

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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## THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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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.



# Diocese to Conduct Online Survey

By Aida Bustos



Earlier this year, parishes and schools across

San Diego and Imperial counties held 1,100 small-group sessions to listen to the faithful's experiences in the Church and their hopes for its future, in a process called a synod.

The diocese wants to hear from the more than 10,000 who participated in those sessions. It will offer a second opportunity in September to be heard, this time through an online survey to be sent to more than 150,000 people.

Parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations submitted reports to the diocese that summarized the points made by participants in the small-group sessions. They included parishioners, students and individuals living on the margins of society, such as the homeless, new immigrants, farmworkers, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated.

The themes that emerged from those sessions serve as the foundation for the questions in the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete. The diocese will conduct the survey in English and Spanish during the month of September, starting after Labor Day.

Afterward, the synod commissions of lay leaders, clergy and religious women will analyze the information from the survey. Their goal will be to develop proposals to address the issues raised collectively by the participants. These will be submitted to Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy as a pathway to bring greater participation of the faithful to all levels of the Church.

Since the beginning of the synod, he has said that the diocese would move swiftly to implement as many propos-



**LISTENING:** Mariano and Maribel Lopez led a session with formation students at St. Mark's Church on April 26, one of the 1,100 small-group sessions held across the diocese as part of the synod.

als as possible to help revitalize and renew parishes and schools after the devastation of the pandemic.

To participate in the survey, individuals need to be registered with their parish or ministry through a communication platform called Flocknote. If they are not, they can get information about how to register by contacting their parish or visiting its website.

The diocese particularly wants to hear from those who are no longer practicing their faith to understand their experiences. Parishes will provide a QR code that links to the survey and that members can share with individuals who no longer attend Mass or have left the Church.

After the group sessions concluded, the diocese developed a report that highlighted the eight themes that emerged from them, four centering on the joys the participants had experienced in the Church and four focusing on the challenges they had faced.

The report is available in English

and Spanish in the July issue of *The Southern Cross* and on the webpage [sdccatholic.org/synod](http://sdccatholic.org/synod), which also presents information about the entire consultation.

The report was submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which in turn will submit a report to the Vatican that synthesizes the information sent in by all dioceses across the country.

In a videotaped message, Cardinal-designate McElroy urged every Catholic to participate in the survey.

"I ask that you join this continued effort to share your experiences with the Church," he said. "We continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to direct us in furthering the mission of the Church and the people of this diocese. Together, we journey toward renewal."

**More information:** [sdccatholic.org/synod](http://sdccatholic.org/synod) (English) and [sdccatholic.org/sinodo](http://sdccatholic.org/sinodo) (Spanish)



## Telescope's 'Tantalizing Glimpse' of Universe

Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY — NASA has released the first batch of images from the James Webb Space Telescope, described as "the largest, most powerful space telescope ever built."

Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, the director of the Vatican Observatory, said the images are "a tantalizing glimpse of what we'll be able to learn about the universe with this telescope."

Webb's mission is to study "every phase of 13.5 billion years of cosmic history — from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe, and everything in between."

"The science behind this telescope is our attempt to use our God-given



**HEAVENLY:** This image is of a planetary nebula taken by the James Webb Space Telescope.

intelligence to understand the logic of the universe," Brother Consolmagno said. "The universe wouldn't work if it weren't logical. But as these images

show, the universe is not only logical, it is also beautiful.

"This is God's creation being revealed to us, and in it we can see both His astonishing power and His love of beauty."

Pointing to the telescope's "first spectrum of water vapor in the atmosphere of an exoplanet," a planet that orbits a star outside the solar system, Brother Consolmagno recalled one of his Jesuit-scientist predecessors.

"It was about 150 years ago when Father Angelo Secchi put a prism in front of his telescope lens on the roof of the St. Ignatius Church in Rome, and made the first spectral measurements of the atmospheres of the planets in our own solar system," he said. "I can only imagine how delighted he would be to see the science he pioneered applied to planets unknown to him orbiting distant stars."



# Big Boost to Diocese's Creation Care Ministry

By Denis Grasska



The Diocese of San Diego now has a full-time staff

member devoted exclusively to environmental stewardship and care for our common home.

Christina Bagaglio Slentz, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado, joined the staff of the diocesan Office for Life, Peace and Justice on July 15 as associate director for Creation Care Ministry.

This ministry was started in early 2017 by Father Emmet Farrell, a retired priest who has led it with a team of volunteers. The ministry's accomplishments include the publication of a 55-page diocesan climate action plan, as well as an ongoing tree-planting campaign.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the new associate director position is fully funded for the next five years.

Paz Artaza-Regan, of the Catholic Climate Covenant in Washington, D.C., hailed the creation of the new position as "incredibly significant." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops helped form that organization, which helps Catholics to respond to the Church's call to care for creation and the poor.

She noted that, in most dioceses that have a creation care ministry, it is either one of several issues handled by the same staffer or has been entrusted to volunteers.

"San Diego joins only a handful of dioceses with full-time creation-care staffing," she said. "San Diego has been a leader on creation care with Father Emmet and with a vibrant and robust creation care ministry, but having a full-time staff person will truly propel it to the front of diocesan efforts."

Michael Lovette-Colyer, vice president for Mission Integration at the University of San Diego, similarly greeted the creation of the new position as an "exciting development."

"I hope, and expect, that Christina will continue and expand the excellent work begun by Father Emmet Farrell and the Creation Care Team over the past five years," he said. "They have done tremendous work, establishing a firm foundation that Christina will be able to build upon."

Father Farrell, who will continue to be involved in the ministry, acknowledged that the new position is a big deal for a ministry that, until now, had been entirely volunteer-run. He expressed hope that having a full-time staffer entrusted with this ministry will give it greater "legitimacy" in the eyes of pastors.

Born in the Bay Area, Slentz grew up in a Navy family and moved around a lot. She later served in the Navy herself, for five years as an active-duty naval intelligence officer and another five years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Slentz earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in



**LET IT GROW:** The development of a community garden at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Barrio Logan, pictured, is among the fruits of creation care ministry in the Diocese of San Diego. That ministry is now led at the diocesan level by a full-time associate director, Christina Bagaglio Slentz.



Christina Bagaglio Slentz

1995, double-majoring in Government and Russian. She earned a master's degree and a PhD in International Studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2012 and 2021, respectively.

Her doctoral dissertation was on environmentally related human movement and potential for socio-political instability.

In 2019, Slentz helped to start the local nonprofit Emerald Keepers, which educates Coronado residents on sustainability practices and encourages environmental activism. She continues to serve as a board member.

She is a member of the Coronado Climate Action Group, advising the City of Coronado on its climate action plan.

Slentz also has ministry experience, having served for almost 25 years as a catechist and, since 2018, as the marriage preparation coordinator at Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado.

With her husband, Tim, and their three children — Gabby, Grayson and Matthew — she has been a member of the parish since moving to San Diego six years ago.

This past June, she completed the Laudato Si' Animators program, an online leadership training course offered through the Laudato Si' Movement. The program, which prepares participants to become environmental leaders in their communities, is named after Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home."

Slentz said one of her goals as associate director for Creation Care Ministry is "not to create another silo of activity" in the local Church, but to present the ministry as "a lens through which all of us can approach our day-to-day lives."

In other words, creation care ministry isn't something "just for the tree-huggers at the parish," she explained, but rather should guide all parish decisions, including everything from construction projects to grocery shopping for pancake breakfasts.

"I would hope that ... by establishing this ministry, that it actually becomes part of what everybody does," she said. "Maybe the goal should be that I put myself out of work at some point in time, because everyone (will have) taken on these practices."

Artaza-Regan said she is "excited to ... see where (Slentz) might be able to take the Diocese of San Diego in its 'Laudato Si' journey. She will be, in some ways, a 'pioneer' in laying the foundations for how creation care issues can be woven into the fabric of all ministries of a diocese."

## Cardinal McElroy to celebrate St. Francis Mass

The entire Catholic community is invited to the annual Mass of St. Francis on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m., to be celebrated by then Cardinal Robert McElroy at St. Rita's Church in Southeastern San Diego.

The Mass is keyed to the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of the poor, who is the inspiration for the Catholic Church's ministry that cares for all creation.

At a lunch after the Mass, the ministry will present awards to the winners of its Youth Art Contest, which will be held among students from the diocese's schools during September.



More information will be available at (858) 490-8324 and on the web at [sdcatholic.org/creation](https://sdcatholic.org/creation).



# Legendary 'Padrecito del Barrio' Back Home



**FRIENDS:** Adela Garcia, her mother, and U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas at the unveiling of the mural.

## The Southern Cross



Jesuit Father Richard Brown was a fixture in Barrio Logan for 50 years.

As pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, he served and celebrated the community's residents, especially its young people.

He formed a special bond with members of lowrider car clubs, seen by many as neighborhood toughs best avoided. He saw them as young men and women passionate about their vehicles, and treated them accordingly.

Father Brown retired in 2005 after 37 years at the parish. He remained active in the community until 2018, and died two years later in the Bay Area.

A mural depicting the Brown Image Car Club was unveiled on June 25 at Chicano Park. Henry Rodriguez, the club's president, was present, as well as many members of the parish community.

"Father Brown was a friend and loved by all of us. He guided us the right way," he told Adela Garcia, who also knew him for decades.

One of the mural's panels features a young Father Brown, wearing his straw hat, holding a microphone. Once more a fixture in his beloved barrio.



**COMMUNITY PILLAR:** The newest mural at Chicano Park celebrates the Brown Image Car Club, led by Henry Rodriguez, below, and its legacy in Barrio Logan. The mural depicts the late Father Richard, a legendary pastor and friend. The current pastor, Father Marty Silva, SJ, attended the unveiling on June 25.





# New School Superintendent on Learning Tour

By Denis Grasska



As a new academic year dawns, the students won't be the only ones with homework to do.

Leticia Oseguera, the new diocesan superintendent of schools, anticipates that this will be “a year of learning” for her, too.

Oseguera, who assumed leadership of the diocesan Office for Schools in July, wants each of the 46 Catholic elementary and high schools in the diocese to thrive. That means having healthy enrollment, highly trained teachers, and engaged students who are not only acquiring academic knowledge but also growing in their faith.

But before she can truly help them, she needs to get to know the schools.

Within her first few months, Oseguera hopes to visit every school in the diocese and meet with their principals and pastors. By the end of July, she plans to begin scheduling these meetings.

She doesn't want to make any assumptions based on her personal experience at Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy in Chula Vista, where she recently completed five years as principal. Rather, she intends to do a lot of listening to the principals' own assessment of their school's strengths and areas for growth.

Through these conversations, Oseguera hopes to identify both



**EDUCATORS AT WORK:** Diocesan Superintendent Leticia Oseguera, center, chats with Matt Cordes, associate director of the Office for Schools, and administrative assistant Anne Noya.

school-specific and diocese-wide goals for improvement.

“We have some schools that may be struggling, and we have some schools that are thriving, but all of them need some sort of support,” said Oseguera, who has 19 years of experience in education, including seven in public schools and 12 within the San Diego Diocese. “So, the question is: What are the specific needs of that school, and how can we best support them?”

Even currently thriving schools won't be off the hook. No matter how well a school is doing, there is always room for growth.

Oseguera is also committed to continuing the “culture of collaboration” fostered by her predecessor, John Galvan, and the office's associate directors, Dr. Julie Cantillon and Matt Cordes.

“We're all in this together, and we're all here to support each other, learn from each other, grow together,” she said.

Another priority will be doing whatever she can to support teachers and especially principals.

“I think that the principal position is critical in ensuring that we have a thriving school,” she said. “If the leader is the right leader for that school,

then the school will thrive.”

Reflecting on her humble background, Oseguera shared that her father attended school through the first grade and her mother has only a third-grade education. Her parents immigrated from Mexico to the United States when she was 8 years old so that she and her siblings would have better educational opportunities.

She now holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature from the University of California, San Diego; a master's in Education from Claremont Graduate University; and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration from St. Thomas University.

Oseguera was inspired to become a teacher to help other children to receive a quality education. As superintendent of diocesan schools, she is now in a position to support Catholic school children in both San Diego and Imperial counties.

She said she is aware that the accessibility and affordability of Catholic education is a concern for families across the diocese.

“This is an area that I want to explore, analyze and work collaboratively with our schools and parishes to address.”

Overall, her new position is “more than a dream-come-true.”

“It's a big responsibility, and so, I take it very seriously ... I will work very hard to fulfill that commitment to the students and to the families, because they are our future, and so we have the future in our hands.”



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# Feminine and Modest: Designing a New Swimsuit

By Christina Capecchi

For years, Catherine Huss' twin passions were evident: faith and fashion.

The 30-year-old Catholic never felt that her faith was at odds with her penchant for apparel. But the career path she projected for herself did appear lonely. She wasn't aware of any other Catholic fashion designers.

"I didn't see anyone doing it," said Huss, a San Diego resident who belongs to St. Vincent Catholic Church. "That became a big source of motivation: 'Alright, I guess I have to.'"

Huss shuttled between two campuses in St. Paul, Minn., studying Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas and apparel design at St. Catherine University.

The acclaimed Catholic Studies program steeped her in the Church's rich tradition of faith and reason. Meanwhile, her sense of social justice was sparked by lively classroom discussions about ethical clothing production and the dignity of the human person.

Studying in Rome for a semester through the Catholic Studies program confirmed her desire to blaze a new trail.

"I had this interesting takeaway about how, in Rome, there's a church or two on every block and then there will be a fashion house right next to the church. They're sharing a wall! So I had this phrase: *chiesa* to Marchesa. Church to Marchesa, a famous fashion designer. It was a funny juxtaposition



**SUITS:** *Siena and Co. Swimwear, launched by a Catholic designer, offers swimsuits that strive to honor the female figure without revealing too much.*

— but also a God wink or an affirmation, God saying, 'Catherine, I see you and I hear the desires of your heart, and I'm with you in it.'"

After college, Huss relocated to California to work in the fashion industry. The free time provided while quarantining during COVID-19 inspired her to finally make her dreams a reality and launch a swimsuit line. She named it Siena and Co. Swimwear.

"This has been a desire I've had since I was young, and what it really took was me taking that first step — pursuing it," Huss said. "You can't move a parked car. God is everything and does everything, but He also needs our cooperation."

For her first collection, The Classics Collection, she strove for simple



Catherine Huss

elegance, designing black swimsuits that neither revealed too much or too little, honoring the female figure in a demure, stately way. A high-waisted swim skirt. A wrap top with a skirt. A

classic swim dress. They're all made with sustainable materials, sewn by workers paid a fair wage.

Last fall, she launched a Kickstarter campaign that functioned as pre-orders for her debut collection. Her goal for the 30-day campaign was \$30,000.

"God is going to keep the doors open or He's going to close them," she thought. "It was very affirming to reach the goal. 'Yes, people want this!'"

It would take time for those pre-orders to be processed, delayed by supply issues, but the swimsuits — about 200 orders — were shipped in May.

Catherine's day job, working on a contract basis for an apparel company, recently ended, and now she's determining whether she can turn Siena and Co. into a full-time job — her dream. She's eager to design new collections, introducing color and designing cover-ups.

A driving force is her desire to uphold the dignity of each person. "If you're comfortable in what you're wearing, you're less worried about what you're wearing and therefore can be more present to others around you."

As a single Catholic, Catherine knows what it's like to feel uncomfortable in a swimsuit.

She hopes her swimsuits can empower women this summer.

"How we look in a swimsuit doesn't matter to the people who love us. They just want to be with you."

*Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.*



## Caring for the Whole Person Initiative (CWPI) Parish Volunteer Training

This initiative supports parishioners and their families as they lovingly attend, accompany and care for the terminally ill on their final journey.

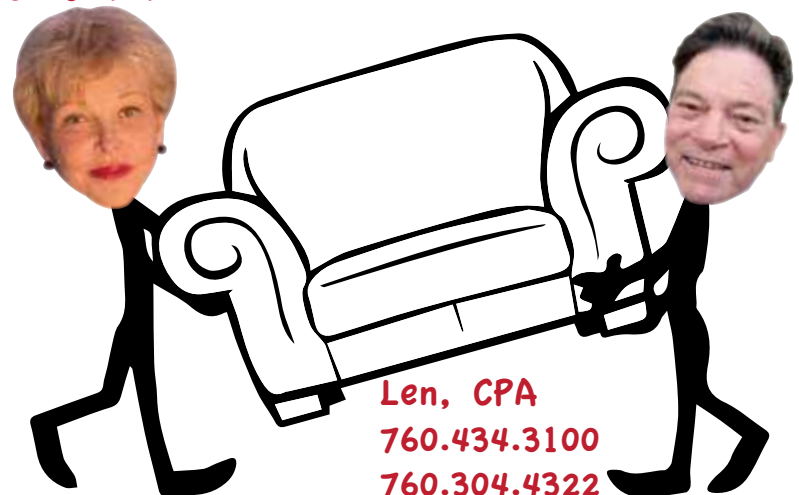
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# Young Adult Mass Is Like a 'Family Reunion'

By Denis Grasska

Between 300 and 400 people are expected to attend the annual Young Adult Adoration and Mass.

The event, which is organized each year by the diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will take place on Sunday, Aug. 14, at The Immaculata Church on the University of San Diego campus.

It will begin at 5 p.m. with Eucharistic adoration. During a "holy hour" of silent prayer punctuated by praise-and-worship songs, young adults will adore the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a monstrance.

The 6 p.m. Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, will be followed by refreshments on the East Lawn adjacent to the church.

Maricruz Flores, director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said the Young Adult Adoration and Mass draws young adults from all corners of the diocese, who may not get to see one another often. She likened it to "a family reunion."

"It really does reinvigorate our office, myself included, and it gives me hope for the future of our Church," Flores said of the event.

Pamela Poe, associate director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said what makes this event special is that attendees are gathered around "the source and summit of our faith, Jesus in the Eucharist."



**SO NICE TO SEE YOU:** Young adults greet one another after the annual Young Adult Adoration and Mass on Aug. 18, 2019, at The Immaculata Church. This year's event will be Aug. 14, with Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano as the celebrant.

The experience is different from the typical Sunday Mass, she said.

"This Mass is especially for young adults," she explained. "It is meant to encourage our young adults, to help them see that they are a part of something so much bigger than themselves, their respective groups and individual experiences of the Church."

"This (young adult) Mass," she said, "allows us to gather together as a community, to be nourished by the Bread of Life, celebrate the gift of community and then to go out and be Christ to others."

Flores said the Young Adult Adoration and Mass basically follows the same format as past years' — something that provides a sense of stability and familiarity for returning participants.

But that's not to say that this year's liturgy won't see a few changes.

The upcoming event will be bilingual, with Mass readings and praise-and-worship songs in both English and Spanish, Poe said. For the first time, there also will be a blessing and commissioning of young adult leaders at the end of the Mass.

After the liturgy, Flores said young adults will be invited to attend the next major event on the Youth and Young Adult Office's calendar: the annual Diocesan Young Adult Retreat, which will be held from Sept. 16 to 18 at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp in Julian. Registration opens Aug. 1.

For more information, visit [sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry](https://sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry).



## Make time for yourself at a Private Retreat: Self-care is just as important as caring for others.



The Mission Retreat Center is available to individuals seeking a respite for solitude and personal spiritual reflection without participation in a formal program.

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JOHN GASTALDO

## PERSPECTIVE: Why I Chose Life Over Death

*Sarah Keller decided against having an abortion and is able to share in the life of her son through open adoption.*

By Sarah Keller



I have come to strongly believe that adoption is as viable an option as parenting. Why? Because I had an abortion.

In February of 2017, at age 21, I stepped into the cold surgical room of a well-known “healthcare” clinic and left with less of me than when I entered.

For the next two-plus years I soothed the aching void in my womanhood with extreme workouts, non-stop work, and promiscuity. It wasn't until I found myself imploding from the grief that I finally decided to seek post-abortion grief counseling at a pregnancy resource medical clinic.

Not long after, I found myself pregnant again.

The fearful and self-sufficient girl inside of me began to soften into a humbled and discerning woman. I first had to acknowledge my gut-wrenching grief due to choosing death before. I also had to acknowledge that God has a plan for life at conception, that this child was made for a purpose; far be it from me to get in the way.

The second time I found myself pregnant, no less than by a man with whom I didn't even want association, things were different. I knew this child needed a secure and loving father in its life from the start.

So, I chose life.

I learned to reach out to my community. I told my closest friends, who I knew would keep a confidence while I figured out what to do.

From there, I sought out information. The beauty of pregnancy is that there's sufficient time to find resources, educate oneself, and decide. I didn't know three important things in my previous pregnancy: What a pregnancy resource center was, what all of my options were, and what are the emotional/spiritual/physical/mental consequences of an abortion.

The lack of information in the abortion industry is alarming considering that abortion is a silent killer of both mother (emotionally and sometimes physically) and child.

When I started looking for resources, I realized I was already connected to a pregnancy resource clinic because of the abortion grief counseling I had received. It's amazing how that

one resource took me in at my worst, and again at a low point, but now offered me hope that life would emerge from the darkness.

I immersed myself in brochures and classes. Now, I could make an informed decision.

I also had come back to my faith and recommitted my life to Christ; I submitted the life of this baby to the Lord's will. Within two months of my pregnancy, I knew without a doubt that my child was to be a gift for someone else, and at five months, I knew I wanted to place my child in a local, open adoption.

What does an open adoption look like for a single mother? I would like to share three components that I believe apply to open adoptions.

First, there are millions of parents with arms wide open, ready to receive a child and maintain an open adoption.

Second, the birth mother does not have to pay a cent in the adoption process. Placing a child into a loving home is sacrifice enough.

Third is community. I had family members who didn't like my decision; I had friends who didn't understand it; I had mothers who said I should

have kept my son. But in the pro-life adoption community, I found that it's OK if my family and friends “didn't get it” because there are millions of people who do.

In my surrender to the Lord, He led me to meet a beautiful couple before I even knew I was placing my baby boy for adoption. Through a few months of processing and prayer, I realized they were the parents for my son.

He is now 22 months old, and the happiest boy I know. His parents give him so much love, a beautiful life — and I am a vital part of that.

Our relationship is a friendship, attached by love and bound by blood, with enough pictures to fill five scrapbooks at this point. I have milestones to look forward to now; not shame to cover or an ache to numb. Sure, there's still pain to process and a story to tell, but it's all to say this: I have chosen death and I have chosen life. I can tell you, choosing life is the only option that will bring you life.

*This essay was originally published by The San Diego Union-Tribune on June 20, 2022.*

## 'In Many Ways, Our Work Has Just Begun'

The Southern Cross



Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy, of the Diocese of San Diego, issued the following statement after the June 24 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*:

“Today is a day to give thanks and celebrate. Catholic social teaching

holds that life begins at conception, which is a belief shared by millions of Americans regardless of religious faith. The ruling by the Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* affirms that belief and recognizes the ability of states to regulate abortion to protect the rights of the unborn.

“While we celebrate this decision — the culmination of prayer and decades of legislative advocacy, life-affirming events, committing time and resour-

es to pregnancy centers, and walking with families facing an unplanned pregnancy — in many ways, our work has just begun.

“We must work to ensure that California law protects the rights of the unborn. And we must emphasize that being pro-life demands more than opposition to abortion.

“It demands we do everything we can to support families, to provide access to quality healthcare, affordable housing, good jobs and decent housing.

“It means making sure parents and families have access to affordable child-care, so that being a parent doesn't force women and families to drop out of school or leave the job market.

“It also means reinvigorating our adoption system, to make sure there are options for women and families who are unable or unwilling, for whatever reason, to take on the responsibilities of parenthood.

“Support for children and families cannot stop at birth.”





# “You are not alone.”

That’s the message from the staff of the pregnancy resource centers and clinics across San Diego and Imperial counties that are ready to help any woman facing an unplanned pregnancy — with no judgment.

**(877) 398-7734**

**Options for Pregnancy** is an organization that lists resource centers and clinics across the U.S: **[optionsforpregnancy.com](https://optionsforpregnancy.com)**

### Pregnancy Resource Centers/Clinics

**SAN DIEGO**

Birthline of San Diego County  
(Clairemont)  
(858) 270-2491  
[birthlineofsandiego.org](https://birthlineofsandiego.org)

CAPS Pregnancy Clinics  
(Kearny Mesa, Pacific Beach, Downtown  
San Diego, and College Area)  
(619) 337-8080  
[capspregnancyclinics.org](https://capspregnancyclinics.org)

Culture of Life Family Services  
(760) 741-1224  
Abortion Pill Reversal line: (877) 558-0333  
[colfs.org](https://colfs.org)

Pregnancy Care Clinic  
(619) 326-8595  
[unplannedparenthood.org](https://unplannedparenthood.org)

**CHULA VISTA**

Silent Voices  
(619) 422-0757  
[silentvoices.org](https://silentvoices.org)

**EAST COUNTY**

East County Pregnancy Care Clinic  
(619) 442-4357  
[unplannedparenthood.org](https://unplannedparenthood.org)

**EL CENTRO**

Birth Choice of Imperial Valley  
(760) 352-2881

**ESCONDIDO**

Alternatives Medical Clinic  
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[amc-ca.com](https://amc-ca.com)  
  
Culture of Life Family Services  
(760) 741-1224  
Abortion Pill Reversal line: (877) 558-0333  
[colfs.org](https://colfs.org)

**FALLBROOK**

Hope Clinic for Women  
(760) 728-4105  
Hotline: (800) 712-4357  
[hopefallbrook.com](https://hopefallbrook.com)

**POWAY**

Life Choices  
(858) 486-1738  
[sdlifechoices.org](https://sdlifechoices.org)

**RAMONA**

Pregnancy Care Clinic  
(760) 789-7059  
Hotline: (800) 395-HELP  
[ramonapregnancy.org](https://ramonapregnancy.org)

**SAN MARCOS**

Birth Choice  
(760) 744-1313  
Hotline: (800) 712-4357  
[birthchoice.net](https://birthchoice.net)

**SORRENTO VALLEY**

Turning Point Pregnancy Center  
(858) 397-1970  
[mmpregnancy.com](https://mmpregnancy.com)

**VISTA**

Pathway Health Clinic  
(760) 350-3767  
24/7 text-only: (760) 208-8811  
[pathway-healthclinic.com](https://pathway-healthclinic.com)

### Maternity Homes

29:Eleven Maternity Home (San Diego)  
(619) 432-7773  
[29eleven.org](https://29eleven.org)

Lamb of God Maternity Home (Escondido)  
(760) 294-7969  
Hotline: (760) 715-6463  
[agnusdeifoundation.org](https://agnusdeifoundation.org)

### Adoption Facilitation

Adoption Center of San Diego  
(858) 535-3033  
Hotline: (619) 244-5224  
[sdadopt.org](https://sdadopt.org)

### Post-Abortion Resources

It’s normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one’s heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness, according to Project Rachel. These organizations are ready to help those individuals in need of healing.

Rachel’s Hope (San Diego)  
(858) 581-3022  
[rachelshope.org](https://rachelshope.org)

Esperanza de Raquel  
(Post-abortion/miscarriage healing in Spanish,  
San Diego and Imperial Valley)  
(858) 952-2394

Deeper Still (Fallbrook)  
(760) 297-6745  
[deeperstillfallbrook.org](https://deeperstillfallbrook.org)

**This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in English and in Spanish,  
to help women facing a crisis pregnancy: (877) 398-7734**



# 20th Anniversary of Charter to Prevent Abuse

By Denis Grasska



Never again.

That was the message the U.S. bishops sent when they approved the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” in June of 2002.

The document, which was a response to the clergy sex abuse scandal that broke earlier that year, represented an acknowledgement that Church leaders had failed to adequately protect children. It established protocols that the bishops hoped would address harms and bring healing to victim-survivors and prevent future abuse.

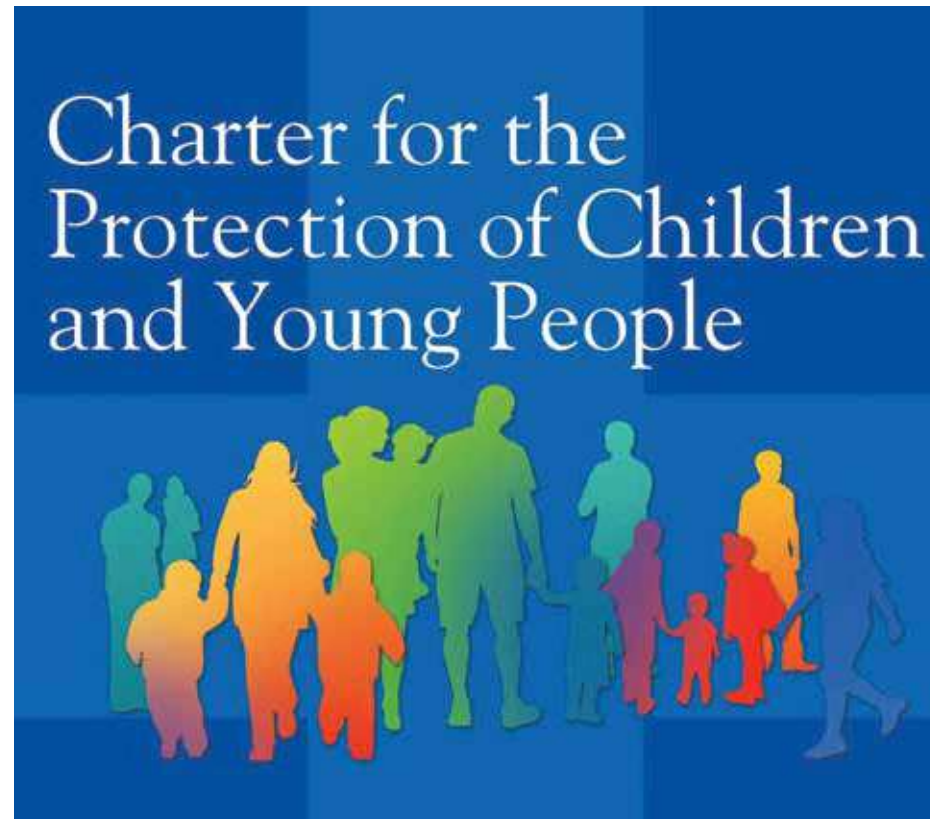
Over the past two decades, those protocols have become a way of life for all U.S. dioceses, including the Diocese of San Diego.

“NO—GO—TELL” posters, which remind youth how to respond to inappropriate behavior, are now a common sight in parish halls and Catholic school classrooms. (Youth are encouraged to say “no,” leave the area immediately, and confide in a trusted adult.) But, unlike the posters, much of the work the diocese has done — and continues to do — to implement the Charter isn’t visible to the average Catholic in the pew.

Rodrigo Valdivia, who directs the diocesan Office for Child and Youth Protection, explained that the Charter focuses on three areas: preventing sexual abuse, responding to abuse allegations, and providing pastoral care to victim-survivors.

Every child enrolled in a K-12 Catholic school or parish-based religious education program receives age-appropriate “safe environment” training every year. All clergy, teachers and other employees, as well as volunteers who work with children, must complete this training and pass a background check at the start of their diocesan work and must renew them every five years.

Over the past 20 years, tens of thou-



sands have received this training in the diocese.

“That’s something that, oftentimes, people — not only in the Church, but obviously in the general community — don’t know that we’re doing,” said Valdivia, who has been leading the diocese’s safe environment program since it was adopted 20 years ago.

The Charter also called upon each diocese to establish an independent Diocesan Review Board to assess the credibility of sexual abuse allegations made against local clergy and other Church personnel.

San Diego’s review board met for the first time in November of 2002. Among its eight members are retired individuals from the law enforcement and legal fields, a social worker, a pastor, and a victim-survivor.

To the credit of the Charter’s abuse-prevention measures, Valdivia said the review board has received no reports of alleged clergy abuse taking place in the last 20 years, though it

has continued to receive claims dating from the 1960s through 1980s.

In accordance with the Charter, the Diocese of San Diego has also provided pastoral care to victim-survivors. Sometimes, this means something as simple as listening to and documenting their story, but also involves offering spiritual direction, connecting them to support groups, offering a meeting with the bishop, and paying for therapy or counseling.

Mary Acosta joined the diocesan staff three years ago as the full-time Victim Assistance Coordinator and spearheads the diocesan effort to provide pastoral care and outreach to those who have suffered abuse by local clergy.

Additionally, educational seminars on child abuse are being offered at parishes, and healing opportunities, such as retreats and support groups, are being offered to local victim-survivors.

In August of 2019, Cardinal-designate Robert McElroy took the

unprecedented step of bringing together the approximately 2,500 diocesan staff members at one location for a special presentation on child sex-abuse prevention that included remarks from San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan. This illustrated the diocese’s commitment to preventing child abuse and helping victim-survivors in the Church today.

The San Diego Diocese went beyond what is required by law or by the Charter when, in late 2019, it joined five other California (arch) dioceses to create an Independent Compensation Program to settle the claims of victim-survivors. Administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, the program paid almost \$24 million to settle the claims of 1,977 victim-survivors statewide; this included the \$7,655,000 that the San Diego Diocese paid to 59 individuals.

Like all U.S. dioceses, the Diocese of San Diego submits an annual report to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on how it is complying with the Charter. Every three years, the diocese undergoes an on-site audit. The diocese has been found to be in compliance every time.

Acosta has heard it said that, today, the U.S. Catholic Church is “the safest place in the world for children” when it comes to abuse.

“I think, because of the Charter, that is most likely very true,” she said.

Acosta added that the charter has inspired other organizations to implement similar programs to protect children.

The Diocese of San Diego maintains a webpage, Safe in Our Diocese ([safeinourdiocese.org](https://safeinourdiocese.org)), that includes information on how to report abuse, abuse-prevention resources, and information about the Diocesan Review Board and the annual audits, and it contains a list of diocesan priests who have been credibly accused of abuse.

## Audit Shows 37% Drop in Abuse Allegations

Catholic News Service



WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops’ annual report on compliance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” shows that 2,930 victim-survivors came forward with 3,103 allegations during the audit year of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

The number of allegations is 1,149 less than that reported in 2020, according to the audit report released July 12 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“This decrease is due in large part to the resolution of allegations received

as a result of lawsuits, compensation programs, and bankruptcies,” said a news release accompanying the report.

Most allegations in the USCCB report were “historical in nature,” meaning the alleged victim is now an adult and the abuse happened in years or decades past. During this audit year, there were 30 new allegations.

The report is based on the audit findings of StoneBridge Business Partners, based in Rochester, New York.

Of the 30 new allegations made by current minors, six were substantiated; nine are still under investigation; nine were unsubstantiated; five could not be proven; and one was referred to the provincial of a religious order.

“This year’s audit shows that new cases of sexual misconduct by priests

involving minors are rare today in the Catholic Church in the U.S.,” said Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez, USCCB president. He added that “every offender was removed from ministry. Every allegation was reported to law enforcement.”

The report shows that dioceses and eparchies provided support to 285 victim-survivors and their families who reported an allegation during the audit period.

In 2021, the Church conducted 1,964,656 background checks on clergy, employees and volunteers. In addition, over 2 million adults and over 2.4 million children and youth were trained in how to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs.

### More Information

The full annual report on compliance with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3aHxm59>.

For information about how the San Diego Diocese works to prevent child abuse and how it investigates claims of abuse, visit [safeinourdiocese.org](https://safeinourdiocese.org). To report abuse you may phone (858) 490-8353 or email [misconduct@sdccatholic.org](mailto:misconduct@sdccatholic.org).



# We Desperately Need an 'Emotional Disarmament'



Before nuclear disarmament, humanity needs a cultural disarmament, the Spanish theologian, Raimon Panikkar, tells us.

In the wake of the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen the polarization in our country grow even greater.

The deaths unleashed by mentally unstable young men using firearms have profoundly touched us, leaving us feeling rage, frustration and hopelessness.

All this has laid bare how blocs in our society vehemently, and at times violently, defend their positions. It's difficult for us to have a dialogue, to exchange points of view, without falling into labels such as "right," "left," "liberals," "conservatives," "loyal" and "off the rails."

Associate Director,  
Family Life &  
Spirituality

**Ricardo Márquez**



It's difficult to sustain conversations with layers of complexity, opposing views and paradoxes.

We prefer a language that separates reality into two dimensions, "white" or "black," which makes it easier to end a conversation to protect ourselves and defend our position, distancing ourselves from the grays, the lights and the shadows that are a part of reality.

Fanaticism grows in complex situations because it's the easiest fall-back position to evade the tension that comes with diversity of opinion, with differences.

It's difficult for us to talk about controversial issues in our family, among

friends, in our parishes and our cities. Personally, when I've had to do it, I wind up feeling a deep distaste inside.

I have come to realize that that feeling comes from my desire to convince the other of his error, from my frustration at seeing his intransigence and blindness. It's rare to have a conversation in which we listen to the other person respectfully and not just be thinking of our response to contradict what was just said.

We need an "emotional disarmament," lowering the weapons of our biases, to be able to see the essential and not the accidental. We need to connect with what unites us and identifies us as human beings in search of the truth, truth that we do not own, nor control, truth that is the light that turns on when we offer — with honesty — distinct points of view of reality without falling into absolutes.

It's not easy to do this, nor does it happen without being intentional,

and practicing it. It's not an attitude that's imposed, it's a grace that is received, the result of tirelessly asking: "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."

The problem is not the problem, rather it is how we cope with it that is the problem, the therapist Virginia Satir reminds us. It's not about making everything relative, nor renouncing our values and principles. We can express them with respect, compassion, firmness and honesty.

"The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better," according to the Center for Action and Contemplation. It's what we express with our actions and our lifestyle, with the joy and inner peace that come from centering ourselves in our Lord Jesus and His message and not in our "ego":

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9), creating fraternity among human beings.

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# Pope Names Women to Key Vatican Office

Catholic News Service



Local theology professor Dr. Maureen K. Day

acknowledges that, on one level, Pope Francis' appointment of three women to the group that helps him select bishops is "business as usual."

She noted that these women are "competent and dedicated members of our Church (who) are going to serve us well."

But on another level, their appointment serves as a reminder that "women are important to our Church as active leaders," said Day, associate professor of Religion and Society at Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego. "It forms our imagination to think about how we might foster collaborative leadership that is not only excellent, but also reflects the demographics and experiences of those served."

She expressed hope that the U.S. Church might follow the pope's lead in considering how to bring "more diverse leadership" to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and to U.S. dioceses and parishes.

On July 13, ten days after saying he would name two women to the Dicastery for Bishops, Pope Francis appointed three women to the office. Among the 14 new members named by the pope were: Sister Raffaella Petrini, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, who is secretary-general of



**ELEVATED:** The Vatican announced July 13 that the pope had named Maria Lia Zervino to be a member of the Dicastery for Bishops, along with two other women.

the office governing Vatican City State; French Salesian Sister Yvonne Reungoat, former superior general of the order; and Maria Lia Zervino, an Argentine who is president of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

The dicastery is led by Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet and is responsible for helping the pope choose bishops for Latin-rite dioceses outside of the Church's mission territories. Members

meet twice a month to review dossiers submitted by Vatican nuncios about potential candidates and to vote on the names they recommend to the pope.

Before Pope Francis' reform of the Roman Curia took effect in June, members of the dicastery were only cardinals and a few bishops.

The new members join existing members, including U.S. Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago and Joseph

W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey.

Dr. Constance Carroll, who retired last year as the longest serving chancellor of the San Diego Community College District, welcomed the pope's decision to add three women to the dicastery.

"It is encouraging to see Pope Francis' efforts to include women in more meaningful roles in the Catholic Church," said Carroll, president and CEO of the California Community College Baccalaureate Association and a longtime parishioner of St. Rita's in Southeast San Diego. "His most recent appointment of several women to play a role in the selection of bishops is another step toward recognizing the importance of women in the Church and incorporating their perspectives in major decisions. This is an excellent direction that he has taken."

Day said that, when she heard of the women appointed to the Dicastery for Bishops, she recalled Pope Francis' appointment of Sister Nathalie Beccart, a member of the Congregation of Xavières, to the second-highest ranking position on the Synod of Bishops early last year, making her the first woman with voting rights at a synod.

"I remembered then hoping that her appointment was just the beginning of more and more women being invited into important leadership roles," she said. "I am so graced to see that is exactly what happened. I'm excited for our Church."

The Southern Cross contributed to this report.

## Obituary

### SISTER LAURA PESICK

ADRIAN, Mich. — Sister Laura Pesick, formerly known as Sister Mary Norman, died June 9 at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian.

She was 93 and in the 75th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Born in Detroit, she spent almost 55 years ministering in elementary, secondary and adult education in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and California. She ministered in California for 16 years, including four years as a teacher and assistant principal at St. Therese Academy in

San Diego from 1986 to 1990.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 15 in the Dominican Life Center's St. Catherine Chapel, and prayers of committal were held in the Congregation Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221.



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**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:** Maggie Mahrt directs a scene on the set of "O, Brawling Love!", the first project to emerge from John Paul the Great Catholic University's Feature Film Program. It was filmed on the university's soundstage, pictured, as well as other locations in Escondido.

## Catholic University Shoots Feature Film

### The Southern Cross



**ESCONDIDO —** John Paul the Great Catholic University has completed production on "O, Brawling Love!", the first project to emerge from its Feature Film Program.

It was filmed in Escondido, where the university is located, from June

2 to 28. More than 50 JPCatholic students, along with several alumni, were involved both on and off set.

Professor George Simon, chair of Communications Media, is spearheading JPCatholic's Feature Film Program. He announced the initiative last year as a way to integrate feature film productions into the curriculum, providing students the opportunity to collaborate with alumni and professors each year in

bringing a new film to life.

JPCatholic's faculty selected "O, Brawling Love!" from a pool of nearly 50 student and alumni pitches. An original story by senior screenwriting student Bella Lake, the script is about two rival acting students who are forced to reconcile their differences and play lovers Romeo and Juliet in their final school play, vying for a \$25,000 cash prize.

The film was directed by JPCatholic

alumna Maggie Mahrt, whose resume includes work for Disney Digital, Paramount Studio and NBC.

With production complete, Professor Melinda Simon will lead a team of students this quarter in editing the project. Like previous stages of the film, the post-production experience is a class students are taking for credit. When the film is completed in late 2022 or early 2023, the university will seek distribution.



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## News Briefs

### Briefing for Clergy, Lay Leaders on What They Can Do After Roe

The diocesan Office for Life, Peace and Justice will host a special briefing on how to educate and activate California's pro-life community, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

The briefing, which will be offered both in-person at the diocesan Pastoral Center and via Zoom, will provide the latest information about proposed abortion legislation in California. It will also cover We Were Born Ready, a campaign recently launched by the California Catholic Conference to mobilize parishes and the faithful to support mothers and babies.

There is no cost to participate.

A session for clergy will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Parish and ministry leaders will have their opportunity from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 11.

There will also be a briefing, presented in Spanish, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 16.

For more information, contact María de Lourdes Valencia at [mvalencia@sdccatholic.org](mailto:mvalencia@sdccatholic.org) or (858) 490-8324.

### Teachers to Have Another Round of 'Faith & Science' Training

The Diocese of San Diego began implementing the Credible Catholic Faith & Science Curriculum this past school year.

Developed by Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer through his nonprofit organization The Magis Center, the

free educational curriculum includes "seven essential modules" intended to demonstrate to middle school and high school students that faith and science are not incompatible.

Father Spitzer will lead a training session on Saturday, Aug. 6, for Catholic school teachers and catechists who instruct middle school students. Held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Parish in El Cajon, the session will provide an overview of the curriculum's "True Happiness" module. Attendees will explore how the decision to follow or to reject Jesus' teachings impacts one's ultimate happiness.

The upcoming training is co-sponsored by the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry and the Office for Schools. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call (858) 490-8234 or visit [sdccatholicdisciples.net](http://sdccatholicdisciples.net).

### Magnificat Hosting Its Next Quarterly Breakfast

ESCONDIDO — North County Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, will hold its next quarterly breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 13, in the new parish hall at St. Mary's in Escondido.

It will run from 9 a.m. to noon and will be preceded by an 8 a.m. Mass in the church.

The guest speaker will be Jess Echeverry, a woman/family advocate and speaker. Echeverry is a survivor of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. She experienced teenage pregnancy,

homelessness and same-sex attraction, had an abortion and made two suicide attempts, before turning her life around with God's grace.

Echeverry has appeared on Catholic television and radio. She and her husband, Charlie, a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, have five children.

St. Mary's parish hall is located at 1170 S. Broadway, Escondido 92025.

Advance reservations are required. The cost to attend is \$25 before Aug. 5 and \$28 after.

For more information and reservations, visit [magnificat-nsd.com](http://magnificat-nsd.com), call (760) 271-7743 or email [Magnificat.northcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:Magnificat.northcounty@yahoo.com).

### Ladies Guild Seeking Members, Selling Crafts

For almost four decades, the Father Joe's Villages Ladies Guild has provided volunteer services for homeless children residing at Father Joe's Villages.

The organization will hold a membership luncheon at 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 12, at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Scripps Ranch. There is no cost to attend.

The group will also hold its annual craft sale, beginning at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 10, also at St. Gregory the Great Parish.

The parish is located at 11451 Blue Cypress Drive, San Diego 92131.

For more information, contact Margie Mills at (619) 733-7410 or [margie.r.mills@gmail.com](mailto:margie.r.mills@gmail.com).

### Widowed, Divorced Invited to Healing Weekend

OCEANSIDE — Beginning Experience, an almost 50-year-old international ministry that helps the widowed, divorced and separated move beyond grief, will hold its next weekend retreat Oct. 7 to 9.

It will be held at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, where organizers promise a supportive and caring environment with others who are going through or have gone through the same experiences.

The cost is \$300, which covers individual rooms, food and materials. Scholarships are available for those in need.

For more information, email [beginningexperiencesd@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexperiencesd@gmail.com) or call (858) 748-2273 in English or (330) 607-8774 in Spanish.



### Do Prison Ministry from Home with Correspondence Course

If you feel called to prison ministry, it's possible to answer that call from the comfort of your own home.

Volunteers are needed for a ministry that involves sharing their life experience anonymously with men and women in California prisons who

**Briefs** Continued on Page 15



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From I-8, exit Hwy. 79 head North, 1 mile  
then left on Riverside Drive, 1/2 mile



**Briefs** *Continued from Page 14*

are seeking to restart their lives. Volunteers guide incarcerated men and women as they are enrolled in correspondence courses on Parenting, Anger Management, and 12-step addiction recovery.

For more information, email [eeereichert@gmail.com](mailto:eeereichert@gmail.com) or call (619) 203-8973.

**Women's Retreats Offered in California, Arizona**

The "Into His Marvelous Light" women's retreat will be offered in both California and Arizona.

Participants will be invited to encounter the living Christ through prayer, sacraments and loving fellowship and to move together from the darkness of this world's trials into the marvelous light of God's love and goodness.

The retreats are presented by Magis Women, a ministry of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith, founded by Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer. Beginning on a Friday evening and ending by 2 p.m. the following Sunday, the retreats include opportunities for reconciliation, Mass, quiet reflection time and more.

The California retreat will be held from Sept. 23 to 25 at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos; registration is \$375 per person. The Arizona retreat will take place from Oct. 14 to 16 at the Franciscan Renewal Center

in Scottsdale; registration is \$350 or \$445 per person, depending on whether double-occupancy or private room is preferred. Meals, lodging and retreat materials are all included.

For more information or to register, visit [magiswomen.com](http://magiswomen.com).

**Notre Dame Club of San Diego Hosts Events Yearlong**

The Notre Dame Club of San Diego's history goes back to 1948.

Since then, the alumni club has expanded to include alumni, their family, friends, and fans of the University of Notre Dame — all 4,715 of them from San Diego.

Like the other 266 Notre Dame Clubs around the world overseen by their Alumni Association, the San Diego Club's mission revolves around the "6 C's": camaraderie, community service, Catholic mission, current students, continuing education, and career connections.

Every year, the club hosts a slew of events in the local community with the goal of being a "Force for Good." Its whole fall season revolves around its "Season of Service," with community partners such as Nativity Prep Academy, Casa de los Pobres, Father Joe's Villages, Operation Dress Code, and the Camp Pendleton Warrior Warehouse.

More information about the Notre Dame Club and its year-round

programming can be found on its website, [sandiego.undclub.org](http://sandiego.undclub.org), and Facebook page, [facebook.com/ndsandiego](https://facebook.com/ndsandiego).

**Street Evangelization Brings Gospel to Public Square**

St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to taking the Gospel message to the streets.

Participants in the ministry do this in a non-confrontational way, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of those who witness their public Catholic presence.

For more information or to get involved, visit [streetevangelization.com](http://streetevangelization.com), call (619) 515-3267 or email [scb@procopio.com](mailto:scb@procopio.com).

**Special Retreat to Focus on Grieving Moms**

Are you suffering the loss of a son or daughter, no matter how much time has passed?

All grieving mothers are invited to join Jesuit Father John Auther

and Rita Morton, founder of Sacred Sorrows, for a four-day, three-night retreat that seeks to bring comfort to their grieving souls.

The retreat will be held from Sept. 8 to 11 at El Retiro Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, Calif.

For more information, visit [sacredsorrows.org](http://sacredsorrows.org).

## Priest Assignments

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

**Jesuit Father Hung T. Nguyen** has been assigned as associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, San Diego, effective July 31;

**Augustinian Father Dominic Avila-Smith** as Catholic chaplain at the new Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, San Diego, and at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, effective Aug. 1;

**Eudist Father Ricardo Chinchilla** as pastor of St. James Parish, Solana Beach, effective Sept. 1; and

**Eudist Father Azam Vianney Mansha** as associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Carlsbad, effective Sept. 1.



**Join Us!**

*"In the heart of my Mother, the Church, I will be love." – St. Therese of Lisieux*

**Are you longing to give yourself as a gift of love and service to the Church through the life of prayer, solitude, and community?**

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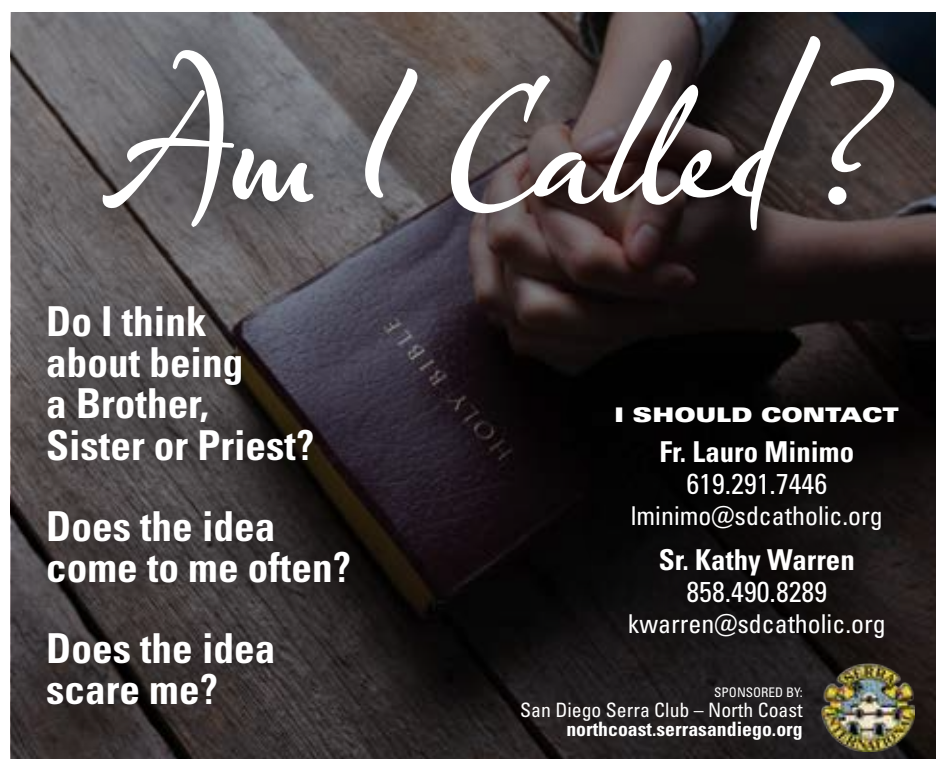
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**Am I Called?**

**Do I think about being a Brother, Sister or Priest?**

**Does the idea come to me often?**


**Does the idea scare me?**

**I SHOULD CONTACT**

**Fr. Lauro Minimo**  
 619.291.7446  
[lminimo@sdccatholic.org](mailto:lminimo@sdccatholic.org)

**Sr. Kathy Warren**  
 858.490.8289  
[kwarren@sdccatholic.org](mailto:kwarren@sdccatholic.org)

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