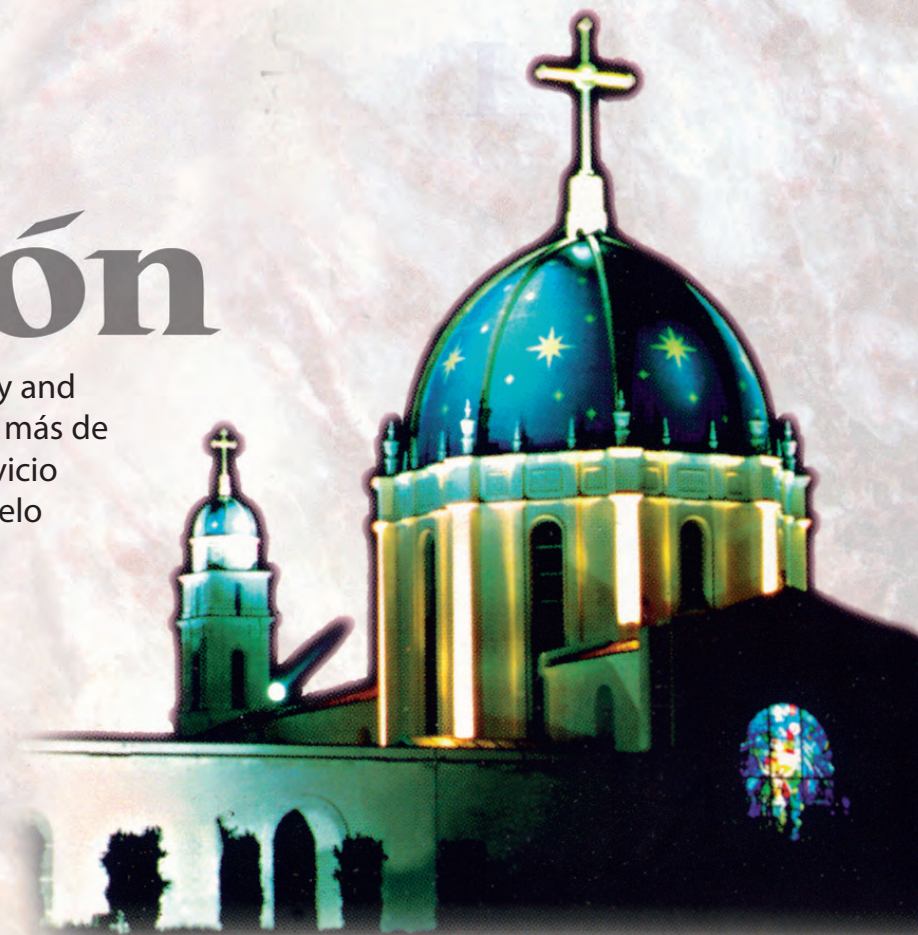
St. Charles Parishioner

Tradición

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

Santuario

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



Fe

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

Compromiso

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

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

HOLY CROSS
Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum

4470 Hilltop Drive • San Diego 92102

619 264 3127