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‘Small Things with Great Love’

Mother Teresa declared a saint

CALCUTTA, India — A favorite motto of St. Teresa of Calcutta was: “Do small things with great love.”

But the “small things” she did so captivated the world that she was showered with awards and almost universally praised.

Despite calls on her time from all over the globe, Mother Teresa always returned to India to be with those she loved most — the lonely, abandoned, homeless, disease-ravaged, dying, “poorest of the poor” in Calcutta’s streets.

On Sept. 4, Pope Francis, who has spent this year preaching about mercy, canonized Mother Teresa. An estimated 120,000 people packed St. Peter’s Square for the canonization Mass.

“Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded,” the pope said in his homily.

During her life, Mother Teresa traveled the world to deliver a single message: that love and caring are the most important things in the world.

“The biggest disease today,” she once said, “is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feel-

SEE MOTHER TERESA, PAGE 12



CNS/KNA

Diocesan Synod Delegates Are Invited to ‘Think Big’

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — “Think big.”

That’s what Bishop Robert W. McElroy urged parish delegates to do leading up to the first general assembly in the diocese in 40 years.

This assembly, called a diocesan synod, will be held on Oct. 29 and 30. Its focus will be on how the San Diego Diocese and its individual parishes can strengthen marriage and families, give pastoral support to divorced Catholics and invite unmarried couples into the fold, all challenges faced by the Church.

At the end of the synod, the dele-

gates will present five proposals to the bishop, who has committed to implementing them.

The seed for the synod was planted by Pope Francis earlier this year. In his teaching document “Amoris Laetitia” (“Joy of Love”), the pope invited dioceses around the world to reflect on the state of families in their region and to find ways to strengthen them.

After consultations with the priestly leadership, deacons and lay leaders, Bishop McElroy announced in May that the Diocese of San Diego

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Chastity Groups Helping Catholics on Path to Purity

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — About five years ago, a few of Dr. Paul Santero’s male friends confided in him about their struggle with pornography.

They encouraged Santero, a Catholic psychologist who had wrestled with and overcome the same issues years earlier, to form a Catholic chastity group for men.

Around the same time, Santero heard a homily in which Father Matthew Spahr, pastor of The Immaculata Parish, lamented how easily accessible and widely used pornography had become — even among practicing Catholics — thanks to the Internet. Santero approached Father Spahr after Mass, pitching the very idea that his friends had suggested to him.

The result was Dragonslayers, a men’s chastity group based at The Immaculata Parish but open to any man struggling to lead a chaste lifestyle. Last year, it was joined by The Immaculata Women’s Chastity Group, led by parishioner Rita Sporleder, which provides a forum for

SEE CHASTITY, PAGE 16

FIAT Schools Seeking to Raise Even More for Tuition Assistance

SAN DIEGO — About a year ago, a consortium of six Catholic schools and 11 parishes in the South Bay region was formed to make quality Catholic education more accessible to local families.

This consortium is now known as FIAT Catholic Schools. Its motto is “Yes to God, Yes to Catholic Education.”

FIAT Catholic Schools’ vision is to provide accessible, innovative Catholic education in the South Bay. In order to make Catholic education accessible for families in need of financial assistance, the consortium started a scholarship program, “Blessing Our Future” Annual Collection Education Fund, in September 2015. About \$100,000 in donations was raised the first year, enabling the consortium to offer scholarships to 138 returning or new students enrolling in a K-12 Catholic school in San Diego.

Building on the success of the 2015 campaign, FIAT Catholic Schools has launched its 2016 “Blessing Our Future” collection. Held in conjunction with Catechetical Sunday, it began during the weekend of Sept. 17-18 at South Bay parishes. The consortium is encouraging donors to pledge \$1 per day (\$365/year) for Catholic education. All donations will help provide tuition assis-



CONSORTIUM: Sister Eva Lujano, principal, poses with students at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in San Ysidro. The school is one of six schools and 11 parishes that comprise FIAT Catholic Schools.

tance. Over a four-week period, FIAT Catholic Schools representatives will have information tables set up outside of all participating South Bay parishes to provide information about the campaign.

Donations will also be accepted by mail or online at www.fiatcatholicschools.com.

“It is truly a blessing how many families FIAT Catholic Schools has already helped in a period of only one year,” said Steven

Stutz, administrator of FIAT Catholic Schools. “Although these numbers are truly remarkable, the need in South Bay is much greater. Without a doubt, FIAT is heading in the right direction and with continued support will reach their goal of blessing all families who apply for a ‘Blessing Our Future’ scholarship with the ability to send their children to Catholic school.”

The 11 parishes that are members of the consortium include: Corpus Christi (Bonita), Mater Dei (Chula Vista), Most Precious Blood (Chula Vista), Our Lady of Guadalupe (Chula Vista), Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (San Ysidro), St. Anthony of Padua (National City), St. Charles (Imperial Beach), St. Mary (National City), St. Michael (Paradise Hills), St. Pius X (Chula Vista) and St. Rose of Lima (Chula Vista). Participating schools include: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Charles, St. Rose of Lima and St. Pius X schools, St. Michael Academy, and Mater Dei Catholic High School/Juan Diego Academy.

For more information, visit www.fiatcatholicschools.com, e-mail info@fiatcatholicschools.com or call (619) 721-3309. Stutz can be reached at ssutz@fiatcatholic-schools.com or (858) 490-8372.

The Southern Cross

New Foundation Seeks to Be ‘One-Stop Resource’ for Catholic Philanthropy

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — When it comes to Catholic philanthropy, there’s a new player in town.

The Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego, which was incorporated last December, assists donors in creating and growing endowed funds that will serve the needs of the Local Church.

“The thing that makes the Catholic Community Foundation unique is that we are essentially an umbrella over all Catholic philanthropy in San Diego and Imperial counties,” explained Gary Rectenwald, executive director of the foundation. “We like to think of ourselves as a one-stop resource that promotes thoughtful, spiritual and effective Catholic philanthropy.”

San Diego-area Catholics are free to continue making individual contributions to their favorite charities, Rectenwald said, but one of the foundation’s benefits is that it can streamline the process by allowing individuals or companies to establish funds that can benefit several charities.

“Donors are able to make a gift, receive a single tax receipt and make grant distributions over time to one or many charities,” Rectenwald said.

One of 28 Catholic community foundations throughout the United States, it is an autonomous pious foundation formed under canon law and is a tax-exempt non-profit under civil law. The foundation is independent from the Diocese of San Diego and has its own board of trustees.

Rectenwald explained that community foundations generally serve a specific geo-

graphical area and are designed to pool gifts from a wide variety of sources and distribute grants to a wide variety of recipients.

The mission of the foundation is to attract, receive, manage, safeguard and grow investments that support organizations and donors carrying out the mission of the Catholic Church. All funds are invested in a manner consistent with socially responsible investing and Catholic values investing standards established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The foundation will not invest in organizations whose activities are inconsistent with Catholic values.

“The roots of the foundation are grounded in Catholic stewardship, where faith-filled Catholics recognize that everything they have is a gift from God, and, responding with deep gratitude to God for their gifts, they develop a strong desire to give back to those institutions and ministries that formed and guided them in their faith throughout their lives,” Rectenwald said. “They want to ensure that the organizations and ministries that they highly value, and that are near and dear to their hearts, are sustained and flourish in this generation and for many, many generations to come.”

The foundation is dedicated to providing a vehicle through which donors can express their Catholic identity and easily administer their Catholic philanthropy, Rectenwald said. The San Diego-based foundation “will work with donors to create funds that are meaningful to them. It could be their local parish, school or any other 501(c)(3) charitable institution.”

After establishing one or more funds with



FOUNDATION: Catholic schools are among the many local Catholic institutions that can be supported through the Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego.

the foundation, donors are able to support local Catholic institutions like Father Joe’s Villages and Catholic Charities. They can be very specific about the purpose of the desired fund distributions; examples include parish music ministry programs, youth ministry programs, tuition assistance and more.

Rectenwald said the foundation is entirely “donor-centric” in that it honors the intentions and directives of each donor in all grant distributions. He added, “We won’t distribute a single penny of grant money unless it is directed by the donor. This service provides peace of mind for our donors, today and forever.”

Its pass-through donor-advised funds can be directed by donors to non-Catholic organizations, such as a donor’s alma mater or a non-Catholic charity, as long as its mission is not inconsistent with

Catholic values.

“One of the key advantages of establishing pass-through donor-advised funds is that the donor receives an immediate, single tax receipt from the foundation for the gift and then has several months or years to grant distributions to charitable organizations in the future, as desired,” Rectenwald explained.

He added, “Our core values are to create long-term relationships and partnerships with our donors and their beneficiaries by maintaining the highest levels of integrity, transparency and communication.”

Once a fund is established, donors will have the ability to log on to their personal accounts in order to track their donation history, investment earnings and request grant distributions from their

SEE FOUNDATION, PAGE 14

Catholic Tattoo Artist's Life Indelibly Marked by Faith

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Kurt Deetjen is standing in front of Above All Tattoo in Pacific Beach, where he works as a tattoo artist.

There is a backwards baseball cap atop his head. His arms and legs are an ornate tapestry of tattoos. There are others on his hands, and still more peek out from beneath the collar of his T-shirt and extend up his neck.

A member of St. Brigid Parish for a little over four years, Deetjen told *The Southern Cross*, "It took me about two years to get the guts ... to volunteer for things or be part of the community, just because I felt so different than everybody else. I know I looked different."

But, ultimately, Deetjen came to accept that "different" isn't always bad and that it might even be a positive when it comes to evangelization.

The fact that he doesn't fit many people's preconceived notions of what a practicing Catholic looks like, the 37-year-old said, sometimes makes people "a little more comfortable" about opening up to him and sharing their personal stories.

For Deetjen, who has been in his current profession for 16 years, evangelization hasn't been accomplished through preaching or proselytizing, but through things as simple as casual conversations about his evening or weekend plans.

"I don't have a problem ... talking about the fact that I am a Catholic, and I go to church, and I want to be a good person," said Deetjen, who will unashamedly explain that he needs to leave work a little early on Wednesday nights to attend Bible study, that Mass is his priority on Sundays, and that, on two Monday evenings each month, he will be serving dinner to the homeless.

Through conversations in the tattoo shop, Deetjen has inspired some clients to check out St. Brigid's, which is just about a 10-minute walk from the shop. Even one of his many tattoos — a depiction of Jesus that can be seen on the back of his head — has allowed him to share the Good News, he said, "because, most of the time, I can't hide it" and people will ask about it.

Deetjen was 17 years old when he got his first tattoo and, since then, has gotten so many that he cannot provide an exact count. ("Oh man, I have them all over. I don't know.") His most recent is of a cross, anchor and heart, symbolizing the theological virtues of faith, hope and love.

Originally from Chicago, he was working at a hospital and studying to be an emergency medical technician when he began his transition into a full-time career as a tattoo artist.

Deetjen came to San Diego about 10 years ago to accept a guest artist position at a local tattoo shop. After several return trips, he decided to make his home there.

During the first of those visits, he rode past St. Brigid Parish on a beach cruiser and felt something tugging at him to come back to the Church.

"I went to Catholic school, I was baptized, confirmed — that whole deal," Deetjen said, recounting his Catholic upbringing. But, by the time he entered high school, he was in an angry place and dealing with "a lot of problems," including drugs. Though he would accompany his family to Mass on holidays, he was no longer a regular church-goer.

"Before I started going to St. B's, I was just so embarrassed at my past and some of the things I had done ... that I wouldn't even



TATTOO ARTIST: Kurt Deetjen is seen inside Above All Tattoo in San Diego, where he works as a tattoo artist.

go into the church," he recalled. "I would just go outside St. B's and pray in the evening when no one was there, just because I felt so desperate for that relationship [with God]."

Eventually, however, he took the plunge and found at St. Brigid's both a supportive community and many opportunities to serve others.

At the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass, he discovered a "church buddy" in the form of the 92-year-old woman he would sit next to

each week. At a Thanksgiving dinner organized by the parish's vibrant young adult community, he encountered a "really welcoming" group of Catholic peers.

He also began volunteering regularly with the parish's Neighbors in Need ministry, which serves dinner to the homeless twice a month in the parish hall. His passion for it eventually led to a leadership position.

Deetjen volunteers with the parish youth ministry and has been a leader on young

SEE DEETJEN, PAGE 9

In Response to Recent Violence, Interreligious Prayer Service Calls for Unity and Peace

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — The Catholic Diocese of San Diego convened Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders in an extraordinary show of unity to pray for peace and "to nurture peace and build bridges in our communities."

The service on Sept. 9 at St. Joseph Cathedral was part of a national initiative launched by the U.S. Catholic Church to respond to the racially related shootings, racial tensions and hateful discourse dividing some communities. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had called for the date to be observed as a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities. The goal of the Church is to foster healing by working to solve, along with a variety of partners, the root causes of these destructive divisions.

In San Diego, communities of color disproportionately suffer higher rates of violence, crime and incarceration than the white population. Many community members bitterly complain of being the target of racial



DAY OF PRAYER: An interreligious prayer service was held Sept. 9 at St. Joseph Cathedral, in observance of the Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities.

profiling by law enforcement and being unfairly treated by the criminal justice system. Meanwhile, law enforcement officials maintain that they working to keep communities safe in an unpredictable environment

with ruthless gangs and easy access to weapons.

About 75 faith leaders, law enforcement and government officials — including State Assemblywoman Shirley Weber,

County Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales and former San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne — met just before the service to begin to talk about how they can work together to improve communi-

ty-police relations.

"The consensus was that we, as the religious community, have an imperative and an opportunity that can be very helpful in bringing together major participants in law enforcement and [government] to try to eradicate prejudice," said Catholic Bishop Robert W. McElroy, "to try to bridge the narrowness of vision that sometimes prevents all sides in this very complex problem from seeing the legitimate positions, and challenges, and fears of each other."

He said the faith leaders agreed to reconvene after the election, before year's end, to develop a plan on how they can work together "to try to build a truer, deeper peace and a truer, deeper justice in San Diego."

This work is urgently needed, said Kevin Malone, who has led for 15 years the San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP), a partner in the prayer service.

"We are one step away from

SEE PEACE, PAGE 9

Briefs

Judge Won't Stop Calif. Assisted Suicide Law

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (CNS) — A California judge ruled Aug. 26 that he will not put the state's new assisted-suicide law on hold while a group of doctors are challenging it, but he also ruled that their challenge could continue. The state's assisted-suicide law, voted in last year by lawmakers, took effect in June. Compassion & Choices, a group backing the law, said 30 people are known to have taken advantage of the law to hasten their own deaths. The group of doctors, backed by the American Academy of Medical Ethics — also known as the Christian Medical and Dental Society — had sued to suspend the law while their challenge proceeded. But Riverside County Superior Court Judge Daniel Ottolia denied their request for an injunction, saying, "The injunction would subject them [patients] to additional pain." Ottolia also denied a bid by the state of California and backers of the law, which is known as the End of Life Option, to have the doctors' suit dismissed. "Plaintiffs have patients that fall under the act so the case is not hypothetical," Ottolia said in denying the motion.

USCCB Objects to 'Chimera' Research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops objected to a National Institutes of Health proposal to authorize federally funded research on part-human, part-animal embryos in comments submitted to the agency Sept. 2. The bishops made ethical and legal arguments in opposing the plan, saying that such research results in "beings who do not fully belong to either the human race or the host animal species." Current NIH guidelines for human stem cell research specifically prohibit introducing human pluripotent cells — those capable of giving rise to several different cell types — into nonhuman primate blastocysts, which are cells at an early stage of development. NIH has proposed funding scientists researching such embryos, known as chimeras. The bishops' statement said that while the plan calls for review of some research proposals by a NIH steering committee, "the bottom line is that the federal government will begin expending taxpayer dollars on the creation and manipulation of new beings whose very existence blurs the line between humanity and animals such as mice and rats." By funding such research, the bishops argued, the NIH would be ignoring laws that prohibit it. They said such research "is also grossly unethical."

When in Rome



COURTESY OF MSGR. STEVEN CALLAHAN

At the invitation of Bishop Robert W. McElroy, Msgr. Steven Callahan (left) and retired Bishop Robert H. Brom (right) traveled to Rome to represent the Diocese of San Diego at the canonization of Mother Teresa.

Bishop Brom and Msgr. Callahan assisted Mother Teresa at the time of her hospitalization in San Diego in early 1992. After Mother Teresa regained her health, she established a convent for contemplative Missionaries of Charity in San Diego. Their convent is located in St. Jude Parish.

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Bishop Appoints New Executive Director of Catholic Charities

SAN DIEGO — Bishop Robert W. McElroy announced Sept. 15 that Dr. Robert Moser has been appointed executive director of Catholic Charities of San Diego, replacing Sister RayMonda DuVall, who is retiring at the end of the year. Moser's appointment will be effective Jan. 1, 2017.

"Dr. Moser has been with Catholic Charities of San Diego for more than 30 years, during which time he has been an incredible resource and leader," said Bishop McElroy. "It's no exaggeration to say that Bob has helped thousands of families during his tenure and that, as the new executive director, he is in a position to help thousands more."

Moser has served as the deputy director of Catholic Charities of San Diego since 1998 and has been with the organization since 1985. He will succeed Sister DuVall, who joined Catholic Charities in 1979 and has been executive director since 1987.

At Catholic Charities of San Diego, Moser has specialized in managing and designing programs to assist immigrants and refugees arriving in the San Diego area. These services range from obtaining basic necessities like food, shelter and health care, to sponsoring classes and other assistance that help immigrants

find work and acquire the language and life skills necessary to thrive in this country and ultimately earn U.S. citizenship.

Moser received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Regional Planning and Sociology from Syracuse University in New York.

As passionate as he has been with his service to the immigrant community, Moser has also shown a constant commitment to passing on his knowledge and experience to others. Starting as a teaching assistant at Syracuse, Moser has taught at the university level throughout his career, including at Neumann College in Philadelphia, San Diego State, the University of San Diego and the UCSD School of Medicine in San Diego. He is a published author with several peer-reviewed articles concerning refugees and immigrants and has consulted with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Cancer Institute and other prominent organizations on health care for immigrant populations.

Married and the father of three sons, Moser is an active volunteer and supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, the Knights of Columbus

and St. Patrick Parish in North Park.

Catholic Charities of San Diego was started in 1919 to witness the scriptural values of mercy and justice and to advocate for the poor and vulnerable within the diocese. For nearly 100 years, the organization has remained faithful to that original mandate, working with private donors, public agencies and myriad volunteers in San Diego and Imperial counties to provide assistance to people and families of all faiths in their time of need. With an annual budget of \$16 million and more than 100,000 clients receiving assistance, Catholic Charities of San Diego is one of the largest social service agencies in California.

The Southern Cross



ADA BUSTOS

NEW LEADERSHIP: Dr. Robert Moser and Sister RayMonda DuVall are seen outside the diocesan Pastoral Center. Moser will succeed Sister DuVall as executive director of Catholic Charities of San Diego, effective Jan. 1.

Mother Teresa Shrine to Be Dedicated

SAN DIEGO — The public is invited to a Mass of Dedication and Blessing of a shrine for St. Teresa of Calcutta on Saturday, Oct. 1, at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown San Diego.

Beginning at 9 a.m., Bishop Emeritus Robert H. Brom will celebrate the Mass and share stories about when Mother Teresa visited San Diego. Oct. 1 is the feast day of St. Therese, who is Mother Teresa's patron.

The centerpiece of the shrine will be a hand-carved wood statue created by a studio in Italy.

The sisters from St. Teresa's contemplative house in San Diego will attend as well as parishioners from the local Polish Catholic community.

There will be a reception following the Mass in the parish hall. The cathedral is located at 1535 Third Ave.

This tribute is one of several held around the Diocese of San Diego to celebrate Mother Teresa's canonization. On Sept. 11, for instance, San Rafael Catholic Church, St. Bartholomew Episcopal and Incarnation Lutheran held a special vesper service in her honor.

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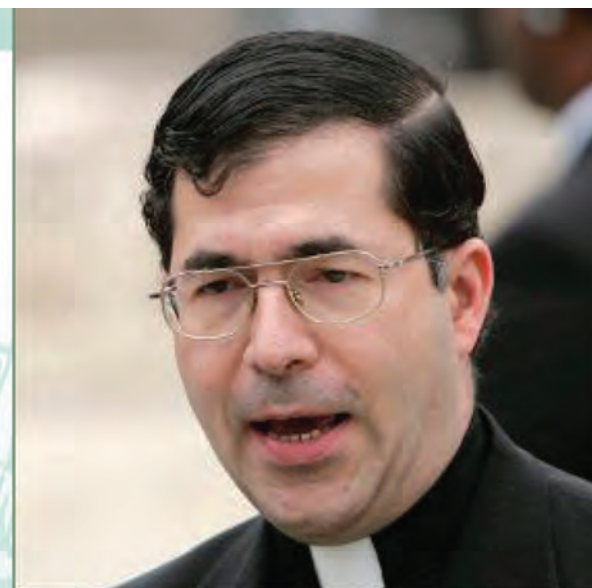


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In the Face of Terror, Catholic Youth Delivered the Answer

By John L. Allen Jr.

KRAKOW, Poland — World Youth Day, a massive gathering of Catholic youth from all across the planet that's sometimes tongue-in-cheek been dubbed the "Catholic Woodstock," took place in Krakow, Poland, July 25-31, bringing together what organizers estimated at 2 million people for a festival of fun, food and faith.

Consider what had taken place in the world in just the month before those young people descended on Krakow. This, by the way, is merely a partial list.

- In Bahrain on July 1, militants detonated a bomb that killed a woman and three children.

- Also on July 1, gunmen on the West Bank fired at a passing vehicle, killing a Jewish yeshiva head and injuring his wife and children.

- On July 2, gunmen linked to the radical Islamic group al-Shabaab launched 11 mortars at civilian targets in Somalia, killing two young girls aged 4 and 5 and injuring 19 civilians.

- On July 3, at least 325 people were killed and 245 injured in a series of coordinated bombings in Baghdad.

- On July 4, Islamic State militants kidnapped 40 civilians in a Syrian town in Aleppo province and later executed them for trying to escape.

- Five police officers in Dallas were killed and seven others wounded on July 7, in an attack motivated by rage over police shootings of black males by police in various U.S. locales.

- At least 36 people were killed on July 9 and 143 people injured after mortar and other attacks in Aleppo, Syria, carried out by rebel terrorist groups.

- On July 14, 84 people were killed and 308 injured when a 31-year-old Tunisian man drove a truck through a crowd celebrating France's Bastille Day, in an incident that also left the attacker dead.

- In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a July 17 ambush on police left three people dead and three others injured.

- The next day, an assault on a police station in Almaty, Kazakhstan, left six people dead and eight others injured.

- In Würzburg, Germany, an attack on a train carried out by an axe-wielding 17-year-old Afghan asylum seeker left five people injured, two of them critically, and the attacker dead.

- On July 26, a 26-year-old broke into a Japanese hospital and stabbed 44 people, killing 19, almost all of them disabled, and then surrendered to the police claiming that people with disabilities need to disappear.

- On the same day, Islamic State-inspired assassins slit the throat of a Catholic priest and seriously wounded a woman in a church in Normandy, France, and were themselves killed by French security forces.

In all, 1,843 people have perished as a result of terrorist actions in July, according to statistics collected by Wikipedia, and that doesn't count the totals from incidents in which the number of dead are listed as "unknown."

Thus when Pope Francis talks about a

world war being fought today in piecemeal fashion, one understands that the image isn't fanciful but a brutally accurate description of contemporary reality.

In the context of such carnage, such an apparent contagion of madness, where can hope be found? In all honesty, the last week of July made the case for hope in eloquent fashion with the World Youth Day gathering in Krakow.

Why?

For one thing, the spirit in Krakow was relentlessly upbeat. While the Islamic State and other terrorist organizations are able to recruit small numbers of young people into their deadly campaigns, hundreds of thousands of Catholic youth from all across the planet came together in the streets of a major European city this week and left no destruction behind, but rather indelible images of friendship and fraternity.

For another, World Youth Day went ahead despite apprehensions about security threats. The presence of police and military throughout the week was palpable but never overweening or distracting, and every night, late into the night, young revelers filled up the squares and parks of the city as if their team had just won the Super Bowl or the World Cup.

In effect, this was a vast throng of loving, caring, positive young people saying to the Islamic State and the other wreckers of havoc in the early 21st century, "We refuse to be terrorized."

As opposed to other scenarios of large-scale mobilizations one might imagine,

crime rates in Krakow plummeted last week, garbage collections declined as these young pilgrims picked up after themselves, and locals were left smiling and delighted with the positive energy coursing through the city.

Finally, these young people exuded a different vision for the future of humanity, one based on a global solidarity, respecting differences of class, race and culture without viewing them as divisive, and embracing religion not as the problem but as the well-spring of the solution.

"Our response to a world at war has a name: its name is fraternity, its name is brotherhood, its name is communion, its name is family," Pope Francis told the roughly 1 million youth gathered for a prayer vigil Saturday night.

"We celebrate the fact that coming from different cultures, we have come together to pray. Let our best word, our best argument, be our unity in prayer," he said.

That might sound like hollow rhetoric, but if you had been in the streets and squares of Krakow in late July, you would understand that it's not artifice or a pious aspiration, but the living, beating heart of an honest-to-God youth army — in this case, an army dedicated not to violence or hatred, but to hope.

John L. Allen Jr. is the editor of Crux (www.cruxnow.com), where the preceding article was first published on July 31. It is available online at <https://cruxnow.com/world-youth-day-krakow/2016/07/31/krakow-delivered-answer-plague-terror/>



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Faith-Based Training Helps Parishioners Tackle Anger and Stress

By Patricia Mendoza

SAN DIEGO — Based in Chicago, Recovery International is a peer-to-peer program that trains its members to identify anger and anxiety triggers and then retrain their mental responses to them.

Recently, Executive Director Christine Lewis and San Diego Program Manager Lisa Garcia worked with Father Stephen McCall, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, and Rita McCrerey, a licensed psychotherapist and director of the parish's behavioral health ministry, to arrange for the first-ever faith-based training of the Recovery International method at the parish.

From June to August, 25 parishioners met on Monday nights to learn the cognitive behavior process that helps build self-awareness of the sometimes excessive reactions to life's everyday events.

Many people report that stress in their lives is growing, and it is no surprise that parish priests are routinely asked for mental health assistance.

"Sometimes it's a fine line between spiritual needs and psychological needs, but either way, mental health issues are not typically a priest's specialty," said Kent Peters, director of the diocesan Office for Social Ministry.

In order to relieve the demands on priests, Peters' office has been recruiting parish teams to provide assistance to parishioners with mental health concerns. Peters hopes that there will eventually be ministry teams in every parish in the diocese, so that these types of calls can be directed to the team members, who can then direct parishioners

to mental health services, offer a listening ear and provide regular educational events in the parish on mental health.

There are currently 20 ministry teams in the diocese.

Two years ago, as part of this initiative, Peters organized a comprehensive mental health services fair so that diocesan personnel could learn more about the support available. Recovery International was one of the exhibitors at the fair. Afterward, Garcia and McCrerey realized that there might be an opportunity to run a pilot program at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Although several Recovery International meetings in the San Diego-area are held in churches, a typical meeting does not allow discussion of religion because Recovery International leaders ask participants to refrain from topics that could be a source of conflict. But for the first-time ever, the organization's leadership concluded that a faith-based training could proceed with a few minor modifications and still be in-step with its vision to provide assistance to "anyone, anywhere, anytime."

Garcia clarified, "It's not that [Recovery International] has rejected or dismissed faith-based intervention, it's that if people of differing faiths discuss those differences at a meeting, conflicts could arise that cause participants to have increased stress, thus limiting or preventing RI leaders from providing a safe and supportive environment."

The pilot program allowed McCrerey to open and close each meeting with a prayer and, as Garcia took them through the method, participants were allowed to share,

for example, how they used prayer and their faith tradition, along with the Recovery International method, to approach a stressful event in a different way.

"Most of daily stress is trivial — someone cut in front of you in line at the grocery store or someone said something to you in a meeting that offended you," Garcia said. Recovery International "trains people to spot their physical and mental reactions to these events, apply the method and then be able to let go more quickly and move on with the day. We so often hang onto these reactions long after and don't even realize that we are sacrificing our mental well-being. And, by practicing on trivial matters, we gain more effective coping skills to tackle life's more difficult events."

One attendee at the pilot program remarked, "I was surprised how much we laughed in the meetings. We learned that 'humor is our best friend, temper is our worst enemy' and 'we shouldn't take our-

selves so seriously.' But I also learned that you can't have temper unless it is preceded by judgment, and that was a real eye-opener."

Another attendee reported that she responded to the bulletin notice because it stated that the meeting would offer tools to deal with stress at work. She said the tools she picked up have allowed her "to sleep better and approach work with a renewed confidence."

Father McCall received such positive letters from participants that he has given the go-ahead to McCrerey to work with Garcia to offer a second six-week training starting in October.

For more information, visit www.recoveryinternational.org/meetings or contact Lisa Garcia at (619) 383-2084 or lisa@recoveryinternational.org. To learn more about the upcoming October training, contact Rita McCrerey at (619) 276-6805.

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Place:

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3:00 – 5:00 PM	Priests available for Confessions Anonymous ONLY – NO face to face
3:15 PM	New DVD — PPio Made Saints Prepared with posters by: Fr. Louis M. Solcia & Company
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Holy Hour with Rosary & Benediction – Fr. Louis M. Solcia, C.R.S.P.
5:15 PM	Holy Mass – Most Reverend Gilbert Chavez Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego – presiding
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► PEACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Fifteen faith leaders shared reflections

Ferguson,” said Malone, referring to the St. Louis suburb where an unarmed black teenager was shot to death by a white police officer, sparking sometimes violent protests there and around the country. “Everywhere, law enforcement feels under siege. This moment in history is dangerous.”

Father Patrick Mulcahy, the pastor of the cathedral, led the prayer service in English and Spanish. Fifteen faith leaders took turns reflecting on the state of their communities, offered a prayer of peace, and lit a candle in the sanctuary.

“Fifteen years ago, something horrible happened in our nation,” said Episcopal Bishop James Mathes, referring to the attacks of 9/11.

“Out of that, we became reactive and fearful. And we sought peace at the price of others.

“We’re in a brutal place as a community. But we need to rediscover ethics, and love, and human respect,” he continued. “As we light candles, may something else be lit within us: A spirit of responsibility that what is said matters. That we, as a people of faith, provide a prophetic voice that is so desperately needed. That we, as a people, bear that light out of the darkness beyond.”

Marwa Abdalla, a representative of the Islamic Center of San Diego, spoke of how sad she felt after her community was attacked following terrorist attacks.

“We all sometimes are plagued by ignorance and prejudices,” she said. “But when we come together, with courage, we can overcome those ills.”

Bishop George Dallas McKinney of St. Stephen’s Cathedral Church of God in Christ is a legendary advocate for peace and justice, not just in the African-American community but for all of those marginalized by society.

“It is appropriate to come from many faith communities to this sacred sanctuary to pray to God for His wisdom, for His direction, for His favor as we seek peace in our time. It is appropriate to work together to reduce incidents of violence, to engage in the building of bridges rather than the building of walls. It’s so important that we come together.”

‘We’re in a brutal place as a community. But we need to rediscover ethics, and love, and human respect.’

The other faith leaders who spoke were Rabbi Dr. Laurie Coskey, president and CEO of United Way of San Diego County; Father

Tommie Jennings, pastor of Christ the King Parish; Pastor Jesus Sandoval, New Harvest Christian Fellowship; Sister Maureen Brown, St. Thomas More Parish; Father Jay Bananal, pastor of St. Pius X Parish; the Rev. J. Lee Hill, Jr., senior pastor, Christian Fellowship Congregational Church; Rev. Kathleen Owens, lead pastor, First Unitarian Universalist Church; and Ephraim Bendantungka, program leader at Paradise Valley Church.

Hundreds of people from many communities attended the service, which included presentations by the St. Rose of Lima Glee Chorus; and the St. Stephen’s Youth/Young Adult Choir and Gospel Mime Group T.R.U.T.H.

More than a dozen members of the social ministry group from Mission San Luis Rey Parish battled evening traffic from Oceanside to downtown San Diego to attend the service. They were heartened by the call by the faith leaders to work together for social justice.

“We are one family,” said Lita Morales, their leader.

The Southern Cross

► DEETJEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

He received the Matthew25: medallion for his Christian service

adult retreats. For the past year and a half, he also has served as a mentor at Nativity Prep Academy, a tuition-free school for low-income children.

Last November, in recognition of his service, Deetjen was among the recipients of the Matthew25: medallion, an award presented each year by Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego. He was one of 29 honorees nominated by their parishes or schools for living out their faith through service

to the poor and marginalized.

“Not only does Kurt himself have a great passion for serving the poor, but he has also been very persuasive and effective in inviting and involving other young adults in this ministry,” said Msgr. Steven Callahan, pastor of St. Brigid Parish.

“I love Kurt’s passion to help those in need in the Pacific Beach area,” said Carrie O’Loughlin, director of the parish’s young adult ministry. “His heart and soul are fully dedicated to this ministry and he is, without a doubt, an inspiration to me.”

Having reconnected with his faith and become an active parishioner, Deetjen has felt conflicted at times about his work as a tattoo artist and uncertain whether his livelihood

is compatible with his Catholicism. But a priest encouraged him to remain where he was, bringing Christ to those he encounters in his community and his workplace, and acting as “a light in the darkness.”

As much as he may regret the mistakes of his past, Deetjen believes those failures have given him an authenticity and an approachability in the eyes of some.

“I’ve made some poor choices in my life and built myself back up from that, with the help of God obviously,” he said. It is important for younger Catholics like himself to understand that “they don’t have to feel shunned from the Church if they’ve made a mistake or if they’ve made some poor choices, because you can always be forgiven.”

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► **SYNOD**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

All 98 parishes in the diocese will have delegates

would hold a synod to do just that. In fact, it's the only diocese in the country known to be holding one in response to the pope's call.

The San Diego synod is being led by Father John Hurley, a nationally-known Catholic leader on fostering change at the diocesan level, and advised by theologians, including a former Vatican official who attended last year's Synod of Bishops on family life convened by the pope.

In the first of five working meetings of the delegates on Aug. 20, the bishop explained the challenge before them.

"How do we transform our culture?" he asked them. "How do we help couples at all stages of their life live the richness of our faith?"

All of the 98 parishes in the diocese will have delegates at the synod. Three-fourths are parishioners who will be able to provide direct witness to the realities of family life, with the rest being clergy.

The delegates held "listening sessions" with fellow parishioners to hear their ideas about reinforcing marriage and families. It's estimated that 2,000 parishioners will have participated in these sessions by the time of the general assembly in October.

One of the delegates is Lulu Valdivia, who has been a member of Our Lady of Refuge Parish in Pacific Beach for 23 years. Since July, she estimates that she's listened to several hundred people across the county at her parish, in her ministries, including Rachel's Hope, and

through her Facebook page. She has queried them about the greatest challenges marriages face today and what the Local Church can do to best support them.

She was impressed by Bishop McElroy's commitment to hear from parishioners themselves.

"It takes humility to listen to people," she said, "to truly hear the pain they are suffering."

Father Hurley underscored that role at the Aug. 20 meeting.

"You were sent here to be a voice for your own Local Church experience and your own family experience," Father Hurley told the delegates.

As the synod's coordinator, Father Hurley brings significant national experience to this process.

He is the former executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization and of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York City. These days, he leads New Evangelization Strategies, a ministry of the Paulist Fathers that works with dioceses and parishes around the country "to create a new paradigm that moves from maintenance to mission."

The delegates were organized into five groups, each focused on a challenge to the diocese laid out by the bishop. Their group meetings started on Aug. 20 and will end Oct. 1. Assisted by the diocese's department directors, each group is to develop goals by the end of their meeting that address their particular challenge.

Father Hurley encouraged the delegates to think "outside the box" and to develop goals that are relevant, achievable and measurable.

The five challenges are:

- Witnessing the beauty and realism of the Catholic vision of marriage and family life;



SYNOD: Bishop Robert W. McElroy joins participants at one of the working meetings of diocesan synod delegates.

- Bringing spiritual depth to family life;
- Nurturing and forming children in the light of Catholic faith;
- Providing authentic pastoral support for those who are divorced;
- Forming a Church culture of invitation and hospitality to unmarried couples.

The proposals developed by each working group will be shared at the Diocesan Synod General Assembly on Oct. 29 and 30. The 130 delegates will reflect on those and whittle them down to five that will be submitted to Bishop McElroy. Afterward, a committee will be formed to implement them.

A theologian is an integral part of each meeting of the working groups. Bernadeane Carr, STL, director of the Diocesan Institute, was selected for the initial meeting on Aug. 20.

The other theologians are Msgr. Daniel Dillabough, vice president of Mission and Ministry, Dr. Emily Reimer-Barry, chair of Theology and Religious Studies, Sister Tobie

Tondi, SHCJ, professor, all at the University of San Diego; Dr. Maureen Day, professor at the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside; and Father Michael Murphy from Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado.

At the general assembly, the theologian will be Msgr. John Strykowski, who worked at the Vatican for eight years and served as executive director of Doctrine and Pastoral Practices for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He attended the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the family in 2015 as the theological adviser for Chicago's Archbishop Blase Cupich.

"What we're doing is an act of faith," Bishop McElroy told the delegates. "Working with each other, how do we promote marriage and family life? How do we make genuine progress on this?"

For information, e-mail synod@sd.catholic.org.

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ALL ARE WELCOME to join a special musical celebration to honor the canonization of Saint Teresa in the University of San Diego's Founders Chapel. The world premiere of *Poorest of the Poor: Music for Mother Teresa*, composed by Dr. Thomas Bough of Northern Illinois University, will be performed by the USD Wind Ensemble, Dr. Jeffrey Malecki, conductor, along with the USD Choral Scholars, Dr. Emilie Amrein, conductor. The program will include a representative from the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, as well as others who will discuss her life and service. A reception will follow.

Sunday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m.

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For more information, please contact the Center for Catholic Thought and Culture at cctc@sandiego.edu, (619) 260-7936, or visit www.sandiego.edu/cctc.



Briefs

Fair Trade Shopping Event to Be Held

LA MESA — The church hall at St. Martin of Tours Parish will be the site of the La Mesa Fair Trade Gift Faire. The event will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16. A wide variety of high-quality, fairly traded items will be for sale. Attendees will be able to enjoy samples of fair trade coffee, ice cream (Ben & Jerry's) and chocolate while perusing gift items.

Rosary in the Park Will Honor Our Lady of Fatima

SAN DIEGO — A public Rosary in the Park will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15, in Balboa Park. Beginning at 11:30 a.m., priests and parishioners will gather on the Federal Lawn (next to the San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum) to honor Our Lady of Fatima on this 99th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun. Participants will be asking Our Lady for her graces in delivering this troubled world from violence and war. Bring lunch for the picnic social that follows. *For more information, visit* www.rosaryinthepark.com *or e-mail* rosaryinthepark@gmail.com.

Spanish Mass Beginning at St. Catherine Laboure

SAN DIEGO — St. Catherine Laboure Parish will be celebrating its first Spanish-language Mass on Sunday, Oct. 16. The liturgy will begin at 1 p.m. Retired Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez will celebrate the Mass with the parish's pastor, Father Brian Hayes. Spanish Masses will continue to be celebrated every third Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. Father Hayes said that, if there is a strong turnout, the parish will consider offering a weekly Spanish Mass. Father Hayes said, "The Spanish population in our diocese is only going to increase, and Jesus' mandate to us is to bring the Good News to the people in a language they can understand and in respect to their cultural richness and sensitivities." *For more information, call (858) 277-3133, e-mail* Frbrian@stcatherinelaboure.net, *or visit* www.stcatherinelaboure.net.

Obituary



SAN DIEGO — Deacon Robert Troy, a retired deacon of the Diocese of San Diego, died Aug. 1. The only son of first-generation American parents of Irish ancestry, Deacon Troy attended The Citadel, a liberal arts college in Charleston, S.C., was awarded a Navy ROTC scholarship and selected a commission to the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1973, he met Janet Lynn Skutnik,

whom he married on Aug. 26, 1978. They were stationed in San Diego. In 1980, their first child, James Robert, was born. In 1984, Deacon Troy concluded his active duty with the Marines and enrolled at the University of San Diego School of Law, passing the bar in 1987. The Troys' second child, Deena Ann, was born the following year. Deacon Troy was ordained to the permanent diaconate on June 8, 2007. His funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 9 at St. Gabriel Parish in Poway.

Annual Symposium



Catechists from the five Vietnamese Catholic congregations of Good Shepherd, St. Francis of Assisi, Holy Spirit, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and Holy Family parishes gathered Aug. 13 at the diocesan Pastoral Center for their annual symposium on the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

This year's theme was "Divine Mercy in Catholic Catechism."

Close to 60 catechists and 20 teacher's aides gathered to learn teaching methods, to grow in understanding of the Catechism, and to renew their passion for ministry. The two-day symposium was led by Father Hung Viet Nguyen and Dr. Hy Xuan Le.

Symposium participants see an inherent advantage in learning about the Catholic Catechism from a Vietnamese perspective and prioritize teaching the Catechism to the next generation.

Lay Maryknoll Leader Appointed



MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Matthew Boyle has been appointed the new executive director of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Boyle joined Maryknoll Lay Missioners in March 2014, assuming the position of director of mission advancement. Maryknoll Lay Missioners was initiated in 1975 to recognize and celebrate lay people as active participants in global mission. The organization became an independent entity in 1995.



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

Father Ruben Arceo, formerly of the Society of Jesus, Mexican Province, was incardinated into the Diocese of San Diego, Aug. 18.

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Mother Teresa's Presence Still Felt at San Diego Convent She Founded

By Aida Bustos

SAN DIEGO — To millions of faithful around the world, Mother Teresa is now officially a saint.

To the dozen women who have lived at 3877 Boston Ave., in San Diego for 24 years, she's simply "Mother." They are members of the order the nun founded, the Missionaries of Charity, to tend to "the poorest of the poor."

Early on Sunday morning, Sept. 4, Pope Francis proclaimed her St. Teresa of Calcutta in a joyous canonization ceremony in Rome. Later that day in San Diego, Bishop Robert W. McElroy celebrated a special Mass in her honor at St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish, which is located steps away from the convent she founded.

The bishop shared a story with the standing-room-only Mass. He said Mother Teresa visited San Francisco, where he grew up, in the mid-1980s when she was just establishing what would become her order's main convent in the United States.

Then Mayor Dianne Feinstein took her on a tour of the city. In front of TV news cameras, Mother Teresa asked the mayor to give her a city building so she could open a soup kitchen.

"The mayor had no option but to say 'yes,'" the bishop said.

On the eve of Mother Teresa's return three months later, the city scrambled to make good on the mayor's promise. The city came through, giving her an old firehouse to use to feed the hungry, he said.

"She was a woman of greatness on so many levels," the bishop said. "And that is what we're celebrating today. It is so appropriate to do it here in San Diego, where Mother Teresa really had a wonderful outreach in the community gathered here."

"You are the tangible signs of Mother Teresa's presence here so many times and in northern Mexico. And you are the tangible sign that her love and commitment live on."

There is no more tangible sign of that commitment than the Missionaries of Charity who walk to and from St. Jude Parish from their convent a half-block away.

They are a part of the contemplative branch of the order that focuses on prayer, which they do either individually or as a community for up to seven hours daily.

By contrast, the five houses in Baja California are part of the active branch and home to the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. There, the 36 members run a day-care center for poor families, a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter and a home for the terminally ill.

In San Diego, they have a two-hour apostolate four times a week to visit families and the sick and dying, said one of the members, Sister Rafka. And they walk around the neighborhood for an additional one to two hours a week, praying silently, serving as the presence of Jesus.

Area residents struggle with poverty and crime. A San Diego police officer was shot to death a few blocks from the convent in July. Sister Rafka said the sisters have not had problems save for an occasional "nasty word" hurled at them. Mostly, the residents appreciate the nuns' presence, she said.

The 43-year-old sister is from South Africa; her fellow sisters, who are from the United States, Mexico, the Philippines, South Korea, Africa and India, witness to St. Teresa's universal impact.

St. Jude's pastor, Father Gerardo Fernández, said the sisters play an important role in the parish. They expose the Blessed Sacrament from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, and accompany the faithful who come in to the church.

"Not only the neighborhood residents but San Diego's faithful know that they can find a spiritual oasis at the church where they can go and pray before the Blessed Sacrament," he said.

The convent consisted of three small



WALKING WITH A SAINT: Then Bishop Robert H. Brom and Mother Teresa are seen walking out of the diocesan chancery in this file photo from January 1992.

houses when Mother Teresa opened it in 1992. These days, two of the houses have been demolished and a large, two-story building is under construction on the lot. When finished later this year, the sisters will be able to hold all of their activities in the single building. Until then, the 10 women are squeezing into their remaining small house.

The house sits at the bottom of spare grounds, behind a solid, red fence. Visitors pull a string to ring a bell that summons one of the sisters, who climbs concrete steps to reach the gate. People stop by all day, every day, to drop off donations of food, clothing or money. In fact, the convent operates primarily on donations.

"People, with their generosity, take care of our needs," said Sister Rafka.

They also stop by to pray with the sisters,

seeking their spiritual support in times of personal crisis.

Sister Fátima worked alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, tending to the dying there who were picked up from the streets. Now in her 80s, the soft-spoken sister shares stories about how lost souls were transformed by just one encounter with "Mother."

The attention St. Teresa has recently received underscores why she matters today, when many people lack deep connections, even with their families. The sisters tell them that God loves them unconditionally.

"People are thirsting for love. When you say the word 'love,' it melts them and they are in tears," said Sister Fátima. "They welcome whatever we can give them."

The Southern Cross

► MOTHER TERESA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saint was outspoken against abortion

ing of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference toward one's neighbor who lives at the roadside, assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease."

Her influence is worldwide. The Missionaries of Charity, which Mother Teresa founded in 1950, has more than 5,300 active and contemplative sisters today. In addition, there are Missionaries of Charity Fathers, and active and contemplative brothers. In 1969, in response to growing interest of laypeople who wanted to be associated with her work, an informally structured, ecumenical International Association of Co-Workers of Mother Teresa was formed.

She was an advocate for children and was outspoken against abortion.

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 1979, she condemned abortion as the world's greatest destroyer of people.

"To me, the nations who have legalized abortion are the poorest nations," she said. "They are afraid of the unborn child, and the child must die."

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gaxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje, in what is now Macedonia, Aug. 26, 1910.

At 18, she left home to join the Irish branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Loreto Sisters. She made her first vows as a nun in 1928 and her final vows nine years later.

In 1946, she received a "call within a call," as she described it. "The message was clear. I was to leave the convent and help the poor, while living among them," she said.

Two years later, the Vatican gave her permission to leave the Loreto Sisters and follow her new calling under the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa went into the Calcutta slums to take children cut off from education into her first school.

In 1950, the Missionaries of Charity became a diocesan religious community, and 15 years later the Vatican recog-

nized it as a pontifical congregation, directly under Vatican jurisdiction.

In 1952, Mother Teresa opened the Nirmal Hriday (Pure Heart) Home for Dying Destitutes in a dormitory donated by the city of Calcutta. The primary function of the home is, as one Missionary of Charity explained, to be "a shelter where the dying poor may die in dignity." Tens of thousands of people have been cared for in the home since it opened.

Among her many awards, Mother Teresa was given the presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985; the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997; and dozens of other awards and honors, including one of India's highest — the Padmashri Medal.

Mother Teresa died Sept. 5, 1997. She was beatified in record time — in 2003, just over six years after her death — because St. John Paul set aside the rule that a sainthood process cannot begin until the candidate has been dead five years.

Catholic News Service

Junno Arocho Esteves and Cindy Wooden contributed to this report.

Diocesan Institute Making Adult Faith-Learning More Achievable

SAN DIEGO — Thinking about volunteering at your parish? Looking for a way to help others live their faith? Want to deepen your faith now that the kids are grown or you're retired? You can join other like-minded adults to take courses with the Diocesan Institute.

The Institute offers general interest courses like introductions to the New and Old Testaments, Church History, Morality, Christology, and Christian Spirituality.

"For adults who may be entering Church ministry, or wanting to volunteer, the Institute provides formation without the costs of college," said Bernadeane Carr, director of the Institute, located at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Clairemont. "Our tuition is only \$75 for 30 hours of class."

Classes are offered specifically for adults in the evenings, but some daytime courses are also available and a few classes are also offered online. Students can take courses for personal interest, but they can also work toward lay ministry certificates.

Catechetical Ministry, Youth Ministry and Catholic Studies are the most popular, but Liturgy, Spirituality, Bereavement Ministry, or Marriage and Family Life are other certificate possibilities. Of growing interest is Matrimonial Advocacy, training for role of "advocate" to help others complete paperwork to petition for an annulment. The certificates require roughly the amount of study needed for an undergraduate major.

"We have about 150 students each quar-

ter working to complete a certificate," said Bonnie Curtis, who helps track certificate-seekers for the Institute. "They go at their own pace, and are at different stages of completion."

But the number-one complaint among certificate-seekers: not knowing when the special focus courses they need will be offered. The Institute Advisory Board approved the establishment of a fixed cycle of special courses at this year's June meeting.

"After 20 years of noting trends, we can better plot the timing of needed courses," said Carr, who has overseen the Institute since 2004. "We know students want predictability, and we are taking steps to offer it."

For the 2016 Fall Quarter, 14 courses in English and 27 courses in Spanish are scheduled at the diocese and at a number of parishes.

"General courses that are part of every certificate are offered every year," noted Carr. "The timing of special focus courses changes, starting this October."

The goal is to offer courses in a schedule that will allow students to finish a certificate in three years, if they take one course at a time year-round.

"A structured plan of courses will enable one to have a clear vision in attaining one's goal," said Alicia Policarpio, director of catechetical ministry at St. Charles Parish in Imperial Beach and a new member of the Institute Advisory Board. "This will be an opportunity for parish leaders to integrate the Diocesan Institute courses."



INSTITUTE: *The Apostolado de María group is seen attending the Diocesan Institute class on Mary, Mother of God at Corpus Christi Parish in Bonita last spring.*

The most often needed special courses for Catechetical Ministry and Youth Ministry will be offered every second year, while less frequently sought courses will happen every third year.

During the 2016-2017 period, specialization courses for Liturgy and Bereavement Ministry will be spread from fall to summer. In 2017-2018, special courses will focus on Marriage and Family Life and Matrimonial Advocacy.

"The focus in 2018-2019 will be Spirituality and Jail Chaplaincy," explained Carr. "We'll repeat the cycle every three years."

"Having a published, regular schedule of classes allows people to plan and to select courses which apply to their areas of interest or job requirement," pointed out Institute student Kayte Russell, a teacher at St. Pius X in Chula Vista and a board member.

"This may help give students a 'push' toward completing their formation," noted Sister Carlotta DiLorenzo, CSJ, director of the diocesan Office for the Permanent Diaconate and long-time Advisory Board member.

The cycles will create informal cohorts of students focused on the same ministry.

"It will allow them to form relationships

with their peers and thus share ministerial practices," said María Galván, director of the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry, also a member of the board.

"It will also be easier to publicize the special courses specifically to those needing them," added Curtis.

"I hope this new timing will be an incentive to catechists and school teachers to enhance their knowledge and further their education," said Father Peter Navarra, pastor of St. John of the Cross in Lemon Grove, a long-time Institute instructor and board member.

In the coming year, the Diocesan Institute expects to develop a simple app to download that will allow students to check when their special courses will next be available.

"The hope is that lay ministry formation will be feasible for more people, if they can easily predict when their area of interest will be on the table," said Carr.

For the current Diocesan Institute course schedule, see the advertisement on Page 23 of this issue. For more information, visit www.sdcatholic.org/SDDIregister or call (858) 490-8212.

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► **FOUNDATION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Rectenwald encourages legacy gifts to Catholic institutions

existing funds.

The foundation started with \$24 million in assets, thanks to more than 30 existing endowed funds that were moved into the foundation by several Catholic organizations. The foundation's goal is to raise an additional \$26 million near-term. To support this effort, the foundation has created a Founder's Circle for all individuals or companies who support the \$26 million goal. Creating a new fund requires a minimum \$5,000 gift to the foundation. Contributions to an existing fund can be made in any amount.

Contributions can be in the form of cash, appreciated equities, IRAs, life insurance and real estate. The foundation also supports charitable trusts, which can provide lifetime income to donors. All funds are invested in such a manner that donors will have the confidence that their personal intentions will always be respected and honored.

Seven initial "field of interest" funds have been established, allowing donors to pool resources on behalf of such worthy causes as youth and education, faith formation and parish life, service to the poor, vocations, sanctity of life, peace and justice, and retired priests and religious.

Moving forward, the foundation will approach individuals, businesses and other nonprofits about establishing endowed funds and pass-through donor-

advised funds.

"We are hoping that each of the 98 parishes and 48 Catholic schools in San Diego and Imperial counties establish endowments with the foundation near-term," Rectenwald said.

The foundation will reach out to all parishes and schools in the diocese, helping them to create or add to existing endowments, which will sustain them for many generations.

Beginning in October, the foundation will host "legacy planning seminars" at local parishes to educate local Catholics about their options when it comes to charitable giving today and in the years ahead.

"By supporting the Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego, donors have the opportunity to simplify their charitable giving and Catholic philanthropy," Rectenwald said. "They are able to establish funds that are meaningful, purposeful and that have strong spiritual value for them. The foundation offers tremendous flexibility in charitable giving, including making desired fund distributions today, over their lifetime and for many generations to come."

The foundation has initiated a "Perpetual Light Society" whose membership includes Catholics who have documented a planned gift to the foundation as part of their estate plan.

Rectenwald said, "We encourage all Catholics to leave a legacy gift to Catholic institutions that they deeply care about, those that introduced them to the sacraments at their baptism and have remained with them, in the good times and the tough times, throughout their lives."

He noted that "the foundation has been approached by individuals who desire to cre-

ate a memorial fund in the name of a deceased family member who had a passion for one or more Catholic organizations or ministries ... and they want to create one or more legacy funds for those purposes."

Rectenwald, who has been serving as the foundation's executive director since mid-February, is a cradle Catholic with an extensive business background. After 15 years with IBM, the most recent position as its business unit executive in San Diego, he served as a senior executive with several technology firms in the San Diego area.

An active member of All Hallows Parish in La Jolla for the past 28 years, where he continues to serve as liturgy coordinator and has served as chair of the stewardship committee, Rectenwald jumped at the opportunity

to lead the newly established Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego.

"I'm very excited every day to have this opportunity to engage with Catholic stewards who strive to sustain Jesus' ministry today and forever and dedicate themselves to building God's kingdom on earth," he said.

Rectenwald said he is "truly blessed to have been selected to lead this new ministry in San Diego. It is spiritually fulfilling."

"I encourage anyone who has questions about the foundation or establishing a personal or family fund to contact me directly," Rectenwald said.

For more information, visit www.ccfdsd.org, or contact Rectenwald at grectenwald@ccfsd.org or (858) 490-8365.

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The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

Part VI: Visiting the Imprisoned

By James Aitchison

This month, we continue our seven-part series on the corporal works of mercy, which was inspired by Pope Francis’ announcement of a Jubilee Year of Mercy (Dec. 8, 2015-Nov. 20, 2016). This installment will reflect on the sixth corporal work of mercy: visiting the imprisoned. In the Diocese of San Diego, visiting the imprisoned is part of the Restorative Justice Program in the Office for Social Ministry, which also supports offenders’ families and crime victims.

Prison can seem like a remote place, but when we learn about someone’s son, daughter or other family member who is behind bars, it becomes real. The number of incarcerated people is at an all-time high in our counties, our state and our nation. According to the Department of Justice, one out of every 108 Americans is in prison. The department reports that the United States, while representing only 4.4 percent of the world’s population, has 68 percent of the world’s incarcerated population.

Those in prison, as well as victims of harm and many others, suffer from lack of freedom. In addition to imprisonment, people can feel trapped by behaviors, dependency, drugs, etc. Helping them, visiting them or protecting them is an act of love and helps to instill hope in the hearts of those who have made bad choices. Pope Francis makes it a priority to visit inmates and celebrate Mass for them. His example invites us to remember those in prison and

that, while society often has good reasons to keep some people incarcerated, they too have a claim on our mercy.

“Working on the front lines, we’ve seen it takes the love of Christ through a volunteer to break down the walls they have built up,” said Jake Kruger, a parishioner from St. Catherine Laboure Parish in San Diego and chairman for recruitment and outreach for Kairos Prison Ministry, an international nonprofit that ministers to those impacted by incarceration.

Kruger explained that Kairos San Diego is unique because it has such a strong relationship with the wardens and chaplaincy. He said, “It’s nice that an organization of volunteers costs the state nothing, yet provides the most effective means of changing behaviors and lives — not just for the incarcerated, but for the volunteers.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages involvement in prison ministry, and many Catholics are supporting the ministry with donations of time, money and/or needed supplies. According to Larry Broding, director of religious education and RCIA at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlsbad, a Kairos volunteer from the parish began a cookie drive in 2007.

“From that point,” he said, “we’ve asked members of the church for home-baked cookies to feed inmates at R.J. Donovan during a three-day retreat twice a year, and the parish has responded with an average of 400 dozen per weekend.”

During these retreats, volunteers talk to inmates about God, love and forgiveness. Prison ministry is much needed in today’s



world, especially in this Year of Mercy, but it is not for everyone and requires careful discernment.

“I’ve heard so many stories of conversion, but have also seen those conversions in action, including hardened criminals turning their lives over to Christ,” said Broding. “I’ve witnessed an atheist who was convinced he was unloved, then saw his world rocked by the love of the retreat and accepted the cross of Christ.”

This work of mercy does not end when an offender is released. There are comprehensive programs of restorative justice that help prisoners not only to integrate back into society, but to help repair harms to victims, reduce repeat crime and improve the lives of others affected.

Deacon Jim Walsh, who directs the Restorative Justice Program for the Diocese of San Diego, said, “Detention ministry is a subset of restorative justice, which recognizes that crime harms everyone — victims, offenders and community. Our focus is all

about putting things right after harm has been done.”

“In the San Diego Diocese,” he continued, “over 400 Catholic volunteers work inside detention facilities, with offenders’ families, and with victims to foster discussion and often forgiveness for all persons involved through a process of education and dialogue shown to produce the highest rates of victim satisfaction and offender accountability.”

“True freedom is found within the confines of morality,” he said, “and we need to give more attention to how people can become grounded in morality and achieve justice.”

If every one of us were to practice just one work of mercy each day, we could change neighborhoods and nations.

For more information on prison ministry, contact Deacon Walsh at jwalsh@sdccatholic.org or (858) 490-8375, or visit www.sdccatholic.org/restore.

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► CHASTITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dragonslayers helps men move beyond shame

Catholic women to reflect on the Church's teachings about human sexuality.

Dragonslayers — its name uses the dragon as a symbol for lust — is a closed group, its weekly meeting dates and times are not made public, and potential members must first contact Santero, who determines if they would be a good fit for the group. At their meetings, members can speak freely with the certainty that whatever is said in the group will remain there.

"The goal," said Santero, "is just to help men who are lost in this addiction ... to give them another option, give them hope that they can conquer and be free of this addiction."

Between six and 10 men attend the typical meeting, and members come from all walks of life. ("The addiction doesn't have any type of bias," Santero said. "It goes after everybody.") Though the common denominator among attendees seems to be Internet pornography, Santero said, the group is for men dealing with any type of sexual addiction — "whether it's masturbation, fornication [or] going to strip clubs." And whatever the issue, he said, the group is there to provide "tools ... to conquer this lust."

The weekly format is the same. Each meeting is about one and a half hours long. The first half hour is educational, with participants discussing a book, watching a video or listening to an audio presentation on chastity. During the last hour, participants are given the opportunity — if desired — to share how they are doing in their efforts to live chastely.

Exposing this often hidden source of shame is an important part of the recovery process, Santero said, and the group facilitates this.

"When you have other men that understand the experience and have compassion and they really give the guy the attention, affection and approval," he said, "then



DR. PAUL SANTERO

you turn that shame into something that's positive."

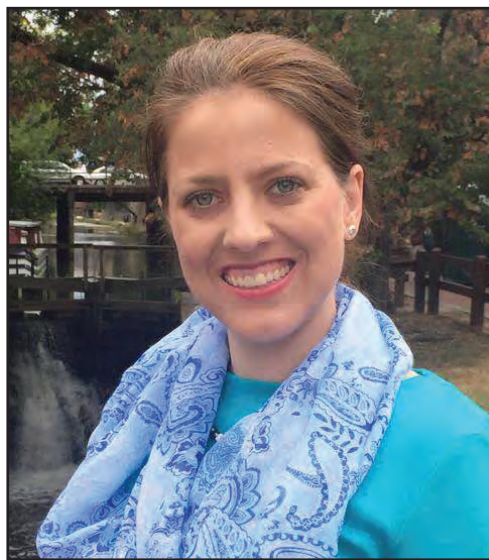
He explained that group members experience the freedom that comes with knowing that, even if they fall from time to time, they are making positive steps toward overcoming their addictions.

Santero estimates that some 50 to 60 men have taken part in the group over the past five years, whether by simply attending one meeting or continuing to do so for several months or years.

"To say the least, the men's group has had a tremendous impact on my life," one group member shared anonymously. "The group provided me with resources, nonjudgmental support and an environment to learn how to finally overcome my addiction to porn. ... I always thought this was something I could overcome by myself. Ultimately, I had to admit my powerlessness and, in humility, become open, and honest, and accountable with the group."

He added, "I have been walking in freedom now for over four years since joining the group. At times, it has been a painful journey, but so worthwhile considering the joy I now experience."

Father Spahr told *The Southern Cross* that he was "delighted" when Santero first approached him five years ago with the idea of starting the group, because pornography is "so much a part of people's lives today, but nobody really wants to talk about it."



RITA SPORLEDER

At one time, he felt "a little helpless" when men with pornography addictions came to him for confession, because he did not have any resources to offer them. But now he does.

"I think these kinds of problems, especially when they're more severe, really need the kind of accountability, and sharing, and mutual support that this kind of group offers," Father Spahr said.

Reflecting on what sets Dragonslayers apart from secular support groups, he noted, "It's hard to deal with things like this without bringing your spirituality into it."

The Immaculata Women's Chastity Group, open to all women ages 18 and older, meets on two Monday evenings each month at The Immaculata Parish. Sporleder said the group helps its members "to grow in the virtue of chastity and to rediscover the gift of authentic femininity."

"It is an opportunity to connect with

other women in order to prepare ourselves for a deeper relationship with Christ and with our loved ones," she explained. "We pray, we study and we support one another on our faith journey."

Each meeting begins with the rosary and includes a study and group discussion. Among other things, the group has read "Mulieris Dignitatem" ("On the Dignity and Vocation of Women"), an apostolic letter written by St. John Paul II, and "Redemptoris Mater" ("Mother of the Redeemer"), an encyclical also written by St. John Paul.

Sporleder, whose role as group administrator involves facilitating discussions, said group members now have "a deeper appreciation and understanding of the important role women play in the Church and the model example we find in the Blessed Mother Mary."

Celia Llanos Duarte said her participation in The Immaculata Women's Chastity Group has been "a blessing."

"Although most of us come to the group having never met before, I feel that we share an unbreakable and powerful bond with everyone else in the group: the love for Christ and thirst to get to know Him better," she said. "I am so happy I've found a community of women to grow and share my faith with and I'm so very grateful to the group's leadership for giving me the opportunity to do so."

For more information about Dragonslayers, contact Santero at (619) 507-9294. For more information about The Immaculata Women's Chastity Group, contact Sporleder at ritasporleder@gmail.com.

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Terry Seeman, who serves as cemetery director for Old Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery (www.sanluisrey.org), recently spoke with *The Southern Cross* about the cemetery and why it advertises with its diocesan newspaper.

The Southern Cross: For those who have never visited Old Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery, can you give us a little tour right now?

Terry Seeman: Sure! Located five miles inland from the Pacific Ocean in Oceanside, Old Mission San Luis Rey is known as the "King of the Missions." In the easternmost corner of the Mission, on approximately three acres, is the mission cemetery.

The historic church built in 1798 has in its shadow the graves of Franciscans and local families who lived and died during those early times. As we continue to walk a few feet away from the church, the headstones tell a newer story. There, we see flowers being left by a generation even now visiting and in which burials still occur. As we walk through this part of the cemetery, we see a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Next, we see the Our Lady of Consolation memorial and two classically inspired, triple-tiered Spanish fountains. Nearby is

the St. Barbara Mausoleum, where the Franciscans will be laid to rest. The intimate sized St. Clare Mausoleum overlooks the historic section and is still available to lay people to purchase.

As we walk through an arched gate to the northern section of the cemetery, another panorama of beauty is suddenly visible: Our Lady of Angels Chapel, the Holy Family and St. Joseph Italian marble memorials, the bronze sculpture named Assumption of Mary. We see trees bursting with color, flowing fountains and teak benches, all of which make the setting profoundly peaceful and conducive to prayerful reflection. It is a place to sit and remember, a place to stop and be with the memories of a loved one who is resting nearby.

SC: Mission San Luis Rey is still administered by the Franciscans, the religious order that founded the 21 California missions. How is the Franciscan charism felt at the cemetery?

Seeman: As staff members, we are committed to continuing the Franciscan tradition of heritage and hospitality at Old Mission San Luis Rey so that all may experience spiritual and personal renewal. We want our patrons and visitors to experience sacred grounds and sacred memories.

SC: What services does the cemetery offer?

Seeman: The cemetery office is open six days a week, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The cemetery itself is open daily from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. We have burials here six days a week. With an interment, we can also offer a Mass



OLD MISSION SAN LUIS REY CEMETERY

or graveside service and a reception. We have both niches for cremated remains and full body interment spaces. The staff helps the family with the purchase decisions, headstone design and funeral arrangements. A cemetery expansion is underway, and soon there will be another mausoleum, which is the first of four being named after the Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

SC: Are there any favorite anecdotes that you can share with us?

Seeman: I recall a particular family who came a few years ago to place the cremated remains of a young boy in a niche. He had a life-changing accident at the age of 5. He went into the foster child system. He could not speak, walk, see or play anymore. This

wonderful family that took care of him, brought to the funeral service his favorite toy — a little purple talking doll. When they asked me if it could go into the niche with him. I said, "Of course." After I put the granite cover on the niche, we heard plain as day, "Goodbye, guys." The little doll said the words that child could never say.

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

Seeman: *The Southern Cross* is the best way to get the word out to Catholics. The mission cemetery is a Catholic cemetery which is welcoming to all. I can always tell when there is a new edition because the phone calls start pouring in. We are a team!

The Southern Cross

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Retired Priest Remembered for Compassion, Hospitality

By Denis Grasska

CHULA VISTA — Father Eugene Fischer, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Aug. 12. He was 76.

"Father Gene was no stranger to suffering," Father Anthony Saroki said in the homily at a memorial Mass celebrated Aug. 18 at Most Precious Blood Church in Chula Vista. "Throat cancer resulted in him losing his ability to speak above a whisper. Last year, he broke his neck in a fall at home and was in and out of the hospital frequently. After the fall, he was not able to eat solid food anymore."

Acknowledging that many contemporary Catholics don't think much about purgatory or the need to pray for the dead, Father Saroki said, "I like to think of suffering at the end of life as down payment on purgatory; the more it is, the smaller the balance that remains."

In his homily, Father Saroki painted a portrait of a priest who reached out to others with compassion and hospitality and who had led many people closer to Christ. The late priest had also instituted perpetual adoration of the Blessed

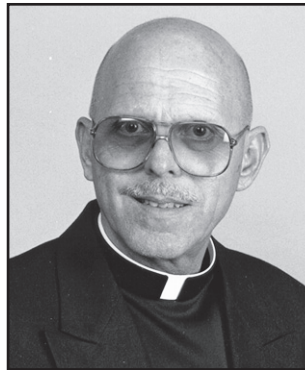
Sacrament at Most Precious Blood Parish, said Father Saroki, and thereby "helped countless people to grow in their intimacy with our Lord."

Eugene Bernard Fischer was born Oct. 18, 1939, in Neola, Iowa.

Discerning a priestly vocation, he attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri, from 1958-1961, and Immaculate Heart Seminary in San Diego, from 1961-1965.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1965, at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Francis J. Furey of San Diego.

From 1965 through 1970, the newly ordained Father Fischer served as an assistant pastor at a succession of parishes: St. Therese in San Diego, St. Charles in Imperial Beach,



FATHER FISCHER

and St. Joseph Cathedral.

Among his non-parish assignments, he was a faculty member at Marian Catholic High School from 1970-1973 and the University of San Diego High School from 1973-1975.

He later served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in El Cajon, from 1977-1982, and St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Clairemont, from 1982-1984.

Father Fischer was named pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in Chula Vista in 1984.

In 1993, he was appointed pastor of St. Stephen Parish in Valley Center. He went on disability retirement in late February 1995, when he was battling throat cancer and had one vocal cord removed. He retired full-time in July 1997.

Retired Bishop Robert H. Brom was the principal celebrant at the memorial Mass at Most Precious Blood Church, where Father Fischer had celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination last year. He was to be buried in Iowa.

The Southern Cross

Late Father Salca Found Priesthood to Be 'Just a Wonderful Life'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Father Louis Salca, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Sept. 2.

Father Salca, 82, is being remembered for his deep spirituality and unvarnished truthfulness.

"Priesthood [for Father Salca] meant a closeness to the Lord. ... He was very prayerful," said Msgr. Anthony Chylewski, who was a faculty member of Immaculate Heart Seminary in San Diego when Father Salca was a seminarian and considered him a close friend for many years.

The late Father Salca was also "a stickler for the truth," Msgr. Chylewski said.

"He promised God that he would never tell a lie for the rest of his life, and he kept to that strictly," he said. "When people talked to him, when people came to know him, they knew him for the truth that he shared with them."

Father Salca was born Aug. 7, 1934, in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, Msgr. Chylewski told *The Southern Cross*. Sent to language school in

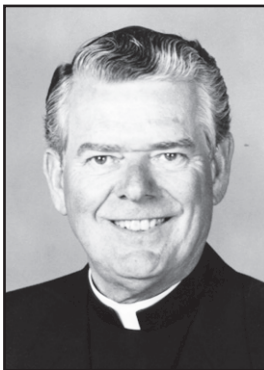
Monterey, Father Salca learned Russian and was assigned to an Air Force base in Japan near the Russian border.

"He was there for two whole years, and it was while he was there that he discovered his vocation," said Msgr. Chylewski, who explained that Father Salca befriended the Catholic pastor of a nearby parish, who essentially became his spiritual director during his years in Japan.

After returning home and completing his military service, Father Salca studied for the priesthood for eight years at Immaculate Heart Seminary in San Diego, from 1957-1965.

Father Salca was ordained by San Diego Bishop Francis J. Furey on May 27, 1965, at St. Joseph Cathedral.

The newly ordained priest's first assignment was as an assistant pastor at St. George



FATHER SALCA

Parish in Ontario, from 1965-1968. He then served as assistant diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, from 1968-1971; at that time, the office was headed by Msgr. Chylewski.

After a succession of assignments as an associate pastor, including at Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado (1971-1973), St. Joseph Cathedral (1973-1975), St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro (1975-1981) and St. Charles Borromeo Parish (1981-1983), he was appointed pastor of St. Louise de Marillac Parish in El Cajon. He pastored that parish community from 1983 until his retirement in July 2001. In his retirement years, he assisted at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Ramona.

Father Salca's funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 12 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Burial was at Holy Cross Catholic

Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Last summer, Father Salca celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Father Salca told *The Southern Cross* that it had been "a great privilege and honor ... just to be a priest," and "a great blessing from God" to have lived long enough to celebrate his 50th anniversary.

"The priesthood is just a wonderful life," he said. "It's a life that is so full of joys, and sorrows, and all the elements of human existence. The priest sees people at their joyful marriages, we see them when they're dying, we see them when we're taking their funeral, that all along we're there to be a support and to really represent Christ to them so that they know the Lord is with them at the times when they really need Him the most."

The Southern Cross

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'Ben-Hur': A Tale of the Christ, a Tale of Grace

By Bishop Robert Barron

Lew Wallace's 19th-century novel, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, inspired two silent movies in the early decades of the 20th century and the magnificent 1959 film starring Charlton Heston in the lead role. Almost everyone agrees that Heston was born to play the part, and who can forget the drama and excitement of the chariot race with which the movie comes to its climax? Roma Downey and Mark Burnett have produced a new instantiation of the story, a streamlined version of the 1959 film. Like its predecessor, this one features a charismatic actor (Jack Huston) as Ben-Hur, plenty of visual grandeur, and, yes, a stunning chariot race, depicted this time with the most up-to-date camera technology and CGI virtuosity. But what principally differentiates it from the Heston "Ben-Hur" is its greater stress on the strange power of Christ to bring about forgiveness — an emphasis, I must say, much needed in the cultural context of the present moment.

I suppose that most of us know the basic story rather well. Judah Ben-Hur is a Jewish nobleman living with his aristocratic family in an elegant home in Roman-occupied Jerusalem at the time of Christ. Messala is a young Roman whom the family adopted and who has become, effectively, a brother to Judah. In the recent version, Messala pursues a career as a Roman soldier, fighting in some of the most distant outposts of the empire. Upon his return, he reunites with his family, but when it appears that they have been harboring a Zealot opponent of the empire, he turns on them brutally, sending most to prison and sentencing Judah to the hellish life of a Roman galley slave. During five excruciating years chained to oars in imperial ships, Judah cultivates an exquisite hatred for Messala and a passionate desire for revenge. In the wake of a terrible sea-battle, Judah escapes from his chains and he drifts ashore, only to be found by Sheik Ilderim (Morgan Freeman), a wealthy mer-



SWEET CHARIOT: Jack Huston stars in a scene from the movie "Ben-Hur."

chant who moonlights as a sponsor of a fine team of chariot horses. After training the former galley slave in the fine art of chariot racing, the Sheik sets Judah up for a confrontation with Messala in the Jerusalem arena.

It is precisely at this climactic point that the major differences between the new film and the Heston version emerge. In both films, of course, Judah manages, after a titanic struggle, to defeat Messala, and in both films, Messala endures a terrible injury. But whereas in the earlier incarnation, the Roman dies, having breathed his last words in anger and frustration, in this film, Judah forgives his brother, and the two embrace once again. Moreover, Messala survives his injuries, and the final scene shows the erstwhile mortal enemies riding together in friendship.

Now what made this reconciliation possible? How is it even imaginable that someone who had been so cruelly mistreated could

become friends again with the man who had abused him? If the history of human conflict teaches us anything it is that the "lex talionis" (eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth), the measured answering of pain with a comparable pain, is actually the best that we can expect. In the normal course of affairs, injustice and violence are, in fact, met with a disproportionately greater injustice and violence. To see these dynamics at work, all you have to do is read the paper or watch the news any day of the week.

So how could the reconciliation of Judah and Messala be anything but sentimentalizing and wish-fulfilling fantasy? It is imperative at this point that we recall that all of the "Ben-Hur" films are grounded in a book whose subtitle is "A Tale of the Christ." Even though He is on film for only a few brief scenes, Jesus is indeed the key to the entire drama. Having met Jesus in a fleeting way prior to his exile

and enslavement, Judah, upon his return to Jerusalem, is drawn to the site of the crucifixion. He stares up at the crucified Christ who speaks a word of forgiveness even as He is tortured to death. With that, Judah grasps something in his heart and releases a stone (evocative of his revenge) which he had been clenching in his hand. He comprehends what stands at the very center of Christianity, namely, the terrible act by which God took upon Himself the cruelty, violence, injustice, hatred and stupidity of the world and, after a bitter struggle, swallowed them up in the ever greater divine mercy. He understood God's forgiveness of the sins of all of humanity, and he thereby found the grace to become a vehicle of forgiveness to someone who had harmed him so awfully: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

From a purely human standpoint, this sort of forgiveness is impossible; but with God all things are possible. To tell a tale of Christ is to tell a tale of grace. This, I believe, is what Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, who have emerged as two of the more effective evangelists in the world today, wanted us to see in this updated "Ben-Hur."

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



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



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How to Have a Happy Marriage (Even When You're Busy with Kids)

Marital satisfaction tends to take a dip once that first baby comes home from the hospital (or out of the bathtub, birthing center, etc.). This shouldn't be surprising to anyone. Let's face it, kids, particularly newborns, are difficult. Anyone who says otherwise is either lying, or a grandparent. But you can maintain a happy marriage despite the strains and difficulties on your new life as parents. Here are 11 tips for a happier marriage — with children.



Betsy Kerekes

1.) Remember that love is a decision, not a feeling.

It's impossible to keep warm, fuzzy feelings for your spouse constantly, especially when you have children taking up so much of your time and energy. Just remember that your relationship with your spouse comes first. Period. If you want the best for your children — and who doesn't? — the success of your marriage is paramount. A Google search will render you a dozen different studies all saying the same things about the negative effects of a broken marriage on children. If you want your kids to be happy, keep your spouse happy. Be happy together.

2.) Don't let Robin rule the roost.

If your devotion to your children has gotten to the point where they walk all over you — Be honest, do things tend in that direction? — there is bound to be tension in your home. It might be with a spouse who disagrees with your discipline methods, or within yourself because you're whipped by

your own 2-year-old. When it comes to discipline, it's imperative that both parents are on the same page. When there are cracks in the foundation of the castle, Little Prince or Princess will find them and take full advantage, turning you into court jesters.

3.) Always be open with communication.

Whether it's discussing synchronizing your parenting styles or realizing when you last had an intimate moment alone together, you need to be open and honest. "Communication is key," is a cliché, but they're also words to live by. If you have something to say to your spouse, out with it. Don't keep anything bottled up where it will only fester and grow, to the point of explosion.

4.) When it's time to speak your mind, do so in a gentle way.

Don't keep a laundry list and dump all your grievances at once. No one likes being attacked. This is all the more reason to speak up when something is getting you down. And whenever possible, do so in a self-effacing way. This lessens the blow. For instance: "We should probably both work on keeping the kitchen a little tidier." Even if you know full well that it's the other person who's a mess in the kitchen, bathroom, or wherever, doesn't that come off much nicer than, "You need to clean up your mess! I'm tired of picking up after you, you slob!?" Riiiiiiiiight. That's not going to end well.

5.) Put your spouse first.

Even though we all learned to share in kindergarten, we are still selfish beings. We want what we want when we want it. Technology and society as a whole aren't great at helping and encouraging us to break this habit, but the happily functioning family can be anything but selfish. Always ask yourself, what would your spouse like? Whether it's what to eat for dinner, what movie to watch, or what dessert you share at a restaurant, let your spouse choose. Having a happy spouse makes you a happy spouse. Let his happiness bring you happiness.

6.) Keep dating each other.

Just because you're married and you have kids doesn't mean your social life is over. You still need to spend quality time alone together, or even out with friends, but especially alone together. Getting out of the house for a date isn't always possible with sitters or finances, but you can have dates in, too. Rather than spend your evenings in separate rooms, on separate computers, or separate phones, unplug — everything except your TV. Snuggle on the couch with popcorn, a glass of wine, and a good movie. Or, pull out a deck of cards or a board game. Every couple should have one indoor and one outdoor game that they enjoy doing together. Make a point of doing that game or activity. Schedule it on the calendar if necessary.

7.) Have couch time.

This should happen daily. If it's difficult

to talk about your day while at the dinner table because you're too busy haranguing Penelope to eat her peas, or keeping Bobby from dunking his face in his soup, get your quality time on the couch when the children aren't around. Sit next to each other. Snuggle. Have at least some part of you touching. Physical touch soothes you. And as an added bonus: If you are touching even in some small way when you're upset with each other, the physical contact will ease tension and help you work out your troubles in a calmer, quicker manner. Try it.

8.) Go to sleep at the same time.

This provides you with another opportunity for communication: verbal or physical. You decide. Be open. Enjoy each other's company. If you're normally too tired to do more than collapse into bed and fall directly to sleep, get yourselves in bed sooner. This is more needed couple time.

9.) Maintain an attitude of gratitude.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but you are not Wonder Woman or Superman. You cannot do it all on your own. Sometimes, you'll need help from your spouse. Allow your spouse to help you. Ask for help, but don't demand it. Ask kindly without whining or complaining. And accept graciously. When help comes unsolicited, be grateful and don't shy away from showing your gratitude. The words "thank you" and "I love you" go a long way. Kisses can go even longer.

10.) Focus on the positive things in your life.

Sure, you may be behind on laundry and the dishes are piled up in the sink, but how

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In a recent issue of the magazine *Editor & Publisher*, one of the articles addressed the question of how editors of newspapers and magazines decide which stories to publish and whether, in so doing, they are reflecting their own values or the needs of their readership.



Father Charles L. Fuld

It gave me pause to address that same question to this newspaper of ours, *The Southern Cross*.

Of course, we have to keep our mission statement in mind: “The official newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego with print and Internet presence should assist the Local Church to fulfill its teaching and pastoral mission by: (a) informing the faithful about the life and work of the Church throughout the diocese, including its multicultural diversity, (b) offering news and information which will foster unity with the Church throughout the world, and (c) instructing the faithful regarding authentic Catholic teaching and practice.”

That includes messages from our bishop and articles about our Holy Father, Pope

Staying Ahead in a Media World

How are we doing? How can we better meet your needs as a practicing Catholic? What are we failing to cover?

Francis, but also calls for us to keep you posted on what is going on at various parishes of the diocese — without infringing on the role of individual pastors. Yes, we often look to individual pastors to address subjects particular to their parish, because each parish is unique. So certain matters are left to parish bulletins and Web sites.

On the other hand, if there were no *Southern Cross*, much of the Catholic story would be left untold because of its lack of coverage in much of the local news media.

Over the years, *The Southern Cross* has received numerous Catholic Press Association awards, and its staff members have earned recognition from the Society of Professional Journalists and the San Diego Press Club for their work. And I know we have many loyal readers because, whenever I visit a parish and mention *The Southern*

Cross, I receive many favorable comments about its content, including its new Spanish-language supplement and its once-a-year senior supplement.

Still, the question raised by *Editor & Publisher* is a good one — one that needs to be addressed to our readers from time to time. So here it goes: How are we doing? How can we better meet your needs as a practicing Catholic? What are we failing to cover? Is our coverage of the whole diocese balanced — or have we been giving emphasis to the parishes within our city limits? How can we better appeal to younger readers? Are there subjects we seem never to cover? Are there ministries we seem to ignore?

And yes, we are looking to build up our

circulation — which currently sits at 38,000 (making it one of the largest circulation newspapers in San Diego County). To that end, we have been passing out “Welcome to the Catholic Family” postage paid cards in English and in Spanish to offer free subscriptions to all newcomer families, including families entering parish RCIA programs, confirmation classes and the like. Those cards probably should be offered to all families enrolled in our Catholic schools. And what about buying a subscription for young people moving out of the area to attend schools or the military — what better way to keep them in touch with their home Church? Yes, we are looking for help in all these areas — perhaps even to the extent of recruiting *Southern Cross* “ambassadors.”

So, I’m asking for your thoughts on this subject in letter form or e-mail. No, we will not publish them; but yes, I will sincerely take them to heart — all of them.

The Southern Cross

Father Charles L. Fuld is managing editor of The Southern Cross. His e-mail address is cfuld@sdccatholic.org. His snail mail address is Father C. Fuld at The Southern Cross, P. O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138-1869.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

adorable was it when the baby blew raspberries at you? You may have been in your pajamas all day, but she rolled over for the first time! Can’t remember the last time you showered? But you can remember that first word or step. Don’t get down on the negative. Nobody ever promised that life was easy. You do the best you can. If you’re Debbie Downer, you won’t be fun for your spouse to be around. Everything else will get taken care of in due time. And remember, it won’t always be this way. No doubt every gray-haired person you’ve encountered has reminded you that “they grow up so fast.” Take that to heart by enjoying all the good and filter out the bad.

11.) Obey the Cliche.

You’ve probably heard the expression, “The family that prays together stays together,” about a dozen times, but sometimes it takes just once more to fully inter-

nalize it. Your vocation as a spouse and parent means that your goal in life is to get your family members to heaven. The best way to do that is through prayer. Pray for each other all the time, and pray together as a family. It’s a great example for your children. This prayer includes going to Mass at least once a week; saying the rosary (family evening prayer time? in the car?); devotionals such as novenas, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or Consecration to Mary; retreats to strengthen your relationship with Our Lord; and don’t forget regular confession. All these are important for maintaining a happy, holy life and setting your children on a path of success, and success means a triumphant reunion one day in heaven.

The Southern Cross

Betsy Kerekes is co-author of 101 Tips for a Happier Marriage (Ave Maria Press, 2013) and the forthcoming 101 Tips for Marrying the Right Person (Ave Maria Press, 2016). She also blogs at Parentingisfunny.wordpress.com.

DIOCESAN INSTITUTE COURSES

S860 Spiritual Direction (15 hrs)

Maria Arroyo, M.A.

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Diocesan Pastoral Center

C210 Intro to Old Testament (30 hrs)

Rev. Joseph Freeman, S.T.B. and Bernadeane Carr, S.T.L.

Wednesdays, September 21 - December 14, 2016

(no class October 12 nor November 23)

10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center

S700 Liturgical Time: Year and Hours (15 hrs)

Clarissa Hutcheson, M.A.

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6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Diocesan Pastoral Center

S200 Sacraments of Initiation (15 hrs)

Rev. Peter Navarra, M.A.

Tuesdays, October 11 - November 15, 2016

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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Indulgences in the Year of Mercy

Did you know that a special indulgence has been granted for the Year of Mercy? Before the jubilee year comes to a close on Nov. 20, find out more about the history of indulgences and what is required to receive one. Check out the article by Bernadeane Carr, director of the Diocesan Institute, which can be read online at www.thesouthernncross.org.

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Living the Gospel Through Franciscan Spirituality

With Father Gino Correa, OFM. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, in the University of San Diego’s Founders Hall. Cost: \$35; includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Designing Age-Appropriate Retreats

With Victor Valenzuela.

• 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Oct. 6, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost.

• 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 210 W. 7th St., Imperial. No cost.

Mary and the Saints

With Kim Barber. 6:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, 13541 Stoney Creek Rd., San Diego. Cost: \$15.

Involving Parents in the Faith Formation of Their Children

With Father Emmet Farrell and Jesuit Father John Auther. 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Oct. 20, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$15.

Annulments Workshop for RCIA Leadership

With Msgr. Steve Callahan. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost. This in-service is specially designed for leadership teams and those in parish ministry who work with annulments. It is not for individuals who are seeking an annulment.

Infant Baptism Team Formation

With Deacon Federico and Claudia Drachenberg. 9 a.m.-4

p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 210 W. 7th St., Imperial. Cost: \$35; includes materials and certificate of completion.

Edification in Ministry: How to Supervise Pastorally

With Bill Bischoff, master catechist. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$15.

Basic Catechist Formation Courses

This 48-hour course grants California Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$75 per student. Contact Lisa Vaca at (858) 490-8230 or lwaca@sdccatholic.org for more information.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

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Mental Health Ministry Network

For information about the San Diego Diocesan Mental Health Ministry Network, visit www.socialministriesandiego.com.

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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.

YEAR OF MERCY

‘No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy’

Presented by Father Donald Calloway, Sunday, Oct. 16, at St. Gregory the Great Parish, beginning with the 5 p.m. Mass.

PARISH EVENTS

Healing Mass

7 p.m., Oct. 3, at St. Patrick Parish, Carlsbad. Call (760) 724-4046.

Healing Prayer

A healing prayer service with concert experience will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 3, at St. Therese of Carmel Church in Carmel Valley. For information, visit www.MusicGodOfMercy.com.

‘Letter to Women’

St. Mary Magdalene Parish will be offering an eight-week study of Pope John Paul II’s Letter to Women. The study began Aug. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. E-mail diane.kenny@att.net.

Sunday Talk Series

A series of talks will be held from 9:15-10:30 a.m., Sundays, in Santa Sophia Parish’s Prendergast Hall. Topics include: “Heaven: A Destiny Worth Living For” with Karlo Broussard, Oct. 16; “The Eucharist” with Eddie Perez, Nov. 20; and “Christian Fatherhood” with Tim Staples, Dec. 11.

Glory Immersion

A unique time in God’s presence with joyous music, prayers, Scripture, words of comfort, healing and fellowship. 7-8:30 p.m., Sept. 27, at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. For information, call (760) 741-1134.

BBQ and Gymkhana

St. Pius X Parish in Jamul will host its annual Deep Pit BBQ & Gymkhana, Oct. 16. It will include a \$1,500 grand prize drawing, craft booths and a beer garden.

PARISH EVENTS

For information, call (619) 669-0085.

Bake/Boutique Sale

Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley will hold a bake, craft, boutique sale, Oct. 29-30. Saturday, 2-6 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost: \$20 for one table, \$25 for one table and electrical, \$30 for two tables with \$5 extra for electrical. For information, call (619) 471-5837 or e-mail derunrun48@gmail.com.

‘Adventures in Acts’

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

‘Matthew, the King and His Kingdom’

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

Fall Festival

St. Mary Parish in National City will hold its annual fall festival, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Oct. 2. Includes games, entertainment and ethnic foods. Grand top prize: \$2,500. Call (619) 474-1501.

Rummage Sale

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside will hold its annual rummage sale, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Oct. 1, on the parish grounds. Visit www.stmoside.org, call (760) 497-6117 or e-mail wmurphy8802@aol.com.

Polish Festival

Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church (1735 Grand Ave, Pacific Beach 92109) will hold its 21st Annual Polish Festival Oct. 7-9.

PARISH EVENTS

Enjoy Polish tradition, live music and cuisine. Visit www.polishmission.org.

Mass at the Beach

St. Mary, Star of the Sea will celebrate “Mass at the Beach,” noon, Oct. 16, at the Pier Amphitheatre in Oceanside. Attend Mass with the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean. Mass preceded by praise concert at 10:30 a.m.; followed by a fundraising raffle and food from vendors. For information, call (760) 722-1688.

Relationship Skills Workshop

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside is hosting a relationship skills workshop presented by Deacon John and Debbie Fredette. 14-session series, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., in the lower level of the parish center, beginning Sept. 13 and ending Jan. 17. No pre-registration required; no cost to attend. For information, call (760) 758-4100, ext. 104 or ext. 110, or e-mail johnf@stmoside.org or debbief@stmoside.org.

Holiday Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Nov. 5 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Nov. 6 (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) at Our Lady of Grace Parish (Moloney Center) in El Cajon. Includes more than 60 crafters plus baked goods. Breakfast and lunch offered both days. Sponsored by OLG’s Catholic Women’s Club. For information, call (619) 461-2460.

Fall Festival

Oct. 14 (6-10 p.m.), Oct. 15 (noon-10 p.m.), and Oct. 16 (9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) at St. Columba Parish.

Craft Fair

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 8, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Crafters wanted; donation of \$25 for an inside table or \$50 for tent space outside. Call (619) 723-5750 or (619) 295-4041.

GROUPS

Scholarship Contest

St. Thomas More Society of San Diego is

GROUPS

offering a \$500 scholarship to recognize scholarship, community service, and service to God. Open to Catholic post-secondary students enrolled in the 2016-2017 academic year. Application deadline: Oct. 15. Visit www.thomasmoresociety-sd.org or e-mail contact@thomasmoresociety-sd.org.

40 Days for Life

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies through prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach. Opening ceremony at 3 p.m., Sept. 25, at St. Kieran Parish in El Cajon. For information, e-mail 40dayselcajon@gmail.com or call (619) 647-5793 or (619) 445-3822.

Chastity Luncheons

Parent/child chastity luncheon retreats are being offered by The Goretti Group and The Nativity School, noon-6 p.m., Oct. 22, for ages 11 years and older. For information, visit www.thegorettigroup.com.

Laughlin Getaway

Oct. 2-4, 2016. Sponsored by St. Martin of Tours Women’s Club, La Mesa. Cost: \$140/person in double or \$170 for single at Riverside Resort Hotel. For information, call (619) 889-2854 or (323) 632-6066.

Musical Celebration

The University of San Diego will host the world-premiere of a musical celebration to honor the canonization of St. Mother Teresa, 2 p.m., Sept. 25, in USD’s Founders Chapel. \$10 suggested donation. For information, visit www.sandiego.edu/cctc or call (619) 260-7936.

Card Party

Lunch/Card party (“Angels Among Us!”), 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Nov. 5, at St. Martin of Tours Parish in La Mesa. Cost: \$15. RSVP to (619) 464-2950 or (619) 469-3976.

Council of Catholic Women

The Oceanside Council of Catholic Women will meet Oct. 12 at St. Mary Parish in Escondido. Cost: \$5. RSVP to

GROUPS

(760) 591-5795.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

80th annual convention, 10:30 a.m., Oct. 26, at St. Charles Church. Bishop Robert W. McElroy will celebrate Mass. Lunch to follow. All women are invited. RSVP to (619) 425-8979.

North County Magnificat

“A Ministry to Catholic Women.” Quarterly breakfast, 9 a.m.-noon (Mass at 8 a.m.), Oct. 8, at St. Michael Parish (Holy Family Center) in Poway. Speaker: Colette Wilson. For information and to RSVP, visit www.magnificat-nsd.com or call (760) 505-6625.

Membership Luncheon

Father Joe’s Village Ladies Guild (formerly St. Vincent de Paul Ladies Guild) will host a free membership luncheon at 11 a.m., Sept. 12, at All Hallows Parish in La Jolla. Contact (858) 483-7911 or jsbolts@san.rv.com.

Interfaith Fall Peace

Celebration

Sponsored by Pax Christi, San Diego Chapter. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sept. 22, in the home of Sean & Christy Bohan (location details to be provided at time of RSVP). For information or to RSVP, contact christybohan@cox.net.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Annual Men’s Retreat

St. Thomas More Parish is sponsoring a men’s retreat, Oct. 7-9, at Green Oaks Ranch, 1237 Green Oaks Rd., Vista. Cost:\$150. Visit www.stmoside.org/men or call (760) 758-4100, ext. 104.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Discernment Weekend

Is God calling you to be an Augustinian? Find out Oct. 7-9 at an Augustinian discernment weekend. For information, contact Father Mark at mmenegatti@sahs.org.

Mission San Diego Bible Study

Study salvation history from Genesis to Jesus. 7-8:15 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 25, in the California Room. For information, e-mail eggrod0422@gmail.com or call (818) 519-1769.

Lecture

“St. Francis Conformed to Christ: An Example for Christians Today?” Speaker: Franciscan Friar Bill Short. 7 p.m., Sept. 22, at the Franciscan School of Theology. Free. For information, visit www.fst.edu or contact dfoley@fst.edu.

Spiritual Exercises

Silent Ignatian Retreats preached by the priests of Miles Christi. For women: Sept. 23-25 in Oceanside. For men: Oct. 28-30 in Rancho Palos Verdes. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For women’s Exercises, contact california@spiritualexercises.net or (858) 263-5113. For men’s Exercises, contact californiamen@spiritualexercises.net or (661) 284-5970.

Pilgrimages

• Pilgrimage to Greece and the Greek Isles in the footsteps of St. Paul, Oct. 17-28. Contact (760) 500-3201 or sonraetoo@gmail.com.

• Join Father Joseph Tabigue, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, on a Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Warsaw, Krakow, Prague and more. Nov. 7-17. Call (800) 908-2378.

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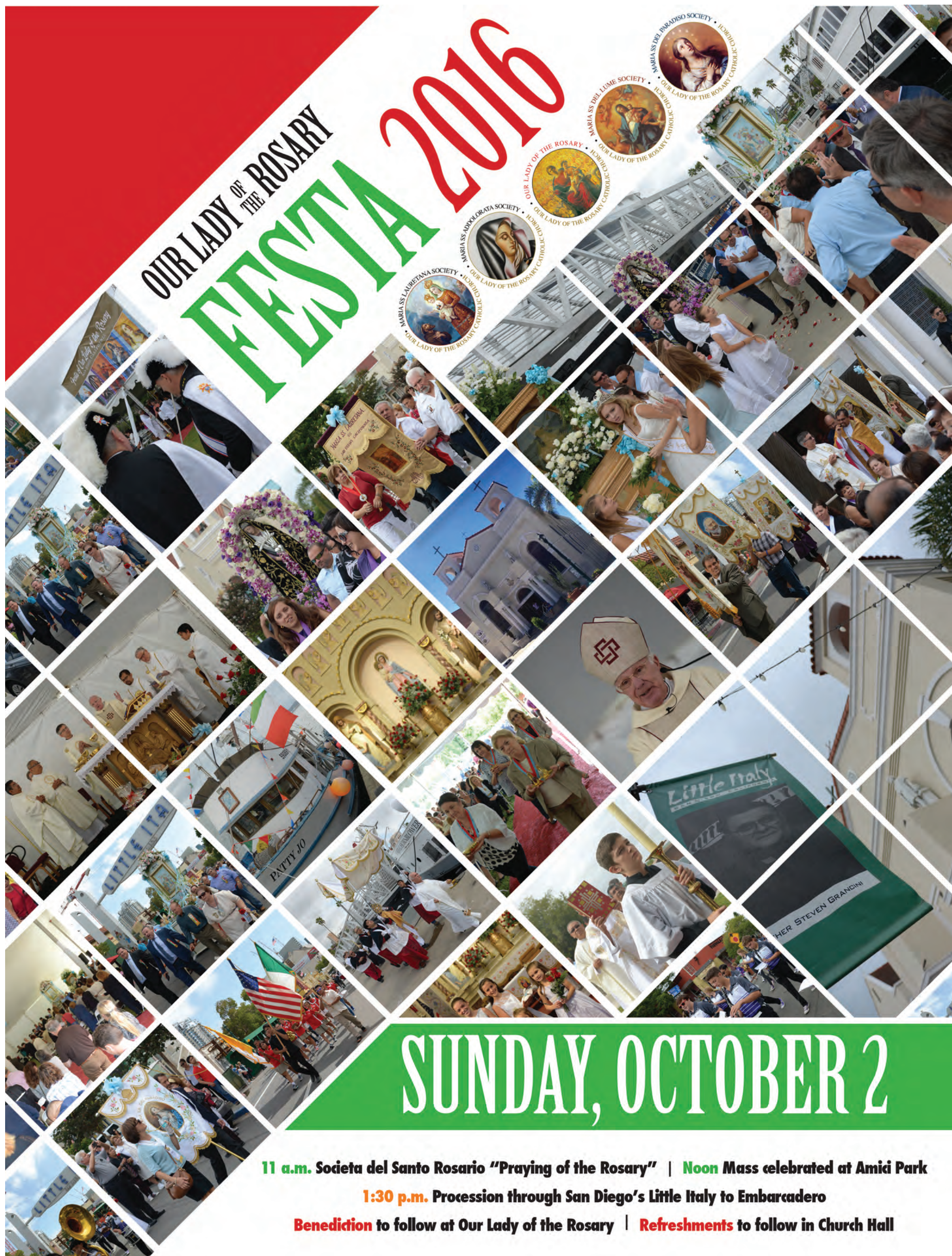
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

11 a.m. Societa del Santo Rosario "Praying of the Rosary" | **Noon** Mass celebrated at Amici Park

1:30 p.m. Procession through San Diego's Little Italy to Embarcadero

Benediction to follow at Our Lady of the Rosary | **Refreshments** to follow in Church Hall



AIDA BUSTOS

TEMA FAMILIAR: *Caren Smith trajo su bebé a la junta que tocó el tema de como traer profundidad espiritual a la vida de las familias.*

La Iglesia Pide Pensar en Grande

Comienza el trabajo que busca cambios que fortalezcan a la familia

Por Aída Bustos

“Piensen en grande”.

El Obispo Robert McElroy instó a los representantes de las parroquias a que hicieran justamente eso en el camino que conduce a la primera asamblea general de la Diócesis de San Diego en 40 años.

Esta asamblea, denominada sínodo diocesano, se llevará a cabo el 29 y 30 de octubre. El enfoque será sobre cómo la diócesis y las parroquias -de forma individual- pueden fortalecer el matrimonio y las familias, dar apoyo pastoral a los católicos divorciados y atraer a parejas que viven en unión libre a la Iglesia.

Al final del sínodo los representantes, llamados delegados, presentarán al Obispo cinco propuestas para lograr alcanzar dichas metas. Propuestas que el Obispo se

ha comprometido a implementar.

En la primera junta de trabajo de los delegados el pasado 20 de agosto, el Obispo les explicó el reto que enfrentaban.

“¿Cómo transformamos a nuestra cultura?”, les preguntó. “¿Cómo ayudamos a parejas vivir la riqueza de nuestra fe en todas las etapas de su vida?”.

El Papa Francisco plantó la semilla para el sínodo la primavera pasada. En su documento educativo “Amoris Laetitia” (Alegría del Amor), el Papa invitó a las diócesis del

mundo a reflexionar sobre el estado de la familia en su región y las alentó a encontrar formas para fortalecerla.

Tras consultar con los sacerdotes, diáconos y líderes laicos locales, el Obispo anunció en mayo que la diócesis llevaría a cabo una asamblea general para hacer eso.

De hecho, la Diócesis de San Diego es la única -que se tenga conocimiento- que está realizando este proceso en respuesta al llamado del Papa.

VEA SÍNODO, PÁGINA 6

Capacitación Local para el V Encuentro Comienza en Octubre

El proceso nacional del V Encuentro para los hispanos católicos toma un paso importante en octubre en la Diócesis de San Diego.

El V Encuentro es un proceso de reflexión y acción eclesial de varios años que invita a los hispanos a una intensa actividad de fe, a participar en una consulta y a identificar las buenas prácticas ministeriales, en términos básicos. Comienza a nivel de la base y promueve el desarrollo de recursos, iniciativas y liderazgo para mejor servir a la creciente población hispana en las diócesis y parroquias.

En octubre, personal clave de la diócesis llevará a cabo juntas de dos días alrededor de la región para capacitar al liderazgo de parroquias, escuelas católicas, movimientos eclesiales y adultos joven. Les enseñarán cómo presentar el tema del V Encuentro y cómo realizar las consultas, a partir del próximo enero.

Los entrenamientos:

- 3 y 10 de octubre, para las parroquias de la zona central del Condado de San Diego, además de movimientos, grupos apostólicos y universidades, en el Centro Pastoral diocesano;

- 11 y 18 de octubre para las parroquias del sur del Condado de San Diego, en la iglesia Preciosa Sangre de Cristo, Chula Vista;

- 18 y 25 de octubre, para las parroquias en el Norte del Condado, en Santa María Estrella de Mar, Oceanside;

- 17 y 24 de octubre, para el Valle Imperial, en la parroquia San Antonio de Imperial.

El proceso V Encuentro, que involucrará a más de 1 millón de católicos en todo el país, terminará en el año 2020. Información bilingüe se encuentra en vencuentro.org.



AIDA BUSTOS

CATÓLICOS HISPANOS: *Se planea llevar a cabo una consulta nacional de católicos latinos, como estos de la parroquia San Juan de la Cruz de Lemon Grove.*

Nuestras acciones comunican nuestro mensaje de mejor forma



**Por el Padre
Bernardo Lara**

Unos días previos a la canonización de la Madre Teresa de Calcuta, estaba hablando con otro amigo sacerdote precisamente sobre este acontecimiento que estábamos por vivir. Dentro de la conversación tocamos varios temas, aunque siempre en relación a la Madre Teresa. Hablamos de su vida, de su espiritualidad, de algunas anécdotas que nuestro Obispo emérito, Robert Brom, me había contado tras convivir muy de cerca con ella y así.

En algún punto terminamos cambiando la conversación a San Juan Pablo II y su relación con la Madre Teresa de Calcuta. Fue ahí que mi amigo me dijo una frase muy interesante y que yo no había escuchado antes y es que dice que, “los santos a veces vienen de dos en dos”.

Al pedirle que me explicara más, me ilustró contándome como Jesús mandó de dos en dos a sus apóstoles a evangelizar. Además mencionó la relación entre San Pedro y San Pablo; San Francisco y Santa Clara; San Benito y Santa Escolástica; San Juan de la Cruz y Santa Teresa de Ávila y desde luego María y José, entre otros.

En el 2014 fuimos testigos de la canonización de Juan Pablo II y ahora, dos años después, vivimos la canonización de alguien que fue muy allegada a él y con quien trabajó muy de cerca: La Madre Teresa de Calcuta.

Con esto podemos ser testigos de que la santidad es posible y es un modo de vivir que sigue actual; no es nada más algo reservado para los que vivieron en la época medieval o que llevaron túnicas de vestimentas en vez de jeans. La santidad sigue vigente, el llamado sigue sonando y más aun, creo yo, es la única voz que va a expresar nuestro mensaje.

Me explico: el día de hoy, las mentes ya no se dejan llevar por la razón y el pensamiento. En el siglo XVIII, René Descartes enfatizó la importancia de pensar, con su famosa máxima: “Pienso, por lo tanto existo”.

Ahora ya no le damos importancia al pensamiento y para muestra un botón: veamos cualquier anuncio publicitario. Puedes escoger cualquier comercial en la televisión y

casi ninguno, si no es que ninguno, te dice el “por qué” su producto es bueno.

Nadie te trata de convencer demostrándote que su producto es el mejor. Simplemente hacen una apelación a los sentimientos: muestran gente “cool” al beber cierto tipo de refresco, hacen que se te antoje al chocar los hielos, te muestran muchachas en bikini para que compres cierta cerveza o si es un comercial de alguna tienda te dicen que ponen las “mejores cosas a los precios más bajos”.

Pero nadie se preocupa por convencerte por medio de la razón.

Entonces, si la gente no quiere usar el pensamiento, ¿qué es lo que nos queda para comunicar nuestro mensaje?

Nuestras acciones.

Nuestras acciones que reflejan la santidad y un muy buen ejemplo de esto lo encontramos, precisamente, en Santa Teresa de Calcuta. A pesar de que fue muy inteligente, la gente la recuerda más por sus obras de caridad, su *sair* (el hábito que usaba de vestimenta), su delicadeza al moverse, etcétera.

El hombre contemporáneo no será convencido a menos de que vea en acción la fe de la gente. Somos como Santo Tomás, el apóstol: “hasta que no meta mis dedos en los agujeros de sus manos, no creeré”.

La santidad es el único modo en el que la gente entenderá nuestro mensaje en este mundo moderno. Un argumento que demos puede ser contra-atacado con otro argumento, un intento de persuasión puede ser ignorado; pero nadie se puede resistir a un “estaré rezando por ti y tu familia” o a un “gracias. Que tengas un buen día y que Dios te bendiga”.

Es momento de demostrar lo que creemos, pues bien lo dijo la misma Madre Teresa- oh perdón, corrijo, bien lo dijo Santa Teresa de Calcuta: “Derrama amor donde quiera que vayas; ante todo, en tu propia casa. No dejes que nadie se acerque a ti sin que se despidas sintiéndose mejor y más feliz. Sé la expresión viviente de la bondad de Dios; bondad en tu rostro; bondad en tus ojos, bondad en tu sonrisa, bondad en tu cálido saludo.”

El padre Bernardo Lara es vicario en las parroquias en Brawley y Westmorland en el Valle Imperial. Se puede contactar en fatherbernardolara@gmail.com.

Mega Fieles



OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

Miembros del Ministerio de Juventud de la iglesia de la Sagrada Trinidad de El Cajon asistieron la Mega Misa el 21 de agosto en La Inmaculada de la Universidad de San Diego. La Misa anual, que fue celebrada por el Obispo Robert McElroy, reunió a jóvenes católicos de la región. En su Homilía, el Obispo preguntó, “¿Qué tan anchas son las puertas del cielo?” -- y respondió: “En este Año de Misericordia, sepan que Dios hace más amplia la puerta. Espero y rezo porque todos los jóvenes en la diócesis sepan que la misericordia de Dios siempre se está expandiendo, nunca contrayendo. Se expande de tal manera que todos nosotros podemos caminar por la puerta juntos”. Posteriormente, los creyentes disfrutaron de una recepción. Los miembros del grupo de la Sagrada Trinidad incluyeron, izquierda a derecha, Édgar Aguilar, Rosemarie Vigil, Adrián Hernández, Fabián Morales, Erika Estrada, Rafael Quevedo, Óscar Suarez y Everardo Lucas.

Nuevo director para Caridades Católicas

Un experto en asuntos de inmigración ha sido seleccionado como el nuevo director ejecutivo de Caridades Católicas de San Diego.



DR. ROBERT MOSER

El Obispo Robert McElroy anunció que el Dr. Robert Moser

ha sido nombrado a ese cargo, reemplazando a la Hermana RayMonda DuVall, quien se jubila al fin de año. El nuevo directivo comenzará el primero del año.

“Bob Moser ha trabajado con Caridades Católicas de San Diego por más de 30 años, y durante ese tiempo ha sido un increíble líder y recurso”, dijo el obispo.

Desde 1998 Moser ha fungido como el subdirector de Caridades Católicas de San Diego, donde ha trabajado desde 1985. Va a suceder a la Hermana DuVall, quien llegó a Caridades Católicas en 1979 y ha servido como directora desde 1987.

En Caridades Católicas, Moser ha dirigi-

do y diseñado programas que ayudan a inmigrantes y refugiados apenas llegando a la zona de San Diego. Esto incluye ayudarlos a obtener lo básico, como comida, vivienda y cuidado de salud; patrocinar clases y otros servicios para que puedan conseguir trabajo y aprender inglés; y apoyarlos en el proceso de solicitar la ciudadanía estadounidense.

La organización Caridades Católicas de San Diego abrió sus puertas en 1919 para vivir los valores de la misericordia y justicia y para abogar por los pobres y vulnerables dentro de la diócesis. Por casi 100 años, se ha mantenido fiel a ese mandato original, trabajando con donadores locales, dependencias públicas y voluntarios en los Condados de San Diego e Imperial para proveer ayuda a gente y familias de todas fes en su momento de crisis. Con un presupuesto anual de \$16 millones y con más de 100,000 clientes, Caridades Católicas de San Diego es una de las organizaciones más grandes que ofrece servicios sociales en California.

Fecha límite para poder votar es el 24 de octubre

Muchas parroquias a lo largo de la región tienen una campaña para instar a los fieles a participar de una forma u otra en las elecciones del 4 de noviembre.

Parroquianos están registrando a nuevos votantes después de Misa. La fecha límite para inscribirse para votar es el 24 de octubre. También están invitando a gente que no puede votar a cerciorarse que familiares, compañeros de trabajo y amigos que sí pueden votar efectivamente lo hagan.

Para registrarse para votar, la persona debe ser ciudadano de Estados Unidos. Se necesita una licencia de manejar o número de identificación, ambos documentos del estado de California; acta de nacimiento y número de Seguro Social.

Información bilingüe está disponible en la página de California registertovote.ca.gov, donde se puede registrar a través del Internet. Información también es disponible por teléfono al (619) 285-0797.

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Por Aida Bustos

Quince líderes cristianos, judíos y musulmanes se reunieron en una extraordinaria demostración de unidad para rezar por la paz. La Diócesis Católica de San Diego convocó el servicio de varias religiones la noche del 9 de septiembre en la Catedral de San José “para nutrir la paz y construir puentes en nuestras comunidades”.

El servicio fue parte de una iniciativa a nivel nacional lanzada por la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos para responder a las balaceras raciales, las tensiones raciales y el discurso de odio que divide a algunas comunidades. La meta de la Iglesia es fomentar la sanación por medio de trabajo para resolver, junto con otros, la raíz de estas divisiones destructivas.

En San Diego las comunidades de color sufren índices de violencia, crimen y encarcelamiento proporcionalmente mayor a los de la población blanca. Muchos miembros de la comunidad se quejan de ser el blanco de discriminación racial por la autoridad y de ser tratados injustamente por el sistema de justicia. Mientras tanto, la autoridad sostiene que ellos trabajan para mantener la seguridad de las comunidades en un ambiente impredecible con pandillas implacables y con un fácil acceso a armas.

Cerca de 75 líderes religiosos, autoridad y oficiales de gobierno - incluyendo a la Asambleísta Shirley Weber, el Jefe del Condado de Libertad Condicional Adolfo Gonzáles y el ex jefe de la Policía de San Diego Bill Landsdowne- se reunieron poco antes de que comenzara el servicio para hablar sobre cómo pueden trabajar juntos para mejorar la relación entre la comunidad y la policía.

“El consenso fue que nosotros, como comunidad religiosa, tenemos un imperativo y una oportunidad que puede ser muy benéfica a la hora de reunir a participantes importantes de la autoridad y el gobierno para erradicar los prejuicios”, dijo el Obispo Católico Robert McElroy. “Tratar de crear un puente en la estrechez de la visión que en ocasiones previene a todos los involucrados en este complejo problema de ver las posiciones legítimas, las dificultades y miedos de cada uno”.

Agregó que los líderes religiosos quedaron en reunirse de nuevo después de las elecciones, antes de terminar el año, para desarrollar un plan para trabajar juntos “para tratar de construir una paz más profunda y una justicia más verdadera en San Diego”.

Este trabajo es urgente, dijo Kevin Malone, quien durante 15 años ha dirigido el Proyecto de Organización de San Diego (SDOP, por sus siglas en inglés), un socio en el servicio de oración por la paz.

“Estamos a un paso de Ferguson”, señaló Malone, refiriéndose al suburbio de San Luis en donde un adolescente afro-americano desarmado fue asesinado por un oficial



UNIDOS: El pastor Jesús Sandoval, de la iglesia New Harvest Christian Fellowship, unió su oración al servicio interreligioso en la Catedral San José que incluyó una actuación del Grupo Gospel Mime T.R.U.T.H., entre otros actos musicales.

blanco de la policía; hecho que durante meses llevó a protestas -en ocasiones violentas- ahí y alrededor del país. “En todas partes la autoridad se siente asediada. Este momento en la historia es peligroso”.

El Padre Patrick Mulcahy, pastor de la catedral, ofreció el servicio en inglés y español. Líderes religiosos tomaron turnos para reflexionar sobre el estado de sus comunidades, ofrecieron una oración por la paz y prendieron una veladora en el Santuario.

“Hace 15 años algo terrible pasó en nuestra nación”, aseguró el Obispo Episcopal James Mathes, refiriéndose a los ataques del 11 de septiembre. “Tras eso, nos convertimos en una nación a la defensiva y temerosa. Y que busca la paz sin importar lo que le pase a otros”.

“Como comunidad estamos en un lugar brutal. Pero necesitamos redescubrir la ética, el amor y el respeto humano”, continuó. “Al mismo tiempo que iluminamos las velas en el santuario, pidamos porque algo en nuestro interior se ilumine: Un espíritu de responsabilidad de que lo que se dice importa. Que nosotros, como personas, encendamos esa luz”.

Marwa Abdala, representante del Centro

Islámico de San Diego, habló sobre lo triste que se sintió después de que su comunidad fue atacada tras los ataques terroristas.

“Todos nosotros en alguna ocasión hemos sido atacados por la ignorancia y los prejuicios”, comentó. “Pero cuando nos reunimos, con valor, podemos superar esas enfermedades”.

El Obispo George Dallas McKinney, de St. Stephen's Cathedral Church of God in Christ, es un legendario defensor de la paz y la justicia no solo en la comunidad afro-americana sino en todas aquellas comunidades marginadas por la sociedad.

“Es apropiado que distintas comunidades de fe vengan a este Santuario sagrado para orar a Dios por Su sabiduría, por Su dirección, por Su favor en esta búsqueda de paz. Es apropiado trabajar juntos para reducir los incidentes de violencia, para participar en la construcción de puentes en lugar de muros. Es sumamente importante que nos reunamos”.

Los otros líderes religiosos que hablaron fueron la Rabina Dr. Laurie Coskey, presidente y CEO de United Way of San Diego County; Reverendo Tommie Jennings, pastor de la parroquia Christ the King; pastor

Jesús Sandoval, de New Harvest Christian Fellowship; Hermana Maureen Brown, de la parroquia St. Thomas More; Reverendo Jay Bananal, pastor de St. Pius X; Reverenda J. Lee Hill, Jr., pastor de Christian Fellowship Congregational Church; Reverendo Kathleen Owens, pastor de First Unitarian Universalist Church; y Ephraim Bendantungka, director de programa de Paradise Valley Church.

Cientos de personas de distintas comunidades acudieron al servicio, el cual incluyó presentaciones por el Coro Glee de Santa Rosa de Lima; y el Coro de jóvenes de St. Stephen's, así como el Grupo Gospel Mime T.R.U.T.H.

Más de una docena de los miembros del grupo de Ministerio Social de la parroquia de San Luis Rey batallaron con el tráfico de Oceanside hasta el centro de San Diego para atender el servicio. Les agradó escuchar el llamado de los líderes religiosos de trabajar juntos por la justicia social.

“Vimos que no hay división de credos”, comentó Lita Morales, su líder. “Somos una gran familia”.

The Southern Cross

Celebración en Grande para ‘Madre’

‘Amor y compromiso’ de la ahora Santa Teresa florecen en San Diego

Por Aída Bustos

Para los residentes de la región fronteriza de San Diego la Madre Teresa fue una fundadora y para millones de católicos en la región, una inspiración.

Pero para la docena de mujeres que han vivido durante 24 años en 3877 Boston Ave., en San Diego ella es simplemente “Madre”. Ellas forman parte de la orden fundada por la Madre Teresa en Calcuta hace 66 años, son las Misioneras de la Caridad.

La mañana del domingo 4 de septiembre, el Papa Francisco la proclamó Santa Teresa de Calcuta durante una ceremonia de canonización en Roma. Ese mismo día en San Diego, el obispo Robert McElroy celebró una misa especial en su honor en la parroquia localizada a unos cuantos pasos del convento que fundó, St. Jude Shrine of the West.

Durante la ceremonia el Obispo compartió una historia: la Madre Teresa visitó San Francisco, lugar donde él creció, a mediados de la década de los ochenta cuando apenas estaba estableciendo lo que posteriormente se convirtió en el convento principal de su orden en los Estados Unidos.

La alcaldesa de entonces, Diane Feinstein, la llevó de paseo por la ciudad. Frente a las cámaras de los noticieros de televisión la Madre Teresa le pidió a la alcaldesa que le diera un edificio de la ciudad para poder abrir una cocina.

“A la alcaldesa no le quedó de otra que decir que sí”, recordó el Obispo.

Tres meses más tarde, la noche anterior al regreso de la Madre Teresa a San Francisco, la ciudad movió cielo, mar y tierra para poder cumplir la promesa que había hecho Feinstein. La ciudad lo logró, le otorgaron una antigua casa de bomberos para ser utilizada como cocina en la que pudieran ali-



HOMENAJE: Las Misioneras de Caridad tienen un papel importante en la parroquia de San Judas Foto No. 1: La Hermana Fátima participó en la procesión de las ofrendas en la Misa del 4 de septiembre. No. 2: Las Hermanas oran hasta siete horas diario. No. 3: Se devolvió una estatua a la Santa Teresa en la Misa especial. No. 4: La canonización enfocó atención a la comunidad local de Hermanas. No. 5: Fieles de todas las edades participaron en el tributo. No. 6: Las Hermanas, inclusive dos no en la foto, tendrán un convento nuevo pronto.

mentar al hambriento, dijo.

“Era una mujer de grandeza en muchos niveles”, comentó el Obispo. “Y eso es lo que hoy venimos a celebrar. Tiene mucho sentido hacerlo aquí en San Diego donde la Madre Teresa tuvo un acercamiento

maravilloso con la comunidad que está reunida aquí”.

“Ustedes son la muestra tangible de la presencia que tuvo la Madre Teresa aquí y en el norte de México. Y ustedes son la muestra tangible de que su amor y su compro-

miso seguirán vivos”.

No hay una muestra más tangible de ese compromiso que las Misioneras de Caridad que caminan continuamente a la parroquia a media manzana de su convento. Son parte de la rama contemplativa de la orden que se enfoca en la oración, actividad que hacen solas o como parte de su comunidad hasta siete horas diario.

A cambio las cinco casas en Tijuana y Playas de Rosarito pertenecen a la rama activa, siendo parte de los Padres Misioneros de la Caridad. Ahí, los 36 miembros tienen una guardería para familias pobres, un comedor, un albergue y un hogar para los desahuciados.

Las hermanas de San Diego vienen de todo el mundo --México, Estados Unidos, las Filipinas, la India, África y Korea del Sur—y tienen de edad de los veinte hasta las ochentas.

Tienen un apostolado de dos horas, cuatro veces a la semana, para visitar familias y enfermos y desahuciados, dijo una de ellas, la Hermana Rafka. Además, caminan una o dos horas por semana por la vecindad, orando en silencio, sirviendo como una presencia de Jesús.

Lo residentes de la zona luchan contra la pobreza y la delincuencia. Un oficial del departamento de policía fue asesinado justo unas cuabras del convento el pasado julio.



mente de donativos.

También llegan para orar con las hermanas, buscando apoyo espiritual, especialmente en momentos de crisis.

La Hermana Fátima trabajo a lado de la “Madre” en Calcuta, atendiendo a los moribundos recogidos de la calle. La monja, en sus ochentas, comparte historias sobre gente en dolor cuyas vidas fueron transformadas tras su encuentro con la Madre.

La atención que recibió la Santa Teresa de Calcuta subraya por qué su vida y sus obras grandes y pequeñas importan hoy en día, cuando tanta gente se siente sola, desconectada de cariño, aún cuando tienen familias, aseguran las hermanas.

Ellas les dicen a todos lo mismo: Dios te ama.

“La gente tiene sed por el amor. Cuando utilizas la palabra ‘amor’, se rinden y comienzan a llorar”, dijo la Hermana Fátima. “Aceptan cualquier muestra que les podemos dar”.

Los que asistieron la Misa especial sonrefán cuando se les preguntaba por qué acudieron al homenaje.

Linda Rodríguez y Gloria Taylor hablaron de la última visita de la Madre a la parroquia en 1996. (Su hermano, el padre Henry Rodríguez, era pastor ahí en aquel tiempo.)

“Llegamos a la iglesia a las cinco de la mañana para tener un asiento”, dijo Rodríguez. “Habló sobre el amor. Nunca lo olvidaré”.

Taylor dijo que la Madre Teresa la hizo reflexionar. “Si ella pueda hacer tanto bien, ¿por qué todos los demás no podemos hacer nuestra parte?”

The Southern Cross



Se devela estatua a Santa Teresa en octubre

El público está invitado a la develación de una estatua en honor a la Santa Teresa de Calcuta el sábado, primero de octubre, en una Misa de Dedicación y Bendición en la Catedral de San José en el centro de San Diego.

El Obispo Emérito Robert Brom celebrará la Misa y compartirá anécdotas de la Madre Teresa cuando ella visitó a San Diego en los años noventa.

La estatua de madera tallada fue elaborada por un estudio de Italia que ha creado obras con tema religioso desde 1872.

Las Hermanas de la casa de la Santa Teresa en San Diego planean asistir, además de parroquianos de la comunidad local polaca católica.

El primero de octubre es la fiesta de la santa patrona de los misioneros, Teresa de Lisieux, la inspiración a la ahora Santa Teresa.

La Misa está programada para las 9 de la mañana en la catedral, ubicada en 1535 Third Ave. Posteriormente, habrá una recepción en el salón parroquiano.

Este homenaje es uno de varios realizados en la Diócesis de San Diego para celebrar la canonización de la Madre Teresa. El 11 de septiembre, por ejemplo, la parroquia católica de San Rafael, la episcopal de San Bartolomé y la luterana Encarnación llevaron a cabo un servicio colectivo en honor de la legendaria monja.

► SÍNODO

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Diócesis realiza consulta para fortalecer variedad de familias

Las 98 parroquias de la diócesis tendrán delegados en la asamblea general. La mayoría son parroquianos que darán testimonio directo de la realidad que viven las familias; el resto son sacerdotes y diáconos.

Los delegados han realizado pláticas en su comunidad con parroquianos para escuchar sus ideas sobre cómo fortalecer el matrimonio y la familia. Se calcula que unos 2,000 parroquianos habrán participado en este proceso para cuando se realice la asamblea general en octubre.

Lulú Valdivia, es uno de los delegados, ha sido miembro de la parroquia Nuestra Señora del Refugio de Pacific Beach durante 23 años. Valdivia calcula que ha escuchado a cientos de personas en su parroquia, en los ministerios en que ella participa, como Rachel's Hope, y a través de su página de Facebook. Les pregunta sobre los retos que los matrimonios enfrentan hoy en día y sobre cómo la Iglesia local los puede apoyar.

A Valdivia le impresionó el compromiso del Obispo McElroy de escuchar directamente a los parroquianos.

“Toma humildad escuchar a la gente”, dijo. “Escuchar verdaderamente el dolor que están padeciendo”.

En la junta del 20 de agosto el Padre John Hurley, CSP, dijo:

“Fueron enviados aquí a ser la voz de lo que se vive en su propia parroquia y en sus familias”, les dijo a los delegados.

El Padre Hurley, coordinador del sínodo, tiene una significativa experiencia nacional en este proceso.

Fue director ejecutivo de la Secretaría para la Evangelización de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos y del Centro Nacional de la Vida Pastoral en Nueva York. Actualmente, dirige el ministerio del Apostol Pablo New Evangelization Strategies (Estrategias Nuevas para la Evangelización), el cual colabora con diócesis y parroquias alrededor del país para “crear un nuevo paradigma que las mueve de mantenimiento a misión”.

Los delegados fueron organizados en cinco grupos, cada uno enfocado en un reto definido por el Obispo. Los grupos comenzaron sus juntas el 20 de agosto y las terminan el primero de octubre. Apoyados por directores de departamentos diocesanos,



cada grupo tendrá que desarrollar tres metas para enfrentar el reto.

El Padre Hurley instó a los delegados a pensar “fuera de la caja” y desarrollar metas que sean relevantes y que se pueden implementar y medir.

Los cinco retos son:

- Atestiguar la belleza de la visión católica del matrimonio y vida familiar;
- Traer profundidad espiritual a la vida familiar;
- Criar y formar a los niños dentro de la fe católica;
- Proveer auténtico apoyo pastoral a los católicos que se han divorciado;
- Formar una cultura en la Iglesia de invitación y hospitalidad a parejas no casadas.

En la asamblea general del 29 y 30 de agosto, los delegados reflexionarán sobre las metas identificadas por los grupos de trabajo y elegirán únicamente cinco que serán enviadas al obispo McElroy. Posteriormente, se formará un comité para implementarlas en la Diócesis.

El Obispo platicó unos minutos con el primer grupo. Los instó a considerar la diversidad cultural que tiene la diócesis en su labor.

Y les explicó que tenían que lograr tres tareas “que están de cierta manera peleadas una con la otra”.

La primera “es tomar como nuestro fundamento el Evangelio de la Iglesia sobre el matrimonio y la familia”.

La segunda “es ser transformativos”, y hacer “grandes cambios en la forma que hacemos las cosas” en la diócesis.

La tercera tarea es desarrollar para octubre propuestas realistas que puedan ser imple-



CONSULTA: El Obispo Robert McElroy escuchó a los delegados durante la junta del 10 de septiembre. Linda Arreola, la subdirectora del Ministerio Social, facilitó la conversación en una de las mesas. Un otra mesa, Joseph Horejs, izquierda, de Oficina de Evangelización y Catequesis, coordinó la conversación que incluyó César Fuentes, centro, y David Schmolke.

mentadas.

“Uno de los problemas con los sínodos en general es que en ocasiones las metas no son realistas y no se hace nada”, dijo McElroy.

Los animó a ser creativos, a “pensar en grande”.

“Es posible cambiar la cultura en la diócesis”, les dijo.

Puso como ejemplo el Ministerio de Salud Mental que la diócesis lanzó hace dos años. En las parroquias que participan, el ministerio enfrenta el estigma de las enfermedades mentales, como la depresión y ansiedad, y apoya a los individuos que sufren de ellas. Les dan información sobre recursos comunitarios confiables y los acompañan en su recuperación.

En sus visitas a las parroquias, la gente le platicó sobre el impacto positivo que ha tenido esta labor en la congregación, aseguró.

El obispo concluyó diciéndoles que “lo central de todo esto es el trabajo de Dios”.

De hecho, un teólogo es parte esencial de cada junta de grupo. Bernadeane Carr, STL, directora del Instituto Diocesano, desempeñó ese rol en la junta del 20 de agosto, la cual comenzó con la entronización de los Evangelios. Luego hizo una reflexión del Salmo 128, 1-6, y meditó una frase designada del Papa Francisco.

Los otros teólogos son Mons. Daniel

Dillabough, vicepresidente de Misión y Ministerio; Dra. Emily Reimer-Barry, presidente del Departamento de Estudios Religiosos y de Teología; Hermana Tobie Tondi, SHCJ, profesora, todos de la Universidad de San Diego. Además, la Dra. Maureen Day, profesora de la Escuela Franciscana de Teología en Oceanside; y el Rev. Michael Murphy, de la parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Coronado.

En la asamblea general en octubre el teólogo será Mons. John Strykowski, quien trabajó en el Vaticano por ocho años y sirvió como el director ejecutivo de la Doctrina y Práctica Pastoral de la Conferencia de Obispos de Estados Unidos. Strykowski asistió la XIV Asamblea General Ordinaria del Sínodo de la Familia del 2015 en el Vaticano como asesor teológico del Arzobispo de Chicago Blase Cupich.

“Lo que estamos haciendo es un acto de fe”, afirmó el obispo McElroy a los delegados. “Trabajando juntos, ¿cómo promovemos el matrimonio y la vida familiar? ¿Cómo hacemos progreso auténtico?”.

Más información bilingüe está disponible en el correo electrónico synod@sdccatholic.org.

The Southern Cross

Retiro espiritual en Baja California en octubre

CHULA VISTA – El grupo Reflexiones Bíblicas de Santa Clara Asís, de la iglesia Santa Rosa de Lima, invita a todos los feligreses a un retiro espiritual el 7 de octubre en Baja California.

El tema será “Cómo ser verdadero puente de la misericordia de Dios”. El Padre José Luis Barrios, OFM, de Ensenada, y el Padre Ernesto Popelka, de Tijuana, serán los conferencistas.

El retiro se llevará a cabo en el convento de las Madres Clarisas en Maneadero, municipio de Ensenada. El costo es \$65 por persona que incluye transporte ida y vuelta, desayuno ligero y refrigerio y almuerzo bufete.

La salida es el 7 de octubre de la parroquia en 293 H Street, de Chula Vista. El registro comienza a las 6:30 a.m. y la salida es a las 7 a.m. Informes al (619) 734-6180.

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS

INSTITUTO DIOCESANO

S830s Espiritualidad de la Vida Familiar

(15 hrs)
Antonio Morales, M.A.
los lunes, 26 septiembre - 24 octubre 2016
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Good Shepherd, Mira Mesa

S250s Intro al Concilio Vaticano II

(15 hrs)
Roberto Rojas, M.A.
los jueves, 29 septiembre - 10 noviembre 2016
(no habrá clase el 20 octubre)
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego

G120s Intro a la Espiritualidad Cristiana

(30 hrs)
Antonio Morales, M.A.
los jueves, 29 septiembre - 15 diciembre 2016
(no habrá clase el 24 noviembre ni el 8 diciembre)
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
St. Mark's Mission, San Marcos

S740s Planificación de Celebraciones

Litúrgicas (15 hrs)
Vicente Leal, M.A.
los sábados, 1 octubre - 29 octubre 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Resurrection, Escondido

S840s Teología del Sufrimiento

(15 hrs)
Roberto Rojas, M.A.
los martes, 4 octubre - 15 noviembre 2016
7:30 p.m. - 9:35 p.m.
Corpus Christi, Bonita

C110s Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica

(15 hrs)
Christine Avella, M.A.
los miércoles, 5 octubre - 16 noviembre 2016
(no habrá clase el 12 octubre)
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
St. Stephen, Valley Center

S160s Catequesis Basada en el

Leccionario (15 hrs)
Hna. Gloria Galván, SFCC, Dipl.
los martes, 11 octubre - 15 noviembre 2016
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano

S250s Intro al Concilio Vaticano II

(15 hrs)
Vicente Leal, M.A.
los miércoles, 12 octubre - 16 noviembre 2016
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
St. Patrick, Carlsbad (Father Moore Hall)

S330s Los Salmos

(15 hrs)
Rev. Juan Castillo, CJM, M.A.
los jueves, 13 octubre - 17 noviembre 2016
6:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
St. Mary, Escondido

S100s Crecimiento de Fe: Niños y

Adolescentes (15 hrs)
Salvador Balvaneda, Jr., M.A.
los jueves, 24 octubre - 28 noviembre 2016
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Angels, San Diego

S215s Sacramentos de Sanación y

Vocación (15 hrs)
Antonio Morales, M.A.
los lunes, 24 octubre - 28 noviembre 2016
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
St. Mary Star of the Sea School, Oceanside

C110s Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica

(15 hrs)
Enedina Saucedo, D. Min.
los jueves, 27 octubre - 1 diciembre 2016
(no habrá clase el 24 noviembre)
6:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
St. Jude Shrine, San Diego

Colegiatura*:

30 horas: \$75 Crédito/Desarrollo Ministerial, \$50 Oyentes por persona
15 horas: \$55 Crédito/Desarrollo Ministerial, \$35 Oyentes por persona
*Descuento para grupos de 4 o más

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

Diseñando Retiros apropiados para Programas de Formación de Fe

Con Victor Valenzuela
Miércoles, 5 de octubre, 2016 de 6:30-9 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Gratuito

Involucrando a Padres de Familia en la Formación de Fe de sus Hijos

Con el Padre Emilio Farrell y el equipo del Padre John Auther
Jueves, 20 de octubre, 2016 de 6:30-9 p.m.

Catedral de San José
Costo: \$15

Taller de Anulaciones

Con Rodrigo Valdivia, JCL
Martes, 25 de octubre, 2016 de 6:30-9 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Gratuito

Noche de Evangelización

Inmaculada Concepción, Old Town
Martes, 1 de noviembre, 2016 de 7-10 p.m.
Gratuito

Edificación dentro del Ministerio: Como Supervisar Pastoralmente

Con Enedina Saucedo
Miércoles, 9 de noviembre, 2016 de 6:30-9 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Costo: \$15.00

Pequeñas Comunidades Eclesiales- Preparación de Adviento

Con el Padre John Dolan
Miércoles, 16 de noviembre, 2016 de 6:30-9 p.m.
St. Michael, Poway
Gratuito

Apoyando Familias Multiculturales

con Ken Johnson-Mondragón
Jueves 17 de noviembre, 2016 de 6:30-9:00 pm
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Gratuito

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



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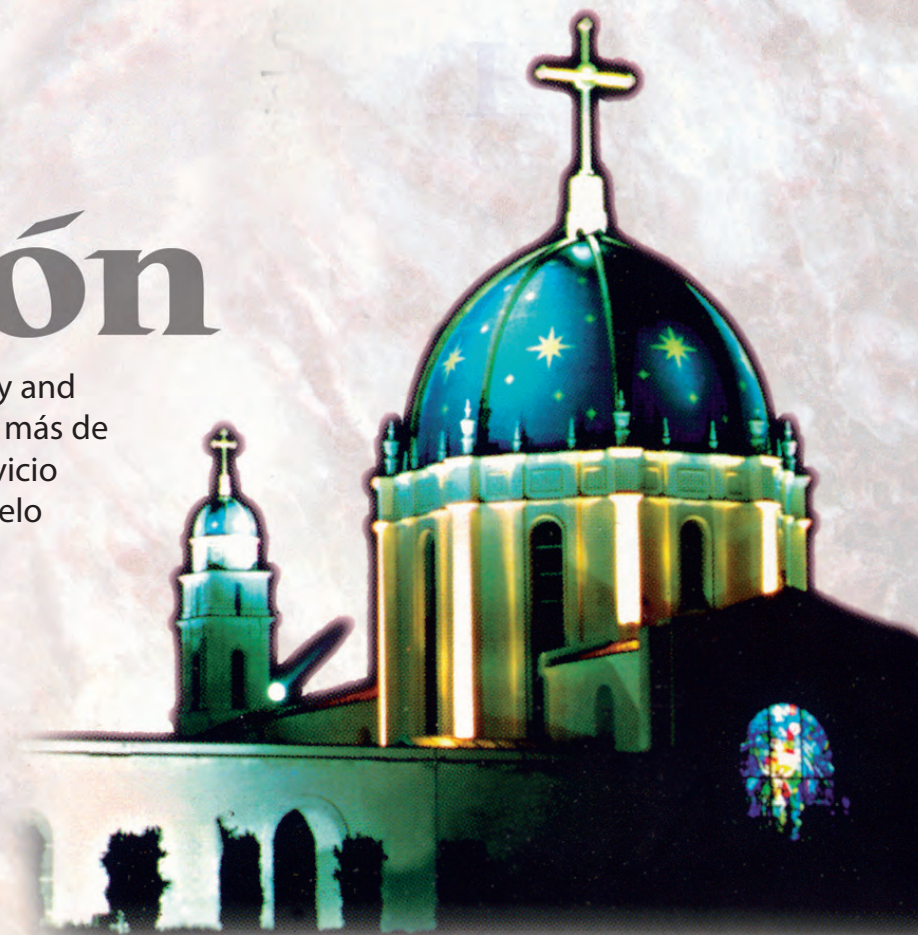
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Horas 12-6pm

Tradición

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

Santuario

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



Fe

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

Compromiso

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

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

HOLY CROSS
Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum

4470 Hilltop Drive • San Diego 92102

619 264 3127

Diocese of San Diego



Dear Friends of Christ,

The Pastoral Center of the Diocese of San Diego plays a vital role in supporting the work of the parishes and schools in San Diego and Imperial counties. The Pastoral Office offers administrative support in the areas of finance, human resources, communications, legal issues and stewardship. Even more importantly, it provides programs for vocations and priestly formation; scholarships for needy students in our Catholic schools; and evangelization, liturgical and catechetical activities that dramatically enhance the life of the Gospel in our local Church.

I am immensely grateful for the financial support which our parishes provide to this vital work of the Pastoral Center through the Annual Catholic Appeal and the direct parochial contributions. Without your help, the work of the Church would be immensely crippled, and tremendous opportunities for spreading and supporting Catholic faith would be lost.

One of the responsibilities of the bishop is to ensure that the financial life of the diocese is carried out with prudence, integrity and skill. For this reason Mr. Mark Fisher and his staff, in concert with the Diocesan Finance Council, oversee the fiscal policies of the diocese, and our administrative practices are examined by an independent auditor each year.

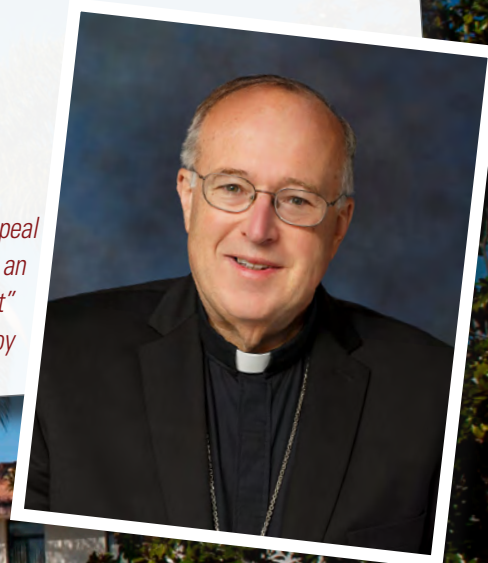
I also believe that it is important for the bishop to inform the broad Catholic community about the expenditures which the Pastoral Center makes for its vital outreach in the name of Jesus Christ. For that reason, this issue of the *Southern Cross* provides the budget for the central office for this current fiscal year and the specific allocation of funds to various offices, programs and departments. It is my hope that you will find this report informative and uplifting.

With joyful gratitude to God for giving me the blessing of being your bishop, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy
Bishop of San Diego

*"The Annual Catholic Appeal
has once again proven to be an
invaluable cornerstone of support"*
— Bishop McElroy



2016-17 Financial Budget Report

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

These pages provide a view of the current fiscal year budget (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) for the Diocese of San Diego's Pastoral Administrative Costs and Pastoral Programs. The operations of parishes, schools, and other

separate incorporated diocesan institutions, as well as private Catholic entities, are excluded. The categories are consistent with those verified by our independent auditors.

To the People of the Diocese of San Diego

The Administrative Office of the Diocese of San Diego includes 23 pastoral programs and 8 support offices which function under the leadership of the Bishop and together are at the service of the 98 parishes, 13 missions, and 48 Catholic grade and high schools. We serve approximately 185,000 registered families with a Catholic population estimated at 1 million.

REVENUE

Parish Assessments	\$9,500,000
Annual Catholic Appeal	3,500,000
Pastoral Programs	2,750,726
Recovery of Annual Catholic Appeal Costs	354,300
Cemetery Revenue	635,420
Secondary Education Initiative	120,000
Interest and Other Income	321,200
Rent	151,290
Administrative Fees	165,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$17,497,936

EXPENSES

Pastoral Programs	\$8,443,545
Pastoral Administrative Costs	4,415,482
Catholic Charities	500,000
Support for Catholic Schools	1,400,000
Interest Expense	421,000
Pastoral Center Operating Expenses	556,233
Priest Graduate Studies	200,000
US Catholic Conference of Bishops Assessment	115,000
Vatican Assessment	121,000
California Catholic Conference of Bishops Assessment	120,000
Professional and Loan Fees	314,000
CAPS Loan Repayment	245,826
Contingency	400,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,252,086
<i>Net Increase</i>	<i>245,850</i>
Maintenance and Capital Projects	245,850
<i>Net Cash Flow</i>	<i>- 0 -</i>

PASTORAL PROGRAMS	REVENUE FY 2017	EXPENSE FY 2017	Description of Expenses
Office for Priests	\$145,600	\$ 260,482	Support and continuing education of priests
Priestly Formation	299,788	395,327	Programs for pre-seminarian and seminary candidates
Seminarian Support	35,000	783,006	Currently supporting 15 seminarians
Pastoral Care of Priests	—	224,696	Assistance to priests in need
Vocations	—	28,793	Promotion of vocations
Permanent Diaconate	51,780	335,908	Formation and ongoing support for deacons
Retired Priests	892,640	892,640	Assistance to retired priests
Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs	—	4,950	Coordinate activity between the diocese and other religious communities
Catechetical Ministry	109,610	406,420	Assists and advises Parish Catechetical Leadership
Institute	84,325	276,859	Adult ministry formation
Office for Schools	21,200	629,790	Supports a network of 45 Catholic elementary and 3 high schools
FIAT Catholic Schools	270,000	270,000	Collaboration of six Catholic schools
Youth Ministry	92,850	288,761	Supports the formation of youth leaders
Young Adult Ministry	22,000	264,973	Cultivates gifts and talents, and empowers them to be leaders
Liturgy and Spirituality	5,000	156,176	Diocesan liturgy and liturgical ministries formation
Marriage and Family Life	159,300	393,514	Marriage preparation and support
Cultural Diversity	—	56,631	Contact with cultural communities
Social Ministries	12,000	409,503	Promotion of church's social teaching
Southern Cross Newspaper	211,968	513,460	News and information through print and internet presence
Tribunal	—	487,567	Processing of marriage annulment cases
Women Religious	—	48,479	Assists women religious throughout the diocese
Mission Office	279,617	279,617	Fundraising for Mission causes
Charismatic Renewal	23,148	23,094	Administrative expenses for charismatic movement
Campus Ministry	34,900	464,261	College based ministry
Chaplains	-	548,639	Hospital and jail ministries
TOTAL	\$2,750,726	\$8,443,545	

PASTORAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	EXPENSE FY 2017	Description of Expenses
Insurance	\$60,000	Insure the Pastoral Center
Accrued Vacation Expense	3,000	Employees accrued vacation
Bank Fees	180,000	Administrative banking services
Office of the Bishop	121,404	Administrative expenses for bishop
Bishop's Support Staff	77,764	Administrative expenses for bishop's staff
Retired Bishop's Residence	14,100	Maintain retired bishop's home
Bishop's Residence	27,500	Cost to maintain bishop's home
Vicar General	55,567	Administrative expenses for general care and administration of the diocese
Vicar for Clergy	93,563	Administrative expenses for general care of priests
Retired Bishop	6,120	Expenses for retired bishop
Office of the Chancellor	168,102	Responsible for the governance of the diocese
Archives	18,606	Maintenance of diocesan records
Legal	257,931	Compliance with civil law
Stewardship and Development	184,337	Fosters stewardship and enables comprehensive fund development
Annual Catholic Appeal	354,300	Design, develop, and implementation of Annual Catholic Appeal
Foundation Start-Up Costs	230,000	Costs related to start-up of Catholic Community Foundation
Communication	250,000	New diocesan communications office
Finance and Accounting	1,023,936	Administrative support to parish and schools
Construction Services	100,425	Administrative support to parish and schools
HR Operations	606,165	Administrative support to parish and schools
Meetings and Recognition	30,270	Administrative expenses to host meetings and events
Information Technology	451,780	Pastoral center IT and telecom services
Charitable Programs	9,360	Supports charities
Presbyteral Council	5,250	Host meetings for Council of Priests
Property Taxes	86,000	Taxes on property not in church use
TOTAL	\$4,415,482	



2016-17 Financial Budget Report

PASTORAL PROGRAMS — Where the Money Goes

SEMINARIAN SUPPORT

The future of San Diego's local Church is strengthened by the number of men who answer the call to a priestly vocation. We are currently supporting 16 seminarians with an average cost of \$45,000 per year. This past year we ordained three priests and two transitional deacons.

RETIRED PRIESTS

There are currently 58 retired priests of the Diocese of San Diego. The diocese provides financial support to retired priests so that they can live in dignity, free of anxiety about their means of support. This includes providing health and auto insurance, assisting living care at Nazareth House San Diego if needed, supplementing their pension, and covering expenses for them to attend the annual convocation of priests.

OFFICE FOR SCHOOLS

The diocese includes a network of 45 Catholic elementary schools and 3 high schools, educating approximately 15,000 students each year. The Office for Schools generally assists and advises schools in matters of personnel, programs and policies which includes the 1,700 faculty and staff employed by the diocese. The Office for Schools is responsible for the collective advancement of the total mission of Catholic education in the diocese, and it represents the diocese in local, regional and national Catholic education associations.

TRIBUNAL

The Diocesan Tribunal is responsible for considering petitions for marriage annulments. It also provides support for annulment cases being heard by Tribunals in other dioceses and assists Catholics living in San Diego with the preparation of documents for marriages taking place outside the diocese.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

The Office for Marriage and Family Life helps organize and facilitate marriage preparation and ongoing marriage formation including marriage enrichment and parenting classes. Over 1,200 couples attend the diocesan marriage preparation programs annually, and 1,534 couples were married this past year. Over 250 people take the Natural Family Planning classes each year, and 400 people have attended the newly offered relationship skills workshops.

PRIESTLY FORMATION

The Office for Priestly Formation administers the diocesan program for both pre-seminarian and seminarian candidates and is located at the St. Francis Center on the University of San Diego campus. As a house of formation, St. Francis Center helps prepare men in each of the four areas of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral for admission to a seminary school of theology.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities is based on the person of Jesus, who "came not to be served, but to serve" and is our primary diocesan social services agency. It believes in dignity of the human person, and is committed to the Judeo-Christian vision of justice and peace. Catholic Charities assist almost 300,000 people each year by providing a network of important programs and services.



OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

The Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry assists and advises Parish Catechetical Leadership with guidelines, programs and policies. The office provides ongoing training, workshops, in-services, certification and renewal of catechists and Catholic school teachers; it also oversees the Rite of Election: Call to Continuing Conversion. There are over 6,000 catechists in the Diocese of San Diego. In 2016, 313 adult catechumens, 611 candidates and 33 children catechumens and candidates were welcomed into the Catholic Church.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Office of Youth Ministry serves parishes in our diocese so that they may cultivate the gifts and talents of young people, and empower them to be leaders in the Church and community.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Young Adult ministry reaches out and ministers to young adults inviting them into responsible participation into the full life and mission of the Church. We strive to connect them to Christ, His Church and a faith filled peer community by offering various social, service and spiritual opportunities.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Guided by the Gospels, Campus Ministry helps transform the lives of college students in the development and growth of a flourishing spiritual life. These young adults represent the future of our Church. The Diocese of San Diego currently supports the Newman Centers at San Diego State University and University of California, San Diego.

SOUTHERN CROSS NEWSPAPER

Through both its print edition and its Internet presence, The Southern Cross assists the Local Church in its teaching and pastoral mission by: informing the faithful about the life and work of the Church throughout the diocese; offering news and information which will foster unity with the Church throughout the world; and instructing the faithful regarding authentic Catholic teaching and practice. The newspaper monthly circulation is approximately 40,000.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Office for Social Ministry affirms and fosters human life, dignity and rights, promotes justice and peace, and serves as a resource to parishes in responding to people of every culture and status, especially those who are marginalized economically or socially. As well, the office collaborates with the 17 pregnancy care centers serving within the Diocese of San Diego, hosts the "Setting Things Right" Radio Show, has established the Mental Health Ministry Network which includes 21 parishes assisting parishioners with mental health concerns, and the Restorative Justice and Detention Ministry. This ministry impacts the lives of those imprisoned in 27 different prisons, jails and detention facilities housing over 25,000 inmates.

CHAPLAINS

The Diocese of San Diego currently supports 10 chaplains throughout our local hospitals to provide pastoral care to our local parishioners who are sick or disabled. Chaplains are responsible for administering the sacrament of the sick; conducting pastoral visits for patients, families and hospital staffs; helping coordinate the visits of parish Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist in their work of bringing Communion to the sick; and assisting in a diocesan-wide effort to educate the Catholic faithful about the sacrament of the sick.

PERMANENT DIACONATE

There are currently 106 active deacons in the Diocese of San Diego, of which the Office for Permanent Diaconate is responsible for pre-ordination, post-ordination and on-going support. The office also assists parishes in identifying potential candidates for the diaconate program.

LOOKING AHEAD

Bishop McElroy continues to work with his staff and the Diocesan Finance Council to monitor the state of diocesan financial activities against that of the annual budget, to ensure the continued proper expenditure and safeguard of these important resources.

