

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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GATHERING: Youth minister Pat Clasby, pictured third from right in the back row, poses with his youth group at the 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference, the largest gathering of Catholic teens in the United States. He will be bringing a new group of teens to this year's conference, the first in almost 40 years to be held on the West Coast.



Life & Death

In powerful homily, Cardinal McElroy urges Catholics to vote "no" on Proposition 1. **Page 3**



Schools Get GLAD

Four schools trained in Project GLAD to better meet needs of English-language learners. **Page 4**



Brielle Hanft
11-12, 2nd

Art for Earth

Award-winning artwork captured the beauty and concern about the environment. **Page 5**

Guide to Celebrate Advent at Home

STARTING NOV. 27

Page 13



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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**, including photos, videos, and at times an extended version.



'Your Voice Matters Here and Now'

By Aida Bustos



"Brothers and sisters, our Church has invited us into conversation. When in our lifetimes has this happened?"

Katrina Albrandt poses that question in a video inviting Catholics to participate in the San Diego Diocese's electronic survey, which is open through Oct. 31.

"Our Church has asked us what we believe and think — not just our leaders, but you and me. This is historic. Just as important, it is authentic."

The survey is a key part of how the diocese is consulting the faithful in a process known as a synod. The worldwide synod was to conclude next year, but Pope Francis has extended it to 2024.

Saying he did not want to rush the process of discerning how the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to grow in "synodality," the pope announced that the next assembly of the Synod of Bishops would take place in two sessions.



The synod assembly, with mostly bishops as voting members, will meet Oct. 4 to 29, 2023, as previously announced but the assembly will have a second session in October 2024 as well.

Albrandt, a member of The Immaculata Parish, serves on the diocese's synod commission, mostly lay leaders from across the region advising Cardinal Robert W. McElroy in this initiative.

By mid-October, more than 25,000 faithful had taken the electronic survey, available since Sept. 6. The survey is completely anonymous and is available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

In early November, a diocesan team that includes two university professors with expertise in survey design and

analysis will begin to review the survey data. They will use that information, and input from the group sessions held at parishes and schools earlier this year, to develop proposals to respond to the concerns the faithful raised.

Cardinal McElroy has said he would like to see implementation of the proposals to begin in the first quarter of next year.

"Your voice is needed to help our Church understand why you stay, why you have left, why you are hopeful, or why you are dismayed. Your voice matters here and now. But will you speak?" Albrandt says in the video.

"It's not too late to join in this historic conversation — to let the Holy Spirit work through you as you say, 'This is my Church!'"

Take the survey through the QR code on this page, the web pages sdccatholic.org/synod, Facebook at [@DioceseSanDiego](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseSanDiego) and Instagram [@sdcardinals](https://www.instagram.com/sdcardinals). Contact your parish to obtain the survey on paper. More information is available at sdccatholic.org/synod and sdccatholic.org/sinodo.

Health 'Good Samaritans' Honored

By Denis Grasska



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy hailed healthcare professionals as modern-day "Good Samaritans" during a special liturgy held in gratitude for their often lifesaving work.

The diocesan Mass was held Oct. 15 at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Scripps Ranch.

Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, hospital personnel and others, along with their families and friends, were invited to attend the Mass, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall. Some of those in attendance wore their white lab coats.

The Gospel reading was Jesus' parable about a man who fell victim to robbers, was beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. A priest and a Levite both saw the wounded man but avoided him by crossing to the other side of the street. A Samaritan man stopped, treated the man's wounds and transported him to an inn, where he could be nursed back to health.

In his homily, the cardinal said it is easy to perceive the actions of the first two passersby as evidence of hardness of heart.

"We need to put ourselves in their shoes," he said, noting that they were walking through what was known to be a dangerous area and could reasonably have wondered whether the man they saw was really wounded or whether he was merely "a lure" set by unseen robbers.

The Good Samaritan is "such a monumental figure for us for the type of love we are called to have in this



HEALING HANDS: Cardinal Robert W. McElroy shakes hands with Henry Ng, who has practiced family medicine since 1984, after a diocesan Mass for healthcare professionals Oct. 15. Ng sees the value of events like this, at a time when offering health care in line with Catholic values "goes against the flow of our society and culture."

world," said Cardinal McElroy, because he was aware of the danger but took the risk anyway.

The cardinal said that, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare professionals showed themselves to be Good Samaritans, who treated others at great personal risk to themselves.

"You were Good Samaritans," he told the congregation, "and so, I now want to thank you particularly — and I know that all of our society thanks you — for that great gift you gave to us, not only of your skill and not only of the healing that you accomplished, but also for the heroic witness of being Good Samaritans, and not thinking of yourself but thinking of those who lie by the side of the road, terrified, isolated and in need of help."

Caroline Webb, 60, is a nurse with

Scripps Health.

This was her first time attending a Mass celebrated especially for healthcare professionals, and she found it meaningful after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's significant in that we can be together without any masks, and celebrate, and also acknowledge what we do and how we serve our community," she said.

Vincent Shallow, a 77-year-old clinical urologic surgeon, said he has been attending so-called "White Masses" for about a decade.

What is his takeaway from the Mass?

"I guess, mainly appreciation for what we do," he said, "and it inspires us to go forward and continue doing our service to the community."

'As People of Faith, We Must Not Accept' Prop. 1

The Southern Cross



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, asked that his homily on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2, be shared at all of the diocese's 98 parishes. The following is the text of the homily.

"Today's second reading from the Letter to Timothy speaks of the courage that we must have in proclaiming our testimony to Jesus Christ in an often-hostile world. "So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord ... but bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God." The Church asks us to focus this weekend upon the comprehensive commitment to human life that is a vital part of the Gospel message and Catholic teaching. We are called to understand that every human life is an incredibly precious gift from our Creator, which we are called to treat as sacred in every dimension of our lives. It is this commitment to the sacredness of human life that lies at the heart of the Church's call to protect unborn children, to feed the hungry and provide decent housing, to oppose the death penalty and protect the elderly and the disabled from being discarded or terminated in our society.

"And that call to defend the sacredness of human life in all of its dimensions demands that we have the courage to proclaim the Gospel in our lives as citizens and believers, despite the cost and difficulties of doing so in our polarized world.



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy

the cost and difficulties of doing so in our polarized world.

"This year in California, we are called in a very specific way to reject the pathway of making illegal virtually all limitations on abortion. Proposition 1, which would enshrine in the state constitution the ability to have late-term abortions and abortions for purposes of gender selection, as well as subsidizing abortion for people who do not even live in California, is absolutely incompatible with the Gospel call to protect all human life. And we must witness to that contradiction in our role as citizens.

"The very excruciating issue of abortion calls us to balance the challenging problems of women who are pregnant with the lives of unborn children.

"Proposition 1 simply obliterates the moral reality of the unborn child in striking this balance. As people of faith, we must not accept such a logic.

"Instead, we must work within our

society to build a comprehensive framework that genuinely protects and builds the dignity and sacredness of human life in its fullness, at every stage and for every person.

"That is why Catholic teaching points to the identity of human life as a gift from God. It is a grace that we have all received the gift of our lives as the foundational right that is the source of every blessing we know in our world. And it is this same sense of giftedness that frames our understanding that every member of the human family is equal in dignity and must be treated in this manner.

"We live in a harsh world that on so many levels denies the graced identity of the life which is our most fundamental blessing. The realities of economic exploitation, human trafficking, euthanasia and the abandonment of the elderly all inflict grave harm upon individuals created in the image and likeness of God and coarsen our society so it becomes more and more dehumanizing.

"The words of the Letter to Timothy compel us to speak against these evils in our society, and so demand public policies and laws that oppose violations of human life and dignity.

"And the Letter to Timothy also compels us to oppose Proposition 1 on this year's ballot, in the clear understanding that it destroys every possible legal protection for unborn children in our state.

"I pray that the Lord will bless our state and our nation in the coming months, and that together we might build a more just and more humane society in our midst."

ELECTION INFORMATION

General Election Day is Nov. 8. California mails a ballot to every registered voter a few weeks before the election. Be sure to mail it back or drop it at a designated drop-box before Nov. 8. You can also vote in person. California offers early voting.

Voting deadlines

Registered voters will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. Return ballot by mail (postmarked by): Nov. 8. Return ballot in person: Nov. 8 by 8 p.m.

San Diego County: sdvote.com.
Imperial County: elections.imperialcounty.org.

GET INFORMED AND ACT

Catholic Diocese of San Diego

Culture of Life
sdcatholic.org/chooselife (English)
sdcatholic.org/sialavida (Spanish)

California Catholic Conference

cacatholic.org
"We Were Born Ready" campaign to support women and families
wewerebornready.com

USCCB

Walking with Moms campaign
walkingwithmoms.com

Catholic Social Teaching
usccb.org/resources/themes-catholic-social-teaching

San Diego Walk for Life
Jan. 14, 2023



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Students Learning English Getting GLAD Boost

By Denis Grasska



Local Catholic elementary schools are taking steps to better meet the educational needs of English-language learners.

Educators at St. Katharine Drexel Academy, St. Didacus School, Our Lady's School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel School (San Ysidro) are currently being trained in the Project GLAD instructional model.

And Leticia Oseguera, diocesan superintendent of schools, said the goal is for a new group of schools to go through the training each year, until all 42 diocesan elementary schools have adopted these strategies.

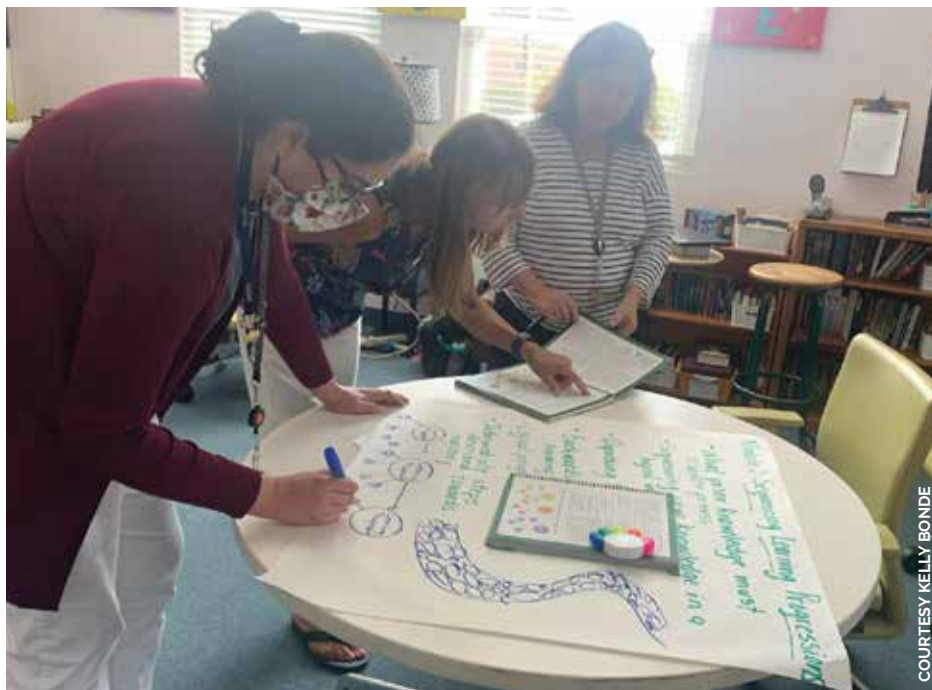
Founded more than 35 years ago by a group of educators in Orange County, Project GLAD stands for "Guided Language Acquisition Design."

Oseguera said that local Catholic schools are currently serving a growing number of English-language learners, for whom English is not their native language and who speak another language at home.

But this project's approach isn't only beneficial to them.

"These strategies can be used for everyone. It's really going to help the entire class," Oseguera said.

Last August, the diocesan Office for Schools arranged for the principals and teachers of the four schools to attend a two-day introductory workshop



'GLAD' TO LEARN: A Project GLAD strategy is demonstrated during a faculty meeting at St. Katharine Drexel Academy in early October.

presented by the San Diego County Office of Education. The Schools Office also is sending a cohort from each of the four schools, including its principal and three teachers, to earn full certification in Project GLAD.

To be certified, the educators will observe the use of project strategies in a local public- or private-school classroom and will be coached by experts over a period of four days. Upon returning to their own schools, they will begin adopting these strategies and share them with their colleagues, ensuring that the entire faculty is on the same page.

"What's so amazing about the program is it's not a curriculum; it's strategies," said Kim James, principal of St. Didacus School. "So, we can incorporate it into curriculum we're already using."

These strategies emphasize such concepts as visual learning and repetition.

"It connects more parts of the brain to give those students various ways for learning success," James said.

"You could definitely tell a (Project) GLAD classroom because there would be posters everywhere," said Kelly Bonde, principal of St. Katharine

Drexel Academy.

Oseguera gave examples of the strategies.

One is the "Cognitive Content Dictionary," a chart created in collaboration between teacher and students, which is used to introduce unfamiliar and potentially challenging words.

Here's how it works: The teacher identifies words that might prove difficult for her students in an upcoming lesson, invites the students to say what they think the words mean, and ultimately reveals the correct definitions, including the words and their definitions on a chart that will hang in the classroom for future reference.

Oseguera said another strategy is to create chants or songs to teach and reinforce the pronunciation and definitions of challenging words, arranging them in rhyming stanzas and sometimes setting them to familiar tunes.

Bonde attended a four-day training session in late September, observing Project GLAD practices being used in a fourth-grade public school classroom in Vista.

She said she was "kind of astounded" by how much the students' confidence and participation levels increased.

"There's really no denying the power of this program when you get to see it play out in person and see the positive results just after the four days with the students."

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 DECEMBER 17, 2022**



Most Reverend Ramón Bejarano
Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego



Fr. Minh Do - Keynote Speaker for Light and Life
*Associate Pastor
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside*



Fr. Chris Tozzi - Host of Light and Life
*Pastor
 St. Thérèse of Carmel*



SK Rene Trevino - Friend of Light and Life
*Knights of Columbus - California
 State Deputy 2021-22*



Luigi Zoni
*Christmas of Light and Life - Master of Ceremonies
 President, KofC San Diego Chapter 2021-22*



Pierre Charmasson
Christmas of Light and Life Benefit Auctioneer

Celebration of Holy Mass	4:30 PM
Registration/Social Hour:	5:30 PM
Prime Rib Dinner by <i>The French Gourmet</i>	6:00 PM
Tickets: \$ 75 Table for 8: \$ 575	



GRATITUDE: Academy of Our Lady of Peace student Camila Corrales' photograph, pictured above, was one of 168 entries in the 2022 Season of Creation art contest. Camila was inspired by "the simple beauty of earth" and wanted to convey "the feeling of warmth and happiness towards something we shouldn't take for granted."

By Christina Bagaglio Slentz



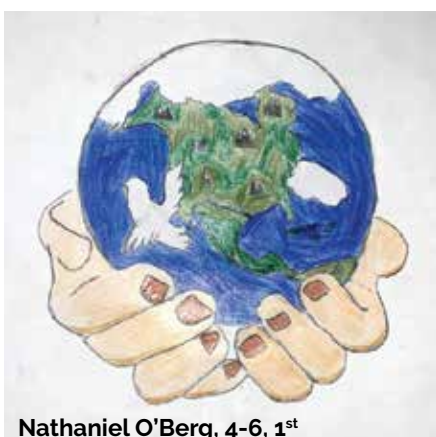
We congratulate the winners of the 2022 Season of Creation

Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Art Contest, which had as a theme "For the Beauty of the Earth."

The diocese announced the winners at the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis at St. Rita's Parish on Oct. 1.

Pictured with Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, from left, are: 7-8th grades second-place winner Gwen Garcia, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, and first-place winner Franchezka Bacani, St. Charles School; 4-6th grades second-place winner Austin Thorn, St. Kieran Catholic; Young Adult Winner Emily Curran, Sacred Heart (Coronado); overall winner Judith Young, St. James; and 9-10th grades first-place winner Nhu-An Phan, Cathedral Catholic. Not pictured: 4-6th grades first-place winner Nathaniel O'Berg, St. Patrick (Carlsbad); 9-10th grades second-place winner Alyssa Mossuto, Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP); 11-12th grades first-place winner Madison Kovar, OLP; and 11-12th grades second-place winner Brielle Hanft, OLP.

Christina Bagaglio Slentz is the Office for Life, Peace and Justice's Associate Director for Creation Care Ministry.



From Mother Earth

I am Mother Earth
The land living beneath you
The soil where you lay your feet
I am the mother who provides you with food to eat
Every night I slowly turn so that you may rest
But lately my friend, I'm never feeling my best
The wind is my breath and my tears the rain
The oceans, rivers, and streams my blood and veins
The forests and plains my hair which no longer flows
But now receding.
The earthquake's my stomach, thrashing and churning
There are chemicals stuck to most my bones
My star friends around me say you have left me all alone
My friend, I can't imagine why
You are a part of me
Don't we live together here and the sky?
But lately I feel we are out of touch with each other
The fact is, I can't do this alone
I am very tired, ailing, and too far gone
Please help me my friend, we are made of each other
I know we can do this together.

Francheska Bacani, 7-8, 1st

VIDEO



Overall Winner

Judith Young



Garden of Eden, known as the Terrestrial Paradise

Vibrant St. Michael's to Celebrate 65th Year

The Southern Cross



The 65th anniversary of St. Michael Parish in Paradise Hills

means more than just the passage of time.

"It celebrates the faithfulness of God to His people, and it reflects a community of people trying to be faithful to God," said Buena Algozo, who has been a parishioner since 1974. "That is a beautiful love affair."

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will preside at the parish's anniversary Mass. It will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, with Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano and others concelebrating.

That evening, the parish will also be hosting a dinner/dance that will include an inspirational talk by Father Mel Collier, who served as pastor from 1987 to 1999, and a performance by San Diego Padres Cantantes, a singing group of Filipino priests.

Father Manny Ediza, who is in his 15th year as pastor, said that St. Michael's is a vibrant and diverse community.

He noted that the church, which has a seating capacity of about 800 people, is almost always full for weekend Masses, of which there are nine, and weekday Masses are also well attended. Like other parishes, St. Michael's experienced a drop in attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said, but it's gradually picking up.

"Attendance at some of our Mass-



FAITHFUL COMPANIONS: St. Michael Church held its annual blessing of pets on the Feast Day of St. Francis on Oct. 4, presided over by its associate pastor, Msgr. Francisco Cinco III.

es (has) resumed to almost pre-pandemic" levels, he said. "This is why the theme of our (anniversary) celebration is 'Faith Sustained, Strengthened and Growing Through the Years.'"

Father Ediza said the parish is about 75% Filipino and 15% Hispanic, with the remainder consisting of Anglos, other Asians, and African Americans, and the faith is expressed there through various multicultural devotions and traditions.

"We are a very active and vibrant, inclusive parish," echoed Karen Gallion Carrick, who has been a parishioner since the beginning.

"I was a child when the parish was being built," she said.

St. Michael Parish traces its history back to the Fall of 1957, when San Diego's founding bishop, Charles F. Buddy, established what was then known

as "Catholic Church of Paradise Hills."

The first Mass was celebrated on Nov. 4, 1957, in a rented house on Alleghany Street. In early 1958, Bishop Buddy announced that the parish would be named St. Michael's.

As Mass attendance increased, a vacant theater at the corner of Granger and Ridgeway Drive in Lincoln Acres became the second temporary parish location. Mass was celebrated there for the first time on Dec. 1, 1957.

Construction of a church and rectory at the parish's current location on Homedale Street began on Aug. 25, 1958. The first Mass was celebrated inside the new church on Pentecost Sunday, May 10, 1959, and it was officially dedicated on July 10, 1959.

A volunteer crew, composed of members of the parish's Holy Name Society, built the parish hall between October 1961 and January 1962. They

followed this with the construction of St. Michael Academy, which welcomed its first students in June 1962.

Decades later, St. Michael Academy would become a casualty of COVID-19. "During the pandemic, less than 50% of our student population came back to our school," Father Ediza said.

Unable to sustain itself, the school closed at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year.

However, the preschool has remained open and is working to increase its enrollment. Eventually, Father Ediza said, the parish hopes to "restore our Academy," one grade level at a time.

Over the past 65 years, St. Michael Parish has grown steadily. There were only about 300 parishioners when its first Masses were celebrated. Today, more than 3,000 families participate in parish life.

The existing parish hall has proven too small for the growing community. In 2017, the parish launched a capital campaign for a new, multi-purpose parish center, which will be built on the site of the current parish office and will house the office, a social hall, meeting rooms, and an adoration chapel.

Reflecting on the parish's future, Algozo said, "My deepest hope is for our youth now to carry on with what has been started here. The old parishioners are slowly fading away, but the Spirit will live on regardless, and God will always remain faithful to us."

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Visit retiredreligious.org/2022photos to meet the religious pictured.

Elderly religious need your help.

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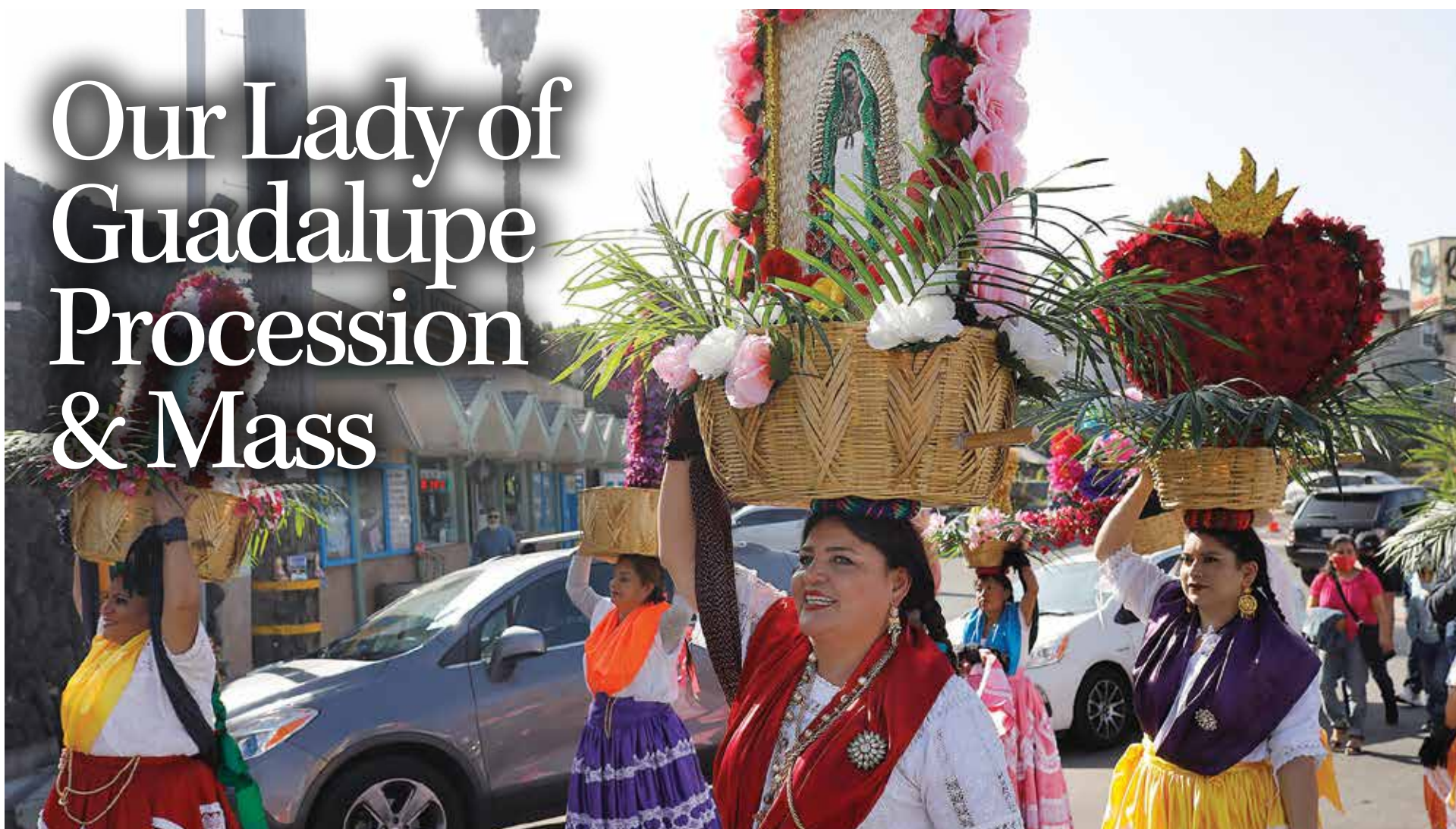
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Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession & Mass



Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022

PROCESSION

12 p.m. Noon

Begins at Morley Field Sports Complex
Texas and Upas Streets, San Diego, 92104

*Theme Cars
Folkloric Dancers
Parish Organizations*

MASS

2 p.m.

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy
with Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano

St. Augustine High School Gym
3266 Nutmeg Street, San Diego, CA 92104

Celebration after Mass with Mariachi and Food



Organized by San Diego Guadalupana Confederation



CONTACT: Lucía Gutiérrez | (619) 565-0279 | gluciacrv@hotmail.com
Alejandra Diaz | 858.490.8306 | adiaz@sdccatholic.org

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At the **San Diego Rescue Mission**, our vision is to see God transform the lives of people experiencing homelessness, hunger, poverty or abuse. Our long-term, holistic approach to rehabilitation and recovery provides shelter, meals, job training, Biblical counseling and housing assistance. Together, we can change the state of homelessness in San Diego County.

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African American Catholics to Share Their History in November



Sister Thea Bowman, candidate for canonization

The Southern Cross

 **SAN DIEGO** — The Catholic Church is a universal one that involves cultures around the world celebrating their faith.

“We’re part of the Church, but our history is not always taught or shared with others,” said Richard Stewart, chair of the Diocesan Commission for African American Catholics.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated November as Black Catholic History Month to focus on that history.

Locally, Christ the King Parish, in Southeastern San Diego, is a hub for Black Catholics. Commission members will focus on an aspect of their history each Sunday during the month. They are inviting the entire community to turn out and learn about their history and spirituality.

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

Christ the King Parish, 29 32nd St., San Diego 92102, will highlight Black Catholic history with special rites and homilies to be preached in November at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, with the theme “Remembering”:

Nov. 6

Homilist: Deacon Marvin Threatt

Libation service: Deacon Threatt

Remembering: The names of parishioners’ family members and friends who have died will be gathered in a basket before the start of the Mass and brought up to the altar to be prayed for during the Prayers of the Faithful.

Nov. 13

Homilist: Deacon Robert Booth

Prayers of the Faithful: “Litany of African and African American Saints” to be sung by Ray Trybus and Rick Stewart.

Dinner: Soul food in the parish hall.

Nov. 20, Feast of Christ the King

Guest homilist: Bishop Ramón Bejarano

Dedication of a plaque bearing the names of the six African American women and men who are candidates for sainthood: Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA; Julia Greeley; Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange; Venerable Henriette DeLille; Venerable Father Augustus Tolton; and Venerable Pierre Toussaint.

Nov. 27, First Sunday of Advent

Presider and homilist: Father Tommie Jennings

Advent wreath service



PROCESSION: The Vietnamese Martyrs Mass begins with a colorful procession.

Cardinal to Celebrate Vietnamese Martyrs Mass

The Southern Cross



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will celebrate the Vietnamese

Martyrs Mass on Nov. 6 at Good Shepherd Church.

The Mass is one of the most important ones for Vietnamese Catholics, about 5,000 of whom are active in the San Diego Diocese, said Gai Do. He is a founder of the Vietnamese Commission, which has organized the Martyrs Mass since 1979.

The Mass recalls a devastating time. The Catholic Church in Vietnam was decimated in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Vatican estimates the num-

ber of Vietnamese martyrs at between 130,000 and 300,000. The tortures they underwent are considered to be among the worst in Christian martyrdom. Pope St. John Paul II canonized 117 known martyrs in 1988.

The Mass on Nov. 6 begins at 2 p.m. with a colorful procession and will be celebrated in English and Vietnamese. Good Shepherd Church is located at 8200 Gold Coast Drive, Mira Mesa.

It’s one of five parishes with large Vietnamese communities. The others are Holy Family, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (San Diego), Holy Spirit and St. Thomas More.

More information is available from Gai Do at gaiqdo@gmail.com.



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Largest Event for Youth Faithful Close to Home

By Denis Grasska

It's been almost 40 years since the last time the National Catholic Youth Conference was held on the West Coast.

That means that this year's event, which will take place Nov. 10 to 12 at the Long Beach Convention Center, is likely to attract a larger than usual delegation from the San Diego Diocese.

The conference, which began as a regional one in 1983 and went national in 1991, is the largest gathering of Catholic teens in the United States. In pre-pandemic years, the conference was drawing more than 20,000 participants.

However, the event has been held mostly in the Midwest, presenting financial and logistical challenges for many San Diego-area youth groups that otherwise might have wanted to attend. Between 2011 and 2021, it has been held exclusively in Indianapolis, Ind., and will be returning there next year.

"For the Diocese of San Diego to be so close — really within driving distance — to a national conference, it's such a gift," said Natalie Ibarra, communications manager for the conference's sponsoring organization, the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Ibarra, an Oceanside resident, was the youth minister at Mission San Luis Rey Parish from 2014 until earlier this



AT HIS SERVICE: The National Catholic Youth Conference includes service projects. The youth group from Good Shepherd Parish is pictured at the 2017 conference after packing food for impoverished residents of Burkina Faso.

year. During that time, she said, her parish youth group had been unable to attend the conference, primarily because of the transportation costs.

Pat Clasby, youth minister at St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad, said the upcoming conference will be taking place "basically in our backyard."

Back when he was serving as youth minister at another parish, Good Shepherd in Mira Mesa, Clasby took groups to the conference eight times between 2003 and 2017. On those occasions, he said, his was often one of the only San

Diego-based parishes represented.

"Until recently, I thought we were one of the only parishes that were going (this year)," said Clasby, who will be leading a group of 17, including parish youth and their adult chaperones. "I since found out ... that there are, I think, between six and 10 parishes coming from our diocese."

This year's theme is "Walking on Water," a reference to the Gospel story in which Jesus walked along the surface of the Sea of Galilee during a storm and welcomed St. Peter to do the

same; the latter succeeded at first, but started to sink after becoming overwhelmed by fear.

According to the conference's website, ncyc.us, "Teens have experienced a feeling of sinking causing a weakening of faith throughout the past two years. NCYC 2022 is an invitation to step out in faith and trust our Lord."

The three-day conference will include a series of talks by dynamic Catholic speakers, as well as breakout sessions and several opportunities for daily Mass, communal prayer, the sacrament of reconciliation, praise and worship, and an interactive exhibit hall.

Father Agustino Torres, a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and Chika Anyanwu, a Catholic evangelist, youth and young adult minister and author, will serve as the emcees.

The lineup of speakers will include Sister Josephine Garrett, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and a licensed mental health counselor; Catholic speaker and "faith horticulturist" Mike Patin; and motivational speaker Jessica Cox, who didn't let being born without arms keep her from learning to drive a car and fly a plane.

Ibarra said there will also be service projects, including opportunities related to creation care.

Teens also will be able to participate in a "fast fashion clothing swap,"

Youth Continued on Page 11

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Youth *Continued from Page 10*

sponsored by Maryknoll Missionaries. Participating teens will donate a T-shirt they no longer want and select a replacement from among those contributed by their fellow conference attendees; they will be invited to attach to their donated item a message or prayer for the teen who takes it. The activity is intended to serve as a reminder that we often take our clothing for granted and throw away items that can still be used and appreciated by others.

"It really is more than a conference," said Maricruz Flores, director of the diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, who is part of the team that is organizing this year's event. She noted that participants will have the opportunity to encounter "thousands of thousands of teenagers (from) across the nation," recognizing that they are part of something much greater than themselves.

She added, "I think it's everything a teenager needs right now."

Clasby, who is also serving as one of this year's conference organizers, described the event as the spiritual equivalent of "a booster shot."

"My hope for the youth," he said, "is just to go in with open eyes, open hearts, open ears, to see and fully experience what is going to be shared there, and to embrace that."

More information is
available at ncyc.us.



HONOR: Gloria Bader, left, and Carmen Chavez, board chair and executive director of Casa Cornelia, respectively, presented Cardinal Robert W. McElroy with an award on Oct. 13.

Agency Honors Cardinal

The Southern Cross



The Casa Cornelia Law Center honored Cardinal Robert W. McElroy for his work encouraging solidarity and justice for indigent immigrants.

The organization presented its 15th annual La Mancha Awards at a standing-room-only reception at Balboa Park on Oct. 13. Gloria Bader, board chair, helped present the Lucy Howell Humanitarian Award to the cardinal.

"Throughout the cardinal's vocation as a pastor and a leader in the Catholic Church, he has dedicated himself to practicing and encouraging solidarity and justice for our immigrant community, recognizing the worth of each human life," she said.

"Cardinal McElroy exemplifies in his own life and his work the humanitarian call to welcome the stranger and work to alleviate the suffering of others."

The non-profit organization provides pro-bono legal services for asylum-seekers, victims of serious crime, and unaccompanied children. Its mission is rooted in the tradition of service of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. In 2021, the center assisted 1,943 persons from 34 nations, including 1,007 children.

Pope Canonizes Protector of Immigrants

Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has canonized Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini.

He founded the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo, commonly known as the Scalabrinian Fathers in the late 19th century to minister to migrants to North and South America.

In the San Diego border region, the Scalabrinian Missionaries have administered Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista, since 2017; and Casa del Migrante, a shelter for homeless migrants in Tijuana, since its founding in 1987.

St. Scalabrini was born near Como, Italy, in 1839 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1863.

As bishop of Piacenza, he discovered that more than 10% of the people felt forced to emigrate. Between 1875 and 1915, almost 9 million Italians emigrated, with most of them going to Brazil, Argentina or the United States. In 1887, Bishop Scalabrini founded the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo to care for them.

He died in 1905. St. Scalabrini was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1997, and canonized on Oct. 9 by Pope Francis, along St. Artemide Zatti, an Italian immigrant in Argentina.

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Divorced? Guide to Handle Holidays Is for You

By Denis Grasska



If the pain of divorce or separation has you approaching the holiday season with dread, the Office for Family Life and Spirituality is here to help.

The diocesan office has invited Vince Frese, co-author of “Divorced. Catholic. Now What?” and creator of the support program “Recovering from Divorce,” to lead an online workshop.

“Handling the Holidays” will be offered via Zoom on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

“The holidays magnify everything,” said Frese. “In good times, they magnify the good times; in bad times, they magnify the bad times.”

Frese, who is divorced and brings his personal experience to his ministry, described the upcoming event as “a mini-workshop” that will cover various scenarios divorced Catholics are likely to encounter during the holiday season and offer practical tips on how to deal with them.

“We know (the holiday season is) a really challenging time for those that are divorced or separated, because you’re creating new traditions no matter what your family life used to look like,” said Janelle Peregoy, associate director for Separated & Divorced Ministry in the Office for Family Life and Spirituality.



FREPIK



Vince Frese

Peregoy said her office regularly offers a special workshop for divorced and separated Catholics around this time of year. She said one way that Frese’s presentation will differ from previous installments is that it will have more to say about the challenges associated with co-parenting during the holidays.

“I know how challenging divorce is ... particularly when you have kids involved,” said Frese, who had three young children when he and his wife divorced 22 years ago.

Frese, whose “Recovering from Divorce” program is currently offered at St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach and has been used by other diocesan parishes, said he wants those participating in “Handling the Holidays” to leave with a sense of hope.

“The key for me in healing and really giving me a road map of living my

life after divorce is my Catholic faith,” he said.

“Living that faith not only helps you navigate the uncertainty ... but also gives you the graces that will strengthen you and help you to cope with the challenges you’re going to confront, no matter how long it’s been since your divorce.”

For more information or to register, contact Janelle Peregoy at (858) 490-8292 or jperegoy@sdccatholic.org.



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Simple Ways Families Can Celebrate Advent

By Denis Grasska



Dec. 25 will be here sooner than you think.

Advent, the liturgical season of joyful anticipation before Christmas, tends to go by in a flash, lost amidst twinkling lights and frenzied holiday shopping.

Janelle Perego, associate director of the diocesan Office for Family Life and Spirituality, has some recommendations on how Catholic families can celebrate a meaningful Advent.

Counting Down

Advent begins this year on Sunday, Nov. 27. When many families think about the season, said Perego, their minds “immediately go to Advent wreaths and Advent calendars,” which are traditional ways of counting down the weeks and days until Christmas.

The Advent wreath consists of a ring of four candles, three purple and one pink. The first purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. (In many churches, a blessing of the Advent wreath and the lighting of the first candle takes place the previous evening at the Saturday vigil Mass.)

An additional candle is lit on each successive Sunday until all four are aflame. The solitary pink candle is for the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday (Latin for “rejoice”), which will be observed on Dec. 11 this year; the pink color symbolizes joy over the fact that Advent is,



by that time, more than halfway over.

“I love the idea of families perhaps taking Sundays as an opportunity to pray around the Advent wreath together,” said Perego, who noted that Catholic Advent prayers are just a Google search away and that child-friendly resources like the “MagnifiKid! Daily Advent Prayers” book are also easily available.

Pride of Place

The Christmas tree, with its lights and ornaments, often takes a prominent place in the home during the holiday season.

But Perego encourages parents to ensure that their Advent wreaths and Nativity sets are also afforded places of honor, not to be overshadowed by effigies of Santa Claus, reindeer and snowmen.

Another Kind of Tree?

The tradition of the Jesse Tree is inspired by a verse from the Book of Isaiah — “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse” — that prophesies the coming of Jesus.

Jesse was the father of the legendary King David, of whom Jesus was a descendent.

Throughout Advent, a Jesse Tree is adorned with ornaments, each of which represents one of Jesus’ ancestors from the Old Testament.

“It’s linked to the genealogy of Jesus, but different families do it in different ways,” Perego said of this tradition, which provides families with an opportunity to reflect on stories from the Bible.

Reclaiming the Sacred

“It’s totally cliché and overstated,” said Perego, “but Jesus is the reason for the season. ... I think it should be a mantra for all of our families.”

The rest of the world might be playing “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town,” but you might consider assembling a family playlist of Advent carols like “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” and some of the more Christ-centered Christmas songs like “Joy to the World” — and taking the time to explain to your children why.

She noted that home is “where we learn our faith,” and parents are “the first teachers.”

Almost everyone has heard of the Christmas tradition of “The Elf on the Shelf.” But Perego noted that families have a more religious alternative in “The Shepherd on the Search,” a tradition in which a plush figure of a shepherd is moved throughout the house every day of Advent, ultimately arriving at the Nativity scene on Christmas.

Don’t Neglect the Saints

Every day of the year, whether we pay attention to it or not, is the feast

day of a Catholic saint. Perego asks, Why not make a special effort to celebrate some of the feast days that fall in Advent?

Dec. 6, for instance, is the feast of St. Nicholas, the fourth-century bishop from modern-day Turkey who became the inspiration for the Santa Claus legend.

“A really fun thing to do with small children for St. Nicholas Day is a prayer and blessing over candy canes, because the candy cane is meant to symbolize a bishop’s staff,” Perego said.

Dec. 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation that celebrates how the Blessed Mother was free of Original Sin from the moment of her conception. Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States.

Dec. 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Annually, the diocese holds a colorful Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession and Mass to celebrate this feast day; this year, the event will be held on Dec. 4 in North Park.

Perego said families should use these and other feast days “as an opportunity to talk about our saints, which always lead us to a better understanding of who Christ is.”

Slow Down!

Consider streamlining your holiday schedule, Perego advises. Be selective.

Some days, instead of going out, she said, your family might consider opting for an “afternoon at home in prayer.”

After all, she said, “Advent is (supposed to be) a time of peace, a time of quiet, a time of preparation.”



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QUESTIONS?
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THE LETTER

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'Thank You' Has Power to Transform



How do we feel when someone thanks us? What do we see in the faces and eyes of people whom we thank?

I have experienced moments in my life when I have been on the receiving end of gratitude. I recall one such time at the end of a three-day spiritual retreat at a federal prison in Ohio when we formed a farewell circle. The spiritual visitors, as we were called, were in the inner circle facing the inmates, who were in the outer one.

Those of us on the inner circle would turn slowly, and for a few moments we were able to look into the eyes of the person in the outer one. Then we would move on to the next person, all accompanied by music that helped to create a sacred space for encounter and departure from the three days we had shared.

If the eyes "are the mirror of the soul" because they immediately reflect all of our joys, fears and most se-

Associate Director,
Family Life &
Spirituality

Ricardo Márquez



cret emotions, I had the opportunity to experience a variety of feelings and emotions that brought me and some of those whom I gazed at, to tears.

My gaze was not an occasional one; it was intentional. Before this experience, I told myself, and prayed for grace, that my gaze would express the love of the Creator, of God, for each of the persons that I was going to look at.

This is what occurred: In each exchange, I felt my eyes emanating an embrace of light, respect, and an appreciation of the dignity of the person. It was like entering a state of higher consciousness that allowed me to see the other like the Creator would see him, like the first gazes my sons gave me when they were born — clean, clear, without judgment or prejudice.

When we finished this exercise, one of the inmates approached me with tears in his eyes; he was big and muscular. Once again looking at me, he told me: "I wanted to thank you. It has been a long time since anyone has looked into my eyes like you did today."

We embraced spontaneously. I will never forget what I felt at that moment. The emotional side of my brain stored that feeling in the neural connections that maintain powerful memories, where time does not pass and you can always relive the moment, where it's never forgotten, like ordinary experiences that fade.

That gesture of gratitude made me take stock of the gifts I had received, of the gift that I can be in the life of others; it expanded the margins of my heart, made me magnanimous.

Receiving gratitude also implies humility; sometimes, it's hard for us to accept thanks because we believe that it can feed the ego and stoke conceit and arrogance.

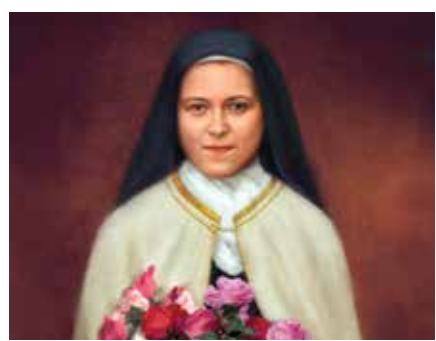
To receive gratitude with grace and

kindness implies an awareness that "I" am not the cause of it, rather the instrument, a channel to a loving reality that transforms and nourishes me. Utilizing the metaphor of electricity, if we allow the surge of gratitude to flow directly from the source without proper grounding, we can electrocute ourselves in vanity.

Gratitude surges from the heart; that's why it's sensitive and vulnerable. Physiologically speaking, gratitude is an energy that expands, opening the skin's pores to receive, which is contrary to the effect an insult produces. Gratitude connects us, creates community and strengthens ties. Gratitude prepares us to receive and to keep giving.

Thank you for taking the time to read these words. I hope what they inspire grows within you.

As the German philosopher told us, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is 'thank you,' it will be enough."



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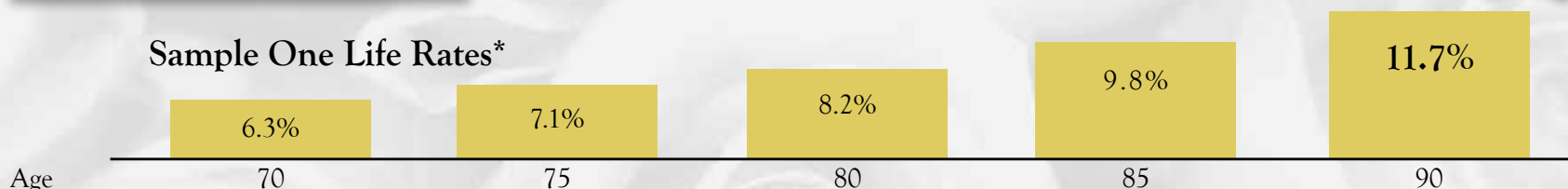
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News Briefs

Annual Holiday Craft Fair, Bake Sale Returning

EL CAJON — The Our Lady of Grace Parish Catholic Women's Club will hold its annual holiday craft fair and bake sale on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center and patio area. Admission is free.

There will be more than 70 crafters, whose handiworks will include fashion apparel, home decor and artwork for the upcoming holidays. In addition, there will be freshly baked items, like cakes, as well as fudge and peanut brittle. Lunch will also be available.

For more information, call (619) 980-6841.

Men Invited to 'Explore' Vocations

The Diocese of San Diego is hosting an Explorer Day for those men who are interested in exploring a possible vocation to the priesthood.

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at St. Francis Center, located on the campus of the University of San Diego.

Those who may be interested can pick up an application at their parish office, or contact Father Eric Tamayo at St. Francis Center at (619) 291-7446 or etamayo@sdccatholic.org.

Catholics Can 'Encounter' Jesus in Rancho Peñasquitos

"Encounter," a Spirit-filled evening of inspiring music, prayer and Eucharistic adoration, is held on the second Friday of each month at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Sponsored by the parish's Hearts of Fire Ministry, the event runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Remaining dates in 2022 include Nov. 11 and Dec. 9.

For more information, email olmcheartsoffire@gmail.com.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Presenting Advent Retreat

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul San Diego Diocesan Council is presenting an Advent retreat.

Led by Sister Paule Freeburg, a Daughter of Charity, the retreat will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, at St. Catherine Laboure Parish. The church is located at 4124 Mount Abraham Ave., San Diego 92111.

Sister Freeburg serves as spiritual advisor to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Western Region.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is requested by Saturday, Nov. 12. To register, send your name and phone number to svdpsddiocese@gmail.com.

Bishops to Attend Fall Meeting in Baltimore

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Robert W. McElroy and Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano will join their fellow U.S. bishops for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 14 to 17.

During the meeting, the bishops will elect the USCCB's next president and vice president from a slate of 10 candidates nominated by their fellow bishops. They also will vote on chairmen-elect for six standing committees.



Celebration of Service

The annual Convocation of Priests, which was held Sept. 26 to 29, provided an opportunity for all of the diocese's priests to gather with Cardinal Robert W. McElroy for a week of prayer, reflection and renewal. As in past years, the schedule included a special Mass celebrated in gratitude for priests marking their golden (50 years) and silver (25 years) jubilees of priesthood.

The golden jubilarians included: Father Brian Corcoran, retired; Father Raymond "Jerry" O'Donnell, retired; and Father Jim Rafferty, retired. The silver jubilarians included: Father John Amsberry, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish; Father Clement Iorliam, chaplain at Scripps Mercy Hospital; and Father Brent Kruger, pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside.

Father Mario Vesga, retired, was recognized for his 60 years of priesthood.

Pictured, from left, are: Father Amsberry, Father Corcoran, Father Iorliam, Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Father Vesga, Father Kruger, Father Rafferty and Father O'Donnell.

The president and vice president are elected to three-year terms, which begin at the conclusion of this year's general assembly.

The candidates for president and vice president are, in alphabetical order: Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va.; Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn.; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco; Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle; Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas; Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San

Antonio; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.

Young Adults Invited to Online Evening Prayer

The North American Vocation Team of the School Sisters of Notre Dame invites young adults, ages 18 and older, to a monthly communal Evening Prayer service via Zoom.

Evening Prayer will begin at 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 22 and Dec. 20.

Learn more and register at ssnd.org/events.

Briefs Continued on Page 19

Connect with Advent: A Season for Peace, Light and Wonder



Saturday, Dec 3
9:30am - 3:30pm

Presenters: Br. Mark Schroeder, OFM
and Mercedes Matthews, MDiv

Advent season is rich with invitations to encounter peace, light and a sense of wonder as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift of love. How can we more fully notice and respond to the gifts that are all around us?

You're invited to a day of guided prayer, art and quiet reflection weaving together Scripture, Pope Francis' message in *Laudato Si'* and the beauty of creation. Lunch is included. Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent is offered at Mission San Luis Rey Parish at 4pm following the retreat.

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Visit www.sanluisrey.org/retreats-events to learn more or to register. To request a reservation for an overnight stay, email mercedes@sanluisrey.org or call (760) 757-3659.



AIDA BUSTOS

By Denis Grasska



National Vocation Awareness Week, established by the U.S. bishops to promote vocations to priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, will be observed Nov. 6 to 12.

Sister Kathleen Warren, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Rochester, Minn., is in her sixth year as director of the Diocese of San Diego's Office for Women Religious, where she serves as the liaison between

Office for Women Religious

Sister Kathleen Warren, OSF



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy and the religious sisters who live and work in the diocese. She is also a first point of contact for local women discerning a call to religious life.

Sister Warren, 73, is originally from Rochester, where she attended elementary and high schools run by the Rochester Franciscans. She entered religious life after high school in 1968,

professing her first vows in 1970 and final vows in 1975.

Question: When did you first feel called to religious life?

Answer: My dad used to say that I announced, as a first-grader, that I was going to be a sister when I grew up. But I have no memory of that.

I seriously considered a religious vocation for the first time during my senior year in high school. I and a group of other senior girls were catching up with a priest who had been our teacher when we were freshmen and sophomores. He asked if any of our classmates were planning to go to the seminary after graduation, and we

told him, yes, one guy was. Then, he asked if anyone would be entering the convent. We looked at each other and said no.

After that conversation, I couldn't get his second question out of my mind, and I knew I had to take it seriously. I started exploring the idea of joining the Rochester Franciscans and, the more I looked into it, the more I felt that this was what I wanted to do with my life.

What was the appeal of the Franciscan Sisters of Rochester?

I grew up in Rochester, where they

Women *Continued on Page 17*



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Women *Continued from Page 16*

have their motherhouse, and they were the only sisters anybody there ever saw. They ran three local Catholic schools, as well as St. Mary's Hospital. For a while, I didn't even know that there were other kinds of sisters.

Also, the Franciscan way of life has always resonated with me. I think that's partly because of the way I grew up. I spent summers at my grandmother's farm, enjoying baling hay and picking apples. Creation, in each of the four seasons, was always just a wonderful part of my growing up, and that's so much a part of the whole Franciscan spirituality as well.

What are your responsibilities as director of the diocesan Office for Women Religious?

It's really a ministry of service — service to Cardinal McElroy, because I act as his representative to the women religious in our diocese; service to the religious sisters themselves, supporting them in whatever ways I can; and service to the wider diocese by promoting and nurturing vocations to the consecrated life.

It's a wonderful ministry to be involved in. Here in the Diocese, we've got the best sisters ever; I really do believe that. It's just been an amazing gift in my life to be in this position.

How often do you hear from women who are discerning religious life?

I probably talk seriously with about 10 women a year. After an initial



phone conversation, an in-person meeting is arranged.

The youngest was a high school sophomore who came with a parent. On the other end of the spectrum are women who have been married and widowed and are now exploring the possibility of a religious vocation. There is a great variety of ages and backgrounds who inquire.

When they meet with me, I always ask if they've checked out the Office for Women Religious' webpage (sdcatholic.org/office-for/women-religious), explaining that it has links to the websites of the 38 religious congregations with a presence in our diocese. I ask what their interests are, whether they are drawn to contemplative or active life, and then recommend helpful reading materials. I also offer to connect them with a spiritual director or a vocation director. We have two vocation directors in our

diocese who are terrific to work with.

You organize the cardinal's annual appreciation lunch for women religious. What makes that such a meaningful event?

It's one of the highlights of the year. We come together in a very festive atmosphere with the bishop, now cardinal. Close to 100 sisters attend the event, which is held in either February or March at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

We get to share our stories and invigorate each other with a spirit of the goodness of this life. It's a real celebration of our vocation and of the beautiful and unique ways that the call to religious life is incarnated in the world.

During the luncheon, we recognize those sisters who are celebrating significant anniversaries, or "jubilees." These include sisters marking 25, 50, 60 and even 75 years in religious life.

What's your assessment of the**current state of religious vocations among women?**

The number of vocations has certainly gone down. But women are still being called, and smaller numbers don't diminish the commitment and vitality of those who answer the call.

One of the reasons for the decline is that Church ministry has been opened up to lay women, who are earning degrees in Theology and holding leadership positions at the parish, diocesan and national levels that, 20 years ago, would have been held by religious sisters. There's a lot of woman-energy in Church leadership now, and one doesn't have to enter consecrated life to offer that.

At one time, it was unheard of for women to be hospital administrators; then, religious sisters started founding hospitals. Similarly, religious sisters blazed a trail for women to serve as high school principals and to lead colleges and universities. Today, women religious are finding new frontiers, leading ministries of compassion in such areas as migrant and refugee services.

The world has changed and, like most realities of human life on Earth, religious life is also being transformed. I have every confidence that there will be religious life in the future, but what it's going to look like, the exact form it's going to take, is yet to be revealed. This is an exciting and hopeful time in the history of consecrated life in our Church.





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Briefs *Continued from Page 15*

Ready for Christmas? Let Advent Mini-Retreat Help

Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary is hosting an Advent mini-retreat.

Led by Anamaria Anthony, chair of the Theology department at Mater Dei Catholic High School, it will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 30, in Mission San Diego de Alcalá Parish's St. Francis Chapel.

Participants will be invited to ponder Mary's humble "yes" and reflect on the areas in their own lives where they may be challenged to say "yes" to God's plan. Anthony will help them to discover how the ordinary becomes the extraordinary, as well as how lived experiences and God's Word together can transform us as we anticipate Christ coming into our lives more fully.

There is no cost to attend the event, which is open to both men and women, but a "love offering" will be collected.

For information, call, text or email Judy Lemm at (619) 507-1152 or judylemm@cox.net.

Nun-Photographer to Lead Advent Reflection

Sister Rose Marie Tulacz, also known as the "Nun with a Nikon," is returning to San Diego to present a unique Advent Evening of Prayer.

Sponsored by the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical

Ministry, the bilingual event will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlsbad. It will run from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and will include a reception.

Sister Tulacz, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame, is the founder of Notre Dame Creations, which is described as "a ministry of liturgical and fine art photography and spirituality."

During the upcoming event, she will offer a meditation. Examples of her photography will be arranged in stations, where attendees can stop and reflect upon them. Lupe Rios, music director at Mary Star of the Sea Parish in La Jolla, will present Advent- and Christmas-themed music in both English and Spanish.

There is a \$15 cost to attend. For more information or to RSVP, visit sdcatholicdisciples.net/events/advent-2022 or call (858) 490-8232.

Parish Hosting Multicultural Taizé Service

Holy Family Parish in Linda Vista will hold a multicultural Taizé prayer service.

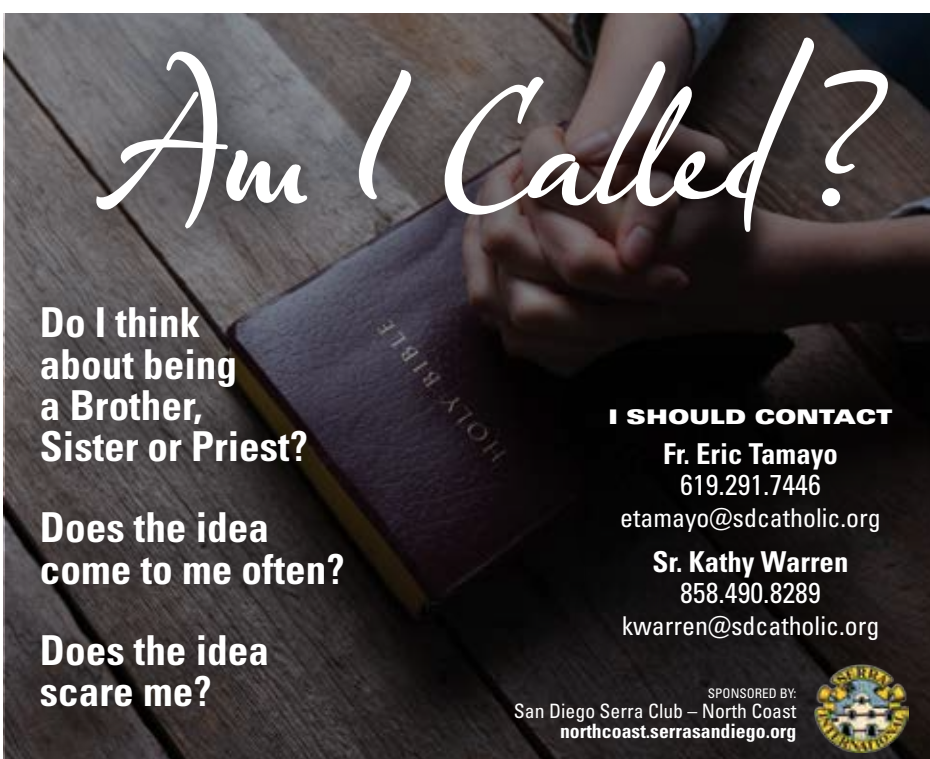
The hour of meditative prayer will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10. It will include the chanting of simple musical phrases in multiple languages, listening to Scripture, and spending time in silence in a calming, candlelit environment.



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Good Stewards

The International Catholic Stewardship Council presented a special award to the Diocese of San Diego's parish stewardship leaders and diocesan staff at its conference in Anaheim on Oct. 3.

The Bishop Cirilo Flores Memorial Stewardship Award recognizes parish and diocesan leaders who have fostered and promoted the spirituality of stewardship as a way of life. A total of 55 people from the diocese were on hand for the presentation of the award, which is gratefully shared with the parishes of the San Diego Stewardship Network.

The award is presented in memory of Bishop Flores, who served as bishop of San Diego for almost a year before his death in September 2014.

Father Efrain Bautista, a member of the Diocesan Stewardship Commission, accepted the award.

"I think (the award) speaks about the importance that the Church of San Diego gives to stewardship," he said, adding it is also a testament to Bishop Flores' legacy as "a huge proponent of stewardship in our diocese."

Cindy Bosh, stewardship director at All Hallows Parish in La Jolla and a co-founder of the San Diego Stewardship Network, said, "(The award) represents that, parish by parish, month by month, pastor by pastor, leader by leader, you can make a difference and you can live a stewardship way of life."

The network was established in 1999 and currently includes around 40 parishes. "(We're) the only diocese in the country where parishes meet in a network format and have done so for over 20 years," said Bosh. "There's no model; we are the model."

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