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Guadalupe 2031

Five-Year Journey Begins

Diocese Prepares for 500th Anniversary — Pages 2-4



Catechetical Sunday | Domingo Catequético

Sept. 20, 2026

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**DIOCESE OF
SAN DIEGO**

The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.4 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 96 parishes and 13 missions, 47 elementary and secondary schools, Catholic Charities and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. It also includes five historic sites, the most well known of which is the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, the first mission established in California by St. Junipero Serra in 1769.

MORE FOR YOU

This symbol indicates where readers can go online to obtain more information about the subject at hand, including additional photos, video and other content.



Guadalupe 2031 — Five-Year Journey Begins



Tilma Relic Coming to SD Region

RELIC: Bishop Michael Pham and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido received a relic of St. Juan Diego's tilma at a Mass at the iconic Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on July 30. They are bringing the relic to the diocese, where it will be displayed across the San Diego-Imperial Valley region in the next five years, culminating in December 2031, the 500th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Mexico.

By Aida Bustos



The Diocese of San Diego's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of

Guadalupe in 2031 began at her iconic home at the basilica in Mexico City that bears her name.

That is where Bishop Michael Pham traveled in July, leading a 100-plus member delegation from the diocese on a pilgrimage. In a Mass at the basilica on July 30, he received a tilma relic that bears the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to bring home to the San Diego-Imperial Valley region.

He was accompanied by Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, and Bishop Ramón Bejarano, from the Diocese of Monterey, and deacons and priests from both dioceses.

According to Catholic tradition, Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared to St. Juan Diego, a simple Indigenous man, at Tepeyac Hill on Dec. 9, 1531. She revealed herself as the mother of the true God, and requested a chapel be built at that site from where she could show her love for the people.

Bishop Juan de Zumárraga, the first bishop of Mexico, was skeptical of the request, and asked for a sign of her apparition. In a second encounter, St. Juan Diego told Our Lady of the bishop's hesitancy.

A third encounter came on Dec. 12, when St. Juan Diego's uncle was gravely ill. Our Lady comforted him, and reassured him that his uncle would recover. He did, and his miraculous healing was attributed to Our Lady's intercession.

Our Lady instructed St. Juan Diego to go to Tepeyac Hill and gather roses. Miraculously, he found beautiful ones

Preparation Begins in 2026

June 12: USCCB Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 14: Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Diocese of San Diego

July 27-Aug. 3: Pilgrimage to Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City

Oct. 10: Launch of diocese's Guadalupe 2031 Initiative

Oct. 30: Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation, Good Shepherd Church (Vietnamese)

Dec. 4: Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation, Corpus Christi Church (English and Spanish)

Dec. 5: Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation, Mission San Luis Rey (English and Spanish)

Dec. 6: Annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession and Mass, St. Augustine High School

even though they were not in season. She asked him to take them to the bishop as the sign he had requested.

When he opened his tilma for Bishop Zumárraga, the roses fell to the floor, and the image of the Blessed Mother was miraculously revealed on the cloth. He accepted these signs, and built a chapel at Tepeyac.

Father Edgar Valtierra, representing the basilica's rector, addressed the bishops at the presentation of the tilma relic, in front of the altar where the original one hangs.

"We give this tilma as what it truly is, not a gift but rather a sign, the same sign that (St.) Juan Diego carried in his arms without knowing that what he carried were not flowers, but rather a presence," Father Valtierra said.

"And in this presence, the Mother repeats to us what she said at Tepeyac: 'Am I not here, I who am your mother?' And with this question, she reaches out to all of us, the ones here and the ones there, because her cloak does not know borders and her tenderness does not ask for a passport.

"And that is why this delivery is made on the road that the Mexican Episcopal Conference and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops travel as sister churches in preparation for the Guadalupe Jubilee. We're not traveling like neighbors that greet each other, rather as children of the same mother who wants us to be together.

"In your hands, may this tilma be a reminder that we are one single family, and that whoever gazes upon it finds, not an image to be admired, but rather a face to be loved, of Jesus Christ, whom Mary always carries and always delivers," Father Valtierra concluded.

Bishops Pham and Pulido then were presented with the tilma relic, as was Bishop Bejarano.

The tilmas headed to their respective dioceses are made from the natural fibers of the maguey cactus, just like the original. They are considered third-class relics since they touched the original when they were prepared.

"We, as pilgrims, have come here thanking our Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who responded to our Lord, 'Yes, yes, I will take on this mission to bring Christ into the world,'" said Bishop Pham in his homily.

Indeed, the Church considers the greatest miracle associated with Our Lady that she inspired the spread of the Christian faith across the Americas, evangelizing through the Indigenous culture, not pushing it aside.

Bishop Pham called the tilma "very, very special."

"We continue to see it as a living miracle for us in our world today."

Guadalupe 2031 — Five-Year Journey Begins

Initiative Paves Way for 500th Anniversary

By Aida Bustos



The diocese is launching a sweeping five-year initiative to prepare the community for the 500th anniversary in 2031 of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady’s appearance as a loving Indigenous mother transformed the native peoples of Mexico and beyond, leading them to Jesus Christ. Her comforting, unifying presence brings dignity, hope and peace to all those who seek her mantle of protection, not just in the Americas but in the Philippines and virtually anywhere faithful turn to her in refuge.

The Guadalupe 2031 initiative will bring numerous opportunities over the next five years for community members to personally encounter Our Lady of Guadalupe, to learn her transformational story and to celebrate the 500th anniversary of her apparitions to St. Juan Diego.

“My wish is that every one of us, not just Hispanics, but for all cultures and tongues to come to know her, how beautiful she is and how she continues journeying with us today,” said Bishop Michael Pham at a special Mass he celebrated at the iconic *Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* in Mexico City on July 30.

He was there leading a delegation from the diocese that received a relic of the *tilma*, or cloak, that carries Our Lady’s image imprinted on its natural fibers.

Receiving the *tilma* relic was a beautiful first step in the diocese’s five-year journey to invite everyone in the San Diego-Imperial Valley region to encounter Our Lady.

The diocese will launch that journey publicly at an event on Oct. 10, at Cathedral Catholic High School, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will mark the first public appearance of the *tilma* in the local region.

Afterward, the *tilma* will be present at diocesan celebrations and presentations and visit parishes, Catholic schools, social service organizations, public venues, and jails and prisons for the next five years across San Diego and Imperial counties.

“She will be meeting people where they are at and bringing them to an encounter with Jesus Christ,” said Ma-



SHRINE: St. Juan Diego’s *tilma* with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, dating to 1531, is enshrined at the basilica in Mexico City bearing her name.

‘Guadalupe 2031’ Initiative Launch

The diocese invites everyone to encounter Our Lady of Guadalupe at a special event.

Oct. 10, 2026 — 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Cathedral Catholic High School

- *First appearance in public of the tilma replica in diocese*
- *Rosary and prayer service*
- *Procession and festival*



rioly Galván, the diocese’s chancellor.

She stressed the importance of coming together as a family to encounter Our Lady.

“To be unified under the mantle of our Blessed Mother calls for a catechesis that envelops the ongoing evangelization behind the apparitions of St. Juan Diego,” said Galván.

The diocese launched a bilingual webpage, sdcatholic.org/guadalupe2031, that offers information

about Our Lady and list events leading up to the anniversary.

Another goal of the five-year journey is for the faithful to pray one million rosaries to Our Lady. They will be able to log their rosaries on the webpage.

A van specially wrapped with her image will be used to transport the *tilma* relic around the region. The Light and Life ministry of the Knights of Columbus supported and sponsored the van. It will be used to transport

Our Lady from the Archdiocese of Tijuana, across the border, and to the Pastoral Center in mid-September.

The diocese has divided the years leading up to the anniversary in 2031 into five themes centered on the five apparitions of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego. (See details in boxed information on this page.)

The first theme, to be observed in 2026-2027, is “The People of God Journey to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Through Mary.”

Several events over the summer supported this theme, including the U.S. Catholic bishops’ consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12 and the diocesan consecration on June 14.

The diocese will host five presentations across the diocese supporting this theme in the last three months of the year, in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

To round out the year, the annual diocesan Our Lady of Guadalupe event on Dec. 6 will include a procession with the *tilma* relic across North Park streets and her presence at St. Augustine High School, where the Mass will be celebrated once more.

Through 2031, the diocese plans to organize additional presentations to support each year’s theme.

Everyone who encounters Our Lady at any venue will be invited to write a petition to her on a colored ribbon. The ribbons will be collected over the five years and be used to adorn an arch that will be displayed at the diocese’s celebration of the 500th anniversary in December 2031.

That grand event is in the works, but the diocese envisions one that can house thousands of people.

Bishop Pham and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido are working with pastors, inviting them to develop opportunities for their parishioners of all cultures and backgrounds to learn about Our Lady. Parishes will be provided resources in various languages.

“Am I not here, I who am your mother?” wrote Bishop Pham in a letter inviting pastors to participate in the journey toward the 500th anniversary, quoting Our Lady’s words to a fearful St. Juan Diego.

“These are the words Our Lady of Guadalupe uttered to St. Juan Diego 495 years ago. The Patroness of the Americas beckons us to follow her Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.”

Journey Toward the 500th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The People of God Journey to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through Mary Year Theme 2026-2027	Mary, Model of Inculturation of the Gospel Year Theme 2027-2028	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fountain of Peace and Unity Year Theme 2028-2029	Ark of the Covenant — Mary Bearer of Christ Year Theme 2029-2030	Our Lady Leads Us to the True God for Whom We Live Year Theme 2030-2031
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Guadalupe 2031 — Five-Year Journey Begins

Pilgrims Share Journey to Meet Our Lady

The Southern Cross



More than 100 faithful, representatives of the Diocese of San Diego, participated in a pilgrimage July 27 to Aug. 3 to Mexico

City to encounter Our Lady of Guadalupe. A sampling of pilgrims shares their brief reflections.

Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido Diocese of San Diego

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is a place of encounter: an encounter with God, with the Virgin Mary, and with one another.

The shrine is one of the most visited Marian ones in the world. When you arrive, the first thing you notice is the people — thousands of pilgrims coming from different regions of Mexico and from all over the world. And the first thing they do is go to Mass. Our Lady always leads us to her Son, Jesus Christ.

After Mass, pilgrims join a constant river of people moving toward the back of the basilica. There, they catch a glimpse of the original tilma of St. Juan Diego, where Our Lady left her miraculous image nearly 500 years ago. St. Juan Diego brought the tilma to the bishop as the sign he had requested. The bishop and those with him encountered Our Lady through that image — and today, millions continue to encounter her there every year.

Our Lady continues to intercede for her children day and night. The shrine is a place where we bring our hopes, our struggles, and our prayers, trusting in God's mercy through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

But Guadalupe is also a place where we encounter one another.

While praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the Old Basilica, I was praying especially for my nieces and nephews, young adults who have been away from the Church. I was asking God to renew their faith.

Suddenly, a young woman sat in front of me with her mother. I watched as her mother gently touched her hair, kissed her, and told her how much she loved her. The daughter smiled, perhaps a little embarrassed, but I saw the deep love between them. I thought of my own family, and I felt moved by the Holy Spirit.

I gave the young woman a rosary and said, "God loves you. Our Lady loves you. And the Church loves you."

Father Chris Bongato Vicar for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities

This was my first diocesan pilgrimage. The buses were filled with people of all different cultures, coming together in their one faith in Christ and their wanting to know more about Our Lady of Guadalupe.

We got to know the history of Our Lady as we visited many sites; and we learned and sung Marian hymns offered to her as if to prepare the souls of the faithful to actively participate. We prayed the rosary together in different languages and I could see us during meals or conversations just sharing our different cultures but also our joyful faith together.

One moment that stood out for me was when the Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe started. I was so close to the tilma, the closest I'd



PILGRIMS: A group from the Diocese of San Diego joined Bishop Michael Pham, fifth from right, on a visit to the cathedral in the city of Puebla on July 28.

ever be. And in my mind, I could just hear over and over again, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" A question posed towards St. Juan Diego and a question that marked above the main door entrance. It was a clear sign for me of Our Lady's love and prayer for us. And it is a moment I will continue to take deeper into prayer.

Yola Arguilla Diocesan Commission for Filipino Catholics

My pilgrimage to Mexico was a meaningful and unforgettable spiritual journey. Visiting Our Lady of Guadalupe, the cathedral, Holy Family Church and other churches and museums helped me deepen my faith and appreciate the rich Catholic history and devotion of the Mexican people.

My encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe was especially meaningful. Standing before her sacred image, I felt a deep sense of peace, comfort and gratitude. I was reminded that Mary is a loving mother who always leads us closer to Jesus. I offered her my prayers, intentions, family and loved ones, trusting in her maternal care and intercession.

Throughout the pilgrimage, I experienced God not only in the beautiful churches and sacred places, but also in the prayers, faith, and devotion of the people I encountered. The journey gave me time to pause, reflect and listen to God in a deeper way. I realized that a pilgrimage is more than visiting holy places. It is a journey of the heart — a time to renew my faith, surrender my worries, and draw closer to God. I pray that Our Lady of Guadalupe will continue to guide, protect and bring me closer to her Son, Jesus.

Alejandra Diaz Diocesan Pastoral Center

The first time I visited Mexico City and the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe was in 2010. On that occasion, I was there on vacation and because I was not close to my faith at the time, visiting her was not a priority.

Now that I am very close to my Catholic faith, I wanted to see her this time with a different set of eyes: eyes of love, faith, hope and much excitement!

Needless to say, this time around I was filled with much emotion knowing we were in the presence of Our Lady!

I knew Bishop Pulido assigned me to serve as a reader in one of the Masses during the pilgrimage, but I definitely did not expect to serve at the main altar of the basilica. The feeling of being very close

to her as I stood in front of the congregation delivering the readings overwhelmed me with so much emotion; it brought tears to my eyes. It is an experience I will cherish eternally!

Lee Hulburt St. Brigid Parish

Our motivation for going on this pilgrimage was primarily about my (deacon) husband's great interest in Our Lady of Guadalupe. We also thought going with a group the first time would be an easy way to access everything without being Spanish-speakers, and it definitely was.

My experience of going to the basilica, meditating on the apparitions and finally beholding the tilma was profound. I felt Our Lady's presence and did not want to leave.

During our faith-sharing late in the pilgrimage, a few other women lamented the difficult and disappointing relationships with their own mothers, and I readily identified with that. What was remarkable was that we had each perceived healing instances from these lifelong wounds. As my aging mother becomes more childlike and helpless from dementia, I am necessarily needed to be "mother" to her. I'm so grateful for the accompaniment Our Lady of Guadalupe has offered me, as a conduit of God's grace, enabling me to regard my mother with a tender love and care that was not explicit for much of my childhood.

Christine Le Holy Family Catholic Church

I was blessed to come on this pilgrimage with my cousin and aunts. To be honest, I came with no expectations. I knew that we would be visiting Our Lady's image on the tilma, but before this pilgrimage, I did not have a close relationship with Mother Mary. I realized on the trip that it was actually my first time praying to her, as it felt unfamiliar at first.

I had a conversation with a fellow pilgrim, and he said something that stayed with me: "Who can say no to their mother?" Those simple words helped me better understand Mary's role in our lives and how she may bring us closer to her Son.

Through conversations with fellow pilgrims, praying the rosary together each day on the bus, and seeing Our Mother's image on the tilma firsthand, I learned to ask for Mary's intercession. We ask her to help us trust in the Lord and find rest in him, for he is our Shepherd.



CLASS REUNION: There were smiles aplenty Aug. 11 as students at Mater Dei Catholic Elementary reconnected with friends on the first day of the new school year, passing below an archway of multicolored balloons to enter the campus.

‘Seeing Them Start a New Year Is a Joy’

By Denis Grasska



The entrance to Mater Dei Catholic Elementary School was a hive of activity Aug. 11.

The parents of about 545 students, from transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, dropped them off between 8 and 8:25 a.m. for the first day of class.

Mater Dei was the first of 39 local Catholic elementary schools to welcome back its students for the 2026-2027 academic year. In total, about 9,300 students are attending Catholic elementary schools this year in the San Diego Diocese. (That number jumps to 15,000 with preschoolers and high schoolers added to the mix.)

At Mater Dei, some students exited directly from their parents' cars and proceeded to the schoolyard. Many parents parked in the lot and walked hand-in-hand with their child to the gate; there, they were greeted by Principal Faina Salter and other staff members as the children passed through an archway of multicolored balloons.

A constant murmur filled the air outside the gate, with the sounds of countless conversations commingling. And there were plenty of smiles, as youngsters and parents spotted friends that they hadn't seen since school let out for the summer. Many photos were taken.

Salter said that she has trouble sleeping when the first day of school is



GETTING ACQUAINTED: Mater Dei students began the new school year by getting to know their new teachers and classmates.

just around the corner, because the logistics give her so much to think about.

But, she said, “When you see all the kids with their smiles, they’re excited to be back, and that’s what reminds us of why we do what we do.”

For Alex Golston, father of a kindergartener and a third-grader, the first day of class means “not a lot of sleep, a lot of preparation before, a lot of hurry, hurry, hurry,” but also pride in his children as they begin another year of learning.

“Seeing them start a new year is always a joy,” he said.

Cynthia Gonzalez, mother of a third-grader, said, “For my daughter, it was very exciting, and she (woke) up this morning so happy and just looking forward to seeing her friends and her

new teacher.”

Parents gave various reasons for choosing Catholic education, and Mater Dei in particular.

Joel Favor, father of an incoming kindergartener and a high school senior, said, “What’s out in the curriculum in the public schools is not in line with our beliefs and our belief system, so what better than a Catholic school?”

“There’s a lot of ‘woke’-type ... curriculum that’s out there,” he said, “and we know that won’t happen here at Mater Dei.”

Erika Murriett and her daughter, fourth-grader Aurelie, are new to Mater Dei this year.

“I don’t know what to expect, but it seems like a good environment for her,” Murriett said.

She explained that she had attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school. But, as a parent, she initially had opted to enroll her daughter in public school. She had a change of heart after finding herself “struggling” when it came to teaching the faith to her daughter.

“I started to realize how important it is to feed your soul,” she said, explaining that she wanted her child to learn “that part that I was taking for granted because I always had it.”

Flavio Garcia, whose daughter is in kindergarten, said that his wife attended Catholic school and that the couple was looking for a school with dual-language immersion.

“Mater Dei was just the best fit for both of our needs,” he said.

Of the new school year, he said, “It’s exciting. She’s here with all of her friends that she went to preschool with (at Green Hills Bilingual Learning Academy).”

Daniel Ortega, father of a second-grader, recalled touring Mater Dei along with other dual-immersion schools in the area.

“We were drawn (to Mater Dei) by the community ... and the warm welcoming that we felt when we first toured when he entered in kindergarten,” Ortega said.

He has seen much growth in his son over the past few years and said, “It’s that growth that we’re looking forward to seeing over this next year in second grade.”

Schools' New Partnership Bearing Fruit

By Denis Grasska



St. John of the Cross School and Cathedral

Catholic High School have entered into an exciting new partnership.

Not all of the details are finalized, but it's already up and running.

"We're still wrapping our minds around what this will look like," said Father Anthony Jimenez, associate pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove, who began the process in late January with a brief meeting with Dr. Kevin Calkins, president of Cathedral Catholic.

The partnership was officially announced on May 31 in a letter to both school communities, signed by Calkins; Lupita Hernandez, principal of St. John of the Cross School; and Father Jimenez.

Founded in 1948, St. John of the Cross was the first Catholic school in East County. There are currently about 120 students.

A torrential rainstorm severely flooded the campus in January of 2024, forcing the school to relocate to the former campus of St. Michael Academy in Paradise Hills for the rest of that school year. Hernandez said the associated costs "significantly depleted our already slim budget" and "left a



CLEAN-UP: About 50 Cathedral Catholic students spent about three hours at St. John of the Cross School Aug. 8, pulling weeds and painting a wall in the rear parking lot to beautify the campus.

lasting mark on the school enrollment and finances."

The nascent partnership between St. John of the Cross and Cathedral Catholic is already bearing fruit with several examples of collaboration between the two communities and with Cathedral Catholic's assistance in making campus improvements at St. John of the Cross.

Between March and May, upgrades were already being made at St. John of the Cross, with the help of Cathedral Catholic, whose Facilities Department visited the campus with some of its contractors to do an assessment.

Father Jimenez shared that more

than 10 overgrown palm trees have been trimmed. Dilapidated shade sails in the lunch area also were replaced.

"Our contractors did a lot of this work pro bono," Calkins said.

On June 10, Calkins spoke to the St. John of the Cross community about the "initial rollout of the partnership and what it'll mean," said Father Jimenez, who noted that Calkins was joined by "upwards of 14 faculty and staff" from Cathedral Catholic.

Hernandez said that more than 30 of her students participated in a two-week summer camp offered by Cathedral Catholic in late June and early July.

Lindsey Koenigsfeld, accounts payable specialist at Cathedral Catholic, is temporarily serving double duty as business manager at St. John of the Cross. Discussions also are underway for Cathedral Catholic to provide — and pay the salary for — a teacher to work full-time at St. John of the Cross.

On Aug. 7, both schools' faculty and staff attended a retreat at St. Therese of Carmel Parish.

Reflecting on the partnership, Hernandez said, "To me, more than anything, it's working as a Church, as one Catholic Church, as brothers and sisters together, for a common good."

Calkins emphasized, "St. John of the Cross is running St. John of the Cross School. We're not trying to take it over. We're just trying to be helpful."

Cathedral Catholic is "following the lead" of the pastor, Father Ricardo Juarez, and Hernandez, said Calkins. "Whatever their needs are, we're just trying to say, 'Here's what we can do.'"

There has been discussion of creating what Father Jimenez described as "a more formalized pipeline" for St. John of the Cross students to attend Cathedral Catholic.

"There's nothing firm yet," said Calkins, but "we want to make sure that students who go to St. John of the Cross know that there's a pathway for them" to a Catholic high school.



DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS Mass

Celebrant:
Most Rev. Felipe Pulido, Aux. Bishop

October 11, 2026 11:30 AM

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
13541 Stoney Creek Road
San Diego 92129

Reception with Guest Speaker:
Dr. George Delgado, COLFS Medical Director
following Mass at OLMC, Fr. Frank Fawcett Fawcett Hall

Scan for more Information and RSVP



<https://sdcatholic.org/event/healthcare-professionals-mass-2026/>



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WHERE St. Mary Magdalene Church
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SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | 2 P.M.



Waterfront Park
1600 Pacific Hwy,
San Diego, CA 92101



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Eight Schools Welcome New Principals

By Denis Grasska



SAN DIEGO —
The Principal's
Office has a new
occupant this year at eight
local Catholic schools.

Brooke Brundy

St. Mary's School

Brooke Brundy had never pictured herself as a teacher.

But friends from school told her that she was "very good at explaining things."

As a college graduate, she went back home to the Imperial Valley, where her mother shared that St. Mary's School in El Centro, where Brundy had attended preschool and kindergarten, had a job opening for a fifth-grade teacher.

"I decided to apply to take a moment and decide what I wanted to do next," said Brundy, who ultimately decided to continue as an educator.

She would teach at St. Mary's for five years, followed by teaching positions at other schools, including St. Michael Academy (now closed) and St. Didacus School, both in San Diego.

"God was the one who orchestrated my career," she said, explaining how she became a Catholic educator 12 years ago.

When it came to her decision to seek the position of principal at St. Mary's School, she credits the same Person.

"Again, it was all God," she said. "I cannot really explain it, but everything lined up (so) perfectly that I knew it was God. There was a need, I prayed about it, and God gave me the perfect sign."

Brundy holds a bachelor's in Health Science, with an emphasis in Chemistry, from Colorado Christian University, and a Master of Education degree with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), emphasis in Educational Leadership, from the University of San Diego.

She said her goal for this year at St. Mary's is "that my students can see Christ reflected in their teachers, in each other, and in themselves; that they leave St. Mary's School ready to set the world ablaze as Christ sent out his disciples."

"I want them to enter St. Mary's to learn," she said, "and leave ready to serve, wherever God takes them."

Sister Susana del Toro-Vargas, SJS

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School

Sister Susana del Toro-Vargas, a member of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, became a teacher in response to a divine call.

"It was a calling from God," she said. "In fact, I didn't want to be a teacher, until I realized the solution to many of our society's problems is a faith-based

education, loaded with Gospel values."

She accepted the position of principal at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School this year, not out of a desire for career advancement, but in response to "the needs of my religious community."

Born and raised in Mexico, Sister del Toro-Vargas is new not only to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, where she now serves as principal, but also to San Diego. She moved here on July 2.

Though she exclusively attended public schools, she said that Catholic schools are special because of "the privilege to teach, share and instill the beauty of our faith in our children."

Sister del Toro-Vargas earned a bachelor's in Liberal Studies from the University of Northridge and a master's in Administration and Leadership from the Jesuit University of San Francisco, and she has 20 years of experience in education.

She began that career as a junior high religion teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy in Calexico from 2006 to 2009.

At Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Bakersfield, she was a junior high teacher from 2009 to 2012 and principal from 2012 to 2023.

Prior to her current assignment, she returned to Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, Calexico, to teach junior high religion from 2024 to 2026.

Reflecting on her new role, she said, "I'm called to trust God as I come to serve a community totally new to me. I look forward to building caring relationships, practicing servant leadership and being part of the great mission of our Church to evangelize others and myself. The challenges I foresee are keeping the school community safe, meeting the needs of all students and inviting parents to be practicing Catholics."

Tina Demarchi

Holy Trinity School

Tina Demarchi began attending Catholic school in fifth grade.

"This experience grounded me in our Catholic beliefs and traditions and provided a Catholic community and foundation where my faith could grow," she said.

Demarchi earned a bachelor's in International Relations and Religious and Theological Studies, a dual major, at the University of San Diego, where she later earned a master's in International Business Administration.

As an educator, she spent five years running a homeschool-focused tutoring business, Almadayo Academic Services, which she co-founded in 2021; eight years as a religious formation teacher at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá; and more than 15 years as a parent guiding her four children in their schooling.

Of her new role as principal of Holy Trinity School, she said, "This is my first formal experience working in a Catholic school in a professional ca-

capacity, though my years as a religious formation teacher at the Mission gave me a strong foundation in parish life and catechesis."

She also gained firsthand experience from a parent's perspective when her children attended St. Therese Academy and she served on the PTG board for five years.

"I love our Catholic faith and I wanted to be able to serve families that seek to form their children in accordance with their Catholic beliefs, with an education that goes beyond academics alone," she said. "I want to be in a community that seeks God first and incorporates the truth, goodness, and beauty of our Catholic worldview into all subjects and daily routines."

"My number-one goal this year," she said, "is to build on the strengths that make Holy Trinity special: It is a family of families. ... Alongside that, I'm working to strengthen our curriculum across every grade and to put the school on solid financial footing, so that the community we already have can keep growing for years to come."

Joshua Englund

St. John School

Joshua England wasn't the product of Catholic education — and for good reason: He was a nondenominational Christian until his conversion to Catholicism 25 years ago, two years after his wedding at St. James Catholic

Church in Solana Beach.

Today, however, he's a strong advocate for Catholic education.

"What makes Catholic education so special is that it is faith-based, service-oriented and academically excellent," he said. "It is so rewarding to see the students grow in their faith, get excited to serve others through service-oriented projects, and seeing the students excel through their academics."

"Both of my girls attend Catholic education," he added.

Englund holds a bachelor's in Liberal Studies and a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University, San Marcos. He has a certificate in Catholic School Administration from Loyola Marymount University, where he is currently finishing a master's in Educational Leadership.

Altogether, Englund has 21 years of experience in education. Eighteen of those were in Catholic education, specifically at St. Mary Star of the Sea School in Oceanside, where he was principal for the past four years.

He has appreciated how Catholic education allows him to "freely practice my faith and, hopefully, inspire others to be on a faith journey following God."

"The added bonus of being at a Catholic school is the community, parents, faculty and students," he said. "Catholic schools have the best group of parents and students."

Principals Continued on Page 9

Commissioning Mass

OCT. 4, 2026
10:30 AM

- Prayer Warriors
- Sidewalk Counselors
- Culture of Life Ministers

Celebrant:
Most Rev. Felipe Pulido
Aux. Bishop of S.D.

40

40 Days for Life Campaign
Sept. 23 - Nov. 1, 2026
Save lives!
Sign up for vigil hours!

ST. MARY PARISH
1170 S Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Scan the QR code for more info.

OFFICE FOR LIFE, PEACE AND JUSTICE

Principals *Continued from Page 8*

Reflecting on his role as principal of St. John School, he said, "This will be a new challenge for me, as this school is three times larger in enrollment and faculty as my previous school. I am confident that I will rise to the challenge and be an integral part of the St. John community."

He said his primary goal this year will be "to be there for the teachers, students and parents."

Karen Shannahan

St. Mary Star of the Sea School

It was as a sixth-grader at Holy Trinity School in San Pedro, California, that Karen Shannahan first considered a career in education.



"I liked school, liked teachers, and respected the principal, Sister Paula," she said. "But I ignored my calling to the vocation of teaching for many, many years."

As a result, she has only been in that field for 10 years, but in that time, she has held various roles, including as a teacher of third through fifth grade and as a principal.

"Catholic school gave me the foundation for my faith life and my academic endeavors beyond high school and contributed to my development in virtue, especially faith, charity and self-discipline," said Shannahan, who attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. "Having such a fun experience in Catholic

schools ... meant the world to me and is what brought me to teaching and eventually leading a Catholic school."

Shannahan holds a bachelor's in Business Administration from Minot State University in North Dakota and a master's in Education Administration, Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Oklahoma. She also attended Loyola Marymount University's Catholic School Leadership Certificate program.

Retired with her husband in Colorado Springs, Colorado, they moved back to California in July to be closer to family. She begins her new job at an important moment for the community.

"This is the 75th anniversary of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School," she said. "My goal is to celebrate the Catholic education that the sisters started in Oceanside back in 1951. I want to make it a memorable year for alumni and current families alike."

Of her goals, she said, "I would also like to increase enrollment and have the school bursting at the seams with Catholic students to carry on the sisters' legacy."

Paige Villalobos

St. Therese Academy

Born and raised in Bakersfield, Paige Villalobos is the product of Catholic education, which she credits with having "helped form both the person and the educator I am today."

"I benefited from being part of communities where faith was not something



separate from learning or daily life," she said, "but rather something that shaped how we treated one another, approached challenges, served others, and understood our own purpose."

Villalobos moved to the Bay Area for college and remained in that region for the first 17 years of her career in education.

After eight years as principal of St. John School in the Diocese of Oakland, she moved to San Diego in 2024 to serve as vice principal of St. Therese Academy in Del Cerro.

This year, Villalobos will be leading the school as principal.

"What excites me most is that I am not starting from the beginning," she said. "I have spent two years learning alongside this community and building relationships."

"I have come to know our families and understand many of the traditions and strengths that make St. Therese Academy special," she said. "Now, I have the opportunity to build upon that strong foundation, while helping envision what comes next."

Villalobos holds a bachelor's in Liberal and Civic Studies and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from St. Mary's College of California, as well as an Administrative Services Credential and Master's from the University of California, Irvine.

At Catholic schools, she said, "We are helping children understand who they are, whose they are, and how they are called to use their God-given gifts in the world."

"We have the privilege of teaching students that achievement and character matter, that faith and reason complement one another, and that how we treat others is every bit as important as what we accomplish."

Amber Wilson

St. Martin of Tours Academy

Amber Wilson's first students were animals.

"I knew from a young age that I would one day work in education because I had the best teachers and I wanted to be just like them," she said. "I even remember lining up my stuffed animals and pretending to be their teacher when I was (in) about third grade."

A native San Diegan, Wilson earned a bachelor's in Early Childhood Education from San Diego State University and a master's in Teaching from National University.

She has worked in education for about 16 years, at various grade levels as well as in special education. About five of those years were in Catholic education.

"Catholic education especially appeals to me because it allows me to help students grow both spiritually and academically," said Wilson, who came to St. Martin of Tours Academy about five years ago after having worked for multiple school districts in East County.

Prior to becoming principal of St. Martin of Tours Academy, she had served there as a sixth-grade and



eighth-grade homeroom teacher and, for three years, as vice principal.

"St. Martin of Tours Academy has always felt like home," she said. "The students, families, parish, teachers and staff have given so much to me, and I felt called to serve this community in a new way by helping lead and support the school I love."

She said she feels "grateful, honored and excited to begin this new role."

"My goal is to listen, learn and build on the many strengths that already make St. Martin of Tours Academy so special," Wilson said.

"I look forward to building relationships, celebrating our wonderful school community, and helping everyone continue to grow together," she said. "I know there will be challenges, but I am confident that, by working together with faith and collaboration, we can meet them."

Sara Odioso

Cristo Rey San Diego High School

A love of math sparked Sara Odioso's desire to become a teacher.



"It is such a beautiful subject that helps us understand patterns in the world around us. However, people stereotypically are fearful of or hate mathematics," said Odioso, who holds a bachelor's in Mathematics from Allegheny College and a Master in the Art of Teaching (MAT), with a Secondary Mathematics focus, from the University of Pittsburgh, main campus.

"I wanted to teach math," she said, "so I could help all students see the beauty of the subject."

When she moved from Pittsburgh to San Diego about nine years ago, Odioso took a teaching position at Nativity Prep Academy. There, she "fell in love with teaching to the whole child."

She believes that this focus on the whole child — a concept that means addressing a student's social, emotional, spiritual and physical, as well as academic needs — is something that makes Catholic education special.

"Content is important," she said, "but how we use our knowledge in the world once we go to college and start our careers is what helps change the world."

Of her 15 years as an educator, nine of those years have been in Catholic education.

Most recently, she was dean of curriculum and instruction at Cristo Rey San Diego High School, from 2023 until becoming the school's principal this year.

"This is a big role, and I take that responsibility seriously," said Odioso, who is pursuing a Doctor of Education in Education Leadership, with a focus on Math and Science, at San Diego State University.

"Having had the pleasure of working with this community for the past three years," she said, "my primary goal is to support our teachers in continuing their growth, to learn more about each of our students and families, and to listen and learn from the community, so we can best support its individual needs."

St. Pius X Jamul

63rd Jamulfest-Gymkhana 2026

Sunday, October 11, 2026

14107 Lyons Valley Road,
Jamul CA 91935

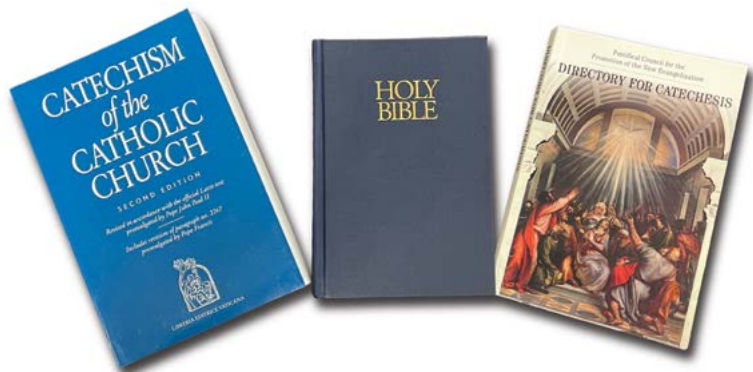
Parade at 9am
Festivities 10am - 5pm

Craft Fair, Raffles, Beer Garden,
Live Entertainment & More!

Scan the QR Code or call (619)669-0085.

Becoming a Catechist

Catechetical certification is a requirement for all religion teachers in parishes and Catholic schools. The levels of certification are: Basic Catechist and the Advanced Certification “Tessera.”



Basic Catechist

The Basic Catechist Formation Certification (BCFC) is offered at various locations throughout the diocese, including a hybrid option in-person/virtual. The hybrid option for Catholic school teachers is offered in partnership with the University of San Diego. The online BCFC version remains available, enabling catechists and teachers to receive their certification through a 48-hour course. For up-to-date schedules of upcoming courses, visit sdcatholicdisciples.net.

As an alternative, a prospective catechist can also take three courses through the Diocesan Institute that are equivalent to the Basic Catechist course. These are: C110-Catechism of the Catholic Church, S100-Faith Growth: Childhood & Early Adolescence or S150-Adult Faith Formation and S120-Catechetical Methods.

Tessera (Advanced Certification)

The Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry and the Diocesan Institute offer an advanced certification program called “Tessera.”

The Tessera, which takes its name from a Latin word for “entry pass” and “mosaic tile,” marks an intermediate level of catechetical ministry, which requires a significant component of formation and also represents the gateway to greater leadership.

Completing a Tessera means the catechist has advanced beyond the Basic level. The Tessera identifies a common level of participation by volunteer catechists, who are not the point person in charge but an active, committed member of a parish catechetical team, for example, in OCIA or children’s catechesis.

Renewal of Certification

Religion certification expires three years from the date of issuance. For continued eligibility to teach religion, teachers and catechists must renew their catechetical certificate before the date of expiration.

Thirty renewal hours are required every three years. These hours can be earned through a combination of the following: courses (in Scripture, Morality, Methodology, etc.) at a Catholic university or the Diocesan Institute; and workshops, conferences and in-services offered by the Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry, the Office for Schools, the Anaheim Religious Education Congress and recognized catechetical organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry at LTrent@sdcatholic.org or (858) 490-8232.



- sdcatholicdisciples.net
- facebook.com/SDdisciples
- pinterest.com/oecmsd
- x.com/oecmsd
- instagram.com/oecmsd
- sdevangelization.flocknote.com



‘I Have Always

Two long-time catechists in the Diocese of San Diego share how they came to teach the faith and the joys that have kept them returning year after year.



DEDICATED: Susan Ferraris has served as a catechist for 42 years. In addition, she works at St. Mary Church in Escondido, assists members and their families at three bases and hosts a weekly Bible study. She is pictured on July 28 before the church’s daily Mass, where she served as a lector.

42 Years

Susan Ferraris, St. Mary (Escondido)

I became a parish catechist in 1974 because a teddy bear of a priest, Father Earl Ullman, approached me as I was teaching in San Diego Unified School District to “help out” with a First Communion class on Saturday mornings at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista.

I pushed back! I was raising my girls, had just had a baby and was trying to get my full teaching credentials by taking classes at SDSU. I gave him so many excuses. He was insistent that I was the perfect person for the task. I wasn’t so sure. I had no training as a catechist.

My daughter was in Catholic school; I taught in the public schools. Why was I needed? Father Ullman got me with, “How can you say you are living your faith to the fullest when you are receiving all of God’s graces but not giving back?” I thought about that for a week and couldn’t come up with an excuse. He had used the same reasoning with another public school teacher in Vista and so we were the first teachers to teach First Communion classes on a Saturday morning at the parish. No more excuses.

I continued as a catechist because I love a challenge and the needs were so obvious. I went from teaching a class for receiving the Eucharist to sweet second-graders, to organizing and becoming the coordinator for all the First Communion classes, to being the coordinator for all elementary sessions.

I needed to be “schooled” in the faith as well as my students did. Each position made me learn more about the faith I had been fortunate enough to be born into but had never explored fully. I took classes at USD, at the diocese, and online. I gave

Nearly 11,000 Children Learning Faith

In the Diocese of San Diego, catechists at parishes across the San Diego and Imperial Valley region are currently providing religious education for 10,829 children.

They range in age from preschool through eighth grade.

Catechetical Sunday

The Southern Cross

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor.”

That verse from the Gospel of Luke (4:18) is the theme for Catechetical Sunday 2026.

Observed on the third Sunday in September, Catechetical Sunday presents an annual opportunity to celebrate the ministry of those who bring the “Good News” of the Catholic faith to others. This year, it’s celebrated on Sept. 20.

At parishes throughout the diocese, during Masses celebrated that weekend, parish religious education instructors and parochial

school teachers and receive a public commissioning.

At a communion, catechists last Michael Pham said, “You are sent to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

“Every one of our baptism, to go out in the love of Jesus to the bishop co-

“We live in our witness — to forgiveness and peace.”

Loved This Ministry'

workshops to other teachers. I became a certified catechist in 1981 and then a master catechist in 1984.

A sweet little Irish gnome of a priest, Msgr. Tom Byrne, encouraged me to take on more because he "needed me." It was fun interacting, sharing and learning from others, as well as being a resource for others. There is so much richness in the faith we share and we oftentimes never explore below the surface. This was my chance to grow and learn and pass it on.

When I began teaching adults in the catechist certification course, I truly had to dive into Catholic history and tradition. What a tremendous eye-opener to the richness of our religion and its prophets, popes, doctors of the Church and leadership! What a great way to serve and be served!

To anyone considering becoming a catechist, I would say, be ready to be challenged, questioned and informed. You will never learn as much about your faith as when a child, teenager or adult asks a question you cannot answer. Now you must respond truthfully, "I don't have the answer, but let's find out together!" And you do. That stays with you and your students. Teachers always feel they must have all the answers to teach, but oftentimes it's the excitement of finding out that deepens faith. So, accept the challenge and jump on in!

35 Years

Juliana Castille, St. Rita

In the 1950s, my family moved from New Orleans to San Diego. Initially, we lived in Navy housing, then moved to a Southeast San Diego community.

Our family attended Sunday Mass at St. Rita Catholic Church. My brothers and I attended religious education classes on Saturday mornings. Sometimes, we were picked up by bus and other times we walked.

When my parents were able to buy a house, we moved to the corner of Logan and West Streets. In that community, we were between St. Rita's and St. Jude's. I graduated from St. Jude Academy, attended Regina Coeli High (closed in 1966), then I attended Rosary High, and graduated from Morse High.

As a parent, I took my two sons to religious education at St. Rita's. A dear family friend, Edwina Recasner, recruited me to teach religious education on Saturdays while my sons attended CCD.

Sister Margaret Castro became our director, and Sister Dina Garcia joined the staff. And, as they say, an endearing religious family developed throughout the years.

I have loved this ministry. I have met wonderfully devoted, faith-based people. Being a part of teaching children about our Catholic faith, to love God and to respect all people, has been our mission.

As catechists, we have been blessed to share our faith in a multicultural family community. Everyone has God-given gifts to share with people. Just allow your spiritual light to shine on all people you meet.

Our faith mission is simple: "Love God above all" and "love each other." Amen!



Juliana Castille, left, and Sister Margaret Castro formed an "endearing religious family" at St. Rita Church.

y: 'The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me'

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said, "I'm very grate-
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and share the love of
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has been empowered
he world to share the
to our society today,"
continued.

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- witness to love, wit-
ness, and witness to

On Sept. 28 of last year, Pope Leo XIV celebrated a Mass for the Jubilee of Catechists.

In his homily, the pope said, "The catechist is a person of the word — a word that he or she pronounces with his or her own life. Thus, our first catechists are our parents: those who first spoke to us and taught us to speak. Just as we learned our mother tongue, so too the proclamation of the faith cannot be delegated to someone else; it happens where we live, above all in our homes, around the family table. When there is a voice, a gesture, a face that leads to Christ, the family experiences the beauty of the Gospel."

How to Become a Catholic



Gratitude for Decades of Teaching the Faith

More than 2,000 women and men serve as catechists across the San Diego-Imperial Valley region. The diocese celebrates the significant milestones of the following individuals.

40+ Years

Susan Ferraris, St. Mary (Escondido)

35+ Years

**Juliana Castille, St. Rita
Rosa Murguia, St. Jude**

30+ Years

**Linda Arreola, Corpus Christi
Felisa Hornecker, St. Charles (IB)
Vicky Jiménez, Our Lady of Refuge
Vicente Leal, St. James/St. Leo
Yvonne Trujillo, St. Charles (IB)**

25+ Years

**Alicia Gutierrez, St. Mary (National City)
Tammy Mansir, Guardian Angels**

20+ Years

**Christine Avella, St. Timothy
Carmen Burgos, St. Charles (IB)
Irma Covarrubias-Lugo, St. Jude
Araceli Gonzalez, Mission San Luis Rey
Pilar Ignacio, St. Mary (National City)
Alicia Policarpio, St. Charles (San Diego)
Adriana Rodriguez, Mission San Luis Rey
Charlotte Stewart, St. Rita
Mike Wickham, Corpus Christi**

15+ Years

**Margit Dornisch, St. Patrick (Carlsbad)
Trinidad Estoesta, St. Charles (IB)
Lurdes Lua, St. Charles (IB)
Elena Platas, St. Didacus
Teresa Moya, Sacred Heart (Brawley)**

10+ Years

**Hilda Diaz, Our Lady of Guadalupe (CV)
Claudia Drachenberg, Sacred Heart (Coronado)
Chris Franco, Our Lady of Grace
Maria Galace, Mater Dei
Carol Gamara, Mission San Diego
Susana Hernandez Figueroa, St. John the Evangelist (Encinitas)
Lissa Hutcheson, Mission San Diego
Patty Mann, St. Elizabeth Seton
Ascencion Medina, Our Lady of Angels
Elizabeth Pastrana, Holy Trinity
Blanca Rodriguez, Christ the King/St. James-St. Leo
Maria Valencia, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Chula Vista)
Cesar Varela, St. John the Evangelist (Encinitas)**



WATERWAYS: Three of five environmentally impacted waterways guiding our Diocese of San Diego 2026 “Season of Creation” journey in the company of Sister Water — the Colorado River, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Tijuana Estuary.

Celebrating ‘Season of Creation’ with Sister Water

By Christina Bagaglio Slentz, Ph.D.



The Season of Creation (SOC) is a time for all

Christians to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment together.



This time of reflection and action begins on Sept. 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Notably, this year marks the 800th anniversary of St. Francis’ death.

The global theme of this year’s Season of Creation is “Immersion in Living Water,” based on Ezekiel 47:9-12. As our Church celebrates the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of St. Francis, our diocesan Creation Care Ministry is especially embracing the saint’s fraternal relationship with “Sister Water,” whom he describes as “so very useful and humble, precious and chaste.”

Each week, our materials, social media postings and in-person events explore a different impacted waterway in our diocese. Find event listings and recommended catechetical and liturgical resources in an electronic folder at bit.ly/SOC26Resources, a case-sensitive link. All are invited to follow along, to reflect on our collective relationship with Sister Water, and discern how to improve our care of this gift of creation.

Five Key Waterways

The stories and histories of our five chosen local waterways call us to recognize ecological damage, embrace interconnectedness, and actively work for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish. Family-friendly bulletin inserts/weekly activity sheets in English and Spanish are included in the electronic resource folder to guide you along this journey exploring important themes of Pope Francis’ “Laudato Si’” in the company of Sister Water.

The waterways and themes are as follows:

Week 1 — The Colorado River and the Cry of the Earth

Week 2 — Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Voice of Biodiversity

Week 3 — Chollas Creek and Community Empowerment and Resilience

Week 4 — Lake Wohlford and the Voice of Indigenous Peoples

Week 5 — The Tijuana Estuary and the Cry of the Poor

In addition, several events are scheduled during the month, ranging from our annual student art contest, to blessing a critical waterway, to hikes and clean-ups, to cozy reading time and prayerful discussions. They are listed here and on the diocesan Creation Care webpage. You might also just spend a day with loved ones at the beach, the lake, or pray in gratitude for our relatively easy access to safe drinking water.

Mass for the Care of Creation

As Pope Leo XIV has designated 2026 as the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of St. Francis, our Season of Creation Mass on Sept. 5 this year will be celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista, making attendance a possible pilgrimage experience. For details on how to meet the Jubilee pilgrimage requirements, see the diocesan infor-

mation page at sdcatholic.org/jubilee-year-of-st-francis. Registration for the Mass is requested; scan the QR code on this page or go to the link.

Bishop Pham will be our Mass celebrant, and we are hopeful the USCCB’s finalized language for Pope Leo’s new Mass for the Care of Creation will be approved in time for us to celebrate it. The service will be bilingual and held in the parish’s beautiful outdoor worship space. A Laudato Si’ awards dinner follows. Please share your faith community’s Laudato Si’ action at bit.ly/LSAction25-26; no action is too big or small.

Finally, we ask all to please bring your parish/school/household Laudato Si’ action plans to the Mass. You are also encouraged to bring produce or cut flowers (in a vase) from your parish, school or backyard garden. The flowers will adorn the worship space, and the produce will be donated to a local foodbank. This action launches Bishop Pham’s new “Common Home, Common Ground” initiative to sow beauty and grow food for our community through encounter with the earth, making good use of the Catholic land we steward.

Contact Christina Slentz at cslentz@sdcatholic.org with questions or for assistance.



Scan or go to bit.ly/SOCMass26 to register for our SOC Mass.

‘SEASON OF CREATION’ EVENTS:

Sept. 1, 6 a.m.

Sunrise on the SOC: The Colorado River and the Cry of the Earth; bit.ly/SunriseSOC

Sept. 5, 6 p.m.

Season of Creation Mass and Reception with Bishop Michael Pham, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista; bit.ly/SOCMass26

Sept. 12, 9 to 11 a.m.

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Voice of Biodiversity, Hike and Cleanup; bit.ly/PenLagoon

Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to noon

Chollas Creekside Park, Stewardship Learning Event, Community Empowerment and Resilience; bit.ly/ChollasCreeksideEvent.

Now through Sept. 21 (11:59 p.m.):

SOC Youth Art Contest (grades 4-12). Submit your “Living Water”-inspired drawings, colorings or paintings by Sept. 21. Register now at bit.ly/SOC_ArtContest_2026.

Now through Oct. 4:

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, commemorating the 800th anniversary of his death. Lead a celebration at your parish or school.

Oct. 5

A community read, “Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice,” Ched Myers; Zoom discussion, 7 p.m.; link at bit.ly/SDCCPage.



Send pictures of your family or parish illustrating Care for Creation to cslentz@sdcatholic.org. We will post them on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

sdcatholic.org/creation



Learning to Read the Map



Before there was a story, there was a map.

The map contained the story. Robert Louis Stevenson just had to stare at it long enough.

Eventually, characters emerged from the woods, and he began scrawling a list of chapters. “Treasure Island” was born.

Nearly a century and a half later, the book still haunts and delights readers.

It all started during summer vacation back in 1881, when the 30-year-old writer joined his wife and 13-year-old stepson, Lloyd, in the Scottish Highlands. On rainy days, they would draw together. Stevenson sensed that the teen needed something “craggy to break his mind upon,” he later wrote. He was thinking in geography — cliffs, hazards, drama.

One day, Stevenson drew a map of an island, adding color and labeling it “Treasure Island.”

Columnist

Christina Capecchi



“The shape of it took my fancy beyond expression,” Stevenson recounted. “It contained harbors that pleased me like sonnets.”

Maps had always fascinated him, with “the shapes of the woodlands, the courses of the roads and rivers, the prehistoric footsteps of man still distinctly traceable up hill and down dale, the mills and the ruins, the ponds and the ferries ...,” Stevenson wrote. “Here is an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man with eyes to see or twopence-worth of imagination to understand with!”

The key is what happened after Stevenson sketched the map. He studied it. He entered into it. And his imagination

began filling it in, like “a child staring into the infinitesimal forest and seeing it grow populous with fairy armies.”

“As I paused upon my map of ‘Treasure Island,’” Stevenson wrote, “the future character of the book began to appear there visibly among some imaginary wood,” and then more faces and weapons “peeped out upon me from unexpected quarters, as they passed to and fro, fighting and hunting treasure, on these few square inches of flat projection.”

Stevenson’s genius wasn’t simply drawing the map. It was refusing to rush past it. He lingered long enough for a story to emerge.

If you’re seeking direction in life, hoping for arrows and nudges that lead to some treasure, the Catholic Church offers a remarkably detailed map. This is partly because we’re the oldest Christian Church and partly because we draw on both Scripture and Tradition. Over two millennia, the Church has amassed an extraordinary inheritance of wisdom, guidance and lived experience.

Open the map and you’ll notice you aren’t the first person to carry it. The margins are full. A saint has penciled a note beside a steep climb. An ecumenical council has clarified a fork in the trail that once confused travelers. A Doctor

of the Church has sketched the contours of prayer. The *Catechism* points toward a safe harbor when the way grows foggy. Folded inside are diaries of saints and encyclicals from popes, weathered guides from fellow pilgrims who learned the terrain before us.

Combined, these careful observations don’t rewrite the map. They help the rest of us read it.

The map isn’t merely beautiful. It’s practical, shedding light on human nature. The *Catechism*, for instance, begins with this profound claim: “The desire for God is written in the human heart” (CCC 27). We spend so much of life chasing happiness. The *Catechism* reframes the search, explaining that our restlessness isn’t a flaw to overcome, but a clue to follow.

Stevenson never set out to write a masterpiece. He drew a map. Then, he lingered long enough for it to reveal its secrets.

God has given us a map, too. Not one that eliminates mystery, but one rich enough to reward a lifetime of attention. The treasure isn’t reserved for those who race ahead. It’s found by those willing to pause, to study and to enter into the story.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Grey Cloud Island, Minn.



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Unpacking Faith: Saint a 'Slave to Slaves'

By Denis Grasska



The Church celebrates the Memorial of St. Peter Claver on Sept. 9.

Who is St. Peter Claver?

Born in late 16th-century Spain, he was a Jesuit priest who served as a missionary in Cartagena, Colombia, for 44 years until his death in 1654.

What is he best known for?

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Cartagena was “the chief slave mart of the New World,” with about 1,000 African slaves arriving there monthly.

St. Peter Claver was known for his ministry to them. He visited the new arrivals, bringing them food and showing them compassion, and helped the wounded and sick among them. He also taught them the faith and baptized them, even learning one African language and assembling a group of interpreters to do so.

The *Encyclopedia* says that, over the course of his ministry, he baptized and taught the faith to more than 300,000 Africans.

When making final vows as a Jesuit in 1622, he signed his name as “Peter Claver, slave of the Ethiopians forever.” (“Ethiopian” was then a term used to describe all Black people.)

When did Peter Claver become a Catholic saint?

St. Peter Claver was beatified on July 16, 1850, by Blessed Pope Pius IX. He was canonized on Jan. 15, 1888,



PATRON: In the Sanctuary of St. Peter Claver Church, in Cartagena, Colombia, a statue of its namesake stands above the main altar, below which his remains are encased in glass.

by Pope Leo XIII. On July 7, 1896, Pope Leo also named him patron of all Catholic missions among African populations.

How can we honor St. Peter Claver's legacy?

In 2016, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops established a Na-

tional Day of Prayer for Peace to be held annually on Sept. 9. According to the USCCB, “This initiative was introduced to foster open, honest and respectful dialogue within communities facing heightened tensions and acts of violence. The Feast of St. Peter Claver is an occasion for increased prayer and action to strive for peace in our communities.”

Who are the Knights of Peter Claver?

The Knights of Peter Claver is an international fraternal service order, similar to the Knights of Columbus, but created for Black Catholics. It is the oldest lay-led Black Catholic organization still in existence. However, membership is open to those of all races.

It was founded in 1909 in Mobile, Alabama, by four Josephite priests and three laymen. The Ladies Auxiliary was authorized in 1922.

With its headquarters in New Orleans, the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary are composed of parish-level “councils” of Knights and “courts” of Ladies.

Do the Knights of Peter Claver have a presence in San Diego?

Yes, the Diocese of San Diego is home to Knights of Peter Claver Council/Court 371, which is based at Christ the King Parish, and Council/Court 384, which is based at St. Rita Parish.

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St. Peter Claver Knights, Ladies Lift Parishes

The Southern Cross

 The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver, the nation’s oldest African American Catholic lay-led organization, have a vibrant local presence.

Their mission is service to the parish, the Church and the community. Many of their members have supported the organization for decades.

At Christ the King Parish, members of the Knights and Ladies Council and Court 371 respectively, raise funds and provide other vital support.

At St. Rita Parish, meanwhile, the members support its food bank, organize baskets and toys for needy families, among other activities.

Last June 21, the members of the Knights and Ladies embodied service and joy at the Juneteenth Mass at St. Rita Church.



PHOTOS BY DAVID MAUNG





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Deacon Plants Seeds of God's Love in Prison

By Roman T. Flores



EL CENTRO —
Deacon Sergio Hernandez has been serving not only the faithful of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, but also the incarcerated at Calipatria State Prison, where he serves as chaplain at one of the two state penitentiaries in Imperial County.

Born in Santa Ana, California, the deacon has been a resident of the Imperial Valley since age 2, after his family's business moved to the Calexico-Mexicali area. He spent his youth in Calexico, married and moved to El Centro in 1991.

He was ordained as a permanent deacon in June of 2016, and began in June 2021 his service as chaplain, working at the prison eight hours a day, five days a week.

The Southern Cross interviewed him recently before his 40-minute work commute. Excerpts of his comments follow.

Question: What was your early family life like?

Answer: My dad had an egg delivery route from Santa Ana to Calexico ... As the business grew, they offered him to open up a warehouse in Calexico, and that is what brought us to the Valley.

My mom helped my dad in the business and raised us at home. I am the



Deacon Sergio Hernandez

oldest of three. My wife, Patricia, and I have three children.

Our family was always involved in the Church, so those are good memories of mine: participating in youth group, going to church on Sundays and attending catechism.

When did you feel the call to become a deacon?

I thought my future was going to be to take over my dad's business and become a successful businessman. In 2010, Father Ruben Valenzuela — God rest his soul — and Deacon Domingo (Enriquez) invited some of us to a dinner to speak about the

diaconate. (Afterward) we began to contemplate the diaconate as a couple, and that's kind of where the ball began to roll.

You were ordained in June 2016, in the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

Yes, and that was also the Jubilee Year of Mercy, so it's always nice to remember that God has been very merciful with me.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is not only a mystery, but it is infinite amounts of love. A lot of the (incarcerated folks) have lacked that in their life — love. We all want to be loved. So that's what I do — I try to be an image of Christ and remind them that they are loved.

The Church sees them as our parishioners, though they are incarcerated. (Visiting those in prison) is in the Gospels because Jesus knew that we tend to forget the incarcerated and the sick because we don't see them.

Though we don't always get to see the fruits, my ministry, job and responsibility (are) to just throw and plant the seed. You journey with these men, walk with them for the season of their imprisonment, and share with them the savior, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

How did you become a chaplain at a prison?

Deacon Refugio "Cuco" Gonzalez was the chaplain at the prison before me, and he said to me, "Hey, once I retire, you are going to take over for me." At the time, I just chuckled.

I say (being a deacon and working in the prison) is a blessing because that is where I've seen God take hardened hearts and make them human hearts again. If you see some of these folks outside today, you would never imagine the types of lives they previously lived. When someone shows them kindness, mercy and treats them with dignity, they see that, "Wow, there's another way of living."

The greatest thing I've seen is how drastically God can change your heart if you allow him to; in some ways, I think I've received more than I've actually given.

What are some of your duties as a deacon at OLOV and chaplain?

As a chaplain, my day begins picking up Jesus — consecrated hosts — and taking him to the prison to lead Communion services. We also do a lot of one-on-one, and sometimes they come up to us in the yard. I do a lot of listening. When we get the opportunity, we try to offer some advice or share words of encouragement. We hold Bible studies, catechism, guitar worship class.

I've never felt at risk at the prison.

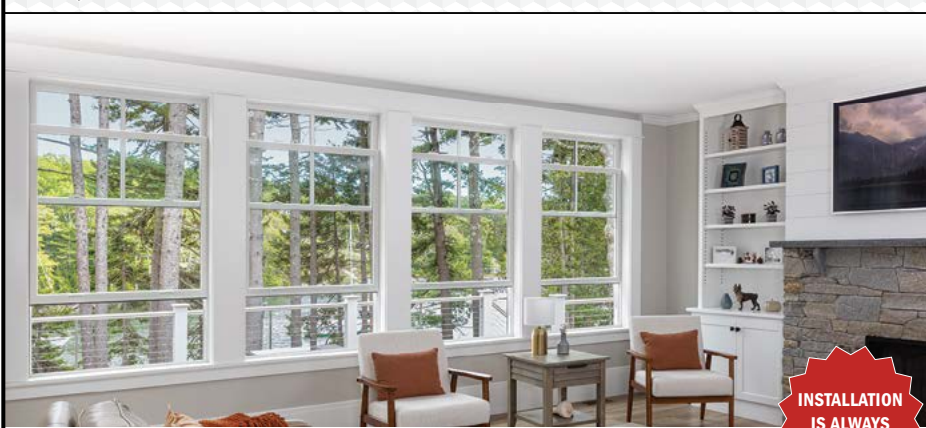
At Our Lady of the Valley, I teach third-grade catechism and OCIA courses in English and Spanish. We do baptisms, quinceañera Masses, funerals, and visit hospice patients.

I can't see myself today not being a deacon. I enjoy serving and love to proclaim the Gospel.



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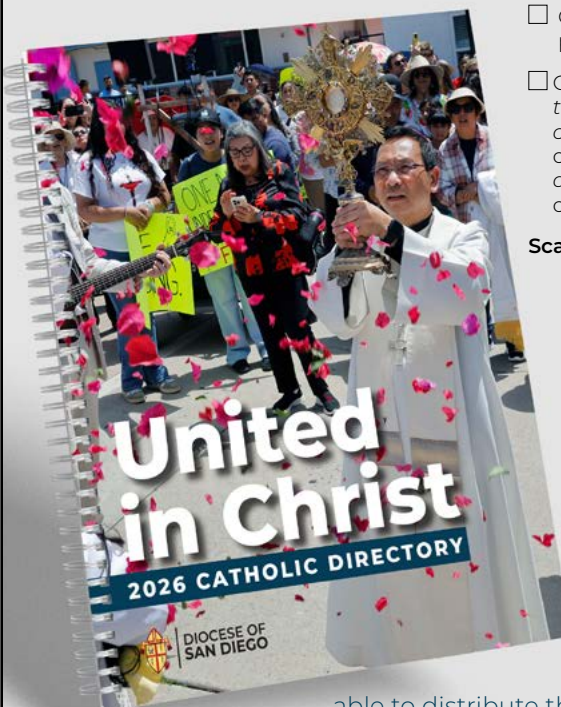
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Scout Builds Kumeyaay Hut at SD Mission

By Denis Grasska



A replica of
a traditional
Kumeyaay

dwelling can now be seen at
Mission Basilica San Diego
de Alcalá.

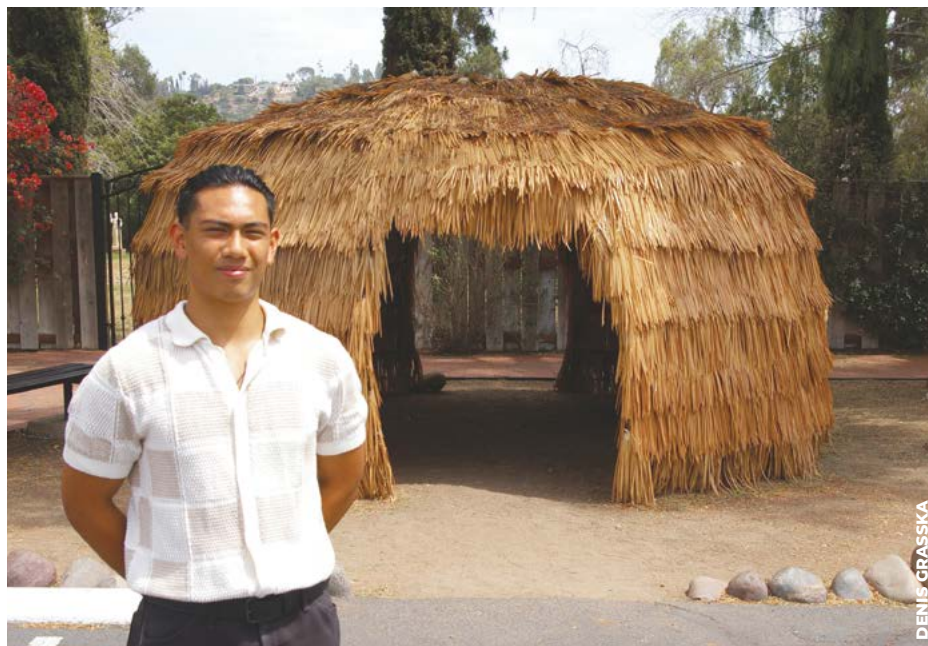
Located southeast of the fountain in the central parking lot, the “ewaa” was constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Athaniel Khirschard Almera, a 17-year-old member of the parish.

An ewaa is a dome-shaped hut that was typically constructed out of willow branches and tules by the Kumeyaay for the winter months.

“Their main purpose is usually to shelter at least one or two families,” Almera explained, adding that they were also used for storage and tribal gatherings.

Almera, who attends Kearny High School, completed his project under the guidance of Deacon Andy Orosco of the Diocese of San Bernardino, who is a Kumeyaay elder from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and with the assistance of many volunteers, including fellow members of Boy Scout Troop 53 and their parents.

In November of last year, Almera reached out to Janet Bartel, volunteer museum facilitator and docent coordinator at Mission San Diego, in preparation for the project. Almera and his team of volunteers worked on



PROJECT: Athaniel Khirschard Almera, a member of Boy Scout Troop 53, stands in front of the “ewaa” that he constructed at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá for his Eagle Scout project.

the project between April 10 and May 18, spending a total of eight days to construct the ewaa.

About \$1,600 in museum funds were used to cover the cost of materials and to provide meals for the team of volunteers taking part in the project.

“Athaniel worked diligently on the Eagle Scout project,” said Bartel, “and we at the Mission are extremely grateful and appreciative of his dedication to this significant addition to our museum displays.”

Bartel told *The Southern Cross* that Almera’s isn’t the first ewaa to grace

the Mission grounds.

“We previously had had ewaas built by a Native American using willow and tule,” she said. “They were much smaller, but were a popular display.”

Because the Kumeyaay were nomadic, ewaas made with those traditional materials were never designed for permanence. Unsurprisingly, the ewaas created for display at Mission San Diego with the same materials would be damaged by years of exposure to the elements and would need to be rebuilt.

At Deacon Orosco’s suggestion, Almera did something different, using

atypical materials to create something that is projected to last 10 years.

Rebar, tied together with wire, provides his ewaa’s basic shape, and the entire thing is covered with artificial thatch roofing. Wooden supports inside help to ensure its stability.

The finished structure is about 18 feet in diameter and about 8 feet tall, Almera said.

It has two entrances, as well as a hole in the roof that would have allowed smoke from a Kumeyaay cooking fire to exit the dwelling.

Almera said that one of the most enjoyable aspects of his project was the opportunity to learn about the Kumeyaay. Before commencing the project, he said, he knew from history textbooks about how colonization led to “disastrous times” for Native Americans, but he hadn’t known much about their way of life.

He hopes that his ewaa will help Mission visitors to appreciate Kumeyaay culture and help to ensure that “they’re not forgotten and rewritten.”

“Athaniel’s work ethic has been an inspiration to me,” said Bartel. “His research on building an ewaa; his PowerPoint presentation to Father Peter (McGuine, the pastor), Deacon Andy, his Scout master, and to me; his dedication to a task that never wavered, despite a few glitches, attest to this fine young man, who represents the future of the Catholic Church.”

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News Briefs

Rachel's Promise Has Grand Opening

The grand opening of Rachel's Promise Center for Women and Children, located on Eighth Avenue in downtown San Diego, was held Aug. 12.

Developed by Catholic Charities in partnership with the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission, Rachel's Promise is a transformational 210-bed shelter and resource center dedicated to serving women and children experiencing homelessness, crisis and instability.

Upcoming Retreat Offers Healing from Abortion

ESCONDIDO — Rachel's Hope will hold a healing retreat for Catholic (or Catholic-friendly) women experiencing suffering and regret after an abortion.

The professionally led retreat will be held from Friday, Sept. 11, to Sunday, Sept. 13, at St. Mary Parish in Escondido. Group size is limited. Confidentiality will be maintained.

The cost to attend is \$120 per person. Partial scholarships are available.

For information, visit RachelsHope.org. To learn more or to register, call (619) 244-5021.

Diocese to Celebrate Filipino Saint

SAN DIEGO — The Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, the first canonized Filipino saint and martyr, will be celebrated on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá.

The rosary will be recited at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido.

Born in Manila in 1594, St. Lorenzo Ruiz became a missionary and sailed to Okinawa in 1636, along with three priests. In Japan, at age 42, he refused to renounce his faith and died after two days of torture.

For information, call (858) 490-8306 or email adiaz@sdccatholic.org.

Training on 'Caring for the Whole Person'

A two-day "Caring for the Whole Person" training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on two Saturdays, Sept. 12 and Sept. 19, at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

Participants will learn how to support and accompany those facing healthcare decisions, serious illness and end-of-life care.

There is no cost to attend, and lunch is included. Register at sdccatholic.org/cwp-2daytraining-2026.

For information, email igonzaalez@sdccatholic.org.

'40 Days for Life' to Begin Fall Campaign

The fall campaign of 40 Days for Life will run from Wednesday, Sept. 23, to Sunday, Nov. 1.

Catholics in the diocese will join millions worldwide in prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

A peaceful prayer vigil is held for 40 days in front of abortion clinics. Such vigils will take place at nine locations in San Diego and Imperial counties, including Chula Vista, Clairemont, College Avenue, downtown San Diego, El Cajon, El Centro, Escondido, Mira Mesa and Vista.

A 40 Days for Life commissioning Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at St. Mary Parish in Escondido.

For information, visit sdccatholic.org/40-days-for-life-locations.

Birthline Holding Line-Dancing Fundraiser

"Line Up for Birthline," an evening of line dancing and fundraising, will benefit Birthline of San Diego.

Birthline is a local nonprofit focused on supporting pregnant women and families with young children.

The fundraiser will be held from 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. The evening includes line dance lessons, food and refreshments, games, and an opportunity drawing. Tickets are \$40 in

advance or \$50 at the door.

For information, visit birthlineofsd.org.

Retrouvaille Weekend to Heal Struggling Marriages

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps a husband and a wife re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together.

The next Retrouvaille weekend will be from Friday, Sept. 25, to Sunday, Sept. 27. English and Spanish weekends will be held in separate locations. The cost is \$700.

For information, visit helpourmarriage-sandiego.org or email joseandmary@helpourmarriage.org.

Weekend Helps Divorced, Widowed Move Past Grief

OCEANSIDE — Divorced, widowed and separated men and women can register for a healing Beginning Experience Weekend.

Held Oct. 9 to 11 at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, the weekend will focus on healing and moving beyond grief in a supportive and caring environment with others that are going through and have gone through the same experiences.

For information, email beginningexperiencesd@gmail.com or call (858) 748-2273.

Women's Organization Celebrating 90 Years

The South Bay Deanery of Catholic Women invites you to join them in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

A luncheon will be held on Monday, Oct. 12, at St. Charles Parish Hall in Imperial Beach, in honor of the 90th anniversary. There will be a Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by program and luncheon.

Over the past 90 years, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has provided support for St. Francis Center for Priestly Formation.

RSVP by Monday, Sept. 21, to Karen Koehler at (619) 428-8397 or Vinnie Thoms at (619) 840-2040.

A check for \$25, made payable to "South Bay Deanery," along with the attendee's name, phone number and parish, can be mailed to: Pat Gojuangco, Treasurer, 1457 Autumn Hills Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91913.

All Invited to 'Awaken the Spirit'

The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) will hold its annual "Awaken the Spirit: The Power of Spirituality in Healing and Recovery" event, from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 24, at United Methodist Church in La Mesa.

It will include keynotes from Deacon John Roberts of Father Joe's Villages and Anna Marie Piconi Snyder, founder of the East County-based homeless ministry You Did It For Me; inspiring stories of transformation from local leaders; and time for reflection.

ISP invites people recovering from homelessness and addiction to encounter God's love, hope and healing through spiritual companionship that transforms lives. It is based on Ignatian spirituality and the 12-Step Program.

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A series of faith-based films will be in theaters for limited engagements in coming months, courtesy of Fathom Entertainment, including at local AMC and Regal locations.

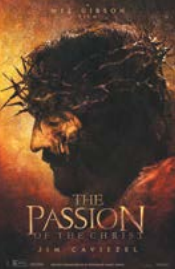
“American Martyr: The Stanley Rother Story” will be in theaters Aug. 25 and 26 in English (narrated by Martin Sheen) and Aug. 27 in Spanish (dubbed; narrated by Father Rafael Capó). The documentary film recounts the story of Blessed Stanley Rother, a missionary priest from Oklahoma who was martyred 45 years ago during the Guatemalan Civil War.



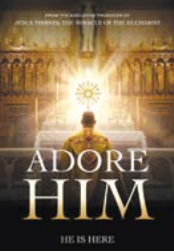
“Heaven in Stone and Glass,” a documentary hosted by Bishop Robert Barron of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, will be in theaters Sept. 20 and 23. Word on Fire describes the film as a “cinematic pilgrimage through France’s Gothic cathedrals to recover sacred mysteries written in rose windows, winding labyrinths and soaring towers.”



“The Passion of the Christ,” director Mel Gibson’s 2004 film about the final hours of Jesus’ life, will return to theaters Sept. 10 to 17. As a bonus, moviegoers will get a sneak peek at Gibson’s follow-up film, “The Resurrection of the Christ: Part One,” which is scheduled to be released in theaters on May 6, 2027; “Part Two” is set to follow on May 25, 2028.



“Adore Him: He Is Here,” in theaters Oct. 4 to 8, is a docudrama about Eucharistic adoration. According to its website, “Adore Him” is a documentary film exploring what happens when Catholics rediscover the gift waiting for them in every tabernacle. Through stories of conversion, healing and renewed faith, it makes the case for what the Church has always known: that time spent before the Blessed Sacrament changes everything.”



For theater locations and showtimes, visit fathomentertainment.com.

Mary Elizabeth Accardi, LMFT

MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILD COUNSELOR

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Obituary

Gerald “Jerry” Francis Dolan



MENIFEE, Calif. — Gerald “Jerry” Francis Dolan, the father of Bishop John Dolan, died peacefully Aug. 9 in Menifee, in Riverside County. He was 96.

Dolan was born on Dec. 2, 1929, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On June 12, 1950, he married his wife, Catherine, at St. Patrick’s Parish in Cedar Rapids. Together, they made their home in San Diego, where they raised their family and shared more than 76 years of marriage.

After living for a number of years in a senior residential community in San Diego, Jerry and Catherine recently moved to a senior community in Menifee to be close to their daughter, Christine.

Dolan is survived by his wife; five children, Cecilia, Steven, Matthew, John and Christine; grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by four of his children, Therese, Sean, Thomas and Mary.

His son Matthew was a former IT director for the Diocese of San Diego. His son John is a former auxiliary bishop of the San Diego Diocese and current bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix.

Priest Assignments

The Office of the Bishop has announced the following priest assignments:

Father Arnold B. Bauro as associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Lakeside, effective Aug. 13

Father William M. Kambo as hospital chaplain at Sharp Grossmont Hospital and UCSD East Campus, effective July 1

Father Regi Mathew as hospital chaplain at Conrad Prebys Cardiovascular Center, Scripps Memorial Hospital and Scripps Green Hospital, effective July 1

And, with the permission of their provincials:

Father Chinh T. Nguyen, SJ, as pastoral associate of UCSD Campus Ministry, effective Aug. 1

Father Oktovinaris Sabnani, cs, as associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Chula Vista, effective Aug. 1

Father Fernando Garcia Lira, Sch.P., as associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico, from Aug. 6 to Nov. 30





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I SHOULD CONTACT
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Sr. Virginia Sturgeon, SSND
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