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'I'm Just a Little Story of Mercy'

Former model receives God's forgiveness, promotes purity

By Denis Grasska

EL CAJON — Six years ago, Leah Darrow turned her back on a promising modeling career, but she does not regret that decision.

Darrow, once a contestant on the reality television series "America's Next Top Model," is now a nationally-known Catholic speaker.

At parishes, high schools and conferences, she tells the story of how God's love and mercy transformed her life after a decade of living unchastely.

In her presentations, she also challenges young people to reject the world's misguided notions about love and happiness.

"My heart ... just breaks for them because I know that they want love, they want happiness, and they're trying so hard to get that," Darrow told *The Southern Cross*. "I just want them to realize that there is something greater out there" than what the world offers.

Though she grew up in a devout Catholic family, which had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother and recited the rosary every night, Darrow said "things ... got foggy" during her high school and college years, which were marked by impure relationships and irresponsible behavior.

"I lost track of who I was and what I wanted," she said. "I did not know my worth. I did not know I was really loved ... by God."

Eventually, she came to believe that her sins were so great that God could never forgive them. As a result, she lacked motivation to change.

After college, Darrow auditioned for "America's Next Top Model," appeared on the show in 2004 and then continued modeling professionally in New York City. But in 2005, during a photo shoot for an international magazine, she had an experience that changed her life.



ROLE MODEL: Former model Leah Darrow is now a nationally-known Catholic speaker.

When asked to model a particularly immodest outfit, Darrow said, "I was so uncomfortable putting it on in front of strangers ... I just felt so incredibly exposed and violated, and I was volunteering for this."

And then it happened: The flash of the photographer's camera hit her eyes, and everything went white for a few seconds. She saw herself, dressed in the very outfit she was modeling, and she had the unshakeable feeling that she was standing in the presence of God.

In her vision, she cupped her hands and raised them to her Creator, but sensed that God was disappointed with what she was offering: Her hands were empty.

At that moment, Darrow realized she was squandering her talents, wasting her life, in the vain pursuit of "secular beauty and fleeting happiness." She walked out of the photo shoot and called her father, who drove her back to her family home in St. Louis, Mo.

SEE DARROW, PAGE 6

Catholic Organizations Working to Buy Local Radio Station

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Several local Catholic organizations, spearheaded by San Diego Catholic Radio Inc., are working together to bring full-time Catholic radio broadcasting to San Diego.

With a successful fundraising campaign already well underway, San Diego Catholic Radio is in talks to purchase a local radio station.

Preparing the way for full-time broadcasting has been the mission of Catholic Radio of San Diego.

A local affiliate of the EWTN Catholic Radio Network, Catholic Radio of San Diego can be heard from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, on AM 1000 KCEO, and online at www.catholicradioofsandiego.com.

The nightly line-up currently includes one hour of local content, followed by another hour of EWTN national programming. After a station is acquired, Catholic radio will be broadcast full-time, 24 hours a day for seven days a week.

"Our overall goal has always been full-time Catholic radio in San Diego, and it's all about evangelizing and bringing the teachings of our Lord to the airwaves," said producer Mary Moran, who also co-hosts the Thursday night program "Life Is Worth Loving."

Stephen Beuerle, president of San Diego Catholic Radio, said talks are ongoing with several existing radio stations. He said San Diego Catholic Radio expects that it will have a radio station under contract by December "and

then convert it, no pun intended, into a Catholic radio station." The station would be operated by Immaculate Heart Radio.

A \$5.7 million capital campaign, co-chaired by Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers and attorney Charles LiMandri, began earlier this year. LiMandri is also a co-host of the Monday night program "From the Front Lines of the Culture War."

Beuerle said statistics show that Catholic radio "lifts the whole" SEE RADIO, PAGE 8

Teachers, Principals Keep Busy with Summer Conferences, Workshops

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — With their students on vacation, summer is a time when many teachers and principals further their own education.

Many programs and workshops are offered throughout the summer months to provide Catholic educators with the tools to better teach their students and to strengthen the Catholic identity of their schools.

The most heavily attended of this summer's offerings was the annual Catholic Educators Religion Conference, held Aug. 16 at the Town and Country Resort & Conference Center in Mission Valley.

Almost 500 teachers and principals attended the conference, which is hosted by the Diocese of San Diego in partnership with William H. Sadlier Inc. The conference included a keynote presentation by Carole Eipers, vice president and executive director of Sadlier publishing, and a Mass celebrated by Fathers Bruce Orsborn and Ron Buchmiller.

In her presentation, Eipers stressed the importance of "teaching as Jesus did," noting that "God defines what a teacher of the faith should be by how He taught."

"Jesus the teacher ... gave us homework, like any good teacher: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, teaching them all that I have taught you,'" she said. "And so, God has sent you to be teachers of children, of youth, of



WORKSHOP: Sister Breege Boyle (background), associate director of the diocesan Office for Schools, oversees the annual Beginning Teachers Workshop Aug. 17.

parents, of each other, in the name of Jesus and the Church."

Eipers said that, while many skills are required of a good Catholic school teacher, the most important thing is to have a relationship with Jesus.

Dressed in a Catholic schoolgirl uniform, Eipers utilized several props to reinforce the main points of her presentation, at one point donning a pair of oversized pointy ears to emphasize the value of lis-

tening. But her humor was all in service of a serious message: Catholic educators play an essential role in the Church.

"You as Catholic educators are responsible for Catholicism. You are the stewards of the Catholic faith," Eipers said. "What will you hand on to other Catholics? What will you keep and foster? What are we in danger of leaving behind, or losing or forgetting? Our own continuing formation is critical as we

answer those questions."

Stevan Laaperi, director of the diocesan Office for Schools, reported receiving positive feedback from conference attendees and said the event served as "a great foundation for a brand-new school year."

Amber Johnson, principal of St. Rita School, was among those who found the conference helpful.

"It brings everyone together before the start of the year, and it just creates that excitement ... in

our ministry as teachers and as administrators in Catholic education," she said. "I think that's where we benefit the most. And the diocese and the Office for Schools, they've been able to find some spectacular speakers."

This summer, professional growth opportunities for local Catholic educators began shortly after the school year ended in June.

SEE TEACHERS, PAGE 16

New President/CEO Takes Charge at Father Joe's Villages

SAN DIEGO — Sister Patricia A. Cruise has been appointed as the new president and chief executive officer of Father Joe's Villages and its partner agencies — St. Vincent de Paul Village and Toussaint Youth Villages in San Diego and Martha's Village & Kitchen in Indio.

Sister Cruise, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, knows she has some big shoes to fill as she takes on a position held for three decades by the namesake of Father Joe's Villages, Msgr. Joseph Carroll.

"It's an honor to me to follow Father Joe," she said. "He really identified the issues of the homeless in San Diego and really has provided healthy services. My job is to continue that as long as there's a need in this city — and there will be for a long time."

Before her current position, Sister Cruise served as president and CEO of Covenant House International, the largest privately funded nonprofit agency in North and Central America. The agency has 21 shelters in six countries and assists more than 60,000 homeless children and youth each year



SISTER PATRICIA A. CRUISE

through a variety of services, including medical care, educational and vocational programs. Sister Cruise provided overall management to the organization and was responsible for raising \$120 million each year.

In addition to her work with homeless youth, Sister Cruise has more than 25 years of expertise in education and academic administration. She most recently served as president of Seton High School in Cincinnati, executive vice president and CEO at Red Cloud Indian School in South Dakota, and director of campus ministry/student activities at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati.

Sister Cruise served on the boards of The Glen at St. Joseph in Dayton, St. Joseph's Home in Cincinnati, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lincoln. She has been a consultant, mediator and facilitator to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and an adjunct professor at the College of Mount St. Joseph.

Born in Edenton, N.C., and raised in Winchester, Mass., Sister Cruise earned a bachelor's degree in education from Russell Sage College (Troy, N.Y.) and a Master of Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology (Berkeley, Calif.). The first of four children, she has three brothers and sisters-in-law along with five nieces and one

nephew. Her parents reside in Cincinnati.

"We are pleased to have found in Sister Tricia a leader with extensive experience in nonprofit management and a heart to serve others," said Father Joe's Villages Board Chairman Steve Francis. "Her energy and collaborative spirit honor the legacy Father Joe began 30 years ago."

"It is the start of a new era in our development of programs and services," said Father Joe. "I am happy to welcome Sister Tricia to the Villages and look forward to working with her on behalf of our neighbors in need."

Father Joe retired in April to serve as president emeritus of the organization. Sister Cruise's appointment became effective Aug. 22.

Sister Cruise said Father Joe's Villages has enjoyed "wonderful, longtime support" from local parishes.

"They've provided their time, and talents, and treasures for many years," she said, "and I want to thank them for that and also ask them to continue to help out their neighbors."

The Southern Cross

St. Francis School Kicks Off Jubilee Year

VISTA — St. Francis of Assisi School inaugurated its 50th year this past Labor Day weekend.

Approximately 800 students, alumni and parishioners attended a 50th anniversary Mass celebrated Sept. 2 by Bishop Robert H. Brom. After the liturgy, Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilera presented Principal Brian Wheeler with a “St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Day” proclamation on behalf of the city of Vista.

The following day, in conjunction with the school’s 50th anniversary, a special alumni Mass and reunion reception were held in the church and hall. St. Francis School graduates and former staff members from as early as 1965 attended the reception. Many attendees traveled from out of state to take part in the celebration.

“It is just so wonderful to see and visit with all these familiar faces and to relive the memories of our great school,” said Sister Madeline Fitzgerald, who moved to Vista from Ireland to teach at the school from 1977 to 1990.

St. Francis School was built in 1961 and was staffed by the Sisters of Poor Clare from Ireland. It graduated its first eighth-grade class in 1963. Currently, the school has a student body of more than 300 in preschool through eighth grade. Most of the classrooms are housed in the original buildings as well as two additional buildings that were added after 1980.

The school will continue to promote and celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout the year.

Reflecting on the school’s history, first-year principal Wheeler said, “We stand upon the shoulders of giants. St. Francis and all the saints of our Church, including the saints-in-making, our brothers and sisters in Christ from 50 years ago, we stand upon their good works.

“We benefit from their example and from their labor in the vineyard of the Lord. We could not be where we are today without their saintly efforts,” he added. “This is what 50 years of school history really means: to give thanks to those whose shoulders we stand upon today.”

The Southern Cross

Pope Tells Young to Share Faith with the World

By Cindy Wooden

MADRID — Pope Benedict XVI saw that 1.4 million young people could be buffeted by gusty winds and drenched by a driving rain and still fall silently to their knees to adore the Eucharist.

At the final Mass closing World Youth Day Aug. 21 in Madrid, the pope challenged the Catholic pilgrims to take that faith, make it grow and share it with the world.

Despite the hardships of getting to the Cuatro Vientos military air base in blistering heat Aug. 20 and the downpour during the nighttime vigil with the pope, hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world spent the night on the open field, praying, singing and perhaps trying to snatch a few hours’ sleep.

But they were up, ready and rowdy when the pope arrived for the morning Mass.

The pope noticed.

In his homily, he said, the vision of that sea of happy souls “fills my heart with joy.”

“I think of the special love with which Jesus is looking upon you. Yes, the Lord loves you and calls you His friends,” the pope told the young.

To the joy of the crowd, particularly the Brazilians present, at the end of the Mass, the pope



WORLD YOUTH DAY: Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas (third from right) poses with fellow pilgrims at World Youth Day in Madrid.

announced that the next international gathering of World Youth Day would be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Benedict said faith is not about understanding a bunch of facts, “it is an ability to grasp the mystery of Christ’s person in all its depth.”

Even if it feels like a struggle at times, faith is not primarily about people working out their thoughts about God; it starts with the gift of God’s love and

God’s reaching out to each person, he said.

Faith entails “a personal relationship with Christ, a surrender of our whole person, with all our understanding, will and feelings,” he said.

But the pope went even further, telling the young that a personal relationship with Jesus always must be transformed into action, service and love for others. In addition, it must be lived within the Church, the community of believers to whom Jesus

entrusted His message and His mission of salvation.

“We cannot follow Jesus on our own,” he said. Those who try “approach the life of faith with the kind of individualism so prevalent today” and risk not encountering the real Jesus or “following a counterfeit Jesus,” he said.

Christ asks each person, “Who do you say that I am?” the pope said.

SEE YOUTH, PAGE 6

California’s Gardasil Bill Decried As Assault on Parental Rights

By Valerie Schmalz

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Catholic Conference is urging Californians to call Gov. Jerry Brown Jr. and urge him to veto AB 499, which would allow children 12 and older to be vaccinated against sexually transmitted disease without parental consent or knowledge.

“It’s just one more assault on parental rights,” said Carol Hogan, spokeswoman for the California bishops’ policy arm. The bill, sponsored by Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, was passed by the state Senate Aug. 31 by a 22-17 vote. The lower house approved the legislation, 50-25, in May.

Already children 12 and older may obtain an abortion or procure contraception without parental knowledge or consent in California, Hogan noted. They may also be treated for sexually transmitted disease without parental consent. The new legislation, if signed by the governor, would add another item to the list, Hogan said.

The bill would allow children to consent to treatment with the controversial Gardasil vaccine intended to prevent human papillomavirus, a sexually transmitted disease linked to cervical cancer.

The cost of the legislation to the taxpayer is

hard to quantify. The three-dose series costs approximately \$300 to \$500 per patient and the bill specifically relieves parents of financial responsibility.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends girls 12 and older be vaccinated against HPV. Bill sponsors say the danger of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HPV, justifies the bill. One in four California teens who are sexually active contracts a sexually transmitted disease each year, according to the California Department of Public Health. However, a legislative analysis of the bill also noted that most cases of HPV dissipate without any treatment.

Supporters of the STD minor-consent legislation include NARAL Pro-Choice California, California Organization for Women, California Nurses Association, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and others.

In a news release when she introduced the legislation, Atkins said, “America was able to eliminate polio in the 1950s through vaccination, saving thousands of lives. AB 499 will help us do the same for sexually transmitted diseases.”

Opponents say the bill not only undermines parental rights, it also exposes children

to the unnecessary risks of side effects as well as sending a message that sexual activity outside of marriage is permissible.

An attempt to mandate vaccination by Gardasil for girls 12 and older failed in 2007 when parents’ rights groups and others, including the California Catholic Conference, successfully lobbied Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who vetoed the bill. Common law assumes parental rights over a child’s welfare but California has enacted a series of laws that erode those rights in matters relating to sexuality.

Hogan said the real agenda of AB 499 is disempowering parents and the result, when this is successful, is generally damaging to children because, without knowledge, parents will not know why a child is ill — whether from hemorrhaging from an abortion or symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases contracted while using contraceptives dispensed at school or at a local health clinic.

“This kid gets horribly ill and because it is a big secret, they aren’t going to tell their parent why they are sick,” Hogan said. “It’s a health risk to the child if the parents don’t know what has happened to their child when the child is out of their presence.”

Catholic News Service

Briefs

Bishops Mobilize Catholics on Conscience Rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are working to mobilize Catholics across the country to tell the Obama administration that contraception and sterilization do not constitute preventive care for women and must not be mandated as part of health reform. Through a new Web site at www.usccb.org/conscience, the bishops hope to generate thousands of comments to the Department of Health and Human Services about its Aug. 1 proposal that would require nearly all employers to provide sterilization and all FDA-approved contraceptives, including some that can cause an abortion, at no cost to women covered by their health insurance plans. But time is of the essence, because the 60-day comment period on the HHS proposal closes Sept. 30. The site also includes a second “action alert” asking Catholics to tell their members of Congress to co-sponsor and pass the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, which would guarantee the protection of conscience rights in all aspects of implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Archbishop Chaput Installed in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, installed Sept. 8 as the new archbishop of Philadelphia, offered encouragement that members of his new archdiocese will get through the “difficult moment” the Local Church has endured. Although rain prevented an outdoor procession at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, it did not dampen the spirits of about 1,700 people, including 400 priests and 100 bishops, who attended the installation Mass. A block away, Catholic high school teachers were picketing during the second day of their strike; in front of the cathedral, while members of the Neocatechumenal Way sang and played guitars and drums, a group of people protesting clergy abuse marched silently, holding aloft signs as a stinging reminder of the recent grand jury report that accused archdiocese officials of failing to prevent abuse of children. Inside the majestic cathedral though, members of the congregation gave their new archbishop, who headed the Denver Archdiocese for the past 14 years, a warm welcome and sustained applause.

Ex-Warden Works to End Death Penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jeanne Woodford looks forward to the day when no one will have to do what she did four

times: plan and carry out an execution. “They all weigh on me, as they do on everyone involved,” said Woodford, a former warden of San Quentin State Prison and now executive director of the national organization Death Penalty Focus. Although her upbringing as a Catholic prompted her moral opposition to capital punishment, she is working to bring it to an end for several “more practical” reasons, she said. “It’s ineffective, it’s costly, and it does so much harm to everyone involved.” Since 1976, when the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, 1,258 people have been executed, according to the Washington-based Death Penalty Information Center. More than 3,200 remain on death row, including 713 people in California. But according to a new report, the system in the United States remains just as arbitrary today as it was when the death penalty was put on hold in 1972.

Missal Binds Catholics Across History

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the third edition of the English-language version of the Roman Missal is implemented at Advent, it will mark the continuing evolution of the Eucharistic liturgy that began in the earliest days of the Church. The most recent changes — which more closely reflect *Liturgiam Authenticam* (“The Authentic Liturgy”), the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments’ 2001 document on liturgical translations — are unlikely to be the last, liturgists agree. From Aramaic to Greek to Latin to vernacular languages after the Second Vatican Council, the Mass has evolved over 2,000 years in an effort to help worshippers appreciate the mystery that is God. Liturgists responsible for catechesis on the missal are reminding the faithful that the translation helps bind modern-day Catholics with early Christians through its more authentic language. “People may find it interesting that this has developed over centuries. It isn’t something dropped out of the sky at Vatican II, but it has a history,” said Christina Ronzio, director of the Office for Worship in the Cleveland Diocese.

Arizona Court Affirms State Abortion Limits

PHOENIX (CNS) — Just two years ago, those attending the annual luncheon of parish respect life coordinators in the Phoenix Diocese were rather discouraged as they faced a new, pro-abortion administration in Washington and the specter of the Freedom of Choice Act that threatened to guarantee abortion rights and negate federal, state and municipal restrictions on abortion. But this year’s gathering Aug. 19 came a day after the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled

Great Deluge



A girl looks out over encroaching floodwaters from the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 8. Relentless rain caused catastrophic flooding in the east and forced the evacuation of more than 130,000 people in three states.

CNS PHOTO/EMILY ALBERT, THE CATHOLIC WITNESS

that restrictions on abortion passed by the state Legislature were both reasonable and constitutional. Following the Court of Appeals decision, Planned Parenthood announced that effective Aug. 22, it would no longer perform abortions at seven of its Arizona clinics. One of the key provisions of the law that was upheld by the Court of Appeals is that only a physician may perform an abortion. With so few doctors willing to perform the procedure, that left nurse practitioners to do so. Not anymore, at least not in Arizona.

Ella Is Abortifacient Drug

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Marketing materials for ella, the emergency contraception pill that will be available without co-pay or deductible to American women of child-bearing age under the new health reform plan, say the drug “provides extra time for extra pregnancy prevention.” But that’s not all it does. The drug, known generically as ulipristal acetate, “may also work by preventing attachment to the uterus,” say the materials distributed by Watson Pharma Inc. of Morristown, N.J.,

which sells ella. It is that effect of preventing the fertilized egg from attaching to the uterine wall that can make ella an abortifacient and has led the U.S. Catholic bishops and others to criticize the Department of Health and Human Services’ decision to include it among the preventive services for women that nearly every health plan in the United States will be required to cover.

Cohabitation Even More Harmful Than Divorce

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While studies have long shown the negative effects on children of divorce compared to those from two-parent households, a new study has determined that children born to cohabiting couples fare even worse than children from divorced families. Despite a drop in the divorce rate, “family instability continues to increase for the nation’s children overall, mainly because more than 40 percent of American children will now spend time in a cohabiting household,” according to the study, “Why Marriage Matters,” issued Aug. 16 by the Center for American Families at

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



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the Institute for American Values and the National Marriage Project, based at the University of Virginia. The study found that not only is cohabitation less stable, it is more dangerous for children. Federal statistics show that children are at least three times more likely to be physically, sexually or emotionally abused in cohabiting households, compared to children in intact, biological married-parent homes. They are also significantly more likely to experience delinquency, drug use and school failure.

Judge Rules Against Catholic Charities

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — An Illinois county circuit judge ruled Aug. 18 that the state of Illinois may refuse to renew its foster care and adoption services contracts with Catholic Charities in the dioceses of Belleville, Joliet, Peoria and Springfield. The decision by Judge John Schmidt of the Sangamon County Circuit Court could potentially impact thousands of children and hundreds of Catholic Charities employees. The ruling came one day after a hearing in Springfield on an ongoing dispute between Catholic Charities in the four dioceses and the state over the legislative intent of the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act, which took effect June 1. Officials in the affected dioceses were reviewing Schmidt's ruling to determine a future course of action. The legal issue stems from Catholic Charities' long-standing practice that prospective adoptive and foster care parents who are cohabiting — regardless of sexual orientation — be referred to other agencies or the Department of Children and Family Services. Lawyers for the Illinois attorney general's office argue that policy now violates state anti-discrimination laws that accommodate gay and lesbian couples in civil unions.

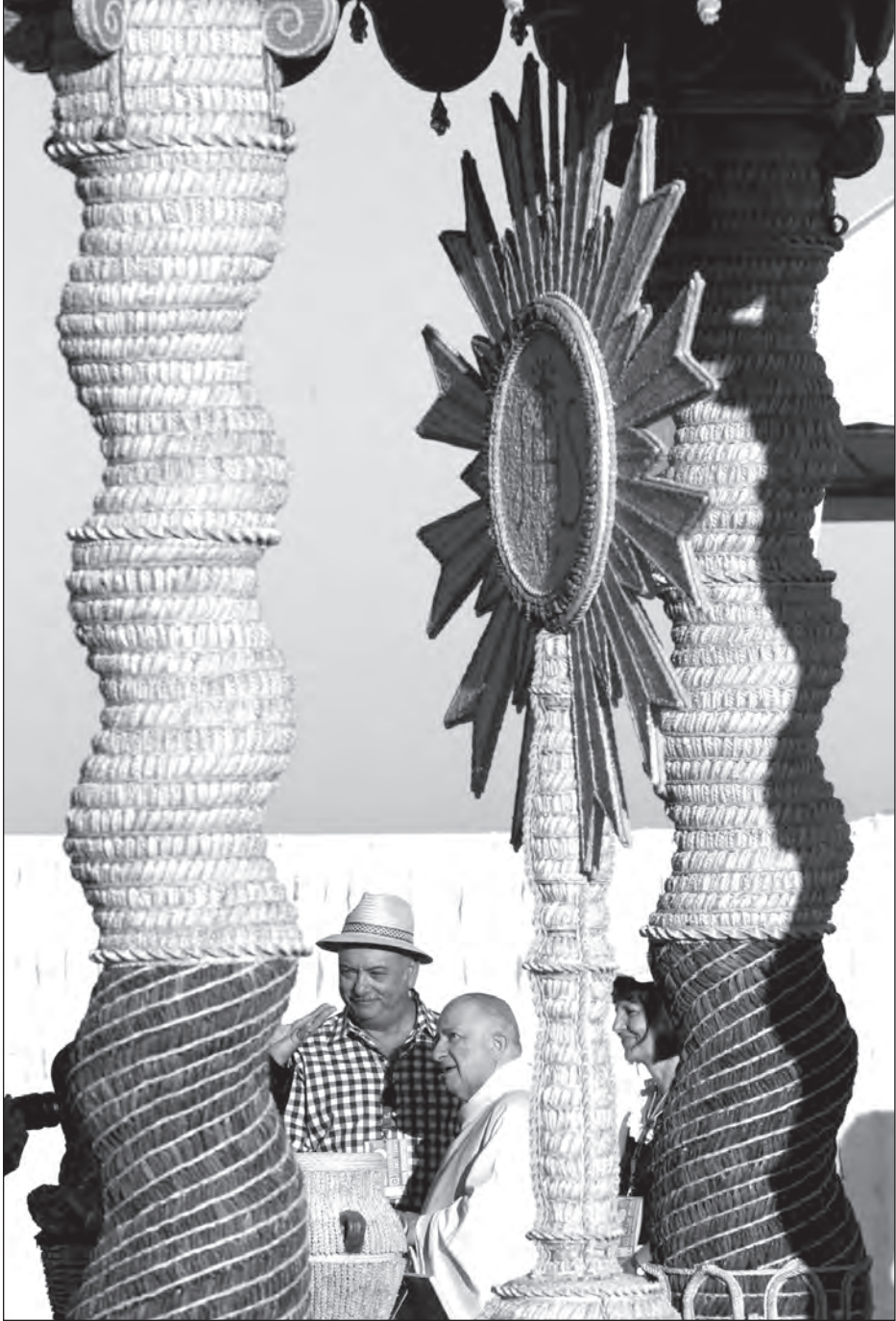
Pope: Reflect on What God is Trying to Tell You

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Most people don't leave any time in their day to stop, listen and reflect on what God is doing and saying in their lives, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Our time is taken up by so many activities, commitments, worries and problems that often one tends to fill up one's whole day without having a second left for stopping to reflect and nourish one's spiritual life" by having contact with God, he said Aug. 17 as he held his weekly general audience in the courtyard of the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo. The pope said it is essential to consistently find a moment every day to be able to "collect our thoughts in silence and meditate on what the Lord wants to teach us, since He is present and acts in the world and our lives." Meditation "means to remember how much God has done" and the bounty of His gifts, he said. "Often we only see the negative," he said, and people must also reflect on all the positive things in their lives.

Papal Farm Produces Food for Pope's Table

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On any given day, the papal table may feature extra-virgin olive oil, lightly pasteurized milk, fresh eggs, free-range chicken, honey, apricots and peaches — all straight from the farm at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. "The pope's farm, even if it is similar to many others, still gives rise to curiosity," said the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. Part of the curiosity comes from the fact that, for years, the only media allowed on the farm have been the writers and photographers who work for the Vatican newspaper. The farm, which covers just under 50 acres, is home to an olive grove, fruit trees and greenhouses used to raise flowers and plants, the newspaper said. Each day, 25 cows produce more than 150 gallons of milk, and more than 200 eggs are collected from some 300 hens. In addition, about 60

Eucharistic Congress



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Italian Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi looks at a large monstrance and canopy before the start of Pope Benedict XVI's celebration of an outdoor Mass to conclude the Italian Eucharistic Congress in Ancona, Italy, Sept. 11. During his Angelus address, the pope remembered the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and called for people to refuse violence as a solution to problems.

chickens are raised for meat. What the pope and his aides do not use is sold to Vatican employees and retirees at their discount

supermarket. *L'Osservatore* said the farm took shape in the 1930s under the pontificate of Pope Pius XI.

2011 FALL FESTIVAL

Blast from the Past

Grand Raffle \$3,000 1st Prize

FRIDAY • Oct 7th 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Dance: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Multicultural Food BBQ Dinner
SATURDAY • OCT 8th 12:00 noon - 10:30 p.m. BBQ Dinner: 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dance: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Beer Garden Live Auction Karaoke
SUNDAY • OCT 9th 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. BBQ Sandwiches Auction: 1:00 p.m. Grand Raffle: 7:00 p.m.	Live Entertainment Bunco & Bingo Fun & Games Craft Booths

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Join Us for Fall Events at USD

SEPTEMBER

21: Atmospheres in Ink: Whistler and the Etching Revival. Exhibition of more than 60 prints explores how James McNeill Whistler and his contemporaries exploited the etching medium to evoke the elusive qualities of atmosphere. Noon to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday and noon to 6 p.m., Thursday in the Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries in Founders Hall. Through Dec. 11. Free. Call (619) 260-4261.

23: Cropper Writers Series. Ron Carlson, award-winning author of 10 books, including "The Signal" and short-story collection "A Kind of Flying," discusses his work. 7:30 p.m., Warren Auditorium in Mother Rosalie Hill Hall. Free.

28: "A Jane for All Seasons: Why We Have Always Read Jane Austen." Cynthia Caywood, USD professor of English, discusses Austen's literary reputation and her influence on both high and popular culture over the last 200 years. For those ages 55 and older. 10 to 11:30 a.m., Degheri Alumni Center, Room 120. Free, RSVP required at jehrgott@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-4815.

29: Women PeaceMakers Panel Discussion.

Human rights leaders from India, Iraq, Haiti and Kenya discuss their work. 7 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Free.

30: Homecoming and Family Weekend. USD's Big and Blue Weekend includes tours and lectures, tailgate picnic and football game, alumni reunion celebrations and Alumni Mass. Through Oct. 2. Go to www.sandiego.edu/homecomingandfamilyweekend or call (619) 260-4819.

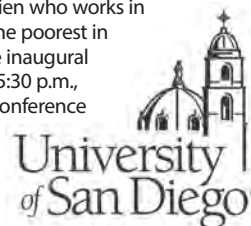
30: Faculty Chamber Music Festival. The trio Licenza - Alyze Dreiling, violin; Angela Yeung, cello and Linda Scott, piano - perform two Mendelssohn piano trios, Op. 49 in D Minor and Op. 66 in C Minor. 7:30 p.m., French Parlor, Founders Hall. \$10, general admission; \$8, seniors, USD faculty, staff, and alumni and \$5, students with I.D. Tickets on sale at the door only.

OCTOBER

6: Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series. Salbi, founder of Women for Women International, discusses development for women in post-conflict countries and bridging religious divides 7 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Free, RSVP required at www.sandiego.edu/ipj or call (619) 260-7509.

13: "Catholicism through the Ages: Plurality and Diversity in a Living Tradition." Presentation by Peter Phan, Ignacio Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University. Noon, Hahn University Center Forum B. Free.

20: "Christian-Muslim Dialogue from Below: Spiritan Perspectives from Pakistan." Missionary priest John O'Brien who works in Pakistan with some of the poorest in that society, delivers the inaugural Emilia Switgall Lecture. 5:30 p.m., Manchester Executive Conference Center. Free, RSVP to cctc@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-7936.



► **DARROW**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last month, Darrow joined the staff of Catholic Answers

Darrow then began the process of re-committing herself to her Catholic faith. She started reading the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and she adopted the habit of daily Mass, rosary and Eucharistic adoration, and weekly confession. She also changed the way she dressed and ended some spiritually unhealthy friendships.

In 2008, Darrow accepted the first of many invitations to share her story. Since then, her demand as a speaker has shown no signs of waning. She is already booked through next year and, when asked how many presentations she has delivered or how many people have heard her story, she cannot even hazard a guess.

"I have no idea," she admitted. "I just know that I live off of travel-size shampoos and soaps. ... My suitcase is always packed, with a secondary suitcase packed, too, just in case."

She said youth and young adults are "amazingly receptive" to what she has to say about modesty and chastity, which she describes as "virtues that give us freedom."

"They want to have a forever love," she explained. "They want to know that they are worth that wait and they are not ... instant gratification for someone else's pleasure."

Many girls have come up to her after her presentations and confided that her talk had given them hope — perhaps for the first time — that a chaste lifestyle is possible.

'I just think it's funny that someone who went against the faith is now explaining the faith. It's just a completely biblical story, and it's humbling.'

Though she is gratified by such reactions, Darrow said it is the Holy Spirit who should be credited with opening her audience's hearts to the truth.

"When it all comes down to it, it's not about me," she said. "This is about God, and ... this is God's love story in my heart and my life."

"I'm just a little story of mercy ... and there are so many others out there, too," she said.

Last month, after about a year and a half as a contracted speaker with Catholic Answers, Darrow joined the staff of the El Cajon-based apostolate. As a full-time Catholic apologist, she will speak, write and produce content in support of the faith.

Her new DVD, "From Top Model to Role Model," is already available through Catholic Answers' Web site, www.catholic.com. The DVD is a recording of a talk she gave at Ascension Parish in Tierrasanta.

She is also collaborating with fellow Catholic speakers on a Web site, www.chastity.com, packed with resources on how to lead a life of modesty and chastity.

As she looks back over the trajectory that her spiritual journey has taken, Darrow has to laugh.

"I just think it's funny that someone who went against the faith is now explaining the faith. It's just a completely biblical story, and it's humbling," said Darrow, who is pursuing a master's in pastoral theology from Ave Maria University. "God chooses the lowly to exalt Him, and I tell you something: I'm right down there ... So, I'm happy to do it."

When Darrow finds herself standing once again before the throne of God, her hands will no longer be empty.

The Southern Cross

► **YOUTH**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Pope urges youth to 'make Christ ... the center of your life'

"Respond to Him with generosity and courage, as befits young hearts like your own," he told the young.

"Let me urge you to strengthen this life of faith which has been handed down from the

time of the apostles," he said. "Make Christ, the Son of God, the center of your life."

Pope Benedict told the young people, who had been texting, tweeting and posting Facebook updates about their adventures, that whenever we really "like" anything, we share it, and that must hold true for faith as well.

"You, too, have been given the extraordinary task of being disciples and missionaries of Christ in other lands and countries filled with young people who are looking for something greater," the pope said.

Share the faith, he said, and help them see they are right when "their heart tells them

that more authentic values do exist" and they resist being "seduced by the empty promises of a lifestyle which has no room for God."

Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, director of the Diocese of San Diego's Office for Vocations, was one of many San Diegans who traveled to Madrid for World Youth Day.

Accompanying a group of Eudist priests and seminarians from San Diego, she described it as "a beautiful experience."

Sister Lopez-Ornelas, a member of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament,

said that during the Aug. 21 Mass, as large crowds jostled to be close to the pope, she was reminded of Gospel accounts of the large crowds that constantly surrounded Jesus.

"When I saw the pope, I was so happy and so overwhelmed," she said. "He was able to gather so many people because we still believe that he represents Christ and is the visible head of the Church."

Catholic News Service

Contributing to this story was Gretchen R. Crowe in Madrid and The Southern Cross.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Mass & Feast Day Celebration

All are invited to attend

1:30 pm
Documentary Video of Saint Pio

2:30 pm - Holy Hour
Fr. Louis Solcia, CRSP
includes
Holy Rosary & Benediction

3:30 pm
Inspirational Talk
Fr. Mario Elias



4:15 pm - Holy Mass

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Sunday, September 25, 2011

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Retired Bishop Hopes People Recall 9/11 Lessons About God's Providence

By Msgr. Timothy P. Stein

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. — In the minutes, hours and days immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States, Bishop Joseph V. Adamec was gratified to see people turning to God and praying together as they sought to make sense of the tragedy.

The tragedy hit home in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, with United Flight 93 crashing in Shanksville in rural Somerset County.

'The people needed God. ... They knew that whatever was happening in our world, they could not face it alone.'

Like many people in the eight-county diocese, Bishop Adamec thought the first reports of a terrorist attack involved only places at some distance away from the Allegheny Mountains. But soon after learning of what was happening in New York and outside Washington, Bishop Adamec, who

headed the diocese for nearly 24 years before retiring earlier this year, found out that rural Pennsylvania was not beyond the reach of international terrorists.

"I had walked some guests to their car, and when I came back into the house, my secretary said, 'Come and see what's happening on television.' We sat glued, hearing about New York and Washington. Then we heard a local report that Route 219 was closed. That made me wonder what was going on," Bishop Adamec recalled. "There was some fear and doubt in my mind. I wondered where we fit into what was going on elsewhere. Then I heard that a plane was down in Somerset County."

Fear and doubt was a common emotion that day, and hundreds of people sought refuge from their fears by joining Bishop Adamec for Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona that evening.

"The people needed God. They needed to ask God for something," Bishop Adamec said. "They were afraid, and in their fear they knew that they needed God. They knew that whatever was happening in our world, they could not face it alone. They knew that they needed to be close to God."

But, Bishop Adamec went on, "there comes a day when fear passes. We forget. We think that we can go it alone. We need to pray always, to approach God often."

"Do we need another disaster to remind us that that's the case?" he asked. "It would be unfortunate if that's the only thing that



CNS PHOTO/JASON COHN, REUTERS

NEVER FORGET: Tim and Dawn Cunningham listen during a 2006 ceremony on the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, in Shanksville, Pa.

brings us to God."

Bishop Adamec recalled that just over 10 months after the crash of Flight 93, Somerset County was again in the international spotlight when nine miners were trapped underground for more than 78 hours, from July 24-28, 2002, when the Quecreek Mine flooded.

"I spoke to some of those miners after they were rescued," Bishop Adamec said, "and they told me, 'There weren't nine of us

down there. There were 10 of us.' They believed that God's angel was with them. They felt God's presence supporting them."

He continued, "We have these blessings — we've been given these blessings, and our thanks for them should be expressed by our worship; by taking time to pray and to go to church and be with God. We need to work on being a better people than what we sometimes are."

Catholic News Service

Diocesan Observance

ROSARIES FOR PEACE

Sunday, October 9, 2011



How is your parish celebrating Rosaries for Peace Sunday?

Please send pictures of your celebration to: rosaries4peace.org

For further information contact your pastor.

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October 8, 2011
9:00 - 11:30 am

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► RADIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

About 50,000 San Diegans listen daily

Catholic community,” inspiring increased Mass attendance and stewardship, fewer Catholic marriages ending in divorce, and the prevention of suicides and abortions.

Even with its current programming, which is limited to two hours on weekdays, Moran said, Catholic Radio of San Diego is reaching about 50,000 listeners each day. Citing anecdotal evidence, she said it is already touching lives.

Moran recounted the story of a local man who stumbled across Catholic Radio’s programming while searching for baseball game coverage. After listening to a show about the dangers of artificial contraception, he requested a transcript to share with his daughter, who had been taking birth control pills.

While attending Sunday Mass at his parish, LiMandri heard his own pastor share a story of the programming’s impact: A man had come to confession the previous day because of something he had heard on Catholic Radio of San Diego.

Since its debut in March, the local hosts have attracted several high-profile guests, many of whom have spoken positively about the importance of Catholic radio programming.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, appeared July 27 as a guest on “Setting Things Right,” the Wednesday night program hosted by Kent Peters, Deacon Jim Walsh and Linda Arreola of the diocesan Office for Social Ministry.

Father Pavone said he is “proud to be a part of the effort of Catholic radio in San Diego.”

“In the midst of a culture of death, Catholic radio saves lives every day,” he said. “I hear from people all the time who changed their minds about having an abortion because they heard something on the radio about alternatives or about the destructive harm abortion brings.”

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who is currently seeking the Republican nomination for president, appeared Aug. 8 on “From the Front Lines of the Culture War.”

Describing Catholic radio as “an important emerging force for evangelization in a secular world,” Gingrich said “Catholic radio in San Diego has a vital role to play in sustaining and evangelizing faith in Christ and the cross.”



ON THE AIR: “Setting Things Right,” hosted by Kent Peters (right), Linda Arreola (second from right) and Deacon Jim Walsh (left), now broadcasts from its own studio in the diocesan Pastoral Center.

Moran told *The Southern Cross* that Catholic Radio of San Diego exists to glorify God and to faithfully communicate Christ’s teachings.

“Our Lord said, ‘So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it,’” she said. “At Catholic

Radio of San Diego, we take this Scripture very seriously.

“We understand we are held accountable to God for the content of our programming,” she said. “We are also blessed to be united in our efforts to bring Catholic radio to San Diego 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.”

“Our capital campaign, ‘Live the Word, Spread the Faith,’ is well underway,” Beuerle said. “If any-

one feels the call of the Holy Spirit to join Philip Rivers, Charles LiMandri and others, and to partner with us to bring Catholic Radio 24/7 to San Diego, please contact us.”

For more information or to make a donation to San Diego Catholic Radio, call Beuerle at (619) 515-3267 or e-mail him at stephen.beuerle@procopio.com.

The Southern Cross

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*** Dr. Kelly Bowring**

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Reverend Monsignor James Lisante

Testimonies:

Al Barbarino Char Vance
Philip Ryan Christine Watkins

In Concert:

Michael O’Brien



For full information and registration form: 714-572-9779 or www.medjugorje.org

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace SEEKING APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

The Academy of Our Lady of Peace, an independent Catholic girls’ high school serving grades 9 through 12, is seeking applications and nominations for Principal/Head of School. Located in San Diego, California, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (AOLP) is a college preparatory school founded in 1882 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ). The successful candidate for the position of Principal/Head of School will be a strong advocate of Catholic education and a practicing Catholic, have a Secondary School Administrators Credential or a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership with high school teaching and administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school. The Principal reports to the school’s Board of Directors and is responsible for the overall operations of the school. Duties include academic and co-curricular programs, finances, facility operations, and advancement.

A CSJ sponsored school, AOLP enrolls 750 students and works with parents as educational partners while promoting its mission of “gentleness, peace and joy” as it responds to the needs of the “dear neighbor” both in our midst and in our community. The position begins July, 2012. AOLP offers a competitive compensation and benefits package.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:
PrincipalResumes@aolp.org

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Additional information including a Position Description can be found at www.aolp.org.



Hotline to Heaven

A saint's lock of hair, bone shards, a vial of blood, even a severed hand whose discolored fingers curl in a macabre way are venerated by many members of the Catholic Church.

Others may just get the heebie-jeebies and wonder why holy people's body parts are even put on display.

But if one believes these men and women lived holy lives and accomplished extraordinary things, "wouldn't you want a souvenir," a way to connect and remember that person and what they've done, said Elizabeth Lev, an art historian and professor of art history at the Rome campuses of Duquesne University and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

The relic becomes a concrete reminder that the blessed or saint's body is here on earth

and his or her soul is with God, she said.

"It feels like you've got almost like a hotline into heaven," she said. The relic is "something we can see and touch, and it becomes our portal to a world we cannot see and cannot touch."

In the Catholic Church, relics fall into one of three categories: a first-class relic is the physical bodily remains of a saint or blessed like bones, blood and hair; a second-class relic is a personal possession, such as clothing, devotional objects, handwritten letters or even furniture; and a third-class relic is an object that has touched a first-class relic. These — usually small snips of cloth that have touched a blessed or saint's tomb — often end up in public distribution fixed onto prayer cards.

Catholic News Service

Dedicated to Our Lady

The Grand Marian Procession started inside La Placita Church during the early afternoon of Sept. 3, a day before the 230th anniversary of the founding and dedication of Los Angeles to Our Lady of the Angels.

"Here is where Los Angeles was born. Here is where our great city came to be," said Claretian Father Roland Lozano, pastor of Los Angeles' first church near what is now Cesar Chavez Avenue and Main Street.

Then, the 300 modern-day pilgrims — representing the 44 people of Spanish, Indian and African-American ancestry who started their trip in Sonora, Mexico, and then, accompanied by four soldiers, trekked from the San Gabriel Mission to colonize the new settlement of "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles" [the Village of Our Lady Queen of the Angels] on Sept. 4, 1781 — processed down Main and

Temple Streets to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

On an ornate wood carriage, six members of Hermandad del Senor de Los Milagros [Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles], dressed in flowing colored robes, carried an almost life-sized statue of the Blessed Mother cradling a toddler Jesus. Aztec dancers performed to the pounding beat of a single drum. Bagpipers from the LAPD's Emerald Society of Pipes and Drums played. And the slowly moving assembly sang "Ave Maria" and other hymns to the mother of God.

"I think it's important that we recognize the history of Los Angeles and how our Catholic faith played a big part in that history," said walker and L.A. City Council member Tom LaBonge.

Catholic News Service

When in Rome



Fifteen-year-old Siena Ledger poses with the June 2011 issue of *The Southern Cross* during a visit to the Coliseum in Rome.

Siena is the daughter of former KFMB-TV news anchor Graham Ledger and a member of St. Therese of Carmel Parish in Carmel Valley.

Q

Quotable Quotes

Q

The Nearness of God

"God is always near, including in the midst of difficulties and problems, in the darkness of life. He listens, responds and saves in His own way, but we must be able to recognize His presence and accept His ways."

— Pope Benedict XVI during his weekly general audience Sept. 7 in St. Peter's Square

Not a Rabbit's Foot

"A relic is not a binding dogmatic contract: 'Here is the blood of John Paul II, you may pray before it and your prayers will be answered.' It doesn't work like that. It's not magic."

— Elizabeth Lev, art historian and professor of art history at the Rome campuses of Duquesne University and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

A More Difficult Task

"It's easier to proclaim Jesus Christ to those who have never heard of Him. The challenge is much more difficult, much bigger, to have to talk about the faith, the need for faith in Jesus Christ to people who presume to have the faith or to those who have left [the Church] for reasons including the behavior of people of the Church."

— Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization

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Briefs

St. Rita School to Celebrate 60 Years

SAN DIEGO — St. Rita School will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 8. The celebration will begin at 5 p.m. with a special anniversary Mass in the parish church. This will be followed at 6 p.m. by an open house and light dinner at the school. The school is also honoring its 60-year history with a "unity mural," a custom tile wall on the south side of the school building. *For more information, contact the school at (619) 264-0109.*

Catholics Respond to ACA Collection

SAN DIEGO — Thanks to the generosity of local Catholics, the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is bringing in more money this year than it did last year. The appeal, which kicked off Feb. 27, funds important programs and initiatives that cannot be addressed at the parish level. The goal was to raise more than \$3.9 million, with \$1 million designated for parish development in the Imperial Valley. Parishes which exceed their ACA assessment may retain 80 percent of the remaining funds for their own purpose or make an additional contribution to the ACA for whatever purpose they designate. As of Sept. 9, 47 parishes had surpassed or were within easy reach of their assessment. The remaining 52 have until the end of the year to reach it. By Sept. 9, there were already 19,385 total donors, up from 16,148 the previous year, and \$4.6 million had been pledged, up from \$4.3 million last year.

Young Men Invited to Discernment Retreat

CHULA VISTA — Young men aged 16-35 are invited to attend a discernment vocation retreat at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. The retreat will take place from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1. Donations will be accepted; lunch will be provided. All participants are asked to bring a Bible, rosary and notebook. *For more information or to RSVP, contact Father Jacob Bertrand at fatherjacobbertrand@gmail.com or (619)*

427-0230, or Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas at alopez-ornelas@diocese-sdigo.org or (858) 490-8346.

International Singing Star to Perform at Parish

SAN DIEGO — Imagine for a moment that, at age 19, you became the number-one pop musician in your country. That was the life of Tatjana Matejas of Croatia, known as Tajci (TY-chee) to her adoring fans. But she left it all behind to come to the United States at age 21. She came to America to be free of her celebrity and to find herself. In her newfound anonymity, Tajci found her answers. Today, she is a Christian singer/songwriter who performs throughout the United States and Europe, filling stadiums, concert halls and churches as she sings about her faith and her faith journey. She will perform "Let It Be: Mary's Story" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 20, at St. Gregory the Great Parish in San Diego. There is no charge to attend the concert, though good-will donations will be accepted. *For more information, visit www.stgg.org.*

COLFS Hosting Second Annual Gala

SAN DIEGO — Culture of Life Family Services will hold its second annual gala and auction on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Hilton Mission Bay. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and a social, with the program starting at 7 p.m. Guest speakers include former abortionist Dr. Anthony Levatino and state Sen. Joel Anderson. Terry Kennedy, former All-Star Padres catcher and current manager of the Tucson Padres, will serve as emcee. All proceeds will go directly to COLFS to support and educate women who are abortion-intent and abortion-minded. *For more information or to RSVP, visit www.colfs.org, call (619) 692-4401 or e-mail smaxwell@colfs.org.*

Fair Trade Campaign Includes Gift Faire

LA MESA — Members of the St. Martin of Tours Ministry for Social Justice are involved in a campaign to spread the word about fair trade. As a result, La Mesa is well on its way to being proclaimed nationally as an official Fair Trade Town. The goal is to

Mother of Life Conference



DENIS GRASSKA

Alveda King, niece of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. and a pastoral associate for Priests for Life, chats with attendees of the second annual Mother of Life Conference.

Presented by the San Diego chapter of the Knights of Columbus, the conference was held Aug. 13 in the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion.

The event included presentations by King; Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life; Eduardo Verastegui, a popular Mexican actor, model and singer; Dr. Jim Garlow, senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego; Walter Hoye, a pro-life pastor from the Oakland area; and chastity speakers Jason and Crystalina Evert.

The conference schedule also included recitations of the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet, a "program of holiness" featuring the singing of Catholic hymns, and a closing Mass.

For more information, visit www.motheroflifeconference.com.

raise consciousness about the importance of purchasing and using fair trade-certified products. To be certified, certain standards have to be met in the production process, such as environmental sustainability, fair wages and proper working conditions for farmers and artisans in the developing world. Members of the La Mesa Fair Trade Town steering committee have been in con-

tact with the pastors of all 41 La Mesa churches, as well as politicians and merchants. A La Mesa Fair Trade Gift Faire will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, in the parish hall at St. Martin of Tours. *For information, visit http://lamesafairtrade.blogspot.com.*



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

With permission from his superior, **Father Hugo Hernandez, MG** has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mary Parish, El Centro, effective Sept. 1.

Father David Sereno, has been assigned chaplain at Palomar Medical Center, Escondido, and Pomerado Hospital, Poway, with residency at St. Mary Parish, Escondido, effective Sept. 8.

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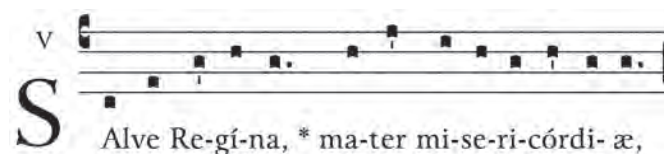
Or, you can call us at (619) 563-0480 if you are interested in a tour or information.

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Come Sing and Learn the Basics of Our Catholic Sung Prayer

- This FREE course is designed for choir directors, singers, and anyone wanting to gain familiarity with chant
- Classes taught by Mary Ann Carr Wilson, Director of Music at St. Anne, B.M., M.M.
- Wednesday evenings 7-8:30 pm, Sept. 28 - Nov. 16 St. Anne Catholic Church, Choir Room 621 Sicard Street, San Diego, CA 92113
- To register, please leave a message for Mary Ann at the parish office, 619-239-8253 ext.116



We'll learn how to sing acapella from chant notation. We'll sing 1-2 Chant Ordinaries (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei), 1 Credo, 4-5 Chant Hymns, 2-4 Marian antiphons

Speaker Offers Cure for 'Adultitis' Epidemic

RANCHO BERNARDO — San Diego families can learn how to stress less and have more fun on Saturday, Oct. 1, at San Rafael Parish Center. National speaker, author and artist Jason Kotecki will share key strategies for de-stressing life by renewing and embracing a childlike faith. His presentation will feature anecdotes, artwork and a bit of live cartooning. He also will discuss the prevention and treatment of "adultitis." "Busy, stressed and overwhelmed — that's someone with 'adultitis,'" Kotecki said. Refreshments will be available from 6-6:45 p.m., followed by the presentation from 7-8:30 p.m. *For more information, call (858) 674-1145.*

Catholic Scout Earns Eagle Rank



FALLBROOK — Garrett McGurk from Fallbrook Boy Scout Troop 731 recently earned his Eagle Award. McGurk, 18, completed his Eagle Project at St. Peter School in

Fallbrook where he created a safe, usable playground area and taught students how to use the new games. A 2011 Fallbrook High School graduate, McGurk distinguished himself academically and also played on the school's water polo and swim teams. He is now attending the University of California, Santa Barbara. McGurk and his parents are parishioners of St. Peter Parish.

Eucharistic Conference Coming to Ramona

RAMONA — The Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy are once again preparing for a Eucharistic conference. It will be held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Ramona. The guest speaker will be Marian Father Donald Calloway. He will also celebrate Mass and sign copies of his book, *No Way Out*. Tickets are on sale for \$30 each.

Lunch will be provided. The day will include Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation, Benediction and the sung Divine Mercy chaplet. *For more information, call (760) 789-8723.*

Boost Scholarships by Donating E-Waste

ALCALA PARK — Would you like to get rid of your old cell phones and other electronics that are lying around the house? You can do just that by donating your e-recyclables to the University of San Diego's new E-Waste Collection Center. The center is staffed by students and funds raised will go towards student scholarships. The center is located in the industrial complex at 5330 Linda Vista Rd., just down the hill from USD's west entrance. The center is open from 3-7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays. Most anything with a cord, except for appliances and air conditioners, will be accepted. *For more information, visit www.sandiego.edu/ewaste or call (619) 260-8815.*

Gala/Auction to Benefit Catholic Answers

LOS ANGELES — "The Church Is the Answer," a fall gala and auction to benefit Catholic Answers, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22. The event will take place at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport, located at 5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles 90045. Catholic Answers, based in El Cajon, is one of the nation's largest lay-run apostolates of Catholic apologetics and evangelization. Check-in for the gala begins at 5:30 p.m., with a cocktail reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and program (speakers and live auction) at 7 p.m. Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers and his wife, Tiffany, are the honorary chairmen for the event. Tickets are \$100/person. Attendees should wear business attire. *Register online at www.catholicanswersgala.com. For more information, contact Marisa Glatzer at (619) 387-7200 or mglatzer@catholic.com.*

Service Day



COURTESY OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Staff members from Mater Dei Catholic High School took part in a service day Aug. 26, volunteering their time at several locations in San Diego.

One of the chosen sites was Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, where the volunteers, including Mater Dei Principal George Milke, helped clean desks and windows, cover textbooks and perform other helpful tasks in preparation for the first day of school. The day ended with staff members from both Mater Dei and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart sharing a meal.

Obituary

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. — Father Edward Flynn, an incardinated priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died July 16. He was born June 20, 1925, in San Rafael, Calif., and was ordained May 5, 1954, in San Diego. He served as an assistant pastor at a series of parishes from 1954-1958, including St. Martin of Tours, La Mesa; St. John the Evangelist, San Diego; St. Mary, El Centro; and St. Jude Shrine of the West, San Diego. He also served as director of the Rockne Institute of Technical Arts in El Cajon from 1958-1959 and on the faculty of University High School from 1959-1961. After requesting a leave of absence, Father Flynn served full-time as an Army chaplain. He retired from active ministry in June 2000. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dinner to Benefit Women at Risk

SAN DIEGO — Many local women in San Diego work tirelessly to make the city a better community for all. The San Diego Woman's Club will recognize the efforts of one special woman by hosting a benefit dinner in her honor. The honoree is Martha Ranson, department director of Rachel's Homeless Women's Services since 1986. A reception and silent auction will be held at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 19, followed by dinner at 2557 Third Ave., San Diego 92103. Tickets are \$80 per person and \$550 per table (seating for eight). Proceeds will benefit Rachel's Homeless Women's Services. *To RSVP, call at (619) 265-8125 or (619) 708-9322.*

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Lord God, thank you for the gift of my life, I commit to myself to never be silent, passive or forgetful of those that have no voice.



Parish's History Begins in 'Lurking Place'

By Michael Burke

ESCONDIDO — In 1888, Bishop Francis Mora of the Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles sent Father Robert F. Byrnes to Escondido to establish a new parish.

Prior to Father Byrnes' arrival, Catholics in Escondido attended Mass two Sundays a month celebrated by a priest who traveled from St. Joseph Church (now cathedral) in San Diego.

The original Spanish grant of 12,563 acres of ranch land in this vicinity was called El Rincon del Diablo Ranch. The name of the ranch translated to "Devil's Corner," "Devil's Nook" or "Lurking Place of the Devil." Tradition had it that any land not owned by the Church was of the devil. The grant originally served as grazing land for cattle that supported Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

Following the war in 1846 between Mexico and the United States, all the original Spanish land grants no longer had any force of law and many, such as El Rincon del Diablo, were sold off to opportunistic investors, usually from the eastern United States.

A year later, when the Mormon Battalion arrived in San Diego, they undertook an informal census of the known San Diego area which included all of what are now Riverside and San Bernardino counties and the eastern portion of Inyo County. That census showed a population of 2,887 people. By 1930, the city of Escondido alone had a population of 3,400.

In 1887, the Escondido Land and Town Company offered free land to any church that wanted to start a congregation in the area. It was the developer's hope that if places of worship were built, the faithful would come.

Along with five Protestant denominations, the Monterey-Los Angeles Diocese represented one of the first six religious communities to accept the offer. The diocese was the second one to complete a permanent church building. By 1943, there were 23 churches in Escondido, most having taken advantage of the developer's offer.

The diocese did not begin construction on a church immediately. This was a source of concern for the Escondido Land and Town Company, which finally gave the parish bricks enough to begin construction. This incentive worked. Local mission natives then built the church, making for themselves whatever additional bricks were needed.

The church was completed and its first Mass was celebrated in 1893. The parish's first church was located on a high hill directly south of downtown Escondido at what is now 7th (then Minnesota) and Broadway. Immediately, St. Mary became known as "the Church on the Hill." Its view of the valley was such that it was considered the best location for a church in all of Southern California.

In 1897, after Father Byrnes was transferred to Coronado, the church became a mission of St. Joseph Church, under the guidance of Franciscan Father Antonio Dominic Ubach. With no resident pastor assigned to St. Mary's, Father Ubach celebrated Mass a few times a month in the finished church from 1897 to 1903. Bishop Thomas Conaty in 1903 assigned Father Edmond LaPointe, a French-Canadian priest seeking a milder climate due to health complications, as the parish priest.

The Men's Catholic Improvement Society was formed at about the same time. The society raised the funds needed to buy a nearby house to serve as a rectory. A few years later in 1918, Father John O'Brien, then pastor, asked for and received Bishop Conaty's approval to sell the rectory. With that revenue and a diocesan grant of \$2,500, a new rectory was built on the hill adjacent to the church.

St. Mary Parish grew as Escondido grew. In 1900, the city had a population of 755; by 1930, it rose to 3,421. By comparison, the total number of St. Mary parishioners in 1923 was 290. Of that number, 147 were English-speaking and 143 Spanish-speaking.

During the floods of 1916, "the hill" served as a refuge for many people and businesses in the valley, including a Ford dealer who brought his entire inventory in a caravan up "the hill" and parked it around the church. In more ways than one did the "church on the hill" serve its community.

In 1929, a group of the parish's Mexican Catholics chaired by Max Atilano donated the bell that from then until 1952 tolled the hours of the Sunday Masses. The bell was purchased from the Robertson and Cassou Hardware store for \$316.25. It was tempered by a Catholic blacksmith, Joseph Kesien, prior to being installed in June of that year. The bell is still part of St. Mary Parish, where it is displayed on the lawn at the east side of the church.

The parish's 50th anniversary was celebrated in October 1943 with Bishop Charles F. Buddy, the first bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, celebrating the jubilee Mass.

The end of World War II brought robust growth throughout the county in light of the number of military personnel who had trained or transited through the area. Many upon their discharges from active duty decided that San Diego County was where they wanted to live and never returned to their hometowns.

During the 1950s, the population of Escondido was booming. The growth was being felt especially at the original "church on the hill." St. Mary Parish had simply outgrown its original church building and, with the developers and builders moving into the valley after the war, all indications were that the population was going to surge dramatically.

In 1950, Escondido's population was roughly 6,000. That

year, the parish purchased a seven-acre property at the corner of Broadway and 13th Street that would accommodate future growth. First to be built there were an eight-room school and a school auditorium, which also doubled as the temporary church. Construction started in 1950 and was completed in 1952 when the new facilities were dedicated by Bishop Buddy. The existing home on the site, which was the McLemore estate, with some minor remodeling served as the convent for the Sisters of the Precious Blood who staffed the school.

From 1940 until the construction of the school, Holy Cross Sisters had traveled from San Diego to Escondido on Saturdays to conduct religious training for the parish youth.

Thirteen children graduated in the school's first eighth-grade class. In 1962, there were 50 graduates.

Construction costs for the new facilities were \$290,000. Some \$50,000 of the budget came from donations from the parishioners to a building fund. The balance was secured with a construction loan. After three years, it was noted that the cost in the loan's interest was almost twice the principal being paid. In order to continue the ambitious building plans, this debt had to be retired. A campaign was started to liquidate the debt over a three-year period.

The campaign kicked off June 5, 1955. A committee of dedicated parishioners organized and managed it for the 36 months it was to run. Each parish family was asked to commit \$10 a month for those three years. With a balance of \$229,000 remaining on the loan, the debt was successfully retired in the campaign's three-year timeframe.

The city of Escondido added more than 10,000 people to its population during the 1950s and, by 1966, had increased again by another 14,000. Some of this was done through more annexations of peripheral land tracts but a good deal of it to real growth.

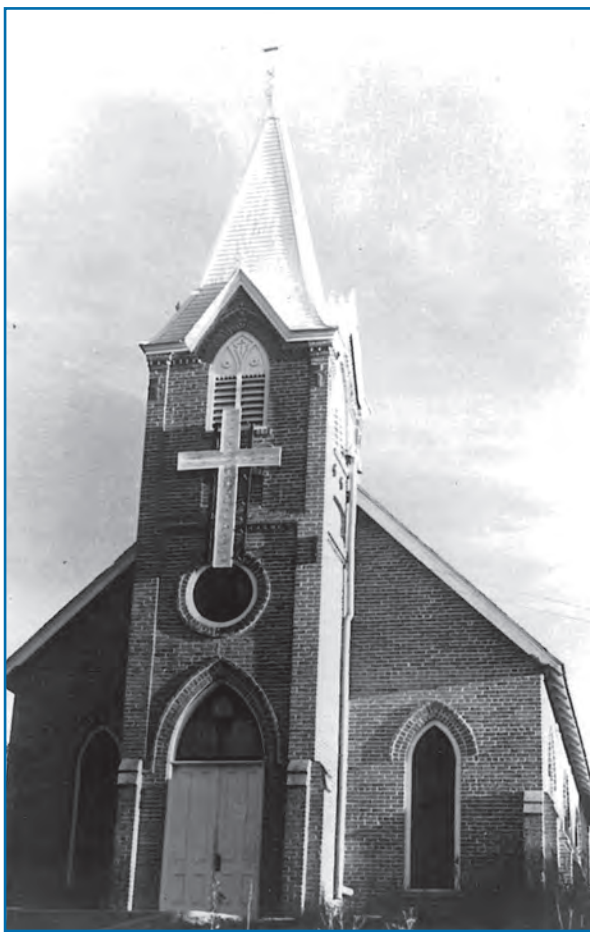
For its part, St. Mary Parish, too, was undergoing exceptional growth. By 1965, the parish had added a new rectory and six more classrooms. It also converted the temporary church into a parish hall and, in early 1966, dedicated a new church designed and built to seat more than 1,000 parishioners.

To conform in design with the existing structures on the site, the new church was built of red brick and white stucco, and was cruciform in shape. The front of the church faced south and is finished on the exterior with a beautiful, multi-color, tile mosaic of the Blessed Mother, the church's namesake.

In 1961, a Parish High School of Religion was formed. At the time and for several years afterward, the enrollment came to 500 local Catholic children who were taught by a select group of Catholic laymen. This religious education



PHOTOS COURTESY ST. MARY PARISH



e of the Devil'

model later became the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

Then, in 1968, the Information Group Movement (IGM) was established to catechize adults. IGM later became what now is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

While the parish was building up its community at its new home about five blocks south of the “church on the hill,” the original church and its property were put up for sale in April 1963. The property was sold in 1965, the old church razed, and homes built on the hill.

The growth of St. Mary Parish due to the corresponding explosive growth in North County San Diego found the parish community dividing in 1970 with the establishment of Resurrection Parish in north Escondido.

At the time of the nation’s bicentennial in 1976, St. Mary Parish had about 1,350 families. Two years later, the city of Escondido had a population of about 50,000.

In 1984, the parish community again divided to form St. Timothy Parish in south Escondido. All three parishes are still continuing to grow, with St. Mary claiming more than 3,300 families and 15,000 individual members at present.

In January 1988, a major renovation of the sanctuary was undertaken to effect “a more spiritual environment to help carry it into the 21st century.” Those changes made it into the next century, but just barely, as another major renovation was initiated in 2000.

As part of the renovation 11 years ago, the front of the church was extended toward the street, the apse was radically remodeled, and a prayer garden was built outside.

The new extension at the front added two confessional rooms, a large baptismal font directly in the middle of the upgraded foyer, two larger bathrooms, a sacristy, a large meeting room, and access ramps on both sides of the entrance for the disabled. However, it also removed a number of pews to reduce seating overall. At the same time, a garden dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe was added against the east exterior wall of the sanctuary.

The 2000 remodel of the apse included a large crucifix and finished wood paneling to replace the “contemporary” appearance created during the 1988 renovation. The wall behind and under the crucifix was then removed to reveal the quiet prayer room where the tabernacle was housed.

For the sake of noise reduction, Father Richard Perozich, on taking over as pastor in 2006, undertook to have the vestibule separated from the sanctuary with glass doors, a large glass wall installed in the opening behind the crucifix, and the tabernacle brought out into the center of the altar facing the sanctuary.

On Oct. 1, 2010, a 24-hour perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and various church relics was started in the quiet prayer room behind the apse.

Plans are in place now to add a much-anticipated, two-story parish hall, continue upgrades to the school buildings and to further expand the sanctuary. Although this will eliminate the sanctuary’s original cruciform-shaped floor plan, it will add substantially to the seating area to account for the increase in parishioners.

The grace of God placed St. Mary Parish in an ideal location to take advantage of both the explosion of real growth and the faithful ministrations of the pastoral and lay community. Like the mustard seed of Jesus’ parable, the parish began humbly but grew so large that it had to be pruned twice, ultimately yielding three thriving Escondido parishes.

The Southern Cross



PARISH HISTORY: (Clockwise from upper left) The present-day St. Mary Church, which was dedicated in 1966; a close-up of St. Mary’s “Church on the Hill”; St. Mary Church and School, 1951; interior of St. Mary Church (the current parish hall), 1951; and the statue of Our Lady and the Christ Child, which is the only statue from the “Church on the Hill” that remains in the present-day church.

Diocese of San Diego Welcomes Six New Principals

SAN DIEGO — Six Catholic educators recently began their first year as principals in the Diocese of San Diego.

They include Jill Platt at All Hallows Academy, La Jolla; Dan Schuh at St. John School, Encinitas; Susan Silvia at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Lakeside; Sister Katia Chavez at St. Mary School, El Centro; Brian Barrett at Sacred Heart School, Brawley; and Brian R. Wheeler at St. Francis of Assisi School, Vista.

The following are profiles of the diocese's newest principals.

Jill Platt

All Hallows Academy, La Jolla

Jill Platt attended a few years of Catholic elementary school and ranks them among "the most memorable years of my schooling."

She is convinced that Catholic schools provide students with values that guide them for the rest of their lives.

"I became a Catholic educator to be a part of something larger than myself and ... help develop young minds and spirits for the future," she said.

After serving as an assistant principal for the past seven years, Platt felt ready for the additional responsibilities that come with being a principal.

"I love being part of the larger picture of education," she said.

Platt and her family relocated from Chicago so she could accept the position.

"I feel blessed to be a part of the community of All Hallows," she said. "The school has a long history of success in education ... The community feels warm and inviting and [filled with] a spirit of collaboration and compassion."

Platt already has a list of goals for her first year, including: obtaining a written curriculum of all that is currently taught at the school, building a deeper sense of community by celebrating the past and looking toward the future, and incorporating more time into the schedule for professional development.

"I believe there are no mistakes and that God has a tremendous plan for me and All Hallows," Platt said. "I know that I am in the right place at the right time, and I look forward to what is to come — all of it."

Dan Schuh

St. John School, Encinitas

A former Catholic school student, Dan Schuh says his own Catholic education was "incalculable in so many ways."

"From an early age, I learned the importance of having Christ in our lives to help us realize our true potential," he said. "My Catholic education also provided me with a very solid academic foundation."

Today, as principal of St. John School, Schuh hopes to ensure that today's youth receive a similar educational experience.

As successor to Barbara Picco, who retired as principal in June, Schuh brings four years of experience as the school's vice principal. He hopes to continue the efforts that he and Picco began as he guides the school toward a bright future.

"St. John School is special because we have a staff that really understands how to effectively combine faith, academic instruction and a caring attitude, which brings out the best in all our students," he said. "They truly blend their talents together in an amazing manner."

When faced with the many choices an elementary school principal must make every day, Schuh said his decisions will be guided by one question: How will this benefit my students?

"There is certainly a little anxiety, as I think about the scope of the responsibilities of this new position," Schuh said, "but mostly I feel very excited by the possibilities of Catholic education and the future of St. John School."

Susan Silvia

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Lakeside

Susan Silvia has been an educator since the early 1980s.

Her involvement with Catholic education began in 1999, when she joined the staff of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School.

"What I find so special about Catholic education is the fact that we are in a Christ-centered environment," she said. "We make Christ the center of everything we teach, every subject."

"Bringing our faith into each subject is exciting and second nature to me," she added. "I couldn't do it any other way now."

During her time at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Silvia closely observed each of her predecessors in the principal's office, paying attention to the gifts that each brought to the school and learning from their example.

"I realized one day that I had a strong desire to be a principal, and this desire only grew stronger," Silvia said. "I applied for the job in April of 2011, and here I am."

Silvia takes the helm during the school's 50th anniversary and embraces the challenge "to make sure our school will continue to be a beacon, a shining and guiding light, for the next 50 years" as a provider of Catholic education in San Diego's East County.

As principal, Silvia wants to support her teachers, helping them to become the best they can be. She also hopes to work closely with parents, recognizing their role as the primary educators of their children.

"Together," she said, "we can do something beautiful in and with Christ for our children."

Sister Katia Chavez

St. Mary School, El Centro

As a member of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Katia Chavez did not actively seek the role of principal at St. Mary School.

Like her previous assignments as a religious sister, she said, "I was chosen for this ministry, and I accepted joyfully, knowing that it was the same God [who called me to religious life] who asked me to do this."

Sister Chavez is no stranger to the St. Mary School community. For the past three years, she served as a music and religion teacher. She previously taught fifth grade at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Bakersfield, Calif.

"St. Mary's School is special to me because it is where I grew as a teacher," she said. "I was a teacher at St. Mary's, and I was able to know and love the students and parents. Now, I am blessed to be the shepherd of this flock."

As principal, she will strive to be compassionate, a good listener and a joyful servant leader. She seeks to encourage the school's students to grow, not only intellectually, morally and spiritually, but also in their love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

"I feel very happy for the opportunity to lead God's people in the spiritual and academic area," she said. "I trust that God who calls will also qualify and strengthen me. I pray that, through Mary's intercession, I will be able to do God's will as a religious sister and principal at St. Mary's School."

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Brian Barrett**Sacred Heart School, Brawley**

Brian Barrett's parents attended Catholic schools, and so did his children. But he did not.

"With me, they seem to have skipped a generation," quipped Barrett, who enrolled in Catholic school this year as a principal.

Barrett's educational career began 24 years ago at a large public school in Los Angeles, where there were 3,000 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. At Sacred Heart School in Brawley, where he serves as principal, "the atmosphere is more familial."

That family spirit extends beyond the school grounds to encompass the larger Catholic community of the Imperial Valley, as Barrett seeks to collaborate rather than compete with the principals of other Catholic schools in the region. ("It's all about providing a Christian education for our local children," he said.)

Unlike many teachers, who must give up classroom teaching after becoming principals, Barrett said he will continue to teach music and, this year, also is teaching religion and literature to seventh- and eighth-graders.

Barrett believes his new job will require him to fulfill many roles, including that of "educational leader, school booster and salesman for Catholic education."

"Sacred Heart School has a 97-year tradition of quality education," he said. "As my mentor and tutor, Mrs. Yvonne Burns, approached retirement, I saw the opportunity to follow her lead and be a part of this fine institution as we prepare to pass the centennial mark. There is a lot of love and support for this school locally, and I wanted to contribute as well."

Brian R. Wheeler**St. Francis of Assisi School, Vista**

For the past two years, Brian R. Wheeler taught at Resurrection School in Sunnyvale, Calif.



NEW PRINCIPALS: (From left) Jill Platt, Dan Schuh, Susan Silvia, Sister Katia Chavez, Brian Barrett and Brian R. Wheeler.

But, with 10 years of previous experience as a school administrator under his belt, he knew that he would be back in the principal's office one day.

That day arrived when he accepted the principal position at St. Francis of Assisi School. Though he will miss the interaction with students that he experienced as a teacher, he said, "to minimize that loss, I plan to be out in the classrooms as often as I can."

Wheeler did not attend Catholic schools in his youth, but for nine of his 19 years as an educator, he has worked in them. Explaining the appeal of Catholic education, he said, "God is allowed in the class-

room and, when that occurs, all kinds of wonderful things can happen."

Wheeler describes the St. Francis of Assisi School community as "a wonderful, loving group of people who invite our Lord Jesus Christ to participate in our school each and every day."

"From the first day I came here, I knew this was a special place," he said, "and it is a

blessing to my family and me to be here."

"I am very excited about this wonderful opportunity," he said. "I know there will be a lot to do, and it may seem overwhelming at times, but I am confident that God has placed me here at St. Francis to serve Him, and I feel humbled, blessed to have this responsibility."

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► **TEACHERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Schools Office offers 'broad spectrum' of in-services

About 35 educators, including some from the Imperial Valley, attended "Schools Attuned: A Mind at a Time," a five-day program held June 22-24 and June 27-28 at St. Charles School in Imperial Beach. The program focused on the workings of the human brain and how students process information.

A three-day workshop titled "Monitoring Student Progress: Using Data and Assessments to Drive Instruction" began Aug. 15-16 at St. Therese of Carmel Parish and will conclude Nov. 4. It drew about 250 participants.

Continuing a longtime tradition in the Diocese of San Diego, a Beginning Teachers Workshop was held Aug. 17 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. The workshop is intended for teachers who are beginning their first year of full-time classroom instruction. The 15 teachers who took part in the event learned practical tips for the first day of school and enjoyed the fellowship of other beginning teachers.

"It's nice to be with a group of teachers who are all brand-new because we all have the same fears, and the same questions, and the same excitement," said Aileen Fedrick, 23, a new fifth-grade teacher at St. Mary School in Escondido.

Several of the beginning teachers said they felt called to Catholic education and liberat-

ed by the ability to speak openly about God in their classrooms.

The beginning teachers will meet for follow-up sessions in late September as well as October and February.

"It's a really good workshop, and the fact that you can just bounce ideas off new teachers and you realize you're in the same boat ... It's good to know that you're not isolated," said Norah Kanine, 24, who just began her first year as a third-grade teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. "I'm looking forward to the fact that we get to meet throughout the year because it keeps those lines of communication open."

Various other workshops, in-services and orientations were held throughout the summer, including a few at the University of Notre Dame. Five local educators traveled to the South Bend, Ind., campus to participate in a workshop on teaching children with mild to moderate learning disabilities. A separate group of four teachers attended a workshop on teaching students for whom English is a new language.

The ACE Principals Academy, attended by two local principals, also took place at the University of Notre Dame. The academy, which was held July 5-8, was offered through the university's Alliance for Catholic Education.

"It all focused on 21st-century learning skills ... not just technology alone and what we have available to us, but how it has changed the way we interact as a society," said Johnson, who was among the participants.

"It's very practical information that I've been able to share with my faculty, that will only help us instruct the children here at St. Rita's," she said. "It was one of the best



DENIS GRASSKA

LEND ME YOUR EARS: Keynote speaker Carole Eipers makes use of props and costumes during the annual Catholic Educators Religion Conference Aug. 16.

things by far that I've gone to."

Laaperi said the Schools Office recognizes the need for ongoing professional development and is committed to making opportunities available to local educators.

"I like the idea that we are giving our teachers and principals a broad spectrum of in-services from which to pick and choose," he said.

The Southern Cross

IN LOVING Memory

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

Gubitosi, Michael	August 5	St. Therese
Burke, John	August 9	All Hallows
Montejano, Roxana	August 12	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Clodfelter, Marguerite	August 15	Fort Rosecrans Cemetery
Magdaleno, Fred	August 16	St. Joseph Cathedral
Asher, Thomas	August 23	Our Lady of Grace
Carey, Davida	August 23	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Eilert, Arthur	August 24	St. John of the Cross
Huch, Herbert	August 31	St. Patrick, San Diego
Bobby, Gerald	Sept. 2	Sacred Heart, Coronado
Le, Chut Van	Sept. 3	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Finnigan, Herminia	Sept. 10	St. Martin of Tours

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San Diego Pastor Champions Sainthood for Vietnamese Cardinal

By Father Charles L. Fuld

SAN DIEGO — A local pastor is actively involved in the beatification cause of a Vietnamese cardinal.

Msgr. Roger Lechner, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, met then-Archbishop Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan on Oct. 1, 1998. It was a brief encounter. When they met again six months later, to celebrate Mass and share a dinner with San Diego's Vietnamese Catholic community, they became friends.

That relationship had a life-changing effect on Msgr. Lechner, who has dedicated himself to seeing his late friend beatified.

In the hectic, wartime days of 1975, Thuan was named as coadjutor archbishop of Saigon. But after the city fell to the North Vietnamese Army, he was imprisoned for 13 years, including nine years in solitary confinement. This was followed by house arrest from 1988-1991.

Pope Benedict XVI spoke admiringly of Cardinal Thuan in his 2007 encyclical, *Spe Salvi*.

"During 13 years in jail, in a situation of seemingly utter hopelessness," the pope wrote, "the fact that he could listen and speak to God became for him an increasing power of hope, which enabled him, after his release, to become for people all over the world a witness to hope — to that great hope which does not wane even in the nights of solitude."

While imprisoned, the archbishop continued his ministry through messages that were smuggled out of his cell. Many of those messages were published as a book titled *The Road to Hope*. A second book — a collection of prayers — was subsequently published as *Prayers of Hope*.

In 1991, Archbishop Thuan was released and permitted to leave Vietnam for an assignment in Rome, but he was barred



HOLY MEN: Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan (right) is seen with Blessed John Paul II in this file photo.

from returning. In late 1994, he was appointed president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. He was made a cardinal in February 2001. Shortly thereafter, the Vietnamese government eased its restrictions, and he was allowed to visit his homeland. On Sept. 16, 2002, at age 74, he died of cancer at a clinic in Rome.

Since Cardinal Thuan's death, Msgr. Lechner has been gathering signatures both in the United States and in Vietnam to support his late friend's beatification. He describes the cardinal as a man of great faith and charisma.

In 2004, at the urging of his parishioners, Msgr. Lechner visited Vietnam.

"I traveled over the country by air and car," he recalled. "Everywhere I went, there were people waiting to meet me and to pray for the cause."

While in Vietnam, he visited Cardinal Thuan's sister, who is a consecrated religious.

"She welcomed me with the 'family smile' of her brother," he said. "We shared how beautiful it was to serve God and how to be truly happy."

He added, "In her own way, she is a saint also." The beatification process for Cardinal

Thuan began on the fifth anniversary of his death. Msgr. Lechner was among those invited to give oral testimony to his holiness and heroic virtues.

Msgr. Lechner said it was Cardinal Thuan's message that inspired Holy Spirit Parish to construct its "Garden of God's Love and God's Forgiveness." The garden includes the Hail Mary prayer written on ceramic tiles in 40 different languages. In the near future, a statue of Cardinal Thuan will be added.

The Southern Cross

Family's 'Walk of Thanksgiving' Is 50-Year Tradition

Pilgrimage is response to answered prayer

By Barbara Hughes

OCEANSIDE — Ramon Hernandez was told he would never walk again.

After an automobile accident in 1957 left him with two broken legs, one so mangled that the doctor wanted to amputate it, the family came together and told their brother not to give his consent, assuring him that God would see him through.

His brother Henry went to church, prayed and promised the Virgin Mary that when Ramon was able to walk, they would make a pilgrimage of thanksgiving, walking to the church at Old Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside.

Henry, who is now deceased, wasn't looking for an instant miracle, family members say. He simply wanted to see his brother walk again. For three years, Ramon underwent treatment and a strenuous rehabilitation program, but eventually Henry's prayer

was realized.

In 1961, Ramon, Henry and six other family members made the pilgrimage as promised. They chose for their starting place a central location from the brother's homes, which happened to be the flagpole in Vista, more than eight miles from the mission.

Over the years, the one-time event grew into an annual pilgrimage that has attracted more and more family members. On Aug. 13, the family celebrated the 50th anniversary of their "Walk of Thanksgiving." They began their sojourn at 8 a.m. and, by 1 p.m., more than 200 members of Ramon Hernandez's family arrived at Old Mission San Luis Rey to give thanks and offer a witness to the power of prayer.

Family members came from Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon and Virginia to support Ramon Hernandez, now 82, who walked the entire distance.

"My legs are old and clumsy, but I can still get around and I haven't missed a walk

in 50 years," he said. "I'm going to do it as long as I can."

Mary Hernandez, married to Ramon's brother Thomas, has participated in the annual walk since she married into the family 46 years ago.

"Every family has their differences, and we're no different," she said. "But when it's time for the walk, we put them aside and come together to give thanks to God."

She explained that even their grandchildren participate. Ten-year-old Rubie and 8-year-old Ilana walked the entire distance, while the younger children, who are 4 and 5 years old, walked part of the way and rode in a car when they were too tired to continue.

Upon reaching the mission, the family was welcomed by Franciscan Father David Gaa, executive director of Old Mission San Luis Rey, who prayed with them and praised them for their perseverance and faith.

"Paved roads and sidewalks have made the eight-plus-mile journey much easier,"

said Helene Hernandez, who has participated in the walk for the last 35 years. "In the early years, the family had to get permission to trespass on private property a week in advance. Much of the walk was across barren, open land and, one year, we were shot at by the owner of an orange grove, who thought we had come to steal his oranges. We had to tell him, 'No, no, we're just a family walking to the church.' Although the shots were fired into the air, it was still really scary."

"Along the route and at work, when people ask us why we are walking, we tell people the story," she added. "Carrying on the tradition is a great witness that we are firm believers in the power of prayer."

The joy was palpable as family members concluded the pilgrimage, telling one another to go home and soak their feet. But when Father Gaa asked the group, "Will I see you back here next year?", they all responded with a resounding "Yes."

The Southern Cross

'Warrior' Is More About Faith and Family Than Fighting, Director Says

New cage fighting drama has spiritual themes

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Set in the violent world of mixed martial arts, "Warrior" might seem like an unlikely film to market to religious audiences.

Throughout the film, cage fighters exchange fierce blows, slam one another's bodies to the ground with tremendous force, and pin down their opponents in submission holds.

But director/co-writer Gavin O'Connor, who was raised Catholic, says the film is not really about fighting at all.

"Mixed martial arts is just the backdrop," he told *The Southern Cross* during a Sept. 8 phone interview. "It's a drama about a family."

"Ultimately, it's a movie about forgiveness," he said.

At the heart of the story are two brothers — former Marine Tommy (Tom Hardy) and public school teacher Brendan Conlon (Joel Edgerton) — each with deeply personal reasons for competing in a high-stakes mixed martial arts tournament.

Though estranged from one another, the brothers share a talent for the combat sports as well as a strained relationship with their father, Paddy (Nick Nolte). Their father is a recovering alcoholic who has found Jesus, reached a thousand days of sobriety, and is desperately seeking reconciliation with his sons.

O'Connor said some have misunderstood

the meaning of the film's title, which refers not to the brothers' cage fighting matches but rather to the "warrior life outside of the cage," which is exemplified by all of the film's characters. He cited Paddy's commitment to sobriety and Brendan's dedication to his wife and children as examples of that warrior spirit.

Faith communities have had a "powerful response" to the film, said O'Connor, who identified several aspects of "Warrior" that would appeal to that demographic.

He pointed out that the audience's introduction to Paddy comes as the character is exiting a church. Moments later, Tommy discovers a Bible in his father's home. A rosary hanging on the rearview mirror of Paddy's car is also seen more than once.

"That's not by accident," O'Connor said of the rosary's appearances in the film. "This is a man that is, in essence, reborn. This is a man that has reclaimed his life. This is a man that has been paying for the sins of his past, and trying to make amends, and is on a new path."

The three Conlon men are all in different places in their spiritual lives, O'Connor said, noting that "Paddy has embraced God," Brendan is currently "living in his higher self," and "Tommy's whole journey throughout the film is to find God."

Beyond "the overriding theme of forgiveness and redemption," O'Connor said, the film also deals with issues of fatherhood, marriage and "spiritual warfare." He said religious viewers also might perceive "a Cain



TRAINING DAY: Tom Hardy and Nick Nolte star in a scene from the movie "Warrior."

and Abel quality" and "a Prodigal Son element" when watching the film.

However, O'Connor said he made no conscious effort to insert biblical allusions into his screenplay.

"What I didn't want to do is preach," he said. "[But] it's a story where all these themes, and ideas, and messages are simmering and bubbling underneath every frame of the film, and I think that it still speaks to people" without "banging anybody over the head."

O'Connor said it was difficult to say what he hoped viewers would take away from the

film because everyone will see it through the filter of their own life experiences, each taking away something different.

However, he told *The Southern Cross* about something "profound" that had occurred at a screening in Santa Barbara. During the question-and-answer session that followed the film, a woman told O'Connor that she had not spoken to her brother for more than 20 years but that the film had inspired her to give him a call.

"If films can do that," O'Connor mused, "it doesn't get any better."

The Southern Cross

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A True Fatherhood Film

'Courageous' highlights importance of fathers

By Brian Caulfield

Fathers don't fare well in today's popular media. When dad is present at all in prime-time television, he is often portrayed as weak and ineffective, and no match for his wiser wife and wiseguy kids. This situation is much the same on the big screen, where movie fathers are either divorced or dangerous figures, or else well-intentioned but never quite the dad they should be.

With so few modern examples, do we even know what a decent, responsible, hard-working father would look like in entertainment? Well, moviegoers are about to find out with the release of the film "Courageous" on Sept. 30.

"Courageous" tells the story of four fathers and their families, and how the decisions they make and the way they relate to their wives and children affect their direction, success and happiness in life. It is a moral tale with a Christian message that includes deep themes of humanity, touches of humor, and characters who are real, familiar and likeable. The movie runs the gamut of human experience and emotion, including early death, earthly judgment and final reconciliation.

It is also a "guy film," as three of the main characters are policemen who engage in car chases, run down suspects and bring criminals to justice. In addition, there are some good-natured station house pranks and male bonding among the officers.

"Courageous" is the work of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., the same group that released the movie "Fireproof" three years ago. You may remember that film, which was shown in many Catholic parishes, as having well-intentioned actors and a good message about saving a faltering marriage, but also as being a little stilted and preachy in parts. The only professional actor on screen was former child star Kirk Cameron. The other performers were members of Sherwood Baptist Church, men and women with big hearts but limited screen experience.

With this in mind, the fact that all of the "Courageous" actors are members of the Georgia church hardly sounds like a recommendation for the movie. Yet after prescreen-

ing the two-hour film, I can report that the acting is excellent and natural. You will see many of the same actors from "Fireproof" and notice how, in their new roles, they have grown in ability, confidence and screen presence. The script, directing and cinematography are also a few notches better, so much so that I can confidently say: If you liked "Fireproof," you will love "Courageous."

The film's tagline is "Honor Begins at Home," and the plot follows the struggle of the police officers trying to balance the demands of their careers with their obligations at home. There is also an out-of-work contractor who literally walks into the plot through coincidence, or divine providence. In the end, the men learn that God must take priority in their marriages and in living out their fatherhood.

If Catholics were to make a similar film, there would be some differences. At the end of the movie, for example, the celebration of the Eucharist would be a stronger sign of unity than a witness talk to a church congregation. Despite the fact that the producers are working within their own faith tradition, they are once again reaching out to Catholic dioceses and parishes to stage screenings. After all, the film's theme of faithful fatherhood should resonate with



FATHERHOOD: Alex Kendrick and Rusty Martin star as father and son in the film "Courageous."

Catholic audiences.

"Courageous" has all the elements that people look for in a movie: drama, conflict, action and humor, in addition to some serious themes about fatherhood, family life and the prospect of eternal life. It is good

also to know that it is a movie that the entire family can enjoy.

Brian Caulfield is editor of Fathers for Good (www.fathersforgood.org). The preceding article appeared in the July 2011 issue of Columbia magazine.

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los lunes, 24 octubre–5 de diciembre
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7–9:30 p.m.
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Most Californians live within an easy drive of a vineyard — vineyards are a familiar sight as we journey along our roads. They are also a familiar sight on our spiritual journey through the Bible. This last Sunday in September and the first Sunday of October, scriptural stories are set in vineyards. On the second Sunday of October, the readings speak of “choice wines” and a wedding banquet at which choice wine is sure to flow.



Father David Mercer

The biblical setting of a vineyard often points to our participation in what God wants to do in human history. The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us not merely to drive by and observe from the road, but to find our place in the vineyard and to participate in what God is doing.

I saw a bumper sticker that read: “Spirituality doesn’t make hospice calls.” In other words, a spirituality that remains centered on oneself isn’t apt to inspire a person to offer his or her gifts in service to others. Such a spirituality allows one to focus on climbing the social ladder, rather than entering the vineyard of God. Such a spirituality remains little more than warm feelings.

Vineyards and Miracles

Spirituality becomes true religion when we find ourselves doing what God wants us to do

However, a spirituality that understands all one has is a gift intended for the service of God and others is a spirituality that moves us into the vineyard where we can assist God in producing a vintage year of choice wine. This spirituality is more than warm feelings, but finds itself transformed into true religion. This is a religion that finds us making hospice calls, baking a casserole for a grieving family, and offering a patient, listening ear to the struggling teenager next door.

Jean Vanier was an officer in the Canadian Royal Navy during World War II. In 1964, through his friendship with a priest, he became aware of the difficult situations faced by people with mental disabilities. So, he changed the course of his life by going to a local asylum and inviting two mentally disabled men to live in his home near Paris.

Jean Vanier says that most people think a mentally disabled person should simply learn to live on their own by having a job

and then going home at night to watch television. He says that this perception overlooks “the greatest cry of handicapped people and all human beings — the cry for community.”

He calls his community L’Arche, French for “the ark,” as in Noah’s ark — a biblical symbol of refuge and deliverance. Today, L’Arche has become a federation of more than 130 communities spread over six continents. Jean Vanier says that L’Arche gives nondisabled people the opportunity “to go down the social ladder, not up.”

Spirituality becomes true religion when we find ourselves doing what God wants us to do. True religion transforms warm feelings by putting us in God’s vineyard in the simple, everyday events in our lives: We keep company with someone who grieves the death of a loved one, we help a fellow student understand a lesson they find confusing, we put the garbage out for a disabled neighbor.

A man seen as successful by others felt something was missing in his life. So, he set out on a spiritual quest, sat at the feet of gurus and visited different groups to learn about their beliefs and practices.

He came upon a community of believers who seemed to have something more to offer. He was struck by their spiritual depth and their sense that life is meaningful. The longer he was with them, the more satisfied he felt. So, he approached one of the leaders, saying, “Your community certainly practices what it preaches. Your teachings appear sound. The people have no guile, but only an energy that takes them beyond themselves and inspires me. This community has what I’ve been looking for, but I have one question: Does your God perform miracles?”

The leader looked confused, then replied, “What you mean by the word miracle, too many people think that a miracle happens when God does what people want done. We, however, understand a miracle happens when people do what God wants done.”

True religion is more than warm feelings, but includes the miracle of being in God’s vineyard, doing what God asks of us. Religion, not spirituality, makes hospice calls.

The Southern Cross

Father David Mercer is associate pastor of St. Christopher Parish in San Jose, Calif.

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I was scanning an online newspaper the other day when I came across a headline that grabbed my attention: “Poll: God’s Approval Rating Barely Breaks 50 Percent.” The following paragraph said, “More than half of U.S. voters approve of God’s job performance, according to a new poll, making God more popular than members of Congress.”



Father Charles L. Fuld

The poll was apparently conducted by a political research firm called Public Policy Planning (PPP), which surveyed 928 people, asking them to state their opinions of congressional leaders in the midst of the then on-going debt ceiling debate. How the question of God got into the polling data is rather vague, but there it was.

The pollsters’ press release made their position clear from the outset: “Though not the most popular figure PPP has polled, if God exists, voters are prepared to give it (sic) good marks” on such issues as the creation of the universe but not such good grades for recent natural disasters.

God’s approval rating?

I guess that makes sense if you see yourself as the center of all things and God merely as the “tooth fairy,” as the great provider, the solver of all problems, the last recourse when trouble hits. How is God doing at fulfilling all my plans for my future, caring for my financial interests, correcting all my mistakes, taking care of the people I love, etc., etc.? Is that what God [“if it exists”] is all about to this collection of people and these pollsters? Have we truly become so me-focused that we now see ourselves as the measurers of God’s worth?

God’s Approval Rating

Have we truly become so me-focused that we now see ourselves as the measurers of God's worth?

Shouldn’t we put the focus where it really belongs and instead ask, “What is my approval rating in God’s eyes? How am I doing with the challenges God put in my way?” In his first letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul tells us that “we were judged worthy by God to be entrusted with the Gospel ... not as trying to please human beings, but rather God, who judges our hearts.”

God allows disasters, in part, I suspect, to see what we do with them. When a tornado hits a mid-western community or we witness great starvation in the Horn of Africa, do we just shake our heads and say, “That’s terrible,” or do we help? “Oh but Father,” you ask, “what can I do to help?” There are lots of things, that’s for sure, whether it be through an agency like Catholic Charities, Father Joe’s Villages or Catholic Relief Services, or by helping kids with a school fundraising project. Yes, we can walk past the beggar in our doorway like the rich man in Luke’s Gospel who did that every day, or we can accept the challenge of our faith.

The other thing that struck me was the arrogance of an outfit that can conduct a poll with a group of 928 people deemed to be “possible voters” and then proclaim their result as representative of U.S. voters, with a margin of error of plus or minus two percent.

Such human arrogance is nothing new. It can be traced back to the Book of Genesis, where it is seen in Adam and Eve’s desire to “be like gods” and in the hubris of the architects of the Tower of Babel.

I would recommend that the pollsters reflect on Chapter 55 of the Book of Isaiah, which includes the following verses: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are My ways above your ways and My thoughts above your thoughts.”

They might also find the words of our Lord, as written in chapters 38 to 40 of the Book of Job, to be a stinging rebuke.

But unfortunately, they probably wouldn’t even bother to take a look ...

The Southern Cross

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

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One of the (many) signs of our cultural decline is that verbal insults, these days, are almost invariably scatological or sexual, provoking a blizzard of asterisks whenever A wants to put the smackdown on B. Once upon a time, it was not so. Once, the ability to come up with a clever insult that could be repeated in polite society was thought an important, if not necessarily essential, component of being a gentleman.



George Weigel

Take, for example, two masters of English repartee and wit, George Bernard Shaw and Winston Churchill. Shaw, prior to the opening of one of his plays, sent Churchill a telegram: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." Churchill, nonplussed (and likely amused), sent a telegram in reply: "Cannot possibly attend first night; will attend second, if there is one."

Oscar Wilde, who may have returned to the faith before his death, was another man of English letters who knew how to insult with class and wit: Thus, "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever

The Gentlemanly Art of the Insult

'I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying that I approved of it.'

they go." Or the immortal, "He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." (Wilde could turn his wit on himself, too, which is always a sign of an insulter-with-class: "I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying." Or, inventing a trope that others frequently used of Churchill, "I have the simplest tastes. I am always satisfied with the best.")

As writer and editor, Mark Twain accumulated the literary man's usual collection of enemies, whom he enjoyed twitting. Thus, to one especially dull critic: "Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" Or about a more intolerable one: "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying that I approved of it."

The aforementioned Mr. Bernard Shaw appreciated Twain's wit, noting that "Mark Twain and I are in the same position. We have put things in such a way as to make

people, who would otherwise hang us, believe that we are joking." For his part, Ernest Hemingway, in an unaccustomed moment of modesty, once said that "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*." Twain, in whatever post-mortem circumstances he found himself when told that one, may have winced, knowing as he must of William Faulkner's immortal put-down of his fellow-Nobel laureate, Hemingway: "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to a dictionary."

Today's political badinage is lame, lamer, lamest compared with the wits of yore. Churchill, of course, figures prominently here. Told over dinner by Lady Astor, the American-born female member of the House of Commons, that, "If you were my husband, Winston, I'd poison your soup," Churchill immediately replied, "And if you were my wife, Nancy, I'd drink it." And

then there was the great man's take-down of the austere Labor minister, Sir Stafford Cripps: "He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." Another Labor stalwart, Aneurin Bevan, a great supporter of nationalized medicine, was a frequent target of Churchill's raillery: "I can think of no better step to signal the inauguration of the National Health Service than that a man who so obviously needs psychiatric attention should be among the first of its patients."

But Bevan finally got the best of Churchill. During the coronation festivities for Queen Elizabeth II, there was a state ball at Buckingham Palace at which the old, pre-war uniforms were to be worn. Sir Winston, exiting the palace men's room dressed in the bottle-green uniform of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and wearing the ribbon of the Order of the Garter, spotted Bevan wearing a blue serge suit. "I think that at least on this occasion you might have taken the trouble to dress properly," Churchill harrumphed scornfully. "Prime Minister, your fly buttons are undone," replied a cherubic Bevan.

Those were the days.

George Weigel is distinguished senior fellow of Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

'Gay Genes,' Sexual Attractions and the Call to Chastity

People often surmise that same-sex attraction is inborn, and that homosexuals are "naturally gay" or "born that way." They suppose that, if God made them that way, then it must not be a sin to act on their sexual desires. The possibility of a "gay gene" is sometimes offered as a further defense, suggesting that the condition and its associated behavior, are inevitable and inescapable. One commentator summarized it this way: "Asking someone to stop being homosexual would therefore be equivalent to asking an Asian person to stop being Asian or a left-handed person to stop being left-handed."



Father Tad Pacholczyk

Even if a hypothetical "gay gene" were ever found, all it would likely determine, similar to most genes governing behavior, would be a genetic predisposition towards a particular sexual preference. This would be something very different from the genetic determinism or "hard-wiring" of, say, eye color or blood type. Multiple twin studies have already demonstrated that only about a third of the identical twins of those with same-sex attractions also experience same-sex attractions; whereas if sexual attractions were determined strictly by genes, those with identical genes would be expected to have identical attractions.

Even if we have genes that predispose us towards certain behaviors, we still have a space of freedom within ourselves and do not have to engage in those behaviors. Our genes may impel us strongly in certain behavioral directions, but they can't compel us.

This reminds us of one of the fundamental truths about our human nature — namely, that we are not creatures of sexual necessity. We are not compelled to act on our inclinations and urges, but are always free to act otherwise, even directly against the grain of those inclinations. In fact, to be

Even if we have genes that predispose us towards certain behaviors, we still have a space of freedom within ourselves and do not have to engage in those behaviors.

truly free as a human means to have the strength to act against ourselves, so that we do not live in bondage to our own inner impulses and drives, a key consideration that distinguishes us from the animals. Human freedom involves the mastery of those drives by redirecting them and ordering them to higher goals. So while we cannot in any way be held responsible for inborn inclinations, we certainly can be held responsible for how we choose to act in the face of those inclinations.

Sherif Gergis summarizes this idea in a recent article: "We do not pretend to know the genesis of same-sex attraction, but we consider it ultimately irrelevant to this debate. On this point, we agree with same-sex marriage advocate Professor John Corvino: 'The fact is that there are plenty of genetically influenced traits that are nevertheless undesirable. Alcoholism may have a genetic basis, but it doesn't follow that alcoholics ought to drink excessively. Some people may have a genetic predisposition to violence, but they have no more right to attack their neighbors than anyone else. Persons with such tendencies cannot say, "God made me this way" as an excuse for acting on their dispositions.'"

Even though God did make each of us in a certain way, it is clear there are other factors that have influence over our personal constitution and inclinations as well, including actual sin and original sin. It is not difficult for us to see, through the turmoil of our own disordered inclinations,

how our human condition, our general biology, our psychological depths and even our DNA, seem to be subject to a fundamental fallenness.

It would not be unexpected or surprising, then, if we eventually discovered predisposing factors (genes, hormones, developmental cues, etc.) that give rise to heterosexual or homosexual inclinations. What is of real moral relevance to the discussion, however, is the universal call to chastity, irrespective of genes and hormones.

Chastity refers to the successful integration of sexuality within the person, and all men and women are called to live chastely in keeping with their particular states of life.

Some will do so by professing a life of consecrated virginity or consecrated celibacy.

Married people will do so by living conjugal chastity, in the exclusive and lifelong gift of husband and wife to each other, avoiding the unchastity of contraceptive sex, and sharing the marital embrace in openness to new life. Professor Robert George speaks of "marriage as a union that takes its distinctive character from being founded, unlike other friendships, on bodily unity of the kind that sometimes generates new life."

Those who are single will practice chastity in continence, steering away from fornication, masturbation and pornographic pursuits.

Those who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex are similarly called to chastity in continence. By refraining from sexual activity with members of the same sex, and engaging in an apprenticeship of self-mastery, they come to acquire, like all who pursue lives of chastity, an abiding inner freedom and peace.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia (www.ncbcenter.org).

The Elderly Are a Blessing, Not a Burden

As the 20th century came to a close, the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Older Persons, heralding the vision of “A Society for All Ages.” The first years of the new millennium have been anything but that, with the abandonment of frail seniors during natural disasters from New Orleans to Japan, the legalization of assisted suicide in several U.S. states and foreign countries, and political rhetoric that seems to consider the growing population of seniors merely as a drain on our health care system and the federal budget. Is this the society for all ages we envisioned in 1999?

By Sister Constance Carolyn Veit

Rather than looking upon the growing numbers of older persons as a burden, Pope Benedict XVI — like his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II — has called them a blessing for society.

“Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it,” he affirmed in speaking to the elderly at St. Peter’s Residence in London last September. The pope insisted that “the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much as an act of generosity but as the repayment of a debt of gratitude.”

The pope’s words should give us pause. We might also recall a bit of biblical wisdom: “With your whole heart honor your father; your mother’s birth pangs forget not,” Sirach tells us. “Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you?” (Sir 7:28). Sirach admonishes us, “My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, it will serve as a sin offering — it will take lasting root” (Sir 3:12–14).

To realize all that we owe the elderly and to honor them as a blessing, perhaps we



COURTESY OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

need to slow down a bit and look at each one as if they were our own parent or grandparent. Maybe we need to see ourselves in them — for we too will be old one day, if we are blessed to enjoy a long life. Perhaps what we really need to do is to look upon the elderly as Pope Benedict does — as persons imbued with inviolable dignity and thus worthy of our respect and care, simply because they have been made in the image and likeness of God and are sustained by His providence.

“Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary,” Benedict said in his first homily as pope and again to the elderly last September in London. “Life is a gift, at every stage from conception until natural death, and it is God’s alone to give and to take.”

This October, American Catholics will once again observe Respect Life Month.

When we think of pro-life activities, we naturally think of the unborn, and rightly so. But this year, we would do well to reflect on the elderly — the contributions they have made to our families and society, their wisdom and experience, the care and assistance they need and the respect they deserve as human persons created in God’s image. The U.S. bishops recently published a statement on assisted suicide titled *To Live Each Day with Dignity* (<http://www.usccb.org/toliveeachday/>). It is a valuable read for anyone who cares about the dignity of human life.

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we are committed to the accompaniment and care of the needy elderly, following the advice of our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, who said, “Never forget that the poor are Our Lord ... Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!” We are caregivers — not politicians

or policy makers. But we do know that caring for the elderly poor is growing more difficult all the time because of funding cuts, a chronic shortage of qualified professional and paraprofessional caregivers, and the attitudes of a society becoming increasingly callous with regard to the sacredness of human life.

During this Respect Life Month, we invite you to pray for the triumph of the culture of life, to advocate for better financing of care for low-income seniors and better educational programs and benefits for caregivers, and simply to cherish the elders in your own family or community.

Sister Constance Carolyn Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States.

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

For more information on English events, e-mail sdoris@diocese-sdiego.org or call (858) 490-8232; for more information on Spanish events, e-mail esaucedo@diocese-sdiego.org or call (858) 490-8237.

Leadership In-Service

“Building Bridges to Young Adults: A Workshop for Parish Leaders” with Joan Weber. 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Fee: \$49, lunch included. To register, call (888) 723-2433.

Catechetical Workshop

“Parents As Catechists” with Teresa Moya. 6–9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Imperial. Fee: \$15.

RCIA Workshop

“Annulments: How and When They Are Granted” with Kelly O’Donnell, JCD. 9:30 a.m.–noon, Friday, Oct. 21, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No fee.

Basic Catechist Formation

48-hour course grants California Catechist Certification. Cost: \$65/person. A course for those who are deaf or hard

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

of hearing and know Sign Language will begin on Thursday, Oct. 13, from 6–9 p.m., and continue on Thursday evenings. For more information, call (858) 490-8232.

Curso Básico para Ministros y Evangelizadores Parroquiales

Es un curso de 48 horas y costo: \$65. La parroquia el Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista, comienzo 1 de octubre, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. y continuará los sábados. Contact Enedina Saucedo at (858) 490-8237.

Curso de Formación de la Fe de Adultos

Curso, comienzo 22 de septiembre, 6–9 p.m. y continuará 29 de septiembre, 6, 13 y 20 de octubre en el Centro Pastoral. Costo: \$65.

Reunión para Liderazgo de Ministros Eclesiales

“Tradiciones Litúrgicas y la Catolicidad de la Iglesia” con Rodrigo Valdivia, 24 de septiembre, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., en el Centro Pastoral. No hay costo.

Taller de Liturgia y Sacramentos en Valle Imperial

Taller, 1 de octubre, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., en la parroquia Sacred Heart, Heber. Costo: \$15.

Taller de RICA

“Cómo y Duándo Se Otorgan” con Kelly O’Donnell, JCD. 26 de octubre, 6:30–9 p.m., en el Centro Pastoral. No hay costo.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Crime Victim or Family Member?

If you are in need of spiritual support and would like to give or receive support from other people like you in similar circumstances, please contact the diocesan Office for Social Ministry’s Restorative Justice Program at (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or e-mail jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore.

Friends/Family of Incarcerated

Ongoing support for the hidden victims of crime, sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Ministry’s Restorative Justice Program. Call (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or e-mail jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore.

Ministry to the Incarcerated

Catholic adults can serve on teams ministering to Catholic inmates in a variety of detention facilities. For information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore, e-mail jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org or call (858) 490-8375.

Courage

Personal/group ministry to those with same-sex attraction. Group meetings: 7 p.m., every other Saturday evening, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, San Diego. Chaplain: Father Richard Huston. Call (858) 271-0207 (office) or (858) 578-5764 (private).

Encourage

Personal/group ministry to families and friends of those with same-sex attraction. This ministry adheres to Church teaching on homosexuality and offers support through prayer, counseling and fellowship. Meetings: 9 a.m., one Saturday morning each month, at Good Shepherd Parish in San Diego. Chaplain: Father Richard Huston. Call (858) 271-0207 (office) or (858) 578-5764 (private).

PARISH EVENTS

Healing Masses

- 7 p.m., Oct. 18, at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. For information, call (760) 741-0866.
- 7 p.m., Oct. 26, a St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Mass preceded by music and testimony at 6:30 p.m. Celebrant: Father Mike Sears. For information, call (888) 590-5095.

Parish Festivals

- St. John of the Cross Parish will hold its fall festival on Sept. 23 (5-10 p.m.), Sept. 24 (4-10 p.m.) and Sept. 25 (9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.), on the church grounds (8086 Broadway Ave., Lemon Grove 91945).
- Holy Family Parish and School will host their annual fall festival, Oct. 1-2, from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday. For information, call (858) 277-0222.
- St. Mary Parish, National City, will hold its annual festival from 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Oct. 2. For information, call (619) 474-1501.
- “Blast to the Past ... on Route 66” will be held Oct. 7-9 at Guardian Angels Parish, Santee. Call (619) 417-7327.
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista, is presenting Friar Fest 2011 on Oct. 7-9. For information, visit www.stfrancis-vista.org or call (760) 945-8000.
- St. Mary Parish, Escondido, will hold its annual fiesta Oct. 8 (11 a.m.-10 p.m.) and Oct. 9 (8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.). For information, call (760) 500-7399.

PARISH EVENTS

- JamulFest will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 16, at St. Pius X Parish (14107 Lyons Valley Rd., Jamul). For information, call (619) 669-0085.
- Blessed Sacrament School will hold its Fall Fest and Haunted Carnival from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29. Fall Fest will feature a giveaway of a new Honda Accord LX. Haunted Carnival offers spooky fun for the whole family. For information, visit www.BSPSFallFest.org.

Conversion Story

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, will share his conversion story at 7 p.m., Oct. 16, at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. For information, call (760) 489-1200.

Mardi Gras Gala Night

St. Columba School's Mardi Gras Gala Night & \$10,000 Opportunity Draw will take place Nov. 19 at Sheraton 4 Points, Serra Mesa. Includes dinner, dancing, casino and live/silent auctions. Only 350 \$10K tickets will be sold. Proceeds benefit the school. Call (858) 279-1882.

GROUPS

Walk for Life

1 p.m., Oct. 9, at De Anza Cove, North Mission Bay Park. Sponsored by Birthline of San Diego County, Inc., a nonprofit, non-denominational, non-political pregnancy support group. Families welcome. For information, call (858) 270-2491.

GROUPS

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are urgently needed at Birthline's Clairemont Pregnancy Support Center, including a director, administrative assistants, inventory manager and clothing specialists. For information, call Mary Ann at (619) 742-3933.

Golf Tournament

Sacred Heart School will host its 10th annual golf tournament Oct. 7 at Coronado Municipal Golf Course. Features \$1 Million Hole-in-One Shootout after the tournament. Entry fee: \$175, includes green fees, cart usage, tee bag, range balls and special contests. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart School. For information, e-mail shpsgolf@gmail.com.

Cill Dara Book Group

Meets 6:30-8:30 p.m., third Tuesdays, in St. Brigid Parish's Bay Room. Next meeting: Oct. 18. October book selection: *Tattoos on the Heart* by Jesuit Father Gregory Boyle. Light refreshments served. For information, e-mail leehulburt@gmail.com or call (858) 414-1999.

Central SD Magnificat

A Ministry for Catholic women. Next meeting: 9:30 a.m., Nov. 12, at the Mission Valley Sheraton. Father Donald Calloway will speak about Mary and the mystery of femininity. RSVP by calling (858) 342-9022.

North County Magnificat

The “ministry to Catholic women” will

GROUPS

hold its next breakfast at 9 a.m., Oct. 29, at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Speaker: Samia Mary Zumout. For information or to RSVP, call (760) 489-5588 or visit members.cox.net/magnificat.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

The organization will hold a board meeting Sept. 28, hosted by the Oceanside Deanery. For information, call (760) 468-4049.

Scout Emblem Training

Catholic Girl Scout Religious Recognitions training will be held for adults who wish to be a moderator for the program. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sept. 24, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. For information, call (760) 941-0021 or e-mail kimbrower@cox.net.

Divorce Healing Ministry

A free 12-week support group meets from 7-9 p.m., every Tuesday, from Sept. 20-Dec. 6, at St. Luke Parish in El Cajon. For information, call (619) 401-6445.

Healing After Divorce

A free support group for the separated and divorced will meet from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 20-Dec. 13, in Sacred Heart Parish's ministry center (655 C Ave.,

GROUPS

Coronado 92118). For information, call (619) 435- 6136.

Holy Spirit Ministry

- Monthly holiness class continues, 5-9 p.m., September date to be announced, in St. Augustine High School's chapel.
- Mass/healing service, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 7, at Most Precious Blood Parish, and Oct. 17 at Holy Spirit Parish. Healing service with Eucharistic adoration follows Mass.
- For information, call (619) 262-9685 or visit www.holyspiritministry.net.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Day of Recollection

St. Francis of Assisi Parish has invited Father Richard Fragomeni to speak on “The Roman Missal: Embracing the New Translation.” The event will take place from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. (beginning with opening Mass), Sept. 24, upstairs at St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside. For information, call (760) 945-8000.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

After-Abortion Healing

Rachel's Hope will lead a retreat for Catholic (and Catholic-friendly) women who are dealing with the pain of abortion Oct. 7-9 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$45; partial scholarships available. For information/registration, call (858) 581-3022 or visit www.RachelsHope.org.

‘Healing Your Family Tree’

One-day workshop with Father John Hampsch. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 29, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish in Carmel Valley. Includes Mass and lunch. To register, contact Jessica Firsching at (858) 481-3232 or visit www.sttheresecarmel.org

Natural Family Planning

A four-session course on the sympto-thermal method will start Oct. 5 and continue Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14. For information/registration, call (619)-303-5053 or e-mail davidandcherylbross@gmail.com.

Women’s Retreats

Oct. 14, 15, 16, at El Carmelo retreat house, in Redlands, CA. For information, contact Jeanette Allen at (858) 279-1509.

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 Friday of that month.
- Announcements will appear for at most three months, after which they must be re-submitted via email or fax (email preferred).
- To be listed in the “Groups” section, a group must be able to present the endorsement of their pastor, the diocese or a recognized national/international Catholic entity.

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A listing of services provided by businesses and professionals in the San Diego area. Also see your 2010 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

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La Jolla Village Professional Ctr.
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La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 458-1060
See ad in annual directory

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San Diego, CA 92122
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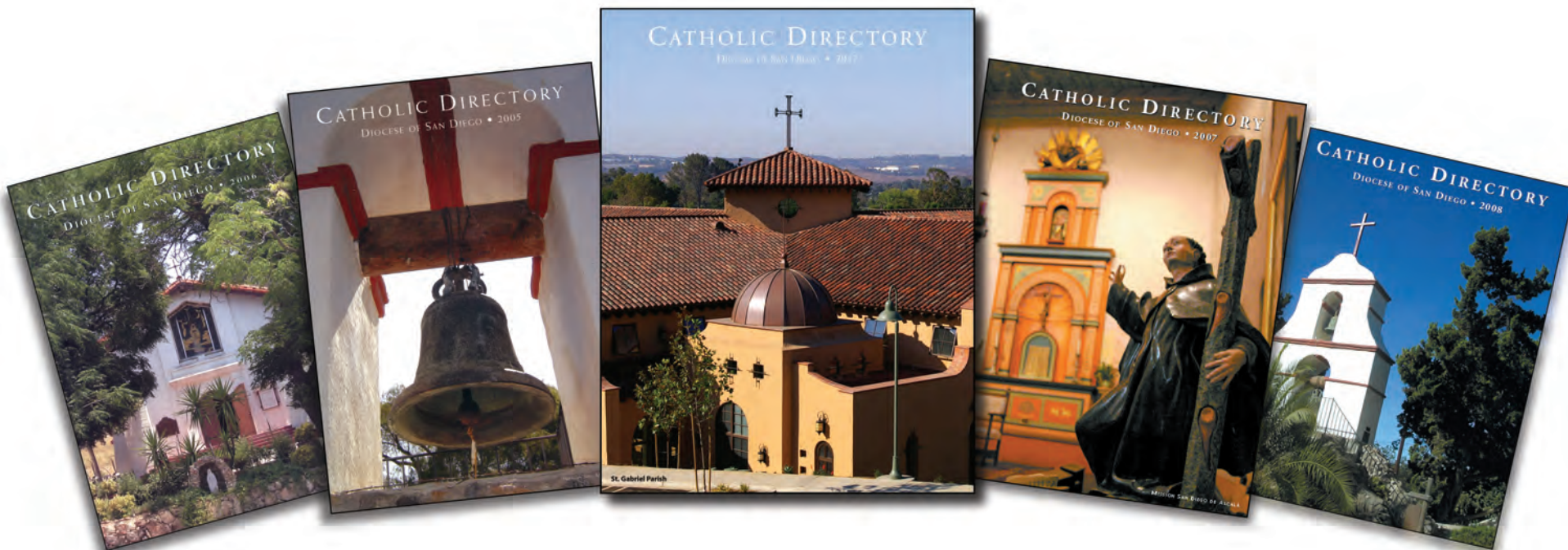
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