THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



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RELIC: *More than 2,000 faithful from across the San Diego-Imperial Valley region attended a special event to encounter Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her image is on a replica of the original tilma housed at a shrine in Mexico City. The diocese presented the relic of the tilma publicly for the first time at the multicultural event, held Oct. 10 at Cathedral Catholic High School, the beginning of a five-year local initiative leading up to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Our Lady's transformational apparitions in Mexico.*



'All Are Sacred'

More than 4,000 people proclaim their support for immigrants in a Balboa Park procession. **Page 3**



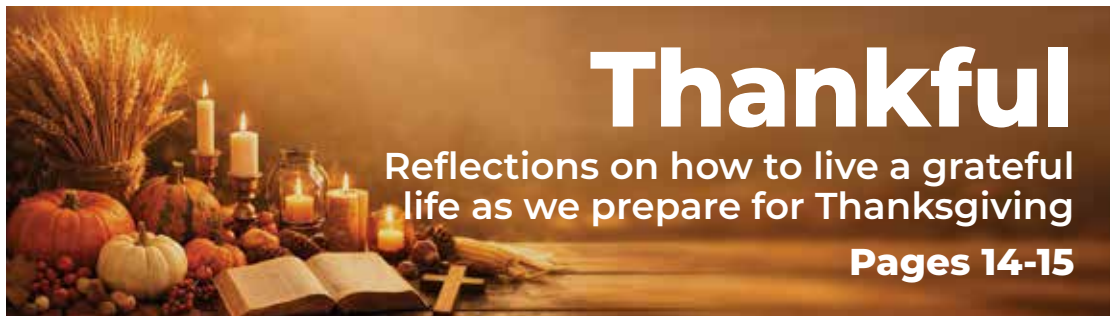
Care for Creation

Students recognized for artwork celebrating creation. **Page 12**



Faith and Work

In 10 years, local Young Catholic Professionals chapter has become largest nationwide. **Pages 16-17**



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THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

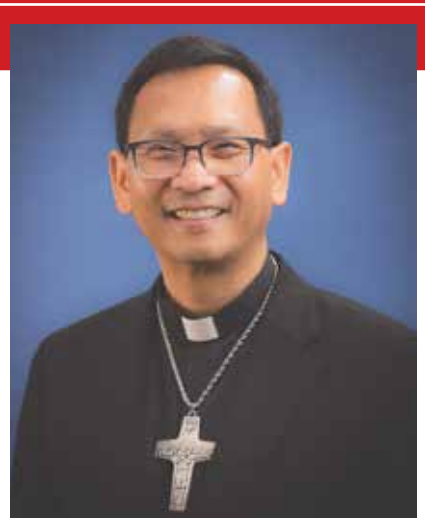
The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.4 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties. It includes 96 parishes and 13 missions, 47 elementary and secondary schools, Catholic Charities and various social service and family support organizations 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.

Immigration Enforcement in San Diego

Statement from Bishop Michael Pham



Last year, in a Special Message, my brother bishops and I stated our opposition to the "indiscriminate mass deportation of people." The immigration enforcement operation currently being implemented in San Diego is an example of this type of immigration enforcement. Therefore, I oppose this operation and urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to suspend it as soon as possible.

Catholic teaching instructs us that a sovereign country has the right to manage its borders and enforce its laws. However, in enforcing the law, Catholic teaching also states that human dignity and human rights of the person must be upheld. In this enforcement initiative, as well as others prior to it, the human dignity and human rights of persons are not being protected.

From reports from Catholics and others in our diocese, immigrants are being arrested indiscriminately, without the proper due process protections that are normally part of our justice system. Immigrants who have been here for decades and have built equities in our nation are being targeted, with families being separated and children left without parents. They are being placed in detention, often without the benefit of judicial review and access to legal representation.

In a statement in February of this year, I joined with several of my brother bishops in outlining the proper safeguards needed to protect human dignity and human rights in our immigration enforcement system. I urge the administration to adopt these safeguards as soon as possible. I also urge our nation's leaders to reform our nation's immigration system so that safe and legal pathways are created for immigration and that residents who have contributed to our nation over time have an opportunity to earn their citizenship.

I offer my prayers for those who live in fear and are facing detention, deportation, and family separation. I also offer my prayers for our law enforcement officials, so that they receive the grace and wisdom to enforce the law with fairness and justice.

Our nation is at its greatest when it welcomes immigrants, who have helped build our country. We are a nation of immigrants. Let us not turn away from this heritage but embrace it, so that we are truly one nation under God. When we celebrated World Day for Migrants and Refugees on Sept. 27 at Balboa Park, we celebrated this basic truth: All are sacred. This is the way God has made us, and this is what we must always stand for.

Pope Back to Work After Surgery

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The tumor removed from Pope Leo XIV's lung was localized, and he will not require any further treatment, *Vatican News* reported Oct. 21.

Doctors at Rome's Gemelli hospital removed the lower lobe of his right lung Oct. 13 after medical tests detected a suspicious growth that was later confirmed to be cancerous. The tissue was diagnosed as adenocarcinoma, a type of cancer that develops in glandular cells.

But the pontiff returned quickly to work.

Pope Leo appeared at the window of the study of the apostolic palace for the traditional Angelus address Oct. 18 after being discharged from the hospital late afternoon Oct. 17 — earlier than expected. The Vatican press office had told reporters that the pope was expected to remain hospitalized for about seven days and that all public events would be canceled through Oct. 20.

During his first full day back at the Vatican after surgery, Pope Leo thanked everyone who prayed for him.

"I have truly felt your support," he said to applause after praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square Oct. 18.

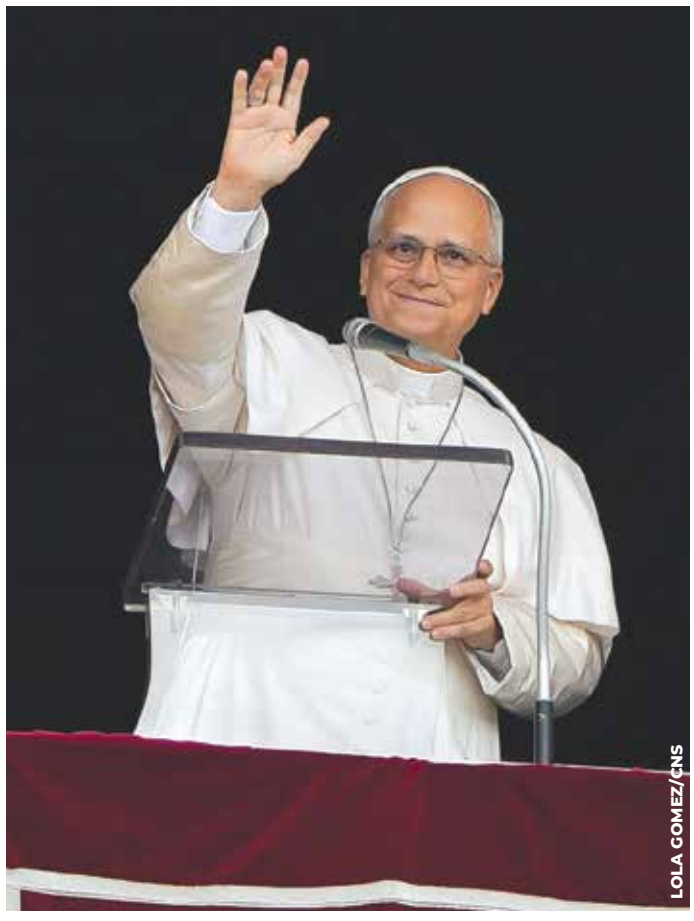
He said, "I am especially grateful to the doctors, nurses and all the staff."

Speaking in his usual forceful and clear voice, the 71-year-old pope said, "Now that I have gotten through this delicate phase, as you know, I will gradually resume my activities, always with God's help and your prayers," he said to applause.

Dr. Stefano Margaritora, the thoracic surgeon who operated on the pope, said, "It takes a couple of weeks to make a truly complete physical recovery."

Asked about Pope Leo's scheduled trans-Atlantic trip to Uruguay, Argentina and Peru Nov. 6 to 17, Dr. Margaritora told *Vatican News* that there are "no clinical reasons why it should not take place."

The Vatican has not announced plans to cancel the trip.



LOLA GOMEZ/CNS

RETURNS: *Pope Leo XIV led the Angelus prayer from the Apostolic Palace on Oct. 18, a day after being discharged from the hospital following surgery to treat a cancerous tumor.*

Dr. Margaritora said the pope's malignant lung tumor was caught entirely by accident during a routine examination, "as is frequently the situation" in these cases.

Lung cancer, in its early stages, causes no symptoms, he said. This just goes to show how important prevention is, he added. Therefore, people, especially those at risk, should undergo regular preventative checkups not only for breast or colon cancers, "but also for lung cancer."

Faith Leaders Unite to Support Migrants

By Aida Bustos

"Our religious traditions may express this truth in different ways, but today people of many faiths stand together to affirm a common conviction … All are sacred."

That's what Bishop Michael Pham proclaimed moments before he and the leaders of several faith traditions led a procession of more than 4,000 people around Balboa Park on a humid, at times rainy Sunday afternoon, to support immigrants.

They had turned out on World Day for Immigrants and Refugees on Sept. 27, along with the leaders from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith traditions. Bishop Pham and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, of the Catholic Diocese of San Diego, participated, as did dozens of priests and deacons, and faithful from at least 33 parishes, some arriving on 14 buses from across the region.

The procession was a partnership among the diocese, the San Diego Organizing Project and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Barrio Logan) and supported by a labor union and community organizations.

The procession came amid the massive deportation campaign the federal government is waging.

Bishop Pham invited faith leaders to meet in mid-August to explore how they could come together to respond to the crisis in their communities. They decided to publicly proclaim their support for immigrants in an interreligious procession called "All Are Sacred," envisioned as an annual event going forward.

Eight faith leaders addressed the participants before the 1.1-mile-long procession, a multi-ethnic, multigenerational throng. Each spoke about how migration shaped their faith and called them to act at this pivotal moment in the nation's history.

"We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person," said the Rev. Justine Sullivan, from the First Unitarian Universalist Church. "Each of us contains within us a spark of the divine ... My little spark and each individual's little spark may not shine that brightly. But when we join together and raise our voices in song and march for justice, then our light shines brightly for all to see."

Then came Imam Taha Hassane, of the Islamic Center of San Diego.

"Throughout history, migration has often been part of the faith journey, borne of deep hardship, displacement and persecution," he began. "When people are forced to flee their homeland, they leave behind homes, livelihoods and memories. They arrive not merely seeking shelter, but seeking dignity, safety and a hand of brotherhood.

"At that point, it becomes a duty for us, as people of faith and goodwill, to protect them, to welcome them, and to advocate for their wellbeing and dignity."



UNITED: *Leaders from various faith traditions participated in a procession around Balboa Park on Sept. 27, World Day for Immigrants and Refugees. They included, from left, Jesuit Father Eduardo Samaniego, Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, Bishop Michael Pham, Rabbi Mike Rothbaum and Deacon Carlos Morales.*



SOLIDARITY: *Rabbi Mike Rothbaum, of the Dor Hadash congregation, and Imam Taha Hassane, of the Islamic Center of San Diego, spoke about how immigration shaped their faiths.*

Rabbi Mike Rothbaum, of the Dor Hadash congregation, also spoke about how migration shaped his faith.

"The foundation story of the Jewish people is the story of Israelite immigrants whose devotion and labor were repaid by pharaohs with bondage and brutality," he began. "Out of that fiery furnace, those refugees received a Torah that teaches no less than 36 times to love and respect and honor the immigrant because we know as Jews what it was like to be immigrants in Egypt, in Europe, and today."

For his part, Bishop Pham began his remarks by recalling the theme that Pope Leo XIV had selected for this year's World Day of Immigrants and Refugees, "Even just one of these children."

"Those words remind us that, before there are questions of politics or policy, before there are arguments about borders and immigration, there is a human person before us," he said. "No matter where we were born, no matter where we now live, no matter what language we speak, and no matter what our immigration status may be, we are all sacred."

The nation has the right to regulate its borders and to establish laws governing immigration, he said, "but how we enforce those laws is a moral and ethical issue. We cannot uphold the law by setting aside human dignity. We cannot allow fear to convince us that some human beings matter less than others.

"Today, people of many faiths stand together to affirm a common conviction: Human dignity is not something a government gives us. It is not something earned by citizenship. It does not depend upon the documents we carry. It belongs to us because we are human beings. For Christians, we say even more: 'Every person is created in the image of God, the image and likeness of God.'"

Bishop Pham, like the other leaders, urged action, individually and collectively.

"When human beings are frightened, faith must speak. When a family faces separation, faith must speak. When people are treated primarily as problems rather than as persons, faith must speak. And our voice must not be a voice of hatred or condemnation. It must be a voice of conscience, a voice of compassion, a voice of justice, a voice that reminds our nation of its deepest values and reminds each of us of our responsibility to one another."

The bishop highlighted the power of moving forward.

"Walking requires us to move … And perhaps that is also what our country needs from us now. We need to move beyond fear, beyond labels, beyond the divisions that tell us we must view one another as enemies. … Our walk cannot end when this procession ends. Tomorrow, we must continue walking with one another in our churches, synagogues, mosques and temples.

"We must continue walking with one another in our schools, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, and especially with those who are afraid to walk alone. … We must speak when human dignity is threatened, and we must work together for immigration policies and practices that are just, humane and worthy of the dignity of every human person.

"All are sacred."

More information and photo gallery

Faiths Come Together to Confront Hate

By Denis Grasska

"This has been so very enlightening."

That's what Father Brent Kruger, CSC, told the audience at the conclusion of an evening focused on anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred, as well as the role that interfaith dialogue can play in opposing these evils.

The event, titled "Confronting Extremism: Oren Segal in Conversation with Father Brent Kruger," was held Sept. 9 at St. Thérèse of Carmel Parish, where Father Kruger serves as pastor.

Co-hosted by ADL San Diego and St. Thérèse of Carmel Parish, it featured a moderated, on-stage conversation between Segal, who serves as senior vice president of counter-extremism and intelligence for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and Father Kruger, who has served since July as diocesan vicar for ecumenical and interreligious affairs. A Q&A session followed.

To an audience that included Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, diocesan Chancellor Marioly Galván, and San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, Father Kruger said, "All the background work that I have had to do on anti-Semitism and on extremism (to prepare for the event) has really made me grow and understand things in a new way, and appreciate my Jewish brothers and sisters' struggle in the world, and know that we are not as different as the world would make us out to be."



CONVERSATION: *Father Brent Kruger, CSC, listens to Anti-Defamation League official Oren Segal during an interreligious event held Sept. 9 at St. Thérèse of Carmel Parish.*

ADL San Diego Regional Director Fabienne Perlov, who moderated the event, reminded participants of the timeliness of the evening's topic. She noted shootings at the Islamic Center of San Diego in May of this year, at Annunciation Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis in August of 2025, and at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in late April of 2019.

Father Kruger began the conversation by sharing that he had moved to the Diocese of San Diego in the aftermath of the shooting at Chabad of Poway and was assigned as associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Poway, which is located only about 2.5 miles away from it.

He recalled that St. Michael Parish, like other houses of worship, was "very nervous and very concerned" about the potential for a copycat attack. To allay those fears and keep the faithful safe, some of the parish's hospitality ministers, who were licensed to carry concealed weapons, would face the doors throughout the entire liturgy.

"I remember being so impressed … how that community actually came together in such a scared moment to act as a support to each other," Father Kruger said.

He later shared that, in response to the tragedy at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, steps were taken locally to improve security at Notre Dame Academy, the school adjoining St. Thérèse of Carmel Parish. And there was "a lot of pushback initially from parents" over the inconvenience of having to sign in to see their own child or to attend school Masses with them.

Segal said that reaction reflects a "common dilemma" experienced by many in the Jewish community.

"We want to have a welcoming community that invites people in during high holidays or other times," he said, "and yet, we have to have … security guards and a security apparatus around every one of our institutions."

"How do you balance that?" he asked rhetorically. "How do you make people feel, 'Oh, I want to go to that place that has armed guards in front of it'? … It's a challenge."

During the on-stage conversation, Segal offered insights about the nature of hate as he has encountered it in his work.

He acknowledged that "it seems like

Together *Continued on Page 5*

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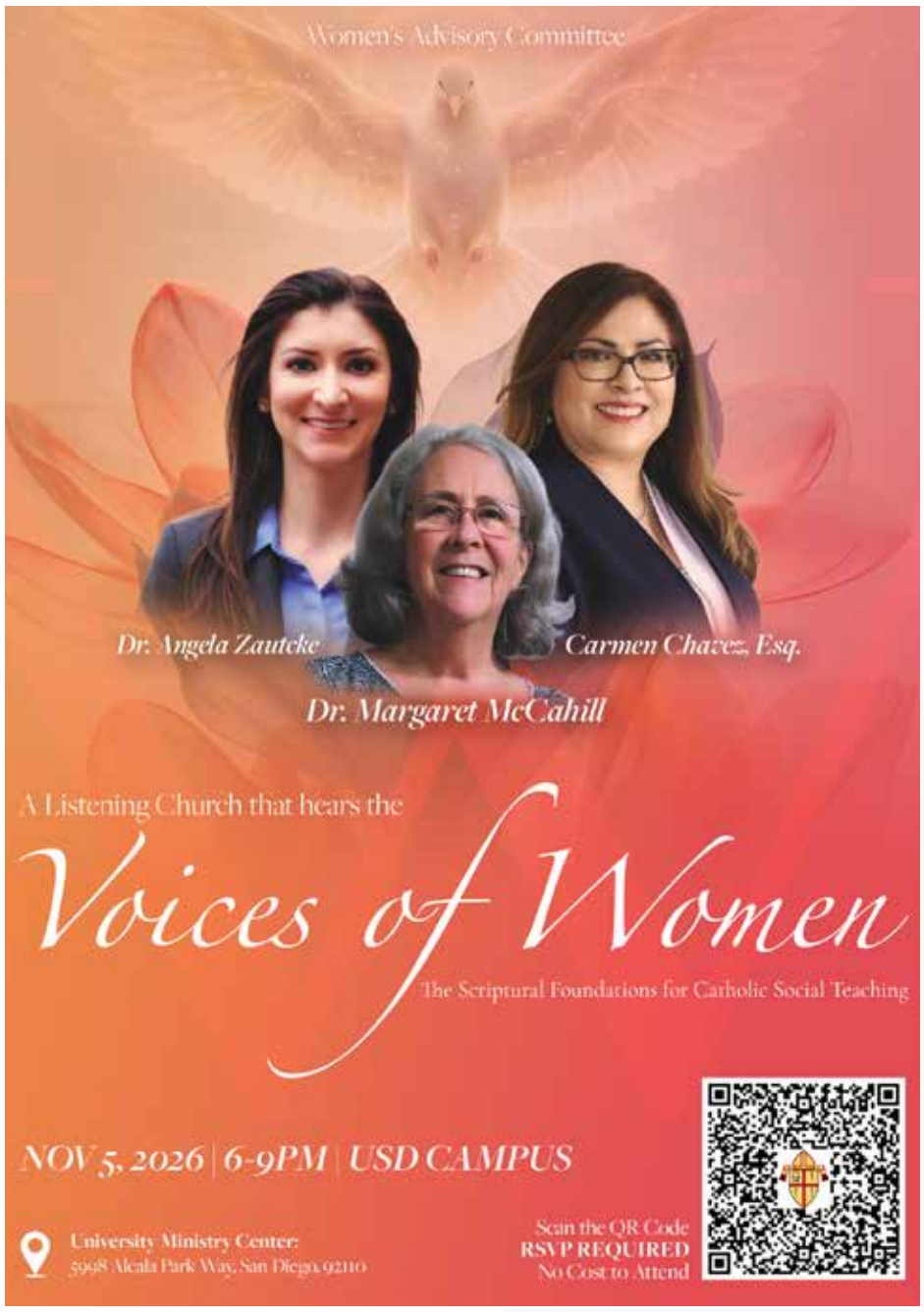
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Together *Continued from Page 4*

things are getting worse …; that hate is more common; that hate, in a sense, is a form of entertainment."

Segal shared that there are "a host of (online) platforms in which young children are spending an inordinate amount of time basically celebrating the concept of violence for what it is" and that "mass shooters from the past … are actually venerated as saints in these online spaces."

But, drawing from his firsthand experience on the frontlines of identifying threats, successfully bringing them to the attention of law enforcement and engaging with social media platforms to reduce online hate, Segal offered some cause for hope.

"You need to know that there are people who you will never meet, who spend every single day (working) to minimize the impact of that hatred," he said, "and the successes actually outweigh, I think, some of the places of fear that we find ourselves in."

"I see the impact of fighting hate every single day," he said.

Reflecting on the nature of extremism, Segal said that "it's very rare to find somebody who purely hates any one community," even if they choose to unleash violence only on a specific group. He noted that, in their manifestos, mass shooters reveal hatred of cultural and religious groups other than the one targeted.

"That's a call to all of us to recognize that the problem of another community, at the end of the day, is all of our problem," Segal said.

He told his audience that technology, including social media and AI, can be "a tool that will help us defeat this hatred or a tool that can be used against us to make it worse." He encouraged attendees to report the experiences that they and their children have with encountering hate online.



ENGAGED: *An audience of local Catholics and Jews listened attentively to the on-stage conversation about opposing hatred.*

"My argument is that no AI platform should be teaching people how to commit a mass casualty attack. … I think holding platforms, including social media, accountable is the other thing that we can do to push back against that," he said.

He said that some social media platforms "actually care, believe it or not," but acknowledged that other companies "couldn't care less" and that "hatred is actually the selling point," how they attract and grow their audience.

"Yes, hate and extremism is good for some of these companies' bottom line," he admitted, "and so, what we need to do is find creative solutions on how to force them to make that change. They're not going to do it on their values, so what are our legal opportunities?"

Segal offered some clarity on what anti-Semitism means.

Noting that he is an Israeli, he said that merely criticizing the state of Israel is not, in and of itself, anti-Semitic. Just as many U.S. citizens criticize their government, he said, not all Israelis are supporters of everything their political leaders do.

Where it "crosses the line into anti-Semitism," he said, is when anti-Israel rhetoric "cast(s) aspersions on the entire Jewish community."

"If you want to protest Israel, that's completely protected … I may disagree with you, (but) it's not inherently problematic," he said. "If you want to protest Israel in front of a synagogue, that's a problem, because you're ascribing blame to an entire religious community for the actions of a state."

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USD President Retiring

The Southern Cross

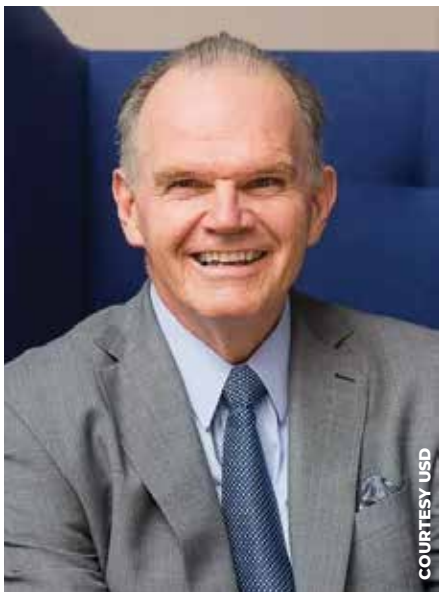
The University of San Diego is going to need a new president.

Dr. James T. Harris III, who has served for more than 11 years in that role, has announced his intention to step down as president and, after a sabbatical, dedicate the "next chapter" of his life to teaching and writing as a USD faculty member.

In a Sept. 29 message to the university community, Harris described leading the university as "one of the great privileges of my life."

But, he said, "After much reflection on our journey and future, I have decided the time has come for me to complete my tenure as president of USD in 2027." He has assured the USD Board of Trustees that he will remain in office through the completion of their presidential search process.

Harris is USD's fourth president since the 1972 merger of the San Diego College for Women and the University of San Diego College for Men


COURTESY USD

and School of Law.

Prior to his selection as USD president, Harris had served as president of Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania, since 2002.

Bishop Michael Pham reflected on his collaborations with Harris since being installed as bishop of San Diego last year.

"I am so grateful to have President Harris to be a part of my journey in my episcopal ministry," he said. "Even though I haven't collaborated with the president for a long period, I am so happy that I got to know him as a person and as a partner in ministry to proclaim the glory of God. I wish him the best in his next chapter of his life.

Event Will Explore Role Of Women in Church

The Southern Cross

What can Scripture teach us about the role of women in the communal life of the Church?

That's the focus of an upcoming convocation to be held from 6 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5, at the University of San Diego's University Ministry Center.

"A Listening Church That Hears the Voices of Women: The Scriptural Foundations for Catholic Social Teaching" will include welcoming remarks from Bishop Michael Pham and presentations by Carmen Chavez, executive director of the Casa Cornelia Law Center; Dr. Margaret McCahill, a retired professor of family medicine and psychiatry; and Dr. Angela Zautcke, Ph.D., an assistant professor of Sacred Scripture at the Franciscan School of Theology.

"This convocation will draw from the lived experience of a variety of disciplines around a table of dialogue, rooting the conversation in Scripture and how women in the history of our Church have assumed critical roles in sharing the Good News," said Marioly Galván, diocesan chancellor. "Our hope is that, while also conversing about key elements of Catholic Social Teaching, we may feel inspired to live out our faith more fully."

She said that women have formed "a critical part of our (Church) history" and that contemporary women leaders are "furthering the mission inside and outside of the Church structure."

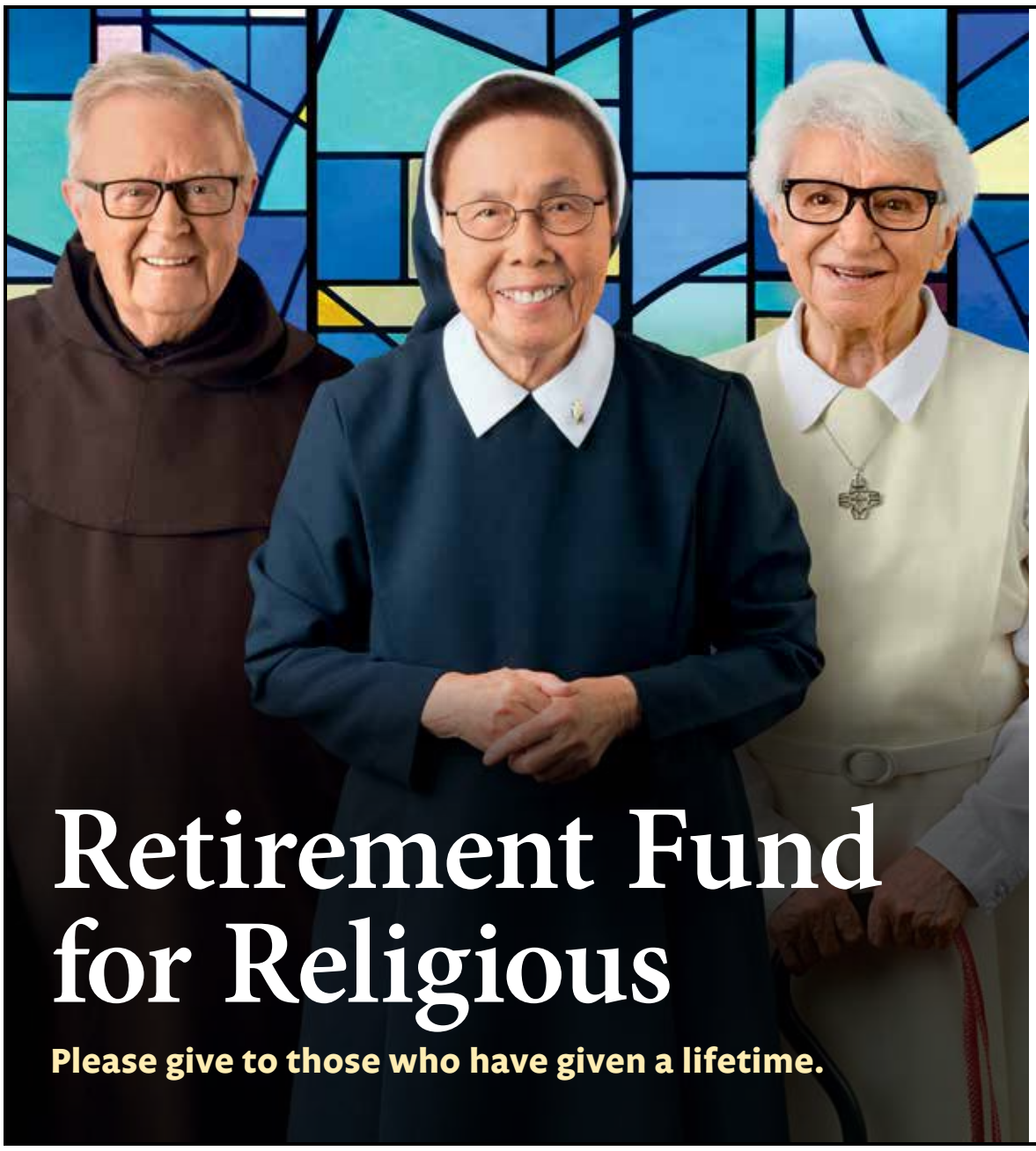
"These and many more voices need to be heard," she said, "so we can grow the tent of our understanding of 'being with and journeying alongside' our sisters and brothers."

The convocation was organized by the Diocesan Women's Advisory Committee, which was formed in 2023 to explore the role of women in Church leadership today.

Galván said that there has been "overall excitement and interest" in a convocation of this type. She said the event is "a wonderful opportunity for women to gather … and share how we can further the mission of our Church together."

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

For information and to register



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Parish Celebrating 100 Years of Living Faith

By Denis Grasska

NATIONAL CITY — St. Mary Church was dedicated on Nov. 14, 1926.

On the same date, one century later, the parish will gather at 10 a.m. for a 100th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass.

Raymond "RG" Porciuncula, who is coordinating the work of St. Mary's Centenary Planning Committee, said this Mass will be the "spiritual highlight" of the centennial celebration, an opportunity "to offer thanksgiving for a century of faith, blessings and service."

The Thanksgiving Mass will be preceded by a series of Centenary Novena Masses, beginning at 6 p.m., Nov. 5, and continuing through Nov. 13.

The community will welcome both Bishop Michael Pham and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido during that week. The latter will preside at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on Nov. 8, and the former at the Centenary Novena Mass on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The Centenary Vigil Mass, to be celebrated at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13, will be followed by a solemn candlelight procession to the parish's Fatima Grotto.

The festivities will continue on Sunday, Nov. 15, with an all-day fall festival — the first to be held since the annual event was canceled six years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic.



KEEPSAKES: *St. Mary Parish centennial T-shirts are on sale, with proceeds funding the centennial celebration and stoles for the priests who will celebrate with the parish in November.*

Today, St. Mary Parish is home to about 2,000 active registered parishioners shepherded by the current pastor, Father Nemesio Sungcad, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination earlier this year.

St. Mary Church opened its doors on Oct. 1, 1926, about a month and a half before it was dedicated by Bishop John J. Cantwell, of what was then known as the Diocese of Los Angeles-San Diego. Initially, it was a mission church, whose assigned pastor lived in neighboring Chula Vista.

Due to the parish's growth, the Mass schedule in 1940 expanded from one to three Masses every Sunday and in 1963 to seven Sunday Masses.

In 1962, St. Mary Parish underwent its first major remodeling since its founding. This included installing new pews, two exit doors and a "cry room." In 1965, the church added a new wing with 166 seats, and the former tower was replaced with the current one.

Further campus upgrades took place between 1976 and 2001, when the parish celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Among these was construction of the parish center in 1983 and the parish office in 1997. In late 2023, then Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano blessed a new Eucharistic adoration chapel.

Though no longer in operation, the parish also had a school from 1948 through 1972.

Porciuncula, who serves on the parish staff as coordinator of music and liturgy, recalled joining the community in 2007 as a pianist for one of the choirs and "immediately (feeling) a sense of belonging."

"The warmth, hospitality and welcoming spirit of the parishioners reminded me so much of my home parish in the Philippines," he said of the community, which is predominantly Filipino and Hispanic but includes parishioners of other backgrounds, all of whom "come together as one family in Christ."

"Buildings may change, generations may pass, and traditions may evolve," said Porciuncula, "but the heart of St. Mary Parish must always remain the same: a community centered on Christ, strengthened by the Eucharist, guided by our Blessed Mother, and united in love and service.

"Our centennial reminds us that we are not simply celebrating 100 years of history," he said. "We are celebrating 100 years of living faith, and it is now our responsibility to continue that legacy for the next century."

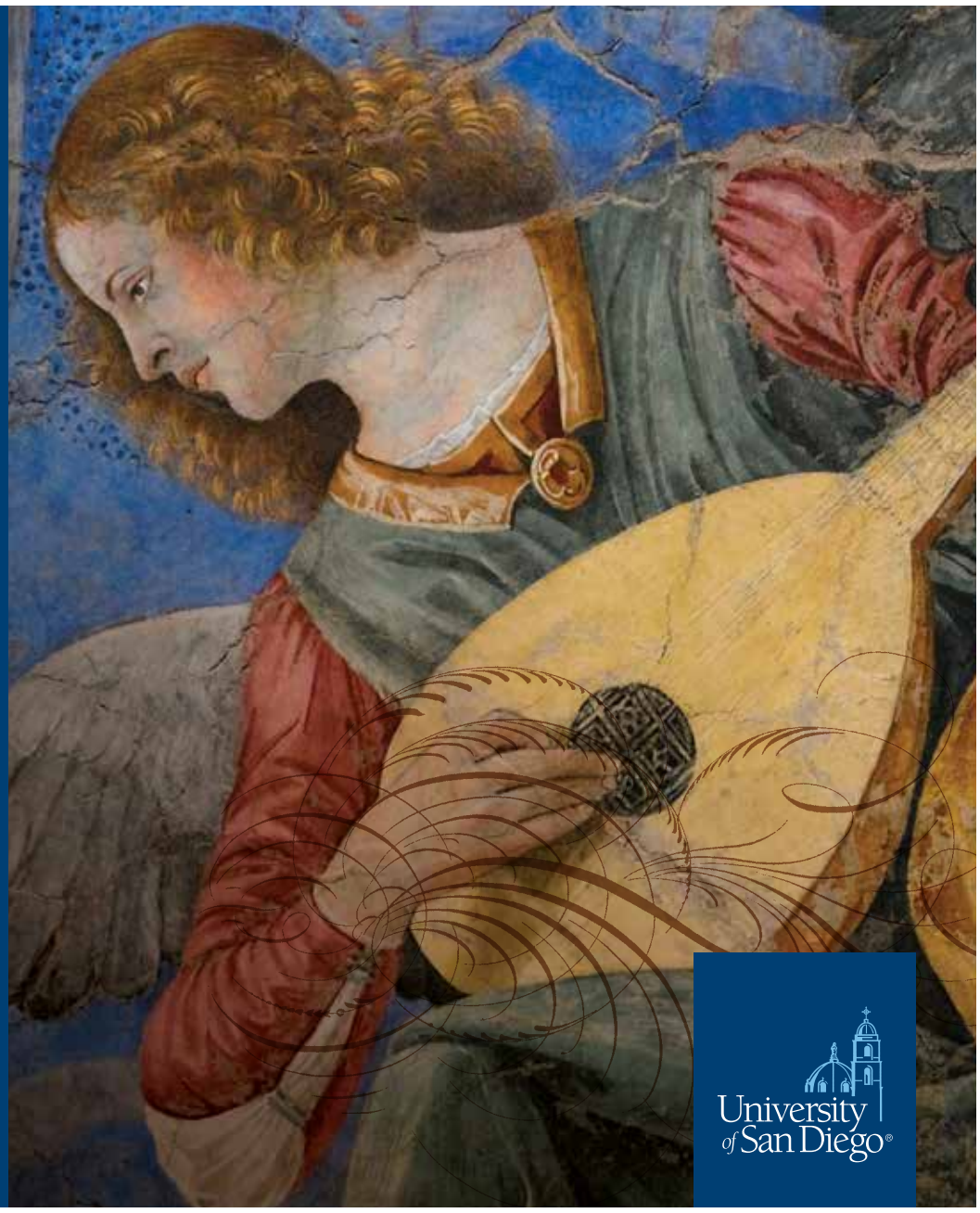
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Unpacking Faith: Saints & Souls

By Denis Grasska

In November, the Catholic Church reflects in a special way on those who have passed from this life to the next.

What is All Saints' Day?

Everyone in Heaven is a saint. The Church has officially declared, through canonization, that certain individuals are saints. But it acknowledges that there are many others whose names we won't know until we (hopefully) arrive there ourselves. The Solemnity of All Saints, observed on Nov. 1, celebrates all of them, even those without their own feast days.

Is it a holy day of obligation?

Yes. However, in the United States, the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. This year, it's a Sunday, which is already a holy day of obligation.

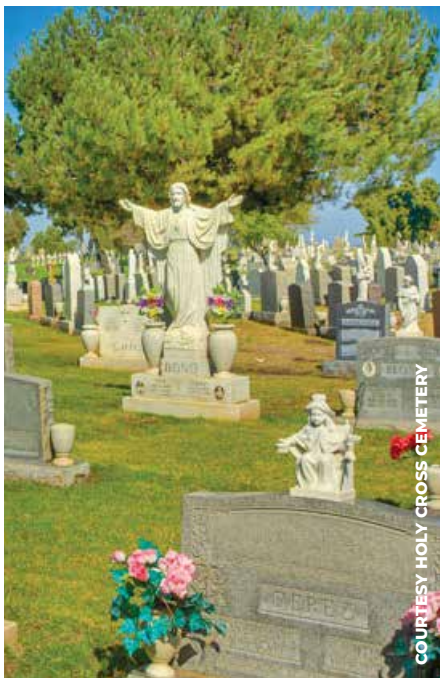
Are any local parishes named after All Saints' Day?

Yes, All Hallows Parish in La Jolla. "Hallow" is an Old English word for "saint."

What is All Souls' Day?

Also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, its focus is the souls in Purgatory. Observed on Nov. 2, it is not a holy day of obligation.

Our souls are bound to spend eternity in either Heaven or Hell. But many of those destined for Heaven



COURTESY HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

aren't ready to go there immediately. Still "imperfectly purified," they must spend time in Purgatory, "so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Paragraph 1030).

But my loved ones are already in Heaven, right?

At many funerals, it's commonplace to hear that the deceased is "looking down on us from Heaven." But considering the many shortcomings that even the best of us have, is it so hard to imagine that your loved one might require some purification after death?

While it's beyond your authority to declare your loved one a saint, you can shorten their time in Purgatory and lessen their suffering there by praying for the repose of their souls.

How can we help the holy souls in Purgatory?

Obviously, one of the most fruitful ways is to have Masses celebrated for them.

There is even a tradition of celebrating "Gregorian Masses," so named because of an association with the sixth-century Pope St. Gregory the Great. Gregorian Masses are actually a series of 30 Masses offered once a day on consecutive days for the same deceased person. The diocesan Office for the Missions (*sdcatholic.org/missions/mass-intentions*) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (*cnewa.org/mass-intentions/gregorian-masses*) are among the organizations that accept requests for them.

What about indulgences?

"Every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the 'temporal punishment' of sin" (*Catechism,* Paragraph 1472).

An indulgence, as defined by the *Catechism*, is "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven" (Paragraph 1471). That remission can be either partial or plenary, depending on whether it removes some or all temporal punishment, and it can be gained for oneself or for a soul in Purgatory.

The list of indulgenced prayers, including many familiar ones, can be found in the "Manual of Indulgences," viewable online at *holyjoe.org/indulgences/Indulgences_1999.pdf*. (Certain conditions are required for a plenary indulgence, including confession, receiving Communion, and praying for the intentions of the pope, all within 20 days of performing the indulgenced work. The work also must be performed "in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin.")

Are any indulgences tied explicitly to November?

Yes, the "Manual of Indulgences" says that a plenary indulgence, "applicable only to the souls in Purgatory," is granted to those who "on any and each day from Nov. 1 to 8," visit a cemetery and pray for the departed. Another plenary indulgence is available to those who, on All Souls' Day, visit a church or oratory and recite an Our Father and the Creed.

Are there other prayers for the souls in Purgatory?

Though no indulgence is attached to it, you might consider the Prayer of St. Gertrude, named after the 13th-century nun to whom it is attributed:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Blood of your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.



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By Aida Bustos

Oscar Rodriguez walked on his knees the length of a high school gym to reach the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

He felt "it was necessary" to offer a little personal sacrifice to be able to encounter the mother of God.

Rodriguez was among the estimated 2,000 men and women from all corners of the San Diego-Imperial Valley region who stood, and even pushed strollers and walkers, for a momentary opportunity to pray before Our Lady and leave her a rose and a petition.

They had turned out to Cathedral Catholic High School on Oct. 10 for the first public presentation of the life-sized replica of the tilma bearing Our Lady's image. Nestled in a silver and gold frame, the replica was gently bathed in light on a stage, surrounded by rows of colorful roses.

The replica, an official Church relic, is the heart of the Diocese of San Diego's five-year initiative to prepare the faithful of all cultures to celebrate the 500th anniversary in 2031 of the apparitions of Our Lady in Mexico.

The "Guadalupe Event," as it's known, united the Indigenous peoples under her loving maternal care and energized the spread of the Christian faith across the continent and beyond.

The event began with a colorful procession of more than 70 parishes and movements from the San Diego and Imperial Valley region.

A prayer service followed, led by Bishop Michael Pham. He shared his own experience getting to know Our Lady, including at Holy Family Church, a multicultural parish in San Diego where he served for 11 years.

He said that Vietnamese parishioners there kept telling him, "Our Lady is very special. Not just one person, but many people said they received many graces" after asking for her intercession.

Then, he shared his dream for the next five years.

"I hope that all of us, from all cultures, ethnic groups and languages, come to know Our Lady of Guadalupe," he said. "I believe once we encounter her, and experience her, we will come to appreciate her much more, and more deeply."

Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido then explained the diocese's five-year plan leading up to the 500th anniversary. A central element will be the tilma visiting parishes and other public places.

"This journey is about much more than preparing for an anniversary," Bishop Pulido said. "It's about making room for Mary's presence in our homes, in our parishes, in our communities and schools. It's about allowing her presence to lead us into a deeper relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ, and his Church."

After the presentation, the faithful prayed the rosary, recited in five languages: Tagalog, Vietnamese, Mayan, Samoan and Spanish.

Angelina Domingo listened with joy as the Third Joyful Mystery was recited in her native Mayan language of Q'anjobalan.

"It's so, so beautiful, that they recognized us in our language," said Domingo, a parishioner of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo, home to a Mayan Catholic community whose members hail from Guatemala.

"We came here to sing and to support the diocese," said Domingo, who was accompanied by her 8-year-old daughter.

After the rosary, Father Bernardo Lara, who emceed the event, invited everyone to line up in two lines, one to drop off a rose for Our Lady and the other to deposit a ribbon bearing the hand-written petition to her.

As Anacelia Centella waited in line, she remembered the last time she had seen the tilma, when she was 12 years old and her mother had taken her to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Her mother had breast cancer and had gone there to pray to "La Virgen" to sustain her.

"She did not want to have surgery," said Centella, a parishioner at St. James-St. Leo Catholic Community in Solana Beach. "She told the doctors that she trusted her."

Now, as an adult immigrant, she wanted to see Our Lady and offer her own prayer.

Antonio Amezca, from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista, attended with his wife and children.

Our Lady "was the instrument that brought God to us," he said. "That's what is the most important thing in the world."

After leaving their roses and ribbons, many faithful streamed to the school's courtyard for a festival, complete with traditional dishes. The rain that had started to fall didn't dampen their spirits.

That's where a group of Filipino parishioners from St. Michael Church in Paradise Hills gathered under an umbrella to eat. They said Our Lady of Guadalupe is loved in the Philippines, where she was brought by missionaries during the Spanish colonial period.

They reflected how they first had en-



DEVOTED: *Faithful from across the San Diego-Imperial Valley region packed the gymnasium of Cathedr will be able to encounter Our Lady through this relic over the next five years, leading up to the 500th annive*



YOUNG VOICES: *Students from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School re-enacted the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego during the launch of the Guadalupe 2031 Initiative.*



VISION: *Bishop Michael Pham shared his dream: that all faithful, regardless of their culture or the language they speak, encounter Our Lady and discover her comforting, unifying presence.*

‘I Felt Great Joy’


LEONARDO ENRIQUE FONSECA

al Catholic High School on Oct. 10, the first public presentation of a replica of the tilma bearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Catholics of all cultures ersary of her apparitions in Mexico.

countered her when they were growing up in their native country, and why it was important to accompany her now.

“She is really like my heart,” Violet Daen said simply. “I love her.”

Rodriguez, who had approached the tilma on his knees, is a ministry leader in the Hispanic community at St. Didacus Parish. Days earlier, he had the opportunity to see the tilma at the diocese’s Pastoral Center.

“As soon as I saw her, I felt a great joy,” he recalled. “My heart seemed like it was going to jump out of my chest, filled with so much emotion.”

His parents had taught him that “La Virgencita” would always look after him, as she had done for her Son. It seemed natural that he, his wife and a group of fellow parishioners would turn out for the event celebrating her.

In his reflection, Bishop Pulido said that, “when we are afraid, when life becomes uncertain, we long for the presence of someone who loves us.

“That is the presence we celebrate today. That is the presence we will carry throughout our diocese during these next five years. And that is the presence we are called to share with others. Bishop Pham’s dream is that every culture in our diocese will come to know Our Lady of Guadalupe. Today, we are taking an important step toward making that dream a reality.

“Viva Our Lady Guadalupe!” he shouted.

Two thousand hearts responded, “Viva!”

Upcoming Events

Nov. 6-21: Tilma will be present at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Brawley

Dec. 4: Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentations, Corpus Christi Church, 6:30–9 p.m.

English: Father Scott Santarosa, SJ, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (SD)

Spanish: Father Eduardo Aguilar, Diocese of Cuernavaca, Mexico

Dec. 5: Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation, Mission San Luis Rey

English: Ernesto Vega, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Spanish: Father Eduardo Aguilar, Diocese of Cuernavaca, Mexico

Dec. 6: Annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Diocesan Celebration

Procession starts at 11 a.m., Morley Field Sports Complex

Mass at 1 p.m., St. Augustine High School Gymnasium

Information and Resources


MARÍA LOURDES VALENCIA

FESTIVAL: *Volunteers from several ministries and* movimientos *welcomed those who attended the prayer service to a celebration in the courtyard of the high school, complete with traditional foods.*


MARÍA LOURDES VALENCIA

REVERENCE: *Oscar Rodriguez, left, said he decided to approach the tilma on his knees to honor the mother of God. He said his parents taught him that she would always be by his side.*

Celebrating 800 Years Of Franciscan Spirituality

By Christina Bagaglio Slentz, Ph.D.

In October, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis, for whom Pope Leo XIV declared 2026 a Jubilee Year, recognizing the 800th anniversary of his death.

Several parishes celebrated with blessings of the animals. St. Charles Borromeo in San Diego inaugurated its first parish St. Francis Festival, serving Fair Trade coffee, offering a clothing swap to demonstrate sustainability, and blessing their animals, highlighting St. Francis as a saint who calls us to remember the poor and care for the gift of creation.

About 70 students participated in our annual Season of Creation "For the Beauty of the Earth" art contest for diocesan children and youth. Submissions were evaluated on both artistic creativity as well as their descriptions of spiritual inspiration. It was very hard to choose, but the winners were:

Grades 4-5:

- Tied for First Place: Vincent Slagle (Mater Dei) and Emilia Nuza (Mater Dei)
- Second Place: Alfonso Cota (Mater Dei)

Grades 6-8:

- First Place: Daniela Contreras (Mater Dei)
- Tied for Second Place: Adryan Miller (St. Therese Academy) and Joseph Kirschbaun (St. Therese Academy)

Grades 9-10:

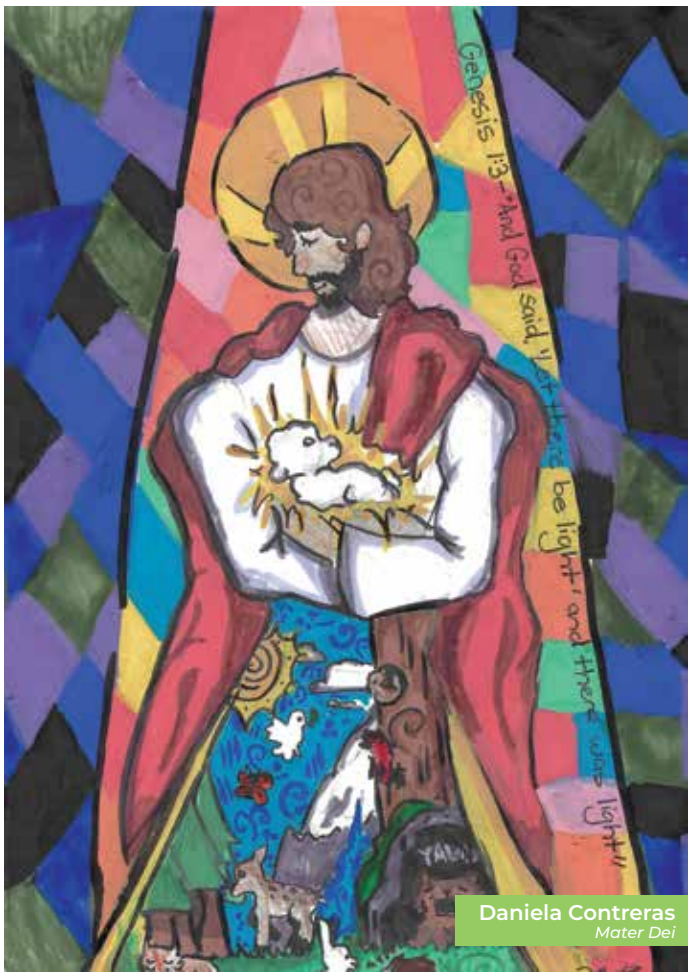
- First Place: Rowena Reyes (Academy of Our Lady of Peace)
- Second Place: Luisa Jimenez (Academy of Our Lady of Peace)

Grades 11-12:

- First Place: Grace Paine (Academy of Our Lady of Peace)
- Second Place: Lisette Cabrera (Academy of Our Lady of Peace)

We congratulate all the students who participated. Watch for our call for submissions next May.

If you would like to learn more about Franciscan spirituality in this Jubilee Year and care for our common home, you can always join us on Zoom on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. See the event listed on the Creation Care webpage. Reach out to Christina Slentz with any questions at *cslentz@sdcatholic.org*.



Daniela Contreras
Mater Dei



Vincent Slagle
Mater Dei


Luisa Jimenez
Academy of Our Lady of Peace


Joseph Kirschbaun
St. Therese Academy


Emilia Nuza
Mater Dei

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



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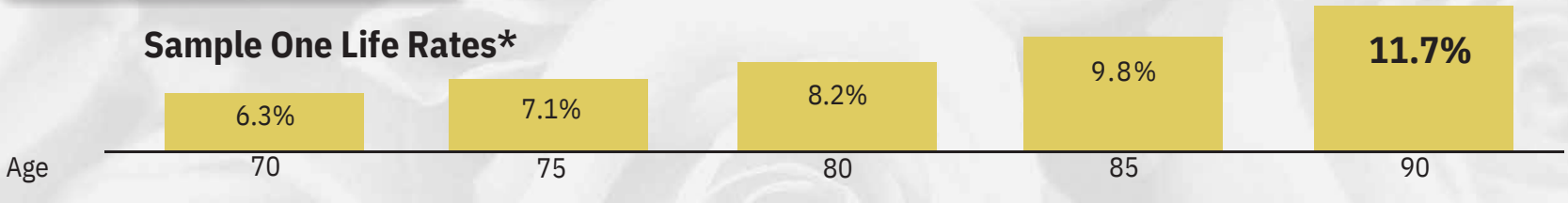
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Key Ingredient at Thanksgiving: Gratitude

By Janelle Peregoy

"Gratitude" is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which can translate to grace, gratefulness, or graciousness, depending on the context. "Gratitude" encompasses all these meanings.

With thankful appreciation, we acknowledge the goodness in our lives and, by doing so, we also recognize that the source of that goodness lies outside ourselves. As a result, being grateful also helps us connect to something larger than ourselves — either other people or the God who has created us.

Outside of the religious dimension of gratitude, I am fascinated by the clinical evidence of the impact of gratitude on human health. According to the Mayo Clinic, gratitude is associated with a variety of mental and physical benefits, including improved sleep, better immunity, decreased depression and anxiety, and reduced chronic pain. Practicing gratitude needs to be done consistently, ideally daily, to make the greatest impact on our minds, bodies and spirits.

On a basic level, our behavior affects our biology. Positive gestures lead to the release of oxytocin, our bonding and connection hormone. Unsurprisingly, feeling more socially connected to those around us combats the negative health outcomes associated with loneliness and isolation.



GRATEFUL: *"The love known and nurtured in family" — a reason to be thankful.*

Here are simple ways to cultivate gratitude:

- Handwrite thank-you cards for every occasion that makes you feel grateful.
- Keep a gratitude journal. I like using an Ignatian Examen as a way to recognize God's movements in my life directly before writing my blessings.
- Pray in thanksgiving for loved ones. Let them know that you have expressed gratitude to the Lord for them.
- Give warm and genuine compliments. (Every time my sons call each other "poo-poo heads," I am reminded of the power of kind words.)

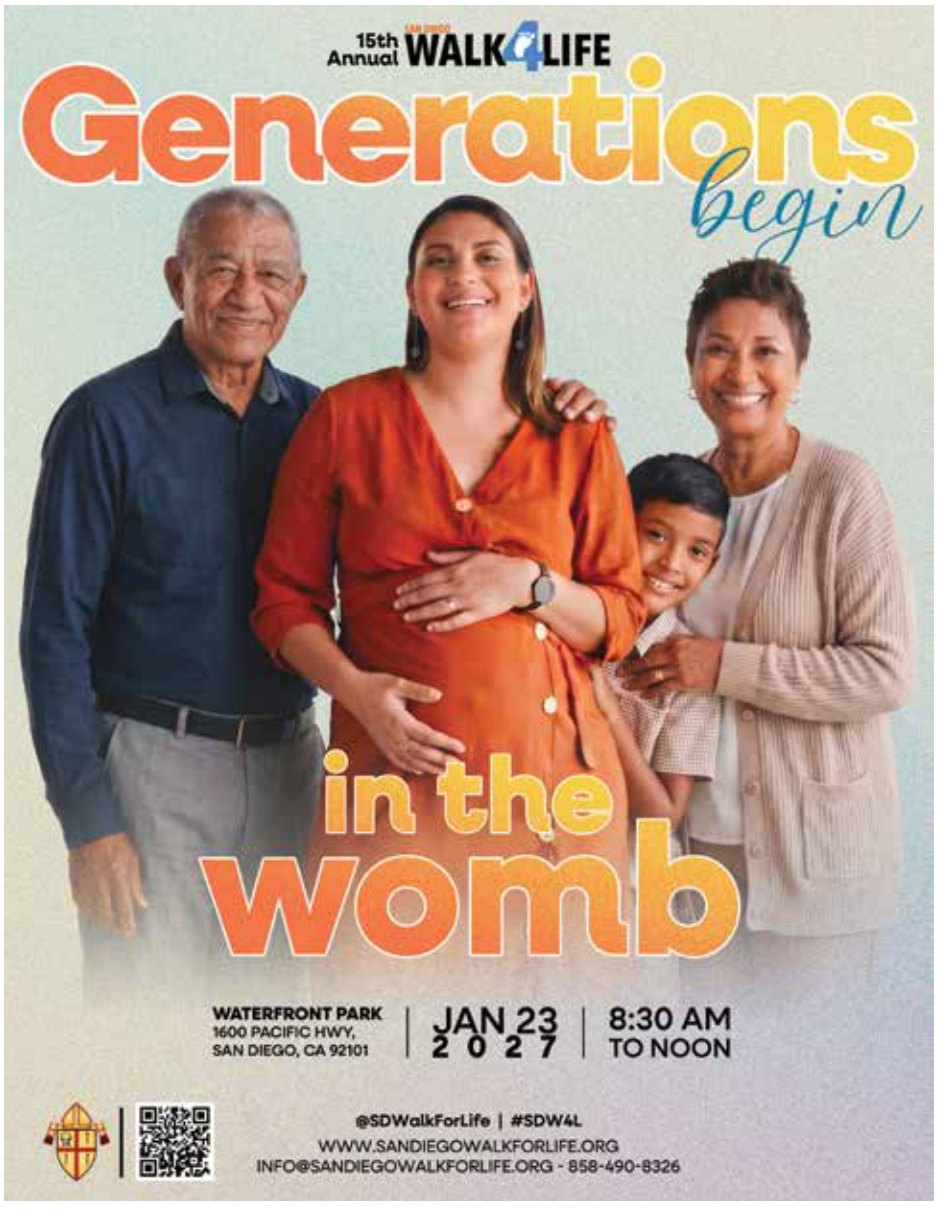
In the spirit of Thanksgiving and the renewal offered through a new liturgical year, I am grateful for the Church and for our world.

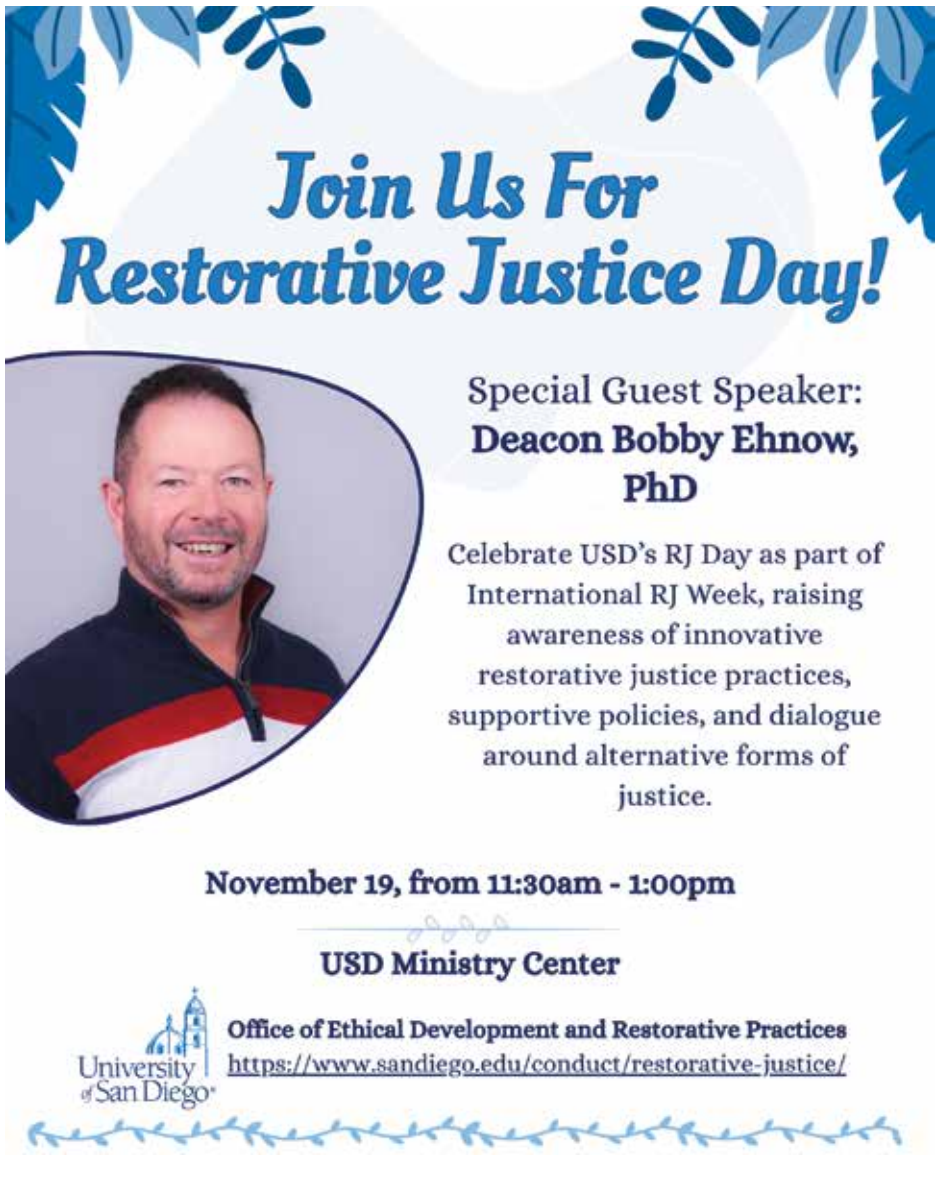
Janelle Peregoy is associate director of the diocesan Office for Family Life and Spirituality.

Litany of Gratitude

For the wonder of your creation, we thank you, O Lord.
For creating us in your image and likeness, we thank you, O Lord.
For your fatherly love, we thank you, O Lord.
For the gift of your Son, we thank you, O Lord.
For the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we thank you, O Lord.
For revealing yourself to us, we thank you, O Lord.
For the tenderness of your mother, we thank you, O Lord.
For the sacraments that bring us closer to your love, we thank you, O Lord.
For the Eucharist that sustains us, we thank you, O Lord.
For the love known and nurtured in family, we thank you, O Lord.
For the friendships that nourish us, we thank you, O Lord.
For the Church that guides us, we thank you, O Lord.
For the witness of the saints, we thank you, O Lord.
For clergy and all lived vocations, we thank you, O Lord.
For the laypeople who inspire us, we thank you, O Lord.
For the wisdom of our children, we thank you, O Lord.
For the peace that is found in you and from you, we thank you, O Lord.
For the joy that comes from praising you, we thank you, O Lord.
For moments of struggle that help us to grow in virtue and holiness, we thank you, O Lord.
For periods of sorrow that help us remember to turn to you, we thank you, O Lord.
For the gift of discernment, we thank you, O Lord.
For the opportunity to serve the Church and the world, we thank you, O Lord.
For the virtue of hope and its abiding comfort, we thank you, O Lord.
For the continuous renewal offered through laughter and joy, we thank you, O Lord.

This litany was previously published on Nov. 26, 2025, on the blog Catholic Mom. *It is a modified version of one that first appeared in* Our Sunday Visitor.







Give Thanks in Tough Times?

It's easy to feel thankful when things happen like we expect them to. It comes naturally.

Columnist
Ricardo Márquez



But, how to feel and cultivate an attitude of gratitude before the frustrations, injustices, tragedies, wars and natural disasters we face routinely?

This question invites us to delve deeply and face a contradiction. Questions are invitations, sometimes uncomfortable ones, to go beyond the apparent and superficial. There are questions that are not answered simply by thinking more, but rather, by living with greater conscience, opening ourselves up to other perspectives.

The German poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote something that has stayed with me: "Be patient with everything that remains in your heart unresolved, and try to love the questions themselves, like rooms that are closed and books written in a foreign tongue … Live these questions daily. Perhaps, little by little, without you noticing it, some distant day, your life will lead you to a response."

I like the expectation to "live" the response, because it's not only a matter of reasoning. In fact, it's contradictory to recognize that there's something essential to be thankful for amid suffering.

It is not a matter of denying reality, but rather learning to see it in another way, from a more profound, transcendental perspective, open to complexity.

Gratitude is not solely a feeling: It's a practice, one born from cultivating an attitude, a way of contemplating life. We nurture it by making time for small moments throughout the day to recognize people, gestures or simple events that remind us of the existence of kindness, solidarity and love.

Gratitude and suffering are not mutually exclusive. They can live in the same heart. Jesus experienced it in the Garden of Gethsemane; he sensed and felt fear about what could happen, without losing the intimate connection with his Father, with the essential, with love.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist, in thanksgiving, are the keys to understanding what Jesus proposes, what energizes us and gives us another perspective to the question posed initially: How to give thanks in times of suffering, confusion and chaos?

Consider Jesus, pursued by the religious authorities of his time, in the midst of a betrayal by one of his own, sitting at a table: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and, giving it to his disciples, said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Matthew 26:20-29).

We have heard these words so many times that they have become routine and lost the power and the fire they carry. That's why, to recall that moment, is not only to remember with our thoughts what happened, but to re-live "the essential memory" that is timeless, that allows us to experience emotionally the moment in which, in the midst of anguish, betrayal and suffering, love prevailed. He surrendered himself, gave thanks, blessed and forgave.

That is the invitation, the way to act like Jesus. It does not obligate us or threaten us. It's an invitation not only to share bread and be in communion, but "to live the response," to cultivate, even on the most difficult days, the act of giving thanks, even though there are no logical reasons to do so. We do this because we feel unconditionally loved by God, mysterious and unfathomable but close, who became one of us in Jesus, who revealed in his message that we are one with him.

Let us pray for the grace to live the Eucharist, not just to receive it. In complicated times like the ones we're living, let's stay alert, pray, and silence our interior to reclaim the fire and the power of his words and to radiate them, to bless and to give thanks.

Ricardo Márquez can be reached at marquez_muskus@yahoo.com.



Young Adult Chapter 'Absolutely on Fire'

By Denis Grasska

Anggie O'Farrell had modest expectations when she joined YCP San Diego in May of 2024.

"I was initially looking for an opportunity to gain experience in my field while I was unemployed," she said, explaining what attracted her to the local chapter of Young Catholic Professionals (YCP), which is currently the largest nationwide. "I never imagined that I would receive so much more.

"I found a faithful and welcoming community, meaningful friendships, opportunities for professional and personal growth, and a mission much bigger than myself," said O'Farrell, 36, who has been the chapter's president since January of last year. "Most importantly, I found a group of people who genuinely want to live their faith in the middle of their professional lives and help bring Christ into the workplace."

O'Farrell acknowledged that it can feel "increasingly difficult to speak openly about our convictions in a professional environment."

"But YCP reminds us that we are not alone," she said.



BOAT PARTY: *More than 160 young adults attended YCP San Diego's 10th Anniversary Bay Soirée on Sept. 5 and, judging from this group, they seem to have had a good time.*

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, YCP was founded in Dallas in 2010 and currently has 46 active chapters in cities across the United States. The 13th of those chapters to be founded, YCP San Diego, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

YCP San Diego hosts regular events for Catholics in their 20s and 30s. Recurring ones include: the Executive Speaker Series, where a seasoned Catholic professional gives a talk about his or her faith and career; networking happy hours; panel discussions on a particular virtue and how it can be applied to one's professional life; and half-day retreats.

"Many of our events include Mass or another opportunity for prayer," said O'Farrell, "because, ultimately, everything we do is offered to God."

YCP San Diego board member Cort Peters has been with the chapter for about eight years.

"Leading up to 2020, we were your average YCP branch, kind of struggling sometimes to get leadership members and volunteers," he said.

But things changed after the COVID-19 pandemic, which left people "so hungry for … connection," he said.

"Right now, we are — by far — the most populous YCP branch in the world, where, at the drop of a hat, we can get over 200 people to come to an event," he said, adding that this is about 10 times the number that most YCP chapters attract.

"I think our branch … is just absolutely on fire with the Holy Spirit right now, and it's awesome to see," Peters said.

More than 1,485 people attended YCP San Diego's events in the past year.

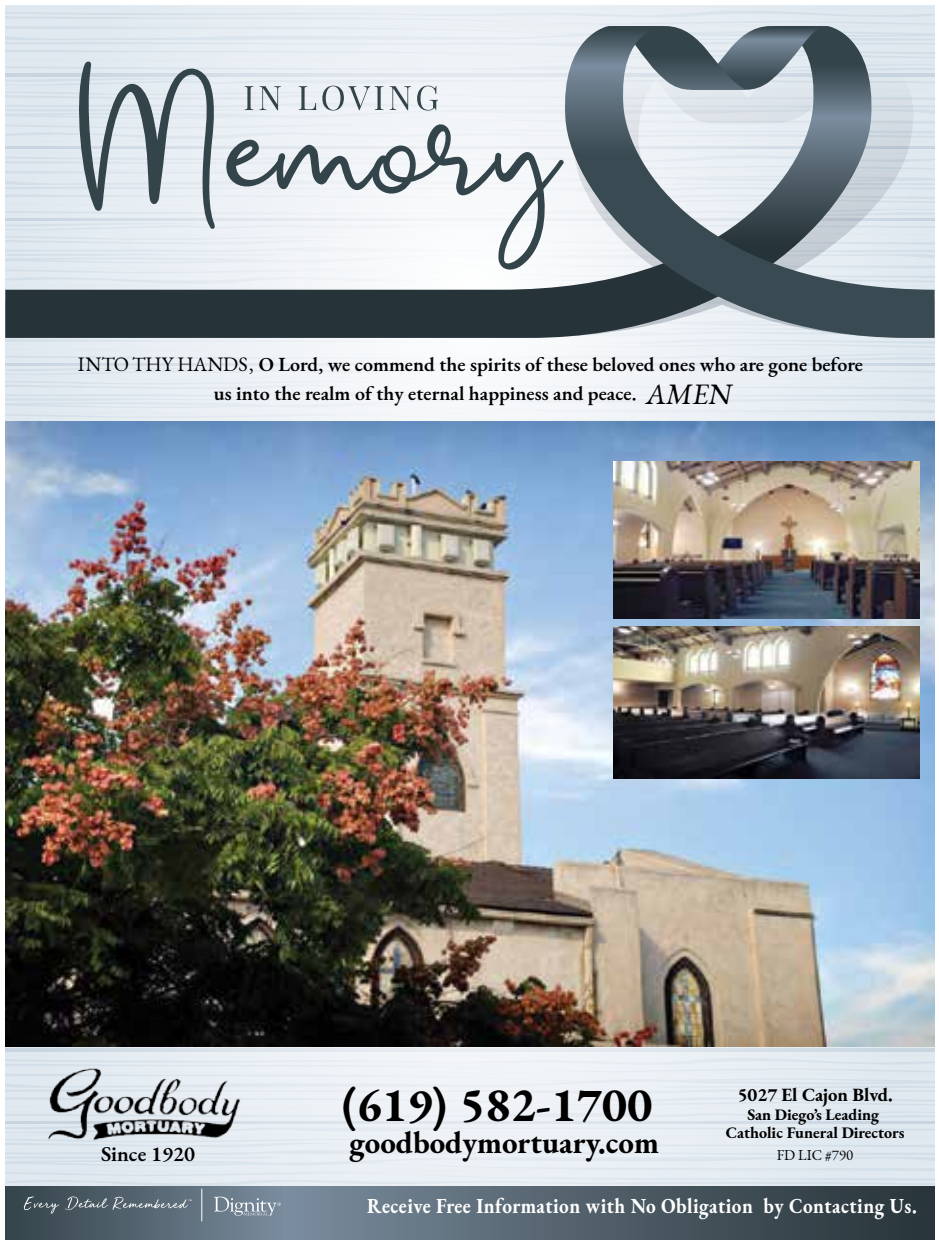
"On a local level, our focus is maximum inclusivity," said Jericho Fabie, its vice president of operations. "Signature events are kept free or very low-cost, so anyone can participate."

Fabie, 37, said that 226 young adults are currently members of YCP Belong, a paid membership option that costs $100 annually.

Benefits of YCP Belong include access to digital enrichment content, national faith resources and an interactive member database, as well as discounts on YCP events.

"The premier benefit (of paid

YCP *Continued on Page 17*





YCP *Continued from Page 16*

membership)," said Fabie, "is the Executive Mentorship Program, which pairs members with seasoned Catholic executives across the country for professional guidance and spiritual mentorship."

Lexy Thornbury, 29, joined YCP about a year ago.

She said that YCP "reminds young adults that our faith and professional lives don't have to exist separately. You can be ambitious, work hard, build a career, and still keep your relationship with Christ at the center of it all."

Thornbury signed up for YCP Belong, because she saw it as "a natural next step."

"For me," she said, "the investment is ultimately an investment in relationships, faith and becoming the person and professional God is calling me to be."

Jefferson Nguyen, 27, has attended YCP events since April of 2023. When he joined, he was hoping to make new friends, since he had been unable to do so during the pandemic. As a Computer Science and Math student, he also wanted to make connections in the STEM industry.

Like Thornbury, he signed up for YCP Belong. He did so "mainly for attending the events for free or at a discount," he said, but he has also used it to connect with other YCP members from other chapters across the country.

"I recommend anyone who is a young adult Catholic to join YCP," he said. "I have met some of my good friends through YCP, and it has helped me through my faith journey as well as professionally."

Fabie told *The Southern Cross* that YCP San Diego wanted to "spice things up" with special programming to mark its 10th anniversary.

This included a spring happy hour, dubbed the "Holy Happy Hour," where priests, deacons and religious sisters — 11 in all — were invited to attend.

New service projects also were introduced this year, including opportunities for praying outside an abortion facility as part of the 40 Days for Life campaign and helping with renovations at 29:Eleven Maternity Home.

On Sept. 5, more than 160 people attended YCP San Diego's 10th Anniversary Bay Soirée boat party, a cruise aboard a two-deck Flagship Cruises vessel.

"For three hours," said O'Farrell, "the boat became a little picture of what YCP San Diego has been for the past 10 years: people from different backgrounds coming together, building friendships, celebrating their faith, and creating memories that will last far beyond the event itself."

Amy Jackson, YCP San Diego's director of outreach, reflected on the organization's mission.

"I think it's a common misconception, particularly to those outside the Faith, that Catholics are 'boring' or that getting involved with a church means you must have too much time on your hands in lieu of other responsibilities," said Jackson, 30, "and I think YCP does a wonderful job of putting those baseless accusations to rest."

"We are a brave testament to the successful overlap of well-developed faith and work lives," she said. "After all, work is as great a place as any to evangelize and bring more people to the fold."

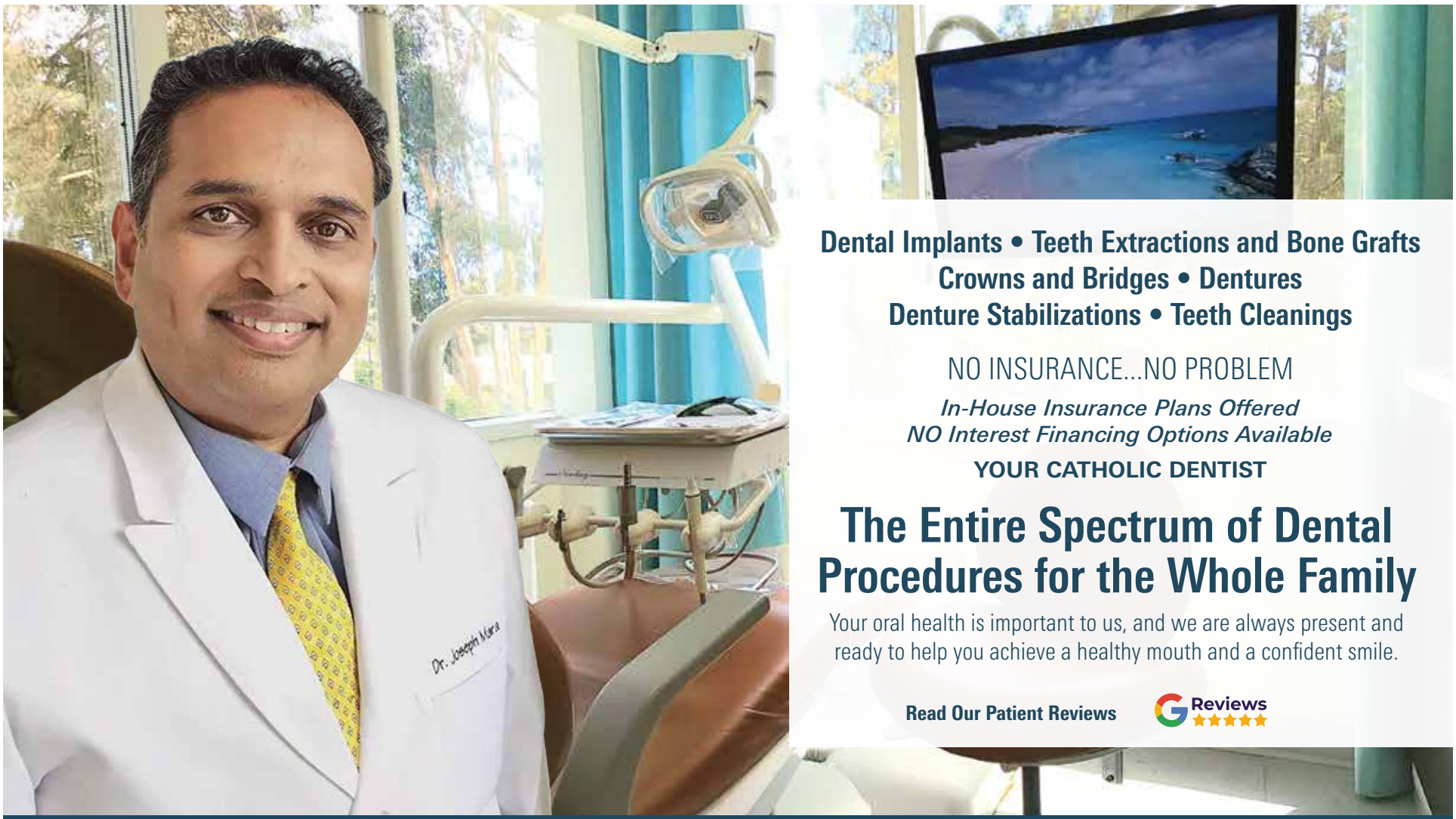
UPCOMING YCP EVENTS

YCP San Diego hosts regular events for Catholics in their 20s and 30s.

The next installment of its Executive Speaker Series will be held from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18, at John Paul the Great Catholic University's new Creative Arts Complex (131 South Broadway, Escondido 92025). The evening's speaker, five-time Major League Baseball All-Star Mike Sweeney, will reflect on his faith and career. In addition to Sweeney's talk, there will also be a Mass, dinner, a Q&A and networking opportunities.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., YCP San Diego will hold a half-day Advent retreat at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. The theme will be "St. Joseph: Man of Dreams." The morning event will examine St. Joseph's example of navigating uncertainty and discerning God's plan. It will include Mass, speaker talks, guided prayer and fellowship.

Visit *ycpsandiego.org* for more information.



News Briefs

Popular Speaker Coming to Two Local Parishes

Paul J. Kim, a Catholic speaker, musician and comedian, has given talks throughout the United States and in 16 countries, reaching millions of people around the world.

On Thursday, Nov. 5, he's coming to St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. The free event will begin at 6 p.m. All are welcome. For information, contact the parish at (619) 427-0230.

The following day, Friday, Nov. 6, he will be at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Scripps Ranch. The program will be at 6 p.m. in the church, followed by a 7:30 p.m. reception in the parish hall. RSVP strongly encouraged. For information, call (858) 653-3540 or email *stggya@gmail.com*.

Imperial Valley Conference Returns Nov. 7

BRAWLEY — The biennial Imperial Valley Catholic Conference will be held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, at Sacred Heart Parish in Brawley.

The theme is "Encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe," and the event will be one of the first public events where local faithful can venerate a third-class relic of the miraculous tilma imprinted with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The bilingual conference includes workshops, Mass, confession and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, along with food, music and more.

Father Rafael Capó, of St. Thomas University in Miami, will deliver a keynote presentation titled "Guadalupe: An Encounter That Sends Us Forth."

The cost to attend the conference is $35, which includes lunch.

For information, visit *bit.ly/ImperialValleyCatholicConference2026*.

St. Thomas More Parish to Host Dementia Workshop

OCEANSIDE — St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside will host a dementia workshop from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 7, in the parish center.

The workshop will offer practical guidance for understanding dementia, recognizing signs of cognitive decline and describing resources for families and caregivers. It will feature certified professional speakers on all forms of dementia.

Reservations are required. RSVP to (858) 761-7551 or *Jacqui@LivingCoastalSR.com*.

Holiday Craft Fair Returning to Our Lady of Grace

EL CAJON — The Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church Women's Club will hold its annual Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, in the parish hall and in the outside patio area.

There will be more than 80 vendors selling fashion apparel, home décor, unique crafts and artwork for Christmas shopping. There will also be freshly baked items, including fudge, peanut brittle and cookies.

Lunch and snacks will be sold (cash only) by the International Catholic Families (ICF) group.

Admission to the event is free. Shoppers are asked to enter the parking lot from Medford Avenue.

For information, contact the parish at (619) 469-0133.



The Vietnamese Catholic community's annual Martyrs Mass will begin at 2 p.m., Nov. 22, at Good Shepherd Church. A colorful procession will precede the Mass, to be celebrated by Bishop Michael Pham, the first Vietnamese-American bishop to lead a U.S. diocese. In 1988, Pope St. John Paul II canonized 117 known Vietnamese martyrs, who were among as many as 300,000 martyred in the 18th and 19th centuries in Vietnam.

St. Augustine H.S. to Hold Open House

St. Augustine High School will hold an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 8, on the all-boys school's North Park campus.

The schedule will include: campus tours, from 11 a.m. to noon; a formal presentation, from 12:10 to 1 p.m.; and open tours, Q&A and BBQ, from 1 to 2 p.m.

No RSVP is required.

For information, visit *sahs.org*, call (619) 282-2184 or email *psipper@sahs.org*, *bjohnston@sahs.org* or *zaceron@sahs.org*.

Briefs *Continued on Page 19*

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PS Form **3526**, September 2007 *(Page 2)* **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on *www.usps.com*

Priest Assignments

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

Father Casmir Irechukwu has been appointed as associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Encinitas, effective Oct 1.

Father William Thomas Davis, OSA, has been appointed as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, effective Oct. 18.

Briefs *Continued from Page 18*

Men Invited to 'Explore' Priestly Vocation

The Diocese of San Diego is hosting an Explorer Day on Saturday, Nov. 14, with Father Marc Gandolfo, diocesan director of priestly vocations.

The event, which is for men interested in exploring a possible vocation to the priesthood, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at St. Francis Center, located on the campus of the University of San Diego.

Registration forms are available at your parish office. For information, contact St. Francis Center at (858) 490-8389 or *cmaglalang@sdcatholic.org*.

Magnificat Welcomes Speaker for Breakfast

ESCONDIDO — North County Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will gather to listen to a speaker and share a meal on Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Escondido.

The meal will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., preceded by an 8 a.m. Mass in the church.

The guest speaker will be Renée Bondi, a popular Catholic recording artist, speaker and author. She will share her journey as a quadriplegic and her commitment to bringing hope and encouragement to people of all ages.

The cost to attend is $30 per person before Nov. 7 and $33 after.

For information or to register, text or call (740) 275-7055 or email *magnificat.northcounty@yahoo.com*.

Retreat Offers Healing After Abortion

The Rachel's Hope ministry will hold a healing retreat for Catholic (and Catholic-friendly) women suffering with guilt and shame after an abortion.

The professionally-led retreat will be held from Friday, Nov. 6, to Sunday, Nov. 8. A closing Mass and housing are included.

Confidentiality will be maintained. Group size is limited.

The cost to attend is $120 per person; partial scholarships are available.

For information or to register, visit *rachelshope.org*, call (858) 581-3022, text (858) 752-9378 or email *rachels_hope@juno.com*.

Cristo Rey Golf Classic Raises $250,000

Cristo Rey San Diego High School's annual Golf Classic, held Sept. 14 at The Crosby Club, has raised $250,000, marking the most significant fundraising achievement in the event's history.

The Golf Classic initially raised an unprecedented $240,000. But then, an anonymous $10,000 gift brought the total to $250,000.

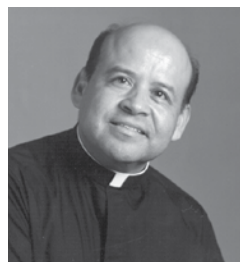
The day brought together 120 golfers and 16 pickleball players. This was followed by a social hour and a dinner.

Cristo Rey San Diego serves 215 students in grades 9 to 12 and is rooted in the Southcrest neighborhood.

For information, visit *cristoreysandiego.org*.

Obituary

Father Eddie Ruiz



Father Eddie Ruiz, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Oct. 11 following a few months of illness, complications from diabetes, and pneumonia. He was 77.

Born in Brawley, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Robert H. Brom on June 25, 1999, at St. Michael Church in Poway.

He served as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Calexico and Holy Trinity Parish in El Cajon; as administrator and then pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Holtville; pastor of Sacred Heart, St. Margaret Mary, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishes, all in Brawley; and administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Westmorland.

From 2015 through 2019, Father Ruiz was pastor of Holy Trinity Parish.

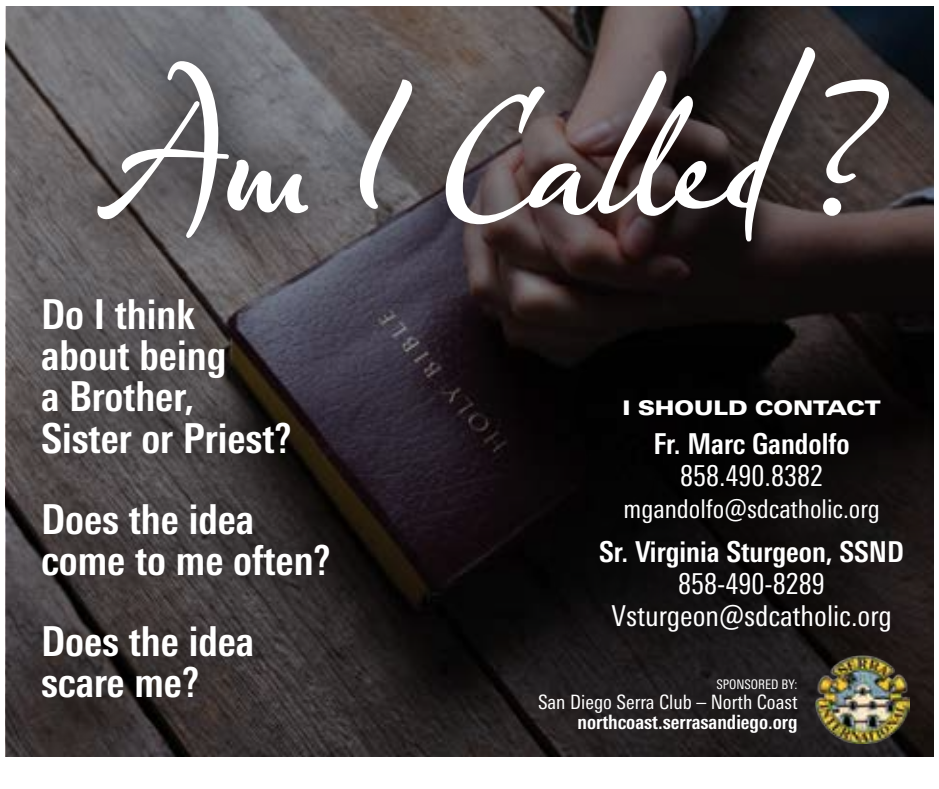
He retired from active ministry on March 9, 2020.

A vigil was held Oct. 21 at El Cajon Mortuary. The funeral Mass, celebrated by Bishop Michael Pham and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido, was celebrated the following day at Holy Trinity Church; burial followed at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum.

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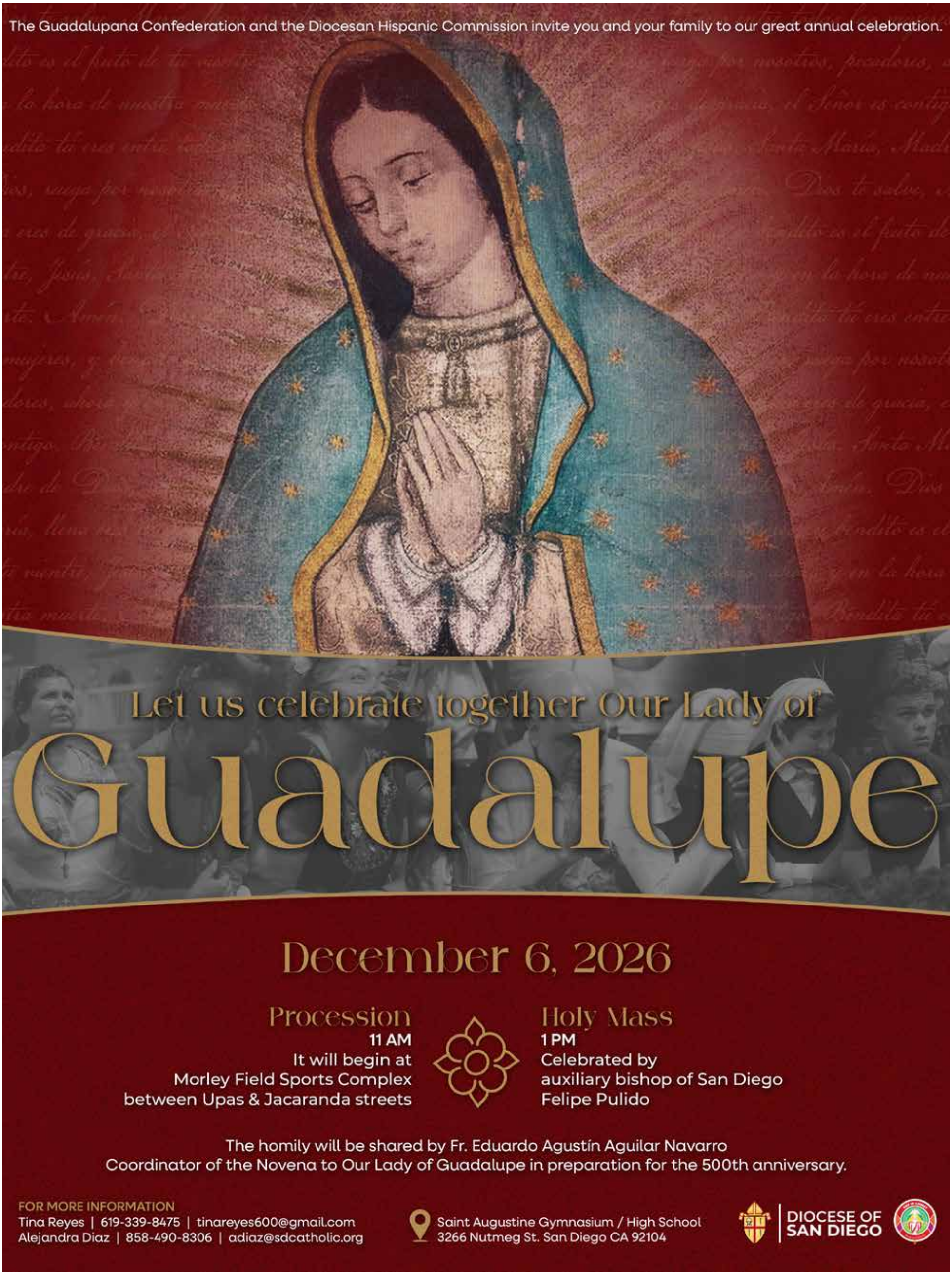
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December 6, 2026
Procession
11 AM
It will begin at
Morley Field Sports Complex
between Upas & Jacaranda streets
Holy Mass
1 PM
Celebrated by
auxiliary bishop of San Diego
Felipe Pulido
The homily will be shared by Fr. Eduardo Agustín Aguilar Navarro
Coordinator of the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe in preparation for the 500th anniversary.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
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