

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 110 • NUMBER 03

THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG

MARCH 2021



## Reflection. Renewal. Rebirth.



**DEVOTED:** Around 300 couples attended an Anniversary Celebration Mass, where they renewed their marriage vows, on Feb. 13 at Good Shepherd Parish. On Feb. 17, Christians began Lent, a 40-day period of reflection. And on Feb. 20 and 21, around 650 people participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, paving the way for them to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter.



### School Mourns

Mario Fierro is remembered as a tireless teacher and coach with a big heart. **Page 2**



### 'Wellness Checks'

Project connects USD students with elderly, isolated parishioners once a week. **Page 11**



### Pope to Visit Iraq

Local Chaldean community to follow the first-ever papal visit to their homeland. **Page 15**



## Keeping the Faith

Diocese's programs and services are a click away.

**sdatholic.org**

P.O. Box 81869  
San Diego, CA 92138-1869

TELEPHONE: (858) 490-8266  
E-MAIL: [socross@sdatholic.org](mailto:socross@sdatholic.org)  
WEB: [THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG](http://THESOUTHERNCROSS.ORG)

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

## PUBLISHER

Bishop Robert W. McElroy

## EDITOR EMERITUS

Father Charles L. Fuld

## EDITOR

Aida Bustos

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Denis Grasska

## ADVERTISING/CIRCULATION

Donna Lightsey

## WEB DEVELOPER

Will Cornejo

## CONTRIBUTORS

Roman Flores, Father Bernardo Lara,  
Ricardo Márquez, Sharon Mousel,  
Montserrat Ramírez

## DESIGN

Pinomaki Design

**Founded in 1912,**  
**The Southern Cross**  
**is the official newspaper of the**  
**Catholic Diocese of San Diego.**

**The Southern Cross** (ISSN 0745-0257) is published monthly by the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego, CA 92117-5349.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Southern Cross, P.O. Box 81869, San Diego, CA 92138-1869.

**Telephone:** (858) 490-8266

**Email:** socross@sdccatholic.org

**Web:** thesoutherncross.org

## Subscriptions:

Monthly print subscription: \$15 per year

**Contact:** (858) 490-8266;  
dlightsey@sdccatholic.org



The Diocese of San Diego runs the length of California's border with Mexico and serves more than 1.3 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial Counties. It includes 98 parishes, 49 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 colored triangle indicates that we have more content related to a particular story in our digital edition, [thesoutherncross.org](http://thesoutherncross.org), including photos, videos, and at times an extended version.



# 'A Short Life but ... a Great Life'



JOHN FRASER

**'ALL IN':** Coach Mario Fierro approached life with passion. On Sept. 6, 2019, he celebrated with Ebere Winston, a fellow football coach, after their team's win on the field at Cathedral Catholic.

By Denis Grasska



Mario Fierro was "all in" to his students, his players and his faith.

That's how colleagues described his approach to life.

Although he died Feb. 1, the victim of a homicide, the beloved teacher and coach lives on in the memories of many at Cathedral Catholic High School.

Those who knew the 37-year-old well paint a portrait of an educator with a tremendous work ethic and an even bigger heart.

"Mario was 'all in' on life, and he lived a short life but he lived a great life," said Cathedral Catholic Principal Kevin Calkins, who hired Fierro as a social studies teacher in 2016.

"He enjoys life, he enjoys what he does, and he enjoys it to the fullest. He does not do anything halfway," said Head Football Coach Sean Doyle, whom Fierro served as an assistant coach.

At the start of the school year, Fierro already had a full load of five classes, but that didn't stop him from volunteering to teach a sixth, Calkins recalled. If that weren't enough, about a month before his death, Fierro offered to pick up another class when a colleague had to take an extended, health-related leave of absence.

"That would've meant Mario would've never had a break during a school day," said Calkins, who

## The campus community comes together to support each other in this tragedy.

Page 16

had Fierro stick with six classes.

John Montali, a science teacher and a football coach at Cathedral Catholic, came to know Fierro as "not just a colleague but a friend."

Living close to one another, Montali sometimes would prevail upon Fierro for a ride to work.

"There was never a hesitation," he said. "I mean, [he was] just a guy that'd give you the shirt off his back."

Fierro was fatally shot outside his North Park home, dying at the scene. The ex-boyfriend of Fierro's fiancée was later arrested and has been charged with the murder. Last December, Fierro had become engaged to one of his fellow teachers at Cathedral Catholic.

A 2002 graduate of University of San Diego High School, which three years later transitioned into the present-day Cathedral Catholic, Fierro was a committed Catholic. His friends noted his affinity for the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass at St. Anne Parish in Logan Heights.

In the classroom and at athletic events, he seemed to have boundless energy.

Calkins recalled that he often walked around as he taught.

Fierro served as assistant coach

for track-and-field for about 10 years, until about three years ago, when he decided to focus more on coaching football, said Dan Geiger, a math teacher and track-and-field coach at Cathedral Catholic.

He said that when Fierro's athletes were running the 2-mile at a track meet, "he probably ran close to 2 miles himself, just running around the track and cheering them on."

Linebacker Tano Letuli, a Cathedral Catholic junior, reflected on how Fierro influenced him.

Sometimes, Letuli would come to practice with frustrations or complaints about "just silly things from school," he said, and Fierro would encourage him to stay positive and to work hard.

Last April, when defensive lineman and Cathedral Catholic junior Jaxson Moi received his first scholarship offer, Fierro was among the first he told.

Moi recalls that, while Fierro was proud, he also "kept it real with me."

"He told me to always remain humble, never be complacent, and with all the great things that come in your life, always give the glory to God," he said. "That was just the type of person that Coach Fierro was."

For information on scholarships honoring Mario Fierro, visit: [thesoutherncross.org/032102](http://thesoutherncross.org/032102)



# Parishes Get Option of Where to Worship

By Denis Grasska



"Overjoyed."  
"Thrilled to pieces."  
"Thank God!"

That's how some priests and parishioners reacted to once more being allowed to celebrate Mass indoors.

Many local Catholic parishes are doing so following a U.S. Supreme Court decision, issued on Feb. 5, that permits public worship indoors as long as occupancy is limited to 25 percent of the building's capacity, face masks are worn, and social distancing is maintained. Choral singing remains prohibited, however.

"I am delighted that the Court has taken this judicious step that expands the options for religious worship, while recognizing equally the health imperatives that are required in this moment," Bishop Robert McElroy wrote in a letter sent to the diocese's priests the day after the ruling was issued.

The bishop authorized pastors to make their own decisions about which Masses and other liturgies to hold indoors. A majority were holding daily Masses indoors while the larger Sunday Masses remained outdoors.

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Rancho Peñasquitos, Father Anthony Saroki was "overjoyed" by the Court's ruling and felt that "it was a long time coming."

He said what the Supreme Court permitted is what diocesan parishes have been prepared to do since last spring.

"The state exerted its power and its own poor judgment" and has been restricting the diocese's plan to balance the worship needs of its faithful with their health and safety. "Finally, we have what we had really wanted back in May of 2020."

Father Saroki said parishioners cheered when he announced the return of indoor Masses. All daily Masses and all but the two most heavily attended Sunday Masses are now inside.

However, he acknowledged that some people are still uncomfortable with the idea of gathering indoors. Along with the two outdoor Sunday Masses, he said, parishioners are also welcome to remain outside during the other Masses and pray along with the liturgy.

After the past year, which has seen parish communities moving their Masses from inside to outside and back again to meet changing COVID restrictions, the Supreme Court's decision provides a greater



**OPEN AIR:** Most parishes are holding their larger services outdoors, such as St. Patrick's Parish in San Diego, where the faithful gathered in the patio of its school on Ash Wednesday.



**INDOORS:** Many parishes are holding their weekday Masses inside the church. Father Niranjan Kanmury celebrated an Ash Wednesday Mass at San Rafael Parish.

sense of stability.

"As we look at Lent and the Easter Vigil, we can make plans again," Father Saroki said.

Members of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo also welcomed the Supreme Court ruling.

"Everyone applauded," said the pastor, Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, who informed Sunday Mass-goers on Feb. 7 that the parish would be back indoors beginning on Feb. 9. "People have been waiting for this to happen."

Msgr. Mikulanis, who feels that California's draconian restrictions discriminated against the exercise of religion, had a colorful response to the Court ruling.

"Thank God!" he exclaimed. "Intelligent life has been discovered in Washington, D.C."

Maureen Anderson, 89, who has been a San Rafael parishioner for 32 years, welcomed the ruling warmly.

"I was thrilled to pieces," said Anderson, who attends Mass daily. "I couldn't understand why we were getting sent out in the cold to begin with."

Weather conditions at times have kept her from outdoor Masses.

"There were several mornings

when the wind was so bad I knew I couldn't sit there that long," she recalled, expressing appreciation for having been able to watch parish Masses online on those occasions.

All of the Masses at San Rafael Parish have moved inside, but chairs will be provided in the patio in front of the church for all who feel more comfortable outside, said Msgr. Mikulanis. The parish also will continue to upload a recording of the 8 a.m. daily Mass to the website and will livestream the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. The Holy Week liturgies, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday Masses will be livestreamed as well.

Msgr. Mikulanis said being able to celebrate Lent and Easter inside the parish church represents "a wonderful difference" from last year, when all public liturgies were suspended.

"Easter assures us of new life," he said. "This movement back inside is like a crocus poking through the ground."

For El Centro Catholic (ECC), Father Mark Edney said his parishioners "overwhelmingly" voted to continue Masses outdoors – while cool weather permits. Three out-

door Masses are held at St. Mary's outdoors on the weekends, and they are livestreamed.

"I applaud the Supreme Court's decision but ... it doesn't change the fact of the matter; we still have a virus out there and most people are not vaccinated," he said.

One indoor Mass was added starting Feb. 21 at the Capilla Cristo Rey of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in El Centro. To adhere to the 25-percent capacity and social distancing mandates, the 9 a.m. Mass will only allow those who have reserved a seat through ECC's Flocknote or by calling the ECC parish offices.

Father Edney said ECC needs more volunteers to conduct parishioner temperature checks at the door and ushers to take them to their seats at Cristo Rey. He said the Mass could be in English, Spanish or bilingual depending upon parishioner reservations.

Pastors in the other larger parish communities in the Valley – Brawley and Calexico – said their Masses will continue to be outdoors and livestreamed. Confessions will continue to be by appointment.

To sign up for Flocknote for El Centro Catholic, text "Eccatholic" to 84567 and follow the prompts. Other parish communities in the Imperial Valley also utilize Flocknote to communicate, and parishioners are invited to call their local parish offices to sign up to use this platform.

Roman Flores contributed to this story.

See an extended version  
of this story at:  
[thesoutherncross.org/032103](https://thesoutherncross.org/032103)

THE SOUTHERN  
CROSS.ORG

# Crusader Legacy: 60 Years, 2 Campuses

The Southern Cross



CHULA VISTA —  
The motto "Once a  
Crusader, always a  
Crusader!" has been embraced  
by thousands of students for six  
decades now.

The Crusader legacy unites the former Marian High School, which closed in 2007, with its successor, the present-day Mater Dei Catholic High School, and with the elementary school Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy, which was established five years ago.

"Much has evolved over the past 60 years, but the spirit borne by those first Crusaders, teachers and administrators lives on today in the smiles, souls and 'spirit of giving' embodied by our current students," said John Rey, president of Mater Dei Catholic High School and Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy.

Mater Dei Catholic kicked off the celebration of its 60th anniversary at the start of the current school year. In December, it launched its 60-Year Legacy Campaign to raise \$60,000 to assist school families in need and to purchase additional iPads for its elementary school; by the end of December, it had raised just under \$103,000.

The Crusader legacy began in 1960, when Bishop Charles F. Buddy founded Marian High School, named in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on 20 acres of land just outside of Imperial Beach. Opening with only three classrooms, it was the first co-educational Catholic high school in the Diocese of San Diego.

In 1992, Marian High changed its name to Marian Catholic High School, to more clearly express its



**NOW & THEN:** Present-day Mater Dei Catholic High School, top, continues the legacy of Marian High School, seen at bottom in an undated photo.

Catholic identity. In 2007, it moved to a 48-acre, state-of-the-art facility in Chula Vista and was renamed Mater Dei Catholic High School.

The Crusader tradition has remained an integral part of the school. On the new campus, a Marian Chapel was built in honor of the school's history and original name, the Crusader mascot found a new home, and the school colors continued to be blue and gold.

Maria Roberts, a member of the Class of 1981, described her years at the school as "some of the best of my life."

"I am deeply grateful for my Catholic school experience and the legacy of Marian that is carried

on and even exceeded by Mater Dei," she said.

A key figure in the transition from Marian to Mater Dei was Dr. Estelle Kassebaum, who served as principal of Marian High School from 1995 until her death in early 2006, just months before the old campus closed its doors.

Current principal Frank Stingo said, "With modern facilities dedicated to athletics, arts, theater, and spiritual development, Mater Dei has a commitment to creating well-rounded individuals, as well as excellent students."

In 2015, Mater Dei expanded to include Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy, the first Catholic dual-language elementary school in San Diego.

"Our mission is to educate the next generation of bilingual, faith-filled, global leaders," explained

Leticia Oseguera, the academy's principal.

In September 2021, Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy will offer transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, making Mater Dei Catholic the first TK-12 school in the San Diego Diocese. Both schools are thriving, with just under 1,000 students in the high school and almost 400 students in the elementary school.

In the last decade, Mater Dei Catholic's award-winning Academy of Science has placed hundreds of high school students in internships with some of the most prestigious research institutions.

Aaliyah Balagtas, the valedictorian of the Class of 2020, is majoring in biochemistry at University of California, Los Angeles. She said that it was through her internship that she "found a love for biochemistry and discovered how I could use my gifts in the world."

She is far from the only student to make such a discovery.

"For 60 years, Marian/Mater Dei students have shared their educational experiences wherever they work, live and worship," said Rey. "We continue to build on that tradition of excellence established when Marian High School first opened its doors. This past year is proof that our Mother Mary continues to guide us with hope."



**HISTORIC DAY:** The groundbreaking for Marian High School took place in January 1960.

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS** —We appreciate your business. However, errors sometimes occur. Please read your ad the first day it runs. If you should find a mistake in your ad, please let us know right away, by calling (858) 490-8266. We'll be happy to make the necessary changes. Tearsheets are provided upon request.

**LIMITS OF LIABILITY** — The Southern Cross assumes no financial responsibility for errors or omissions of copy. It is the advertiser's responsibility to read ad proofs before publication and notify us of any errors. We reserve the right to adjust in full any error for which we are responsible by publishing a corrected insertion. Requests for adjustments must be made within 30 days of ad publication. All copy must be approved by the newspaper, which reserves the right to request changes or reject an ad. Publisher reserves the right to cancel any ad at any time. All advertising is subject to credit approval.

**Mary Elizabeth Accardi, M.A.**

**MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILD COUNSELOR**  
**COVID DEPRESSION**  
**COUNSELING**



MFT LIC. #20751

3043 Harding St.  
B-Rear Building  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Fax (760) 434-3166

2067 W. Vista Way  
Suite 130  
Vista, CA 92083  
(760) 434-0970

# St. Michael Academy to Close in June

By Aida Bustos



The Diocese of San Diego announced the closure of St.

Michael Academy at the end of the school year in June. The preschool will remain open.

The staff, home parish and Office for Schools had struggled for years to halt declining enrollment, a trend exacerbated by the pandemic.

The diocese is offering the academy's families a financial package to encourage them to attend nearby Catholic schools. And it has offered to place as many of the teachers as possible in other Catholic school communities.

The elementary school in San Diego's Paradise Hills neighborhood had seen a 32-percent decline in enrollment over the past four years, and a nearly 50-percent drop in 10-year period. A total of 78 students were enrolled in the kindergarten to eighth grade in the current school year, down from 108 in the 2017-2018 year.

The pandemic appears to have had a substantial impact on enrollment at the preschool. A total of 35 students were enrolled in preschool in the last school year. In the current one, the number dropped to 13, partly due to a distancing re-



**CLOSING:** St. Michael Academy in Paradise Hills had tried to grow enrollment for years.

quirement from the county's public health order.

"In recent years, the diocese has invested substantially in the 'Next Gen' model as a means of improving quality, innovation and attracting new families," said John Galvan, the director of Schools for the diocese in a letter to the parents announcing the closure. "Unfortunately, our efforts to stabilize St. Michael's have not been successful."

The model he referred to is a three-year project that added resources and technology to classrooms to strengthen teachers' ability to meet the individual needs of students.

He noted that St. Michael's Parish and the diocese did not have the capacity to subsidize the school any longer. In the 2019-2020 year alone, the school was running a deficit of around \$2,700 for each student.

Significantly raising tuition was not an option, he said.

He noted that the make-up of the neighborhood around the school has changed over the years, with the corresponding Zip code having less than half of the total number of children as nearby areas.

In his letter, Galvan stressed that the decision to close was not a reflection on the parish's pastor, Father Manny Ediza, and the principal, Veronica Dayag.

"St. Michael has been a wonderful parish school for many years," he wrote. "It is not a reflection of the value and quality of a Catholic education. Generations of children from Paradise Hills and surrounding communities have benefited from the values and lessons taught there."

By contrast, many Catholic schools in the diocese are having to form waiting lists until the distancing requirements are lifted.

San Diego Catholic schools have offered in-person and online learning the entire school year in San Diego County. Information: [www.sdcatholicschools.org](http://www.sdcatholicschools.org)



## Do Your Investments Match Your Faith?

**Our Catholic Portfolio is guided by these socially responsible investing guidelines from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:**

- Do no harm
- Promote the common good
- Active corporate participation

Our thorough stock selection process consists of three phases, ultimately culminating in an in-depth review by Deacon Frank Reilly, MIBA, (left) and Theologian Dr. Terence McGoldrick (right).



Reilly Financial Advisors has more than \$1.9 billion in assets under management (AUM) and has been named to Barron's list of America's Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors for the last five years in a row.

*Find out how our Catholic Portfolio can help align your money with your morals.*

 [rfacatholic.com](http://rfacatholic.com)  (800) 682-3237

For full information on our Barron's ranking, please visit [www.rfadvisors.com/about/disclosures](http://www.rfadvisors.com/about/disclosures) and click the Barron's Top 100 logo at the bottom of the page. A copy of our ADV, listing AUM, is available at this link and by request.

# Bishops Promote Vaccine

By Aida Bustos



Bishop Robert McElroy and Auxiliary Bishops

John Dolan and Ramón Bejarano have received the vaccine to protect against COVID-19 — and are encouraging all faithful to do the same when it's their turn.

They joined other bishops in California in promoting vaccination as a way to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Though the number of new cases has dropped from a peak in January in San Diego County, dozens were still dying daily in February.

The bishops maintain that the vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective and that they are in line with Catholic teaching. And they joined their voices to the pope's, who called getting immunized an ethical decision to protect not only the person receiving the vaccine but those around them.

All vaccination is done by appointment — and it's been difficult to get one, given the tight supply of vaccines. Public leaders at the federal, state and county levels said that they expected the supply to grow in March.



**ARMED AGAINST THE VIRUS:** San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy received the first dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 on Jan. 25, and the second one on Feb. 15.

Health authorities are vaccinating the population in phases. During February, all workers in healthcare settings and those age 65 and older were eligible. Officials expect that those who work in essential services will be eligible starting in March, including first-responders, and those who work in education, childcare, food and agriculture.

The vaccine is administered in two doses, spaced about three weeks apart. The vaccine is free for those people who receive it at county-

operated super stations, clinics and other points of dispensing.

As of Feb. 17, more than 765,000 doses had been delivered to San Diego County. Of those, more than 663,000 had been administered. So far, nearly 18 percent of the population over age 16 has received at least one dose.

Appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may be made online at [vaccinationsuperstationsd.com](https://vaccinationsuperstationsd.com) or by phoning 2-1-1.



## CA Conference Marks 50th Anniversary

The California Catholic Conference has begun a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary.

For a half-century, the Conference has sought to apply the principles of Catholic social teaching — the common good, protection of the vulnerable, and respect for human life and dignity — to legislation.

The CCC represents California's 11 million Catholics, nearly a third of the state's population. It assists the state's two archdioceses and 10 dioceses with local issues and with statewide projects ranging from racism to end-of-life care.

The organization does not endorse, oppose or donate to politicians. Through the bishops, staff, and a network of grassroots Catholics, the organization argues for or against bills based on research, reasoning and Catholic social principles.

The Conference, currently led by San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy, will publish a series of stories online this year highlighting its contributions through public policy and advocacy.

The 50th anniversary stories will be published on [cacatholic.org](https://cacatholic.org).





Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.  
~ Matthew 5:4



MISSION  
SAN LUIS REY  
CEMETERY

**Connect to Healing through Prayer**

When faced with fear of the unknown, and the sense of anxiety that feeling powerless creates in us, laying down our burden and putting our faith in our loving God is where healing can truly begin.

Through prayer, we are reminded that it is by reaching out to God that a sense of peace, calm, and clarity of mind can be restored to us.

**We invite you to join us in praying for those families who have been tragically affected by COVID-19, and for the brave front-line workers and first responders who heroically care for them.**

Visit [sanluisrey.org](https://sanluisrey.org) for a specially selected prayer or @MissionSanLuisRey on Facebook to add your voice in faithful support.



**A Gift of Love...**

**Knights of Columbus®**

*"In Loving and Serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we Love we are like God"*  
Mother Teresa





**If you are called to serve with love, and make a difference, become a California Knight of Columbus!**

**FREE MEMBERSHIP\***

**For new online membership applications submitted the entire month of February**

\*for 1-year, regular dues are \$30/year thereafter.

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](https://kofc.org/joinus)  
Enter code  
**MCGIVNEY2020**

[www.californiaknights.org](https://www.californiaknights.org) Follow us at: Facebook.com/kofccalifornia



# Thriving ~~Surviving~~

Be the difference.



**Your donations can change everything. Now more than ever.**

Give today to support life-changing services for people experiencing homelessness, from essential housing to therapeutic childcare.

[neighbor.org](https://neighbor.org) • (619) HOMELESS (466-3537)

# Director Buoyed Sailors' Faith for Decade

By Denis Grasska



It was a simple ceremony because of COVID-19 restrictions, but the Diocese of San Diego couldn't let the opportunity pass to recognize Joe Bartel for the key role he has played in ministering to a community on the margins.

Bishop Robert McElroy and Father James Boyd, chaplain of the Port of San Diego, on Feb. 16 presented Bartel, 81, with a framed certificate in honor of his decade of service as director of the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center.

Located at the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal, the center represents the local Church's participation in the Apostleship of the Sea, an international ministry of pastoral care to those who make their livelihoods on the world's oceans.

The bishop praised Bartel for his work, describing it as "a sign of hospitality" to seafarers, "reaching out (to them) ... with the loving arms of Christ."

The Stella Maris Seafarer's Center temporarily suspended all of its activities late last March, with



**JOB WELL-DONE:** Joe Bartel, left, receives recognition from Bishop Robert McElroy and Father James Boyd on Feb. 16 for his service to the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center.

the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, its doors had been open to the crew members of the many commercial vessels that dock at the port, including the Dole ships that arrive weekly with cargoes of tropical fruit.

The center also arranged for Masses to be celebrated for Catholic crew members aboard their vessels. Because more than 50 percent of international seafarers are from the Philippines, which is predominantly Catholic, Bartel said, Catholics are well represented among their ranks.

The center's volunteer staff also delivered donated magazines to

the ships, and they escorted crew members through the terminal and provided transportation to and from local shopping centers.

Bartel said that he "started off as just a simple volunteer," before being asked about a year and a half later to serve as the center's director.

"Joe accepted my invitation to temporarily direct the center about 10 years ago when the previous director retired," recalled Rod Valdivia, then diocesan chancellor and now vice-moderator of the diocesan curia. "Our intention was to quickly identify a new director, but Joe did such a great job and

was willing to stay that (it) kept us from trying too hard to find one."

It was a tough job.

For a substantial portion of his time at the center, Bartel estimates that he put in 30 to 40 hours a week. For the nine months before his retirement on Jan. 6, however, he essentially served as a caretaker for the temporarily shuttered center and its two diocesan-owned vans.

Bartel did an "outstanding, wonderful job taking care of the waterfront," said Father Boyd, who noted that, as a U.S. Navy veteran, Bartel had personal experience of seafaring and was "sympathetic with the sailors."

Bartel, who served in the Navy from 1961 to 1989, said the average seafarer is away from home for between six to nine months of the year. As such, he said, seafarers are "totally reliant" on ministries like the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center and, "without the center, there is no support."

The center has a need for volunteers and financial donations. To learn more about how you can assist this ministry, contact Manny Aguilar at (858) 490-8294 or [maguilar@sdccatholic.org](mailto:maguilar@sdccatholic.org).

## THE FRENCH GOURMET

Catering • Restaurant • Bakery • Wine Boutique

### COVID Safe CATERING Available

### Chilled Meals Ready to Reheat at Home

**Open Daily for take out 7am**  
Patio open Wednesday thru Sunday

Pick up sandwiches, soups, quiche, bread, pastries, wine, and more!

- Braised Short Ribs
- Salmon Dijonnaise
- Duck Confit
- Chicken Picatta or Marsala
- Vegan and Gluten-Free Ratatouille/Quinoa
- Kid's Meal
- Gluten-Free Carrot Cake
- Desserts and Celebration Cake

**Hot Prime Rib on Wednesdays and Saturdays**

### Delivery Available

Curbside or in store pick up  
<https://Shop.theFrenchGourmet.com>  
or call (858) 488-1725 x2 or x5

**Free Daily Drop off to OMC**

### St. Patrick's Day Dinner

1½ lb. Corned Beef  
Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots  
& Creamy Horseradish  
2 Cookies  
**\$29.95**  
serves 2-4

Local Fresh Halibut (\$24)  
or Rock Snapper Filets (\$16)  
Sautéed Tomato, Caper & Basil Relish,  
Mixed Wild Rice, Glazed Carrots

**The French Gourmet**  
960 Turquoise Street  
San Diego, CA 92109

[www.TheFrenchGourmet.com](http://www.TheFrenchGourmet.com)

### Connect with a Caring Guide

Connecting with families during their time of loss has been our Cemetery Director Danielle Napoli's call to service for over 13 years. She assists and counsels families with pre-planning documents, ensuring that final wishes are clearly communicated, and is a kind and empathetic presence during the tumultuous grief process.

She is truly a loving guide for families in North County making final arrangements for loved ones, both pre-need and at-need. Please reach out when you feel you need guidance, or are ready to make these decisions.

**MISSION SAN LUIS REY CEMETERY**

Our Cemetery Associates would be happy to show you the Mission's cemetery grounds. If you're ready to discuss specific options, we can explain all the options available. Call (760) 231-8445 to speak with an associate today. (Hablamos Español)

SPONSORED

Dear Friends and Family of Catholic Charities,  
Bianca's Story

Think back to two days before Thanksgiving, everyone is working to tie up loose ends before the long weekend of food and family gatherings, there is excitement in the air and people around the office are smiling, giddy as the final hours are counted down.

Now, you are Bianca, sitting at your desk, your hand trembling, holding a pink slip. How did this happen? Work was going well, no complaints, no issues. The past year you have been working hard, working overtime being a team player. Now the reality sets in, with the downsizing, the newer employees were the first to go.

With Christmas just a few weeks away, employers were not interviewing until the new year, bills were piling up and Bianca was trying to keep the holidays magical for her six children. The presents in 2019 were creative, small gifts under \$10 that is what she and her boyfriend could afford. Walking the aisles, looking for any deal or something special Bianca had a great idea! Each child received a pillow and special pillowcase, this gift would end up being the best present for their children to receive. That pillow would be their security in the coming months as hotels and unfamiliar shelters would be their reality. Bianca believed that every night they would fall asleep on something familiar, something that was theirs, something that would help them feel safe and loved.

It is now 2020, the start of a new year and new decade. Bianca is seriously struggling to find a job. She is applying everywhere. Many companies commend her educational background and experience, but no one extends an offer. Some even tell her that her master's degree in engineering is not quite the right background because they are looking specifically for candidates with computer engineering degrees.

Meanwhile, a novel coronavirus with pandemic potential is sweeping through China, with sparse cases emerging around the globe. Now two months behind on the rent and with her entire family sick with the flu, Bianca comes home to an eviction notice on her door. Her landlord had refused to accept partial payments and demanded a full payment of 2 months' rent plus late fees.

"We were trying to catch up; we just couldn't pay the back-rent all at once," Bianca said. "Sometimes, policies are so strict that there's no human to human or heart-to-heart conversation that you can have with the entity on the other side."

As Bianca and her boyfriend packed up to vacate their apartment at the end of January, they planned to stay in a hotel temporarily. They applied for personal loans four times, and even had her parents co-sign as the primary applicants at their financial institution. Every application was denied, most of them due to Bianca's student loan debt. Ironically, the debt that gave her the education and title to qualify for a career that was not hiring, was also keeping her without a home.

Most hotels in San Diego do not offer extended stays. For 8 months—through the initial coronavirus lockdown and the many fluctuating phases that followed—Bianca, her boyfriend, and their six children moved from hotel to motel, each with their suitcase and their own pillow, they all lived the lives of nomads during a global pandemic where most of us were sheltering in our homes safe. A temporary shelter admits all the chaos of the world and the uncertainty that she faced each morning, with each new day.

Neither living in a hotel or moving from one to the next is financially sustainable. With the pandemic gripping the country and stifling her job search, Bianca's funds continued to dwindle. Soon, a new set of problems set in.

"When you have no paycheck, no savings, no credit card, and no one to borrow from, you don't have the resources to just go buy food," Bianca said.

There were nights when she had only a baked potato for dinner. There were times when the family shared a bag of beans and a can of tomatoes. And there were days when they had nothing. You could see as she shared her story, Bianca was a mother first and her children, all of them, would eat before she or boyfriend did.

When 2-1-1 San Diego suggested Bianca visit Catholic Charities, she assumed it would be like the other food banks that she had received limited, almost laughable amounts of food to feed her family of eight. But, Catholic Charities, treated her differently from the first introduction.


"At a lot of food banks, you feel like a number, and I completely understand it from a data analytics standpoint; there are so many mouths to feed," she said. "At Catholic Charities, for the first time in a long time, I felt seen and heard. They asked me how many people I have in my family, how many kids, and then gave us an ample food supply."

For Bianca and so many others, hunger is not so easily solved. It's where the cycle of poverty begins and ends. A reliable food source helped Bianca stabilize her living situation, feed her family, and feed herself. From there, she was able to access additional resources, continue her job search, and secure a job—ironically, at a grocery store. She is still rebuilding her life, but it is a start, and one for which she is excited.

"I love being able to get out, go to work, and just smile and help others," she said. "You also want to show your kids that you can be strong and persevere, and that they can do the same when they're adults."

When I first met Bianca and talked to her, she was at the park with her daughter. The first thing I noticed was her smile and the happiness you could hear in her voice. I had a briefing about her before we spoke, and I envisioned meeting a woman who would be pretty rocked by her reality ... she was not what I was expecting at all. We laughed, we covered some tough topics, and in the end, I hung up in awe of her and the journey that she had overcome the past year.

At Catholic Charities, our approach to feeding the hungry is simple, yet once thought impossible, we will feed every single person who comes to us for food.

Sincerely,  
  
Appaswamy "Vino" Pajanor  
Chief Executive Officer



Be the  
"Good Samaritan"  
Support Catholic Charities initiative of Neighbor Helping Neighbors.

Give Online today  
CCDSD.ORG/Giving

Mail Donations to:  
P O Box 121831  
San Diego, CA 92112

Call to Give:  
619-323-2841



# Distinct Roads Lead Young Lives to Faith

By Denis Grasska

Easter, the celebration of Jesus Christ's victory over death, naturally evokes thoughts of renewal, rebirth and newness of life.

Nowhere is this more poignant than in the lives of the individuals preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at the upcoming Easter Vigil. They are catechumens, people who have never been baptized, and candidates, people who have been baptized in a non-Catholic denomination and now will be joining the Catholic Church. Around 650 of them participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Feb. 20 and 21.

One of them was Kyle Li, 19, who spent much of his life identifying as an agnostic.

Born in Shenzhen, China, he lived there for 15 years before his family moved to the United States, where they settled in Illinois. Li, who didn't ascribe to any faith tradition, was enrolled at Peoria Notre Dame High School, where Catholicism was part of everyday life.

Li recalls that, on his first day there, he attended a Mass celebrated for the freshmen. He was so unfamiliar with Catholicism at the time, he said, that this was the first time he had even heard the word "Mass."

He quickly grew accustomed to the routine of school Masses, prayers at the start of each school day, and class retreats. When he joined the school's swim team, his teammates would attend Mass before their meets and he would accompany them.

Despite that, he said, "I didn't really think about converting to Catholicism."

He felt inclined to maintain the status quo — until the COVID-19 pandemic upended life as he knew it. Distance learning and social distancing in his final months of high school spelled the end of his school Mass attendance. He came to realize that Mass and Catholic prayer had become a part of his life that he missed.

Li first reached out to a Catholic parish in Arkansas, where he was finishing his senior year remotely. After moving to San Diego to begin his studies at University of California, San Diego, where he is majoring in mechanical engineering, he got plugged into the Newman Center there.



**FAITHFUL:** Rosario González, left, sponsored Kevyn Delgado in his journey to join the Catholic Church. They attended Mass on Feb. 14 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista.

He has been attending weekly Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes ever since, primarily through Zoom because of the pandemic. As an extrovert

who has felt his world shrink as a result of the pandemic, the weekly meetings have afforded him a sense of community with new friends and a forum where he can share his thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment.

Kevyn Delgado, 18, is a catechumen at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista.

A Chula Vista native, Delgado was raised in a family that identified as Christian but looked askance at the Catholic Church.

Though it was never explained to him exactly why Catholics were to be avoided, he said, "I was afraid to get close to Catholic churches ... I felt like they were just forbidden to me."

At age 15, he accepted his Catholic girlfriend's invitation to accompany her on her youth group's trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain.

Delgado, who has never been baptized, said he is curious by nature and was intrigued by the idea of seeing what Catholicism was actually like.

After a fun day of amusement park rides came a Mass followed by Eucharistic adoration.

At the time, Delgado hadn't a clue what the white object exposed in the golden monstrance was. But, as the others knelt in prayerful silence and worship

music played, he felt something that he had never experienced at any of the Christian services he had attended. Tears even welled in his eyes.

When it was all over, he approached his girlfriend and the youth group leaders for answers.

For Delgado, the fact that he felt what he did without any advance preparation, has convinced him that his spiritual experience was genuine.

In the months that followed, Delgado kept asking questions and attended Mass from time to time with his girlfriend and her parents.

Within a year of the "eye-opener" at the amusement park, he said, he felt committed to becoming Catholic. However, as a 17-year-old, he would need a parent's signature to sign up for RCIA. Because that "wasn't going to happen," he said, he waited until his 18th birthday in July and began attending classes in August.

He isn't even Catholic yet, but Delgado said, "I feel part of a community that understands me and that will be there if I need any help."



**THUMBS UP:** Kyle Li attends the Newman Center at UCSD.

Information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process is found on the page [sdcatholicdisciples.net](http://sdcatholicdisciples.net)



# Lifting Spirits, One Phone Call at a Time

By Denis Grasska



In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr.

Wendell Callahan became aware of two demographic groups with needs.

Counseling graduate students at the University of San Diego faced the challenge of completing their required hours of direct client contact amidst a statewide lockdown.

At the same time, Callahan felt that elderly parishioners at St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach would benefit from more regular check-ins.

Callahan is a professor and director of the counseling program in USD's Department of Counseling & Marital and Family Therapy. He has also been a member of St. Brigid Parish for about 25 years.

To address both needs, Callahan started a new program in which counseling students would make "wellness check" phone calls to some of St. Brigid's older parishioners as frequently as once a week. The names and contact information for those seniors were provided by St. Brigid's ministry to the homebound.

For their first phone calls, the students were trained to ask about the seniors' current situation and any needs they might have, remind them about the importance of wearing face masks and washing hands frequently, and provide information about streaming and televised Masses.

"Once that initial rapport was established, then it became more of a social call," said Callahan.

He pointed out that social isolation poses major health risks, especially for seniors.

"With the elderly," he told the students, "that phone call might be as therapeutic as an hour-long



**CONVERSATION:** Teodora Dillard, a graduate student in counseling, calls an elderly St. Brigid parishioner for a "wellness check" Feb. 11.

counseling session, even if you're just talking about the weather."

Callahan said that, during a typical call, the student and senior might discuss current events, recent experiences in their own lives, and whether the senior has been receiving adequate nutrition and making it to medical appointments. Callahan said it is not unusual for seniors and students to pray together if the senior desires it.

Teodora Dillard, 25, is working toward a degree in school-based clinical counseling and will be graduating in May. She is currently making regular "wellness checks" to seven seniors and one parishioner in his 40s who is homebound because of disability.

"My primary goal is just to have a conversation," said Dillard, who

shared that one of her seniors kindly offered to help her prepare for job interviews for school counselor positions.

The "wellness check" program began last April with a group of four graduate students, who conducted regular calls until their graduation last August. Since September, a second group of four has been making the calls. With their internships no longer curtailed by lockdowns, the current cohort is involved strictly as volunteers and are not earning credit hours.

Collectively, the students are reaching about 50 to 60 seniors, who range in age from their mid-80s to over 100, said Callahan. The frequency and timing of the "wellness checks" are based on the seniors' preferences.

Callahan meets with the stu-

dents via Zoom every other week. The students report whether their seniors have expressed any needs. Common ones have included groceries, yard work, and parish information. Callahan informs the homebound ministry, which sees that the needs are met.

Eileen Ward, 81, began receiving "wellness checks" not long after going through surgery in March 2020.

In terms of needs, she didn't have any that required the students' help. She did her own grocery shopping, having identified the times of day when the stores were least crowded, and was participating in parish life by watching online Masses. So, for her, the appeal of the new program has primarily been the social aspect, and she figures that has been the case for most of her fellow parishioners.

"Most seniors didn't have a lot of need for more toilet paper," said Ward, a St. Brigid parishioner since 1993, explaining that the wellness calls became something to look forward to each week.

Though Ward has two sons and five grandchildren, with whom she has kept in touch via Zoom, it has been nice to have "a contact once a week with somebody outside of your normal circle that creates a friendship, and a diversion, and a pause in the day's continuity."

Ward currently receives weekly calls from Dillard.

Though the "wellness check" program arose out of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems unlikely to end with it.

"I don't see an end in sight, to be honest," Callahan said of the program. "It's up and running, and it kind of runs itself. As long as we have seniors and as long as we have students interested, I think we'll continue this."

**BILINGUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY**  
Based in the Catholic Faith  
*Sliding fee scale, and various insurances accepted.*




**Mary L Hill**  
MA LMFT (Lic. # 83383)  
760-687-9883

**SPECIALIZING IN:**

- Anxiety and Depression
- Parenting
- Bereavement and Loss
- Marriage & Family Relationships

maryleehillmft@gmail.com  
www.maryleehillmft.com  
1650 Linda Vista Dr. Ste. 210,  
San Marcos, CA 92078

**Nazareth House**



Nazareth House is an assisted living community located in Mission Valley offering seniors long term residential care options. We provide supportive services and compassionate care in a Catholic, spirit-centered, loving environment.

• • • • •

For more information or to tour please call **619.563.0480** or visit **NazarethHouseSD.org**  
CA Facility 372000400

**Catholic Christian Spiritual & Psychological Guidance**

**Marilyn M. Marshall Ph.D.**  
Call (858) 450-3358  
mmcmarrshall@gmail.com  
La Jolla, CA 92037



(Lic.#MT20588)

# News Briefs



**'TO HAVE AND TO HOLD'** — Around 300 couples attended the diocese's inaugural Marriage Anniversary Mass on Feb. 13 at Good Shepherd Parish in Mira Mesa. The Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop John Dolan, honored couples who had been married from a few years to more than 60. At one point, the couples renewed their marriage vows, once more saying "yes" to a lifetime of love and joy, as well as trials and tribulations. The Mass is part of the diocese's support of individuals, couples and families at all stages of their lives.

## '40 Days for Life' Underway

40 Days for Life, a 40-day campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, is underway in communities across the United States and abroad, including San Diego.

A hallmark of the campaign, which runs from Feb. 17 to March 28, is a round-the-clock prayer vigil on the public sidewalk outside an abortion clinic. Locally, such vigils are taking place at several locations, including three in San Diego – downtown, the College Area and Mira Mesa – and in Vista, El Cajon and Chula Vista.

For more information about 40 Days for Life and about vigils near you, visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

## Cristo Rey San Diego Accepting Applications

Cristo Rey San Diego High School is now accepting applications for incoming ninth- and 10th-graders for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications must be received by Friday, March 19.

The high school, which opened in fall 2020, is part of the nationwide Cristo Rey Network of 37 high schools that provide Catholic, college-preparatory education exclusively to low-income students.

One of the hallmarks of the Cristo Rey educational model is its Corporate Work Study Program, through which students are required to work at a professional job one day each week, earning about half the cost of their education.

Students are accepted on a rolling basis until the class is full. Spaces are limited.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, visit [www.cristoreysandiego.org](http://www.cristoreysandiego.org) or contact the admissions office at (619) 432-1899 or [admissions@cristoreysandiego.org](mailto:admissions@cristoreysandiego.org).

## Father Joe's 80th Birthday Fundraiser

The Ladies Guild, a service organization that raises funds to benefit children at Father Joe's Villages, is hosting a fundraiser in honor of the 80th birthday of Msgr. Joseph "Father Joe" Carroll, president emeritus

of San Diego's largest homeless services provider.

Donations of \$80 to the Village Ladies Guild are especially encouraged, but donations in any amount are welcome. Checks payable to "Village Ladies Guild" can be mailed to: Kathy McKinley, 15 Bridgetown Bend, Coronado, CA 92118.

For more information, call McKinley at (619) 207-9546 or Nona Del Bene at (760) 399-2640.

## Online Fundraiser to Help Crash Victims' Family

A GoFundMe online fundraiser has been started to help with the funeral expenses of a father and his teenage son, who died Feb. 12 in a tragic car crash.

Steve Pirolli, 54, and his 13-year-old son, Stephen Jr., both members of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo, died in an accident near Poway High School, where Stephen had just attended a baseball practice.

Donations can be made at [tinyurl.com/Pirollifundraiser](https://tinyurl.com/Pirollifundraiser). Some \$112,985 had been raised as of Feb. 19.

## Course on 'Laudato Si' Continues in March

The Diocesan Institute's virtual course on Catholic environmental teaching continues in March. The course is taught on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., through Lent, on March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Taught by an expert core team, the course will cover the spirituality of "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' encyclical on environmental stewardship, and how the Diocese of San Diego is responding to the environmental and climate crisis through its Creation Care Action Plan.

The course, which began on Feb. 24, is free to audit, \$5 for professional enhancement, or \$10 for credit. It will be team-taught by the Creation Care Core Team of the diocesan Office for Life, Peace and Justice, which includes Father Emmet Farrell, director of Creation Care Ministry. For more information, email [efarrell@sdccatholic.org](mailto:efarrell@sdccatholic.org). To register, email [danderson@sdccatholic.org](mailto:danderson@sdccatholic.org) or call (858) 490-8212.

# Obituaries

## Father Stephen McCall



Father Stephen McCall died Jan. 24. He was 71. Born in Long Beach, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 12, 1979, in Redwood City, California, for the Diocese of San Diego. His assignments included both diocesan positions, such as vicar for education and director of communications, and parish work, including as pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Oceanside, St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad, and St. Mary Magdalene Parish in San Diego. He retired from active ministry in July 2020. A funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 5 at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

## Deacon Dale Fickes



Deacon Dale Fickes died Jan. 15. He was 72. Born in Washington, D.C., he grew up in Pomona, California. Raised as a Baptist, he became Catholic so that he could marry in the Church. Ordained to the permanent diaconate on June 8, 2007, he ministered at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlsbad. In 2012, he and his wife, Peggy, moved to Gig Harbor, Washington, to be closer to their two daughters. Deacon Mike Daniels, who was ordained the same year, said Deacon Fickes "cared deeply about the people in his parish and would drop anything to help someone in need." A Requiem Mass was celebrated Jan. 22 at St. Nicholas Church in Gig Harbor.

## Deacon Raymond Paul Skupnik



Deacon Raymond Paul Skupnik died Dec. 12, 2020. He was 80. Born in Chicago, he was ordained to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of San Diego on May 31, 1986. He served at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Ramona. His ministry included dedicated service to the poor and needy, helping migrants at a homeless shelter and feeding the hungry. In 1995, Deacon Skupnik and his wife, Carol, moved to Long Beach to be near his ailing father. He served at St. Cyprian Church there for many years. Deacon Skupnik was widowed in 2015. Vince and Melia Guglielmetti, parishioners at St. Cyprian's, said, "Ray was the best friend a person could ever ask for and we will miss him dearly."

SPONSORED

# ENDOW YOUR PARISH!!



Our parishes provide us with a place to assemble, pray and worship together in a faith-filled Catholic community. The ongoing financial needs of the parish are great. Funds are needed to create, sustain and grow parish ministries, to provide education, inspiration and guidance to learn about Jesus' ministry and to follow Him, and for maintenance and development of the parish infrastructure. A parish endowment fund provides financial resources to parishes annually. They can help reduce the amount of time our pastors need to run capital campaigns and allow them to do what they were originally called to do: to dedicate their lives growing the Kingdom of God within their parish. What better way to build on your Catholic Legacy than to provide a donation to a fund that will provide financial benefits today and continue in perpetuity?

## What is an Endowment?

Endowment Funds are permanent funds intended to provide long-term support for Catholic organizations. The principal for these funds is protected forever – thus allowing the fund to support its intended purpose in perpetuity, far beyond each donor's lifetime. Endowments provide a stable, predictable source of income for Catholic organizations during good and bad economic cycles. Earnings from these invested funds are distributed annually through grants. Endowment funds at the Foundation are invested in a manner consistent with the Catholic Values Investing principles established by the USCCB.

## The Importance of Our Catholic Faith

The Catholic Church is likely to be the only institution that has been an important part of your life from your baptism until achieving eternal salvation passing into God's glory in Heaven. At your parish, you received the sacraments, including your first communion and confirmation. Your parish has always been there for you in the good times and in the challenging times throughout your life. Through our faith, we learned the 10 Commandments, Jesus' ministry, His death and resurrection, His greatest commandment and how to live by His values in a way that promises eternal salvation. Our pastors are available as counselors and they are available to visit the sick and dying whenever needed. In other words, our parishes have been, and will always be, our one true "rock" throughout our lifetimes.

## ENDOW YOUR PARISH

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Foundation will donate an additional \$5,000 for every new parish endowment started with at least \$5,000. See ad below.

## Independent Foundation

The Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego is an autonomous pious foundation formed under canon law and is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation under civil law. The foundation is independent from the Diocese of San Diego and has its own Bylaws and Board of Trustees.

For more information, please contact Gary Rectenwald at [grectenwald@ccfsd.org](mailto:grectenwald@ccfsd.org) or (858) 397-9701.

# ENDOW YOUR CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish endowment funds are permanent funds that offer financial security and a predictable source of income for our Catholic parishes. Each fund is invested in a manner consistent with Catholic values investing principles established by the USCCB. Endowment funds provide annual payments from the fund's investment earnings so that the parish's mission can continue, regardless of the current economic climate.

Prayerfully consider creating an endowment fund for your parish. **The Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego will match the first \$5,000** that is donated to establish a new endowment fund that will benefit your parish today and for many, many generations to come.

For more information go to [www.ccfsd.org](http://www.ccfsd.org) or please contact Gary Rectenwald at [grectenwald@ccfsd.org](mailto:grectenwald@ccfsd.org) or (858) 397-9701



# A Whole Year of Celebrating St. Joseph

By Denis Grasska



Count the Office for Family Life and Spirituality among the fans of Pope Francis' recent apostolic letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a Father's Heart").

"I thought it was awesome," John Prust, the office's director, said of the document, in which the pope reflected on the virtues of St. Joseph and declared a special Year of St. Joseph to run from Dec. 8 of last year through Dec. 8, 2021.

Prust said his team has been brainstorming ideas for special events and activities that their office can offer as part of the diocesan observance of the Year of St. Joseph.

But he and associate directors Ricardo Márquez and Janelle Peregoy also hope that individual families will come up with their own unique ways to celebrate.

"I think just diving into 'Patris Corde' is a wonderful start," Prust said of the 27-page document, which can be read in one sitting. "It's not hard reading. Pope Francis really speaks to the people; he doesn't just speak to the theologians."

In particular, he said, the Year of St. Joseph provides an opportunity "for fathers to spend time reflecting on their role as fathers."

Peregoy suggested that fathers make time this year to speak to their children about what the vocation of husband and father means to them.

Noting that children frequently develop a "psychological intimacy" with superheroes, reading their comic books and then modeling themselves after them, Márquez recommended that parents help their children to view St. Joseph in a similar light. There are many books available for parents seeking to tell his story to their children in a compelling way.

In addition to the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19, there is also the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, held on May 1, to honor him as the patron saint of workers. But families need not limit themselves to these feast days.

Peregoy explained that every family has its own unique calendar. Her suggestion is to take "the days that we already celebrate as a family" and find ways to "draw faith into them."

For instance, she said, "Dad's birthday is a great time to talk about St. Joseph."

Additionally, Márquez said that families could choose to dedicate each month to a specific virtue of St. Joseph, challenging themselves to find ways to live it out.

Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano will deliver a Lenten reflection, "With a Father's Heart: This Is How Joseph Loved Jesus," to the diocese's catechists. It will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 16, from 10-11 a.m. in English and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Spanish. An article about the upcoming reflection can be found online.



St. Joseph Cathedral, San Diego



**JOHN PAUL  
THE GREAT**  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
Escondido, CA

## Receive an affordable & local Catholic education

See if you qualify to have your full college tuition covered this fall!



SCAN ME

Local students may benefit from our COVID Zero Tuition Scholarship or Stay Local Scholarship

Learn more at [jpcatholic.edu/staylocal](https://jpcatholic.edu/staylocal)



Creative Arts



Media



Business



Theology



# First-Ever Papal Visit to Iraq in March

## Catholic News Service



The 70,000 or so Chaldean Catholic Iraqis who live in the San Diego region will be paying close attention in March to what happens thousands of miles away in their native land.

Pope Francis plans to embark on the first-ever papal visit to Iraq March 5 to 8 in a spiritual pilgrimage of sorts to the place known in Arabic as the “land of the two rivers” — the mighty Tigris and Euphrates — and once renowned as Mesopotamia, the “cradle of civilization.”

“The pope’s visit will give a moral boost to the Christians in Iraq,” said Deacon Keith Eshshaki, who serves in the Chaldean Catholic community centered around El Cajon.

The historically rich country is full of religious sites important to understanding the antecedents of the Christian faith, making the visit significant for Pope Francis.

Old Testament patriarch Abraham is recognized as the father of faith in one God by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike and was born in the southern town of Ur. Around 2000 B.C., Ur was a bustling center until its conquest by



**DESTROYED:** Debris surrounds the St. George Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul that was demolished by Islamic State extremists on June 9, 2019. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Iraq on March 5-8, which will include visits to sites that are being rebuilt.

Alexander the Great a few centuries before Christ. Pope Francis will participate in an interreligious meeting there.

He will travel to Nafaq for a key encounter with one of Shiite Islam’s most authoritative figures, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, as part of his efforts to embrace all of the Islamic world.

Flying into Baghdad from Rome, Pope Francis will be received in an official welcome ceremony at the presidential palace. At the capital’s Syriac Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Deliverance, he will meet bishops, priests, men and women

religious, seminarians and catechists. The cathedral was the site of a 2010 massacre that killed 58 people and was claimed by Iraq’s al-Qaida group, which splintered into the so-called Islamic State.

Mass is scheduled at the Chaldean Catholic St. Joseph Cathedral, also in Baghdad, a city with a rich, storied history where some 8 million inhabitants now live.

Heading north, Pope Francis will meet the Christian communities of Ninevah Plain. It’s the historic Christian heartland of Iraq, where Christians have lived since St. Thomas brought the Gospel mes-

sage there around A.D. 35, aided by St. Jude. The pair were thought to base themselves in the northern city of Irbil.

And it is in that city where Pope Francis will be welcomed by religious and civil leaders. Irbil and the nearby Christian enclave of Ankawa have hosted thousands of Christians and other religious minorities forced to escape Islamic State atrocities.

See a video of Deacon Keith Eshshaki, from San Diego’s Chaldean Community, and other immigrants at [sdccatholic.org/racism](http://sdccatholic.org/racism)



## Your Life Began At Conception



In Roe v. Wade the judges ruled in favor of abortion because they could not “establish” that life begins at conception.

Please help establish this absolute scientific fact by displaying one of our 30 “Trait Posters”, preferably on the rear of your car.

Visit [YLBAC.org](http://YLBAC.org) to download a poster and make a bumper sticker, or contact us and we’ll do it for you. 760-421-1234, [Greg@ylbac.org](mailto:Greg@ylbac.org)

**We the people must take action to overcome this terrible man-made disaster which kills 50 babies each 15 minutes.**

Mathew 7: “Not everyone who SAYS ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but rather they who DO my father’s will”.

**Don’t miss this chance to DO something real to fight abortion.**

## IN LOVING Memory

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

Father Harry Neely	12/17/2020	St. Patrick Catholic Church
Rev. Msgr. Jeremiah O’Sullivan	01/05/2021	Sacred Heart Church in Coronado
Elena Salcido Ypina	01/06/2021	Goodbody Mortuary
Ricardo De Casas Jr.	01/07/2021	St. Anne Catholic Church
David D Dowling	01/08/2021	Goodbody Mortuary
Mary Jane Barrack	01/14/2021	Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá
Diane Murray Soto	01/15/2021	Goodbody Mortuary
Lila Jeanne Ibarra	01/22/2021	Goodbody Mortuary
Donna Marie Hayward	01/27/2021	Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel

To Receive Free Information, No Obligation complete the coupon below.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and Mail To: Goodbody Mortuary 5027 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115

**Goodbody**  
MORTUARY  
Since 1920

**(619) 582-1700**  
[www.goodbodymortuary.com](http://www.goodbodymortuary.com)

5027 El Cajon Blvd.  
San Diego’s Leading  
Catholic Funeral Directors  
FD Lic #790



# 'This tragedy has brought us together'

ST. THERÈSE CHAPEL AT CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

By Aida Bustos



Father Martin Latiff, MC, has served as a chaplain at Cathedral Catholic High School for almost 11 years. He's one of three chaplains serving that high school and Mater Dei Catholic High School. His order, Miles Christi, focuses on the faith journey of young men and women in high school and college. He was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his order was founded. He's served in the United States for 20 years.

## Question: What do you do day-to-day at Cathedral Catholic High School?

**Answer:** In the mornings, we celebrate Mass for the students, faculty and some parents. During school hours, we're available to serve the students with spiritual direction. They can sign up and meet with us to help them grow in their Christian life, and to strengthen their relationship with God and their family and their friends. About 300 students per year take advantage of this program. We do this in-person or virtually, depending if they are on campus that day. (The school operates in a hybrid model where half of the students attend classes at the school two days a week and, the other two days, they learn from home.)

At lunch, we hold a boys' club and a girls' club. It's a time for fellowship. We have a conversation with the students about the Scriptures for the coming Sunday, always trying to connect them to the day-to-day reality of being a high school student.

## What's changed in the more than 10 years of doing your ministry at the school?

### Interview with:

**Fr. Martin Latiff**  
Cathedral Catholic  
High School Chaplain



The retreats we offer have multiplied. There used to be two senior retreats; now there are five. Service programs have started, with students volunteering at organizations like Father Joe's Villages. Our sense of family and community has grown tremendously. It's a joyful place, where students want to be. The enrollment has not gone down, even during the pandemic.

## How did students react to the loss of Mario Fierro, the Cathedral coach and teacher killed on Feb. 1?

It was a very sudden, and sad and tragic loss because Mario was a teacher that we all loved very much. He was very joyful, very dedicated, very energetic, very passionate, and very faith-filled. I had the opportunity to speak to him throughout the years, many times. He was a great role model for our students, not just in the classroom but also on the field.

While it has been a sad and difficult situation, at the same time we know that Christ is with us and while we don't understand how this could happen, we know that God accompanies us, and we put our hope that the Lord has Mario very close to His heart and to His Son, Jesus, and to Mary and that he's in heaven now.

## Did more students seek spiritual direction at this time?

There were a number of students who did

reach out to us. And there was an increase in the participation of students in activities like the rosary that was prayed at St. Thérèse of Carmel Parish (the night of his death). Many students participated in the two Masses that were offered at school for the repose of his soul. It's been a process for them, via spiritual direction, via counseling, and participating at these events.

## Is this the first time many of them are experiencing such a loss?

Yes, especially a death of this sort, very unexpected, and very tragic. It's a situation that requires particular attention to accompany the students and the faculty, not only immediately after the death but in the coming weeks as we navigate this difficult time.

We were available for the staff to talk to us. I met with some of the teachers, as did the other two chaplains. He was very close to several of them. As a school staff, we came together to support each other, and to be able to support our students.

## How has the school been changed by this loss?

This tragedy has brought us all together, having Jesus in the midst of us all. This situation has led us to grow and to come together in two realities, our union with God but also our support of each other, our accompanying each other, our service to each other.

## What would you like to tell people outside of the school community?

We appreciate their support and prayers because, during this time, we have received so many emails, so many phone calls, from across San Diego and beyond, expressing their sorrow, their compassion for us for what happened. I would like to express my gratitude for being so close to us at this very difficult moment.

## UNFURNISHED APARTMENT IN THE CROWN POINT AREA OF PACIFIC BEACH FOR RENT

Two bedroom apartment (4222 Jewell Street), recently repainted and retiled floor, ideal for a single person or a small family with living room, kitchen, dishwasher, bath/shower, washer/dryer, A/C, cable media access, and a small gated backyard located on the gated parish property of Our Lady of Refuge Church is available for rent at \$2000.00 per month. A security deposit of \$1000.00 plus first month's rent is required when the lease agreement is signed. Apartment is available after March 1, 2021.

**Inquire at: Our Lady of Refuge Church,  
4226 Jewell Street, San Diego, CA 92109.  
Telephone: (858) 274-9670.**



**FINEST CITY**  
HOMES & LOANS

**KATE ROMOSOD**

REALTOR®

(858) 518-2344

Kate.Romosod@gmail.com

Cal BRE#01957292

*Upon closing, \$500 will be donated on your behalf to the church you are registered at, and \$100 will be donated to "The Southern Cross," or any charitable organization of your choice.*

*Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated*

# Retire? At Age 102, Deacon Says 'No'

By Denis Grasska



Deacon Albert Graff, who turned 102 on Jan. 23, explains the secret to his longevity in two words: "Never retire."

An engineer by profession, he had scarcely retired after 25 years at General Atomics when he began his more than 30 years of ministry as a permanent deacon.

"I retired from General Atomics in April of 1983 and was ordained a deacon in May of 1983," said Deacon Graff, who ministered to the St. James-St. Leo Catholic Community in Solana Beach.

He continued in active ministry well into his 90s, retiring for good only after suffering a stroke five years ago. He still attends Mass at the parish, including Friday school Masses.

Born in North Dakota, Deacon Graff grew up in Los Angeles, where he attended St. Michael's School and Loyola High School.

His family was far from affluent, and his Catholic secondary education was made possible through a unique arrangement: His pastor said the parish would pay his tuition if he cleaned the church every week.

Deacon Graff went on to earn a degree in mechanical engineering from University of California, Berkeley.

In 1947, he married his wife, Marion, who died in 2000. The couple settled in San Diego in 1958, becoming members of St. James Parish.

In the late 1970s, at a time when his parish

already had two permanent deacons, Graff remembers asking his pastor, "Can you use a third?" Emboldened by the priest's response – "I can use a dozen" – he entered the formation program.

Among his diaconal duties, he had a particular love for preaching and was committed to serving the poor of Tijuana and San Diego.

In 1985, he co-founded Esperanza International, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has constructed more than 1,000 homes for poor families in Tijuana. In 1988, he co-founded Community Housing Works, which provided affordable apartments for the working poor in San Diego. In 1991, he co-founded the St. Leo Medical-Dental Clinic in Solana Beach, which treats patients who are unable to afford insurance.

"Deacon Al has always had a heart for the poor," said Deacon Peter Hodsdon of the St. James-St. Leo Community. "In the days when it was unclear what a deacon was supposed to do, Al had a ready answer – to serve the folks on the margins."

Deacon Graff has also been a benefactor of St. James Academy, which four of his five children attended. The Deacon Al Graff Scholarship Fund was started in January 2019 to make Catholic education accessible to parishioners with limited financial means.

"If we all shared a fraction of the compassion, mercy, faith and love Deacon Al has provided to others, the world would be a better place," said St. James Academy Principal Christine Lang.



**CENTENARIAN:** Deacon Albert Graff is seen after Mass Jan. 29 at St. James Parish in Solana Beach.

For an extended version of this article, visit:  
[thesoutherncross.org/032117](https://thesoutherncross.org/032117)



THE SOUTHERN  
CROSS.ORG

O'CONNOR'S  
CHURCH SUPPLY & GIFTS

Limited hours:  
8:30am - 2:30pm

## We're Open!

Thank you for your support through these times and we look forward to seeing you soon.



CALL

1.800.854.6567

VISIT

4780 Mission Gorge Place  
San Diego, CA 92120

CLICK

[OConnorsChurchsupply.com](https://OConnorsChurchsupply.com)

#OC15



### Thinking of Retirement?

Nestled in the hills of Rancho San Diego, amid lush landscaping and manicured gardens, sits Good Samaritan Retirement Center - a Catholic non-profit assisted living facility for the elderly owned and operated by The Chaldean Sisters Daughters of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Their mission statement is simple - to ensure all residents are treated with love and respect which exemplifies what it truly means to be a Good Samaritan.

**Rooms available!**  
**Call to schedule**  
**your free luncheon**  
**tour today!**  
**(619)590-1515**



Enjoy modern comforts in a quiet garden setting!  
In addition to the loving care of our 24/7 staff, residents enjoy these additional facilities & services:

- Medication management and distribution
- All meals (prepared by our in-house chef) & snacks provided
- Housekeeping and Laundry services
- Transportation to Dr Appointments
- Game room and Library
- Full Service Beauty Salon
- Daily Mass in on-site Chapel
- Social and recreational activities
- Special Events & Performers

1515 JAMACHA WAY EL CAJON, CA  
[WWW.GOODSAMRETIREMENT1.ORG](http://WWW.GOODSAMRETIREMENT1.ORG)  
Email: [info@goodsamretirement1.org](mailto:info@goodsamretirement1.org)



**GOOD**  
**SAMARITAN**  
RETIREMENT CENTER  
LIC #374600950

# Appointment of Woman a 'Great Hope'

Catholic News Service



VATICAN  
CITY — Xaviere  
Missionary

Sister Nathalie Becquart will not be the first woman undersecretary of a major Vatican office, but she will be the first woman with a right to vote at a meeting of the Synod of Bishops.

Pope Francis on Feb. 6 named the French sister one of two undersecretaries of the Synod of Bishops, a consultative body composed of bishops from around the world that is tasked with advising the pope on a particular topic. Until now, only bishops and a few priests and brothers belonging to religious orders have had a vote at synods.

"With the appointment of Sister Nathalie Becquart and the opportunity that she will participate with the right to vote, a door has been opened," Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, told *Vatican News*. "We will then see what other steps could be taken in the future."

Two women who have leadership positions in the Church in San Diego praised the decision.



**HISTORIC:** Pope Francis named Sister Nathalie Becquart, of France, an undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, making her the first woman with a right to vote at one of their meetings.

Laura Martin-Spencer is director of pastoral formation at the St. Francis de Sales House of Priestly Formation, where she works with the Diocese of San Diego's seminarians.

"The appointment of Sister Nathalie Becquart gives me great hope," she said. "I believe it is vitally important that women have a voice and decision-making capacity in the Church they love and serve."

She added, "This moment feels like the work of the Holy Spirit leading our Church into a fuller embodiment of God's kingdom ... where all peoples' experiences and wisdom are fully and equally valued."

Dr. Maureen K. Day, assistant professor of religion and society at the San Diego-based Franciscan School of Theology, was "really pleased" by the pope's appointment, but "not surprised, given the overall pattern of Francis' papacy."

"He has been encouraging [Church] leaders to include women for some time," said Day, "and Sister Becquart's appointment is his way of setting the example, paving the way for others to more easily do the same."

Day described the appointment as "incredibly important for the Catholic imagination" and expressed hope that the pope's

example "can help American Catholics take a look around and make sure the diocesan and parish leadership reflect those they serve, whether that be gender, ethnicity, age, and so forth."

Sister Becquart, who was an observer at the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, was named a consultant to the Synod of Bishops in 2019. She told *Catholic News Service* at the time that the appointment was "a symbolic and effective step toward appointing more women at the Curia."

Sister Becquart, the former director of youth evangelization and vocations for the French bishops' conference, said she was convinced more progress would come.

"At the beginning, the question of women in the Church was a question from women," she said, "and now it is also an important topic for many men, priests and bishops – and even the pope!"

*The Southern Cross* contributed to this report.

For an extended version of this article, visit:  
[thesoutherncross.org/032118](https://thesoutherncross.org/032118)



THE SOUTHERN  
CROSS.ORG



OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION & CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

*That is How Joseph  
Loved Jesus*

*With a Father's  
Heart*

**Lenten Reflection with  
Bishop Ramón Bejarano**

**Tuesday, March 16th**  
10:00 - 11:00 AM on ZOOM

Register at [www.sdcatholicdisciples.net](http://www.sdcatholicdisciples.net)



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# U.S. Catholics Are Blessing the Poor in Kenya by Addressing Their Urgent Need for Safe Water

Gladys Mghoi is helping to raise her grandchildren in Mokine, a small village situated in the Archdiocese of Mombasa. Every morning, she wakes up at around 4 a.m. to start the long and arduous process of collecting water for the day.

"In Gladys' simple home, there is no tap to turn to get a supply of water. She lives in an impoverished village, and like most everyone else there, she must travel to a distant source to get the water her family needs," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a leading relief and development charity assisting Catholic missions in Africa. "It's tragic, but water scarcity is common in many parts of Kenya. People in remote areas tend to be desperately poor, and their villages have no infrastructure to supply water. To get what they need to survive, they face a lot of hardships."

In Gladys' case, quenching the thirst of her grandchildren means a walk of nearly 2 miles to a dry riverbed. There, villagers have dug a hole that allows water to seep up from the ground. It is a slow process, so Gladys and the others who come to the spot often have to wait in line more than an hour to fill their containers with muddy water from the pit.

The walk home with this "reward" is also a challenge because the jerrycan she uses can become very heavy when it is full.

Because of Gladys' age and health, her older grandchildren usually assist with this exhausting process. When they do, it disadvantages the family again. Water collection often takes so long the children either arrive late to class or miss school altogether.

According to Cavnar, solving the water scarcity problem is a priority for Cross Catholic Outreach because a lack of clean water has a negative impact in so many areas of a poor family's life.

"One of our biggest concerns is the poor quality of the water they currently collect," he said. "The muddy stuff is often tainted with bacteria, parasites and the chemical runoff from local farms."

Gladys is aware of this threat too, but since there is no alternative, she sees no other way to proceed.

"We collect water which is very, very dirty, and then it will become very difficult for us and very unhealthy for our consumption," Gladys admitted. "This water is very dirty. It is very murky. At the same time, because we have no option, we have to drink it the way it is."



*Gladys Mghoi and her grandchildren face tremendous challenges obtaining their daily water supply. They currently walk far to collect contaminated water — because they have no other option. With the help of the Church, this hardship can end.*

As bleak as this situation may seem, Gladys and her neighbors have a reason to feel hopeful. A local priest has become aware of the village's hardships and is working to provide relief through a partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach. If this project is successful, the challenges she faces in collecting water may soon be over.

"Our goal now is to get the financial backing of U.S. Catholics to fund this special project," Cavnar said. "If they respond generously, and I believe they will, we can ensure Gladys and her grandchildren have safe water to drink for many years to come."

Addressing specific needs like this is what Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to accomplish. For nearly 20 years, the Catholic ministry has partnered with a local Catholic priest, religious sisters or missions to solve the problems of the poor.

"U.S. Catholics have been very interested in helping the poor using our approach because they like funding specific needs and supporting the local Catholic clergy," Cavnar said. "They want their donated dollars to have a

profound and lasting impact, so water projects are the kind of outreach they like best. Providing safe water addresses many needs — from quenching thirst to restoring health to supporting educational goals. In this case, it will also bring long-awaited relief to precious people like Gladys."

The grandmother confirmed that fact as she explained yet another reason she sees the proposed water project as a blessing.

"It is not very safe for me to collect water as an elderly person, but since there is no alternative, we have to risk our lives," Gladys explained.

"Sometimes because of my weakness, I can fall down. Sometimes there are also wild animals [such as] hyenas in the area."

These risks will also be eliminated when the water project is completed.

"I can't imagine the joy Gladys will feel when that tap is installed and the clean water flows freely. But I do know one thing — she and the others in her community will praise God," Cavnar said. "And what a joy it will be for us too. There's nothing more gratifying than serving as instruments of God's mercy!"

## How to Help

**To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01631, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.**

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



# BE THE AGENT FOR COMPASSIONATE CHANGE IN THE WORLD.

Integrating faith and practice. Visit us online at [www.fst.edu](http://www.fst.edu)



Learn more about FST's graduate degree program on campus at the University of San Diego.



**Franciscan School of Theology**  
at the **UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO**

Master of Arts (MA)  
Master of Divinity (MDiv)  
Master of Theological Studies (MTS)  
Non-Degree Certificate Programs

Contact the Admissions Office  
(619) 574-5800 [admissions@fst.edu](mailto:admissions@fst.edu)  
5998 Alcalá Park San Diego, CA 92110