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More Than 1,000 Gather for Church Ministers Conference

By Denis Grasska

CHULA VISTA — As the approximately 1,100 attendees arrived at the diocese's annual Church Ministers Conference, they were presented with a program book that included a greeting from Bishop Robert W. McElroy.

The bishop noted that this year's theme — "Called to Be Disciples of Christ" — was inspired by the account of Jesus' first encounter with Simon and Andrew, when He called them to drop their fishing nets, follow Him and become "fishers of men."

"We hope this year's conference will equip those of us who attend with skills and determination that will make us more effective," the bishop said, "as we work in our ever-changing culture, as we encounter those in need, and as we do so with a passion that will lead us into new arenas of evangelization with renewed confidence."

The Church Ministers Conference, held Sept. 19 on the campus of Mater Dei Catholic High School in Chula Vista, was co-sponsored by seven diocesan offices — Social Ministry, Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry, Youth, Schools, Vocations, Liturgy and Spirituality, and Stewardship.

"The conference was designed to offer ministers from throughout the diocese an opportunity to come together and spiritually feed and pastorally nourish themselves," said Marioly Galván, director of the Evangelization and

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SHEPHERD SPEAKING: Bishop Robert W. McElroy emphasizes a point during his keynote address Sept. 19 at the annual Church Ministers Conference.

Pope Leaves U.S. with Parting Thoughts

By David Agren

PHILADELPHIA — Pope Francis ended his trip to the United States with a call for Catholics to keep the enthusiasm of the visit, while continuing to welcome newcomers and care for creation.

"Do not let your enthusiasm for Jesus, His Church, our families, and the broader family of society run dry," Pope Francis said at Philadelphia International Airport, prior to flying back to Rome. "I pray that our days of prayer and reflection on the importance of the family for a healthy society will inspire families to continue to strive for holiness and to see the Church as their constant companion, whatever the challenges they may face."

SEE VISIT, PAGE 12

Magnificat Meals Satisfy Both Physical, Spiritual Hunger

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — On Oct. 7, 1981, about 200 Catholic women attended a prayer meal in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Though they could hardly have known it at the time, they were witnessing the birth of what would become an international ministry with chapters throughout the United States and in Canada, the Caribbean, Malta, Poland and Africa.

Magnificat, which takes its name from Mary's famous song of praise, describes

itself as "a ministry to Catholic women." According to its Web site, www.magnificat-ministry.net, its mission is "to evangelize and to encourage Catholic women to grow in holiness through opening more fully to the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Each Magnificat chapter is expected to hold quarterly prayer meals each year. According to the Web site, these gatherings typically last between two and three hours and include a shared meal, fellowship, praise, personal testimony and intercessory prayer. The meals are often

SEE MAGNIFICAT, PAGE 6

Young Adults Experience 'Awakening' in Julian

By Denis Grasska

JULIAN — “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light” (Eph 5:14).

That was the message that the diocesan Office for Young Adult Ministry had for the approximately 135 attendees at the annual Diocesan Young Adult Retreat.

Dubbed “The Awakening,” the retreat was held Sept. 18-20 at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center in Julian.

“It was amazing,” Patrick Rivera, director of the Office for Young Adults, said of this year’s retreat. Estimating that he has either led or participated in almost 100 retreats during his life, he added, “Never have I been on one that was so Spirit-led.”

Beginning on a Friday night and concluding early Sunday afternoon, the retreat included two Masses, five spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration, confession with six priests coming up to the camp to celebrate the sacrament, and free time that could be spent on the camp’s zip-line, in the pool, at the archery range or engaged in a host of other activities. There was also a bonfire on both Friday and Saturday night.

Rivera said special emphasis was given to small-group discussion at the retreat this year.

“Everybody that was in a small group, they weren’t just divided by age,” he said. “They were actually divided by location.”

The hope was that attendees



ZIP-LINING: Young adults enjoy the zip-line at the Diocesan Young Adult Retreat.

would not only have “a personal awakening,” but also “a group-wide awakening.” He explained that the Catholic young adult

community is currently “pretty divided” geographically with “some major hotspots of activity,” including St. Brigid Parish

in Pacific Beach.

Retreat organizers hope that, thanks to the small groups,

SEE RETREAT, PAGE 15

CA Bishops Disappointed About Assisted Suicide Law

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California’s bishops expressed disappointment with Gov. Jerry Brown’s Oct. 5 signing of a measure legalizing physician-assisted suicide in the state, saying the law “stands in direct contradiction to providing compassionate, quality care for those facing a terminal illness.”

“This bill does nothing to validate the lives of the vulnerable,” said the California Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state’s bishops, in a statement soon after Brown’s action.

The conference added that the legislation “isn’t compassion” and does not support or promote the common good.

“As Catholic bishops in California, we join hands with the disability rights groups, physicians, other health care professionals and advocates for the elderly in opposing physician-assisted suicide as the wrong way to advance the human dignity for those facing a terminal illness,” the conference said.

The prelates also pointed out that the 48 Catholic hospitals in California “provide excellent palliative care services as all medical facilities for terminally ill patients should but often do not.”

The California Catholic Conference stressed that the legislation will “adversely affect the poor, as those with resources will always have access to palliative care.”

It also said the legislation places the elderly and disabled in “great peril,” noting that “the option to offer the low-cost alternative of lethal drugs instead of proper medical care is a temptation not long resisted.”

The legislation requires that a patient with a terminal disease be physically capable of taking medication that would end his or her life. It says that a patient must submit written requests for the medication, that two doctors must approve the request and that there must be two witnesses.

Catholic News Service

Pope Canonizes Junipero Serra, Says Faith Is Alive Only When Shared

By Cindy Wooden

WASHINGTON — Canonizing the 18th-century Spanish missionary, Blessed Junipero Serra, Pope Francis insisted a person’s faith is alive only when it is shared.

Celebrating a late afternoon Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 23, the pope declared the holiness of St. Junipero, founder of a string of missions in California.

Some people had objected to the canonization — like the beatification of the Spaniard in 1988 — because of questions about how Father Serra treated the native peoples of California and about the impact of Spanish colonization on native peoples throughout the Americas.

Pope Francis mentioned the controversy only briefly, saying: “Junipero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs, which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people.”

Other saints lived and worked in the United States, but

the canonization of St. Junipero was the first such ceremony to be celebrated in the United States rather than at the Vatican.

After the formal proclamation, Andrew Galvan, curator of Dolores Mission in San Francisco, brought a relic of St. Junipero up to a stand near the altar as a song was sung in Spanish accompanied by a drumbeat.

Catholics in the United States and throughout the world are indebted to St. Junipero and thousands of other witnesses who lived their faith and passed it on, the pope said in his homily.

St. Junipero “was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life,” Pope Francis said.

A missionary’s life is exciting and brings joy, he said, because it is not sedentary or turned in on itself. Sharing the Gospel is the way to keep experiencing the joy it brings and keeps the heart “from growing numb from being anesthetized.”

More than speaking about St. Junipero, Pope Francis

spoke about keeping faith alive and joyful, calling on all Catholics to be missionaries.

“Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual,” he told the crowd of about 25,000 people. “Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven.”

Pope Francis insisted that Jesus does not give Christians “a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving His message, His presence.”

Instead, Jesus embraced people as they were, even those who were “dirty, unkept, broken,” he said. Jesus says to believers today, like yesterday, “Go out and embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be.”

“The joy of the Gospel,” the pope said, “is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away.”

Catholic News Service

Contributing to this story was Constanza Morales.

For the past four months, I have been visiting the parishes of San Diego and Imperial counties in order to come to know and understand the distinctive communities of faith that make up our diocese. So far, I have visited 72 of the 100 parishes, and I look forward to visiting the remainder by the middle of December.

The parishes, so varied on virtually every level, are vibrant spiritual homes to hundreds of thousands of Catholics. In recent months, I have consistently encountered five central graces that characterize the life of this diocese.

The first of these graces is the sheer vitality of the Local Church. The parishes that I have visited are overwhelmingly beehives of activity and energy spread across the whole spectrum of the elements which form the life of the Universal Church.

The second grace that I have encountered consistently is a dedication to both unity and diversity in the life of our parishes and our Local Church. I have been deeply touched by the efforts of parish communities to meet the twin challenges of forming a community with deep interpersonal ties while still being hospitable and inviting to newcomers looking for a parish home.

The third grace of our Local Church is the deep gratitude which the people have for the service of their priests. This has been expressed by the parish staffs and lay volunteer leader-



Graces Encountered, Challenges to Meet

Bishop Robert W. McElroy

ship as gratitude for specifically enumerated qualities which their priests bring to the heart of their parish life. This signals to me that the parishioners who speak of profound gratitude for their priests are doing so, not out of a sense of obligation or respect for the priesthood in general, but out of a lived understanding of the particular gifts which their priests bring to them.

A fourth grace in our Local Church is the profound manner in which the parishes of the diocese focus parochial life upon the Eucharist. The tremendous devotion of our priests, parish staffs and lay leaders to celebrating the Eucharist with a deep sense of prayer, beauty and inclusion testifies to the very identity of the parish as a Eucharistic assembly.

Finally, our Local Church is deeply graced by its missionary, future-oriented, outward-looking focus. The culture of our local parishes is anything but compla-

cent. I have witnessed a constant drive to examine new ways to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to reach out to the poor and the marginalized and protect the unborn, to form inclusive communities of faith, to minister to those in periods of crisis, and to help them form personal relationships with the Lord.

San Diego is, by its nature, a missionary Church alive with the zeal of the Holy Spirit. It is this missionary impulse that calls us to face the key challenges which confront us at this moment.

The first of these challenges is the shortage of priests. This reality makes it impossible to serve our people with the effectiveness that is necessary in a faith community which numbers more than 1 million Catholics. It also creates great hardships personally for our priests. We must undertake a strenuous effort to ordain many more priests for the diocese in the coming decade.

The second challenge centers upon our Catholic schools. The radically decentralized nature of our diocesan school structure impedes the coordination necessary for supporting our schools, especially in the areas of marketing, development and leadership formation. Nearly one-quarter of our schools face enrollment shortages and financial pressures. We also must face the challenge of every school and parish to participate meaningfully in the call to provide Catholic education for poor and working-class members of the Catholic community who seek a religious education for their children.

The third challenge facing us as a diocese is that of communications. Countless times, I have been asked in meetings with parish lay leaders, "Why doesn't the diocese tell its story in the media about the missionary, catechetical, service and witness efforts of our Local Church, which take place every

day?" The answer is that, because of the cutbacks which were necessitated during the past decade because of the sexual abuse crisis, we have no comprehensive communications office. We do have a splendid diocesan paper which communicates effectively with a large number of deeply committed Catholics here in San Diego. But we have no systematic interface with the media. This lack of a communications apparatus is crippling.

Finally, the diocese faces an enormous challenge in the fact that young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 are largely not present in the life of our Local Church. This is a pastoral problem of profound proportions across the whole of our nation. It is, in my view, the most important challenge facing us in the life of the Church.

During a recent meeting with the Council of Priests and the Board of Deans, I proposed establishing a task force to work on each of these challenges, to analyze the problem, investigate possible approaches and recommend specific actions.

My visitations to our local parishes have been a great grace to me. This introduction to the life of our Local Church has pointed to some major issues which confront us at the present moment. But, much more powerfully, it has pointed to the grace already present so bountifully in the life of our Local Church.

The Southern Cross

Two Local Seminarians Ordained to Transitional Diaconate in Rome

By Denis Grasska

ROME — Two seminarians from San Diego were ordained to the transitional diaconate during an Oct. 1 Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Deacons David Exner, 32, and Corey Tufford, 26, are currently completing their studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Ordination to the transitional diaconate is the last major step on the path to priesthood. Along with Deacons Derek Twilliger and Brian Frice, whose diaconal ordination took place June 19 at The Immaculata Church in San Diego, Deacons Exner and Tufford are members of the largest class of priestly candidates that the Diocese of San Diego has seen in seven years.

Their ordination to the priesthood is scheduled for June 24, 2016.

Raised in a devout Protestant family, Deacon Exner grew up in a household where prayer was encouraged and Jesus was "at the center of everything." As an adult, after much prayer and study, he entered into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2006. A year later, he began discerning a vocation to the priesthood and, three years after that, entered the diocesan priestly formation program.

"The diaconate is another step," said Deacon Exner, "not only in the process of priestly formation in general, but specifically in learning how to better conform my life to that of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve and to lay



DEACONS COREY TUFFORD AND DAVID EXNER

down His life for His Bride, the Church."

It is service that lies at the heart of the diaconate, said Deacon Exner, who eagerly anticipates the day when he will be able to serve the Church as a priest.

"The priesthood is a gift, the gift of spiritual fatherhood," he said, "and it is given to priests so that they can give it to others. In a more concrete way, priests bring God and His sacraments to the people of God in order to help us grow in holiness. That, really, I suppose, is what I am looking forward to more than anything else."

As a youth, Deacon Tufford remembers experiencing "a captivating desire to do something great and inspiring in my life." In time, he came to recognize that as a call to the priesthood.

It was during the freshman overnight retreat at St. Augustine High School in San Diego that Deacon Tufford "encountered Jesus Christ and His love and mercy for me in a powerful way." This inspired him to learn about the faith and, on Dec. 4, 2004, he was baptized, confirmed and received his first Communion at Mission San Diego. (His former pastor, Msgr. Richard Duncanson, took part in the ordination Mass in Rome.)

"It was around this time that I first started to sense a call to priesthood," he said. "The call was small, like a mustard seed, and it grew little by little."

Later, as a student at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, that "mustard seed ... grew rapidly" and was "mercifully pruned and tended to by God."

He enrolled in the priestly discernment program at Franciscan University and, after graduation, entered the Diocese of San Diego's priestly formation program.

"Being ordained to the transitional diaconate means that I will be conformed to Christ the Servant," he said. "The word 'deacon' comes from the Greek 'diakonia,' which means 'service.'... Though this is a transitional phase on the way to priesthood, I will forever be called to embody the meaning of 'diakonia,' of service, as Christ's priest."

He added, "I have found such joy in serving others already. I can't wait to serve as an ordained minister in the diaconate and, in a very short time, as a priest."

The Southern Cross

Briefs

Pope: Synod of Bishops Is Not Parliament

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world Synod of Bishops on the family is not a parliament where participants will negotiate or lobby, Pope Francis said, but it must be a place of prayer where bishops speak with courage and open themselves to “God who always surprises us.” Opening the first working session of the synod Oct. 5, the pope said the synod’s 270 voting members need courage, “pastoral and doctrinal zeal, wisdom, frankness and to keep always before our eyes the good of the Church and of families and the supreme law — the salvation of souls.” Pope Francis said synod members must be faithful to Church teaching.

Catholic Men Called to Get off Sidelines

PHOENIX (CNS) — Catholic men must reclaim and live the virtue of Christian masculinity, Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted says in his newly released apostolic exhortation, “Into the Breach.” Addressed to Catholic men in the diocese, it charges them

to be prepared for spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families. Citing statistics about the decreasing involvement in parish life and participation in the sacraments, the bishop notes that large numbers of Catholic men are failing to keep the promises they made at their children’s baptisms — promises to bring them to Christ and to raise them in the faith of the Church.” Bishop Olmsted says that Jesus, fully God and fully man, is the perfection of masculinity.

Little Sisters of the Poor Get Unscheduled Visit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis made a previously unannounced 15-minute stop Sept. 23 at a Washington residence operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters in Washington that evening that the papal visit was intended as a sign of support for the Little Sisters’ lawsuit against the Obama administration’s mandate that all employers offer contraceptive coverage in their health plans or participate in a religious “accommodation” that the sisters have refused. Sister Constance Veit, communications director for the Sisters, said Pope Francis made no mention of the lawsuit during his visit, but praised them for their “mission to the elderly.”

Prayer Ribbons

COURTESY OF VALERIE THORN

St. Michael Academy in San Diego participated in welcoming Pope Francis to Philadelphia during his recent visit to the United States.

Students and staff wrote prayers and blessings on white ribbons. The ribbons were then sent to Philadelphia where they were hung, along with thousands of others, in a grotto inspired by the Mary, Undoer of Knots devotion. The grotto was located at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Pictured: Valerie Thorn, a member of the Philadelphia Police Department, receives the ribbons.

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

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Sacred Studio

One of the oldest choirs in the world recorded a CD of their repertoire of sacred music surrounded by the famed frescoes of Michelangelo, Perugino, Pinturicchio and Botticelli.

Marking the first professional studio recording to take place in the Sistine Chapel, the pope's Sistine Chapel Choir features on a new CD titled, "Cantate Domino."

Produced by Deutsche Grammophon and Universal Music Italia, the new 16-track CD was released Sept. 25 with the proceeds earmarked for the poor through the pope's charitable efforts.

The Sistine Chapel Choir, made up of 20 men and 30 boys, sings music that had been written specifically for papal celebrations in

the Sistine Chapel and for the papal choir during the Renaissance.

The pieces include Gregorian chant and works by Renaissance masters Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Tomas Luis de Victoria, Orlande de Lassus and Felice Anerio. It also features a world premiere recording of Gregorio Allegri's original composition of "Miserere" — found archived in a codex from 1661 in the Vatican Library.

Msgr. Massimo Palombella — director of the Sistine Chapel Choir — said in a press release Sept. 28: "It is my hope that these masterworks will touch millions of listeners worldwide, and connect them to the historical culture and deep spirituality of the Catholic Church."

Catholic News Service

To See the Pope

Maryknoll Sister Noel Devine was determined to see Pope Francis.

She is confined to a wheelchair and can't speak because she has primary lateral sclerosis, a rare disease affecting the movement of her arms, legs and face. But her spirit and her determination are entirely unfettered.

Sister Noel did not have a ticket to the Sept. 24 vesper service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. No problem. Her friends launched a Facebook campaign on her behalf. The page got more than 100,000 "likes" and she scored a pair of tickets.

Hours before the service, Sister Noel and her nurse companion, Maryknoll Sister

Bernadette Cordis Duggan, took positions close to the front of the cathedral, with other wheelchair-users. Sister Noel hoped to attract Pope Francis' attention with a sign around her neck that read in Spanish, "Abrazame por favor, Papa." She used her Boogie Board LCD writing tablet to translate the message for *Catholic News Service*. "Please hug me, Pope Francis," she wrote.

For good measure, she had an Italian version on the flip side.

Sister Noel served three years in Hong Kong and then 25 years in family ministry in Chicago's Chinatown.

Catholic News Service

What Are You Reading?



COURTESY RITA SPORLEDER

Rita Sporleder is seen reading a copy of *The Southern Cross* at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where she traveled to experience firsthand Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States. From Sept. 22-27, the pope visited Washington, New York and Philadelphia.

Send us a photo of you or your family posing with *The Southern Cross* during your travels, and you might be included in a future issue. High-resolution photos accompanied by captions explaining who is in the photo, where the photo was taken and when it was taken can be e-mailed to dgrasska@sdatholic.org.

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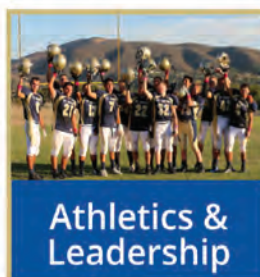
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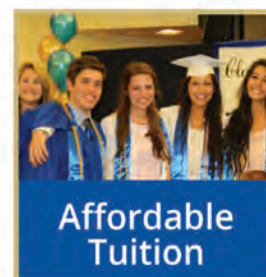
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► MAGNIFICAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There are two chapters in San Diego

preceded by the celebration of Mass.

Currently, the Diocese of San Diego is home to two Magnificat chapters: Central San Diego (Our Lady of the Rosary Chapter), which was the first in the region, and North County San Diego (Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapter).

Sophie Piconi, coordinator of the Central San Diego chapter, compared the Magnificat meal to “a mini, half-day retreat.”

“It’s an individual experience,” she said. “What is so wonderful about Magnificat is that everybody comes in ... where they are in their life, and we don’t know, our speaker doesn’t know, but the Holy Spirit knows where they are. And so, everybody’s touched in their own personal way.”

The current leadership team of the Central San Diego chapter has been in place for about four years, Piconi said, since succeeding the original team which had established the group and led it for more than 15 years.

Rosemary Geiger, coordinator of the North County chapter, was originally a member of Central San Diego.

She attended her first Magnificat meal in 1991. While listening to the speaker’s testimony, Geiger said, “I didn’t know why I was starting to cry, but it just touched me emotionally and spiritually. I went away from that meal sort of in awe.” Her husband



MAGNIFICAT: Magnificat guest speaker Barbara Sherman (center) poses with members of the North County San Diego chapter of Magnificat, (from left) Terri Sanders, Lidia Rennix, Mary Carey, Rosemary Geiger, Kay Cogswell and Michele Linden.

encouraged her to pray that God might reveal what He was trying to tell her through her emotional response. She decided to share her experience with the Magnificat team, which, as it turned out, had been praying that God might provide them with another team member. She accepted their invitation to join the team.

In the early 2000s, Geiger noticed that while there were about 400 women attending local Magnificat meals, Catholic women from the North County were not very well represented. She decided to establish a new chapter based in Escondido.

Today, the membership numbers for the Central San Diego and North County chap-

ters are comparable. Piconi said her chapter has a mailing list of about 780 women, and attendance at a typical meal ranges from about 100 to 200 people. Geiger said her chapter has about 700 members, about 125 of whom can be expected to attend the typical event, but some speakers bring in larger crowds; for instance, a recent talk by Catholic author and radio host Jesse Romero drew about 260 people and past talks by Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna and the late San Diego Bishop Cirilo Flores attracted about 300 and 275 people, respectively.

When women attend a Magnificat meal, Geiger said, she hopes they “take back a sense of joy, and fulfillment, and love for

our Catholic Church,” along with the knowledge that “they are loved by God and that Jesus would have died just for them,” as well as a deeper love for the Blessed Mother, who is “mother of us all.”

Regarding Magnificat’s future in San Diego, both Piconi and Geiger expressed hope that younger women might join and accept leadership roles in the organization.

In order for the ministry to continue, younger women will need “to step up to the plate,” said Geiger, who added, “I know I can’t do this forever.”

Piconi noted that her chapter already has experienced “a big change in our demographics.” When it began, most of the women were in their 60s, whereas today’s membership is primarily composed of mothers with young children. Still, she eventually hopes “to pass the baton” to an even younger generation.

“We’re always looking for women who feel called to do something within the community and who would like to join our team,” she said.

For more information about the Central San Diego chapter and its upcoming events, visit www.magnificat-sd.org or contact Sophie Piconi at (619) 823-1212. For more information about the North County chapter, visit www.magnificat-nsd.org or contact Rosemary Geiger at (760) 505-6625.

The Southern Cross

Father Daniel Horan, OFM, suggests that the name of God is best understood as “relationship.” This lecture encourages contemporary women and men to reconsider how they imagine their Creator and renew their understanding of faith in the modern world.

Daniel P. Horan, OFM, is a Franciscan friary of Holy Name Province and the author of several books, including *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Influence on His Life, Thought and Writing*.

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Memorial Wall Dedicated to Those Deported, Jailed for Illegally Entering U.S.

By **Aída Bustos**

SAN YSIDRO — What should the Church do on the border?

Hundreds pondered that basic question at an interfaith prayer service led by Bishop Robert W. McElroy on Sept. 20, steps from the international boundary.

The event was keyed to Pope Francis' visit to the United States. The pope had said that Christians cannot do good unless they embraced those individuals society has excluded. And in the U.S.-border region, the excluded include undocumented immigrants, said Jorge González, a leader with the San Diego Organizing Project. The organization coordinated the service at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, with the support of the Diocese of San Diego.

After the afternoon Mass, the crowd moved to the south side of the parking lot, where the faith leaders gathered for the prayer service. Beside them was a brick memorial wall, about five feet high, with a bench beside it, built by the Reencuentro Ministry at the parish.

Organizers distributed wooden crosses to the audience, inviting people to write the names of friends or family members who had been deported or jailed as a result of U.S. immigration policies.

The faith leaders took turns speaking, their comments translated into Spanish for the mainly Latino crowd. They included Bishop James R. Mathes of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego; Rev. Kathleen Owens, lead minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church; and Bishop George D. McKinney of the Southern California Second Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ.

"The black and brown communities are

bound together in a common brotherhood with our suffering because of the injustices and discrimination that we have experienced," said McKinney. "We are bound together by a common hope that light overcomes darkness. Therefore, the black church and the Hispanic church and white church will bind themselves together, fulfilling the commandment of the Scriptures, 'Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.'"

Two women shared their stories of hardship. Paulina Rosas said that her father had been deported, leaving her, a younger sister and their mother behind. She said that she had to quit school and begin working to make ends meet.

Then Teresa Pérez explained how her life had been changed forever when a vehicle crashed into her car. As an undocumented immigrant, she said, she had no legal recourse to have the other driver pay her medical bills for injuries she sustained. Now she lives in constant back pain.

Bishop McElroy spoke next.

"This moment is one example of the initiatives of faith, hope, love and service in the light of the Gospel that the pope has unleashed in our midst. It is an effort to reach out to our own government and to our own communities of faith and our citizens on the whole," he said.

"To be a Church on the border is to understand that 'la frontera,' the border between us and Mexico, really is an invitation to solidarity rather than a barrier to separate us."

He then consecrated the memorial wall, which bore a plaque with the inscription: "Santuario de Lamentación, En el jardín de la esperanza. Iglesia Sin Fronteras. Madre de Todos." (In English, that translates as: "Sanctuary of Lamentation, In the garden



IN MEMORY: Bishop Robert W. McElroy (left) consecrates a memorial wall at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. Also pictured are Episcopal Bishop James R. Mathes (center) and Rev. Kathleen Owens (right), lead minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church.

of hope. Church Without Borders. Mother of All.")

Margarita Galindo and Gloria Morales, two organizers from SDOP, closed the service, urging everyone to return to their parishes and help develop community leaders and to promote immigration reform and voting.

Bishop McElroy later reflected on the significance of the service.

"The memorial wall that we dedicated is a place of prayer, a place of remembrance and a place of hope. It is a recognition that our current broken immigration system has created enormous suffering within families living here in the Diocese of San Diego, and a tragic reminder that our nation has forsaken a crucial part of its heritage as a nation of immigrants.

"But it is also a source of hope that ultimate-

ly the refugees and immigrants who live and work and build families in our nation without documentation will eventually become full members of American society and will be allowed to live life out of the shadows."

The bishop said the participation of such a wide variety of faith leaders is a testimony to the common religious recognition that the present national policy on immigration is an affront to God and to the nature of the human family that embraces all.

After the service, many in the crowd placed wooden crosses along a chain-link fence next to the memorial wall, in remembrance of loved ones deported or detained. One woman had five crosses, each with a different name written on it.

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Pope Simplifies Annulment Process

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — While a juridical process is necessary for making accurate judgments, the Catholic Church's marriage annulment process must be quicker, cheaper and much more of a pastoral ministry, Pope Francis said.

Rewriting a section of the Latin-rite Code of Canon Law and of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Pope Francis said he was not "promoting the nullity of marriages, but the quickness of the processes, as well as a correct simplicity" of the procedures so that Catholic couples are not "oppressed by the shadow of doubt" for prolonged periods.

The Vatican released Sept. 8 the texts of two papal documents, 'Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus' for the Latin-rite Church and 'Mitis et misericors Iesus' for the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The Vatican released Sept. 8 the texts of two papal documents, "Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus" ["The Lord Jesus, the Gentle Judge"] for the Latin-rite Church and "Mitis et misericors Iesus" ["The Meek and Merciful Jesus"] for the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The changes, including the option of a brief process without the obligatory auto-

matic appeal, go into effect Dec. 8, the opening day of the Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis said the changes in the annulment process were motivated by "concern for the salvation of souls," and particularly "charity and mercy" toward those who feel alienated from the Church because of their marriage situations and the perceived complexity of the Church's annulment process.

The new rules replace canons 1671-1691 of the Code of Canon Law and canons 1357-1377 of the Eastern code. Pope Francis also provided a set of "procedural regulations" outlining how his reforms are to take place, encouraging bishops in small dioceses to train personnel who can handle marriage cases and spelling out specific conditions when a bishop can issue a declaration of nullity after an abbreviated process.

Those conditions include: when it is clear one or both parties lacked the faith to give full consent to a Catholic marriage; when the woman had an abortion to prevent procreation; remaining in an extramarital relationship at the time of the wedding or immediately afterward; one partner hiding knowledge of infertility, a serious contagious disease, children from a previous union or a history of incarceration; and when physical violence was used to extort consent for the marriage.

The reformed processes were drafted by a special committee Pope Francis established a year earlier. Among the criteria he said guided their work, the first he listed was the possibility of there being "only one executive sentence in favor of nullity" when the local bishop or judge delegated by him had the "moral certainty" that the marriage was not valid. Previously an appeal was automatic and a declaration of nullity had to come from two tribunals.

First Meeting



The Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego gathered for its first meeting Sept. 29 at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

DENIS GRASSKA

Msgr. Pio Vito Pinto, dean of the Roman Rota, a Vatican court, and president of the commission that drafted the new rules, told reporters that Pope Francis asked for updates throughout the year, sought a review by four "great canonists" not involved in the drafting and in the end adopted the changes with "great seriousness, but also great serenity."

The changes made by Pope Francis, particularly the responsibility and trust placed in local bishops, are the most substantial changes in the Church's marriage law since the pontificate of Pope Benedict XIV in the mid-1700s, Msgr. Pinto said. Even with the 1917 and 1983 new Codes of Canon Law, the process for recognizing the nullity of a marriage remained "substantially unchanged," he said.

Msgr. Pinto said, Pope Francis ordered that the "gratuity of the procedure be assured so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the Church ... may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which saves us all."

Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, who also was a member of the com-

mission, insisted the pope's new rules were not about "annulling marriages," but about recognizing and declaring the nullity of a marriage, in other words, declaring that it never existed as a valid sacrament.

While many marriage cases will continue to require time in order to arrive at the truth, said Msgr. Alejandro Bunge, secretary of the commission and a member of the Roman Rota, the longer procedure will be reserved to those cases in which it is not obvious that the marriage was null from the beginning and in which the couple does not agree that a real marriage never existed.

For more information about annulments, San Diego Catholics can attend a free workshop presented by Diocesan Chancellor Rodrigo Valdivia. Geared for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) instructors and leaders and anyone in Church ministry who works with annulments, the workshop will explain who needs an annulment, the process and basic canon law. The workshop will be held from 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Attendees must register in advance at (858) 490-8232 or mvalencia@diocese-sdiego.org.

Catholic News Service

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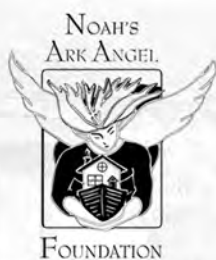


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Briefs

Fathers, Sons to Gather for Benedictus Breakfast

POWAY — Benedictus, a ministry to Catholic men, will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Parish in Poway. The event will take place from 7:30-11 a.m., beginning with Mass in the church, followed by breakfast, music and a speaker's presentation in the parish's Holy Family Center. The speaker will be Kevin Calkins, principal of Cathedral Catholic High School. The purpose of Benedictus is to help Catholic fathers and sons be more open to the Holy Spirit through a deeper commitment of their lives to Jesus. Cost: \$10 at the door; students ages 18 and under, \$5. Register via PayPal at www.benedictus-sd.org or contact Bob Thompson at bobbytom1@aol.com.

Parish to Kick-Off Fall Festival with Oktoberfest

SAN DIEGO — St. Columba Parish will hold its fall festival Oct. 17-18, kicking off the celebration with an adults-only Oktoberfest, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. The Oktoberfest will feature a German-style dinner and a special Oktoberfest beer from Ballast Point, along with other non-alcoholic drinks. The festival itself will begin at noon, Saturday, Oct. 17, and will include entertainment, games, crafts, food and more. On Sunday, Oct. 18, the parish's Men's Club will host a pancake

breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Festivities will begin again after a 9:30 a.m. Mass outside and conclude on Sunday with a drawing to win a new Toyota from Toyota of Poway or \$10,000. For more information, call (858) 277-3863 or visit www.stcolumbasandiego.com.

Bilingual Workshop to Explain Annulments

SAN DIEGO — When is an annulment needed? What is the process? How long does it take? Chancellor Rodrigo Valdivia will present a free workshop in English and Spanish to answer those basic questions. It's geared for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) instructors and leaders and anyone in Church ministry who works with annulments. The workshop will explain who needs an annulment, the process and basic canon law. The process can take from six to 18 months, depending on the particulars of each case, Valdivia said. The diocese processes 300 annulments each year, he added. The workshop in Spanish will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and the one in English on Tuesday, Oct. 20, both from 6:30-9 p.m., at the diocesan Pastoral Center. The workshop is free but registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Maria Valencia at (858) 490-8232 and mvalencia@diocese-sdiego.org.

Hospital to Celebrate Anniversary at 'Mercy Ball'

SAN DIEGO — Established in 1890 by the Sisters of Mercy, Scripps Mercy Hospital

Serra Relic



DENIS GRASSKA

A first-class relic of St. Junipero Serra was carried in procession to Mission San Diego de Alcala for veneration after a noon Mass Sept. 27 in St. Francis Chapel.

The relic, a bone fragment, has been in the mission's possession "for quite some time," but had not been on display, said Father Peter Escalante, pastor of Mission San Diego.

St. Junipero was canonized by Pope Francis on Sept. 23 in Washington, D.C. Father Escalante said Mission San Diego intends to put the relic on permanent display in a niche in the sanctuary.

IN LOVING Memory

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

Medina, Margot	Blessed Sacrament	8/31/2015
Ruiz, Raymond	Holy Family	9/6/2015
Scianna, Anna	Our Lady of the Rosary	9/12/2015
Noonan, Rita Therese	Saint Luke	9/13/2015
Norwood, Ernest	Saint Therese	9/13/2015
Flores, Celia Charlotte	Mission San Diego de Alcala	9/16/2015
Iaconis, Josephine	Blessed Sacrament	9/25/2015
Mattei, Eugene Albert	Holy Cross (Graveside)	9/28/2015



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is San Diego's oldest and only Catholic medical center and the largest teaching hospital in the region — with campuses in San Diego and Chula Vista. This year, the hospital is celebrating its 125th anniversary and reflecting on its history through a variety of events. All are invited to attend the 44th annual Mercy Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier. This event will celebrate the past as the hospital remembers 125 years of patient care, while looking forward to its future. As part of its year-long centennial celebration, the hospital is also calling on all San Diegans born at Scripps Mercy to share their Mercy Baby story. *To purchase tickets to the Mercy Ball or share a Mercy Baby story, visit www.scripps.org/mercy125.*

Jesuits Welcome 45 New Novices

WASHINGTON — In 1958, Pope Francis began his priestly vocation when he entered

the Society of Jesus and became a Jesuit novice. This fall, 45 new novices in the United States, Canada and Haiti are joining his ranks and becoming Jesuits, members of the largest religious order of priests and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. Prior to joining the Jesuits, the novices lived, worked and studied around the world. Some were musicians, teachers, military officers or scientists, and a number have completed multiple advanced degrees. Jesuit formation can take anywhere from seven to 13 years. For the next two years, the novices will live together in community and engage in “experiments,” experiences that are part of the detailed plan for Jesuit formation designed by St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus. Typical experiments include teaching at a Jesuit school and serving the sick and elderly at a hospital. Through hands-on exploration, the experiments help novices learn about how they might serve the Society and others.



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

Father Peter Bosque, a priest from the Diocese of Sacramento, was incardinated into the Diocese of San Diego on Aug. 12.

Father Donald Coleman has been appointed senior associate pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, effective Sept. 25.

Father Patrick Murphy has been appointed associate pastor of St. Gabriel Parish, Poway, effective Sept. 25.

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Investiture



During the weekend of Sept. 25-27, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem's Western USA Lieutenancy held their 2015 Annual Meeting in San Diego. More than 550 members from nine western U.S. dioceses attended.

Bishop Robert W. McElroy was invested into the Order during the Sunday Mass of Investiture at St. Therese of Carmel Parish by Archbishop Antonio Franco, assessor of the Order from Rome.

The EOHSJ is an ancient order of the Church that is entrusted with a special mission from the pope to aid the Church in the Holy Land.

Pictured: Bishop McElroy serves as the principal celebrant for the Order's Votive Mass on Saturday honoring Our Lady, Queen of Palestine. Concelebrating with Bishop McElroy were Archbishop Franco and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson.

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► VISIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Trip reaffirmed pope's popularity with Catholics, non-Catholics

In just over five full days in the U.S., Pope Francis reaffirmed the importance of Church and family life, pleaded for inclusive attitudes toward immigrants, reiterated the right of religious freedom and called for action on climate change and care for creation.

The trip reaffirmed the pope's enormous popularity with Catholics and non-Catholics alike as large crowds convened — even with tight security — while media coverage was comprehensive.

Pope Francis, who met again with Vice President Joe Biden just prior to leaving Sept. 27, acknowledged the warmth of the welcome in his final remarks.

"Your care for me and your generous welcome are a sign of your love for Jesus and your faithfulness to Him. So, too, is your care for the poor, the sick, the homeless and the immigrant, your defense of life at every stage, and your concern for family life," Pope Francis said. "In all of this, you recognize that Jesus is in your midst and that your care for one another is care for Jesus Himself."

'Your care for me and your generous welcome are a sign of your love for Jesus and your faithfulness to Him.'

The pope visited Philadelphia as part of the World Meeting of Families. He delighted droves of well-wishers with an off-the-cuff speech on family life. At Independence Hall, he spoke in Spanish on respect for religious freedom and urged immigrant communities — and all Americans — to remember their roots and embrace diversity. "You should never be ashamed of your traditions," he said.

Pope Francis also stopped in New York, where he visited a Catholic school in Harlem, addressed the U.N. General Assembly and led a multireligious gathering at ground zero — a "place which speaks so powerfully of the mystery of evil."

"We know with certainty that evil never has the last word," Pope Francis said. "In God's merciful plan, love and peace triumph over all."

In Washington, the pope addressed a joint meeting of Congress, visited later with the homeless and canonized St. Junipero Serra, "who reminds us all of our call to be missionary disciples."

The visit involved political and pastoral aspects. Pope Francis arrived first in Cuba, having helped the decades-long estrangement between the communist country and

the United States.

In the United States, his speech to Congress was widely watched and touched on topics such as protecting life in all its stages, religious liberty and acting against climate change. He touched on his environmental encyclical, "Laudato Si," again in his parting remarks.

"This land has been blessed with tremendous gifts and opportunities," the pope said. "I pray that you may all be good and generous stewards of the human and material resources entrusted to you."

His message of unity, kindness and caring captured Catholics and non-Catholics alike — especially in Philadelphia.

"He's bringing a sense of unity that I've not seen here," said Rodney Barnes, a social work student and non-Catholic attending the papal Mass in Philadelphia.

"The biggest thing for me [in this message] was the small things in life that you can do for each other [everyday]," said Rona Iredale, whose family saw the Mass from a rooftop bar.

"I'm not very religious, but it was very moving," said Iredale's daughter Hannah, 16, who found much to like about the pope. "He's just a chill guy and I agree with his views."

The exact impact of the visit remains to be seen, though early signs are promising.

"In terms of articulating his message and generating enthusiasm and connecting with Americans, it was a tremendous success," said Andrew Chesnut, religious studies professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. "Only time will tell if there's lasting impact in terms of more parishioners in the pews and a new spirit of partisan cooperation for the common good."

In his final speech, as in some others, Pope Francis ended with the words, "God Bless America."

Catholic News Service



PAPAL VISIT: 1) Pope Francis is welcomed to the Speakers Balcony at the U.S. Capitol by members of Congress Sept. 24 (CNS photo/Doug Mills, pool); 2) addresses a joint meeting of Congress at the U.S. Capitol Sept. 24 (CNS photo/Paul Haring); 3) speaks during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House Sept. 23 (CNS photo/Paul Haring); 4) arrives for Mass and the canonization of Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 23 (CNS photo/Bob Roller); 5) pauses in front of a display at the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York Sept. 25 (CNS photo/Paul Haring); 6) pauses in front of the sculpture of St. Junipero Serra in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Sept. 24 (CNS photo/Michael Reynolds, pool); 7) blesses a child in a wheelchair before celebrating Mass with representatives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia Sept. 26 (CNS photo/Paul Haring); 8) blesses a prisoner as he visits the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility in Philadelphia Sept. 27 (CNS photo/Paul Haring); 9) looks out at the Statue of Liberty while flying over New York Harbor on his way from New York to Philadelphia Sept. 26 (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters); 10) addresses the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York Sept. 25 (CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters); 11) makes unannounced visit to residence of Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington Sept. 23 (CNS photo/courtesy of the Little Sisters of the Poor); and 12) with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, leaves Independence Hall Sept. 26 after giving an address about religious liberty and immigration (CNS photo/Paul Haring).


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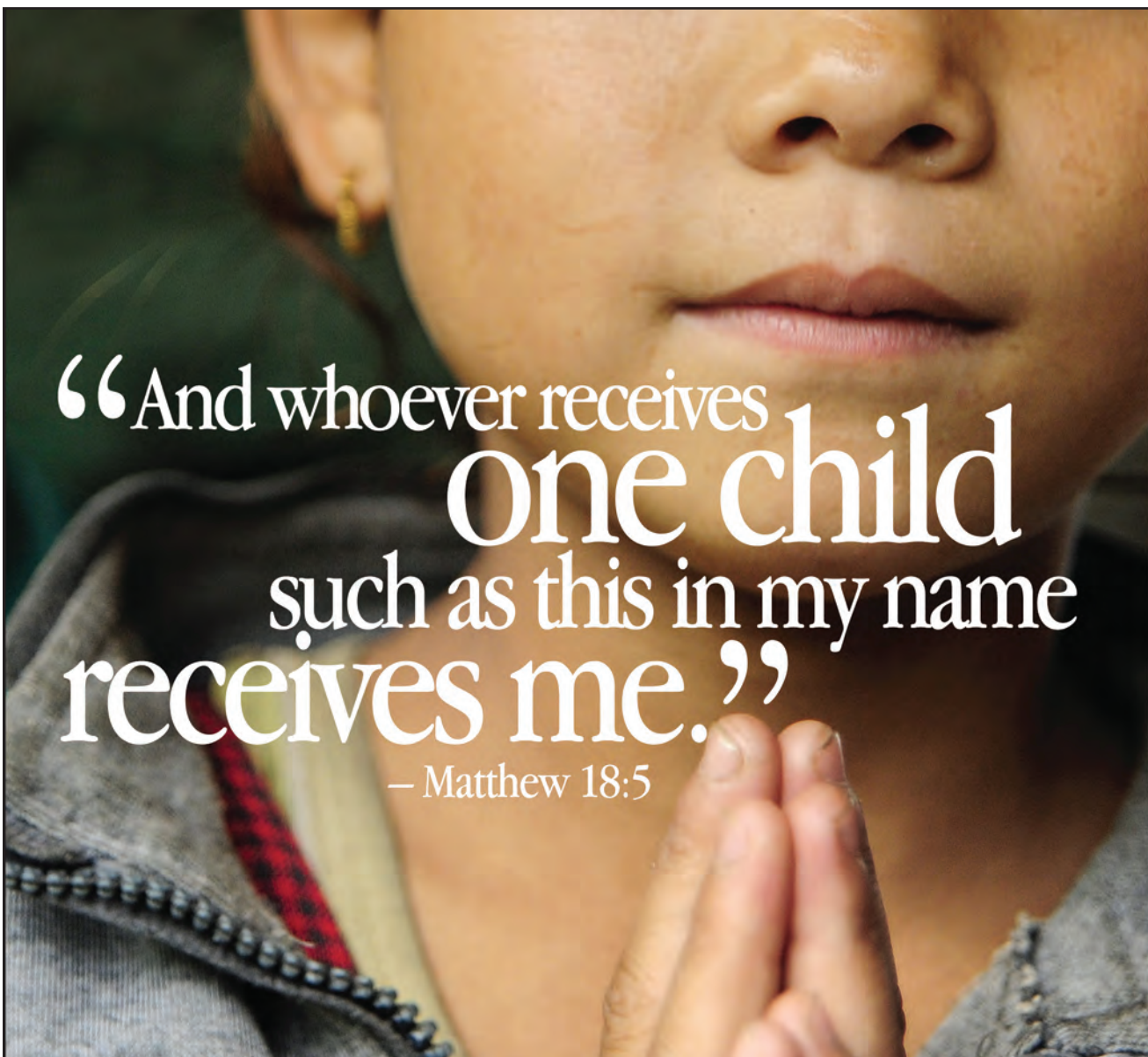


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St. Teresa of Avila



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— Matthew 18:5

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► RETREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Weekend not only attended by young adults, but led by them

those young adults who live in regions other than these “hotspots” will now have at least 10 people with whom they can meet regularly in small groups, Rivera said. In fact, he added, the final small-group discussion at the retreat was about what the groups would be reflecting on at their first post-retreat meet-up.

Rivera, who was among the retreat leaders, felt it was important that the retreat was not only attended by young adults, but led by them as well. He was deeply impressed by the sense of commitment shown by the young adult attendees and said it “gave me hope for young adult ministry in the diocese.”

‘This retreat met and even surpassed the great expectations I had of it.’

When the retreat ended, Rivera said, attendees left “enthused and excited to go and do more with the young adult community.”

Anthony Sitter, 30, attended the retreat for the second consecutive year.

“Although last year I went without expectations,” Sitter said, “this year, I obviously knew what to expect, generally. This retreat met and even surpassed the great expectations I had of it.”

“The praise-and-worship was especially good this year,” he continued. “Also, because my relationships were more developed this year, the fellowship was sweeter, too.”

For Carly Bowerman, 22, this was her first time attending the Diocesan Young Adult Retreat.

Bowerman said it had been a few years since she had attended a retreat and felt the experience would do her good.

“It is so easy to compartmentalize my busy life and separate my faith/spirituality



GLORY AND PRAISE: Patrick Rivera (right) and Andrew Laubacher (left) lead praise-and-worship at the Diocesan Young Adult Retreat.

from my daily routine,” she said. “The goal is for our relationship with God to shape our every direction and create the mold, rather than to make our relationship with God fit the mold.”

Among the highlights of the retreat, Bowerman said, was meeting Rivera’s family. Holding his sleeping daughter in her arms during praise-and-worship made one of the songs — with the lyrics “I find that I am safe and warm in Your loving arms” —

all the more meaningful, giving her “the image of how God holds us in His arms” and “the slightest glimpse of how precious that must be for Him.”

“I loved the theme of the retreat because it provided me the space and guidance to awaken the sleeper within,” she said. “My awakening on the retreat was both the awareness of my current priorities and the renewal of my desire to make God my top priority.”

Bowerman said she has already added Scripture reading and journaling to her prayer life, scheduling a specific time for these activities twice a week.

“Since ‘The Awakening’ retreat has now ended and we left the mountain,” she said, “my goal is to keep God at the forefront of my consciousness, through Scripture and discovering the Holy Spirit [at work in my daily life], so that I might remain awake.”

The Southern Cross



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► CONFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Event featured 96 workshops and 46 exhibitors

Catechetical Ministry Office. “The goal was to assist them as they continue on their journey in service to the Lord.”

Registration began at 7:30 a.m. and, for the next hour, attendees had their first opportunity of the day to visit the 46 exhibitor booths set up outside the school gym. Pro-life ministries, organizations dedicated to catechesis and apologetics, religious publishers and educational institutions were among those represented.

The schedule continued with a Mass celebrated by Bishop McElroy, who later delivered the keynote address; lunch; and three workshop sessions, during which attendees were able to choose from among 96 workshops.

On a hot, humid day, when several water stations were set up for attendees, Bishop McElroy began his homily on a lighthearted note. Revealing that he has been praying for rain in response to the drought, he quipped that inside the gym that day, he was praying for less moisture in the air and knew that attendees were praying for a short homily.

The bishop then recounted a frightening experience from his days at St. Patrick’s Seminary. One spring break, he accepted a classmate’s offer to fly to Alaska aboard a small plane. The classmate had been a professional pilot before entering the seminary and would be giving a flight lesson. As it turned out, the

three men — the bishop, his classmate, and the student receiving his flight lesson — found themselves in the middle of a snowstorm, running low on fuel.

The situation was so grim, Bishop McElroy recalled, that they were two hours away from their landing site and had only enough fuel for two hours of flying. Over the radio, he said, he heard ground control tell the Coast Guard to be ready to “fish ‘em out” if they ran out of fuel. The trio were also asked for the names of their next of kin.

“I’ve thought of that experience many times,” the bishop said. “One of the most interesting things to me was I didn’t feel panicked. I felt a sense of peace through the whole thing.”

He admitted that his first response to the perilous situation had been to say an Act of Contrition and other prayers, but added that, during the remainder of the two hours, he felt at peace. He attributes those feelings to the realization that he was “in the hands and providence” of a God who loves us and upon whom we are “radically dependent.”

Fortunately, as it turned out, the plane was able to land safely.

“So much of our lives, we go through and pretend that we’re in control of the ultimate things, and we’re not,” Bishop McElroy said. “That doesn’t lead to peace. What leads to peace is the understanding that the God who loves us so deeply is holding us in His hands and embracing us at every moment.”

The bishop then recalled the day’s Gospel reading in which Jesus commissioned the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He noted that the Apostles were likely frightened at that moment, doubting that they could ever accomplish such a mon-



EXHIBITORS: Erin Bishop (right), representing the University of San Diego, chats with a visitor to the USD booth Sept. 19 at the Church Ministers Conference.

umental task. When they received the Holy Spirit, he said, they found peace in the knowledge that, while the mission was truly beyond their abilities, it was not beyond God’s ability and they needed only be “instruments of God’s grace in changing the face of the whole world.”

Bishop McElroy underscored that the “one central truth” is that the God who loves us is the true source of peace.

“We’re called to understand that we live in

the hands of God,” he said. “We are called to proclaim that as the very centerpiece of the Gospel, and we are called to understand that in that peace we are called to be instruments of transforming this world by transforming the hearts of men, and women, and children, who come to us in faith and seek encounter with the Lord.”

Galván described this year’s conference as “a great success,” citing the variety of workshops and exhibitors. She added, “I think the biggest highlight was to have such a great turnout and to have them encounter and be with Bishop McElroy.”

Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, director of the Vocations Office, said that conference participants were able “to renew their commitment of being the disciples who are called and sent forward to proclaim the Good News.” Kent Peters, director of the Social Ministry Office, expressed hope that attendees left with “a sense of a vibrant, connected, purposeful Church ... really engaged in transforming the community.”

Next year’s Church Ministers Conference is already scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24, at a location to be determined.

The Southern Cross

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On Eve of Papal Visit, Bishop Reflects on Pope's 'Pastoral Theology'

By Denis Grasska

CHULA VISTA — It was an especially timely theme that Bishop Robert W. McElroy chose for his keynote address at the Diocese of San Diego's annual Church Ministers Conference.

With Pope Francis scheduled to arrive in the United States only three days later, the bishop dedicated his roughly 45-minute talk to the pope's "pastoral theology."

The conference, which began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop McElroy, included a series of breakout workshops and featured a large number of Catholic exhibitors, was held Sept. 19 at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

In his keynote, Bishop McElroy described the current pope as "a master of gesture and symbol" who has been able "to cut through all of the obfuscation" and remind the world that at the heart of the Gospel message is God's love and mercy.

The pope has called upon Christians to view the Gospel message "with immense joy," said the bishop, who expressed his own hope that conference attendees would "make joy the central theme" of the ministries with which they are involved.

Moving on to the question of what Pope Francis is "doing with theology," Bishop McElroy said he does not believe the pope has any desire to change Church doctrine. Rather, he said, the pope is concerned with the "pastoral application" of doctrine, which involves how best to evangelize the world, bring people back into the Church and steer the culture in a more positive direction.

"It is these pastoral applications where Pope Francis has been pointing us in new directions," Bishop McElroy said, "and I think beautifully so."

The bishop noted the frequency with which Jesus denounced judgmentalism in the Gospels, explaining that judgmentalism is not the same thing as setting standards and making judgments about the proper way to act. It means looking down on others and

feeling better about ourselves because of their perceived faults.

Pope Francis' pastoral theology calls for replacing judgmentalism with an understanding that God's merciful love is available to all of us, "not when we're doing everything right, but precisely when we have failed," Bishop McElroy said.

He cited the pope's call for accompaniment, which means that the Church must walk alongside people throughout their lives, and for promoting inclusion over exclusion.

"This is not a new thing in the life of the Church," he said, "but it is a distinct emphasis of this pope."

The bishop also reiterated the pope's belief that evangelization must begin with "an embrace of the love of the merciful God," not a listing of the Church's rules. Though the rules are important, serving as a guide and a protection against rationalizing our sins, he said, they shouldn't be the first step in the Church's outreach.

"Some people think that the Christian moral life is about following specific rules. It is not," Bishop McElroy said. "What is the core of the Christian moral life? Very simple, it's ... to imitate the person of Jesus Christ."

The way we imitate Christ, he said, is by reflecting on His virtues and seeking to practice them in our own lives.

The Church teaches that, while we are not to neglect any of the virtues, we should give special attention to those that come most easily to us because, "if you get really good at a couple of virtues, that's how you ennoble the world," Bishop McElroy said. People will notice those virtues, he added, and be inspired to cultivate them in their own lives.

"When we understand God loves us in mercy and we're called to live the life of virtue," the bishop said, "we all have the capacity to change the world and make it a better place, a more Christ-like, Gospel-oriented place."

The Southern Cross

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The three solar projects installed to power the church and school facilities will eliminate 733,683 pounds of carbon emissions from being emitted into the atmosphere each year. The solar power systems will produce more than 324,620 watts of clean energy to offset approximately 82 percent of St. Michael's campus consumption. Over the next 20 years, St. Michael's is expected to save more than \$4 million on electricity costs. The parish plans to reinvest in the church and school to further the services offered to the community.

"For me personally, this is one of the most fulfilling projects that Sullivan Solar Power has embarked upon in the past 10 years," said Daniel Sullivan, founder and president of Sullivan Solar Power. "My son was baptized at St. Michael's, so it's an honor to assist the church in creating a clean energy future for the next generation in our region."

For more information, visit www.sullivansolarpower.com.

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WHAT: Catholic Solar Program Seminar
WHEN: Sat., November 7th | 11 - 12pm
WHERE: St. Michael's Church
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Actress Says 'Phantom' Is 'Bigger and Better Than Ever'

'The Phantom of the Opera' now at San Diego Civic Theatre

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera" is running at the San Diego Civic Theatre through Oct. 18 in a new version that, one cast member says, is being hailed as "bigger and better than ever."

"This production of 'Phantom of the Opera' is a brand-new production from the brilliant original," said Celia Hottenstein, the alternate for the lead female role of Christine Daaé, in a Sept. 24 telephone interview with *The Southern Cross*.

"It's still the 'Phantom' that everybody knows and loves ... but there's a new breath of life," she said of the revamped production, which features new staging and scenic design.

Based on the French novel by Gaston Leroux, Lloyd Webber's musical tells the tale of a musician who wears a mask to hide his disfigured face, lives in the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera House and seeks to advance the career of soprano Christine Daaé, with whom he has fallen in love.

Longtime fans of the musical will notice some changes to the character of Christine in the new production, said Hottenstein, who estimates that she is approaching her 100th performance in the role. She explained that Christine is portrayed this time around as "a little more in control of her destiny."

"She takes control of situations where previously she would have been the victim," Hottenstein said. For example, she said, "[Christine] decides to go with the Phantom. She isn't magically taken away with him and mesmerized by him. She makes a decision to go with the Phantom and to go to his lair."



GETTING IN CHARACTER: Celia Hottenstein (right) gets ready to appear on stage in "The Phantom of the Opera," with the help of hair supervisor Hailei Call (left).

The new production of "The Phantom of the Opera" is only one of eight currently being performed in cities around the world, including London and New York, where it has been showing continuously for almost three decades now.

Hottenstein believes that the musical's appeal can be credited at least partly to the fact that it is "a timeless, beautiful love story" and "very relatable."

"Everybody ... goes through a point in their life where they feel unwanted or unloved, and that's kind of the tale of the Phantom," she said. "In addition to that, Andrew Lloyd Webber's music is beautiful, lush, powerful music that people remember forever."

For Hottenstein, performing in the beloved musical was "a dream come true." She remembers "getting chills" while watch-

ing the Broadway production shortly after her first audition for the role.

Born and raised in Kingston, Penn., Hottenstein got her first taste of the performing arts at age 7, when her mother was advised that getting her involved with community theatre would be a good way to help her overcome her shyness.

"Ever since then, I just knew that theatre was something that I wanted to do," said Hottenstein, who graduated from The Boston Conservatory in 2013. "There's a little bit of magic in theatre and you get into costume, you feel like you're becoming a different character a little bit, and that's pretty cool. Not everybody gets to do that. It's like being paid to play dress-up."

She said she still feels "like a little kid living out their fantasy."

Hottenstein has been involved with "The Phantom of the Opera" since the new production's inception, beginning with rehearsals in New York, and has been on the road with it for two years.

As San Diego audiences have the opportunity to check out the revamped version of "Phantom," she said she hopes they will be "excited by the music and the story" and will "take away the lesson of the show," which is to have compassion for others and realize that "you don't know what they're going through."

She said, "I think that that will be a great thing for theatregoers to take away."

For more information, show times and tickets, visit www.broadwaysd.com.

The Southern Cross

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Mars, Population: Matt Damon

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

“The Martian”

(Fox) Compelling sci-fi epic in which the crew of a NASA mission to Mars (led by Jessica Chastain) is forced to evacuate the planet on short notice due to the sudden arrival of a windstorm that threatens to destroy their rocket. As they scramble to depart, their botanist (Matt Damon) is struck by debris and swept away in the tempest, leaving his colleagues with no time to mount a rescue attempt. Though officially declared dead by the agency’s chief (Jeff Daniels), the astronaut is in fact still alive. Yet, with limited supplies of food and water and no means of communicating with Earth, his chances for long-term survival are bleak. Possibly acceptable for older teens. Some medical gore, a flash of rear nudity, scatological and other mature references, and occasional crude language. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Captive”

(Paramount) Drama, based on real events, in which an escaped prisoner (David Oyelowo) on a murderous rampage takes a drug-addicted diner waitress (Kate Mara) hostage in her home. As the already fragile woman struggles to stay alive, she reads sections of Rick Warren’s self-help best-seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*, to her captor, hoping he’ll recognize the positive choices still available to him. Stylized but potentially dis-

turbing gunplay and other violence, including the implicit threat of rape, narcotics use, at least one crass term. *CNS classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Black Mass”

(Warner Bros.) This somber fact-based crime drama, adapted from the book by Dick Lehr and Gerard O’Neill, chronicles the rise and fall of notorious Boston kingpin James “Whitey” Bulger (an intense Johnny Depp). Motivated by a misguided sense of ethnic and neighborhood loyalty, a childhood acquaintance-turned-FBI agent (Joel Edgerton) engineers an unlikely alliance between the bureau and the Irish-American gangster, implicitly giving Bulger free rein to expand his underworld empire in exchange for information about his rivals in the Italian-American mafia. Frequent brutal violence with considerable gore, mature themes, including prostitution, and pervasive rough language. *CNS classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — R.*

“Everest”

(Universal) Formidable fact-based drama about the disastrous 1996 ascent of Mount Everest by two mountaineering teams: one led by the New Zealand climber (Jason Clarke) who pioneered commercial expeditions in the Himalayas, the other by a free-wheeling American guide (Jake Gyllenhaal). Frequent scenes of peril and some gruesome images. *CNS classification — adults and adolescents. MPAA rating — PG-13.*



SPACEMAN: Matt Damon, who was previously stuck on another planet in 2014’s “*Interstellar*,” is now stuck on Mars in a scene from the movie “*The Martian*.”

“The Intern”

(Warner Bros.) Generally affable comedy about a bored retiree (Robert De Niro) who enrolls in an online clothing retailer’s internship program for senior citizens. Assigned to assist the firm’s hard-driving founder (Anne Hathaway), who initially views him as little more than a nuisance, he works to prove his professional worth, while finding romance with the company’s in-house masseuse (Rene Russo). A premarital situation, a nongraphic bedroom scene between spouses, intermittent sexual humor and occasional crass language. *CNS clas-*

sification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.

Catholic News Service

It Stinks!

The following films have been classified “morally offensive” by the USCCB:



“*Sicario*”
(Lionsgate)

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Maiden General
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A True Story
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Release Date: October 2015

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Perfect Christmas gift for family and friends!

The year is 1429 and the English have been attempting to annex France and illegitimize its crown prince (the Dauphin) since long before Jehanne d’Arc can remember. Jehanne, just 17 years old and a pious young woman, runs away from home to attempt an impossible mission from God—get herself appointed as a French field general and lead her country to victory over the English. She’s small in stature, of low birth, illiterate, and has no knowledge of war or politics. Nonetheless, like her hero, the Blessed Virgin Mary, she says “yes” to God and, determined to succeed, sets off to prevent a major English victory at Orléans, France.

Author Mike MacCarthy

Clergy, Faithful Mark Centennial of Syriac Nation Genocide

By James Aitchison

EL CAJON — Clergy, religious and lay faithful from Eastern Catholic, Roman Catholic and Orthodox faith traditions gathered together at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Syriac Catholic Church on Sept. 15 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Syriac Nation Genocide committed against Christians for their faith.

The event also included opportunities to honor Syriac Catholic Patriarch Ignatius Yousif III Younan and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese in the United States and Canada.

Msgr. Emad Hanna Al-Shaikh, pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, welcomed Patriarch Younan on his pastoral visit to the United States.

Many Church leaders attended or sent letters of solidarity. Both Bishop Robert W. McElroy and retired Bishop Robert H. Brom sent letters, and Bishop Brom also was in attendance. Members of the Knights of Columbus San Diego Chapter were present in full regalia, and El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells took the opportunity during the catered reception that followed Mass to express the city of El Cajon's appreciation for the many contributions of the Syriac Catholic community.

Historians and genocide scholars estimate 1.5 million Christians were killed by Ottoman forces in 1915 in a deliberate and systematic policy of slaughter. Despite long-standing disputes regarding the figures and debates about its semantics, the numbers speak for themselves and are easily evidenced by cold, hard facts, surviving documentation and eyewitness accounts of those who had been there, narrowly escaping the atrocities. A declaration by St. John Paul II in 2001 described the mass killings as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Patriarch Younan, head of the Syriac Catholic Church and its 360,000 Catholics, told *The Southern Cross*, "Just look at what is happening now. The past is repeating itself and ene-

mies of our faith are not willing to accept any religion."

He voiced his concerns for the faith's survival and asked the world of nations to not simply stand by while Syria continues to be torn apart. He pleaded, "While we can gather here and celebrate our faith free from fear, realize for us words are not enough and slogans, propaganda, calls for peace and tolerance doesn't help anymore."

Even though there might be disagreements about politics, there was an overall spirit of agreement among those gathered that love is the greatest weapon, but if love is not working, force will have to be used.

"We all realize we need to unite on common ground for the survival of the faith," said Father Toufic Nasr of St. Ephrem Maronite Catholic Church. In his letter of solidarity to Msgr. Al-Shaikh on behalf of the event, Father Nasr captured the essence of the gathering by quoting Psalm 122:1 — "How beautiful for the brethren to gather under one roof."

Not only is this centennial year dedicated to remembering a dark chapter in history, but there remains after 100 years a need for healing and social justice. It is also considered necessary to recognize and condemn past crimes against humanity as a means of preventing genocides in the future.

"We are asking America and the world to wake up to what is happening," said Msgr. Al-Shaikh.

One report described it by saying the last time people were flowing into Western Europe on this scale was in the aftermath of World War II. They are sacrificing everything but their faith and many are dying on the way to nowhere.

"Even though we see tragic images of refugees and migrants desperately seeking safety, the West is not listening when we say you can't just talk and pray about it," said Mor Clemis Eugene Kaplan, archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch.

Patriarch Younan actively supported the beatification cause for Bishop Flavianus Michael Malke, a Syrian



Patriarch Ignatius Yousif III Younan

Catholic cleric who was martyred during the genocide of 1915 for refusing to convert to Islam. The beatification took place on Aug. 29, the 100th anniversary of his death.

Marking the centennial of the genocide, the patriarch requested the newly beatified's intercession and, in his final blessing at the Mass, also asked for help from Heaven so that peaceful people will be able to preserve their language, heritage and traditions, and remain in their own land, as many would prefer to go home, if conditions improved.

The Southern Cross

An Experience of a Lifetime: What a Deacon Saw at the Papal Mass

There is no one distinct adjective I can use to describe my pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the papal visit and the canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra. When I do think back on this experience, I try to use the words "amazing," "emotional," "inspiring," "tiring," "intense" and "electric," among a bevy of others to try to describe the experience in its entirety.



Deacon Derek Twilliger

I was particularly blessed to be a part of the Mass where St. Serra was canonized, as he is a major historical figure in my home state of California. It was at this Mass where I was blessed to serve as an ordinary minister of Holy Communion. To be vested as a deacon, participating in a Mass with Pope Francis, was unforgettable and I will cherish

the memory of it for the rest of my life.

The opportunity to be in the presence of Pope Francis and to witness him celebrate Mass is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The messages of mercy, compassion and life he shared with us all gave witness to the Gospel. His actions, his words and his mere presence moved me and called me to a deeper conversion to Christ and His mission of being His servant in this world.

Pope Francis' address to Congress — if you did not see it, you can watch it or read it online — was another instance where the message of mercy and justice was central. He challenged all in attendance to see those around us as Christ sees us, as beloved children of the Father, made in His image.

If I could have one wish for this entire experience, it is that I wish it could have lasted longer. To be in that environment, surrounded by people of faith is truly life-giving and renewing. Everywhere we went around

the city for those few days, we ran into other pilgrims, clergy, religious and lay people alike. We all were sharing experiences with people who were otherwise complete strangers, but we were bound together by being brothers and sisters in the one, holy, Catholic Church. This was definitely an

experience of a lifetime that will impact my faith for the rest of my life.

The Southern Cross

Deacon Derek Twilliger is a transitional deacon for the Diocese of San Diego. His priestly ordination Mass is scheduled for June 24, 2016.

This ad is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of San Diego.

Do I Have a Vocation?

1. Do you ever think about being a Brother, Priest or Sister?
2. Do you have "generosity of spirit" in your life?
3. Do you desire more than your involvement in your parish?
4. Does the idea about being a Brother, Priest or Sister come to you often?
5. Does the idea scare you?

Please call Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, SJS
for more information

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I've had the honor and privilege of serving in full-time vocation ministry for seven years now. That may sound unusual. Why? I'm a layman, happily married, with kids and grandkids.

Maybe a more important question to ask is, "Why is that so unusual?"

We are accustomed to seeing only priests and religious working for vocations. Conventional wisdom says that they understand what discerning young people are going through, maybe more than we do. They are also the ones who can make consecrated life look attractive. But if they are the only pieces in this puzzle, we have a problem. As members of the Body of Christ, the laity also have the responsibility to recognize, cultivate and support vocations. And our role is becoming increasingly important.

Mark McGuthrie

The dioceses where vocations are consistently flourishing are places where a "culture of vocations" has been deliberately built. That means that everyone in the Church is aware of their role in the long string of decisions that lead to young people choosing this way of life.

With that said, let's dig deeper. We, the laypeople, benefit from the ministry of priests and religious. They sustain our sacramental life and inspire us all to follow Jesus as His disciples. What are we doing to help them promote a culture of vocations here in our diocese? Organizations like the Serra Club gather people to pray for vocations, and it's beautiful work. The Knights of Columbus help provide scholarships for seminarians, which is vital. I'm sure there

The Laity's Role in Vocation Work: A Eudist Proposition

are parents and grandparents out there also encouraging their young people to consider giving themselves completely to the Lord. The family is called the Domestic Church, and can be the most influential element in a vocational journey.

But you and I both know firsthand that there is a lack of priests and religious. The shortage is critical in our parishes, which means that things are even tighter in the vocation field. Yes, encouraging reports are coming: The number of young men entering seminary is on an uptick, a slow one, but an uptick. But we're about to hit a gap: many of our pastors are well beyond retirement age, many are coming home to their "eternal assignment," and new ordinations are not enough to replace them, even as demands for ministry continue to grow. The same is happening in our religious orders and we're seeing convents closed down. It's not time to despair, because Jesus is with us, but it is time to make it an all-hands-on-deck effort.

So what can be done?

My last assignment was in the Diocese of San Bernardino, working with the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity and Sister Sarah Shrewsbury in the diocesan vocation office. We developed a series of retreats that bore beautiful and abundant fruit, connecting young people to vocations all over. The most interesting part of it was that we trained a team of laypeople to conduct the retreats.

Now our plan is to deploy the same pro-

gram here, and I believe that the Lord will stir the hearts of our young people in the same way. Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas in our own diocesan Office for Vocations is behind us. So are the Eudist Fathers and their lay Associates. The Eudist Constitutions describe our collective responsibility here in a beautiful way: "Heeding Jesus' desire not to leave His people without shepherds, they seek to help those who are called to exercise a pastoral role, and they remind the other Christians of their responsibilities in awakening vocations." Jesus has a burning desire to call people to give themselves to the Church; it's time for us to step up and help Our Lord fulfill that desire.

No one has to be a genius, no one has to have all the answers, we just need people

who care deeply. The young people discerning need someone to help them know they are loved by God, to listen to them, and be available as they ask the key questions. Our first retreat is at the end of October, and we're looking to fill out our team. Say yes and step forward. If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask! Contact Sister Aurora at alopez-ornelas@diocese-sdiego.org or me at markmcguthrie@gmail.com.

The Southern Cross

Editor's Note: Vocational retreats for young adults ages 18-35 will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31, Jan. 23, April 30 and June 4, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. The retreats will run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and the cost to attend is \$5 (for lunch). To register, e-mail alopez-ornelas@diocese-sdiego.org.

Mark McGuthrie is a member of the National Religious Vocations Committee. He is also executive director for the Eudists, a congregation of priests, brothers and laypeople who have served the Diocese of San Diego for almost 40 years in vocation ministry, teaching, parish life and service to the poor, especially in Tijuana.

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

For more information, call (858) 490-8230.

Annulment Workshop

with Rodrigo Valdivia. 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost to attend; RSVP requested.

Mental Health Training

Assistance for young people between the ages of 10 and 25. Offered by the County of San Diego. 9:15 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Nov. 12, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost to attend; RSVP requested.

Evening of Worship

Bilingual Advent Evening of Worship for Catechetical Ministers (with Pedro Rubalcava), 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, at St. Anthony's Church in Imperial. No cost to attend; RSVP requested.

Morning of Worship

Bilingual Advent Morning of Worship for Catechetical Ministers (with Pedro Rubalcava), 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No cost to attend; RSVP requested.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

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

Young Married Couples Group

Group provides opportunities for Catholic married couples in their 20s and 30s to grow in faith and friendship through social events, spiritual activities and service projects hosted around San Diego. For information, e-mail sdycmc-owner@yahoo.com.

VOCATIONS

For more information, e-mail alopez-ornelas@diocese-sdiego.org.

Holy Hour for Priestly and Religious Vocations

All are invited to pray with and get to know those who have dedicated themselves to Christ through a life of prayer and service. 7 p.m., third Wednesdays.

Explorer Day

The Diocese of San Diego is hosting an Explorer Day for those men who are interested in exploring a possible vocation to the priesthood. The day will be held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, at St. Francis Center on the campus of the University of San Diego. If living a life of service for Christ and the people of God is attractive to you, pick up an application at your parish office or call Father Pedro Rivera at (619) 291-7446.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

For more information, visit www.socialministriesandiego.com.

Mental Health Ministry Network

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

Crime Victim or Family Member?

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



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PARISH EVENTS

Healing Masses

• Oct. 20 at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido. Praise-and-worship at 6:45p.m., followed by Mass and prayers for healing. Call (760) 741-0866.
 • 6:30 p.m., Oct. 28, at St. James Church in Solana Beach. Celebrant: Msgr. James Tarantino. For information, call (888)590-5095.

'Why Go to Mass?'

Deacon Peter Hodsdon will explain the Mass in an upcoming talk, 7 p.m., Oct. 21, in the church hall at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Free.

Deep Pit BBQ

St. Pius X Parish in Jamul will be hosting its annual Deep Pit BBQ & Gymkhana on Oct. 18. Includes a \$1,500 grand prize raffle, craft booths and beer garden. For more information, call (619) 669-0085.

Call to Sainthood

A special evening with local Catholic youth speaker Lisa Marie Hunt and The Joseph Advento Worship Band will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Nov. 16, at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. A freewill offering will be collected to support Thy Kingdom Come Campaign.

Open House

St. Michael School in Poway will hold an open house from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 15. For information, visit www.smspowsay.org or call (858) 485-1303.

Fall Musical

St. John of the Cross will present a fall musical, "Alice in Wonderland" (junior production), on Nov. 5 (7 p.m.), Nov. 6 (7 p.m.) and Nov. 8 (2 p.m. and 6 p.m.). For information, visit www.sjcp parish.com or call (619) 466-3209, ext. 303.

On the Power of Faith

Spirituality for the Second Half of Life presents "What Do You Want Me to Do for You?" (Mark 10:51): Reflections on the Power of Faith," 4-5:30 p.m., Oct. 23, in

PARISH EVENTS

St. James Parish's Ministry Conference Room, Solana Beach. Includes Scripture, storytelling, meditation, small-group sharing, contemplative prayer and wine-and-cheese fellowship. For information or to register, contact (760) 814-8604 or jnandlerphd@gmail.com.

Fall Festivals

• Oct. 16-18 at St. Columba Parish. Kicks off with adult-only Oktoberfest, beginning at 6 p.m., Oct. 16. Festival begins at noon, Oct. 17, and will feature entertainment, games, crafts, food and more. Oct. 18 will include a pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m.; festivities will begin again after a 9:30 a.m. Mass outside and will conclude with a drawing to win a new Toyota or \$10,000. For information, call (858) 277-3863 or visit www.stcolumbasandiego.com.

• 4-10 p.m., Oct. 24-25, at St. Michael Parish's Holy Family Center, Poway. Features game booths, food booths, DJ and dancing, bingo, laser tag, music, entertainment and a beer garden. For information, call (858) 487-4755.

Craft Fair

9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 14, at St. Elizabeth Seton's parish center in Carlsbad. Features homemade quilts, scarves, jewelry, cards, hats, baby items, home decor, holiday gifts and more! For information, call the parish at (760) 438-3393.

Bake/Craft Sales

Bake/craft sales will held after all Masses, Nov. 20-21, at Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley. If interested in sales, call (619) 471-5837.

Holiday Craft Fair/Bake Sale

Nov. 7 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Nov. 8 (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) at Our Lady of Grace Church's Moloney Center, El Cajon. Features 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.

GROUPS

Annual Luncheon

Brother Benno's Auxiliary will hold its annual luncheon Nov. 7 (doors open at 11 a.m.; lunch served at noon) at the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort and Spa. Tickets: \$60. For information, call (760) 912-8566 or (760) 390-2010.

500 Years of St. Teresa

The closing Mass of the fifth centennial year of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila will be held at 10 a.m., Oct. 17, at The Immaculata Church. Celebrant: Bishop Robert H. Brom.

Socialism Lecture

"Socialist Political Groups in Our Churches: How Do We Deal with Them?" with Catholic author Stephanie Block will be held Oct. 23 at John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido and Oct. 25 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Old Town. Doors open 6:30 p.m.; talk/Q&A, from 7-9 p.m. Free. For information or to RSVP, contact (619) 249-2574 or allysons@cox.net.

40 Days for Life/ El Cajon

The pro-life campaign will be held Sept. 23-Nov. 1 in El Cajon. For information or to sign up, e-mail 40dayselcajon@gmail.com.

Card Party/Luncheon

St. Martin's Women's Club will hold "A Far Out Card Party" and luncheon, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 24, at St. Martin of Tours Parish in La Mesa. Includes games, raffle prizes, silent auction, bunko and bingo. Cost: \$13. RSVP to Darlene at (619) 464-2950 or Marie at (619) 583-7256.

Seasons of Hope:

Seasons of Hope is a Christ-centered faith-sharing bereavement group for those in need of consolation after losing a loved one. Meets for six Thursdays, beginning Oct. 29. Prayer, Scripture, faith-sharing and fellowship begin at 10 a.m. Cost: \$6/person to cover the cost of participant journal. For information or to register, contact (858) 755-2545, ext. 107, or

GROUPS

katie@stjames-sleo.com.

Council of Catholic Women

• The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold their convention 10a.m.-3p.m., Oct. 28, at Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley. Cost \$30. For information, call (619) 425-8979.

• The Oceanside Council of Catholic Women will host a meeting and luncheon on Nov. 4 at Resurrection Parish in Escondido. Cost: \$5. RSVP by Nov. 6 to (760) 747-2462.

iHunger

iHunger, a Saturday morning gathering for Catholic men, is held on the lower level of St. Thomas More Church in Oceanside. In these informal sessions, issues facing Catholic men will be discussed in light of the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints. Event includes breakfast. For information, contact Deacon John Fredette at (760) 758-4100, ext. 132.

Healing After Divorce

New Paths, a free support group for the separated and divorced, will meet from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Dec. 15, at Sacred Heart Parish Ministry Center (655 C Ave., Coronado). For information, call (619) 435-6136.

'Love Our Priests'

The prayer group's next Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Oct. 17, at Ascension Parish in Tierrasanta. Guest celebrant: Benedictine Father Shabel Ewen, the new abbot of Prince of Peace Abbey. Attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish to share after Mass. For informa-

GROUPS

tion, call Jean at (858) 560-7132.

'Light Weigh'

"Light Weigh One King" (www.lightweigh.com) is a 12-week Catholic Bible study video series and weight-loss program to help you attain peace with food. Classes are held from 3-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, in the St. Dominic Room at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. A new session started Sept. 23. For information, call Pat at (760) 644-2934.

Friends of the Poor Walk

Friends of the Poor Walk a Mile in My Shoes, 10:30 a.m., Oct. 3, at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Encinitas. Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. For information, visit www.svdpsusa.net/walk/1210.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Spiritual Exercises

Silent Ignatian Retreats preached by the priests of Miles Christi. For men: Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in Rancho Palos Verdes; Dec. 11-13 in Oceanside. For women: Dec. 18-20 in Rancho Palos Verdes; Jan. 22-24 in Temecula. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For the men's Exercises, contact california men@spiritualexercises.net or (661) 284-5970; for the women's Exercises, contact california@spiritualexercises.net or (858) 263-5113.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

After-Abortion Healing

Rachel's Hope will host after-abortion healing retreats for Catholic (and Catholic-friendly) women:

• Oct. 23-25 at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Escondido. Cost: \$100. For information or to register, call (760) 305-8044 or e-mail gridirongranny@live.com.

• Nov. 6-8 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$45; partial scholarships available. For information or to register, call (858) 581-3022, e-mail Rachel's_Hope@juno.com or visit www.RachelsHope.org.

Eucharistic Congress

The 51st International Eucharistic Congress will be held Jan. 24-31, 2016, in Cebu, Philippines. Planning to attend? For more information, call St. Michael Parish at (619) 470-1977, (619) 472-2657 or (619) 261-2544.

Relationship Skills Workshop

St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside is hosting a relationship skills workshop sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego. The 13-session series will be held on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., in the parish center, from Sept. 2-Dec. 9. No pre-registration is required; no cost to attend; no child-care provided. For information, call (760) 758-4100, ext. 104 or 110, or e-mail johnf@stmoside.org or debbief@stmoside.org.

Augustinian Discernment

Weekend

Oct. 16-18. For information, contact Father Mark at mmenegatti@sabs.org.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Por Aída Bustos

SAN YSIDRO – ¿Qué debe hacer la Iglesia en la frontera?

Cientos de personas contemplaron esa pregunta durante un servicio de oración interreligioso liderado por el Obispo Robert W. McElroy, justo a pasos de la línea divisoria.

La visita del Papa Francisco a los Estados Unidos inspiró a los fieles a organizar este evento. En una encíclica, el Papa expresó que los cristianos no pueden hacer el bien si no acogen a los excluidos de la sociedad. Ese grupo incluye a los indocumentados en la frontera, dijo Jorge González, líder en la coalición San Diego Organizing Project. Esta organización coordinó el servicio de oración en la parroquia Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo con apoyo de la Diócesis.

Después de una Misa, los fieles acudieron al estacionamiento de la parroquia donde pastores y ministros de varias religiones se reunieron para el servicio de oración. A un lado de ellos estaba un muro, de unos cinco pies de altura, junto con una banca, construido por el Ministerio Reencuentro de la parroquia.

Los presentes recibieron pequeñas cruces de madera, en donde podían escribir los nombres de familiares o amigos que habían sido deportados o detenidos por cuestión de su estatus migratorio.



CORAZÓN COMÚN: El obispo Episcopal James Mathes y la Reverenda Kathleen Owens acompañaron al Obispo Robert W. McElroy, quien consagró un muro en la parroquia Nuestra Señora del Monte San Carmelo para recordar a las familias afectadas por las políticas de inmigración.

Los pastores y sacerdotes se turnaron para hablar, mientras sus comentarios eran traducidos al español. Este grupo incluyó el Reverendo James R. Mathes, Obispo de la Diócesis Episcopal de San Diego; la Reverenda Kathleen Owens, de la Iglesia First Unitarian Universalist; y el Obispo George D. McKinney, de

la Segunda Jurisdicción del Sur de California, Church of God in Christ.

“Las comunidades morena y negra están unidas en una hermandad común de sufrimiento por las injusticias y discriminación que hemos experimentado”, aseguró McKinney. “Estamos unidos por la esperanza

común de que la luz vencerá a la oscuridad. Por lo tanto, la iglesia negra y la iglesia hispana y la iglesia blanca nos uniremos, cumpliendo el mandamiento de las Escrituras, ‘Sobrellevad los unos las cargas de los otros, y cumplid así la ley de Cristo’.”

Dos mujeres compartieron sus testimonios. Paulina Rosas dijo

que su padre fue deportado, dejando a ella, su madre y una hermana menor desprotegidas. Contó que tuvo que abandonar la escuela para sobrevivir a duras penas.

Teresa Pérez explicó como cambió su vida completamente después de que un vehículo chocó

VEA FRONTERA, PÁGINA 7

1,100 Renuevan Su Compromiso de Ser Discípulos Misioneros

Escuchan al Obispo en la Conferencia Para Ministros Eclesiásticos

Por Denis Grasska

CHULA VISTA – Las 1,100 personas que asistieron a la Conferencia Para Ministros Eclesiales recibieron un programa que incluía un mensaje del Obispo Robert W. McElroy.

El tema del evento de este año fue “Llamados a ser discípulos de Cristo”, inspirado en el primer encuentro de Jesús con Simón y Andrés, cuando Él les pidió

que abandonaran sus redes y les dijo “vengan conmigo y los haré pescadores de hombres”.

“Esperamos que la conferencia de este año nos dé las habilidades y determinación para hacernos más efectivos con confianza renovada”, dijo el Obispo en su mensaje, “a medida que trabajamos en nuestra cultura que siempre está cambiando, que conocemos a aquellos con gran necesidad y hacemos todo esto con pasión, nos lleva a nuevos entornos para la evangelización”.

La Conferencia Para Ministros Eclesiales

VEA CONFERENCIA, PÁGINA 7



ALIMENTO ESPIRITUAL: Los participantes de la Conferencia para Ministros Eclesiales pudieron escuchar el Obispo Robert W. McElroy y escoger entre un total de 96 talleres.

Durante los últimos cuatro meses he visitado las parroquias de los Condados de San Diego e Imperial para conocer y entender mejor las distintas comunidades de fe que conforman nuestra Diócesis. Hasta la fecha, he visitado 72 de 100 parroquias, y espero visitar el resto para mediados de diciembre.

Las parroquias, que varían en prácticamente todo nivel, son hogares dinámicos espirituales para millares de católicos. En meses recientes, he encontrado consistentemente cinco bendiciones centrales que caracterizan la vida de la Diócesis.

La primera de estas bendiciones es la vitalidad pura de Nuestra Iglesia local. Las parroquias que he visitado son irresistibles colmenas de actividad y energía distribuida a través de todo el arco de los elementos que conforman la vida de la Iglesia Universal.

La segunda bendición que he encontrado consistentemente es la dedicación a la unidad y diversidad en la vida de nuestras parroquias y nuestra Iglesia Local. Me he conmovido profundamente por los esfuerzos de las parroquias para cumplir el doble reto de formar una comunidad con profundos lazos interpersonales mientras brindan hospitalidad e invitan a gente nueva que busca pertenecer a una parroquia.

La tercera bendición de nuestra Iglesia Local es la gratitud profunda que la gente tiene por el servicio de sus sacerdotes. El personal de las parroquias y el liderazgo voluntario expresa con gratitud las cualidades que sus sacerdotes traen a la vida de sus iglesias. Esto me dice que los feligreses que hablan de su profunda gratitud por sus sacerdotes lo hacen, no con un sentido de obligación o respeto al sacerdocio en general, pero del entendimiento de los



Bendiciones que Encontré, Retos que Superar

Obispo Robert W. McElroy

regalos particulares que sus sacerdotes traen consigo.

Una cuarta bendición en nuestra Iglesia Local es la manera profunda en que las parroquias de la Diócesis enfocan la vida parroquial a la Eucaristía. La devoción tremenda de nuestros sacerdotes, personal y líderes laicos para celebrar la Eucaristía con un profundo sentido de oración, belleza e inclusión es prueba de la verdadera identidad de la parroquia como una asamblea eucarística.

Finalmente, nuestra Iglesia Local es profundamente bendecida por su enfoque misionario, orientado al futuro y hacia afuera. La cultura de nuestras parroquias es todo menos complaciente. He sido testigo del esfuerzo constante por examinar nuevas formas de predicar el Evangelio de Jesucristo, de contactar a los pobres y los marginados y proteger a los no nacidos, de formar comunidades inclusivas de fe, de ofrecer el ministerio a aquellos in periodos de crisis, y ayudarlos a formar una relación

personal con Dios.

San Diego es, por su naturaleza, una Iglesia misionera llena de entusiasmo para el Espíritu Santo. Es este impulso misionero que nos llama a enfrentar los retos clave que nos confrontan en este momento.

El primero de estos retos es una escasez de sacerdotes. Esta realidad hace imposible servir a nuestra gente con la efectividad que es necesaria en una comunidad de fe con más de 1 millón de católicos. También crea grandes dificultades personales para nuestros sacerdotes. Debemos emprender un esfuerzo fuerte para ordenar más sacerdotes para la Diócesis en la próxima década.

El segundo reto se enfoca en nuestras escuelas católicas. La altamente descentralizada naturaleza de nuestra estructura escolar impide la coordinación necesaria para apoyar a nuestras escuelas, especialmente en las áreas de marketing, desarrollo y formación de liderazgo. Casi un cuarto de nuestras escuelas enfrentan bajas matrículas y presiones financieras. También debemos

enfrentar el reto de cada escuela y parroquia de responder al llamado de proveer una educación católica para los miembros de la comunidad creyente de escasos recursos que busca una educación católica para sus hijos.

El tercer reto que enfrenta nuestra Diócesis es la comunicación. En un sinnúmero de veces, líderes laicos me preguntan en juntas, ¿Por qué la Diócesis no cuenta su historia en los medios sobre su servicio misionero, catequista y de apoyo de nuestra Iglesia Local que ocurre todos los días? La respuesta es que, tras los recortes que fueron necesarios durante la década pasada como consecuencia de la crisis de abuso sexual, no contamos con una oficina de comunicación integral. Tenemos un periódico diocesano espléndido que se comunica efectivamente con un gran número de católicos aquí en San Diego, pero no tenemos un contacto sistemático con los medios. Ésta falta de comunicación es devastadora.

Finalmente, la Diócesis enfrenta un reto enorme en el hecho que los adultos jóvenes de edades de 20 a 40 están ausentes de la vida de nuestra Iglesia Local. Este es un problema pastoral profundo que afecta a todo el país. Es, en mi opinión, el reto más importante que enfrenta la vida de la Iglesia.

Durante una junta reciente del Consejo de Sacerdotes y la Mesa de los Decanos, yo propuse establecer un comité especial para trabajar en cada uno de estos retos para analizar el problema, investigar posible soluciones y recomendar acciones específicas.

Mis visitas a nuestras parroquias locales han sido una gran bendición para mí. Esta introducción a la vida de nuestra Iglesia Local ha mostrado algunos retos importantes que nos confrontan en este momento. Pero, lo más poderoso es que ha mostrado las bendiciones que ya existen de manera abundante en la vida de nuestra Iglesia Local.

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Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Costo: \$10, incluye libro

Implementando Un Programa Sacramental
Adaptado para Niños con Necesidades Especiales con Rosaura Soto
jueves, 5 de noviembre, de 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
Costo: \$15

Taller Interactivo para Catequistas Dios-La Naturaleza-Y Tú Fruto
con Jovita Barria y Dilcia Wiegand
jueves, 19 de noviembre, de 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Diocesano
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Mañana de Alabanza-Adviento
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‘Había Alegría de Compartir Este Momento Histórico’

Fieles de San Diego participan en visita histórica del papa

Por Aída Bustos

SAN DIEGO – Jorge González calcula que caminó unas 50 millas en cuatro días que estuvo en la histórica ciudad de Filadelfia. Asimismo, Marioly Galván terminó “cansadísima”.

Pero ambos aseguraron que vivieron una de las mejores experiencias de su vida.

Fueron parte de dos grupos asociados con la Diócesis de San Diego que viajaron a esa ciudad para participar en El Encuentro Mundial de Familias y poder ver al Papa Francisco.

Galván, la subdirectora de la Oficina para el Ministerio de Evangelización y Catequesis, y Erika Mayoral, de la Oficina del Matrimonio y Vida Familiar, asistieron a las conferencias y talleres en el Centro de Convenciones. Al final del evento, ellas y decenas de miles de participantes más tuvieron que caminar a la zona del Benjamin Franklin Parkway, -a casi cuatro millas de distancia-, para poder ver al Papa el sábado 26 de septiembre durante el Festival de las Familias y también al día siguiente cuando celebró una Misa. Por cuestiones de seguridad, las calles estaban cerradas al tráfico y al transporte público.

Caminamos “muchísimo y nos malpasamos”, ella dijo. Sin embargo, el poder escuchar en persona al Papa bien valió la pena.

“Fue algo increíble”, aseguró Galván.

Explicó que el Papa se ve muy solemne durante el rito de la Misa pero después, cuando sale entre la gente, “sonríe de oreja a oreja”.

“Es muy carismático”, aseguró. “Yo quería



FOTO CON EL JEFE: Erika Mayoral, izquierda, y Marioly Galván, de la Diócesis de San Diego, comparten un momento ligero durante El Encuentro Mundial de Familias en el Centro de Convenciones de Filadelfia.

brincar la cerca y darle un abrazo”.

Durante su viaje, con bastante frecuencia, el Papa dirigía palabras en español a la gran comunidad hispana de los Estados Unidos. En varias ocasiones, habló en defensa de la familia, especialmente de los abuelitos y los niños.

“La familia tiene carta de ciudadanía divina

y se la dio Dios, para que en su seno creciera cada vez más la verdad, el amor y la belleza”, enfatizó el Papa en el Festival de la Familia.

“La familia es – perdonen la palabra – es una fábrica de esperanza. De esperanza de vida y de resurrección”, aseguró.

Galván dijo que le impactó su mensaje sobre la necesidad de cuidar los abuelitos y los niños en la familia porque un grupo guarda las tradiciones y el otro las continúa.

Por su parte, Jorge González, de la parroquia San Judas de Tadeo, viajó a Filadelfia con tres personas, el Padre José Castillo, de la parroquia Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo; el Padre Emmet Farrell (jubilado); y Teresa Pérez, de la parroquia San Francisco de Asís. Son parte del San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP), la filial local de PICO, una organización interreligiosa nacional que une a comunidades de fe para impulsar cambios fundamentales de beneficio a la comunidad.

Unos 300 activistas de PICO de todo el país se reunieron en Filadelfia para ver al Papa y vivir su llamado de tomar acción.

El viernes 25 realizaron una procesión, junto con el grupo local conformado de varias religiones, para atraer la atención a la problemática de los prisioneros. Hicieron vigilia afuera de una cárcel estatal y una federal, orando, cantando y escuchando testimonios. Los participantes llevaron pancartas con el mensaje, “Dios me hizo a su imagen #me ves”.

“Fue muy impactante porque podíamos oír a los prisioneros adentro, tratando de ser escuchados”, aseguró González, un organizador comunitario de SDOP.

También se detuvieron afuera de un

restaurante de comida rápida en donde escucharon quejas por el impacto de los bajos sueldos y las difíciles condiciones laborales.

“Probablemente caminamos unas 15 millas en cuatro horas”, dijo.

En el marco del Encuentro Mundial de Familias, el grupo de PICO escuchó el testimonio de cuatro madres de Ayotzinapa que continúan su lucha en búsqueda de justicia para sus hijos, parte de los 43 estudiantes que desaparecieron hace un año en Guerrero.

Para la última presentación pública del Papa, el grupo de González caminó rumbo al Benjamin Franklin Parkway a las 8 de la mañana, aunque la Misa estaba programada a las 4 de la tarde.

Se sorprendieron de que el Papa habló en español durante la Misa. González dijo que al parecer la multitud que estaba allí, un 70 por ciento anglo y el resto hispano, no les importó el no poder entender cada palabra del pontífice.

“Había mucho alegría de compartir este momento histórico”, dijo. “Éramos una minoría ahí pero había mucho espíritu”.

González recuerda el mensaje del Papa hacia los inmigrantes: “Tengan aliento, levanten el rostro, caminen con la cabeza en alto, valoren sus tradiciones”.

A su juicio, ese mensaje es sumamente relevante por la situación que vive actualmente los Estados Unidos.

“En la Biblia, ser un buen samaritano es recibir a los inmigrantes”, continuó. “Realmente el Papa nos hablaba a todos”.

The Southern Cross



FE EN ACCIÓN: El Padre José Castillo, de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, y el Padre Emmet Farrell participaron en acciones de fe en Filadelfia.

‘Ustedes Tienen Derecho a Soñar’

Lo siguiente son textos de discursos presentados por el Papa Francisco durante su visita a Estados Unidos. Textos adicionales están disponibles en español www.usccb.org.

Encuentro Con Niños

Escuela Nuestra Señora de las Ángeles, en Harlem, Nueva York, 25 de septiembre.

Queridos niños:

Estoy contento de estar hoy aquí con ustedes junto a toda esta gran familia que los acompaña. Veo a sus maestros, educadores, padres y familiares. Gracias por recibirme y les pido perdón especialmente a los maestros por “robarles” unos minutos de la lección.

Me han contado que una de las lindas características de esta escuela es que algunos de sus alumnos vienen de otros lugares, inclusive de otros países. Qué bueno que es eso. Aunque sé que no siempre es fácil tener que trasladarse y encontrar una nueva casa, nuevos vecinos, amigos; no es nada fácil. Al principio puede ser algo cansador, ¿verdad? Muchas veces aprender un nuevo idioma, adaptarse a una nueva cultura, un nuevo clima. Cuántas cosas tienen que aprender. No solo las tareas de la escuela.

Lo bueno es que también encontramos nuevos amigos, encontramos personas que nos abren puertas y nos muestran su ternura, su amistad, su comprensión, y buscan ayudarnos para que no nos sintamos extraños. Para que nos sintamos en casa. Qué lindo que es poder sentir la escuela como una segunda casa.

Bien cerquita de aquí hay una calle muy importante con el nombre de una persona que hizo mucho bien por los demás, y quiero recordarla con ustedes. Me refiero al Pastor Martin Luther King. Él dijo un día: “Tengo un sueño”. El soñó que muchos niños, muchas personas tuvieran igualdad de oportunidades. El soñó que muchos niños como ustedes tuvieran acceso a la educación. Es hermoso tener sueños y poder luchar por ellos.

Hoy queremos seguir soñando y celebramos todas las oportunidades que, tanto a ustedes como a nosotros los grandes, nos permiten no perder la esperanza en un mundo mejor, con mayores posibilidades. Sé que uno de los sueños de sus padres, de sus educadores, es que ustedes puedan crecer con alegría.

Queridos chicos, ustedes tienen derecho a soñar y me alegra mucho que puedan encontrar en esta escuela, en sus



amigos, en sus maestros, ese apoyo necesario para poder hacerlo. Donde hay sueños, donde hay alegría, ahí está siempre Jesús. Porque Jesús es alegría y quiere ayudarnos a que esa alegría permanezca todos los días.

Antes de irme quiero dejarles un *homework*, ¿puede ser? Es un pedido sencillo pero muy importante: no se olviden de rezar por mí para que pueda compartir con muchos la alegría de Jesús. Y recemos también para que muchos puedan disfrutar de esta alegría como la que tienen ustedes.

Que Dios los bendiga y la Virgen los proteja.

Encuentro Con Los Hispanos

Independence Mall, Filadelfia, 26 de septiembre.

(Pasajes)

Queridos amigos:

Buenas tardes. Uno de los momentos más destacados de mi visita es la presencia aquí, en el Independence Mall, el lugar de nacimiento de los Estados Unidos de América. Aquí fueron proclamadas por primera vez las libertades que definen este País. La Declaración de Independencia proclamó que todos los hombres y mujeres fueron creados iguales; que están dotados por su Creador de ciertos derechos inalienables, y que los gobiernos existen para proteger y defender esos derechos. Esas palabras siguen resonando e inspirándonos hoy, como lo han hecho con personas de todo el mundo, para luchar por la libertad de vivir de acuerdo con su dignidad.

La historia también muestra que estas y otras verdades deben ser constantemente reafirmadas, nuevamente asimiladas y defendidas.

Recordemos las grandes luchas que llevaron a la abolición de la esclavitud, la extensión del derecho de voto, el crecimiento del movimiento obrero y el esfuerzo gradual para eliminar todo tipo de racismo y de prejuicios contra la llegada posterior de nuevos americanos.

Esto demuestra que, cuando un país está determinado a permanecer fiel a sus principios, a esos principios fundacionales, basados en el respeto a la dignidad humana, se fortalece y se renueva. Cuando un país guarda la memoria de sus raíces, sigue creciendo, se renueva y sigue asumiendo en su seno nuevos pueblos y nueva gente que viene a él.

Los cuáqueros que fundaron Filadelfia estaban inspirados por un profundo sentido evangélico de la dignidad de cada individuo y por el ideal de una comunidad unida por el amor fraterno. Esta convicción los llevó a fundar una colonia que fuera un refugio para la libertad religiosa y la tolerancia. El sentido de preocupación fraterna por la dignidad de todos, especialmente de los más débiles y vulnerables, se convirtió en una parte esencial del espíritu norteamericano.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para agradecer a todos los que, sea cual fuera su religión, han tratado de servir a Dios, al Dios de la paz, construyendo ciudades de amor fraterno, cuidando del prójimo necesitado, defendiendo la dignidad del don divino, del don de la vida en todas sus etapas, defendiendo la causa de los pobres y los inmigrantes. Con demasiada frecuencia los más necesitados, en todas partes, no son escuchados.

Entre nosotros hoy hay miembros de la gran población hispana de los Estados Unidos, así como representantes de inmigrantes recién llegados a los Estados Unidos. Gracias

por abrir las puertas. Muchos de ustedes han emigrado - los saludo con mucho afecto-, y muchos de ustedes han emigrado a este País con un gran costo personal, pero con la esperanza de construir una nueva vida.

No se desanimen por las dificultades que tengan que afrontar. Les pido que no olviden que, al igual que los que llegaron aquí antes, ustedes traen muchos dones a esta nación. Por favor, no se avergüencen nunca de sus tradiciones. No olviden las lecciones que aprendieron de sus mayores, y que pueden enriquecer la vida de esta tierra americana. Repito, no se avergüencen de aquello que es parte esencial de ustedes.

También están llamados a ser ciudadanos responsables y a contribuir -como lo hicieron con tanta fortaleza los que vinieron antes-, a contribuir provechosamente a la vida de las comunidades en que viven.

Pienso, en particular, en la vibrante fe que muchos de ustedes poseen, en el profundo sentido de la vida familiar y los demás valores que han heredado.

Al contribuir con sus dones, no solo encontrarán su lugar aquí, sino que ayudarán a renovar la sociedad desde dentro. No perder la memoria de lo que pasó aquí hace más de dos siglos. No perder la memoria de aquella Declaración que proclamó que todos los hombres y mujeres fueron creados iguales, que están dotados por su Creador de ciertos derechos inalienables, y que los gobiernos existen para proteger y defender esos derechos.



EL PUEBLO SE REGOCIJA: El Papa Francisco tocó los corazones de los poderosos hasta los desamparados durante su viaje de seis días a Estados Unidos. Fieles viajaron de países lejanos como Vietnam y Angola para oír su mensaje de esperanza y amor. En Misas y encuentros personales el Pontífice insistió que la Iglesia y sus creyentes deben enfocar su servicio a los marginados, los inmigrantes y a los pobres y defender el milagro que es la familia. 1. El Papa habló con las familias de inmigrantes en la Escuela de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles en la comunidad de East Harlem en Nueva York. 2. Un estudiante le muestra una lección del medio ambiente en dicha escuela, la cual sirve a 295 niños latinos y afro-americanos. 3. Los jóvenes y niños no perdieron ninguna oportunidad de saludar al Papa durante su visita - y posiblemente hasta tomarse una foto con Él. 4. Las reliquias de Junipero Serra se colocaron en el altar durante la canonización del misionero español en la Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción en Washington, D.C. 5. El presidente Obama y la Primera Dama se despidieron del Pontífice en el aeropuerto de la Base de la Fuerza Aérea Andrews cerca de Washington, D.C.



CONTINÚA EN LA SIGUIENTE PÁGINA

Fiesta De Las Familias

Benjamin Franklin Parway, Filadelfia, 26 de septiembre.

Queridas familias:

Quiero agradecerle, en primer lugar, a las familias que se han animado a compartir con nosotros su vida, gracias por su testimonio. Siempre es un regalo poder escuchar a las familias compartir sus experiencias de vida; eso toca el corazón. Sentimos que ellas nos hablan de cosas verdaderamente personales y únicas que en cierta medida nos involucran a todos. Al escuchar sus vivencias podemos sentirnos implicados, interpelados como matrimonios, como padres, como hijos, hermanos, abuelos.

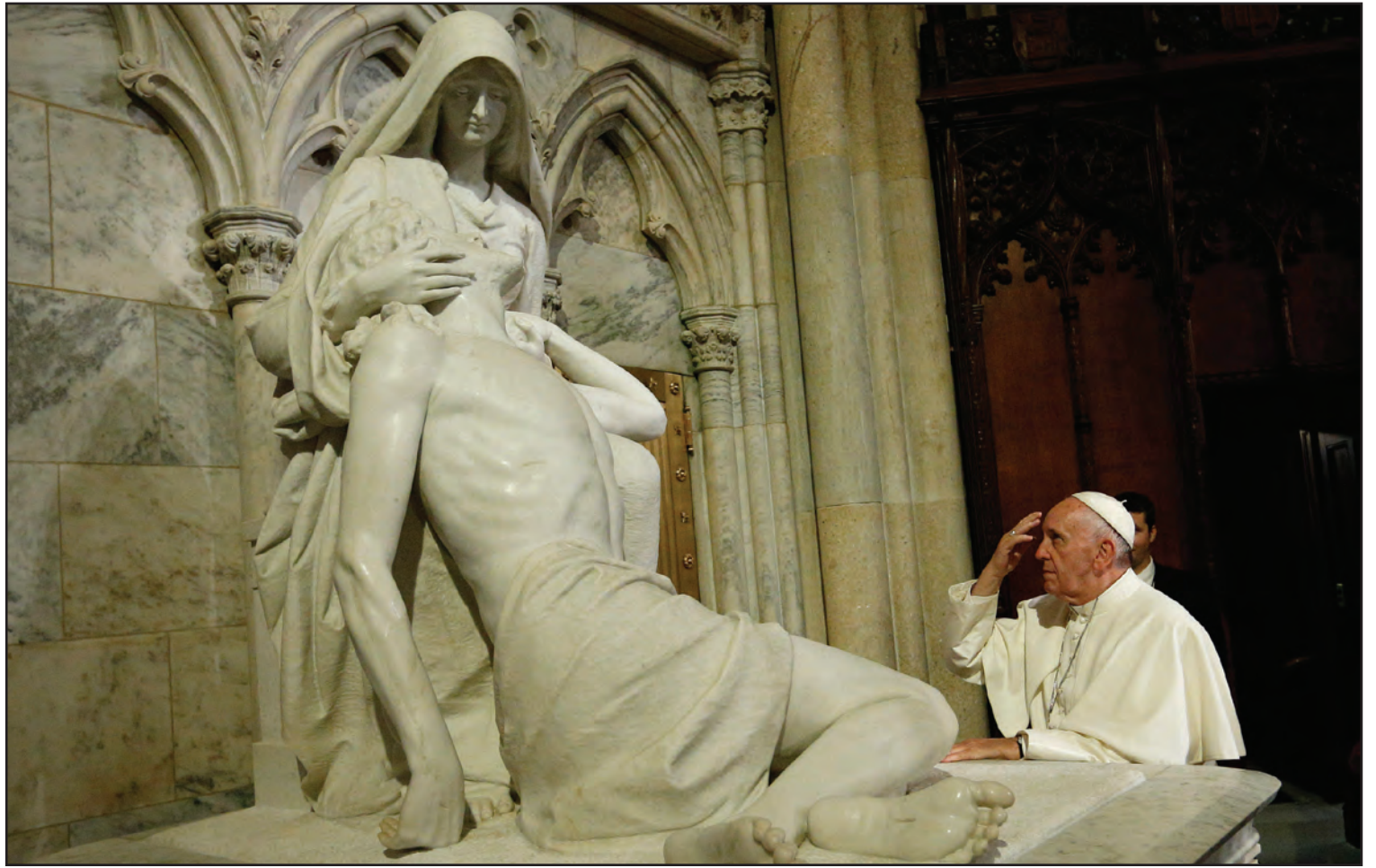
Mientras los escuchaba pensaba cuán importante es compartir la vida de nuestros hogares y ayudarnos a crecer en esta hermosa y desafiante tarea de “ser familia”.

Estar con ustedes me hace pensar en uno de los misterios más hermosos del cristianismo. Dios no quiso venir al mundo de otra forma que no sea por medio de una familia. Dios no quiso acercarse a la humanidad sino por medio de un hogar. Dios no quiso otro nombre para sí que llamarse Enmanuel (Mt 1,23), es el Dios-con-nosotros.

Y este ha sido desde el comienzo su sueño, su búsqueda, su lucha incansable por decirnos: “Yo soy el Dios con ustedes, el Dios para ustedes”. Es el Dios que, desde el principio de la creación, dijo: “No es bueno que el hombre esté solo” (Gn 2,18a), y nosotros podemos seguir diciendo: No es bueno que la mujer esté sola, no es bueno que el niño, el anciano, el joven estén solos; no es bueno. Por eso, el hombre dejará a su padre y a su madre, se unirá a su mujer y los dos no serán sino una sola carne (cf. Gn 2,24). Los dos no serán sino un hogar, una familia.

Y así desde tiempos inmemorables, en lo profundo del corazón, escuchamos esas palabras que golpean con fuerza en nuestro interior: No es bueno que estés solo. La familia es el gran don, el gran regalo de este “Dios-con-nosotros”, que no ha querido abandonarnos a la soledad de vivir sin nadie, sin desafíos, sin hogar.

Dios no sueña solo, busca hacerlo todo “con nosotros”. El sueño de Dios se sigue realizando en las muchas parejas que se animan a hacer de su vida una familia.



MOMENTO PRIVADO: El Papa visitó la escultura de María y Jesús crucificado antes de celebrar vísperas con los sacerdotes y los hombres y mujeres religiosos en la Catedral de San Patricio de Nueva York el 24 de septiembre.

Por eso, la familia es el símbolo vivo del proyecto amoroso que un día el Padre soñó. Querer formar una familia es animarse a ser parte del sueño de Dios, es animarse a soñar con Él, es animarse a construir con Él, es animarse a jugarse con Él esta historia de construir un mundo donde nadie se sienta solo, que nadie sienta que sobra o que no tiene un lugar.

Los cristianos admiramos la belleza y cada momento familiar como el lugar donde de manera gradual aprendemos el significado y el valor de las relaciones humanas. “Aprendemos que amar a alguien no es meramente un sentimiento poderoso, es una decisión, es un juicio, es una promesa” (Erich Fromm, “El Arte de amar”). Aprendemos a jugarla por alguien y que esto vale la pena.

Jesús no fue un “solterón”, todo lo contrario. Él ha desposado a la Iglesia, la ha hecho su pueblo. Él se jugó la vida por los que ama dando todo de sí, para que su esposa, la Iglesia, pudiera siempre experimentar que Él es el Dios con nosotros, con

su pueblo, su familia. No podemos comprender a Cristo sin su Iglesia, como no podemos comprender la Iglesia sin su esposo, Cristo-Jesús, quien se entregó por amor y nos mostró que vale la pena hacerlo.

Jugársela por amor, no es algo de por sí fácil. Al igual que para el Maestro, hay momentos que este “jugársela” pasa por situaciones de cruz. Momentos donde parece que todo se vuelve cuesta arriba.

Pienso en tantos padres, en tantas familias, a las que les falta el trabajo o poseen un trabajo sin derechos que se vuelve un verdadero calvario. Cuánto sacrificio para poder conseguir el pan cotidiano.

Lógicamente, estos padres, al llegar a su hogar, no pueden darle lo mejor de sí a sus hijos por el cansancio que llevan sobre sus hombros.

Pienso en tantas familias que no poseen un techo sobre el que cobijarse o viven en situaciones de hacinamiento. Que no poseen el mínimo para poder construir vínculos de intimidad, de seguridad, de protección frente a tanto tipo de inclemencias.

Pienso en tantas familias que no pueden acceder a los servicios sanitarios mínimos. Que, frente a problemas de salud, especialmente de los hijos o de los ancianos, dependen de un sistema que no logra tomarlos con seriedad, postergando el dolor y sometiendo a estas familias a grandes sacrificios para poder responder a sus problemas sanitarios.

No podemos pensar en una sociedad sana que no le dé espacio concreto a la vida familiar. No podemos pensar en una sociedad con futuro que no encuentre una legislación capaz de defender y asegurar las condiciones mínimas y necesarias para que las familias, especialmente las que están comenzando, puedan desarrollarse. Cuántos problemas se revertirían si nuestras sociedades protegieran y aseguraran que el espacio familiar, sobre todo el de los jóvenes esposos, encontrara la posibilidad de tener un trabajo digno, un

techo seguro, un servicio de salud que acompañe la gestación familiar en todas las etapas de la vida.

El sueño de Dios sigue irrevocable, sigue intacto y nos invita a nosotros a trabajar, a comprometernos en una sociedad pro familia. Una sociedad, donde “el pan, fruto de la tierra y el trabajo de los hombres” (Misal Romano), siga siendo ofrecido en todo techo alimentando la esperanza de sus hijos.

Ayudémonos a que este “jugársela por amor” siga siendo posible. Ayudémonos los unos a los otros, en los momentos de dificultad, a aliviar las cargas. Seamos los unos apoyo de los otros, seamos las familias apoyo de otras familias.

No existen familias perfectas y esto no nos tiene que desanimar. Por el contrario, el amor se aprende, el amor se vive, el amor crece “trabajándolo” según las circunstancias de la vida por la que atraviesa cada familia concreta. El amor nace y se desarrolla siempre entre luces y sombras. El amor es posible en hombres y mujeres concretos que buscan no hacer de los conflictos la última palabra, sino una oportunidad. Oportunidad para pedir ayuda, oportunidad para preguntarse en qué tenemos que mejorar, oportunidad para poder descubrir al Dios con nosotros que nunca nos abandona. Este es un gran legado que le podemos dejar a nuestros hijos, una muy buena enseñanza: nos equivocamos, sí; tenemos problemas, sí; pero sabemos que eso no es lo definitivo. Sabemos que los errores, los problemas, los conflictos son una oportunidad para acercarnos a los demás, a Dios.

Esta noche nos encontramos para rezar, para hacerlo en familia, para hacer de nuestros hogares el rostro sonriente de la Iglesia. Para encontrarnos con el Dios que no quiso venir al mundo de otra forma que no sea por medio de una familia. Para encontrarnos con el Dios con nosotros, el Dios que está siempre entre nosotros.



CELEBRACIÓN: El Papa Francisco les pidió a los cientos de miles que se reunieron en Filadelfia para la Misa final de su viaje que estuvieran “abiertos a los milagros del amor”.

► FRONTERA

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Solicitan una reforma que no destruya a familias

contra su carro. No solo salió lesionada, sino que no pudo demandar al otro conductor para que pagara sus gastos médicos, por no tener documentos migratorios. Ahora vive con dolor constante de espalda.

El Obispo McElroy luego tomó la palabra.

“Este momento es un ejemplo de las iniciativas de fe, esperanza, amor y servicio que son parte del Evangelio que el Papa ha desencadenado en nuestras vidas. Es un esfuerzo para dirigirnos a nuestro propio gobierno y a nuestras comunidades de fe y a toda la gente”, dijo.

“Ser una Iglesia en la frontera es el entender que la frontera entre nosotros y México es realmente una invitación a la solidaridad en vez de una barrera que nos separa.”

Luego consagró el muro, que tiene una placa con la inscripción: “Santuario de Lamentación, En el jardín de la esperanza. Iglesia Sin Fronteras. Madre de Todos.”

Margarita Galindo and Gloria Morales, organizadoras de SDOP, concluyeron el servicio con un llamado a los presentes para actuar: Que se inscriban a votar, que aseguren que sus familiares y amigos voten en las próximas elecciones, y que se unan al ministerio organizativo de su iglesia o comunidad.

Días después, el Obispo McElroy reflexionó del significado del evento.

“El muro que dedicamos es un lugar para oración, un lugar de recuerdo y un lugar de esperanza. Es un reconocimiento de que nuestro sistema de inmigración actual ha creado gran sufrimiento dentro de las familias de la Diócesis de San Diego, y es un trágico recordatorio de que nuestro país ha abandonado una parte crucial de su herencia como nación de inmigrantes.

“Pero también es una fuente de esperanza, de que los refugiados e inmigrantes que viven y trabajan y construyen



CARGA DIARIA: Participantes del servicio en la frontera recordaron a sus seres queridos que han sido deportados o detenidos por sus estatus migratorio.

familias en nuestro país sin documentos finalmente se convertirán en verdaderos miembros de la sociedad americana y podrán vivir fuera de las sombras,” aseguró.

Dijo que los parroquianos deben conocer que la postura de la Iglesia para lograr una reforma de inmigración en los Estados Unidos consiste en una combinación del control de la frontera, solidaridad con los inmigrantes que tienen hasta 30 años o más construyendo este país, y concederles estatus legal y la ciudadanía a estos inmigrantes siguiendo la “tradición histórica que ha marcado el nacimiento y desarrollo de nuestro país”.

El Obispo subrayó que la participación de una gran diversidad de líderes religiosos es testimonio del reconocimiento común de que la política nacional de inmigración actual es una ofensa contra Dios y la naturaleza de la familia humana que acoge a todos.

Después del servicio, muchos de los presentes colocaron las cruces de madera a lo largo del cerco de alambre a un lado del muro como recordatorio de seres queridos deportados y detenidos. Una mujer tenía cinco cruces, cada una con nombre distinto.

The Southern Cross

► CONFERENCIA

CONTINUACIÓN DE PÁGINA 1

Ministros exploran una variedad de temas para fortalecer su labor

se llevó a cabo el 19 de septiembre en la preparatoria católica Mater Dei en Chula Vista. Fue copatrocinada por siete oficinas diocesanas: Ministerio Social, Evangelización y Catequesis, Juventud, Escuelas, Vocaciones, Liturgia e Espiritualidad y Administración.

“Fue diseñada para ofrecer a los ministros de toda la diócesis la oportunidad de reunirse y alimentarse espiritualmente como pastoralmente”, dijo Marioly Galván, directora de la Oficina de Evangelización y Catequesis. “El objetivo es impulsar a los ministros a que continúen su jornada de discípulos misioneros a servicio del Señor”.

Aseguró que un 70 por ciento de los participantes fueron latinos.

El programa incluyó una Misa celebrada por el Obispo McElroy, quien presentó el discurso principal, un almuerzo y tres sesiones con un total de 96 talleres, de los cuales 32 fueron en español.

Fue un día húmedo con mucho calor. El Obispo empezó su homilía diciendo que había estado orando para que lloviera y terminara la sequía, pero que sabía que la gente que lo



RENOVACIÓN DE FE: Los 1,100 participantes de la conferencia anual tuvieron la oportunidad de explorar como continuar su labor al servicio del Señor.

escuchaba oraba por una homilía breve.

Luego relató una experiencia que lo impactó cuando estudiaba en el Seminario de San Patricio. Durante unas vacaciones de primavera, aceptó la invitación de un compañero de escuela para volar a Alaska en una avioneta. Su compañero había sido piloto profesional antes de entrar al seminario e iba a dar una lección de vuelo.

Durante su viaje, los tres tripulantes fueron sorprendidos por una tormenta de nieve, con poco combustible. Tenían lo suficiente para volar dos horas más – el

tiempo justo que necesitaban para llegar a su destino.

El Obispo escuchó en la radio como el Controlador Aéreo avisaba a la Guardia Costera que estuvieran listos para “pescarlos” si se les acababa el combustible. Además les preguntó los nombres de sus familiares.

“He pensado en esa experiencia muchas veces”, aseguró el Obispo. “Una de las cosas más interesantes es que no sentía pánico. Tenía una sensación de paz todo el tiempo”. Atribuyó ese sentimiento a la comprensión de que estaba “en las manos de Dios” que

nos ama y con quien estamos “fundamentalmente dependientes”.

“Pasamos una gran parte de nuestras vidas pretendiendo que tenemos el control final de las cosas – y no lo tenemos”, dijo el Obispo. “Eso no nos lleva a la paz. Lo que nos lleva a la paz es el entendimiento de que Dios nos ama profundamente y nos carga y abraza en todo momento”.

Subrayó que la “verdad central” es que Dios es la única fuente de la paz.

“Somos llamados a entender que en esa paz somos instrumentos para transformar este mundo, transformando las almas de hombres, mujeres y niños que vienen con fe y buscan un encuentro con el Señor”, aseguró.

Galván dijo que la conferencia de este año fue “un gran éxito”, mencionando la variedad de talleres y exhibidores. Añadió, “creo que lo más interesante es tener una buena concurrencia y poder estar con el Obispo McElroy”.

La Hermana Aurora López-Ornelas, directora de la Oficina de Vocaciones, dijo que los participantes pudieron “renovar su compromiso de ser discípulos quienes son llamados a proclamar las Buenas Noticias”.

Kent Peters, el director de la Oficina del Ministerio Social, dijo que espera que los participantes hayan salido con “un sentido de una Iglesia dinámica ... que realmente está comprometida a transformar la comunidad”.

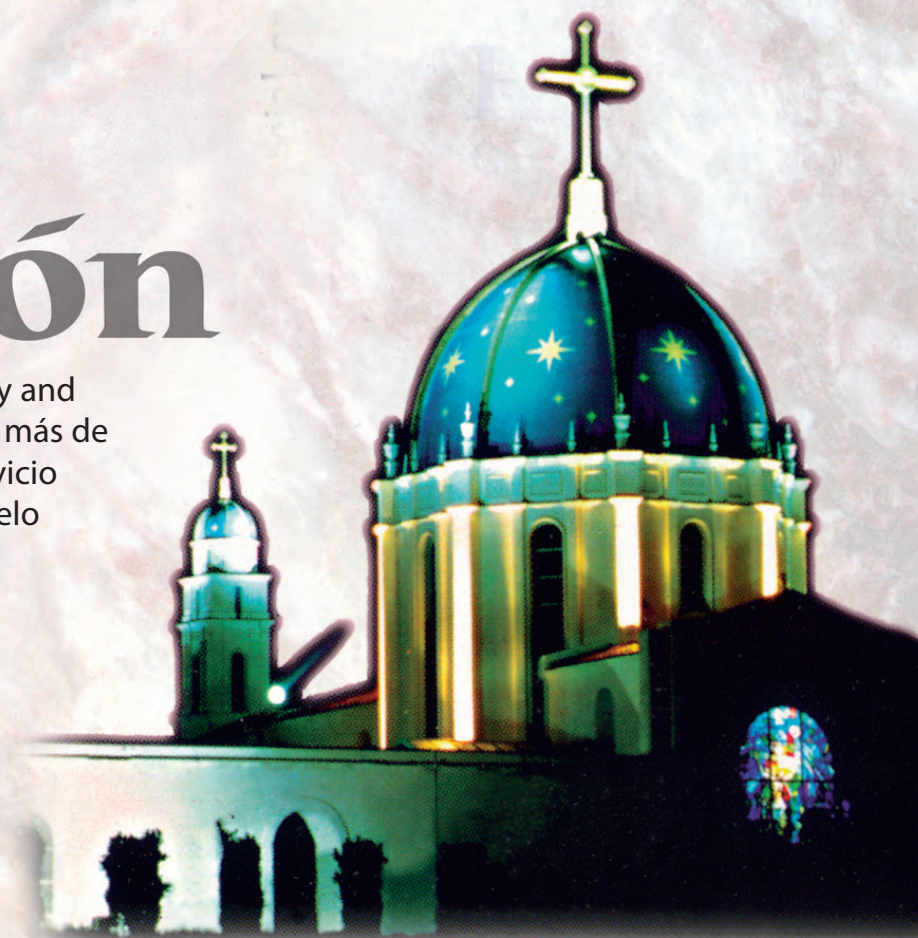
The Southern Cross

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 sólida contra el tiempo y los elementos.



Fé

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

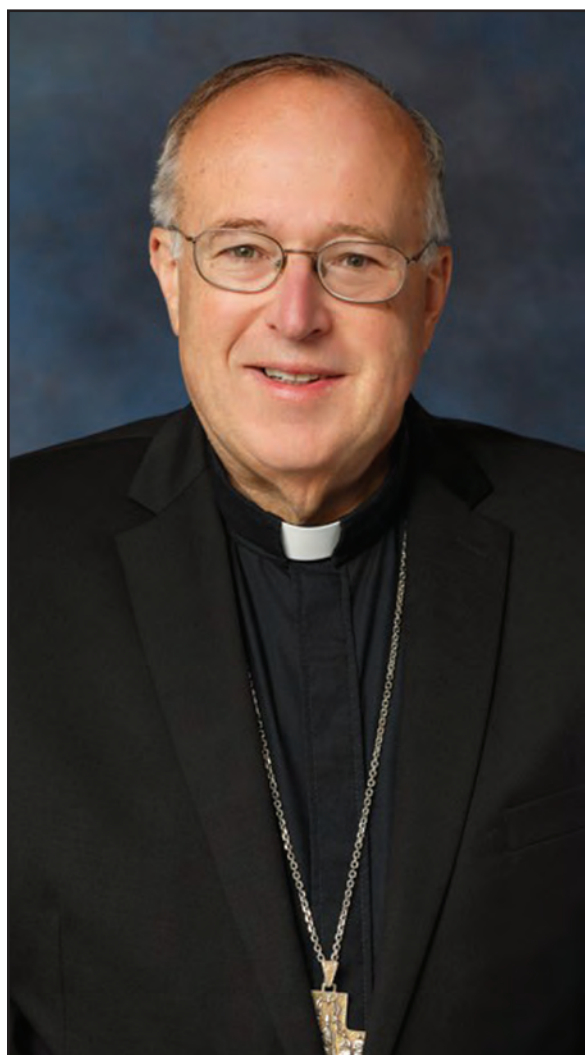
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619 264 3127

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2015



CNS/PAUL JEFFREY



Dear Friends,

World Mission Sunday is celebrated Oct. 18. On this Sunday, we gather as Catholics throughout the world, in the spirit of love for evangelization, so that through our concerted prayer and efforts the gift of faith may be shared with all.

Through the Pontifical Mission Societies, our Church initiates and sustains evangelization efforts in 1,150 designated mission dioceses. These are: in Africa, where 6 million children receive education in some 16,000 Church-run elementary schools; in Asia Pacific, where the sick are provided with loving care at 5,000 Catholic hospitals and small clinics; in the Americas, where catechetical programs are sustained and catechists are trained as they travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of God's great love to families; in Oceania, where young men are supported in their studies for priesthood; and in Eastern Europe, where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities renewed after years of persecution.

Your financial help on World Mission Sunday supports the efforts of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to oversee the establishment of "infant churches," assign and support leadership personnel, and generate a basic support structure for catechists, Church and educational/medical facilities.

All Catholic communities throughout the world participate in this World Mission celebration. It is inspirational to know all the parishes throughout the world, including those in mission-designated dioceses, participate in this World Mission Sunday collection. They are especially proud of their small contribution.

Our diocese is proud of its history in supporting missions and missionaries. We not only provide missionaries (priests, religious and laity) but also many individual parishes/mission circles participate in a variety of mission projects in Africa, the Americas and Asia Pacific. Add to that the consistent generous financial support, especially that given to our visiting missionaries.

I invite you to page through this mission supplement. It not only tells the stories of our missionaries, but the tables and graphs spell out the generous support from our diocesan parishes, schools and religious education classes to our missions. Thank you for your generosity.

May your passionate love for Jesus guide you in your service choices and stewardship decisions!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop Robert W. McElroy

Indian Archbishop: We Are All Connected

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Though separated by continents and oceans, we are all connected.

Archbishop Leo Cornelio, who has headed the Archdiocese of Bhopal in India since 2007, told *The Southern Cross* that Catholics must strive “to broaden our horizon always,” recognizing the bond they share with their Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the world.

During a visit to the Diocese of San Diego in July, he expressed hope that Catholics in San Diego might be able to support his archdiocese, not only through their prayers and financial contributions, but by visiting his people, sharing faith with them and experiencing an “exchange of richness.”

“Each culture, each person, each country, each diocese has its own richness,” he said, explaining that such faith-sharing can result in a deeper faith for both parties involved.

Archbishop Cornelio, 70, noted that the Archdiocese of Bhopal is located in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, which once would have been counted among “the five most backwards states in the country,” but has made great strides economically.

He said, of the more than 75 million inhabitants of Madhya Pradesh, the majority are Hindu; Muslims also are well represented. But, while Christians only make up about 0.4 percent of the population, the Catholic Church plays a disproportionately large role in society, especially in the field of education.

“We are very much present with education,” the archbishop said. “Some of the best schools are run by the Church.”

Known colloquially as “missionary schools,” he said, “Most of the people want to send children to our schools

because they get basic values and they are brought up in such a way that they become people with positive contributions to the society.”

Among the greatest challenges in his archdiocese is the anti-conversion law, which has a negative impact on the freedom to practice one’s faith as well as on the Church’s missionary activity.

Though some in India claim that the Catholic school system represents an attempt to indoctrinate youth with Catholicism, Archbishop Cornelio said Catholics in his archdiocese do not attempt “direct conversion” and such charges are baseless and “only a ploy on their part.”

He said the archdiocese takes a wider view of mission, “not so much evangelization alone, but all-around development of the human person.”

“We are not pushing anybody,” he said. “If they get converted, it is God’s grace.”

The anti-conversion law has not prevented the Local Church from fulfilling its mission.

Archbishop Cornelio said the Church does its best to be present in those areas where the government is unable or unwilling to do much, such as educating those who live in remote areas of the state.

The Church also makes its presence known in the area of



ARCHBISHOP LEO CORNELIO

health care. It operates hospitals, dispensaries and rural health centers. It also has special outreach to HIV patients, street children and those suffering from leprosy.

Among the archdiocese’s current projects, he said, efforts are underway to empower women and educate girls, as well as to uplift the tribal people who comprise a sizeable percentage of the local population.

To help the tribal people, he said the archdiocese plans include opening “schools of excellence” at which promising tribal children can be enrolled and, through education, be prepared to become important figures in the community and able to help others rise from poverty and ignorance.

“Because of their economic condition or lack of finances, they should not suffer,” Archbishop Cornelio said, “and they should not be deprived of their educational possibilities.”

There is also an initiative to teach technical, computer and other skills to those who have dropped out of school, thereby providing them with a trade that will give them a livelihood and allow them to support their families.

Archbishop Cornelio said he hopes to help instill a stronger sense of freedom and responsibility in his countrymen.

“That is something that we need to teach our people, that you have to carve your own destiny and you have that capacity, ability to do that,” he said. “Not to so much depend on others and not to be somehow subservient to others, but that freedom that God has given, freedom of the children of God, and that freedom to be experienced ... somehow attained by one’s own efforts as well.”

The Southern Cross

In His Own Words

By Father John Gibbons, OFM

Yesterday at evening prayer, I heard strange voices on the street beside the chapel in my mission in Arceniev, Russia. Investigating afterwards, I found a police car and a few neighbors milling about. One informed me that there had been “unhappiness” — a death. A man had stumbled into the ditch, bashed his head on the rocks there and drowned in the few inches of stagnant water. Tragic in any case; our hope is that he stumbled drunk as opposed to being pushed.

No attempt to cordon off the area, children and adults loitered around and peered into the ditch to have a look while the police waited for the coroner. No one seemed interested in the local Catholic priest meddling — here, many locals consider any non-Orthodox to be a member of a cult — so I stayed quiet and observed. They know where to find me.

Fortunately, this is a rare event in my neighborhood, where people are peaceable and watch out for each other. On this little dirt lane, I know all my neighbors by name, and while none of them are parishioners, they are overall respectful and friendly. I have been ministering in this southeast corner of Siberia for about 10 years, apart from a two-year stint in St. Petersburg with our friars in formation.

As I write on this feast of St. Dominic, it is hot and muggy on the street. Siberia has a short, hot, muggy, mosquito-infested summer. Some people complain about the heat and such, but not me; winter comes soon enough! Here, the Sea of Japan is not far, and most people take a week to relax on the



YOUTH MINISTRY: *Franciscan Father John Gibbons (right) participates in a youth conference as part of his missionary work in Russia.*

beach where the weather is not oppressive.

We had our annual joint parish family summer camp last week, a few hours south of Ussuriysk where my Franciscan community is located. As always, it was a great success, both for spiritual renewal and for relaxing on the beach. We have a humble parish in Ussuriysk as well as a homeless shelter. Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Communist system that kept track of everybody broke down (though foreigners continue to be monitored carefully), and at-risk people like addicts and the mentally ill fell through the cracks and often onto the streets, where they were freezing to death in scandalous numbers during the Russian winter.

Our Tau homeless shelter has been very

successful at reducing this death rate, and also providing needed services such as wholesome meals and clothing, health services, assistance reformulating lost documents, job placement, help applying for pensions or disability, and AA meetings (our homeless guests admit they are all drunks). At present, the number of guests is low since healthy guys like their freedom on the streets in summer, but once the frost hits, we are full to overflowing. The men are overall very appreciative of the shelter and those who have stayed a while consider it home and work to build a friendly atmosphere among the guests. We friars and co-workers treat them all with respect and this goes a long way in disarming conflicts.

We also have a parish in Arceniev, a cou-

ple hours down the road. Here, I am pastor and care for parishioners both in town and in outlying villages. Next Saturday, for the feast of the Assumption, I will travel to Dalnegorsk (which translates “faraway mountain”), about a four-hour drive to the north. There are a handful of parishioners there, and we meet every month or so for Mass and tea. Tea and sweets are part of just about any event here — Mass, Bible study, you name it. The Arceniev parish is small but active. It is not easy to be Catholic here — because of the attitude of locals as noted earlier, because they are few and isolated, because spirituality took a hard hit under the 70-plus years of enforced atheism under Communism.

The majority of Russians are now baptized, but the percentage who attend church with any regularity is only 1-2 percent. Church is seen as for Christmas and Easter, a big crisis, or perhaps as a diversion when there is absolutely nothing else going on. I emphasize that our Christian faith needs to be integral to our lives — we are physical, intellectual, relational and spiritual beings, and need to nourish each part of our human nature. It is a tough sell, when they have survived three generations without spiritual nourishment.

Arceniev is a country town. I live in an old house next to the church and have a big garden, where many parishioners plant vegetables. People are poor. For instance, in my neighborhood, most still do not have running water; I got it three years ago. When I arrived 10 years ago, I was the only one with a telephone (now they all have cell phones).

SEE GIBBONS, PAGE 8

Religious Sister: Being a Missionary Is About the 'How,' Not the 'Where'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Though a member of a missionary congregation, Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Mary Miller admits that she has “no personal story of great heroics in a foreign land” to share.

Sister Miller, now 71, spent 39 years of her life ministering in Catholic education in the United States. More recently, she was assigned to her congregation's central house in Rome.

In her current role as mission secretary for the United States and the Caribbean, Sister Miller's primary responsibilities include sharing stories from the missions and making appeals for financial assistance and prayers.

“Not all of ‘mission’ is about adventure,” she told *The Southern Cross*, adding that everyone is called to be a missionary in some capacity.

“Baptism gifts us and empowers us with the Spirit to be who we are created to be,” said Sister Miller, whose brother, Divine Word Father Joe Miller serves as director of the Diocese of San Diego's Office for the Missions. “The mission of Christ was to reveal the Father to humanity. Our mission is to continue the work of Christ in our world today.”

Explaining that missionaries are called to be the hands, heart and face of Christ in the contemporary world, she explained that being a missionary is “not about ‘where you are,’ but ‘how you are.’”

It is true that many priests, religious and lay people have left their homes to minister to others in foreign lands, she said, and these men and women have elected “to live their baptism in a more direct, pub-

lic way,” expressing “a public willingness and availability to leave that which is comfortable.”

But there are other ways to respond to the universal call to missionary service. And missionaries are not limited to those who serve abroad in the fields of education, health care, pastoral and catechetical ministries, and social services.

“The heart of mission is not so much in material services,” Sister Miller said, “but rather in the witness of one's life.”

She explained that, “The missionary is one who through his/her way of being, brings comfort to the sorrowing; companionship to the lonely; understanding to the anxious; a healing touch to the weak and wounded; guidance to the confused; knowledge to the unlearned; strength to the weak; trust to the doubtful; and peace to the war-torn.”

She asked, “Does that not describe you — the person you were created to be, the person you were empowered to be through your baptism?”

While missionary work might seem to be a one-sided exchange in which one party fulfills the material and spiritual needs of the other, she said, it is actually “life-giving” for both for the bearer and recipient of the Good News.

“While we may think we enrich the lives of others, our lives are also enriched,” Sister Miller said. “There is a special joy in transformation — mine and others — which happens when we are open to the other.”

The Southern Cross



SERVING THE MISSIONS: Sister Mary Miller (pictured, right in top photo and third from right in bottom photo) is seen preparing donations for the missions.

COURTESY OF SISTER MARY MILLER

Following Christ, Serving Others Means Being Missionary, Pope Writes

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — “Mission is a passion for Jesus and at the same time a passion for His people,” Pope Francis said in his message for World Mission Sunday.

The two concerns always go hand in hand, he said, because just as a Christian knows others need to hear the Gospel, he or she knows Jesus calls all His disciples to share His love.

Because World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated Oct. 18 in most dioceses, falls within the Year of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis focused his message specifically on the missionary work of religious orders.

Just as missionary outreach is essential to the Church's identity, he said, those men and women called to follow Jesus most closely must follow Him in mission.

“Mission is part of the ‘grammar’ of faith, something essential for those who listen to the voice of the Spirit who whispers, ‘Come’ and ‘Go forth,’” he wrote.

The power of Christian witness lies not in words, but in lives, the pope said.

“By the vow of poverty,” he said, consecrated men and women “choose to follow Christ in his preference for the poor, not ideologically, but in the same way that He identified Himself with the poor: by living like them



amid the uncertainties of everyday life and renouncing all claims to power.

“Living with and like the poor, he said, religious

“become brothers and sisters of the poor, bringing them the witness of the joy of the Gospel and a sign of God's love.”

“The central ideal of mission is Jesus Christ” and “this ideal demands the total gift of oneself to the proclamation of the Gospel,” the pope said. “On this point, there can be no compromise: Those who by God's grace accept the mission are called to live the mission.”

Pope Francis asked missionary orders to be open to welcoming young people and associates who want to express their own missionary vocation, although only for a specified period of time, and he encouraged young Catholics to consider consecrating their lives to a missionary vocation.

He told young people they are “capable of courageous witness and generous deeds, even when these are counter-cultural. Do not allow others to rob you of the ideal of a true mission, of following Jesus through the total gift of yourself,” he said.

“Remember that even before being necessary for those who have not yet heard it, the proclamation of the Gospel is a necessity for those who love the Master,” the pope wrote.

Catholic News Service



DIocese of San Diego

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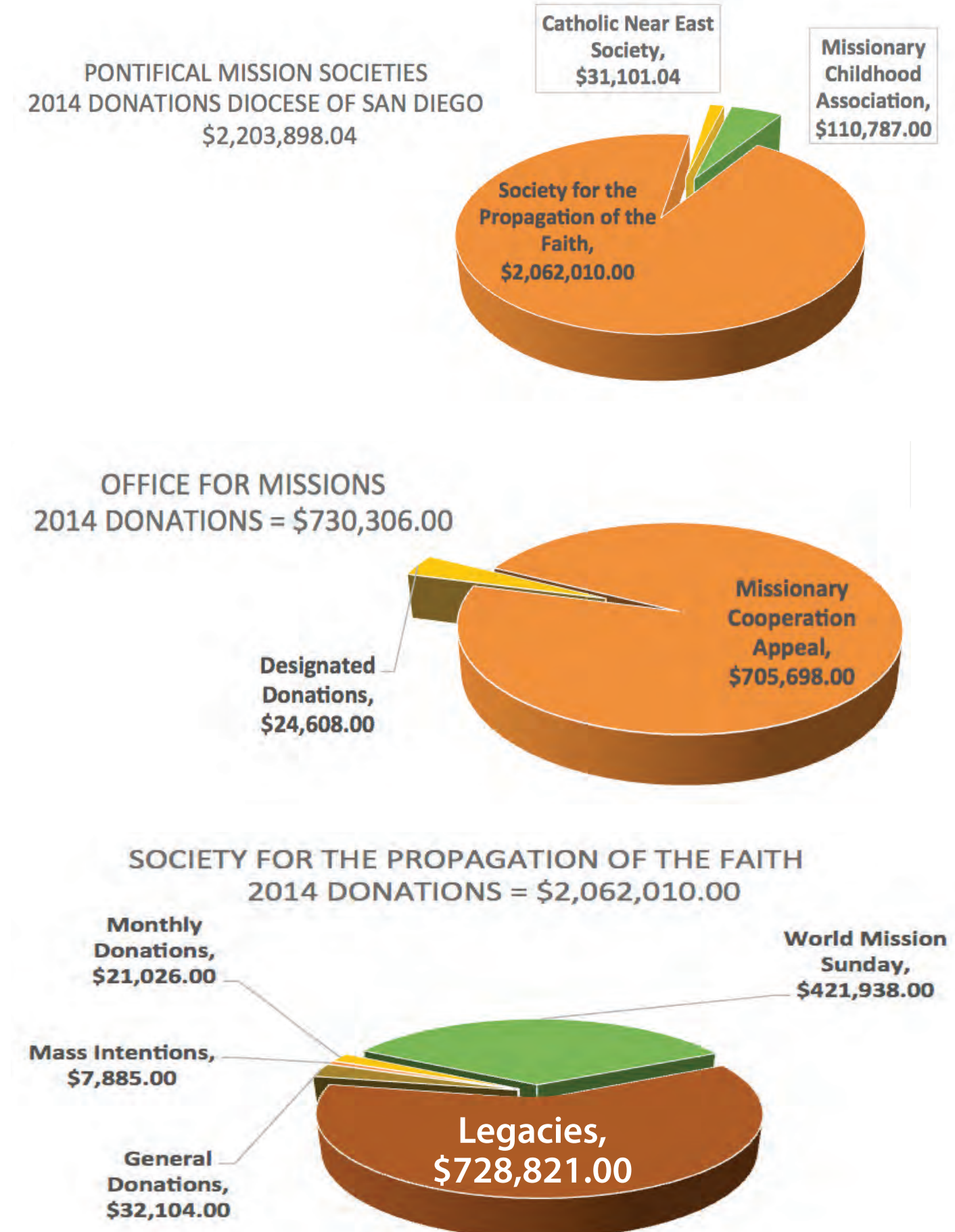
OFFICE FOR THE MISSIONS
JAN. 1, 2014 – DEC. 31, 2014

Parish	Total	MCAAppeal	Mission Sunday	Mission Coop Plan	Designated Gifts	Year 2013-2014 MCA (School & RE)
All Hallows	\$3,868.36		\$2,527.00			\$1,341.36
Ascension	11,709.02		7,013.85	4,695.17		
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha	5,250.00		3,250.00	2,000.00		
Blessed Sacrament	10,164.90		4,679.00	5,030.00		455.90
Christ the King	2,542.50		351.00	2,191.50		
Corpus Christi	28,303.00		4,917.00	23,386.00		
Good Shepherd	57,698.41		2,045.00	54,550.41		1,103.00
Guardian Angels	10,268.00		3,340.00	5,837.00	336.00	755.00
Holy Family	9,048.09		3,381.33	5,666.76		
Holy Spirit	250.00			250.00		
Holy Trinity	6,366.94		2,316.00	3,054.00		996.94
Immaculata	16,345.99		5,666.99	10,679.00		
Immaculate Conception	7,784.43		1,167.61	6,591.00		25.82
Immaculate Heart of Mary	25,037.00		17,411.00	7,626.00		
Mary Star of the Sea	18,842.42		5,000.11	11,124.00		2,718.31
Mater Dei	11,172.39		3,888.70	7,283.69		
Mission San Antonio de Pala	6,936.50		2,883.50	4,053.00		
Mission San Diego de Alcalá	22,139.96		6,575.00	15,291.46		273.50
Mission San Luis Rey	16,074.81		3,494.40	12,580.41		
Most Precious Blood	1,930.00		527.00	1,403.00		
Nativity	77,524.00		12,031.00	63,812.00	1,681.00	
Our Lady of Angels	0.00					
Our Lady of Grace	17,801.37		6,341.00	9,339.61		2,120.76
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Calexico	3,773.90		995.43	2,778.47		
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista	14,003.50		4,018.50	9,985.00		
Our Lady of Guadalupe, El Centro	2,977.43		1,353.43	1,624.00		
Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego	10,417.92		3,145.85	7,057.57		214.50
Our Lady of Light	2,154.40	728.00	1,175.00			251.40
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, San Diego	13,916.00		1,729.00	12,187.00		
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, San Ysidro	17,462.93		6,622.00	5,055.00		5,785.93
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brawley	1,557.00		702.00	855.00		
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	9,777.33	4,902.33	4,630.00			245.00
Our Lady of Refuge	2,885.00		567.00	1,388.00		930.00
Our Lady of the Rosary	12,998.00		6,596.00	5,451.00		951.00
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	11,798.00		2,894.00	7,688.00		1,216.00
Our Mother of Confidence	28,210.00		17,340.00	10,870.00		
Queen of Angels	3,862.86	3,258.86	304.00			300.00
Resurrection	3,970.00			3,970.00		
Sacred Heart, Brawley	2,328.00	812.00	1,166.00			350.00
Sacred Heart, Coronado	21,191.12	9,127.00	4,836.00			7,228.12
Sacred Heart, San Diego	5,516.00		2,255.00	3,261.00		
St. Adelaide	382.00		270.00	112.00		
St. Agnes	12,402.50		3,386.00	7,811.00	1,000.00	205.50
St. Anne	8,333.00		477.00	7,856.00		
St. Anthony, Imperial	3,246.00		1,133.00	2,113.00		
St. Anthony, National City	6,017.33		1,299.00	4,718.33		
St. Brigid	20,709.00		10,630.00	9,903.00		176.00
St. Catherine Laboure	20,382.06		6,977.00	12,083.00	560.00	762.06
St. Charles Borromeo	11,476.03		4,244.76	4,819.27		2,412.00
St. Charles	11,373.00		3,319.00	8,054.00		
St. Columba	12,510.00		5,011.00	6,463.00		1,036.00
St. Didacus	7,147.07		1,750.00	3,680.00		1,717.07
St. Elizabeth	2,360.00	1070.00	1,290.00			
St. Elizabeth Seton	25,265.00		7,845.00	17,420.00		
St. Francis of Assisi	18,668.94		2,535.00	14,174.38		1,959.56
St. Gabriel	24,723.00		6,881.00	17,842.00		
St. Gregory the Great	38,977.22		12,778.00	24,358.21		1,841.01
St. James	31,756.25	11,053.00	20,203.25			500.00

Parish	Total	MCAAppeal	Mission Sunday	Mission Coop Plan	Designated Gifts	Year 2013-2014 MCA (School & RE)
St. John of the Cross	9,611.50		2,763.00	6,583.50		265.00
St. John the Evangelist	655.00		655.00			
St. John the Evangelist, Encinitas	31,245.90		10,353.00	19,829.00		1,063.90
St. Joseph Cathedral	21,352.49		10,255.72	10,841.31		255.46
St. Joseph, Holtville	684.00		684.00			
St. Joseph, Westmoreland	1,760.63	1504.63	256.00			
St. Jude	6,868.40		1,314.27	4,676.89		877.24
St. Kieran	7,458.00		2,260.00	5,198.00		
St. Louis de Marillac	2,313.00		110.00	2,203.00		
St. Luke	9,134.50		1,633.50	7,501.00		
St. Margaret	14,801.14		5,218.00	9,283.14		300.00
St. Margaret Mary	3,807.13		1,539.88	2,267.25		
St. Mark	18,493.00		6,165.50	12,327.50		
St. Martin of Tours	14,997.23		7,910.26	7,086.97		
St. Mary Magdalene	12,673.95		4,803.00	6,259.00		1,611.95
St. Mary Star of the Sea	10,174.88		4,460.95	4,759.93	954.00	
St. Mary, El Centro	5,060.56	2,198.00	1,000.00			1,862.56
St. Mary, Escondido	14,004.00		6,530.00	6,974.00		500.00
St. Mary, National City	7,429.19		3,060.55	4,368.64		
St. Michael, Poway	43,894.29		12,809.00	26,437.00		4,648.29
St. Michael, San Diego	14,414.48	3,916.61	6,140.10			4,357.77
St. Patrick, Calipatria	2,110.00	920.00	1,190.00			
St. Patrick, Carlsbad	33,777.81		4,303.00	28,712.00		762.81
St. Patrick, San Diego	5,381.46	2,498.50	1,944.00			938.96
St. Peter	22,136.00		9,457.00	12,679.00		
St. Pius X, Chula Vista	7,331.63		695.00	5,921.00		715.63
St. Pius X, Jamul	1,778.00		155.00	1,623.00		
St. Richard	1,776.75	1,060.75	716.00			
St. Rita	8,051.54		2,606.17	4,405.45		1,039.92
St. Rose of Lima	11,606.58		650.00	10,837.33		119.25
St. Stephen	12,592.43		4,776.98	7,815.45		
St. Therese	18,649.86		3,669.56	14,014.36		965.94
St. Therese of Carmel	25,190.00		11,023.00	13,805.00		362.00
St. Thomas Mission	2,616.00	1,506.00	1,110.00			
St. Thomas More	6,921.57		1,400.00	5,521.57		
St. Timothy	8,677.00		2,863.00	5,814.00		
St. Vincent de Paul	4,545.20		394.00	2,400.00		1,751.20
San Rafael	68,275.00		49,739.00	18,536.00		
Santa Sophia	12,527.38		3,261.87	4,979.16	2,000.00	2,286.35
St. Agnes Mission Circle	7,500.00			7,500.00		
St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission	211.00		211.00			
Santa Ysabel Indian Mission	2,716.00	1,175.00	1,541.00			
St. Vincent Memorial High School	2,500.00					2,500.00
Totals	\$1,309,290.36	\$45,730.68	\$440,792.02	\$743,680.69	\$14,031.00	\$65,055.97

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES

Society for the Propagation of the Faith	\$	850,236.00
Catholic Near East	\$	31,101.04
Missionary Childhood Association	\$	67,997.26
	\$	949,334.30
Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$	705,698.00
Designated Donations	\$	24,608.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$	1,679,640.30



Eight Ways to Help ... with the Wisdom of the Saints as Our Guide

1. Prayer and sacrifice: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. That is what love looks like." – *St. Augustine*

2. Serve in the missions as a lay missionary, religious or priest: "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" – *St. Catherine of Siena*

3. Donate generously to World Mission Sunday, supporting missions and missionaries throughout the world in Asia, Africa, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean: "Give something, however small, to the one in need, for it is not small to the one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." – *St. Gregory Nazianzen*

4. Help a missionary priest with Mass intentions for your loved ones or by enrollment in the Society, sharing in thousands of Masses offered annually: "We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of man does not depend on material success ... but on Jesus alone." – *St. Francis Xavier Cabrini*

5. Gifts of stocks, bonds or real estate to advance the

cause of evangelization in mission lands. Receive income through the Society's annuity and pooled income programs as you ensure that your generosity lives on: "Teach us to give and not count the cost." – *St. Ignatius Loyola*

6. Remember the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will. You remain a blessing far into the future, enabling new generations to live the faith that sus-

tains you today. "Thou has created us for Thyself, and our heart is not quiet until it rests in Thee." – *St. Augustine*

7. Your monthly donation helps to ensure continuation of mission in areas of the world that are not yet self-reliant: "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love

with which we do them." – *St. Therese of Lisieux*

8. "Children Helping Children" is the theme of the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). We encourage students in our Catholic schools and religious education programs to join in helping children in mission countries: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." – *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

In Her Own Words

By Dr. Lisa Petronis

As I reflected on what I would write for this article, my mind kept returning to the Southern Sudanese proverb: "After every long night, there is a new dawn." This proverb has informed so many of the journeys undertaken by the group called the Lost Boys of Sudan, and proves yet again to illuminate truth in a most touching story about a Lost Boy from Sudan, a group of missionaries from around the world, and a Bible in the dialect of the Dinka people of South Sudan.

Alephonsion Deng, a former Lost Boy from Sudan who co-authored the book, *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky*, made the long arduous journey from Southern Sudan to Kakuma Refugee Camp, a journey that spanned 14 years. Alephonsion is a man who lived through a long night. This story, however, is not of the long night, although Alephonsion's story and the story of the Lost Boys from Sudan is one that I recommend everyone hear. This is a story of the new dawn, and it just so happens that this story unfolded just before Holy Week 2015 and throughout the Easter season. This is my witness to hope, evidence of the new dawn, Christ's coming in all of His glory.

On March 28, 2015, Alephonsion Deng sent me an e-mail which read, "I was meditating on the Lord at this wee hour, and praying since we are in Lent and Good Friday is approaching soon. I want 'the Dinka Rek Bible.' I write to you to ask for help because you were the first person that the Lord brought to mind. Please ask around in your diocese, perhaps the Lord will help us." I decided to contact the San Diego Office for the Missions, and so the story begins.

Within a couple of days, during Holy Week, I received an e-mail from Father Joe Miller, SVD, director of the Office for the Missions, with an offer to help. On March

31, Father Joe sent an explanation of my unique request to wide array of his contacts.

The divine wheels were in motion and in just over one week, on April 8, I learned from Father Joe that the Dinka Bible was on its way to San Diego. Father Joe contacted Father John Kirby, a Divine Word Missionary in Los Angeles, who contacted Father Francis Naduviledathu, a Divine Word Missionary living in Lainya South Sudan, and Father Francis purchased the Dinka Bible and arranged its travel to the U.S.

The day after Father Joe informed me of the wonderful news about the Bible, on April 9, Alephonsion contacted me with another special request for his brother Peter. Alephonsion wrote, "The Lord has touched him and his life is changed so greatly by the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a fervent believer. His name is Peter Yier. If there is a way to deliver a Bible to him that would be very fantastic." So yet again, I contacted Father Joe, our missionary angel, who then informed me of the complicated and extraordinary circumstances that lead to the acquisition of the Bible in Juba and its delivery to San Diego. It just so happened that Father Francis was in Juba, the capital of South Sudan on April 7, saying farewell to a fellow missionary who was relocating to the Congo. It just so happened that Father Francis had been contacted by Father John Kirby the week prior regarding the Dinka Bible. Father John met Father Francis in Ghana before he was transferred to his current mission in South Sudan. It just so happened that the Pauline Sisters have a book store in Juba, and that Father Francis was able to purchase a Dinka Bible there. Father Francis' confrere, who would depart for the Congo, agreed to hand carry the Bible out of Southern Sudan, which has no postal service, and post the Bible in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, since he would be



DONATED BIBLE: From left, Dr. Lisa Petronis, Alephonsion Deng and Father Joe Miller pose with a donated Bible in the Dinka dialect on May 6 in the Office for the Missions.

making a stop over there to visit the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

Father Joe asked Father Francis if it would be possible to acquire another Bible and get it to Alephonsion's brother who resides in Juba. Father Francis replied back that the journey from Lainya to Juba is over 100 km, takes three to four hours, and is one that is made only when "absolutely necessary." So Father Joe suggested that we "leave it in the hands of the Spirit," but that we had every reason to hope for a second Easter miracle.

Father Joe was right in saying we had every reason to hope in another miracle because, on April 30, we learned that Alephonsion's brother Peter was gifted a Dinka Bible.

On May 6, Alephonsion, family friends and I were blessed to celebrate the arrival of the Bible with Father Joe and the Missions

Office staff over lunch. We were brought together by a special young man and his request for a Dinka Bible and, along the way, touched by the light of Christ that shines through after every long night and ushers in the new dawn. Alephonsion would share stories of joy and faith as we all listened and laughed, smiled and rejoiced, for truly Christ was present in all His glory that day.

It was a wonderful gift to take part in the adventure of the Dinka Bible and truly inspiring to learn of the tireless work of the missionaries around the world dedicated to spreading Christ's light, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

May God continue to bless all of His missionaries around the world and especially those who helped bring the Dinka Bible to San Diego.

The Southern Cross

In His Own Words

By Father Thomas Vellappallil, MS

I am one of the 850 La Salette missionaries currently working in 27 countries, including the missions of Madagascar, Angola, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Philippines, Myanmar, India and Haiti, bringing the message of reconciliation to the hearts and homes of people we minister to.

I was so fortunate to visit the La Salette mission in Madagascar a couple of years ago. It was an eye-opener for me as I consider Madagascar to be one of the most difficult missions of our congregation.

Madagascar lies in the Indian Ocean off the southwest coast of Africa. Twice the size of Arizona, it is the world's fourth-largest island and has a population of more than 22 million. Half the country's population is Christian, and the other half practices traditional Malagasy religion. Around 92 percent live on less than \$2 per day, only 6.8-percent have access to water, and 9.5-percent have access to electricity.

I arrived in Antananarivo, the capital city

of Madagascar, after a 22-hour plane ride. Father Meme, who is the provincial superior of the La Salette Province of Madagascar, was my guide and translator throughout my trip. Among the stops on my trip was Antsirabe, located about 100 miles from Antananarivo, which was where the La Salette missionaries began their work in Madagascar.

At one time, there were four La Salette parishes in Antsirabe. Now there is just St. Theresa Parish. There were at least 1,000 people inside and 500 people outside for the celebration of Mass. It was a moving celebration as it was a special occasion. The pastor, Father Honore, was getting transferred after seven years of service. During the offertory, everyone moved in an orderly manner to one of the many offertory stations and placed their offering in a basket while songs were sung. I was impressed during the exchange of peace. They did not bow, shake hands or hug each other. Instead, they held hands and swayed from side to side and

wished peace to each other as the choir sang.

Father Honore, who received a parting gift, spoke after Communion and said, "We are one Church, one people, and we are one in spirit wherever we are. Your expression of love is not just for me but for the whole Church and for our Lord. Your gift I accept, not as a gift for me, but for those who need it."

In Morondava, we visited a family of fishermen. It was heartbreaking to see the way this family lived in a hut by the shore. They were drying fish on a fire. Their only means of making a little money is selling a few fish they are able to catch. They let us see their one-room home when I asked. It had one bed and a cooking area in the corner. I was told that everyone sleeps on the floor. They begged for money for taking a picture with them. How could I take God's many blessings for granted?

Bishop Donald Pelletier, bishop emeritus of Morondava, gave me permission to quote from the introduction of a book he has begun writing: "American La Salettes have

generously served the Church of Madagascar for well over 90 years. It has been not only a long but very successful mission ... When the first three priests and a brother arrived in 1928, there was nothing and they had nothing. They lived in a rented house, using crates as chairs and tables. Today, there are three flourishing dioceses because the first missionaries laid solid foundations of the faith by sowing the seeds of the Word of God among [those with] whom they lived."

During my visit, I also had the opportunity to eat dinner with about 12 bishops, who were attending their bishops' conference in the capital city. It was a highlight of my visit when I heard them say how great and devoted the La Salette priests are who serve in their dioceses.

At the end of my visit, I was brought to the airport and I bid "veloma" [goodbye] after my unforgettable first trip to the beautiful island of Madagascar.

The Southern Cross

The Missionary Childhood Association's Motto Is 'Children Helping Children'

SAN DIEGO — The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, serves as a means of involving children in the Church's missionary efforts. Children from kindergarten through eighth grade have the opportunity to be missionary witnesses of Jesus by praying, offering sacrifices and making monetary donations for children in mission lands.

The MCA motto is "Children Helping Children" and, here in San Diego, local children are living it out in many ways.

During the 2014-2015 school year, diocesan school children as well as those enrolled in religious education classes in local parishes gave selflessly to children around the world who are less fortunate. Sister Eva Rodriguez, a member of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and MCA coordinator for the diocese, was able to visit parish schools and many of the religious education programs and speak to them about her recent missionary trip to Quito, Ecuador, where she visited the Working Boys Center. During the presentation, they were able to see how their prayers and sacrifices are helping their peers.

For the current school year, Sister Rodriguez will be sharing stories of her missionary trip to Papua New Guinea, which took place just a few months ago.

All are invited to attend the annual MCA Mass and Recognitions Luncheon, which will take place at 10 a.m., March 8, 2016, at Our Mother of Confidence Parish. Last year, more than 450 students, teachers and parents participated in the event.

For more information about the MCA, visit www.helpthemiissions.org/MCA.

The following are MCA resources, which are being used at schools this year to promote the missions:

Joke With the Pope

The national office of the Pontifical Mission Societies in New York provided an exciting opportunity in conjunction with Pope Francis' recent visit to the United States: Joke With the Pope! Children from around the country — and all over the world — had the chance to tell a joke to Pope Francis. Teachers and parents were invited to participate, too. Videos, written jokes and funny stories were uploaded to www.JokeWithThePope.org. It was a fun activity for religion, English or computer classes.

MCA Christmas Artwork Contest

Students are invited to participate in the 2015-2016 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest. Entries are due by Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016. The artwork contest is very popular in the Diocese of San Diego, which has been blessed with many winning students over the years. The diocesan Office for the Missions congratulates this year's finalists, Veronica McKinney of Good Shepherd

Catholic School and Taryn Lukasik of St. Pius X School. Entries should be sent to: Missionary Childhood Association, Attn: Artwork Contest, P.O. Box 82386, San Diego, CA 92138-2386.

Social Media and Web Sites

Join the diocesan Missions Office in using social media to promote the MCA on its new social media sites.

- www.facebook.com/MCASanDiegoDiocese
- www.twitter.com/@MissionOfficeSD

To order materials and get free downloads/activities for students, visit the national Web sites, www.onefamilyinmission.org and www.mcakids.org. Visit the local Missions Office Web site, www.helpthemiissions.org, to find out what's happening in the Diocese of San Diego.

All are welcome to submit written mission stories, news and photos from their local schools to Alicia Evans at aevans@diocese-sdiego.org. Everyone appearing in a photo must have the Diocese of San Diego's media release form signed to appear on the Missions Office's social media and/or Web site.

Free Resources

The 'Holy Buckets' Advent Program and *It's Our World* Newsletter are free resources that can be used to motivate students to continue learning about and supporting the missions. This year, they can be found in digital format only. To download any of these materials, visit www.onefamilyinmission.org.

The Southern Cross



Hospitality and Presence: Welcome to the Office for the Missions

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Between the missionaries in foreign lands and the local Catholics who assist them through their prayers, sacrifices and financial donations, there is the diocesan Office for the Missions.

The local affiliate of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, it is the Missions Office's responsibility to provide support to active missionaries and to animate mission awareness among the lay faithful.

"We're the spokespersons for the missions in the diocese," said Divine Word Father Joe Miller, who has served as director of the Missions Office since 2008.

The staff also consists of Sister Eva Rodriguez, a member of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament who joined the office as associate director in 2008; Sister Maria Eugenia Espinoza, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Peace, who serves as outreach coordinator; Office Manager Lucy Granados; and administrative assistants Catherine Barley and Alicia Evans.

Father Miller said that there is no such thing as a typical day in the Missions Office.

"There's always a surprise," he said, and staffers have learned to "be open to the surprises of the day."

He notes that he and his staff do "a heck of a lot of work," including the sort of "grunt work that needs to be done" in any office, but it's done joyfully and without pressure.

Among the office's key functions is hospitality. Staff members entertain visiting missionaries at least a couple times a week and, during the busy summer months, sometimes daily. And many potential missionaries also visit the office to learn about ways to get involved and receive some encouragement before beginning such a major undertaking.

"I think one of our gifts here is presence," Barley said. "Father [Miller] and Sister [Rodriguez] kind of embody that, but I think everyone here shares that ability to be present, to stop what they're doing and actually be there for people. I see that every day."

Sister Rodriguez added there is always time to catch up on the work, once their visitors have left. Granados concurred:



MEET THE MISSIONS OFFICE: From left, Alicia Evans, Catherine Barley, Sister Eva Rodriguez, Lucy Granados, Father Joe Miller and Sister Maria Eugenia Espinoza pose for a Missions Office staff photo.

"The work's always there, but the person is not."

A weekly lunch for visiting missionaries is held every Monday during the summer.

"To the last minute, we don't know who's really going to show up," said Evans, who explained that there are usually five or six missionaries, but sometimes they bring guests of their own or, because of schedule conflicts, need to cancel on short notice.

Father Miller often puts missionaries to a good-natured "test" when they visit the office for the first time. They are asked to put a tack on a map of the world, indicating either where they are from or where they serve in the missions; to identify which continents are represented by each of the colors of the World Mission Rosary; and to make a donation in a small globe-shaped bank.

"Missionaries love to give donations — bishops especially," Father Miller joked. "They never have money in their pockets.

at the end of the street. There is progress, but the crisis and economic sanctions do not help. As usual, the poor bear the burden for these things.

I don't know how long I will be here. I did not choose Siberia — who would? I came because this was where the need was greatest, and I remain largely because missionary volunteers to Siberia are few and far between. Please remember me, my parishioners, the workers and guests at our homeless shelter, and the other missionaries in this forgotten corner of Catholic faith in your prayers. God bless you.

The Southern Cross

It's all in the car."

In addition to providing a welcoming place for missionaries, the Missions Office also seeks to energize a new generation of missionaries.

Sister Rodriguez serves as diocesan coordinator for the Missionary Childhood Association, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, which provides children in kindergarten through eighth grade with opportunities to support the missions by praying, offering sacrifices and making small monetary donations. Schools throughout the diocese support the missions each year through a variety of fundraising projects.

In her capacity as MCA coordinator, Sister Rodriguez visits each of the 45 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese. She said she visits an average of two to three schools a week and tries to visit parish religious education programs during the weekends.

An annual MCA Mass and recognition ceremony is held every year — in March in San Diego and in October in the Imperial Valley — to recognize the children of the diocese for their support of the missions. Sister Espinoza has likened it to the Missions Office's equivalent of the Super Bowl.

The paths that led the various Missions Office staff members to their workplace are varied. For Father Miller and Sister Rodriguez, it was simply a case of being assigned by their religious communities.

Sister Espinoza was invited to join the staff in 2001 by a married couple who are no longer members of the staff; she agreed to do so because of her desire "to help where there is need."

Barley applied for the position in 2003,

deciding that she wanted a new job as she settled into retirement. It was "a soft heart for people with less than I enjoy" that led her to accept the job.

"I think what inspires me on a daily basis," she said, "is just reading the paper and seeing all of the need that's out there, and knowing in my heart that what is in the newspaper isn't all that is there, that there is in fact a huge pool of individuals who are donating their lives to make other people's lives better."

Being able to interact with all of the visiting missionaries, she said, has been a very "educational" experience.

Granados, the longest-serving current member of the staff, has been there since 1985. She feels it was the Holy Spirit who led her there.

"Since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a missionary," she said. Though she ultimately didn't venture off into foreign lands to spread the Gospel, she said, "I'm working with missionaries and with a lot of lay people who come in and tell their story. It's been an awesome trip since I started."

Evans, who celebrates her one-year anniversary at the office this month, is the most recent addition to the staff. She joined after hearing one of Sister Rodriguez's MCA presentations at her daughter's school.

Reflecting on the palpable enthusiasm and passion that one experiences when stepping through the doors of the Missions Office, Father Miller said, "I think, if there's an aliveness here, it comes from the aliveness of mission in the diocese. This is a very mission-minded diocese."

For more information about the Office for the Missions, visit www.sandiegomissionoffice.org or call (858) 490-8250.

The Southern Cross

► GIBBONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Siberia was where the need was greatest

It was a good way to meet the neighbors, since people would stop by day or night to call the doctor, or as a callback number when they were looking for work. At that time, a refrigerator was a luxury. Now they want a car — though they are still without running water and hence use an outhouse and haul water from the pump